



# Stow Parish Archive

## Newsletter May 2009

The archive group would like to thank all who attended our "Who Do You Think You Are" evening last month. Extra thanks should also go to our many guests who came from far and wide and made it another interesting and informative event.

A story that has been researched by Meg Stewart regarding the tragic death of a relative was donated to the archive that night. The *Dalkeith Advertiser* on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 1907 had the following account.

### **Stow Fatal Motor Car Accident**

About midday on Sunday an accident occurred near Bow Farm, about 2 miles south of Stow, by which an old woman named Mrs Elizabeth Guthrie, a widow, lost her life. Mrs Guthrie who was 77 years of age, and resided with her son-in-law in one of the farm cottages there, had gone along the road a short distance to look for a grandchild. A Haddingtonshire motor car proceeding southwards approached, and the old woman, losing her head, attempted to cross to the other side of the road. The driver applied both brakes and did his best to avert an accident, but without avail. The car struck the old woman and knocked her down. The motorists gave all the assistance they could. They helped carry the woman to her house, returned to Stow and informed the police and summoned medical aid. Mrs Guthrie died, however, from shock within three hours.

Interestingly, we have managed to find another account from another unnamed newspaper source.

Mrs Guthrie had left the house and gone up the road to look for a child who had gone missing when about 100 yards north of the road leading to the steading she was approached by the car which had come round the sharp bend in the turnpike (so well known locally). Two gentlemen from North Berwick occupied the car. They first observed the old woman when she was about 40 yards ahead and she was standing at the side of the road but when the car approached within a distance of about 10 yards or so she apparently became suddenly frightened, losing her head, she attempted to cross the road. The driver immediately clapped on both hand and foot brakes and did his utmost to avert the accident but without avail. The motorists gave every assistance they could, hailed a passing car to call for medical assistance. Mrs Guthrie had received internal injuries to which she succumbed three hours later.

The archive group has made some articles available to view in the Town Hall reading room, which is open from 9am to 5pm. The following can be found in folders in the left hand bookcase under the window.

1. A history of the Manorhead Hotel
2. Reminiscences of Stow Circa 1840
3. General News Items 1850-1896
4. Agricultural Items – (a). A Stow History. (b). The Early Improvers
5. List of known shops and Businesses
6. Agnes Bonthron's diary of a Voyage to New Zealand 1863
7. Stow Parish Families – Ovens
8. Stow Parish Families – Weedall/ Waddell/ Wedale

Also, in the recently redecorated Reading Room are 20-framed photographs of Stow.

**Please come along to the Town Hall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 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.**