



## Staying Positive About Berwick

In recent months, there's been a noticeable increase in negative stories and social media commentary about Berwick. While discussion and differing opinions are a healthy part of community life, it can sometimes feel as though the more positive developments in our town get overshadowed by the louder voices of criticism. Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council believes our residents deserve a balanced picture — one that recognises the many good things happening across our community, as well as the challenges. Constructive debate is always welcome, but when facts are lost among speculation, it risks discouraging those who work hard every day to make Berwick a better place.

The Town Council remains focused on positive action: improving our market, supporting community events, maintaining public spaces, and working with volunteers and local groups who freely give their time and energy for the benefit of others. These are the stories that matter — people planting flowers, supporting Remembrance, helping neighbours, and taking pride in their town.



We encourage residents to seek out accurate information from verified and responsible local media sources, rather than relying on speculation or online comment. If anyone has a question about what's happening in Berwick, we're always happy to explain — openness and transparency are central to our approach.

Berwick is full of community-minded people who care deeply about where they live, and we are proud to work alongside them. From community and volunteer groups to visitor centres, Northumberland County Council, and local organisations of all kinds, so many people are contributing to the town's success. By focusing on what unites us, and keeping perspective even when debate becomes lively, we can continue moving forward together with optimism and respect.

## Christmas Lights

The festive season is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to adding some magic to our streets. Each year, we co-operate with the Rotary Club on Town Centre decorations. They support the lights on the New Bridge and provide the Christmas Tree in the town centre and our stock of lights decorate Marygate and Castlegate, Hide Hill and side streets. Our wardens have been prepping the Christmas lights ready for installation by Steven Monks and his team very soon.

## Blessing of the Christmas Lights

On the 28th November, we are hosting the Blessing of the Christmas Lights event at the Town Hall - there will be carol singing, a lantern parade, festive charity stalls and an appearance from Spittal Variety Group. There will also be late night shopping, so please come along to support our local businesses! Further timings and details to follow on social media and press and posters.



Get a copy of our e-newsletter regularly by joining our mailing list. Simply email [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk) and ask to be added. The newsletter will arrive into your inbox every 6 weeks or so, dependent on events.

## Contact the Town Council

You can email us at [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk) or telephone us on 01289 302391.

Website: [www.berwick-tc.gov.uk](http://www.berwick-tc.gov.uk) Or you can pop into our office on Marygate. Our current opening hours are Monday 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](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



**FREE**  
**Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council**

# NEWSLETTER

**November 2025**

## Mayor's Update

As we move into the final months of the year, it's a good moment to reflect on everything that's been happening across our town. There's been real energy, teamwork, and creativity — from volunteers and community groups to Council staff — all helping to make Berwick a better and brighter place. Thank you to all who participated and attended the Remembrance Day events on Sunday the 9th November—column and further pictures inside.



## Our Market – A Fresh Start

One of the biggest developments this year has been the Town Council taking on responsibility for Berwick Market, which takes place every Wednesday and Saturday. This is a welcome opportunity to refresh and revitalise a much-loved part of the town's heritage. We recognise that the market hasn't always reached its full potential in recent years, and we're keen to change that. Our goal is to attract a wider range of quality stalls, bring in more local traders, and make the market a space that both residents and visitors look forward to each week. By supporting local producers, craftspeople, and small businesses, we aim to restore the vibrancy and variety that Berwick's market was known for.

## Small Improvements, Big Impact

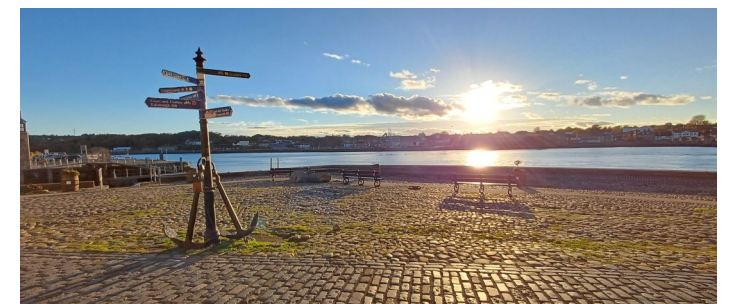
Across the town, we continue to see small but important improvements: benches repaired, bins replaced, and play areas maintained. These everyday details all contribute to making Berwick a cleaner, safer, and more attractive place to live and visit.

## Planting Success and Looking Ahead

Following the wonderful summer displays, our Local Services team have now completed the planting of winter–spring bedding across the town. These displays are for everyone to enjoy, and while it's lovely that residents appreciate them, we would kindly ask that people don't remove the plants from public planters — it's always nicest when the whole community can share in the results. Sincere thanks go to the outside team, volunteers, and community partners who make these displays possible. Planning is already underway for next year's schemes, and we hope to build on this success — possibly taking the first steps towards a Berwick in Bloom initiative.

## Looking Forward

The coming months promise to be busy, with preparations already underway for the Christmas lights and for next year's Tweed Salmon Queen celebrations – the 80th year. As Mayor, I want to thank everyone — councillors, officers, community groups, and residents, who continue to give their time and energy to the town.



Of course, the year ahead will also bring some important and sometimes difficult decisions. There's no “magic money tree”, and if we want Berwick to keep moving forward — investing in our parks, market, and community spaces — we'll need to have an open and honest conversation about funding and what that means for next year's budget and precept. These choices aren't easy, but they're part of building a sustainable future for our town. Together, we're rebuilding Berwick's confidence — a community that celebrates its history, takes pride in its spaces, and looks ahead with optimism. With best wishes,  
Cllr John Robertson—Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed



# Bus Stop Vinyls

As you may have seen, there are some new images on show in the town! Earlier in the year we asked Visit Berwick if they could help us to make our bus shelters look better and more welcoming. We have shamelessly adapted their Facebook update on this below (with their permission!) as we felt it said all the good things.



