

FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD PONTELAND

AT THE BADGER



Ponteland Civic Society August 2018



1. – ‘Main Street Ponteland c.1932’

From a (cropped) postcard titled by hand: "Ponteland Village 40". The Hovis van belonged to T. Scott Bell's bakery and tea room (on the far left) which survives as "The Postbox" coffee shop. The open Morris tourer has the early Newcastle registration X9924.



2. From an enlarged copy by G. Willey of an (untitled) postcard c.1910. Lambton's Bank is on the extreme left; next is Scott Bell's shop followed by the small Temperance Hotel incorporating James Caughey's Saddlers shop. The Post Office was in the left-hand side of what was later completely rebuilt as the NatWest Bank.



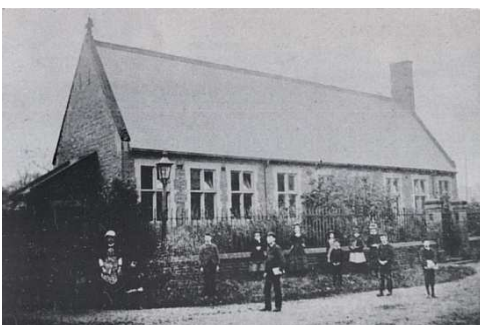
3. – ‘The Blacksmiths, Ponteland’

From a photograph or (possibly) a cropped postcard. The smith, with his wife and son, are standing outside their house next to the smithy in c.1910. The smithy was still in use until the mid-1970s; it is now a Bistro restaurant.



4. – ‘Bell Villas from Bridge, Ponteland 14’

From a hand-titled postcard issued c. 1904 before the original Methodist Chapel was demolished to make way for a new one. Ash House (behind the telegraph pole) included a shop and nursery belonging to one of the Jameson family. Bell Villas was lined by a particularly fine stand of trees at this time.



5. – ‘Coates School opened 1874 and demolished in 1968’

From an early photograph or cropped postcard. This new building replaced the old Coates Endowed School, which became the Institute and Reading Room – and which still exists as an Estate Agent's premises.



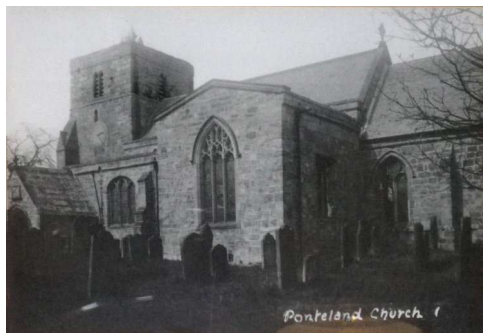
6. – ‘Lambton’s Bank, Ponteland.’

From a hand-titled postcard c.1920. This Bank was built in 1906 on the site of the old Toll House for the Newcastle to Edinburgh turnpike via Ponteland. It was later taken over by Lloyds Bank but replaced in the 1960s by the present building erected behind it.



7. – ‘Main Street circa 1920’

A postcard of the late 1920s showing, on the left, Lambton’s bank which has now been taken over by Lloyds. Almost hidden is the Temperance Café and, in the distance, the old Albion Temperance Hotel adjacent to the Seven Stars. “The Institute” is on the extreme right next to Stephenson’s tobacconist.



8. – ‘Ponteland Church 1’

From a postcard, probably c.1902 and quite possibly the first by this publisher, who is not known. In the early 1800s, churches were often damp and unhealthy places, but in 1854 Ponteland pioneered the installation of drainage and stove heating and replacement of rotten pews with new. This example was widely followed by other churches.



