

Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 106 – DECEMBER 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 7th January 2021

Online Talk – Evidence of Women and their lives in the Berwick Archives, 16th – 20th centuries: Linda Bankier. Starts at 7 pm. See next page for details.

Late March 2021

Friends AGM and Online Talk: Berwick's Borough Archives – the Archives Revealed Project : Linda Bankier. Further info in next newsletter.

27 February – early May 2021

Photocentre Exhibition in the Granary Gallery – more info in next newsletter

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES



Most societies are not meeting at the moment. However, some are holding their talks on Zoom. Check individual websites for details. See next newsletter for further updates.

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Talks will be on Zoom. The link needed to register for each talk will be circulated a few days beforehand in the TillVAS monthly Newsletter. As usual, all talks will begin at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 6th January 2021	Excavations at Garton Wetwang in Yorkshire with a focus on the Iron Age: John Dent
Wednesday 3rd February	Recent excavations at Lowick: Kristian Pedersen
Wednesday 3rd March	"A Family Life revealed, the Stuarts of Traquair": Margaret Fox

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Talks will be held on Zoom and start at 7.30pm. Any non-members wishing to attend should e-mail Josie McChrystal - josephine.mcchrystal@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 1 st February 2021	Stone Heads in the Roman Military Zone and what they tell us about people ; Dr Lindsay Allason-Jones.
Monday 1 st March 2021	Relics in Narrative of Bodily Integrity in Byzantine Christianity : Sophie Moore, Newcastle University.

NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHIVES ONLINE TALKS

As part of our Covid Recovery Work supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, we are holding the following online talks in early 2021. All the talks start at 7pm and are free to attend. Booking is via Eventbrite –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/northumberland-archives-30770439808>

Thursday 7th January 2021	Evidence of Women and their Lives in the Berwick Archives : Linda Bankier
Thursday 21st January 2021	The Butler Family of Ewart Park : Sarah Littlefear, Archivist
Thursday 11th February	An Introduction to Local Studies : Northumberland's Heritage at your fingertips : Kate St Clair, Local Studies Librarian
Thursday 11th March	Hidden Histories : Tapping the Archives for stories of Black Presence : Jo March, Senior Archivist, Woodhorn

For further information, contact Linda. Please do support us as this is a new venture for us.

ARCHIVE NEWS



Well, it has been a busy couple of months in the archives with plenty going on. When I last wrote, we were about to open to the public again. We did this successfully on 17th September and were slowly getting people back to the office in our new format – there are limited numbers but ironically visitors have more space ! We obviously had to close again with the most recent lockdown in November but by the time you receive this, we should be open again. It has been lovely to see everyone again and to let people have access to the records to do their research. Fingers crossed we will not have to close again but who knows? Reopening has created more work for us but it is worth it.

Other than reopening, my time in September was taken up with Heritage Open Days (HODS). As I reported in the last newsletter, we mainly went online this year with a

couple of in person events. This proved to be very successful and meant that we reached a far wider audience with people viewing the material from all over the world. We had about 10,000 hits on our new website – www.berwickhods.org.uk – and there is still material on there which will be of interest to you. If you want to find out about various buildings/landmarks in Berwick, go to our Berwick Through Time section - <http://berwickhods.org.uk/berwick-through-time/> - and look at our posts and videos on the Cowe Buildings; the former Council Offices and Maclagan's Memorial to name a few. We also ran a number of live online events – a bit nerve wracking to start with but we got used to it. Covid did not allow us to run manned in-person events, however, there was a very successful Secret Spittal event over the last weekend which encouraged people to walk round Spittal and find out about the properties. Thanks to Raine Bryant for all her work on this.

As well as HODS, the office is still continuing to work with schools. I am involved in a county wide Northumberland Archives project called “LEARN” – Learning and Educational Archive Resources from Northumberland . This is a digital project where we are creating online resources which schools can access relating to various topics. At the moment we are concentrating on Crime & Punishment; World Wars 1 & 2 and the Victorians. It has been a challenge trying to do this in lockdown but we are getting there. Berwick, Holy Trinity are helping us to pilot the project this term and I went into school to introduce the project to their Year 3 children. They got to see the oldest document in the collection and created a personal timeline for it. Next term I will be working with Tweedmouth Middle School on the First World War.

The past couple of months has also seen us doing lots of work on the Twixt Thistle and Rose Project. Until the end of November, Teresa was working very hard on getting the catalogue into the electronic catalogue before she left. Teresa has moved on to another post now but she has done a great job on getting us closer to our aspiration of creating the catalogue for the collection. The catalogue will go live in early January and will allow people to find out about the richness of the collection. After that, we will gradually be adding in all the cataloguing work which has been done by the volunteers which provides the really detailed information – for example, how much the jailer was paid in 1760 for looking after specific prisoners and the cost of coats and materials for rebuilding the Town Hall. This type of information wouldn't have been kept anywhere else! Despite not being able to come in, the volunteers have continued to do work for us at home – transcribing a mid 18th century Guild book. We had hoped to start bringing them back in again but this definitely won't happen until after the New Year now.

For the past 6 months, I have been working with Berwick Visual Arts and Cameron Robertson on another Photocentre Exhibition which will be shown in the Granary

Gallery. Plans are well ahead for this and Cameron has been busy digitising images and getting material together. There will be more information in the next newsletter. Suffice to say, it never ceases to amaze us what we find in the collection!

Well, this has been a different year for the archives but we have managed to keep going throughout the pandemic and the lockdowns. There is a lot that we have not been able to do (outreach) but we have used the time to catch up on other things – repackaging; appraising records; doing some research; launching a Twitter account amongst other things. We are never short of work to do here.

Finally, Carole, Martha, Teresa and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2021. I'm sorry we can't have our usual Christmas Coffee morning this year. There will definitely be one next year and maybe we will get the chance to do something in between !

