



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 87-DECEMBER 2015

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 18th March 2016

Friends AGM at Berwick, Parish Centre at 7pm followed by a talk on Salmon Fishing by Martha Andrews and Jim Gibson.

Saturday 16th April 2016

Our Families Family History Day; Town Hall, Berwick-upon-Tweed, 10am - 4pm.



OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 26th January 2016	Polish Soldiers in the Borders 1942-present: Lady McEwan
Tuesday 23rd February	The History of the Union Bridge: Gordon Miller
Tuesday 29th March	A.G.M followed by-From the Borders to the "Bough" – the story of a pottery painting family: Heather Jack

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27 th January 2016	Climate Change: Alan Colman
Wednesday 24 th February	Bone Archaeology: David Constantine-Bone Analyst
Wednesday 30 th March	The Lindisfarne Gospels: Ross Wilkinson

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th January 2016	Economy & Housing: Mr Geoff Paul, Director of Planning at Northumberland County Council
Wednesday 10 th February	Question Time; a session with a panel of invited guests

Wednesday 9th March

Richard Duke of Gloucester 1482 invasion:
Sandra Pendlington

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20th January 2016

Local Sporting Heroes: Henry Gray

Wednesday 17th February

Norham- The Most dangerous place in

England: Martha Andrews

Wednesday 16th March

The Battle of Carham 1018: Clive Hallam-
Baker

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO LECTURES IN JANUARY

Monday 1st February 2016

Antiquarian rubbings to Wemyss caves 4D:
Joanna Hambly

Monday 7th March

Early Bronze Age Burial Practices in NE
England and SE Scotland: Dr Chris Fowler

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

NO LECTURES IN JANUARY

Sunday 28th February 2016

From Tweeds to Twin-Setts-A History of the
Mills, mostly in Hawick: Gordon MacDonald

Sunday 27th March

To be confirmed

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

NO LECTURES IN JANUARY

Monday 1st February 2016

Traditional milling and baking in
Northumberland: Nick Jones

Monday 7th March

Black Diamonds: Coal Mining in North
Northumberland: Harry Wilson

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 21st December

A year in life of a laird 300 years ago: Brain
Webster

Monday 18th January 2016

War memorials of Berwickshire: Kenneth
Mclean

Monday 15th February

Sir W Scott & Abbotsford: Hamish Reid

Monday 21st March

Stuarts of Traquair: Margaret Fox &
Catherine Maxwell Stuart

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 7th January 2016

Minor railways in the far north of
Northumberland: Roger Jermy

Thursday 4th February

Stories of the Tweed, our River: Martha
Andrews and Jim Gibson

Thursday 3rd March

AGM followed by, The Lamps Went Out-Sir
Edward Grey and "the war to end all wars":
Mike Fraser

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27 th January 2016	Diaries of the Rev George Ridpath of Stichill: Dr Janet Starkey
Wednesday 24 th February	War, Empire and Cricket-the story of James Logan from Reston: Dr Dean Allen
Wednesday 30 th March	A runaway slave in Dunse: David McLean

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 13 th January 2016	Zoo-archaeological material in Anglo-Saxon society: David Constantine
Wednesday 27 th January	Social Event & Quiz at Tankerville Arms, Wooler
Wednesday 10 th February	Piping matters, including Northumbrian smallpipies: Andrew and Margaret Watchorn
Wednesday 9 th March	Chillingham and other 15 th century tombs in Northern England: Derek Cutts

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 8 th February 2015	Berwick 900 Our Families Project: Linda Bankier
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NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27 th January 2016	Talk at Barter Books, Alnwick by Mary Mead followed by lunch
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Wednesday 24th February

Wednesday 23rd March

The Wonders of Wansbeck: Barry Mead

The John Black Diary 1863-the story of a
19th century entrepreneurial family: David
Lockie

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford Time: 10.00am

Saturday 17th January 2016

Death, funerals and memorials: Members'
Forum

Saturday 20th February

Facing Jeddart Justice-a look at cross-
Border crime: Margaret Fox

Saturday 19th March

Tips for recording family History:
Members' Forum

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 1st January 2016

New Year's Day walk to Blaewearie led
by John Nolan. Details to be announced.

