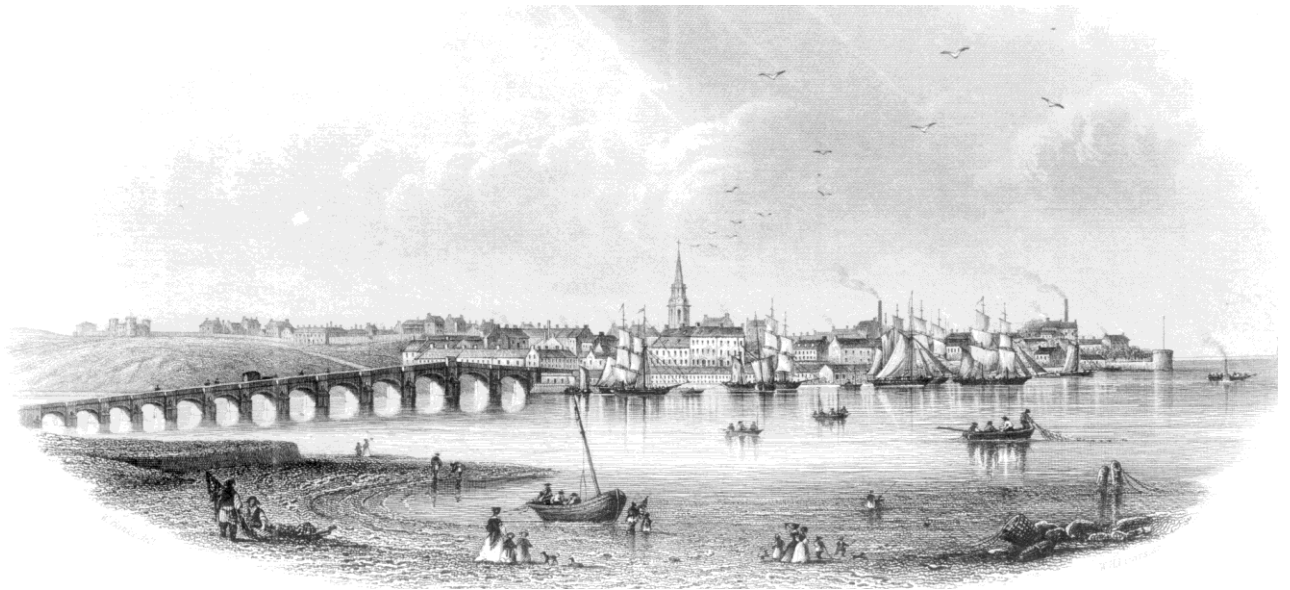


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 94–DECEMBER 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 18th December 2017

Record Office Christmas Coffee Morning in the Parish Centre, Berwick from 10 – 12.

Friday 26th January 2018

Private View of the Photocentre exhibition to be held in the Granary, Dewars Lane – invite to follow

Friday 16th or 23rd March 2018

Friends AGM followed by a talk on an aspect of 16th century Berwick by Catherine Kent. Date to be confirmed

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES



AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 30th January 2018

Ayton Castle; Past, present and Future:

Brian Parsons

Tuesday 27th February

Lifting the Veil on Past Lives-looking at our ancestors' wills and testaments: Margaret Fox

Tuesday 27th March

The Eyemouth to Burnmouth Railway:
Roger Jermy

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 24th January 2018

Berwick Cockles: Cameron Robertson

Wednesday 28th February

A Policeman's Lot 1750 -1950: Dr Ian Roberts

Wednesday 28th March

Northumberland Forestry between WW1 and WW2 speaker to be confirmed

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10th January 2018

A talk by Mr Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy at NCC.

Wednesday 14th February

The Montessori Method of Education:
Maureen McLinden

Wednesday 14th March

A vision for Berwick "Question Time" with a panel of invited guests.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 20th December | Berwick and It's Regiment the K.O.S.B.: Ian Martin |
| Wednesday 17th January 2018 | Projecting Berwick through its History: Derek Sharman |
| Wednesday 21st February | From Castles to Cowsheds: John Grundy |
| Wednesday 21st March | The Coming of the Railway to Berwick: John Wylde |

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in January

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Monday 5th February 2018 | Scotland's early silver- from Roman bribes to Pictish bling: Fraser Hunter |
| Monday 5th March | Whitby Abbey: Tony Wilmot |

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

No lectures in December and January

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday 25th February 2018 | title to be confirmed : Mary Craig |
| Sunday 25th March | The Deid's Leter wills and Legacies-Lifting the Veil on Past Lives: Margaret Fox |

