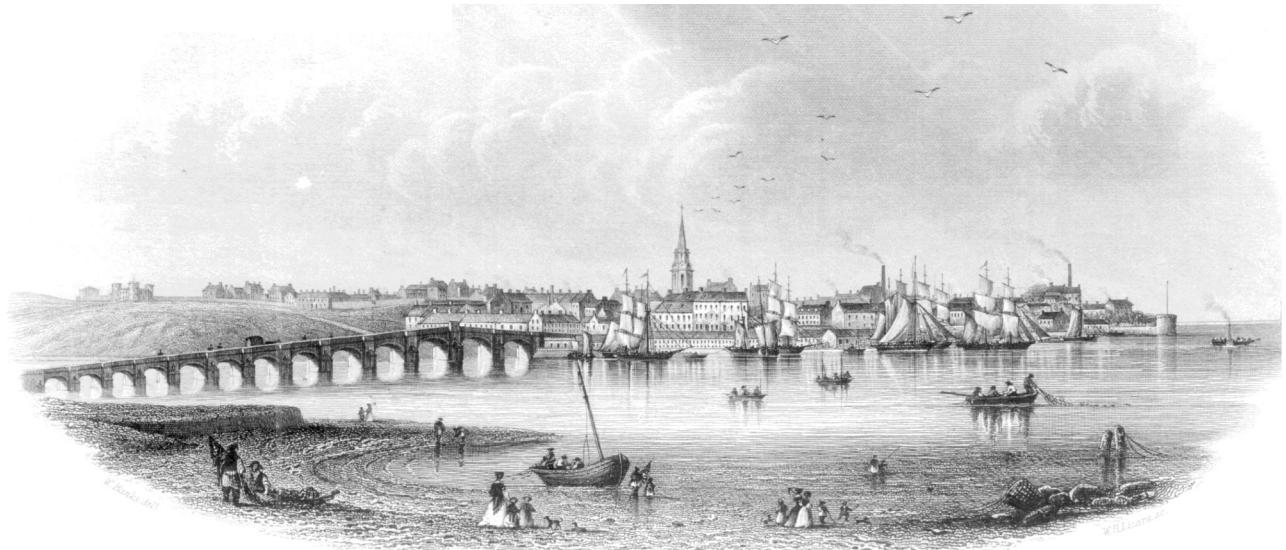


# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 123 – FEBRUARY 2025

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 28th Feb-Sun 2nd March

The Berwick Parade at Berwick Barracks – see

[www.maltlingsberwick.co.uk/whats-on/berwick-parade/](http://www.maltlingsberwick.co.uk/whats-on/berwick-parade/) to book tickets

Friday 21st March

Friends AGM followed by talk – Policing the Borough of Berwick (1836-1900). Part 1 Parish Centre, 7 pm

Saturday 29th March

Berwick Film Media & Arts Festival. - Showing of film created by young people of Wooler in conjunction with Northumberland Archives. At Mob Store Cinema, Berwick, 10 am – free but need to book

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue:** Ayton Community Hall

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 28th February 2025

Mediaeval Monastery Hospitals and  
Medicine: Sandra Gann

Tuesday 25th March

Town Improvements in Dunse and the  
Borders, 1830 - 1900: David Mclean

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue:** Bell View Resource Centre

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 26th February 2025

The History of Photography in Berwick:  
Cameron Robertson

Wednesday 26th March

Searches for Churches on Lindisfarne-An  
historical re-evaluation of the early medieval  
Monastery resulting from recent  
archaeology on the Heugh: John Woodhurst

Wednesday 23rd April

Cheviot Memorial-WW2 Aircraft Crashes:  
Dave Chappell

Wednesday 28th May

The Slave-owning, Bankrupt Bigamist Book-  
Binder of Berwick (Caleb Buglass and the  
first American Prayer Book): Phil Rowett

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue:** Berwick Parish Centre

**Time:** 7.30pm

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Cheviot Volcanoes-what were they like,  
and would you have survived? :  
Elizabeth Devon

Wednesday 9th April A.G.M. at 7pm followed by talk.

