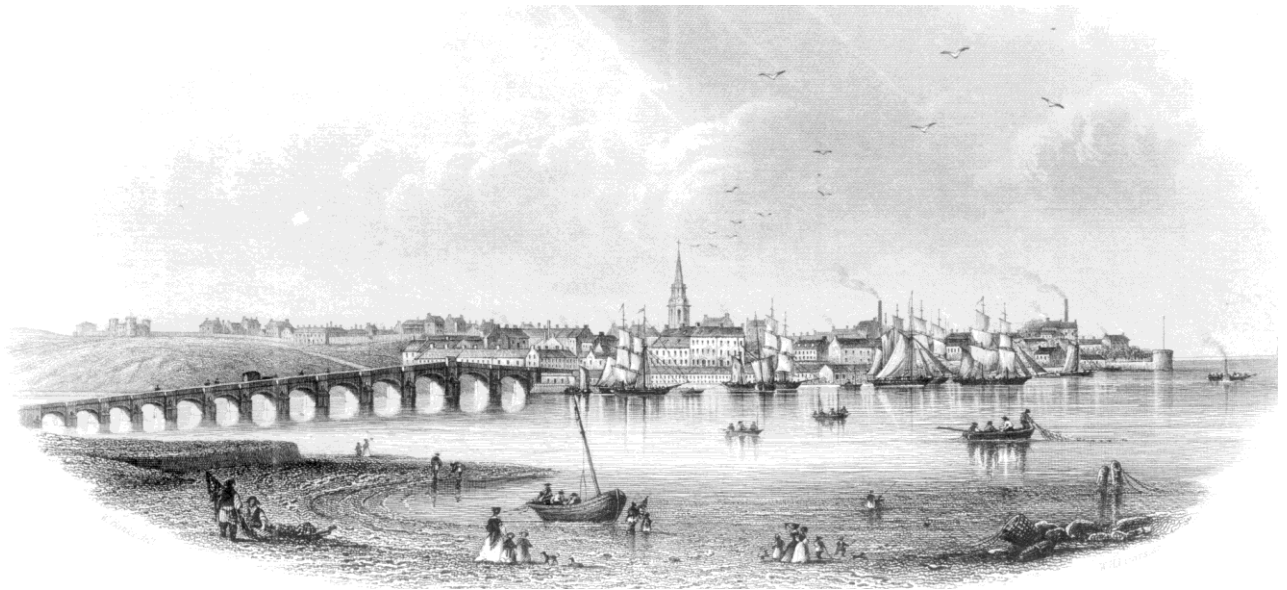


# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 98–DECEMBER 2018*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday 17th December 2018

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

March 2019

Friends AGM followed by a talk at Parish Centre, Berwick. Further details in next newsletter.

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**



### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 29th January 2019	Wm Cowe & Sons and the Berwick Cockle - the famous Berwick sweet: Cameron Robertson
Tuesday 26th February	Berwickshire's Poor 1800 – 1914: David McLean
Tuesday 26th March	AGM and talk : The Battle of Halidon Hill, Berwick – the 1333 battle between English and Scottish forces: Jim Herbert

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bell View Resource Centre**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 23rd January 2019	Bamburgh Castle Archaeology: Graeme Young
Wednesday 27th February	The Tragedy of the Short Family of Lucker: Brian Rogers
Wednesday 27th March	A Policeman's Lot – 1750 to 1950: Dr Ian Roberts

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 19th December	Berwick Photo Centre Collection: Cameron Robertson
Wednesday 16th January 2019	From Cocklawburn to Budle Bay. Stories from the Peregrini Project: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 20th February	Defending the Town Through the Ages: Derek Sharman

Wednesday 20th March

Life after Death. How the St. Cuthbert  
Community survived the Danes: John  
Woodhurst

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

#### **No lectures in January**

Monday 4th February 2019

The Paxton Waterwheel: restoration of  
an 18th century water supply system:  
John Home-Robertson

Monday 4th March

Animal Bones in Roman Britain: Dr Jim  
Morris (title to be confirmed)

### **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

#### **No lectures in December and January**

Sunday 25th February 2019

The Court of the Lord Lyon: Dr Joseph  
Morrow

Sunday 31st March

Smallpox: Isabel Gordon of the Kelso  
Amenity Society

### **BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bowsden Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

#### **No lectures in January**

Monday 4th February 2019

Splice the Mainbrace! Famous  
Northumbrian sailors. Admirals Lord  
Collingwood, Sir Chaloner Ogle, et alia....:  
Mike Oliver

Monday 4th March

Bringing Northumberland's past to life  
through drama, song and creative arts:  
Cinzia Hardy, November Club