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

No lectures in January

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Monday 5th February 2018 | JB, the PU and HP; medical history with a |
|--------------------------|---|

Monday 5th March

hint of the borders-the last 100 years: Alan
Holmes
Carham 1018: The Battle, the Border and
the dawn of two nations: Clive Hallam-
Baker

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 18th December

Union Chain Bridge: Gordon Miller

Monday 15th January 2018

Tales of the Tweed: Castle Productions

Monday 19th February

Berwickshire Poor: David McLean

Monday 19th March

Around Berwickshire Part Two: John
Rodgerson

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 4th January 2018

William Cowe and Sons: Home of the
Berwick Cockle: Cameron Robertson

Thursday 1st February

Cross Border Crimes: Margaret Fox

Thursday 1st March

6.45pm AGM followed by Border Life in the
1850s: Margaret Jeary

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Duns Social Club, 45 Newtown St, Duns.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 31st January 2018

The Highlanders at the Battle of Balaclava:
Lt.Col Malcolm McVittie

Wednesday 28th February

The Story of Duns Parish Church: Kenneth
McLean

Wednesday 28th March

Abbey St. Bathans to Otago New Zealand:
John Turnbull Thomson

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 13th December | Mills, milling and traditional bread making: David Harris-Jones |
| Wednesday 10th January 2018 | Archaeology in the North-East: Richard Carlton |
| Wednesday 14th February | Alnwick Castle and the history of St Cloud State University: Wade Sherman |
| Wednesday 14th March | The Alnwick-Coldstream Railway: retracing its history: Rt Revd Dr Stephen Plattern |

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Monday 11th December | Coal Mining in North Northumberland: Harry Wilson |
| Monday 8th January 2018 | Lowick in an Octopus's Garden: The geological origins of Lowick and surrounding area: Richie Blake |
| Monday 12th February | The Sitwells, part 2; "Imperial Ambitions": John Daniels |
| Monday 12th March | The Nuisance of Lowick, part 2: From 1911; Researched by Julie Gibbs; a story with cast |

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 24th January 2018 | The Mystery of Mr Nightingale: George Scott |
| Wednesday 28th February | The Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords: Linda Bankier |

Wednesday 22nd March

Northumbrian Murders: Phil Rowett

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Saturday 20th January 2018

Members' Stories

Saturday 17th February

The Archives of the Duke of
Northumberland: Chris Hunwick

Saturday 17th March

Members' Stories

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Ford Westfield Farm in the 19th Century:
David Lockie

Wednesday 7th February

Northumbrian Earth: Dr Ian Kille,
Geologist

Wednesday 7th March

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

ARCHIVE NEWS



Well, Christmas has come round yet again and it has been another busy year in the Record Office. The last few months have certainly kept Carole and I on our toes. The following is just a flavour of what we have been up to.

Just after the last newsletter was sent out, we took part in Heritage Open Days in Berwick. This year, the Record Office put on a two day exhibition in the Town Hall –

Facades of the Fifties – thanks to the generosity of the Freeman Trustees who allowed us to use the hall at no charge. We had a really successful weekend with over 900 people visiting the display and watching the films. There was a lot of reminiscing going on and some wonderful stories coming out of it. Many thanks to all the Friends who helped steward as I couldn't have done it without you.

Since then, we seem to have been involved in a succession of events. We supported the Film Festival by mounting a display on the former Council Office/Prison as this was one of the venues. We also supported the Literary Festival with a joint session with Colin Fleetwood who was originally a volunteer on the Waite and Sea Project. Colin was intrigued by the story of Grace Griffen, the last person to be hanged in Berwick in 1824. He wrote a radio play interweaving her story with a modern one which was presented at the Festival. We recorded the Grace sections in the Town Hall back in September to give it all an authentic feel, including in the condemned cell. The Parish Centre was packed for the live performance of the final play (past and present) which worked very well. Colin is now planning to submit the play to the BBC. After the play, some of the audience came back to the Record Office to see some of the sources used by Colin in his research. This was a great collaborative project and hopefully one we can do again.

Work is still continuing on the Peregrini Project. The main project will end at the end of December but the community archive element will continue a bit longer as we can only do some of our work now – cataloguing and archiving information. Over the past couple of months, we have been concentrating on research and disseminating information. At the end of September we finished the Holy Island Churchyard Survey which will be typed up over the winter. Otherwise, most work has been put into producing articles for the final publication, producing another book and data entering for the Professor Sheddick database. At the moment we have a series of hand written cards relating to Holy Island individuals from the 18th to 20th centuries – about 4,500! We have now, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers entered about 1,500 of these and over 900 have been double checked and entered into the final database. This will be an amazing resource once we finish it but there is still plenty to do. Over the past year, three volunteers, also members of the Belford Hidden Museum Group have been researching the Greenwich Hospital records at Kew and other sources to find out about the mills at Waren and Spindlestone. This has led to the production of a book which was launched recently (see publication list for further details). The overall Peregrini Project is also producing a book based on volunteers'

contributions which should be available shortly. Peregrini has been a big commitment for the Record Office but one well worth doing.

