

The Bulletin

Welcome!



Welcome to the summer edition of The Bulletin.

In this edition, we introduce Berwick's new Mayor, Cllr Jane

Turton, and the new Sheriff, Cllr Mike Greener, as they begin the new civic year.

Inside, you can also read about the 80th crowning of the Tweed Salmon Queen, a landmark anniversary for one of Berwick's most loved traditions, along

with updates and upcoming events from The Maltings and Berwick Barracks.

There is also news from the Community Trust, including the Food Larder and Book Swap, plus information on how people can get involved in volunteering in Northumberland.

We also look at the work carried out by the Town Council Wardens and celebrate the recipients of the Mayors Awards.

It will be a busy summer for the town, with civic events, community projects and local improvements all taking place.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

If you'd like to contribute an article in a future edition, please contact info@berwick-tc.gov.uk.



The Riding of the Bounds took place on the 2nd of May. It was a beautiful day and so lovely to see such a great turnout from the Riders, residents, and visitors! Congratulations to the Berwick Riders Association for organising such a successful day.

© Cameron Robertson

New Mayor looks forward to a busy civic year

The new Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed is Cllr Jane Turton.

Jane has served as a Town Councillor for a number of years and is well known in the town. She has been involved in a range of Council work and local community activity, and brings a practical, committed approach to the role. As Mayor, Jane is looking forward to representing Berwick-upon-Tweed, supporting local events and organisations, and helping to promote the town during a busy civic year.

She says: "I would like to thank my fellow councillors for electing me as Mayor and Chair of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council.

It is a real privilege to serve the town in this role. This year, the Council's fundraising will support The Spittal Improvement Trust. The Trust does important work to improve local facilities, support the local environment and bring people together. It relies on grants and fundraising, and I am very pleased to be supporting its work during my mayoral year.

There is also a lot to look forward to across Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth. One of the highlights will be the 80th crowning of the Salmon Queen, which is a much-loved Berwick tradition. It is a special part of the town's history, and this anniversary is a chance to celebrate the volunteers, families and local people who have kept it going over the years.

I am looking forward to attending civic events, supporting local groups, meeting residents, businesses and volunteers,

and helping to promote the many positive things happening in the town.

Berwick-upon-Tweed has a proud history and a strong community spirit. I know there will be challenges during the year, but by working together and focusing on what is best for the town, we can continue to make progress.

I am proud to serve as Mayor and look forward to the year ahead."

The new Sheriff is Cllr Mike Greener, who has previously served as Town Mayor. He brings many years of civic experience to the role, and his knowledge of the town and its traditions will be a great support during the year ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much to our outgoing Mayor, Councillor John Robertson and Sheriff, Joe Lang. Over the last 3 years Cllr Robertson has worked tirelessly to promote Berwick and raised money for charities in his role as Mayor and Chair of the Town Council.



The 80th Crowning of the Tweed Salmon Queen

As we look ahead to the summer, a major date to note is the 80th Crowning of the Tweed Salmon Queen at Queens Gardens, Tweedmouth on **Friday 17th July**. This is a key event in the community calendar - a much-loved tradition in Tweedmouth and a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together.

The Salmon Queen came out of the Tweedmouth Festival which dates back centuries and was revived around 70 years ago. The title reflects the historical significance of salmon to the town's economy - salmon net fishing on the River Tweed can be traced back to the 12th century, and the industry continued to employ hundreds of local men and women until the 1980s. In the past, the Salmon Queen was rowed across the Tweed in a fishing coble, but nowadays the boat is towed over Old Bridge to Tweedmouth where the new queen is crowned.

The Town Council took over the organisation of the event last year and we were delighted at the positive feedback we received - it was



© Jim Gibson

a truly brilliant evening, and it was wonderful to see the town turn up in such numbers to celebrate the new Queen, Kate Nicholl and her court. We look forward to hearing about Kate's experience in a later issue.

In the past, the coronation was held on a Thursday but this year to celebrate the 80th crowning, the event has been moved to Friday 17 July. The Salmon Supper will take place on the Saturday and the Church service on the Sunday. There will be a Salmon Queen exhibition at the Guild Hall over the weekend.

There will be live entertainment at Queens Gardens from Friday through the weekend, culminating in a Grand Carnival Parade on the Sunday from the Lifeboat Station to West End Tweedmouth so get your fancy dress outfits ready! Entertainment will include live music, dancing, funfair, magician, storyteller and face painting as well as food and drink so save the date and keep an eye on our social media and press for further details and timings over the next month!

