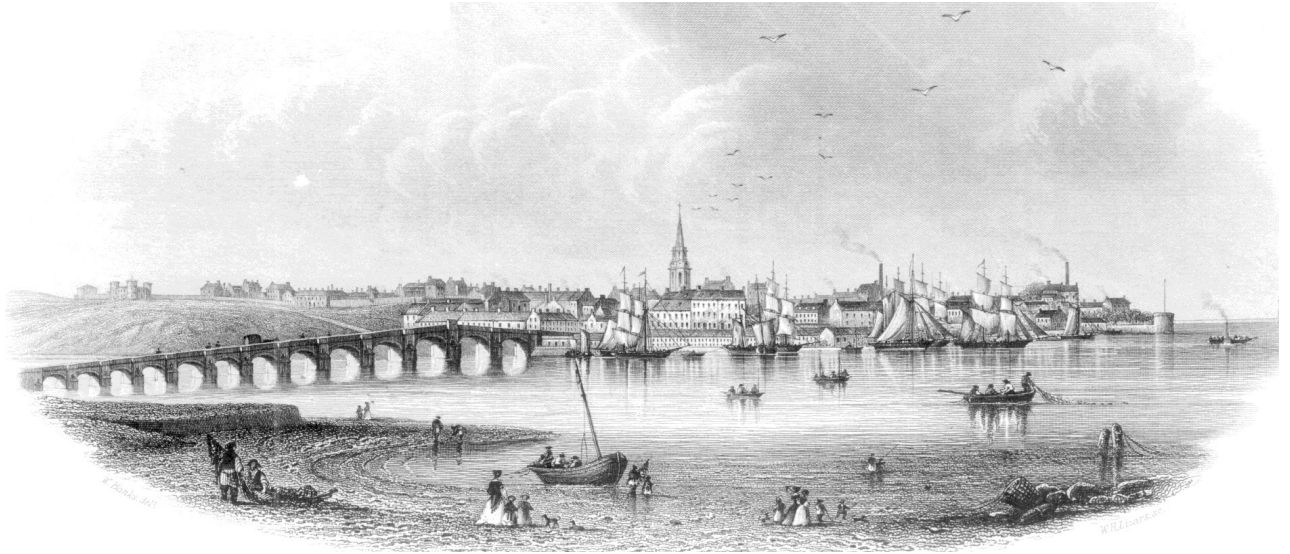


# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 56– December 2007*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Friends AGM and talk by Dr Paul Carter of the National Archives entitled “Crime in the North in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries”. 7pm in the Guildhall, Berwick

## **OTHER SOCIETIES’ LECTURES**

### AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Destiny ( the story of the stone): Jim Barrie
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Ayton of Yesteryear: Irvine Inglis
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Gunsgreen House: Simon Furness
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Visit to Abbotsford

### BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2008	A Nineteenth Century Diary from Outchester: Joan Wright
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	The Archives : Linda Bankier
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	The Life and Times of Henry Richardson M.D.,R.N. (From Opium Ward to Convict Ships) : Jane Bowen
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Women at War: Alan Fendley

### BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: The Parish Centre,The Parade Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Lobster and Limekilns: Katrina Porteous
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	The Relative Contributions To The "Golden Age of Northumbria" Lindisfarne & Wearmouth/Jarrow: Dr Rosemary Cramp
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	The Blyth and Tyne Railway: Alan Fendley
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual General Meeting 7.00-7.30pm followed by Members Night (Contributions from Members)

### BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

**No lectures in January**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Members Evening

Anthony 4 Cleopatra: Jeremy Paterson

**BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The Archives at Robert Smalls's Printing Works (Innerleithen): David Runciman

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

The Progress of Local, Family & Archives Centre, Hawick: Rachel Hosker

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

( to be confirmed)

AGM and talk to be advised

**COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Bondagers: Mrs Dinah Iredale. Joint meeting with Cornhill W.I at Eildon Centre Coldstream

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Romans in Eastern Borders: Dr. Mike Bishop

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

A.G.M at 7.00pm prompt. Followed by

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Polwarth Church: Rosie Letts

