



# Stow Parish Archive

## Newsletter

### January 2009

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. Here are some interesting January stories from the archive.

#### **January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1858 Heavy Rains**

From the incessant rains of Tuesday last the Gala and its tributaries were flooded to such an extent that some parts of the village were severely threatened by the rising water levels.

The Penny Whiggam poured down in torrents from the hills and overflowed its usual boundaries, so much so that one family, who occupy a house near the junction of the burn with the Gala, had to leave their dwelling altogether. The gala has not risen this high for a number of years.

#### **January 8<sup>th</sup> 1864 Choral Union**

Stow Choral Union organised a concert and Ball in aid of funds for the Reading Room and Library. "The hall was crowded to the door and the concert was a decided success". The vocalists engaged were Miss Thomson and Mr Wands from Edinburgh and of course Mr. A. Robertson and the Stow Choral Union.

#### **January 19<sup>th</sup> 1866 Fever**

Our villagers, who are generally healthy, have suffered from a fever that has been prevalent for some time locally. Both in Stow and Killochyett there have been a number of cases and many patients have been laid low for some time, but as yet only one case has proved to be fatal.

#### **January 11<sup>th</sup> 1867 Storm**

At last a thaw has set in and the snow has been gradually disappearing. It has taken a score of men all week to clear the road to Lauder. Many travellers were beaten back by storms. One gentleman had a narrow escape with his life when trying to get to the farm of Caddonhead. He was familiar with the road but drifting and fresh snow confused him and he lost his way. Severely effected by the cold conditions he was surprised and delighted to come upon the house he had left some 10 hours earlier.

#### **January 18<sup>th</sup> 1867 Storm**

The storm still continues and fresh falls have taken place every day this week. The Lauder road is again blocked with drifting snow, despite attempts by a strong force of men who have tried to clear it several times. However, the post-runner has managed to get across the hill daily but only by leaving the road and going up through the more sheltered parts of Muirhouse.

#### **January 4<sup>th</sup> 1883 Narrow Escape**

A servant girl residing at Overshiels had a narrow escape when she had occasion to visit Stow. She left her home about 3 o'clock to walk the 4 miles over the hills to Stow but within half a mile the mist closed in and she lost her way. After wandering about for some hours she lay down at the back of a dyke to get shelter and try to keep herself warm.

At about 8 o'clock she again attempted to find her way but was soon tired and worn out. Again, she sheltered behind a dyke but on this occasion stayed to the morning when the mist now having cleared she was able to reach home about 9 o'clock. The girl was very exhausted and her feet frostbitten but in a few days after treatment was able to attend to her duties again.

Please come along to the Town Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 7.30 onwards and help us add to the Archive anything of interest and discuss how to make our catalogue more accessible to the community. We can also copy any photos or documents or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.