



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 81—MARCH 2014*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Friends AGM at 7pm in the Parish Centre, Berwick. To be followed at 7.45pm by a talk by Dr Peter Quinn on the artist, Joseph Crawhall III. See later article.

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

AGM followed by talk: " Why we may all owe a debt of gratitude to John, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Eyemouth" : Fenton Robb

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Visit to Berwick Town Hall

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Davison, the Alnwick Printer: Andy Griffin

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April

The Whaling Trade of North East England:  
Tony Barrow

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

The Cheviot Hill Forts: Trevor Pearson

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Visit to Wooler Police Station and  
Courthouse

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

An update on The Cellar Survey project:  
Karen Derham, County Archaeology Section

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

AGM followed by a talk : "The Wilsons:  
Tweedmouth's Monumental Masons" : Chris  
Shaw.

## BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

The Flodden Documentary Research  
Project Our Discoveries: Linda Bankier and  
Volunteers. **Please note this meeting will  
be held in the William Elder Building**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Berwick's Medieval Walls : Jim Herbert

## BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014

The Circus comes to Town: Jeremy  
Paterson

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Mapping the Town; the topography of early-  
modern and medieval Berwick-upon-Tweed:  
Catherine Kent

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Rescued from the Sea: Prehistoric  
discoveries at Low Hauxley: Dr Clive  
Waddington

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

BAS Summer Activities: Kristian Pedersen

## BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

The Heritage Hub and Developments in  
Archives: Paul Brough

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Berwick's Victorian Food Heritage: Derek  
Sharman

Sunday 25 May

AGM followed by, The Guild of One  
Name Studies: Lorna Kinnaird

### **BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bowsden Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014

Berwick and its Archive: Linda Bankier

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April

The development of Arms and Armour:  
Lt Col Howard Culley (rtd).

### **CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP**

**Venue: Community Centre**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Berwick between the Wars ( a period of  
time)

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Mauchlin Ware: Jane Bowen

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

1940 remembered: Karen Val and Alan

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

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Wartime Air Crashes in the Cheviots  
Part 2: Mr D Balmbro

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

From Teviot to Ancrum: Mr R Scott

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

The Great Airship Scare of 1904: Mr P  
Rowett

### **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Someone to Watch over Me-Kirk and  
Community: Margaret Fox

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

From Barrow to Bunker: a Whirlwind

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Tour of Archaeology on the MOD Estate: Philip Abramson Pressed! History of the Press Gang in North East England, a talk illustrated with music & songs of the time: Alan Giles & Co.
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Outing to the WW1 Trenches & archaeological sites at MOD Otterburn.

### **LOWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Berwick Town Hall: Tony Brown
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Lowick Remembers...The Community in WW1( please bring memorabilia): Duncan Glenn

### **NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Norham Village Hall**

**Time : 7.30 pm**

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	To be confirmed
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Food and Customs of the Flodden period: Julia Nolan
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Queens, camp Followers and the women of Flodden: Clive Hallam Baker
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	To be confirmed

### **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Cresswell Curiosities: Barry Mead
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Northumbrian Poems: Noel Hodgson
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	The Aln Valley Railway project: Roger Jermy

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

**Venue: Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick**

**Time: 7.15pm**

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Getting Grips with family History: Jane Glass
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Something Interesting from Family History: member discussion
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	“120,000 years of Family History: Steve Ridpath
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Making sense of the census; Anthea Lang

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

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

**Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	A predilection for steep banks; the Morpeth to Coldstream Turnpike Road, c1750-1850: Derek Cutts
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Members' Forum
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	AGM

**TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Magic Metals: Trevor Cowie
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	AGM followed by a talk on Drove Roads of Northumberland: Richard Carlton

**ARCHIVE NEWS**

Newsletter time has come round very quickly this quarter and so there is not much to report but rest assured, we have been kept very busy in the Record Office with

various work. In the past couple of months, the Searchroom has been extremely busy on open days – a mixture of volunteers and even, some visitors. Subjects of research have included Seaton Delaval Hall and the First World War.

