

BERWICK

*Literary
festival*



16TH / 17TH / 18TH
OCTOBER
2015

**Programme
of Events**

www.berwickliteraryfestival.com

A Message from Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

I am so thrilled to support the second Berwick Literary Festival. It is a truly wonderful way to showcase both local and national talent, and an excellent way of bringing visitors to our fantastic town. I very much hope we can



establish Berwick as one of a growing number of outstanding literary festival towns across Europe, and will do all I can to support that.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

A Message from the Mayor

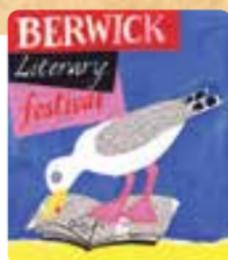
After the success of last year's inaugural Berwick Literary Festival, the second Festival coincides with the celebration of 900 years of Berwick's varied and fascinating history. It is right therefore that the Festival will have a particular



emphasis on historical books, while continuing its focus on local as well as national talent and encouraging the development of a love of books among the young. I wish the Festival every continued success.

**Councillor Hazel Bettison
Town Mayor, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

Chairman's Message



Welcome to the Second Berwick Literary Festival.

Our programme this year builds upon the success of last year's inaugural Festival, which was much appreciated by those who attended and involved local, national and internationally known authors. Last year's programme, wide-ranging though it was, focussed especially upon the work of writers and illustrators of children's literature and upon local talent. This year, whilst maintaining and developing those links, we are also delighted to be part of Berwick 900. As a result, there is a distinctly 'historical' flavour to some of this year's contributions.

We look forward to welcoming many visitors to our town for this year's Festival and to continuing to involve many of Berwick's citizens, of all ages, in our interesting and varied programme.

With my warm good wishes -

Christopher Smith

Chair, Berwick Literary
Festival Steering Group.



Contributors



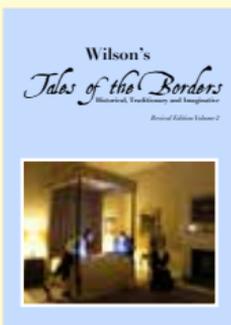
Andrew Ayre

Wilson's Tales of the Borders: the next volume

Andrew Ayre set up 'The Wilson's Tales Project' in 2013 to revive interest in a Berwick-based, 19th century publishing sensation. Since then the project has raised the profile of the body of work known as Wilson's Tales of the Borders. This has included using a variety of media formats to revive and re-tell some of the tales at live events and he has started re-publishing updated tales, with commentary on their historical context.

Andrew will tell the story of this unique project.

**Holy Trinity
Parish Centre,
Saturday, 10 am
£5.00**



Linda Bankier

Using Archives for Creative Writing

Linda Bankier has been the Berwick Archivist for over 25 years and has a wealth of knowledge about local archives relating to Berwick and the North Northumberland area. In her presentation and workshop on using archives for creative writing, Linda will talk about the variety of records available, both as the basis for historical research and for creative writing, and give some suggestions on how they could be used to inspire your own writing.

**Talk: Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Friday, 10 am - £2.00
Workshop: Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Sunday, 2 pm - £5.00**



Contributors

Michael Bloch

In discussion with Gerry Foley about his biography of Jeremy Thorpe

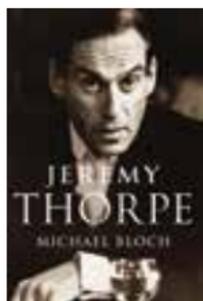
Michael Bloch - the author of some twenty books - won universal praise for his biography of Jeremy Thorpe, the charismatic leader of the Liberal Party from 1967 to 1976, who was

sensationally tried at the Old Bailey in 1979 for allegedly conspiring to murder his former homosexual lover, Norman Scott.

He will be discussing this work - which was written in the 1990s but could not be published until Thorpe's death last December - with Gerry Foley, formerly Political Editor for ITV Tyne Tees/Border.



**Guildhall, Saturday, 5.30 p.m.
£5.00**



Michael Chaplin

Writing the Great War

The Newcastle-based playwright and screenwriter Michael Chaplin talks about his role as co-writer of 'Tommies', BBC Radio 4's epic 4-year series about the conduct of the First World War, in which every

exhaustively researched episode is transmitted exactly 100 years after the events described in it, and discusses the task of creating compelling human drama from an almost inexhaustible historical record.



