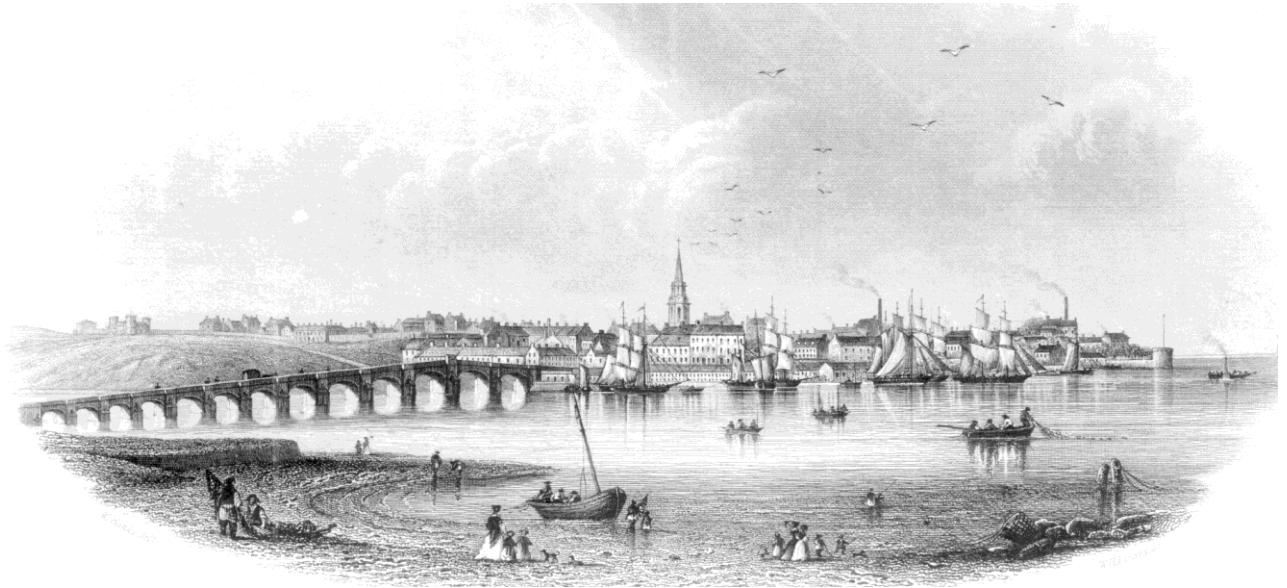


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 101–SEPTEMBER 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th
September 2019

Berwick Heritage Open Days – events in Berwick and the surrounding area - see article

Friday 18th October

Berwick Literary Festival. Crime and Creative Writing – Linda Bankier & Gilly Beckett, Berwick Parish Centre at 10am

Friday 25th October

Friends Autumn Lecture: "French paintings and pastels in the collection of William Burrell: the joys and the challenges of researching provenance" :Vivien Hamilton, Berwick Parish Centre at 7pm

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 24th September 2019	Churches and Sepulchres of the Medieval Borders: Peter Ryder
Tuesday 29th October	The impact of the First World War on Policing in the Scottish Borders: Dr David Smale
Tuesday 26th November	The Rise and fall of Roxburgh: Christine Henderson

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th September 2019	AGM followed by Slide show of The Photo Centre Collection: Cameron Robertson
Wednesday 23rd October	Coalmines of North Northumberland: Harry Wilson
Wednesday 27th November	The Northern Pre-Raphaelites: William Bell-Scott and his Art: Michael Thomson

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9th October 2019	Joint meeting with Berwick History Society: See History Society entry
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BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9th October 2019	Joint meeting with the Civic Society. Through Ice and Fire: A Russian Arctic Convoy Diary, 1942: Leona J Thomas
Wednesday 20th November	Bede's Life of Cuthbert: the remarkable story of a medieval best seller: Katharine Tiernan
Wednesday 18th December	Hadrian's Wall - Borderline Funny: Lindsay Allason-Jones

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th October 2019	Carpow, Corbridge and Carlisle: Roman armour developments in Northern Britain: Dr Jon Coulson
Monday 4th November	Excavations at Doon Hill: Prof. Ian Ralston
Monday 2nd December	The Bronze Age in Lowland Scotland: Dr Trevor Cowie

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Peters Church, Galashiels

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 29th September 2019	Creations in Bronze, the Borders and beyond: Angela Hunter, Innerleithen based sculptor.
Sunday 27th October	Borders Animal Farming – An Honourable History: Professor Colin Whitemore
Sunday 24th November	Kelso and the American Revolution: Derek Robeson & Dave Welsh

