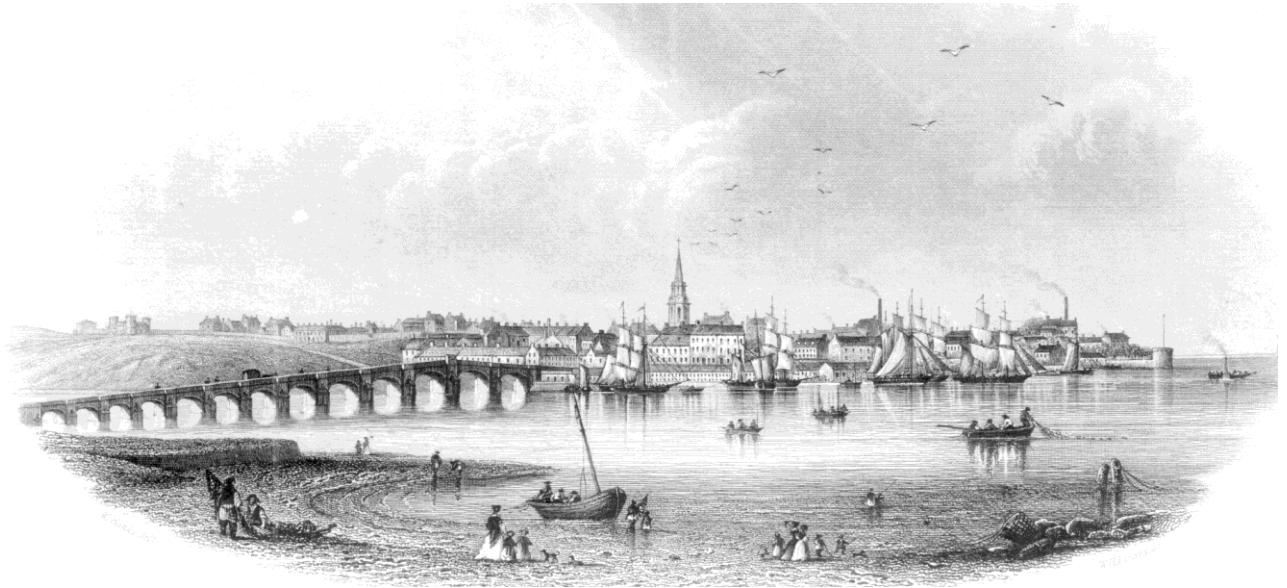


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 95—FEBRUARY 2018

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 16th March 2018

Friends AGM at 7pm followed by a talk at 7.45pm: Dr Catherine Kent - "One perfytt Book": the 1562 Survey of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Parish Centre, Berwick. Papers enclosed

Until 13th May 2018

The Archive of Smith, Berwick at the Granary Gallery, Berwick. Wednesday to Sunday 11-4pm

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 27th March

The Eyemouth to Burnmouth Railway:

Roger Jermy

Tuesday 24th April

Guided Tour of Berwick Walls

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 28th February

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

Wednesday 28th March

Northumberland Forestry between WW1 and WW2: Roger Jermy

Wednesday 25th April

'Belaney, The North Sunderland Poisoner': Philip Rowett

Wednesday 23rd May

The Siege of Lindisfarne: Michael Thomson

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 26h February

A talk by Mrs Daljit Lally, Chief Executive, NCC & Executive Director Delivery, Northumbria Healthcare, NHS Foundation Trust.

Wednesday 14th March

Question Time "A vision for Berwick" with Michael Wright

Wednesday 11th April

AGM , Parish Centre, 7.00pm. Followed by a talk given by Mr Ian McCafferty, Building Conservation Officer, NCC.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 21st March	The Coming of the Railway to Berwick: John Wylde
Wednesday 18th April	AGM , Parish Centre, 6.45pm followed by a talk: "The Battle of Carham 1018": James Bruce

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 5th March	Whitby Abbey: Tony Wilmott
Monday 9th April	Durham and the Battle of Dunbar: identifying Scottish soldiers at Palace Green, Durham: Richard Annis
Monday 7th May	Finding a Lost Lindisfarne Estate: Colm O'Brien
Monday 4th June	The Archaeology of St John Lateran and the Transformation of Rome from Caesar to Constantine.

