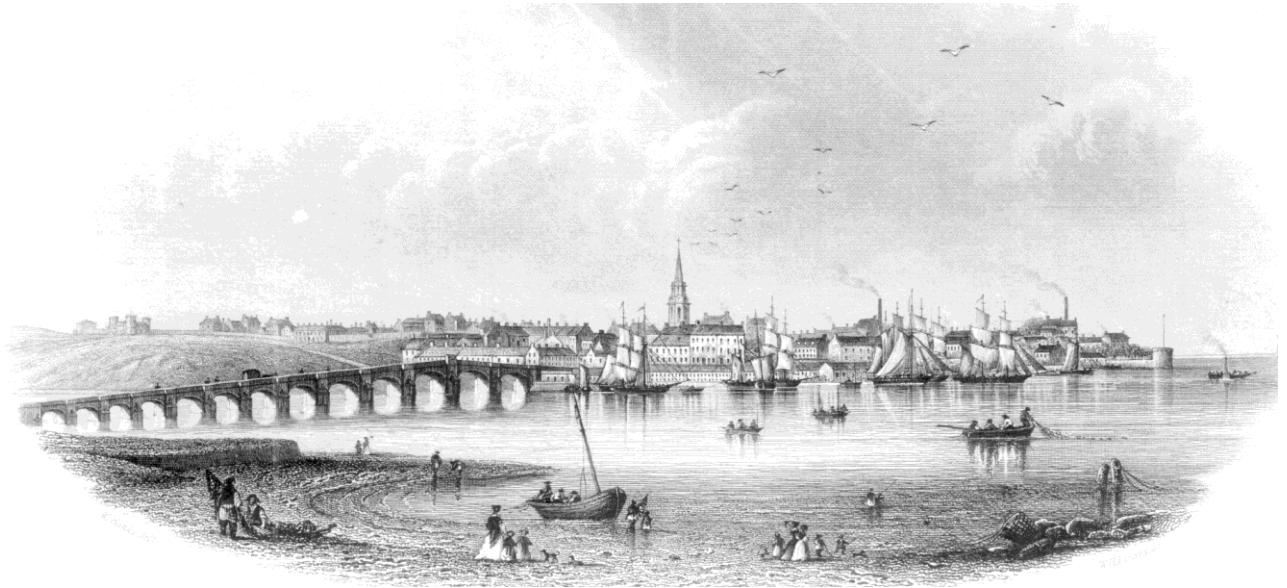


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 93–SEPTEMBER 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9th (10-4) and Sunday 10th
(11-4) September 2017

Facades of the Fifties-exhibition and films in
the Guildhall part of Heritage Open Days.

Friday 10th November

Friends Autumn Lecture-Archive
Discoveries from Peregrini Project. 7pm at
Berwick Parish Centre

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This new section will highlight one off events which are happening

Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October	4000 Years of Lowick Heritage : A display of photographs, historic maps, archaeology and an update on the Dryburn Limeworks Conservation Project. 10-4pm at Lowick Village Hall.
Monday 2nd – Sunday 15th October	Exhibition of reproduction of work by Sir William Coldstream at Belford Museum
Saturday 7th October	Lecture: Coldstream's Life and Art: Dr Peter Rumley, 2.30pm at Bell View Resource Centre.
Sunday 8th October	Coldstream the Film Maker-showing two of his films, 2.30pm at the Ferguson Hall, Belford.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time:7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 26th September	Cross Border Crime: Linda Bankier & Margaret Fox
Tuesday 31st October	The Farm Servants of South-East Scotland 1750-1914: David McLean
Tuesday 28th November	Roads and Travel in Berwickshire 1750-1900: David McLean

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27th September 2017	AGM followed by Slide Show & Quiz
Wednesday 25th October	'The Long & the Short'. A talk about Whittle Colliery, near Shilbottle: Ken Middlemist
Wednesday 29th November	'Strange Tales & Ghostly Happenings': Geoff Hughes
December	Christmas Party at Bell View

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th September 2017	ARCH in Berwick: A presentation by Jackie Kell, The Chief Executive and Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy at NCC.
Wednesday 18 th November	"Little Happier than Hell" – Housing in 17 th century Berwick-upon-Tweed and Northumberland