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 7th October 2019	Haggerston Castle: Rises and falls; 1070 to 1931: Joy Lamb
Monday 4th November	1296 From the Maid of Norway to Breakneck Steps – Why the death of a Maid led to war: Dr Mike Oliver
Monday 2nd December	Celebrating St Hild of Whitby: Creator of Northumbria: Seasonal Feast Evening of Northumbrian Food and Drink: The Bowsden Bards

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Waterloo Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 16th September 2019	Airships: Philip Rowett
Monday 21st October	Smuggling in the Borders: Graeme Watson
Monday 18th November	Broken Promises: Norrie McLeish
Monday 16th December	Berwick Shipyard: Billy Swan

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 3rd October 2019	Berwickshire's Poor 1800-1914: David Mclean
Thursday 7th November	The S S Pegasus and its wreck 1843: Jane Bowen
Thursday 5th December	Calamities, catastrophes, the tragedy and disasters of Berwickshire: Kenneth McLean
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Social.

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th September 2019	Churches of the Mediaeval Borders: Peter Ryder
Wednesday 30th October	Three George Buchans of Letham and Kelloe: David Affleck
Wednesday 27th November	Growing up in Duns: Dr. James Simpson O.B.E.

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 11th September 2019	The prehistory of the Breamish Valley: Peter Topping
Wednesday 9th October	Scotland's Law Lords v Northumbrians behaving badly: Margaret Fox
Wednesday 13th November	Wooler Prisoner of War Camp 1939–1949: Philip Rowett
Wednesday 11th December	The cult and culture of monasticism: Margaret Kirby

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 9th September 2019	The Railway between Tweedmouth and Kelso: David Welsh
Monday 14th October	The Being Human Festival: Uncovering Lowick Lime: Rob Smith and Charles Danby
Monday 11th November	Lowick Soldiers of the Great War: Tony Brown and Linda Bankier
Monday 9th December	The Prehistoric Farm at Hunting Hall: Paul Langdale

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 9th September 2019	Scareship to Luxury Liner. Airships over Berwick: Phil Rowett
Monday 14th October	Lennel Conservation: Robin Kent
Monday 11th November	Lindisfarne Castle: Nick Lewis
Monday 9th December	Social evening

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd October 2019	T.V. Detectives-Fact or Fiction: Bob Jackson
Wednesday 27th November	The Armstrongs of Bamburgh Castle: Carol Griffiths

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 21st September 2019	Postcards – the Social Networking Tool of the Early 20th Century: Pat Littlewood.
Saturday 19th October	Members' Stories- Continuing From Cradle to Grave: where our ancestors moved to
Saturday 16th November	The Armstrongs of Bamburgh Castle: Carol Griffiths

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Sunday 6th October 2019	James IV Memorial Lecture: In the Land of the Giants – a Journey through the
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Wednesday 6th November	Dark Ages : Max Adams. The Crannogs of Loch Tay: Dr. Michael Stratigos
Wednesday 4th December	Tracks through the Cheviots: David Jones

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HERITAGE OPEN DAY EVENTS

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September :

HORNCLIFFE

Union Chain Bridge- There will be members of the Friends of the Union Chain Bridge on hand to tell visitors about the bridge and its designer, Captain Samuel Brown RN. **Both days 11 - 3**

NORHAM

Salmon netting on the River Tweed - A pop-up exhibition about the tradition of Salmon netting on the River Tweed at St Cuthbert's Church. Sat 11 – 4 and Sun 12 - 4

Saturday 21st September and Sunday 22nd September

BELFORD

Family History Drop-In- North Northumberland Genealogy Group will be giving free help at Bell View Café. Sat : 1.30 – 4.30

NORHAM

A brush with history - Exhibition highlighting various aspects of village history at the Village Hall. Both days 11 - 4.

Lecture by Dr Brian Moffat: 'Recent investigations "at the once powerful" Soutra Medieval Hospital' at the Village Hall. Sat : 7pm

ARCHIVE NEWS

Summer is fast disappearing and there has been plenty going on in the archives over the past couple of months – summer holidays don't mean a break for us or a less frenetic pace! Here is a flavour of what has been happening in the Record Office.

Most of my time in June and early July was spent on the Peregrini Project and ensuring the completion of the Project. All the equipment has been bought for the Reading Room and we now have an archive room containing various resources which can be used by the Islanders and visitors. This has been a huge undertaking but it is lovely to see it all come to fruition with our Community Archive Day which took place on 18 June. We had a great turn out of people both from on and off the Island to see what we had collected – various transcripts of registers, census returns and photographs. They now have a great basis to take this all forward.

Every year Macmillan Academy in Middlesbrough spend a couple of days on the Island producing a film and this year their theme was the Reading Room and the Community Archive. We haven't seen the end product yet but we are hoping to attach a copy to the Islandshire archives website (www.islandshirearchives.org.uk) – there is lots of information on the website about the Island and the mainland as far south as Budle and Belford. Do have a look.

