

**Friends of Berwick & District  
Museum and Archives  
Newsletter**



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**[Selected articles]**

1996 July

CURES

*Whilst looking through the papers of the Craster family who owned property at Craster and Shoreswood and the papers of the Haggerston family, I came across some 18<sup>th</sup> century recipe books containing recipes and "cures". I've kept the original spelling in the recipes. If you try them, let me know if they work.*

For a Coff

*Take 1 pint and half of Spring Water, put in a spoonful of Mustard and drink the same.*

For an Ulcer in ye Mouth

*Take Barley 3 ounces, Marchmallows 2 ounces, Liquoris 2 ounces. Boil these in 6 pints of water till 3 is gone. Then strain it out and put in syrope of vilots(?violets) and collfoot and Scabions of each 1 ounce and put it in a Bottle and wesh your mouth often with it.*

For Swelling and Aiking of an Wound

*Take leeke heads with the roots and stamp them in a Morter and put thereto fair Wheat flour and honey of each a like Quantity. Fry them together and make plaister and lay it on ye wound and it shall do away ye swelling and aiking.*

For a Spraine

*Take Ground Ivy and beat it with Sheep Suet of ye best and put it in a pan and clarifie it over ye fire and strain it and melt it in a Saucer. Lay it to ye wound hott and wrap it hard with a roller.*

To take Away Pimples in ye Face

*Take 4 penny worth of Camphire, half as much of Brimston made in a fine powder and put this powder in 5 or 6 Lemmons and be very well mingled together. Strain them thro a fine Cloth. Let it ly in ye juice and anoint ye place.*

*A pulliss [poulice] to take down any swelling*

*Take a pint of milk, put to it as much white bread as will make it thick. Put to it an handful of Mallow leaves or white Lilly roots or one Mallow Root. Add 2 spoonfuls of Oyle. So apply it to ye place. You may put in Turpentine.*

*To make ye Hair Grow*

*Take 1 Quart of Sack, 1 handfull of Rosemary 6 Slist [?sliced] Nutmegs and one pint of honey. Distill all together and rub ye hair or head to make it grow.*

*For a Pain in ye Back*

*Take one handful of parsely, 1 handful of Mallows, 1 handful of eggs, 1 ounce of Liquoris. Boil these in White Wine or ale. Drink half a pint Morning and Evening.*

*Sirrup of Ale*

*Take a quart of Ale and sett it on the fire and put in it one ounce of Licquorsce scrap'd & sliced, one ounce of Anneseeds bruised, a handfull of rosemary topes. Lett all these boyle together till it comes to a pint, then take it of and straine it and put to it owne (one) pwond of double refin'd sugar or a pound of white sugar dcandey and boyle it up to sirup & when it is cold put it into a glass and take of it as often as you please. This is very good for preserving the Lungs.*

### To Make Sirrip of Egges

*Take six new Laid egges, boyle them hard, then cut them long wayes and take out the yolks. Then fill the hollows where the yolks was with powder of white sugar candy, then joyne the egges together and tye them with threed. Lay them betwen two puther (pewter) dishes till they run to a sirrop. Then keep them for your use. This cooles and losens the breast of fleame and is good against shortnes of breath either in ole or young.*

### To make sirip of Turnips

*Take turneps and paire them and slice them and put them in a stoon (stone) pot and lay a laire (layer) of turneps and a little mace and when the pott is full, then paist it up and sett it in an oven with ry (rye) bread. When the bread is drawne, take out the pot and powre out the Juice and put to it Issope (hyssop) water, bett Aneseeds and sliced Lickerash. Boyle these a good while together, than straine and put to it either white or browne sugar candy, boyle it to a thin sirip and take three spoonfulls at any time either day or night. This is good for a consumption or cough of the Lungs.*

