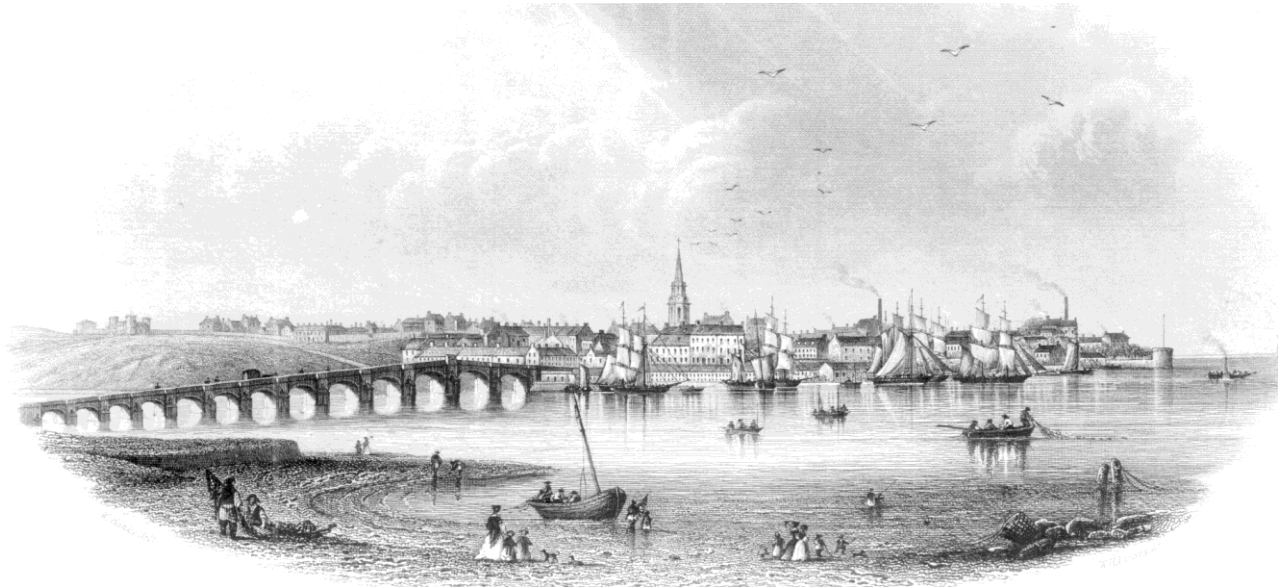


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 99—FEBRUARY 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 15th March 2019

Friends AGM at 7pm followed by a talk at 7.45pm : Rachel Clamp – “Women and the Plague in Newcastle, c.1570 – 1640”. Parish Centre, Berwick. Papers enclosed

Saturday 23rd March

Twixt Thistle and Rose Volunteers’ Meeting at 2pm in Berwick Record Office, Walkergate

Tuesday 26th March

Twixt Thistle and Rose Volunteers’ Meeting at 2pm – venue as above

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time:7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 26th February 2019

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

Tuesday 30th April

Visit to Household and Farming Museum, North Charlton Farm, Chathill near Alnwick

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27th February 2019

The Tragedy of the Short Family of Lucker: Brian Rogers

Wednesday 27th March

A Policeman's Lot – 1750 to 1950: Dr Ian Roberts

Wednesday 24th April

The RAF airfields of Northumberland: Ken Delve

Wednesday 22nd May

The Men & Mills of Spindlestone and Waren: Jane Bowen

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th March

“Priests Whores, or Paragons of Piety?: Parish Church Wives in Elizabethan England: Dr Anne Thompson

Wednesday 10th April

A.G.M. followed by an update on plans for The Maltings-more details to follow

Wednesday 24th April

“Berwick and The Borderlands Growth Initiative” : Janice Rose

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20th March

“Deserted Medieval Villages – Our Localities
Forgotten Past : Allan Colman

Wednesday 17th April

A.G.M. held at 6.45pm followed by a talk
“An English Broch La Roundele & The
beginnings of Berwick”: Dr Catherine Kent

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 4th March 2019

Human and other animals in Roman
Britain: Dr Jim Morris

Monday 1st April

The Enigmatic Trusty’s Hill: Royal
Capital of Rheged: Chris Bowles (preceded by the A.G.M.)

