

# The Bulletin

## Welcome!



Welcome to the 2nd edition of The Bulletin where we highlight the work the Town Council is doing around the Town as well as reporting on our events and community initiatives.

We have made it through some challenging weather in the past months but we are now in April and we look forward to sunnier days and a varied and inspiring programme of events for the town. Over the past year, the Town Council has continued to support local events, look after our public spaces, and speaking up for the town. It has been a privilege to represent the town over the past three years and in my final mayoral month I would like to thank my fellow

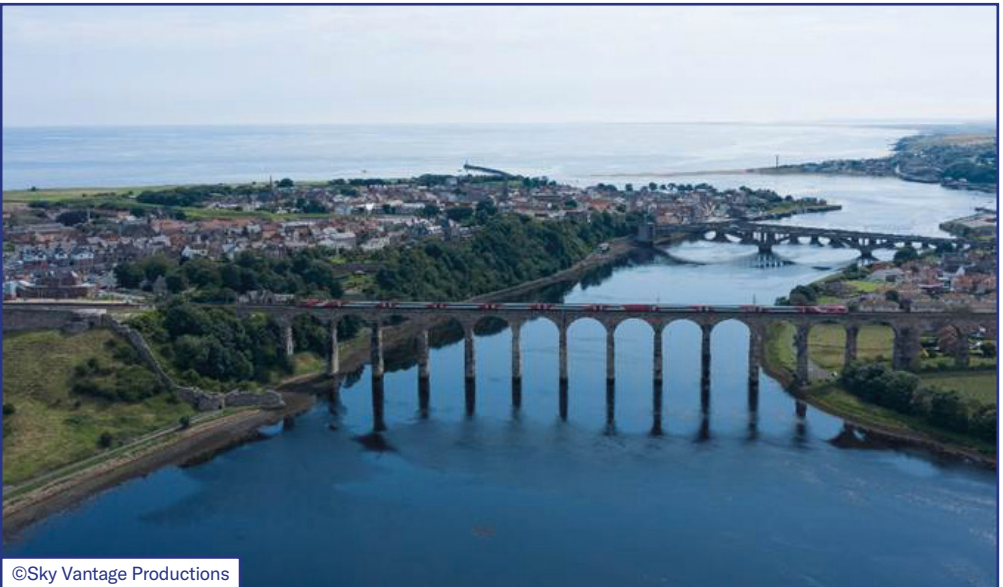
councillors, council officers, and everyone who gives their time to help our community. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

This year is shaping up to be an exciting and varied time with a mixture of old traditions and new cultural offerings including the 80th anniversary of the Salmon Queen and I hope we can keep working together to support one another and build on what we have already achieved. You will have seen that Berwick is applying for Town of Culture this year, many thanks to those who responded to the survey, fingers crossed!

I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

***Councillor John Robertson,  
Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed***

**If you'd like to contribute an article or advertise in a future edition, please contact [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk).**



## Local Services Update

After the challenging weather of the past few months, our wardens have been pleased to get back outside and start preparing for the seasons ahead. It has been lovely to see daffodil, tulip and hyacinth bulbs beginning to emerge, bringing a welcome splash of colour after winter.

The team has also been hard at work across the town. Benches, including those on the quayside, have been receiving attention, and there is now a smart new bus stop at the Ramparts. On Palace Green, near the Scout Hut, the wardens have been busy removing ivy from railings, cutting back low-hanging branches and clearing debris, helping to tidy and improve the area. They have also begun working alongside Greener Berwick Gardening Group and Berwick Community Trust to improve the bed by the William Elder Building.

Following the recent storms, a huge amount of sand was left along Spittal Promenade, creating a major clean-up operation for Northumberland County Council. Sand also found its way into the play park and splash park, and we were delighted when Berwick Rangers

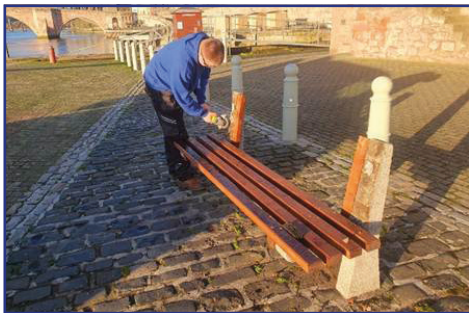
Juniors offered to lend a hand. Their support was greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful for all their hard work in helping to clear the area.

We are also pleased to have partnered with Northumberland College to provide practical experience for Level 1 students on the Construction Trades: Multi Skills course. The students have been building polytunnels for us, which will help us grow plants for displays around the town in the months ahead.

It promises to be a busy year for the wardens, with their usual work maintaining benches, play parks and planted areas, as well as their invaluable help in setting up local events. We are also entering Northumbria in Bloom this year, so residents can expect to see plenty of activity as planters and hanging baskets begin to appear across Berwick. We look forward to sharing more about that in the next edition.