**Maltings
Studio,
Friday,
2.30 pm
£5.00**



Contributors

Michael Cullen

Spittal's Maritime Past 1830-1930

After a distinguished career as a preparatory schoolmaster, mostly in Cambridge, Michael retired to Berwick (which he already knew well) and developed a strong interest in its history. He has written two volumes on Spittal's Victorian past and a study of Berwick's highly corrupt 1859 general election. In his talk, Michael will describe Spittal's Maritime Past, 1830-1930. Those attending will then walk around relevant sites in Spittal.



**St Paul's Church, Spittal, Saturday, 10 am
£2.00**

Bea Davenport

'You Choose': when readers decide what happens next

Bea Davenport is the writing name of former BBC and newspaper journalist Barbara Henderson. She has written two crime/suspense novels and two children's books - 'The Serpent House' (Curious Fox, 2014) and her latest, 'My Cousin Faustina' (ReadZone Books, 2015). Bea will talk about the unusual process of writing this at a chapter a week, with young readers voting on what should happen next - and how it has encouraged reluctant readers to get involved in a story.



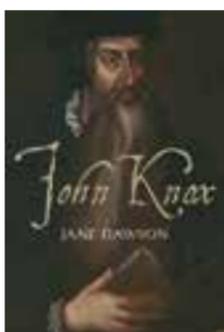
**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Saturday, 2 pm - £5.00**

Contributors

Jane Dawson

'One of the Lads': John Knox and his time in Berwick

In 1549 Berwick meant freedom for the Scottish Reformer, John Knox, after 18 months as a French galley slave. Serving as chaplain he became 'one of the lads' among the soldiers stationed in Berwick and exiled Scots caught in the 16th century 'Battle for Britain' between England, Scotland and France.



Distinguished Reformation historian Jane Dawson tells how Knox's Berwick ministry made a significant impact upon his later life and career and gave him a distinctive Anglo-Scottish perspective.



**Guildhall, Friday, 4 pm
£5.00**

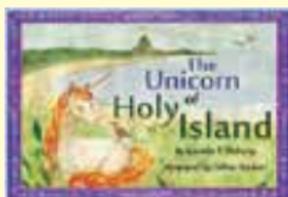
Jennifer Doherty

The Unicorn of Holy Island

The latest book from Serafina Press is set on Holy Island. Author Jennifer T. Doherty had long wanted to write a Holy Island book and she talks about the relationship between setting and story, with particular emphasis on this new title - 'The Unicorn of Holy Island'.



**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Friday, 4 pm
£5.00 (Children Free)**



Contributors

Mike Fraser

"Does My Country really need me?"

The work of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Military Service Tribunal 1916-1918.

When conscription was introduced in 1916 men could claim exemption on occupational, personal hardship, health or conscience grounds. The members of the Berwick Military Services Tribunal were charged with determining the fate of those locals who objected to going to war. Amongst the first men to be considered was Joseph Leitch, a Tailor, who claimed exemption as a Conscientious Objector. Mike Fraser recounts how he and other Berwickers fared in front of the Tribunal.

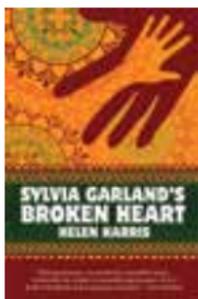


St Paul's Church, Spittal, Saturday, 2 pm - £2.00

Helen Harris

Sylvia Garland's Broken Heart - what happens to the grandparents when the parents split up?

Helen Harris is the author of five novels and many short stories. Her new novel 'Sylvia Garland's Broken Heart' is a touching, witty look at family ties across the generations and



the plight of grandparents when their children get divorced. Helen will be talking about this topic, which is rarely examined in contemporary fiction yet affects so many people's lives.

Guildhall, Sunday, 2 pm - £5.00

Photo © Polly Hancock

Contributors

Cara Lockhart Smith

Words with Pictures: an Illustration Workshop

Cara Lockhart Smith, writer and illustrator of 'The Berwick Bear & His Fiddle' and 'Bear in a Boat in the Borders' (with Jennifer Doherty), among many other published works for children, will be showing working roughs and some finished artwork for her new book 'The Midnight Hare'. At the same session there will be an illustration workshop for children, and an opportunity to create a Berwick Bear poster.

