Autumn 2026 No.04 Berwick Spittal Tweedmouth

The Bulletin

Welcome!

Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Bulletin.

In this edition, we look back at the 80th crowning of the Tweed Salmon Queen and share updates on local services, planting and work to keep Berwick looking its best, plus information on what town councillors do. We also have updates from the Barracks and the Old Brewery Artists Studios.

Berwick is currently hosting Heritage Open Days, with the Berwick Literary Festival coming up soon. Thank you to Millie and Ray for organising their 5th and final Food and Drink Festival, and to Laura and the Slow Food Movement for 20 years of involvement. Minden Day was also a great success, with a well-attended parade.

We're proud of the newly revamped Quayside huts (pictured opposite) - five Town Council market stalls given a colourful 'glow up' by Berwick Academy students and volunteers. Artist Martha Ellis, Artist in Residence at Berwick Academy, led students in painting Berwick's iconic scenes onto the huts on 13th and 15th July, supported by The Maltings.

Autumn is here, but Berwick isn't slowing down. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Berwick Town Council

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







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Salmon Queen Celebration



This is an historic year for Berwick-upon-Tweed, marking the 80th Crowning of the Tweed Salmon Queen.

On July 17th, 2026 Tweed Salmon Queen Sadie Gregory and her court came over the Old Bridge in the traditional fishing coble for the crowning in Queens Gardens. Many previous Tweed Salmon Queens joined the ceremony, and Sadie was crowned by Elizabeth Patterson, who was crowned in 1960.

Celebrations continued with free live music and entertainment at Queens Gardens throughout the weekend. A marquee on Tweedmouth Green hosted the Salmon Supper and further entertainment with dancing, storytelling and magic. Sunday brought a Church Service led by the Rev Richard Cornfield, more music, and the ever-popular raffle. Residents dressed up for the Carnival Parade from the Lifeboat Station to Queens Gardens. Thank you to the RNLI volunteers for their support, and to the Eyemouth Herring Queen for joining the Parade – wonderful to see both traditions still going strong.

It was lovely to see so many residents and visitors turn out, and we want to thank everyone who helped make this year's event such a success – on stage, on the street, and behind the scenes.

Thank you to the Mayor, Sheriff and Civic Party for attending, and to outgoing Queen Kate Nicholl and her court for representing the town so well this year.

We're incredibly thankful for generous support from Northumbrian Water, Simpsons Malt, Bryson Electrical, Allan Bros, Gemini Jewellers, Timpson, Greenwoods, Newcastle Building Society, Fantasy Prints, Fabvent, Greaves West & Ayre and Create Berwick, whose funding made the day possible, and to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes and everyone who bought tickets. Thank you also to Phil Rowett and Cameron Robertson for putting together a commemorative Salmon Queen Booklet, still available around town for £2.

So many individuals and groups helped bring the event to life: Jen & Peter and the team at Greenwoods for maintaining and

transporting the coble; the Berwick Riders Association for marshalling the parade; the Berwick Pipe Band for the procession; Anne Williams for organising the Scouts, Guides and Brownies, who formed a guard of honour with the Maltings Salmon Lanterns alongside Berwick Rangers Juniors; and all the musicians and performers who entertained the crowd. Thanks to Darren Holleywell at Amped CIC and Wayne at PFL Audio for staging and sound, to Well Hung and Tender, Hiccup, Fortes Ice Cream and Corn Mill Coffee House for refreshments, and to Slaters for the fun rides. Ruth from the Lookout Café provided amazing food for the Salmon Supper, and Pictorial Photography captured the day beautifully.



Thank you Berwick, this event was a great celebration of our community, sharing joy and pride in our town. We warmly welcome our new Tweed Salmon Queen and her court and look forward to hearing about their year ahead. Here's to keeping this special local tradition going for many years to come.

What does a Town Councillor Do?

Town Councillors play an important part in the life of Berwick-upon-Tweed, representing local people and making decisions about services, projects and priorities for the town.

At its simplest, being a councillor is about public service. Councillors are volunteers who give their time to represent their communities. They come from different backgrounds and will often have different opinions, but once elected they share a common responsibility: to consider what is best for the community as a whole.

No individual councillor runs the Council or can make decisions on its behalf. Decisions are made collectively at Council meetings, following discussion and debate.

Councillors will not always agree, and they should not be expected to. Different views are an important part of local democracy. What matters is that those differences are handled respectfully and that councillors remain focused on serving the wider community.

The work itself is extremely varied. Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council is involved in community grants, events, markets, floral displays, play areas, local projects, civic events, neighbourhood planning and discussions about the future of the town.

Councillors also raise concerns brought to them by residents and help ensure local views are heard by larger authorities and public bodies. Much of the role involves reading reports, attending meetings, asking questions and working with fellow councillors and Council officers.

There is no single type of person who makes a good councillor. A Council benefits from people of different ages, backgrounds, occupations and experiences. You do not need to be an expert in local government or to have been involved in politics before.

What matters is caring about the community, being prepared to listen, having an open mind and recognising that the role is about representing all residents including those whose views may be different from your own.

