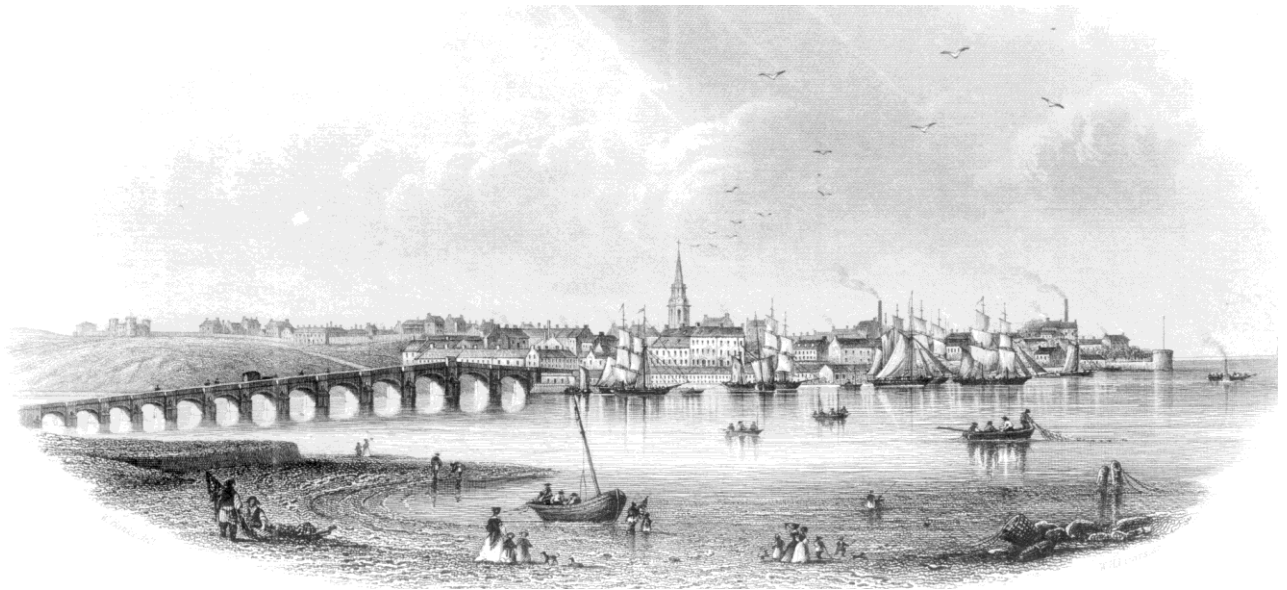


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 114 – DECEMBER 2022

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7th January 2023

Berwick Record Office Coffee Afternoon
2 -4 pm in the Parish Centre. Invite
enclosed

Friday 24th March 2023

Friends AGM and Talk on Berwick Record
Office Projects. 7pm start. Venue to be
confirmed.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES



AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 31st January 2023	Louisa Waterford and the mystery of the Labyrinth: Jac Kurio
Tuesday 28th February	Are we nearly there yet? Bruce Keith
Tuesday 28th March	Berwick Boyhood between the Wars: Elisabeth Wilson

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th January 2023	Bridges of the Tweed: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 22nd February	Haggerston Castle: Joy Lamb
Wednesday 22nd March	Northumbrian Jacobites: Elizabeth Finch

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 10th January 2023	Why is Putin attacking Ukraine: Emeritus Professor David Saunders
Wednesday 8th February	A presentation by NCC Director of Regeneration – to be confirmed
Wednesday 8th March	Question Time: with Panelists to discuss important current issues in Berwick- upon-Tweed
Wednesday 12th April	A.G.M.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 21st December	HMS Trincomalee: Martha Andrews
Wednesday 18th January 2023	My Garden's Part in Hitler's Downfall: Lindsay Allason-Jones
Wednesday 15th February	From Ditch to Bastion-Defending Berwick: Jim Herbert
Wednesday 15th March	Prisoner of War Camp at Wooler: Phil Rowett

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in January

Monday 6th February 2023	Excavations at Roman Corbridge: Dr Frances McIntosh
Monday 6th March	The Effect of Climate Change on Iron Age Communities: Tanja Romankiewicz

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

No lectures in January

Monday 2nd January 2023	Title of talk to be announced: Andrew Beckwith
Monday 6th February	The Battle of Halidon Hill: Noel Hodgson
Monday 6th March	The Cornhill Railway: Stephen Platten

