



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 73—MARCH 2012*

## **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

2<sup>nd</sup> April - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Berwick Museum opening hours for 2012.  
Monday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

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

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Visit to Manderston House

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Flodden: Chris Burgess

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Northumberland as Feudal County: Dr Ian Roberts

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May

The Region and the Sea: Tony Brown

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Walk in Ingram Valley: Brian Rogers

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Walk around Ford Church: Rev.Dickinson

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March

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

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

The AGM, Parish Centre, 7pm followed by a talk by Linda Bankier on Jubilee Celebrations in the Area

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

The Scholar, the Wizard and the Seer:

Isabel Gordon

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

AGM prompt 7pm followed by Droving and  
Drove Roads: Dr Ian Roberts

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Rediscovering Herculaneum & Pompeii:  
Dr Jeremy Paterson. Combined meeting  
with Berwick Civic Society

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

AGM & members night

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Bamburgh Project: Gerard Twomey

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

In the Shadow of Flodden Hill A  
Mesolithic Presence: Liz Young

### **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March

From the Poorhouse to Knighthood:

Marjorie Gavin

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Adam Clark, Bridge Constructor,

Budapest : Jim Lyon, Drill Hall, Peebles

Community Centre

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May

AGM and Dr John Haddon of Hawick  
and his trip around the world in 1882:

Andrew Haddon

### **CHIRNSIDE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Community Centre**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Bondagers: Dinah Iredale

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

History of Duns Castle and the Hay

Family: Alexander Hay

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Brewing in the Borders: Peter Maule

### **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

From Opium Ward to Convict Ships with

Henry Richardson : Jane Bowen

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Local Churches in the Merse : Rev. Alan

Cartwright

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Visit to Fogo and Ladykirk Churches.

7pm start

### **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

The Leslie Chappell Photographic

Collection: Mr Alistair Spence

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Hadrians' Wall : Tribes & Tyranny :

Michael Thomson

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April

A.G.M followed by refreshments and

exchange of ideas

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April

The Culley Brothers & The History of

Farming in Glendale: Simon Henderson.

A mid-day talk and lunch ( extra charge

of £10.00 per head) at the Fenton Centre

(site of the original Culley Brother's

farm).

### LOWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Flodden: Noel Hodgson

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

I Remember Lowick Evening, film of  
Lowick's Jubilee Sports, 1977: Peter  
Calder.

### NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Norham Village Hall**

**Time : 7.30 pm**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Hidden History ( the use of metal detectors):  
Mr Ian Glendinning

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

To be Confirmed

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Twizel: Catherine Kent

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Visit to Coldstream Museum with Andrew  
Tulloch. **Meet at the Museum at 7.30pm**

### NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Monkey Business at a Medieval Abbey:  
Barry Mead

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Visit to Seahouses Lifeboat House

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

"Cabbages & Kings", a short story of  
Morpeth's Castles: Chris Hudson

### NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

#### NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

**Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Family history in the Borders- What The  
Heritage Hub can offer you: Rachel Hosker  
The Parish Chest: Wendy Stafford  
A.G.M

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May

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

**Venue: Spittal Bowling Club**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April

J &W Lifeboat: Tim Kirton this meeting **held  
in St John's Church, Spittal**

### **TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

A Mesolithic presence in the shadow of  
Flodden Hill: Lizzie Young

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Lost Medieval Villages: Ronan O'Donnell

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Flodden Excavations and evening walk:  
Chris Burgess

## **ARCHIVE NEWS**

It's lovely to see that spring is coming which seems to bring more people into the Archives. Visitors from further afield are even starting to appear again.

The last couple of months have been very busy with various activities – I'm never bored and always have challenges. Here are some of the things that I have been involved in.

You may have read in the Berwick Advertiser that as part of the Holy Island Peregrini Project, there is a desire to set up a Community Archive on the Island. I have been

asked to work with the local community to do this and recently I have spent time on the Island talking about it and arranging visits for them – they have visited the Record Office and the Old Parish of Bamburgh Group. It is early days but hopefully the Community Archive will become a reality and be a useful resource on the Island for local people and visitors.

