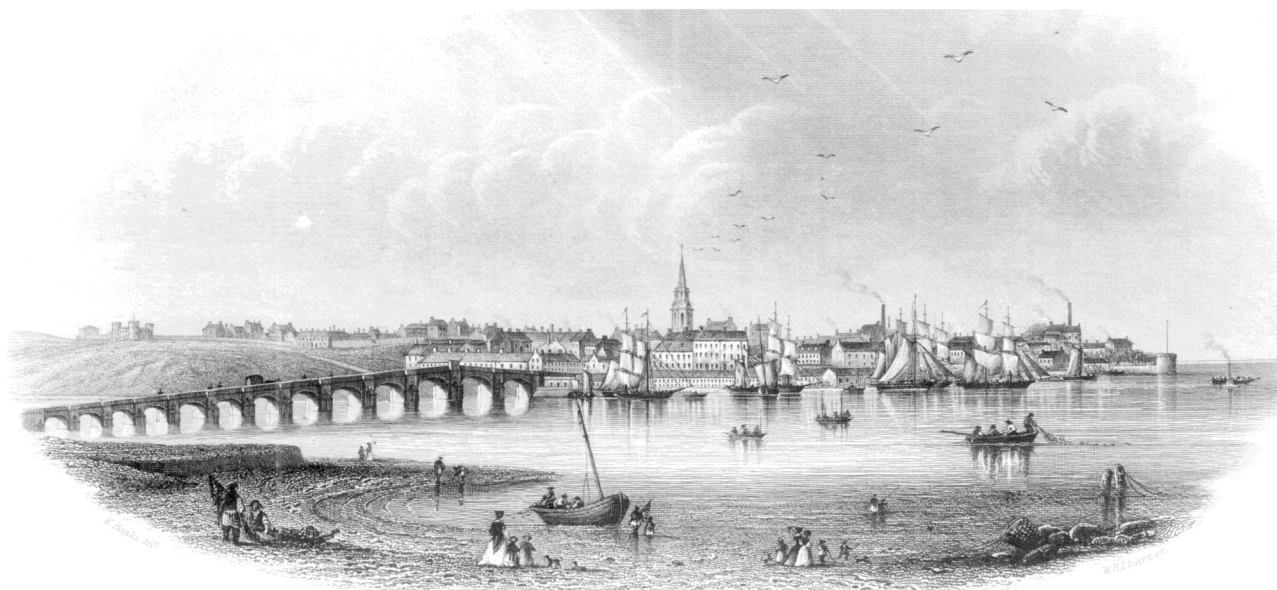


# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 121 – AUGUST 2024

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 6th – Sunday 15th September | Berwick Heritage Open Days-see article and programme  |
| Friday 6th September               | The History of Berwick Bridge – 400 years on (online @ 7pm)   |
| Thursday 12th September            | From Bradford to Berwick – a Photographic Journey: Cameron Robertson. 7pm @ The Straw Yard.   |
| Friday 1st November                | Friends Autumn Lecture – Death on the Berwick Sloop “Juno “– the story of Captain Robert Bruce and Joseph Ockton: Margaret Fox. 7pm @ the Parish Centre |

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 24th September 2024

Holy Island: Roger Manning

Tuesday 29th October

The Black Death: Isabel Gordon

Tuesday 26th November

John Willis and Cutty Sark: Fay Waddell

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bell View Resource Centre**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25th September 2024

Slide show local scenes & A.G.M

Wednesday 23rd October

Samuel Brown and Union Chain Bridge: its history and restoration: Edward Cawthorn

Wednesday 27th November

Posthumous journeys of St. Aidan and St. Oswald: Jessica Turner

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 11th September 2024

The Georgian Group – some history, some facts and some interesting stories: Gilbert O'Brien

Wednesday 16th October

Bede & the Northumbrian Kings: Colm O'Brien. A combined meeting with Berwick History Society

Friday 8th November

Remembrance Service at the Main Guard,

11am

Wednesday 13th November

William Morris and the idea of Heritage:  
Brian Growthorpe

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 11th October

See Civic Society entry. Joint Meeting.

