



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 84—DECEMBER 2014

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17th January 2015

Burrell Project: Collecting your memories of the Museum and Sir William Burrell; Berwick Museum & Art Gallery 11am-2pm

Saturday 31st January 2015

Portraits of Berwick: Berwick Guildhall, 10 – 3. Come along and see some films and share your memories of Berwick.

Saturday 7th February- Monday 4th May

Burrell @ the Granary: exhibition of a selection of Burrell Collection at the Granary
Friends AGM and talk by Dr Colm O'Brien: Yeaving and the origins of Northumbrian Kingship. 7pm start for talk followed by AGM.

Friday 13th March 2015



OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO LECTURES IN DECEMBER

Tuesday 27 th January 2015	Crimes of a Heinous Nature: Margaret Fox
Tuesday 24 th February	The Fermhoose Lang Syne: Jim Morton.
Tuesday 31 st March	A.G.M. followed by a talk: The Foul Death of the English: Mary Craig.

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 28 th January 2015	The Belaney Affair-Murder in Seahouses: David Donaldson
Wednesday 25 th February	Fishing in the 1800s in Seahouses: Geoff Stewart
Wednesday 25 th March	The Flodden Project: Linda Bankier

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14 th January 2015	Question Time-a session with a panel of invited guests.
Wednesday 11 th February	A talk by Mr. Geoff Paul, Director of Planning, Economy and Housing at

Wednesday 11th March

Northumberland County Council.
The Air Command and Control Systems
Force Presentation Team from RAF
Boulmer

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10th December 2014

Crime and Punishment in Berwick: Linda
Bankier.

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Mary Queen of Scots: Kay Gardiner

Wednesday 18th February

The Walls of Derry and Berwick: Derek
Sharman and Maurice McNeely

Wednesday 18th March

Rev. Dr. John Cairns: Rev. Dr. Adam Hood

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO LECTURES IN JANUARY

Monday 2nd February 2015

Treasure Trove in Scotland; medieval and
other discoveries from the Scottish Borders:
Stuart Campbell

Monday 2nd March

Eyewitness to Disaster: Pliny and the
destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum: Dr
Jeremy Paterson

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

NO LECTURES IN JANUARY

Sunday 22nd February 2015

Treasure and a Coldstream lad, John
Hamilton Hall: Peter Munro

Sunday 29th March

Lt.General Babington-a Remarkable Man
and His Interesting Ancestors: Maggie
Babington

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 2nd February 2015

Robert of Bruce: Howard Culley

Monday 2nd March

Mineral railways of North Northumberland:
Roger Jermy

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 15th December

Salmon Fishing on the Tweed: Jim Gibson

Monday 19th January 2015

Manderston House: Rona Long

Monday 16th February

Crimes of a Heinous Nature: Margaret Fox

Monday 16th March

1940s Remembered: Naomi Kenny

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 11th December

Social and members night.

Thursday 8th January 2015

Queens,Camp Followers and Women of
Flodden: Clive Hallam-Baker

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 28 th January 2015	The history of a local butcher: George Scott
Wednesday 25 th February	The Flodden Project: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 25 th March	Paxton: Martha Andrews

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Time: 10.00am

NO LECTURES IN DECEMBER

Saturday 17 th January 2015	Members' Forum
Saturday 21 st February	"The Lamps went out"; Sir Edward Grey-a Northumbrian.....: Mike Fraser
Saturday 21 st March	Members' Forum

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 1 st January 2015	New Year's Day walk
Wednesday 7 th January	Footpaths and Rights of Way: Sue Rogers
Wednesday 4 th February	Conservation of Ruins: Robin Kent
Wednesday 4 th March	Talk on the wreck at Bamburgh and the work of MAST: Kevin Stratford



ARCHIVE NEWS

I can't really believe it is nearly Christmas, yet again. This year has absolutely flown by and the past couple of months have been particularly busy. Here are some of the projects and events we have been involved with.

The Flodden Project continues and it is almost two years now since we started. At the beginning of September, there was a Bygone Borderlands weekend in Selkirk for which we produced a display on the Transcription Project and had some volunteers there transcribing. The volunteers are still working very hard on 16th century documents. We have been working our way through the mid 16th century Lawes of the Marches and have just started looking at some Norham Castle financial accounts for 1510. These contain the names of the workmen which is fascinating. During the past couple of months, with the help of the volunteers, I have given talks on the Project to Wooler U3A; Ayton History Society and Bowsden History Group.