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 19th February 2025	The Living Barracks Project-Stories from the Collections: Linda Bankier & Dr Peter McCutcheon
Wednesday 19th March	Mediaeval Monastery Hospitals & Medical Care: Sandra Gann
Wednesday 16th April	A.G.M held at 6.45pm followed by a talk: Crossing the Rubicon 1660: Gen. Monck, Berwick & the Restoration: David Bruce

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 3rd March 2025	From Washington (Tyne and Wear) to Baghdad. Gertrude Bell in the Ottoman and British Empires: Mark Jackson
Monday 7th April	Land or Sea: Diets and identities at Castle Park, Dunbar, c.500-1500 A.D.: Sam Leggett
Monday 12th May	Improvements and Clearance: The Lowland Countryside: David Mclean
<b>Venue: William Elder Building</b>	Uncovering the Tweed: Katie O'Connell

## **BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bowsden Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 3rd March 2025

The History of Berwick through its Archives: Linda Bankier

Monday 7th April

Holy Places of Northumberland, Caves, Wells, Hermits' Cells, and more: Terry Quy

Monday 5th May

Fast and Furious over Northumberland and Normandy: The Story of Milfield Airfield: Phil Rowett

## **CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP**

**Venue: Waterloo Arms Dining Room**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 17th February 2025

Chirnside Shops 1900 to Present day: Linda Gray

Monday 17th March

State Funeral of Mary Queen of Scots: John Malden

Monday 21st April

Pitcairn Islands: Jim Gibson

Monday 19th May

History of Photography in Berwick: Cameron Robertson

## **COLDINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Coldingham Priory**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 3rd March 2025

Sugar plantations and slavery in Jamaica: Richard Blake

Monday 31st March

Sport History, the Border and Beyond: Wray Vamplew, Emeritus Professor of Sport History

Sunday 27th April (2.30pm)

Concert of traditional music by Plaid Song with a Borders theme

## **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 6th March 2025	Thomas Fair: Trevor Swan. My Famous Photographer Forebear: John Elliot
Thursday 3rd April	Roads and Travel in Berwickshire 1750-1850: David McLean
Thursday 1st May	Scotland beneath the Surface: Bruce Keith

## **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Duns Masonic Hall, 41 Newtown St, Duns.** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 26th February 2025	Jacobites, Hawksmoor & Heritage: The Barracks in Berwick: Rt Rev Stephen Platten
Wednesday 26th March	James Hutton of Slighhouses: Father of modern geology: Mike Chandler
Wednesday 30th April	A.G.M. followed by a talk Titled Lords of the Rings- When Quoits Ruled Berwickshire: Kenny McLean

## **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.** **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 12th March 2025	Mystery 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century domestic items- a quiz & explanation: Martha Andrews
Wednesday 9th April	Coal Mining in the Glendale area (there was more than imagined): Michael Simpson. Followed by A.G.M

## LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

### **Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 10th March 2025	Tin Tabernacles-A Victorian Story: Sandra Gann
Monday 14th April	The Paddle Steamer Pegasus & its wreck off Holy Island: Jane Bowen
Monday 12th May	The Riot of Holy Island: Del Shorley

## NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**Time: 7.00 p.m.**

Wednesday 26th February 2025	War Time Graffiti on Embleton Beach: Andy Craig
Wednesday 26th March	Glimpses of Forgotten North Sunderland: Carol Griffiths
Wednesday 23rd April	Scareships - Zeppelins and other airships in the Northumbrian Skies: Phil Rowett
Wednesday 28th May	The Cresswell Tower Walled Garden Restoration Project: Barry Mead

## TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### **Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm start, refreshments 7pm**

Wednesday 5th March 2025	The Tweed: Martha Andrews
Wednesday 2nd April	Evidence of women in the Berwick Archives, 16th-20th centuries: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 7th May	AGM followed by an update on the Halterburn Excavation <b>(7.00pm start, refreshments from 6.30pm)</b>

Wednesday 4th June

The Northumberland Archives Trust:  
Supporting Northumberland Archives;  
Sue Shaw.

### **YETHOLM HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Mission Hall, Grafton Road**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Tuesday 4th March

Evacuation to The Border Counties 1939-45: Myth and Reality: Kenneth McLean

Tuesday 1st April

The Farm Servants of South-east Scotland, 1750-1914: David McLean

Tuesday 6th May

An Update on recent Halterburn Excavations: Richard Carlton

### **OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **BERWICK EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Friday 28th March

BEA – Lecture by Linda Bankier – Bridging the Tweed as part of BEA series of lectures see - <https://berwickea.org/event/bridging-the-tweed/> to book a place. 10 am in William Elder Building

### **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Borders Family History Society research room at 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels will reopen on Tuesday 4th March and will continue to open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 4pm. For more information ring 01896 750387 or email [info@bordersfhs.org.uk](mailto:info@bordersfhs.org.uk).