Monday 13th May

Lyres and spears: the hunt for poetries of
the Northern Iron Age: Dr Graeme
Lawson

Monday 3rd June

Gods and heroes: public and private in
Pompeian houses: Dr Thea Ravesi

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30p.m.

Sunday 24th 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

Monday 4th March 2019

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

Monday 1st April

The Life and work of John Mackay Wilson, Editor of the Berwick Advertiser 1832-1835: Mike Fraser

Monday 6th May

"Divvent had Yor Whisht": The ins and oots of the Northumbrian dialect: Kim Bibby-Wilson

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre, Waterloo Arms Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 18th March 2019

Finding Katharina – Luther's wife: Margaret Skea

Monday 15th April

World War 1: Mark Robinson

Monday 20th May

Jim Clark Museum: Kenneth McLean

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 7th March 2019

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

Thursday 4th April

The Impact of World War One on Policing in the Borders: David Smale

Thursday 2nd May

Lindisfarne Castle: Nick Lewis

Thursday 6th June

Visit to Jedburgh: Ken Fotheringham

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 27th February 2019	John Wilson of Lauder and Bombay: Rev. John Shields
Wednesday 27th March	Bridgescapes – the story of bridges in Berwickshire and Scotland: Bruce Keith
Wednesday 24th April	Calamity to Catastrophe – the Tragedies and Disasters of Berwickshire: Kenneth McLean

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th March 2019	The Northern Pre-Raphaelite: William Bell-Scott and his art: Michael Thomson
Wednesday 10th April	The King's Shilling-Old English folk musicians Alan & Pauline Giles & Pete Cryer. Followed by the A.G.M

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 11th March	Deserted Medieval Villages of North Northumberland: Allan Colman
Monday 8th April	Lowick Races (Horses, Bikes and Athletics) and the Lowick Feast 1830s to 1930s: Julie Gibbs and Cast

NORHAM & LADYKIRK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 11th March	Canals & Railways in the Lower Tweed Valley: David Welsh
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Monday 8th April

Early Berwick: Catherine Kent

Monday 13th May

Thomas Pringle: Isobel Gordon

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 27th February 2019

Cresswell's Curiosities: Barry Mead

Wednesday 27th March

The Ford Estate at the time of the

Waterfords: Linda Bankier

Wednesday 24th April

Notable Northumbrians: Andy Griffin

Wednesday 22nd May

Tudor Fashion: Bailiffgate Museum

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 16th March 2019

North East Mills: Duncan Hutt

Saturday 27th April

Members' Stories

Saturday 18th May

A.G.M

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 6th March 2019

Bronze Age Burials in North East England
and South East Scotland: Dr Chris Fowler

Wednesday 3rd April

AGM at 6.45pm followed by a talk
"Update on the Excavation at Mardon,
2018": Richard Carlton

Wednesday 1st May

Vikings in Scotland: Trevor Cowie

Wednesday 5th June

Riding West: Roman Cavalry

Tombstones at Hexham & Beyond:

Lindsay Allason-Jones

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

EASTERN BORDERS HISTORY GATHERING

Volunteer Hall, Duns, 9 March, 10-4pm

Are you interested in local history and archaeology, would you like to chat informally to volunteer groups and professionals? Talks and demonstrations during the day will also be available. Admission £5 includes a drink and cake. For more information, email bettysnow@btinternet.com or telephone 01361 883 434

ARCHIVE NEWS

The newsletter has come around very quickly this time because of the AGM. However, there has still been plenty happening in the Record Office over the past couple of months. The main news is that we have finally been able to start our Archives Revealed Project– Twixt Thistle and Rose – recataloguing the Berwick Borough Archives. Teresa Maley, our cataloguing Archivist started at the beginning of January and since then has been beavering away getting herself familiar with the records; devising a classification scheme; writing a blog (www.northumberlandarchives.com) and generally settling in. Teresa will write an update for the next newsletter where she will report on progress with the cataloguing (a huge task) and the other elements of the project. This is a really important project for the Record Office, creating an online catalogue which will make the collection more accessible and useable by the public. We are looking for volunteers to help us – look at the Volunteers Wanted section

As well as Archives Revealed, the Record Office has plenty of other projects on the go. Recently I have been doing some work on the Development Phase of the Union Chain Bridge Project. This has included ascertaining what sources are available about the Bridge and Sir Samuel Brown who masterminded it. Jane Miller and I spent a lovely day in Edinburgh reading some of Brown's correspondence written in a challenging hand! All this research work will be developed further in the main project and be undertaken by volunteers. The Chain Bridge is a unique bridge and the first one of its kind to carry traffic. 2020 will be its bicentenary and so let's keep our fingers crossed that the bid to Heritage Lottery Fund is successful.