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St. Peter's Church Hall, Galashiels

Time: 2.30p.m.

Sunday 25th March	The Deid's Letter wills and Legacies-Lifting the Veil on Past Lives: Margaret Fox
Sunday 29th April	The Witch Hunt in Scotland: Roy Pugh
Sunday 27th May 2018	Political Disturbances in the Borders: Norrie McLeish. The talk will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 5th March

Carham 1018: The Battle, The Border and the Dawn of Two Nations: Clive Hallam-Baker

Monday 16th April

A history of bee keeping in Northumberland: Willie Robson

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 19th March

Around Berwickshire Part Two: John Rodgerson

Monday 16th April

Lost Village of Bonkle : Christopher Bowles

Monday 21st May

Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed: Jim Evans

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 1st March

6.45pm AGM. 7.30pm Border Life in the 1850's: Margaret Jeary

Thursday 5th April

The Great Hawick Election Riot of 1857: Norrie McLeish

Thursday 3rd May

The Borders in Blood: Richard Moore (talk read by Martha Andrews)

Thursday 7th June

Field trip to North Charlton Farm Museum

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 28th February

The Story of Duns Parish Church: Kenneth McLean

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 28th February	The Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 22nd March	Northumbrian Murders: Phil Rowett
Wednesday 26th April	Mission to Seamen : Claire McIntosh
Wednesday 24th May	Warkworth it's building and histories: Peter Regan

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 17th March	Members' Stories, Finding your ancestors: practical tips
Saturday 21st April	Lords of the Manor of Bamburgh-the Rise and Fall of the Forster Family: Carol Griffiths
Saturday 19th May	Annual General Meeting

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 7th March	Early Bronze Age Burial Practices in NE England and SE Scotland: Dr Chris Fowler.
Wednesday 4th April	AGM followed by a talk- Mardon 2017: Richard Carlton
Wednesday 2nd May	Bioarchaeology – a scientific study of human remains from archaeological excavations: Dr.Kirsty McCarrison, Osteoarchaeologist (Durham)
Wednesday 6th June	Place names in Northumberland: Professor Diana Whaley

ARCHIVE NEWS

It hasn't been long since we produced the last newsletter but it has still been a busy period for the Record Office. At the beginning of December, we took part in a very successful Peregrini Volunteer Conference on Holy Island. The Community Archive element of the project is not finished yet. Following some training on our cataloguing software and our new website with Community Sites, I have been working with a number of volunteers on populating it. It's a challenge and we have had several meetings but we are getting there and would hope to launch the Islandshirearchives website at the end of April. In the Peregrini Project, we are still continuing our work on Professor Sheddick data entering and we are still investigating the Reading Room as a permanent home for the archives on the Island.

Apart from Peregrini, the archives has been very busy with the Photo Centre exhibition which opened in the Granary at the end of January. We had an opening night on 26th January which was attended by about 150 people which was far more than we expected. However, it was lovely to see people enjoy the photographs and appreciate all the work that Cameron Robertson has put in curating the exhibition. We have had really positive feedback about it all and we are looking to run a couple of sessions where people can come along and contribute information about the pictures. We are also hoping to run a school project in conjunction with the exhibition. There is still plenty of time for you to go and see it – runs to 13 May – and so, please do pop along.

During January, Jane Miller and I attended some training at Newcastle University through our involvement with the Learning Arc (NE Education Group). The training related to the community curriculum and evaluation and leading on from that, Jane and I will deliver a pilot project on cholera in Berwick with Berwick Academy in the summer term. This is an exciting project for both of us and gives us the chance to work with new partners and learn about new thinking in education.

The last couple of weeks have been busy with talks and outreach. As part of promoting the Photocentre exhibition to teachers, Cameron and I attended a Cluster Meeting for Arts Teachers in the Granary. I have also run a Film Show for Paxton Village Hall and in mid February, I gave a talk to a group at Chatton Village Hall on archive sources for the First World War.