Wednesday 6th January

What we remember, What we forget:
Chris Bowles

Wednesday 3rd February

Dial Knowe, Excavations at the Hirsell:
Lady Caroline Douglas-Home

Wednesday 2nd March

The Vikings in the North Atlantic: Kristan
Pederson



ARCHIVE NEWS

It's hard to believe it is nearly Christmas again. I'm not quite sure where this year has gone and it is certainly not a year that I would like to repeat again.

Over the past couple of months, the Record Office has been very busy with various activities, a lot of them connected with Berwick 900 and others relating to the many other initiatives we are involved in.

Firstly, Berwick 900 formed a major part of my work from September to the end of October. In September, one of our themes was the built heritage which coincided with Heritage Open Days. As well as doing my usual tours of the Council Offices, possibly for the last time, I also did two guided walks as part of the Our Families project. The walks were around the Greenses and Ravensdowne and I used information which the volunteers had gathered to talk about the people who lived there. Despite the weather – absolute downpour on Saturday, they were oversubscribed and I learnt information from those who came along. We are still looking for information on people who lived in those areas and so, if you have any stories, please do get in touch.

At the beginning of October, we held our Berwick 900 Family History weekend which attracted people from abroad as well as closer to home. The weekend was very successful, with a mixture of talks, displays and people to talk to about Family History. It worked really well and we are planning to hold another one – only for a day this time in April 2016.

The beginning of October also saw the 300th anniversary of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. Not everyone is aware of Berwick's part in it through the destruction of the houses in Castlegate to the escape of the Erringtons from Berwick Goal after their failed attempt at capturing Holy Island Castle. The Record Office prepared a display on both events using our archives and I also gave a talk on the same subject. Chris Green, our former curator was up for the weekend to take part in a Court scene he had written about the Erringtons. It was lovely to see Chris again and he even roped me in to taking part in his drama – I thought I was going along to watch instead of becoming a character in it !

The following weekend was the Literary Festival which is now in its second year. The Record Office moved out of its comfort zone here as I tried something I hadn't done before – considering archives in relation to Creative Writing. I gave a talk and a Workshop which were very successful, not huge audiences but people who were keen to carry it forward. Out of this, the Our Families project has set up a Creative Writing Group and so, if anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact myself or Peter Munro – berwickfamilies@gmail.com .

The final weekend of Berwick 900 was based on the Arts and the Great Performing Rope. Again, we were involved in both of these and as a finale, it worked very well, despite the poor weather on the Saturday. The Record Office has supported the Great Performing Rope throughout their project which actually started way back in September 2014. Their hub shop in Marygate worked very well and we provided them with a slide show of old photos of Berwick which was well received by everyone who popped in. All the memories which were collected in this project will be permanently preserved in the archives and we are in the process of sorting that all out as well as seeing where the project goes from here !

Although Berwick 900 is now finished, the Our Families Project which involves the Record Office continues until May 2016. At the moment we are still gathering information about Greenses families and adding to the Burgon family tree – it is fascinating how people have contacted us who are part of the tree but whose actual branch of the family are not on it. Also, it is amazing how many other families in the Greenses link into the family tree. Over the next couple of months, we will be collating all this information. In November, the project also held a couple of workshops – Getting Started in Family History and Using the Internet. They were well attended and we intend to run some more in the New Year which we will let you know about.

As a concurrent project, the Record Office has been working with Strongback Productions on the Berwick Waite and Sea Project. This is a musical heritage project which is an area which we have never looked at before. Thanks to the project, we now have some oral history recordings about traditional music and are cataloguing some of the KOSB Music archive. We are working on the Quick Marches section which seems to contain music from the 1920s to the 1970s – a total mixture. Eventually this information will go on the CALM catalogue but we have a bit to go ! The Berwick First World War project has sadly come to an end and we are now collating the cataloguing and the information which has been collected. Over the

next couple of months, this will appear in CALM and also some of it will be posted onto the Friends website. So, watch this space !

