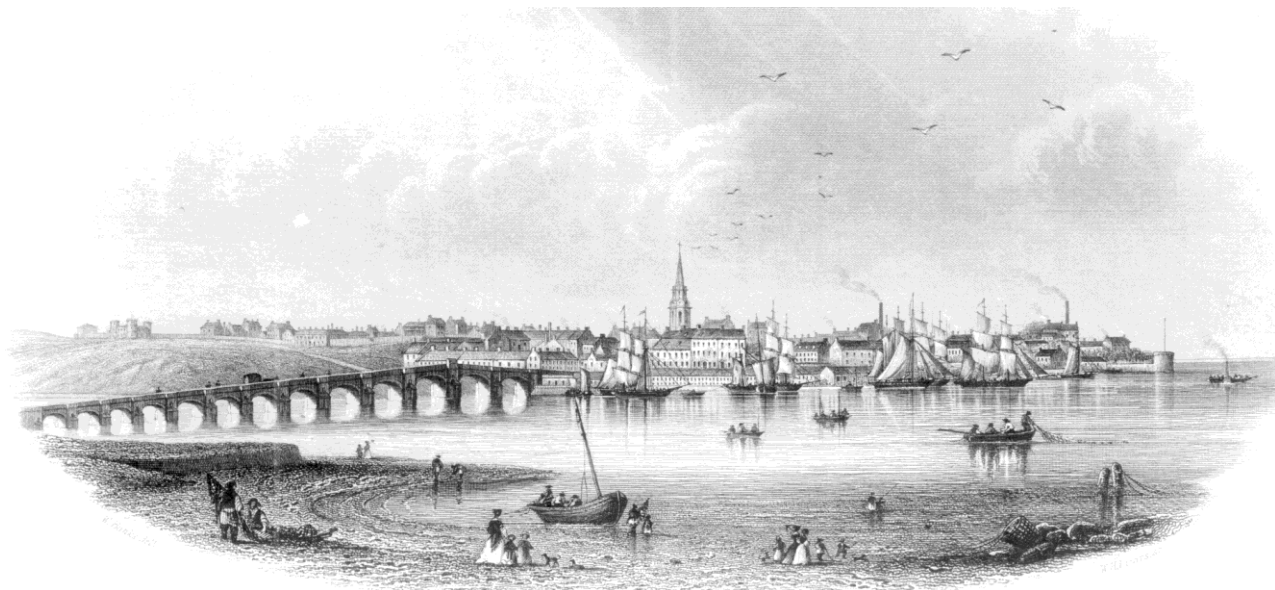


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 115 – FEBRUARY 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 24th March 2023

Friends AGM followed by a talk : Berwick Archives Projects - Photos, Manors and Buildings. Berwick Parish Centre. Starts 7.15 pm.

Tuesday 11 April –
Friday 30 June 2023

Photocentre exhibition in County Hall foyer during normal opening hours, Monday to Friday

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 28th February

Are we nearly there yet? Bruce Keith

Tuesday 28th March

AGM followed by Berwick Boyhood between the Wars: Elisabeth Wilson

Tuesday 25th April

Visit to Paxton House

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd March

Northumbrian Jacobites: Elizabeth Finch

Wednesday 26th April

Northumbrians Behaving Badly: Dr Margaret Fox

Wednesday 24 May

Bamburgh/Bowl Hole: Graeme Young

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 8th March

Question Time: with panellists to discuss important current issues in Berwick-upon-Tweed
A.G.M. starts at 7pm.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 15th March

Prisoner of War Camp at Wooler: Phil Rowett

Wednesday 19th April

AGM followed by "The Hunting Hall Time Trowellers': Paul Langdale

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 6th March

Climate change, sustainability and the circular economy - inspiration from later prehistory: Dr Tanja Romankiewicz

Monday 3rd April

"A holy cross of the early Northumbrian Church: signs and mysteries!": Professor John Hines, Cardiff University. **At Berwick Guild Hall 7.30pm**