Work on the Peregrini Project is still continuing. We are hoping to move archive sources into the Holy Island Reading Room after the end of March and the volunteers have been

beavering away on creating catalogue entries for the online catalogue which can be viewed on www.islandshirearchives.org.uk . I'm also working on a photographic book on Holy Island which should be ready in the next couple of months. Recently I have given two talks on the Project – “ From Cocklawburn to Budle Bay – tales from the project” - to Berwick History Society and a talk to Lowick Heritage Group on the history of the Holy Island Lifeboats.

World War One is still a topic being studied by schools and over the past couple of weeks all Year 8 children at Tweedmouth Middle School have visited the Record Office to find out about local soldiers who fought and also what was happening locally. The children will now write some poetry and letters home from soldiers. It has been really interesting doing the research for this and Helen Craggs, our volunteer and I are looking forward to seeing their work.

At the end of January the Record Office took in an important deposit of records relating to the Hughes family who lived at Middleton Hall near Wooler. Captain Simpson had deposited many of the estate records here many years ago but these new records tell the other side of the story – the personal papers and correspondence of family members. Not all the records are with us yet but once they are, this will be a very interesting cataloguing project.

Every day in the Record Office has its challenges. We are never short of work and there is plenty to keep us busy !

Linda Bankier

COCKLAWBURN IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Recently I gave a talk to Berwick History Society entitled “From Cocklawburn to Budle Bay – Tales from the Peregrini Project.”. As part of the talk, I looked at the Cocklawburn area near Scremerston and just south of Spittal – now a great place for a walk on the beach and peace and quiet. However, this wasn't what it was like at the turn of the 20th century – a place full of people and industry. Thomas Matthew James Porteous Brown was born at Philadelphia in January 1901. His family left Cocklawburn before the First World War and moved to Scremerston. Thomas was still living there in 1939. At some stage he moved to Ashington and died there on 28 June 1984.

Thomas wrote up his memories of Cocklawburn which have been deposited in the archives (Ref : BRO. 532) . They are an invaluable source of information about this area and its past history for which there is little evidence left on the ground. The following is some extracts from his work which paint a vivid picture of that area in the past. Here he writes about Philadelphia where he lived. It is no longer visible :

PHILADELPHIA

This is where I was born on January 12th, 1901. and lived here until I was 10 years old. I remember my Grandfather well, Jimmy Porteous, my mother's father, but my Grandmother died some years before I was born, we lived in the same house as my grandfather who lived

in it for 55 years when we moved up to Scremerston. He was employed at the Quarry and in later years repaired fences and built "dry stone dykes", my father also worked at the Quarry as an engine-man at the engine that pulled the trucks out of the quarry and also at times the Grinder beside the Kiln.

HOME LIFE

I also had a brother Ronald, he was four years younger than myself. I can picture Philadelphia built in the shape of a square with one side missing, single storey houses on the North and East, up and down on the South and open on the West. At Sand Banks the houses were single storey as were Salt Pan Hoe. At Sand Banks lived Purvis, Mowitt, Blythe, Ford, Gardiner.

There were some dozen houses at Philadelphia but not all occupied, we had two houses, next to us lived a man called Wilson, a very quiet fellow and never mixed a lot with other people, then Jimmy Clark, both lived on their own. Jimmy Clark a nice fellow full of fun, I remember my mother often gave him his dinner on a Sunday, also on a Saturday night, Jimmy used to come into our house and would have a bag of biscuits for me (the little ones with sugar on top) and if he had a little too much to drink he gave me them on Sunday. I also remember him buying me a toy engine for Christmas, it ran forward, a bell rang and then ran back again, it was one of my most treasured possessions. After the lime-works closed he went to Little Mill and later met his death in a quarry accident.

