



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 51 - July 2006*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006-  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006

**Tales from the East:** From Aladdin to Zen.  
Berwick Borough Museum. Open every day,  
10am-5pm. A colourful exhibition exploring tales  
and beliefs from the east and their origins (see  
article)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July  
2006

**Bondington Open Weekend** at the Nunnery  
Field (see article) from 11 to 4pm.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**Facades of the Fifties** – exhibition of all the  
photographs taken in 1959 – Guildhall, Berwick

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>/ Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006

**War With Russia and Doors Open Weekend**

Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick Barracks and various locations in town. Military manoeuvres, cannon firing and performances of a multi-media and live action piece specially commissioned for the occasion. Various buildings open to the public as part of "Doors Open", including guided tours of the Council Offices, 10am to 12.30 on the hour and half hour

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September –  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**Burrell the Collector** : Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick Barracks. Open every day. 11pm - 4pm. A new look at the renowned collection given to Berwick by the millionaire shipping magnate, Sir William Burrell.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**KOSHKA** - Berwick Parish Church, Parade. Straight from Glasgow's only Russian Café. A rare chance to hear this acclaimed trio who combine a Russian gypsy style with jazz and world music."...a huge emotional surge that never leads up, twinned with masterly musicianship" (*Daily Telegraph*), "The hottest gig in town" (*Fiddle*).

Tickets: £8 (£6); Under 16s free; from Berwick Tourist Office, Marygate, Tel 01289 330733.

Email: [Tourism@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:Tourism@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Thursday  
October 2006

**John Faed, Jr.**

Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick Barracks. Open every day, 11am-4pm. An exhibition of Victorian watercolours depicting Scotland and the Borders by this accomplished member of a celebrated artistic family.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Friends Autumn Lecture** in the Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick Barracks. "A new look at the *Burrell Collection* " by Chris Green. 7pm

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

- Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006                      Why Russia doesn't want to fight Berwick : Dr Peter Lee. Joint meeting with Berwick Civic Society. 7.30 pm at Guildhall, Berwick.
- Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006                      Early days in Belford and Berwick Workhouses : Jane Bowen
- Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006                      Members Night – update on Bondington Project and Facades of the Fifties.

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick upon  
Tweed**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

- Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> September                              Metal Detecting: Matt Bamburgh
- Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> October                                  Indo-European Origins: Kristian Pederson
- Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> November                                The Neolithic site at Millfield: Clive Waddington
- Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> December                                Festive Archaeology: Roger Miket

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: The Cheviot Centre,  
Padgepool  
Place Wooler.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

- Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006                      Recent Excavations in Tyne and Wear: Mr Steve Speak.

Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Old Alnwick: Mr A.W. Ions, MBE.
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	Musings of a Country Joiner & Undertaken: Mr Thomas Tokely.
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Border Weddings: Mr Vince Kelly
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Unicorns: Mr R.A. Humphrey.

### **NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Norham Village Hall.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2006	Dickinson the Norham Naturalist: Mrs Muriel Woodward.
Mon. 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Heatherslaw Mill: Mrs J. Nolan
Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	North Northumberland Hillforts: Mr Alistair Oswald.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY : NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH**

**Venue: Black Bull, Lowick**

**Time: 10.00am**

Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2006	Newcastle: Ann Robinson
Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2006	The Percy Family: Mr D. Sharman.
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	The Clay Family: Mr T.Swan

**ARCHIVE NEWS**

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely sunny weather. It's certainly bringing lots of visitors to the archives, many of them tourists who have come to the area to trace their Family History and see where their ancestors have come from!

The Record Office has been very busy over the past couple of months and each week seems to fly by – is that a sign of me getting older? We have been involved in a number of projects. The most obvious project is the **Facades of the Fifties**. If you live in Berwick, I hope many of you will have seen the photographs of shopfronts in 1959 which were on display in various locations in the town. A number of people have come in with some information on the shops featured but if any of the Friends have any information, please get in touch. I would like to create a database of information on shopping in Berwick so that we have information for the future – it's very easy to forget when shops close, etc. The final part of this project will take place on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August** in the Guildhall when we will display all the photographs together and have some additional information on businesses in Berwick. So, if you haven't seen them, do come along or if you have, come along and have another trip down memory lane!