This is just a flavour of what we have been doing on top of the daily work of running the office and providing the public service on Wednesdays and Thursdays !

THE ARCHIVE OF SMITH, BERWICK: FROM PHOTO NEWS SERVICE TO PHOTO CENTRE

The Photo Centre archive is an amazing collection which documents the work of a family run photographic business which operated in North Northumberland from the 1950s to 2012. It has captured so many events and people connected with the area. Through working with Cameron on preparing the exhibition , I have learnt a lot more about the collection and photography in general. In the digital age, people today take photography very much for granted but it was very different when you were working with glass slides and negatives and had to think more carefully about images taken.

Every picture tells a story and often this can be just as fascinating as the photograph. The picture of the broken door at Tweedmouth Secondary School is intriguing but the story behind it – Monica the Elephant visiting the school – is out of the ordinary.

The exhibition, held in the Granary, is open from Wednesdays to Sundays 11 – 4 until 13 May. Please do go along and see it and encourage others to do so as well !

FIRST WORLD WAR

The newspapers covering the First World War are full of interesting snippets about people with connections to the area. Whilst carrying out research for my talk at Chatton, I found the following article about William Craster Pringle. I have been unable to find out anything about his career or what happened to him subsequently. If anyone can find any information, please let me know !

Berwick Advertiser, 1 March 1918

CHATTON SOLDIER HONOURED

It is with pleasure we record the several distinctions and honours that have been bestowed upon Sergeant William Craster Pringle, MM, DCM of the AVC., RFR. He has recently been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, being the only man in the 15th Division to obtain this distinction, having previously gained the DCM and MM.

It is many years ago since Craster as he was known amongst us left Chatton. He commenced his career as a stable boy with the late Dr Marshall, Chatton Park, from there he went to Mr Leather Culley, Fowberry Towers and from there to Newmarket, where he rose, to his ambition as a jockey. From Newmarket he went to South Africa and for a period of eleven years he was a trainer to the late Sir George Farrar. On returning to England, he again proceeded to Newmarket. About the beginning of the war our young friend joined the Army, and about 12 months ago he was badly gassed. Sergeant Pringle comes off a very old and highly respected family whose forefathers have lived in Chatton for some generations. His uncle, the late Mr John Pringle, passed away only twelve months ago, the last link of the old family.

We are pleased to see Private John Alexander , only son of Mr and Mrs T Alexander Chatton home on leave. He looks fit and well after enduring many hardships at the front. He has had a pleasant time during his 14 days and left this week to join some more in this great struggle. We wish him the best of luck and trust that he may come safely through.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

What's New In 2018?

New Membership Scheme

The museum reopens for the season on Wednesday the 28th March. The start of the new season sees the introduction of our new membership scheme.

The new scheme will allow children and young people aged 16 and under, free access to all Woodhorn Charitable Trust museums. For adult visitors, each museum will introduce a new 12 month pass - allowing unlimited repeat visits. Woodhorn Charitable Trust will also be offering a multi-venue membership which will encourage Northumberland residents and tourists to explore the county and visit all of the museums that the Trust manages.

At Berwick Museum and Art Gallery annual membership will be £5 (£4.50 for multiple adult tickets purchased at the same time). Concessions will be £4 and 0 – 16 years free.

A Woodhorn Charitable Trust All Sites Annual Pass will cost £16.

Friends of Berwick Museum and Archives, English Heritage members etc. will not be charged.

We really hope that this new scheme will make Berwick Museum and Art Gallery more accessible and therefore more widely used and enjoyed by local people.

Exhibitions

We have two temporary exhibitions running throughout 2018.

Fragments

'Fragments' is an exhibition of work commissioned by the Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Project featuring six stunning ceramic vessels produced by renowned potter, Graham Taylor.



Historic pots, from Bronze Age urns to medieval jugs, have inspired the form of each vessel. They have then been decorated to reflect the rich history, archaeology and natural history of the area.

There will be many opportunities throughout the year to hear Graham speak about the project and to take part in his wonderful workshops.

