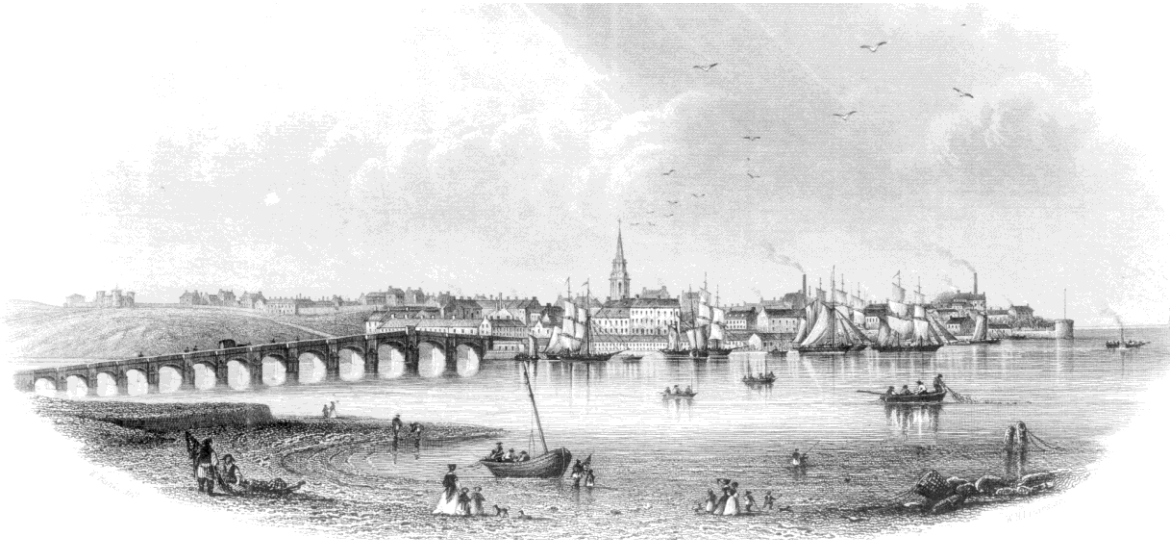


Friends of Berwick & District
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[Selected articles]

1998 September

Charles Rennie Mackintosh on Holy Island

Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Scottish architect, designer, painter and exponent of Art Nouveau, first came to Holy Island with his wife Margaret MacDonald on honeymoon in 1900, but no drawings of that year have been traced. They returned on holiday several times thereafter, in 1901, 1902, 1906 and 1913 when Mackintosh made a series of pencil and watercolour sketches of the wild flowers of the island: purple mallows, milk thistle, mustard seed flower, storksbill, sea pink, pimpernel, brook weed, yellow clover, hound's tongue, cranesbill, henbane and bugloss. That of sea pink is his only flower drawing which illustrates and labels bud, flower and seedpod. Until 1915 all Mackintosh's botanical drawings were of wild flowers.

Mackintosh also made pencil and watercolour sketches of buildings on Holy Island - the Castle (1901) from various aspects, it has been noted that the south elevation of the Glasgow School of Art (designed in 1897) is reminiscent of the northern aspect of the castle. Another drawing is entitled "Cobbler's Cottage: the kitchen ingle" (1906), which includes sections, plans and details. The fireplaces in Mackintosh's own buildings are usually based on such traditional designs. Another "St. Cuthbert's Church, Holy Island" (1901) is almost certainly a misnomer for St. Mary's parish church.

The early Holy Island flower sketches are transitional between Mackintosh's previous pencil sketches of flowers, which he used as inspiration in the design of furniture and decorative detail, and, from 1901, flower drawings with added colour which were also pictures in their own right. Watercolour wash was used with solid colour to highlight detail. Different parts of the flower, or different aspects of it were sometimes superimposed on the 'cushion' of the plant. The sea pinks are also included in all the drawings of the Castle and are out of proportion to the building. Flowers have been superimposed on the drawings of the church and are again on a different scale.

The cartouche included on all the drawings encloses an inscription identifying Mackintosh and any others who were with him when the drawings were made. By 1904 flower drawings made on the Scilly Isles had become more stylised. Accuracy of botanical detail was sometimes adapted for decorative effect. Mackintosh showed great skill in recording nature both in his flower drawings and later as a landscape artist, and in his innovative technique in adapting the forms of nature to architectural and decorative purposes, for example the leaves and form of the willow tree, used as a decorative motif in the Willow Tea Rooms in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, in 1903, are stylised so that they can be applied to many media, panels and furniture.

