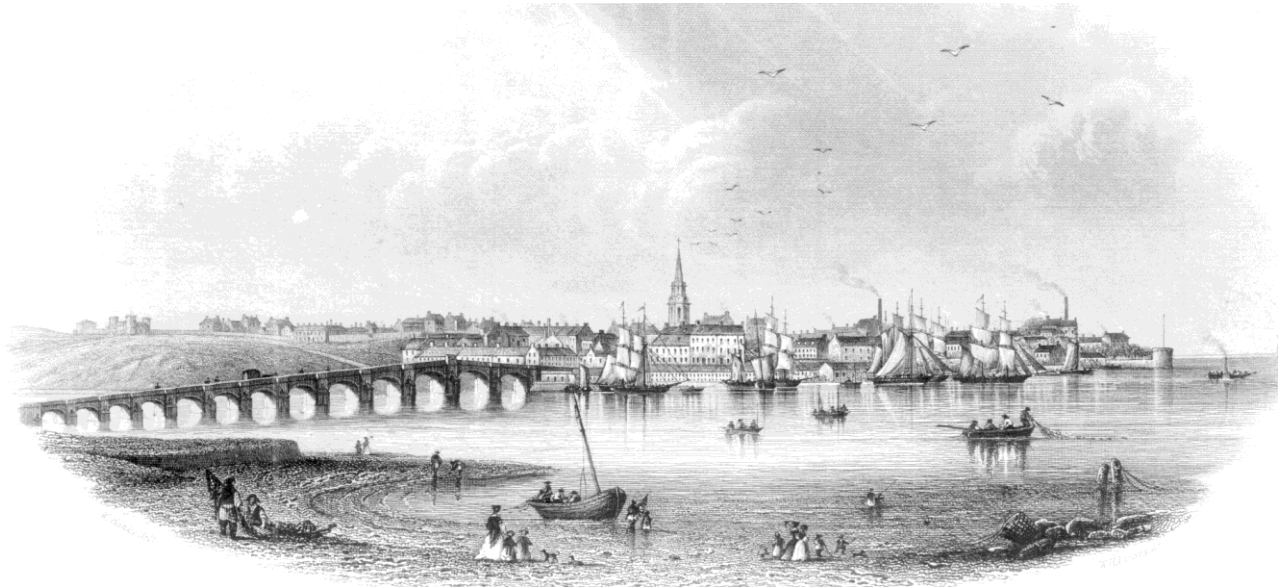


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 97–SEPTEMBER 2018

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 – 9th September 2018

Heritage Open Days, North Northumberland
– see end of newsletter

14 – 16th September

Heritage Open days, Berwick – see article

10 – 11th November

First World War exhibition in Berwick
Guildhall

Friday 23rd November

Friends Autumn Lecture – “Can she Skyen
a Mussel? : “ women and fishing on the
Northumberland coast 1330-1950 by Katrina
Porteous. Parish Centre : 7pm

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time:7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 25th September	The History of Animal Farming: Professor Colin Whittemore
Tuesday 30th October	Lifting the Veil on Past Lives-looking at our ancestors' wills and testaments: Margaret Fox
Tuesday 27th November	William Collin (1880-1918) and the Christina Craig (1913-1918): Will Collin

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 26th September 2018	AGM followed by Slide show and Quiz
Wednesday 24th October	A Thrill in the Dark-Victorian Magic Lantern Show: Derek Greenacre
Wednesday 28th November	Famous People who made the North East Great: Geoff Hughes

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 17th October	Joint meeting with Berwick History Society: See History Society entry
Friday 9th November	Remembrance Service at the Main Guard at 11am
Wednesday 14th November	The Railways of Berwick- Past, Present and Future: Paul Tetlaw

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 17th October 2018	Joint meeting with the Civic Society. Berwick, Russia & The Crimean War. The True Story: James Bruce
Wednesday 21st November	The First World War In The Air: David Conway
Wednesday 19th December	The Photo Centre Collection: Cameron Robertson

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 3rd September 2018	The Archaeology of St John Lateran and the Transformation of Rome from Caesar to Constantine: Ian Haynes
Monday 1st October	The Phallus and the Frontier: the form and function of phallic imagery along Hadrian's Wall: Rob Collins
Monday 5th November	The Earliest Farmers in Northwest Europe: recent advances in our understanding: Peter Rowley-Conwy & Kurt Gron
Monday 3rd December	Plunging climate and tsunami impacts on the Mesolithic population of northern Britain: Clive Waddington

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 30th September 2018	The 2nd Boer War 1899-1902: Ken Nisbet
Sunday 28th October	The Brothers and Soutra Hospital: Dr Margaret Cook
Sunday 25th November	Irish Records: Jill Williams of the Irish Genealogical Research Society

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 3rd September 2018	A Tale of Two Mills: Waren and Spindleston: Jane Bowen
Monday 1st October	Scotland's Law Lords v Northumbrians Behaving Badly! : Margaret Fox
Monday 5th November	Past, present and future of Climate Change and its effects on Northumberland: Allan Colman
Monday 3rd December	Open Evening- Years that changed the World: What were YOU up to fifty years ago, in 1968?!

