



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 72—DEC 2011*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 23rd March 2012

Friends AGM and Talk by Chris Hunwick  
:Alnwick Castle Archives and the Earls of  
Northumberland. 7pm at Berwick Parish  
Centre

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012

Flodden: Chris Burgess

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

A Year in the Life of a Laird 300 years ago:  
Bryan Webster

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

AGM followed by "Sir Walter and Wandering  
Willie's Tale" : Hector Sutherland

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Berwick Castle: Jim Herbert

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February

Northumbrian Language: Peter Arnold

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Flodden: Chris Burgess

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012

A talk to be given by a representative of one  
of the Councils. Details to be announced  
later.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Olympiade 1936: Iain Boyd Whyte,  
Professor of Architectural History, University  
of Edinburgh.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Rediscovering Herculaneum & Pompeii: Dr  
Jeremy Paterson. Combined meeting with  
The Border Archaeological Society.

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The Drama of the Lives of the Stuarts of  
Traquair 1491-1875: Margaret Fox

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Ford Moss & Colliery: Allan Bertram

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

The Scholar, the Wizard and the Seer:  
Isabel Gordon

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012

The Excavations at Flodden: Chris  
Burgess

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March

To be announced: Roger Miket

### **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Saving, Spending, and Family History:  
Peter Munro

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March

From the Poorhouse to Knighthood:  
Marjorie Gavin

### **CHIRNSIDE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Community Centre**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 16th January 2012

Celtic Connections: Bob Higham

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

History of Berwick from the Archives:  
Linda Bankier

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Bondagers: Dinah Iredale

## COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	George Monk: The Restoration of the Monarchy: Andrew Tulloch
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Some memories of a Scottish Photographer: John H. Elliot
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	A.G.M at 7.00pm prompt followed by Flodden & Ford Moss: Chris Burgess

## DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Forgotten Men in Duns: Isobel Candlish
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Twizel Castle: Catherine Kent
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	The Leslie Chappell Photographic Collection: Mr Alistair Spence

## GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	The History of Our National Parks Featuring the pioneering role of John Muir of Dunbar: Sandra Gann
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	A Northumbrian Identity : The heritage of our County – Music, Song, Dance, Customs & Crafts : Kim Bibby-Wilson
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Hadrians' Wall : Tribes & Tyranny : Michael Thomson

## LOWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Tracing your Ancestors: Linda Bankier
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	The Normans ( to be arranged)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Flodden: Noel Hodgson

**NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Party Night with Arlene Cadman & Friends. All are welcome.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	The Theatre Royal, Newcastle: Anne Robinson
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Monkey Business at a Medieval Abbey: Barry Mead

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

**Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford** **Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	Members' Forum
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	To be decided
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Family history in the Borders- What The Heritage Hub can offer you: Rachel Hosker

**SPITTAL. ST JOHN'S RAILWAY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Spittal Bowling Club** **Time: 7.30pm**

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Old Spittal and Tweedmouth: John Griffiths
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Quarry Railways near the North Northumberland Coast: Roger Jermy

## TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Prehistoric Skye: Roger Miket

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Ditches and Bastions of Berwick: Jim  
Herbert

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Twizel Castle: Catherine Kent

### **ARCHIVE NEWS**

Another year has gone by and this has certainly been a quick one in the Record Office. I'm not even sure where the last couple of months have gone but we have been busy. These are some of the things that we have been involved with.

At the end of September, we held our last BRO 30 event – the Past, Present and Future weekend in the Guildhall. We had a very successful weekend with over 900 people visiting the exhibition over the two days to see the displays on the work done by the Record Office and the Friends during their existence. It is surprising how many and varied are our achievements. As part of the weekend, we also showed some Films in the Council Chamber, including some which hadn't been seen before.

I have continued to undertake Education Work in the area with local schools and have developed some new links. Ford School have been undertaking a local project on the Ford Estate and so I spent a morning with the children looking at archive sources and the census which was great fun. Form 1 at Longridge Towers have been looking at Family History and so I was asked to talk to them about the subject and do some practical work with them. We had a great afternoon looking at sources and then trying little exercises on the Internet – this was a new venture for me but very enjoyable and well worth doing.