Mid September is always Heritage Open Days weekend in Berwick and the Record Office supported a number of events going on. Leading up to the event, I gave a talk in the Library on Berwick's built heritage and on the Friday, I gave a talk on Crime and Punishment in Berwick at the Magistrates Court. Over the actual weekend, I took small groups on guided tours of the Council Offices (old Goal) and provided a display for the Drill Hall and supported the November Club who had their horsebox on the Parade, gathering people's memories.

At the end of September, the Record Office launched a new Project. Along with the Northumberland Archives, we have been awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to do some work on cataloguing and identifying what material we hold on the First World War. Carole Pringle has been appointed as the Project Co-ordinator, working an extra day a week. After an initial meeting, we have about 12 volunteers working on various records and topics for us including Arrivals and Removals from Berwick, Berwick Petty Sessions records; Berwick War Memorial; Military Tribunals; Letters Home from the Front. There is so much to find out and we are unearthing some fascinating information – did you know there were Belgian refugees in the area ? . Studying the newspapers alone is an eye opener. The volunteers are

coming in on our open days as well as on Tuesday afternoon. As part of their training, we have been across to the KOSB Museum in the Barracks to look at their records which was fascinating. You will be hearing a lot more about the project as time progresses.

The First World War has been very much in people's minds recently, particularly in November with Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. The Junior School at Longridge Towers had four days of activities during that week relating to the War and as part of that, I ran a workshop for them on Robert Cooper Clements, schoolteacher, artist and Scout master who was killed in the War. We used the Spittal School logbook to piece together his life and connection with the school.

Recently I have also been helping Anne with the Burrell Project – see her article. As part of the Project, I have run several workshops on research techniques and Oral History. As a result of the Project, some of the Burrell Collection will be on display in the Granary from February to the beginning of May.

We are starting to make progress now on our Manorial Documents Register Project. In September, Andrea Cameron (Project Archivist) and I went to London to meet people working on the other projects – a long way to go for a day but well worth it. In November, we also went to Alnwick Castle to spend the day with Chris Hunwick, the Archivist. The collection contains a considerable number of manorial records for Northumberland which we need to consult – however, that will have to wait until later on in the project !

These are only some of the things that we have been involved with in the last few months. Obviously there is also the days we are open to the public which have been really busy over the last quarter – space is sometimes at a premium!

Next year will be even busier for the Record Office with Berwick 900 and other projects coming online. Watch this space!

In the meantime, Carole and I both wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for all your support. We couldn't do our jobs without your help.

Linda Bankier

THIS WEEK IN THE WAR

As part of the Heritage Lottery Project, we are providing the Berwick Advertiser with snippets from the newspapers for their 100 Years Ago section. There are so many interesting snippets in there and we are limited by a word count. I thought you might be interested to read some of the articles we have found so far which have been too long to publish :

21 AUGUST 1914, BERWICK

PROTECTION OF THE HERRING FLEET

Mr Peter Cowe, the local representative of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, has received orders from that Board to acquaint them of the number of fishing vessels entering and leaving the port daily. Mr Cowe dispatches a telegram daily giving the number and name of each vessel and of what class, whether trawler, steam drifter or sailing vessel. This is for the purpose of informing the torpedo boat patrol of the number of vessels operating from the port and they are kept under observation each night. The patrol is between Blyth and Berwick and they visit the fleet every night. A destroyer drew up alongside a sailing vessel on Wednesday night and the fishermen were in conversation with the sailors. The skipper before leaving to get into port gave the sailors a basket of herring.

ITEMS OF INTEREST AT BERWICK

The 3 torpedo boat destroyers which are doing police patrol between Berwick and Blyth arrive in the bay nightly. On one occasion they exchanged signals with the Coastguards.

Recruiting goes on apace at Berwick Barracks. The Parade presents an animated appearance every morning when the men are being drilled. The recruits all seem to be keen and as each batch becomes proficient they are sent off to join the regiment. It is a little incongruous to see them drilling at present. Owing to the lack of uniforms, the men have to wear whatever they can get. Some are in overalls, some with dress tartan trousers and canvas jackets, others in their civies with a bowler hat here and there while the minority are in khaki.