Before I went on maternity leave, I had a meeting with Surestart and the Borough's Community Safety Officer about historically themed play areas and we came up with a list of themes for different parts of the Borough. The first play area they decided to look at was Belford where we had picked the theme of stage coaches, mail coaches and coaching inns. In June, I spent a day at Belford First School with all the children from 4 years upwards. We looked at various archive material including photographs, newspaper articles and maps and I talked to the children about the subject and the Belford connection. The children produced some lovely artwork and composition on the subject which we are going to place in the archives. The day was a great success and we ended it off with a session on what the children wanted in the play area relating to the theme. It was fascinating to hear their ideas which were very imaginative and showed they had taken in what we had been talking about! Hopefully the play area will be ready in the autumn and will be the first of many!

As you will know from the dates for your diary and Chris' Museum News, we are having a **War with Russia** weekend on **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September** which coincides with the Doors Open weekend. You may remember that last year, I did some work with the Maltings Youth Theatre and we re-enacted a court case from the archives. Well, this year, we are going to work together again. This time, I have been researching the Crimean gun on the Saluting Battery and how it got to Berwick and the Youth Theatre will be re-enacting this event. It is actually a fascinating story, so do come along and see the performances over the weekend.

Well other than that, I'm still trying to do the day job of looking after the public and answering all the enquiries. A challenge but an enjoyable one!

## THE CORNELIUS

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the Cornelius left Berwick in 1837 with inhabitants from the North Northumberland area who were heading for a new life in New Brunswick, Canada. Some "young men" and 28 families from the Glendale area were on board. They arrived at Saint John around 1<sup>st</sup> July from where 26 families travelled in a steamer called "Waterwitch" to Fredricton, the capital of the area. The families had been encouraged to come by the Stanley Land Company but on their arrival they were told that the company had ceased trading and so what were they to do next?

Sir John Harvey (the lieutenant governor), Mr Wilmot and some other gentlemen met the settlers to see how they could help them. The group said that they wanted to settle together on a piece of land which had been recommended to them called Harvey Settlement, about 25 miles from Fredricton. They were very lucky because the Assembly for the province agreed to give them £200 to pay for the land they wanted which was granted in 100 acre lots by ballot to 24 families and 2 speculators. The following families with Glendale or Border origins were granted the land :

**David CESFORD** 34      Labourer with his wife, Margaret (34), Wm Taite (50, labourer, no relationship give) and children Barbara (9), Margaret (6), John (3) and infant (4 weeks)

**Robert WILSON** 34      Labourer with his wife, Mary (34) and his children Betsy (18), Thomas (16), Mary (10), Margaret (8), Robert (6), Alexander (3) and Jane (3 months)

**John THOMPSON** 35      Teacher with his wife Isabella (29), and his children John (5), Betsy (3), Margaret (1) and his nephew, John (16).

**Thomas HERBERT** 37      Miller with his wife Isabell (36) and his children Margaret (12), Isabella (10), Robert (8), Mary (3) and Christina (1) as well as his wife's sisters Eleanor (20) and Isabell (18) and brother Robert (16) EMBLETON

**John COCKBURN** -      Labourer with his wife Betsy and children James (22, Tailor), George (20 Labourer), Isabell (18), Betsy (16), William (14), Charlotte (12), Andrew (10), Thomas (7), Ralph (3)

**James MOWET** 28      Labourer with his wife Catherine (30) and daughter Agnes (8 months)

**Thomas MOWET** 30 Miller with his wife Betsy (30).

**James COWE** 32 Labourer with his wife Isabell (31) and children Eleanor (7), Mary (4) and David (1) and his mother in law (50)

**John SCOTT** 39 Carpenter and his sister ? (41)

**John WIGHTMAN** 45 Labourer with his wife Mary (44) and his children Eleanor (14), Isabell (11), John (8) and Elizabeth (6)

**William GRIEVE** 47 Shepherd with his wife Elean (47) and his children John (15), Patrick (13), William (11), George (9), Alison (8), Henry (6) and Margaret (3)

**Mathew PIERCY** 22 Blacksmith and his wife Agnes (21)

**James COCKBURN** 22 Tailor

**Alexr HAY** 46 Blacksmith with his wife Jane (-) and children William (21 Blacksmith), Andrew (20 Blacksmith), Alexr (18), Mary (14), John (12), Jane (6), Isabell (4), Eleanor (1)

**Thomas PIERCY** 48 Labourer with his wife Mary (47) and his children Betsy (20), Mary (18), Isabell (16) and Walter (10)

**John GREGG** 45 Labourer with his wife Mary (45) and his children Jane (21), James (20), Andrew 18), Esther (17) and Agnes (16)

**Thomas KAY** 42 with his wife Isabell (43) and his children Jane (7) and Mary Ann (3)

**Andrew MONTGOMERY** 50 Labourer with his wife Nancy (50) and his children Andrew (22), David (20), William (17), Jane (15), Margaret (11) and James (9).