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 11th October 2017	The Barracks Heritage Hub and The Port , Berwick's Two Big Tourism Projects : Presentation by a panel. Joint meeting with the Civic Society
Wednesday 15th November	The Bondagers & The Bondage System' : Dinah Iredale
Wednesday 20th December	Berwick & Its Regiment the K.O.S.B. : Ian Martin

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 4th September 2017	Northumberland's Geology and how it shaped history : Ian Kille
Monday 2nd October	Spears shall be shaken, shields shall be splintered: Reconstruction Bronze Age fighting styles: Andrea Dolfini
Monday 6th November	Recent Archaeological Discoveries on Lindisfarne: Richard Carlton
Monday 4th December	Hadrian's Wall: an archaeological site or an artistic muse? : Lindsay Allason-Jones

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 24th September 2017	The Money in Tommy's Pocket on The Western Front in World War I: Peter Munro
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BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 4th September 2017	The Restorations at Lindisfarne Castle: Nick Lewis
Monday 2nd October	Vetinary Science through the Ages: Graeme Reavley
Monday 6th November	Facing Jeddart Justice: A Look at Cross Border Crime: Margaret Fox
Monday 4th December	Open evening- more details to follow

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 18th September 2017	Bee keeping: Willie Robson
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Monday 16th October	Dying for a cuppa: Isabel Gordon
Monday 20th November	History of Sport in the Borders: Henry Gray
Monday 18th December	Union Chain Bridge: Gordon Miller

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream. **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 21st September 2017	Open night with an illustrated talk on Lennel Kirk Project by Gerald Tait and others.
Thursday 5th October	The History of Lukes Brae: John Elliot
Thursday 2nd November	Coldstream, Kelso and the 1776 American Revolution: David Welsh
Thursday 7th December	A Borderline Case: Bob Higham

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Duns Social Club, 45 Newtown St, Duns. **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 27th September 2017	Robert Fortune of Kelloe, Plant Hunter , Adventurer, Spy : Isabel Gordon
Wednesday 25th October	Principal John Cairns, Son of an Ayton Shepherd, Lad O' Pairs: Rev. Dr. Adam Hood
Wednesday 29th November	The Village of Bonkyl - Lost and Found: Dr. Christopher Bowles

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler. **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 13th September 2017	Agriculture in Wooler and its environs 1800-2017: Dr Ian Roberts
Wednesday 11th October	A golden age; Glendale in the 7th century: Max Adams

Wednesday 8th November	Local forestry activities in WW1: Roger Jermy
Wednesday 15th November	10.30am Outing & guided tour to Scott's Sawmills at Wooperton Station
Wednesday 13th December	Mills, milling and traditional bread making: David Harris-Jones

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 11th September	North Northumberland's Secret Army: Phil Rowett
Monday 9th October	Lowick Weather and the Climate of North Northumberland: Allan Colman
Monday 13th November	Bridges of the Lower Tweed: Linda Bankier
Monday 11th December	Coal Mining in North Northumberland: Harry Wilson

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 11th September 2017	A talk TBC
Monday 9th October	Railways in Northumberland: Talk by Mr Chris Neville-Taylor
Monday 13th November	TBC
Monday 11th December	Social evening

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 25th October 2017	Almoners ,Medieval or Modern ?: Sandra Gann
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Wednesday 22nd November

Trains of Alnmouth: Ken Middlemist

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Saturday 16th September 2017 Salmon Gallows and other stories: Ralph Holmes

Saturday 21st October From here to Eternity – graveyards and funeral customs: Anthea Lang

Saturday 18th November John Black's Diary 1863: David Lockie

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall **Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 6th September 2017 Following the cocoa shrub throughout the Americas-archaeological evidence for cocaine use: Professor Maria Chester

Sunday 8th October James IV Memorial Lecture. Mary, Queen of Scots: Jordan Evans. (Ticketed event at Etal Village Hall)

Wednesday 1st November Roman Temples at Maryport: Professor Ian Haynes

Wednesday 6th December Members Night- Deserted Medieval Villages: Allan Colman. Carham: Clive Hallam-Baker. Football, Maya Style: Mike Keating.