Wednesday 9th January 2019	Deserted Mediaeval Villages, our locality's forgotten past: Allan Colman
Wednesday 13th February	The Families of Wallington Hall – the Fenwicks via the Blacketts to the Trevelyans: Elizabeth Finch
Wednesday 13th March	The Northern Pre-Raphaelite: William Bell-Scott and his art: Michael Thomson

### **LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP**

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 10th December	John Elliot ( 1862-1956): The Life and Times of a Lowick GP: Eileen Langdale
Monday 14th January 2019	The Personal Memories of a Farm Manager: Peter Calder
Monday 11th February	Holy Island Lifeboats: Linda Bankier
Monday 11th March	Deserted Medieval Villages of North Northumberland: Allan Colman

### **NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Norham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 14th January 2019	Berwick Photo Centre archive: Cameron Robertson
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### **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland**

**Time: 7.00 p.m.**

Wednesday 23rd January 2019	Schools: George Scott
Wednesday 27th February	Cresswell's Curiosities: Barry Mead
Wednesday 27th March	The Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords: Linda Bankier

## NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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

Saturday 19th January 2019	Members' Stories
Saturday 16th February	John Mackay Wilson, Writer of Tales of the Borders and editor of the Berwick Advertiser 1832-1835: Mike Fraser
Saturday 16th March	North East Mills: Duncan Hutt

## TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Wednesday 2nd January 2019	History of Ford Castle: Paul Thompson
Wednesday 6th February	Operation Nightingale: Alexander Sotheran-MOD Archaeologist
Wednesday 6th March	Bronze Age Burials in North East England and South East Scotland: Dr Chris Fowler

## ARCHIVE NEWS



It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us again. 2018 has flown by. The last few months have been particularly busy in the Archives for various reasons. There is never a dull moment. Just after the last newsletter, there was Heritage Open Days (HODS) and the Record Office supported it in various ways in North Northumberland. We provided the Lady Waterford Hall with an exhibition on the Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords and I also gave a talk there as well. Our main contribution was in Berwick where we helped co-ordinate all the events which took place and supported many of them in one way or another. Overall Berwick HODS was a great success this year with over 7000 visits to the various sites open, walks, talks and exhibitions. Our main contribution was the exhibition in the Town Hall which attracted over 1000 visits over the weekend. Planning for HODS 2019 starts in the New Year and we are hoping to build on the success of this year.

This last couple of months have involved the Record Office in a series of exhibitions. Once HODS was over, I had to think about Etal. The Village Hall has gathered an archive of copies relating to the village which were originally collected in 2008. I was asked to help with cataloguing these items and we thought it would be useful to display them again and see what information we could get on them. With the help of Cathy Rippon who has just started an Archive postgraduate course, we put together a display in the Village Hall over one weekend in October and gathered information from local visitors. Cathy has now started cataloguing the material and we would hope to have completed the catalogue during 2019.

The centenary of the Armistice has had a high profile recently and the Record Office supported what went on in Berwick to commemorate this event. Firstly, I worked with St Andrew's Wallace Green Church on a project trying to find out information about all the people listed on the church's war memorials. This culminated in an exhibition the week before Armistice. Lots of information has now been collected about the people named and it can be viewed here in the Office. It was fascinating to see what could be found out and the individual stories of those we researched. Over the Armistice weekend, the Record Office also mounted an exhibition in the Town Hall on Berwick during the First World which was supported by material from local schools; additional material collected in the past 5 years and a series of talks. I think I now get a break from creating exhibitions until the spring!

In the background, work has also been going on for our Archives Revealed Cataloguing Project. We have now got through the interviewing process and I am pleased to report that Teresa Maley will start her one year contract with us as a Cataloguing Archivist on 7 January. Teresa has done some work on the collection in the past – before I was even involved! - and has worked extensively in archives in Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. You will be hearing more about the project in the next year as it develops and takes shape.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned our Cholera Project with Year 9 pupils from Berwick Academy. The comic they produced has now been printed and copies are available from the Record Office. To promote the project and a creative use of archives, Jane Miller; Lydia Wysocki (Applied Comicsetc ) and I spoke about the project at Berwick Literary Festival. It was a very well attended talk and it was great to see some of the students come along. The comic can be viewed online - <http://appliedcomicsetc.com/portfolio/cholera/> . Have a look as it is an amazing piece of work.

Work on the Peregrini Project continues. The redevelopment work on the Reading Room has been completed and we are now at the stage where we can soon move some of the archive material in. As well as the Reading Room, work is continuing on

developing the website – [www.islandshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.islandshirearchives.org.uk) . The catalogue for the archives – Holy Island and Belford/Budle – can be viewed on there as well as articles on the heritage of both these places. It is definitely worth having a look.