**Guildhall, Saturday, 10 am
£1.00 (includes up to two
accompanying adults).**



Andrew Lownie

Stalin's Englishman: the lives of Guy Burgess

Guy Burgess is the most complex and enigmatic of the Cambridge Spies. Regarded as louche, unreliable and often unemployable, he nevertheless managed to penetrate the BBC, the Foreign Office and MI6, earn the respect of three British Prime Ministers and use his position to pass on crucial secrets over a period of fifteen years. In 'Stalin's Englishman', Andrew Lownie draws on thirty years of research to chart Burgess's life from its promising opening to his lonely tragicomic exile in Russia.

**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Saturday, 12 noon - £5.00**



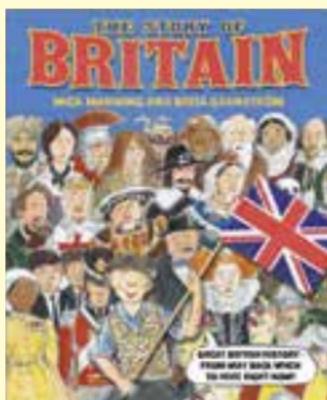
Contributors

Mick Manning and Brita Granström

Schools Workshop - The Story of Britain

Following on from the success of their Beatles show during last year's Festival, Mick and Brita will be taking local school children on a journey through history with extracts from their critically acclaimed new book 'The Story of Britain' (published by Franklin Watts). Musical contributions from Hamish and Elizabeth Bell will include songs from Britain's past. History doesn't have to be horrible!

**Guildhall, Friday,
10 am and 1.30 pm
(school groups only)**



David Martin

Book Printing in a Digital Age

David Martin is the sales director of Martins The Printers. He has worked in the book printing industry for the last 35 years. Having seen many changes take place over that period, David will talk about book printing in a digital age, which could be the biggest challenge book publishers face to date but also their biggest opportunity.



**St. Paul's Church, Spital,
Saturday, 4 pm
£2.00**

Friday 16th October - Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre	Spittal	Mallings
10.00 am	Schools' Workshop Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom <i>The Story of Britain</i>	Linda Bankier (talk) <i>Using Archives for Creative Writing</i> £2.00	Tours of Martins the Printers, Spittal, 10.00 am and 11.30 am £5.00	
12 noon		Margaret Skea (talk) <i>History in Historical Fiction - Icing on the Cake or Main Ingredient</i> £5.00		
1.30 pm, 2.00 pm or 2.30 pm	Schools' Workshop (1.30 pm) Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom <i>The Story of Britain</i>	Barbara Mellor (2 pm talk) <i>Fahim's Story: How a child refugee became a world chess champion</i> £5.00 (children free)		Michael Chaplin (2.30 pm talk) <i>Writing the Great War</i> £5.00
4.00 pm	Jane Dawson (talk) 'One of the lads': John Knox and <i>his time in Berwick</i> £5.00	Jennifer Doherty (talk) <i>The Unicorn of Holy Island</i> £5.00 (children free)		
7.00 pm	Robert Tombs (talk) <i>The English and their History</i> £5.00			

Saturday 17th October - Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre	St. Paul's Church, Spittal	Mallings	St. Cuthbert's Hall
10.00 am	Cara Lockhart Smith Words with Pictures: An Illustration Workshop £1.00 (includes up to two accompanying adults).	Andrew Ayre (talk) Wilson's Tales of the Borders: the next volume £5.00	Michael Cullen (talk and walk) Spittal's Maritime Past 1830-1930 £2.00		
12 noon	Awards Ceremony: Rotary Short Story Competition for young writers; Illustrating a Poem Competition (by invitation only)	Andrew Lownie (talk) 'Stalin's Englishman: the lives of Guy Burgess' £5.00	Richard Moore (talk) Blood in the Borders £2.00	11.30 am Mike Ross And a Book was Born! £3.00	
2.00 pm	Helen Stephens 'Gracie Grabbit and the Tiger' Pop-up Workshop £4.00 (includes up to 2 accompanying adults)	Bea Davenport (talk) 'You Choose': when readers decide what happens next £5.00	Mike Fraser (talk) 'Does my country really need me?' £2.00	1.30 pm Mike Ross And a Book was Born! £3.00	

<p>4.00 pm</p>		<p>Alistair McCleery (talk) <i>The Future of the Book</i> £5.00</p>	<p>David Martin (talk) <i>Book Printing in a Digital Age</i> £2.00</p>		
<p>5.30 pm</p>	<p>Michael Bloch Interviewed by Gerry Foley about his biography of <i>Jeremy Thorpe</i> £5.00</p>				

Rotary Short Story and Illustrating a Poem Competitions

Berwick Rotary has again sponsored a short story competition for young writers. Also as part of the Festival, a competition is being held for school age young people to illustrate the poem or part of the poem 'The Hag' by Robert Herrick.