Some of you may not be aware that Berwick has links with Hawaii through a Captain James Mossman who was born in Berwick and ended up there. Following their roots, 30 of his descendants came to Northumberland in mid October and spent a day in Berwick looking around the town. As part of their visit, I talked to them about their ancestors and life in Berwick when they were here. Thanks to one of the Friends, Janet Akehurst, and her work on the family, I was able to show them images of baptism entries and photos of the family gravestones in Tweedmouth which they were thrilled about. Berwick might be a small place but it has made an impression in many parts of the world !

The Record Office has continued to support the Sheep Tales project which is looking at shepherding in the North Northumberland area. I have been involved in Oral History training for the volunteers and also in the digitisation of photographs. We have been lent some beautiful photographs and fascinating documents to copy which will be kept in the Record Office, even after the project is finished. We have also now started recording people's memories of shepherding which has given us a wonderful insight into their lives and what life was like – very different to today. It is very encouraging to see so many people get involved in the Project as volunteers and also being willing to be recorded. So, if any of the Friends have photographs of shepherding or related activities – sheep shearing; home life; wool crafts; agricultural shows; the marts - please do get in touch. We only want to borrow them to copy and will return them once we have scanned them.

Finally, I have given a number of talks recently – to Wooler U3A; Ayton History Society; Coldstream & District Local History Society and Berwick History Society. I also took part in the Piecing Together the Jigsaw event that the Friends held at the beginning of November. We had a very successful evening with a fascinating range of local documents, artefacts and photographs ranging from an affidavit about the authenticity of a wooden tray given by Grace Darling's father to George Horsley on his marriage to Mary Monkhouse in 1853 to some finds at Flodden.

Last but not least I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2012.

*Linda Bankier*

**JAMES PALMER HUFFAM VC**

During the First World War, one of Berwick's residents and a former pupil of Spittal School was awarded the Victoria Cross. A return visit to Berwick and his old school is noted in the log book ; *17 April 1919 - ...2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, James P. Huffam V.C. made a visit this afternoon in the company of his parents. He was entertained by the scholars and teachers and congratulated on the honour he had brought to the school. The teachers presented Lieut. Huffam with a pocket wallet"...*

The citation for his Victoria Cross was as follows :

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1918. With three men he rushed an enemy machine gun post and put it out of action. His post was then heavily attacked and he withdrew fighting, carrying back a wounded comrade. Again on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1918 at St Servin's Farm, accompanied by two men only, he rushed an enemy machine gun, capturing eight prisoners and enabling the advance to continue. Throughout the whole fighting from Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> he showed the utmost bravery "

After the War, James Palmer Huffam remained in the army undertaking service in India and West Africa. He eventually rose to the rank of Major and retired in 1938 for the first time. However, during the Second World War he went back into the service and was the Assistant Provost Marshal for France and was involved in the D Day Landings. He retired for the second time in 1945 and died in 1968 at Stanmore in Middlesex.

The following are extracts from the Berwick Journal, issue 26 December 1918, relating to the award of his Victoria Cross,

### **Berwick Wins V.C.**

Lieut. J.P. Huffam, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, son of Mr Huffam, High St., Berwick has won the Victoria Cross. A telegram reached Berwick on Monday from his Colonel, congratulating his parents on their son's heroism. The gallant Officer, who is only 21 was a Pte, in 7<sup>th</sup> N.F. (Berwick Territorials), and gained his Commission in France

### **THE V.C.**



We congratulate heartily Lieut. James Palmer Huffam, V.C. who is called after the late Coun Jas. Palmer, well known Spittal Native in his day and member of Berwick Corporation. Lieut. Huffam, was 21 on 31 March last, was apprentice with Mr J Cockburn, Joiner and builder, Castlegate, Berwick and joined up in the 7<sup>th</sup> N.F. on Jan 15 1916, volunteering for France to join there his two brothers, who had gone out with 7<sup>th</sup> N.F. in the memorable April & May 1915. Our gallant friend was soon promoted to Sergt, and thereafter recommended for a commission. He came home Sept, 1917 and was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, Jan 30, 1918 and sent to 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. He was 3 times recommended for the Military Cross, as showing the sort of stuff Berwick's V.C. is made of. He has been in big things at Yores on Somme, at Cambrai, at Douai and is now serving at Valenciennes. He was at the crossing of Sensae River, when the boys went through up to the neck, and he has participated in important captures of German prisoners, skilfully and daringly managed. On one occasion when on a particular job, after he had sent his 2 men back each with a batch of prisoners, Lieut. Huffam found himself left alone. He noticed a movement and on going forward 2 men came out to him first and afterwards 50 and by his prompt action in whistling for and getting assistance he secured the lot. Lieut. Huffman was home in November only a month ago – and was then in the pink. He said nothing of his fine work then, and has been remarkably quiet and unassuming over his fine work at the front.