The final piece in the Peregrini jigsaw has been the production of a book. Working with John Bevan who took modern day photographs, together we have produced a photographic book *called Time and Tide on Holy Island* with old and present day images of the Island. This has been selling well and is available from the Record Office for £7.99.

As well as Peregrini, work has continued on the Twixt Thistle and Rose project. This is a really important project for the Record Office which is helping us to really appreciate the importance of the records relating to the Borough that we look after. The volunteers have unearthed and catalogued fascinating posters sent from all over the country covering theft, missing persons; murder and deserters. What has struck us is the speed at which the crimes were reported and posters created and sent out – I don't think it would happen as quickly today. Now they are looking at our local planning files up to 1947, finding out what was built and what was proposed but never happened.

As part of our project, Teresa and I met up with Rachel Hart from St Andrews University and her Archivist, Christine, who is cataloguing the Cupar Borough Archives in early August. We spent a fascinating morning in Edinburgh talking about our respective projects and learning from each other.

Work on the Barracks Project is still continuing and at the moment we are working with some consultants looking at our collections and how they are stored.

As part of our remit, we continue to work with young people both inside and outside school. In June, Mrs Peck's class at Holy Trinity First School visited the office to find out about the archives. Then during the summer holidays, children were introduced to archives in more unconventional ways both involving a bit of role play. At the beginning of August some children attended a workshop using archives and IT to piece together a Tweedmouth Manorial Court case whilst at the Maltings children used a couple of the posters as inspiration for improvisation sessions during a Play in a Week.

There is never a dull moment in the archives !

BERWICK HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

13 - 15 SEPTEMBER

Berwick Heritage Open Days is fast approaching and there will be plenty going on over the weekend. This year we have added some additional walks – Tweedmouth, Spittal and the Walls - and a couple of new buildings – Chateau Pedro and the new Visitor Centre. If you fancy a trip outside Berwick, you can visit Longridge Towers, Union Chain Bridge and an exhibition on salmon fishing in Norham. There is something for everyone.

The Town Hall in Marygate will be the focal point of the weekend with numerous activities – bell ringing; access to the Gaol (Saturday and Sunday 1- 3) ; talks and films in the Council Chamber and exhibitions in the Guildhall. This year will be the 60th anniversary of the Facades of the Fifties photos and so come and see what the High Street and other parts of Berwick looked like then. We will also have a display of our “Wanted “ Posters. Vote for your favourite one. The Friends are also running a local history book stall.

The events can be found on www.heritageopendays.org.uk and there will be a booklet available locally this week.

All these events can't run without the support of volunteers. We need more people to help us and so, if you can spare a couple of hours over the weekend to steward a site or man the Friends bookstall, please let me know. We have organised 38 events in Berwick which is a lot to cover. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you over the weekend.

Linda Bankier

BERWICK AND CYCLING

As the third stage of the Tour of Britain will depart from Berwick this Monday (9th September), I thought I would look in the local newspapers for any information about cycling in Berwick. In the 1880s and 1890s, there was a Bike factory at Berwick, owned by Joseph Devey, originally from Wolverhampton. Read his fascinating story on the Friends website.

Berwick had a Cycling Club since the 1880s and there are numerous articles on this organisation and members. I've picked out a selection covering the period up to the early 1900s. I wonder how long it takes a competitive racer to cycle 100 miles today, compared to then?

Berwickshire News, 4 October 1892

Record Breaking at Berwick

On Saturday, J Colin Campbell, Berwick of the Berwick Cycling Club, broke the 100 miles record, previously held by Wm T Shiell. Campbell who was paced by Andrew Swan, of the Glasgow Cathkin Club, and James Campbell of the Berwick Club covered the distance in 6 hours 56 minutes or 25 minutes quicker than the existing Club record. Campbell rode from Berwick to East Linton and back, then from Coldstream returning to Berwick.

A Walking Stick Bicycle

An inventive foreigner has designed a bicycle, the peculiarity of which is that it can be taken to pieces, doubled up like a camera, and transformed into a gentleman's walking stick, and a small tourist bag, whilst the solidity and rigidity are the same as any other machines. Briefly told, the bag is the saddle itself, and it encloses the pedals, chain wheel, chain, handles, axle and five pieces of the tubing forming the

frame. All the remainder of the machine is in the stick. The stick is 84 cents long; and 47 millims in diameter. It is suggested that our Government might be negotiated with to supply the Army with these machines, as the soldiers could sling them in the same manner as they do their rifles. and carry them on their backs over difficult places. Any make of pneumatic tyres can be fitted to this machine, provided it is flexible enough to be bent up and put in the bag.