Over the past couple of years the Northumberland Archives has been working on a Manorial Documents project with the National Archives. Over that period, we have updated the entries of Northumberland manorial material which originally appeared on the Manorial Documents Register and identified additional material. All this work has now been uploaded into the searchable database available on the National Archives website – <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search> . As most counties are now represented in the index, a conference was held at the National Archives to highlight the records and their potential. As part of that, I spoke on the Northumberland Archives proposed outreach project to highlight the existence of these records for research and community use. We are hoping to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to support the project which would start in late 2019.

Finally, the Record Office continues to give talks and support various community groups and schools with project. During the past couple of months, I helped run some sessions on the First World War for students from Longridge Towers who went to France and Belgium just before half term. I also led an assembly in the Junior School on the First World War. Talks have also been given at the annual day school organised by Berwick and District's Trade Unions Council – Evidence of Woman and their lives in the Berwick Archives - ; an address at the St Andrew's Club Dinner and a talk to Wooler U3A.

Life at the Record Office is always hectic but it is so encouraging to see people use and value the service. We are here to preserve material but also to help people learn from the archives and what they hold.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019.

*Linda Bankier*



## 100 YEARS AGO COLUMN

### JOSPEH TOUGH OF HOLY ISLAND



Every week, the Record Office provides a short article from the Berwick Advertiser of 100 years ago for the present newspaper. I try to cover the whole of the North Northumberland area in this column and recently I found this entry :

#### **Berwick Advertiser, 29 November 1918**

*HOLY ISLAND – With very deep regret and much sympathy the sad news was received on Monday of the death of Lance Corporal Joseph Tough, aged 25 years, at the residence of his sisters in Heaton. He had served with H M Forces in Salonica for over two years and was drafted into England a few months ago having suffered very much from malaria fever. He is to be buried in Heaton Cemetery on Thursday first with full military honours.*

*Home on leave for a few days last weekend were Seamen Thomas Markwell, John Markwell and Joseph Douglas, who are all looking quite well and happy.*

I know Tough as an Island name and thought I would do some additional research to see what I could find out about him and his family. I was pleasantly surprised with what I found which built up quite a story about him.

Joseph Tough was born in the December quarter of 1893 on Holy Island. He was one of seven children whose parents were David and Margaret Tough. His brothers were David, William and John George and his sisters were Christina, Martha and Margaret. He was one of the younger children. His father, David was a fisherman but not originally from the Island. He appears to have been born in Aberdeenshire although his parents were living on the Island by 1871. His mother, Margaret, was an Islander whose maiden surname was Wilson.

After 1911, there is no further information on Joseph until the First World War. I managed to track down his Service records online and these provided me with some additional information. Joseph completed his attestation papers on 29 November 1915 at Alnwick. In these he stated that he was an unemployed machinist living on Holy Island. He was 5' 8 ¼" tall and entered as a Private and then became a gunner in the Royal Artillery. From January 1916 it was noted that he was to be posted and by 28 July 1916 he had embarked at Davenport for services overseas. On 7 August 1916, he arrived in Salonica. All seemed to go well at first, except for the docking of 3 days pay on 4 January 1917 for being late on parade. However, by May 1917, he

was admitted to hospital with enteric fever and from then, until May 1918 he spent various spells in hospital with fever or malaria. As a result of this he had an enlarged spleen and it was decided he was unfit to continue active service in the field. He was awarded a 20% pension because of his condition. On 4 July 1918, Joseph embarked on a ship to return to the UK. This was not the end of his service as he was deemed capable of being employed on shipyard labour in the National Shipyards. He therefore returned to Tyneside where many of his family now lived to work at Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., shipbuilders in Hebburn. Joseph continued working there until 24 November 1918 when he died of pneumonia and influenza at 132 Malcolm Street, Heaton, in the house next to his brother. Joseph was then buried in Byler and Heaton Cemetery in Newcastle. His death is included on the Commonwealth War Graves site because he was still technically in a military role.

I tried to take the family forward to see what happened to the other siblings. The 1939 register records the brothers David and William living in Newcastle whilst the youngest brother, John George was on Holy Island working as a fisherman. The parents had died by 1939 but I am still trying to ascertain an exact date for both of them.

When I started undertaking this research, I never thought I would find so much. However, it just shows what you can find out if any service records survive – they are a goldmine of information !

*Linda Bankier*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



In 2018 we decided not to publish another Photocentre book but thought that we would wait until 2019. Our next publication will relate to the photos of the area in the 1970s. There is a lot of background work that goes on in producing a book and we are looking for volunteers who would like to do some research or generally help us. If you would like to get involved, just get in touch.

