



The Probus Club of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Welcome to our 'It's Good to stay in touch' Newsletter

Issue 5 – 24th June 2020

Edited by Homer Lindsay, homer@thelindsays.info Mobile 07749 458484, 17 Cornwall Avenue, Berwick, TD15 2NX

Dear Member

I hope you are all safe and well. The lockdown rules are being relaxed from 4th July, giving people a little more freedom to move around. It is to be hoped that they will show a bit more common sense than those crowding Bournemouth beach and attending the street party in Brixton this week.

I have tried to summarise the new rules as they might affect us on page six.

Michael Wright treats us to a treatise on Canterbury Cathedral; **Antony Chessell** is on a treasure hunt; **Ian Hannah** meets an Arabian horse; we hear that **Berwick Heritage Open Days** will have a presence in September and **Alan Dumble** lurks somewhere in the columns again.

Stay safe – **Homer Lindsay**

I hate it when I see an old person and then realize that we went to high school together.

Who Said?

“

If you were to ask me, 'What the hell does a musician have in common with a restaurant?' I would say a huge amount. It's show time every day, it's a team of people, like, running a circus, which is running a rock-and-roll band.

”

Answer on last page - **HL**

Committee Meeting

There is to be an online Zoom Probus Committee Meeting at 11:00am on Wednesday 8th July. If you have anything you wish the Committee to discuss please let the Hon. Secretary, Homer Lindsay, know by 30th June.

Homer will be inviting members to a Zoom demonstration and training session beforehand. If you would like to join this session, please let him know by 30th June. Contact details at top of page.

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

Berwick Town Council have written to participating organisations about plans for Remembrance Day this year and seeking our thoughts and guidance as to the form of Remembrance Sunday services in Berwick-upon-Tweed. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share please let me know. I'll collate all input to frame a collective reply. **HL**

Canterbury Cathedral

This is not a religious tract but a few words about one of England's finest buildings. I was a Lay member of the Cathedral's Chapter (equivalent to its Governing Body chaired by the Dean) for a few years so was able to develop my love for the Cathedral both as a building and a place of worship.

One of the things I've been doing in recent weeks has been to watch Morning and Evening Prayer from Canterbury Cathedral. They last only about 15 minutes and have been led by the Dean in the mornings and by different clergy members of the Cathedral Chapter in the evenings. Because, until recently, the Cathedral itself was closed even to the Dean, the prayers have come from different parts of the beautiful gardens of the clergy presenters. The Dean loves plants and small animals maintaining a veritable menagerie of cats, chickens and rabbits amongst others. His prayers and reflections have frequently referred to plants and animals. On one occasion one of his rabbits disappeared into the Dean's robe. Needless to say, that particular clip went "viral".

Canterbury Cathedral was founded in 597AD. The present building was constructed in the 11th and 12th centuries. It was progressively extended partly as a result of rebuilding following fires. It became the spiritual "headquarters" of the Church of England (and subsequently of the worldwide Anglican Communion) because the Archbishop of Canterbury was the senior Bishop in England. One famous holder of the office was Thomas Becket who was murdered in the Cathedral in December 1170. As a result, the Cathedral became a much visited pilgrimage site. This continues to this day as the Cathedral receives well over a million visitors each year. Of course,

when it was built when the established church was Roman Catholicism but, after Henry VIII, it became part of the Church of England and remains so.

Canterbury Cathedral sits in the middle of the ancient Cathedral Precincts. The buildings in the Precincts are used to house the King's School, reputedly the oldest school in England, as well as homes for the senior clergy and staff members of the Cathedral. Whereas Durham Cathedral, arguably the finest cathedral in the world, stands high above the "island" created by the River Wear, Canterbury Cathedral nestles in the low-lying land of the "bowl" which is Canterbury. Because of the height of the building, especially its main bell tower, Bell Harry, the Cathedral is visible from many of the low hills which surround Canterbury.