RE Projects, I am still involved in the Sheep Tales Project in the Glendale area which has been very successful. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers who are recording people's memories of shepherding in the area which has thrown up some fascinating information. These volunteers have also unearthed some wonderful photographs, some of them going back to the 1920s and earlier of a life which has changed considerably. We have been scanning the photographs and storing the recordings and our next step is to make some of this material available through the Sheep Tales website, hopefully within the next couple of weeks. My volunteer, Kevin Graham, has listened to all the recordings and has taken an excerpt from each for the website. Look out for an update in the next newsletter.

As you all know, I am very interested in using Archives for Education. Our Early Years resource boxes are proving to be very popular in Berwick with all of them being booked out at some stage this year. I have also promoted them at the Northumberland Early Years Conference where they were seen as a great resource. Going to the other end of the spectrum, I have also been doing some work with University students along with other members of the North East Learning Arc. In January, I took part and helped run a workshop as part of a Conference for Postgraduates students in the North East and in February, I did a presentation and ran a workshop for undergraduates at Northumbria University as part of their preparation for picking dissertation topics.

Finally, I continue to give talks to local groups. Recently I have talked to the Lowick Heritage Group on Family History and the Chirnside History Group on the History of Berwick through its Archives.

This is only a selection of the things that the Record Office gets involved in. There is still the day to day job to do of helping the public, answering enquiries and looking after the archives themselves !

*Linda Bankier*

## THE RUSSIAN GUN

Recently I was asked whether the Gun on the Ramparts was connected with the Crimea War in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and it reminded me of some research that I undertook a couple of years ago for a Youth Theatre production I worked on with Wendy Payn. How did the town acquire the gun and how was it received? The following extracts from the Berwick Advertiser help tell the story :

### **Berwick Advertiser, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1858**

Crimean Trophy- Captain Gordon who has endeavoured, but without success to prevail on his friends, now in power, to withdraw their condemnatory edict against the barracks here, has had offered to him by way of a peace offering to the people of Berwick, one of the cannon captured in the course of the Crimean campaign. The Government, however, make the present conditional, namely, that the receivers of the gift should pay for the carriage on which the piece of ordnance is to stand. As this payment amounts to something like £16 perhaps the difficulty of raising the money may prevent the gift being accepted.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1858**

The Crimean Trophy – We stated a few weeks ago that the promise of one of the guns captured from the enemy during the warfare at the Crimea had been obtained for this town, and that the carriage on which it ought to stand would have to be the object of purchase. Drawings of the different kinds of carriages used were sent here, and these were of the various prices of £16, £18 and £19. A subscription was immediately commenced in the town and that now reaches the sum of £18, so that we have the prospect of being presently in a position to purchase one of the best carriages used if it be approved of.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1859**

The gun, one of the prizes of the Crimean War, and which was presented to this town by the Home Government, has this week been conveyed hither by the clipper Thames. It has stood on the quay, mounted on the carriage prepared for it since its capture, and has been very critically examined by numerous parties. It appears to us to differ very slightly, if in anything, from the guns of our own country. It is 31 cwt. in weight, it is 7 feet 2 inches long, and it is stated to be a 18 - pounder. We have



been informed that a meeting of the subscribers to the cost incurred will be held in a few days to decide on the situation in the town for the gun to be placed on.