*Linda Bankier*

### **Exhibits of the Month**

**Wood, 18<sup>th</sup>.Dynasty, c.1300 BC**

**Glazed sand, 22<sup>nd</sup>.Dynasty, c.900 BC**

These figurines, included in the Locomotion exhibition, were buried in Egyptian tombs. They were intended to come to life in the underworld and wait on the deceased as servants carrying out whatever was expected of them. They sometimes are shown carrying hoes to do agricultural work, though only the glazed example here has any tools, a flail of office. Inscriptions on the front of these figures usually contain a standard prayer that the ushabti will when called upon, cry "Here I am". In our examples the glazed figure has a few hieroglyphs which translate as "The Osiris Settem", in other words "belonging to the late Settem". Who Settem was, we do not know but he was clearly rich enough to afford the figurine to be made in glazed composition, at the time an advanced technology, and so probably expensive. These figurines replaced the real servants that the Egyptians buried during the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Dynasties beside the royal tombs. The earliest are crude wooden carvings but by the time our examples were made, each was finely modelled. Interestingly the satirist Lucian made fun of the Egyptian beliefs writing a jokey account of all the figures coming to life at his command to carry water and then not being able to get them to stop. If this

sounds familiar Lucian's account inspired Dukas' Sorcerer's Apprentice which in turn inspired a sequence in Disney's 'Fantasia', with Mickey Mouse heroically failing to control the water collecting brooms.

## **WITH HINDSIGHT**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Hind was a skilled farm servant, usually married. At the annual hiring fairs, amongst other questions asked by the prospective employer farmer was 'can you stack and sow'. These two operations of agricultural work were of the utmost importance, for bad sowing frustrated all the previous labour on the land whilst bad stacking could mar the quality of the harvested crop.

The system of hiring farm hands for a term of one year, with its consequent annual changes, was a very old and deep rooted custom. The system benefitted the interests of the farmer in that it tied down the worker for the whole course of the year's farm work, whilst releasing him, if desired, at the end of this period. It did however beget unsettledness for all concerned.

In the mid 1800s hinds' typical wages were, during the year, £4 money, and twelve and a half bolls of corn of different kinds, namely, six of oats, four of barley, two of beans, and a half boll of wheat: also half a stone of wool, and the keep of a cow, in grass in summer, and one ton of hay in winter. The farmer provided the cow during the man's service, should he be unable to buy one for himself. The wages included 1,000 yds of potatoes, the farmer planting and carting them home, the hind supplying the seed and taking them up in his own time. Each hind had to rear some chickens at his cottage for the farmer. His wife had to shear corn in the harvest in lieu of house rent, and in addition to this she was required to spin so many hanks of lint for the farmer's wife.

In 1867 Henry Thompson of Lowick was the hind of the farm of Gatherick. He had full charge of sowing and mowing, mining of limestone and setting of lime-kilns. He was also responsible for feeding the beasts in the farm where he dwelt and the outlying beasts both morning and evening when required, for finding someone to feed the oxen in summer, and for stacking all hay and corn. His wages were partly in money, partly in kind, and partly by the privilege of rearing stock of his own. In money he was to have 10s and in kind 6 bowls of 'big', 6 bowls of oats, 1 bowl of peas, 1 bowl of wheat and rye, 2 pecks of 'bigg souring' and one 'kenning' of oats. Besides these he was allowed grass for ten sheep and the right to have 3 cows and three followers till they were one year old, to be fed as the oxen were fed. The Herd was John Kennit of Ancroft Mill, who was responsible for all beasts, sheep and horses 'young and old', and was 'to keep all goods whatsoever in field and out of the field', and provide hay for 'the ewes when they come from the bank or what else is removed to that place'. He had also to provide at his own expense a helper at hay harvest who was to be paid at the rate of 4d per day for raking, 15d a day for stacking and shearing and 12d a day for mowing. His own wages were to consist of 3 bowls of oats, one bushel of wheat, one bushel of rye, two bowls and a bushel of 'bigg' and one bushel of peas. He as allowed grass for two cows and three followers till a year old, with the old meadow which belonged to the herdship, also the right to have 30 ewes with five 'yeald' and 20 lambs in the outfield, and grass for a mare, in consideration of his coming over to see the goods in the Banks and going to market when required.