## ARCHIVE NEWS

It doesn't seem that long since I wrote the last newsletter, probably because the Record Office has been so busy. Things don't slow down for us up to Christmas ! Here's a flavour of what we have been doing.

The **Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor** has been running for the past 33 months and finished at the end of January with a flurry of activity. Before Christmas Beth and I were working on various aspects of the website, including a learning resource for everyone and preparing the transcripts. The learning resource is now live and some of the transcripts are now available although there are still a lot more to add. Have a look - <https://northumberlandarchives.com/manorial-project/> . In January we ran a number of workshops and talks in Berwick and Wooler to publicise what has been done. We also held an online talk which was attended by people from all over the country and even abroad. This has been a very successful project which has really engaged people with manorial records, a very underused resource. The work we have done with volunteers and the project in general has even been highlighted in the National Archives – A Year in Archives publication.

The **Digitally Disrupting the Archives** project is still ongoing. More work is being done in south west Northumberland at the moment. However, there are still things happening here in the north. In January, Megan and I led an archives workshop in Glendale Middle School as an introduction to an after school film making club there which starts in early March. The film which was made in the summer by the Wooler Baden Powell Scouts and the Drop In Centre will be shown as part of the Berwick Film and Media Festival on Saturday 29 March in the Mob Store Cinema – very appropriate as this will be the eventual home of the archives! Tickets are free but must be booked in advance.

Work continues on the **Living Barracks Project** in various ways. We have supported the Maltings in their call out to artists for various residencies over the next 18 months, talking through their ideas and how the archives can support them. We have also supported Matthew Rosier with the Berwick Parade, providing images and taking part in the filming as Berwick HODS. Cameron and I have also been working on a project called Sensational Museums which is being run with Border Links – a group for adults with learning disabilities. They are looking at Berwick Cockles and

we have enjoyed working with them and hearing their brilliant ideas for an exhibition. We're looking forward to seeing the end result in a couple of months time.

Last year, Beth and I gave a lecture to **Newcastle University Public History students**. As a result of that, a group is visiting Berwick this week to undertake work in the Archives and see the town. We're also giving another lecture in March and we're hoping that this will be the start of ongoing work with them.

**Berwick Holy Trinity School** is celebrating a big anniversary this year – it will be 300 years since one of its predecessor schools – Berwick Charity School - was founded. We are working with the school and the Parish Church to organise a number of events over the coming year. At the moment, we are trying to gather people's memories, stories or photographs of the Charity School (later the Boys National School), the Parade School and Holy Trinity School on its present site. We're holding a memory collecting session on Saturday in mid February in the Parish Centre and hope to hold another one later on. We're also planning an exhibition and workshops with the school. If you can contribute anything, just get in touch.

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE and VJ Days** - a number of organisations in the town are working together to organise events to commemorate this. As part of this, the Archives will work with the Maltings in delivering school workshops and running a public event around VE Day initially.

Finally, we have given talks on various subjects recently – Bridges of the River Tweed - Coldstream History Society; Berwick Old Bridge – Ayton History Society; Sources for Local and Family History – Coldingham History Society and Berwick in the time of LS Lowry – St Andrew's Church.

There is never a dull moment in the Archives with everyone working very hard to keep the service running and helping people to enjoy our wonderful archives.

*Linda Bankier*

## **BERWICK IN FEBRUARY 1945**

This year, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2. What was happening in our area at this time when the troops were making advances towards Germany in Europe:

*Berwick Advertiser, 15 February 1945*

## **BLESSING OF NETS AT NORHAM**

At midnight on Wednesday the annual ceremony of the "Blessing of the Waters" took place on the Tweed at Norham, by the Vicar, The Rev. J Hudson Barker, and an interested spectator was Sir William Beveridge, M.P. of Berwick who was accompanied by the Town Clerk of Berwick (Mr R B Davison) and Mr R Boston.

About 100 were present at this unique ceremony on the banks of the Tweed and, in the little shiel near, Sir William had the opportunity to talk with the salmon fishers. In the first net which was rowed out there were two fish caught and one of these was handed to the Vicar according to custom.

## **MR J EASTON**

A well known and popular local person in Mr James Easton, Tillmouth Blue Houses, Cornhill, passed away at home on Friday February 2, at the advanced age of 87 years. Mr Easton had the rather unusual experience of having resided all his long life in the same house, and as the oldest tenant on the Tillmouth Estate. He was a great favourite of the late Sir Francis Blake.