Education in the archives is done on an adhoc basis but over the past couple of months, I have worked with Longridge Towers, both senior and junior schools on the First World War and cholera. I do enjoy working with the children and seeing them find out information from the archives – we have so much to offer them !

I still give talks and over the past couple of months, I have given two on the Flodden Project; a talk to Wooler U3A on Maritime Berwick and spoken to the Friends of the Chain Bridge at their AGM on the Bridges of the Lower Tweed.

This year has been a big challenge for the Record Office but let's be positive and hope that next year will be better. There are new projects on the horizon – Peregrini on Holy Island and the mainland will start in January and there is still lots of work to do on Our Families – as well as the big challenge of finding the Record Office a longterm permanent home which it deserves.

Thank you for all your support over this year and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Best wishes for 2016.

Linda Bankier

OUR FAMILIES PROJECT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of the Our Families Project, we would like to create a database of Freeman admissions which will be put on the Internet. We are working on the database but are looking for people to input the information. This is a project that can be done at home and all you need is a computer which will work with Excel. If you are interested in helping, just get in touch.

HOLY ISLAND

As I am about to start a project on Holy Island, I thought I would have a quick look in the local newspaper to see what articles I could find. Did you know about the first motor car crossing the sands to Holy Island – it must have been quite a sight !

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 5 AUGUST 1904

HOLY ISLAND – VISIT OF MOTOR CARS

Great interest was caused at Holy Island by the arrival there of Mr Hughes, a visitor at Fowberry, driving Mr and Mrs Drake of Fowberry Tower in his prettily constructed 10 –horse Argyll motor. This being the first motor to cross the sands to the island, the event excited much attention. The departure of the car was witnessed by a great number of the inhabitants. Mr C O Robinson, Mr E Robinson, of Ingleside, North Shields, and two friends, Mr J Fletcher and Mr G Towers, visited the Island in their Lanchester motor car on Sunday. The event created a great sensation. This is the second motor car that has made the attempt to cross the sands, and has proved successful.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 19 AUGUST 1904

HOLY ISLAND – MOTORISTS AND HOLY ISLAND SANDS – the following letters appeared in the “Newcastle Journal”.

Sir – For the advice of motorists, I would point out the extreme folly of crossing the sands to Holy Island. It has been done and may be done again, but not by anyone who has the slightest regard for their car. Salt water and sand are scarcely a good recipe for getting into the engines.

I am etc.,

L Morley Crossman

Cheswick House, Beal

Sir – I have read Mr Crossman’s letter in your issue of yesterday. Is not the expression “extreme folly” more applicable to anyone who offers advice on a subject about which he is manifestly ignorant. Mr Crossman may know something about sand and salt water but had he known anything about the engines of a modern motor car, he would have known that they are enclosed in a dust, sand and water proof casing. Also the car I was driving (as are all the Argylls) is fitted with an extra

shield which effectively prevents all splash from the front wheels from even reaching the engine casing.

I am etc

H Edgar Hughes.

Fowberry Tower, Belford

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 17 DECEMBER 1915

HOLY ISLAND – PRESENTATION ON HOLY ISLAND – Nurse Wake has said goodbye to the inhabitants of Holy Island after a residence there of seven years. In the absence of a resident doctor she has performed her onerous and responsible duties excellently and the people expressed their appreciation in a practical way by presenting her with a purse of gold at the house of Mrs Cromarty. The Rev. I Crawshaw, who made the presentation on behalf of the subscribers, and the Rev T Lupman spoke feelingly of Nurse Wake's departure and of her able management, and Mr Riley also added his testimony to her ability.

HOLY ISLAND – QUAINWEDDING CUSTOMS – Great interest was displayed in a wedding which took place on the Island on Saturday. The bride was Miss Elizabeth Wilson, eldest daughter of Mr Wilson, churchwarden and school manager, and the bridegroom was Mr George Richardson of Berwick. The bride was accompanied by her sister, Miss May Wilson, as bridesmaid. The Rev Irvine Cranshaw conducted the service which was choral, the choristers assembling to honour the bride who was formerly a chorister. Immediately after the ceremony, the quaint custom of jumping the "Petting Stone" was performed by the bride and at her arrival at her home another quaint custom was observed. A plate filled with cake was thrown over the bride's head for good luck. The good fortune depends on the plate being broken. The honour of throwing the plate and the cake was allocated to the daughter of the local schoolmaster and great was the glee of the children as they scrambled for the cake. There was a large number of handsome wedding gifts.