ARCHIVE NEWS

This year has flown by which is obviously a sign of me getting older ! The Record Office has been kept very busy in the summer with various events and activities,

many of them Peregrini related. This project is now in its second year and will finish for the office in early 2018. In mid June 2017 the Project held a Heritage weekend on the Island which was very successful. The Archive group mounted a number of displays on Holy Island in 1953; wedding traditions (very different to the mainland) and the lifeboats. We also helped with the art exhibition, providing images and inspiration ! Once a year Macmillan Academy from Middlesbrough come up to the Island and spend a couple of days there making a film which is placed in the Heritage Centre. This year the theme was growing up on the Island and the young people came up in July. They had a week in total to plan the film, shoot it and then edit it – a tall order but they achieved it. The Office co-ordinated the island element, arranging for them to interview people of all ages. As part of the overall Peregrini project, the community archive group has been creating resources and recording information. One of our aims was to create an up to date record of the gravestones in Holy Island churchyard. This has been undertaken over two Saturdays in August and has proved fascinating. A dedicated group of volunteers have taken part, painstakingly recording the inscriptions – some of them are definitely a challenge. Our aim is to type this up, take photos of the stones and place copies in the Community Archive, the Church and our office.

As part of the Peregrini Project, we are also indexing Professor Sheddick's family cards relating to Island people. Volunteers have now entered over 1000 cards into a database. There are still plenty to go but this will be an invaluable resource and more useable than in its present format.

June was a busy month for the Archives as we also took part in Armed Forces Day. This year we put together an exhibition on Berwick in 1917, looking at both the Home and War Front. It was attended by nearly 400 people.

The Photocentre is a wonderful photographic resource for the area which we were fortunately able to purchase with the help of the Friends. Following on from our successful book of 1950s photos (we are considering a reprint as we only have a few left), we will be producing a 1960s book ready for Christmas. In the past couple of months, volunteers have been scanning the images and undertaking research for the captions. We are well on the way with this and so look out for further details in the next newsletter. As well as the book, Cameron Robertson is also undertaking work on the collection with the aim of creating a Photographic Exhibition which will be shown in the Granary from the end of January to May. We will provide details in our next newsletter.

Our main focus at the moment is the Facades exhibition for Heritage Open Days. Do come along and also support the other events in the town and the area.

The outreach side of the office is only one of the Record Office's many facets. Carole and I also have the day to day job to do – looking after the public, dealing with enquiries, caring for the records and undertaking research. We are never stuck for something to do. There are not enough hours in the day!

Linda Bankier

BERWICK IN 1952

In preparing for the Facades of the Fifties exhibition, I thought I would have a look at the newspapers for 65 years ago – 1952 and see what was happening. The following are some extracts from the Berwick Advertiser :

10 January – Old Established Berwick tailoring firm closes

The 77 year old Berwick tailoring firm of James Campbell and Sons, Church Street, is closing down, and no more orders will be accepted. Since its establishment in 1874, the firm has built up a reputation for craftsmanship and service which is known far and wide. Mr J Colin Campbell, son of the founder, is at present recovering from an illness.

24 January – Television Reception in Berwick

Television came to Berwick at 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Only a few minutes after Berwick radio and television dealer, Mr Fred Stott had erected a 50 foot aerial, the Kirk o' Shotts transmitter sent out its daily test signal. And on the Berwick set, the signal came through clearly. In the afternoon, the set again picked up the signals from the Scottish station which is 70 miles distant as the crow flies.

24 January – New Clock for Town Hall

Berwick's Town Hall clock stopped at 9.46 am on Wednesday and it will probably stay stopped for another five weeks. It is being dismantled and a new clock is to be installed.

10 April – Racing at Charterhall proves Track has great possibilities

Motor racing came to Charterhall airfield on Sunday for the first time, when the Berwick and District Motor Club, Lothian Car Club and Hawick and Border Car Club promoted a closed meeting. Many outstanding drivers took part and after lapping the wide circuit several times, reported that the new venue had "great possibilities"

17 April – Morocco to Berwick – First Direct Cargo since before the War

A link with the past will be established this weekend when there arrives from Casablanca, in Morocco, the Dutch vessel Cornelis Houtman, with a cargo of 700 tons of phosphate for the Berwick firm of Fisons Ltd.

8 May – A Thousand Trippers came to Berwick

Berwick cafes and hotels catered for well over 1000 day trippers on Sunday. It was their busiest day of the year and marked the start of the season of bus trips from towns and villages in Scotland and the North of England.

31 July 1952 – Perry and Maskell give Tennis Display at Spittal

Two of Britain's leading exponents of lawn tennis treated enthusiasts to a sparkling and interesting display at the Spittal Courts on Saturday afternoon and evening. The two stars were Fred Perry, singles champion, Wimbledon, 1934 -35-36 and Dan Maskell, coach to the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, and the display was sponsored by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, in co-operation with the Lawn Tennis Association and the Ulster Council of the Irish Lawn Tennis Association.