Wednesday 20th November

Sir Charles Trevelyan and the Irish  
Famine-“the Victorian Cromwell”?: Mike  
Fraser

Wednesday 18th December

Masque – the curious tale of the Crosby  
Garrett Roman Helmet: Mike Bishop

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 2nd September 2024

Recent excavations on a monumental  
bath-house at Carlisle Cricket Club:  
Frank Giecco

Monday 7th October

Berrington and the Devil's Causeway:  
new work: Bill Blyth

Monday 4th November

Excavations at Marshall Meadows,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed: David Jackson

Monday 2nd December

An Iron Age Warrior in a Bronze Age  
Cemetery at Marshill – Alloa: Susan Mills

### **BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bowsden Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 2nd September 2024	Northumbrian Instrumental Traditions: Alistair Anderson
Monday 7th October	From Soil to Song: Charlie Bennett
Monday 4th November	The Royal Engineers: A Memoir: Shaun Young
Monday 2nd December	Isolde, Daughter of the Priest: John Daniels

**CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP**

**Venue: Community Centre, Waterloo Arms Dining Room**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 16th September 2024	Scotland Below Ground: Bruce Keith
Monday 21st October	Title to be confirmed: Margaret Skea
Monday 18th November	Mediaeval Monastery Hospitals & Medicine: Sandra Gann
Monday 16th December	Great Flood of 1948: Anne McNeil

**COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 3rd October 2024	How Farming Came to The Borderlands c.4000BC: Neil Fisher
Thursday 7th November	Three Kirks; The Great Disruption of 1843: Kenny McLean
Thursday 5th December	Mediaeval Medicine: Sandra Gann

**DUNSE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th September

Charterhall Aerodrome in World War  
II: David McLean

Wednesday 30th October

Underground Scotland: Bruce Keith

Wednesday 27th November

Mesolithic Berwickshire: Dr Kristian  
Pedersen

### **GLENDALÉ LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 11th September 2024

Stitching the Great Tapestry of Scotland-  
details of its creation: Susie Finlayson

Wednesday 9th October

The Black Death- when the plague hit our  
area: Isabel Gordon

Wednesday 13th November

Cheviot Air Disasters – local WWII crashes  
remembered: Dave Chappell

Wednesday 11th December

The Northumbrian Language – “how to  
keep ahaad o’ wor tung” : John Davidson

### **LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP**

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 9th September 2024

Mind Your Manors: Beth Elliott

Monday 14th October

The History of Stained Glass & its  
presence in Lowick and Berwick: Annie  
Robinson

Monday 11th November

Anglo-Scottish Border: David Welsh

## **NORHAM & LADYKIRK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Norham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 9th September	Commonwealth War Graves: Donna Marie Kirk
Monday 14th October	Medieval Medicine: Sandra Gann
Monday 11th November	Searches for Churches on Lindisfarne: John Woodhurst
Monday 9th December	Robbie Burns "Tour of the Borders (part 2): Ian Landles

## **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP**

**North Northumberland Genealogy Group** has sadly had to take the decision to wind up the group due to lack of members wishing to serve as officers. We are all getting older and have not managed to attract younger members to take over. Thank you to everyone who has come along to occasional meetings over the years. Keep searching for ancestors!

*Val Glass*

## **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland**

**Time: 7.00 p.m.**

Wednesday 23rd October 2024	The Cresswell Tower Walled Garden Restoration Project: Barry Mead
Wednesday 27th November	Borderlands: Canon Tony Macpherson

## **TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: various**

Wednesday 4th September 2024	Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor: Beth Elliott. (7.30 pm) Refreshments from 7pm
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Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Heritage Open Days at Ford Forge. (12pm-4pm)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	James IV Lecture: Alistair Moffat. (2.00pm at Etal Village Hall)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Ford Moss and Coal Mining: Michael Simpson
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	There's More to a Needle Than Meets the Eye: Barry Mead

## ARCHIVE NEWS

The summer can be a time when it is quieter in the Record Office but certainly not this year ! It feels as if it has been busier than ever. Here's what we have been up to since the last newsletter:

**THE LIVING BARRACKS PROJECT** - Although you may not have heard much about this project recently, I am still beavering away on it. There is a lot going on in the background. An Open Day was held at the Barracks in May when various people came for a tour to find out more about the overall plans for the Project and the timetable. As part of that, I talked about the plans for the archive service. Since then, we have all been working away producing the plans and documents which had to be submitted with the Phase 2 National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. This was completed recently and we should know the results in early 2025. Keep your fingers crossed.