Lieut. Huffam, who is now attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Wellington's (of the line) took part in the great Recruiting March of 7<sup>th</sup> N.F. from Alnwick to Wooler, Norham, Berwick etc in May 1913. He joined up Jan, 1915 and in June of that year on becoming a trained soldier at once volunteered to proceed to 1-7<sup>th</sup> N.F. in France.

Mrs Dorothy Huffam, wife of Mr V.E. Huffam, 119 High Street, Berwick, Ex-Col-Sergt. Black Watch, formerly in "The 42<sup>nd</sup> " for 27 years and County Court Bailiff for Berwick, is the proud mother of 4 sons and one daughter who have been on Active Service, and besides 7 nephews have been out doing there bit. It is a fine record. Mr Huffam's daughter (Nurse Bessie Huffam) has been tending the wounded. The four sons A.M., John, I.P, and H.H. all began in the Northumberland Fusiliers. Pte. H.H. Huffman was killed in action, and John (now an Officer), was dangerously wounded recently and his parents summoned to France. Happily he rallied, and now is in Hospital in England.

The following letter is received by Mr Huffman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battn. Duke of Wellington Regt.,  
19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1918

Dear Mr Huffman, -I hardly know whether to congratulate you or thank you on the occasion of the honour bestowed on your son - congratulations are on the occasion of the honour to you as the father of such a boy and thanks for the award coming to the Regiment.

We have been anxious for some time whether this well merited award was coming through for one so richly and deservedly earned it, but now we are happy to think it has and your boy is alive and well at the last of the fighting.

I cannot express a small part of the pride we all feel in having available a boy as your son as a member of our Battalion which bears such a noble name and record. May you and your gallant son live long to enjoy the fame which he has earned so nobly. This is the highest brightest Christmas greeting I can send from my Battalion and may you enjoy many more

J Pawlett Lt. Col.

Cmdg 2<sup>nd</sup> the Duke of Wellington Regt.

Following telegram has been sent from Mayor of Berwick to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. James P. Huffam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regt., B.E.R. France:-

Accept heartiest congratulations from myself and the Town of Berwick on the high military honour conferred on you –

Plenderleith, Mayor of Berwick-on-Tweed

The Mayor of Berwick (Ald. Plenderleith) will take steps to ensure Town recognition of Lieut. J. P. Huffam's winning of the coveted British Empire honour - the Victoria Cross.

*Linda Bankier*

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

It has been a busy year for us at Berwick Museum, with several planned exhibitions and one unplanned emergency!

The Clock Block reopened for the new season on 1<sup>st</sup> April, and helped in no small measure by the fine weather and the late Easter we recorded bumper numbers of visitors in the first month. We had introduced new, Monday to Friday opening at the request of the other partners on site, but we made a special effort to open on those

weekends where it seemed wise to do so. The Riding of the Bounds in May, and also Heritage Open Days weekend in September were especially busy, with visitors sampling the wares of the Food Festival stalls on the Barracks square combined prior to seeing the museum.

The main exhibition at the museum was devoted to James & Andrew Wallace, two wonderful Berwick artist brothers - it was James' centenary this year, so it was especially fitting to show the work of this under appreciated artist who died so tragically young. An exceptional selection of his brother Andrew's painting was shown publically for the first time, following a bequest of over one hundred pieces by him. These were donated last year from the estate of Mrs Elsie Clark, who with her sister gave other paintings and family memorabilia to Berwick Museum in her lifetime. Also in the exhibition, and tucked away in a corner, were some beautiful pewter finger plates made by Ethel Wallace, who had also attended Berwick School of Art.

Ruth Scrase, one of Berwick's "Young Advocates" in the Changemakers Programme inspired an entire school – Tweedmouth Middle - to produce a "Quintet" for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the resulting artwork, photography and creative writing was displayed at the museum as part of the exhibition. Art Teacher Sabine Maule must be given special thanks for her enthusiasm, help and support.

