



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 76—DECEMBER 2012

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Extended to 30 December 2012

Friday 1 March 2012

Burrell at the Granary in Dewars Lane.
Open Wednesday to Sunday 11-5pm except
Boxing Day
AGM and talk by Margaret Fox : A Window
into the Past. The Records of the Scottish
Kirk . Berwick Parish Centre at 7pm



OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in December

Tuesday 29th January 2013

Spittal - Berwick's Powerhouse: Michael Cullen

Tuesday 26th February

The Stories behind the Pictures: Chris Veitch

Tuesday 26th March

A.G.M followed by Papermaking in Ayton: John Reid

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 12th December

Christmas Social

Wednesday 30th January 2013

Sir James Knott and the College Valley Estate: Charles Baker Cresswell

Wednesday 27th February

St. Cuthbert and Northumbria: John Field

Wednesday 27th March

Tribes, Trade and Tyranny: Michael Thompson

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9th January 2013

A talk by John Lord, Berwick ARCH – title to be confirmed

Wednesday 13th February

Speaker to be confirmed

Wednesday 13th March

The maintenance and repair of English Heritage properties in the North East: Roy Stockdale, Technical Manager of English Heritage.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 12th December
Wednesday 16th January 2013

Barmoor connections: John Ferguson
The History of Freemasonry in Berwick:

Wednesday 20th February

Steve Newman
Northumbrian Identity through music, song

Wednesday 20th March

& dance: Kim Bibby-Wilson
Medicines from the mud, recent
investigations at Soutra medieval Hospital:
Dr Brian Moffat

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in January

Monday 4th February 2013

Altars in Cumbria: Professor Ian Haynes
and Tony Wilmott

Monday 4th March

The Durham Western Isles Team
“Hunter-gathers on the edge; the earliest
humans in the Western Isles of Scotland”
(The team has seven members)

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

No lectures in January

Sunday 24th February 2013

How to Research Buccleuch Records:

Andrew Armstrong

Sunday 24th March

Useful websites for family History

Research: Peter Munro

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 17th December

Fast Castle on the contact of magic: Ronald

Monday 21 st January 2013	Morrison
Monday 18 th February	Polwarth Kirk: Rosie Letts
	Sir William Burrell of Hutton Castle: David
	Heywood
Monday 18 th March	Bishop Wars: Oliver Hofer

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 20 th December	Christmas Social, Meal and Historical Quiz
Thursday 10 th January 2013	Twizel Castle: Catherine Kent
Thursday 7 th February	The Scholar, The Wizard and the Seer: Isobel Gordon
Thursday 7 th March	Jedburgh Story and AGM: Ken Fotheringham

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 30 th January 2013	Flodden: Chris Burgess
Wednesday 27 th February	The Scottish/English Borderline: David Welsh
Wednesday 27 th March	Mary, Queen of Scots-Daughter Debate: Mrs Margaret Lumsdaine

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 12 th December	A History of Bee-keeping & Tales from Chain Bridge Honey Farm, with samples of honey products: William Robson
Wednesday 9 th January 2013	Aspects of Border History, featuring Bastles, Bastions and Battles: John

Wednesday 13 th February	Almond "Flodden 500 years on": Dr Chris
Wednesday 13 th March	Burgess Flodden-Many Questions and Perhaps a Few Answers: Clive Hallam-Baker

LOWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 14 th January 2013	The Border Reivers: Michael Thomson
Monday 11 th February	The Sitwells of Barmoor: John Ferguson
Monday 11 th March	Voices from the Past 2: William Morton, born Way to Wooler, 1897, resident of Lowick 1941-1975

NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time : 7.30 pm

Monday 12 th December	Social evening and quiz
Monday 14 th January 2013	Flodden: James Bell
Monday 11 th February	To be confirmed
Monday 11 th March	Showing of "The Forgotten Workers" a film on the Bondage System of labour in the Borders and North Northumberland.