Newcastle Chronicle, 29 November 1894

Berwick Cycling Club – The annual meeting of this Border Club was held last night at Berwick. The eighth annual report states that the club has now a total membership of 107, including 30 honorary members. The captain of the club (Mr Wm Hogg) has the best attendance at club runs during the season, Mr Boal being second. Mr W T Shiell holds the 24 consecutive hours' record – 347 ½ miles. Mr W J Bolan holds the 100 miles record – 6 hours 31 minutes. The report regrets that the proposed race track for Berwick has in the meantime fallen through.

Scottish Referee, 6 July 1896

At Berwick Police Court on Thursday, John Barclay Jobson, insurance agent, Berwick, was fined 11s 6d for furiously riding a bicycle in Berwick streets. The evidence showed that Jobson rode at 15 miles an hour on the occasion of trying to break a record for Berwick Cycling Club between Berwick and Dunbar. The Magistrates considered it illegal to attempt to break records on public roads.

Berwickshire News, 10 August 1909

Berwick Cycling Club held a Scouting Contest on Thursday night. Thirty invaders assembled at Chain Bridge, and their task was to get inside the Elizabethan Walls, with their bicycles, without first being challenged. The defenders , 18 strong were posted outside the Walls. Major Alex. Steven, T.D, Capt. Weddell, and Lieut Smail, 7th NF, were the umpires, and they awarded the following prizes : Medal to defender securing the most captures – T W Boal; medals to 1st invaders to get through – C Frewell and Alex Steven, jr (equal). They arrived with their bicycles inside a grocer's covered cart.

Linda Bankier

ARCHIVES REVEALED

TWIXT THISTLE AND ROSE PROJECT

Twixt Thistle and Rose is a re-cataloguing project funded by [Archives Revealed](#) based in the Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office. Twixt Thistle and Rose refers to the location of Berwick between the kingdoms of Scotland (Thistle) and England (Rose). The ambition is to create an electronic catalogue of the Borough records that will bring together all the information currently listed across several catalogues and hand lists as well as material which has been added to the collection since 1990. This will make it much easier for staff and researchers to understand the collection and plan research.

The Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough archives are of national importance: originally a Scots burgh captured by the English in 1482, the records chart its transformation from a fortified English stronghold during the Border Wars to a place that physically symbolized peace between Scotland and England (in the shape of the Old Bridge) from the Union of the Crowns onwards. The archive is extensive and highly detailed. It would be fair to say that the Berwick Town Clerk and fellow officers threw very little away! Perhaps, the insecurity of its ownership in mediaeval times promoted a communal desire to safeguard the records...just in case. Testimony to the quality of evidence they could provide is the comprehensive Charter of James I/VI, granted in 1604 [BA/A/1/8] that confirmed their ancient rights and protected the corporation from any outside interference for well over 200 years.

The collection consists of the core group of records including Guild records, Town Council Minutes and Accounts, Urban Sanitary Authority records and some very extensive additional series of records such as planning records and the Borough Secretary's files. As the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed was a "county of itself" until 1974 this date formed a natural end point for the cataloguing bid.

Work is well under way with the help of a dedicated band of volunteers recruited for the project (see Linda's contribution). They will add that fascinating level of detail that draws people in, for example, by cataloguing and indexing bundles or a series at item level. The many transcripts and indexes already completed by volunteers before the project started will also be added when the full structure and content from

old catalogues has been uploaded and checked. Digital images will also be attached to give a visual snapshot of what information a record holds.

The hierarchical structure of archival cataloguing means that, in years to come, any additional cataloguing by staff and volunteers can be added to the relevant part of the collection increasing its research value bit by bit.

When the catalogue is complete it will be available to view online on the Northumberland Archives website and we hope to have short guides to explain the different series of records in collection.

If you have any questions about the collection or cataloguing please get in touch: ttar@northumberland.gov.uk . If you want to find out more about the collection, have a look at our blog : <https://www.northumberlandarchives.com/ttar/>

Teresa Maley

MUSEUM NEWS

Family Learning - something new at Berwick Museum and Art Gallery!

Over the past few months we have been thinking about how we can make visits to the museum more enjoyable and engaging for families. We have done this across all our Museums Northumberland sites. To achieve this aim we have developed 'spotlight tours' and 'mini museums' for families, particularly those with younger children.

Spotlight on Burrell

The 'spotlight tours' focus on paintings and objects from the Burrell collection. Staff members have chosen their particular favourite artworks from the collection and developed talks with support from curatorial staff. The talks are free to visitors and take place at 2pm each day, lasting around 20 minutes. Although they have been developed with a family audience in mind, they are always tailored to suit the audience on the day. We have been running the 'Spotlight on Burrell' talks over the school summer holidays and the feedback from visitors has been extremely positive. The staff have also enjoyed the opportunity to do more detailed research into items from the collection.