Has anyone heard of the plate custom before?

Linda Bankier



MUSEUM NEWS

APPRECIATION OF CHRIS GREEN

I was deeply saddened to hear at the end of October about the death of Chris Green, ex-Curator of Berwick Museum and Art Gallery.

I had the great privilege of working with Chris Green at Berwick Museum since 1997 although I had known him earlier through local amateur theatre. After the creation of the new authority in 2009, Chris left the museum and Berwick for York to be with his partner, Celia Frisby, and continued exploring his ideas there. I was only too pleased to be asked to take part in a couple of his heritage plays in York.

The exhibitions we mounted were extremely ambitious given the lack of financial resources at his disposal, but his flare and imagination more than compensated, tackling large “world” subjects such as *The Story of Money*, *The Four Elements* and *Tales From The East*, by combining items from the Burrell Collection with items in the local collection and other modern items to relate the story to today’s audience.

Whenever possible, he involved the museum in town festivals such as the *Union of the Crowns* and *The Golden Age of Northumberland*. One of my greatest memories will always be that at a couple of the *Union of the Crowns* events, I got to dabble in what might be called “experimental archaeology”, building a working medieval trebuchet to besiege Berwick Castle!

He was also keen to engage local people and groups and we often displayed exhibitions by local groups and artists.

I’d like to think that we developed a very close working relationship. He was always concerned for his staff and encouraged me to develop my skills and interests. My own interest in historic research would not have been ignited had Chris not asked me to investigate a peculiar drawing in the museum collection purporting to be of Berwick Castle.

I hadn’t seen him for some time and had not known of his terrible state of health until relatively recently, so I am grateful to have seen him and to have helped him in one last show (as it turned out) for the Berwick 900 celebrations, playing the gaoler of Berwick Town Hall being rebuked by his Mayor. By coincidence, I was in York with my wife the following week and we had a meal with Chris and Celia. He looked a little under the weather that night but sounded relatively upbeat the next day, so it came as something of a shock to hear, a week later, of his passing.

Former boss and friend do not adequately sum up what I felt for Chris; he was so much more. I regarded him almost as an elder brother and a mentor. Definitely

that. I would not do what I do now, researching and writing about Berwick history, without him having instilled that passion and excitement for discovery. I will miss you dearly, Sir.

Jim Herbert

FRIENDS' 21ST BIRTHDAY PARY

On the evening of October 14th, the Friends celebrated their 21st anniversary with a Birthday Party, held in the Maltings Restaurant, Berwick. Mr Foxton, the proprietor, produced an excellent buffet. The champagne (which ran throughout the evening) was kindly provided by our President, Lord Joicey, and the present Chairman, Robert Steward, provided a specially made birthday cake for the occasion.



Among the guests was Margaret Fox (née Rennison), the first Berwick Archivist, and also several former Chairmen of the Friends. The guest of honour, however, was Linda Bankier, the present Berwick Archivist, to whom Lord Joicey presented a bouquet (kindly provided by Lady Rose Crossman).



The occasion was particularly significant, since it emerged in Linda's 'thank you' speech that this was also her 25th anniversary in post as Berwick archivist.

A very happy, well-fed party left the Maltings at 10.00pm, having enjoyed an excellent evening of reminiscing and good company.

Photographs: Maltings Birthday Party, Jan Ward. Birthday Cake, Sue Handoll.



ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING IN BERWICK

The Berwick Advertiser for 1 June 1861, under the title 'Lecture on slavery', contains a short paragraph about a meeting in the High Meeting House, addressed by Mr. William Craft, a former slave.

He gave a description of his life from the time he was separated from his parents, and bound as a slave an apprentice to a cabinet-maker in Georgia, until his safe arrival in this country. He gave a graphic description of his parental separation, the sale of himself and sister to different slave owners, his resolve to escape from slavery, his marriage, his plans of escape, and subsequent journey



with his wife over 1000 miles through the slave states to Philadelphia, with the numerous attendant extraordinary adventures, anxieties, and hairbreadth escapes.