So great has been the rush of recruits at Berwick Barracks that the place is chokeful and the authorities have been compelled to erect tents on the Magdalene Fields near the golf club house.

4 SEPTEMBER 1914

ITEMS OF INTEREST AT BERWICK

Large batches of recruits continue to arrive daily at Berwick Barracks and large numbers leave each evening. The class of recruits coming in at present is far above the average. Many young men belonging to Berwick have enlisted.

A number of youths have formed a "tincan band" and they nightly lead the recruits from the Barracks to the station. They took a collection which amounted to 3s 5d on Monday night and that was spent in a most extravagant manner on fish and chip suppers. They have since mended their ways and intend giving the collections to the relief fund.

The interior of the Bell Tower School presents the appearance of a fully equipped hospital but another 50 beds are still required. The Mayor has issued an appeal for beds, which will be returned at the close of the war. More blankets and sheets are also required.

HOSPITAL CENTRE FOR THE WOUNDED

The Committee who have taken charge of the Parochial Hall and the Bell Tower Infant School for the purpose of treating any wounded soldiers and sailors who may be landed at Berwick, met at the Infirmary on Saturday afternoon along with the Infirmary Committee. It was agreed that the Infirmary should be the centre where the most serious cases should be sent and 2 ladies from the Parochial Hall and Bell Tower School Committees were to be appointed to the Infirmary Committee pro tem. A quantity of lint was also distributed equally among the 3 places.

23 OCTOBER 1914

ITEMS OF INTEREST – It is desired that the inhabitants of the Borough refrain from giving indiscriminate help to the individual Belgian refugees who visit the town and immediate neighbourhood, as all necessities are amply provided for them. Any gifts should be handed only to the fund for the relief of the local refugees in general.

GERMANS ARRESTED – Orders having been received by all Chief Constables in the country to arrest all Germans who are capable of bearing arms , 3 have been arrested at Berwick. They are a hairdresser named Jacobi, a waiter who was employed at the Red Lion Hotel and a pork butcher who was employed by Mr Taylor, pork butcher, High Street, Berwick. They were marched to the railway station on Thursday forenoon under military escort, the procession creating quite a stir. Jacobi was in excellent spirits and waved a newspaper he was carrying at the crowd. They left by the 11.15 train for North, for the purpose, it is believed of being interned at Edinburgh.

Linda Bankier

BERWICK 900 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of the Berwick 900 Project, Cittaslow and the Berwick Branch of the British Legion have been awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at Berwick's contribution to the War on both the Home and War Front. Although the Project will look at Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal's contribution in general, from the perspective of the War Front, we will be concentrating on particular conflicts in 1915 – Gallipoli ; Loos and St Julien because of the involvement of local regiments. All this work will be used in the World War 1 Commemoration weekend from 24 to 26th April and also with local schools. If you would like to get involved in the Project, we are holding a meeting here in the Record Office on **Monday 12th January 2015 at 2pm**. In the meantime, if you want any further information, just get in touch with me at the Record Office – lbankier@woodhorn.org.uk.

There will be a lot going on in Berwick next year from April to the end of October and the Record Office is heavily involved in the delivery of different parts of the Project. An outline programme of events is enclosed with the newsletter and I'll provide more information in the coming months as it becomes available.



MUSEUM NEWS

Berwick Museum is now closed, though plenty of “behind the scenes” work is going on in preparation for the 2015 season.

For our opening exhibition we are preparing a display of World War One recruiting posters, supplemented by items from our own collections. These are being loaned to us by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. Liz and Jenny – two of our front of house staff – have been researching our WWI plaque, which came to us from Berwick Grammar School in 1991. We have already found out quite a lot of interesting information about the people named on the plaque, and we are also questioning the plaques origins – only eight out of 56 names on the plaque went to the Grammar School. People on the plaque must have relations still in town, and it will be interesting to see if they visit us next season, and we will find out if they have any family memories or even photographs they can share with us.