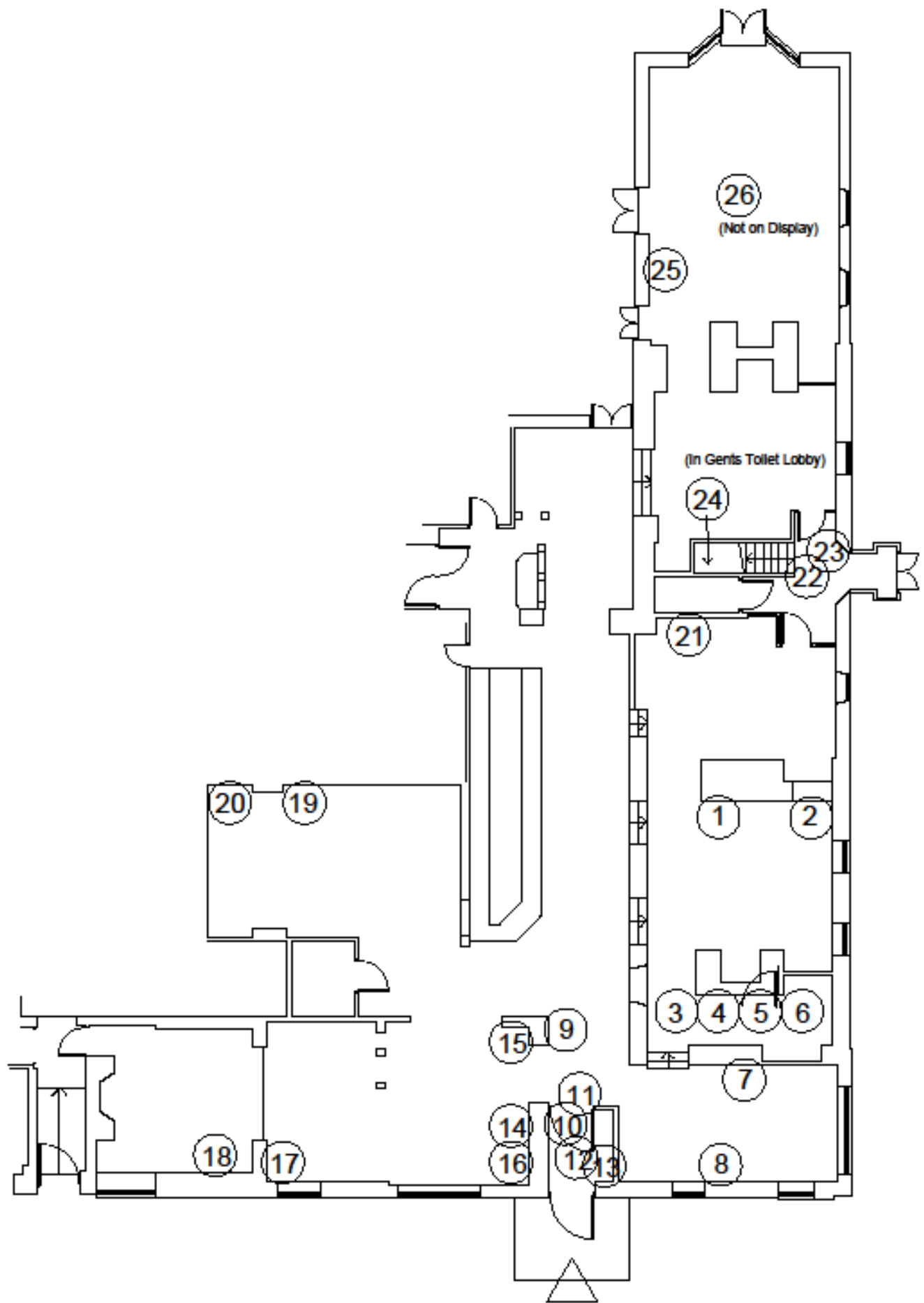
9. – ‘Post Office Ponteland AS’

An untitled version c.1904 of a popular postcard by A S Sheills showing Main Street some three years before it was surfaced with macadam. Mrs. Sheills (with baby) talks to Edward Jameson whilst W. Caughey crosses the road to talk to W. Brown and James Caughey, Saddler.



10. – ‘Ponteland 666’

A postcard showing Main Street viewed from the Western end of the river bridge c.1907 when the road had been resurfaced. Lambton’s Bank is on the left of the picture and the low fence on the right surrounds a small group of trees in front of The Institute.