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Waterloo Arms Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 19th December	Chirnside & District WW1 & WWII medals: Ian Thomson
Monday 16th January 2023	Heraldry of Border Towns: John Malden
Monday 20th February	Herstory: Isobel Gordon
Monday 20th March	The Scottish Town House (a way of life); Margaret Skea

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 5th January 2023	The Rev. John Wilson of Lauder: John Shields
Thursday 2nd February	Robert The Bruce's Legacy: Isabel Gordon
Thursday 3rd March	AGM at 6.45pm followed by Criminal Spirits-Gin and Whisky Smuggling in The Borders: Graeme Watson

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Duns Masonic Hall, 41 Newtown St, Duns.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th January 2023	51st Highland Division in The Second World War: Angus Hay
Wednesday 22nd February	Candle For The Atlantic 9sailing in the Wake of Columbus): Rosemary Redway
Wednesday 22nd March	Evacuation To The Border Counties 1935- 1945: Myth and reality: Kenny Mclean

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14th December	Life of a Wooler GP in the 1960s: Dr. Noel Roy
Wednesday 11th January 2023	The History of Lindisfarne Castle: Nick Lewis
Wednesday 8th February	The Greys of Howick: Peter Regan
Wednesday 8th March	Mary Somerville; Jedburgh born mathematician, scientist and astronomer: Isabel Gordon

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 12th December	Faith in Lowick: Kevin Archer
Monday 9th January 2023	Down Memory Lane: Various speakers
Monday 13th February	The Ford Estate at the Time of the Waterfords: Linda Bankier
Monday 13th March	The Life of Henry Percy (Hotspurs); John Sadler & Co.

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 21st January 2023	Members' Stories: Interesting and Unusual Jobs
Saturday 18th February	Lesser Known sources for Family History: Val Glass
Saturday 18th March	Members' Stories: The ancestor I'd like to meet

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 25th January 2023

Village Life: George Scott

Wednesday 22nd February

Posthumous Travels of St Oswald and St

Aidans: Jessica Turner

Wednesday 22nd March

Happy Days Digging up

Northumberland's Past: Barry Mead

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Ford In the Time of The Waterfords:

Linda Bankier

Sunday 5th February

Cheviot Volcanoes; What Were They

Like? Would You have Survived?:

Elizabeth Devon

Wednesday 1st March

Berwick Barracks Through Three

Centuries: Joe Lang

FBDMA SUBSCRIPTIONS



At the Friends' AGM in March this year it was agreed that our annual subscriptions should be increased with effect from January 2023. This will be the first increase we have made since January 2011. The new annual rates are:

Individual £10 (previously £7)

Family £15 (previously £10)

Institutions £15 (unchanged)

If you pay your subscription by standing order, now is the time to make sure that your banking arrangement is amended to the new amount. It will be really helpful if you can do this before Christmas so that we do not have to send reminders for the extra sum.

For those who make a separate payment each year, the renewal forms will be sent out in early January.

Our thanks to everyone for their continuing support.

John Spiers, Secretary FBDMA

ARCHIVE NEWS



The date to write the newsletter seems to come around very quickly. A sign of getting older but also that we have been extremely busy! Since our last newsletter, we have done the following :

Heritage Open Days - the 2022 event was extremely successful and heavily involved the Record Office and its staff in all its facets from organising the programme to stewarding and delivering events. Overall, 12,845 visits were made to the activities we arranged either online or in person which was an increase on last year. It was touch and go whether anything would happen because of the Queen's death and the period of mourning. However, the national team allowed us to decide and we decided to go ahead, only losing 3 events. One of our highlights was the New Wave event – Crime Unlocked. This was put together by a group of young people and was aimed at attracting the 18 to 25 year old age group to our events. The national team came to it and took lots of photos. They were very impressed with it and what we achieve in general. Crime Unlocked was based on 4 criminal cases recorded in the archives. We start in January planning next year's event and are always looking for people to help. If you want to read a case study about Berwick HODS 2022, click on this link - <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/case-studies/berwick-hods>

Healthcare Project - We have just started a project looking at maternity care in Berwick and the history of Castlehills Maternity Home. The volunteers are piecing information together from the Hospital records and researching the start of the campaign in the 1930s for a maternity home. It's not proving easy to work out the origins but we will find out. The fundraising campaign began in the 1930s but it all started in the 1920s. We are hoping to run some oral history training in January and are looking for people to record. Some people have come forward but if you know anyone who worked at Castlehills or had a connection with maternity provision in the area who would like to be recorded, please let me know.