Friends will be delighted to hear that our joint HLF application (with Berwick Visual Arts) for an exhibition and an education programme on the Burrell Collection is well underway. The exhibition at the Granary Gallery is due to open on 7th February 2015, and we plan to keep the exhibition going until 4th May, so with luck we will catch the Easter and Bank Holiday visitors to town.

We have an enthusiastic band of teachers involved, coming from a wide spectrum of Berwick schools, and they have been working with the inspirational Anne Curtis of Shoofly Design to come up with what promises to be an exciting, colourful and informative selection of educational resources based on items from the Burrell collection. There will also be a free to download app for techno savvy visitors to the exhibition.

The small group of volunteer researchers who have come forward have been delving into the archives at Berwick Record Office, and coming up with some fascinating material, especially about Sir William’s dealings with Berwick Council. Some of the volunteers have spent the last two Friday mornings in BRO finding out about oral history recording under the expert guidance of Linda. We did have fun working out how to operate the digital recorders. These days, this equipment is about the size and weight of a mobile phone – a far cry from even relatively recently, when the recorders were more like house bricks! We also learned some useful tips

such as never to do a recording with a ticking clock in the room, a barking dog outside or a washing machine turning over in the next room!

We are now trying to locate people in Berwick who might have memories of Sir William Burrell, and the museum in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The museum in those days shared a building with Berwick Library – for those Friends who weren't around at the time, the building is still there, and now houses the Costa Coffee Bar. Please do get in touch if you have any interesting memories of visiting the museum in those days – we would love to hear from you.

I visited the Burrell Glasgow recently, and met with some of the Curators and conservation staff. They are very keen to build up links with Berwick, and are going to welcome our volunteers for a special visit to their collection in December, and send some of their volunteers down to see us next month – which should make an excellent start to the New Year.

Meanwhile, it only remains for us to wish all our Friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Museum & Art Gallery in 2015!

Anne, Carol, Jenny, Jim, Liz & Megan

Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Do you remember Berwick Museum when it was on the High Street? Do you remember Sir William Burrell or know someone who does? Berwick Museum and Art Gallery is opening its doors on **Saturday 17 January** and invites people to come and share their memories of Sir William Burrell when he lived in the area and past memories of Berwick Museum & Art Gallery.

Berwick Visual Arts and Berwick Museum & Art Gallery have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and have been working together with volunteers and teachers over the last few months to find out more about Sir William Burrell and his contribution to Berwick life.

Berwick's Burrell Collection project now has a trained team who would like to record your memories of Berwick in the 40s, 50s and 60s when Sir William lived at Hutton and Berwick Museum shared a building with Berwick Library on the High Street (where the new Costa coffee shop now is). We are interested in any stories you may have, as together these memories will help build up a picture of the Museum and Sir William during this period.

The oral history recordings will be used as part of the interpretation for the new Berwick's Burrell Collection exhibition to be held at the Granary Gallery. The recordings will also be preserved for future generations within Berwick Record Office. The new exhibition opens 7 February and will be open Wednesday to Sunday through to 4 May 2015.

If you would like to share your memories please come along to Berwick Museum and Art Gallery, Berwick Barracks on **Saturday 17 January between 11am and 2pm.**

If you unable to make this but would like to share your memories please contact Val Tobias by email at bvlearning@maltingsberwick.co.uk or telephone 01289 333088.



GRAVE ROBBERS ARRESTED IN BERWICK

On 10 September 1831, under the heading Alnwick Police, the Newcastle Courant announced that:

Robert Henry and Thomas Henry, Scotchmen, in the habit of coming into this county at the harvest, were committed for trial at the next sessions, by C. J. Bigge, Esq., for breaking and entering into the church yard at Felton, on the 4th inst., and taking away the body of Mary Elliott, aged 93, who had been interred on the 25th Aug. last. The body has since been returned to Felton for reburial.