Monday 5th June

"Excavations in the archives: some new old environmental remains from Cumbria": Dan O'Meara. Historic England

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St. Peters Church, Galashiels

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 26th March

A Berwick Boyhood Between The Wars: Elizabeth Wilson

Sunday 30th April

Writing a Family History for my Grand Children: Dr Murray Watson

Sunday 28th May

The Western Front Then and Now: Venue to be confirmed: Margot Laurie

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 6th March	The Cornhill Railway: Stephen Platten
Monday 3rd April	Pilgrimage to Holy Island: Alastair Moffat
Monday 1st May	My Garden's Part in Hilter's Downfall: Lindsay Allason-Jones
Monday 5th June	Grinling Gibbons The Greatest 17 th Century Woodcarver: Andrew Beckwith

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Waterloo Arms Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 20th March	The Scottish Town House (a way of life); Margaret Skea
Monday 17th April	Eyemouth Fish Riots 1861: Norrie Mcleish
Monday 22nd May	Crimes of a Heinous Nature: Margaret Fox

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 2nd March	AGM at 6.45pm followed by Criminal Spirits-Gin and Whisky Smuggling in The Borders: Graeme Watson
Thursday 6th April	The Voyages of the Paddle Steamer Pegasus and its wreck off Holy Island: Jane Bowen
Thursday 4th May	The History of Haggerston Castle: from Mud to Mansion: Joy Lamb

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd March	Evacuation To The Border Counties 1935-1945: Myth and Reality: Kenny McLean
Wednesday 26th April	Members and Guests Evening – Three short talks on Local Topics.

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 8th March	Mary Somerville; Jedburgh born mathematician, scientist and astronomer: Isabel Gordon
Wednesday 12th April	The Bainbridges: Newcastle Department Store to Eshott Hall: Eleanor George

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 13th March	The Life of Henry Percy (Hotspur); John Sadler & Co.
Monday 17th April	The Colours of Summer: John Daniels
Monday 8th May	The Management of Lowick Roads by the Ford and Lowick Turnpike Trust, 1790s to 1880's – A 'playlet' written by Julie Gibbs: Julie Gibbs and cast
Monday 12th June	Faith in Lowick: Kevin Archer

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 13th March	My Garden, its Part in Hitler's Downfall:
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Monday 10th April	Lindsay Allason Jones Rabbie Burns' Tour of the Borders: Ian Landles
Monday 8th May	TBC
Monday 12th June	The Jerninghams of Longridge Towers: Phil Rowett
Monday 10th July	The Meuchel Stone, Horndean. 'A most atrocious assassination': David Heywood

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Saturday 18th March	Members' Stories: The ancestor I'd like to meet
Saturday 15th April	Stories from Shilbottle Gravestones: Colin Gough
Saturday 20th May	AGM followed by Members' Stories

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland Time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd March	Happy Days Digging up Northumberland's Past: Barry Mead
Wednesday 26th April	Lifeboats on Holy Island: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 24th May	Salmon Fishing: Ralph Holmes

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 1st March	Berwick Barracks Through Three
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Wednesday 5th April

Centuries: Joe Lang

Homes for the Living and Houses for the

Dead: Roger Miket

Wednesday 3rd May

A.G.M. followed at 7.30pm by a talk by

Richard Carlton

ARCHIVE NEWS

As ever, life in the Archives has been very busy over the past couple of months. We are never short of work to do which is the nature of an archive. We will never reach the end of all our work ! Since our last newsletter, we have done the following:

Heritage Open Days - At the end of January I spoke at an online national Co-ordinators Conference about what we do here in Berwick which went very well. The national site has also used some pictures from our last year's events to publicise what happens all over the country. Our mascot, Bari Bear features! We are now starting to meet to discuss our 2023 programme. The theme this year is Creativity Unwrapped which gives us plenty of scope. If you have any ideas of events or would like to help us, please do get in touch.