Berwick Museum's prototype 'Mini Museum'

Mini Museums

The 'Mini Museums' are a way to encourage very young children to discover some exciting stories from Berwick's past and explore the concept of collecting through our natural history collection. Local artist Katie Chappell is creating some lovely characters to illustrate our three mini museum categories: Little Explorers, Story Makers and Curious Curators.

FRIDAY 16.

A large green shark was taken in the *Tweed*, a little above the bridge at *Berwick*, which was six feet long. It affrighted the fishermen greatly, who, before they saw it, imagin'd they had got a great haul of salmon, the net being so difficult to draw. As soon as it came near the shore, it made the water fly a prodigious height; and after they had disabled it a little, and got it into shoal water, it made a hole in the sand with its tail, which would have held a coach.—Some of the curious who have seen these creatures in both the *Indies*, say, this was an *East India* one. A clasped knife was found in its belly.



An excerpt from 'The Gentleman's Magazine' September 1757 and the carved wooden panel.

The 'Green Shark', brought ashore by Berwick fishermen in 1757, is just one of the stories we'll be using to capture children's imaginations. Objects can also inspire, like the carved wooden panel currently on display in 'Window on Berwick'.

The 'Mini Museums' will be officially launched at all our Museums Northumberland sites in the run up to the October half-term holidays.

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

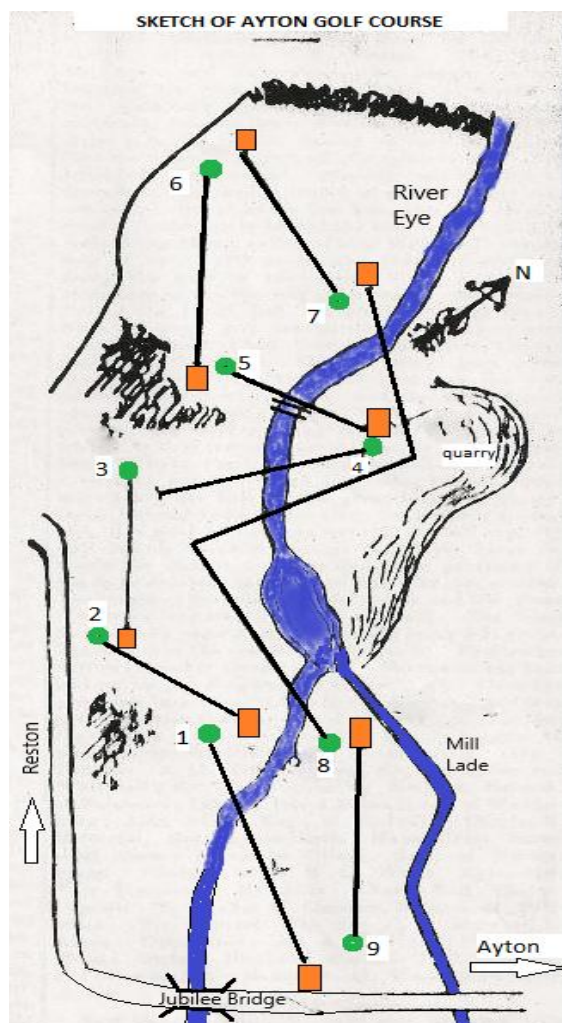
AYTON GOLF COURSE

Ayton Golf Club was founded in 1891 by George Wood, postmaster of Ayton, further to a meeting held in the Volunteer Hall on 7 October of that year. The proposed location at East Reston and Aytonlaw Haughs was agreed at a rent of 5/- or 10/- per

annum dependent on the size of membership. There were conditions that there was no interference with the rifle range or noticeable damage to the pasture.

The layout of the course comprised 9 holes, each one with a name associated with its location e.g. Hairy Crag, or local benefactors e.g. Balabraes being the home of Sir W G Simpson. The course was approximately 1 mile long. The construction of the course required a number of bridges, a net over the river opposite the quarry, draining the Caller Well marsh, and re-turfing greens and tees.

A clubhouse was built in 1894. Although the club's finances were in credit in 1900/01 it seems there was a gap in playing until 1905 which concluded with Mr Doughty tasked to procure more members. This led to the club re-opening



Layout of the course

in 1906 however membership again fell leading to at least a 10-year gap before the club operated again in May 1920 when the Balabraes Cup was competed for (presented by Sir Walter G Simpson). At this time subscriptions rose to 10/6d and family membership 25/-.



The opening of the clubhouse in 1894

With additional costs due to the maintenance of the clubhouse and to the course there was a requirement for additional funds and numerous events such as whist drives, dances and cake and candy stalls were held to raise monies. However, such efforts did not lead to costs being met and this was exacerbated in 1928 when floods caused damage to bridges and the 6th green.