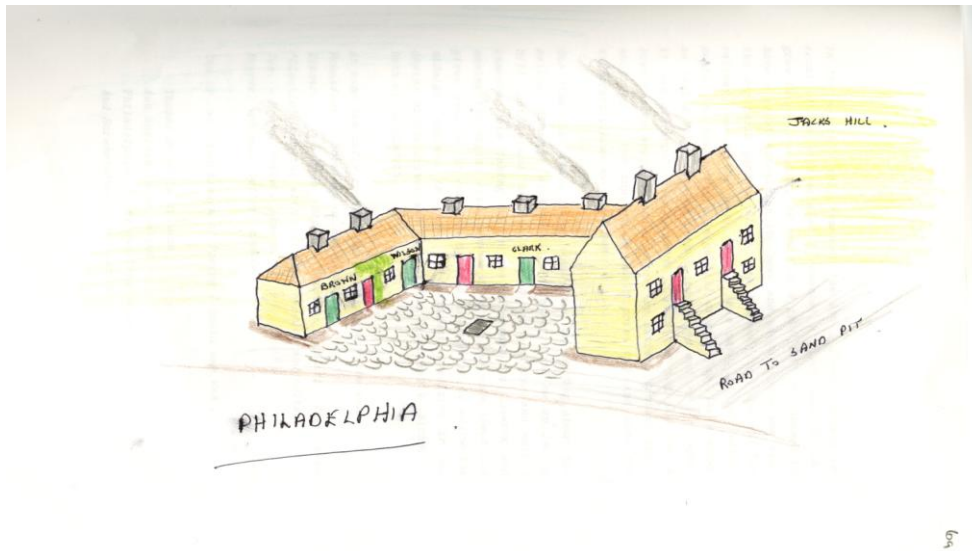
Another family was Spratt, their family was grown up and I can't remember much about them, except the lads who were often on the beach, one day caught a young seal and brought it home, they kept it in a barrel until it grew a bit bigger before putting it in the sea again.

The last family who lived beside us were called Trotter, they had a boy and a girl, George the boy and I were always together, being about the same age. One incident I'll never forget, George and I had seen our fathers take the broody hens and plunge them in the water barrel to take the broodiness off them, so we decided to have a try, only we didn't take hens, we took chickens, we had a real old time and killing ourselves laughing, our fathers hearing us and seeing what we were doing crept slowly up behind us and grabbing us dipped us into the barrel, so that put an end to that escapade. The Trotters eventually emigrated to Canada.

When the Trotters left Ronnie and I were on our own and we got strict orders not to go away as mother always dreaded us wandering along to the old quarries some of which were full of water. On one occasion I have heard her say that she lost us completely, she hunted everywhere, asking men passing with horses and carts if they had seen anything of two little boys, but no one had seen us, she had been nearly frantic and going towards Sand Banks eventually caught sight of one of us pop our head out of an old boiler lying at the roadside near Cocklaw Burn, so we were kept at home for a while as punishment. After I went to school, one day she lost Ronnie who was about four years old, again she searched high

and low, eventually finding him in a field about 200 yards from home walking about with the sheep and lambs, she had been unable to distinguish him out, as his coat was the same colour as the sheep's wool.

Another grand time I had was when the Militia were camping in the field between Philadelphia and Battery Brae, watching them marching and drilling, also being told by the cook to go home and get a bowl and spoon which he used to fill with soup, I thought it was great eating with the soldiers....



In the square I well remember the small flower gardens in front of the windows also I remember a giant hemlock that grew beside our door, it was 8 or 9 feet tall and seemed to have a great attraction for bees and wasps, there was also the vegetable gardens which were between the road and the railway, beside the burn, so they were never without water. Behind the houses was a large hill of sand familiarly known as Jack's Hill, covered with Bents, grass and wild flowers, it was a favourite playground. From the top you had a lovely view and often on a Sunday my father, brother and I would go to the top and he would point out and name the different places we could see.

One time that stays in my memory was on hearing about the railway disaster at Goswick, my father took me up Jack's Hill, but it was too far away to see anything and well I remember him taking me in the afternoon to Goswick and seeing the engine lying upside down, as the embankment had given way as it was coming into the siding to allow the midnight express to pass, the accident resulting in the deaths of the driver and fireman, T. Brown and W. Nicholson, both of Tweedmouth.