Entrance

Ground Floor Plan



11. – Untitled, but evidently a tinted (and cropped) postcard of Ponteland Church. In 1267-68 the Lord of the Manor, Peter de Montford, joined a rebellion against King Henry III. He lost, and was obliged to give all his rights and property, including tithes and the appointment of the vicar, to Merton College, Oxford, which had just been founded. The connection still stands today; look for the name 'Merton' in Ponteland.

Built in the late 18th century, The Badger has served a number of purposes before welcoming the locals of the hamlet of Street Houses. Originally a gentleman's residence the pub was later split into three houses, which were occupied through the years by a succession of farmers, yeomen and a cattle dealer, before eventually becoming The Badger. The themed interior was provided with a large number of framed pictures, and no less than 26 of these comprised historic photographs of Ponteland. Most were derived from postcards; this booklet lists them and provides some background to the scenes illustrated.

The heyday of the picture postcard dates from 1902 when the Post Office first permitted the use of a "divided back" so that the entire front could be used for a picture. With the availability of a fast and frequent postal service, and before the universal availability of the telephone, postcards quickly became a popular means of communication. In 1902 it only cost one (old) halfpenny to send a postcard inland and one penny for overseas, but in 1918 the postal rates were doubled – which perhaps put a slight damper on the postcard boom. In the year 1908/09 alone no fewer than 860 million cards passed through the post with the numbers rising.

Prior to 1902 a few local photographs had been taken by enthusiastic amateurs such as the *Reverend Langton*, Vicar of Ponteland from 1895 until 1934, but professionals such as *Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd.* and *F. Frith & Co., Ltd. Reigate* operated at a national level and produced a few postcards of Ponteland to augment those of local photographers. It was somewhat of a free-for-all; sometimes older postcards are found with no photographer or publisher credited, whilst some producers evidently issued postcards using other peoples' photographs under their own name.

Postcards of Ponteland were published by residents *M. E. & F. Jameson, Ponteland*, and *A. A. Shiells, Post Office, Ponteland*, whilst a dozen or more firms from Newcastle, Tynemouth and Morpeth provided many more. It must be said that the quality of the work from all these sources was inevitably somewhat variable.

Up to about 1930 *Matthew Auty of Tynemouth* processed postcards for a whole host of publishers in greater Tyneside using the collotype process. Whilst the quality of collotypes could be excellent, they depended not only on the age of the plate but also the care with which the ink was applied. Several of the framed pictures in The Badger are derived from collotype reproductions and a few of them are less than perfect.

Many old postcards were re-issued more than once – perhaps with alternative titles, possibly in tinted versions, and sometimes in an improved quality. Wherever a better quality image than in the framed versions was available, then that has been shown in this Note. Wherever the framed picture proved to be a cropped image of an original, then the full version has been included here where possible, being of greater historical interest.

The copyright of an image expires 70 years after the death of its creator, which will certainly apply to most of the works in the Badger collection. They are all, in a sense, the inheritance of the residents of Ponteland



12. – Untitled, but a postcard of children at the ‘Ponteland Cottage Homes’ c.1930 looking east. The Cottage Homes were on the site of the former Police Headquarters, and were part of a nation-wide scheme c.1904 to provide homes for orphaned or destitute children. Some 60% of the original buildings still survive and are Grade II Listed.



13. – Untitled, but a photograph of ‘Ponteland Motor Car Garage’ c.1920. Note the RAC patrolman offering his usual salute under the RAC sign. The Garage was operated by one of the Jameson family, who is thought to have lived in the house next door. The Ford Model T seems to be decorated for a wedding.



14. – ‘Ponteland Cricket Team c. 1905’
A posed, but amateur, photograph of the team when not in playing gear. The small boy at the front could be related to the batsman behind him, but the individuals behind the back row are simply getting their faces into the picture.



15. – ‘River in Flood Ponteland c. 1903’
An amateur photograph of the 1903 floods – very possibly taken by the Vicar, the Rev. Langton who took a well-known series of photographs of these floods as well as those of 1900. Ponteland has always been subject to floods but it is hoped that by now the danger has been minimised .