There was a special exhibition of Royal Memorabilia in the Burrell Gallery in honour of the Royal Wedding, which showed a very small but wonderful selection of items from a private collection owned by Museum Friend Mr Bernard Shaw. We carried over the theme into the small display case in the public library, where we placed a small collection of items which were recently donated to the museum by Mr & Mrs Fred Kennington.

This season has been a very successful one from the point of view of touring exhibitions. Paintings from Berwick Museum have been seen by an estimated 250,000 people at other galleries locally and nationally.

Early in the year, the Granary Gallery put on an exhibition "Artists in Berwick – Inspiration & Celebration" which we loaned 12 pictures to.

The Barber Institute borrowed two volumes of the Quintet for its *Court on Canvas* exhibition. This has proved to be the Barber's most successful exhibition yet, with almost 23,000 visitors.

The Bowes Museum exhibited three of Berwick's still life paintings in *Fantin-Latour and the Impressionists: Still Life Painting in the Nineteenth Century*.

The exhibition displayed paintings by Renoir, Courbet and Cezanne as well as Fantin Latour, and attracted 27,000 visitors.

The Royal Academy borrowed the Degas "Danseurs" for its exhibition exploring the artist's relationship with the camera and the moving image, *Degas & the Dance*". The Berwick pastel was displayed next to a recently discovered film of a Russian (actually Ukrainian) dance troupe filmed by the Lumiere Brothers and Felix Nadar, which is exactly contemporary with the Degas' drawing. Indeed, the pose of Degas' dancer can be very precisely seen being enacted by the dancer in the film. The exhibition, which ran from September to December, has had an estimated 200,000 visitors.

So far, so good...we had almost finished clearing, cleaning and painting another space previously used as storage to set up an archaeology/geology room – star exhibit an ichthyosaur – when the low point of the year came.

The gulls which keep a watchful presence over the barracks decided to build a nest right on top of one of the drainage gulleys on the roof of the museum...this, together with heavy rainfall, created a massive lake on the roof. This cascaded down into the galleries one Saturday afternoon in July, causing a great deal of damage. Luckily Jim Herbert had visited to check on the situation, and was able to call in help from members of the Friends, the Curator and colleagues from Woodhorn. Meanwhile, the water had missed most of the artefacts, causing only slight damage to one of the suits of samurai armour and splashing the cup and ring marked stones which were being kept on the shelves where the water came in. However, the amount of damage to the fabric of the galleries and store rooms meant that we had to keep the Burrell Gallery closed for the rest of the season. Estimates have now been sought for redecorating and carpeting the Burrell Gallery and the store room above. (The carpets needed to be thrown out, and there is water damage on the ceiling and on the display equipment). We are hoping to open a revamped Burrell Gallery, with improved displays as early in the new season as possible.

The work which had been carried out in the social history store last winter – sorting the artefacts into sections, and putting up racking in place of the old museum display cases – came good following the flood, as there was a clear area which could be put to immediate use to transfer the collections from the affected store room opposite.

We are also aiming to improve the storage facilities for the paintings, now that the room has been completely emptied and Jim has plans drawn up and ready to go!

We spent some time in October clearing out our offsite store at Allerdean Farm, when artefacts which had not been seen for quite some time were taken back to the museum to be checked over and cleaned– the items which have been retained at the museum are now waiting to be found a permanent home at the museum. Objects of interest include a funeral cart, a salmon fishing ladder, a nice old church pew, a 1950s washing machine and lots of spares & equipment for the telephone exchange.

Something to look forward to early in the New Year is an online exhibition which has been based on a talk which Linda & I gave back in August to the Friends entitled “A History of Berwick in 10 Objects”. Work is well underway with this, and the exhibition will be viewable on the Woodhorn web site very soon ([www.experiencewoodhorn.com](http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com))

*Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.*

## **A NOTE ON EDWARD WILLOBY(1808-1893)**

Anyone who has explored the Record Office's nineteenth-century Poor Law documents will no doubt have encountered the name of Edward Willoby. He was a Berwick solicitor who, upon the formation of the Berwick Poor Law Union in 1836, served as the clerk to the Board of Guardians for the substantial term of 52 years, at first in partnership with his father, William, with whom he practised in the firm of W & E Willoby, and then continuing alone after William's death in 1856. Much of the voluminous correspondence as well as the minutes of the Guardian's meetings would have been drafted and sometimes written by Edward; one is impressed by their precision, good sense, and felicitous phrasing.