The story was continued in the Durham County Advertiser of 23 September 1831. Having disinterred the body the paper reports that: *They put the body in a box which they concealed, until the following day, in a plantation near Newton-on-the-Moor, 2 miles north of Felton, where they took their places by the 'Defence' coach to Alnwick. Here they removed their booty to the 'Wonder' coach and arrived at Berwick the same evening. At this place the appearance of the men, and the size of the box, aroused suspicion, on the confirmation of which they were apprehended and conveyed back to Alnwick...*

The Berwick Advertiser of 10 September, gives a slightly different account of their arrest. After the discovery of the empty grave, it says: *Suspicion was instantly excited against two men, who had that morning very early, called at a public house for a trunk which had been left there two weeks before. A constable was immediately dispatched to this town, it having been ascertained that they had proceeded hither. That evening several of the lodging houses in Tweedmouth were searched without finding them. About half past five on Monday morning they were discovered coming along the bridge, carrying the box (a small travelling trunk, weighing in all only 8 stones,) and being allowed to proceed as far as the coach office, were apprehended and sent ...to Alnwick house of correction. They were both employed at Sunnyside* during the late altercation and are known to several in Tweedmouth.*

From here the story continues in the Northumberland Clerk of the Peace's Letter- and Day- Books. Robert Thorpe, the Alnwick Solicitor and Clerk of the Peace for Northumberland, recorded on September 5 that the magistrate who had committed the men to trial at the Michaelmas Sessions, C J Bigge of Linden Hall, had instructed him to write to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh '*in consequence of the address on the box to make enquiries as to their character*'. Clearly in these days there was an efficient postal service, as, on 7 September, Thorpe notes that the Lord Provost has replied, *enclosing [a letter] from Mr. Stewart, Captain of the Edinbro' police stating that the two prisoners had been in custody before for a similar offence but they were not convicted.*

In the following month the prisoners were examined and additional evidence gathered from a T Wallace, a J. Allen and the victim's son. The case came to court at Alnwick on Thursday 20 October. Robert and Thomas Henry were each fined one shilling and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. The Felton parishioners

hopefully felt justice had been done, but were probably less pleased when the bill for the prosecution was sent to their vicar, the Rev. Jas. Algood!

*Sunnyside is the area around Tweedmouth cemetery and in the nineteenth century was also the name of a farm there.

Jane Bowen



GRIEVANCES OF MARINERS

In October 1797, James Cummings, master of the *Berwickshire Packet*, was setting off from Berwick with a cargo of fish and other perishable goods on a voyage to London when, passing the Carr Rock, he saw two boats row out from Spittal, each carrying eight or nine men. The men boarded his vessel and demanded to know if his crew had "a Note for their Wages". When told that this was not the case, they obliged the ship to go to anchor and then forced four of the crew into their boats to be taken back to land, assaulting them in the process. The *Berwickshire Packet* was left without sufficient crew to proceed on its journey. Master Cummings immediately swore a deposition, or Information, about the incident before the Berwick magistrates.

The apparent causes of complaint from the master's point of view were the violent abduction of four men from his ship and the potential damage to his perishable cargo caused by delay in finding a new crew. When the matter was brought to court at the Berwick Quarter Sessions in April 1798, the charges showed a marked contrast in presentation. Seven men were indicted for "a conspiracy to raise their wages and for assaulting and imprisoning [four mariners]".

The court heard that the seven did "corruptly conspire combine confederate and agree among themselves that none of the said Conspirators ... would work at any lower or lesser rate than Four Pounds fourteen shillings and sixpence for each voyage to and from the Port of Leith ... and the Port of London for or on account of any Master or Employer whatsoever". The further charges were that they did "beat wound and ill-treat" the four mariners and imprisoned them for two hours.

Furthermore their actions were "to the great prejudice of the Owners of the said Smack or Vessel and to the Trade in general of the Port of Berwick to the evil example of all others in the like case offending...."

The outcome was that, since the actions were committed "on the South Side of the River", the Berwick court decided that it did not in fact have jurisdiction and no verdict was given. It is uncertain whether charges were resumed in the Durham courts which then had jurisdiction over Tweedmouth and Spittal.

In 1799 the government passed the first of two Combination Acts ("an Act to prevent Unlawful Combinations of Workmen"). This made it specifically illegal to form trade unions, to use collective bargaining to improve wages or conditions of service, and to persuade other workers from accepting employment. Penalty: 3 months imprisonment or 2 months hard labour.

Sources:

Berwick Record Office. BA/C15/4. Informations 1780-1799. 6 October 1797.

BA/C8/4a Berwick Quarter Sessions minute book,. 16 April 1798 (pp.277-281).

