



Stow Parish Archive

Newsletter
September 2008

We all know that we cannot guarantee the weather, as these two local stories show!

Heavy rainfall

On September 6th 1876 heavy rain flooded the Gala Water to a height that had not been seen in 20 years. Fields of grain from Fountainhall to Bow were washed away. At Stow Mill were the gala water takes a wide turn a barricade had to be erected to prevent flooding. Under water were the proposed site for the new school, near the Railway Bridge and Cow Park. The wooden bridge over the burn in the Cotlands is also now in a very dangerous state

Stow Flute Band Outing

On the 5th September 1867 Stow Flute Band and 140 children held their annual outing to Heriot. They all assembled at the Town Hall and marched to the station for the 11.33 train. About 30 ladies and gents assisted the teachers. At Heriot they were met by the Rev. Mr Smith who conducted them to the beautiful grounds of Borthwickhall, which had been kindly granted by Charles Lawson.

Ascending one of the ranges of the Moorfoot hills the company had splendid views. About 40 children from Heriot had accompanied the group with their teacher Mr Simpson. Following a short walk all the children were served with rolls and milk.

The Rev. Smith led the way to "Camp Hill" where a wider view of the country was obtained. Here circles were seen that distinctively mark the remains of a Roman camp. Here Mr Smith addressed the children and referred to the remains Roman glory on which they stood and carried the children's imagination back to the Roman invasion and conquest – when armed

legions trod the very ground on which the present company so peacefully stood. He then went on to describe the structure of such an encampment.

After enjoying the healthy breezes on the heathery knows the party descended by another winding route back to Borthwickhall.

The children were served with a large pie while the ladies and gentlemen dined on the green and were served from the good things provided by Miss Oliver and the beverage was natures gift from the "Ladies Well" whose bubbling springs issue from a grotto-like structure near the house.

In the afternoon various games were held, including racing. At about 7pm the children tired but joyous arrived at the station and took seats on the train. Having a little time to wait they enlivened the good people of Heriot by singing a number of melodies in which they were accompanied by the flutes of the band. On arrival in Stow there were a large number of anxious parents and friends waiting and from the steps of the Town Hall Mr Waddell addressed the assembled villagers. After singing a hymn and saying a prayer the children returned to the hall where a large quantity of gooseberries were given to the children (the baskets having been donated by a large number of the gentry of the district).

Mr Sanderson then expressed thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had accompanied the group, the instrumental band whose services had cheered all so much and the weather which had stayed fair all that day.

The Stow Parish Archive Group next meets in the Town Hall on Wednesday, September 24th, come along from 7.30 onwards and help us add to the Archive. We can copy any photos or documents or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.

Strange but True

Have you heard of the elephant's graveyard? The eel pipe cleaner? The plane crash on Lauder Common? The Stow Parish Archive Group want to bring you some strange but true stories about the parish and surrounding areas, in preparation for an event in the Town Hall on **Saturday 1st November**. If you know of any such stories please get in touch 730560 or e-mail wendy@wandwball.myzen.co.uk