

BERWICK

Literary

festival



19TH-22ND OCTOBER 2017
~ BERWICK-UPON-TWEED ~

Programme of Events
www.berwickliteraryfestival.com

A message from Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

I am delighted to offer my best wishes for the success of the 2017 Berwick Literary Festival. The Festival is rapidly becoming an established part of the cultural life of the Town and the area and, once again, we look forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike to the many and varied talks which the Festival has to offer. Please enjoy it.



Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

A message from the Mayor

The 2017 Berwick Literary Festival will be the fourth such occasion. It has rapidly established itself as an important part of the cultural life of our Town and district. Once again, there will be a wide range of events on offer during the weekend. In addition, our schools and our care homes will benefit from the activities organised for them in the weeks leading up to the Festival. I hope residents and visitors alike will enjoy what is on offer.



**Councillor Gregah Roughead
Town Mayor, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

Chairman's Message

Having taken over the Chair from Christopher Smith – who guided the Festival through its birth and infancy – I am delighted to introduce the 2017 Programme to you and to commend it. My colleagues on the Steering Group, all of whom are volunteers,



have worked tirelessly to arrange a most interesting collection of speakers and contributors. In addition to the events described in this Programme, we also mount an extensive range of activities in and with our local schools as well as organising poetry reading in our local care homes. Taken together, we believe that all these activities adequately justify the charitable status which the Festival now enjoys.

To residents and visitors alike, best wishes for an enjoyable Festival.

Michael Wright
Chairman, Berwick Literary Festival Steering Group

Contributors (A-Z)

Max Adams

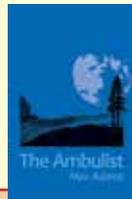
Walking with Giants: Journeys through Northern Lands

Archaeologist and traveller Max Adams has dug into, walked through and written about northern landscapes across two decades. In this illustrated talk he follows a journey of the imagination through fiction and non-fiction, in search of the Dark Ages and of the region's unique sense of identity.



Guildhall

Saturday, 6pm - £5.00



Fiona Anderson

Fashioned in Tweed

Fiona Anderson lectures at Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh. In her fascinating new book, *Tweed*, she explores the design and cultural history of these textiles from the 1820s to the present day. Fiona's talk will introduce her significant new research on all types of tweeds, from Harris Tweed to the type famously used by Chanel.

St. Paul's Church, Spittal

Saturday, 2pm - £5.00

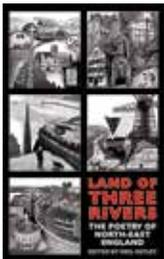


Contributors (A-Z)

Neil Astley

Land of Three Rivers

Neil Astley is the founding editor of Bloodaxe Books. His latest anthology *Land of Three Rivers* is a celebration of North-East England in poetry and songs. Featuring its places and people, culture, history, language and stories, the work spans from Roman times through medieval Northumbria and the industrial era of mining and shipbuilding up to the present-day.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Sunday, 12 noon - £5.00

Linda Bankier and Colin Fleetwood

A Kind of Justice: A Play Script Inspired by the Archives

Linda will describe how archives provide a rich source of inspiration for writers of all kinds of drama. A reading of Colin's radio play, based on the last public hanging in Berwick, will illustrate this.

Participants will then have the opportunity to visit Berwick Record Office, to discuss the play and to view the original sources that Colin used.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 10am - FREE (Booking Essential)

Contributors (A-Z)

David Banks

News: Making it, Faking it, Forsaking it

David Banks - a British journalist who has edited newspapers on three continents (The New York Post and NY Daily News; The Australian and The Daily Telegraph in Australia; and the Daily Mirror in the U.K.), has written hundreds of popular columns in the Newcastle Journal and now edits and writes for the website voiceofthenorth.net - discusses his career and the state of the British press.