A rabbitcatcher by occupation he had the reputation of being one of the most skilful. He was a great nature lover and greatly participated in angling and salmon net-fishing. Until about two years ago Mr Easton was able to attend to his garden and was amazingly active for his age; but since then, advanced years have gradually told their tale, and during the last few months of his life he was confined to bed. Mr and Mrs Easton had been married over 51 years, having celebrated their golden wedding on December 2, 1943. ...

## **RELATIVES MEET**

The February meeting of Berwick and District Prisoners of War Relatives Association was held in the Theatre Café on Thursday, when two of the men recently repatriated to Berwick were present – C.C. M. R.D. Richardson and Fusilier A. Musgrave. Bandsman Hogg who was repatriated last year, also looked in to greet fellow repatriates.

The Mayor of Berwick, President, presided and extended a warm welcome on behalf of the town to the visitors. Both C.S.M. Richardson and Fus Musgrave spoke, telling of their experiences in prison camps, and also of the interest which they had taken in the letters from home telling them about meetings of the Association. They also thanked the members for gifts of cigarettes on their return. A talk on schemes for helping ex-Servicemen was given by Mr Shand of the Employment Exchange, Berwick, who dealt with rehabilitation for disabled men, with settlement plans and with training which had been arranged by the Ministry of Labour for those who have

been in the Services. The Association were asked to appoint a representative on the Berwick Welcome Home Committee, and Mrs A Veitch, Leeside agreed to act. Tea was served by the Café staff, 60, being present, and Mrs W.L. Howe played selections on the piano.

*22 February 1945*

#### **MR R J BROWN**

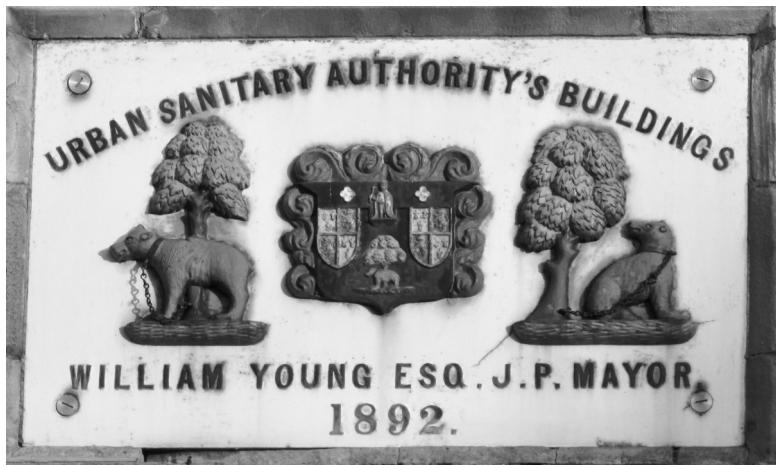
In his sixty sixth year, the death took place on Friday of Mr Robert James Brown, Castle Hotel, Berwick, where he had been since 1914. In recent years Mr Brown had not enjoyed the best of health, but his death came suddenly. Born at Chain Bridge, he was educated at Norham, and until he came to Berwick to take over the Castle Hotel in 1914, he lived mostly in the Norham area. He was a keen sportsman and in his younger days a Powderhall runner and well known as an efficient handicapper for sports meetings in the Berwick District over a long number of years. He was also a keen dog fancier, and officiated as judge at many shows, chiefly in the Northumberland and Durham area.

He is survived by two sons of his first marriage – Flying Office R.J. Brown, RAF; and Mr John Brown, Berwick – and by his second wife and one daughter of the second marriage, Miss J C Brown, Berwick. The funeral took place in Norham Churchyard on Monday.

*Linda Bankier*

#### **BERWICK'S WYCH ELM**

Berwick's coats of arms, granted in 1958 and 1977, were based upon previous insignia that had been used for many years. They included one or more chained bears and one or more wych elm trees. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the town's Urban Sanitary Authority proudly incorporated these symbols on its buildings as can be seen on the front of the former Council offices in Wallace Green. Going further back, the Great Seal of The Guild of Freemen of Berwick-upon-Tweed, showing the arms of Henry IV (1399-1413), also includes a bear and a wych elm and it is thought that a version of this may have first been used in 1212.