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in December

Wednesday 23 rd January 2013	Party Night
Wednesday 27 th February	The Farne Island: John Walton
Wednesday 27 th March	Harry Hotspur: Andy Griffin

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

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

No lectures in December

Saturday 19th January 2013

Saturday 16th February

Saturday 16th March

Members' Forum – On the Move

Berwick's Victorian Food Heritage: Derek

Sharman

Evacuees to Northumberland: Oral History

Accounts: Liz O'Donnell

SPITTAL. ST JOHN'S RAILWAY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Spittal Bowling Club

Time: 7.30pm

Tuesday 5th March 2013

Quarry Railways of Northern

Northumberland Coast Part 2: Roger Jermy

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

No lectures in December

Wednesday 2nd January 2013

Wednesday 6th February

Wednesday 6th March

Walk to Ford Moss. Meet at Routin Lynn.

Machu Picchu: Maria Chester

Minor Railways of North Northumberland:

Roger Jermy



ARCHIVE NEWS

Another year is almost over and I'm not quite sure where it has gone to. Usually the winter is a quieter time for us but this year Carole and I seem to still be working non stop but are looking forward to a break at Christmas.

During the past couple of months, we have been involved in the following :

At the beginning of September, there was the annual Heritage Open Days which is well supported in Berwick. The Record Office put together a display on Crime and Punishment for the Magistrate's Court and I did my usual tours of the Council

Offices/Old Goal which were very well attended. The Sheep Tales Exhibition was also at the Food Festival and so we supported that as well.

As some of you may know the Photocentre in Bridge Street, Berwick ceased trading in mid September. The business had operated from there since 1951, run initially by Dave Smith and then by his son, Ian. They still had all their glass plates and negatives. With the help of the Friends and other generous organisations, we have purchased their collection which is now housed in the Record Office. It all happened very quickly and it was a mad race against time to get everything boxed up and moved from the building by the deadline. As glass plates are very delicate, they all had to be carefully boxed and carried down the stairs before they could leave the building. However, thanks to numerous helpers, including my eldest daughter, Siobhan who did a sterling job making up and carefully filling boxes, we managed to clear everything out by the deadline. It was exhausting – I don't know how many times I walked up and down the stairs! – but well worth it as it is an amazing collecting chronicling life in this area from 1951 to 2012. See my later request for further information.

In the last couple of months, I have continued to work closely with the Pergrini Lindisfarne Project on their Development Phase. We do have a core of people for the Community Archive and at the end of September, we held a Coffee morning for local people so that they could see some of the information we have in our Archives here in Berwick; what members of the group had and how everyone could help us. It was really successful and there is definitely an interest on the Island for the Archive. Some of the group have also visited the Record Office. The completed Lottery bid will be submitted in mid January and if successful, the project will start in September 2013. The Community Archive will be a wonderful resource for the Island and so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

This term has been quiet on the Education front with schools but, with the NE Learning Arc group, I have been involved in delivering two sessions for Newcastle University 3rd year history students to make them aware of how archives could help them with their dissertations. Some of them had not considered them as a resource before and so it has been an introduction for them, if nothing else.

Sue Wood, my colleague at the Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn, has been undertaking some work with the Northumberland Federation of Women's Institute. Their Heritage Lottery bid was unsuccessful but they decided to undertake some training anyway with the local groups on looking after their Archives. Most of the half

day sessions were held at Woodhorn but we had one here in Berwick for the Northern groups. We spent a wonderful morning talking about Archives and what they might have themselves relating to their own groups and they all went away enthused to find out what they actually had. This half day course is going to be followed up with further training at the Federation's Headquarters in Newcastle in the spring time.