This year, Elizabeth Patterson, who was crowned in 1960 at the age of 18 and who is thought to be the oldest living former Salmon Queen, will crown whoever is chosen for the honour this year. We hope as many past Queens as possible will join us to celebrate the tradition and record their experiences for the archives. **So, if you haven't been in touch yet, do give us a ring on 01289 302391 or email us at info@berwick-tc.org.uk**



© Jim Gibson



Mayor's Award Winners

Berwick Town Council held its annual Mayor's Awards ceremony earlier this year to recognise outstanding individuals and organisations for their exemplary contributions to the community.

The awards are an opportunity to celebrate the dedication and commitment of those who tirelessly work towards making our town a better place and those from Berwick who have achieved eminence nationally and internationally. There were eight recipients nominated by members of the public – many congratulations to them all!

Linda Bankier received the Mayor's Own Award in recognition of her exceptional contribution to Berwick's heritage and community life.

Ian Beresford – for outstanding service to the community and support for local charities.

Kevin Bolton – for his contribution to the community, including support for mental health awareness and local events.

Kay Gardiner – for her exceptional dedication, compassion and service to others through many years of charitable work.

Steven and Rosie Ingram – for their long-standing dedication to young people through Berwick Rangers Juniors.

Tommy McLeod – for his contribution to the community through photography that captures the spirit of Berwick.

Margaret Shaw – for a lifetime of service to Berwick-upon-Tweed through education, public service and community projects.

Local Services Update

The Town Council's Warden Team has been very busy across Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth over the past two months, undertaking a range of seasonal, maintenance and safety activities. A major focus has been preparing for the summer planting season.

The team have been putting up new poly sheds to help grow and prepare the Council's summer flowers, and prepared beds and planters throughout town for

the new displays. At the same time, they have worked diligently to keep the spring flowers looking attractive for as long as possible, ensuring that the town continues to look bright and welcoming during the changeover between seasons.

With the seasonal planting work underway the Wardens have also carried out essential repairs and maintenance in public spaces. This has included repairing benches, bins and other street furniture and helping to keep these facilities safe, usable and well-presented for residents and visitors. The team has been assisting the town's markets with the erection and dismantling of market equipment as needed. Much of this is necessary to make sure the markets run well and safely and it has certainly increased an already packed workload.

Play Park safety has stayed a top priority as well. The Wardens still complete daily play park inspections for the Council's play areas and find issues (and make plans for solutions) fast and where necessary. That involves doing small repairs, reporting bigger problems and helping keep play areas safe and accessible to families. Much of this work occurs quietly behind the scenes, but it has a real impact on the look, safety and day-to-day operations of the town. The Warden Team is integral to keeping Berwick-upon-Tweed, Spittal and Tweedmouth looking cared for and functioning well – from planting and parks to benches, bins, markets and inspections.

The past two months were especially busy since everyone has been dividing their time between daily maintenance work, along with a spring and summer build-up. And their work helps prepare public spaces for residents, businesses and visitors as the town enters its busier summer months.

Volunteering

National Volunteers' Week has just taken place where many community organisations pause to offer sincere appreciation for the wonderful work their volunteers do in supporting their charitable causes.

Berwick Library and the Volunteering in North Northumberland project run by NNVF would also like to thank all the people who visited Berwick Volunteer Fair on 5th June to find out more about local volunteering. If you missed the event, you can get involved in volunteering any time you like. Whatever niche you may be interested in supporting by sharing your time and skills, the North Northumberland area is likely to have a great-fit opportunity.

There is an amazing array of good causes always looking to welcome more helping hands

Whether it be helping healthcare charities, well-being and counselling groups, animal welfare, conservation, sustainability and the environment, the arts and heritage of the area, those needing support through disadvantage, disability or a health condition or giving young people the best start in life, there is an amazing array of good causes always looking to welcome more helping hands in the form of reliable volunteers.

Please contact NNVF's Volunteer Advisor volunteering@nnvforum.org.uk or 07783 331549 to find out more.

Berwick Barracks

Building work continues on the East Block of the Barracks and has just begun on the Gymnasium. Whilst the building work is taking place, there's a varied programme of free exhibitions taking place at The Storehouse this summer including:

The Visitors' exhibition (11th – 27th June, Tuesday – Saturday 11am to 4pm). A behind-the-scenes look at how Lewis Hetherington's The Visitors event was conceived and brought to life.

The Quintet Project (30th June – 23rd July, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am to 4pm). Come and see this fascinating communication of Berwick's history and be part of creating a contemporary response.

Threads of Duty (open on Minden Day 1st August and then Tuesdays and Thursdays until 27th August, 11am to 4pm). In the KOSB collection are handcrafted objects and carefully embroidered fabrics made by soldiers in times of conflict. Working with artist Mani Kambo, KOSB have created contemporary responses to their own experiences with the Regiment.