Illuminated Sheep – This project was created to support the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to Newcastle and the Northumberland Illuminated Sheep arts trail. The Record Office has helped the project in various ways. I have run 6 Decoding Workshops (Reading Old Documents) in the County going as far afield as Allendale, Bellingham, Rothbury and Morpeth. It has been great fun doing this in person and seeing different parts of the County. It was a lot to pack into 3 hours but we managed to look at handwriting from the 16th – 19th centuries. I have also been involved in physically moving some of the sheep around the county. Four of them came to Heritage Open Days and then I returned 3 to Hexham for the final events. It's amazing what you can fit in a car but I did get some strange looks getting them in and out !

Life in a Northumbrian Manor – see Beth's article

Outreach – during this period I have given talks to various organisations. I have talked to Berwick History Society about Berwick 1952 – 2022 based on our Platinum Jubilee exhibition and to both the North Northumberland Genealogy Forum and Ayton Local History Society about Irregular Border Marriages. I've also spent some time with Year 4 at Tweedmouth West First School who have been finding out about Berwick's Walls.

Photo Centre Collection – Cameron has continued his work on this collection, increasing our knowledge of its contents weekly. He has found some great photos which are shared on our Photocentre Berwick Instagram and Facebook feeds. To date, Cameron has catalogued 322 boxes of negatives and we have recruited a volunteer who will help him with this task. There are now over 3000 catalogue entries for the collection on the electronic catalogue and more are being added

every week. Our next task is to append some images to catalogued entries and update our Photo Centre website.

Staffing – staffing levels at the Record Office are increasing. Beth Elliott started work with us in May, part time on the Manorial Project and then the rest of her time as an Archivist for Berwick. At the end of November, we welcomed Gillian Booker who will be working full time at Berwick as an Archivist for the next 3 years. This will give us time to deal with our cataloguing backlog and will free me up to work on the Living Barracks Project. It's an exciting time for the office.

I'm sure there are lots of other things that we have been doing but this is probably enough for now. 2022 has been an eventful year and I can't see 2023 being any different.

Happy Christmas to you all from the Berwick Record Office staff !



Linda Bankier

GABRIEL DAVIS



Whilst undertaking some research recently on Gabriel Davis who was originally a cork cutter, I was directed to this article in the Illustrated Berwick Journal, dated 8 December 1855. The really interesting thing is that I checked the Board of Guardians minutes and absolutely no reference is made to Gabriel at all in the entry and so it is worth looking at other sources :

ILLUSTRATED BERWICK JOURNAL, 8 December 1855
BOARD OF GUARDIANS – Monday, Dec 3.

The fortnightly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held on Monday – present Messers Fleming (chairman), John Wilson, Morton, Cairens, Gibson, Winlaw, Dickson, Crewther, Brown, E. Black and the Rev. G.H. Hamilton.

A TOUCH OF ROMANCE

Amongst the applicants for relief was Gabriel Davis, who was lately contractor for lighting the street lamps, but whose contract was terminated in consequence of his irregularity. Gabriel was asked by the Chairman of the Board what had brought him there. He hung his head, and replied that he could not get any work.

The Chairman – That is nonsense, you can get plenty of work, if you choose to look for it. We cannot think of assessing the inhabitants for the purpose of keeping such as you when you can get work.

Davis – But I assure you I cannot get work.

The Chairman - Yes you can, if you try. Have you seen Middlemiss, the contractor for the streets; he will take you on at 12s a week and you can go to work with him immediately. But you must take your wife out of the workhouse with you when you leave. (Davis and his wife, it should be stated, have each been married previously – the first husband of Mrs Davis being the late Mr Frederick Sheldon, author of a “History of Berwick” “ Minstrelsy of the English Border”, “Mieldenvold the Student” etc)

Davis – My wife! Ha I don’t know whether she’s my wife or not?

The Chairman – Were you not married?

Davis - I don’t know; I’ve no recollection of it, but she says we were. (Laughter)

The Chairman – Well, go you away and send her in.

Mrs Davis here entered the room and in reply to the Chairman said that she was married to Davis by Thomas Davidson. She was then told that her husband was to get work and she would therefore be taken out of the workhouse and kept by him. She wished to be allowed to remain in the workhouse all winter, but she was told her request could not be complied with. She then admitted having received £1 in answer to a letter which she addressed to a friend, and said that she had many kind friends who sent her money. The Vicar then cautioned her against writing letters and obtaining money under false pretences, and told her that if she was found doing so, she would be charged with the offence before the magistrates.