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 17th September 2018	Story of Chirnside: Linda Gray
Monday 15th October	Indian Mutiny: Malcolm McVittie
Monday 19th November	Votes for women in South East Scotland, 1870-1930: David Mclean
Monday 17th December	Lifting the Veil on Past Lives: Margaret Fox

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 27th September 2018	Open Night with input from John Eliot and Trevor Swan
Thursday 4th October	The Railway Line between Kelso and Tweedmouth: David Welsh
Thursday 1st November	A Runaway Slave in Dunse: David Mclean
Thursday 6th December	The Rise and Fall of Roxburgh: Christine Henderson
Thursday 13th December	Christmas Social

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 26th September 2018	The Cup that Cheers- the story of tea and tea smuggling: Dick Dennys and Derek Janes
Wednesday 31st October	Christina Craig- An Eyemouth family and the Great War: William Collin
Wednesday 28th November	Votes for Women in south-east Scotland 1870 to 1920: David McLean

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 12th September 2018	Northumberland's Geology & How it Shaped History: Dr Ian Kille
Wednesday 10th October	Revealing the Secrets of Northumberland's Place Names: Jonathan West
Wednesday 14th November	Trench Art of the North East; material, culture, memory & perception from WW1: Andrew Marriot
Wednesday 12th December	John Black's Diary 1863: the story of a local enterprising family: David Lockie (tbc)

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 10th September	One perfytt Book: the 1562 Survey of Berwick-upon-Tweed: Dr Catherine Kent
Monday 8th October	Where was Lowick?: The Hidden Evidence Beneath Our Feet: Paul Langdale
Monday 12th November	Our River : Stories of The Tweed- History, Culture and Traditions of The Tweed Catchment: Castle Productions

Monday 10th December

John Elliott (1862-1956): The Life and
Times of a Lowick GP: Eileen Langdale

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 10th September 2018

Medieval Villages of North

Northumberland: Mr Allan Colman

Monday 8th October

Bell ringing: Andrew Beckwith

Monday 12th November

Norham at War, a century service: Jim
Gibson

Monday 10th December

Social evening

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 24th October 2018

First in The World- The Stockton and
Darlington Railway: Mike Christian

Wednesday 28th November

A History of Mills, Milling and
Heatherslaw Mill: Dave Harris-Jones

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 15th September 2018

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

Margaret Fox

Saturday 20th October

Members' Stories

Saturday 17th November

The Cowe Family and Berwick Cockles:
Cameron Robertson

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th September 2018

Medieval Medicine and its use in the present day: Dr Brian Moffat

Sunday 7th October

James IV Memorial Lecture: Dr Alex Hildred from the Mary Rose Museum

Wednesday 7th November

Roman Temples at Maryport: Professor Ian Haynes

Wednesday 5th December

Excavations at Derwentcote: Dr Rob Young

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This new section will highlight one off events which are happening locally

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th
September

'Norham and Ladykirk History Society, A Century of War and Peace' An exhibition to mark the end of The Great War. 11am-4pm at Norham Village Hall.

Saturday 3rd November

Glendale Local History Society and St Mary's Church, Wooler host a special event: "Life on the Home Front", an illustrated talk by Anthea Lang. Talk at 11.30 followed by a light lunch at 12.30 onwards. Tickets £5, (£8 non GLHS members. Enquiries Tel: 01668 281310

ARCHIVE NEWS

Although it is often slightly quieter in the Record Office over the summer period, that's not been the case this year. There has been lots happening and my report will give you a flavour of what we have been doing.

Firstly, there is some good news. The Record Office has been awarded a grant by the Archives Revealed national cataloguing scheme to employ a professional Archivist for a year to recatalogue the original pre 1974 Berwick Borough Archives as well as catalogue from scratch additional deposits, made to the collection since 1990. There were only 9 grants awarded in the country. It will allow us to create an online catalogue for the collection and will ensure that the knowledge I have built up on the collection can be passed on. As well as the cataloguing, we will undertake a volunteer project and some outreach work thanks to funding from the Berwick Guild of Freemen whose records form part of the collection. We are really pleased to have received this grant and through the newsletter, I'll keep you informed of progress. At the moment, I'm completing all the paperwork for the recruitment and hopefully, the new member of staff will be appointed within the next couple of months. Watch this space!

Work on projects has continued. The Peregrini Project is still ongoing in various ways. The renovations to the Reading Room on Holy Island are almost finished which means that the archive will have a permanent home on the Island. Hopefully we will be able to move in shortly to our space there. Part of the project was also to create a database of Professor Sheddick's cards of individuals connected with the Island. They have now all been entered in the database and about two thirds of them have been double checked. Finally, on the Peregrini front, we now have a website which contains our electronic catalogue and also articles about all three areas (Cocklawburn; Holy Island and Belford/Budle Bay). Please do visit it on www.islandshirearchives.org.uk. There is new content added monthly and if anyone would like to contribute an article, please do get in touch.

Education has played a large part in my work recently in one way or another. Every year I work with Macmillan Academy in Middlesbrough who bring a group of Year 9 students to Holy Island to make a short film. This year they came in July and their theme was "Plastics and Holy Island" which is very topical. They interviewed local people and the finished film will be placed in the Heritage Centre and the Archives. The students really enjoy coming and most of them have never been before.