Ultimately, councillors are ordinary people giving their time to try to make their town a better place for everyone.

Local Services Update

It has been another busy summer for the Town Council's Warden Team, with much of their time spent keeping Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth looking colourful, welcoming and well maintained.

Summer planting required continuous attention, with the team watering, deadheading and maintaining the Council's planters, hanging baskets and flower beds. Three new planters were also installed on the High Street. You may have noticed some strawberries and tomatoes appearing here and there – we were delighted that the Soul Kitchen could use some of these in their food.

Unfortunately, the team also had to deal with a high level of vandalism this summer. Floral displays were a particular target, with damage to planters creating additional work and expense at the busiest time of year. The Wardens worked hard to repair and restore displays wherever possible so the town continues to look its best.

This year we also entered Northumbria in Bloom for two Special Awards, covering the town centre and Berwick railway station – hopefully a first step towards entering the full competition next year, when we'd like to showcase not only the Council's work but the contribution of volunteer groups and community organisations across the town.



Alongside the floral work, the Wardens helped with the Salmon Queen celebrations, painted the benches along Spittal Promenade and at Seafield Park, and installed plaques for the Wilson's Tales trail (wilsonstales.co.uk).

Behind all this, the team continues its regular responsibilities, including daily inspection and maintenance of the Council's play areas – an important part of keeping facilities safe and identifying repairs needed.

It's a varied workload, much of it happening quietly in the background, but the Warden Team continues to play an important part in keeping our public spaces attractive, safe and well cared for throughout the busiest part of the year.

Supporting Our Community

The Town Council's community grants scheme continues to support local organisations and projects that make a positive difference across Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth.

These projects cover a wide range of activity, from sport and opportunities for young people to arts, culture and community participation. In the latest funding round, grants totalling £7,300 have been awarded to five local organisations:

Amped Berwick – £2,500 support towards launch of a new music festival and wider work to improve access to music tuition and instruments for young people.

Berwick Parkrun – £2,500 start-up costs

Berwick Literary Festival – £1,000 to support its work with schools and young people

Berwick Rugby Club – £1,000 support towards replacing existing sodium or

halogen floodlights with LED units.

Three Bridges Explorer Unit / North Northumberland District Scouts – £300 support towards delegates attending a European scouting event.


©Berwick Arts Choir

Earlier in the year a grant was awarded to Berwick Arts Choir to help fund the engagement of four professional singers to sing as part of their Messiah concerts. We were delighted to hear that the choir subsequently had 2 very successful concerts at the Parish Church accompanied by the Berwick Arts Orchestra. Berwick Arts Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at Spittal Community Centre, welcomes new singers without audition and will start preparing for their Christmas concert in September.

The Council has an annual community grants budget of £15,000 and a further funding round will take place later in the year. Local groups and organisations are encouraged to keep an eye on the Council's website and social media for details of the next application period.

Amped Fringe Festival

A Brilliant First Year!

Darren Holleywell, Founder and CEO of Amped Berwick, has shared an update on a brilliant new event for the town:

'The first Amped Fringe Festival brought Berwick to life on Friday 31st July and Saturday 1st August, with musicians, venues, volunteers and audiences coming together for two packed days of live music, workshops and community activity. 1,417 supporter wristbands were sold at £6 each, generating £8,502 – with 100% going directly back to participating artists, some of whom also chose to donate to local charities.

More than 100 musicians took part, five brand-new artists were supported onto a live stage for the first time, and one new venue, The Icehouse, opened its doors.

The festival was created by Amped Berwick CIC as a pilot, giving musicians accessible opportunities to perform, build confidence, develop skills and connect with new audiences.


©Pictorial Photography

We're hugely grateful to everyone who helped make it possible, particularly Arts Council England, Central Government, Berwick Chamber of Trade, J H Greenwood & Co., Hutton Stone, Simpsons Malt, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council and Northumberland County Council for their funding and support.

The response has been incredibly positive, and we're already using what we learned in 2026 to make the festival even stronger in 2027.'

Community Trust

'New' Old Brewery Opens!



In August, The Mayor Jane Turton, cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Old Brewery Artist Studios in Tweedmouth. Berwick Community Trust has redeveloped this crumbling building dating from the late 1800s, which has been empty for about 40 years, into a flagship arts hub housing artist studios for local people, a gallery and a teaching space. 'We are absolutely delighted with the results of all the hard work put into this redevelopment,' said Keith Siseman, Chair of the Trustees. 'Everything possible has been manufactured, installed and created by local businesses to extremely high standards, and we are very proud of this. The support of the community and funders has been phenomenal and we are thrilled with the result.'

'Watch this space!' said Anthea Wood, Programme Manager, 'This will be a hive of creative energy, come and visit for Heritage Open Days or the Berwick Open Studios and see what's going on.'

Heritage Open Days are from 11th-20th September, and the Open Studios are on 26-27th September and 3-4th October.