Old Wooler: Mr R Miket and Mr D

Fairington

**DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Border's Archives and Records: Rachel Hosker

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Duns Scotius: Canon David Henry  
Pestilence in the Perception of History :  
Isabel Gordon  
Summer outing

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Early Anglo-Saxon Settlement in North  
Northumberland: Roger Miket

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Annual Dinner

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

The Chillingham White Cattle: Philip  
Deakin

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Reminiscences of Wooler: a  
conversation introduced by Bill Hall-  
followed by AGM

### **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Old Embleton or Magic Lanterns!: George  
Skipper

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

The Maritime History of Berwick : Jim  
Walker

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

The Alnwick Camp, 1914-1918: Cliff Pettit

### **NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

#### **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH**

**Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford**

**Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Member's Open Forum

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February

The Life and Times of Henry Richardson  
MDRN (proprietor of the Berwick

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Advertiser): Jane Bowen  
Recent Projects and Lesser-Known sources  
for family History at Berwick Record Office:

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Linda Bankier  
AGM and Members' Workshop

## **ARCHIVE NEWS**

It's the last newsletter of the year and I'm not quite sure where this year has gone.

The last couple of months have been extremely busy in the Archives both on its public and other days. This year it has been very noticeable that visitors are coming to Berwick to research their family history all year round and not only in the summer and early spring. Even now in December, we have visitors from outside the area.

Well, what has the Record Office been up to in the past couple of months ? Needless to say quite a lot which has kept me and my assistant, Carole, busy.

At the end of September another Film and Media Arts Festival was held in Berwick and as part of that, we ran an Archive Film Night in the Maltings. This was an extremely successful evening. Everyone enjoyed the films, including me. You see something different in them each time which means you can watch them over and over again. As part of the programme, we showed some home cine taken by Mr Brown, a dentist from Middlesbrough at the end of the war. His son who has used the archives for many years was in the audience and was able to identify the various family members which added to it. As well as the Film Night, the Archives also produced a small exhibition for Martins the Printers who were showing the 1950 Richard Dimbleby film which includes footage of the Spade Works at Spittal – health and safety were obviously not thought of then !

I had hoped that things would quieten down after the Film Festival but it wasn't to be. Since then, I have given a number of talks which I really enjoy doing. I have talked to a Women's Church Group in Duns; Berwick History Society and Seahouses Rotary Group as well as hosting a group visit to the Office by the Berwick Building Recording Group. I see these talks as a good way of telling people

that the Archives exist; about what we hold and encouraging them to use the service.

In the last couple of months, I have also done a lot of education work, both with young and older people. In mid September, I started to teach a Family History and the Internet course for Northumberland College at Berwick. The course was oversubscribed and it was a very enjoyable 5 weeks. Earlier on in the year, I had also taught a course for the Berwick U3A. They had gone on to try and do some work on Family History and the Internet themselves. To help them, I spent two sessions with them, showing them sources and how to access them. In the past 6 weeks I have also done some work with local schools. Siobhan's class have been studying Berwick in Geography and so as part of that topic, they had a field trip where we went on an historical walk round the town, using our old Young Explorer's Guide. Afterwards they came back to the Office to see the Archives. Despite it being a freezing day, they had a great time !

In the North East, the MLA ( Museums, Libraries and Archives Council) has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant to encourage local schools to use archives for literacy and numeracy – not the usual way that teachers would think of using historical sources. Two schools in North Northumberland – Glendale and Berwick Middle Schools – have been involved in the project and I have been working with them. The teachers have visited the Archives to look at source material for their chosen projects – Wooler in the Second World War and the Coming of the Railway to Berwick. It has been great working with them and seeing how archives can be used in non conventional ways to cover core parts of the National Curriculum – numeracy in old railway timetables and literacy in writing a diary of an evacuee. The research bit is the first part of the project as the teachers will then deliver the project next term. This will involve me again and so you will hear more about this later!.

I've probably written enough but just to finish, I would like to let you all know that we have now raised enough money to buy the Berwick Documents. I personally would like to thank everyone who has supported the project. It has been a long haul but very worthwhile as the documents belong here. Further news on that in the next issue.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and Best wishes for 2008.