This brief summary scarcely does justice to what was indeed a remarkable life. William was born a slave in Macon, Georgia. At the age of 16, he was sold to pay his Master's gambling debts. He was fortunate in that he was then apprenticed as a Carpenter, a trade which allowed him to earn some money in his own right. One of his new owners, Dr. Robert Collins, also had a house slave, Ellen Smith (in fact a half sister to his wife). In 1846, William and Ellen married, but determined to escape from slavery.

Ellen was very light skinned, and they decided that she should impersonate a white male slave owner (with her right arm in a sling to disguise the fact that she could not write), with William travelling as her personal slave. William used his savings to buy her appropriate clothing, and arranged her cut hair in the male fashion of the day. They travelled to Savannah, by first class train, and eventually boarded a steamship for Philadelphia in free state Pennsylvania, where they arrived on Christmas Day 1848.

From there, they moved to Beacon Hill in Boston, a well established free black community. There they were formally married, and over the next two years gave public lectures on their escape, which received considerable attention. In 1850, however, Congress passed the *Fugitive Slave Act*, which made it illegal for escaped slaves to be harboured in free states, and offered rewards to those who captured escaped slaves and returned them to their masters. The Crafts became the target of such bounty hunters. The people of Boston protected William and Ellen, but they decided that America was no longer safe for them, and sailed to Liverpool in 1850.

They spent 19 years in England, raising five children, and giving lecture tours such as the one which brought them to Berwick. At the end of the American Civil War, they returned to the United States, where they opened a Co-operative Farm School for the education and employment of freedmen. Eventually the falling price of cotton and continued anti-black discrimination and violence, forced the closure of the project in 1878. The last years of their life were spent living with their daughter in Charleston, South Carolina. Ellen died in 1891, but William lived on to January 1900.

The Crafts published an account of their experiences '*Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; Or, The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*'; this is available to read on line.

Jane Bowen

BELFORD HIDDEN HISTORY MUSEUM

CAPTIVE MEMORIES OF FAR EAST PRISONERS OF WAR

Following its very successful exhibition on local men who became Prisoners of War in the Far East during WW2 and moving commemorative church service in August, Belford Museum has recently organised a talk for the public on the experiences of Far Eastern Prisoners of War (FEPOW) based on an oral history study of 66 of the men over 5 decades of their lives. Meg Parkes of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine spoke on the ways in which the men used their knowledge and skills for survival in the camps, with a special focus on medicine and surgery. The Liverpool School is the oldest such institution in the world. By the time Meg began her interviews all the surviving men were in their late 80's or 90's. Her study complemented ongoing research into the medical aspects of the camps in Thailand by Professor Gill. Many of the findings came to light for the first time as men had been ordered not to talk of their experiences for fear of upsetting their families and families had been told not to ask them, for the same reason. How things have changed today with counselling services considered a priority for people suffering trauma!

50,000 British men were held in captivity in the Far East for up to 3 ½ years; 25 % died in the camps. Because the Japanese did not ratify the Geneva Convention they had no obligations to POWs and observed a principle of "No work, no eat" resulting in sick prisoners becoming even more malnourished. The speaker's own father had been held prisoner in Motoyama Camp. He kept a diary and other documents which he brought home. Meg also interviewed wives and widows who up until then had remained in the shadows but had valuable experiences and insights to contribute. Among the men from the Northeast who were interviewed were Henry McCreath of Berwick, Bill Brown of Wooler and Peter Barton of South Shields.

The psychological problems of the POWs were considerable. Isolation, fear and a sense of hopelessness dominated. Many took risks e.g. futile escape attempts, making secret radios and documenting. They were strictly forbidden to keep diaries and make sketches. One man, Jack Chalker, was badly beaten when he was discovered sketching in the dysentery hut.

