

Linda Bankier, BERWICK ARCHIVIST, MA DAA

Originally from Northern Ireland, Linda Bankier studied German and Latin at St Andrew's University before completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Archive Administration. Unusually Linda has spent all her professional career working in Northumberland, initially as an Assistant Archivist at the Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park (1986 – 1990) and since then as the Berwick Archivist, running the Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office. As well as undertaking the day-to-day duties associated with archives, - cataloguing, running a public search room, managing and caring for archive collections – Linda has built up expertise and experience in the following fields :

- Community Engagement – encouraging community groups to use archives for inspiration and to appreciate their relevance to the present. This has included the Berwick Maltings Youth Theatre and Local History Groups
- Education – the Berwick Record Office runs an educational service which works with people from nursery age up to Lifelong Learners
- Managing and Training Volunteers – over the years she has managed a group of volunteers to support the work of the Record Office and also run volunteer projects for Lottery Funded Projects (Berwick 900; Flodden; Peregrini) . This has included organising activities and providing training (palaeography, cataloguing, oral history and research techniques).
- Fund Raising – successfully raised funds to purchase Archives (16th century Berwick documents and Photo Centre Collection) as well as for specific projects (cataloguing the Borough Archives)
- Project Management – as well as managing the archives, project management skills have been essential for running large scale projects and ensuring their success. These have included the Twixt Thistle and Rose Project (creating an online catalogue for the Berwick Borough Archives) and masterminding the transfer of the archive from one site to another
- Publications – from inception to publication, the Record Office has produced a number of books including a Guide to Family History Resources relating to Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal, the History of Spittal School and photographic publications.
- Friends Organisations – supporting the work of Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives

In addition, Linda has written several Modules – English Palaeography and Skills and Sources for English Family & Local History – for the Centre for Archives and Information Studies at Dundee University. She also acts as a tutor on these online courses.