The 'Bond' was an agreement made by the hind who was to inhabit one of the farm cottages, that, in case he could not guarantee to the farmer as a worker another hand from his own family, he would provide one. This was, generally, a woman. She had board and lodging in the hind's house and the hind paid her wages. This was the 'bondager'. She had to work for the hind in milking and house-

work, and still do her full share of farm work. Dislike of the 'bondage' system culminated in a determined effort to put an end to it.

In about 1845 the little market town of Wooler was the scene of one of the strongest protests of the hinds against the bond. From that time the system gradually died out on the English border. Women workers remained and performed a great deal of farm work, but they were engaged directly by the farmer and worked for him.

*Dennis Nicholson*

## **BERWICK'S LAST VESSEL**

In 1950 the firm of William Weatherhead, of Eyemouth and Cockenzie, reopened the Berwick Quayside shipyard, which had been closed for upwards of 70 years since the 1879 bankruptcy of the original shipbuilder A. B. Gowan. In 1953 the Berwick shipyard was sold by William Weatherhead to the Fairmile Company who subsequently resold the yard to Intrepid Marine International. In 1979 this yard was finally closed after the building of upwards of 130 vessels, ranging through trawlers, ferries, yachts, tugs and other miscellaneous craft for owners in many parts of the world, during the 29 years of the Weatherhead/Fairmile/Intrepid Marine tenancy of the yard. The last vessel to be built by the Berwick shipyard was the three-masted schooner/yacht "AU-DELA" of 230 tons and 120' long. [See photograph on next page. ]

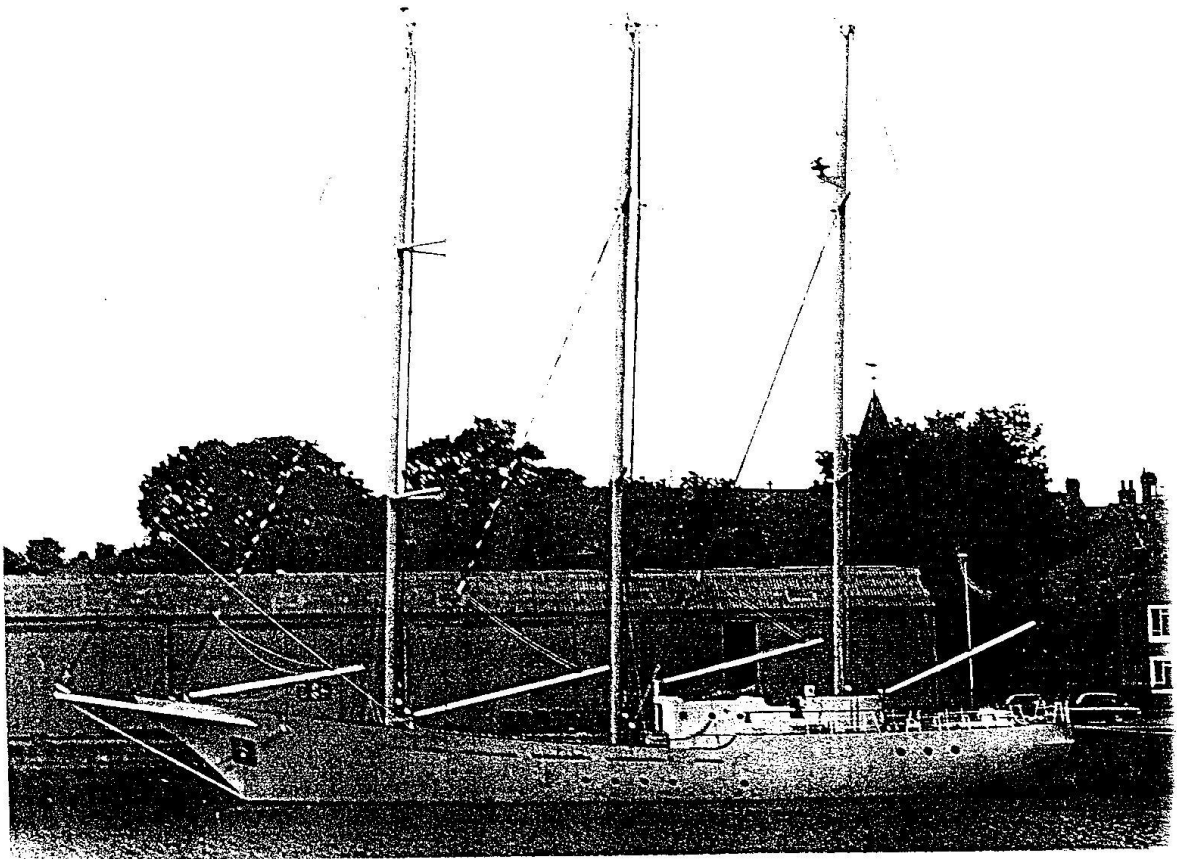
The "Au-Dela", built for owners International Air Holdings, was launched on 29 March 1979 by Mrs Joyce Ricketts, wife of one of the main shareholders in that company. After the launch the vessel was towed to the Tweed Dock for fitting out.