John Spiers

BERWICK HOSPITAL DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

When Linda Bankier proposed studying the Archives as a means of gathering information on the First World War, I diverted my existing researches on Berwick's health care, to examining the minutes and annual reports of Berwick's Infirmary during the First World War.

It must be remembered that at this time, before the National Health Service, the Infirmary was heavily dependent on subscriptions and charitable donations to keep it going. During the time of the War, this income was naturally reduced, in competition with War charities, not helped by the Rent Restrictions Acts (which didn't cease until 1921) , which made the Hospital powerless to increase the rents on its properties. The minutes make constant references to the need to raise income – Hospital Sundays whereby local churches sought contributions from their congregations

seem to have been particularly poorly supported,; in contrast the newly established Alexandra Rose Days, whereby women collectors accosted the public for contributions, seem to have been increasingly productive. Interestingly, in 1918, specially prepared paper roses produced by the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshop for the employment of disabled soldiers and sailors were offered by the ladies instead of the real roses.(One wonders if this could be the origin of the present day paper poppies on Armistice Sunday.)

There were some funding from the County Naval and War Pensions Committee for electric and massage treatment at the Infirmary for disabled men, and money from the Army Pay Department for the maintenance of wounded soldiers, plus charges for military patients using the X Ray treatment (15/- per patient) but the Infirmary mainly had to rely on such financial support, as provided by the employees of the the Scremerston Colliery Company and public performances of their colliery band.

In 1914, at the outbreak of War, Berwick was recognised as a Centre for the reception of wounded soldiers, in recognition of the '*traditions of the town*,' and the fact that the Infirmary had a proper operating theatre and recently acquired X Ray facilities . Reception Centres for the less seriously wounded cases, not requiring operations, were established at the Parochial Hall and the Bell Tower School, which had joined forces with the Infirmary '*for the emergency*', as the 1914 minutes put it.

In January 1915 the Military took over Bell Tower School Hospital, and from henceforth the Infirmary no longer had any financial responsibility for its operation. In August 1914, in the event of extra beds not being made available from the Military Authorities, the Mayor was empowered to procure 20 '*at cost price*'.

In the excitement of the first few months of the War, various committees were set up by the Hospital authorities, including the co-option of certain ladies who had shown an interest in the war effort. These ladies soon were formed into a Special Committee/ Sub committee (the terminology becomes confusing) with a particular responsibility for the general management of the various hospitals and arranging the supply of refreshments to wounded soldiers at Berwick Railway Station. It was proposed to serve Bovril, tea and coffee to the wounded soldiers. It is suggested that Berwick people became attached to a particular hospital since it was noted in the Berwick Advertiser of November 1914 that gifts for the wounded would be directed to the hospital of a persons choice rather than being sent to the Mayor for distribution as had been originally suggested.

The War later became less exciting and more grim for Berwick's citizens. A concern about Zeppelin raids (and possible coastal bombardment) led to the management

committee regularly discussing, from 1915, various means of obscuring the lights in the Infirmary, especially of its operating room, plus from November 1917, the insurance of the Infirmary's buildings and properties against fire, aircraft and bombardment (separately described) and, from 1916, in order ' *to meet emergencies during enemy air raids* ' the setting up of 3 dressing or ambulance stations at the Infirmary, St Paul's Presbyterian Church Hall Spittal, and the Mitchell Memorial Hall, Tweedmouth. Boy scouts were recruited to act as orderlies and messengers at each Station. The ladies, mentioned above, were to arrange for the provision of bandages and like material at the Stations..To reassure the public, the local newspaper commented that ' *In the unhappy event of first aid being required, ample assistance will be forthcoming* ' Following consultation with the Chief Constable, 2 Special Constables were appointed to be on duty at the Infirmary ' *in case of emergency such as enemy aerial attack* '.

In 1917, as a possible result of the country's blockade by German submarines' *the potato supply was a matter of difficulty* ' and Councillor Elder was encouraged to get supplies as best he could. Enquiries were made that year, as to whether it would be worthwhile to plough the ground adjoining the Hospital and volunteers were invited to plant the said ground with potatoes.

As the War drew on, the Hospital received regular requests from the County's Medical Officers to provide facilities for the growing incidents of patients suffering from VD . Requests which the Hospital authorities declined.