Linda Bankier

THEO MAURITUS

Recently I was contacted by someone who wanted me to check the local newspapers and Berwick Petty Sessions register for a case involving a Theo Mauritus. I had no idea who he was but came across these two entries in the same edition of the newspaper about his supposed crime :

Berwick Advertiser, 21 April 1911

Obstruction Case – Thomas Gilbert, manager Picture Company, and Theo Mauritus, variety artist, were charged with unlawfully causing an obstruction on Marygate, Berwick by causing a large crowd of people to assemble on the 8th April. The Chief Constable said the summons had not been served against Mauritus and he asked that the case be adjourned. Mr Stiles objected and asked that the case against Gilbert be dealt with. It was decided to proceed with the case. Sergt. McRobb said he and PC Goodall saw several hundred people gather around the Town Hall on the date in question. Gilbert and another man put Mauritus in a coffin. So great was the crowd that a number of children were knocked down and trampled upon. The obstruction lasted half an hour and traffic was considerably delayed. Major Tower Robertson – Where did this disgusting spectacle take place? Sergt McRobb – On the street in front of the Town Hall. Cross examined – He did not get the chance to prevent Gilbert taking the coffin to the front of the Town Hall. PC Goodall corroborated Sergt. McRobb's evidence. Mr Stiles maintained that the mere fact of a crowd assembling did not create an obstruction. The Bench found Gilbert guilty and fined him 10s and 6s costs, and adjourned the case of Mauritus. The

Magistrates could not depart from the matter without expressing their feelings in regard to the performance. A most solemn subject had been treated with disgraceful levity.

The Visit of the Handcuff King – Theo Mauritus, variety artiste, Berwick, was charged that he did unlawfully and wilfully obstruct the free passage of Marygate, Berwick on the 8th April. The case was adjourned from last week in order that the summons might be served. Mr W. E. Stiles, solicitor, defended. The summons had been served in Blackpool. Sergt McRobb and PC Goodall repeated the evidence they gave last Thursday. Mr Stiles in defence said that in a letter Mauritus had informed him that he had been doing this kind of thing for six years past, and had never been summoned before. Mauritus was in a different position to Mr Gilbert, as he was acting as his servant. It was quite unnecessary to take proceedings against Mauritus, as he was obeying the orders of his master. As he said last week, when the Mayor paraded the streets on the day of his appointment that caused a crowd to gather. If the King visited the town, that would also cause a crowd to gather. Mr Robertson objected to the King's name being mentioned in connection with a performance of this kind. After a long consultation in private. The Mayor said that the Justices found that the ends of justice had been met by the conviction of last week and the case was dismissed

The case was also reported in other newspapers which shows the importance of looking at different sources to build up the picture. According to the **Berwickshire News and General Advertiser, dated 18 April 1911**, Tom Gilbert was actually up before the Bench for 3 cases that month – unlawfully procuring a child of 5 years 11 months to sing in the Corn Exchange (fined £1 + costs or 14 days in prison); after hours drinking at the Kings Arms (case dismissed) ; and finally the case with Mauritus. The heading of the case was interesting – “The Handcuff King and Street Obstruction “ – according to the article Mauritus was handcuffed and placed in the coffin and then had to escape. It also mentioned that the crowd extended from the Townhall to West Street.

Mauritus had obviously been in Berwick for at least a week as another article appeared in the **Berwick Advertiser, 7 April 1911** entitled; **Leap from Berwick Bridge** – Yesterday evening a conjurer, whose stage name is “Mauritus” jumped from Berwick old bridge into the river Tweed. He had two pairs of handcuffs on, but these he quickly took off on entering the water. Mauritus was hauled aboard a waiting boat amid the cheers of a large crowd.

This daring feat was also reported in the Jedburgh Gazette of 14 April 1911 which indicated that he couldn't swim and the crowd numbered several thousand [sounds an exaggeration!]

So, why was he in Berwick ? Well, this was because of Tom Gilbert who was the manager of the Berwick Picture Company at Central Hall. An article in the **Berwick Advertiser for 14 April 1911** reported there was a “complimentary benefit” held for him in the Corn Exchange on 3 consecutive evenings. The artists performing included Miss Leo King , singer and dancer, originally from Berwick; Mr Gilbert himself who was a singer and Mauritus – “on account of the daring leap of Theo Mauritus, the handcuff king, from Berwick bridge on Thursday last, his fame had preceded him, and he was greeted with a roar of applause. Mauritus was clever at his work, and succeeded in escaping from a packing case on Friday night and from a coffin on Saturday night. The latter feat, however, was on the gruesome side...”. There were also the Moxons, jugglers and dancers and the McGregors, refined comedians.

So what happened to Theo Mauritus and Tom Gilbert ? Theo Mauritus is last mentioned in newspapers in 1916 and I have found no reference to Tom Gilbert after 1914 by which time he had been performing in Dunbar and his brother had been killed in the war. So, if anyone can find out any more about these two characters, please let me know. I am intrigued !

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS



Berwick Museum & Art Gallery, as expected, remained closed for the 2020 season; it was unfeasible to employ seasonal staff for the few weeks remaining after lockdown was lifted. We remain closed for now, though that is usual at this time of year; it is just too cold to welcome visitors onto site! However, we hope to be able to open a bit earlier than usual for the 2021 season possibly in late March.

We have taken advantage of the closed period to carry out some essential maintenance work; Friends who have walked along Ravensdowne recently may have seen the scaffolding to the rear of the building. The quite serious damp problem in the Education Room has now been sorted out.

Most of the team at all the Museums Northumberland sites were furloughed over the summer, though some have now returned to work in bubbles. The “working from home” situation is likely to continue in some form for some time yet, due to the necessity (for reasons of physical distancing) of having minimum numbers of people only within each office environment.

We are looking into the possibilities of enabling remote access to our desktops and especially to the museum catalogue, so that the Collections Team can work on

updating this from home. That, of course, is no substitute for handling the real thing, but is something at least!

The Senior Management Team continues to meet twice a week via video link. We successfully applied to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for emergency funding, which relieved the pressure on us somewhat. We have also applied for, and got funding from the Art Fund and the Wellesley Trust, which will allow us (amongst other things) to make all the MN sites Covid secure and to pursue digital projects at Berwick in particular.