The Flodden Project is still continuing and all my volunteers are working away very hard on transcribing various documents. At the beginning of December, we met up to find out about other elements of the overall project and also to discuss our progress. We have now transcribed most documents that we have identified relating to the Battle and diplomacy. Some of them have been very challenging both for the volunteers and myself as I have to check them. However, we have learnt information from them and are starting to give talks about our findings. At the beginning of February we talked to Tillvas and that was very well received and in March, we shall do a similar talk for the Berwick History Society. Our project still has another year to run and so we are now going to look at the state of the Borders in the rest of the 16<sup>th</sup> century – a challenge in itself !

As well as Flodden, we have started to become involved in World War One activities. At the moment, I am working with Ann Coburn on a Creative Writing Project with a class in Tweedmouth Middle School. Ann and I have done some local research on the topic in the records that we hold. Then, after half term, the class is going to visit the Record Office to find out information about individuals who will become part of their inspiration for their own creative writing. I am sure this will be the start of many First World War activities in the next four years. It has also helped me see that we have a lot of material about the First World War but much of it is hidden in collections and not immediately obvious.

The Berwick 900 Project is starting to take shape and I am on the Steering Group for this. As part of the overall Project, we are hoping to run a strand looking at Family Names connected with Berwick. We are hoping to appoint a researcher next week who will undertake some research and help us piece together an overall project. Watch this space for further information over the next couple of months.

Finally, as well as the Flodden Talk, I have talked to Norham Women's Institute about my work as an Archivist and shown various old photographs of Berwick and the area to a group of older people who meet in the William Elder building – the Facades of the Fifties photographs brought back many memories for them. We all forget how much things have changed, even in a very short period.

*Linda Bankier*

# FIRST WORLD WAR

As the anniversary of the start of the First World War is fast approaching, I am obviously undertaking research on the topic and learning more each day. I have transcribed below some of the entries I found in the Berwick Advertiser in 1916. Unlike the Second World War, events at the Front and also the fate of local people was well reported and documented, giving us a real insight into what was happening and also the anguish of those left at home.

## **11 February 1916**

### **Tweedmouth Private Killed**

Information has been received on the death of Private Mark Cockburn (19), son of Mr John and Mrs Cockburn, 39 Blakewell Road, Tweedmouth, and who was prior to the war employed at Tweedmouth Sawmills. He was a Territorial before the war broke out, and belonged to D Company, 7<sup>th</sup> N.F. [Northumberland Fusiliers]. The news was conveyed to the parents in a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February. The letter states that they were being shelled on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February, when a big shrapnel shell burst, killing Cockburn along with another fellow, and wounding several others. He suffered no pain. The writer was chief mourner at the funeral, and a letter is coming from the curate who officiated. All unite in sending deep sympathy, including the Sergeant Major, the deceased being very popular and well liked. We reproduce a photo of deceased and a friend, in which the late soldier is sitting.

## **18 February 1916**

### **Berwick Sergeant Wounded**

News has been received by Mr John Renwick, china merchant, Walkergate, Berwick, that his son, Sergt., George Renwick, 7<sup>th</sup> NF, was wounded in the leg on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> inst. It would appear that he was in the first line trench, and his time was up to be relieved on the Sunday night. He had just returned with a party who had been burying Private Cockburn when he was struck in the leg by a bullet. A few seconds before, he had just given orders to one of the boys to carry out certain duties else the latter would have received the bullet in the head. In his letter, Sergeant Renwick very chivalrously remarks that it was better for him to receive the bullet in the leg than that it should pass through the boy's head. Sergeant Renwick was mentioned in Sir John French's dispatches and has been through every battle



since he went out last April. He saved his staff officer – the Honourable Wm Watson Armstrong – from being killed , and afterwards covered him with his overcoat to protect him from the cold.

### **Sympathy From the Trenches**

Mrs Cockburn, Blakewell Road, Tweedmouth, has received the following letters of sympathy from Lieut. H.R. Peters, and Rev. W.E. Harper, Brigade Chaplin, in reference to the death of her son, Private Mark Cockburn, 7<sup>th</sup> NF :

7<sup>th</sup> Bn., North. Fusiliers  
9/2/16

Dear Mrs Cockburn , - I regret to inform you of the death of your son, No 1582 Private M. Cockburn who was killed whilst in the trenches last Sunday afternoon about one o'clock by hostile artillery shell fire, and to convey to you and your family my sincere sympathy and condolences in your sad bereavement. I am glad to be able to tell you that your son's death was a merciful one, as he suffered no pain, and to assure you that everything possible was done for him. He was a good soldier, cheerful and very popular with his comrades, who greatly miss him. I know you will feel his loss most bitterly, and can quite understand your feelings and grief, but hope that you will take consolation in the fact that he has died the death of a hero, and that he did his duty nobly and well. If there is any assistance or information I can give you, ask me without hesitation.