At home the daily routine was nearly always the same:

Breakfast. - Porridge or Bacon and Egg

Dinner. - Scotch Broth, Potatoes, Meat, Vegetables, "Cloutie" Dumpling with currants, raisins and sultanas.

Tea. - Bread, butter, jam, scone.

Supper. - Bread, butter, cheese.

One of the first pieces of poetry I could say was:

Thomas Brown is my name
And England is my nation
Philadelphia is my dwelling place
And Scremerston is my station.

..... And as children we were told to be seen and not heard, we were by no means kept in the background, but it was understood that when strangers were present we did not join in the conversation, nor at any time interrupt when our elders were speaking, nor answer back when we were being admonished, the discipline making us into better citizens.

Getting back to Philadelphia, the salmon fishers were another great attraction and you felt like the King of the Castle when they took you out in the boat with them, and there's many a string of "Flatties" I've collected and taken home. The largest fish I saw caught were two Porpoises as they came into the net, the fishermen came from Spittal, the names I remember were Joe Hope, Geo Hope, Dick Patterson and one called Miles, who, I remember used to play a tin whistle.

I can remember two Co-op employees, Jack Whitfield and Walter Stark camping between Philadelphia and the fishermen's Shiel which was known as Pancheek Shiel, we used to get milk for them and it was my job to take it over to them. I remember one occasion when mother was with me, them telling about a scare they had the night before. While they were asleep some noise or something aroused them and on looking up, saw a large bullock standing with its head through the tent flap and had nearly scared them out of their wits.

Other great days were when John Chisholm from Spittal and Willie Blackett from Scremerston came with their carts, when a stick of toffee was sure to be one of the items. During this time mother used to go to Sea House and help with the housework, it being occupied at that time by the Carr family a fairly large family of young men and women, mother used to take me with her and I would be left in the capable hands of Misses Carr's and they I was told certainly made a great fuss of me as I would only be 3 or 4 years old. One day they gave me a top hat that had at one time belonged to one of their brothers, after going home I would wear nothing else, making me feel like a millionaire as I used to get a penny or twopence from people who saw me wearing it. Often Willie Blackett used to be at me about it in later years and wondered if I ever had a photo taken with it, but unfortunately no. Some of the Carr family were named, Hubert, Reginald, John, Evelyn, Charles, Lucy, Millicent and Rosalind.

The Co-op, Grocer, Butcher and Baker also came, the Border Brewery also with mineral waters with drivers named Herriott and Fawcus. The milkman who used to come were named Johnston and John Hall. During the summer months we did a fairly good trade selling mineral waters and biscuits, and well I remember a noted customer we would have,

every week with his 4 or 5 children, his name being Cringle, a thick set fellow, a seafaring man I think, he would buy Lemonade and biscuits for the children and a soda water to mix with the flask he carried in his pocket, they used to walk out from Spittal, call here, then walk home again.

As we make our way back we pause at the top of the Battery Brae and look back, what a change has taken place in 60 years, Jack's Hill gone, the Pancheek Shiel and the quarry tips all gone by the erosion of the sea, at the Battery Brae we also see where the new road has been made, the old one part of which has fallen to the beach below. We see a lovely stretch of sands right along to Goswick, which attract a large number of holiday makers and picnickers during the summer months, the only drawback, there is no shelter of any kind or a place to get a cup of tea or other refreshment or toilets, but a place for a nice quiet day it is one of the best.....

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is currently closed to the public, but we received a very special visit on 15th December. Sir William Burrell's Great Niece Mrs Mary Ramsay came to see us, and brought a group with her, including Mr James Robinson (Director of the Glasgow Burrell Renaissance Project), and Mrs Frances Fowle of National Galleries Scotland/Trustee of the Burrell Glasgow. After viewing Berwick's Burrell Collection, we visited Hutton Castle, Sir William's home, to be given a guided tour by the present owner, Mr Anthony Gray. It was a fascinating afternoon, and wonderful to discover that the famous electric master switch which Sir William used to throw as soon as he retired for the night really does exist!



Museums Northumberland has just commissioned a new collections management system, so much energy will be spent over the coming months on transferring the information we already have about our various collections off card files and excel programmes onto one comprehensive new computerised system. Once underway,

this will enable us to share information about our collections online in an easily accessible way.