A programme of events will be sent out as soon as dates have been confirmed.

Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside... (working title!)

To compliment 'Fragments' we are creating an additional temporary exhibition, continuing up the coastline to Spittal. This family-friendly local history exhibition will tell Spittal's story as a popular seaside resort and an industrial hub, in the Victorian period and beyond.

If anyone has any objects, stories or photographs that they feel may be of interest, please do get in touch.

After School Arts Club

From May to July we will be trialling an after school art club for 7-10 year olds on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5pm.

Each session will have a theme inspired by a different artist or artistic technique - all linking in some way to Berwick or the museum's collection.

Children attending the club will work towards their 'Discover' Arts Award. Arts Award is a national initiative designed to encourage young people to explore and participate in the arts. Berwick Visual Arts and local

illustrator, Katie Chappell, have worked alongside other partners in the town, including the museum and archives, to produce a bespoke '**Berwick-upon-Tweed Arts Award Discover Trail**' booklet. Children will complete the booklet during art club sessions. Once completed, they will receive their Arts Award certificates.



We look forward to seeing you all in 2018! Please get in touch if you'd like any further information.

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

BERWICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS : A RELATIONSHIP Part Two

A Relationship “of a character most prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the Workhouse”. Part Two. [Part One appeared in the December 2017 Newsletter.]

When the enquiry resumed the next day, 29 May, 1888, they returned to the question of rations. Mrs Rutherford admitted that the Nurse had not been informed about the change, and to confuse things even further, Isabella Burns' account of what had happened differed from everybody else's. You can definitely feel the despair of Mr Knollys when he sums up this case “...also something definite as to the date of this affair, because the Matron in her evidence to the Guardians said it happened in the summer, in her evidence to him she said it was in December or November; and the Nurse said it was in January.” So nobody seemed to agree about what happened when, the books had been based on what should have been given out rather than what actually was, and furthermore, the Visiting Committee of the Guardians often failed to check the books and provisions on time. Mr Knollys summed up: “*I do not want to enter into the duties of the Guardians, but the Committee do not examine the stores in any such way as to enable me to arrive at a conclusion upon this point...It is not right for any Master to make any entry in his consumption book as to articles of food taken out of the stores for officers or pauper inmates, except upon a statement furnished to him by another officer, or except he has weighed the things himself. If that had been done here, this matter would have been decided at once.*”

They also returned to the episode with Susan McGuinness. After the usual round of contradictory accounts, Mr Knollys zoomed in on the question of whether Dr Maclagan had ever received any complaints about the Nurse or had himself had cause to admonish her about the running of the hospital. Dr Maclagan said that he had on one occasion had to point out that a patient had lice, but he had never heard the Nurse abuse any of the patients, nor had he received any complaints from the patients themselves. This contradicted what the Master had admitted having said to the Nurse, “*For shame of yourself to abuse old people in the way you are doing.*” And Mr Knollys continued “*that unless that is corroborated, it is an extraordinary thing for him to say.*”

A number of witnesses were then called, all inmates or ex-inmates of the Workhouse, and they presented a varied account of what had taken place between the Master and the Nurse. Some said that they had been present and the Master had indeed called the Nurse a bloody blackguard, and some had been there but not heard the offending word being uttered.

At this point Mr Peters interrupted and referred to a regulation adopted by the Guardians on 28 March 1887 which stated *“That the Nurse has entire control of the hospital wards, except that the Master and Matron go through twice a day to see that they are clean and tidy.”* This regulation had apparently been drawn up as a consequence of previous disputes. Mr Knollys added to this that the Master is subject to the instructions of the Guardians and said *“It appears utterly incomprehensible, having knowledge of what occurred before between the Master and the Nurse, that the Master should have persisted in sending any inmate down that way without a written notice.”*

The complaint about the Master coming to the hospital at night and causing a disturbance, can be considered to be an extension of the running dispute between the Master, Matron and the Nurse. Again we are faced with conflicting accounts of a number of instances, all causing more confusion than clarity.