## **BERWICK RECORD OFFICE 40TH ANNIVERSARY**



2020 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Record Office and it would be fitting to mark this occasion. I know it may seem a long time in the future at the moment but it will soon creep up. In 2010/11, we held a number of events to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Record Office and so I would like to do something similar again – some workshops; talks and exhibition. These things don't happen without a lot of support and involvement of others. Therefore, is there anyone out there who would like to get involved – have you got some ideas of what we could do; would you like to help organise an event? If you feel you can contribute and would like to be part of a group who will take this idea forward, please get in touch with me. I will then arrange a meeting so that we can discuss what our options are. It is important for the office to celebrate this landmark and raise our profile.

*Linda Bankier*

## **MUSEUM NEWS**



The Museum is now closed for the season, though we will reopen for the School half term holiday at the end of October. We have had a reasonable season, with slightly reduced opening hours - 9,277 visitors so far.

We were open on Minden Day (28<sup>th</sup> July), Berwick Food and Drink Festival (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September). Courtesy of English Heritage, we were able to open for free during the second HODs weekend, and we had over 750 visitors over the two days.

We held two temporary exhibitions, which will remain up in the early part of next season; The Peregrini “Fragments” exhibition, and the Spittal “Seaside” Show. Next season, we will host an exhibition which aims to link together the collections of all four trust museums with a common theme. An artist has been commissioned to do this – Matt Stokes - who is currently in the research phase of the project, due for delivery in June 2019.

We will have a number of activities for younger visitors over half term – a Halloween Trail featuring strange and interesting animals – the dragon, the Laidley Worm etc, and craft activities including vampire bat making.

We were visited by a delegation of Historic England/English Heritage Commissioners and senior staff, led by Sir Lawrie Magnus on 19<sup>th</sup> September, as part of a special visit to see their Berwick portfolio.

The Berwick Degas drawing “Russian Dancers” will be redisplayed in the Burrell Gallery next season. We recently received funding to buy some special conservation materials for the redisplay, and a new custom-built case has been made for the drawing. The picture has featured in a small exhibition at the National Gallery London where it was reunited with Sir William Burrell’s other works by Degas. The exhibition was visited by over 385,000 people, including HRH the Prince of Wales, who brought members of his drawing school to a special viewing of the show.

The Boudin painting, “Landscape on the River Touques” has now returned to Berwick, following its inclusion in the “Monet/Boudin” exhibition at the Museo Thyssen Bornemizsa, Madrid. The Spanish Curators were expecting 160,000 visitors to have seen this exhibition by its close at the end of September.

*Anne Moore, Museum Officer North, Berwick Museum & Art Gallery*

## **UNION CHAIN BRIDGE PROJECT**



Museums Northumberland are working with the Friends of the Union Chain Bridge, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council in a bid to secure funding to conserve the Union Chain Bridge.

Many of you will know the story of the Union Chain Bridge, a suspension bridge that spans the River Tweed, and the England/Scotland border, between Horncliffe in Northumberland and Fishwick in Berwickshire.



When it opened in 1820 it was the longest wrought iron suspension bridge in the world with a span of 137m, and the first vehicular bridge of its type in the United Kingdom. Although work started on the Menai Suspension Bridge first, the Union Chain Bridge was completed earlier. Today, it is the oldest suspension bridge still carrying road traffic.

The bridge was designed by an English Royal Navy officer, Captain Samuel Brown. Brown left the Navy in 1812 and in 1813 built a prototype iron suspension bridge with a 32m span. It was strong enough to support a carriage, and impressed engineers Thomas Telford and John Rennie. Following on from this success, Brown's proposal to build the Union Chain Bridge over the River Tweed was accepted in July 1819 and construction began on 2 August that same year. It opened on 26 July 1820, with an opening ceremony attended by the celebrated Scottish civil engineer Robert Stevenson among others. Captain Brown tested the bridge in a curricle followed by twelve carts, before a crowd of about 700 spectators crossed. Until 1885, tolls were charged for crossing the bridge; the toll cottage, at the English end, was demolished in 1955.

Thanks to a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), plans for the main HLF funding application, which will be submitted in March 2019, are well underway.

The conservation of the bridge will be the focus of the funding application, however, HLF are also passionate about the difference their projects make, not just for heritage, but for people and communities. So, for this reason, we are developing learning activities and community projects to run alongside the conservation work.

This extensive public engagement and learning programme will provide exciting opportunities for people to explore the heritage, stories and setting of the bridge; raising aspirations in young people and inspiring a new generation of engineers. Northumbria University are working with us to develop a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning programme for schools while Archaeology Scotland are supporting the development of heritage workshops through their Heritage Hero Awards programme. Education workshops and site visits will be delivered by project staff and offered, free of charge, to schools on both sides of the border.



Archive research, oral history and archaeology projects will encourage volunteers to get involved in a bid to uncover new evidence about the bridge. We also hope to set up a cross border network for local heritage groups, providing a forum where research can be shared and support given.