Though the museum is closed to the public, it is being well looked after by our Duty Manager, Jenny Vevers. Jenny has been on site regularly, and has been doing a great job working behind the scenes. Now that travel restrictions have been lifted, Charlie (Ellerman Project Curator) and I have been visiting every week to continue work on the collections and to double check conditions within the museum. Recently, Jenny has been working hard on figuring out ways of opening up the museum while making sure that our staff and visitors are safe; for example, shielding the welcome desk with perspex screening, organising one way circulation routes, and having separate entrances and exits to the building.

We had been looking forward to welcoming the new Union Chain Bridge Education team – Rebecca Cooper and Carol Whinnom - to Berwick; they were due to begin work just as lockdown started, but have been forced to work from home. They have been able to work together at the museum more regularly now we have a rota system in place. As soon as we have installed some network points for them in the Education Room and have found some desks for them to work from, they will be coming in much more often. Meanwhile, the pair have been keenly posting all the latest news of the bridge on the museum Facebook site.

The audit of our collections, courtesy of funding from the John Ellerman Foundation, did come to a temporary halt, but we filled the gap by writing up blogs for the Object in Focus pages on the MN website. However, we were allowed to rejig the budget slightly (with Ellerman approval) and have been able to continue the project for an extra two months, with a revised completion date of mid-November 2020. This funding was also helping to pay for conservation supplies, outreach work, staff and volunteer training. Over the summer we took over 2,000 photographs of the collections in addition to condition checking and measuring them. Charlie, the Ellerman Project Curator, has been writing up some of the research into the more interesting objects she has rediscovered in the course of the project, using this for short articles in the “Object in Focus” pages on the MN website - (www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk). Interesting, unusual and diverse items from Berwick written up recently include 18th century Dutch household items,

Christmas toys and a marionette puppet. We have more lined up, including an 18th century medicinal recipe book with some very novel cures, and some highly decorative Ottoman daggers.

More recently, we achieved substantial funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Fund for a follow on project “Femmer to Firmer” which will invite community input to a new county wide collections policy. This will get under way once the Ellerman Project finishes.

The site-specific exhibition by the artist Jonny Hannah - “Northumberland Folk” - which was due to be shown throughout the summer season, has had to be postponed until next year, although Jonny continues to post updates on his Instagram site. He continues to look for interesting Berwick stories to illustrate, and is currently looking for tales to tell about Covid 19. He has been working on hanging his exhibitions at Morpeth and Hexham and will be installing his exhibition at Berwick early in the New Year, all being well.

I am currently negotiating with the Burrell Glasgow about an exchange of loan items in time for its grand re opening exhibition “The Gift of a Great Collector”, now rescheduled for August 2022 – April 2023. Glasgow are interested in borrowing some of our Japanese artefacts, and we would like the loan of some of their Joseph Crawhall pictures.

It only remains for me to wish you season’s greetings and assure you that all the museum staff are looking forward to seeing you all again as soon as possible.

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

FRIENDS AGM

We hope to hold our AGM in March this year but it will not be in person but virtually. Similar to last year, we will send out papers beforehand and ask you to ratify them. Normally we hold a talk afterwards and this year it will be online. There will be more information in the next newsletter on how to join and the process.

In the meantime, we do have at least one vacancy on the Committee and so, if anyone would like to join, please get in contact with the Chairman , Bob Steward (e-mail rstew22@aol.com).

BERWICK BOROUGH POLICE FORCE INDEX, 1845 TO 1920



The Index, believed to have been compiled when Berwick Borough Police Force joined the Northumberland Force in 1920 to provide a record of pensions, gives a fascinating insight in to the background and character of the men serving the community. Initially, only the leaving date and rank were noted, with a start date added later, but from January 1873, almost every entry includes a physical description, age, place of birth, previous occupation, force number, promotions, demotions and a record of behaviour.

Recruits came from Berwick, the Borders, and other parts of Northumberland and Scotland, with several from Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, one from Ireland (1874 – 1875) and one from South Uist (1913 – 1915).

Not surprisingly, over a third had previously been farm servants, while others had worked as a railway guard, railway porter, locomotive fireman, mason, carter, butcher, barber, tailor, salmon fisher, coal miner, enameller, iron moulder and a mill worker. Some had served with the police forces of Northumberland, Newcastle City, South Shields, Caithness, Montrose, Edinburgh County, Leith, Aberdeen and Stirlingshire. Others had a military background with the 42nd Regiment of Foot, Coldstream Guards, the KOSB or the 3rd Battalion Cameron Highlanders.

By 1856 and up to 1864, the Force consisted of a Chief Officer and three constables, with two of the latter covering Berwick and one, Tweedmouth and Spittal. The total population of the area in 1861 was 13,254. The force gradually increased in size, and by 1874, consisted of a Chief Officer, three sergeants, and nine constables. The motives for joining the Berwick Borough Police Force, no doubt varied during the years covered by the Index. Job security, free uniforms, and possibly subsidised housing, may have appealed. [In 1901, a complaint was made by the sergeants and constables, about pay and conditions and the high level of rent paid for housing, compared with the Northumberland Force.] Initially, pensions were discretionary and not at a fixed rate. The 1890 Police Act resulted in policemen being entitled to a pension after 25 years service.

Particularly in the early years the job involved very long shifts, no paid leave, and lots of walking! A reasonable standard of education was needed as the constables were required to record their actions in two Day Books, one for criminal matters and one for reporting nuisances or health hazards.

It didn't suit everyone. Of the five constables appointed in 1872, three were dismissed within a month, one lasted five months and one, eighteen months. John Garden, however, a Superintendent, joining in the same year, served until 1899, and Henry Gibson, a constable appointed in January 1873, retired on a pension in January 1898. One of the shortest appointments was that of Robert Edington, a labourer from North Berwick, who resigned after 15 days in January 1877.

Some were called upon to resign or were dismissed, others left of their own free will or due to illness and some joined the following police forces: Durham, Newcastle City, South Shields, or Northumberland County, or were killed in action in WW1.