Berwick Concert Band has a wonderful archive of music which originally belonged to the KOSB based in the Barracks. For many years, it has been stored in the Maltings but it needed a permanent home and so it has now all been transferred here to the Record Office. Moving an archive from A to B requires organisation and good logistics ! Thanks to Band volunteers and very good removal men, we managed to achieve it all in a day. It involved, yet again, lots of walking up and down stairs – archives keep you fit ! – but the collection is now safely housed in one of my former cells in the main building and is easy to access. I was surprised at the variety of music contained within the collection. You expect it all to be marches and military but there are waltzes and symphonies and some of it dates back to the early 1900s.

November and December seem to have been my months for giving talks to groups. I talked to the North Northumberland branch of the Northumberland & Durham Family History Society about the Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords ; to the North Sunderland and Seahouses Local History Society about my job as an Archivist and the Lowick Heritage Group about the Poor Law in the Lowick area. They have all been very well received and I have used some of the material I discovered in my Archives article.

Finally, you will be aware through various articles and references in past newsletters that 2013 is the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden and that a group, spearheaded by our President, Lord Joicey, has been seeking funding to commemorate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy for this important event in this area's history. The group has been awarded a large grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund and starting in January, I will be working on the Record Office's contribution to the Project which will include a volunteer transcription project and also a Local and Family History weekend in the Guildhall, Berwick on 18 and 19 May 2013. I will continue to update you in future newsletters of what is happening and so, watch this space.

Just to finish, Carole and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank you for all the support you have given us over the year. We couldn't do our job without the help of the Friends.

Linda Bankier

PHOTOCENTRE ARCHIVE- VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Photocentre Archive is a wonderful collection of photographs providing us with a visual record of this area's social history in the past 60 years. It contains photographs of local events and celebrations; individuals; weddings ; local shows; crowning of Salmon Queens and much more. The collection has come with a handwritten index and also a subject index. At present, it is very time consuming trying to locate the correct negative packet and it would be so much easier if these indexes were on the computer. Therefore, if anyone has a spare hour or two on a Wednesday or Thursday and would like to help input the data into the computer, please get in touch. This would help to make the collection more accessible and would be a big step forward for us.

You can either contact me by e-mail on lbankier@woodhorn.org.uk or by telephone – 01289 301865. The phone only rings 4 times before it reverts to answer machine and so, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Linda Bankier

GLENDALE POOR LAW UNION

Recently I gave a talk to the Lowick Heritage Group about the Poor Law and their area. As part of my research I looked at the only Board of Guardians minute book that we have relating to the Glendale Union in which it was situated. It covers the period 1883 to 1887. Sadly none of the other minute books survive unlike the neighbouring Unions of Berwick and Belford. The following are some extracts from the minute book which give a bit of a flavour of life in the Workhouse and the business of the Union at that time.

20 Sept. 1883

Payment of non pauper school fees. Lowick :

Children of Elizabeth McDougall of Bowsden Moor at 3d each – Edward 11;
Elizabeth 10 and Mary 8

Children of Susan Rowan of Lowick – Edward 9 (3d) and Margaret 6 (2d)

Children of Mary Gonegal of Holburn Grange – Barbara 6 (3d)

4 Oct 1883

The Board were of the opinion that the Coffins should be more substantial than at present and Mr Simm agreed to supply them made of wood three fourth of an inch thick at the undermentioned prices :

Adults : 14s

For persons under 10 : 3s 6 d

The Master was also directed to have cards printed giving the names age and religious persuasion of the deceased pauper.

27 Dec 1883

The Master reported that owing to the nature of the Stones the paupers in general completed the work required for a day in six hours, the rules anticipated the work to be done in nine hours. He thought that the Guardians should increase the quantity of stones to be broken to 20 cwt and had asked the Surveyor of Highways for his opinion. The Surveyor agreed with him. After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk apply to have the sanction of the Local Government Board to increase the stones to be broken by Vagrants to 20cwt.

It was ordered that the Clerk order Bibles for the use of the paupers in the Workhouse

27 March 1884

The Master also drew the attention of the Board to the desirability of substituting Lentil Soup and Bread in the dietary on Fridays in place of the rice and soup at present in use - The Board approved of the suggestion and the Clerk was directed

to write to the Local Government Board on the subject desiring their approval of the change.