31 July 1952 – Smallest Baby becomes 100

A century ago visitors came from far and wide to see the smallest baby of the 1800s. These visitors came to Berwick, and the centre of attention was directed at the baby which was so small it could be placed in a pint pot. As the years went by, Eleanor Dagleish, for that was the baby's name, grew up and married, spent the first 79 years of her life in Berwick and became Mrs Robert Towerson in the interim, Mrs Towerson, a widow now has recently celebrated her 100th birthday at Haddenham, Bucks.

7 August – Seventeen Buses will take 700 Old People on Outing

Seventeen buses will leave Berwick on Thursday, August 21, carrying the 700 members of the Berwick and District Old Age Pensioners; Association on their fourth annual trip, which will take them via Lowick and Wooler to Kelso and back through Coldstream to Berwick.

28 August – Over Thousand Balloons will be released

During the week more than 1,000 Festival balloons, filled with hydrogen, will soar into the air above the Berwick Town Hall and be whisked away towards the north, south, east and west. The first 300 will be released on Friday. The Mayor of Berwick, Alderman GM Lamb, will press a switch, and crowds who have attended the opening ceremony will watch the liberation. On Saturday a Parade School pupil will release the balloons at 4.30 pm, while on Monday it will be the turn of a Tweedmouth East youngster, In successive days after that children from each of the remaining primary schools in the Borough will release balloons.

18 September – Duel of Car Aces at Charterhall

With less than a month to go, the entry list for the international motor race meeting at Charterhall is already over the 90 mark. In the last five days, three crack British drivers, Stirling Moss, Mike Hawthorn and Bob Gerard have all stated that they will be taking part.

13 November – Berwick's Oldest Inhabitant dies at age of 101

Berwick's oldest inhabitant, Mrs Margaret Henderson of Church Street, died on Saturday at the age of 101. Until a few weeks before her death, she had been enjoying good health and was going about her own home.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

As our season draws to a close with only another month to go, it is nice to be able to report that we have had a very successful time, with an increase in visitor numbers over the summer. We opened all week round during the school summer holidays, and were rewarded with lots of extra visits. We plan to be open during the autumn half term vacation, too. The first weekend in September is usually the busiest of the year when Berwick Food Festival comes to the Barracks Square.

Our main exhibition has been "Bright Lights in the Borders", featuring Victorian pioneers of science from our region, including Dr Johnston, Mary Fairfax Somerville and James Veitch. The exhibition was the culmination of a scientific project entitled "Local Heroes" which we received funding for from the Royal Society. We began the project back in February with a star gazing session, and continued in the spring with education outreach sessions involving more than 300 local schoolchildren and a Family Day with geologist and dinosaur expert Dr Tom Challands from Edinburgh University, and Dr Toni Hamill from the Life Centre, Newcastle.

We have worked in partnership with Berwick Visual Arts to encourage special group visits to Berwick to view our Burrell Gallery and BVA's "Scottish Colourist" exhibition. The Friends of National Galleries Scotland and the East Lothian Art Fund have been delighted at the opportunity to see such high quality art at both venues in one trip.

We have received funding from Arts Council England to improve our facilities, so that we are better placed to borrow from national institutions with access to special Government Indemnity Status. Conversely, we will be loaning several works of art to prestigious international venues.

The Degas "Russian Dancers" will be reunited with other works by the artist from the Glasgow Burrell Collection at an exhibition at the National Gallery, London; "Drawn

in Colour – Degas from the Burrell” runs from 20th September – 7th May 2017, and has free admission. (<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/drawn-in-colour-degas-from-the-burrell>)

The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza of Madrid has requested the loan of one of the Boudin paintings in the Berwick Burrell Collection for an exhibition to be staged next summer entitled Monet/Boudin.

We continue our dialogue with Burrell Glasgow, and are exploring possibilities of being able to borrow works from Glasgow to be exhibited in Berwick over the next couple of years.

Meanwhile, we recently contributed information to the Catalogue Raisonné (an illustrated catalogue of all the paintings) of the work of Fantin Latour currently in preparation in Paris.