The most common offences committed by police officers were drunkenness, insubordination or leaving their beat, resulting in fines, warnings, demotions or dismissals. PC Gibson, mentioned above for long service, was promoted in 1884 for detecting and arresting a burglar caught stealing a quantity of plate, in the house of John Fleming, a Leather Merchant in Castlegate. However, Gibson was twice reprimanded by the Watch Committee in 1890, once for failing to observe and report a broken window in the Cock and Lion, Bridge Street and once for not going to a disturbance.

James Davidson (November 1865 - March 1876) was promoted to sergeant in February 1873. However, in February 1875 he was reprimanded by the Watch Committee for using abusive language to PCs Martin and Coulan, on the High Street. In July of the same year he was charged with being in John Stoddart's Public House, High Street, at 1.15 AM while on duty, and running away from PC Glen. He was again reprimanded and cautioned by the Committee. In March 1876 he was suspended and charged with drunkenness while off duty. One Friday afternoon he had been seen leaving the house of John Stoddart very much the worse for drink. He left the house by the back door and ran down the Golden Square to Bridgend followed by a crowd of children and young persons. He could give no explanation for his behaviour to the Superintendent and when told that he would be suspended until the Watch Committee met a few days later, he said he was quite agreeable. He was relieved of his duties 27 March 1876. [John Stoddart was a grocer and spirit merchant in the High Street - 1871 census.]

Alexander Garden (June 1874 - April 1876) was asked to resign as he never gave satisfaction, despite being promoted to constable 2nd Class in September 1875. He was described as a decent man but not suited to the Police.

Neither of the recruits from Lowick did very well. Alexander Ford (July 1900 - August 1900) was called upon to resign for stating on joining that he was 27 years of age, whereas he was actually 35. James Waters (February 1903 - April 1903) was found

drunk on duty and accused of not attending a Conference. On another occasion he was found asleep in a passage and was dismissed and had to forfeit any pay due.

Robert Muckle (June 1900 – August 1900) from Norham, had spent 10 months with the South Shields Force before joining Berwick. He resigned upon hearing that he was to appear before the Watch Committee. He was considered unfit to be a constable due to his conduct in going with *loose women, and gossiping etc.*

Some had exemplary records. William Moor (May 1878 – January 1919) joined as a 3rd class constable, and rose through the ranks to become sergeant 1st Class in August 1902. It was noted that he had made *many good detections* prior to this, with four recorded as follows: 29 May 1899 he apprehended Annie Norris for larceny of £20, on behalf of Gateshead Police; 5 July 1899 he apprehended Stephen Borthwick for stealing a gold ring, valued at £3; 23 June 1899 he apprehended Ellen Limburn for stealing 14 pairs of Stockings; 20 October 1903 he was rewarded £1 by the Watch Committee for the way he acted in a case of shop breaking on 7 September 1903.

Robert Wilson (July 1902 – still in post in 1920) was born in Berwick and started work as a tailor, before joining the Coldstream Guards at the age of 19, in 1896. After nearly 7 years with the Guards he was appointed constable at Berwick and made a sergeant in May 1910. In August 1907, he apprehended James Wallace, who was wanted all over the country for larceny. It was recorded that he very cleverly traced this man and only apprehended him after a severe struggle in which he was severely assaulted.

Newspaper accounts provide further information on James Wallace, the crime and the injury to Wilson. Wallace, a travelling thief with several aliases, was middle aged, well dressed and of good appearance and wanted in twenty-one places in England and Scotland. His method of working was to visit a large town, engage lodgings, and then ask to be allowed to wash his hands before going to the railway station for his luggage. While supposedly washing his hands, he was busy breaking into trunks before decamping with any valuables. Twenty-eight keys were found in his possession. Wilson recognised the man from the information and portrait provided by other forces, and followed him to a house where he was endeavouring to get lodgings. When Wilson tried to apprehend him, he became very violent, butting with his head and biting the officer's hand. The pair struggled for over a quarter of an hour, and fell over the banisters to the foot of the stairs.

Wallace was sentenced to six months' hard labour, being the maximum penalty, and Wilson was congratulated on the apprehension, and his conduct was ordered to be brought before the Watch Committee for reward.

Robert Wilson was also recommended by Colonel Kell in February 1918, for rendering his department very useful service. [Colonel Kell, founder and first director of MI5, was based at the War Office and wrote to the Home Office commending police officers in various parts of the country, in connection with enquiries and reports under the Defence of the Realm Act. Although no mention has been found in the local newspapers, an example of a similar commendation appeared in the Nottingham Evening Post, 30 March 1918.]

There seemed to be no relationship between background and success as a Berwick policeman, no doubt many other factors came into play. More may be revealed when further police records are catalogued as part of the Twixt Thistle and Rose (TTAR) project. Many interesting stories remain to be told!

Sources: BA NC2-3: Berwick Police Service Index; BAQ /5/6/1,2 Reports - Police (Counties and Boroughs) ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed 1877, 1879; Berwick Census, 1871; *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser* 13 August 1901; *Dundee Courier* 9 August 1907; *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* 9 August 1907; *Nottingham Evening Post*, 30 March 1918; Cowley, Richard and Todd, Peter, *The history of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, first 150 years: 1856 to 2006*, (2006), www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk > hmicfrs > publications; <https://people.elmbridgehundred.org.uk/biographies/vernon-kell/>

Julie Gibbs

BERWICK LICENSING REGISTERS PART 4



For this chapter on my observations on Berwick pub culture, I shall have to take the story beyond the last date of the last Register, as I intend to write about pub entertainment and catering. Most of this really starts at the end of the 1950s, and thereafter, and has involved searches through the local newspapers in the Library and Archives.