The Record Office still does education work as and when it can. This term I have worked with Year 6 pupils in Tweedmouth Middle School on a local project looking at the area in the past and particularly post 1948. I have talked to the whole year about Berwick's history and then spent time with each individual class looking at an early 1970s films about the town and trying out our Facades game – match modern and old shopfronts. I have also used the same films with A level Geography students at Longridge Towers.

Recently, I've also given a number of talks to Wooler Luncheon Club; Wooler U3A and Lowick Heritage Group on the Our Families Project; Maritime Berwick and Bridges of the Lower Tweed.

As well as this Carole and I have to keep the service ticking over. The office is still well used by the public on our open days – our numbers are staying constant whilst they are declining at many other archives with more people doing work online. We have a dedicated group of volunteers working away on public days but we have other visitors too, including academics; students; people wanting to find out about the history of their property or their family history and those with historical questions that we might be able to help them with. The latter can be a challenge but we're there to help.

It's hard to believe that another year is over. However, let's look forward to 2018 and hope that it allows the Record Office to continue to thrive and develop its links with the local community and further afield. Happy Christmas !

Linda Bankier

CHRISTMAS IN 1917



By December 1917, the population were getting very tired of the war and the relentless effects it had on their lives – death of loved ones and coping with shortages at home. The following entries from the Berwick Advertiser give a flavour of Christmas at this time :

7 DECEMBER 1917

CORNHILL – Collections made in Cornhill for the purpose of sending each soldier belonging to the village a parcel for Christmas amounted to the splendid total of £24. There are 30 soldiers to whom parcels are being sent. Of these, 15 are in France, 3 in Egypt, 1 in Malta and 10 in England. Owing to certain orders restricting the despatch of parcels to prisoners of war, it was decided to send money instead of a parcel to Mr Fish, headmaster of the CE School who has been a prisoner in Germany for more than two years. Each parcel contains a cake, tin of tongue, caramels, oat cakes, Oxo cubes, dates, writing pad, cigarettes, soap, candles, handkerchief, towel, half a crown and two pairs of socks. The socks were given by Mrs Collingwood, on behalf of the members of the Cornhill Branch of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild.

28 DECEMBER 1917

Households found the provision of a Christmas dinner a costly business this year, the succulent pheasant selling up to 16/- per brace. In a crowded shop in the town everyone seemed to be after sausages and the butcher was heard to ask plaintively, "Does no one want beef". Geese were also in great demand. "There is so much nutriment in that weak minded bird".

An entertainment was given in the Playhouse on Monday afternoon to 1000 school children, whose fathers or brothers are serving or have served in the Army or Navy during the present war. The idea originated with County Alderman Thomas Darling, who collected the necessary funds from his friends. A series of picture was shown, and a conjurer gave a display. Needless to say, the young folks were delighted. After the singing of the National Anthem, Mr Willits moved a vote of thanks to Mr Darling and the other donors and expressed the pleasure that the treat would give, not only to the children but to the brave men who are fighting for us.

A QUIET CELEBRATION

Shorn of the many attractions, which made the celebration of the Festive Season a pleasure eagerly looked forward to, Christmas Day passed off this year quietly and in keeping with times. Cold weather prevailed and occasional blasts of snow and hail, driven before a northerly gale, the lot of pedestrians who had occasion to get about during the day was far from pleasant. The restrictions of the Railway Service and the almost prohibitive fares, reduced the number of travellers to a minimum, the majority of the townspeople spending the season of Peace and Goodwill within the

sanctity of their own homes. ... Surely it is not too much to hope that in the years to come we will be spared the sight and attention of the maudlin toper. The food problem gave many anxious thoughts to housewives and the exorbitant prices prevailing for the customary Christmas goose or duck, proved to be outside the reach of the poorer households. Notwithstanding the trials and trouble at the present, the greater part of the townspeople, we are convinced, made the most of the day.

THE POST OFFICE

Work at the Post Office was not up to the average of former years, and there were indications of a diminution in parcels as well as Christmas Missives. As a consequence, the traffic was kept well in control, though the ordinary staff were somewhat hard put to it to cope with all the demands. Presents to the “boys at the front” have this year largely taken the place of the usual parcels, and the dispatch of these having taken place considerably in advance of the great festival, largely tended to relieve the burdensome part of the pressure, which was so distinguishing a feature at the Post Office at this season.

SPITTAL – THE CINEMA GIRLS

Being about the whole holiday these girls who are employed at the Picture House can get altogether during the year, they took the opportunity of having a little social meeting together in Spittal Hall on Christmas night. To the number of twenty six, they provided themselves an excellent repast, in the Lodge Room, and spent the remainder of the evening in harmony.

TWEEDMOUTH OLD PEOPLE’S SUPPER

All roads in Tweedmouth on Thursday night, 26th inst., led to the Union Hotel (Mr Bradford’s) the occasion being the “Old People’s Supper and Entertainment”. If there is one event in the year looked forward to and worth looking forward to by our Tweedmouth veteran it is this well known festive gathering. Although a persistent downpour of rain made the outside world miserable in the extreme, it did not in the least hinder the plucky old guests from assembling in the tastefully decorated upper room of the Union Hotel. Tickets issued and returned must have brought the number of participants in the supper up to eighty, and filled the room to its utmost capacity, They came singly and in couples, many with their aged partners, with whom they have climbed life’s rugged steps together, all of them now showing the indelible and unmistakable signs, which tell they have reached the top, and are going slowly down the other side. As one looked at the assembly of age worn men and women, fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers of many of our heroic young

“Twempies” who are fighting to keep our homes intact, a feeling of pathos, mingled with honourable pride filled our souls,,,,,

The proceedings opened punctually at 5.30.....Supper by this time was on the table and was of a plain but substantial character, consisting of roast beef and rabbit pie, together with potatoes and turnip, followed by apple tart, in place of other dainties which were served out in former years, and which are now only memories on all such occasions. The cooking and culinary efforts left no room for adverse criticism, everything being perfect, and spoke volumes for those who had the prodigious task laid upon them of satisfying such a company. The tarts were a speciality, and were the production of Mr McLaughlan, our local Co-operative Society’s baker, to whom every credit is due. An appetising aroma pervaded the room and the general feeling was one of healthy gratification, the work of the stewards was carried out with quiet precision and order....

To sum up the success of the night can be safely attributed to one cause, i.e. having the right people in the right place at the right time. The work is taken up as a labour of love and in this the secret lies. Mr and Mrs Bradford and we may safely say family, go into it heart and soul : Mr Watson is indefatigable in the duties incumbent on him in the dual official position of Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee’s work is made both pleasant and comparatively easy owing to their appeals for aid being so ungrudgingly responded to.... Although the war has upset the calculations of many bodies such as we are dealing with, it is gratifying to know that this event, although having been held thirty seven times, shows no sign of age or decrepitude but rather indications of a vitality never before equalled, this no doubt due to the unfailing enterprise of all interested in its reputation and future destiny....

Mr Bradford has now catered for the old people eleven years. The singing of “God Save the King” brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

Linda Bankier

PUBLICATIONS AND PHOTOCNETRE EXHIBITION

BOOKS

Two new publications have been printed by the Record Office in the past couple of weeks :

Snapshots of the Sixties – this is the Friends new publication of a selection of photos from the Photocentre collection. It documents a changing era in Berwick including the visit of pop stars, a bed race and the shipyard. Copies are available from the Record Office - £8.99. Postage and packing is an additional £1.50.

The Tale of Two Mills – Spindleston & Waren 1735 – 1914 - this book written by Jane Bowen & Karon Ives documents the history of these mills which originally belonged to the Greenwich Hospital Estate. It is a fascinating read telling the story of how the mills were developed and the stories of people involved in them. Copies are available priced £8.00. Postage and packing is an additional ***.

In addition, we still have copies of :

Tracing your Family History in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal – if you are interested in tracing your family history in this area, this book talks about sources available and provides case studies on using them. Cost £8.99 + £2.50 for postage and packing.

Please contact the Record Office for further details about these books.

PHOTOCENTRE EXHIBITION

Over the past couple of months, Cameron Robertson who put together the exhibition on the Cowe buildings, has been beavering away in the archives of the Photocentre collection to find images for his forthcoming exhibition in the Granary which will take place from the end of January to early May. You will all receive an invitation to the Private View but please do support the exhibition and encourage people to go along once it is opened. Many of the images you will not have seen before and will cover all aspects of the business' work from taking images for news stories and weddings to baby and children portraits. We'll send out further details later.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS



LENNEL KIRK PROJECT

Lennel Kirk first appears in the historic record in the 1120s. However, it has long been thought that an earlier Anglo Saxon church lies beneath the ruined building that is visible today. In recent years the kirk had fallen into disrepair and was becoming unsafe. Noticing the deterioration of the building, members of the local community began to raise funds to carry out essential repairs and archaeological investigations.