The eighteenth and nineteenth century chroniclers of the town's history described the coats of arms in varying degrees of detail but were unable to give definitive answers regarding the origins of the symbols. Fuller (1799) says that 'The Arms of the Corporation were originally a Bear standing close by the trunk of a tree in luxuriant foliage'. Sheldon (1849) dismisses a number of improbable suggestions as to origin but states that, nevertheless 'The heralds' still adopted one of them, a bear chained to a tree 'on the idea that the neighbourhood was formerly infested with those animals'. Scott (1888) confirmed that the bear 'has long been connected with the arms of Berwick' and that 'A very early specimen is found on a seal attached to one of the Coldingham charters which is still in the Durham Register. It bears [a] date about the year 1250 A.D'.

The obvious reason for these features is the rebus device or puzzle which links words or phrases to pictures or objects whose names they resemble, each case being a sort of pun. In Berwick's case, the heraldic pun produced 'Bear' from 'Ber' and 'wych' from 'wick'. The bear is understandable but what intrigued me was how or why our predecessors came to link 'wick' with wych elm, 'wych' deriving from the Anglo-Saxon, 'wice', which means 'pliable'. It would have been stretching credibility to connect 'wick' with 'wich', an eighteenth-century dialect definition of a saltworks, although saltpans or saltworks were to be found along the coast south of Berwick. It would also have been unacceptable, because of fear and superstition, for our forefathers to link 'wick' with 'witch', although it is interesting that wych elms were said to offer some protection against witches. Taking the Old English 'Berewic' or the earliest recorded spelling 'Berewich', other links might have suggested themselves, such as a candle 'wick', the latter stemming from the Old English 'weoce'. Instead, the wych elm was the chosen link, the possible reasons for which are explored below.

The classification of elms has varied, with identification at different times of up to seven species and up to five or seven sub-species and hybrids. Probably, the most well-known are Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), English elm (*Ulmus procera*) and Field elm (*Ulmus minor*). The only truly native species is the wych elm which grew in native woodland some 8,000 years ago, arriving after hazel, birch and pine which were the first trees to appear after the last Ice Age. Although found across Britain, wych elm is more frequent in the north and west where it is also known as the Mountain or Scots elm. The wych elm has become quite rare although the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, states that, in northern and western Scotland, the wych elm is beyond the range of Dutch elm disease. Even elsewhere, it is hoped that some specimens will become resistant to the disease and that the species will repopulate the landscape.

It is necessary to think back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, to understand why the wych elm might have been so prominent in the thoughts of Berwickers. The wych elm would have been ubiquitous in the landscape of the north of England and southern Scotland and would have been valued by the townspeople because of the uses to which it could be put. The timber is flexible, strong and rot resistant and so had many traditional uses such as boatbuilding, bridge foundations, piles for quays, cartwheels, water troughs, wheel hubs and for making coffins for 'ordinary' people rather than the oak coffins favoured by the gentry. Wych elm was good for turning and so was useful for making bowls and platters for everyday use. The burrs found at intervals along the trunk would also add to the decorative grain of wood-turned bowls. Elm could also be used for timber-framed houses particularly when the more favoured wood, oak, was in short supply. Its durability and resistance to splitting meant that the wood could be used for boarding for wagons. Another practical use of wych elm was the suitability of the foliage as a staple fodder for livestock.

The need for a good water supply also made the wych elm an important resource for Berwick. Because the wood bends easily and withstands wet conditions, it is known that, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, wych elm was used to make pipes to carry water from out-of-town sources to reservoirs within or near to the town. The technique dates back to at least Roman times so it may be that wooden pipes were in use in Berwick from early times. The wood was pliable and easily worked and lent itself to being hollowed out by auger to form lengths of pipe that could be end-worked to fit into one another and able to cope with the changes in height and direction.

The conclusion I reached was that, since early times, wych elm was such a widespread native tree that it would have been very well-known to the population of Berwick who would have immediately associated 'wick' with the 'wych' of 'wych elm'. No other link word would have come close to suggesting itself to them for combination with the image of the brown bear.