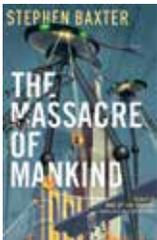
Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 2pm - £5.00



Stephen Baxter

The Massacre of Mankind

Stephen Baxter is the prize-winning author of over 40 books, mostly science fiction novels, and over 100 short stories. A Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, he applied unsuccessfully to become a cosmonaut in 1991 but then turned to



writing. He will be talking about *The Massacre of Mankind*, a sequel to HG Wells' *The War of the Worlds*.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Saturday, 4pm - £5.00

Contributors (A-Z)

Torben Betts

Writing for Stage and Screen

Torben Betts is an award-winning English playwright whose recent plays include *Invincible* (UK and worldwide), *Get Carter* (Northern Stage and UK tour), *What Falls Apart* (Live Theatre) and *The Seagull* (Regent's Park Open Air.) He also wrote the screenplay for the feature film *Downhill* (2014). He will be talking about the art of writing for stage and screen.



St. Paul's Church, Spittal

Friday, 2pm - £5.00/Students Free

Stephanie Butland and Caroline Roberts

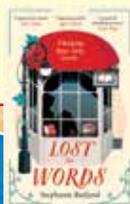
How to get Published - Northumbrian Authors in Conversation

Two well-loved and successful local writers, Stephanie Butland and Caroline Roberts, will discuss their inspirations, the writing process and how to get published. Stephanie, whose latest book *Lost for Words* was published in April 2017, writes in a studio at the bottom of her garden. Caroline writes contemporary fiction about relationships. Her latest book, *My Summer of Magic Moments*, is also being published this year.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Saturday, 10am - £5.00



Contributors (A-Z)

Castle Productions

Our River - Stories of the Tweed

This is a documentary film capturing the heritage, culture and traditions of the river through the memories and stories of those who have lived and worked in its catchment. It will be shown at local venues and available on DVD in the winter. An accompanying illustrated book will be published next spring.

Guildhall

Saturday, 10am - £5.00



Polly Clark

Debut novelist and poet (In Conversation)

Polly Clark lives in Helensburgh, a few streets away from where W.H. Auden wrote *The Orators*. Auden's struggle as he conceived this work was the inspiration for her debut novel *Larchfield*. Her poetry collections have won the Eric Gregory



Award, been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and twice been selected as among the Poetry Book Society's books of the year.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Saturday, 2pm - £5.00

Contributors (A-Z)

Poppy Holden

Border Ballads (from Ettrick and Yarrow)

Poppy Holden weaves together landscape, history and mythology with photographs of the beautiful settings in which these stories took place, and fine recordings and live performances of the ballads. Poppy Holden is an internationally renowned singer and teacher, whose book of these border ballads is due out shortly, with wood engravings by Chris Daunt.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Saturday, 12 noon - £5.00

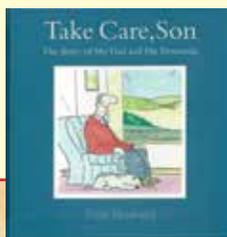
Tony Husband

Take Care, Son (The Story of my Dad and his Dementia)

This touching illustrated story recounts how dementia slowly took Ron Husband away from his family. The title is a reference to Ron's last words to his son, Tony. The book is framed as a chat between Tony and his dad, who fades away through the last few pages.



Photo @PaulHusband



'rather wonderful cartoon strips ... chronicling his father's dementia with loving charm and wit' - Stephen Fry.

Guildhall
Friday, 4pm - £5.00

Contributors (A-Z)

Tony Husband & Ian McMillan

A Cartoon History of Here

Comedy, cartoonery, poetry & improv! created by tonight's audience with legendary Yorkshire poet, broadcaster & comedian Ian McMillan and Cartoonist of the Year Tony Husband. A fast-flowing, rapid-raffing adventure in which two top funny men reflect upon local stories and legends. For audiences, 9 to 109.