**EVERYDAY LIFE IN A NORTHUMBRIAN MANOR** – Beth and her volunteers have been working very hard on this project, creating a very impressive number of transcripts and information which will help people use the records. June was a particularly busy month for the project when Beth and I ran a two part workshop in Wooler, an exhibition was created for County Hall and there was also a conference held there too. The latter was attended by over 50 people. As part of the conference, we talked about the project, what has been achieved so far and also some findings made by each of the volunteer groups. Read about part of the Berwick contribution made by Julia Day later on in the newsletter. This project will continue to the end of January 2025. We still have lots to do on the website and other elements but we are definitely getting there. We'll keep you updated.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION** - We continue to do a lot of outreach in the local area one way and another. Over the past couple of months, we have supported the Civic Society with the Civic Trust Guide and held a workshop in Beadnell WI Hall on digital resources for local and family history. We have also supported Museums

Northumberland with their fishing display on the High Street and the Tweedmouth Feast with a carousel of Tweedmouth Salmon Queen images in the Town Hall. Re education, all Year 8s from Tweedmouth Middle School visited the Archives in June and early July as part of their English topic on the First World War. They found out about local resources available and also about local people who were affected by the War. I also did a school assembly with Prior Park School on the Old Bridge.

**BRIDGE 400** – The first weekend in August was designated as the Bridge 400 celebration weekend. The Record Office was heavily involved in this. The Saturday concentrated more on history and re-enactment and as part of this I worked with Berwick Youth Theatre and others to produce an historical 3 part drama on the construction of the bridge. We formed a little theatre company called Doublet and Hose and using the archives as the inspiration, Wendy Payn worked with the group on the production. It was great fun and shows what can be done. Everyone loved taking part and getting dressed up in authentic costumes. We performed it on both Saturday and Sunday and attracted audiences of over 60 for each bit. Over the weekend, I also led guided walks across the bridge using the archives to tell the story. By the end of 3 tours a day and contending with the firing of cannon, my voice was on the way out ! Bridge 400 is not finished yet and my next task is to work on the Time Capsule which will be “buried” in the Look Out Cafe

**Digitally Disturbing the Archives** -Northumberland Archives has been awarded a grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to work on a project with young people outside a formal school setting,encouraging them to engage with archives digitally. Some of the work is with two Youth Groups in Wooler. As part of the preparation for this project, young people from Wooler Drop In and the Wooler Baden Powell Scouts visited the Berwick Office at the end of July to find out about our resources and also about photography. This was followed by a 3 day workshop on filming and filming techniques as well. Cameron and I went along and learnt a lot about this – totally new to me. We even shot our own little film on the history of Wooler. The young people have created their own films which will hopefully be shown as part of the Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival.

### **More than just Names and Monuments – Eglington Project**

Over the past year I have been working with a group of Eglington residents updating the churchyard survey and researching the people buried there. The survey has now been updated and the images taken. We’re now looking to how we can make this available beyond the village and are talking to Coldstream History Society about putting the information on their website. Watch this space for further information.



In addition to this, we have all been involved in the preparations for Berwick Heritage Open Days – see later article. This is a big event for the Record Office which takes a lot of planning.

There is never a dull moment in the archives for any of us!

*Linda Bankier*

## **BERWICK HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**

This year the event takes place from 6 to 15 September and there are even more events than ever for you all to enjoy in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal. The programme diary is attached, and the booklet will be available at the beginning of September. In the meantime, here's some events that you might be interested in. If you can't get to Berwick, there will be a couple of online talks – the history of the Old Bridge ; history of the Brown Bear pub and also the history of the Barracks. All these take place at 7pm and can be booked via Ticket Tailor - <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/berwickheritageopendays> . Re in person events, there are a couple of new walks – Tweedmouth Cemetery and walks around Spittal – and some new venues/places and others which haven't been open for awhile – Spittal Sailing Club; Berwick Rowing Club; The Strawyard and the Air Raid Shelter on Castle Terrace. If you have never visited the Berwick Rangers ground or want to see around Martins the Printers, here's your chance to do so !We also have a Photo Centre exhibition in the Town Hall and some new talks – Berwick at the time of LS Lowry (Linda); From Bradford to Berwick, the De Lan family of photographers ( Cameron) ; From Slum to Semi ( Elisabeth Wilson) and the KOSB talk on Grief and Remembrance. The library are running some crafty workshops and drop ins – practise your doodling or if you love Lego, attend our adult Lego Spike Workshop- whilst the Living Barracks is running an Upcycling workshop in the Barracks on 14 & 15 September. If you haven't seen the L S Lowry exhibition yet, it will be open free from Friday 13 – 15 September along with volunteer guided tours. Most of our events will be over the second weekend (13 – 15) but we are running events throughout the whole period including the Camera Club exhibition and one at the Youth Project over the first weekend. We've also got our own Cabinet of Curiosities in the Record Office on both Fridays as well. There is something for everyone. Most things you can just turn up for but some are bookable via Eventbrite. If you have problems doing this, just get in touch with us at the Record Office (01289 301865 or e-mail [berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk) . Hope to see you at some of our events!