‘During Spring, we were approached by Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council (who commissioned and organised this project) to help improve the visual appeal of the town's bus shelters. Both Visit Berwick and the Town Council decided the best way to do this was by using imagery taken by local photographers to portray the community, heritage and beauty of Berwick-Upon-Tweed in a photographic series. Things like selecting the right locations to ensure each vinyl blended with its surroundings, or making sure the event in the photo took place near the bus shelter's location, were just some of the factors we had to consider. While installs are still ongoing, word has started to spread about the bus shelters makeover... So, we thought we'd share the photography being displayed along Berwick's main thoroughfare for your perusal. Thank you to the generous photographers who have supplied their images for use. Finally, thank you to Fantasy Prints's superb signage team, Stuart and Robert, for their flawless installation on the first vinyls.'



You can find the credits for each individual photographer on the Visit Berwick website post from 17th October. If you would like to enquire about their images, please message the Visit Berwick page or email on [visitberwickupontweed@gmail.com](mailto:visitberwickupontweed@gmail.com)

# Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday, the 9th of November, we once again came together to honour those who served and sacrificed to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. Thank you to all who attended the service, parade and wreath laying ceremonies. It is always a big event in the Council calendar involving many different groups and a lot of organisation—it was lovely to see such a large turn out from residents and visitors.



We have been working closely with the Royal British Legion and many local groups to ensure the commemorations are as meaningful and inclusive as ever—a big thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation and preparations. We were delighted to provide a purple wreath for the Berwick Riders Association – this represents the countless animals that have served and sacrificed in wartime.



This year has been a busy one for the various military groups and associations with the visit from the Coldstream Guards in June and the events commemorating the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ day. We are very proud to have been able to work with so many well respected and committed groups to make these events so special.



Photos courtesy of Cameron Robertson & Berwick Riders Association

# Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Monday 24th November:** Full Council
- Friday 28th November:** Blessing of the Christmas Lights
- Thursday 4th December:** Planning Committee
- Meetings are at our Office on Marygate at 6pm.
- Meetings are open to the public, please come along.

# Tweed Salmon Queen

We thought it would be nice to give you an update on our 2025 Salmon Queen! Kate Nicholl and her court have been very busy since her crowning in July, presenting Tweedmouth Bowling Club winner with their trophy, attending the Tweedmouth feast service in Tweedmouth Parish Church and appearing at the Lifeboat Fete in August.



In October Kate and some of her attendants had a stall at the Brownie coffee morning in the Town Hall, raising an £80 towards her charity. Our Salmon Queen is a very keen boxer and was recently in the ring at Eyemouth. When her opponent pulled out at the last minute, Kate's good friend, Scottish and British Champion Rosie Swailles of Hawick Boxing Club stepped in to do an Exhibition, allowing Kate to walk out for her club Chirnside ABC. The club kindly agreed to the proceeds of a game of heads and tails at the interval to go to Kate's chosen charity. £200 was raised on the day - so far she has raised nearly £400 for the Melanoma Me Foundation - well done Kate!



As you will have seen, October brought the arrival of our new bus shelter vinyls. Kate has told us how thrilled and honoured she is to have her picture on one of the Tweedmouth shelters – we love the picture of her and her court next to it! On Remembrance Sunday she laid a wreath at Tweedmouth Memorial supported by her attendants – thank you all for taking part. We look forward to seeing what Kate and her attendants get up to over the next year. Of course, 2026 brings us the 80th anniversary of this tradition - watch this space for news of the celebrations. If you have been a Salmon Queen in the past, do get in touch as we would love for you to be involved. If you would like to see more updates on Kate and her court or how to donate to her chosen charity, please follow on her Facebook page, Tweedmouth Salmon Queen 2025



# Local Services Update

After the success of the summer planting displays and hanging baskets, the wardens have been busy planning next year. The winter pansies, grown on in our polytunnels, are now on display in our planters and Council-maintained open spaces are being refreshed with more pansies, Bellis, and primulas, alongside hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils that will bring colour in the months ahead. The team prepared and spruced up areas around the War Memorials for Remembrance Day which included the planting of some beautiful red and white cyclamen. As usual they have fitted this work into their busy schedule of regular playpark checks, maintenance, mowing and a deep clean of the splash park.



As the weather cools and less work is needed on gardening, there will be more work undertaken inside at the depot so bench repairs and maintenance are on the agenda along with deep cleaning of hanging baskets ready for next year. There's been some low grade graffiti on bins in town which is annoying but the wardens have taken it on their stride and dealt with it. It has been an extremely busy year with events for the Town Council and the wardens have been vital in helping to get venues ready and assisting on the day, we couldn't have done it without them—thank you!

# Celebrating Local Achievements

It's been fantastic to see Berwick represented at the North East Bangladeshi Awards this year. Congratulations go to our very own Councillor, Aydin Khan, who received a special Recognition award as the first Bangladeshi female councillor in the Berwick-upon-Tweed area and Amrans who won Northumberland Restaurant of the Year! We're equally proud of the team at Magna Tandoori, who were recently named Best Indian Restaurant in Northumberland at the Prestige Curry Awards — a well-deserved success for one of Berwick's best-loved local businesses.