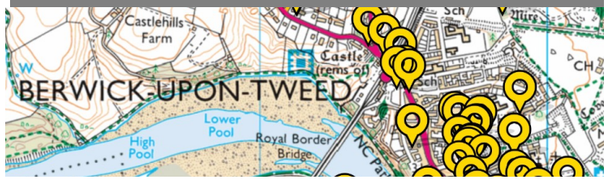
Hospital News

Information from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust:
The Minor Injuries Units (MIU) at Berwick and Alnwick Infirmaries are to be redesignated as Urgent Treatment Centres (UTC) from Tuesday, 1 April, 2025.
This is part of a national directive from NHS England to introduce more UTCs across the country and standardise where people access care. The MIUs in Berwick and Alnwick already offer services similar to other UTCs in North Tyneside and Northumberland, and treat patients with minor injuries, illnesses and infections. There are radiology services (x-rays) located on both of the sites. The benefit for patients going forward is they will be able to book a planned appointment to be seen at Berwick and Alnwick urgent treatment centres, via NHS 111. This means that patients can attend a pre-arranged appointment which is more convenient and will mean people don't have to wait very long to be seen. A walk-in service will still be available and the opening hours will currently remain the same on each site. This change will also help simplify where patients should access care. More info on the Trust website.

Get a copy of our e-newsletter regularly by joining our mailing list. Simply email info@berwick-tc.gov.uk and ask to be added. The newsletter will arrive into your inbox **every 4-6 weeks.**

Fix My Street



If you have a pothole, or other problem on your street that needs to be sorted, you can report it quickly and easily at www.fixmystreet.com. This is a site for reporting local problems like fly-tipping, blocked drains, broken paving slabs, graffiti, etc. and you receive updates when repairs take place. It shows reports that have already been created, plus any planned roadworks, which saves time and avoids multiple reporting. Fix My Street works on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers and is monitored by the local town and county councils.

BRIDGE STREET
SHOPS RESTAURANTS CAFÉS BARS GALLERIES

The Old Bridge may be closed but Bridge Street is still open for business!

And on the other side of the Old Bridge, Main Street in Tweedmouth is also trading as usual!

MAIN STREET
TWEEDMOUTH
SHOPS GALLERY FLORIST CAFÉ SALONS HOT FOOD

Annual Town Meeting of Electors
29th May at 6pm
(Details to be confirmed)

Berwick Arts Choir presents:

Saturday April 12th 2025
Berwick Parish Church
7:00 pm
Including works by Mozart and Haydn
Directed by Marion Scammell
with
Berwick Arts Orchestra
Tickets: £10 (under 18s free)
www.ticketsource.co.uk, at the door,
or Grieves Stationers, Church Street, Berwick
www.berwickartschoir.co.uk
Supported by Berwick Town Council
Berwick Arts Choir - over 75 years of choral singing in the Borders

Photography Exhibition celebrating our beautiful region

Please visit the exhibition inside the council office

Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Camera Club
in collaboration with
Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council

Contact the Town Council

You can email us at info@berwick-tc.gov.uk or telephone us on 01289 302391. Website: www.berwick-tc.gov.uk Or you can pop into our office on Marygate. Our current opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10-12pm & 2-4pm

Contact Northumberland County Council (NCC)

If you have a question about NCC services you can speak to someone in person in the Library on Walkergate on Tuesday and Friday 10-1pm or telephone NCC on 0345 600 6400
Website: www.northumberland.gov.uk

FREE

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council
NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Message from Chief Officer

As Berwick-upon-Tweed prepares for local and county elections in May 2025, residents will have the opportunity to elect representatives who will shape the future of our town. Local democracy is at the heart of making Berwick a thriving, vibrant community, and we encourage everyone to engage in the upcoming elections.
The Town Council wishes to provide clarity on this year's precept. For a Band D property, the precept is now £109.54 per year, representing a 5% increase from the previous year. In real terms, this increase equates to just £5.22 more per year, or around 10 pence per week—an investment aimed at enhancing services and community initiatives throughout Berwick.