The winners of these two competitions will be presented with their awards at a ceremony in Berwick Guildhall at 12 noon on Saturday 17th October.

Sunday 18th October - Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre
12.00 noon	Laura Salters (talk) Run Away £5.00	
2.00 pm	Helen Harris (talk) Sylvia Garland's Broken Heart - what happens to the grandparents when the parents split up? £5.00	Linda Bankier Using Archives for Creative Writing: A Workshop £5.00
4.00 pm	Chris Mullin (talk) The Art of Political Leadership £5.00	

Let's See Your Pictures

Please take pictures at our events and use social media to post them to us, on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag:

#BerwickLitFest

*Remember only to take pictures of others with their permission



Contributors

Martins the Printers

Martins the Printers is one of the UK's leading Book Printers working with both large and small publishers. One of its key features is that it produces all types of books from paperback to handmade hardbacks in its factory in Spittal, in quantities of one to many thousands.



This year Chris Hardie, the MD, has again arranged tours of Martins' Sea View Print Works - similar tours in 2014 were heavily oversubscribed. He is also leading Berwick Rotary Club's Short Story Competition for Schools, the awards for which will be presented at the Guildhall.

**Tours of Martins: Friday, Spittal, 10am and 11.30am
£5.00**

**Awards Ceremony (by invitation only)
Saturday, Guildhall, 12 noon**

Alistair McCleery

The Future of the Book

In his talk Professor McCleery will look at the possible futures of authorship, the printed word and the publishing industry. He will examine the current state of each and offer informed and provocative accounts of where they might be in twenty years time. Professor McCleery is Director of the Scottish Centre for the Book at Edinburgh Napier University and author of the chapters on Publishing in the recent Cambridge Companion to the History of the Book (2014) and the forthcoming Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, volume 7 (2015).

**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Saturday, 4 pm
£5.00**

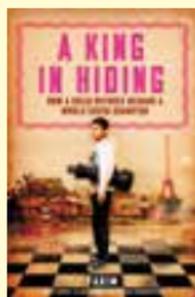


Contributors

Barbara Mellor

Fahim's Story: how a child refugee became a world chess champion

Paris, 2008: Fahim, just eight, is an illegal immigrant living on the streets. But Fahim is also a gifted chess-player. What follows is a modern-day fairytale. Soon to be a film with an A-list cast, 'A King in Hiding: how a child refugee became a world chess champion' pays moving testimony to a father's determination, the kindness of strangers, and one small boy's courageous will to succeed. Barbara Mellor's translations of memoirs, history and art books have received widespread praise.



**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Friday, 2 pm
£5.00 (Children Free)**

Richard Moore

Blood in the Borders

Richard Moore is a university lecturer and creative writer with a specialist interest in English, Irish and American literature. His talk will expose the often violent, often destructive aspects of Border Life, including one or two high-profile murder cases and the destruction wrought by battle. He will allude to Shakespeare's references to Berwick and Northumberland (often with a criminal or war-based content) and highlight attitudes to crime, blood-feud, vendetta and justice.



**St. Paul's Church, Spittal, Saturday, 12 noon
£2.00**

Contributors

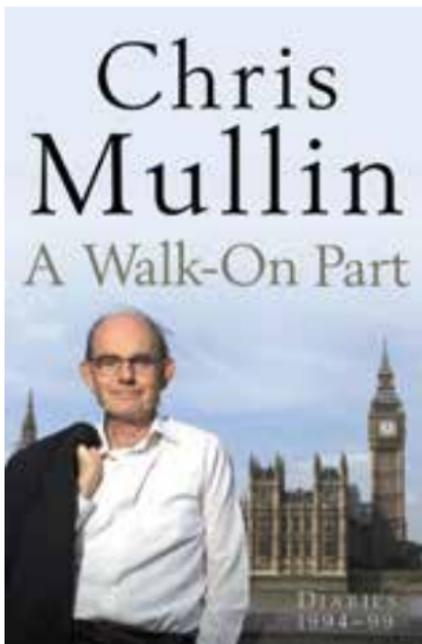


Chris Mullin

The Art of Political Leadership

Churchill, Attlee, Lloyd George, Thatcher, Blair. Who were the outstanding political leaders of the 20th century? Author, acclaimed diarist and former Government minister, Chris Mullin, assesses the qualities needed for political leadership.