Arts Council England's Accreditation Scheme has been under review since our last return, and the revised application process is soon to be introduced. The length of time between returns has been increased to 5-year intervals, and we have been told that our next submission will be due in 2023. This gives us plenty of time to make sure that the applications of all four Trust museums will be synchronised in future, which should make the process easier for all concerned.

Charlotte (our Ellerman Curator) and Alice (our Museum Management Apprentice) are currently sorting through and rearranging the social history collection in storage. They are just about to take on two volunteers to help them with this task.

There was a meeting of the Berwick Barracks site partners in early December. An application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the autumn, with English Heritage as lead body, for strategic funding which will pay for some groundwork to be carried out prior to an application for the main lottery funding stream. An announcement as to the success of this application will be announced soon.

Next season, we will host an exhibition which aims to link together the collections of all four trust museums with a common theme. The artist who has been commissioned to do this – Matt Stokes – is a recent beneficiary of the prestigious Awards for Artists scheme run by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Matt has just concluded the research phase of the project, which is based on the natural history collections at the museum and entitled *Beyond the Field*. The finished piece of work is due for delivery in June 2019.



One fascinating piece of research which will interest the Friends has come to light about a painting in our collection, thanks to help from our colleagues at Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum. We have a portrait of a strong featured but beautiful russet haired girl painted by Sir John Lavery. The portrait is entitled *My Lady Disdain* – Shakespeare's Beatrice from *Much Ado about Nothing* and it has been mooted that the model for the picture might be Ellen Terry, however, we were never quite convinced by this theory. It has come to light that Lavery had used the same model for several of his other paintings, and the lady in question was called Alison Groom. Following an ill-fated marriage to an artist called Frank Markham Skipworth, she pursued an early career as an artist's model but then became a noted Shakespearean actress on Broadway. She made her debut in motion pictures at the grand old age of 67, by this time playing the role of a plump aristocratic English dame!

Anne Moore, Museums Officer North

RABBIT CATCHING ON HOLY ISLAND

The disruption of rabbit catching on Holy Island, late 18th Century.

The following two letters and a sworn statement refer to the disruption of rabbit catching on Holy Island, during the late 18th Century.

A little bit of context: Henry Collingwood Selby was Lord of the Manor of Holy Island and as such, had the right to a coney [rabbit] warren in and over the Common. The Reavelys were presumably his warreners. The punctuation is virtually non-existent and the spelling is eccentric, but the notes will help.

NRO/683/7/5

[Letter to]

Henry Collingwood Selby Esq.

Swans Field nigh

Alnwick

Holy Island Nov[embe]r 26th 1788

Sir

As William & John Reavely did come in to hunt the Rabbits on Tuesday last after killing a few Ezekiel Allison came and took a couple¹ by force from us and carried them away with him and said that for our encouragement he would take the whole that we had next time. So next day accordingly he and Wm. Cromity came, during the time the firrets² were in the Rabbits holes they Immediately begun and cut down the holes upon the firrits with there speads³ and said that they would stay by us and (did stay) that if we did offer to put one more into any hole that they would dig out the Rabbits for us and keep them after us seeing there Ression Jno. Reavely took up his firret in his hand where Cromidy's dog bit it and John Reavely to Defend his firret struck the Dog no soon did Cromidy see that then he struck Reavely with a stick that he had in his hand afterwards they both insisted that we should not hunt any longer there. where they followed us from place to place on purpose so that we should kill no more Rabbits. so we gave intirely up for this day. afterwards Allison begun digging a hole where two boys were where he found a Ribbit which we all can witness for but we shall be out tomorrow again and likewise until such time as I hear from you what is to be done

I am Sir as due your Ob[edien]t Serv[an]t

Joseph Hood

P.S. William and Jno. Reavely can witness to the above if you think if necessary as they have both set there Names to yesterdays events in my Book

NRO/683/7/6

[Letter to]

Henry Collingwood Selby Esq.