What kept them going? It seemed to be a mixture of luck and friendship. There were numerous accounts of men risking their own lives to help fellow prisoners. Survival was enabled by stealing, copying the ways of locals, improvising and using their skills. In the camps were engineers, doctors, carpenters, plumbers, academics, artists, dentists, who all contributed their skills in order to survive.

Several amazing examples of the men's ingenuity were given, such as producing dentures from recycled rubber and metal and carrying out blood transfusions with improvised surgical instruments. Bamboo proved immensely versatile, used not only for toothbrushes but also for constructing a dental chair! Fillings were reputed to have lasted for years afterwards! Even barium was recycled by imaginative methods!

Malaria was the most prevalent disease, made worse by gross malnutrition. Cholera and diphtheria were also common.

Artificial limbs were made secretly from the fuselage of crashed aircraft. Stills were made for sterile water and to produce alcohol for sterilising surgical instruments. Yeast was produced to restore damaged eyesight.

One of the men, Gordon Vaughan, who was a conscientious objector, had been assigned to the RAMC and worked as an Operating Room Assistant. He recorded 4577 operations in 3 different hospital camps.

They sought local knowledge when possible, using red ants to stop bleeding from wounds or surgery. Lacking knowledge of men's blood groups, a method of identifying these was worked out by a process of elimination using a doctor who knew his own group.

Such was the skill of the artists who produced detailed drawings and paintings of medical conditions such as tropical ulcers, always relying on improvised materials, that some were asked to stay on after liberation in order to work on official pictures in the place of medical photographers.

The speaker demonstrated enormous respect for the men and the audience for powerful talk was left in no doubt about the men's bravery and resilience. Members of the audience came to Belford to hear the talk from all over the county and other parts of the country.

Belford Museum is to become a centre for the North and Scottish Borders for documented memories of FEPOWS. Belford has been one of the very few places in the country to commemorate these men for the 70th anniversary of liberation and it is hoped that further memories will be contributed while the last survivors are still living.

The website for the project is well worth looking at:

<http://www.captivememories.org.uk/>

Valerie Glass

HOW TO ADDRESS THE QUEEN

When George IV came to the throne in 1820, he became determined to divorce his estranged wife, Caroline of Brunswick, so that she should not be able to take up the role of his Queen. Caroline's infamous private life during the years of their separation provided an opportunity to demonstrate her adultery, and thus to seek the dissolution of their marriage. A bill was presented to Parliament to this effect, and it was considered in the House of Lords over several months, amounting to a very public trial of the Queen. Although the bill was eventually passed, the majority was not sufficient to give it likely success in the Commons, and the Government decided to withdraw the bill, not least to avoid damaging revelations about George's own private conduct.

The sensational details of Royal behaviour were widely reported in the newspapers, and a deep division of opinion arose in the country between supporters of the monarch and sympathisers with the Queen (the latter including a number of opponents of the government). When Caroline appeared to emerge victorious from the contest, there were public demonstrations in her favour, and many towns, associations, and individuals took the step of making a public statement of their congratulations. The Guild of Berwick-upon-Tweed was among the many that despatched a 'loyal address' to the Queen which left no doubt about their position.

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

We the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Borough of Berwick upon Tweed, in Guild assembled, beg leave again to approach your Majesty with our heartfelt Congratulations on the signal triumph which your Majesty has now achieved over a most detestable Conspiracy against your Honor, Character and Dignity.

We participate with our Fellow Subjects in the universal sentiment of disgust and abhorrence which the foul charges preferred, and the unconstitutional proceedings adopted against your Majesty, and which the portentous combination of supreme power and influence with the basest perjury, bribery and falsehood, had excited; and now that your Majesty has emerged from the unequal struggle with unsullied purity, and heightened lustre, we cannot express to your Majesty those overflowing emotions of exultation and delight which animate our loyal bosoms.

While the imagination sickens over the evidence produced against your Majesty, and the moral feelings are shocked at the alliance of such hateful malignity, with such gigantic means of oppression - our hearts are consoled by the sublime spectacle of a gallant and generous Nation rousing itself in defence of its much injured Queen; and by its untameable energies and approving voice so effectually aiding the native weight of innocence as to enable you with ease to paralyse and wither the strong arm that sought your destruction.