Although the minutes report monthly statistics of patients, there is no noticeable rise in patients being treated at the Infirmary during the War years. However, the minutes of November 1915 do record Private Morrison of the Seaforth Highlanders expressing his ' *high appreciation of the attention and kindness shown him, when a patient in the Institution.* '

It is interesting to note that until his death in 1918 , the President of the Infirmary was the Earl Grey. On his death, the existing Vice President, Sir Edward Grey M.P. (by now Viscount Grey of Falloden and former Foreign Secretary) became President. The minutes of the 1918 AGM record that ' *in view of the recently disclosed Memorandum by the late German ambassador and the public vindication of the position maintained by the Viscount Grey ---- in the critical events of 1914 and preceding years---- the respect and satisfaction of the Meeting should be communicated to his Lordship* '.

Bob Steward

CHRISTMAS REFERENCES

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser, Tuesday 1 January 1878

BERWICK - On Christmas Day, the collection in the Parish Church was for the payment of interest on deposits in the Penny Bank.

TREAT TO THE INMATES AT THE WORKHOUSE - The inmates of the Workhouse had their usual Christmas dinner of roast beef, plum pudding and ale. The inmates, to the number of 125, composed almost entirely of old men and women, and children, assembled in the dining hall about one o'clock in the afternoon, and were supplied with an excellent dinner. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and at the extreme ends of the room were the inscriptions, "A Merry Christmas to all," "God Save the Queen," for:

"When old age, bereaved, distressed,
Crawls to the Workhouse for its rest,
Existence then must be at best,
A desolation.

"Most days are sad, but not quite all,
For even the cheerless workhouse hall,
When dawns the Christmas festival,
Looks bright and pleasant."

The poor people were all cleanly attired, and it was pleasant to see how heartily they enjoyed the good substantial viands unsparingly doled out to them. At one of the tables sat Joe, the glutton, who, in his youthful years could dispose of a whole leg of mutton, and perform other gormandizing feats!! Joe is now an old man of about 70 years, - tall, and notwithstanding his eating powers, of somewhat spare figure. The other inmates at the table had nearly all finished their dinner; but Joe had still a good plateful of plum pudding before him, which he was eating slowly and lazily. "Have you had enough, Joe?" asked an onlooker. "Oh" aye," replies Joe, "I manna eat ower much; it just makes me ill." As Joe said this he stopped eating, casting a rueful glance at the plate of plum pudding. It was evidently against his principles to leave anything on the plate. Experience, however, teaches fools sense. Last year, it was

said, Joe had partaken rather too freely of the welcome viands and had a severe fit of sickness. This accounts for his abstemiousness. How did the beer go down Joe? Asked the same gentleman. "Oh fine, but it's done," says Joe, holding up an empty mug. Several of the other inmates at the table here volunteered to give him the "leavings" of their allowance. These Joe accepted with the mild protest, "if you are no' wantin' it yoursel' ye ken," allowed them to fill his mug, which was soon filled nearly to overflowing. There being still some more dregs, Joe, at the suggestion of a spectator, took a good drink out of his mug, and so made room for the kindness of his fellow paupers. After dinner, tobacco, etc., was supplied to those who prized those luxuries. The wants of the inmates who were unable to take dinner in the dining hall were duly attended to. Among the company of interested spectators were - Alderman Thompson, Messrs M. Young, J. Young, and Dr Fluker. After dinner Mrs M. Young kindly presented each of the children with a Christmas card, which they received eagerly and seemed very proud of.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - The shops in this town were closed and business was entirely suspended during the day. The weather continued cold and frosty, and was of the most favourable description considering the season of the year. The streets during the day were comparatively dull, owing to the many social dinner and evening parties being held within doors. At intervals the bells in the Town Hall rang a merry peal. The sailors of the gunboat held high holiday. The seamen's cabin was decorated with evergreens, and was the scene of much merriment and jollity. Several of the vessels at the port displayed bunting. While other people were enjoying themselves and exchanging mutual congratulations with their friends, the officials at the Post Office were kept hard at work. There was a much greater arrival of letters on Christmas morning than there has previously been in the history of our local Post Office, and some of the letter-carriers were engaged delivering until about two o'clock in the afternoon. The despatches on the two previous days were more than usually heavy, as also the delivery of letters on Wednesday. Altogether the Post Office officials have not had a very merry time of it, in passing through their hands so many compliments of the season and mutual congratulations. There was special services at the Parish Church, St Mary's, Tweedmouth, and Spittal churches which were handsomely decorated on the occasion. Dr Cairns preached in the Wallace Green Church.