Swans Field nigh

Alnwick

Holy Island Nov[embe]r 28th 1788

Dear Sir

I am very sorry again to inform you that this town has broke out against us this day in such a manner as we were obliged to live⁴ off hunting altogether the first was

¹ couple

² ferrets

³ spades

⁴ leave

Ezekiel Allison and William Cromity who digged the Bank that the Firrits were in and at Different places and got the Rabbits before us, afterwards some of the women Broke out who took William Reavelys spead by force and has kept it, afterwards four or five of them begun to me to take the Rabbits that I had carrying in a hand wallit where I held it against them but they got one from me whither I would or not, and all that is taken this week is only above 20 cupple where we might have had a great deal more but cannot get hunted two or three howers⁵ Together so that if you do not make an example of some of them in a Short time there will be no such thing as coming of any of your property [?...] the Rabbits the Town is Just now Quit Resolut⁶; yet seems to be under a fear as there is none of the freeholders given us the least disturbance as yet but particularly these two persons that I make mention of who has no freehold nor yet the women that was out today there is none of them has a Freehold nither therefor if there is a possobility of bringing any of them to an act for it the sooner the better seeing they are destroying the warren very fast its altogether impossoble for us to kill the Rabbits until such time as such means is put in execution I am Sir
Your ob[edien]t Humble Serv[an]t
Joseph Hood

NRO 683/7/30. [Small sheet of stamped paper]

We do hereby promise and undertake for ourselves jointly and severally that James Murton & John Wilson both of Holy Island shall not nor will at any time henceforward molest, hunt, or in any manner do any injury whatsoever to the Rabbit Warren, Rabbits, or any other property belonging to Henry Collingwood Selby in the Manor of Holy Island under the Penalty of Fifty Pounds to be levied on our several goods and Chattels as witness our Hands this 22nd day of June 1790

Robert Morton X his mark

Returned for

James Murton X his mark

John Wilson X his mark

Witnesses:

Thomas Hills

John Wilkie

Julia Day

⁵ hours

⁶ quite resolute

BAILIFFS' COURT BOOK

Extracts from the Bailiff's Court Book (approx.1598)

Whoremongers

Thomas Rooke got his mothers maid with child & she now a nurse at mr Provoste.

Andrew Crow got his maid servant with childe it is suspected.

James leader his nurse with childe in his house.

Richard Johnson kepeth a whore daylie & nightelie who is a scott & he hath a wife.

marthine Shell george houners man hath gotten a child with henry Ryveleys maide.

Raph Smyth sonne to william Smyth hath got his fathers maid with child.

agnis Browne servant to hamblet hexham is with childe, she is kepte in Raph yonges house dwelling in Parrettes backfield.

John Parker hath got his maid with childe.

xpofer mortons maide gone away with childe but none knoweth who is the father.

Quintyne Stringers maid gone away with child to Richard Stringers as is suspected.

maistress mary Lancaster my lady Careys gentlewoman gone away with child to Capten Selby.

Raph moore hath gotten a child with one hellen Slele she is lodged in the house of one agnis gottersen a bad woman believe presented in Rattenrow.

George Snead for getting his fathers maid with child.

Robert Ryveleys maid gone away with child.

Boatefish & Jane Snawdon did lye nightelie togeather being vnmariade.

We find and present That Edward gates wife is suspected a bad woman & of lewde lyfe & conversation.

Robert walkers servant with child to Robert Ryveley.

James harrett hath gott his servant with child.

Robert Moore soldyer hath got a childe with his woman servante.

Nicholas holdesworth soldier a Common whoremonger and a nighte walker in the stretes & a drunkerde.

The following people are accused of 'being nighte walkers' & of 'drincking at vnlawfull tymes in the nighte'

Richard ecklethorpe, Thomas Corke, John Shorte, John Copston, Thomas hogg^{Jun}, Stewen Saltonstell & John kendroe.

Witches

We finde and present that by the Informacion and other of Creadible witsnesse that Richard Swynbornes wife hath of longe tyme delte with three severall women witches for the bewitching of one William Law garrysonman, who did answere that they colde not hurte him but that a man witch wife did it which he said Swynbornes wife hath confessed to this presently, that at lengith she had gotten a man witch for her purpose. The further examinacion wherefore be Referre to the lord governor maior & counsell.

Wendy Urwin

BERWICKSHIRE NEWS 11TH FEBRUARY 1902

Learning to ride an Ordinary (Penny Farthing) in Berwick, in the 1880s.