## Good News from Cancer Cars!

The Berwick and District Cancer Support Group were winners in the Best of Northumberland awards in the Community Organisation section. They are very proud to be the recipients of this award which is testament to the commitment of their volunteers helping people living with cancer in Berwick and district. Well done to all involved! For over 30 years, the team have proudly assisted those battling cancer in the Berwick area. The charity is entirely run by volunteers and is funded by the efforts of the local community and in June 2022 they were honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary organisations.



## Jubilee Lamp



You may have seen that a lamp has appeared in the Queen's Gardens in Tweedmouth. Back in 2012 Berwick-upon-Tweed joined the rest of the nation in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Just before Christmas that year we welcomed Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland in her role as Lord Lieutenant, to mark the installation of a commemorative Jubilee lamp in Marygate as part of the Christmas lights switch on. It was decided that as part of the plans to streamline Marygate, the lamp should move and it is now in a beautiful position on the banks of the Tweed where we hold the Salmon Queen crowning.

## Grant Applications

Please don't forget that we have a grant scheme which supports local initiatives.

Let us know what you are planning and we may be able to help you! There are now two windows for funding each year, June and December. We have a form you can complete online or print but if you are unsure about what you can ask for, give us a ring on 01289 302391 or visit us in the Marygate office. We welcome projects that promote the economic growth of the area, encourage people to visit and help to maintain the environment. To apply you need to be an independent organisation based here or active in the local area. You can apply for up to £2500 towards the cost of your project.

There are a few more do's and don'ts, the full guidelines and form are available on our website. We look forward to hearing from you:

[www.berwick-tc.gov.uk/grant-schemes](http://www.berwick-tc.gov.uk/grant-schemes)

## 2026 Floral Display Sponsorship

### Principal Sponsor

On all Plaques and Sponsor / Memorial Board and Town Council Window / Website  
£5000

### Plaque & Sponsor/Memorial Board

- Three Tier Planter £200
- Tree Planter £150
- Two Tier Planter £175
- Single Tier Planter £150
- Small/Low Planter/Barrel £100
- Wheelbarrow £75
- Welcome to Berwick Signs £100
- Railing Planter £75
- Hanging basket (sponsor / memorial board only) £40



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DATES AND TIMES



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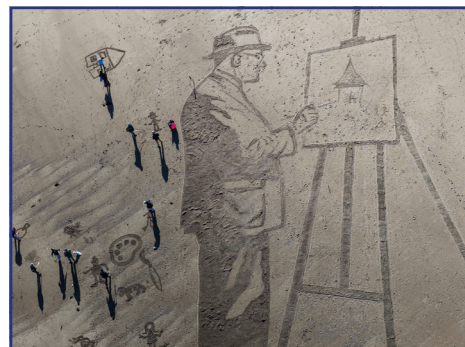
Parade, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1DF  
Open 45 minutes before the start of an event.  
Access via Barracks main gate. Car parking on Parade.  
(Ravensdowne entrance for accessible parking/drop-off only)



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## Berwick Barracks



Around 2,000 visitors came to see the *Lowry in Berwick* exhibition at The Storehouse. It's been wonderful to hear your feedback and to welcome so many people back into the Barracks. And a huge thank you as well to everyone who joined us on Spittal Beach on 22 February to create the giant Lowry in the sand - it was a fantastic day.



'Portrait of a Town' is the next exhibition at The Storehouse in the Barracks. This exhibition presents a selection of photographs from the 1950s to the 1970s, offering a fascinating glimpse into Berwick's past. All photographs courtesy of Berwick Record Office. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-4pm, 2 April - 2 June. Free entry.

## The Maltings - Granary Gallery

John Timberlake: *Berwick Sequence* runs until the 24 May, Wednesday - Sunday and then in June, the Maltings presents a major exhibition of work by celebrated British artist Joan Eardley.

Known for her powerful paintings of Glasgow street children and dramatic Scottish landscapes, Eardley's work captures both humanity and place with striking honesty.

Tickets go on general sale in April.

## Old Brewery Update

Building continues at pace on the Old Brewery in Tweedmouth thanks to Mattwood Developments.

We are very excited to announce that we will soon be advertising for a part time person to support the running of the new centre when it is up and running, so look out for announcements on Berwick Community Trust's social media.

## Abseiling Fundraiser

Greystones Activities have organised an abseiling fundraiser on the 10th and 11th of April with proceeds being split between Berwick Community Trust and the RNLI.

The abseil is off the old Tweedmouth Bridge. If you fancy a go, email: greystonesactivities@gmail.com

## Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Plan



**Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and we want to hear your views.**

A neighbourhood plan allows local communities to help shape planning policies for their area. Once adopted, it becomes part of the statutory planning framework (alongside the Northumberland Local Plan) and will help guide decisions on planning applications in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal in the years ahead.

Before preparing a draft of the neighbourhood plan, we need feedback from residents, businesses, community organisations and stakeholders on the key issues the plan should address.

A consultation document has been prepared, this sets out some of the main topics that the plan could cover – such as the town centre, design of new development, protection of green spaces, heritage, community facilities and transport connections.

Earlier work on a neighbourhood plan began in 2016 but was paused during the pandemic. The Town Council has now restarted the process, building on the earlier work while recognising that the town's priorities and circumstances may have changed.