Financial problems continued until all funds were exhausted in 1936 and in 1937 the club was closed with the clubhouse, tools and equipment sold to pay outstanding debt.

Extract from *The History of Ayton* published by Ayton Local History Society.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF CATHERINE RUTHERFORD

When Catherine Rutherford died at the Border Counties Home for Incurables in Carlisle, called Strathclyde House, on 10 January 1891, in her late fifties, she had been a patient there for eight years. But who was Catherine Rutherford and how did she end up at the home in Carlisle?

The first time we come across Catherine Rutherford is when the Medical Officer at the Workhouse in Belford, Dr Charles Clark Burman, wrote a report regarding the patients in the infirmary – and mentioned her in the minutes of the Belford Guardians dated 9 March 1880 (Ref :GBF 9). He wrote: ‘This is a case of chronic rheumatism affection* which is entirely beyond any hope of cure and will render her almost completely helpless for the rest of her life’. We do not know how long she stayed in the infirmary, but in the 1881 census she is down as a boarder, unmarried and living in Belford and described as an invalid. We can therefore assume that as she could not be cured, she had to leave the infirmary, but why was she not admitted to the Workhouse and what kind of relief might she have received from the Guardians after being dismissed from the infirmary?

In the minutes of the Belford Guardians from 27 December, 1882, and in an annexed letter from the Local Government Board dated 26 December, 1882 written in reply to a letter from the Guardians dated 23 December 1882, almost two years after Dr Burman’s report, the Local Government Board wished to know whether the home was in Scotland, as that would immediately make it illegal for the Guardians to pay for her maintenance there. This presupposes that the Guardians had approached the Local Government Board and suggested that she be admitted to the home in Carlisle. However, the Guardians did not seem to be prepared to wait for a reply as at the same meeting they decided to pay 3s 6d per week to the manager for the maintenance of Catherine Rutherford in the Border Counties Home for Incurables in Carlisle, but they added that this was provided she succeeded in securing admission there herself. This must mean that she was still living in Belford. In January 1883, mentioned in the minutes for 10 January, the Local Government Board said that the Guardians could grant relief to Catherine without the sanction of the Board, due to her bodily infirmity, according to the General Prohibitory Order articles 2 and 3. In the third paragraph of article 2 it says that out-door relief can be

granted to persons 'where such persons shall be entitled to receive relief from any parish in which he or she may not be resident, under any order which Justices may by law be authorized to make.'

The idea of establishing so-called homes for incurables started in London in 1861. The aim was to cater for middle-class people who suffered from incurable afflictions and who fell between being able to afford private care but were too well off to be eligible for parish relief.

The home for incurables in Carlisle was started on a small scale in 1877 with just two patients in rented accommodation. This soon turned out to be inadequate and money was raised to build a new home, which was formally opened in 1886 in Wigton Road, Carlisle. Thirteen patients were transferred from the old accommodation to the new one, which was named Strathclyde House after the old kingdom of Strathclyde stretching from the Clyde to the Dee and was symbolic with the counties associated with the home. Catherine Rutherford would have been one of the patients being transferred.

The rules laid down for being accepted were stated to be 'those patients who had some small means of supporting themselves or guarantors who were prepared to pay a maintenance charge fixed by the Committee. Persons in receipt of *parish relief* were to be *ineligible* for admission, and they would accept patients from Cumberland, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Durham, Dumfriesshire and Roxborough.' (My italics).

Apparently, Catherine Rutherford managed to be admitted to the Home, and from the beginning of 1883 until her death in 1891, the Belford Guardians paid £2 5s 6d four times a year to the Home in Carlisle. The curious thing is that the money did not always come from the same account. Sometimes it was out-relief, sometimes common fund account and on some occasions an account called non-resident poor account, which might indicate that the arrangement was somewhat out of the ordinary.

Unfortunately, there are no records or documents left from the 19th century regarding Strathclyde House in Carlisle, so we have no way of establishing how the case was dealt with there.

The death of Catherine Rutherford was announced to the Guardians in a letter from James Ewing, Guardian for Sunderland, dated 21 January 1891 and addressed to

the Clerk of the Union, Henry Smart Johnson. James Ewing had been informed of the death in a letter from a Miss Merton or Morton, whose identity it has not been possible to establish, but she might possibly be a friend of the family who mastered the art of letter writing better than the family. She also mentioned that one of Catherine Rutherford's brothers had called on Mr Ewing and asked him to convey the thanks of the family to the Guardians for their kindness towards their sister.

Again, it seems somewhat strange that the Guardians were not contacted directly by Strathclyde House to inform them of the death.