Healthcare Project - 5 volunteers have been working away on this project undertaking research on the setting up of Castlehills and how it was run. It's fascinating the detail that can be discovered – selling daffodils from the grounds to raise funds – but also the detail which is so elusive. The whole campaign for maternity provision came about because of the death of a woman in childbirth who is never named. Despite trying numerous sources, we still can't identify her or the circumstances which is frustrating. Over the next couple of months we are planning to start the oral history element of the project after I've given the Oral History training.

Life in a Northumbrian Manor – Beth is making great progress with this project and has now got her Berwick transcription group working away on documents relating to various manors in our area. She has also set up a Newcastle based group and groups in Allendale and Hexham are about to start as well. It's interesting what information is being found. We are getting familiar with local names and customs – have you come across the Christian name Og and have you heard of Landliners ? If you want to find out more, Beth will be talking about this project at the Friends AGM.

Living Barracks Project – I am now involved in several strands of work for the Living Barracks Project which has been awarded £476,000 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is a Development Grant towards the larger project of transforming the site into a cultural hub. Within the Museum and Archives strand, I have attended workshops about interpretation themes in the museum and also the appointment of the Site Interpretation Manager. To support the work and research which will be undertaken by the Berwick Archivist, Beth Elliott has been appointed as a part time Project Archivist and Historical Researcher. In January, Karen Lounton and I , along with members of the NCC Design Team visited the site of the new Durham Record Office (The Story) on the outskirts of Durham. This was followed by a visit to Berwick to see and discuss our needs for the De-Mob store. This work will continue in the next couple of months. Discussions have also been held with the National Archives about our Place of Deposit status and a site visit is planned in April/May.

Outreach – during this period I have given various talks to local organisations. In January, I spoke to Tillvas about the Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords; Norham History Society about Irregular Border Marriages and Belford History Society about the Bridges of the Lower Tweed. This month, I've spoken to Lowick Heritage Group, also about the Ford Estate and given a talk on Berwick during the reign of the late Queen at Wallace Green Church. It's good to be able to do these in person again.

Photocentre Collection – Cameron is working away on the collection cataloguing and scanning images as well as promoting the collection on social media. By the end of January 429 boxes of negatives had been catalogued and an additional 141 images digitised. We now have a volunteer to help Cameron with the cataloguing and she is concentrating on the 1970s. Many of the catalogue entries have now been checked and added to our electronic catalogue – at present about 5,600 (February 2023). Cameron has been revising the website (<https://www.photocentreberwick.co.uk/>) and has started a blog post for the collection. He aims to post at least one article per month. They can be viewed here - <https://www.photocentreberwick.co.uk/blog> . His initial blogs have had about 500 views. He has also continued posting on social media with a combined following of 1497 which is well above our initial target of 1200. Our next steps are to append some images to the electronic catalogue and work on the Photocentre exhibition which will be in County Hall from mid April to end of June. If you want to find out more about Cameron's work, do come along to the AGM !

Staffing – as I am starting to do more work for the Barracks Project, Beth Elliott has been seconded part time to work as a Project Archivist and Historical Researcher on the project to support me. Gillian, our new Archivist is settling down into her new role.

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

Linda Bankier

THOMAS BORTHWICK- SPITTAL SCHOOL TEACHER

Thomas William Green Borthwick was born in Spittal in 1860 and spent his whole life there. He attended Spittal National School and on leaving school returned as a Pupil Teacher. In 1882, aged 21, he took over as Headmaster of the school. In the early 1900s, there was a reorganisation of schools in Spittal and the National School was amalgamated with the British School to create Spittal Council School. In August 1907, Thomas Borthwick was appointed Headmaster of the new school and remained head until his retirement in 1925, after 43 years service as a teacher. Thomas married Margaret Ferguson in 1890 and they had two daughters - Margaret and Evelyn. As part of his duties, Thomas had to complete the logbook for Spittal School which gives great insight into his character. On looking through the logbooks, it is obvious that he was a man concerned for the welfare of his pupils and providing them with a good education. The HMI School Report for 1909 said:

...In the upper section of the school there are most encouraging signs of progress. The Master has exceptional qualifications and a varied experience of teaching. He is a man of ideas, with the courage to put them into practice. There can be no doubt whatever of the soundness of his plans or of their ultimate success, if he will give himself time to get his assistants to see what his principles involve. That there are some weak points at present he is fully aware, but the way in which the best of the teachers and their children have responded to the trust which he has placed in them is a very encouraging justification of his experiments..... and the report for 1910 states:

The Headmaster is unerring in his efforts to organise the work of the school in such a way as to stimulate the interest of the children and develop their natural intelligence. He is continually supervising the work both of Teachers and children and himself gives lessons from time to time in the various classes.

Throughout his career and the logbooks, Thomas Borthwick's character is evident:

This morning Mr W. J. Dixon presented a pair of field glasses to the company of Boy Scouts belonging to our school. Mr Clements is the Secretary of the Borough Scouts Association. Delicate boys are becoming robust; manners, alertness and general tone have much improved and the training of boy scouts is truly educational when properly conducted....(7 July 1910)

In the First World War, he was affected by the death of his assistant masters:

With deep regret we record that Robert (Roy) How Hunter M.A. who was an assistant in this school for 5 years from 1909 to 1914 was killed in action in France on Sept. 15th 1916... (29 September 1916) and ...With deep sorrow I have to record that Mr Robert Cooper Clements, 2nd Lieut N.F. the third and last of the assistant masters who have served in this school, has been killed in France. Mrs Clements is absent this week....(16th September 1918)

Mr Borthwick's final entry in the logbook was

.... Today, April 30th 1925, Mr T. W. G. Borthwick, who has been a Head Teacher in Spittal for a little over 43 years, completed his career as Headmaster of this school and entered on his retirement.

A very unassuming entry which belies his character and the influence he had on the lives of many, both pupils and teachers. On his departure, the pupils presented him with a writing desk inscribed:

*Presented to Mr T. W. G. Borthwick, by the scholars and staff of
Spittal Council School in recognition of faithful service as
Headmaster for 43 years. - April 30, 1925.*

Thomas Borthwick enjoyed a long retirement, pursuing his interest in music. His wife, Margaret died in 1937, aged 69 and he died on 11 January 1946, aged 85. His obituary appeared in the Berwick Advertiser on 17 January 1946 : *A prominent member of the teaching profession for over 50 years died on Friday at the age of 85, at his home in Spittal – Mr T.W.G. Borthwick, who retired over 20 years ago. A*

native of the town, he started his teaching career as a pupil teacher at the Boys' National School, Ravensdowne, Berwick and later proceeded to Bede College, Durham. When he qualified, his first appointment was at Crookham National School, but after about a year there he was appointed to Spittal National School in 1882. In 1907 when the present Council School was built in Spittal, Mr Borthwick became headmaster, a post he filled with great success until his retirement in 1925. He was one of the outstanding men in his profession in the town and is the last survivor of men like John Peacock and George Broadbent. A keen lover of music and a talented musician, Mr Borthwick played the viola in a Berwick orchestra which was active in musical circles for many years. He was one of those who first thought of the idea of the Spittal Orchestra and helped to form it, being one of its players. He was also for many years actively associated with concerts given by Berwick Choral Union and Berwick Tonic Sol Fa Society. A good elocutionist, Mr Borthwick figured in concert programmes and was also sought after as a lecturer. He was a fine linguist...

Although it is not mentioned in the obituary, Thomas Borthwick must have compiled his lectures and notes into a book which was never published in his lifetime. However, a manuscript survived and Berwick History Society published his volume, *A History of Berwick and the Eastern Borders* in 2008, a fitting memorial to a man who loved learning and was a visionary teacher for his time