Nora Thompson

Extracts from Garrison Order Book, 1797 - 1798

Following on from the last issue, here is the second part of the Garrison Order Book:

1 Feb. 1798

It having been reported to the Commanding Officer of the Garrison that the part of the Barracks Occupied by the Invalids is in the greatest disorder, some Rooms being lock's up, others without either Fire or Coals in them, and without the least appearance of being occupied; Women and

Children reinstated and Tables and Chairs brought back into the rooms contrary to the Barrack Regulations in every respect. The Invalid Orderly Officer is for the future to be answerable that all orders relative to that part of the Barracks under his Inspection are strictly complied with, and he will report in Writing to the Commanding Officer of the Invalids the situation he finds them in who will give the necessary orders that everything be immediately settled according to the Barrack Regulations. The orderly Officer must be very particular in the Report he makes and not allow the least Infringement to be made as he will be answerable for everything that is wrong during the time he is on Duty.

17 Feb. 1798

9-30 P.M.

Complaint having been made to Major Cashell that the soldiers have been Plundering and stealing the Wreck of the Sloop driven on Shore at the Maudlin Fields. A Sentry from the Barrack Guard is to be placed at the Cowport early tomorrow morning who will prevent any of the Wreck being brought in there. And a Corporal and Six Men of the Invalids are to be stationed at the same time at the Farm House in the Field to the Right next the Water side to furnish such Sentries and Assistance as will be pointed out to them by Mr Carr, Lord Lisburne's Steward or Agent who will attend for the purpose.

18 March 1798

Col. Rae informs the Invalids that the following is an extract from a Letter he received from Col. Este B.M.G. this morning viz

"By a letter from the War Office dated the 26th February and which I fully intended to have noticed to you sooner, directions are sent for such of the Invalids as found their own Lodgings in the Town of Berwick to be allowed the 2d per day on proper Certificates from the Commanding Officer of the Corps and Barrack Master."

28 March 1798

The Sentries on the Wall are to permit Mr Lowther, the Ordnance Storekeeper to go upon the Mounts or other part of the works when he may have occasion, as his duty requires his going there.

4 April 1798

Complaint having been made to the Commanding Officer of the Garrison that the Sentries, at the North Gate, are very remiss in opening the Gate when any of the Inhabitants are coming in. A Gentleman having been very near Kill'd a few nights since by their neglect. The Officer Commanding the Main Guard is required to give the strictest orders to his men with respect to opening the Gate properly to prevent any accidents happening for the future.

8 April 1798

Two Men to be posted without arms tomorrow, Tuesday and Wednesday on the Walls near the Barracks to prevent boys and others from climbing the parapets or injuring the works, they are to be posted at 7 o'clock each Morning and relieved every Two Hours till the people leave the walls

in the Evening. The man posted by the 8th Fencibles is to have charge of the Parapet and from the Garden down to the Magazine and the one by the Invalids to have charge upwards from the Garden to the Brass Mount.

Each Corps to relieve their own Sentry, it being only a Duty of Fatigue/
No Harsh or uncivil treatment is to be made use of by the Sentries.

29 April 1798

The Guards to be taken tomorrow by the Invalids according to the following Detail viz;

	Serjeants	Corporals	Privates
Main Guard	1	1	12
Barrack	1	1	12
Bridge	-	1	9
Total	2	3	33

The Sentry on the Saluting Battery is to give a look to the Government House and the Sentry at the door taken off.

Only one sentry to be posted at the Scotch Gate for the present.
The Captain of the day is discontinued till further orders.
The first division of the 8th Fencibles will march tomorrow morning by 6 o'clock.

30 April 1798

The whole duty of this Garrison having now devolved on the Invalids by the marching of the 8th Fencibles to the South and Major Cashell, the Commanding Officer thinks it necessary at this Critical period when the enemy may be supposed to be at our doors, to give out the following orders, and he hopes the officers and Non Commission'd Officers will Join in seeing them properly executed, that there may be no Complaints Afterwards.