Jan Ward

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 7 April 1871

AUNT JUDY'S MAGAZINE

The April number of this very popular Magazine will fully sustain the high character that Mrs Alfred Gatty has obtained as a caterer for the amusement of the young. The story of a "Flatiron for a Farthing" continues its course, and the twelfth and thirteenth chapters are written in the same simple but fascinating manner as their predecessors. "Elena's Errand," "Luck Peter" by Hans Christian Anderson, "Irish Moss" by the Editor, and in fact all the articles in the Magazine, although written for the young, will repay the perusal of grown up people.

Berwick Advertiser, 14 April 1871

FUNERAL OF THE INFANT PRINCE-Sandringham, Tuesday

A Royal funeral without pomp and pageant has taken place this afternoon, when Prince Alexander Charles Albert, the third son and sixth child of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was interred in the pretty little churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, in the Royal Park. The grave is just below the east window of the church. The funeral took place at one o'clock this afternoon, the procession being formed at the north door of Sandringham House. It consisted of the Very Rev, the Dean of Windsor (Dr Wellesley), the Rev. W .Lake Onslow, M.A., rector of Sandringham, and domestic chaplain to the Prince and Princess of Wales; the Rev R. B. Scholefield, vicar of West Newton; and the Rev, W. W. Dickson, vicar of Wolferton; the coffin of the infant Prince, bearing his name-

"H.R.H Prince Alexander Charles John Albert

Born April 6th, 1871. Died April 7th, 1871."

Borne by four young grooms of H.R.H.; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with his two sons, Prince Edward and Prince George. The remainder of the procession consisted of the Prince's Household tenantry. Labourers of the Royal estate lined each side of the pathway from the household to the churchyard. The procession entered the churchyard at the Lynch gate, and the burial service was conducted by the Very Rev, the Dean of Windsor, and the Rev .W. Lake Onslow, the rector of Sandringham.

Berwick Advertiser, 14 April 1871

STALLION SHOW – WOOLER

The annual spring show of entire horses was held in the market place Wooler on Thursday last week. The weather was very favourable, so that there was a large turn out of the neighbouring gentry, farmers and spectators. Five draught stallions were exhibited, viz:- “Bismark,” a bay, and the winner of the second prize at the Northumberland Agricultural Society’s Show at Newcastle on Saturday last; “Young Pope,” a bay, and the winner of a prize at Haddington in 1869; “Traveller,” a brown; “Paulinus,” a bay; and “North Star,” a bay. Two thoroughbreds were also shown viz; “Slap Bang” a brown; and “Lucifer,” also a brown. The qualities and merits of the horses were freely canvassed, but they all seemed to afford satisfaction to those who witnessed them.

Berwick Advertiser, 21 April 1871

FIVE POUNDS REWARD

In consequence of some evil disposed Person or Persons doing damage to the Stone walls on the Farm of South Orde. Mr Lindore hereby offers a reward of the above sum to any person who will give such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the Offenders. South Orde, April 19, 1871.

Berwick Advertiser, 21 April 1871

THE QUEEN’S ENGLISH

The following amusing note has been addressed to the editor of the *Times*:-Sir,-Of your charity suffer me to speak a word or two to men. As you are aware, I spent my life teaching the world the right use of words and the properties of speech. I am, however, continually grieved by a disregard of the plainest rules laid down in my books. I find instances, Sir, in the obituary notices, even in the *Times*. One may suffice:- “On the –th March, Mary, widow of the late John Jones, aged-.” Would you please suggest to the offenders that in future, such notices should appear thus, “wife of the late,” or “widow,” of John Johns? I am sorry to announce that even yet persons are to be found who will not learn the difference between “would” and “should.” A certain Northern Dean is a sad offender in some recent letters to the

Times; tell him that if he does not mend his ways he shall have a midnight visit from LINDLEY MURRAY'S GHOST.

Carole Pringle



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