### **Berwick Advertiser 1<sup>st</sup> June 1861**

A meeting of the subscribers to the fund for defraying the expenses connected with obtaining this trophy on the late war was held in the committee room of the Townhall on Tuesday, for the purpose of deciding where the Russian gun should be placed, and to audit the accounts. There were present the Mayor, the Vicar, the Town Clerk, Alderman Fleming, Alderman Ramsey, Mr A.R.Lowery, and Mr W.Gibson. On the motion of Mr Fleming the Mayor took the chair. Alderman Fleming proposed that the Russian gun should be placed on the ramparts beside the two guns belonging to the artillery volunteers which had been recently placed there. Alderman Ramsey seconded the motion. The Vicar agreed with the suggestion of Alderman Fleming remarking that when the gun was placed at the battery it would then be out of danger. Two accidents had occurred with similar trophy guns at other places, owing to a want of knowledge of the manufacture and material of the article. One occurred at some festivities in honour of the marriage of a mayor's daughter, when on the gun being fired it burst, when several people were hurt, but happily no lives were sacrificed. The other accident occurred to a gun placed in a Market Square, where some idle boys having got access to it, they filled the gun with powder and earth, and then fired it, breaking every window in the Square. He thought the thanks of the community were due to Alderman Fleming in not allowing the gun to be stored in any place where boys could get at it. Alderman Fleming read a statement of the finances, which showed the total subscriptions to amount to £23 18s 6d. There had been expended in the purchase of a carriage for the gun, £16; ten shillings had been paid to parties to collect the subscriptions; £1 15s 6d to the Berwick Shipping Company; and 6s for advertising the present meeting- making the total expenditure £18 11s 6d; and leaving a balance in hand of £5 7s. In answer to Mr Gibson, the Vicar stated that it was intended to enclose the battery with a railing, and that a platform had been laid at one of the embrasures of the battery for the reception of the gun. On the motion of Alderman Fleming it was unanimously resolved to hand over the balance of £5 7s to Mr Paulin, Treasurer to the Volunteers, on condition that the volunteers have the gun removed to its position at the battery, and that the carriage of the gun be painted. The meeting then separated.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1861**

At the usual battalion drill of the volunteers on Wednesday night, it was determined to remove the Crimean trophy gun from the place it has long been continued in to the quarters set apart for it on the ramparts. The volunteers accordingly were marched to the ballast quay where the gun was speedily unhoused, and, setting aside the idea of employing animal power, detachments of the artillery volunteers, under the command of Captain Thomas Allan, dragged the gun to the ramparts. The rifle volunteers, commanded by Captain Ramsey, formed a guard with fixed bayonets in the front and rear of the gun; while the volunteer band marched in front playing appropriate airs. The gun was safely placed in position at the left flank of the six gun battery where it is destined to remain a memento of the Crimean campaign and its result. The volunteers afterwards were drawn up in line inside the battery, where after presenting arms three cheers were given for the Queen, which was succeeded by the band playing the national anthem.

**Berwick Advertiser, 14<sup>th</sup> September 1861**

We regret to mention that on Tuesday morning last we observed that some evil disposed person or persons had obliterated a portion of the newly painted appropriate inscription on our trophy of the Crimean war. We hope this act was only the work of some midnight prowler, prompted by wanton mischief; but as the only portion of the inscription defaced is the name of the respected Mayor during whose mayoralty the trophy was received, it is to be feared that it is the act of some person who cherishes a mean and malevolent spirit towards the gentleman. Whichever is the case, we hope the police authorities may succeed in bringing the perpetrators of such a public outrage to condign punishment, thus holding up such detestable conduct to public opprobrium.

*Linda Bankier*

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

It has been a long winter, and we are greatly looking forward to the new season, which seems to have arrived very suddenly.

The weather has been much better than last year (how could it not have been!), and though the climate inside the Clock Block has been chilly, to say the least, we have

been keeping warm by getting on with some hard work in the museum stores. We cleared the off site store in the autumn, which left us with the interesting problem of finding a home on site for the varied collection of rescued items. Thanks to the reorganisation work up on the third floor, we have managed to fit many of the larger items - such as the comprehensive assortment of spare parts for the Holy Island telephone exchange (you never know when these might come in handy), a 1950s washing machine (we never thought an old washer could weigh so much, especially when it had to be carried up three floors) and a funeral cart and bier (which we are planning to display in our opening temporary exhibition).

Jim has done sterling work by designing and building extra picture racking in the art store, including space for the very large paintings in our care; this will make sure every picture is stored safely and will enable us to locate every painting, print and photograph much more quickly than before. The social history store is in the final process of being sorted out, and we hope to have this finished – and the Berwick Naturalists' Library back to normal - before too long. We were awarded a small grant from the Collections Care network recently, and we spent some of this on conservation boxes for our next project, which will be to properly repack the costume collection; this is languishing in one of our small rooms safely out of harm's way for the moment.

We still do have major work to be carried out on the Burrell Gallery, which was badly damaged in last summer's flood. Our initial plans to simply redecorate the walls and replace the carpet have been put to one side and we are now investigating the possibilities of completely revamping the room. A completely refreshed and improved display, with a rehang of the pictures and an improved sightline to the exhibits, should do justice to Burrell's internationally important collection of paintings and porcelain, and will be opened as early in the new season as possible.