As well as this project, Jane Miller from the Museum, our volunteer Helen Craggs and I have been working with Newcastle University on a Berwick cholera project. We have linked up with Year 9 students at Berwick Academy and run a project with a difference. The first part of the project involved us visiting Newcastle University and the students looking at documents on cholera in Gateshead in the 1830s and spending time in the science laboratories which we all really enjoyed as well. Then we had three days at the end of term finding out about cholera outbreaks in Berwick

and the students working with Lydia to create a comic on the topic. This was ambitious but we managed to do it and their comic, created for their own age group (young teenagers) will be available at Heritage Open Days. I've never been involved in anything like this before but it was great fun. If you want to find out more about the process and cholera in Berwick, we are giving a talk at the Berwick Literary Festival in October.

This year, we helped with Armed Forces Day by mounting an exhibition on Berwick in 1918 in the Guildhall. This was well attended and we have now created an exhibition on each of the war years. These will all be pulled together to create an Armistice exhibition in the Town Hall over the weekend of 10 and 11th November. Further details will be provided later.

Finally, I have given some talks this quarter, including one at the Northumberland and Durham Family History Conference in Newcastle and a guided walk/talk to Spittal Scouts.

There is never a dull moment in the Record Office !

Linda Bankier

GEORGE HOGG OF THE CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

As the centenary of the Armistice fast approaches, St Andrews, Wallace Green is still undertaking research on members of its congregation who are remembered on their war memorial. They hope to create an exhibition which will be on display the weekend before Armistice. Having researched Alexander Lorimer Miller which I wrote up in the last newsletter, my next task has been to research the name George Hogg of the Canadian Infantry. The memorial does not give any dates of death and so this provided the first challenge. Which George Hogg as there was more than one in the Canadian Infantry who died during the War? I narrowed it down to three and only found the right one with a Berwick connection when I used the initial "G" in the Commonwealth War Graves website (www.cwgc.org) instead of his name. This brought up an entry :

*Remembered with Honour at
Oxford Road Cemetery [on the outskirts of Ieper]
In Memory of
Private G Hogg*

87, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment) who died on 31 October 1917

Age 29

Son of Eliza Jane Hogg, of 18, Ness St., Berwick-on-Tweed, England, and the late Ralph Davidson Hogg

The reference to Berwick confirmed I had the right one and finding this, opened up a treasure trove of information, far more than I expected. Firstly, I checked the local newspapers to see if there was any reference to his death. The following article, along with a photograph, appeared in the Berwick Advertiser of 9 November 1917 :

It is with deep regret that we announce the death in action on October 30th of Private George Hogg, Canadian Light Infantry, son of Mr and Mrs Hogg, Berwick. From information received, it appears that the unfortunate lad was killed by a shell splinter when drinking at a water tank after having been in the firing line with rations.

Private Hogg was a well known figure in the town, and particularly in N.B.Railway circles where he had served for several years before proceeding to Canada, and he was a general favourite. Leaving this country for the Dominion some years ago, he was amongst the first to respond to the call to the army, joining up on August 4th 1914. Arriving in this country with the first contingent, he received his final training at Winchester, and proceeded into France in September 1914. He was wounded after having been in France six months. He has seen heavy fighting, and was through the second battle of Ypres. The deepest sympathy is felt for the relatives. The following letter has been received from a chum :

October 31st 1917

Dear Mrs Hogg,

No doubt before this letter reaches you, you will have been informed officially that your son, George has been killed, and I wish to extend to you my deepest sympathy, and am writing in order to let you know how he met his death.

On the night of October 30th he had been up in the firing line with rations, and it was while on the way back that he stopped to get a drink of water at a large water tank where the shelling was pretty heavy, and unfortunately a splinter from a bursting shell struck him just below the shoulder and penetrated deeply. He lived for about ten minutes. The boys that were with him did all they could for him, but he died just before reaching the dressing station. All that he said before he passed away was "Well boys, I am finished". I have known George for the last eight months and have had much in common with him as regards our work and I feel very deeply about him. He was a good and brave soldier , and as a chum, you could not wish for a better. He was buried near the dressing station, and I will find out later on in just which particular spot and let you know. It is very hard for me to write this letter, and break

the sad news to you, but I feel it my duty, knowing you would be anxious to know just how it happened. He was known to every man in the company, and everybody liked him, and a lot of the boys wish me to convey to you their deepest sympathy in losing such a grand son. I have taken all his personal effects in to the paymaster and in all probability, you will receive same in the course of a couple of days.

I am not a very good letter writer and you will forgive me if you find only cold comfort in this, but I can assure you that my heart is full, and I only wish I could express my feelings better.

Yours sincerely,

Private T Howson

Receiving such a letter must have been a great comfort for the families but must have been so difficult for those at the front to write.

This told me how George died but I wondered what else I could discover. The Canadian First World War Service records are available online and this proved another amazing resource.