6 Aug 1885

The Clerk read a letter from the Local Government Board asking whether the Guardians required the time extended for using the female Vagrant Ward for Males and asking how often it had been used for that purpose. The Clerk was directed to write and inform the Local Government Board that the last time it was used was on May 21st and that it had only been used during the six Months for Twenty four nights. The Guardians however would like to have the sanction of the Local Government Board to continue the arrangement should it be necessary as the railway works are still going on and will not be completed within the next six months .

17 Sept 1885

The Chairman read a letter from MR Riddell of St Ninian's stating that his daughter was desirous of giving the Workhouse Inmates a Tea next week on the occasion of her marriage and desiring the permission of the Guardians to the proposal. The Board gladly assented to it.

26 Nov. 1885

A letter was read from John Martin applying for the clothing of the late James Murdie deceased. It was resolved that the Clothing be left in the hands of Mr Craig Relieving Officer until the parties entitled to them were known and that five shillings per week be charged for the maintenance of James Murdie in the Workhouse.

4 Feb. 1886

The Master reported the case of Margaret Usher who was admitted on the 27th ultimo. On the following day she said she was ill but the Doctor examined her and said there was apparently nothing the matter with her. On the 29th she was due to be discharged but she refused to go until the 2nd. She came back again the same day and was now in the usual ward. As there appeared to be no doubt but that it was an attempt at imposition the Guardians directed the Master to send her out on the morning.

25 Nov. 1886

The Master produced the tawse he wished to use for refracting children and the Guardians approved of the instrument and authorised its use.

Inspector Knollys of the Local Government Board attended and made a few remarks respecting the Women's Day Room, furniture deficient and chairs without backs – called attention that the contents of the privy should be emptied oftener than once a month – that the classification of boys and girls were defective. Infectious ward used for vagrants who were ill – Infirmary ward unsatisfactory. Inspector stated he found one of the boys beds damp. Called attention to the want of bell communication with the female Vagrant Ward. The direct communication between the bath and sewer should be severed. And stated that the Visiting Committee should go oftener to the House.

9 Dec. 1886

The Guardians gave directions to the Master to get a Bench and chairs as suggested by Mr Knollys at the last Meeting, also that four night commodes be repaired for the old people. That Gas be provided in the Boys Day Room and Womens Room as recommended by the Committee and that Bell communication between the female vagrants and the Masters room be provided .

Linda Bankier



MUSEUM NEWS

Happenings at Berwick Museum & Art Gallery...

The main event at Berwick Museum & Art Gallery this autumn has taken place off site. Our special exhibition at the Granary Gallery - Berwick's Burrell Collection - opened on 1st September. The exhibition is the first in a series of three such exhibitions, in collaboration with the Maltings Visual Arts programme, which will show the collection in a new setting, as well as extending our season. The show has been open at weekends and has given free access to all visitors. At last, Berwick people have once more able to see the paintings given to their town whenever they like without charge. Visit they have, together with tourists visiting the town for weekend breaks from as far afield as Canada, New Zealand and Brazil!

We are very pleased with how the exhibition has turned out, and we hope that Sir William would approve; we know that it is a very long time since so much of the collection has been on display at any one time – certainly not since the museum opened at the Barracks. The exhibition has been so popular, that we have decided to extend it to cover the Christmas holiday period; so if any of your friends and relatives is visiting over the festive season, do please bring them along – we would love to see you! – opening times on the front of the newsletter.

A second phase of the exhibition opened in November, as five contemporary artists from the north displayed work inspired by the Burrell paintings and porcelain. There was a special “Meet the Artists” afternoon on 2nd December, when three of the five gave short talks, explaining how they had gone about producing their commissions, which range from prints and porcelain to embroidered pictures and necklaces. It is especially pleasing to see that Berwick artist Morag Eaton, whose studio is just across the road from the Granary, has sold several of her prints; entitled “St Barbara on the Walls”, the prints are inspired by a medieval carving of St Barbara, the Patron Saint of gunners.