A picture of the pub scene at the time of the Registers can be gleaned from the scandal affecting the **Old Angel Inn** in Marygate. (demolished in 1983), which I mentioned in part 2 of this series

Interestingly, in the court case mentioned , it was said that '*in the old days, public houses were the close preserves of the men – dreary places with sawdust on the floor – times have changed and people's tastes have changed with them – more and more women were being attracted today and breweries were aiming at more*

congenial surroundings – with plenty of lounges catering for entire families.' As a sign of this, a new pub , the **Bonarsteads**, Tweedmouth, opened in December 1957 with a large lounge at the back, holding up to 100 people for functions

Berwick's pub culture very soon entered into the spirit of the 1960's and 1970's. As has been mentioned, the **Old Angel Inn**, in Marygate, had Berwick's first juke box in 1960, while live groups played in pubs such as the **Brewers Arms**, Marygate. While, as an experimental venture by Vaux Breweries, in 1966 the **Red Lion Inn**, Spittal, was transformed from a 'traditional 'local' into a modern discotheque.

Pubs faced competition from working mens clubs (Berwick's first official Labour Club, with a spacious concert room and dance floor and bar area, had opened in November 1955 in Ravensdowne) as well as night clubs. In 1969, Berwick had its own properly fitted out nightclub, with casino, called **Caesar's Palace** at the former Theatre in Hide Hill, which was described as ' *London in Berwick* ' .(Prior to this, in 1966, Berwick's mayor had opened the **Beachcomber** – a night club with disco and live cabaret for all, based in the Magdalene Fields Holiday Camp Site) .

Unlike the more traditional 1950s with local, amateur entertainment (eg pianos, accordions, radios record players) now pubs were advertising their attractions in the local newspapers .One of the more obvious changes to the pub scene was the redevelopment of the interior of pubs into large open spaces for functions, following the example of the Bonarsteads. In 1968, the **Brown Bear Inn** in Hide Hill created the '*legendary Tartan Lounge*' by removing the parlour and central staircase. Later in 1988 the pub was refurbished again with the old bar, lounge and pool room converted into one lounge. In 1988, the new landlord of the **Miners' Arms**, Sunnyside, Tweedmouth redecorated and upgraded the pub '*making the toilets an integral part of the building - - - they have been brought indoors for the first time*'. In 1985, the **Red Lion Inn**, Castlegate (dating at least from the 1850s) was transformed under new management, into a '*city-style*' pub. The landlord is quoted as saying '*We have tried to get away from the olde world image. It's a lot more modern ---aiming for the 18 – 35 age bracket*'. It even, for a while, changed its name to the more trendy **Sylvesters**.

The merging of pubs gave more room for functions with live music. In 1984, the new landlord of the **Albion Inn**, Spittal, took over the license of the adjoining **Tweed Inn** and merged the two pubs, the Tweed's bar becoming the pool room for the Albion. Both pubs had traditionally served railway workers. The **Salmon Hotel**, Marygate, (which is recorded back, at least to 1822) was a popular place for entertainment and held functions there from the 1960s, and in 1969 was advertising its own cocktail bar. In the same year it was the scene of a memorable May Fair 'battle' which spilled out into Marygate. Apart from the **Kings Arms Hotel** and its Assembly

rooms, which had always held pre-eminence for functions in the town, its main rival could be said to be the **Rum Puncheon** on the corner of Marygate and Golden Square and forever associated with the Stoddarts. It had occupied this prime site in Berwick since 1834 and combined a high class grocery store and off license with a function room and restaurant upstairs which hosted dances and weddings. In 1961 it had a visit from Cliff Richards who stopped over to have lunch in its restaurant.

It is difficult to say when Berwick pubs started to provide food, and later restaurants in their premises. Hotels, such as the Kings Arms had always served food, and a 1929 plan of the **Union Hotel** (from 1933 known as the **Royal Hotel**), Tweedmouth, and listed in Pigot's 1822 Directory shows a bar and three sitting rooms, plus a bottled beer 'off license' downstairs, and a dining room plus bedrooms and a sitting room upstairs. Many Hotels provided their bars for non-residents.

From the 1960s pubs, such as the new Bonarsteads provided lunch time food and evening '*basket meals*', alongside live musical evenings. In May 1965, the **Elizabethan**, on the North Road, opened to serve the local community and the nearby holiday camp development; it had a large lounge (with bar and a décor '*representative of the space age of Queen Elizabeth II*') plus a restaurant. In 1970, it was advertising its meals and entertainments in the local newspapers, plus its spacious car park to attract the passing motorist – '*a modern must*'. This was to be the pattern for the next 50 years including the expansion of the **Meadow House Inn** with function room, kitchen and lounge in 1983 (to meet expected increase of custom, due to its position close to Berwick's new by-pass) and the new style **Foxton's** bistro cum wine bar opened in 1982 on the site of the old Avenue Hotel, top of Marygate.

Robert Steward

TALES FROM THE BERWICK BOROUGH GUILD MINUTE BOOKS.

THE SPOKEN WORD

As part of the Twixt Thistle and Rose Project at Berwick Record Office I have been transcribing pages from the Berwick Borough Guild Minute Books for 1766 and recently came across this item.

“This day John Son of Thomas McKlan of Holeup in the Parish of Allington and County of Northumberland Yeoman and Andrew Son of Andrew Edgar...were presented and approved of as Apprentices the first to Joseph Dods and the other to

James Bell of this Borough Burgess.”

The surname was obviously a misspelling of McLean or something similar, but the address was unusual as the majority of apprentices were either sons of town Burgesses or from the surrounding area and easily identified.

The name “Holeup” as pronounced, did ring a bell with me, but the Parish of Allington anywhere in this area did not. After due consideration and being familiar with the Redesdale area, I decided that I had come across “Holeup” somewhere in the Coquet Valley. Resorting to the Ordinance Survey map of the area there it was - “Wholehope” and within a few miles of Alwinton (local pronunciation Alinton) in Upper Coquetdale. Problem solved.