They can be found on: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx> . After a bit of detective work, I found and downloaded George's records, all 21MB and 46 pages of them ! This told me even more about George. He was born on 11 March 1888, the 3rd child of 14 children born to Ralph and Eliza Hogg who were members of Wallace Green congregation. His father worked on the railway as did George both in Berwick and in Canada. George emigrated to Canada after 1911 with at least two more brothers – Robson and John. He is described as 5 feet 5 inches tall with grey eyes and dark brown hair. He lived in Ontario at the beginning of the war and was one of the first to join up – his regimental number was 87- and the records indicate that he joined in August 1914. He was wounded in 1915 and 1916 but returned to duty. The most poignant document in the papers is his will dated 1 July 1915 :

If anything should happen to me in this war, I wish that all that is due to me to go to my mother Eliza Hogg 18 Ness Street, Berwick on Tweed England.

His father, Ralph had died in October 1914, aged 53 and it appears from the military records that his mother received his outstanding wages. She survived until 1925 when she died, aged 63.

George never married and so he will not have any direct descendants. However, he is remembered on both the Wallace Green and Berwick War Memorials and I am sure through his siblings, some of his indirect relations are still alive today.

I really enjoyed doing this research and it shows what you can find in a short time, once you have a good lead. My next task is to see what happened to the other two brothers – maybe another newsletter article if I'm not distracted by other research!

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

OH, WE DO LIKE TO BE [BESIDE](#) THE SEASIDE!

Summer 2018 at Berwick Museum and Art Gallery

We have had a successful season, with visitor numbers holding steady over the summer. We suspect that the lovely weather early in the season has meant a lot of our usual visitors have been on the beach or in the garden for much of the time. However, numbers have picked up in the second half of the school vacation. Next weekend is usually one of the busiest of the year when Berwick Food Festival comes to the Barracks Square.

We have been celebrating Spittal this summer, with an entertaining exhibition about the scenic seaside village on the Tweed estuary.

'Seaside' is an enjoyable glimpse into the heyday of Spittal as a seaside resort, but also has an entertaining look at its herring fishing industry and the lifeboat.

The exhibition was inspired by a request to view an item in the museum's collection. It turned out that the lady asking about the model was Arthur Wood's daughter Kitty. A ceramic model of the High Street in Spittal created by her father, a great-nephew of the artist Frank Wood, has been in the museum's care for some time, but it has never been on display in its complete form, at least in recent memory. Arthur and his wife ran Spittal Pottery in the 1970s and the model is such a lovely piece of work, the request was the inspiration we needed to get it out of storage and put it on show.

Two perennial favourite objects from the collections are on display once more; the cycling game and the football game from Johnny's Amusement Arcade. This had been opened back in 1929, by Carlo Forte, but as the swish Venetian Pavilion. In those days there certainly weren't arcade games, but there were daytime refreshments, tea and evening dances and Sunday concerts to the music of George Clouston and his Orchestra.

The exhibition finishes with a look at the Lifeboat. We found a really fantastic book of old photographs of the various lifeboats over the years. Most of the pictures relate to the 150th Anniversary celebrations in 1952, but there are others dating back

to 1900. These show the “John & Janet” Lifeboat with the Royal Border Bridge in the background. There’s also a wonderful group photograph of various members of the Lough family, all with sou’ westers – no wonder the boat is affectionately known as the “Loughboat” in these parts!

We are really pleased to have joined up with our Barracks partners English Heritage and the KOSB Museum to open the site for free during the Heritage Open Days weekend of 15th -16th September. Jane Miller, our Education Officer, will also be at large in HODs HQ in the Town Hall over the weekend. Continuing the Spittal theme, Jane will be encouraging visitors to have a go at packing some herring. Apparently, a team, or “crew” of Spittal herring girls could fill one barrel containing 850 to 1,200 fish every ten minutes. So, the challenge for anyone who fancies a try is to see if they can pack 20 herrings in 10 seconds!

We have recently launched a new website, which aims to promote the collections of all four Trust museums. This is very much in its infant stages, but we hope to have an online catalogue off the ground within the next few months. www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk. To help us with this enterprise, we are soon to welcome a new colleague; Charlotte Barron, who is coming to us from the Durham Light Infantry Museum, will divide her time across the four sites – have laptop will travel! Her post is being funded for two years through the generosity of the John Ellerman Foundation.

Looking slightly ahead, we plan to be open during the autumn half term vacation, when we will have Halloween activities including a pumpkin trail organised for younger visitors.

Anne Moore

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This year, Heritage Open Days is being run over two weekends at the beginning of September – 5th 7th and 14th – 16th. In our area, most of the events taking place in Belford ,Ford and Union Chain Bridge happen over the first weekend. There is a list, including a series of talks and exhibitions in Belford at the end of the newsletter. The Lady Waterford Hall will also be open where there will be guided tours. I’m also giving my talk on the Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords.