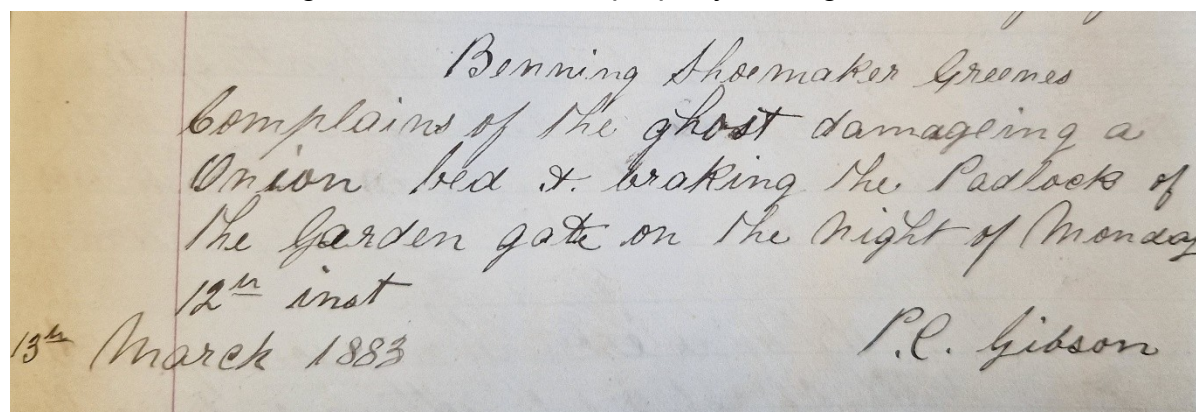
*Linda Bankier*

## “GHOSTBUSTING” IN VICTORIAN BERWICK

Halloween is around the corner and so it seems just the right time for an old-fashioned ghost story from Berwick’s past. Where in our collections this ghost story was found is a bit surprising: one hardly expects mention of a ghost to pop up in police constabulary records of the 1880s, but that is indeed the case in Berwick.

This intriguing tale of a ghost is found in the pages of the General Scroll Book of Berwick Constabulary 1882-1883. Constabulary scroll books were used to record brief reports of incidents attended by police in the course of their duties. These reports create a surprisingly animated picture of a time in some ways different from our own but in many ways strikingly familiar. From reports of lost property and complaints about snowballs being thrown to grumbles about barking dogs and incidents of fisticuffs in the street, fascinating details of the daily lives of the people of Victorian Berwick emerge.

One such detail is the story of the aforementioned ‘ghost’ whose presence caused quite a stir in Berwick during the early spring of 1883. The ghost in question appears in a couple of entries made in the scroll book by PC Gibson. In the first of these entries, Gibson relates the details of a complaint made by Mr Benning, a shoemaker, that the ghost had vandalised property in his garden in the Greenses.



BA/C/PO/1/8 [BA/M2/8] Berwick Constabulary General Scroll Book, 1882-1883

In a further entry, relating to an incident two nights later, we find that the ghost was not content with vandalism and continued its hauntings – this time at the Pier. A dramatic scene unfolded at the house of a Mr Wilson who was entertaining visitors when a terrifying scream was heard, and he and his guests rushed downstairs to find ‘the servant girl lying in a fit behind the front door’. PC Gibson, attending once again, noted that when the girl came to, she explained that on hearing the doorbell

ring and opening the door 'a figure dressed in white appeared', thus causing her to scream and faint. The ghost had made its escape by the time Gibson had arrived who bluntly reported 'Nothing to be seen afterwards'.

The Victorians were fascinated with spiritualism and the supernatural. Newspapers from the period reflect this preoccupation with frequent accounts of ghostly sightings and visitations, and, more surprisingly, tales of ghost hunts! The story of the Berwick ghost did not go unnoticed by the Berwick Advertiser. An article from the 16<sup>th</sup> March that year reported, with a degree of humour, how the ghost had frightened 'timorous people' in the area around the Greenses, the Pier and Magdalen Fields, and was now wanted by the police for the damage it had caused to several gardens. The newspaper even provided what turns out to be a common piece of advice at this time for those encountering or hunting 'ghosts'.