Mrs Davis – I am well aware of that, Mr Hamilton, thank you, but I will take care what I do. She was then told to withdraw.

There is a back story and a postscript to this. Gabriel who had originally lived in Wallace Green had worked as a lamplighter for the Urban Sanitary Authority shortly before this request for relief. He took up his post as lamplighter in July 1855, being paid 17 shillings per week. However, at the Lighting Committee on 3 October 1855, the following was agreed - ... *The attention of the Committee having been called to*

the irregular conduct of Gabriel Davis in the lighting & extinguishing of the Street Lamps, he sometimes not lighting at the proper times and neglecting to extinguish them the Committee thought it their duty to put an end to his contract and engaged Mr Wm Wilson, plumber, Church Street to do the Work until further arrangement can be made.

The same Committee agreed to pay him £11 5s 8d as his wages on 23 October – no wonder they didn't want him in the workhouse. It's unclear whether Gabriel left or not but he was certainly back there in April 1858 when he met an unfortunate end.

Inmates of the Workhouse were required to undertake domestic duties. Whilst working with Edward Young, white washing the walls of the new kitchen, he was standing on a ladder c 15 feet long which was placed against the wall. The other man was handing him brushes when the ladder broke about 1 foot from the top. The ladder partially turned over and Gabriel fell to the ground only a few feet away, hitting his head. Despite receiving medical attention, he died on the Sunday. The post mortem revealed that he had a severe fracture of the skull and concussion of the brain. The verdict was accidental death because no blame could be attached to anyone as the ladder was apparently sound when put up and all precautions were used to secure the foot with a cord in case of slipping.

Gabriel Davis was aged 53 when he died and was buried in Berwick, Holy Trinity Churchyard. The Civic Cemetery was open by then and so, it can only be presumed that he was buried at Holy Trinity because his wife and parents were already there. It's interesting what you can find when you start digging. I never thought I would find so much out. The newspaper article is a little gem and illustrates that official minutes will only tell you what they want to!

Linda Bankier

MANORIAL PROJECT



We are now over 6 months into the Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor Project. The project began with the aim of working with volunteer groups across the county, to transcribe Northumberland Archives' collection of manorial records. These transcripts will help us provide easier access to Northumbrian manorial records, eventually creating an online resource and glossary. Even at this early stage, it is

clear that the records contain fascinating insights into Northumberland's historic manors. Volunteers at Berwick Record Office have been busy completing some of our first transcriptions, and we will soon be starting the next three transcription groups in Newcastle, Hexham and Allendale.

The Berwick volunteers have been transcribing a collection of court rolls and call rolls for Norham manor. The call rolls detail the tenants who were required to attend the Court Leet and Court Baron for Norham manor. They form a list of names, including whether the tenants are freeholders or cottagers, and whether they attended the court, or were fined. The court rolls detail the names of those involved in the court proceedings, including the Lord, the Stewards, and the jurors. The rolls also include some of the customs that the tenants were expected to follow, and presentments, whereby tenants could put forward their grievances. Both sets of rolls are mostly 18th century, so we can compare the transcripts of these records, and form a wider picture of Norham at that time. We often find the same names appearing in both sets of records, providing some detail into the lives of the manorial tenants. One name from these rolls, for example, is Rees Strother. In the 1707 court roll, Mr Strother appears on both the list of sworn jury members and in a presentment, whereby he is claiming that another tenant – Thomas Edmeston – created a path through his lands:

'Upon Informac[i]on of Rees Strother we present Thomas Edmeston for Breaking a Gap in the Dovecoat close w[h]ich the s[ai]d Rees Strother Farms and a Gap in Pedwell Stile and makeing a high road through the Grounds of the said Rees Strother for Horses Carts and wains'

Edmeston was fined 1 shilling and 8 pence for the offence, a relatively small fine at close to £9 in modern currency. Rees Strother also appears in the roll as a 'land liner', a Scottish term for someone who traced the boundaries of properties and burgage plots. As many of the presentments in this roll relate to boundary disputes, it is possible that Strother was responsible for identifying some of these. In the 1781 call roll for Norham Town manor, there is also a Rees Strother listed. Given the near 75-year date gap, this is possibly a different Rees Strother, though we could assume that he is a descendant or relative. In this roll, Strother is listed as a freeholder tenant, and this means that he had the right to hold the land in return for a monetary fee paid to the lord of the manor, rather than with a requirement to complete a customary service to the manor, as copyhold tenants were required to do. It would be interesting to see if the earlier Rees Strother was also a freeholder tenant, and perhaps this query will be answered as the project progresses. This short article, though written in the early stages of the transcription project, has begun to

demonstrate the wealth of information which can be found in manorial documents, and how this information can help us to form a more rounded understanding of the history of our local towns, and their inhabitants.