Back at the Barracks, we are changing around some of the permanent displays in the Window on Berwick room, to include some new exhibits. We have had some drama in the past few weeks concerning the Berwick Swan in this room. The poor creature has been attacked by marauding mice keen to steal some of the swansdown to line their nests...needless to say, steps are being taken to solve this little local difficulty! We are also changing some of the displays in the medieval room, to show some of the artefacts off to better effect. Soon, we will be getting the temporary exhibition gallery ready for a display of calligraphy, to link in with the Lindisfarne Gospels coming back to the region next summer.

Over the past couple of weeks, Jim has been helping the Royal Geographical Society with background details and photographs for a new walk around Berwick, which the Society has launched as part of its “Discovering Britain” series. The walk will be of great interest to many of the Friends – perhaps some might even fancy testing it out over the holidays to work off some of the Christmas turkey! Unlike many other walks, the RGS one is themed and tells a story about the town from start to finish. The walks are free, fun, easy to do and come complete with a map and a choice of an audio or written commentary of the places of interest along the walks. Everything that is needed to enjoy the walk can be downloaded from the Discovering Britain website

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/north-east-england/berwick.html>

It only remains for us to wish all Friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Museum & Art Gallery in 2013!

Anne, Jim & Megan – December 2012

Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.



POEMS BY KENNY BLACKETT

A WINTER WONDERLAND

When snow falls children are delighted, as they
Can now build a snowman in a garden or field.
Also, when able to go sledging in winter,
Their joy and happiness is completely sealed.

The snowman stands to attention, with
Stones for eyes and a carrot for his nose.
People may wonder what he is thinking,
But happily for him nobody really knows.

When first built he stands erect and proud,
But a thaw can quickly assist in his melt.
And disappointment is clearly evident on
The children's faces, as it is so heartfelt.

Kenny Blackett



FROM BERWICK TO TASMANIA FOR THE SAKE OF A POT!

Recently I have been assisting on a project in Australia to trace the origins of women from Northumberland who were convicted of crimes and transported to Australia. The project needed help from volunteers in this country who were able to access records not available in Australia. This is the information I was given as my starting point:

Mary McGhee, reported to be a native of Jedburgh, was sentenced at Berwick Quarter Sessions in 1841 to 7 years transportation. At the age of 18 years she travelled on the *Royal Admiral* with 204 other convicts from all over the country. The ship departed on 2 May 1842 and did not arrive in Tasmania until 2 January 1843.

Readers of this newsletter will not be surprised to learn that my first port of call for this task was our own Berwick Record Office. Because I was given the exact date of her trial at Berwick by my contact in Australia, it was a straightforward task to locate the trial report in the *Berwick Advertiser*:

THE QUEEN AND MARY MCGHEE

“The prisoner was charged with having on the 23rd of September stolen one metal pot value 1s and a wooden lid of the value of 6d, the property of George Stafford. The prisoner on her arraignment pleaded guilty. The Recorder suggested to the prisoner that she had better retract her plea and take the chance of a trial. There were some circumstances in the charge which rendered it advisable to plead not guilty. The prisoner assented and pleaded accordingly. Mr L. ...stated the particulars of the case and called Margaret Stafford, wife of the proprietor. Lives in Western Lane in part of a dwelling house there. Remembers having a metal pot with a lid. Saw them on the night of the 22nd of September about 10 o'clock. They were then standing on the right hand side of a garret room. Slept in a room adjoining. During the night about 12 o'clock heard a noise near the door and husband looked and saw the prisoner. On being asked what she was doing there she said, “Getting a sleep”. About 1 o'clock the following morning was again disturbed and on looking out the window saw the prisoner in the street. Husband went down and took hercustody. And found the pot in her possession.