William T Shiell, c 1869 - 1902, was a competitive cyclist in the 1880s and early 1890s, riding for the Tweedside Cycling Club. He lived with his parents, who by 1889, were running the "The Welcome Temperance Hotel, Scotsgate, 129 Marygate. The 1891 census, records William as a Cycle Maker and his younger brother, David, also a keen cyclist, as a Cycle Salesman. But by 1901, still at the same address, William had become a Journeyman Baker and his father, a Confectioner and Pastry Cook.

Shortly after his death in 1902, aged only 33, a baker in Morpeth, a close friend of his, William Hogg, wrote a few notes in the Berwickshire News (issue 11th February) about William Shiell's racing exploits and how he learnt to ride the Ordinary.

Cycling in the eighties was entirely different to what it is at present. Then there were no pneumatic safeties with big gears, free wheels, etc. No! it was the much abused ordinary. I remember well his first attempt on the high machine. I had had a few lessons and could actually mount one myself, when Willie Shiell took a violent notion to learn. He purchased a machine from Alf Stubbs (now in South Africa) for a sovereign. His training ground was on the walls, from the Scotsgate to the Flagstaff (now the military married quarters). It was a little while before he could really get away on the road, for this reason: when learning he used to mount at the Scotsgate by putting the ordinary against the wall, climbing up himself then putting his leg across the saddle pushed himself away. One day he tried a spin by way of the Parade and Wallace Green. He went all right until he turned at the top of the last named street to come back. There is a slight slope, and being unable to bring the wheel round, he sailed merrily on, towards the upper gate of the New Gaol. He

caught the gate to save himself and the cycle continued its career, until it finally collapsed in the middle of the yard. Willie meantime came down off his perch and had another try. This was one of Shiel's strong points, his determination.

[Alfred Stubbs is recorded on the 1881 census as the 12 year old adopted son of James and Margaret Gibson, Thompsons Terrace, 19 High Greens.]

Julie Gibbs

BELFORD – AN ITALIAN CONNECTION

CAPTURE OF A RUNAWAY WIFE - On Saturday, an Italian and his wife, both young and on tramp, took up their lodgings at William Curran's, High Street, Belford, where a watch-maker was also lodging. During the evening the watch-maker and the Italian's wife became too familiar for the feelings of the Italian, and during the night a quarrel took place between the man and his wife, which ended in the latter running off with the watch-maker early on the following morning. The lodging house keeper, however, awoke the Italian, who immediately started off half-dressed, and caught his unfaithful spouse on the outskirts of the town and brought her back to his lodgings, amidst the cheers of the rabble and to the no small disappointment of the watch-maker, just as the church bells were ringing for morning service.

Berwick Advertiser 6 June 1879, page 2

Karon Ives

SPITTAL HOLIDAYS

I'm still finding more on Holidays in Spittal.

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century there were at times 150 hotels and boarding houses in Spittal offering accommodation for up to 400 visitors. Although most visitors came from relatively local areas, there were some rather exotic birds of passage.

In August 1900 Miss Telfer from Boston, Mass., U.S.A. was staying with a Mrs. Telfer from Liverpool. In September of that year Mrs. Allison, with her family and a maid, gave her home address as "Singapore, India" (sic).

In July in the same year Mrs. Samuel and Miss Beale gave an address in Rangoon, Burma.

In August 1905 G Bewley Esq. and his wife, from North Travancore, South India, stayed for at least two weeks. In the same month Vice-Consul Lay, his wife, family and a nurse, from Chemulpo (spelt differently each week), Corea, stayed for at least three weeks.

Finally, a more domestic exotic came; Mrs. Bundle from Windsor Castle!

Do any readers know why any of these visitors might have chosen Spittal?

Jean Watts

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 1 December 1871

THE NEW DOCK & RIVER EMBANKMENT

A further step has been taken in the proceedings relative to the necessary Parliamentary sanction for the project Harbour improvements, by the deposit of plans and sections in the different offices prescribed by the Standing Orders. These plans are open to the inspection of the public, and may be seen at the Custom House or at the harbour Office, and we recommend them to the attention of our readers. They have been prepared by Messrs Stevenson, of Edinburgh, and show at a glance the nature and extent of the proposed works at Spittal and Tweedmouth.

Carole Pringle