Beth Elliott

MUSEUM NEWS



We are now closed for the season. It is very cold in the galleries so we are trying to stick to the office as much as possible, though we have ventured out to work on the collections in small bursts!

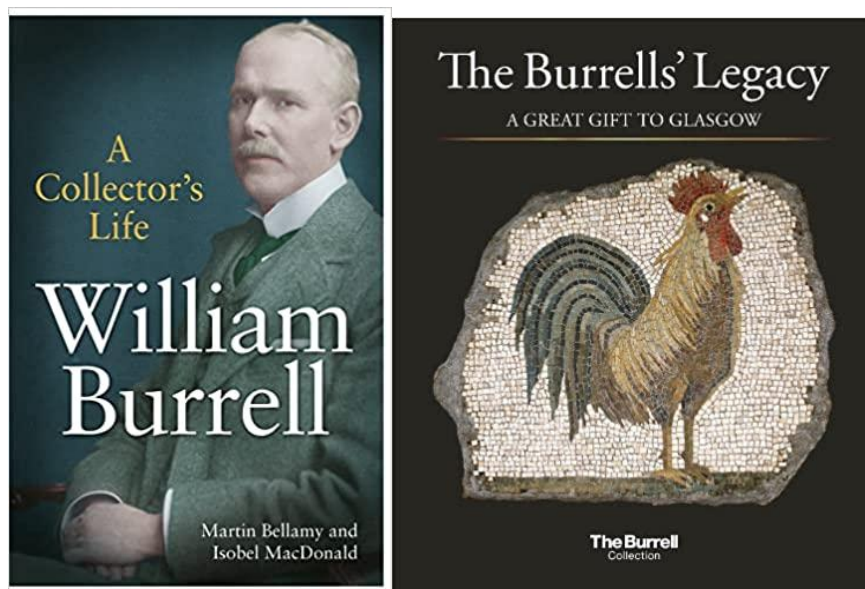
Visitor numbers are slightly up on last year, and it has been nice to meet so many new visitors to the town who have “staycated”. One of our busiest weekends came when we opened for free on HODs 17th-18th September, and gave special tours of the Burrell Gallery. Later in the season, and just before we closed the ever popular Halloween Bat Trail proved a popular attraction for younger visitors to enjoy during half term.

Berwick Museum & Art Gallery and Berwick Preservation Trust have worked together to produce a new interpretation panel for Berwick’s popular “Lowry Trail”. The panel was eventually unveiled on 9th August and is to be found at the end of the promenade at Spittal, in sight of the view depicted in Lowry’s “Beach Scene”, acquired in 2020 by Museums Northumberland.



We have loaned several Japanese artefacts and two oil paintings from the Berwick Burrell @ Berwick Museum & Art Gallery to the newly refurbished Burrell Collection, Glasgow – Japanese porcelain bowls and bronze mirrors, and seascapes by Charles Daubigny and Eugene Boudin for their new exhibition “The Burrells’ Legacy: A Great Gift to Glasgow” (15th August 2022 – 28th April 2023).

Meanwhile, the authors of the new biography of Sir William Burrell – Isobel MacDonald & Martin Bellamy discussed their book to a capacity audience at Berwick Literary Festival on Sunday, 16th October. We laid on guided tours of the Berwick Burrell Collection afterwards.



Berwick Museum & Art Gallery loaned the Degas pastel “Russian Dancers” to National Galleries Scotland for its summer exhibition “ A Taste for Impressionism” held at the Royal Scottish Academy (30th July – 13th November 2022). The exhibition was an extensive and important one, featuring all the great Impressionist painters such as Monet, Renoir and Degas as well as later artists influenced by them such as Matisse and Modigliani. The picture has now returned home to Berwick.



BERMG:1432 Degas Russian Dancers NGS, Degas : Ballet scene

We loaned several items relating to royalty to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee for the Berwick Civic Society's summer exhibition at the Main Guard, Berwick. We welcomed the Civic Society for an out of hours tour of the Berwick Burrell Collection during an early evening visit on 14th September.

Recent inventorying work in our textile store has seen us rediscover a colourful 19th century quilt.