**James THOMSON** 34 Labourer and his brother James (24), a labourer

**William MESSER** 36 Labourer with his wife Eleanor (35) and his children Elisabeth (10), Walter (5), William (3) and Thomas (9 months)

**William BELL** 26 Labourer with his wife Jane (26)

**Thomas Brown** 37 Labourer

**James NESBIT** - Labourer, widower and his children George (21), Elspeth (18) and James (15)

**John NESBIT** 43 with his wife Ann (42) and his children Susan (21), Thos.(19), Anne (17), John (15), Elisabeth (12), James (10), Jane (7) and Robert (5)

**Wm EMBLETON** 27 Carpenter with his wife Jane (26) and son James (1)

**John CARMICHAEL** 31 Labourer with his wife Margt (31) and his children James (3), Samuel (2) and Robert (4 months) Accompanied by Mary HUME (19), sister and her child Jane (6 months)

**Wm ROBISON** 25 Labourer

**Andrew MONTGOMERY** 22 Labourer

**James CRAIGS** 23 Labourer

*Linda Bankier*

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

### **TALES FROM THE EAST EXHIBITION**

#### A Preview

This year's summer exhibition in the Museum which runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> October is part of the regional Festival of World Cultures. Thanks to Sir William Burrell the Museum is rich in items from the Far East. But it has often been a challenge to interpret this material for visitors as the detailed history of, for example, Chinese porcelain is often highly technical and specialised. In this show we have avoided specialist issues by looking at what the pots and other items illustrate in terms of Eastern legends and stories. The exhibition intends not be a history of Eastern stories as such but a history of how those stories have influenced the West. We have subtitled the exhibition 'From Aladdin to Zen' and have adopted an A-Z approach with 26 sections. For practical reasons the layout is not in alphabetical order, so that A is followed by Z and then by K, C, N, L etc. Too often curators go to huge efforts to make logical sequences in their exhibitions, each section building on the previous ones in terms of storyline. Then the visitors ignore all that and go straight to the first interesting object that catches their eye regardless of its place in



the story. Each section in the A-Z is complete in itself but overall they build up to a history of Eastern influences. I will briefly outline this history. The exhibition sections are in bold.

Europe's knowledge of the East goes back to Classical world. Greek historians like Herodotus and philosophers like Plato became convinced that Egypt was the repository of all ancient wisdom. This conviction increased just as knowledge of what hieroglyphics really said declined so that by the Renaissance the strangest mystical significance was being claimed for Egyptian artefacts. The supposed Egyptian wisdom combined with the Hebrew mystical tradition around the Kabbalah became the foundation of European **magic**.

As the Classical era turned into the early Middle Ages **Bible stories** became the greatest cultural influence. In the show we cover just a few Adam & Eve, the flood, Moses, Christ and the Last Judgement. The rise of Islam produced the **Qur'an** which introduced the concept of **Jihad** or Holy War which made the crusades intense. The Middle Ages saw the first travellers visiting the East and returning with tales of strange and **unknown creatures**.

European Voyages of the 17<sup>th</sup> century began to gather up **riches** such as gems, spices, porcelain and finally tea. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the **Arabian Nights** were discovered by a European audience for the first time, the **Genii** being especially favourite characters. The end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw attempts by Europeans to get access to Chinese markets and the Chinese style became a huge fashion, with **dragons** on everything.

Interest in **Egypt** continued in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the first stories of re-animated mummies from the 1840s onwards. At the same time Victorian theatres increasingly used Arabic and oriental styles to dress up their buildings and performances. The Victorian reading public enjoyed Fitzgerald's adaptations of **Omar Khayyam**, but a less salubrious side was the over-heated view of Eastern sensuality and licence. The Western fascination with the **harems** was also exploited by scholars such as Richard Burton who translated erotic works and introduced many '**X-rated**' aspects into his edition of the Arabian Nights. The end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the opening up of Japan, leading to the Mikado and the oriental operas of Puccini. These were just the latest in a whole tradition of **performance** of western version of the east. But atrocities in **China** during the various wars there with the European powers created the idea of the 'yellow peril' one of the many Eastern **nasties** to inhabit the Western imagination.