Sources: <http://www.berwick.org.uk/berwick/coat%20of%20arms.htm>; Herbert, Jim, <https://berwicktimelines.tumblr.com/post/48071181946/the-bear-and-the-tree>; <https://issuu.com/kreativetechnology/docs/freemanofberwick>; Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, <https://www.rbge.org.uk> <https://ice-museum-scotland.hw.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/Wooden-pipes-discussion-at-College-of-Art- 26.1.19.pdf>. Fuller, John, *History of Berwick upon Tweed etc.*, printed for named persons in Edinburgh and London, 1799, pp. 247/8 Miles, Archie, *Silva The Tree in Britain*, Ebury Press, 1999, pp. 25, 33, 110-15 Scott, John, *Berwick-upon-Tweed. The History of the Town and Guild*, Elliot Stock, London, 1888, pp. 237/8 Sheldon, Frederick, *History of Berwick-upon-Tweed etc.*, Adam and Charles Black, Edinburgh; Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London; John Wilson, Berwick, 1849, pp. 1/2

*Antony Chessell*

## **LANCELOT HENDERSON, VICAR OF TWEEDMOUTH**

Reverend Lancelot Henderson was a well-known figure in Tweedmouth where he served as vicar in the parish church of St Bartholomew & St Boisil for a total of 42 years, between 1938 and 1980. He was known as an assiduous scholar and historian, but he also regarded himself as a man of the people and took a close interest in his parish and its inhabitants.

He was born in 1903, a native of Durham. He trained for church ministry and was ordained in 1932, and in the same year he was appointed as curate of Leadgate in Durham. He next moved to become curate-in-charge at Christ Church in Gateshead, and in 1938 he took up what would be his job for the rest of his life, as vicar of Tweedmouth. In his early years he was a dynamic figure who completely overhauled the existing church practices. During World War 2 he was appointed to the role of Food Organiser for Tweedmouth.

His taste for learning led him to explore the documentary sources for the history of Tweedmouth and the borough of Berwick, and to study in particular the origins and evolution of the Tweedmouth Feast which he came to regard as essential to the identity of the Tweedmouth community through the ages. At the Sunday services for the feast, he would deliver a sermon exploring the history of the celebrations.

He obtained a BA degree from the University of London, and later in life he completed a thesis for his PhD from London (on "The Church of England in its relations with parliament and the Crown, 1825-1845" [1961]).

His other interests included boxing (the practice of which he encouraged at the Tweedmouth Boys Club) and music (he was a violinist and sang as a tenor; when his personal property was auctioned after his death, it included four pianos, an American organ and a rare antique square organ).

Berwick Record Office holds an interesting legacy of Henderson's studies in local history. In the last year of his life, he made a series of tape recordings in which he delivered a wide-ranging history of Tweedmouth from its earliest appearance in the records through to the end of the 19th century. He speaks with remarkable fluency and precision, and he devotes as much time to the social history of the ages and how people lived as he does to battles and buildings.

The whole spoken history lasts for about 8 hours, spread across eight double-sided tapes. The tapes have been digitised and they can be listened to in the Record Office. There is also a typed transcript which can be consulted in the Record Office, and this includes a summary of contents for each tape which gives a rough outline of where material is to be found. A version of this contents summary has also been added to the FBDMA website on the page describing Henderson's history.

<https://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/hendersons-history/>

**Sources:** Obituary notice, in *Berwick Advertiser*, 31 July 1980, p.2; Sales notice, in *Southern Reporter*, 4 September 1980, p.11.

*John Spiers*

## BERWICK QUARTER SESSIONS, 1870

### “Don’t frighten the horses!”

8th December 1870 Adam Dodds appeared before two Justices of the Peace. The said Adam Dodds, on the 29th November last, at Berwick upon Tweed, did use a certain Locomotive Steam Engine for the purpose of ploughing within a distance of twenty five yards from the “Dunse Turnpike Road”

The said Locomotive Steam Engine, not being then and there within a house or other building or behind any wall, fence or screen, sufficient to screen the same from the said road, so that the same might not be dangerous to passengers, horses or cattle, nor then and there, having a person stationed in the said road and employed to signal the Driver of the said Engine when it should be necessary to stop, and to

assist horses and carriages drawn by horses passing the same. This all contrary to the "Annual Turnpike Acts" Contrivance Act 1864 and the "Locomotive Act" 1865.

And we adjudge Adam Dodds, for his said offence, to forfeit and pay the sum of two pounds ten shillings to be paid according to Law, and also to pay to Andrew Ronaldson, the complainant the sum of sixteen shillings.