16. – ‘Bridge End & Smithy, Ponteland’. A nicely hand-tinted postcard subsequently re-issued as: ‘The Smithy, Ponteland’ shown here. Since the Diamond Inn has all the 2nd-floor gables completed, the picture must date from about 1910 but before the old bridge was replaced by the present one in 1925.



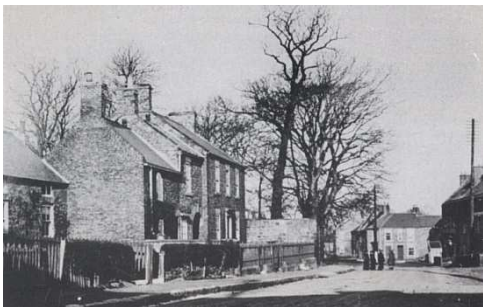
17. – ‘Ponteland Village’

A picture taken from a cropped original postcard numbered 8705 and dated c.1939. It shows the view from the village along West Road towards Belsay; the child with the pram is outside what became Snaith’s butchers and Smith’s Dairy Café (popular with cyclists) can just be made out between the two cars.



18. – Untitled (Smithy Scene).

An early photograph showing the smith and his assistant working on a horse-drawn harrow. From the view of the Diamond side wall in the background, it is clear that the additional storey had not yet been added to that building, which would date this photograph to before c.1900 – and possibly taken by the Reverend Langton?



19. – ‘Ponteland before 1907 when tarmac was laid.’ Almost certainly a postcard, but without any attribution on the face. This scene belongs to the period when the Seven Stars boasted an adjacent Tea Room (with the white entrance). The largest house on the left hand side is “Neasham House” otherwise known as “The Doctor’s House.”



20. – Untitled (Ponteland Bridge c.1926)

This postcard shows the widened bridge which replaced the old bridge in 1925. As well as removing a bottleneck on one of the routes to Scotland, it may have been hoped that the triple-span structure would provide easier flow and so reduce the chances of the river flooding.



21. – ‘Bridge & Church, Ponteland (668)

A “sepia” postcard, c.1905, later re-issued in black & white with a printed title instead of the hand-written one seen here. The butcher’s house is on the extreme left with the killing-house to the right of it, and the 1874 school and church in the backg



22. – ‘Penny Day at the Rectory’

In olden times at the Annual Tithe Dinner instituted by Merton College, pennies were distributed to the poor outside the Old Rectory. Latterly, it was the children who lined up to receive their pennies; this old local tradition only died out in 1915.



23. – Untitled (Cavalry Drill c. WW1)

It is not known when or exactly where this local gathering of Cavalry Troops was photographed, but it would either be associated with the First World War or a conflict in the previous 30 years. Prior to that, the lack of dry-plate or film negative material would have made it virtually impossible to record open-air events of this nature.



24. – Untitled (Flood Scene c.1980)

This photograph was taken when the River Pont overflowed and left Main Street several inches deep for most of one day. At this date, the ground floor of the former Albion Temperance Hotel had become a small supermarket; in the 1920s it had been the office of the Ponteland Motor Garage and in the early 2000s it became a betting-shop.



25. – ‘Main Street, Ponteland 1920’

Taken from outside the workshop of the Ponteland Motor Car Co., this postcard illustrates the relatively unchanged appearance of Main Street looking east, shortly after the First World War. The house with the gable-end windows was later demolished in the 1960s to make room for the rebuilt Lloyds Bank.



26. – ‘Ponteland’ (Main St. c.1930)

In this photograph, provisions are still being delivered to the Seven Stars by horse-drawn van; the offices of the Ponteland Motor Car Co., are located in part of the former Albion Temperance Hotel; and Miss Kirkup, the chemist who occupied the rest of the ground floor, gets into her open-topped Morris.

NOTE THIS PICTURE IS NOT CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY

Booklet produced with contributions from Ponteland Civic Society, The Badger and CSM+Architects LLP