All of this work has not left a lot of time to organise an exhibitions programme for the full season. We are, however, aiming to open the temporary exhibition series by displaying an eclectic selection of little seen - but interesting - exhibits which have come to light in our reorganisation efforts. For instance, there are some wonderful early panoramic photographs of the Berwick Naturalists Club, which deserve a wider public viewing; there are some paintings which haven't left the store rooms for some years; there is a selection of Inuit items. We hope to find things to catch the imagination of all ages and interests!

Something to look forward to early in the New Year is an online exhibition loosely based on a talk which Linda & I gave back in August to the Friends entitled “A History of Berwick in 10 Objects”. Work is almost finished on this, and the exhibition will be viewable on the Woodhorn web site very soon -

([www.experiencewoodhorn.com](http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com))

Friends will be interested to hear that Berwick’s Degas pastel “Danseurs Russes”, recently returned from the Royal Academy of Art, will soon be off on its travels again, this time to the Beyeler Foundation Gallery in Basel, Switzerland. This relatively new gallery of modern art is run by a young and enthusiastic team of Curators who are extremely well regarded in the fine art world. The gallery plans to stage an exhibition of late work by Degas in the autumn.  
(<http://www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/Home> )

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as soon as we are open again – please do not feel you need an invitation to a preview or a special opening... do drop in and see us at any time!

*Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.*

## NEWSPAPER SNIPPETS

### Newcastle Courant, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1712

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Edinburgh, Berwick, Newcastle, Durham, York, and London Stage-Coach, begins on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 1712. All that desire to pass from Edinburgh to London, or from London to Edinburgh, or any Place on that Road, let them Repair to Mr John Baillie’s, at the Coach and Horses at the head of Cannongate, Edinburgh, every other Saturday, or to the Black Swan, in Holbourn, London every other Monday. At both which Places they may be Received in a Stage-Coach, which performs the

whole Journey in Thirteen Days, without any Stoppage, (if God permit) having 80 Able Horses to perform the whole Stage. Each Passenger paying Four Pound Ten Shillings for the whole Journey, allowing each Passenger 20 Pound Weight, and all above to pay 6 Pence a Pound. The Coach sets out at Six a Clock in the Morning.

**Berwick Advertiser 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1897** - pg 3

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE - BELFORD

A commencement was made on the Saturday night, when several workmen fixed the red, white, and blue on the top of the National Church. On the Sunday morning the Volunteers and Oddfellows had a church parade. There was a special commemoration service, the National Anthem being sung, and Rev. C. Robertson gave an appropriate address. On Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the village presented a gay appearance, most of the places of business and private houses having flags displayed. All the children on the estate and those attending the schools in the town were entertained to tea by G. D. A. Clark, Esq., of Belford Hall, and sports were afterwards held on the Crag when the youngsters seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. During the afternoon the Jubilee band played popular selections in the streets and afterwards on the hill. Between nine and ten some hundreds of people assembled on the Crag, where a great pile had been prepared, and at ten o'clock it was lighted by Mrs John Wright, Belford, the latest bride in the district, and a glorious blaze it made. At the same time there was a display of coloured fire, and the effect was very fine. Some dozen fires could be observed all round about. Dancing was enjoyed on the green into the early hours of the morning. Thanks are due to Mr John Robinson, who worked very hard in getting up the bonfire and the firework display.

**Berwick Advertiser 27<sup>th</sup> December 1862** - p3

POPULAR LECTURES - BELFORD

On the evening of Tuesday last Mr A. Melville Bell, of Edinburgh, gave one of his literary entertainments in the large Assembly room at the Blue Bell Inn, Belford, to a highly respectable and crowded audience. The subject selected for the first reading was Dickens' Christmas Carol, which was followed by an extract from the Pickwick Papers, being the trial scene in *Bardell versus Pickwick*. Mr Bell's inimitable reading was rapturously applauded, and at its conclusion a vote of thanks to him for the very great pleasure he had afforded was proposed by the Chairman, Fairfax Fearnley, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. G. Walker. Dr Davidson, proposed a vote of thanks

to the Chairman for his services on the occasion. It was announced that the next lecture would be delivered on Wednesday, the 7th of January, by the Rev. R. Jones, Vicar of Branxton, subject, "Flodden Field." The company then separated, expressing themselves much gratified with the evening's entertainment.