*Linda Bankier*

## **WORKHOUSE PROJECT**

Just to keep you up to date, I am still in correspondence with Dr Paul Carter from the National Archives about the project and have given him various information that he needed. The Friends are definitely part of the project and initially we will be cataloguing material relating to the Glendale and Berwick Poor Law Unions. The National Archives has just put in its funding application and so it now envisages that the project will start in the summer of 2008. I will keep you informed of progress, so watch this space for further details.

*Linda Bankier*

## **WORKMEN'S STRIKE**

Whilst working with Mr Shaw from Berwick Middle School on his project relating to the coming of the Railway to Berwick, I found the following newspaper entry in the Berwick Advertiser about a workmen's strike. The workmen were employed in building the Royal Border Bridge :

**12 AUGUST 1848**

### **WORKMEN'S STRIKE**

Early on Monday morning symptoms were apparent of a commotion among the workmen at the railway bridge; groups of them congregating on the streets, and elsewhere, evidently indisposed for labour. On inquiry we found they had refused to resume their work until they had procured some settlement on the matter of their wages. At ten o'clock a meeting was held at the bridge and upon the sands at Tweedmouth, where we found about 300 to 400 assembled. The subject matter of their grievance was for some time discussed in parties of the assembly. Their complaint was that they had no settlement with their employer, the contractor for the works, for ten weeks, and that there were eleven weeks due to them in all, one week

having been kept in arrear at the former settlement. At length one of the company became the spokesman and proposed a series of resolutions which were unanimously agreed to. They were –

1st That all the masons and joiners refuse to go to work until a settlement for their past labour be obtained and a guarantee given for regular monthly payments hereafter.

2nd That better usage than heretofore at the Tommy shop be secured to them.

3rd That a better arrangement be made respecting the sick allowance. It was stated that while 3s per month was charged against each workman for medical aid, the delays which took place in procuring a surgeon, on an accident occurring, in consequence of the numerous parties through whom application had to be made, occasioned very serious consequences.

The demands here enumerated are no more temperate and just in character than was the conduct of the assembly that proposed them. They are no more than the labourer has a right to insist on. The system of “tommy shops” and the long delay of the settlement which is a consequence of these establishments, are fraught with the greatest injustice. The nominal wages of the workmen, which in few cases exceed 20s per week, are much curtailed by the system pursued. It has been asserted in our court of petty sessions that the obtaining of goods from the tommy shop is a direct tax of twenty five per cent on the purchaser. There is a further and more glaring injustice attending the system. When a workman wants money instead of goods in the course of the long intervals between the payment of his wages he is presented with a ticket for the tommy shop, and this he must sell wherever he can and for whatever it will bring. The price given for them by parties who purchase them is 5s a pound less than the value set forth on the ticket. Thus if the seller had a ticket to command 20s worth of goods, he can only obtain 15s in money for it. We have not heard whether the arrangements demanded have in full been acceded to, but the proceedings of Monday had the effect of producing a “pay” on Tuesday; and the evil consequences of the settlement being so long deferred have been apparent in many of the labourers who have ever since been in a shocking “state of beer”, wasting their cash and neglecting their work. Besides “sloping” their creditors have been extensively practised, many of the strangers having on Tuesday fled the town, in preference to discharging the obligations they had incurred to those who were simple enough to befriend them under their straitened circumstances. It is in this manner that the extensive works at present in progress in our neighbourhood are likely to be remembered, rather than on account of any benefits which the circulation of the outlay has conferred on the trading community.



## MUSEUM NEWS

This winter period has been an interesting and unusual time for us as we have been closed to the public for the entire period for the first time since the Museum moved into the Barracks in 1984. This has been an opportunity to embark on couple of new things, the ***Exhibit of the Month*** in Berwick library and ***Northumberland Treasures*** a major showing of half of the paintings from our Burrell collection with some contemporary work at the Bailiffgate Museum in Alnwick. This latter show enabled us to make interesting points about the collection, for example to hang pictures from the Dutch Hague school of the 19<sup>th</sup> century alongside works by the Berwick artist James Wallace who actually visited Holland at the time and dropped into the studio of one of them. It is fascinating to be able to make these cross-cultural connections. The Alnwick show will have finished by the time you read this but the Berwick library exhibits continue until March. Until 10<sup>th</sup> January in honour of the Festive season we have installed a late 15<sup>th</sup> century wooden sculpture of the Madonna and child. Then comes a Chinese blue-and-white plate showing the eight Daoist Immortals, which featured in this newsletter way back in May 1995 (no.6). This is followed by a silhouette portrait of the author John McKay Wilson, also the subject of an article in no.8 (Dec 1995). Finally the March exhibit is a fine cup-and-ring marked stone from the Bronze Age. The Library is open everyday except Thursday and Sunday.

Back at the museum the closed period has provided a real opportunity to get to grips with the stores and to plan for the new season. We have made a real inroad into sorting out and rationalizing everything to create more room and to arrange things more logically than in the past. Then there has been the not inconsiderable effort to compiling and dispatching our application to achieve Accreditation status from the Museum Libraries and Archives council. This is the national 'industry standard' for museums and covers a whole raft of things from the detail of the documentation and cataloguing procedures to simple but vital things like whether you have any direction signs up. The other big issue at the moment is the ongoing consultancy on the future running, appearance and services of the Museum. DJB Consultants are due

to deliver their final report in January but they have already outlined some findings at a couple of meetings of the Berwick Local Strategic Partnership. It was no surprise to anyone that there was scope for considerable improvement and part of the effort we are making over this closed period is towards a new improved museum in the spring.

The major refurbishment is the conversion of the Dragon gallery into a Medieval Berwick gallery. We are keeping the amazing 54ft dragon, it is very popular with the public, and the basic layout of the room, but changing the exhibits and the colour scheme and adding some graphic panels outlining this important period in Berwick's history. Pride of place will go to a fine model of Berwick castle, funded by the Friends, as it probably looked in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere we are changing some of the exhibits in Window on Berwick getting the sound effects working, putting down a new carpet and adding a lot more information. Another great improvement will be the reappearance after several years of the first exhibition gallery on the ground floor. In 2003 we had to use it in a hurry as a library store but by the spring the room will be re-established as an exhibition venue, as it once used to be.

So there will be lots new to see in 2008 and to keep standards high we need the Friends help. In the future it is vital that visitors receive a welcome and assistance from a permanently staffed front desk. Obviously most of the time myself or Jim can provide this, but to give us a bit of flexibility, especially during the working week, it would be very helpful if we had some volunteers to sit on the front desk for a couple of hours at a time. If you think you'd like to try this give me or Jim a ring on 01289 301869 or e-mail to [museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk).

Thanks.

*Chris Green* ([museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk))

## **ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY**

**A Berwick Exorcism**

During the course of my research into local ghosts I came across this remarkable account of an incident in 1644. The hero of the story is Robert Balsom, one of Berwick's Puritan preachers, who stayed in the town only a short while, but was greatly missed when he left. Perhaps one can see why.

"In 1644 the Lord Grandison, a Scottish nobleman, dwelt at Berwick; the Steward of his house was a religious man, but much afflicted in mind. Mr. Robert Balsom, a zealous minister in those parts, came to visit him, and for the present somewhat satisfied him. But two or three days after being again sorely afflicted, Mr. Balsom was sent for, who finding him much weakened by this distemper of mind, began to speak comfortably to him; but perceiving he could fasten nothing upon him, he whispered in his ear to this purpose "I doubt there is something within which you would do well to discover". The man's tongue swelled immediately, and came out of his mouth, so that he was not able to speak. Mr. Balsom continued to discourse with him, till to the astonishment of all in the room (who were many, and some persons of quality) a shrill voice was heard, as coming out of his throat without any motion of his tongue, saying, "What dost thou talk to him of Grace and Promises? He is mine." Mr. Balsom apprehending it to be the voice of the Devil, replied, "No Satan; thou does not know any man to be thine while there is life in him".

*Satan:* "But this is a notorious wicked wretch, and therefore he is mine".

*Balsome:* Yet the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all Sin.

*Satan:* "If God would let me loose upon you, I would find enough in the best of you to make you all mine".

*Balsom:* But thou art bound, Satan": And so turning himself to the standers-by, he said with a cheerful countenance, "What a gracious God have we, that suffers not Satan to have his will upon us!" The Devil thereupon began to curse, swear, and to blaspheme the Blessed Trinity. To whom Mr. Balsom, said, "The Lord rebuke thee, Satan."

*Satan:* "But this man is mine, for he hath given himself to me, and sealed it with his own blood".

Balsom: "I do not believe that the Father of Lies speaketh truth, and I do not believe, how confident soever thou art, but thou wilt lose thy hold before to morrow morning". The Devil then continued to curse and swear, and said, "How can thou endure to hear thy God thus blasphemed? I will never give over blaspheming as long as thou stay in the Room".

*Balsom:* "I will pray for the man".

*Satan:* "Wilt thou pray for a man that is damned?"

*Balsom*: "I will go home and pray for him, and get all the force I can in the Town to join with me". After this, there being no voice heard, Mr. Balsom went home about eleven at night, where he found divers Christian friends, which he intended to have sent for, waiting for him, and upon the sight of them he spake to this purpose: "Friends, I wonder at the Providence of God in bringing you hither at this time, for otherwise I might have sent for you"; and so declaring what had befallen the afflicted person, he desired then to join their prayers with his on his behalf; which they continued for some part of the night. Next Morning Mr Balsom found him in a very comfortable condition, and asking him how he did, he answered, "Through the goodness of God I have overcome Satan, and am now as full of comfort as I was before of trouble". Thus he continued cheerful (though very weak) all that day, and the next morning died, no disease being apparent on him."

Source: Nathaniel Crouch: *Wonderful Prodigies of Judgment and Mercy, discovered in near three hundred memorable histories* (London, 1729) pp.41-43

(via *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*, from National Library of Scotland)

*Chris Green*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

I am drawing up an Emergency Plan for Berwick Museum and Art Gallery. This is a comprehensive guide to handling any sort of disaster that might hit the building and collection such as fire or flood. We would all hope that this never happens and it probably won't, but the purpose of the plan is that if anything should happen, all the information one would ever need is at hand.

Part of the plan deals with the salvage of the collection after a crisis, and I am looking for people who would be happy to assist with such a salvage operation. Your details would be on a list in the Emergency Plan so that the Museum staff could contact you quickly.

If you are interested, please call the Museum 01289 301869 or e-mail us ([museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk)). Thank you

*Jim Herbert*  
*Technician, Berwick Museum*

The Record Office is also drawing up its Disaster Plan and so we need the names of volunteers as well who would be willing to help in an emergency. We would hope that it would never happen but it is better to be prepared than not. If you would be willing to help, please contact Linda at the Record Office – 01289 301865 or [lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk)

*Linda Bankier*

As I have mentioned in my Museum News, I am looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with manning the front desk at the Museum. If you can help in any way, please contact me at the Museum on 01289 301869 or e-mail [Museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:Museum@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk)

*Chris Green*

## **BERWICK DOCUMENTS**

What a splendid Christmas present! In July we were given the opportunity to buy £30,000 worth of 16<sup>th</sup> Century documents pertaining to Berwick's Walls and to the Garrison. We made an appeal via the Newsletter and then the Berwick Advertiser. As a result of Linda's efforts with some official bodies and with personal pledges we had amassed £20,000 by September. I sent off letters to local funding bodies with some considerable success and we both encouraged friends to help. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December I received a phone call telling me of the last £1000 coming to us before Christmas. We'd done it!

Peter and I had a short holiday in London in November and were able to visit the premises of Bernard Quaritch, the antiquarian bookseller in a wonderful property just off Regent Street. What thrilled us was that Lower John Street leads into Golden Square. Highly propitious we thought! We were able to look at the documents and I was also allowed to photograph them - in amateurish fashion. However the pictures were good enough to give Linda a taster of what is to come and she was thrilled.

Linda has plans for digitisation and exhibitions and Chris is looking forward to using the documents too. Of course education will play a great part in the scheme. I fancy our being able to produce post-cards perhaps.

From the beginning of the New Year we will be calling in pledges, negotiating with the bookseller and looking into the logistics of receiving and housing the documents. Exciting stuff!

*Barbara Herdman*

## **EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GUILD CORRESPONDENCE**

Whilst making a list of the Guild of Freeman's miscellaneous correspondence from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, I found the following letter sent to the Mayor of Hull which you may find of interest. There are some wonderful gems in the correspondence :

I am directed by the Mayor & Magistrates to request to be informed whether you can give any information about a person who calls himself Robt. Stuart, who has been apprehended in this Town as a suspicious Person – He appears to be a Scotsman from his Dialect – says that he served in the Army under Lieutenant Moreau in Germany from whence he returned about Four years ago. That he has since served in the corps of Volunteers at Hull in Coll. Maxwell's Company. That he is by Trade a Shoemaker or Bricklayer & a Confectioner. He is about 5 foot 8 inches high, red hair cut short and much – marked with the smallpox. He speaks French language fluently. He had concealed under his coat when apprehended a thick Oaken Bludgeon which he says he found on the Road and has kept in his possession to be used as a Rowling-pin in his Trade of Confectioner but which appears to have been made for a worse purpose – Mr. Mayor & the Magistrates have ordered him to be detained till they have the pleasure of hearing from you

I am etc.

Wm. Willoby

Berwick 21 April 1804

*Irene Budworth*

## DEATH NOTICES IN THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

For a number of years, I have been indexing the births, deaths and marriages entries in the Berwick Advertiser. The index now extends from 1808 to April 1827. Whilst working through 1826, I found the following entries in the deaths section which you may find of interest :

### 25<sup>th</sup> November 1826

On Monday se'nnight, at Ham-street, Ham-common, Major Hook, of the East India Company's service, in his 75<sup>th</sup> year. By the will of a relation, he was entitled to an annuity "whilst his wife was above ground." To fulfil the tenor of this document, after her death he caused her to be placed in a chamber, her body to be preserved, and a glass case to be put over it. In this situation it has remained upwards of thirty years.

25<sup>th</sup> November 1826 :-

At Allithwaite, Westmorland, Mrs Sarah Birkett, Innkeeper, and formerly of Troutbeck, famous for brewing fine ale. On her sign-post is written these words :-

*"O mortal man, that liv'st by bread,  
How comes thy nose to be red?  
Thou silly ass, that look'st so pale,  
'Tis red with Sarah Birkett's ale"*

Gill Lee

## WHAT IS CITTASLOW

There has been a lot of talk around Berwick over the last six months about “**Cittaslow**” and people have been asking ‘what is it?’ and ‘what is it all about?’

### **What is it all about?**

Lets start at the beginning with the name. The best translation of the Italian phrase is “**Thoughtful Town**” because its basic idea is to help people find time and space for enjoying life. It means persuading them to take time to talk and think about themselves, to think about the food they eat, to consider how they look after themselves and protect their surroundings, and to involve them in improving life in their local community by taking care of the local environment, the local economy and local people.

A Cittaslow town is likely to have an environmental policy that works to deal with reducing traffic noise, dealing with pollution and increasing recycling. It looks at local health and welfare services and assesses what improvements can be made; it supports the local economy by promoting local produce and products. Some Cittaslow towns use only local contractors for work they want to have done. They also work to take care of local history and buildings as well as taking care that visitors get the best welcome and enjoy the best local food and hospitality.

### **What has it to do with Berwick?**

It really all started with the Seminar which was held in November 2005 to explore whether Berwick should try to attain World Heritage Status. There were two important points to come out of that event. The first was that it would take between fifteen to twenty five years for that outcome to be achieved and the second was that a useful interim measure would be for Berwick to seek Cittaslow status first since that could probably be gained within a few years and would help to prepare the town for eventual World Heritage Status.

### **How does Cittaslow work?**

There are 100 Cittaslow towns in 10 countries. Cittaslow has a permanent central office in the Italian town of Orvieto which acts a hub for the national networks. It offers a series of services to member towns from certification and periodic reviews to the training necessary to achieve various functions or projects. Cittaslow towns work towards improving their performance using a system of measurement that involves around 60 goals, grouped under six main headings:

- Environmental policy;
- Infrastructure policy;



- Enhancing the quality of urban fabric;
- Celebration and promotion of produce and products;
- Hospitality and community;
- Communicating awareness and understanding of Cittaslow.