Linda Bankier



Mr Borthwick (centre) with teachers at Spittal School

MUSEUM NEWS

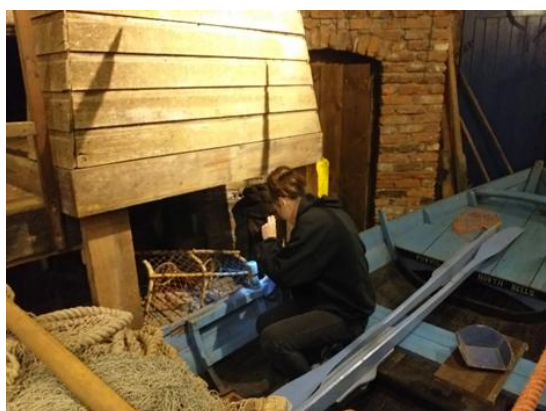
We are now closed for the season. It is very cold in the galleries so we are trying to stick to the office as much as possible, though we have ventured out to work on the collections in small bursts!

Work on the inventory is much easier with the building closed – cold as it is - as we can spread out without inconveniencing the public. The inventory backlog is larger than previously thought, but we are cracking on within the social history store, and the natural sciences collections within the Art Store. We have taken much of the Berwick costume and textile collection down to Woodhorn where we have more space to unpack, examine and photograph.

Throughout November we offered opportunities for our Community Advisory Panel members and Volunteers to select objects from any of our museums that they felt told a story about Northumberland which they wanted to share. Some of these stories were very personal and meaningful for that individual and others were examples of broader themes telling a wider story of Northumberland. These objects were installed in a large display case on the upper ground floor of Woodhorn Museum. Items from Berwick include codd bottles from various Berwick and Tweedmouth breweries, and some exquisitely sewn whitework made by a 12 year old Berwick girl ,



During two inventorying and cleaning days at Berwick Museum and Art Gallery in November, we discovered a problem with woodworm, particularly in the Window on Berwick Gallery. We checked the rest of the premises which seem to be unaffected.



We have sent affected items (agricultural tools, salmon boxes etc) to be put in the deep freeze at Tyne & Wear Museums.

Our loan to the Burrell Glasgow has been extended until 2024. The loan includes Japanese porcelain bowls and bronze mirrors, and seascapes by Charles Daubigny and Eugene Boudin for the exhibition “*The Burrells’ Legacy: A Great Gift to Glasgow*” (until February 2024).



Anne Moore (Keeper of Collections, Museums Northumberland)

AGM AND VOTING

The business of the Annual General Meeting requires voting for the acceptance of the Minutes of last year's AGM, the Chairman's Annual Report and the Treasurer's Report for 2022, and for the Committee elections. The FBDMA Committee has decided to continue with the voting procedure adopted in the last two years by means of email and postal voting: this allows the necessary business to be

completed in advance of the AGM and it enables more people to register their vote. A **voting form** is therefore being distributed with this Newsletter, and we urge members to send in their votes by **Friday 17th March 2023**, either as an email attachment or by a postal delivery to the Record Office. Thank you for your support. The **AGM and Spring Lecture** will be held on **Friday 24th February** in the Parish Centre, starting at 7.15pm. The lecture is entitled " : Berwick Archives Projects - Photos, Manors and Buildings " and is given by Berwick Record Office.

John Spiers, FBDMA Secretary

CHANGING STREET NAMES IN BERWICK- COXON'S LANE

The property descriptions in a series of parchment deeds dated from 1694 to 1835, part of the borough archives and currently being catalogued, show how the names of certain streets or lanes changed. The strangely named Aaiom's Lane cropped up in a mortgage deed from 1790. The lane is described as leading from Shaftoe's or Walkergate Lane (now Walkergate) to the Middle Mount (Cumberland Bastion). This description was used again in a deed of release from 1798, but this time the lane is called Coxon's Lane otherwise Smith's Lane. A deed dated 7 March 1799, in consideration of £60 grants and releases to George Hall of Berwick upon Tweed, yeoman a piece of ground commonly called the Middle Mount Garden, measuring 70 yards by 45 yards and situated on the west side of and adjoining to Askins Lane alias Coxons Lane, bounded by the Middle Mount on the north. In May of 1799 George Hall and his wife Mary had sold a burgage or tenement and yard on the south side of Shaw's Lane (Chapel Street) for £100, which George Hall had previously (date unknown) purchased from another George Hall, innkeeper, since deceased; the deed doesn't say if they were related. Then on 24 October 1799, George and Mary Hall borrowed £200 from Joseph Rumney, clerk, and to secure the loan and interest they mortgaged the Middle Mount Garden to Rumney by deed of release of the same date, by which time there was 'a messuage, burgage or tenement now building thereon'. As for lanes nearby, the Middle Mount Garden was bounded on the south by a lane or passage (now College Place?) leading to another lane called Watson's Lane; would that be the now Hatter's Lane?