It is a beautiful building constructed from Caen stone; a yellow coloured stone brought from Normandy. All repairs are in similar stone and the other buildings in the Precincts, many of which - although old - were built after the Cathedral, sympathetically complement it. The Cathedral is one of the largest buildings in England being well over 200 feet long with a seating capacity for 3000 worshippers. It contains a number of side chapels (one of which is used by a small congregation of French people living in Kent) and there is a crypt underneath the main church. The crypt is often used for weddings. A remarkable feature of the Cathedral is its rooves which require major repairs every one hundred years or so.

The external West front of the Cathedral displays a number of stone figures depicting historical figures associated with the

Cathedral. Statues of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (regular visitors to the Cathedral) were added to the West front in 2015.

Contrary to what many people think, cathedrals receive no public funding but rely upon collections, visitor income and donations. Obviously, that is a particular

challenge at present especially for Canterbury which, with the help of a substantial grant from the National Lottery Fund, has embarked upon a major refurbishment and building programme. The Precincts have recently reopened and the Cathedral will do so soon. If you haven't been to Canterbury, I recommend that you do so when possible.

Michael Wright



By Antony McCallum: Who is the uploader, photographer, full copyright owner and proprietor of WyrdLight.com - <http://www.wyrdlight.com> Author: Antony McCallum, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=47823361>

**Berwick Heritage Open Days, 11th –20th
September, 2020**




Contrary to some comments I've been made aware of, and following an organisers committee online meeting today, Berwick Heritage Open Days WILL be taking place this year but, because of the uncertainty regarding Covid-19, it will be in a different format.

Berwick is one of the jewels in the national Heritage Open Days crown. We outperform

larger towns in the number of events we put on for locals and visitors alike. This year, the committee has decided that for the safety of the public and our volunteers, regrettably, there cannot be any of the normal events this year; it takes a lot of planning.

Instead, we will be maintaining our position at the forefront of the national festival and will be providing a host of online events. It's a work in progress but we are wanting to create a series of films for people to enjoy and inspire them to visit the sites using the

 <p>films as a guide. Not only that but we are thinking of other self-guided tours, and live online events such as a Berwick history-themed quiz and possibly a Berwick history 'Question Time', in which a panel of experts can be tested on their knowledge! We also want people to get involved and we hope to run a photography competition encouraging people to see their heritage differently. It's all work in progress so no hard promises yet. We will keep you posted on our progress.</p> <p>Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: Berwick upon Tweed Heritage Open Days @hodsberwick</p>	<p>We love putting on Heritage Open Days and we know you love taking part in Heritage Open Days, so we are doing our best to keep this going and to help publicise Berwick as a premier tourist destination for 2021 when, hopefully, the event can go ahead as normal. Please share with your friends far and wide.</p> <p>#berwickhods #hodsberwick #visitberwick</p> <p>This message is on behalf of the Berwick Heritage Open Days Committee: Linda Bankier, Maureen Charlton, Jim Herbert, Sophie Howard, Homer Lindsay, Zoreen Hill.</p> <p>– reproduced, with permission, from a Facebook post by Jim Herbert dated 18th June</p>
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Ian Hannah recalls his first and last ride on a horse!

During my National Service in Egypt, I was given the opportunity to go for a break at a sort of army holiday camp on the outskirts of Ismailia on the banks of the Suez Canal.

Ismailia is a beautiful city with gorgeous gardens and lovely buildings; it was built by the French. There was, however, one gruesome building. It was a four storied building with very small windows and the interior must have been extremely hot. It was of course a prison! Unfortunately, most places, including the gardens were out of bounds. Luckily, I spotted a picture house and it was much cooler inside and I saw a film in Arabic with English subtitles.