Our Education Officer Jane Miller has been hard at work on the Rothbury Trenches with the rest of the Woodhorn Trust education team. This has been an eye opening yet highly enjoyable project concentrating on a hidden area of Northumberland’s history. Jane will be showing the trenches exhibition panels and organising some activities during the Berwick Food Festival weekend at the Barracks. The Food Festival itself should be an extra special weekend this year, on its 10th birthday.

Anne Moore

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY’S VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT

FORD FIRST SCHOOL’S HERITAGE HEROES!

Children from Hugh Joicey C of E First School were the first pupils in England to be awarded Archaeology Scotland’s prestigious Heritage Hero Awards for their contribution to Till Valley Archaeological Society’s (TillVAS) Branxton and Crookham Village Atlas Project.

The Branxton & Crookham Village Atlas project is supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The two main aims of the project are to draw up the histories of the two villages and to involve all age groups in the project. As Mike Keating,

project manager for the Village Atlas Project explained, “The contribution from Ford First School is very pleasing as it helps achieve the second aim. We hope it inspires a future generation of historians and archaeologists.”

On TillVAS’ behalf, I delivered a series of workshops which encouraged the children to explore the history of Ford and create their own mini Village Atlas. Pupils researched and designed village trails which were beautifully illustrated using their own photographs. They used a variety of archive sources when carrying out their research including historic maps, old photographs, census records and trade directories. To find out more about the village’s industrial past they also took part in an archaeological dig at Ford Moss Colliery. Archive sources, in particular census records, were used to enhance their understanding of the site at Ford Moss and the people who lived and worked there. Finds from the dig included a lovely piece of clay pipe stamped 'Berwick'.



To reward the children for their hard work and commitment to their local heritage, Archaeology Scotland awarded them Detective Level (Year 1/2) and Bronze Level (Year 3/4) Heritage Hero Awards. The children were presented with their certificates after an entertaining assembly for parents and TillVAS committee members - this included an impressive display of the work they had produced during the project.

Kate Fowler, Archaeology Scotland’s Heritage Training Officer said “Archaeology Scotland are delighted to award the pupils of Hugh Joicey C of E First School the first Heritage Hero Awards in England for their Mini Village Atlas Project. We’ve really enjoyed watching their videos, looking at their photos and hearing all about the work they have done. Jane Miller from Berwick Museum, on behalf of TillVAS, has supported the school through a fantastic project, and we hope everyone involved is very proud of it.”

The school are hoping to run similar local history projects on an annual basis, building on the work they have done this year.



Ford School Children

Jane Miller
Learning and Outreach Officer
Berwick Museum & Art Gallery

A TALENTED BELFORD CLOCKMAKER

As a number of you may know, in recent months the Community Club in Belford, previously the Scotch Church, has had to close due to building problems. During the clearing of the building, a large clock was uncovered which proved to have been donated to the building by an enterprising local, Edward Wilson (of whom more another day) in 1872, and had been made by a known Belford Clockmaker, Thomas Thompson. The clock was not in good condition when the Museum was asked if it would take charge of it, while the problems with the Community Club were addressed. The Museum Committee decided to have the clock restored, and it was taken to Grant Lees in Galashiels who has done a beautiful job on it. When we went

to collect it, he asked if we knew anything about a James Potts from Belford, as he was currently repairing a long case clock with this name and location on the face. We didn't, but a Google search when we got home found a variety of contemporary references to the fact that James Potts, Clock and Watchmaker Belford, had, on November 15, 1800 patented a 'new invented artificial leg and arm'!

As yet we have no further details, but it seems likely that he is the same James Potts who is listed in Western Lane in the 1806 Berwick Trades Directory, so it may be another Friend can add to the tale.

Jane Bowen

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?

Recently a member of our Family History Group which meets in Belford brought an intriguing item to show us. It is a small wooden item with a heart shape in the handle and with the initials A and D carved into it. It appears to be in the shape of a spade or shovel. It is beautifully varnished and in perfect condition despite being almost 140 years old. The photograph shows a £2 coin to indicate the actual size.

It was made by Adam Dunbar for his wife-to-be Annie Balmer both born during the 1850's. Family stories tell how he made it before they married and it was placed outside next to the front door of the house the couple intended to live in upon marriage. After this took place it was moved inside the house and hung beside the fireplace. It seems to be similar to a Welsh love spoon. Small wooden pieces like this are known as treen. Perhaps the spade/shovel represents Adam's trade for he worked as a farm labourer, coal miner and general labourer until his death in 1913. His story is a familiar one to those of us with ancestors in North Northumberland. His parents moved around various farms in Adam's life, but Adam and his wife were firmly settled in Lowick for all their married life. Farm work was poorly paid and many ag labs went on to become miners towards the end of the 19th century, often drifting towards the south of the county. Adam and Annie stayed put, however.