The Commanding Officers of Companys will take particular care that none of their Men be permitted at this time to go out of the Garrison to work. The Commanding Officer of the Garrison is sorry he is obliged to give this order, but the Necessity of the times require it, and if he finds it is not strictly obeyed, he will be obliged to order frequent Roll Callings which he hopes there will be no necessity for, as he flatters himself, every officer and soldier in the Garrison must be convinced how necessary it is for the duty of the Garrison to be done in such a manner as not to give any cause of Complaint. The Non Commissioned Officers are to be particularly carefull respecting their part of the duty, in not allowing any of their Men to be absent from their Guards, not to hire their duty on any account, as they will be certainly be tryed by a Court Martial and broke for repeated disobedience of Orders. The orderly officer will visit the Guards frequently and if he finds any deficiency or neglect of Duty, he will report in Writing to the Commanding Officer.

The Troop, Retreat and Tatloe are to be beat from the Main Guard and all the Drummers are constantly to attend Beat.

An Orderly drummer is to stay at the Barrack Guard constantly to Beat any Call that may be necessary either by day or night.

The orderly Gunner is to be particularly attentive to all parts of his duty and Report Immediately all Fleets or Ships of War that may appear off the Harbour, and to acquaint the Commanding Officer on all occasions when the Flag is to be hoisted, previous to it being done.

These orders to be read to the Guards every morning at Guard Mounting by the Orderly Officer till Sunday when they will be read to the whole Three Companies together.

The 2nd division of the 8th Fencibles will march tomorrow morning at such hour as their own Commanding Officer pleases.

1 May 1798

The Corporal of the Bridge Guard is to be answerable that the Sally ports leading to the Quay be regularly shut half an hour after sunset at latest, and the Serjeant of the Barrack Guard is to observe the same at the Cowport.

The 3rd division of the 8th Fencibles to march tomorrow morning at Such hour as their Commanding Officer may think proper.

7 May 1798

It is Major Cashless orders that Three Men be added to the Bridge Guard to furnish a Sentry on the Government House, who is to be posted at the North East Angle of the Garden Wall so as to have a view along the front of the House and also along the Garden Wall leading to Mr Jeffrey's House. He is to prevent boys and others from Climbing the Wall or meddling with the building in any manner.

9 May 1798

Major Cashell having received orders from General Musgrave that the Invalids in Quarters are immediately to be March'd into the Barracks, they are therefore to be put into the Barracks forthwith.

Each Company to give a return to the Barrack Master of the numbers to go in, that the proper number of Rooms may be pointed out. The pay serjeant of each Company is to receive his proportion of Rooms, Bedding and Furniture for which he is to give a receipt.

14 May 1798

The Commanding Officer of the Garrison finding that a Court Martial on one of the Invalids has been held this day in the Garrison without his Knowledge and that the Three Companies of Invalids have been ordered under arms to see a punishment inflicted. He desires that all Officers will take notice that no Court Martial can assemble in this Garrison for trying any Prisoner without his immediate orders, as he has the Kings Warrant under his sign Manual; and any

officer sitting as president of a Court Martial who does not bring the proceedings of the Court to the Commanding Officer of the Garrison will be put in arrest and tried for disobedience of orders. The Invalids composing the Garrison are not to be under Arms without orders from the Commanding Officer as he is answerable for everything of that kind.

15 May 1798

The three Company's of Invalids to parade this Evening at half past 6 o'clock, the staff of the Garrison to attend likewise.

Whenever a Soldier is confined in the Barrack Guard, the Non commissioned Officer is to make an immediate Report to the Commanding Officer of the Garrison in writing specifying his Crime and who he is confin'd by. Also to the orderly officer, who is to be answerable that this order is punctually obeyed.

16 May 1798

Complaint having been made by the Inhabitants of the ashes being thrown down at the end of the Bridge Guard being a Nuisance, the Commanding Officer of the Garrison therefore orders that they be Immediately removed and for this purpose Acting Quarter Master Serjeant Stewart with Six Men per Company of the Invalids are to assemble this afternoon at 3 o'clock who are to take them to the hollow ground within the railing opposite to Mr Sandy's Ice house, where all ashes and dirt belonging the Guard are to be thrown in future. The Non Commissioned Officer of the new Guard is not to relieve the Guard if any ashes are at the end of the Guard house till they are taken away.

Major Cashell warns the Corporals that they do not suffer the sentries to relieve one another themselves, or to come away from their boxes in order to meet their relief but that they are properly relieved by the Corporal at their post. He assures them that the first who is found disobeying this order shall be tried and broke.