Seeking further information, I contacted a friend in CCA (Coquetdale Community Archaeology) and he was able to let me have confirmation that John Mclan? did take up an apprenticeship with Joseph Dodds, a carpenter in Berwick, in the form of an extract from the Parish Records for 1766 see below on line 11. I had wondered how a Yeoman (small farmer) could afford to pay for his son to be an apprentice, but I found a reference to a fee of 20 shillings for an unfreeman's son in 1762 which could apply in this case. (Ref. BA.B1.18, Guild Minute books, p. 119) For some reason in this case the Parish paid the required fee. Unfortunately, no further information about the Mclan? family was available.

1766

Tues	1	Thos. Pennycuik of Shepperton, Middy, Barber	Edw. Ellis
Sept	2	Tho. Ladd of Greston, Lincoln Cordwainer	Rob. Ladd
	3	Sam. Tooke of Vunde, Northon Grocer &c	Wm. Roberts
	4	Jas. Roberts of Lancaster, Lancaster Upholster	Jas. Longden
	5	Jas. Abbot of Suliston, Amedon Cordwainer	Jas. Peven
	6	Jos. Fozey Cit. & Haberdasher of London	Jas. Robinson
	7	Jos. Mitchell of Milk Street, London Linen Draper	Sam. Walker
	8	John Wilson of Lancaister, Grocer &c	Ben. Sutherland
	9	Jas. Howman of St. Matthew's Bethnal Green Middy Weaver	Jas. Rayner
	10	Jas. Wilson of St. Peter's, Middy, Butcher &c	Rob. Kibbie
	11	Jos. Dodds of Berwick upon Tweed, Burgeff & Carpenter	Jas. McLean
	12	Jas. Kewes Cit. & Shoemaker of London	Jas. Scott
	13	Wm. Blomfield of Malton, Esq. Master Mariner	Daniel Douret

This is a prime example of how local dialect can affect the understanding of a written document produced at a time when a great many people had little or no education.

A SNAPSHOT OF LIFE IN BERWICK 1762

It is well documented that until 1850 when Civil Engineer Robert Rawlinson presented a report to the Berwick General Board of Health that housing conditions for the poor of the town were deplorable and leading to recurrent endemic outbreaks of consumption, (tuberculosis) cholera and typhus. The worst areas were in

Wallace Green, Chapel Street and the Greenses where accommodation was often let by room, and to more than one family, plus lodgers. The detailed drawings of Wallace Green which accompanied his report are held in Berwick Record Office, Ref. E26/7

It was probably similar accommodation which housed the little family described in this extract from the Guild Minute books, p 235 on 16th December 1762 -

“Margaret Smith Widow of George Smith deceased having proferred a petition to this Guild setting forth that her said late husband served Mr. Alexander Cockburn of this Borough Burgess for the Freedom of this Corporation for Six years and Eleven Months before his Death, and left behind him a Wife and one Child which on account of her bad State of Health she is not able to maintain And the Guild having seriously considered the premises and the Singularity of the Case It is ordered that the said Margaret Smith be paid by the Corporation's Treasurer Weekly the Sum of Two Shillings for the Support and Maintenance of her said Child for the Space of Four years when the child will then attain to the Age of Eight Years, but if he shall die before the Expiration of the said Term, this Allowance is then to Surcease And the Guild do hereby desire that James Lockhart the Corporation's Reading Master will teach the said Child Gratis, And it is ordered that he have a Copy of this Order given him.”

This was probably quite a common occurrence at this time. George Smith would have been about 16 years old when he took up his apprenticeship making him only 23 at the time of his death. His wife would likely be about the same age. If George and his family were existing on the small wage of an apprentice, they probably were living in some of the poorer class of housing and could have been suffering from some of the diseases prevalent at the time. It was noted by the Guild that the child may not reach the age of eight years. There is no mention of any relief for poor Margaret.

Maureen Charlton

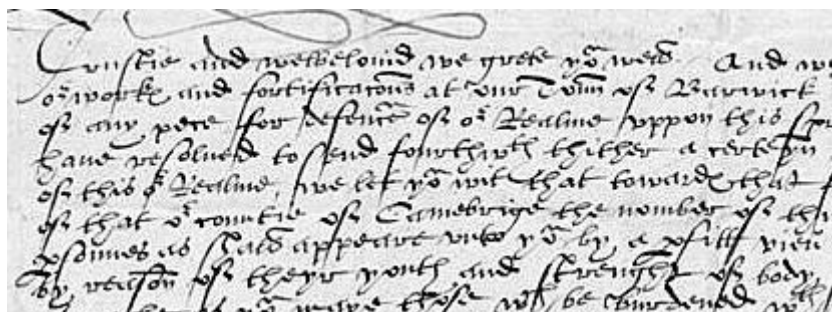
ELIZABETH I'S LETTER TO SIR EDWARD NORTH ON THE BERIWCK FORTIFICATIONS

An article in the *Guardian* piqued my interest: among the items in an upcoming Sotheby's sale was a letter from Elizabeth I from 1560 concerning the fortifications

in Berwick. Although there was no possibility of obtaining the document for our Archives, I was asked if I would have a go at transcribing it. Below is the result, along with some of the context I have been able to find.

Under the Tudors, Berwick and Calais were fortified garrison towns guarding the north and the south respectively. The loss of Calais to the French in 1558 made the English even more aware of Berwick, as the “auld alliance” between Scotland and France had caused them headaches for centuries. The first half of the 16th century saw shifting attitudes: when there was a perceived danger from the Scots, measures were taken to beef up Berwick’s defences, only to be abandoned again as the danger receded. At the time of the death of Mary I and accession of her half-sister Elizabeth I in 1558, improving the fortifications of Berwick was once more on the table. Sir Richard Lee (1513-1575), a genius of military engineering, was appointed to take charge. Knighted by Henry VIII in 1544, he had worked on virtually every military structure in England, Scotland and France. For Berwick he envisioned a massive stone fortress with 5 arrow-shaped bastions, based on the latest Italianate design, and in order to make it easier to defend, proposed “shrinking” the town by a third, leaving the Castlegate area outside the walls. Houses on Castlegate would be pulled down.