*Should anyone chance to meet the ghost we should advise the liberal application of a stick to its back, which will no doubt cause it to retire into private life, and make it behave better in future.*

Memories of these ghostly encounters were sufficiently strong to provoke a piece about the occurrences in The Berwickshire News in October 1906, under the title 'The Greenses Ghost'. The writer said:

*If it had been in these "enlightened" days of 1906, we would all have been buying Picture Post-cards of the Greenses Ghost to send to our friends.*

Responding to the article in an edition of the same newspaper from the 13<sup>th</sup> November, one reader claimed:

*I can well remember one night in particular. The Greenses Ghost had just finished a war dance on the high wall of the Workhouse Garden, then covered with snow...in a short space of time a mighty crowd assembled armed with such a medley of death-dealing instruments that would have knocked any amount of ghosts back into the next world, and an array of dogs enough to make a show.*

The reader recounted that the Superintendent of Police, Mr Garden, was asked what would be done with the ghost when caught. Mr Garden replied, 'six months hard', which, the reader said, had the necessary effect of sending the ghost to rest!

If you would like to find out more about these ghostly goings-on and how Tweedmouth, not to be outdone, had its own ghost (robed in white with ginger hair!), visit our event *Curiouser and Curiouser: a Route to Berwick's Roots through a New Cabinet of Curiosities* which will be running at the Berwick Record Office on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September (11 – 4) during Heritage Open Days.

Gillian Booker



The Museum has welcomed almost 7,000 visitors so far this season – so slightly up on the same period last year. We went to week round opening with the advent of the English school holidays.

We were open for the Riding of the Bounds on 4<sup>th</sup> May, Minden Day on 27<sup>th</sup> July, and the Food Festival on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August. We are looking forward to HODs weekends in September - always busy!



During the summer holidays we have had drop in, family friendly, activities (Runecraft) inspired by the Ord Cross every day between 1pm and 3pm. We also hosted a number of other craft activities for younger visitors over the holidays including fish (gyotaku) printing and Lowry inspired crafts.



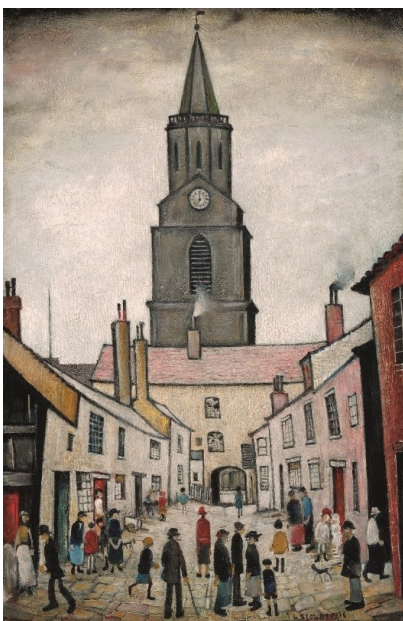
We took the Ord Cross to the House of Lords in May for a special session on museum funding organised by the English Civic Museums Network. We chatted to a number of peers of the realm and MPs, including the Arts Minister and the shadow arts team.

We loaned several items to be included in Berwick Civic Society's summer exhibition about the Berwick Old Bridge 400 Anniversary, and HMS Berwick at the Main Guard. Star of the show is undoubtedly James Wallace's painting of his two sisters on the Bridge end, but we have also loaned HMS Berwick's bell and some photographs of the ship's company.

The Berwick Burrell items which were on loan to Burrell Glasgow last summer – paintings by Boudin and Daubigny and several Japanese artefacts - returned home after that show was extended in February. The Berwick Degas drawing "Russian Dancers" travelled in the opposite direction to be displayed at the Glasgow Burrell in a major exhibition of Degas pictures, some on loan from the Barber Institute, the National Gallery and the Musée d'Orsay, Paris. The exhibition, called "Discovering Degas- Collecting in the Time of William Burrell" is on until 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The staff of the KOSB Museum have taken over a case in the museum foyer to display a small selection of their collection. Their museum is now closed for the season in preparation for the Living Barracks move to D Block.

We have installed a display about fishing in the window of the Iceland shop to last over the summer holiday period. Becki Cooper – our Community Coordinator – has been working with the Collections Team, the Civic Society, Berwick Record Office and collections volunteers to choose items to display and to dress the window



Finally, an exciting new acquisition - LS Lowry's painting of Strother's Yard. Called "Old Berwick" by the artist himself, the picture is on temporary loan for the moment, but we hope to formalise the transfer of the painting in the autumn. Painted in the late 1930s, the picture was included in Lowry's first one man show in London in 1939.

Strother's yard was a favourite subject of the artist – Lowry made several drawings and paintings of the view over the years, but this is indisputably the best! Interestingly, there is a bonus painting on the back of the panel – a sketch of railway lines which we think might be of the old line at Tweedmouth...