**Guildhall,
Sunday, 4 pm
£5.00**



Mike Ross

And a Book was Born!

In October 2014, Mike Ross filled an empty slot at the Poetry Cafe, part of Berwick's first-ever Literary Festival. Reciting his own poems, he was lifted by the reception they received. Out of that morning, 'The Little Purse of Verse' was born. Its launch party will be recreated, with Mike's friends reciting and singing verse from the book. Join Mike at an event which is sure to bring an emotional response from all in the audience.

**Maltings Bar,
Saturday, 11.30 am
and 1.30 pm.
£3.00**

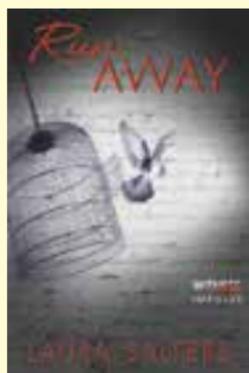


Contributors

Laura Salters

Run Away

Aged just 24, Laura Salters is a suspense author from Berwick-upon-Tweed. Her debut novel 'Run Away', was published in May 2015 by HarperCollins (Witness Impulse). Laura has given up her job as a magazine journalist to focus on writing fiction and is currently working on her second suspense novel as well as on a fantasy series for young adults. Come and hear her exciting story.

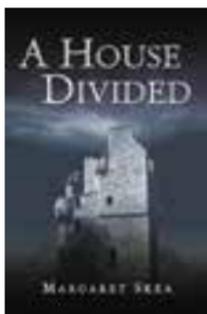


**Guildhall, Sunday, 12 noon
£5.00**

Margaret Skea

History in Historical Fiction - Icing on the Cake or Main Ingredient?

Margaret Skea is an award-winning short story writer and historical novelist (author of the prize-winning novel 'Turn of the Tide'). Her next novel,



'A House Divided' is due out on 15 October. Join her as she considers the importance of authentic historical background as the foundation for convincing fiction.

**Holy Trinity Parish Centre,
Friday, 12 noon - £5.00**

Contributors

Helen Stephens

Gracie Grabbit and the Tiger - a Pop-up Workshop for children

Join renowned author and illustrator Helen Stephens as she talks about her new picture book, 'Gracie Grabbit and the Tiger'. Told with her trademark charm and beautifully illustrated throughout, Helen will read aloud and show the children how to draw their very own tiger. She will also read from her hugely acclaimed title 'How to Hide a Lion' and invite children from the audience to become a part of the stories!

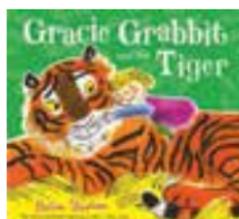


Photo © Sara Tasker

Guildhall, Saturday, 2 pm
£4.00 (includes up to two accompanying adults)

Robert Tombs

The English and their History

Robert Tombs is Professor of French History at Cambridge. He had written several books on French and Franco-British history before writing 'The English and their History' - History Book of the Year in 2014 - in the belief that the time is ripe for a re-examination of that history, how it has been understood and how it still affects us today. Robert will focus on what he thinks are some of the main themes, and main misapprehensions, in how the English understand their history.



Guildhall, Friday, 7 pm
£5.00

The Poetry Cafe 2015

After a successful inaugural year,
we are back at St Cuthbert's Hall
on Saturday, 17th October
from 10 am to 3 pm.

Come and celebrate all things to do
with poetry either by reading your
own poems, sharing your enjoyment
of someone else's or just listening.

New to the Poetry Cafe is the
dedicated hour for children's poetry
from 2 to 3 pm. Whether you are 5
years old or 105, drop in and share
your favourite poems, or simply
come and listen.

If you would like to read at a set
time, please contact
Jennifer Wallace at
poetrycafeBLF@outlook.com
for more information.