The Willoby family's connection with Berwick went back more than two centuries, and Edward's father and grandfather both served as the Town Clerk. For all of Edward's life the family lived and conducted their legal profession in the imposing

and handsome property at 32-36 Ravensdowne (now the *Villa Spice*), and the men of each generation were admitted as Freemen.

Edward was educated at Berwick Grammar School, served his articles in Bedford Row in London, and qualified as a solicitor in 1833. He then worked alongside his father William, who remained professionally active and mentally vigorous until the age of 82 when he met with a fatal accident. It was reported that William was alone in his sitting-room one evening, as usual reading up on some forthcoming case, when his clothing caught fire from a candle. By the time that his cries brought Edward to his assistance, he was very seriously burned and he died two days later.

Edward had two sons and two daughters (of whom only one daughter married). His elder son, William junior, became a lawyer in his turn and in due course joined the firm, which now became known as E & W Willoby. But in 1885 William died at the early age of 45, and since his younger brother, another Edward, had become a land agent rather than following the law, Edward senior, now 77, found a new partner outside the family, Henry Alder Peters. The firm became Willoby & Peters, and Henry Peters assumed many of the offices which Edward had held for so many years, including that of clerk to the Board of Guardians from which Edward resigned in 1888.

In the Poor Law correspondence Edward is constantly present but seldom in the foreground, and an obituary notice remarked that although he held many public offices he was not prominent in public affairs. What was acknowledged was his uprightness and integrity which made him widely respected in the town. In 1855 an unusual and now mysterious tribute was paid to him by Dr Alexander Kirkwood and the other medical officers of the Union, who presented him with a silver salver and spirit stand "in recognition of his services to them during the prevalence of cholera in Berwick". Of his personality, "he possessed a fund of good humour which made him a pleasant companion, and which often found an outlet at the Police Court, whenever some well-known character came before the Magistrates and a dialogue ensued between him and the prisoner." Having continued working even as his health failed, he died at the age of 84; "on the route to the [North Road] cemetery some shops were closed and blinds of houses drawn as a mark of respect."

Edward Willoby and the last of his Berwick family are commemorated by a plaque in the Parish Church, on the south wall near the pulpit. (On this however the date of death of Edward's wife Jane is wrongly given as 1880 instead of 1888: seekers after monuments beware.)

**Sources:**

Berwick Advertiser, 6 December 1856, p.4. "Death of Mr William Willoby"  
Newcastle Weekly Courant, 5 January 1889, p.5.. [EW's resignation as clerk to the  
Guardians]  
Berwick Advertiser, 7 April 1893, p.3. "The late Mr Edward Willoby"  
Kelly's directories; Census (England & Wales).

*John Spiers*

## **BELFORD WARSHIP WEEK**

Earlier this year, Belford History Society received an enquiry about a plaque which apparently had been presented to the R.D.C. in 1943, commemorating their participation in the National Warship Week 1942. Sadly we have failed to trace the plaque, but, in the search, a surprising amount of information about the event has come to light.

National Warship Week was held in different places on different weeks over the six month period ending 31st March 1942. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1942, the Berwick Advertiser carried the following advertisement:

THE SIGNAL IS SAVE FOR YOUR WARSHIP WEEK.

Put the same tremendous effort into you Warship Week as your sailors are putting into their job for you. The men of the navy are sacrificing much for you – now is your chance to make a sacrifice for them. The Signal is SAVE so save and lend to the limit.

*Go to a Post Office or your Bank or Stockbroker and invest your money in 3% Savings Bonds 1955-65, 2½% National War Bonds 1949-51, 3% Defence Bonds, or Savings Certificates: or deposit your savings in the Post Office Savings Bank. Buy Savings Stamps at 6d and 2/6d each from a Post Office, or your Savings Group.*

The week in question was that of 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March, and the people of Belford and District had been set the target of raising £28,000 to fund the purchase of a Harbour Defence Craft.