According to the Census return for Berwick of 1871, a 27 year old Adam Dodds, a native of Tweedmouth, was "Manager of a Public Company" and Andrew Ronaldson was Superintendent of Police in Berwick. *Source: BQS/P60/38*

### **Claim for Salvage**

An Order upon Messers Weddell (Attorneys for Gasper Tripovich) 30th November 1870 - Claim for Salvage - County of the Borough and Town of Berwick upon Tweed Andrew Thompson, Esquire, Mayor and Robert Carr Fluker Esquire two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Berwick upon Tweed made this award 30th November 1870, in pursuance of sections 460 and 461 of "The Merchant Shipping Act 1854"

On the 26th November application was made to me Andrew Thompson Esquire, Mayor, by Robert Kyle of the parish of Holy Island in the County of Northumberland, fisherman – that on the 19th November, an Austrian brig called the "Zero" whose Master was Gasper Tripovich, bound from Marinople to Montrose and is now lying in the port of Berwick upon Tweed, was in distress at sea off Emmanuel Head, Holy Island.

Robert Kyle and others, forming the crew of his fishing boat, then and there rendered services in respect of the ship "Zero". That is to say, in assisting her and thereby saving the lives of the persons on board and the cargo and apparel of the said ship. For this, he, on behalf of himself and his crew, claimed a certain amount of salvage not exceeding £200. However, a dispute arose between Robert Kyle and the Master of the ship as to the amount of such salvage. The parties could not agree as to the settlement by arbitration or otherwise. Robert Kyle therefore applied to me, as Justice, to summon the Master before the Justices, in Petty Sessions, in order to settle the dispute.

The Master, Gasper Tripovich, together with Robert Kyle, and their respective attorneys are now present before us, the Justices, for the purpose of having the claims and demands of Robert Kyle for such services to be heard and adjudicated upon pursuant to the Acts.

We therefore, the said Justices, having examined into the cause and circumstances upon oath, and all other matters relating thereto are of the opinion that the Salvors fulfilled a certain agreement admitted to have been made with one . . . . Myles, a North Sea pilot, in charge of the said ship, so far as the circumstances which were under their control permitted them to do, and under which agreement they were promised and entitled to the sum of £50. They were also of the opinion that in consideration of the services, resulting ultimately in the safety of the ship, crew, and cargo, which the Salvors actually rendered, they are entitled to the said sum of £50 and do hereby order the award. Gaspar Tripovich shall, upon notice of our award and order, pay Robert Kyle, on behalf of himself and his crew, the sum of £50 for his and their services of every description as aforesaid and we do further order and award that Gaspar Tripovich pay £4 10/6d being the costs incurred in obtaining this award.

Given under our hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned at Berwick upon Tweed aforesaid. Andrew Thompson Mayor, Robert Carr Fluker. Source: BQS/P60/35

*Charles Borthwick*

## **SENSATIONAL BLAZE IN BRIDGE STREET- Tar Sprayer “goes up”.**

**Extract from Berwick Advertiser, Thursday 1st October 1925.**

Ill luck seems to dog a tar-sprayer being used by workmen under contract with the County Council at present being used spraying the roads in and around Berwick prior to them being coated with granite chips. On two previous occasions the boiler attached to the sprayer has taken fire as a result of the tar boiling over, the last occasion being when the roadway in front of the Baptist church was being done.

On Tuesday evening the workmen started to cover the wooden paving of Bridge Street, and when near Mr. John McAdam and Mr. Fred Stott's shops the boiler took fire. There was not so much flame as smoke, though the heat from the burning tar was very great, and, alarmed at the clouds of jet black smoke boiling up from Bridge Street, a crowd estimated at several hundred people gathered within a few minutes in Bridge Street.

Workmen, at some danger to themselves, succeeded in getting the tar barrels away from the boiler and attempted to subdue the flames by throwing sand and gravel on the fire. It was a fearsome sight for a time, Bridge Street under a heavy pall of smoke being in semi-darkness, lit only by the ruddy glow of the burning boiler. Through the smoke the men could be seen feverishly working to quell the fire. This they succeeded in doing after about 30 minutes work, and at that time the Fire Brigade arrived with the manual engine. So quickly did the Brigade pull up that the horse attached to the engine sat down and surveyed the burning sprayer philosophically, while the crowd cheered ironically.

The Brigade soon got to work however, and after "dowsing" the sprayer well with water, the hose was turned on Mr. McAdam's and Mr. Stott's shops, which had been damaged by the fire. The crowd, which had been crushing in from the Bridge End of the street, were scattered like chaff when the first spray of water reached the tar boiler. A stifling gas was given off by the boiler, and before this the people fled, coughing and shedding copious tears. If the Fire Brigade did nothing else, it kept the people out of harms' way.