Sources:: BA/G/2/10/46/536, 581, 587, 591 and 597: Deeds

Julia Day

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND FOR THE TOURIST

In recent years visitors have increasingly flocked to North Northumberland as a favoured place for beautiful scenery and historical interest. The potential of Berwick as a tourist attraction is noted in this article from the ***Berwick Advertiser*** 22 May 1908:-

The author of ***The Romance of Northumberland***, a book which we notice elsewhere, draws attention to the fact that many southerners are unaware of the beauties of this northern county. No southerners, to speak of, ever contemplate it as the scene of a holiday. Many people seem to be of opinion that Northumberland is a mass of coal mines. A similar ignorance, he says, is abroad as regards South Wales. In North Northumberland, however, the tourist and the holiday seeker can find all that should go to make a long or short vacation most enjoyable, and one that will remain a pleasant memory. It is true that already several of the towns and villages in the larger and more attractive half of the Northumbrian coast - which, of course, is the northern half – have been much sought after by holiday makers, and as the attractions of Northumbria become more widely known these doubtless will increase. Berwick as a centre for the tourist is admirably situated and in itself promises attractions which should appeal to all desirous of spending a pleasant and profitable holiday. It is true that these attractions could be augmented, and as Berwick's future as a health or holiday resort will largely depend upon this, it lies with "the powers that be" to seek ways and means to attain the desired end.

Val Glass

EVENING SCHOOL AT THE CORPORATION ACADEMY

1 December 1866 - 1 April 1867

In the autumn of 1866, the Town Council decided to open an Evening School in the Academy, offering a range of subjects to be taught by existing teachers.

Fifty boys and three girls expressed an interest in joining the classes. It was decided not to provide for the girls, who not only being few in number could acquire arithmetic and writing, the only two branches of education that they required, at the Day School, where it was possible to sign up for specific classes.

Of the boys, thirty-six entered for reading and spelling, forty for writing, forty-nine for arithmetic, six for drawing, three for mathematics, four for book-keeping, two for French and one for German. It was considered unnecessary to offer the latter two classes being better to concentrate on ensuring that the other subjects were taught well.

Mr Calder teaching arithmetic was to receive a salary of £15, while Mr Cooper teaching writing, drawing and book-keeping, and the Rector reading, spelling and dictation with general oversight would each receive a salary of £12. The rooms known as the Writing Room, Mr Calder's Room and the Rector's Room were to be fitted up with gas for the purposes of the school. It was to be open 5 nights per week from 7.15 to 9, from 1 December 1866 to 1 April 1867. Pupils were required to provide everything requisite to the teaching of the different branches.

How successful was the experiment? A report by the School Committee produced at a Council meeting in March 1867, stated that the Night School had been open for fourteen weeks with fifty-eight names entered on the roll, a weekly average attendance varying from 17 to 34, and a nightly attendance from 12 to 39.