**We would like to know:**

- Whether we have identified the right planning issues for the town

- Whether there are other matters the plan should address
- Which places, buildings and green spaces are most important to the community

Your feedback will help the Town Council decide the scope and priorities of the neighbourhood plan before a full draft plan is prepared.

**How to take part:**

The consultation document and questionnaire are available:

- Online on the Town Council website <https://www.berwick-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan> or use the QR code in this article.
- In hard copy at the Town Council offices, Berwick Community Trust, Spittal Community Centre.
- If you would like the information on email – contact us at [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk)

Comments can also be emailed to [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk) or made in writing to Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council, Unit 1, 82–88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1BN

**We need your comments by the end of April**

Public drop-in sessions will be held in mid-April where you can find out more about the plan and speak to members of the Steering Group. Details will be

advertised on the Town Council website, social media and local noticeboards.

**What happens next?**

Once the consultation closes, all responses will be reviewed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and used to inform the preparation of a draft neighbourhood plan. This will be published for further public consultation before being submitted to Northumberland County Council for independent examination and a local referendum.

## A Chat with Father Lee

**What attracted you to apply to be the Vicar of Berwick?**

It might surprise you that like any other job there is an advert and a job application pack for Vicars' jobs! What caught my attention was the uniqueness of Berwick, not just the church building but the town itself; the spiritual heritage of the northern saints here in Northumberland; and the appetite to change to ensure that everyone who lives in the parish knows that they are welcome in Berwick Parish church.

**On your arrival, what were your first impressions of the town?**

It was definitely a huge change from East London, but in a good way. People said hello on the streets; everyone was very welcoming and genuinely interested in how we were settling in.

**Berwick Parish Church is much involved in the civic life of the whole town. How did that impact your first year?**

Well, I don't think I stood still for the first three months. All the special services, VE Day, Holy Trinity School anniversary,

Coldstream Guards anniversary, Riding of the Bounds, gave me a chance to get to know the community, and, hopefully, a chance for the community to get to know me. I passionately believe that I'm the Vicar not just for the church but for the whole parish. My first year has given me plenty of opportunities to get that message across and get my face known.

**The parish (covering the town north of the Tweed) contains two church primary schools. How involved are you with them?**

I inherited a good relationship with both of our schools, and I've been really thrilled to build on that. This year has been tough with the transition from three tier to two tier, and building work - which as we all know rarely goes to plan! I'm in Holy Trinity almost every week, and looking forward to getting into St Mary's more. We've welcomed both schools into church for special services; you may have heard rumours of a giant orange!

**Have there been any surprises?**

Winter... other than how many layers of clothes are adequate, the biggest surprise has probably been the cultural life in the town; we have more on our doorstep here than we ever did in East London. And we've both been surprised by how welcoming and inclusive Berwick has been.

We want to ensure that everyone knows they are welcome - to be a church beyond our gates and a church beyond the walls.



# What's On

## 2 April – 2 June

Portrait of a Town,  
The Storehouse at The Barracks

## Wednesday 15 April at 7pm

Sean Maxwell - Berwick Parish Church

## Saturday 18 April at 7pm

Berwick Arts Choir - Berwick Parish Church

## Wednesday 22 April at 7pm

Max Mostovetski - Berwick Parish Church

## Saturday 25 April at 11.30am

Ray Howell & Veronica Gilbert accompanied  
by Rena Telfer - Berwick Parish Church

## Wednesday 29 April

Berwick Bounds Midweek Ride

## Thursday 30 April

Hobby Horse Night

## Saturday 2 May

Riding of the Bounds

## Sunday 3 May

Berwick Bounds Ball

## Saturday 16 May at 2pm

Ieva Dubova – Berwick Parish Church

## Wednesday 20 May at 7pm

Andrew Forbes – Berwick Parish Church

## 28 May

Annual Town Meeting of Electors

## Friday 29 May at 7.30pm

Leeds Male Voice Choir –  
Berwick Parish Church

## 30–31 May

The Visitors

## 6 June – 11 October

Joan Eardley exhibition, Granary Gallery

## Sunday 21 June

Spittal Open Gardens

## Sunday 28 June

Friends of Castle Parks, Open Gardens

## 17–19 July

80th anniversary Salmon Queen Festival

## Saturday 1 August

Minden Day

## 14–16 August

Berwick Food and Beer Festival

## 11–20 September

Heritage Open Days

## 5–11 October

Berwick Literary Festival

## Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday

## Nov TBC

Blessing of the Lights

## Thursday 10 December

BEA SingFest!

## Sunday 13 December

Rotary Christmas Market

## Date to be confirmed

Sci-Fi Scriptorium publication, Peace Hall

## Date to be confirmed

Lost Ornament exhibition

## Stay in Touch

Web - [berwick-tc.gov.uk](http://berwick-tc.gov.uk)

Web - [visitberwick.com](http://visitberwick.com)

Facebook - [facebook.com/BerwickTC](https://facebook.com/BerwickTC)

Instagram - [@bariberwick](https://@bariberwick)

email - [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk)