



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 66—June 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 25th June 2010

“Snippets from the Archives” - Talk by Linda Bankier to launch the 30th Anniversary series of Talks. 7.30 pm in Berwick Parish Centre

Friday 23rd July 2010

“From Ditch to Bastion: The Development of Berwick’s Defences” : Jim Herbert. 7.30pm in Berwick Parish Centre

Friday 20th August 2010

“Berwick’s Victorian Food Heritage” : Derek Sharman. 7.30pm in Berwick Parish Centre.

Friday 27th August 2010

“Victorian Berwick and the Royal Border Bridge” - performance by Drama School Group. 7pm at the Maltings

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd June
Wednesday 21st July

Kirknewton Visit : Brian Rogers
Walk About Tweedmouth : Chris Burgess

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th June

Britons and Anglo-Saxons in the
Borders: Dr Chris Bowles

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

Monday 6th September

Astronomy and Stone Circles: Gordon
Moir

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

Saturday 19th June to Sunday 20th June

Monumental Inscriptions Recording days at Jedburgh Abbey. Subject to change in adverse weather conditions.

Saturday 14th August to Sunday 15th August

Monumental Inscriptions Recording days at Coldingham Priory. Subject to change in adverse weather conditions.

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 3rd July 2.30pm

A Visit to The Guildhall, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 3rd – Saturday 10th July.

Exhibition: "Old Dunse": Room 3, Southfield

Open Daily 2pm-5pm and 7pm -9pm Centre, Station Road, Duns

(except Sunday Evening)

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: The Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Lectures Resume in The Autumn

NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time : 7.30 pm

Monday 10th June

Visit to Flodden and Branxton Church:
Guided by Clive Hallam Baker. Meet at
Branxton at 7pm.

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Time: 10.00am

Lectures Resume in the Autumn

ARCHIVE NEWS

It seems a long time since I last wrote something for the newsletter but it certainly hasn't been an idle time !

Over the past couple of months, the Record Office has undertaken a number of activities including Education and Outreach Work. Firstly, I have continued to do some work with schools and children of all age groups. In the middle of March, the Reception and Year 1 class from Longridge Towers visited the Record Office as part of my Early Years work. We have never had a class of 4 – 6 years olds in here before and so this was an experiment. However, although many people would think they are too young to appreciate looking at old photographs and the strongroom, it was really amazing to see how much they took in and understood. The visit was extremely successful and we now have a template of activities if any other group of that age want to visit. In mid May, I also went out to the School to do a session with the same children on “At the Seaside” - looking at then and now pictures of Spittal. Education wise, in this quarter, I have also been to the Junior Department of the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle to run my session on Holy Island in the past 150 years. The children used to spend a week on the Island but now only spend a day there and this session prepares them for their visit.

In the last newsletter, you may remember that I mentioned doing a lot of work with the Transformation Fund and Adult Learning. As part of this work, I organised a Local and Family History Day in the Guildhall at the end of March. I put on local and family history displays, organised some talks and had some representatives from the Borders Family History Society and the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society there to help people as well as our own Family History Mentor. We had a very successful day with 625 people visiting the event. We hope to run something similar next year as part of the Record Office's 30th anniversary celebrations but with a longer lead in time!

Re exhibitions, in the middle of May, the Record Office held another “Facades of the Fifties” weekend in the Guildhall. This year as well as exhibiting the 1959 shop front pictures, one of my volunteers did some research in the Berwick Advertiser and so we had newspaper and Fashion snippets from the time. We also showed our 1950s films which were very well attended. During the weekend over 1500 people visited the exhibition which is brilliant and shows how big the interest is in Local History and the past. It was lovely to see so many people spend a lot of time looking at the photographs and remembering how things were. We will hold another exhibition in two years!

As I have mentioned above, this year the Record Office will be 30 and I will have been here for 20 years – it definitely doesn't seem that long. It is a great achievement for a small town to have had its own Record Office for that long and so the Friends are hoping to mark this landmark with a number of events. They have applied for funding and there is a separate article on what we plan to do. Some of it is dependent on funding and hopefully we will know the outcome in the next couple of weeks. However, no matter what, the Record Office and the Friends will be holding a series of lectures and other events, so watch this space for further information !

Finally, some of you may have heard through the grapevine that the Record Office may have to move from its present building. We have been told that Northumberland County Council would like to sell the building we occupy and so we will have to find a new home. A working group has been set up to investigate this and we hope that we can find somewhere suitable. This won't happen overnight as we have to work to certain standards but hopefully it will result in the Record Office getting a larger and more suitable home which will allow it to continue to grow and make a positive contribution to life in North Northumberland for many years to come. I will let you all know more as and when I do.

Linda Bankier

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Record Office is part of a North East Archive Education Project entitled "Challenging History" which is introducing young people to archives through Drama. My contribution is to run a week long Drama School at the Maltings in August leading to a couple of performances of the play that we create. The Drama School is aimed at young people, aged 8 to about 13. I would like to work on the theme of the Opening of the Royal Border Bridge by Queen Victoria, the effect of the Railways on the town and what it was like living in Berwick at the time. As part of the project, we need to involve the community and so I would like to get some volunteers to read through the newspapers for the time to find out what was happening so that we can impart this information to the young people. If you would like to help in any way, please do contact me at the Record Office (01289 301865) or e-mail lbankier@woodhorn.org.uk

SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES

As part of the Facades of the Fifties exhibition, Angela Darling found lots of wonderful snippets in the Berwick Advertiser about events in the area at the time. Here are a couple to whet your appetite!

10th July 1952

LEES OF TWEEDMOUTH WORK ON LAST OF HAND-MADE COBLES

A chapter in the long story of Berwick craftsmanship is coming to an end, but as the old chapter closes so another one opens, bringing with it the increased speed that is so necessary in this modern age.

The building of salmon cobles has been a tradition with the Lees family for about 300 years, the methods having remain unchanged throughout the years. Now Mr James Lee and his 21 year old son Robert, carry on the ancient craft at a yard in Tweedmouth where they build cobles for Berwick Salmon Company. Using larch and timber they have built many boats by hand using only a few simple tools, including the adze, a tool that in most places fell into disuse long ago. They use no plans, for they build as they go along, adding here and taking off there, until the craft is completed to their own and the buyer's satisfaction.

LATEST MACHINES

Across the yard is a newly cemented stone building and inside it contains two of the very latest wood-working machines. One is a band saw and the other a planning and thickness machine which plane lengths of wood to any given thickness at a speed of 40 feet a minute. With the aid of the new machinery, the Company hopes to speed up production of salmon cobles and the yard will also build boats for the individual use of anglers. Mr J.F. Reid, the Company Secretary told the Advertiser yesterday "This machinery is of the very latest design. Mr Lee and his son have not used machinery of this nature before, but it is quite simple to use, and it will speed up the output of the yard very considerably" Although it is not intended to employ

more workmen at present, Mr Reid said that should orders warrant it, the staff would be increased. Although Mr Lee and Robert are looking forward to using the new machinery, they agree they will find it rather strange at first, for even bolt holes have had to be bored with a hand drill. Now Robert is hoping to be using soon a brand new electric model.

FATHER TO SON

Robert is almost finished his apprenticeship, and is soon to report for his National Service. He has been learning the trade from his father, who, in turn, was taught by his father, the late Mr Robert Lee, who was in the trade until he retired at 84. At the start of the 1914 – 1918 war, Mr Lee went with his father to Newcastle but they returned after the war to work for the Berwick Salmon Company. That the name of Lee is an old one in Tweedmouth is shown by the fact that they have part of the village named after them – it is called Lees Lane. So seemingly another craft dies. But the knowledge and experience, so essential in the building of boats remains, and it will be put to a new and speedier use with the aid of modern machinery.

16th July 1953

THE SALMON QUEEN WILL ARRIVE BY LAUNCH FOR THE CEREMONY

A Motor launch will bring the 1953 Salmon Queen, Miss Jean Brunton, her attendants, Miss Lilian Norris and Miss Lilian Henderson and trainbearers, Miss Sheena Fortune and Miss Elizabeth Patterson to the slipway of the Tweed Dock tonight. There Mr G.C. Burn, will welcome the Queen and her court on behalf of the Tweedmouth Feast Committee of which he is vice- chairman.

A guard of honour of Sea Rangers and Boy Scouts from the 4th Tweedmouth Troop will stand to attention as the Queen is escorted ashore, and the party will then walk in procession to the Jubilee Lamp, where for the first time the crowning ceremony will take place. Meanwhile the retiring Queen, Miss Linda Lee, with her attendants, Miss Gloria Matthews and Miss Catherine Cooney, will be walking in procession to the Lamp from the Mitchell Memorial Hall. They will be accompanied by members of the Feast Committee and Berwick Pipe Band will lead them. At the Jubilee Lamp, Mr James Paxton, the chairman of the Feast Committee, will extend a welcome to the gathering and he will introduce the Mayor, Alderman G.M. Lamb who will welcome the new Queen. Miss Lee, the 1952 Queen will perform the crowning ceremony and

for the new Queen there will be the present of a medallion. The crowning ceremony will be one of the most colourful features of the Tweedmouth Feast week which is inaugurated tonight. Many of the popular features are retained, including the torchlight procession and fireworks display to be held on July 24.

NOVELTY SWIMMING

After the crowning there will be a display of novelty swimming events in the Tweed Dock, and on the Saturday many members of the Berwick Amateur Swimming Club will be in action again, as they take part in the across the river race. Starting at a point above the Old Bridge, the competitors will come ashore at the slipway at Tweedmouth War Memorial. On Sunday the Vicar of Tweedmouth, the Rev. L.O. Henderson, will conduct a Feast Sunday service. The Mayor, Alderman Lamb, the Sheriff, Councillor D. Storar, Aldermen, Councillors and Corporation officials will assemble at the Norman Hall and march to the Church. In the afternoon there will be a buttonhole competition. Quoit main, adult and junior singing competitions and races and treacle bun competition will provide entertainment and laughter for the competitors and spectators on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, while on Thursday there will be a carnival of horse entries, tableaux and adults' and childrens' fancy dress. After the judging the carnival will be led by the Salmon Queen and her attendants on a tour of Tweedmouth, Berwick and Spittal. The evening's activities will be rounded off with a carnival dance in the Corn Exchange. On Friday there will be an old fashioned waltzing contest and open-air dancing, while those taking part in the torchlight procession will assemble at 10.30pm at Shielfield Terrace, the Five Arches, the West End and in Berwick's Sandgate to proceed to the Jubilee Lamp. A bonfire will be lit half an hour later and a spectacular fireworks display will bring the finale to what is hoped to be a splendid week for young and old.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

Berwick Museum transferred to the Woodhorn Trust at the beginning of April. There has been a slight delay in the transfer of the other Northumberland Museums - Morpeth and Tynedale Museums – but they should follow by August this year.

Friends visiting the museum over the next couple of weeks will be welcomed by our new visitor hosts – Karen, Philippa and Rosemary have all settled in well, and will soon be joined by Elona, who will complete the team.

The Clock Block has had a successful start to the new season, with the new exhibition about Frank Wood proving to be a popular attraction with visitors to town as well as local people. Most of the visitors had not heard of Wood before visiting the museum, but have been very impressed by the quality of our man's workmanship. One rainy day last week we were visited by an Edinburgh art group on a sketching day out – they were not very happy with the weather, but they were delighted by the pictures, and were especially surprised when informed that Wood had kept a studio in Edinburgh for many years. Several of the Friends lent Wood paintings and drawings to the Museum, and their contribution has been especially welcome, with several particularly good examples of Wood's work enhancing the museum's own collection.

For the latter part of the season there will be a costume exhibition. The museum has a small but interesting collection of costumes which have not been on exhibition before.

We helped Andro Semeiko, one of the Gymnasium artists in residence with his exhibition, "*Unveiling*", which opened in April. Andro, originally from Georgia, is a graduate of the Royal Academy School. His paintings and installations create a world where everyday objects play extraordinary roles in science fiction setups.

There have been a number of new acquisitions over the past couple of months. The most important is undoubtedly a sizeable collection of Wallace paintings and drawings donated to the museum by the estate of Mrs Elsie Clark. Mrs Clark and her sister Grace Wallace donated other paintings and family memorabilia to Berwick Museum while they were alive, some of which were exhibited in the "James Wallace and The Quintet" exhibition held in 1995. The majority of the drawings and paintings are by Andrew Wallace, and we are now researching the pictures to find out where they were drawn and painted – many are of places other than Berwick. We hope to show a small selection of the drawings this season in the Burrell Gallery, prior to a more extensive exhibition of the work next year.

Mr George Wishart has given the museum a panoramic portrait from Berwick Grammar School, taken in 1927. It would be interesting to know if any of the schoolboys are still living in Berwick – they would be in their nineties by now!

Mrs Elizabeth Light and her family are donating a very interesting and extensively researched 1840s wedding dress, which belonged to their ancestor Isabella Robertson.

Mrs F Jones has given the museum a beautiful paisley shawl, which will be shown in the costume exhibition.

The museum has been awarded an MLA special grant as part of the *Effective Collections* scheme. This will help in sorting out the collections at the museum with a view to getting more of them out on display, as well as improving their cataloguing. The grant is worth £10,000, with the possibility of further funding of £5,000 if the initial project goes well.

Anne Moore (Museums Officer North, Woodhorn Trust)

ISABELLA ROBERTSON'S WEDDING DRESS

Isabella Wood Sanderson and Thomas Douglas had four daughters, the first one, following tradition, being named Isabella Robertson Douglas. This Isabella sadly died at age 11 of diphtheria.



Isabella Wood Douglas (nee Sanderson) and Isabella Robertson Douglas

The second daughter, named Jessie Hunter Douglas after her father's mother, married Jim Kirkwood; they had no children. The third daughter, Wilhelmina Margaret, married Thomas Gregory, and the fourth daughter, Thomasina, married George Ainslie, and emigrated to Australia. From the marriages of Wilhelmina (always known as Meg) and Thomasina (usually called Ine), Isabella Robertson has many descendants in England and in Australia.

The silk dress has come into the family through the descendents of Wilhelmina (Meg) Douglas. It is beautifully hand sewn - we will never know by whom. At some stage in its early life the dress was altered and hooks sewn on at the back to reduce the size— these have been carefully removed. Several generations have enjoyed dressing up in it, so it is remarkable that it has survived so well!



The silk dress belonged to Isabella Robertson, who married William Sanderson in 1845. Originally the silk was bright purple, but now appears brown, with traces of the original colour visible. As we are fortunate enough to have the dress in the family, we thought it would be interesting to find out as much as possible about its owner. We now know that at the time of the wedding Isabella's father was the innkeeper at the Cross Keys in Ancrum, Roxburghshire.

William Sanderson was a joiner, and after their marriage he and Isabella lived in the village of Gavinton, in the parish of Langton. They had two children, Isabella Wood Sanderson, born 1846, and John Sanderson, born 1849. Sadly in 1850, when her son John was a year old, Isabella, nee Robertson, died. William's sister Jessie moved in to look after the children and keep house for him. The boy, John, died in childhood.

Researching the details of Isabella Robertson's earlier life has been difficult, as her birth is apparently not registered anywhere in Scotland, and she died before the 1851 census, which would have provided useful information. The fact that her daughter was Isabella Wood Sanderson implies that her mother would have been Isabella Wood, conforming to the Scottish tradition of naming the first daughter after her maternal grandmother. However, there is no record of an Isabella Wood marriage to a Robertson. Irregular marriages were not uncommon in Scotland at this time – these were marriage contracts undertaken without religious ceremony, and therefore not entered in parish records. We wonder if this was the case with Isabella Wood.

Fortunately there was a clue to the whereabouts of the Robertson family - the Langton (Gavinton) parish record entry for Isabella Robertson's own marriage states that she was "of Ancrum" and therefore the search for her parents moved to Roxburghshire. A visit to Ancrum brought success! In the old churchyard there we found a fine gravestone in memory of Thomas Robertson and Isabella Wood, together with other family members. It was possible then to trace the family further, using parish records and census returns, finding that Isabella had two sisters and four brothers, and was herself born in Crichton, Midlothian. Hers is in fact the only birth of that family not recorded; her siblings were born in Ayton, Berwickshire, Melrose, Roxburghshire, and Crichton. She can be found on the 1841 census with her sister Elizabeth and brother John, her parents living close by.

In the same census William Sanderson, journeyman joiner, is living in Eccles, Berwickshire. How Isabella Robertson met William Sanderson is a mystery – there are Robertsons who are joiners also in Eccles at that time – so perhaps they were relatives of Isabella, and knew or worked with William ?

Isabella Wood Sanderson went on to marry Thomas Douglas, also a joiner, and continued to live in the house at Gavinton. Her Aunt Jessie, who had brought her up, now lived next door with her own mother, Margaret Sanderson nee Pringle.



Jessie Sanderson and Margaret Pringle

Anne Moore (Museums Officer North, Woodhorn Trust)

BRO 30

This year the Berwick Record Office celebrates its 30th year of protecting and preserving archives and records of the North Northumberland area, and it is felt that this should not go unnoticed. Therefore a year of events is being planned, both to commemorate the valuable work the Record Office has done and also to make known the various aspects of preserving the past for the future.

As the deadline for this Newsletter approaches, plans are not yet finalised. However, a rough outline is sketched out below.

It is proposed to hold an Archive Workshop Day on 9th October in the Parish Centre as well as possibly some further workshops later on in the year. Two exhibitions are also planned: a retrospective exhibition at the Maltings in November and a Local and Family History Weekend at the Guildhall in May. In these exhibitions it is hoped that various groups from all over the area will participate. There will also be school and youth group competitions in which younger children are asked to document some aspect of life 30 years ago, when the Record Office was established and older children are asked to interview someone about their life. Individual and collective prizes will be given to the various categories.

Finally, a series of Friday evening lectures will be held throughout the year. These will take place at 7:30 pm at the Parish Centre in Berwick and are free. The first one will be on 25 June, where Linda Bankier will present some *Snippets from the*

Archives. The July lecture—taking place on the 23rd—will feature Jim Herbert on Berwick's Defences *From Ditch to Bastion*, and on 20th August Derek Sharman will speak on *Berwick's Victorian Food Heritage*. An event will be held in September and the well-known local historian, Francis Cowe, will be speaking on *Berwick's Tudor Documents* on 15th October. Subsequent lectures—still to take shape—will feature Dr Tony Barrow, speaking on Collingwood, Katrina Porteous on the social history of Beadnell as well as others.

As all these events are provisory however, changes can occur. Therefore, those interested are urged to check the *Berwick Advertiser* and the posters, which will be put up in town. Hopefully in the next issue of the Newsletter everything will have taken shape.

Jane Pigney & Lars Rose

WHEN THE VICAR OF BERWICK WAS HANGED FOR MURDER

Berwick Advertiser January 10th 1952

An Archbishop and three Bishops will be among the preachers at Berwick Parish Church during its anniversary week from June 15th to 22nd, to celebrate the establishment of the church 800 years ago, and the erection of the present building 300 years ago. Both anniversaries fall this year.

The speakers are the Archbishop of York, and the Bishops of Newcastle, Durham and Edinburgh.

Coinciding with the anniversary year is the publication of a new booklet "The Story of the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, " which has been written by the Vicar of Berwick, the Rev. W . B. Hicks.

The booklet has many interesting and amusing stories to tell. For instance, Berwick was not always fortunate in its choice of Vicars, or Curates either.

A paragraph states: “We read in the “State Papers” of Queen Elizabeth, 1560, of Sir Francis Leek’s letter to Cecil about the then, Vicar of Berwick, Sir Robert Selby. “The Curate is a very simple man, and has only £7 a year from the Vicar, who is more ignorant than the Curate. I doubt whether he can say his Paternoster truly either in Latin or in English. The Dean of Durham, who is patron of the Church of Berwick, can declare the inaptness of the vicar of Berwick, called Sir Robert Selby, to take care of any Christian people’.”

ELOQUENCE

Then there is the story of Vicar Smithson in 1672 who one Sunday morning in the pulpit preached a most eloquent sermon on the text “Thou shalt do no murder.” The sermon came to a close when the Vicar collapsed on the floor in a fit.

When he has carried to the Vicarage (now called Rampart Cottage [and the home of the Record Office]), his wife was found lying murdered on the floor, the vicar’s last act before going to church that morning. He was subsequently tried and hanged for his crime on Gallow’s Knowe, just above Tommy the Miller’s field.

Although living in changed days the Vicars of today still have their moments. The writer of the booklet tells that when he was inducted as Vicar, the Parish Church had no bell.

Consequently in the middle of his induction service he had to leave the Bishop and congregation while he dashed in his robes by taxi down to the Town hall, ascended some 100 steps, and rang himself in as the new Vicar of Berwick.

Angela Darling

BERWICK SNIPPETS FROM THE TIMES AND THE HULL PACKET

6th July, 1785

At Berwick upon Tweed, the inhabitants are determined to shew their disapprobation of Mr Pitt’s shop-tax, by shutting up their shops, and suffering the tax-gatherers to distrain their goods for the payment of it when it becomes due.

18th October, 1787

A general meeting of the principal merchants and ship-owners at Berwick-upon-Tweed, was held at the Town-Hall on Thursday sennight, for taking into consideration the letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to an intended regulation to be substituted on the tonnage of vessels, in lieu of the fees taken by the Custom-house Officers; when it was resolved, "That the tonnage-duty being greatly superior to the fee at present paid, they therefore were content to have things remain in the same state as heretofore; but at the same time concluded, it was very necessary that they should be properly regulated;" which reply the Mayor was requested to communicate to Mr Rose.

25th March, 1791

DEATH – on Friday last, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, in the 64th year of his age, Mr John Amey, of Greenwich, many years master of the London and Berwick Packets.

23rd December, 1799

ADMIRALTY SESSION – Old Bailey

James Thomson was tried with felony and piracy. He was found on board the *Success* French privateer, which was captured on the 4th of this month by the *Atalanta* sloop. The *Success* had taken the *Martha* brig, of Belfast, which she had in tow at the time of her capture. The prisoner endeavoured to pass for a Frenchman, and spoke broken French; but he was recognized by the boatswain of the *Atalanta*, who in the year 1789 had sailed with him to the East-Indies, and to whom the prisoner had then declared that he was a native of Berwick-upon-Tweed. They had afterwards been pressed and served on board the *Victory* at Torbay. The captain of the privateer said, the prisoner, who had been married and settled for some years in Dunkirk, came voluntarily on board in consequence of his (the Captain's) application. The prisoner in his defence said that in the year 1792, he married and settled at Dunkirk, but that afterwards falling into great distress, he made several attempts to get back to this country without success, he had been confined in prison for a long time. Having no other means of supporting himself his wife or his children, he was forced from distress to enter on board the privateer. The Jury found the prisoner guilty; and sentence of Death was immediately passed on him by Sir Wm. Scott.

10th November, 1802

On Saturday sennight a boy, not more than twelve years of age, of the name of Matthewson, belonging to Berwick-upon-Tweed, but having of late resided chiefly in or about Newcastle, applied for employment to Mr Hogg, Miller, of Edenton, in Berwickshire, who, moved by a very plausible and melancholy tale of his distresses, offered him lodgings, and what further consideration his services might merit. On Monday morning Mr H's servants, on visiting the stables as usual, missed their Master's favourite mare, which it appears young *Turpin* had decamped with at an early hour. He was traced through Berwick, and seen afterwards on the Wooler road; and though Mr Hogg himself was but a few hours after him in the pursuit, we have not heard that he has yet been taken.

1st January, 1812

Several tradesmen of Berwick-upon-Tweed, having refused to pay any addition to their income-tax, their goods were seized. The officer no sooner entered the house of one butcher to distrain, than the latter seized his hatchet, and swore he would kill the first person who touched any of his property.

The HULL Packet 16th September, 1800

It is a curious fact, that in the Income Bill of last year, the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed was omitted to be mentioned, by which circumstance the inhabitants of that place were exempted from any contribution to the Income Tax last year. We presume they will not find themselves so fortunate this, but must furnish their proportion to that tax.

Jane Bowen & Jan Ward

RE-UNION-TYNEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

I'm not into going to re-unions but this year I succumbed and Peter and I went to Percy Main Cricket Club to re-visit MY past with other members of the 1951 intake of Tynemouth High School – gosh! Who were all these old codgers?

Even after all these years I have kept in touch with a few folk but there were quite a number I'd forgotten or who were "different"! It was good to see how well we all had

done over the years, though. I was amazed to hear how far flung some of my contemporaries are but it was equally intriguing to learn how many still live in the Tynemouth area.

These adventures take organising and the main contender was John Freeman. He'd also had the idea of producing a booklet about our early life on Tyneside. So, we were invited to write a short article about our start in the 40s and 50s. Considering we began as an intake of 150 pupils John didn't do too badly by receiving over 60 replies, some very brief and some splendidly detailed.

Much work later and John had collated all the information and had produced a delightful booklet called, "The Early Years Project" – (Tynemouth High School 1951 intake.)

With headings such as: School, Play and Leisure, The Home (a vast subject), Clothing, Illness, Holidays, Food, Parties and, The War Years we certainly had lots to mull over. There are some wonderful line drawings of searchlights and enemy planes. There are personal and school photographs of our early youth and there are some items from local archives and libraries.

The idea was not for us just to wallow in nostalgia but to produce a readable, enjoyable memory for us and for future generations. We've all got our copy of the work and I hope we've all built on it to ensure that the life we once knew and which has gone for ever is not totally lost to posterity. Having read through the finished booklet I now know there are so many other snippets I could have added – so I have set pen to paper and continued to record my memories.

I'm hoping that this small article will nudge people into writing down their memories. If we don't tell other folk then a whole wealth of information disappears forever. Just cast a mind back to the Facades of the Fifties and all the memories that came flooding back over those two days – magic! Just think of the treats to come as we all help celebrate 30 years of the Berwick Record Office!

I've lent Linda my copy of our enterprise but if anyone feels inspired do contact me or Linda. And – remember you could be the next Catherine Cookson!!

Barbara Herdman.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that during WW1 the Berwick Advertiser devoted a considerable amount of space to photographs and notes on men from the area serving with the armed forces? If you have an ancestor in this category you may well find him in the Advertiser's pages. If he was a fatality then there is almost certain to be an entry on his life and the circumstances of his death.

Old editions of the Berwick Advertiser are available in the Record Office for the public to view on microfilm.

Valerie Glass

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 11th September 1868

THE CHEAPEST LANGUAGE

There is no other spoken language so cheap and expressive by telegraph as the English. So the electric wires are becoming teachers of our mother tongue in foreign countries. The same amount of information can be transmitted in fewer English words than French, German, Italian, to any other European language. In Germany and Holland especially it is coming to be a common thing to send telegrams in English to save expense and ensure precision. This red, white and blue, the Celtic, Teutonic, and Latin element of our English language will yet make the tour of the globe, and be the silent speech fitted to the flashing lips of lightning, as well as the tongue which half of the earth's millions will speak within two centuries from the present.

Berwick Advertiser, 9th October 1868

ESCAPE OF A LION AT NOTTINGHAM

Considerable excitement and alarm was caused on Friday at Nottingham by the escape of a lion from Mr Whittington's menagerie, which was exhibiting in the

Sneinton Newmarket, during the Goose fair holidays. It appears that early in the afternoon Metani, the African lion hunter, was parading a full-grown Puma lion, which is considered harmless, on the stage outside the establishment, when the animal caught sight of a dog, held by a lad in the crowd. Breaking away from Metani, the lion sprang off the stage at the dog and killed it almost instantly. The people fled in all directions, and the lion seeing another dog a short distance off, rushed at it, and despatched it as quickly as it had done the first. Metani here succeeded in securing the animal, which was led back to the menagerie with the dead dog in its mouth. Some difficulty was experienced in opening the lion's jaws to get the dog away. The lad who held the dog first killed escaped unhurt and no persons received injury.

Berwick Advertiser, 13th November, 1868

ELECTION NEWS

In a few days, candidates and committee men will either be exulting over the successful issue of their labours during the past few weeks, or they will be compelled to retire into private life, there to lament that they have laboured in vain, and spent their strength for naught. Yesterday, the Sheriff and Under-Sheriff proclaimed the writ for the ensuing election from the top of the Townhall steps, and ordered the nomination to take place on Monday, and the poll, if demanded, on Tuesday. Preparations have been made for the latter day, and we understand that in addition to two booths in Berwick, there is to be one in the shop of Mr Robert Sidey, Tweedmouth. Upwards of one hundred special constables have been appointed to keep the peace on the Election Day, and they will be sworn into office tomorrow night. The contest is likely to be a tough one, but we hope that Berwick will distinguish itself, as on the last occasion, by returning two sound Liberals to Parliament.

Berwick Advertiser, 22nd January, 1869

THE PROPOSED DOCK

We were glad to find the proposed put forth some time ago in the Advertiser-that a dock should be constructed on the other side of the river to enable large vessels to discharge their cargoes in security-has been favourably entertained by the Harbour Commissioners. Plans and specifications have been submitted by the eminent firm of Messrs Stevenson, of Edinburgh, and although the cost is somewhat startling, we

hope that some arrangement will be made by which the necessary resources will be supplied. We understand that two plans have been laid before the Commissioners- one of a dock capable of accommodating six large vessels, which could be carried out at an expense of £19,000, and another of a more capacious dock that would cost £25,000, and would accommodate nine vessels. The estimated expense does not include the outlay necessary to buy up the portion of ground used as a salmon fishery. To enable the Harbour Commissioners to enter upon such an undertaking, an Act of Parliament largely increasing their borrowing powers would be necessary, but we understand that the firms of the town that are most deeply interested in the shipping are willing to pay pretty heavy dock dues for the increased facilities that would be afforded them of unloading their ships, and allowing them charter vessels of larger tonnage. It is universally admitted that a dock would be of the greatest benefit to the trade of the town, and the only question is one of expense, which we earnestly hope will soon be satisfactorily solved. The following are the dimensions of the dock:- Length; 450 feet, breadth; 170 feet, depth; 19 feet, area; 1:711 acre, width of gates; 40 feet.

Carole Pringle

FRIENDS ACCOUNTS 2009

The following accounts were presented at the AGM. As they were only available on the night, we have decided to include them in this newsletter. The accounts were audited by Stuart Bankier.