Why was Catherine Rutherford singled out for what looks like preferential treatment? Why did the Local Government Board say that they did not need to sanction the decision, but referred to the General Prohibitory Order which did not really back up the decision which clearly clashed with the rules of the Strathclyde House for admittance? And there does not seem to be any evidence of an order of the Justices as required in the General Prohibitory Order.

* Affection, as a medical term, could be used to describe bodily state due to any influence especially disease.

Sources: GBF 9,10,11, Combined minute and correspondence books of the Belford Union. The Strathclyde House 1885-1985, A SHORT HISTORY OF THE STRATHCLYDE HOUSE by Edward Colgan, 1985.

Lars Rose

HOLY ISLAND EN FETE VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

Berwick Advertiser 3 July 1908

HOLY ISLAND yesterday was en fete and it had every reason to be for was not Royalty in the persons of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales visiting that interesting and picturesque little isle dedicated for all time to the sacred memory of St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert.

Work – no one was disloyal enough even to think of it, save the policeman, and he, poor man, was kept busy enough in all conscience. Early in the morning visitors

began to arrive, and every available vehicle was requisitioned for their conveyance across the sands. Such a procession across the sands has not been seen since the great Pilgrimage. As the visit was, in reality a private one, the Railway company ran no special excursions, there were a number of boats, however, from Seahouses and Beadnell.

Come Again Soon

On arriving at Beal (an "Advertiser" representative writes) I was instantly besieged with enquiries as to whether I intended to take a conveyance. As the idea of walking a matter of three miles across wet sand did not appeal to me on a broiling hot day such as yesterday was, I of course, replied in the affirmative, and was soon enthroned on the "dickey" of a pony cart. The first sign that anything out of the ordinary was taking place, that met my eyes, was a lovely floral arch, on which were emblazoned the words "Welcome to the Borders," on one side, and on the other "Will ye no' come back again," Then further on, on one of the "safety boxes" was painted the word "Welcome" in huge white letters; while to catch the eye of the visitors on their return journey, on the other side was the heart homely phrase, "Come again soon." Behind and before us was a long string of vehicles making their laborious way across the sands.

Haughty Motorist's Downfall

Then we heard the "teuf, teuf" of a motor car and our driver, kindly soul, proffered a word of good advice. "Go by the left posts," he shouted, but the haughty motorists paid no heed. It was a word in season, as it turned out. The car held on its course, but it was not long ere it was brought up all standing. About half the distance between Beal and the Island there is a part where the water deepens, and into this the motor car plunged. The water reached up above the wheels and quenched the "vital spark" bringing the car to a standstill. When we came alongside, of course we laughed, while our driver, incensed at his well-meant advice being disregarded, growled out, "I told you to keep to the left, didn't I." the motorists had to doff their boots and shoes and get out, and it was a good 30 minutes ere the car was extricated. It was noticed that on the return journey that the motor car hugged the left posts very closely. Truly pride goeth before a fall. On reaching the Island we found the villagers in a buzz of expectancy. It was indeed a red letter day in the history of the Island, and they intended to make the most of it. When the news came that the Royal visitors had left Beal the excitement rose to fever height. Mr Halliday, the schoolmaster, marched the school children down to the Market Cross, and lined

them up at the entrance to the Manor House, the boys armed with banners and the girls decked out in their finest attire.

Karon Ives

A WEATHERCOCK FOR A TARGET

Shields Daily News 12 July 1886

A strange discovery was made in the weathercock at the top of the Town Hall spire, Berwick, on Saturday. The spire rises to a height of some two hundred feet, and at the top is a large weathercock. Through this weathercock some one has fired from a rifle no less than seven bullets, the holes being distinct enough to the naked eye. The bullets have gone clean through the weathercock, leaving seven large holes. No reason is assigned for this freak, although rumours are rife enough as to the motive and the depredator.

Ralph Holmes

PROCLAMACYON FOR AVOIDINGE OF SCOTTES & VAGABONNDES

This is a transcription from the Bailiff's Court Book 1575 which gives a wonderful insight into life in Berwick at the time

3 SEPTEMBER 1575

fforasmoche as ther hathe bene heretofore divers and sundry tymes commande-
menttes and proclamacions made by the Lord Governor and Councell of this towne
ffor the avoidinge of all Scottes persons and other ydel vagabondes remayninge
within this towne contrary the statutes and good orders of the same. And yet
notwithstandinge the penaltyes and punishmenttes appertynynge to ther offences
published doth not avoide and departt but obstinety doth remaine. The said Lord
Governor vpon his clemencye wilnot persouthe execut that rigor of punishmentt that
ther disobediencies doth deserue in thatt behalf but doth yet giue them libertie to

departt and avoyd this towne within viij (8) dayes and in the meane tyme doth streightleye charge and commaunde that all Scottes borne persons and other ydell vagabondes shall within the saide viij dayes departt and avoyd this towne vpon payne of **burninge in the cheake** and the maisters or lodgers of any such scotes person to forfectt for everye nightt they ar lodged in ther howses after the saide viij dayes vj s viij d. (6s 8d) And every ydell person or vagabond (not beinge allowed and thoughtt meitt to remaine within this towne) thatt shalbe takin after the said viij dayes to be **imprisoned and whipped** over the bridgge.