Berwick was expensive to maintain: the garrison consisted of 500 men – gunners and master gunners, soldiers, grooms, clerks, lackeys and more, plus the support services needed for such a garrison: blacksmiths, hostelryes, granaries, mills, provisioners of all types. Diplomats with great skills were also required, as Berwick was a centre for gathering intelligence. Under Elizabeth I it is estimated that Berwick cost £14,800 per annum (ca £3.5 million in today’s money). To this now would be added the expense of the new fortifications, and as the population of Berwick was insufficient for this endeavour: workers and personnel would have to be recruited from other parts of the country.



The summaries of Elizabethan State Papers for the first three months of 1560 give much indication of activities in Berwick and concerns about the threats from foreign powers. A notation from the beginning of February refers to “A book of provisions

for Berwick' consisting of an estimate of the cost of the implements and materials required for 2,000 workmen employed on the fortifications for the space of one year, amounting to 667*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*" (ca £156,000 today) On top of this would be wages and cost of transport for the men involved. A letter from Thomas Jenyson (controller of works and keeper of stores for Berwick, although he was probably not stationed there) complained that no one wanted to work in Berwick as it was too dangerous, and the workmen there too often slowed their work and purloined materials. There are exchanges between Sir Richard Lee and his deputy in Berwick, Rowland Johnson (who was responsible for the day-to-day work) about changes to plans, progress, what still needed to be done, etc. A manuscript at Hatfield House refers to letters in mid-February, where "it is determined that as soon as Sir R. Lee returns from Portsmouth ... he shall go to Berwick with some men of skill." Later on in the MS it is referred to provision and number of men being difficult to obtain, and the Queen "will buy two hundred, or fifty more, if she can, within the counties of Leicester, Lincoln, Huntingdon, and Cambridge", with the possibilities of obtaining more from other named counties. And here is where our letter comes in, as Lord Edward North was the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (more about him and Lord Lieutenants in general later).

It is addressed to "Our Right Trustie and welbeloved the Lord North" and continues:

"Elizabeth R By the Quene

Trustie and wellbelovid we grete you well And whereas for the further advaucement of our workes and fortifications of our Town of Barwick beeng the same of the gretest importance of any pece for defence of our Realme uppon this spring of the yere nowe approcheing, we have resolved to send fourthwith thither a certeyn number of laborers out of diverse counties of this our Realme we let you wit that towards that furniture we have appoynted to levye any of that our countie of Camebrige the number of thirtie the same to be chosen of suche personnes as shell appeare unto you by a perfitt vieu to be best hable to serve the purpose by reason of theyr youth and strength of body sparing therwithall by you discrecions as moche as you maye those not be burdened with wiefes and children & suche also as be mennes housholde servantes for husbandry. Requiring you nevartheless to have due regarde to the spedy setting for the of this full number so as there doe not ensue any manner of hinderences to the service entended accordinge as we specially trust you and like as we have nowe addressed onto you an express person with theis our lettres also with moneye for payement of the conduyt of theis laborers and their conductor. So our pleasure is that you shall appoint four common man of honest sobre & quiet behavior to take the charge of their conduccion unto Barwick afore said where uppon his arrival he shall deliver them over by direccion of the

Capten of our town of Barwick unto suche as same the chief care of the setting for the of our sayd workes accordingly and theis our letters shalbe your sufficient warrins and discharge in that behalfe geven under our Signet at our Palais of westminster the fourth of ffebruary the second yere of our Raigne [4 February 1560].”

On the cover of the letter, as a sort of PS, is added: “Maie it please your lordship myne instructions is that thei be at barwick the tenth of march.”

What is interesting about Edward North (ca 1504-1564), in contrast to the Lord Lieutenants of the other three mentioned counties, is that he seems to be a self-made man. Lord Lieutenants, first appointed to a number of counties by Henry VIII in 1540, were in charge of the militia of the respective county. They were expected to recruit, train and maintain them and keep them ready to be called on in case the monarch needed them. Appointments tended to go to loyal noblemen, often related to royalty by blood or marriage. William Parr (1513-1571), Lieutenant of Huntingdon was the brother of Henry VIII’s last – and surviving – wife Katherine Parr. The other two, Henry Hastings (1535-1595), Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and Henry Manners (1526-1563), not only Lieutenant of Lincoln, but also of Nottinghamshire and Rutland, were both descended from royalty through the Lancastrian and York lines respectively. All four were Protestant by faith and had supported Lady Jane Grey after the death of Edward VI; all four had been punished in some way by Queen Mary I and then reinstated by Elizabeth.

Edward North, 1st Baron North, was the son of a Nottingham merchant and haberdasher. He attended St Paul’s School and Peterhouse Cambridge and was later called to the bar, becoming counsel for London, possibly through the influence of his sister’s husband, who was an alderman. From there he worked his way up through the system and at one point Henry VIII decided he was untrustworthy and accused him of peculation (embezzlement). North cleared his name and even received a £300 legacy from the king. Although he supported Lady Jane Grey, he was later pardoned by Queen Mary and was even present at her marriage to King Philip II of Spain. This would indicate he switched religions and became Catholic during Mary’s reign. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely by Elizabeth I although he did not regain the seat on the Privy Council that he had had under both Edward VI and Mary I. All this gives the impression that he was an ambitious man and not without some intelligence and cunning.

No doubt, lurking in some private or public collection, there are other similar letters from Elizabeth I to various Lord Lieutenants and other officials concerning the fortifications at Berwick, and we can but hope that they will come to light at some point.

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Jane Pigney

CHEVIOT HOLIDAYS IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY



(Review: Holidays in the Cheviots – a family's record)

Sometime in the early 1900s, the Ford Robertsons from Edinburgh bought a house called Petersfield, up in the hills beyond Wooler. From 1910 to 1915, on regular visits throughout the year, they turned it into a multi-faceted holiday home. During the term-time months, they sometimes popped down for the weekend, but over Easter and the summer, the whole household – Dr and Mrs Ford Robertson, their three sons, twins of 11 in 1910 and a younger brother, spent several weeks enjoying Wooler and the Cheviot Hills. For longer holidays, they would arrive by train at Wooler station, to be met initially by the Black Bull's horse-drawn 'wagonette', later replaced by a motor vehicle. With one or two servants, a good deal of baggage, and even a piano, they were already quite a large group. Over the years, they were joined by many other visitors. Relatives and friends came to stay and there was always a flow of day visitors – some of the other families holidaying in the area, and local friends. These included the Archbold sisters, who then lived in a pair of houses, Craigrossie, in Ryecroft Way in Wooler.