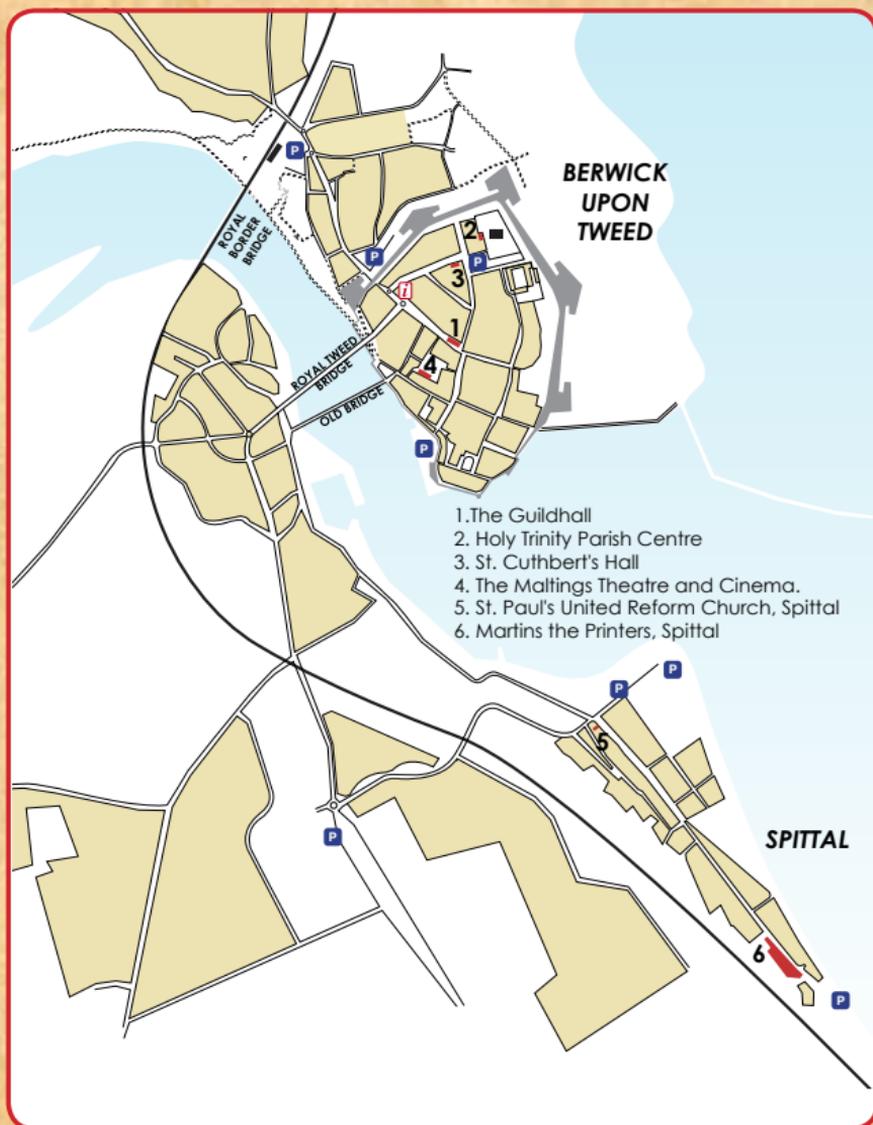
But if you would just like to drop
in to read, come to the Open Mic*
session from 12 noon to 1 pm.

(*Please note that the Open Mic
session is not suitable for children)

Food and beverages can be bought
throughout the day.

St Cuthbert's Hall, Saturday
10 am. to 3 pm.

Venue Map



Map provided by
Jim Herbert, Berwick Time Lines

Patrons and Sponsors

Thank you to the following, who have all supported the 2015 Berwick Literary Festival:

Margaret ANDERSON and Mike FRASER

Barbara ASHTON

Andrew AYRE

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Mark DAVENPORT

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Mike GREENER

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Sophie HAMILTON

Sue HANDOLL

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Marjorie HARDIE

Graham HEAD

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Harry HOWARD

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Fritha MIDDLEMISS
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Moira and Mike WORBOYS
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Professor Michael WRIGHT
Pamela WRIGHT



NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council





Tickets



Tickets for all events
will be available at
The Maltings, Berwick upon Tweed
from 1st September 2015.

In Person:

The Maltings, Eastern Lane
Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1AJ

By Phone: 01289 330999

Online:

www.maltingsberwick.co.uk

Box Office Opening Times:

Monday 10am - 5.30pm
Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 7.30pm

*Tickets can be collected from the Maltings
up to 24 hours before the event.*

*After that booked tickets can be picked up
at the event venue (from 30 minutes before the start).
Subject to availability, tickets may also be purchased
at the door.*

**You can find more information about the Festival
on our website**



www.berwickliteraryfestival.com



or by following us on

Twitter @BerwickLitFest and on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/berwicklitfest



Books



Books featured during the Festival
will be available to buy and for signature
by the author at most events.
Books can be bought several days before
and for some weeks after the Festival from:

Geo. C. Grieve Limited
Stationer and Bookseller
1 Church Street (close by the Town Hall)
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Tel. 01289 306051