

putting

Issue 3  
March 2003

## come and help us reconstruct the site of St Leonard's Nunnery

Would you like to come and find out more about St Leonard's Nunnery at Bondington?

On 18-19 July, to coincide with the commemorations of the Battle at Halidon Hill, during which the Nunnery was destroyed, we hope to open the site to the public. We are planning to reconstruct the outline of the Nunnery, showing its actual site, the position of the walls and the internal layout.

We shall need help in the weeks leading up to this event to reconstruct the Nunnery. Local residents of all ages will be welcome to come and participate.

Interested?  
Please contact Barrie  
Evans on 01289 306760.

# Bondington on the map

## walk the Bondington Trail

A main site of Bondington, 21 Castle Terrace, is listed on the Bondington extension to the Northern Approaches Trail Guide, available at the Tourist Information Office and at most shops in Castlegate, price 25p.



grave slab from  
Cheviot House  
found in 2000.

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## Bondington on the map

### steering group:

For further information on any aspect of the Bondington Project, please contact any member of the Steering Group.

#### Berwick History Society:

David Brenchley 01289 382541  
Brian Chappell 01289 303923

#### Border Archaeological Society:

Barrie Evans 01289 306760  
Gus Fairburn 01289 306649

#### Berwick and Borough Archives:

Linda Bankier 01289 301865

#### CARA (Castlegate Area Residents Association):

Margaret Shaw 01289 308005  
Jessie Dodds 01289 309989

#### Advisor on Archaeology:

Alan Williams

visit us @ [www.lhi.org.uk](http://www.lhi.org.uk)



Local Heritage initiative

## help !

We are looking for help from any teachers or former teachers to advise us on the best way to use the knowledge and artefacts we have gathered on the project to develop information packs — either as booklets, video tapes or computer graphics — for use by pupils in our local primary or middle schools. Please contact Brian Chappell on 01289 303923.

*pilgrims' badge*



## help ! !

We are trying to establish when all the properties in Castle Terrace, North Road and the Meadows area were built and mark this on a modern map. Do you have any information about properties or photographs that we could copy? Please contact Linda Bankier at the Records Office on 01289 301865.

We shall be displaying a map at the Bygone Borderlands Exhibition (see below) showing what we have found so far.

## help ! ! !

Any Old Iron? We are still hoping to find more artefacts and objects from the history of Bondington. If you or a neighbour have found in your gardens any such objects which you think might be of historical interest, please contact any member of the Steering Group.

## visit us on the web

To find out more information on the Bondington project so far, with photos of the finds and fieldwalking days, visit the Local Heritage Initiative website @ [www.lhi.org.uk](http://www.lhi.org.uk).

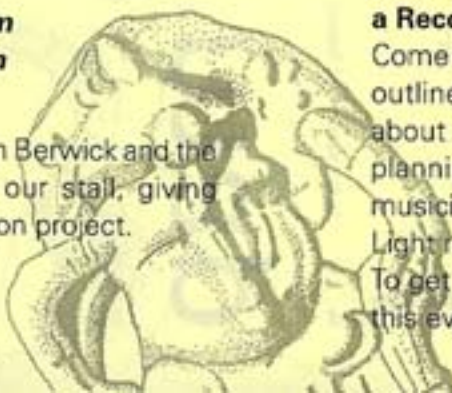
## dates for your diary

**5-6 April 2003**

**Guildhall Sat 10am-4pm  
Sun 1pm-5pm**

### **Bygone Borderlands**

Events celebrating history in Berwick and the Borders. Come and visit our stall, giving details about the Bondington project.



## what we have found

We have been busy since the last newsletter, and interesting artefacts and information have been discovered about Bondington, in particular the fieldwalking at the Nunnery site has unearthed:

**lead pilgrims' badge** — received by pilgrims on reaching their destinations, such as the shrine of a popular saint, and worn to show their devotion. This badge, found at the Nunnery site, has lost its lower half but what remains is the upper torso, head and arms of a female figure with a radiate crown. We are trying to find where it may have originated.



*lead shot*

**lead shot** — possibly an early piece, it is known that the Nunnery was badly damaged in the conflict at Halidon Hill in 1333. We are investigating its age through the Royal Armouries Museum at Leeds.

**medieval stone coffin cover** — was found under dense undergrowth at 4 Duns Road, next to the Nunnery site. It had been broken, but 2 significant end pieces have been found. Its position acts as an indicator of the location of the Nunnery graveyard and we hope that more slabs will be found in the future.

**other objects** found include a piece of **lead kame**, suggesting there were stained glass windows in the chapel; a range of **nails** indicate the types and scale of carpentry present in the buildings of the Nunnery; also **pottery fragments** suggest a date for the occupation of the site.

**18-19 July 2003 11am - 4pm**

### **St Leonard's Nunnery of Bondington — a Reconstruction**

Come and visit the Nunnery site and see the outline of the Nunnery building. Find out about life in a medieval nunnery. We are planning to have local singers and other musicians perform music of the time. Light refreshments available. To get involved in the reconstruction before this event, see the front page.