A table showing the name of each youth and the number of nights they attended during the twelve weeks commencing from the second week of opening

Thomas ANDERSON	59	Wm BROWN	46	W ARCHBOLD	40
John ANDERSON Sen.	58	Michael ANDERSON	45	A ANDERSON	40
John COCKBURN	57	William BELL	45	S. GLADSTONE	40
James ANDERSON	49	George BELL	43	John FISACKERLY	39
Wm RICHARDSON	48	John ALDER	41	J. GREGG Sen.	37
H ARCHBOLD	48	Jos. GREGG Jun.	41	G. WALLACE	35
John HENDERSON	48	A. SMITH	41	John PATTISON	35
Joseph BROWN	47	S. WEATHERBURN	41	Wm HENDERSON	34
J.S. WEATHERBURN	30	C. WILSON	19	W. ANDERSON Jun.	3
Alfred STROTHER	27	Henry CAVAN	15	Thos. TODD Jun.	2
George CRAIK	27	Graham LAWS	15	Geo. GILCHRIST	1
George STROTHER	26	G. GIBSON	15	John PAXTON	0
William TROTTER	25	M. KNOX	13	Wm NICHOLSON	0
R. TROTTER	24	J. WEATHERBURN	11	John MANDERSON	0

William EVANS	23	W. DAWSON	11	John BANNISTER	0
Thomas TODD Sen.	22	W. ANDERSON Jun.	11	J. MACE	0
R. RICHARDSON	22	R. MANDERSON	8	Ben MACE	0
A. SAMPLE	21	John ANDERSON Jun.	8	Peter ANDERSON	0
W. LAMB	21	Van WEATHERLY	7	-----	-
M.B WHILLIS	21	G. RICHARDSON	4	-----	-

While seven did not attend at all after the first week and fifteen fewer than 20 nights, sixteen attended between 40 and 50 and three over 50 nights.

Mr CALDER and Mr COOPER did their utmost for the progress of the pupils. Those youths who attended most regularly derived considerable benefit from the instruction over the winter. It was much regretted that not all took advantage of the instruction provided for them, as those who attended work were least advanced in education and required it the most.

But the real moral of the story was that even those who attended regularly and who did all they could to repair lost ground, made only a small amount of progress. They acted however as a solemn warning to all those who irregularly attended the Day School and who thought an Evening School would supply the deficiency after they grew up in years.

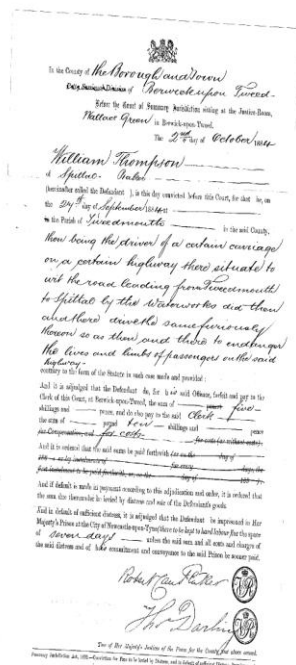
Further consideration was to be given as to whether the Evening School should be re-opened. It is not apparent from the Council minutes that it did resume.

Sources: BA/D1/5 Berwick Town Council Minutes – meetings 1 Oct. 1866, 26 Nov. 1866, 22 March 1867

Julie Gibbs

WILLIAM THOMPSON

Up before the Magistrates, Dr Robert Carr Flucker and Thomas Darling - for speeding on the road between Tweedmouth and Spittal in 1884. In the Justice Room in Wallace Green - William Thompson was given, what was at that time, a hefty fine of 5/- with an additional 10/- for the cost of his appearance before them.



If he couldn't, or wouldn't, pay, the alternative was 7 days in Her Majesty's Prison in the City of Newcastle where he would be kept at hard labour. The reporter for the Berwickshire Advertiser evidently found some humour in the proceedings when he headed up a paragraph in the next edition of his paper -"Served Them Right" William Thompson, baker's van man. . .

P.C. Geddes said that on Saturday afternoon he observed the defendant coming from Tweedmouth to Spittal furiously driving a horse attached to a bread van.

Witnesses saw him get a man on to the vehicle after which he set the horse off at a dangerously rapid pace and witnesses had great difficulty in getting out of the way."

Was the reporter teasing Thompson's customers or the witnesses one wonders?