The item has passed down generations to our member who would love to know if this was once a traditional Northumbrian custom which died out. Was it a local custom, a family custom or simply the idea of a young man wanting to impress his sweetheart?

Has anyone seen anything similar in this part of the world? Is there a local name for such a thing?

A mention on Social Media revealed another seen in a house in the Borders many years ago but no photograph is available.

We would love to hear from anyone with any more information. Email north.northumberlandbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

Valerie Glass

A Postscript



Posted in Lowick, 1903

The cottage lived in by Adam and Annie Dunbar, second from left in the postcard, still stands, facing east across Lowick Common. In the 1891 and 1901 census's, the address was recorded as The Common, Lowick and in 1911, as Heddon View. The latter address was changed in 1971, to 1 Lowick Common, by Glendale Rural District Council. Adam's cottage and its neighbour have been converted into one and the taller properties to the right, have been replaced with modern houses.

Valerie Glass and Julie Gibbs

MORE ON NINETEENTH CENTURY HOLIDAYS IN SPITTAL

In the late nineteenth century most of the 200 or more holiday makers who flocked to Spittal each week in late July and August were from the Border towns like Kelso, Hawick and Jedburgh or from the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

However there were some more exotic birds of passage. On 29 August 1890, Mr. Hogg, home address in Cape Colony, South Africa, was staying in Seafield Cottage with "Master Thos. Hogg, home address Selkirk". A return to his roots to see his family? Less obvious is "Mr H. and Mr F. Morris", home address in Japan, were staying at Balmoral House in Spittal on 26 September 1890. Part of Japan's rapid industrialisation after the Meiji revolution of 1868 or traders exploiting the new opportunities? And why Spittal?

Jean Watts

NORHAM AND ISLAND PETTY SESSIONS

'Driving a Motor car in a dangerous manner at Norham Castle or the peculiar construction of Ford motor cars!'

At the Court held on 6 June 1923, Norman Wilson aged 23, a chauffeur, residing at Ford Post Office, was charged with driving in a dangerous manner up Norham Bank on 6 May 1923. Mr HR Peters appearing on Wilson's behalf, registered a plea of not guilty.

Several witnesses, who saw the incident, gave their version of events. Thomas Kennedy, of Blinkbonny, farm labourer, was standing on the top of Norham Bank at about 10pm when he saw a motor car, in which were three men, coming towards Norham. He did not notice who was driving, but the car passed him above the Nursery gates travelling at about 25 mph. He found the car upside down around the corner with the driver and other people attending to an injured lady. He thought the car was going too fast up the Bank but had not seen it go down. Daisy Burns, domestic servant, of South Coates, Castle Terrace, Berwick, was pushing her cycle up the bank from Norham towards Berwick, between 9.30 and 10pm. A car, with bright lights and going at great speed, overtook her near the white gate of the Nursery. She watched it go around the corner and carried on her way and didn't

hear anything. She knew Norham Bank to be a dangerous place, where accidents frequently happened. Margaret Gibson, a domestic servant, of 5 The Avenue, Berwick, was cycling on the Bank with her sister Agnes, and Sidney Charles Jacques, who were pushing their cycles in single file ahead of her. She saw a car coming around the bend but could not estimate the speed. It knocked her down and she received bruises to her face, neck and shoulders. She believed that the car came across to her side of the road, then hit a wall and turned upside down. Her sister was due to give evidence but had been ill ever since with shock and was unable to attend. Jacques, a groom at Etal Manor, thought that the car was going at 30mph but had no experience of driving. After checking Miss Gibson, Jacques had helped lift the car. Wilson, the driver, was underneath and had been drinking. Jacques had heard the horn but not the application of brakes. Oswald Palmer, postman, of Castle View, Norham, was at the east end of the village, when he saw a motor car come around the bend at great speed. On hearing a bang, he went to offer assistance. He thought Wilson was under the influence of drink and could see wheel marks on the wrong side of the road. After the accident, Wilson went to the Police Station and waited for PC Spiers. At about 11.30pm, they went to the Bank to examine the marks on the road with the aid of a cycle lamp. Wilson and Short, who was with him, were both under the influence of drink. Spiers saw drag marks on the road but did not examine the brakes as the car had been moved.