An examination of the shop fronts after the fire showed that Mr. McAdam's shop had suffered most. The sign and window frames were scorched and the windows cracked with the heat. Mr. Stott's shop front also suffered. The windows were cracked and a quantity of gramophone records and accessories were damaged by the heat. Damage by the smoke and soot was done in both Mr. McAdam's and Mr. Stott's house, and the paint work on Mr. Mosgrove's buildings was also damaged.

Some alarm was felt for a time as there was a possibility of the buildings taking fire, and Mrs. McAdam, who has been ill and confined to bed, was got to a place of comparable safety. Mrs. Stott and the children were also got out of harms' way when the fire was at its worst.

The account for damage caused, which, it is believed will have to be met by the County Council, will be considerable.

*Maureen Charlton*

## BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

### Berwick Advertiser, 14 March 1873

#### SUPPOSED MURDER OF A BERWICK MAN IN PARIS

The body of a man which was found in the Seine on Sunday week is believed to be that of Mr Selby, a merchant of London and formerly of Berwick. Mr Selby was missed from his hotel six or seven weeks ago, and a reward was offered by his relatives for his recovery. From the marks of violence which were found on the body there is little doubt that Mr Selby was murdered. The *Figaro* thus relates the finding of the body:- On Sunday afternoon a person who was fishing just above the Pont de Grenelle felt a strong resistance at the end of his line, and in pulling it, drew up a black mass to the surface. He went immediately to the Henry IV bathing establishment, which puts up during the winter at that bridge, and obtained the assistance of some of the keepers with a boat, in order to go in quest of the object indicated, which turned out to be the corps of a man about forty, which appeared to have been in the water five or six weeks. The body was respectably dressed, and round the neck was a cord tightly drawn. The deceased must therefore have been strangled and thrown into the Seine.

### Berwick Advertiser, 14 March 1873

#### MILITIA REGULATIONS

Revised military orders have been issued from the War Office which cancel those issued in former years. The following new points are introduced: - The mess jacket and waistcoat prescribed for the army will be adopted in the militia, with silver lace and buttons to correspond. The sabretache will be required only when regiments are in the field at camps of instruction. When the adjutant is on leave and there is no quartermaster, the serjeant-major or sergeant in command of the permanent headquarters will obtain the signature of the commanding officer to all official correspondence. Periodical returns and forms may, however, be signed by such non-commissioned officer. When a militia regiment is assembled for training in a garrison town or other station in which regular troops are quartered, the militia surgeons and militia hospitals will be under the superintendence of the principal medical officer of the army. Commanding officers may, when their regiments are billeted in lodgings, establish a regimental police, consisting of a sergeant and one private per company. The police will patrol the streets and assist in keeping order

and prevent irregularities, such as smoking in the streets, being improperly dressed etc. They are to be employed on the day the regiment is dismissed and will wear a broad white band round the arm. Captains are no longer to be recommended for the appointment of musketry inspector. Subalterns are to hold the appointment.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 21 March 1873**

#### FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENTS

Still, they come! No fewer than five entertainments are announced to take place in Berwick within the next few days. This evening Tannaker's Troupe of Real Japanese performers will pay a visit which is to extend over three days. They are spoken of as being very clever, and well worth seeing. On Tuesday evening Mr John A. Keenan, described as "the Great American Literary Exponent," is to give readings from the American poets in the King's Arms Assembly Room. Mr Keenan brings with him high recommendations as a reader, and we trust he will receive large patronage. On Thursday Harry Liston, a celebrated comique, is to give his entertainment, -"Merry Moments"-fun without vulgarity. Having earned for himself a reputation as a comic vocalist of the first magnitude, it is to be hoped he will not be disappointed with his visit to Berwick. These comprise the entertainments "going the round of the world," but there are two local concerts intimated to come off- the Choral Union concert on Tuesday the 8th, and the Tonic Sol-fa Association concert on Tuesday the 15th of April. These entertainments have in past years been well patronised, and we have no doubt that they will again receive this year large support.

### **Berwick Advertiser, 28 March 1873**

#### FOREIGN POTATOES

Owing to the scarcity of good English potatoes specimens of that valuable esculent have been supplied from various foreign ports, and this week a supply from the island of Malta has been received in Berwick, and they are being sold at 2d per lb.

*Carole Pringle*