Yours sincerely,  
HR PETERS  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 7<sup>th</sup> Bn NF

7<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers  
149<sup>th</sup> Brigade, BEF  
February 8<sup>th</sup> 1916

Dear Mrs Cockburn – May I sympathise, very deeply with you over the loss of your son, Priv. M Cockburn, 7<sup>th</sup> NF, out here at the front. I buried him on Sunday night about 7.30pm behind the trenches in the presence of some of his comrades, and used the Church of England burial service. A cross, with name etc is erected over the grave. May God bless and comfort for you in your deep sorrow. Your boy died bravely for his country and his faith. "I am the Resurrection and the Life", saith the Lord.

Yours in deep sympathy,  
Rev. W E HARPER,  
Chaplain, 149 Brigade

**25<sup>th</sup> February 1916**

**Berwick Signaller Killed**

Intimation has been received of the death of William White, signaller, 7<sup>th</sup> NF, only son of Mr Peter White, Woolmarket. Prior to the war he was a shoemaker with Mr Mosgrove, shoemaker, and he joined the army in September 1914. He was wounded at St Julian last April, and after recovering from his wounds, returned to the front on 3<sup>rd</sup> January this year. He was killed on Monday afternoon, 14<sup>th</sup> inst, by wounds from a shell. The news was contained in the following letter –

Dear Mr White – I am very sorry to have to tell you that your son was killed while at his duty yesterday afternoon. The enemy were giving us a very bad time, and one of their shells broke our telephone wires. This made it necessary to send a message by hand, and your son was walking along the trench with a message when he was struck and immediately killed. It is a very sad thing, and I cannot find words to express my sympathy for you in your loss. The only bright spot about it is that he paid the sacrifice while actually doing a service to his country, and that he passed away without any pain, his death being instantaneous. I sincerely hope, that these facts will bring a little comfort to you. I was at Alnwick until Christmas, and was training him as a signaller. I found him not only a willing worker but an extremely good signaller, and when I came out to take over the communications here, I was extremely pleased when he came along with four others joined me after I had been here a few days. He was just as keen and willing as he was during the four months I knew him at Alnwick, and as you will understand I am writing this with a feeling of real sorrow at his loss, and with sincere sympathy with those to whom his sacrifice will be most keenly felt. I am etc EM Roberts, Second Lieutenant

*Linda Bankier*

## MUSEUM NEWS

The new season is almost upon us. We will be opening to the public on 1st April, and continuing to open Monday - Friday to fit with English Heritage and KOSB plans. This will effectively mean that we will be open on Saturdays and Sundays in high season, and so be available for free for local people and those on weekend breaks.

Meanwhile, we are continuing the refurbishment of our new first floor gallery, which we will be encouraging children to use. The Friends have played a very welcome part in this project - as they will be contributing by paying for a new carpet for the room. The project as a whole is being funded by an Arts Council Renaissance grant. This funding has also facilitated the family learning craft activities we initiated last season and allowed us to produce a family trail leaflet which will be beautifully illustrated by Daniel Wetheritt in time for the new season.

Our colleagues from the Flodden 500 Education team are in the early stages of setting up a young archaeologists group, under the aegis of the British Council for Archaeology.

The staff from the museum will be visiting the Burrell Gallery in Glasgow in March. This will allow us all to view the full scope of Sir William Burrell's fabulous collections, and we are hoping to capitalize on the visit by setting up a continuing dialogue with curators at the larger site.

On a more downbeat note, we currently await final news of Northumberland County Council's budget plans, with implications for our museums. We are expecting a cut in our budget of up to 10%, but we will be doing our best to minimise the effect to the public where possible.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in April - do come in and see us!

*Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.*

## FRIENDS AGM

This year the Friends AGM will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, starting at 7pm in the Parish Centre, Berwick. All our AGM papers are circulated with this newsletter. We are still looking for additional committee members and so, if anyone would like to join the committee, please contact Linda at the Record Office.

After our formal meeting, there will be a talk at 7.45 pm. Our Guest Speaker, is Dr. Peter Quinn, who will talk about Joseph Crawhall III, exploring the life and work of this Northumberland-born Glasgow Boy painter. Some of his pictures can be seen in the Museum as part of the Burrell Collection.

Please do try and come along. It should be a really interesting evening.

*Linda Bankier*

## NEWS ON THE WEBSITE

The principal articles from the early issues of the Friends' *Newsletter* (numbers 1 - 28) have now been made available for viewing and downloading on the website, alongside those previously added. This means that a full run of articles, from 1994 until the start of 2013, can now be found there, and they really cover a vast range of topics, some familiar and many that are totally unexpected. Among the new additions, you can read about some curious 18th century customs practised in Ford village, with timely suggestions for Shrove Tuesday (no.6, May 1995), or a description of the commemorative statues and plaques to be found in Berwick (no.18, February 1998), or an account of the drawings made by Charles Rennie Mackintosh during his visits to Holy Island (no.20, September 1998). A listing of the full contents appears at:

<http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/about-us/newsletter/>

NB. The Newsletters are presented as PDF files. If their legibility appears unclear in your web browser, then use Adobe Reader to see them in their true printed format.

Other new items on the website include historical pages about Wooler and Bamburgh, an account of the wave of emigration from North Northumberland to New Brunswick in Canada in the 1830s, and a description of a visit to Belford and Holy Island in 1909, by a rather tetchy 'peripatetic parson'.

### **The Friends on Facebook**

A Facebook group for the Friends has now been created, where news of events and developments of interest to members can be posted. So if you are a Facebook user, you may like to join the group, as another way of keeping in touch. And you can post your own news and comments for other members as well. Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/berwickarchivesandmuseumfriends/>

*John Spiers & Kevin Graham*

## **NUISANCES IN NORHAM**

In July 1862 the Police Inspector of Nuisances for the District of Northumberland and Islandshire, Mr William Grey Marshall, submitted a report to the Guardians of the Poor Law Union of Berwick. We do not know what had prompted him to do so as there is no mention in the Guardians' minute book of him being directed to inspect Norham. It might have been part of a routine inspection, or it could have been prompted by a complaint from the people concerned, as had been the case when 39 inhabitants of East Ord, at the beginning of the year, had expressed their concern about the state of their houses and the fever that had affected the village at the same time.

His inspection of Norham took place on 5 July. Mr Marshall mentions three examples of nuisances. The first concerns James Young, who keeps a pig in a building very close to the dwelling house of James Sanderson. The pig is very filthy and the smell makes life miserable for the Sandersons. Another nuisance is caused by Alexander Smith, who allows his drain to be clogged up so that water comes through into the house of James Reid when it rains and everything in the Reid's house is rotten with damp. These first two cases both concern private people. The third case is caused by the Surveyor of Highways for the area having been negligent

of his duties. The nuisance has to do with a lane at the high end of the village where filth and rubbish has been dumped over a long period of time thus clogging the drains and making them overflow in wet weather causing a nuisance for the people living near it. The lane in question leads from the street to the church and is about 120 yards long. The Guardians order the Inspector to require the people complained about to remove the causes of the complaints immediately and in the case of the lane to order the Surveyor of the township of Norham to take action immediately.

The following month Mr Marshall presents another report to the Guardians. This time he is accompanied by John Paxton, the Medical Officer for the area, and Joseph Scott, the Relieving Officer. The aim does not appear to be to check on whether the complaints filed the previous month had been dealt with, but rather a continuation of the work already done. They start their inspection on the south side of the village, and what they find can only be described as pure misery. The house occupied by Hannah Wale is deemed unfit for human habitation due to dampness and rot. The same can be said for the houses occupied by William Redpath; James Bruce, labourer, and Thomas Sanderson, fisherman, whose roof is propped up with poles to keep it from collapsing. In the case of James Davidson, farmer, they talk about the fusty smell which pervades everywhere and apart from providing miserable living conditions for the people who live there, would have been an extreme danger to the health of the people. The Inspector also mentions the ever-present pigs who wallow in the mud in a very filthy state very close to the dwelling houses. The Inspector, probably quite rightly, concludes that the main problem in the village is that there is no common drain or sewer through which water and filth can escape. So better drainage would be a great step forward, combined with a place where the people in the village could deposit their rubbish. The worst nuisance that he reports is an accumulation of ashes and filth in a stagnant pool of water. The water is green and stinks.