Anne Moore

## IMAGES OF BERWICK THROUGH MANOR COURT RECORDS

As a volunteer transcriber for the *Everyday life in a Northumbrian Manor* project, I think the records from the Manor Court of Berwick really show how apt the project title is. The following is a selection of extracts from records from 1715 to 1800, put together for a presentation at the project conference at Morpeth in June, and they help us to imagine what it might have been like to inhabit the town, to navigate its streets, and the concerns and priorities of those trying to keep order.

The presentments in 1715 and 1733 give a picture of Berwick as quite a hazardous place to walk through. Of the 49 presentments in 1715, 20 are concerned with dunghills or middens, 10 with heaps of dirt, stones, ashes or general rubbish and 17 with either broken causeys or walls liable to fall down. The main concern in presenting these offences is the prevention of nuisance to the public.

Examples from 1715 include :



*We present William Park for a dangerous Wall in the Front of his old Waste in Crossgate which may be of bad Consequence to people passing that way if not speedily taken down And likewise for noysome Middens lying on the front of his s[ai]d Waste very prejudicial to the publick*

*We present M[istres]s Eleanor Forster Wid[o]w for a broken Causey on the Front of her House in Wester lane very prejudicial to the publick and dangerous to the Porters rendring the Way almost unpassable for them with loads And also for Incroachment upon the publick Lane at the s[ai]d broken Causey by building a pair of Stairs there*

In several cases the inhabitants of whole streets are presented:

*We p[re]sent the Inhabitants of Rottenrow Ravensdown and Crossgate for laying Ashes and other Rubbish in the high way to the Kings Mount w[hi]ch is become thereby now almost unpassable and very much to the prejudice of the Neighbourhood there especially Martha Bowring Wid[o]w being grown already to very near the height of her house.*

And those who you might expect to set a good example, didn't:

*We present Edward Neelson Ald[er]man for a Gavel boreing into a Stable belonging to Isabel Fowler and which being ready to fall may do great Damage to her if not Speedily taken down.*

*And Mr Justice Sibbit, as his Majesty's storekeeper presented for a noysome midden of ashes at the upper end of the main guard prejudicial to Joseph Thompson's shop and to the other neighbours.*

And if ordered to remove the offending heap, where should it be removed to?

The Inhabitants of Ravensdown and the Ness were presented for laying a noysome Dunghill at the East End of M[ister] Lawson's House {...} Stopping up the door of a stable belonging to the s[ai]d House. They were ordered to remove it beyond the door in 20 days, which could be taken to mean that they just needed to move it to one side in order to stop blocking the stable door, so more of an access problem than a concern for public health.

One of my favourite images is from the Court Leet book, 1733 - The leaning house of Berwick

*We present Alex[ande]r Bell for a Dangerous Tottering old house in the Market place which may be of bad Consequences to people passing that way [if] not speedily taken Down*

Although in 1733 there are still some presentments for dunghills, middens, rubbish and bad causeys, for example in the Palace Street Quarter two presentments, one for a noisome midden and the other for a heap of dirt, are both deemed prejudicial to the public specifically because they were likely to block the way to the Mayor's house; an access problem again, there are also quite a few concerned with the

selling of ale in short measures or without a licence - In Marygate Quarter, William Richardson, Thomas Page, Patrick Atcheson and John Nixon were each presented for selling ale with a pint pot or a quart mug wanting measure.

Out of 31 presentments, 12 were for people selling ale in short measures.

In 1787 these short measures are one of the two types of offence being presented, and there seems to be an inconsistency in fines.

For example : The jurors present George Hall for keeping a public house within the Borough for retailing and selling ale and beer in pots wanting measure, for which he is amerced the sum of five shillings. James Allison, Isabella Forster, Joseph Park, Thomas Redpath, Thomas Weatherly and John Davidson are each presented for the same offence and fined 2 shillings and 6 pence each, while in another presentment, 12 individuals are fined 1 shilling each for the same offence. In all, 19 men and 3 women are fined for keeping a public house and selling ale in short measures.

The other type of offence presented at this court was permitting one's swine to be at large and run up and down the streets and lanes to the common nuisance and disturbance of his Majesty's subjects. Alexander Winlow was fined 5 shillings for this. For the same offence, 7 other individuals were fined 1 shilling each, and another 12 were fined 6 pence each. So, no presentments for dunghills or rubbish, but a lot of pigs roaming the streets.