The "Au-Dela" was not a yacht in the true sense of the word for she had a specific commercial purpose in life. It was intended to use her as a floating business centre - a place where businessmen could foregather, entertain and negotiate with important customers. To this end she was fitted out in splendid and 'no expenses spared' manner. Every state room was said to have gold taps and the very latest state of the art stereo systems, with the ultra modern galley able to provide buffet meals for around 100 guests.

Despite the workmanship and sophisticated equipment on the very fine and beautiful vessel it would seem that financial success for the "Au-Dela" was not achieved.

Details of the vessels built by the Berwick Shipyard during the tenancy of the Weatherhead/Fairmile/Intrepid Marine companies may be found in the Record Office.

*Dennis Nicholson*



"AU-DELA"

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## **EXTRAORDINARY SCENES AT CROOKHAM CHURCH!**

**Berwick Journal, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1872**

An Extraordinary and unseemly scene occurred in the Parish Church of Crookham on Sunday last. A proposal to raise the rents of the seats had been some time in agitation and a few days ago, each seat had the price to be paid in future affixed to it. This caused great dissatisfaction among the congregation and many were determined not to pay more. Two of the managers waited on the Minister on Sunday to address him about the proposal as to increase pew rents and a discussion took place in the vestry which lasted so long that the congregation were kept waiting a full 35 minutes wondering all the time at the sounds of heated argument proceeding from the neighbouring chamber. Finally the Minister appeared and after giving out a psalm and a short prayer, entered anew on a discussion which had been going on in the vestry. He thought working people and farmers could easily afford to pay advanced rents and went into minute calculations of the effect the increase would have on the monthly and weekly and daily disbursements of each seatholder. His calculations were stopped by Mr Greenfield of Pallinsburn who stood up and reminded the Minister that these remarks were better made at the close of service and that the congregation did not desire to hear these arithmetical problems in home economy solved in the pulpit and that they paid enough for the little good they got from attending Crookham Church. At this point, Mr Strutt, the collector of seat rents, started to his feet and objected to Mr Greenfield's abusing the Minister and he hoped he would hold his tongue. Mr Greenfield retorted and closed by proposing that the rents remain as at present. This met with a seconder in Mr Patterson of Branxton and on being put to the congregation which had been gradually dwindling down to small proportions, was on a show of hands declared to be carried and the meeting dispersed. - The Scotsman

*Lindy Tindley*

Dennis Nicholson  
Editor