In Belford the week began on the Saturday with a public meeting in the Market Square, when Commander Hillhouse R.N. of Berwick told his audience the story of the two frogs who fell into a bowl of cream and could not get out. The one abandoned hope and drowned, but the other continued to struggle until, eventually he had churned the cream into butter and could use it as a base from which to leap out of the bowl. This determination he likened to the Northumbrian spirit, which ultimately would bring the country to victory. This was followed by a rallying cry to help the Navy do its work by saving all they could and giving until it hurt. After Commander Hillhouse, the Royal Scots took the stage – the pipe band played, weapons were demonstrated and there was a gymnastics exhibition; in short a mini Tattoo specially for Belford. The British Legion sold savings stamps from a kiosk in the square, and children who bought them were rewarded with rides on a Bren Gun carriage. In the evening, the Youth Service Club organised a dance at the Blue Bell, raising an additional £9.

A large card barometer was erected in the square, and, in the week that followed the older pupils at the school updated it on a daily basis with the sums raised. Although most of the money ‘raised’ came from the villagers investing in some form of National Savings, there were also other fund raising events – whist drives, dances, a jumble sale and a concert at the school, all of which not only helped the war effort financially but also improved morale in the village.

The pupils themselves worked hard to improve the total. As well as maintaining the barometer in the Square, the senior boys made and distributed posters round the village. Pupils sold bundles of firewood and bunches of snowdrops to raise money. (Given that this was mid-March, the availability of snowdrops is a reminder of the impact of global warming over that last 60 years). They also ran a series of competitions with prizes ranging from an apple to a pair of stockings, and Standards III and IV, (approximately equivalent to the Middle School pupils today) held a tea party. In addition the school bank was open every day so that pupils could deposit their own or their parents’ savings. The school’s actual fund raising amounted to £14.1s. 7d., and a further £134.10s.0d. was put in the school bank.

It all contributed to the considerable sum raised. The village of Belford had been set the target of raising £7,000, and the whole Rural District £28,000. In the event Belford raised £20,137; Bamburgh, £9,043; Beadnell, £4,114; Seahouses £25,656; and Eglington £6,218. The final total for the whole district was £65,005! Not only was this a remarkable achievement for the Belford area, but also on a national scale. On Sunday evenings, following the News, the B.B.C. read out in descending



order the list of sums raised by places which had held their Warship Week at the same time. It was a matter of pride to the village that Belford was in the top half of the list.

Although the Council considered asking whether their money could go to a minesweeper rather than the Harbour Defence vessel, in the end they adopted the Harbour Defence Craft *HMS HM ML 151*, sadly not a name which trips off the tongue.

*Jan Ward & Jane Bowen*

## **NEW ARCHIVE ACCESSION: JOHN THOMSON'S MAP OF BERWICKSHIRE 1821**

On a recent visit to the National Library of Scotland, I noted a reproduction of John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland 1832 . Its title page describes its contents : *maps of each county on a scale so large as to exhibit the features of the country and places of importance, the boundaries of the shires, attested with respectable names to verify their accuracy, laid down from actual survey.* The completed Atlas was published in Edinburgh in 1832, but the surveying of the county maps were undertaken some 10 years prior to this date.

I found the map for Berwickshire, dated 1821, and admired its use of colour to define parish boundaries and precise cartographic details. Also, although primarily a map of Berwickshire, it includes parts of north Northumberland, and a very detailed plan of the town of Berwick .

The area of north Northumberland shows the Direction of the Coal Lays, with reference to a number of collieries and limekilns eg at Unthank , Thornton, Scremerston and Morton . It also claims to locate the site of the Battle of Chevy Chase in 1436. The 1821 plan of Berwick extends to Tweedmouth and Castlegate, identifies a number of fishing batts and place names in the town eg the main Gates, Bastions and Mounts.