The precept will support essential services, including maintenance of town assets, upkeep of play areas, and contributing towards the general cleansing and maintenance of the town. Most excitingly, it will also fund the creation of a new play area, scheduled to be completed over the coming months. This facility is designed to provide a safe, accessible, and enjoyable space for families across the town.
Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council remains committed to improving the quality of life for all residents. As we look ahead to the elections, we are eager to continue working alongside the community to deliver real, positive change. For more information about the elections or the Council's projects, please contact the Council office.

Iain McCready

Riding of the Bounds on 3 May

The Riding of the Bounds, supported by the Town Council, is a hugely popular and long-standing annual tradition here, dating back over 400 years (416th time this year!) and refers to the Bounds of the Liberties of Berwick-upon-Tweed, the land between the present-day Border and the River Tweed. These land divisions were first regularly inspected by the town's garrison, but in 1609 the first civic "Riding of the Bounds" began and many of the customs from the early days are still observed, including the decorating of the horses with ribbons and a race at Canty's Bridge.
The 15 mile ride attracts many riders, and is attended by thousands of spectators every year. It is organised by the Berwick Riders Association who fundraise every year to make this event happen and it is supported by many local groups and businesses - do come and support them on Saturday 3rd May. For more details see their Facebook page .

Upcoming Events

3rd May Riding of the Bounds

8th May VE Day (80th Anniversary)

19 May Annual Meeting of Council & Election of Mayor

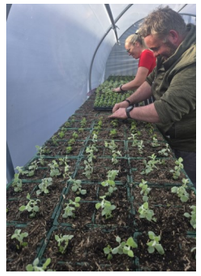
29th May Annual Town Meeting of Electors

10th June Coldstream Guards visit and Parade

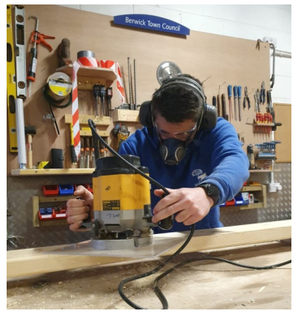
Event details to come in due course

Local Services Update

As we head into spring our wardens have turned their focus onto plant preparation. Along with weeding and watering, the team have been building some portable staging units for our polytunnels. These will create better and bigger growing spaces for our flowers which we look forward to planting out around our town.

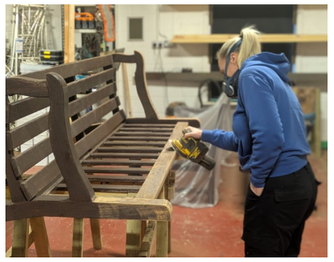


The grass has started to spring up so our lawnmowers have been out doing their thing in all playparks for the first time in 2025. Ongoing maintenance is being given to the timber structured play equipment in Flagstaff play park, including a new coat of wood stain. This will extend the longevity of the equipment and makes it more pleasing on the eye, which I'm sure you will agree it most definitely does.



With the increased sunshine and warmer temperatures, we are finding our large feathered friends are paying more visits to our high street! So we have had the pressure washing system checked and our warden team have started early this year assisting Northumberland County Council (NCC) with the cleaning of Marygate. We will continue throughout the summer helping NCC where we can by cleaning the pavements surrounding Berwick Town Council bins and benches.
Some great work has been done giving the bench on top of Megs Mount a revamp and paint - it is now ready to be used to take in the views of our beautiful town - see pictures below.

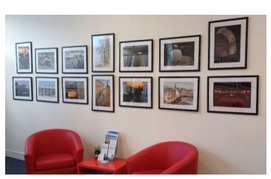
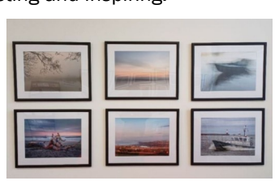
The two large bins that were previously outside Greggs on Marygate have now been repaired, smartened up and relocated to sites that have regular problems with too much rubbish - Queen's Gardens Tweedmouth and outside Berwick Haven Holiday Park. Hopefully this will help to reduce the overflow when footfall rises over the coming months.