Coldstream's Heritage Limited Community Interest Company co-ordinated the Lennel Kirk Project. The project had four aims:

1. to conserve and make safe the kirk structure
2. establish the findings and results of archaeological excavation
3. research further the history and context of the kirk
4. to engage significant volunteering across aims (1) to (3) and for these volunteers to learn a lot and enjoy the experience.

Information about the Lennel Kirk Project can be found on Coldstream History Society's website: www.coldstreamhistorysociety.co.uk

Among the volunteers who took part in the archaeological excavations were pupils from Coldstream Primary School and members of Flodden Young Archaeologists' Club.



To encourage the school to continue to visit and explore Lennel Kirk, I was asked to create a Learning Resource Box. The box was to include background information, activity ideas and resources for primary aged pupils.

There was a wealth of information from the archaeological excavations and from the graveyard survey carried out by Coldstream History Society;

more than enough for one learning resource box... so we have ended up with two! One box focusses on the kirk, while the other looks at the kirkyard.

Lennel Kirk Box

The kirk box looks at the building of Lennel Kirk and its early links to religious houses on both sides of the border.

Building the Kirk - Role play cards encourage pupils to take on the role of medieval stone masons, mortar mixers, carpenters, blacksmiths etc. whilst looking for evidence of their 'trade' within the ruined kirk. Replica medieval costumes help them to get into role.

Exploring the Kirk - The History Detective activities get children to look for evidence in the fabric of the historic building - hunting out hidden gravestones, blocked up windows and long lost towers. To help them with their task, binoculars, tape measures and magnifying glasses are included in the box.

Here you can see a small headstone, probably 17th century, re-used in the south wall of the nave. There is a second very similar one in the churchyard.



The second learning resource box looks at the kirkyard and includes detailed plans of the site with every grave individually marked.

Kirkyard Survey - Information cards and recording sheets encourage pupils to carry out their own graveyard survey - recording written information and symbols on gravestones as well as details of their current physical condition.

'A Kirkyard Tells the History of a Community' - There is so much of interest in Lennel Kirkyard that it was difficult to know where to start! Looking through the graveyard survey carried out by Coldstream History Society, one particular grave stood out; that of Richard Lillico the butcher. Lillico was one of many local people described in the journal of 28 year old Beatrix Potter during her stay at Lennel House in the summer/autumn of 1894. This inspired a creative writing activity for younger pupils. Story cards were produced for characters and places, supported by

primary historical sources such as 1891 census records and original photographs featuring the named trades people and their businesses. Children can create their own Beatrix Potter style story using local characters, animals and places. Extracts

from Beatrix Potter's journal describing her stay at Lennel are included in the box, as are some replica Victorian costumes for the children to try on.



A small selection of the resources included in the Lennel Kirk and Kirkyard boxes.

We really hope that the Lennel Learning Resource Boxes will encourage staff and pupils from Coldstream Primary School to visit, explore and research Lennel Kirk for years to come.

Jane Miller, Learning and Outreach Officer, Berwick Museum & Art Gallery

BERWICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS : A RELATIONSHIP



A Relationship “of a character most prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the Workhouse”.

In March 1888 the Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the Berwick Union received a letter dated 23 March 1888, from Christian Taylor Sherriff, Nurse at the Berwick Workhouse, containing a list of complaints of the treatment she was receiving from John and Hannah Rutherford, Master and Matron of the Workhouse respectively. The Guardians decided that the case should be fully investigated and that a committee, consisting of all the Guardians, would be formed and a meeting was set for 3 April.

In the minutes from a meeting held on 9 April we learn the nature of the complaints.

They were:

1. Change of day for giving out rations, leading her to lose three days of ration.
2. When she complained about this to the Matron she was called a liar.
3. She was called a "bloody blackguard" by the Master in front of the inmates, when he brought a woman called Susan McGuinness, an inmate, to the hospital ward to visit her husband.
4. On five different occasions the Master had come to the hospital ward at night, unlocked the door and pulled the bell furiously and thumped his hands and feet.

After the Guardians had questioned some of the people involved, a report was made and sent to Mr William E Knolley, Local Government Board Inspector, in Richmond, Yorkshire. He decided that an official enquiry needed to be established and a date was set for 28 May 1888. He also asked Mr and Mrs Rutherford and Miss Sherriff to submit a list of witnesses they wanted examined.

The enquiry, which was open to the public, was reported in great detail in the *Berwick Advertiser* on 1 June, and it gives us a fascinating insight into life at the Workhouse, and in this case into the hostile atmosphere that existed between some members of the staff.