The enquiry went into a third day, where the depositions of the witnesses were read to them and signed. Mr Knollys then declared that the depositions and his report would be laid before the Local Government Board for them to make a decision.

The result of the Local Government Board’s deliberations was that the relation between the three officers towards each in the presence of the inmates *“has been of a character most prejudicial to the good order and discipline of the Workhouse...and that they cannot, in the interest of the Union, allow either Mr and Mrs Rutherford or Miss Sherriff to retain office at the Berwick Union Workhouse.”* They add that the Master and Matron have acted in the face of warnings which have on previous occasions been conveyed to them.

All three officers were therefore made to hand in their resignations, which were duly accepted, and on 16 August 1888 a new couple and a nurse took over the three vacant offices, and we can only hope that good order and discipline were restored in the Workhouse.

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.

HEROIC RESCUE AT BAMBURGH

Exmouth Journal 27 Sept 1873 page 6

A correspondent gives the following account of a heroic rescue at Bamburgh: This obscure little watering-place, at the foot of the eminence where King Ida's Castle, huge and square from its tall rock looks grimly down, was one morning recently the scene of painful excitement. A party of young men, including the lieutenant, the purser, and the steward of the gunboat, The Foam, which is cruising off this coast to protect the fisheries, and Mr Dakins, son of the clergyman of Holy Island, sailed from Lindisfarne in a small yacht proposing to land at Bamborough. Strange to say, there was not a sailor among them, and, on attempting to land on a reef of rocks, they neglected to take in the sail. A sudden gust of wind capsized the boat, and the whole party were thrown into the sea. They all got safely to shore but Lieutenant Kingston, who could not swim, was washed away by the heavy surf. Mr Dakins, an expert swimmer, on seeing his friend's distress, threw off his clothes and plunged in to the rescue, seized the drowning man, and, by means of an oar thrown out, succeeded in supporting him for more than half an hour. Their companions, perhaps paralysed by fear, were leaving them to their fate. Fortunately the accident was seen by Thomas Dixon, groundkeeper to Mr W. Cruddis, of Newcastle, who was going to his charge, the moors, above Budle Bay. At once he ran back, to the village for the key of the boat-house; this procured, he was about to get out and launch a boat, but there was no time. The unfortunate young men were drifting away in the ebb tide. Happily the little yacht had righted, and though far from the scene of action by this time, Dixon was able to leap into it, and with the help of another came up to the poor youths just in time to save them. He heard Dakins cry "For God's sake hold on a moment longer, here's the boat;" but Kingston threw up his arms, saying, "I am done," and sank. Dixon plunged his boat-hook after him and caught him by the collar of his coat, and he and Dakins were hauled into the boat in a very exhausted condition. They were carried to the village inn, the Crewe Arms. The doctor was away for the day, and Mr Kingston appeared to be fast departing this life. Happily Dixon knew what means to take to restore suspended animation, and succeeded in bringing him round. Two winters ago Dixon and his brother went out in a storm, at 2 a.m., to a wreck of the Inner Farne, and were able to save the lives of five men. They had only a small open boat. Truly the spirit of Grace Darling, who lies in Bamborough churchyard, still seems to hover over the scene of her noble deeds.

Karon Ives

BRANXTON & CROOKHAM VILLAGE ATLAS

ROBERT STORY

Although not a native of Crookham, Robert Story spent a number of years in the area before moving to Lancaster. Born on 17th October 1795 at Wark on Tweed, his father Robin was a peasant and his mother Mary (Hooliston) came from Lauder just over the Border into Scotland. The youngest of 9 children, born when his mother was nearly 50 years old, Robert was rather spoilt, getting the best of everything that could be provided. His father was apparently literate, and encouraged his son to read at an early age although books, apart from the Bible would not be readily available.