By the 1930s **Tibet** had been established as an especially fascinating spiritual location, partly because of the book and film *Lost Horizon*. From Tibet too came the first reports of the **Yeti**. By the 1950s Eastern **food** was being eaten in the West and the 1960s saw an explosion of interest in eastern spirituality especially in **India**. Thousands took the hippy

trail to Nepal imitating the **wandering sages** of Daoism and **Zen**. Finally in the last forty years eastern styles and tales have been plundered by the western entertainment industry. The martial arts of the Japanese Samurai and Ninjas have added to **Sports** and the Samurai also have become Jedi **knights** in the *Star Wars* films, Disney has made *Aladdin*, *Sindbad* and *Mulan*, Indian gods are rewritten in comic books and the characters of an 18<sup>th</sup>.century Chinese novel (shown one of the Museum's plates) have reappeared in a Playstation computer game. But very often the originals of all these stories, locked in hundreds of Oriental **languages**, have remained obscure.

Chris Green

## BERWICK'S WAR WITH RUSSIA – TRUTH OR LEGEND ?

Many years ago a legend was born. Could the tiny town of Berwick-upon-Tweed really have been at war with Russia for 150 years? Thousands believe it, passed on from one to another on the internet by word-of-mouth. But what is the truth? Berwick's ***War with Russia Weekend (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September)*** will discover the story of the legend. So what is this all about.

### ***The Legend***

This story starts from the real fact that in 1502 England and Scotland agreed that Berwick, a bone of contention for centuries, should belong to neither country and although located *in* England was not *of* the English kingdom. Therefore Berwick had to be separately mentioned in all laws and official documents mostly by the formula '*England, Scotland and Wales and the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed*'. So far, so real. Now it is said that the Crimean War was declared using this formula, but that when the treaty of Paris was drawn up in 1856 Berwick was missed off. So in effect that peace treaty was Berwick's declaration of war. This 'state of war' continued until 1966 when, it is said, the Mayor of Berwick signed a peace treaty and declared that 'the Russians could now sleep easy in their beds'.

### ***The History***

Of course for a number of historical reasons the legend cannot be true. For a start an investigation by the Foreign Office in the 1930s established that the declaration of the Crimean War made no mention of Berwick separately. But even if it had, in 1747 an Act for the appointment of window tax inspectors was passed, which included a section that saying that any mention of England also included Berwick and Wales. When that act was

repealed the single line about Berwick was carried forward as the 'Wales and Berwick Act'. The man who is positively identified as starting this legend is Archdeacon William Cunningham (1849-1919) who included it in a lecture in 1914. But quiet what the context of this was still needs to be discovered. Curiously the 1966 peace treaty also seems to be a legend with Linda Bankier finding no record in the Council Minutes and Jim Herbert failing to find a photo of the event in the local newspaper. This is probably due to the fact that the widely published date of 1966 is just wrong.

### ***The Event***

So how do you go about marking a non-existent war (nikagda sooshchi voyna in Russian or thereabouts!)? The easy bit is the exhibition in the Guildhall, outlying the history of Berwick's special status, the relevant documents in the case and the true history of Berwick's contact with Russia. Slightly more of challenge is to stage a battle re-enactment of a plausible scenario of a battle between Russians and Berwickers. In this case we have plumped for Russian prisoners brought from the Crimea to Berwick managing to seize weapons and capturing a sentry post and some civilians and then being defeated by reinforcements. The biggest challenge is to invent an entire storyline for a mock-documentary film taking Russian plots against Berwick back over a century and a half. All these things are part of the event which also includes scenes of real Berwick history from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the appearance of a Russian gypsy-style trio in the Parish Church on the Saturday evening. It is all going to be great fun, and if we manage to expand the myth (or mnozhit mnemay) then all well and good for Berwick's heritage industry!

*Chris Green*

**P.S. We are using the Guildhall over the weekend and need volunteers from the Friends to help man it (Saturday 10- 4 and Sunday 11- 4) If you would like to help, please contact Linda (301865) or Chris (301869)**

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

It was my intention to write an article with an 88 year old friend of mine about the shops in the Castlegate area during her youth. However, intentions change and that's for another time.

We, of the Committee, don't often say what we're doing but some developments are of great interest to you.