*Jan Ward & Jane Bowen*

## **SUFFRAGISTS AND SUFFRAGETTES**

### **MY SEARCH FOR SUFFRAGISTS AND SUFFRAGETTES IN NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND:**

#### **Who were they and what did they do?**

As part of the NEPP (North East Popular Politics) Project I decided to focus on the role of women from North Northumberland (the area roughly bounded by Berwick, Wooler and Alnwick) in the campaign for women's suffrage. It was a subject on which I knew little but, after all, I had been brought up in Morpeth where Emily Wilding Davison is buried and I had heard frequent mentions of her name during my childhood. I had in my possession several postcards of her funeral procession in 1913 acquired by my grandfather living in Morpeth at the time. This seemed as good as motivation as any but, as I was to discover, my place of entry into the world may also have had some subliminal connection to the subject. More of this later.....

I discovered that the term "suffragist" is the more general term for those supporting the cause and includes both men and women. The term "suffragette" was originally coined as a derogatory term by the Daily Mail for members of the Women's Social and Political Union founded in 1903. A preliminary survey of the literature and a web search threw up a few names. Among these was Charlotte Marsh (1887-1961), whose birthplace in several sources is stated as Alnmouth, Northumberland. Charlotte was educated in Newcastle, Wales and France, trained as a Sanitary Inspector, joined the WSPU in 1907, took part in numerous militant acts for which she was imprisoned. She was force-fed in total 139 times. She often led parades, allegedly because of her distinguished height and carried the cross in the London funeral procession for Emily Wilding Davison. She became a motor mechanic in World War 1 and a chauffeuse to Lloyd George. However, I have not yet found any

evidence that she was involved in local political action. On the 1891 census she was living at Prudhoe House, Alnmouth and a governess and servant were also listed in the household. Charlotte and her 2 sisters were all listed as born in Alnmouth. Her father, Arthur H Marsh, was an artist who came to Northumberland about 1869, settling in Alnmouth where he found inspiration for his work and exhibited at the Royal Academy. After her father died in 1909 Charlotte's mother and sisters moved to Jesmond, Newcastle. By then Charlotte was working for the WSPU in other parts of the country.

"The Women's Suffrage Movement: a Reference Guide 1866-1928 " by Elizabeth Crawford was a useful starting point as it provides biographical details on key figures in the movement. Several women from around Tyneside are listed but the only names from North Northumberland were Margaret Eleanor Thompson (1864-1957) and Mary Dawes Thompson (1866-1960) daughters of a former Master Mariner who was a Freeman of Berwick upon Tweed. They came from a family of 12 children of whom 6 daughters became teachers. They lived at Castlegate, Eastern Lane, 25 Palace Street, and 4 Summerhill Terrace and attended the Freeman's School - Berwick Corporation Academy. Only Margaret and Mary out of his 7 daughters appear to have been actively involved in the movement. By 1882 Mary was recorded in the School Records as "having left for school in England", and in 1889 she began her studies in Classics and Mathematics at Royal Holloway College in London. Mary achieved some academic success and won several College Prizes. As the college was the first founded specifically for women it is not surprising that one of her contemporaries there was Emily Wilding Davison. She appeared on the 1891 census with sister Margaret as students of Art in Shipley, West Yorkshire, where elder sister Elizabeth was a teacher.

Both sisters took part in many militant activities in the struggle for women's suffrage but I have found no mention of their return to Berwick. By 1901 Mary was living with elder sister Harriet in Hampstead where both were teachers. Mary wrote on her 1911 census form, "No vote, and no census. As women are not persons in the eyes of the law, why count ciphers in the census?" before signing her name.

It would appear the sisters remained in the London area and later moved to Suffolk for the rest of their lives. In 1957 they published a book with the title of "They couldn't stop us! Experiences of two (usually law-abiding) women in the years 1909-1913. I located a copy of this book in the British Library where another project member perused it for me with the conclusion that it contained vivid accounts of their experiences of being force-fed in prison but nothing relating to any activities in their native town.