Volunteers Eunice & Katie looking at the back of the quilt.

Detective work looking at the paper templates still in place on the back of the hexagon templates puts manufacture down to circa 1860, as Sevastopol and

Florence Nightingale are mentioned in the old newspapers used! The materials used seem to have an earlier date – presumably old clothes and other textiles would have been cut up for use in the project – a Victorian version of upcycling !

An update on the Ord Cross. The Friends Autumn lecture featured a well-received presentation by Ben Westwood, the Finds Liaison Officer who first received the cross and administered the Treasure Trove paperwork prior to our acquisition. We are now in the early stages of producing a short video on the item to put on our website. The cross itself will go out on display in time for Easter 2023.

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 in the New Year.

Anne Moore (Keeper of Collections, Museums Northumberland)

CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS (CAMPS) PROGRESS REPORT



In our last newsletter, we were looking for volunteers for this project. Here's an update on what has been happening :

Northumberland County Council, together with Berwick CAAG and consultants UrbanVision (UVE) CIC, have launched the extensive volunteer programme to undertake a photographic and building audit in each of the three Conservation Areas, Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal. This is the first phase of a wider initiative to establish an up-to-date Conservation Area Management Plan, covering all three conservation areas, a project jointly funded by Historic England.

Berwick Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) hosted the project launch on Thursday 29th September 2022. The project then delivered an online 'taster' session to enable people to find out more on the 20th October 2022. This was well attended with 18 potential volunteers. UVE then went on to deliver 2 in person and 1 further online volunteer training sessions in late October and early November 2022.

Over 20 volunteers have been recruited and undertaken the training. All three of the Conservation Areas have been assigned volunteers for surveying. This ambitious programme involves 6 key priority areas across the three Conservation Areas to be surveyed by mid-December 2022 with the remaining areas to be completed in Spring 2023.

The project is only made possible, with thanks to the time, effort and continued support of all those volunteers who are participating. Together we are creating the first comprehensive photographic audit of the Berwick-upon-Tweed, Spittal and Tweedmouth Conservation Areas.

UVE CIC and Northumberland County Council are grateful to all those participating.

We are excited to shortly be receiving the first survey results.

Margaret Shaw

FORD FORGE CHAPEL



Have you ever noticed the building next to the road before you cross the bridge to Heatherslaw Mill? This once formed part of Ford Forge, a hive of industry in former years. An upstairs room was used as a chapel in the 19th century where services and even programmes of lectures were held. John Black, tenant of the Forge, had connections to Archibald Maclean of the Scotch Baptist movement. Around 1800 Ford Forge was a little-known hamlet with only about 6 resident families. The chapel probably began as a preaching station linked with Wooler Baptist Church. Baptist principles were never very popular in North Northumberland and were resented by some Presbyterians who formed a high proportion of worshippers.

Francis Dick was the first recorded minister here and Alexander Kirkwood took his place in 1802. He was warmly welcomed by John Black.

Soon there was disagreement among the congregation about who would be allowed to belong to the church. When Alexander Kirk was ordained in 1804, he held

services in a field next to the Forge and later in the Joiner's Shop. However, when he refused to baptise a child (which went against Baptist beliefs), services were moved to the Blacksmith's Shop. In 1806 Alexander was himself baptised in the nearby River Till and became officially a minister of the Baptist Church. He moved to Beverley in Yorkshire, returning to the area a few years later.

Meanwhile there were by now 8 Baptist members of Ford Forge chapel which became part of the Scotch Baptist order. 3 sons of John Black officiated as pastors in the early years and as work at the Forge grew so did the population and attendance at the Chapel. The son-in-law of Alexander started a school at the Forge before leaving to serve as a missionary in Jamaica.

There were at least 12 different ministers throughout the 19th century. It is said that in his final years John Black was carried to chapel in his armchair. Like Alexander he had been baptised at Ford Forge by a pastor of the Scotch Baptists of Wooler. When John died in 1827 Alexander preached his funeral sermon.

The Chapel is recorded in the Religious Census of 1851 as having an average attendance of 100 including Sunday scholars.

The chapel grew healthily and by 1823 it was reported that the *"large upper room was being taxed to its utmost capacity to hold those who gathered for worship."*

Ford Forge eventually joined the Northern Baptist Association in 1887 but did not play a significant part in its proceedings. The Churches of Christ also claimed it as a member but there is so little documentation about the chapel that it is difficult to establish the facts.



By courtesy of TillVAS

The chapel eventually saw decreased attendance and combined with a drift away from rural areas for work further south it eventually closed. The closure date is unclear but certainly a newspaper report of 1923 confirms its closure although it is likely that services ceased before this.

Some items from the Chapel have survived, such as the pewter communion ware in the photograph which was given to the Ford and Etal Estate by a descendant of the last minister. More recently we discovered that a wardrobe made from the wood of the chapel pulpit was resident at Ford Westfield Farm where John Black's grandson, also named John, had farmed. The Lockie family have kindly donated this to TillVAS (Till Valley Archaeological Society). From time to time the society holds Open Days when you can visit to see displays about the history of Forge and learn more about the activities of TillVAS.

Valerie Glass

JOHNNY BURGON'S MEMORIES OF THE GREENSES



It was my great pleasure, shortly after my move to Berwick in 2014, to be introduced to Johnny Burgon in my new local, the Pilot Inn, at Low Greens. It became rapidly clear that Johnny, born in 1927, within a stone's throw from the pub, was a treasure hold of knowledge and memories of the local area, and I went on to record three sessions of such, now stored in the Archives. Here is a brief extract;-

"We lived on the wee island at the bottom where the wee boat is. There were three families on that plot....one toilet round the back...they were more less just hovels. The bed was next to the fireplace, and the cooker was there, and my mother had to cover the bed with newspapers when she's cooking anything, for the sparks and stuff got onto the bed. My dad was always up the loft where he used to do all his net making. [ed. often illegal nets for salmon]. A lot of the fishing was for lobsters and salmon [including poaching!]. My mother used to go as well, and we'd be still lying in bed, and then when we got up in the morning, you couldn't walk on the floor

because there were no carpets, no lino, just flagstones, and fish would be lying there, and you'd have to step over the fish to get out!"

Johnny now lives in East Ord, following a lifetime of work associated with the sea and fishing. He still visits the Pilot occasionally, and hopes to celebrate his 95th birthday there in November this year.

Phil Smith

THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE CORPORATION ACADEMY, 1868



While combing the nineteenth century Berwick Council minutes for references to the Borough Police Force, it is easy to become side tracked by the numerous reports on a range of fascinating subjects, one being the progress of the children attending the Corporation Academy. The Academy, located in the purpose-built premises erected in 1798 at Bankhill, (now The Leaping Salmon) provided elementary education for children of the Burgesses.

Each year the School Committee presented to the Council the results of the annual written and oral examinations. A surprisingly wide range of subjects was taught although it would seem that the children did not have to attend all the classes. A summary of the 1868 report prepared by Dr Fred Bedford, the examiner, follows:

Annual Examination by means of written papers of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Classes of the Corporation Academy, the subjects of examination being French, German, Mathematics, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, History and Biblical knowledge. The results were classified under three heads: No. 1 Excellent, No. 2 Good and No. 3 Moderate.

No. 1 (Excellent)

German	1 st Class under the Rector, 2 nd Class under Mr Shaw
French	1 st taught by the Rector, 2 nd by the Rector and Mr Craig
Mathematics	taught by Mr Craig

Arithmetic	5 th Class under Mr Craig
Geography	5 th Class under the Rector, 4 th Class under Mr Shaw
History	5 th and the 4 th under the Rector
English Grammar and Analysis	5 th Class under the Rector
Biblical Knowledge	5 th Class under the Rector

No. 2 (Good)

English Grammar	4 th and 3 rd Classes under Mr Cooper
Biblical Knowledge	4 th Class under Mr Craig

No. 3 (Moderate)

All the subjects of the 3rd Class (except English Grammar) the Arithmetic of the 4th Class and the 3rd Class in French.

Dr Ferguson of Edinburgh, who conducted the German Examination, described the papers as admirable. Dr Bedford believed that the moderate results from the Pupils in the 3rd Class were mainly due to the fact that a written Examination was too severe a test for them and that in future this Class should be principally tested by oral questioning. The answering of the senior Girls, he considered particularly deserving of praise, especially Elizabeth Thompson, Hannah Cook, Catherine Glendinning, Margaret Smith and Margaret Cockburn. One or two of the Boys were also singled out for the highly creditable manner in which they had done their work: John Thompson and Joseph Fleming.

He did however draw the Rector's attention to the following matters: the drawing of outline Maps had not been sufficiently attended to – many of the exercises were not so neatly written as they ought to have been and the spelling in the junior classes especially of Geographical words was not altogether satisfactory. A much longer report appearing in the Berwick Journal, records one further complaint *regarding the marked indistinctiveness of utterance on the part of all the pupils in reading* which he considered most unsatisfactory and which needed to be improved before next year.