Prisoner declined to ask this or the following witness any questions.

John McDonald, carter, was in Western Lane on the morning of 23rd of September, about 1 o'clock. Saw the prisoner when she came out of the entry where the proprietor lives. Took hold of her by orders from the last witness while looking out at the window. That prisoner had a small pot in her hand. The prosecutor went for the constable, and the witness detained the prisoner.

James Proudfoot was called and corroborated the last statement.

This closed the case for the prosecution. The Recorder, having briefly addressed the jury, they without retiring gave a verdict of Guilty against the prisoner.

The prisoner was then further charged with having been convicted of felony on the 22nd October 1840 at the Northumberland Sessions being then late of the town of Alnwick. Proudfoot was called and he said the prisoner was similarly convicted at a Quarter Sessions of this parish in 1838.

The Recorder now addressed the prisoner. He said it was quite evident that the lenient punishments had a baneful effect upon her, as was proved by the testimony now produced. The only chance of reclaiming her from her vicious habits was by sending her for a time from the neighbourhood where she had disgraced herself. The sentence of the court was that she should be transported to such place as her Majesty, with the advice of her privy council, might think fit, for the space of 7 years."

I searched for Mary on the census before her trial but could not find a definite match. A search on a later census for her siblings and father, whose names I was given, yielded no positive results. Mary's whereabouts after her transportation are not known. I wonder if she went on to produce a line of descendants in her new country? Perhaps one day a descendant will be able to read the Berwick Advertiser's account of her trial.

Val Glass

BAMBURGH "GHOSTS" - TALES FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY- FIREWORK CELEBRATIONS- GONE WRONG!



For the last two years, I have had the privilege of working as a volunteer at Woodhorn County Archive, on the Lord Crewe papers. These are a fabulous collection reflecting life in the 18C in Bamburgh, and in the Castle; I would like to share some of the stories I have found with you.

In 1784 a series of letters to Dr John Sharp piece together to provide details of a lucky escape at the Castle.....

In NRO452/C/3/2/14/40 Mr George Wood-Accountant to the Lord Crewe Trustees based in Durham, writes-

I have heard nothing of your mishap but from yourself and therefore can only guess that it must have happened in Mr Boults [Curate at St Aiden's Church in Bamburgh, and lodging at the Castle] Preparations of Fireworks for celebrating the King's [George III] Birth Night. I am truly glad however that none has suffered any personal injury"

On June 24 a fellow Trustee-and clearly an affectionate friend as revealed in other correspondence, Dr John Rotheram wrote (NRO452/C/3/2/14/43)-

"I am glad to hear you have got all the damages repaired (except a part of the slated roof) to your satisfaction"

Finally all is revealed in a further letter from Mr Rotheram-

"I am extremely sorry to hear of your alarming accident. I am greatly obliged to you for your early communication of it; for had I heard it by any other means, I should not have known what bounds to put on my apprehensions. I sincerely join you in thankfulness to Providence that none of your family received any hurt and that the whole damage was confined to walls and ceilings which may easily be repaired. It is needless to as any caution against admitting a large Quantity of Powder within the Walls of the Castle, as that lesson has been too strongly impressed by the Accident itself. It is happy that the explosion was in the upper parts of the Castle. I am glad to hear you have reason to be satisfied with you Fire Proof ceilings.

I beg my best respects to the Ladies and am dear Sir...

This amusing incident (let us hope there were no singed wigs or eyebrows!) alludes to another of Dr Sharp's innovations-there is a great deal of correspondence referring to his work in fireproofing rooms in the Keep, another reason for which the castle became famous. Indeed, there is correspondence to him-for instance from the owner of Berwick Docks-asking for his blueprint. In view of the amount of powder and ammunition kept at the Castle-for use against enemy invasion, pirate sloops-an

ever present danger-and the firing of the Fog Guns from the Castle to warn passing shipping, the Sharp family in residence escaped lightly!