Consultation work with local groups, teachers and communities is currently being undertaken. If you have not yet had your say and would like to get involved, please get in touch. Contact Jane Miller, Project Coordinator, if you would like more information.

*Jane Miller: [JMiller@museumsnorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:JMiller@museumsnorthumberland.org.uk)*

## FRIENDS AUTUMN LECTURE



At its autumn lecture the Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives welcomed Katrina Porteous, local historian, poet, and President of the Northumbrian Language Society, who spoke on women and fishing in Northumberland coast 1330-1950, with the fascinating title “Can she Skyen a Mussel?” (skyen meaning taking the mussel out of its shell). She has personally known and interviewed some of these women and their descendants.

The talk was not organised chronologically, but more by theme: the first topic was women’s involvement in coble fishing, then their role in selling, and finally the herring industry. The unifying thread in each was the incredibly hard lives these women endured. Many depictions of them can be deceptive as some artists and photographers showed them as “Bonny Fishing Lasses”. In contrast we have the term “fishwife”, which used to merely designate a female fish-seller, but now means a coarse-mannered, loud woman.

The coast from Berwick to the Humber was unified by the coble and the Anglo-Saxon roots of its language. The coble was a flat bottomed sea-going sailing boat, 20-30 feet in length and carried 3 to 5 men, whereas the women worked on shore. The American artist, Winslow Homer, who spent 1881-2 in Cullercoats, depicted many scenes of these women. They wear short skirts, which were necessary for clambering down cliffs in search of mussels. Although there was some realism to these pictures, they could still be designated as “bonny”. A photograph of a fisher girl named Polly Swallow in 1890 by the Whitby photographer Frank Sutcliff shows a casually draped somewhat glamorous lass clutching coiled line and is obviously staged, as is another photo by him of Lizzie Hawksfred. A painting from 1890 by the Staithes artist Isa Thompson shows the opposite, and indeed, photographs from the 1920s depict fish women more candidly – they are less bonny and more feisty and sharp-tongued, more like the modern definition of fishwives.

Coble fishing for cod and haddock took place from October to March and was a family occupation. Women on boats were considered “bad luck”, but their work on shore was essential. The women and children would gather bait – mussels and limpets – from the rocks early in the morning. The children would then go to school and the women would continue their work. Shells would be removed with a special knife and lines would have to be carefully baited with a mussel or limpet so the line did not get tangled and the point of the hook did not protrude – it took skill. A half line had 700 hooks and would take about 3 hours. The women had no breaks and

did not get paid. In the summers flat fish was caught, and the women had to dig for lugworm and often got their hands infected.

Then there was the selling of fish and crabs. Merchants might want only a certain amount of fish, so women sold the surplus all over Northumberland in markets and door to door. They walked for miles with creels on their backs which could weigh 6 stone. Fishwives were nothing new – as we could see from a wash drawing from the 1780s and a medieval picture from the 1380s of fishwives in the market place.

Finally the herring industry, and Katrina Porteous emphasized that it was really an industry. A pre-World War One photo from Beadnell shows a group of girls with herring barrels. Herring migrated down from the north from June to September. In Northumberland the season was late spring to early summer, but as the fish spoiled easily they were considered “rubbish fish” until the Dutch organised the industry, and by the mid-19th century every village had a herring yard where the fish were packed and sent away. The method involved first sorting the herring by size, then packing it very tightly with salt in a rosette pattern, adding brine and more layers. In this way it lasted much longer and could be exported. The women moved with the herring down the coast as far as Yarmouth, and it gave them an income and an independence unusual for Victorian women. They worked in threes gutting, sorting, packing and salting, and the skilled could process 60 herrings a minute. They were paid 1s per barrel containing 1000 fish. This industry lasted about 100 years in Northumberland, but new methods of fishing with steam trawlers were driving away the herring, resulting in fewer fish and falling prices. Smaller villages couldn't keep up although it continued in Seahouses until about 1970. There was also a brief mention of kippers – herring split and smoked for up to six weeks – which started about 1860.

Katrina Porteous finished her talk with more paintings and photos – one from Robert Jobling, husband of Isa Thompson, showing fishwives carrying fishing gear home, but this did not mean their work was done for the day. They usually worked from 4am till midnight, averaging only 4 hours of sleep. Families often lived in upturned boats (like the ones which can still be seen on Holy Island) and often ate fish that had gone off and could not be sold. Another picture, this time medieval, showed a woman mending a net. One from Winslow Homer showed them knitting sea boot stockings. Women were also involved in dragging cobbles to the launching point and launching them – you didn't want the men getting wet before they went to sea – as well as hauling the boats up again. Women also used to launch and haul lifeboats before tractors took over the job. She summed up that it was a horrible and harsh life these women had from 1300 to today and reminded us that at the same time,



they bore many children, did all this work even when they were pregnant, often died in childbirth and of course, did have a shorter life expectancy than other women.