Your Majesty may be assured that the British Nation will never forget the atrocious attempt of your Persecutors, nor the heroic firmness with which you first spurned their insidious offers, and then defied and baffled their utmost malice...."

The address continues in similar terms for several more paragraphs before concluding with a plea for "the best blessings of Heaven to descend upon your Royal Head".

The Town Clerk was instructed to inscribe the address on vellum and to attach the Town's seal, and Lord Ossulston, then MP for Berwick, was asked to present it to the Queen. The full text was printed on the front page of the Berwick Advertiser (9 Dec. 1820). The Queen's acknowledgment was received in January 1821.

In subsequent months, support for the Queen waned and in July 1821 she was humiliatingly excluded from George's coronation. She died three weeks later.

Source: Berwick Record Office. *Guild Minute Book* 1819-1822. Ref. B1/25.

John Spiers

GIFT AID IT

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You've probably heard of Gift Aid. If you donate to other charities you may already allow them to claim Gift Aid on the donations you give them. Now the Friends are joining the scheme and we would like to claim Gift Aid on your membership

fees and other donations we receive.

For those who haven't heard of Gift Aid, it's a government scheme which allows charities large and small to claim money from the government on top of the donations we receive from you. For every £1 you give us we can claim an extra 25 pence.

The only catch is that you have to pay more income and or capital gains tax each year than the amount of Gift Aid charities claim from donations you give them. For example if you give £100 in total to charities each year, for all the charities to claim Gift Aid you need to pay £25 in tax each year. You may pay income tax on things like wages, pensions and interest on savings. If you don't pay enough tax each year HMRC can ask you to pay them the difference.

Why do the Friends want to start claiming Gift Aid now? As you'll all be aware there are uncertainties around the medium term accommodation of the Record Office and longer term requirements for both the Museum and Record Office to develop and grow.

To help with securing the future of both we are looking for ideas to raise more money so if, or when the need or desire might arise we are in a better position to offer help. Claiming Gift Aid on memberships and donations is a simple and pain free way of gaining more value from them without costing members any extra money.

In January, when the membership renewal forms are sent out, you'll notice a difference. They'll include a declaration asking if you are willing for us to claim Gift Aid on your donations. As long as you pay enough tax each year ticking the box to say you agree is the only extra step you need to take. We'll do the rest when you return your form along with your membership fee.

If you pay by standing order and are happy for us to claim Gift Aid on your donations, you'll need to return the form to the Record Office this year.

All will become clearer when we send out the renewal forms in early January !

Graham Robson, Treasurer

MY EXPERIENCE OF GIVEASYOULIVE

Given the upheaval and uncertainty facing the Archives, in August, the Friends' Committee decided to look at new ways of fund raising, one of which was to join **Giveasyoulive**. Our new Treasurer, Graham, made the necessary links very quickly and almost exactly three months ago we were in a position to sign up. Linda asked me if I would write about my experiences of the system over these three months, so here goes.

Firstly has it been worth it? According to my account, in that 3 months I have raised £20.28 – not I know a vast sum, but if all our members had done the same, we would have raised £3,000!

I know many people are suspicious of signing up for things on line. I found the process for **Giveasyoulive** simple and user friendly. All you needed to provide is an e-mail and a password, which the system says can be a single digit – so no need for long strings of letters, numbers and symbols. Once signed in, there is a box to indicate what company you want to shop with, and on entering the name, you are transferred to that company's website, and from then on can order, just as if you had searched for their website directly. When you have completed your shop, you will receive a **Giveasyoulive** email to tell you that they have noted your transaction, and usually within 48 hours there is a second e-mail telling you how much has been paid to the FBDMA. Generally the donation seems to be 1%, but one or two companies paid up to 4%.

To raise the £20+, I have not significantly changed my shopping habits. I do not do my supermarket shopping on line so this did not contribute, (although all supermarkets seem to subscribe). What has contributed has been the purchase of items not immediately available locally:

- computer inks from Argos (either collected from the store or delivered free);
- reams of computer paper – free home delivery;
- two bouquets of flowers sent to sick friends;
- window locks I could not find otherwise;
- one night in a Travelodge (most hotel chains subscribe, but not Premier Inn);

- a mail order cardigan and pair of trousers;
- a book from Amazon;
- a baking set and a Birthday present from Scotts of Stow;
- some ephemera from e-bay; and
- the one big purchase - a new computer from John Lewis.