There was a lovely pure white Arabian it brought back many happy memories rides I had had as a kid, when I was at would be great to have a nice, relaxing Arab boy in charge and mounted the of the reins, he gave the horse an and the horse literally took off. We went trees flashing by on both sides and I lower than the horse's head and held on terrifying but exhilarating. Soon, we could breathe a bit easier, but the pace approached the end, the horse slowed down and stopped at the same point from which we had started. It must have been very well trained, because it could have got rid of me at any point. That was my first and last horse ride.



horse available to ride and of the times I had donkey the seaside. I thought it trot, so I paid the young horse. As soon as I got hold almighty thump on its rump through a small wood with made sure my head was for grim death. It was were in open country and I never slackened. As we

“Treasure Beneath My Feet”

© Antony Chessell

From an early age, I have had a habit of walking along with bowed head, looking at the ground. It is surprising what one finds and I am not just talking about lost coins, although these occur on a regular basis. Of course, it is necessary to look where you are going and where you are putting your feet particularly if, like me, you have been a lifelong hill-walker and scrambler. In the countryside, and certainly amongst the hills and valleys of north Northumberland, scenery is the thing and our trees, plants and wildlife are not to be missed. It is therefore important to also look upwards and outwards; too much stooping and bending can lead to bumping into things and giving rise to back and neck problems!

Having said that, it is amazing what the eyes can pick up at ground level; even the minutest detail in terms of unusual shape or colour stands out, with practice. Centuries of rural habitation, different agricultural patterns and many more people working in the countryside in past times, have left their evidence scattered across the soil or alongside footpaths and trackways.

I was able to take full advantage of my ground-level habit when I became involved in archaeological digs and in the associated discipline of field-walking where, working to an exact grid system, individual objects and the spread of objects are systematically recorded and plotted for historical analysis and interpretation. But this article is more to do with finding things on day-to-day occasions, starting when I was boy. Items may be archaeological, historical or geological, but just interesting. One of the first things that I found, aged about ten, was a flint scraper on the Sussex Downs, identified by the prominent ‘bulb of percussion’ formed when the flint was struck from its flint core and by the tooling that had been carried out around the edges (see photo). The scraper might have been attached to a wooden handle of some kind.

A recent find at the side of a field appeared to be an exciting geological treasure which



I thought was a very large chunk of rose quartz embedded in a sandstone base. It shone in the sunlight with translucent magnificence. I had struck lucky—what a find, but what an embarrassment when, two days later, it became apparent that it was a piece of mineral lick for the sheep in the field! Anything of value needs to be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme run by the British Museum and Amguedda Cymru – the National Museum of Wales as this helps to advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales. It also raises the possibility of being

classed as Treasure under the Treasure Act 1996.

Needless to say, I have not found any real treasure. But I don't mind—My 'treasure beneath my feet' lies in the many 'ordinary' bits of clay pipe, floor and roof tiles, Roman glass and plain or decorated pottery of many colours from the 19th, 18th, 17th century or even earlier. They are exciting to me because they allow my imagination to take over and connect me with the past. Some of these 'ordinary' items are shown in the photo. June 2020

- **Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: What you can and can't do after 4th July. (England)**
- Updated 24th June 2020
- The government has published guidance on staying alert and staying safe outside your home; the full guidance can be found at the following →
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july>
- I'll try to summarise here for the benefit of members;
- You can meet in groups of up to two households (your support bubble counts as one household) in any location – public, private, indoors or outdoors. It remains the case, even inside someone's home, that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble. This does not affect support from your carers.
- Outside you can continue to meet in groups of six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines.
- Stay overnight away from your home with your own household or support bubble, or with members of one other household.
- It will be against the law to gather in groups of more than 30 people, except for some limited circumstances.
- Moving forward from 4th July, people will be trusted to continue acting responsibly by following related guidance.



Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

[Check the NHS website if you have symptoms](#)

Who is this?



Photographed before joining Probus

Got a photo you'd like to share?

- **You should not:**
 - Gather indoors in groups of more than two households (support bubbles count as one household); including when dining out or going to the pub.
 - Gather outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from just two households.
 - Interact socially with anyone outside the group you are attending a place with, even if you know them.
- ***If you or someone in your household or your support bubble is showing coronavirus symptoms, everyone in your support bubble should stay home.***

Support Bubble: If you live by yourself you can expand your support network so that it includes one other household of any size.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr Editor,

Not being capable of using what I believe is referred to as Twitter or Facebook and many strange words I am sometimes quite amazed what oddities my granddaughters come up with.