Jane Pigney

## WEDDING UNDER ROMANTIC CONDITIONS



On looking through the Berwick Advertiser as part of my research on the First World War, I found this article in the Berwick Advertiser, issue dated 19th January 1917 which intrigued me :

*Wedding Under Romantic Conditions. – Lance – Corporal Fleming, of the 481<sup>st</sup> Canadian Highlanders (eldest son of Mr. W. Fleming, Milne Graden, Coldstream, and a relative of Mrs. Hall, Rosebank, Kelso), was married to Miss Sarah Alderson, of Lower Coniscliffe. The wedding which took place at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, was carried through under romantic conditions. Arriving home from the front on a few days leave, Lance – Corporal discovered that his bride -to-be was lying in Greenbank Hospital with a broken leg. It was, however arranged that the marriage should take place and Miss Alderson, attired in a light blue wrapper, was conveyed in an ambulance to the church. After the ceremony the bride was taken back to the hospital. Before the Lance – Corporal left for the front later in the day, he and his bride were presented with a timepiece, the gift of the house-surgeon, the matron and her staff, as a token of their good wishes.*

After reading this story I wanted to find out a little bit more about John Fleming. According to his service records, he joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1914, having already served 2 years in the K.O.S.B. After he returned to France and the front line. He was Shell Gassed on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and went to a field hospital. From there, he was sent to Witley hospital in England on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. On the 9<sup>th</sup> April he was at a Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Park, Epsom and was eventually discharged from hospital on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1918. He received his discharge from the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canada Expeditionary Force on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1919, after serving in Canada, England, and France.

Does anyone know anything further about the couple ?

Terry and Sheila Ford

## KITCHING VETERINARY SURGEON



William Kitching came to Belford from Fife about 1866 where he is recorded as a Starter at Belford Races. Kitching trained as a chemist and druggist, where he set up shop in Cupar. As a chemist he also provided supplies for farmers, but it seems that he was not particularly successful, since in 1863 newspapers advised his creditors to submit claims when his business was put up for sale. He seems to have reinvented himself as a Vet when he arrived in Belford but there is no record of his having trained as a vet, nor is he listed in the Veterinary Colleges' records. Doubtless he had learned some skills from his father who was a trained Vet and his druggist knowledge would be as useful for animals as humans. Nevertheless his lack of formal training may help explain why in 1879 he was successfully sued for breach of warranty of a pony.

In Belford his main home and office was in West Street, but by the end of the century as can be seen in this photo he had a consulting rooms in the High Street. Described in the 1890's as 'old Mr Kitchen, the veterinary – quite a character, always spruce in tight fittings leggings'.



*Karon Ives*

## BURIED IN A BERWICK GARDEN



I am currently researching the history of the Black Bull Inn, Lowick. While working through a bundle of deeds, I came across two intriguing references to Stephen Maxwell, Slater of Castlegate. One was a description of his Berwick property, in a Mortgage Deed, dated 1821, and the other, a statement in a Codicil to his will, dated

1831, stipulating that he and his wife were to be buried in the Castlegate garden. Was it possible to identify the property?

Stephen was baptised in Lowick, in 1753, in the Dissenting Chapel. He commenced an apprenticeship with George Paulin, Burgess and Mason of Berwick, in 1770. In 1778, he and his brother William, a Carpenter of Saint George, Hanover Square, Middlesex, inherited the Black Bull Farm, (the western half of the existing property), as tenants in common, from their father, Joseph. Stephen, by then a Slater in Berwick, purchased his brother's share of the farm, for £300, in July 1792, and at the same time paid off an outstanding mortgage of his father's, of £120. Later that year, he married Isabella Cook in Berwick.

The 1798/99 Land Tax Assessments record Stephen as living in Castlegate, in a property owned by George *Lyale*. In July 1821, still living in the same area but in a property that he had had erected, Stephen raised a mortgage of £400 from Rachel Todd, a widow of Berwick, using both the Lowick and Berwick properties as security. His Castlegate property was described as follows:

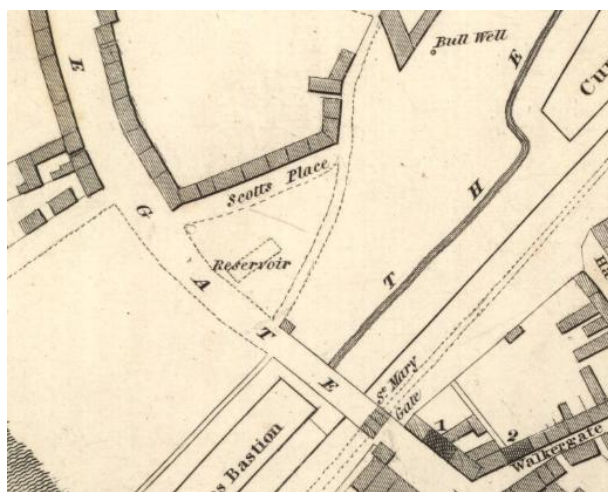
*All that Messuage Burgage or Tenement erected by the said Stephen Maxwell upon a piece or parcel of Garden Ground formerly of James Cummings and lately of William Scott with the back yard and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate standing lying and being on the East side of the street of Castlegate aforesaid and bounded by premises of the said William Scott on or towards the North, a Messuage or Tenement and Stable belonging to the Heirs of George Lyall in part and a party wall adjoining to a certain Burgage or Tenement and yard of Michael Anderson in part on or towards the West a street or passage leading from the Street of Castlegate aforesaid to the High Greens on or towards the South and a Burgage or Tenement and yard of George Scott on or towards the East or however otherwise the said Messuage Burgage or Tenement and yard be bounded sided or abutted in as full and ample manner as the same is now in the occupation of the said Stephen Maxwell.*

In June 1827, Stephen wrote a will leaving his properties in trust for the use of his wife Isabella, then after her decease, not having any children, to Margaret (Maxwell) the wife of his nephew Joseph Paulin, a Cooper, and after her death, to her children. He added a Codicil to his will in January 1831, stipulating that he and his wife were to be buried in the garden behind the property in Castlegate and that future purchasers were not to dig near that spot, to a depth greater than three feet. Any of his Paulin relatives trying to stop his Executors from carrying out his wishes, were to be disinherited.

Isabella died on the 2nd March 1831, aged 84 and Stephen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, aged 77 as recorded in the Berwick Advertiser. Margaret Paulin, his niece, of Western Lane,

died 26<sup>th</sup> March, and was buried at Holy Trinity, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1831, aged 51. Three of Joseph and Margaret's children had already died. Joseph an infant, in 1809, John aged 20, in February 1827 and Mary aged 10, in August 1827, leaving daughter Margaret, who was over 21, to inherit both properties. She sold the Black Bull Farm, as per Stephen's wishes, to pay off the £400 mortgage. There is no further mention of the Berwick property in the Black Bull deeds.

Catherine Kent kindly went through the 1806 Berwick Directory, in which Stephen was listed as a Slater and Plasterer, in Castlegate and established that the most likely location for Stephen's house was Scott's Place. The 1822 plan of the town confirms that Scott's Place existed by this date. See the plan below.



Woods Plan of the Town of Berwick from the actual survey, 1822

The Poor Rate Books covering a number of the years between 1780 to 1833, are an invaluable source for anyone interested in the cost and extent of poverty during the period prior to the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, listing as they do, street by street, the properties, the owner and/or tenant, the yearly value, and the assessed sum according to the poor rate current at the time. The rate was re-assessed several times per year. Some of the people named, had *poor* written beside them and some were in arrears.

An additional use of the Rate Books, however, is as a source for house history and the development of Berwick. Although Scott's Place is not referred to in the Rate Books, the area being classed as Castlegate, it is possible from the yearly property values to identify the row of properties. The table below includes the November 1830 entries. Joseph Paulin's name replaced that of Stephen Maxwell, sometime in 1831 with Joseph still at the same property in November 1833, the last of the assessments.

William Scott, presumably the owner of the garden ground upon which the houses were built, died in 1846. His will written in the same year, confirmed that he owned,

along with many other properties in Castlegate and elsewhere, No. 5 Scott's Place, occupied by Mrs Smail and No. 6 occupied by himself, suggesting that Stephen Maxwell's house was No. 2.

Margaret and her father Joseph were at 2 Scott's Place in 1841, and Margaret continued to live there until at least 1871, and possibly until her death in 1877, aged 68. On her grave stone, she is noted as the daughter of Joseph, there being no mention of her mother.

### Rate for relief of the Poor for 6 months at 2s in £. 19 November 1830

#### Messuages and Tenements in Castlegate Continued

Persons and Places Charged	Yearly Value	Sum Assd	Yearly Value disch	Sum Assd disch	Sum Paid	Arrears
<i>Roger Strother</i> , Shop	£4	8s	£4	8s		
Miss Maule, house	£9	18s			18s	
Stephen <b>Maxwell</b> , <b>replaced by Jos Paulin</b> , [in pencil] house	£8	16s			16s	
George Scott, house	£14	£1 8s			£1 8s	
Mark Jameson, house	£13	£1 6s			£1 6s	
Ann Knowles, replaced by Mrs Smail, [in pencil] house	£10	£1				£1
William Scott, house	£10	£1			£1	
Henry Johnson, house	£14	£1 8s			£1 8s	

*Board of Guardians Berwick Schedule Books GBR/30*

*A list of sources can be found at the Berwick Record Office*

*Julie Gibbs*

## INTERESTING SNIPPETS

### Berwickshire News and General Advertiser, Tuesday 15 September 1914

#### Special War Notes

Here is a new recipe for cooking German Sausage: Cook in a British Kitchener, in a Japan enamelled saucepan, well Greeced with Russian tallow. Serve up with French capers and Brussels scouts, with plenty of Jellicoe sauce. This is issued by the Canteen Manager.