Berwick is holding all its events the second weekend (14th – 16th) and this year it is being organised by a group of organisations interested in the town’s built heritage, including the Record Office. We have over 30 events taking place in Berwick,

Tweedmouth and Spittal for everyone to enjoy. These include, open buildings, walks, talks and exhibitions. The beauty of events run by HODS is that they are free. This year we have some new sites open – the garden of 72 Ravensdowne, the Free Trade; Berwick Amateur Rowing Club and an air raid shelter in Castle Terrace. The Barracks will be open free over the weekend and so this is a great opportunity to visit the Museum and see their Spittal exhibition. There are also various walks and a series of events in the Town Hall including bell ringing demonstrations, talks, exhibitions and activities for children. Booklets are available at Berwick Tourist Information or if you contact us, we can send you a digital copy. This year, the Record Office has created an exhibition of late 1960s/early 1970s images of the town. The Friends have also printed an extra large copy of the 1951 May Fair photo with a key so that you can write down the names of people you recognise. There will be something for everyone and so, e-mail berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk if you want information or phone the Tourist Information on 01670 622155.

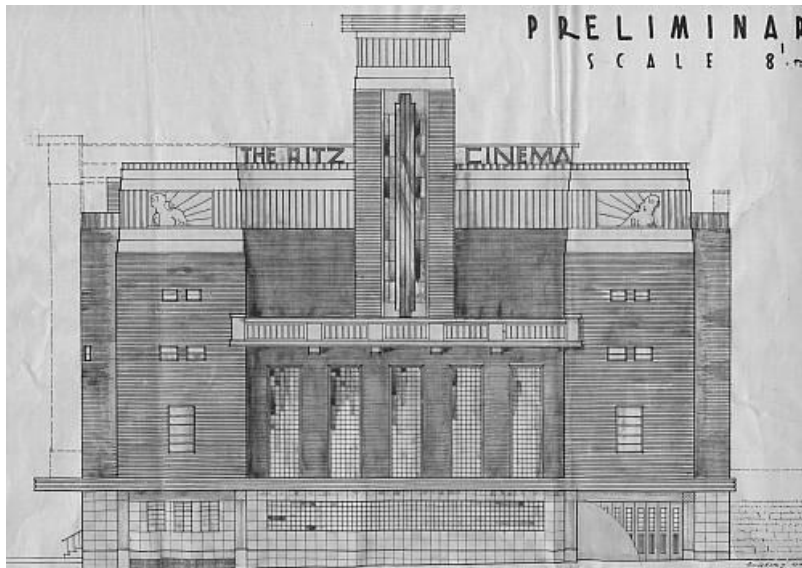
Linda Bankier

BERWICK'S THIRD PICTURE PALACE

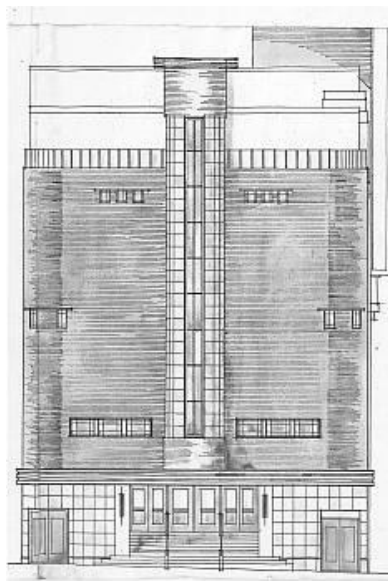
In the autumn of 1937, rumours circulated in Berwick that plans were afoot to build a new cinema on the site of the former Corporation Academy, the building on the corner of Bankhill and Golden Square now known as *The Leaping Salmon*. After some initial denials, planning applications for the new building were duly submitted, and in January 1938 these were approved by Berwick Town Council under its local building regulations.

The proposal was made by John M. McFarlane, a cinema promoter and manager based in Jarrow, and the designs were drawn up by the architect J. Hedley Simson, of Newcastle. A substantial building was envisaged with an auditorium which would seat over 900 people. (Berwick already had two operational cinemas, *The Playhouse* in Sandgate and *The Theatre* in Hide Hill, each of them designed with a capacity of over 1000 people.) A surprising feature of the plan was that beneath the auditorium at basement and ground-floor levels there was to be a two-level car park (suggesting that parking problems in Berwick may be nothing new). A letter of February 1938, filed with the plans, also states that the War Office had expressed interest in the basement car park as a possible bomb-proof shelter. (In December 1937 the Air-Raid Precautions Act had been passed in Parliament, spurred on by reports from the Spanish Civil War, and it placed responsibility on local authorities for organising protection against bombing attacks.)

If the project had gone ahead, it would inevitably have required the complete demolition of the Corporation Academy building, which was completed in 1800, and whose Georgian features today provide a handsome entry point to the town for visitors approaching across the Royal Tweed Bridge. Yet there appears to have been little discussion of any 'loss of heritage' that was threatened. Indeed the original application made a virtue of the change which was offered; it described the bridge approach to the town as having the appearance of "a general slum", and asserted that the proposed building would provide "a frontage of modern architectural beauty and dignity instead of what is at present - a rough wall". The design of the new cinema certainly aimed at something prominent and bold, with art-deco lines and features, quite unlike anything else to be seen in Berwick (*figs. 1 & 2*)..