The Inspector also visited the hinds' houses in Norham Mains, a place which at that time was badly affected by the fever. He reports that eight families live in eight houses consisting of one room only, and some of the families consist of nine or ten people who all have to live and sleep in the same room, and as the Inspector says, 'common decency cannot be observed'. The state of the houses is a repetition of what was said about the village of Norham, that is, rot and dampness, altogether a very unhealthy condition.

As is so often the case, it is very difficult to follow a case like this, things often peter out, or at least they stop being mentioned. In this case the action taken by the

Guardians was to set up a committee chaired by Rev George Hans Hamilton and consisting of seven of the Guardians plus Rev Hamilton. The committee was appointed to execute in all respects the "Nuisances Removal Act for England 1855" for the township of Norham and Norham Mains. As mentioned above we are not able to follow up on this case as it does not appear again. So is it a case of problem solved, or yet another case of it having been kicked into the long grass?

*Lars Rose*

## **ELECTIONS BUT NOT AS WE KNOW THEM!**

In 1832, the first steps were taken by Lord Grey (of Howick), the then Prime Minister, towards a modern election system, although it was to take another century before almost all British citizens were given the vote, and voting was done in secret, allowing everyone to vote according to his or her conscience and not from fear of others. Before 1832, however, elections were very different. Northumberland was divided into three constituencies, Newcastle, Northumberland and Berwick. This story concerns the Northumberland constituency, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when it returned two MPs to parliament at every election. Normally these would be one Tory, the representative of the landed interest in the county, and most often the nominee of the Duke of Northumberland, and the other a Whig, the representative of the squirearchy, but generally supported by the Greys of Howick, the Tankervilles at Chillingham, Bigge of Linden and Ridley of Blagdon. These arrangements meant that between 1774 and 1825 there were no contested elections in the constituency.

In 1818 events began which were to significantly damage this stability. In the election of that year, Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, aged 26, succeeded his ailing father, Thomas Richard Beaumont of Bywell and Hexham Abbey, as the Tory member. Of the new member, his obituarist was eventually to write that he was 'a man of little stability of character'. Once in Parliament the new member fairly rapidly abandoned the Tory principles which he had been chosen to support - by advocating election reform, giving the vote to Roman Catholics and continuing the campaigns against slavery. Not surprisingly when the next election came in 1820, the Tories tried to find a replacement, but were unable to do so. By now however the novelty of parliament seems to have been wearing thin for the young Beaumont, and

in the 5 years of the next parliament his attendances became very irregular, although, when there, he continued to support anti Tory measures. In 1823, he added to his irresponsible reputation by publicly accusing his prospective mother-in-law, Lady Swinburne, of having affairs with both Lord Grey and his brother, General Henry Grey of Falloden!

The death of Beaumont's fellow Northumberland MP, Charles Brandling at the beginning of 1826 resulted in a by-election in February, at which two new Tory MPs were returned, Matthew Bell and Henry Thomas Liddell. Beaumont did not stand, presumably recognising his unpopularity - which, however, he compounded by attributing his difficulties of the previous years to his mother. A general election was imminent, and was called for June 1826. The two newly elected MPs, Liddell and Bell, both stood as did Beaumont and Lord Grey's son, Lord Howick, described in the History of Parliament as a 'lanky redhead renowned for his obstinacy and aloofness'. For the first time in 51 years Northumberland would see a contested election. In days before mass media, electioneering was carried out at public meetings in all the centres of population, and the candidates' speeches were duly recorded for posterity and eventually published, from which one can get a sense of the campaign. Each candidate did attempt to state their individual positions on the policies of the day, but also spent a considerable amount of time bad mouthing their opponents, some more subtly than others. In those days voting was conducted in public over a two week period, with the candidates continuing to make speeches and the sheriff announcing the aggregate votes cast for the candidates at the end of each day. On June 30, Lord Howick publicly accused Liddell, who had by then a clear majority of votes, of obtaining them by bribery. At this point Beaumont intervened to say that Howick was merely delivering an accusation formulated by Lord Grey's son in law, John Lambton. Lambton, who was present, immediately denied this, but Beaumont persisted:

“Mr Lambton says it is not the fact - I say that is false.’ after this exclamation, which was delivered in a most vehement and insulting manner, Mr Beaumont turned round, and instantly retired from the hustings.....”