**Extract from “New and Old” a book of letters written by Edith Sichel (1862-1914)**

This extract was written in 1912 when she was staying at Barmoor Castle

Such an exciting arrival at Berwick, still quite light at 9.30, the hills and Abbey-towers silver and grey, and the broad stately river flowing silver under the strong grey spanning bridges - all force and beauty. It is such a congenial town to me, the town of middle-age, brave and strong and come unto itself - grey without gloom, silver-grey indeed with lights of its own, still full of contrasts but without violence, large in its outlook, fortified enough, but not walled.

It looked unearthly beautiful as I sped through it in the motor, and so did the long Northumberland roads encased in full-blossomed hawthorn all silvery in the twilight; silver, too, the little fairy rabbits that sat in the wood with the motor-light full on them, and scuttled off like elves of the North to their homes in the down-like fields. Thrilling was the first sight of the sea over which the Danes once came sailing – a grim, dim, resolute sea; and thrilling the sight of Durham Cathedral from the train, where I dined in the Restaurant off fried leather. (sic) At Berwick the motor (conducted by an angel of a chauffeur who will, I hope, drive me on the Last Day) conveyed me to this haven of goodness and pleasure, where I'm being degenerately pampered.

*Jan Ward*

## **BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS**



**Berwick Advertiser, 10 November 1871**

### LET OF SALMON FISHERIES

On Tuesday afternoon Mr Purves let by auction in the Corn Exchange , a number of salmon fisheries and shares of fisheries in the Tweed, situated at the mouth of the river and on the sea coast, belonging to the heirs of the late Bishop Chichester. There was a large attendance, and the competition which took place was brisk. The following is the result of the letting:- The whole of Outwater Stell, situated on the “North Shore” put up at £50, was let to Mr Bruce, Spittal, for £165. A moiety of

Hallowstell and The Colt, put up at £180, was let to Mr R. Douglas, for Mr George Young, for £295. The whole of Ellstell the Middle Seas, out up at £25, and let to Mr Robert Boston, Spittal, for £65. A moiety of Tweedmouth Stell, put up at £45, and let to Mr Richardson, Norham, for £74. Gardo, put up at £10, and let to Mr Douglas, for Mr G. Young, for £23. A quarter of Blakewell, put up at £5, and bought in at the reserve price of £25. The advance on the upset price in the respective fisheries, the reader will observe is large.

**Berwick Advertiser, 17 November 1871**

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS ENTERTAINMENT

The "great and original" Christy's Minstrels, with Mr Charles Christy as their chief, gave a very good entertainment in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday evening. The sentimental performance was creditable, and was very well received by the numerous audience. The comic part of the entertainment, and the jokes of the "darkies," evoked much laughter and many rounds of applause.

**Berwick Advertiser, 17 November 1871**

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A HORSE

Yesterday afternoon, while two horses in carts, belonging to Mr Mitchell, farmer, Letham Shank, were standing at the weigh-stand in Castlegate, a horse in a cart, frightened by the whistle of a locomotive, on crossing the railway bridge, rushed furiously down Castlegate, and coming in violent contact with one of Mr Mitchell's horses threw it to the ground, and in the fall the animal broke one of its fore legs. The horse, which was valued at £35, had to be destroyed there and then. The name of the owner of the runaway horse is, we are informed, John Hattle, Greenses, and it is only fair to state that he found it impossible to pull his horse up before the mischief was committed. Had the frightened animal continued its furious race down the High Street more serious damage than has even been done might have been perpetrated.

*Carole Pringle*

## WEBSITE UPDATE



The Friends website – [www.berwickfriends.org.uk](http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk) – contains a wealth of information for anyone researching Berwick and the North Northumberland area. Copies of newsletter over a year old can be viewed there as well as work undertaken by volunteers – Berwick Corn Exchange; Berwick Poor Law Union and the Photo Centre index.

A new section has just been added on Luke Moody in the “History” section of the website. If you are interested in the Moody family and/or early nineteenth century agriculture, please follow this link to an account of Luke's life as tenant of Bowsden West Farm, 1823 - 1833, and the family's emigration to Canada in 1834.

<http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/luke-moody-farmer-of-bowsden/>

*Julie Gibbs- Editor*



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