Why were there inconsistencies in fines - higher fines for repeat offenders, fines tailored to what was thought could be afforded, in the case of the swine - perhaps it was a certain amount per animal ?

The earlier records show one aspect of the workings of the manor court in Berwick which the jurors find unsatisfactory, namely that the jurors reported the various offences which were then referred to the Mayor and Justices to deal with, but this sometimes took a while, and in the meantime the jurors got the blame. In the records for 1715, there are notes at the side of the presentments reading 'This we leave to the Mayor and Justices', and at the end is an address to the Mayor and Justices from the jurors, complaining that they are accused by the public of being just a 'formal set of men sent about to no purpose', that they are powerless in the punishment of offenders and removal of offences. This power, the jurors say, resides in the Mayor and Justices, but some offences were presented six months ago, and some twenty times that length, and need to be dealt with in order to silence the just complaints of the unredressed aggrieved. A similar address is given again in the records of 1733.

In 1800 the jurors had a different priority in appealing to the Corporation of Berwick. The present allowance of one pound five shillings given by the Corporation for a dinner to the jurors on the day of the court sitting is now inadequate to cover the

cost due to the high price of every article, and the jurors ask the steward of the court to lay the request before the Corporation in Guild that the amount be increased to five pounds five shillings - a sign of inflation.

Sources: BA/M/2/1 (1715), BA/M/2/2 (1733), BA/M/2/6 (1787), BA/C15/74/2/2 (1800)

*Julia Day*

## THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION IN 1920!

Mr D.M. Ogilvie of 3 Viewforth Square, Edinburgh, wrote to the Berwick Town Clerk on 18 April 1920 asking for advice on holiday accommodation in Berwick. The letter was attached, in error, to the Watch Committee Minutes dated 4 April 1919 and reads as follows:

*Dear Sir,*

*I am very sorry to trouble you with the following but I am rather at a loss to know to whom I can write on the subject. I should be very grateful for any assistance you may be able give me.*

*My wife and I wish very much to spend a holiday at Berwick-on-Tweed for the first three weeks in August & are anxious to find rooms. Could you kindly supply me with any list of apartments that may be published for the guidance of visitors, or let me have any addresses known to yourself? We have two boys (aged 6 & 3 respectively) & we should require a bedroom & a bed sitting room with attendances (plain cooking). We are not particular folks & all that we want is a place that is clean and comfortable.*

*With apologies for troubling you & sincere thanks for any assistance you can give us.*

Unfortunately, we do not know what advice was given as the reply does not appear in the Minutes.

Entries in the Berwick Advertiser under the heading *Wanted*, suggest that the alternative was to advertise your holiday needs, providing a Box Number or your home address.

For example, in April 1920 the following appeared:

*Apartments wanted, sitting room and two bedrooms, with attendance, from 1<sup>st</sup> May for two weeks; near station preferred. Write stating terms to Box 891, "Advertiser" Office, Berwick.*

*And: Wanted, for fortnight commencing 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> July, Bedroom and Bed-Sitting Room in Spittal. Apply, stating terms, to James Wait, 67 Hopetoun Street, Bathgate.*



Slightly quicker and easier to arrange nowadays!

Source: BA/D4/15 Watch Committee Minutes 4 April 1919, Berwick Advertiser 2 April 1920, 16 April 1920

Julie Gibbs

## THE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ON THE BOROUGH JAIL, 1868

*Borough Jail*

*Berwick upon Tweed*

*20th Oct 1868*

To the Worshipful the Justices of Berwick upon Tweed

Gentlemen

I have the honour to submit herewith my annual report

The past year has not been characterized by any remarkable increase or decrease in the average of conviction; nor does there seem to be any unusual agency at work in the population of the Borough which would warrant the apprehension of any probable increase in the criminal habits of the people.

The number of convictions entered in the Chaplain's Books is 83 being six less than that of the preceding year. Of these 50 were so far as could be ascertained, first conviction; one had suffered imprisonment 10 times and one person upwards of 60 times. 11 were convicted at Quarter Session' and 4 sentenced for various periods to penal servitude.

I am happy to be able to state that only 3 prisoners under 16 years of age have been committed during the past year to our Borough Jail- a practical proof I would fain hope that the excellent and well attended schools of the town are doing their work with satisfactory results to the community.

Drunkenness, bad company, idleness, poaching, parental neglect and irreligion appear to be here, as elsewhere, the most fertile sources of crime: but happily cases of hardened criminality are quite exceptional amongst us.