We also have **Minden Day taking place on 1st August, 10am until 1pm in the Barracks.** Minden Day is an enduring regimental tradition. The Pipes and Drums can be heard playing, veterans march through the Barracks and town, and people of the Regiment are presented with red roses. Everyone is welcome.

JOAN EARDLEY THE SEA AT CATTERLINE

6 JUNE – 11 OCTOBER 2026
WED-SUN 11AM-4PM
**GRANARY GALLERY,
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED**

ADMISSION £7.50.
FREE FOR ELIGIBLE VISITORS

BOOK TICKETS AT
MALTINGSBERWICK.CO.UK



FLEMING COLLECTION

Northumberland County Council **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Image: Joan Eardley: A Field by the Sea Summer (1961)
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The Maltings

Berwick is set for a summer filled with art, theatre, family activities and cinema as The Maltings presents a vibrant programme across the town and Barracks.

Running until 11 October, Joan Eardley: The Sea at Catterline celebrates one of Scotland's most loved artists through powerful paintings and drawings inspired by the dramatic North Sea coastline and fishing village of Catterline. Alongside the exhibition, visitors can enjoy guided tours, creative workshops and the RSA200 moving image programme Culture Above and Beyond.

Outdoor theatre also returns on 5 August in partnership with The Straw Yard, as the HandleBards bring their energetic production of As You Like It to Berwick. Combining Shakespeare, live music and comedy, the bicycle-powered theatre company promises an entertaining evening for all ages.

Families can also take part in Summer Art Camp sessions at Maltings at Hide Hill throughout August, with hands-on workshops for children aged 5–10 including kite-making, printing, clay and underwater-themed crafts.

Meanwhile, Maltings cinema will screen family favourites and blockbuster releases throughout the summer, including Toy Story 5, Minions, Moana, Spider-Man and The Odyssey.

Whether you're looking for a family day out, an evening of theatre, inspiring exhibitions or the latest films, there is something for everyone to enjoy this summer in Berwick.

Find full event details and booking information at
www.maltingsberwick.co.uk



We're interested in your feedback about Berwick Barracks - please take 5 mins to fill in this online questionnaire by scanning the QR code. Thank you.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Food Larder

Berwick Community Trust is delighted with the reception we have received to the launch of the larder.

Customers can take away up to 10 items for a minimum donation of £2 from a range of fresh fruit and veg, together with staples and a variety of other items. We are blown away by the positive feedback and support that we have received. Each session is growing in numbers. Opening is Tuesday 4pm – 6pm and Fridays 10am – 12pm and the Larder is based in our William Elder Building on Castlegate.

Stock for the Larder comes from our paid membership to FareShare, collections of food from Aldi and Lidl and food we buy with the money donated by our Larder visitors.

Everyone is welcome! Come and help us prevent food from the supermarkets going in the bin whilst reducing your food bill.

Book Swap

Berwick Community Trust is launching a Book Swap based in the reception area of the William Elder Building. Come along, get a new read and leave your finished books behind for someone else to enjoy. We also have a children's shelf to encourage our young readers or a change of bedtime story. Please help us to build up a range of books by donating what you've finished with.

2026

What's On

6 June – 11 October

Joan Eardley exhibition, Granary Gallery

11 – 27 June, Tues - Sat 11am – 4pm

The Visitors' exhibition, The Storehouse, Berwick Barracks

Sunday 21 June

Spittal Open Gardens

22 June - 3 July 11am – 3pm

Heart and Soul (Martha Ellis & Berwick Academy) exhibition, Hide Hill

Sunday 28 June

Friends of Castle Parks, Open Gardens

30 June – 23 July, Tues & Thurs, 11am to 4pm

The Quintet Project, The Storehouse, Berwick Barracks

17 – 19 July

80th anniversary Salmon Queen Festival

31 July – 1 August

Amped Festival, various venues

Saturday 1 August

Minden Day, 10am - 1pm Barracks and town

1 – 27 August, Tues & Thurs, 11am - 4pm

Threads of Duty, The Storehouse, Berwick Barracks

14 – 16 August

Berwick Food and Beer Festival

11 – 20 September

Heritage Open Days

11 September – 13 November, Tues & Thurs, 11am – 4pm

Resonances: Things Unseen from the Barracks, The Storehouse, Berwick Barracks

26/27 Sept and 3/4 October

Artist Open Studios – various venues

5 – 11 October

Berwick Literary Festival

31 October – February 2027

The Burrell Collection, Granary Gallery

Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday

Nov TBC

Blessing of the Lights

Thursday 10 December

BEA SingFest!

Sunday 13 December

Rotary Christmas Market

Stay in Touch

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