The greater part of the map however covers Berwickshire. The boundaries of each parish are outlined in colour , and there is the most detailed coverage of place names down to the smallest hamlet and farmstead. Plantations and layout of trees in landed estates are shown eg at The Hirsell and Swinton House. The map

illustrates the network of roadways in the county, as well as identifying the Parish Kirks, inns, mills and toll houses and the occasional formal garden as at Mellerstain . A reproduction of this map was obtained for the Berwick Record Office . However it can also be viewed (along with all the other county maps in Thomson's Atlas) by consulting the National Library web site : <http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/thomson/455.html>

*Bob Steward*

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER**

### **Berwick Advertiser, 10th June 1870**

#### WEEKLY SUMMARY:-GREAT FIRE

A GREAT FIRE WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN Constantinople has resulted in destruction of life and property to a vast and most lamentable extent. A whole quarter of the town, consisting of 20,000houses, one-tenth of which were built of stone became prey to the devouring flames. Among the buildings destroyed is the British Embassy, which, in spite of the most energetic efforts to arrest the progress of the fire, was completely burnt. Sir Henry Elliot, the British Ambassador, was so absorbed in his attempts to save the edifice that he took no care of his personal effects, and lost all. Up to the latest accounts 250 dead bodies had been found. The total loss of property is estimated at £5,000,000 sterling, many of the English residents being sufferers to a large amount. Considerable sums had already been received from wealthy personages for relief of the sufferers, the Empress of the French having sent 10,000 francs and subscriptions are expected from the most of the capitals of Europe.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 10th June 1870**

#### ACCIDENT TO THE PADDLE-STEAMER BRITANNIA

This large iron steamer, which is commanded by Captain Rose, and runs between Leith and Newcastle, went ashore on a nest of rocks off Holy Island Castle head, about fifty yards from the shore, shortly after eleven o'clock on Saturday night. The tide at the time was out, and efforts were made for about an hour to back the

steamer off, but she remained fast. The weather was fine, calm, and clear, and under these circumstances it is difficult to account for the vessel getting ashore. Had the weather been stormy the consequences might have been very serious, for there were about a hundred passengers on board at the time, and the dangerous position of the vessel created almost a panic among them, many of them having been wakened out of their sleep by the shock of the vessel striking. As soon as it was known that a steamer was ashore a large number of the inhabitants of Holy Island hastened to the beach, and several boats put off to the assistance of the steamer. An agreement for £10 was made between the captain of the steamer and a boats' crew of fishermen to take an anchor and chain out to sea, by which means the vessel was hauled off the strand when the tide flowed, about two o'clock on Sunday morning. The steamer, making a good deal of water, afterwards proceeded to her destination. Six of the passengers, however, declined to go with her; they were landed at Holy Island, and afterwards conveyed to the mainland, and left Beal station on Sunday morning by railway for Newcastle.

**Berwick Advertiser, 17th June 1870**

DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA

The death of the boy Cowan from hydrophobia caused considerable excitement in the town, and induced the magistrates to issue instructions regarding dogs, which, it is hoped, will in some measure at least be the means of securing the protection of the public from attacks of rabid dogs. A few months ago a mad dog made its appearance in the town and bit several other dogs. Some of these animals were afterwards destroyed for fear of worse consequences, but there may have been others which were not destroyed, and it is from these as well as from dogs which may have been bitten by Mr Young's dog that immediate danger was to be apprehended. According to the police since Friday, they have seized and destroyed about a dozen dogs, several of which were known to have been bitten by Mr Young's dog, and one of which also showed signs of madness. One effect the order of the justices has been to greatly curtail the number of stray dogs on the streets and most of the dogs which are at large are muzzled.

**Berwick Advertiser, 15th July 1870**

A HIPPOPOTAMUS IN THE SEINE

An exciting chase was witnessed in the Seine on Friday near the Pont d'Austerlitz Paris. The pools in the Jardine des Plantes being almost dried up, the hippopotamus is taken daily in a cart drawn by two horses to the river, and allowed to bathe there, attached by an iron chain. On this occasion, invigorated by its plunge, the animal broke its bonds and struck out into the centre of the stream. The first object to attract its attention was a steam boat, which it started to meet, but the cries of the passengers apparently intimidated it, as it turned about and proceeded to pay a visit to a floating wash-house which it almost raised out of the water by placing his head beneath it; it next looked in at a swimming bath, which became deserted in a moment. About fifty boats has started in pursuit of the fugitive, and one of its keepers has at last even got on the animals back, but it dived, and so quickly got rid of him. At length, after an hour's exertion, the end of the broken chain was secured, and when it had been made fast to a thick rope, the hippopotamus was brought to land and reintegrated in its quarters.

*Carole Pringle*

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