Berwick Heritage Open Days Celebrates Its 35th Anniversary

This is a special year for Berwick HODS which celebrates its 35th anniversary and takes place between 11th and 20th September. We were the first town to take part in England way back in 1991 when only 12 buildings were open. This year, we've put together an even bigger programme than ever - over 110 events have been registered ranging from open buildings and exhibitions to guided walks, talks and much more. Go onto our website: www.berwickhods.org.uk - to see what is on each day. Many of the events are old favourites – Gunpowder Magazine and Bankhill Icehouse – but new ones have been added – exhibitions at the Old Brewery Artist Studios, L.S. Lowry themed guided walks and lots of activities at the Barracks. There is something for everyone, young and old – history; heritage; sport; art; photography; music; film and much more. It's all free!

Events take place in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal and our printed booklets and timetables are available from Berwick Library or the Guild Hall in Marygate (over main weekend 19th - 20th September)

Do come along and support this event which is run and stewarded by volunteers from the community for the community.

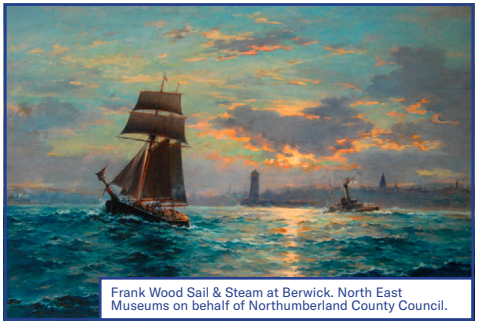
Berwick Barracks and Beyond

Building work at Berwick Barracks is going well and is even slightly ahead of schedule.

If all things continue to go to plan, the Museums and Galleries will reopen in Autumn 2027. So far, the window repairs are complete, new doorways are being created and the foundations are in place for the new Atrium. We're using the opportunity with the floors being up to bury a time capsule to be opened in 50 years from now!

Berwick Barracks is running a packed programme of activities on the weekend of 19th-20th September for HODS. Highlights include: bookable behind-the-scenes construction and stonemasonry tours led by the site team; hands-on activities including Carton Collagraph printmaking, coin-striking with the Science Viking, and sewing a community tablecloth inspired by the KOSB's Mons Tablecloth; and archive-based events at the Maltings Cinema, including a live-narrated screening of 1960s cine footage of Berwick. There will also be a coffee truck on site from Northumberland Coffee Company and special appearances from Berwick Rangers and WWI/WWII re-enactors.

"Resonances: Things Unseen from the Barracks" is the latest exhibition at The Storehouse in the Barracks and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 12th November. Discover the intertwined stories and themes of Berwick Barracks, The King's Own Scottish Borderer's Regiment, and the town of Berwick, revealed through hidden aspects of the building and traces of past lives. Free entry.



Frank Wood Sail & Steam at Berwick. North East Museums on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

'Berwick's Own Burrell Collection – A Gift to the Town', is a fascinating exhibition showcasing paintings and objects gifted to Berwick by Sir William and Lady Constance Burrell. It has been researched and curated by local volunteers. From maritime scenes and wildlife to portraits and everyday life, the exhibition offers a glimpse into this remarkable collection and its place in Berwick's story. It's a bit of a taster of what's to come, when the town's Burrell collection goes on show at the new Berwick Barracks gallery opening next year. It opens on 31st October at the Granary Gallery run by The Maltings. Free entry, Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

To mark the **200th anniversary of Berwick Lighthouse and the 150th birthday year of the Port of Berwick** there will be a series of celebratory events in October. Highlights include a specially commissioned cake, a large-scale sand drawing on the beach at Spittal Point on the afternoon of Saturday 17th October and a performance of new music celebrating the lighthouse by young people. Look out for details on www.maltingsberwick.co.uk.

Royal Northern Sinfonia brings its Winter Tour to Berwick Parish Church, with violinist Jonathan Stone and the string players performing a soulful programme of classical favourites by Gade, Grieg, Atterberg and Dvořák, surrounded by the warm glow of candlelight. Book online at www.maltingsberwick.co.uk

2026

What's On

Until 11 October
Joan Eardley exhibition, Granary Gallery

11–20 September
Heritage Open Days

11 September - 12 November
Resonances: Things Unseen from the Barracks, The Storehouse, Berwick Barracks

26-27 September/3-4 October
Artist Open Studios

5–11 October
Berwick Literary Festival

Saturdays until 31 October
Starting With a Gesture Made Towards One Another, The Burr

31 October – February 2027
Berwick's Own Burrell Collection Granary Gallery

Sunday 8 November
Remembrance Sunday

26 November 7pm / 28 November 2pm
Pop-up productions Musical Youth Production: The Cabaret Club – Town Hall

Nov TBC
Blessing of the Lights

Tuesday 1 December
Royal Northern Sinfonia, Berwick Parish Church

5 – 31 December
Jack & The Beanstalk The Straw Yard

Thursday 10 December
BEA SingFest! St Andrews Church

Sunday 13 December
Rotary Christmas Market

Saturday 19 December
Berwick Male Voice Choir, St Andrews Church



Stay in Touch

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