Sadly, Yvonne Gallagher, our Newsletter Editor has had to stand down. She's done a wonderful job, following on from Dennis Nicholson, but she feels she cannot continue. We wish her well. Wendy B. Scott has stepped into the breach for this issue but, if anyone else has a burning desire to be Editor, please come forward. We always need articles for the Newsletter. Linda and Chris provide a strong base and the volunteers often come up with items from their research. Again, please submit any article you feel would be of interest to our wide and appreciative readership.

At the moment the Committee is involved in two projects. We are helping the Museum to produce an information leaflet. We have looked at the lay-out and what we would like on our pages. Linda is organising items for her pages and Chris and Jim are at work on the whole ensemble. The Friends produced the Ports of Berwick some time back so we know what time-consuming work it is. The other scheme is the setting up of our own web-site. I'm computer- illiterate but the others are knowledgeable. We are all enthusiastic.

We hope to stream-line our membership applications for holiday-makers especially so they may have free entry to the Borough Museum. We are in talks with the powers that be about the possibility of a more widely available membership.

Alas, we heard of the demise of FONA (Friends of Northumberland Articles). The Secretary, Pat Foggin, approached us, with members approval, and has passed on equipment which they feel we can use. It has been shared between the Museum and the Archives but, of course, can be used by both. We hope that FONA'S members will be inclined to join F.B.D.M.A. and have access to almost as much as they had before. We have invited their article-writers to send items to us and perhaps have a special section for their work.

Chris and Linda have very full schedules for this summer because not only do they have the Museum and Archives to run but they both have interests in so much of Berwick and District life, be it past or present.

*Have an enjoyable summer.*

*B.M.H.*

## A PROBLEM BIRTH

The Minute Book of the Berwick upon Tweed Guardians for 1854, contains the following letter from Dr. James Wilson, one of the physicians in the town, to Alexander Smith, the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, describing the circumstances surrounding a birth he was asked to attend. The 'parish doctor' referred to, was the doctor specifically appointed to care for the poor in the parish who could not afford to pay a doctor's fee; the Relieving Officer was the official whose job it was to satisfy himself that those seeking that help were genuinely in need and then issued a 'ticket' or 'line' entitling them to that help.

Berwick upon T<sup>d</sup>. July 1, 1854

Dear Sir,

At your request, I now give the circumstances in detail of one of the most glaring attempts at imposition I ever met with in my practice amongst the Irish in this Town. About ten o.c. on the night of the 21st June a man came to my house and requested me to attend his Wife in confinement. From some conversation he had had with my servant I was induced to ask him why the Parish Surgeon would not attend her, he replied "Dr. Kirkwood was the Parish doctor, and should attend his Wife but that he (Dr. K.) would not go without a line". I immediately told the man that he must not expect me to act as Parish Surgeon and that I could not attend unless paid my fee. To which he replied "that rather than bother any more about a line, he would pay me my fee": whi[ch} he accordingly produced from his waistcoat pocket, wrapped in paper. I may here state that Dr. Kirkwood informed me afterwards that the man had left his house just a few minutes before I saw him and that the man had declared most solemnly that he had not a farthing in his pocket and would not receive his pay (15/- per week) for a fortnight.

When I reached the House in which the Woman lived I found all the neighbours in the Square in a State of great excitement, because no doctor could be found to attend, and eight or ten women in the room (amongst them the pseudo midwife) whom I requested to retire, as it was a case of considerable difficulty and so many people sitting about is a source of great annoyance in such cases.

I found the woman had been in labour since the previous day, under the care of this midwife who had refused to allow a Doctor to be sent for, declaring that the Woman would soon be better: whereas the lives of both Mother & Child were endangered and would probably been sacrificed, if the delivery had not been speedily performed. I was subsequently informed by Mr. Atkinson that he had been applied to at 4 o.c. for an order to obtain medical assistance from the Parish, but as the Women who applied would give no account of the husband, though they said he was working in the fields, he refused the

Order, afterwards they told him (Mr. A.) that he was working in the town and working at the drains for 15/- a week.

Here then is a case in whi[ch] the husband and friends of a woman in difficult and painful labour (sic), used every dishonest means in their power to obtain a Medical Order, while all the time they are in possession of the requisite fee necessary to procure Professional aid. There are hundreds of working men in this town earning less wages, even at the present time, who would scorn to ask a line from the Relieving Officer for the Parish Surgeon to attend their wives, more especially in a first confinement, when the money is invariably saved up for the purpose.