It took place at the Board Room at the Workhouse. A number of Guardians were present as well as Mr H A Peters, Deputy Clerk to the Guardians, and Dr Heagerty (I take this to be a printing error as the only medical doctor that spoke at the enquiry was Dr Maclagan, who was Medical Officer at the Workhouse). Mr and Mrs Rutherford were represented by Mr W Weatherhead, solicitor, and nobody represented Miss Sherriff.

Mr Knolly decided that the complaints should be dealt with separately. The first one was the question of rations. Miss Sherriff, Workhouse Nurse since 30 August 1886, informed them that she had always got her rations of tea, coffee, barley and soft sugar on a Friday, and this had worked until Miss Davidson was appointed Girls' Attendant on 23 January 1888, but on the Friday before the arrival of Miss Davidson, when she sent her attendant, an inmate called Isabella Burns, to collect her rations she was told that they were not due until Monday when Miss Davidson would also be there. Hannah Rutherford, Matron at the Workhouse since 1875, when asked when she had changed the day for handing out rations answered that she could not remember, but that Miss Davidson's name had not been mentioned in

connection with the change, which as far as she thought might have taken place when the nurse came back from her holidays the previous year in October or November. Mrs Rutherford said that the reason was that the Auditor had wished to change to Monday as it was the beginning of the week. Here Mr Peters interrupted saying that the Auditor had said nothing about changing the issue of the rations, and that audits for 1887 were held on 27 September and 28 November, and that Miss Sherriff's holiday had been from 18 October. Mr Weatherhead said that he had never, during the seven years he had lived in Berwick, had any complaints regarding the management of the Workhouse, but Mr Knollys replied to this *"I have papers before me regarding complaints as to what I consider the general management of the Workhouse."*

However, the question of what had been given out in rations when and to whom should have been easily answered by looking at the Master's Consumption of Provisions Book, but it was not. When Mr Rutherford was questioned about this, it turned out that it was based on lists of what the individual officer was due rather than what had actually been given out. This meant that in cases where an officer was absent, and therefore not receiving rations, the Consumption of Provisions Book would give a false impression of the situation. Mr Knollys' conclusion of this practice was *"This book ought to clinch the question, because it is supposed to be entered up at the time, if it had been properly kept, it would have shown at once who was right and who was wrong . . . There is a note here that the quantities and articles taken from the stores for the officers are to be entered at the time when taken"*.

Relations between the Nurse and the Master and Matron deteriorated further in March. Miss Sherriff said that after the change of day for giving out rations she decided never to send for them but have them delivered to the hospital. On 13 March she did not receive and did not request her rations. The following week some rations were sent to her, but, according to the Nurse, only for one week. When the Nurse went to the kitchen to point this out to the Matron she was met with *"a towering rage"* and accusation that she was always complaining. During this exchange the Master arrived and said *"Be off out of here; we don't want you here. You ought to have been out of the place long ago."* To which the Nurse answered *"Yes; you have tried that hard enough; if you don't get it by fair means, you'll have it by foul."* As the Matron turned round to go back into the cookhouse she was heard saying *"There she is, the liar. She says she has not got her rations last week; and she did."* Maria Gray and Hannah Kinghorn, who both worked in the kitchen,

witnessed the exchange, but as they were both certified as imbecile their testimony, if given, could not be relied on. Isabella Blackhall, an inmate for 12 years, then gave a somewhat contradictory account of what had happened. Her testimony was further compromised when she freely acknowledged that people had talked to her about the affair since she got the summons to appear.

Mrs Rutherford's testimony was more or less a point for point rebuff of what Miss Sherriff had said and done, and accusing the Nurse of *"flying at me like a dog when she first came up"*, and also remarked that the Nurse claimed to have seen her take a woman by the hair of her head. Nevertheless the Nurse had got her rations for two weeks and not just one, she sent down a week's ration after the Nurse had left the kitchen, and this could be seen as an indirect admission that the Matron was at fault. Again Mr Knollys pointed out that if the books had been kept properly this could easily have been checked.