Berwick did see some action, however. Alice Paul was an American who acted as assistant to more prominent campaigners. For one week she worked in Berwick:

“Every night we went out and spoke on the street corners of Berwick in the market-place or some place where people assembled. This was to acquaint the people of the town with why we were protesting against Sir Edward Grey.”

The latter was the MP for Berwick and had expressed support for the principle of women’s suffrage but taken little positive action to promote it.

“I was supposed to get up and say, “Well, these are very wonderful ideals and so on but couldn’t you extend them to women” or something like that. And when I did this (with great timidity, I am sure, anyway I got it out enough so that I was heard), the police immediately took me by the arms and right out of the meeting. I remember I was most indignant. They conducted me up through the streets of Berwick to the police station, holding my hands behind me. I don’t know whether with handcuffs or with what, so I was, I remember, blazingly angry and [they took me] to be arrested at the police station, or be booked, or whatever you did. So then I was arrested and I was charged with whatever I was supposed to be charged with and the meeting was over and I guess Sir Edward Grey must have told them not to go forward with any prosecution of anybody or something like that. Because I was released.”

Alice was later imprisoned for protesting at a meeting held by Winston Churchill in Dundee. Her visit to Berwick took place shortly before the notable procession in Edinburgh in October 1909. Alice Paul became the first WSPU member who was subjected to force-feeding. On her return to the USA she played a prominent part in the movement.

A branch of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies had been formed in Berwick (i.e. Northumberland) or Berwickshire (i.e. Scotland) -there is some confusion in the literature- in 1905 with Mrs Hope of Sunwick as Secretary. She was also Secretary of the Scottish Federation of the NUWSS. Margaret Mein of Kelso wrote about her assistance to Mrs Hope during 1909 in an attempt to “teach Suffrage to as many of the Berwickshire folk as could be got at in a week on a bicycle. The pace was hectic! As soon as she alighted from the train at Berwick Station the two women began discussing suffrage issues with women railway staff and passengers. They then set off on a seven-mile bicycle ride to their accommodation!

The workers at Chirnside Cotton Mill (a few miles west of Berwick) were addressed outside the mill during their lunch break and were joined by local residents. The crowd was described as large and interested:

*The men lounged; the vast majority of women produced knitting from their pockets and worked steadily during the whole meeting. (The Common Cause, 26 August 1909)*



*During the course of the week they addressed clergymen, workers at other mills, shopkeepers, and on the Saturday visited Berwick on market day.*

*We had a splendid reception from the farmers in the Market Place; they appeared to be unanimously in favour, bought badges and booklets, and the Common Cause was in great demand. ...The Berwick meeting was, perhaps, our best during the week; the worst was certainly at Hutton the same evening. Only twenty turned up in spite of the fact that (or perhaps because) they had never heard Suffragists before. However, questions - some intelligent and some otherwise, were asked and coming from church next morning I was assured that suffrage was easily the leading topic of conversation and that it was meeting with warm support.*

The week's campaigning concluded at the county agricultural show at Duns:  
*In spite of the hubbub, our voices were well heard and our arguments well received.*

***To be continued in the next issue***

*Val Glass*

## **TWEEDMOUTH FEAST**

Berwick Advertiser 29<sup>th</sup> July 1870

The anniversary of Tweedmouth Feast was observed this year in the usual manner. The influx of visitors to the borough on this occasion has been very large, equalling if not exceeding the numbers who in previous years have been induced by the return of this festival to embrace the opportunity of renewing and enjoying the friendships of former days. The most of the visitors were from the neighbourhood of the Tyne, and were brought here by ordinary and special trains between Saturday and Monday. The first visitors arrived on Saturday night, a large number of persons having taken advantage of the cheap trips from Newcastle, and thus afforded themselves a three days stay here. Additional visitors arrived on Sunday morning, but not in such large numbers as on the preceding evening. As usual, by far the