Robert attended Wark School from about five years of age, and became adept in reading and writing. Unfortunately at this time, there was a great famine; the owner of the farm became bankrupt and the creditors seized both livestock and farm produce, also refusing to pay the arrears of wages due to Robin Story, causing severe depredation and who eventually moved to Old Heaton, near to Twizel Castle. From there Robert walked 3 miles to school at Crookham, but the severity of the schoolmaster led to him playing truant and spending his time in the neighbouring woods and fields. While there, he spent some time with a lame fiddler called George Johnston (Doddy) who earned a living as a traveling musician at the big houses in the area. Robin Story then moved to Howtel where Peter was again sent to school and learned the first rules of mathematics before going to live with a sister in Kelso when he was 11 years old. Still just a boy, Robert returned to Glendale as a shepherd/stockman at Reedsford and Crookham and began to write poetry.

By 1810, following the death of his father, Robert began teaching reading, writing and arithmetic in a school at Humbleton, near Wooler and subsequently served in various village schools in Northumberland interspersed with labouring work on farms to supplement his income. After spending some time teaching in Yorkshire, he returned to Northumberland, still writing poetry and teaching in various village schools. Eventually, in 1810 returning to Yorkshire, he started a successful school at Gargrave, where he married Ellen Ellison with whom he had a large family; but

becoming interested in politics, many of his pupils were withdrawn and he was forced to rely on his writings to keep out of debt.

In 1843, and in dire straits, the Conservative Members of Parliament for the West Riding obtained for him a small post in the Audit Office and he moved to London. He remained in London for the rest of his life, moving house several times, as his fortunes increased and publishing a great number of literary works, always taking his August vacations in Northumberland and Yorkshire. During this period, he unfortunately lost 6 of his children, mainly due to the poor conditions in which he was forced to live. However, in 1852, his salary was increased and together with the profits from his publications he had a more comfortable life. He visited Paris in 1854 and in 1856 was a guest of the Duke of Northumberland who subsidised the publication of a volume of poems to the tune of £500. In 1859 he was invited to manage the Burns' Centenary Festival at Alloway in Ayrshire, following this with a tour around Scotland, and finally, a visit to the Cheviots with the Tyneside and Berwickshire Naturalists Clubs.

By this time Robert's health was beginning to fail, but was still able to dine with the Duke of Northumberland's London Tradesmen, making reference in one of his verses to a gift of wine made to the Caledonian Hospital Ship, which led to the Duke directing that one hundred bottles of sherry be given to Story.

Robert Story died on 7th July 1860 of heart disease, following a bout of bronchitis and other chest problems. He had wished to be buried in Newton churchyard, but was actually buried in Brompton Cemetery on 11th July.

Information from (1) "A Biography of Robert Story" by John James, 1861

(2) "Storeys of Old" a biography by Brad Storey.

(3) Wikipedia

Maureen Charlton & Valerie Glass

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 27 October 1871

THE NEW ROWING CLUB

On Monday evening an adjourned meeting of the members of the new Rowing Club was held in the Committee Room of the Townhall. The Mayor was expected to be present. Having failed to put in an appearance a deputation was despatched to wait upon him,, and on returning they stated that he regretted he could not attend the meeting; but wished the honorary and active members to meet him on Thursday evening. The members took into consideration plans of a boat-house, which had been prepared by Mr Gray, architect. The house, which will be situated near to the Bridge, is proposed to be 54 feet in length, and 18 feet in width, and the dressing room 18 feet in length and 17 feet in width. The house will be reached from the Lovers" Walk by stairs. The plans were generally approved. The present number of members is 61, and the amount of money collected, £54 13s 6d. The adjourned meeting was held last night in the Committee Room of the Townhall, when the Mayor presided. It was stated that 61 persons had now promised to become rowing members while the subscriptions received had amounted to £4 13s 6d. Several gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood had been appealed to, and subscriptions had been received from D. M. Home, Esq., and J. Atkinson, Esq., Barmoor, who had given £1 and £2 respectively. Further pecuniary assistance had been promised, and after the members' subscriptions had been paid, it was expected that sufficient funds would be at the disposal of the Committee to erect a boat house and procure boats. A committee was appointed to make application to the War Office for permission to build a boat house against the Ramparts, to obtain estimates for the erection of the building, to draw up the necessary rules, and to make all the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the club. A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding terminated the proceedings.

Carole Pringle