I mentioned above that the Midwife was one of those I requested to leave the room. A few days ago, while visiting the House, I was told that this same official has never been able to leave her Bed since her patient was confined, owing to the abuse she had received ay my hands. She was said to be suffering from injuries she had sustained while I was pushing her out of the room and kicking her down the stairs! Such is her own report! Are there degrees of falsehood telling? If so I would give the rewards to this last.

I am &c &c

James Wilson

Letter to Alexander Smith Esq. Norham

*Jane Bowen*

## **NEWS FROM PHASE 2 OF THE BONDINGTON PROJECT**

Phase 2 of the Bondington Project received new funding from 'Awards for All' in April 2006 to conduct further research into the medieval Cistercian nunnery of St Leonard (also known as the Nunnery of South Berwick). Work is already underway at the site of the nunnery in Paxton Road off Castle Terrace in Berwick. From 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July one team of enthusiasts from Border Archaeological Society will be conducting geo-physics (in the style of the Channel Four 'Time Team but without Tony Robinson) and from 18<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July a second team with support from volunteer students from Newcastle University and a mechanical digger will be concentrating on archaeological excavations.

There will be two days of Celebration, open to everyone in the Borough, **on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July from 11am to 4pm in the Nunnery Field** to let members of

the public see what the Bondington Project has achieved. Just as in July 2003, there will be a marquee with refreshments and a Children's Dig. There will be a pottery exhibition (with a Potter in attendance on the Sunday to show how pots were thrown in the Middle Ages) and a display of artefacts discovered on site during July some of which are already causing excitement among team members. There will also be archaeologists on site to provide conducted tours of the excavations, just as in 2003.

The work in 2003 identified the ruined walls of the nunnery church. In 2006 the team will survey the whole area of the nunnery and try to resolve the position of the cloister. They will also attempt to identify some of the outlying structures, as indicated in the now famous 1976 aerial photograph, and explore whether they are the Prioress' House, a Guest Lodgings, dormitories or barns. They will also examine the wall discovered in 2003 to see whether it was part of an enclosing wall around the nunnery.

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July the Bondington Team hopes to have some answers to these questions. Please come to hear them and bring the family to have a day out at the nunnery site.

*Brian Chappell*

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER**

Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> 1860

### FORD AND LOWICK ROADS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES of the said Roads, will be held at the DELAVEL ARMS INN, FORD, on TUESDAY the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March next, at Twelve o'clock at Noon, for the purpose of Auditing & settling the Accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December last, & forming an Estimate of the Expense of Maintaining the said Roads for the present year, pursuant to the provisions of Third and Fourth William Fourth cap 80, and upon other Business relating to the said Roads.

By Order of the said Trustees, February 13. 1806

April 21 1860

### SPITTAL AS A BATHING PLACE

Sir, The Inhabitants of Spittal, and I might add, of Berwick and Tweedmouth also, are much indebted to our worthy Mayor, for the interest he has taken in getting a good and

safe Road to Spittal, and I hope that he will not worthy lease his praise exertions until the unseemly and useless Tram road is removed from the Main street.

If the Inspector of Nuisances for Spittal would only exert himself like the Chief Magistrate and see that the village was kept clean during the Bathing Season at all events, Spittal would soon become one of the most fashionable bathing villages on our coast.

To make Spittal a little more attractive to strangers, it has been suggested that the Lodging House-keepers, shop keepers etc should each subscribe say 2 shillings or 2 shillings and sixpence and engage the Foundry Band to perform on the sands twice a week, say Wednesday from 7 to 9, and Saturday from 6 to 8. Every bathing village and little watering place has now its Band of Music for the season, and why should Spittal be behind? Only let the Committee who have so nobly assisted in procuring the new road to take the matter in hand and the public will owe them another debt of gratitude, and to encourage the movement, I will with pleasure, give the subscriptions of 5 householders, or 10 shillings, to start with.

IMPROVER.

*Muriel Fraser*

## **INDEX TO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

As we have now produced 50 newsletters, we thought it would be a good idea to compile an index to all the wonderful articles which have appeared. You should find enclosed with the newsletter an index to issues 1 to 50 which has been compiled by Kitty McDougall and Chris Green.

If any of you would like back issues of the newsletters, we have a master set here at the Record Office and can provide copies at a cost of 75 pence per issue plus postage, if required. I can be contacted on [lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk) or on 01289 301865.

Many thanks to Kitty and Chris for undertaking the production of the index which shows the variety of articles which have appeared in the newsletter over the years.