Carol Griffiths

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 26th August 1870

THE ROWING CLUB REGATTA

This regatta is to take place on Tuesday, and, now that the members of the Rowing Club may be said to have had a fair training in the aquatic sport, will prove a more interesting spectacle than last year. There will be a half-holiday observed on the occasion, and we understand arrangements have been made that will prevent the patience of the public being tried so much as it was last year by the long delay between the different races. A programme of the various contests is to be published on the day of the regatta, and we therefore refrain from giving any particulars in regard to them. The prizes to be given to the winning competitors are at present being exhibited in the shop window of the Messars Nicholson, jewellers, Bridge Street.

Berwick Advertiser, 26th August 1870

BOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS

Edward Toal, labourer, Walkergate Lane, was charged with drunkenness, indecent behaviour, and resisting the police on Monday night. P. C Wright stated that he noticed a crowd in Sallyport, and, on going to see what was the matter, found that the object of attraction was the defendant, who was drunk and in a semi-nude condition, with his face blackened. Toal then ran off and got into a ship at the Quay, whither witness pursued him. He here eluded the policeman's grasp, and made for Sandgate, where he was captured. He then threw himself upon the ground, and, having kicked and struck witness, succeeded in pulling him down. Wright, however, managed to detain defendant till the Superintendent of Police came to assistance. Defendant for being drunk was ordered to be fined 10s or seven days imprisonment;

and for resisting the police £2 10s, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour. He went to jail.

Berwick Advertiser, 2nd September 1870

BALLOONING AT THE SEAT OF WAR

Mr Wells, the aeronaut, who has for some weeks past been making balloon ascents from the Gymnasium and Powderhall Running Grounds, has been in communication with the Prussian Government in regard to the employment of his balloon for military purposes. His proposals having been entertained, Mr Wells, in obedience to a telegraphic summons from a Prussian agent, left on Friday night for London, with the intention of proceeding forthwith to the seat of war. The aeronaut reckoned that with the balloon recently constructed by himself at the Gymnasium he can make captive ascents to the height of about two miles, thus attaining a position from which observations may be made as to military movements over a wide extent of country.

Berwick Advertiser, 9th September 1870

SALES OF SHARES

On Saturday afternoon in the Corn Exchange, Mr J D Purves, auctioneer, submitted for sale by auction a number of shares in the Berwick Shipping Company and in the Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas company. The attendance of bidders was good. Mr Purves first offered ten £10 shares in Berwick Shipping Company. The bidding which was not spirited, began at £15 per share-the reserved price- and after two more bids the shares were sold to Mr Hosick, Hutton, for £15 10s each. Other ten £10 shares in the same company were then put up, and were knocked down to the same gentleman at the same price. Mr Purves next offered four £10 shares in the Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Light Company. The bidding which started at £15 per share was somewhat lively, and the price rose rapidly to £17 10s, at which figure the shares were sold to Mr Charles Tennant, Tweedmouth.

Berwick Advertiser, 30th September 1870

CUSTOMS WEEK ENDING, SEPT.29-IMPORTS:

130 tons pyrites of sulphur ore, ex "Dart," from Dordt; 3986 battens containing 165 loads fir wood sawn, 54 slab boards, fir wood sawn, containing 25 feet, ex "Brodrene," from Krageroe; 7928 battens containing 361 loads, fir wood sawn, ex "Dragmar," from Drammen; 3983 battens containing 1 load 20 feet ex "Catharina," from Frederickstadt; 110 tons phosphate lime, ex "Mischief," from Rotterdam. Goods received into Warehouse: 190lbs tea, 163 galls. white wine, 129 4-10ths galls. plain British Spirits. Goods ex warehouse: 1655 lbs tea, 1703 lbs coffee, 4 cwt. 24lbs kiln dried chicory root, 249 8-10ths galls pf. plain brutish spirits, 114 6-10ths galls. of. B.B.rum.

Carole Pringle



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