We know all this, and much more, because of the daily log they kept of their activities. Dr Ford Robertson, sometimes referred to as 'the patriarch', must have

created this log-keeping practice, meticulously maintained during his absence by one of the boys, an uncle or a visitor. These absences were quite frequent as Dr Ford Robertson was the Pathologist to the Scottish Asylums, and was becoming a distinguished expert in the mental health field. Several of the family's visitors were also fellow medics. He commuted back to Edinburgh weekly in extended holiday periods, catching the 9.33am train from Wooler. Dr Ford Robertson is also known to those interested in the history of walking in the Wooler area as the author of a very detailed book of *Walks from Wooler*, published in 1926. The log book shows just how well he knew the routes described in this book. Hardly a day went by without a long walk over the hills, although the family allowed themselves more rest on a Sunday. They clearly enjoyed ranging over the hills in all weathers, while occasionally organising a more social event, such as a picnic, or going on fishing expeditions to favourite spots. There is a wonderful account in the log book of the experience of using a 'motor vehicle' to reach the Langlee Valley. This early car struggled with steep slopes and eventually drifted into a stream. The family had a few car trips after this, but when ranging further afield they mostly went by train.

They did much more than walking, however. There was a daily schedule of work to be done, fixing the house and creating a garden. The boys mucked in and their contributions were recorded in the daily log (and occasionally expanded on when one of the boys wrote an entry). Each summer the house seems to have got bigger, with more rooms added and facilities improved. The garden was large – sloping down from the house to a marshy area and stream. They created a vegetable garden, planted soft fruit bushes, laid out rockeries and flower gardens, and levelled the ground to make a tennis court. After much effort, the boys managed to dam the stream to create a place where they could swim. In addition to all this, the house party played sports – tennis when the court was finally ready, but also cricket. The boys used bows and arrows and took lessons in the use of rifles. To begin with their biggest success was in shooting rabbits, but by 1914, with the twins coming up to 15 and the First World War breaking out, shooting practice must have felt more serious.

We know about this log book because it was found by chance a few years ago, and has been meticulously transcribed and turned into book form. *Holidays in the Cheviots 1910–15* is the result. Curated by Pam Ratcliffe, who also provides a very informative introduction, and produced by Glendale Local History Society, it is an enjoyable read in itself, as you follow family life on a day-to-day basis. It is also full of other insights into the life and times of a middle-class professional Edwardian family. It provides a window into Wooler life at the start of the 20th century, and some Wooler families of today may find mention of their ancestors – Shorts, Redpaths,

Richardsons and Murrays, for example. The book is also a useful resource for those interested in the transport. Motor vehicles were just beginning to challenge the horse and train. From 1914, WW1 events are recorded from time to time, as the family regularly went into Wooler for a newspaper. And there is a snippet of history of the Scouting movement, as the boys were involved in a scout group in 1910, just two years after the movement was founded. But above all, the log book records the life of a busy and active family, who enjoyed being outdoors and filled their days with energetic activity and projects of many kinds. Perhaps Dr Ford Robertson wanted to show by example the mental health benefits of such a life.

By kind permission of Glendale Local History Society

Holidays in the Cheviots can be obtained from Glendale Local History Society, c/o Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler, NE71 671 6BL, or via email to: glhsoc@gmail.com, or direct from the Cheviot Centre or Brands in Wooler. The book costs £7.50 (£2.00 postage in addition).

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS



Berwick Advertiser, 14 June 1872

SPITTAL-LARGE EXCURSION PARTY

The excursion season was inaugurated on Wednesday by a very large party arriving from Kelso at Spittal. The excursionists numbered nearly 2000, the majority of them being young folks attending the various Sunday schools in Kelso. They came by special train to Tweedmouth Station and headed by an instrumental band marched to Spittal. The weather was beautiful, and the pleasure seekers found much delight in perambulating the beach, visiting the "lions" of Berwick, and playing at various games on the sea bank. A commodious marquee was erected on a suitable site overlooking the bay, and in this tent the children were regaled with refreshments. The party, which left for Kelso at half-past six o'clock in the evening, were very respectable and well behaved.

Berwick Advertiser, 21 June 1872

AN EXPERIENCED DODGER

A tramp, lame, and attired in military uniform, and who gave his name as Charles Stewart, was charged with vagrancy. On being placed before the Magistrates Stewart, with seeming cunning, promised to leave the town immediately if their Honours would discharge him. The magistrate, however, preferred to hear the case. P.C. Davidson stated that on the previous afternoon the defendant went from shop-to-shop begging, stating that he was a discharged soldier, and had passed through the Crimean war (At this juncture the wife of the defendant, her eyes filled with "crocodile" tears, suddenly appealed for mercy on behalf of her husband, but she was told to hold her tongue', which she very soon did.) The defendant further stated that he had a wife and three children to support and had only a pension of 6d a-day to keep them. Davidson said he watched defendant going down Hide Hill. He saw him cross over to some gentlemen standing at the King's Arms Hotel and gave them a salute in soldier-like fashion. The gentlemen did not give him anything, and he went into the Misses Strother's shop, and then into the Brown Bear public house. When in this house Davidson followed and saw him offer a penny of a gill of beer. He took him into custody. When brought to the police office he was very insolent, and when asked for his discharge said it was in the proper pace. The defendant said he had been eight years and 147 days in the service. He had come to Berwick for the herring fishing but found he had come too soon. Mr Thompson said the defendant came into his shop, and because he could not get any money, he opened his coat and exposed his person. The magistrates ordered him to be imprisoned for seven days.

Carole Pringle

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