1. 1938 Cinema plan- Golden Square elevation



2. 1938 Cinema plan – Bankhill elevation

The reasons why it did not come about seem to have turned on a stroke of (mis)fortune. The projected cost of the building was £25,000. The promoter John McFarlane made an agreement with an accountant called John Leopold West to raise the funds, and he paid West £2000 to engage his services. West however then absconded to France with this money and lived there expensively for the next seven months. When the money had run out, he returned to England and was promptly arrested at Newhaven, having merely 16s 8d in his possession. He turned out to be a serial fraudster, whose real name was Jacob Suwalsky, and in May 1939 he was sentenced to three years in prison for his latest offence.

The money however was gone and John McFarlane was reduced to impoverished circumstances by its loss. His only option was to apply for bankruptcy, and we may assume that his plans for Berwick's third cinema vanished in the wreckage. The Corporation Academy building survived to see better times and it remains a defining feature of Berwick's townscape.

Sources

Berwick Record Office. *Building plans*: box 25, plan no.4.

Berwick Advertiser. 23 Sept. 1937; 17 March 1938.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser. 30 Nov. 1937; 23 May 1939.

John Spiers

THE HAGGERSTON WRECK BOOK

Recently I was among a group of volunteers asked to help transcribe a book selected as relevant to the Lindisfarne Peregrini Project. It was to prove a fascinating insight into coastal life in that area of North Northumberland and the importance of passing ships to the local community.

The book was kept by James Crawford who was steward to Sir Carnaby Haggerston (1756-1831), owner of Haggerston Castle, a few miles south of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The Haggerston line is believed to have come over with William the Conqueror. The castle itself had a chequered history, burning down on several occasions, the original building dating to the 12th century and the last rebuild taking place in 1893. Little of that now remains, the fabric having been sold at auction in 1933 and to be found re-used in numerous local buildings including my own house

in Belford. The site of the castle has now been a popular caravan site for many years.

The book itself is not particularly distinguished in appearance. It is long and narrow and retains the original binding. It contains a few loose papers whose contents have been copied into the book. Covering the period from 1775 to 1820, its yellowed paper and brown ink have stood the test of time, and its brief entries contain a wealth of information.

It records details of vessels grounded and wrecked on Sir Carnaby's land, between Scremerston and Goswick, a very common occurrence in the age of sail along this coast.

Why was it important that such information was recorded? It formed part of Sir Carnaby's financial accounts of his property and lands: as Lord of the Manor he was entitled to this.

This is a typical entry:

August 29 1781

A Ship's Boat upon Cheswick Sand Ridge by information of James Havery & Thomas Weatherston both of Cheswick:

The Boat was drove upon the Sand Ridge by the tide Just as the above Two people left the Sands. The above Boat was the Sameday brought to Haggerston in along Cart by Laurence Newton Carter, Mark Farguson, George Jackson, George Thompson, Joseph Westle, Thomas peacock, John Robertson, & John Kinkhorn, Assistants with the Boat into the Cart. The above Boat was owned by John Wilson Berwick & Company.

Not only wrecks and salvage operations are recorded in the book. A poignant entry of 20 December 1796 tells of a child killed by a cart and horses at Scremerston on 25 July 1795. The cart and horses belonging to Robert Roomer were taken to Haggerston Castle where they were returned to the owner on payment of forty shillings. Of this sum £1-11-6d was given to the parents of the child and the remainder to Robert Fettis, Bailiff. The Ancroft Parish Burials Register recorded *Mary, daughter of David Story, Scremerston, buried 26 July 1795.*

There are even details of Lost Property:

15 January 1777 A Ladys Memorandum Book with a ring and silver Brooch was found between Buckton Burn and Haggerston by some going people. It was called at Berwick and Belford – never ownend.

The surnames of men named make interesting reading. Many such names are still common in the area today e.g. Ferguson, Kinghorn, Weatherstone, Thompson. Others, however, have virtually disappeared, e.g. Westle, Havery, and Sibbitt. One of the most bizarre entries refers to a hive of bees found on Lowlin Ground in August 1794 by William Sibbitt of Greenside Mill. My attention was immediately aroused by the name of the finder for I have Sibbitts in one of my ancestral lines. Alas! My research indicates that my ancestors are more likely to belong to the line of agricultural labourer Sibbitts of that area rather than the wealthier Sibbitts of Ancroft Greens and I have not yet worked out where the Sibbitts of Greenside Mill fit into the jigsaw.

We read that the hive of bees was taken from the mill to Haggerston *for the use of Sir Carnaby Haggerston, Baronet, and Lord of the Manor*. William Sibbitt receives one shilling for ----- and one shilling for his trouble. The bees are then claimed by *Henry Bell, Gardener of Goswick who said he lost one and had followed her most of the way to Lowlin he got her for paying Expences*. I have taken this to mean that Henry Bell had to pay something to receive back his bees.

So, as Lord of the Manor, Sir Carnaby received a steady income, from such incidents as well as anchorage fees of two shillings per vessel when one was permitted to anchor within his lands.

James Crawford, Sir Carnaby's steward, died in 1807. *The Newcastle Courant* 10 January 1807 records:

CRAWFORD AT Haggerston, on Thursday se'nnight, suddenly, Mr James Crawford, aged 57, many years steward to Sir Carnaby Haggerston, Baronet, much respected. The name of Crawford's successor is not recorded in the book.