Sadly, we received rather annoying news that a newly located bin with paving slab still attached (!) along Springhill Loaning had made its way over the wall into a local farmers field after only being in place a week! This caused disruption for both our Local Services Team and the farmer involved. If you see anyone purposely damaging or defacing bins please report this to the office. Remember they may not look pretty but bins serve a very important purpose for our community - some are hard to locate and difficult to fix when broken and cost more than you might expect.

Exhibition at Council Office

Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Camera Club, with Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council, present a refreshed Photography Exhibition. The exhibition, at the Town Council's Marygate walk-in office in the heart of Berwick, has been on view to the public since last May and will continue for a further two years. The exhibition has been funded by the Town Council, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to use the space, bringing the art of photography to a wider audience.
We have just changed all the images of Berwick to also include places and wildlife from further afield in our beautiful North East. We are proud to exhibit a wide variety of photographs taken by our members.
This exhibition is free to enjoy and we hope that residents and visitors will find it interesting and inspiring.

Opening hours are those of the Council's office: Tuesday – Thursday, 10am-12pm & 2-4pm If you are interested in learning more about our club, please visit:
www.berwickcameraclub.co.uk
(office may shut at short notice for meetings)

Town Council Grant News

As we mentioned last month, we have a grant scheme which supports local initiatives! See our website for details of how to apply. We will be regularly sharing successful applications here so we can spread some good news about local events. Last month we awarded 4 grants to a variety of causes, please see details below....

Grant to Tweed Striders

The Tweed Striders provide an inclusive, supportive and sociable running club in the local area. They provide training for all abilities, delivered by qualified and experienced coaches and leaders. They organise the annual Curfew Fun Run and Traditional Curfew Run in July and also host one leg of the eight leg borders cross-country series at Spittal beach. The Curfew Run is a popular event of the town, taking place on the Town Walls for the past 25 years and is linked to the history of the town to coincide with the ringing of the curfew bell at 8pm. The Tweed Striders applied for a grant to help with traffic management and publicity costs - this will help to keep entry fees for the Curfew run at an affordable level for participants in the local area, encouraging more people to take part in the event. More info on their Facebook page.

Grant to Berwick Arts Choir

Berwick Arts Choir, currently in its 77th year of operation, is one of the foremost amateur choirs in the area and its two concerts each year provide a rare opportunity to hear large scale classical music live in Berwick. The costs of the weekly rehearsals are met from the subscriptions of the choir's 40-50 members who are a range of ages from cross North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. The Christmas Concert aims to break even from ticket sales, but the Spring Concert on 12th April has higher costs so outside sponsorship was sought this year to enable the choir to engage professional soloists and a professional organ accompanist.
More on choir at www.berwickartschoir.co.uk

Grant to BFMAF

The Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival was created by local artists in 2005 and is now in its 20th year. Their main activity is an annual film festival, creating meeting points and conversations between people in North Northumberland and international artists and filmmakers.
Last years festival had 6,463 admissions across 28 cinema screenings, 5 exhibitions and numerous events around the town in heritage and civic sites. Filmmakers from 34 countries were included in the programme and 27 of them presented their work at the festival. 18 of the 48 films shown were World Premieres.

In addition, it provides opportunities for people in Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth to make and programme films themselves, dive deeper into local heritage and geographies through archival programmes, and gain new skills through educational and professional opportunities. More info at www.bfmaf.org

Grant to Hilda House

The Hilda House Community is an open, inclusive, educational community of volunteers, working towards combating misogyny and patriarchal injustices in the churches and other institutions and society generally.
The grant went towards their event 'A Local Celebration for International Women's Day' on March 8th at Spittal Community Centre - a celebration of difference and unity, of justice and equality, beauty and creativity.

Report from event:
'Hilda House Community' in Spittal was pleased to gather together 50 people on the 8th March to celebrate 'International Women's Day'. The global theme was #Accelerate action towards equality for women. "What a lovely, heart-warming, emotionally charged and important morning it was!" wrote one participant, following a time of listening to women speaking to the countries they were representing, including Ukraine, Uganda, USA, South Africa. Fair Trade, local business, local gardening group, local crafts stall, and other organisations represented alongside a Girl's Band, led by Darcy Martin, the Salmon Queen, who, with her attendant Jessie O'Mara, opened the event. "I'm looking forward to next year's event already." wrote another visitor.