Supervising the oral Examination afforded him an excellent opportunity to judge the general aspect of the Senior and Junior classes and with which he was most satisfied.

In any School however efficiently taught there are always some minor matters which can be improved and to these in this instance I have directed the attention of the

Rector and individual Masters so that the present efficiency I take as an earnest of still greater results. The quiet intelligence and marked thoughtfulness of the Senior classes were to me matters of great pleasure and I trust that ere long these features will characterise the whole school.

Catherine Glendinning distinguished herself the following year, her average marks in 7 different subjects being upwards of 91. It would be interesting to know what she and the other children named, did after leaving school

Sources: BA D1/5 Berwick Council Minutes; *Illustrated Berwick Journal* 10 July 1868;

Cowe, Janet Denise (1969) *The development of education in Berwick upon Tweed to 1902*, edited and published by Jonathan J Cowe, 2018;

Julie Gibbs

BERWICK ADVERTISER- HUNDRED YEARS AGO



TWEED ROW, HORNCLIFFE

Berwick Advertiser 10th November 1922

Dr McWhir reported as follows: Three cases of scarlet fever have been notified- one at Horncliffe, a second at South Ord, and a third at Shoreswood. Removal to hospital of the patients at Horncliffe and Shoreswood was deemed advisable. A case of scarlet fever in one of the cottages at Tweed Row, Horncliffe, had a fatal termination. The house, which has only one apartment with a capacity of 1798 cubic feet, accommodated five inmates- the father, the mother, and three young children. The floor is badly broken and the window is a fixture. The walls, roof and chimney of the dwelling all call for repairs, and the soil which is heaped up behind it ought to be removed. There is no privy for the household. Opportunity was taken to visit other cottages in the same row. One, also consisting of a single apartment with capacity of 1848 cubic feet, is tenanted by a family of five- the father, two daughters both

over 20, a son aged 25, and a child of 4 years. The window of the apartment is a fixture, and there is no privy accommodation. The masonry is in much need of repair, and soil ought to be removed from the back. A third single-apartment house furnishes a home for five inmates- a mother, two girls aged 14 and 9 respectively, and two boys of 12 and 10 respectively. Here, again, there is no privy accommodation. A fourth house boasts two apartments with capacities of 1550 and 1300 cubic feet respectively, and shelters three inmates. The kitchen floor, framed of broken paving flags and concrete, is in need of repair. Both apartments are insufficiently lit. A down-spout is unprovided with a trap; there is no sink, and the chimney has a twist, which, to the mind of our Surveyor, rivals that of the leaning tower of Pisa. The wood of the back door, which is only 5ft. in height, is defective.

BERWICK ADVERTISER



LOCAL MEMORABILIA FOR 1872

1st January - Celebration of the majority of Lord Ossulton, eldest son of the Earl of Tankerville; rejoicings extended till the 4th. Notice by Mr Milne Home to increase the petty customs in Eyemouth. First annual reunion of old schoolfellows at Greenlaw.

7th January - Death of Mr Edward Paxton, senior partner of the firm of Messrs E. & W. Paxton, drapers, Berwick.

19th February - Formation of "St. Mary's" Lodge of Good Templars, Berwick

7th March - Discovery of human bones in Ald. Ruddock's field at Castle Terrace.

12th April - Opening of the new Mission Hall in the Greenses.

16th May - Mysterious theft of £20 17s from booking office at the Berwick Railway Station.

14th June - Memorial window placed in Wallace Green Church to the three deceased members of the congregation.

24th June - Messers W. Reid & Co.'s, wool brokers, first wool sale in Berwick.

10th July - Marriage of the Hon. And Rev. Evelyn John Monson, Vicar of Croft, Lincolnshire, and Annie Grace Hynde, daughter of the late James Kinnear, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh, at St. Mary's Church, Berwick.

28th August - First meeting of Urban Sanitary Authority, previously designated the Local Board of Health.

10th September - Inquiry at Bamborough by Mr Clabon as to Crewe Charities.

28th October - Visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Chillingham Castle - visit extended to the 18th.

4th November - Opening of the new premises of the Berwick Literary and Scientific Institute.

9th December - Foundering of a vessel and all hands lost off Berwick.

27th December - Fifth Maiden Quarter Sessions for Berwick. The Mayor's first official dinner.

Carole Pringle

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