(The severe punishments were probably due to the disturbed state on The Borders at that time i.e. the many raids, stealing, murder, etc. by the Scots)

Wendy Urwin

LITERARY FESTIVAL

October 17th – 20th

Members of FBDMA may be particularly interested in a number of talks at this year's Berwick Literary Festival, for which booking opens on 2nd September.

Opening the Festival on Friday 18th, **Linda Bankier** and **Gilly Beckett** talk on 'Crime and Creative writing: using the Archives for inspiration. Linda's sessions are always popular and lead on to **Gwen Chessell** and **Judy Crow** discussing their research into historical biography.

Still on Friday **Andrew Lownie** will discuss his new biography of the Mountbattens whilst Brian Ward recalls **Dr Martin Luther King's** visit to Newcastle in 1967. On Saturday well-known authors talk on the history of the Northumbrians (**Dan Jackson**), British fascists and fascism (**Tim Tait**), and Auschwitz (**Jeremy Dronfield**).

Sunday continues with Berwick resident and Newcastle University visiting fellow **Lindsay Allason-Jones'** talk on 'Roman Women: everyday life in Hadrian's Britain': **Moira Kilkenny** and **Joyce Quin** discuss leading women from north-east England in 'Angels of the North'; and the Festival concludes with the **Max Adams'** research on the Viking wars, King Alfred's struggles against the invaders.

Tickets for all events can be bought online, in person or by phone from The Maltings box office in Berwick from 2 September: space is limited, so early booking is advised. For full details see <https://www.maltingsberwick.co.uk/> Tel: 01289 330999

Many of the speakers' books are already for sale in Grieve's, Church Street, Berwick.

For more information about the Literary Festival and to see the complete 2019 programme, visit our website: <https://berwickliteraryfestival.com/>

Michael Gallico

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 7 March 1872

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE AT PAXTON HOUSE

Yesterday the nuptials of Capt. Chas. Frederick Hotham, Royal Navy, eldest son of John Hotham Esq. of Scaftworth, Yorkshire, to Miss Margaret, third daughter of David Milne Home, Esq. of Wedderburn, were celebrated at Paxton House under the most gratifying circumstances. The two families united yesterday in connubial alliance occupying a distinguished position in British annals, and more especially in connection with the British Navy.

The Home family is one of the most ancient on the Border, and no recapitulation of the history of the ancestors of the parents of the bride is necessary as we presume it is well known to the bulk of our readers. The father of the bride, we may however state, is widely known and honoured in the world of science. The bridegroom is a lineal descendant of an old Yorkshire family. Sir John De Frehouse, for the good services he rendered to William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, obtained, we learn from Burke's peerage, a grant of the lands and Castle of Colley Weston in Northamptonshire, and of Hotham in Yorkshire. His great great grandson, Peter De Frehouse, assumed the surname of Hotham from the place of his residence, which has ever since been that of his descendants. Sir John Hotham, K.B., was summoned to parliament as a baron in the reign of Edward II., and the Right Hon,

William Baron Hotham, of South Dalton, in consideration of his gallant achievements as a naval commander at the commencement of hostilities with republican France in 1793, received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament for a decisive victory over the French squadron, and was promoted to the rank of Admiral of the Blue. The Hotham family have ever since been distinguished associated with the British Navy, and the gallant bridegroom has himself earned a reputation for his services in New Zealand.

Berwick Advertiser, 7 March 1872

ON MONDAY AFTERNOON- the Berwick Amateur Rowing Club got their new fine pair down from the well-known Tyne builder, Jewitt of Dunston. It is 35 feet long, and altogether a fine specimen of the new style of racing craft, filled with sliding seats and apparatus for steering from the bow. It is we are informed, the first pair fitted up in this style in the country. We learn that she was out for a trial spin on Tuesday, when the sliding seats and steering gear was found to answer admirably. We hear that a pair-oared skiff for the use of honorary members, from the yard, Scarle & Sons, London, is shortly expected by the Club, which will form a valuable addition to the already large number of boats which this Club offers for the use of its honorary members

Carole Pringle

**MESSAGE FROM THE
EDITOR**

Dear Friends,

I would greatly appreciate any interesting snippets or articles, ranging from half an A4 page to one and a half pages, relating to Berwick or the surrounding area. Longer articles can be split over two newsletters. Please forward copy to me at newsletter@berwickfriends.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes
Julie Gibbs, Editor