Mr Rutherford then gave his account of what happened, but this only added to the confusion, when Mr Knollys said *"Mr Weatherhead, no doubt you notice that the evidence of the Master and Matron do not agree"*. To which Mr Weatherhead answered *"They are substantially correct."*

The third charge was one of distribution of power and authority between the Master and the Nurse, and was based on an elderly couple Jimmie and Susan McGuinness. He was in bad health and the couple had been urged to agree to have him admitted to the Workhouse hospital. They were apparently very reluctant to do so, but the promise that they would be able to see each other often convinced them. When Miss Sheriff found Susan entering the ward where her husband was she questioned her and was told that she was ordered by *"them that have the right to the place."* Later that day the Nurse found out that the Master had said *"that you can go every day to see him"*. This went on for about a week, Susan would come to see her husband every day, but on 19 March the Nurse barred her from entering the men's ward and said that she would not let her in unless she got an order from either the Master, Doctor, or the Guardians, and she had received no such order. Susan claimed that the Nurse had slammed the door in her face, but the Nurse argued that the door had slammed shut due to a strong draught caused by the stormy weather. Later in the day Susan returned to the hospital together with the Master, and the following took place: "I [the Nurse] said to him, *'Now, you have no right to do that, and not tell me'* He waved his hand and said, *'Be off; I'm Master here.'*" To which the Nurse replied *"I am nurse; and while I do my work I shall keep my position."* At which

point, according to the Nurse, the Master could not contain himself any longer and muttered something and said *"You bloody blackguard."* This is clearly a case of territory as the Nurse said at the enquiry that she had no objection to Susan visiting her husband but by allowing her to come without her having been informed all the power was taken from her. She said *"I have control of the hospital; I got that from the Guardians under the direction of the medical officer. I should never have objected had I known that Susan McGuinness was coming."*

This was the end of the first day of the enquiry. To be continued in the next newsletter.

Lars Rose

Sources: GBR 58, Minute Book of the Guardians of the Berwick Union. GBR 84, Correspondence Book of the Guardians of the Berwick Union. Berwick Advertiser 1 June 1888.

BRANXTON & CROOKHAM VILLAGE ATLAS



In 2013, The Till Valley Archaeological Society began to compile a "Village Atlas" based on the two villages of Branxton and Crookham, seeking to record the development of the area from as far back as possible and including the establishment and life of the village schools.

During research into Crookham School, one of our members, Valerie Glass, was attracted by information relating to a local boy named Andrew Todd who, although of a humble background, was able to continue his studies at Glasgow University. As this was most unusual at the time, she attempted to follow his life story and following a chance meeting with some of his descendants, his most adventurous life became apparent and a 60 page book was published by Vivien Wilcocks. A brief account of the life of Andrew Todd is below.

As a result of this success, other "People of Note" were identified and researched. Their potted histories will appear in the next newsletter.

ANDREW TODD.

Andrew Todd was born in Crookham about 1843, the son of George Todd, an agricultural labourer and his wife, Sarah. (Census Return 1851) There were three other children, James, Ellen and William. By 1861 Andrew's father had become a Rate Collector and Andrew was a Pupil Teacher at the Presbyterian School (later to become the Council School) His indenture as Pupil teacher is noted in the Kirk Session Minutes in 1857 under the Master, Alexander Carmichael. However, as a result of dissension between the Master, the parents and congregation, Mr. Carmichael was given notice to quit the following year.

Andrew was then assigned to a new Master, David Gourlay until 1864, when aged 21, he was awarded a "Williams" bursary (£40 a year for four years) and admitted to Glasgow University where he studied English, Greek, Latin, Logics, Ethics, Mathematics, and Physics, obtaining his MA in 1870. These bursaries were set up to support the cause of Protestant Dissent in England and recipients were supposed to eventually become preachers in England.

By 1871 (Census) obviously after a change of direction, he was a maths teacher at an independent boy's school in Berkshire. Then the trail went cold and he would seem to have disappeared. However, as a result of a chance meeting in Ford Parish Church the rest of his life story became known and his diaries, recording his voyage to New Zealand became available.

In 1874, apparently for health reasons, he undertook a sea voyage to New Zealand, leaving behind a lady-friend, Blanche Jones, but intending to return. She later followed him, and they married in 1876 and brought up a family of four. Having studied civil engineering at University and having the forethought to take his surveying instruments with him he was quite able to find work and eventually became a government surveyor, a post he held for eight years. The outdoor life was beneficial to his health and in 1893, he and his family emigrated to America, settling in Oregon where he became a Government Land Surveyor, later becoming a farmer, starting from scratch with a heavily timbered piece of land which was not a financial success. After 25 years of doing the outdoor work he loved he died in 1908 as a result of an accident, aged 63 years.

His diaries survived, and a book describing his life was published by relatives in England and copies are available from the Till Valley Archaeological Society.

Information from: (1) Census Returns ; (2) Descendants of Andrew Todd and (3) The original diaries of the voyage to Australia.

Maureen Charlton and Valerie Glass

SUDDEN FIRE BAILIFF'S COURT BOOK



The Bailiffs' Court book covers the late 16th century in Berwick and dealt with various matters including misdemeanours and general local administration. The following order, made in 1568 shows measures undertaken to deal with a sudden fire.