Source: BQS/P82-12

Charles Borthwick

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 10 January 1873

THE CHAMPION DRAUGHT-PLAYER

Mr James Wyllie, the champion draught-player, arrived on Wednesday night at Mr Gray's, Pack Horse Inn, Church Street, on his return to the north after a successful tour in England. Mr Wyllie is expected to stay a few days; and we have no doubt that the lovers of draughts in this quarter will avail themselves of the opportunity of buying his book and having some games with the champion. We may state, as an

item of news which will be interesting to Mr Wyllie's friends and draught-players everywhere, that he intends to proceed to America about the month of March, to play a match with Mr Macindoe, editor of the *Turf*, and champion draught-player of America.

Berwick Advertiser, 10 January 1873

GREAT DEARTH OF COAL

The present mild weather has fortunately prevented the baneful effects that might have resulted from a coal famine at this season of the year. The supply is still far short of the demand, and several of the public works have been seriously inconvenienced for want of coal, and many men are consequently thrown idle. Even for domestic use coal is with difficulty obtained. It is no uncommon occurrence for people to be entire without fuel, and various expedients are resorted to in order to meet household requirements. A fortnight ago coal was retailed at 2s per cwt., and even at this extravagant figure the public were glad to obtain it. Carters are charging exorbitant prices; sometimes they ask the buyers what they will give, in consequence of compulsory stay at the pit heads waiting turns. At the coal depot of the Scremerston and Shoreswood Coal Company crowds of people are in constant attendance, clamouring to purchase coal, which is as rapidly sold as it can be brought from the pits. The S.S. *Gala* could not leave the harbour for London on Friday from want of fuel, and was only able to get away on Sunday, through the kindness of a firm in town, who supplied her with coals from their own stock. The pit at Scremerston, however, is now in full work, and it is to be hoped the supply will be sufficient to meet the demand before the cold weather that we may expect at this season sets in.

Berwick Advertiser, 10 January 1873

THE LATE COLLISION BETWEEN GUNBOATMEN AND FISHERMEN

From enquiries made we learn that the two fishermen, Jamieson and Patterson, who were shot by a boat's crew belonging to the Bullfrog gunboat on the 28th ult., are progressing favourably. The injuries received by Patterson still necessitate much surgical care. One of the fishermen, whom it is alleged played a conspicuous part in the onslaught on the bailiffs, is, we understand, to be tried before the Magistrates on Tuesday. The facts of the unfortunate fracas may then be elicited. Information has

been made in the borough this week on behalf of the wounded fishermen and their families, and also to defray the cost of defending the man who has been summoned on the charge of assault.

Berwick Advertiser, 17 January 1873

NEW ANESTHETIC ETHER DISCOVERED BY DR ARCHBOLD

Our young but promising townsman, Dr Geo. Archbold, London, son of Mr Josiah Archbold, Spittal, is gaining considerable prominence in his profession on account of his scientific researches. The London correspondent of the Scotsman, writing on Wednesday night, says two anaesthetic ethers have been discovered. "The one, a methylene ether, has just been brought out and introduced to the members of the medical profession Dr Richardson (of St Andrews), F.R.S., London. The other new ether is of a very peculiar character, and its discoverer is a young but rising chemist-Dr George Archbold. It is lighter than any known ether, and there are over two thousand in existence. Its specific gravity is 680, or little over half that of water, and its boiling point is 73 deg. F. The lightest hitherto known ether, prepared from wood spirit or naptha [sic], has a specific gravity of 720. The "lighter ether," as it is called, consists of four atoms of carbon, ten atoms of hydrogen, and one atom of oxygen. Its vapour density, as compared with hydrogen, the standard of unity, is 36. It is, as may be conjectured, an exceedingly light, volatile liquid, and from its inflammable nature, special care is required in its manufacture. The temperature of the human body is sufficient to make it boil violently, and this is easily tested by placing a small quantity on the head. The effect as I have experienced, is far from pleasant, as local insensibility is instantaneously produced. The ether is applied outwardly, and an authority in anaesthetics in London who has tried it, has pronounced highly in its favour. For local anaesthesia it is thought this new ether will be exceedingly useful.

Carole Pringle