Lambton then reiterated his denial, but concluded by saying:

‘Whatever may be the reasons of Mr Beaumont’s conduct, if he wished to engage in a private quarrel, he shall not be balked in his inclination.

What followed is described in the *Glasgow Herald* of Friday 7 July, 1826:

In the course of the evening he (Beaumont) received a communication from Mr Lambton, in consequence of which, General Grey and Captain Plunkett, as friends



of Mr Lambton and Mr Beaumont, met for the purpose of making arrangements. The same evening the parties attempted to decide the affair on Alnwick Moor, but were prevented by the crowd, as well as by Magisterial authority. Next morning, between three and four, they again proceeded in the direction of the Moor, but were again compelled to relinquish their object. It was then decided that the parties should proceed in the direction of Scotland. Mr Beaumont arrived at Belford early on Saturday morning, and having had no sleep during the preceding night, retired to bed and slept soundly for several hours. - Captain Plunkett and he had travelled across the country by the by-roads to Belford. When Mr Lambton arrived at Belford, some hours afterwards, it was with the utmost difficulty that the people of that place would suffer him to proceed; they said he was going to kill "their Beemont;" and the only means he had of escaping from them was, by declaring that he was going to Howick. The parties met on Bamborough Sands about 4 p.m. and exchanged shots, after which Capt. Plunkett, Mr B.'s second, was loading again, but Colonel Grey, of Morricks, Mr L.'s second, stepped up and told Capt. P. that Mr Lambton was satisfied. It is understood that not a single word passed between the principals, either before or after the affair.

Mr Beaumont returned to Alnwick about six in the evening. He alighted from his carriage at the Star Inn, and walked to the lodgings of Mr Donkin, his principal solicitor, followed by an immense crowd, who loudly testified their joy at his safe arrival. The assembled multitude waited in the streets as if they expected a speech, and Mr Beaumont addressed them briefly from one of the windows, as well as we could hear, to the following effect; "Gentlemen, I thank you for this expression of your kindness, but I would rather see it on a different occasion. These circumstances are at best unpleasant, and I think the less that is said the better. I must beg you, therefore, to disperse, and wish you all good night."

The final result of the Northumberland election announced on 6 July, 1826, was:

Hon. Henry Thomas Liddell	1562 votes
Matthew Bell	1382 votes
Thomas Wentworth Beaumont	1335 votes
Henry Grey Viscount Howick	997 votes

Perhaps if Beaumont had been less intemperate he would have been again the second MP. At it was later that year he bought himself a seat for the Borough of Stafford at an estimated cost of £14,000 to £15,000.

*Jane Bowen & Janet Ward*

## **BERWICK 1803 EXPECTING NAPOLEON**

In May 1803, Britain resumed a state of war with France. There were immediate fears that Napoleon would undertake a cross-Channel invasion to challenge British forces on land rather than at sea. During the summer, the government sent its plan for defence of the ports and coast to the Lords Lieutenant in the coastal counties, asking them to identify ships in their districts which could be armed and put to defensive use. The plan put large emphasis upon volunteers, both for the local militias and for the crewing of ships (the "Sea Fencibles"). In September, the Duke of Northumberland was able to forward to the Home Office a letter from Sir William Douglas which described the preparations which were being made in Berwick to meet the national emergency. This letter gives a number of interesting details about the state of shipping in Berwick at the time.

[To:] His Grace, The Duke of Northumberland, K.G.