The number of ships wrecked on that stretch of the coast which includes Scremerston, Cheswick, Goswick, Holy Island, the Farne Islands and Bamburgh runs into many thousands and these are merely the ones that we know about. Local Burial Registers frequently record the bodies of mariners washed up on the shore. The Ancroft Burial Register records the following during a single month in 1834:

REFERENCE: EP17/29 BURIAL ACCOUNTS:

17 Nov 18? Certify that the bearer George Davison found the body of a seaman on Cheswick Sands

1834 Received for finding the seaman on Cheswick – Edward Watson, Cheswick-from Mr Grey 5/-. Signed George Davison.

11 Nov 1834 To Lady Haggerston making a coffin to a seaman found on Cheswick Sands

17 Nov 1834 Making coffin ditto £1-16s total

10 Nov 1834 Parish of Ancroft to Andrew Allan for making a coffin to a seaman found near Scremerston Rocks

11 Nov 1834 Received payment Andrew Allan.

Traditionally the parish paid for a coffin and burial in such cases. Efforts began to be made to identify the bodies but this was very difficult before formal arrangements of Crew Lists were introduced. The impact upon the coastal community must have been enormous and there were many cases of ordinary folk surviving on the proceeds of plundering shipwrecks. In some places people are even said to have lured passing ships onto rocks by means of lights in order to take possession of the cargo. It was well-known that local people viewed shipwrecks as an economic opportunity especially in isolated communities on certain Scottish islands and even on Holy Island. It could even be considered an industry until the 19th century saw regulations introduced. Nowadays all goods recovered are required to be reported to the Receiver of Wrecks.

It has been a fascinating experience to delve into this book and it has led my research in so many directions, with some questions answered and new ones posed. This is the nature of archive research – as well as learning how to be a detective, you uncover so many new pieces of information which take you off at different tangents.

Valerie Glass

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRE PETTY SESSIONS

The Closure of the Salmon Inn, Norham, 1922

At the General Licensing Meeting held on 1 February 1922, at Norham and Islandshire Petty Sessions, the licence for the Salmon Inn, Norham, was refused on the grounds of structural deficiency. Superintendent Halliday described the Inn as a very old, small, one storeyed building consisting of a kitchen, also used as a drinking room, 16½ feet by 14 feet; a sitting- room, 17 feet by 14 feet; a bedroom, 16 feet by 9½ feet; a cellar and a backyard. A three foot wide passage, ran through the house to the back, but there was no rear entrance. He considered it unsuitable for a licenced premises, and while it bore the sign of an Inn, it had no accommodation, other than for the sale of intoxicating liquor. He believed that the licence had been

issued prior to 1869. The present tenant, Mrs Dickinson, had been in occupation for 28 years and it was her sole means of livelihood: she lived there with one domestic. If objection was made on grounds of structural deficiency, compensation would be due, on closure. At the request of Mr PM Henderson, who represented the owner, Mr WA Young, London; the tenants, the Border Brewery, Berwick, and the sub-tenant, Mrs Dickinson, the Case was adjourned for one month for consideration as to whether the structural objection might be removed. On being asked whether plans should be prepared to meet the objection, the Chairman replied, not very encouragingly, that if the licence was renewed, it might only be for one year, as it was probable that the house would be sent for compensation next year.

At the adjourned Meeting held on 1 March 1922, Mr PM Henderson again representing the owner, the tenant and the sub-tenant stated that Mr Young believed that the property would need practically reconstructing to meet the objections, which he was not prepared to do. Depending on whether the licence was a pre-1869 licence, or an old beer licence, the Bench would have to refer the house for compensation, if objection was taken on structural grounds. No record was available of the licences, but a declaration by Mr Robertson, fisherman of Norham, 59 years old, was submitted. In 1868, he went to reside with his parents at the Salmon Inn, which then had an ale, beer, and wine licence. [Mr Robertson would have been about 5!] Superintendent Halliday said that there were two other houses in the village for a population of 650. Although the house was not redundant, he considered it deficient and unsuitable for a licenced property. It was referred to the Compensation Authority on ground of structural unsuitability.

The Northumberland County Compensation Authority awarded £830 compensation, apportioned as follows: Mr WA Young, owner £555; Border Brewery Company, tenant £165; and Mrs Dickinson, sub-tenant, £110. The Salmon Inn was described as one of the oldest hostelries in Islandshire. The award was to be paid on 27th December 1922 and the Salmon Inn to close on Old Year's Day.

Berwick Record Office Norham and Islandshire Petty Sessions Register 1915 – 1923, PS/6/1, case numbers 492/77, 495/77; Berwick Advertiser 3 Feb 1922, 3 March 1922, 15 December 1922.

Julie Gibbs

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 3 November 1871

PRESENTATION

On Thursday evening last, Mrs James Anderson, of the Byker Small-pox Hospital, was presented with a beautiful gold watch and chain by a number of friends in token of their sincere regard and in recognition of her valuable services and the many acts of kindness shown by her to the patients during the late epidemic at the above Institution. The presentation was made by Dr Newton on behalf of the subscribers. Mrs Anderson returned thanks in a feeling and very appropriate manner. The above mentioned lady is the wife of James Anderson, Esq., the resident medical officer of the Byker Hospital, son of Mr Anderson, late Superintendent of Police of this town.