After her last find of your Email cache I have been told that the younger daughter has found a whole pile of very similar mini stories which I don't think concern your 'old men's club' but certainly must be something akin to it. They come under the title of

"Lockdown. Been up to anything interesting?"

I do suspect that one of those drone things may have been in use or some photographer has been ignoring lockdown rules.

However, I'll describe some of the subjects even if they have nothing to do with your group, in the hope that you may find them to be of some interest.

1) A former sea captain is giving a fine rendering of sea shanties, 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor?' etc. in the garden of his house to an audience of neighbours peering over their fences. He appears to be quite sober but when he launched into dancing the hornpipe amidst great applause, I began to have my doubts!

2) Another front garden scene. This time a silver-haired gentleman stood behind a long table on which there was a large collection of 78rpm records but some very much up to date Hi-fi speakers etc. currently playing 'We'll meet again'. A large notice proclaimed "Listen to your choice from all your 30's onward favourites. Bing, Frank, Elvis etc.. Please keep your two-metre distance! All financial contributions most welcome. Please place in collection box-all

proceeds for the local Hospice and NHS."

3) This time (now for something different) a coastal scene. Along a stretch of sand by the estuary, not far from the Ness Gate, the drone picked out an elderly gentleman lying on his back on the sand frantically waving a walking stick. I took it not to be a friendly wave but rather a threatening one as though he didn't like drones about. Two figures then came running across and helped him back onto his feet. I discovered later that he had had a bad accident to one of his legs and every morning was in the habit of taking a short walk as part of a recovery programme. I wish him well. Actually, I am sure that from my short glimpse of him I had met him before whilst helping me park my car in a tight space. Perhaps not!

4) This one consists of a gentleman seated comfortably in a largish garden wearing, somewhat surprisingly for an eighty year old, a top shirt with the original red and white stripes of Sunderland A.F.C. and with a worn copy of 'Clown Prince of Soccer' in his hands. In the next door garden two youngsters were enjoying a game of football header tennis when the ball came flying over, "Mr, Mr. can we have our ball back please." Of course, he couldn't resist a little demonstration of 'Keepy-Uppy', then "Watch this-overhead to you." He went all out for it but unfortunately, he slipped. The ball shot over their heads followed by the sound of breaking glass. "It's alright Mr. it's only dad's greenhouse. We'll tell him we did it!"

5) Given the lockdown strictures I was taken aback to see a person on the path outside Berwick Bowling green alongside a

drain cover closely photographing it in detail. The film showed a curious stranger six foot away asking him what it was all about. "Simple," he replied, "My friend, a Mr. Po, has changed his hobby from geology to drainage accessories. He will be absolutely delighted with this find. A genuine "Jennings of Sunderland" cover in excellent condition. He is bed-bound at the moment but this will make his day." The clip finished and I began to wonder how this club attracted such a strange collection of characters; making Probus look like a bunch of 'Po faced', oops sorry - intellectuals!

6) A scene of a room with all walls taken up by bookshelves. Two to three thousand books perhaps a fair estimate. All beautifully arranged by author, title, subject etc. Indeed, the haunt of a true bibliophile. A gentleman rather unsteadily with the help of a walking stick was doing a bit of rearranging. I was

told later by his friend that, unfortunately lately he was not a reliable attender at his club as he had developed a tendency when outside the house, he constantly finds various obstacles to fall over leading to spells of confinement. However, thankfully I now usually accompany him on his travels and manage to keep him upright and attending regularly. These form a small selection of the snapshots. I'll stop here as I've just received a congratulatory phone call from yet others of your members promising to make sure that any writs from my last story will be attended to by them-provided they make an appearance in the next story.

'NIL DESPERANDUM'

Yours faithfully

Name and address supplied

Who Said?

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If you were to ask me, 'What the hell does a musician have in common with a restaurant?' I would say a huge amount. It's show time every day, it's a team of people, like, running a circus, which is running a rock-and-roll band.

”

Mick Fleetwood (*Fleetwod Mac*)

Born on this day, 24th June 1947



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Was this Newsletter worthwhile? Your feedback would be appreciated, along with suggestions and contributions for future editions during the COVID-19 crisis. Contact details on page 1.