My Lord Duke,

On my Return here I lost no Time in communicating to the Mayor of Berwick your Grace's Wish to be informed what Vessels were susceptible of being equiped according to the Plan which has been previously transmitted. In Company with Mr. Steavenson the Mayor, I went on board one of the Berwick Smacks belonging to what is called the old Company. Of those Vessels there are Eleven; the Owners very handsomely said they had no Objection that their Craft should be fitted for the Reception of Guns, provided the Government were at the Expence; these smacks can only in my humble Opinion (& I examined them with attention) be armed according to the following Plan. I propose to put on Board the above-mentioned smacks 6 Twelve pound Carronades, the smacks to have 6 ports of a side, so as they could occasionally shift them, such Carronades to be fitted to Carriages which may occupy the least space, and to be further fitted with Bulwarks fore and aft, on a similar principle to those in use on board hired Armed Cutters, Government of course to furnish a proportionate Quantity of Ordnance, Stores, and other necessary Appurtenances, which, when put on board, the Master should give a Receipt for, and enjoined to keep an account of the Expenditure of the Stores, & that on their Arrival in port or on leaving it, they shall be subject to an Examination by the Officer Commanding the Sea Fencibles of the District, and that when wanted for Service,

either to aid in repelling an invading Enemy, or in the more trivial Object of pursuing a Privateer, their Crew is to be reinforced by a sufficient Number of the Sea Fencibles, and should these Vessels be armed as proposed, I with deference conceive that the Crews should be protected from the Impress and that they be invited to enrol as Sea Fencibles.

Of those Smacks there are generally two or three at Berwick, as many at Leith, the rest on their Passage or in the River Thames; they can of course be fitted in whatever Ports they are in, or wherever they may arrive.

I have an Estimate before me, which makes the Amount of the above Equipment to cost upwards of Thirty Seven Pounds for each Vessel, but I think it is rather overcharged, and that on a Contract being made for the whole, Thirty Pounds might suffice. I know not, My Lord Duke, of any other Vessels belonging to Berwick that are Objects of Attention, according to the Plan Your Grace did me the honor to shew me; perhaps I have not much promptitude in expedient, but I do conceive that the Craft above alluded to, so armed, might occasionally prove very useful, and comparatively at small Expencc.

I have the Honor to be, with much Respect,  
Your Grace's Most Obedient Humble Servant,  
W<sup>m</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. Douglas,  
Capt<sup>n</sup>. Commanding Sea Fencibles

Berwick upon Tweed,  
13<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1803.

The letter forms part of the Home Office correspondence held at The National Archives: HO 42/73, fols.123-126.

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The 1806 directory of Berwick contains a section about local shipping, including a list of the Old Shipping Company smacks. Another section describes the various volunteer defence forces which have been organised in the town, and it ends with this reminiscence of an alarm:

“February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1804, early in the morning, I was awaked by the Volunteer Drums beating to arms; for the alarm was spread by all the signal posts that the French invading army had landed in the West of Scotland. In the course of an hour, all the Reserve, Volunteers, and Yeomanry in the country were all under arms, and

mounted: and the greater part of them marched to their destin'd place of rendezvous, and there remained till next day, when it was found to be a false alarm, in order to prove the spirit of the different Corps."

*A Directory and Concise History of Berwick-upon-Tweed.* Printed by W. Lochhead, High Street, [1806]. Pp. 103-106; 113-114.

*John Spiers*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

**Berwick Advertiser, 6th January 1871**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE WORKHOUSE

The inmates in the Workhouse on Saturday evening had the annual treat to which Mr Ralph Dodds so generously entertains them. The poor people, to the number of ninety-one, sat down to an excellent tea and currant loaf, which they seemed heartily to enjoy. Tea being over, each individual was supplied with an orange, these also being presented by Mr Dodds. The master of the workhouse then intimated by whose kindness it was that the entertainment had been provided, and John Amour, the oldest inmate, thanked Mr Dodds for his welcome treat, while the other recipient testified their appreciation of it by giving hearty cheers. After the tables had been cleared the following party entered the dining hall- Misses Dodds; Misses Brewis(2), Newcastle, and Master Dodds; Alderman Morton and Mrs Morton; and Mr James Lillico. Several songs were sung by the inmates and one of their number played an accompaniment on the violin. In the course of the evening hymns were sung by the party of visitors and the entertainment seemed to be heartily enjoyed.

*Carole Pringle*