Only on one occasion has a purchase not resulted in a donation to the Friends, but when I queried it the donation was forthcoming.

Overall I have found it a painless way of raising money, and in some instances, particularly the computer inks and the paper, purchase has been easier than it would have been otherwise. Please do consider trying the system.

The link to sign up is <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/berwickfriends>

Jane Bowen

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 16 June 1871

LAW INJURIES DONE BY DOGS

A bill has just been prepared and brought into the House of Commons to amend the statute relating to actions at law for injuries done by dogs. It is proposed that "in any action for damages for any injury done by a dog to the person or property of any individual, it shall not be necessary for the party seeking such damages to show a previous mischievous propensity in such dog, or the owner's knowledge of such previous propensity, or that the injury was attributable to neglect on the part of such owner. The only other clause in the bill allows the recovery of damages under £5 by summary procedure.

Berwick Advertiser, 16 June 1871

NEW MEMORIAL WINDOW IN WALLACE GREEN CHURCH

A very beautiful memorial window has this week been placed in Wallace Green Church. This is the first window of the kind placed in this beautiful ecclesiastical edifice, but others are expected to follow. It is erected to the memory of our deceased esteemed townsman, Thos. Bogue, Esq., J.P., by the members of his family, and occupies the twin light window closely adjoining the entrance. Messrs James Ballantyne & Sons, the celebrated firm of glass stainers in Edinburgh, were entrusted with the execution of the window, and the design, – the early English style of ornament- is very chaste, and has been much admired by those qualified to judge. The glass is granulated, which gives the window a very striking effect. At the bottom is the following inscription: - “In memory of Thomas Bogue, who died 5th Dec., 1870. Erected by his family.” The window, which is 18 feet in length by 5 feet in breadth, is protected by a wire fence.

Berwick Advertiser, 16 June 1871

THE NEW BATHING STATIONS

The laudable project set on foot with a view to construct suitable public bathing Palaces at Greenses Harbour deserve hearty support from all classes of the community. Keeping out of mind for the time being the happy contemplation of raising our historic town to the position of a fashionable watering place, the scheme is one specially entitled to encouragement on the ground that a long felt want, experienced more particularly by the bathing public, will be supplied. The plan resolved upon at a public meeting held on Monday, under the presidency of the mayor, will doubtless merit general approbation. A graceful compliment was paid to the lady bathers by the meeting agreeing to construct a basin for their special benefit first of all; the station for the gentlemen to be formed afterwards should there be sufficient funds forthcoming. This certainly was a most commendable proposition, for the representatives of the gentler sex who at present indulge in a bathe, are obliged to do so under most disagreeable circumstances, while the male portion of the public have by way of prescription enjoyed the superior advantages of a splendid bathing place. The ladies, we may inform them, are mainly indebted for this mark of preferment to Mr R. B. Weatherhead who ably advocated their cause on Monday. It is, however, expected-and we trust the expectation will be realised- that both bathing stations, that for the gentlemen, which will be situated between the

Narrow Lane and the Man's Hole, the other for the ladies, to be constructed between the Man's Hole and Sharper Head, will be completed simultaneously this season. Subjoined is a report of the meeting held on Monday, which we were sorry to see so sparsely attended.

Berwick Advertiser, 30 June 1871

GOOD TEMPLARISM

Spite the pooh-poohings of radical anti-teetotallers and conservative tipplers Good Templarism is gradually making way in this country, and in our own town the movement betokens flourishing aspects; as to the stability of this new-fangled temperance institution, however, time alone will prove. The local lodge of Good Templars, desirous of making a public display, have resolved to hold a soiree, which is announced to take place in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday evening. A host of speaking talent is expected to take part in the proceedings, and the brethren it is anticipated will appear clad in their regalia. We wish the Good Templars soiree all success.

Carole Pringle



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