Each town seeking Cittaslow status is required to assess how well it currently performs on each of these dimensions and is then evaluated by inspectors. In the case of Berwick the assessor was Graeme Kidd who set up the first English Cittaslow town at Ludlow in Shropshire in 2002. He visited Berwick in March 2006 to offer advice on how to prepare for evaluation. He made the point that “the real benefit of Cittaslow to Ludlow is the way it provides a ‘hook’ to hang things on and develop a mindset that encourages us to work with people and organisations towards a common aim.”

At that time there were three Cittaslow towns in the United Kingdom - Ludlow was the first, followed by Aylsham and Diss in Norfolk. In March 2007 Berwick was evaluated by a team from Cittaslow UK and in May they announced **that Berwick-upon-Tweed had become the fourth Cittaslow town in the country and the first in North East England.**

### **What else?**

Another important function of the Cittaslow concept is the specific “Slow Food” movement which aims to develop, promote and publicise the quality and value of good, traditional, regional food. The first step was to establish a local branch which is known as ‘A Slow Food Convivium’: this has already been done and it is developing grass roots support and has organised a variety of events such as tastings, dinners with a particular theme and visits to particular food suppliers/producers.

A part of the ‘Slow Food’ movement on which work has already been done, is the production of ‘A Directory of Local Produce’ to promote information about north east regional and local food and drink – whether it be shops or restaurants, food or drink producers – and pass this information to Slowfood members worldwide. Activity of this type will also act as a valuable tool in helping to promote tourism to Berwick and the Borough.

*If anyone would like to know more about Cittaslow, please contact me or Linda at the Record Office ([lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk) Tel : 01289 301865)*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

**Berwick Advertiser, Saturday December 13th, 1862**

BERWICK FOR TWO DAYS ONLY, FRIDAY AND  
SATURDAY, DEC. 19TH AND 20TH

Manders' Excelsior Menagerie for Extent, Variety and Novelty, in public estimation stands A No.1, and is uncontrovertibly a great fact, viz., the largest, best arranged, most rare, and valuable, of any similar Establishment that travelled in this country; while the fearless-though not fearful-performance of

MACCOMO, THE LION HUNTER,

Fully illustrated the wise ordination of Providence, that "Man is the Lord of Creation". The wonderful and really laughable performances of those almost reasoning brutes, the ELEPHANTS, are the admiration and delight of all beholders. The Establishment will occupy the largest area of ground ever allotted to any travelling Menagerie.

The collection contains  
16 LIONS, FIVE ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS,

Two performing Elephants, a pair of Zebras or Striped Horses, the Great Pongo or Ethiopian Savage, together with  
GROUPS OF PANTHERS, LEOPARDS,

And a host of others, contained in Fourteen Wagons, and drawn by nearly Forty Horses.

Admission, 1s. Children under ten years of age 6d each.

AGENT, MR J.P.HEARD

PROPRIETOR,.....MR W.MANDERS.

The Collection will arrive from Belford at 12 o'clock, in Grand Procession (weather permitting), Maccomo, in African Costumes, Driving his Team of Camels, Dromedaries, and Elephants.

The Menagerie will Exhibit at AYTON for Eyemouth on MONDAY the 22nd.

**Berwick Advertiser, December 20th, 1862**

LONDON CITY MISSION-

A public meeting was held in Wallace Green Church on Wednesday night presided over by the Rev. Dr. Cairns, to hear details of the condition of London, its importance as a mission field, and the operations of London city mission. From the remarks of the Chairman it appeared that the amount remitted from this district during the past year was £7 7s 6d including £2 4s 5d collected at the last annual meeting. Francis Tyrrell, B.A. one of the secretaries of the society addressed the meeting at length on the operations of the society. In the four of the shipping docks alone 200,000 foreign seamen annually arrived, and among those distributed bibles, testaments, and tracts in the different foreign languages. Nearly 10,000 bibles had been distributed during the year, and more than three millions of religious tracts. There were 400 city missionaries engaged in the work. A collection was taken at the close of the meeting.

*Carole Pringle*

**FRIENDS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

The Friends Annual Subscription is due at the beginning of January. If anyone would like to pay by standing order, I have enclosed a form which you can forward to your bank. Single membership is £5.00; Family Membership £7.00 and Institutional £10.00. Normal renewal forms will be sent out at the beginning of January

*Keith Wills  
Treasurer*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO  
THE FRIENDS**