Mr Peters in defence, said that the accident was due to the bad camber of the road and the peculiar construction of the Ford motor cars, which made it difficult to get at the hand brake, while still keeping the foot brake in operation. He explained that when the hand brake was put on, it released the gears so that the engine ran free. When one of these five seaters could be purchased at so reasonable a price, one could not expect them to have all the comforts and appliances of a Rolls Royce. He suggested that the car skidded when the hand brake was applied. Wilson, who described himself as a motor engineer, had had trouble with the carburettor that day and could not go more than 25mph. He had not driven down Castle Bank before but had seen it. At the top of the bank, he slowed and shut off his engine slightly and applied the foot brake. He was on the extreme left of the road. Frank Short, who was sitting beside him, sounded the horn and shouted "look out, there is someone in front." To get to the hand brake, it was necessary to lean round the steering pillar on the left-hand side making it almost impossible to keep one's foot on the brake while doing this. He was an experienced driver, a tester of cars and a tester pilot for aeroplanes during the war and had driven practically every type of car. He had driven the Ford for ten months and had a clean sheet. He was not drunk. He had left Ford at about 5pm with Mr Frank Short and Mr Edward Evans, who were paying for

the ride. They arrived in Berwick about 6.30pm and went to Wheeler's at the Berwick Arms. He had two glasses of beer; before going at 7pm, to Forte's shop in Hide Hill where they stayed for one and a half hours. There was laughter when Superintendent Halliday stated that they could only get ice cream there. They proceeded to Norham, staying three minutes at the Victoria Hotel while having one glass of beer, then four minutes in the Mason's Arms, where they had another. They then went to Velvet Hall and motored about the roads. When asked whether he was having a joy ride, he said he had been paid to take the two men out for a ride. Frank Short and Edward Evans of the Kennels, Slainsfield, corroborated Wilson's evidence.

The Superintendent pointed out that there were millions of Ford cars on the road and that hundreds go up and down the bank. He did not think that 'Mr Ford' would agree that the car was unsafe. The Bench decided not to endorse Wilson's licence on account of his previous good character, but fined him £4 with costs of £1 15s. One month was allowed for payment.

Norham and Islandshire Petty Sessions Register 1915 – 1923 Berwick Record Office: PS/6/1, case number 635, page number 98.

Berwick Advertiser 8 June 1923, page 6, col 1 and 2

Julie Gibbs

WORLD WAR ONE BLOG

During the World War One Project I have been extracting articles from the Berwick Advertiser for the blog dating from 1916 onwards. The articles are entered every fortnight and can be found at: <http://www.northumberlandarchives.com/>

The snippets below are from 24th August 1917:

Berwick Runner's Success – Sergeant Robert Burton, R.E., Tweedmouth, has recently competed in Army Sports Meeting, in the open half mile and open quarter, and entered a team of 4 for re-lay race; and managed to bag the two races, and also help the team to pull off the re-lay. He also had the pleasure of winning the prize presented by the General for the individual champion of the meeting, so, altogether, he has every reason to be quite pleased with his afternoon's work. Hearty

congratulations to Sergeant Burton, our Border Champion, who is the son of Mr Burton, Tweedmouth. Sergeant Burton married the daughter of Mrs Alex. Lounton, Hawick, and formerly of Tweedmouth.

Music at Railway Station – A few evenings ago, residents in the vicinity of Berwick Station were charmed with selections played on an English concertina by a passenger in the 8.45pm Edinburgh to Newcastle express. Crowds on the Railway Bridge listened to a musical treat, the like of which it is not customary to hear outside of music hall circles. What left a deep impression on the assembly was the fact that the musician was an Australian soldier, who, poor fellow, had lost his sight in the war. Although destined to live in perpetual darkness, here was this brave lad still doing his bit to cheer comrades returning to the battlefield.

Carole Pringle

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Many thanks to those who regularly contribute to the Newsletter, making it an interesting and varied read. If you are researching a local family, place or theme, please do consider sharing your findings, whether in the form of an interesting snippet or a longer article. You never know, a Friend may be able to fill in some of the gaps, or perhaps someone in the future, reading the Newsletter online, may be able to help. Please forward copy to me at newsletter@berwickfriends.org.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Julie Gibbs- Editor