Before concluding, I would very respectfully call your attention to the case of Ann Carroll, convicted at the Easter Quarter Session of felony'- together with her husband and two daughters - and sentenced by the Recorder to 12 months imprisonment. This woman, apparently upwards of 60 (she does not know her age) is not only deplorably ignorant, but is of exceedingly weak understanding, and is

subject to continual painful hallucinations respecting her children - a species of derangement which her long term of improvement threatens to aggravate. She spends a large portion of the day in moaning and crying at the top of her voice, calling, in Irish, - the only language she understands, - for her children whom she believes to be lodging with the officers of the Jail. Upon this unhappy old woman prison discipline must bear with intense severity. And I cannot but think that, in her present imbecile state of mind, she is hardly the kind of person to be regarded as a fitting subject for a lengthened period of penal captivity. If after inquiry into the case you should take the same view and think it expedient to report the condition of Ann Carroll to the Home Secretary, I have little doubt that Her Majesty's free pardon would be readily extended to this poor woman. And I feel convinced that the learned Recorder himself would be only too happy, when informed of her state, to support your application in her behalf with all the weight of his influence.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen

*Your obedient servant*

*John Irwin, Chaplain*

The first incumbent of St Mary's Church, 38 year old, Reverend John Irwin, lived with his wife, children and servants at Castle Terrace. He was a native of Ireland.

Source: BQS/P51/69

*Charles Borthwick*

## BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

### **Berwick Advertiser, 14 February 1873**

#### THE SEVEN AGES OF WOMEN

Miss Emma Stanley, an eminent artiste, gave her popular entertainment, entitled "The Seven Ages of Women," in the Corn Exchange last evening before a numerous audience. She appeared in thirty-six impersonations, and one and all were acted in a remarkable clever manner. Miss Stanley is a wonder on the stage, and we were glad to notice that she met with a hearty reception in Berwick.

## **Berwick Advertiser, 14 February 1873**

### HIGHWAY ROBBERY

On Monday evening between eleven and twelve o'clock as Mr M. Sibbitt, of Richardson's Steads was returning home, a man came alongside of him in Tweedmouth, and Mr Sibbitt taking him to be a miner on his way home to Scremerston entered into conversation with him. At Sunnyside Hill, the man suddenly and with great violence threw Mr Sibbitt to the ground, and seized the chain of his watch (a silver English lever). A struggle took place, but the fellow succeeded in wrenching the watch from his victim, after snapping the chain to which it was attached. He then made off towards Tweedmouth. Mr Sibbitt had at the time a sum of money upon him, which his assassin fortunately did not secure. The man is well known to the police, who are with all possible alacrity taking steps to bring him to justice.

## **Berwick Advertiser, 14 February 1873**

### BREAK DOWN OF THE NEW RAILWAY SLEEPING CARRIAGE

The new railway sleeping carriage, constructed for the North British Railway by the Ashbury Railway Carriage Company, was used on Monday for the first time in railway travelling between Edinburgh and London. It was placed in the centre of the east coast day express train, which left Edinburgh at 10.25 a.m. The carriage was occupied by a large party. Unfortunately, on the road to Berwick the hindmost axle of the carriage became greatly heated, and on reaching Berwick, when the smell of burning was very strong, it was considered unsafe for the carriage to proceed further. The occupants, including an invalid lady, and their luggage, had therefore to be transferred to another carriage, and the sleeping carriage was left behind at Berwick. From an inspection of the carriage, we find that it is 30 feet long, and is divided into a second-class compartment at one end, and a luggage compartment at the other, and the centre fitted up as two first-class saloon compartments, with communicating lobby between them. On one side of this lobby a lavatory and on the other side a closet, are provided: a water tank on the roof giving supply for both. The interiors of the first-class compartments are panelled on the sides and roof with silver and walnut wood, with mouldings of ebony and gold, all being French polished. The seats and backs are trimmed with crimson Utrecht velvet, on a basis

of spring mattress with sofa springs and horse-hair stuffing. The seats and backs, of which there are three in each compartment, are by a very ingenious yet simple arrangement made so that the seat will fold up, and the back, by a slight pull, come forward and fall down, forming a comfortable bed 6 feet 1 inches long, with pillow or cushion. This, when not required, is by a very slight lift replaced in its original position, and the seat again resumes its form as a first-class carriage. The interior of the second-class compartment is painted and grained oak, and the seats and back-rest is covered with repp and stuffed with horse-hair. For comfort and ease in travelling the carriage is certainly the greatest improvement yet introduced into the railway system of the kingdom. In the course of the day the carriage was removed to the engine works and repaired.

*Carole Pringle*