Berwick Advertiser, 3 November 1871

THE NEW WET DOCK

Plans of this dock have been prepared by Messrs Stevenson, C.E., Edinburgh, and at a meeting of a committee of the Harbour Commissioners held on Wednesday we understand that the plans were approved of, and unanimously recommended for adoption by the Commissioners. The new dock, which is proposed to be constructed between Lower Toll Gate and St. Bartholomew's Church, will cover three acres of land and water, and accommodate at least 16 large vessels. The entrance is expected to be from nearly opposite the Church and the dock sill will be at a depth of 19 feet, so that vessels of very heavy tonnage can be taken into the dock. As the Commissioners must obtain an Act of Parliament to empower them to build the dock, operations will not commence, in all likelihood, until August 1872. The estimated cost of the dock is fully £40,000.

Berwick Advertiser, 10 November 1871

GUY FAWKES DAY

Gun powder and pyrotechnics are closely associated with the 5th of November, and this memorable day is generally looked forward to by frolicsome youth with some gusto. This year Gunpowder Plot anniversary, however, occurred on Sunday last,

and no display of fireworks could be made, in all reverence, on that day; but on Monday the event was celebrated. A subscription was set on foot to enable the “Committee of Management” to purchase rockets, crackers, and other artificial fireworks, and a tolerably fair sum was collected. The exhibition took place on the Mound overlooking Bankhill, and amidst the huzzas of a large number of persons, the fireworks blazed, between eleven and twelve o’clock a few of the more obstreperous of the “Committee” managed to get possession of a couple of tar-barrels which they rolled down High Street making night hideous with their uproarious merriment.

Carole Pringle

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

An easy way to support the Friends at no cost to yourself - Sign up with the *Give as you Live* website and nominate the Friends as your preferred charity. Select the store that you wish to purchase from, out of a wide range of online stores, and a small percentage of the price will be paid to the Friends. Check out the website at <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/berwickfriends>'

Find us on Facebook: Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives

Julie Gibbs – The Editor
newsletter@berwickfriends.org.uk.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

Below is a list of Heritage Open Days taking place in North Northumberland outside Berwick :

6TH – 9TH September 2018

BELFORD

BELFORD MUSEUM : THE HIGH STREET.

Each day 10- 4

See a display of how the High street has developed over the years. There will be photographs of the old shops and stories about the lives of the people who lived and worked there.

BELL VIEW – TALK:

Sunday 9th September : 2.30 pm under auspices of Belford Museum

Tales of Crans, Creels and Tunes : Iris McMillan

FERGUSON HALL – FERGUSON HALL AND ITS EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Sunday 9th September : 11 – 4 - EXHIBITION

ISABELLA FERGUSON 1829 – 1903- daughter of a Northumbrian farmer and founder of Belford's oldest and largest hall. View the beautiful samplers stitched almost 200 years ago by Belford's own "Extraordinary Woman", Isabella Ferguson and her sister.

FORD – LADY WATERFORD HALL

Sat 8th & Sun 9th : 11 – 5

Once the village school, the Hall houses a unique collection of Pre-Raphaelite murals and tells the fascinating story of Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford, the artist who created them. On HODS days there will be an exhibition "Ford at the Time of the Waterford". Guided tours at 11.30 and 2.30 pm and talk at 1pm : Ford at the time of the Waterfords.

UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

Sat 8th and Sun 9th Sept : 11 – 3

The Union Chain Bridge, designed by Captain Samuel Brown RN in 1820, was the first suspension bridge of its type in the world to carry vehicles and is still in use

today, spanning the Tweed between England and Scotland. There will be stewards at the bridge to tell you more and information leaflets available.

13th – 16th September

BELFORD

BELFORD MUSEUM : THE HIGH STREET

Thursday 13th – Sunday 16th Sept 10 – 4

See previous entry.

BELL VIEW - TALK

Thursday 13th September : 7.30 pm -under auspices of Belford Museum

The Making of Berwick Cockles : Cameron Robertson

BELFORD HALL - TOUR

Sat 15th & Sun 16th Sept : 11 – 4

Belford Hall is a Grade 1 listed Georgian manor house by James Paine, extended in the Regency period by John Dobson and now divided into private apartments. The communal areas, wine cellar, servants' tunnel and gardens are open this weekend. 1 hour tour. Contact in advance if group of over 8 people.

BELFORD – 1 WEST BACK LANE – ECOLOGICAL HOUSE

Sat 15th & Sun 16th Sept : 12 – 4pm

An ecological, energy-efficient and affordable home designed & built by its architect owners/ occupants who welcome & guide you round. Groups of 8, please contact in advance.

FERGUSON HALL - TALK

Sunday 16th September : 2.30pm – under auspices of Belford Museum

Alnwick Castle and WW1 : Chris Hunwick of Alnwick Castle

FORD – LADY WATERFORD HALL

Sat 15th Sept : 11 – 5

As above : There will be an exhibition “Ford at the Time of the Waterford”. Guided tours at 11.30 and 2.30 pm and talk at 1pm : Ford at the time of the Waterfords.

All events are free. Look on www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further details.