greatest number of excursionists arrived on Monday morning-a special train from Newcastle conveying upwards of 1,000 passengers. The streets in the course of the day were much crowded, and presented a very lively appearance. At the request of the Mayor, the shops in the borough were closed from twelve o'clock on Monday, and the remainder of the day was observed as a holiday. Owing to the state of the tide, the regatta took place earlier than usual, and about mid-day large numbers of pleasure-seekers thronged the streets leading to the bridge, and other places where a view of the sports could be obtained. Happily the weather was most auspicious, and throughout their stay here the visitors were enabled to enjoy the occasion under most favourable circumstances. In Tweedmouth much hilarity and merry-making prevailed. At the end of the bridge there were the usual stall erections, and articles were offered which attracted the attention of juveniles. There were also amusement which commanded a large amount of patronage; a five minutes' ride on a "roundabout" velocipede was not to be ignored even by well-grown youths, and the owners of these "wheels" did a large business. The street preacher here also found employment, in the midst of drunken revelry and noise, although his audience was comparatively limited. After the races, which did not finish till a later hour in the afternoon, the crowd of spectators gradually dispersed. Many of them went to Tweedmouth and others to their own homes, and kept the feast in various ways. At Tweedmouth dancing and merry-making prevailed at most of the public-houses, and were kept up till an advanced hour on the following morning. Several drunken persons were on the streets, and good deal of noise prevailed, but no serious breaches of the peace occurred. All the visitors left for their respective homes on Tuesday, and the town has again resumed its ordinary quiet aspect.

*Carole Pringle*

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER**

**Berwick Advertiser, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1870**

### THE WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the town is gradually decreasing; the quantity at present is 42,000 galls. daily. During the past week, the inhabitants in some parts of the town have been accommodated with this article so indispensable to existence by means of the water-carts, which have brought considerable quantities from Tweedmouth. The authorities have no doubt exerted themselves to the utmost of their ability to obtain a further supply of water; but surely those who have to endure the privation of

it during the warm weather we are experiencing at present must be tempted to exclaim "How long?"

**Berwick Advertiser, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1879**

ACCIDENT AT SANDBANKS

On Friday forenoon an accident occurred at Sandbanks, near Scremerston, whereby William Moor, living in High Street, Berwick, was very severely injured. Moor, along with another man, had been engaged removing the soil to allow of the limestone being quarried, and while undermining a large quantity of earth, it gave way and fell upon him before he had time to escape. The poor man was wholly buried, excepting his head, and had to be dug out. He was conveyed home in a cart and attended by Dr Jamieson. His left thigh was found to be fractured, and several of his ribs broken, and he was otherwise much hurt.

**Berwick Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1870**

NEW ADAPTATION OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT

A French paper says that it is intended to supply several vessels of the fleet with an apparatus intended to light up the line of the horizon in dull weather or any point of the sea-coast at which it may be expedient to disembark at night. This apparatus, placed in the forepart of the ship, is composed of an electric light and a powerful reflector. The light is produced by the combustion of two cones of coal, in communication with a magneto-electric machine. This is itself put in motion by a small steam-engine connected with the ship's engines. The reflector on Fresnel's system is analogous to that employed in lighthouses. This apparatus possesses such great illuminating power that, when directed upon a point of any coast, it is clearly visible at a distance of about two miles without its being possible for the enemy on the coast to distinguish the ship bearing the light.

**Berwick Advertiser, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1870**

## THE CENSUS-SCOTLAND

The Census Bill for Scotland has been issued. Almost the only clause it contains which is of general interest is that relating to the schedules, from which it appears that there is to be an educational census; but that, as appeared from the statement by Mr Bruce in the House of Commons on Friday night, the intention to have a religious census in Scotland, though not in England, has been departed from. The clause, to which allusion has been made, says: Schedules shall be prepared by or under the direction of such Secretary of State for the purpose of being filled up but or on behalf of several occupiers in dwelling-houses as hereinafter provided, with particulars of the name, sex, age, rank, profession, or occupation, condition, relation to head of family, and birth-place of every living person who abode in every house on the night of Sunday the second day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and also whether any were blind or deaf and dumb, or imbecile or lunatic, and also whether any, and how many, of each persons, being of the age of from five to fifteen years, were in regular attendance at school, or were in the receipt of education at home under tutors or governesses.

*Carole Pringle*