For provisyon againste sodden fyer¹

They ffinde and presentt that of auncyentt tyme heretofore their hathe bene many good orders maide and observed for the common welthe and suretye of the towne and we finde one especiall good order in recorde, that ys to saye that everye councillor and alderman with other officers of this towne shoulde have in their houses twoe leathers and a hooke readye at all tymes for restrainte of sodden fyre.

As alsoe we finde that the governor and councill shoulde cause to be made one howke of a stone of jron² with a rope of thirtye falthome³ and Mr Mayor and his brethen likewise cause a nother to be maide and the same howkes with their roapes to be in custodye of the Mayor within the toleboothe alwayes readye for service in the premisses whiche good and necessarye order we praye maye be observed and put in vse againe as heretofore it hathe bene.

1 'sudden fire' 2 'hook made of iron' 3 'rope made mostly in fathoms or by weight'

Wendy & Alan Urwin

THE MANSION HOUSE HOLY ISLAND



**TO BE LET, FURNISHED, FOR THE BATHING SEASON,
THE MANSION HOUSE at HOLY ISLAND
With WARM, COLD, and SHOWER BATHS.**

Newcastle Courant 15 Aug 1845

TERMS

The whole HOUSE, consisting of three Sitting and six Lodging Rooms, with spacious Attics, two Kitchens, 4-stalled Stable, Coach-house, a small Garden, and other Conveniences; also, the Use of the Baths, per Week, £4 4 0

Or, for the Accommodation of small Families,

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Sitting Rooms, each | per week ... | 0 15 0 |
| Lodging Rooms, each | do. ... | 0 10 6 |
| Use of Coach-house & Stable, | do. ... | 0 10 6 |

N.B. The Lodgers will find their own Linen, or Pay for the Washing of such as is furnished by the Proprietor.

The Housekeeper will provide Attendants, at the Expense of such Lodgers as may not have Servants.

BATHS

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| Warm Sea Water, each ... | | 2s 6d |
| Warm Fresh do. ... | | 2s 0d |
| Shower Baths, Salt or Fresh Water, each ... | | 0s 6d |

Application to be made to the Housekeeper at the Mansion House, Holy Island; to J.S.D. Selby, Esq., Cheswick, near Berwick on Tweed; or to Mr Wm. Lowrey, Barmoor.

N.B. These Premises will be Let on Lease for one, three, or five Years, if desired; and suitable Terms can be agreed on. Cheswick, August 2nd, 1845.

Karon Ives

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS



Berwick Advertiser, 13 October 1871

SCHOONER STRANDED AT GOSWICK

On Saturday morning between twelve and one o'clock the schooner Pennon Castle, Williams, of Carnarvon, came ashore on Goswick sands, just in a line with Windmill Hill Station. She sailed on Thursday from North Sunderland with 348 barrels of herrings, belonging to Mr James Cowe, Berwick, intending to complete her cargo in our port, and is said to have been off the harbour on Friday signalling for a tug, but she was not noticed. On Friday night the weather became stormy-gusts of wind and rain- and those on board could see nothing; but hearing the sound of the surf they tried to stand out to sea when the ship would not stay, and in attempting to wear her she struck the sands. As the tide was ebbing the crew were able in a short time to walk ashore. The schooner is old, 69 tons register, and is insured for £326. The cargo, which was not insured, was got out very little injured on Saturday and Sunday at ebb tide. The mast, rigging, sails, &c., have been landed, and with the wreck were sold yesterday afternoon for £82. Mr Strother was auctioneer.

Berwick Advertiser, 20 October 1871

BOAT RACE

On Friday afternoon the disputed race at the late Regatta of the Berwick Amateur Club between Yeoman's and Mossman's four-oared crews for the Castle Hills Challenge Cup, was decided. The race was run in foy-fours, and the names of the crews with their colours : -

J. Paxton, R. Weatherhead, R. Marshall, G. Yeoman (stroke), J. Robertson (cox),
red

J. M. Elliot, D. W. Darling, W. R. Wilson, J. Mossman (stroke), R. Spowart (cox) *blue*

The course was from New Water Haugh to a boat stationed a short distance above the railway bridge. Mr W. Young, who officiated as starter, got both boats away on pretty even terms. Mossman's crew, who were on the Tweedmouth side of the river, at once took the lead, which they maintained till Grove House was reached, where both boats were nearly level, Yeoman's crew passed their competitors after a hundred yards further rowing, and gradually increasing the distance between the two boats, won easily by two lengths. The winning crew become possessed of five silver mounted presentation horns.

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



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