7 June 1798

The relief of Holy Island takes place tomorrow for three months and is to consist of 1 Subaltern 1 Serjeant 1 Full Corporal and the usual number of Privates.

Two men without Arms to be stationed tomorrow morning at Eight O'clock over the North Gate to take care of that part of the Works during the height of the Fair. They will receive directions from the Clerk of the Works and are to remain on Duty till four in the afternoon.

The Cowport Gate is not to be shut till 10 o'clock till further orders.

Tomorrow being the Fair day the Commanding Officer hopes the Invalids will behave themselves soberly and quietly and not be concerned in any riots, if any are found disobeying this order they will certainly be punished.

14 June 1798

It is Major Cashell's Orders that if any Invalid, or other Soldier of this Garrison do speak disrespectfully or improperly of His Majesty or any of the Royal Family, or otherways interfere

with the proceeding of Government or the Constitution of the Country as by Law Established, or make reflections on their Measures, such Soldier on conviction shall be most severely punished. And any Soldier being present and hearing such discourse who does not Immediately make it known to the Commanding Officer will be deemed equally guilty as if he uttered such Language himself. In either case application will be made to Chelsea Board, that such Offender, if an Invalid, may be struck off the Pension List.

This to be a standing Order and is to be read at the Head of the Guard every day till next Sunday when it will be read to the whole Garrison.

18 June 1798

Major Cashell orders that as it is reported to him that the water in the Fountain in the Barracks is become scarce thro the excessive dry weather, no person is to be permitted to take water out of the Barracks but for such Officers who live in Town and belong the Garrison.

Linda Bankier

The Discovery at Castle Terrace

July was an exciting month for those interested in the early history of Berwick-upon-Tweed and the surrounding area. The discovery of an early 12th century church and burial ground at Castle Terrace was made when foundation works were started on a new dwelling. With the co-operation of the site owners, Mr and Mrs J Romanes, the Archaeological Practice at Newcastle University was invited to carry out rescue excavation works. The results of that work have exceeded all expectations, with the ground plan of an early Norman church being revealed which bears a strong similarity in plan form with the few survivors in other parts of the country.

The church was designed in a simple three cellular form: Nave, Choir and Apsidal Sanctuary. Its size, and original plan form, is comparable with the existing church of the Holy Trinity at Old Bewick, which was founded by Queen Matilda, wife of King Henry I of England, in memory of her father Malcolm III King of Scots, who was killed in 1093.

There are few survivors of this particular plan form, notable examples being the small church of St Mary & St David at Kilpeck, Herefordshire, and the Chapel of ease for the now deserted village at Steetley in Derbyshire.

In common with both buildings at Kilpeck and Steetley, the church at Castle Terrace has shallow buttresses around the semi-circular wall of the sanctuary. The church was built to a high standard in carefully dressed and evenly coursed stone work. The high quality of the structure is reflected in a number of graves grouped around the eastern end of the church. Several have carved covers of unusual design which are being checked against surviving examples elsewhere. Significantly, there are earlier burials against the eastern boundary which appear to provide evidence of an even earlier church structure on the site. This underlines the importance of the site as a whole, as careful excavation work within the nave and outside the church may reveal evidence of an earlier building and the original land form upon which the building stood.

A parish church is indicated, given the presence of female and child burials around the church. Documentary evidence suggests that this was the parish church of St Mary, Bondington, which was known to be in use until the end of the 13th century. The village had a second church, that of

St Laurence, the remains of which lie beneath the site area of Cheviot House on the other side of Castle Terrace and further to the west. Close to the Church of St Laurence stood a Cistercian nunnery on a site adjacent to the present day by-pass. The Medieval village of Bondington contained other monastic holdings, including land and property in the ownership of the abbeys at Kelso and Melrose.

This evidence adds further importance to the discovery at Castle Terrace and it is to be hoped that an opportunity may rise for not only further excavation work over a long time period, but also the long term preservation of the site free from imminent building development. At the very least it is to be hoped that every encouragement and financial assistance will be given to the University of Newcastle for the publication of a report on the excavation work. With public help, there is ample scope for a successful Millennium project as the site should amply fulfil all the normal criteria for a scheme to mark the history of the area over a period of one thousand years.

John Marlow

Dennis Nicholson

Hon Editor