'the funniest thing I've seen in ten years of running this festival'
Steve Boffy, Beeline Festival

Guildhall

Friday, 7pm - £10.00



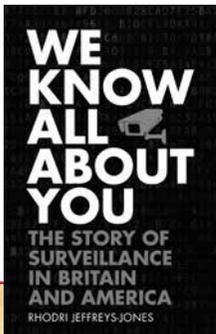
Photo © David Tilley



Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones

State Spies and Private Eyes

Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones is an emeritus professor of history at Edinburgh University and the prize-winning author of fifteen books. His talk will be about the history of surveillance in the United States and Britain, and he will argue that our privacy is under threat not just from state spookery, but from private snooping practices as well.



Guildhall

Saturday, 2pm - £5.00



Contributors (A-Z)

Iain Lowson

Use of (the) Force

For nearly 25 years, Iain has worked in a galaxy far, far away - the past 10 from a shed in his garden here in Berwick. As well as creating official Star Wars material, he's written for videogames, tabletop games, and even been a journalist. Interviewed by local comedy writer and performer Mark Vevvers, Iain discusses his weird freelance career.



St. Paul's Church, Spittal
Friday, 12 noon - £5.00

Mary Manley

Barter Books

Mary is the founder of Barter Books, Alnwick – one of the largest secondhand bookshops in Britain. Her talk will cover the history of Barter Books - including the business partnership with her husband, Stuart - which began in 1991 with a budget of £4,000 and an 800 sq ft space and grew to an 8,000 sq ft shop attracting over 300,000 customers a year.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 12 noon - £5.00

Contributors (A-Z)

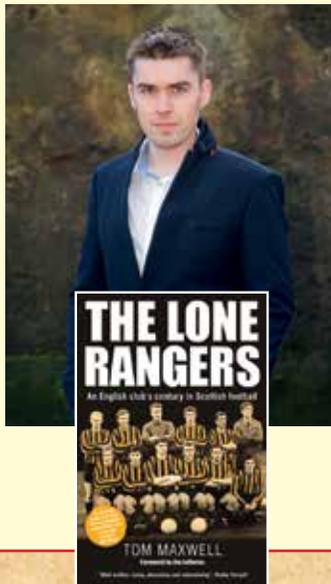
Tom Maxwell

Jock and the Giant Killers

To celebrate 50 years since the greatest shock in the history of Scottish football, *The Lone Rangers* author Tom Maxwell will discuss Berwick's unforgettable 1-0 victory over Rangers in 1967. And as a special treat for football fans, the local writer will be joined by Russell Craig, one of manager Jock Wallace's legendary 'giant killers'.

Guildhall

Sunday, 2pm - £5.00



Richard Moore

Star Wars and Broomsticks in Hamlet and Macbeth

Richard Moore will be discussing Shakespeare's use of astronomy as a major factor in *Hamlet* and his approach to witches and the power of evil in *Macbeth*. Richard is a part-time university lecturer with a doctorate in English literature and a special interest in the Victorian period. He is also a creative writer of plays and libretti.

St. Paul's Church, Spittal

Friday, 10am

£5.00 / Students Free



THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER Programme and Venue

Time	Watchtower Gallery, Tweedmouth
7.30 pm	Wilson's Tales (Andrew Ayre) Tales with a Twist £10.00

FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre	St. Paul's Church, Spittal
10.00 am	Schools' Programme	Linda Bankier and Colin Fleetwood A Kind of Justice: A Play Script Inspired by the Archives FREE (Booking Essential)	Richard Moore Star Wars and Broomsticks in Hamlet and Macbeth £5.00/Students Free
12 noon	Schools' Programme	Mary Manley Barter Books £5.00	Iain Lowson Use of (The) Force (In Conversation) £5.00/Students Free
2.00 pm	Schools' Programme	David Banks News: Making it, Faking it, Falsaking it £5.00	Torben Betts Writing for Stage and Screen £5.00/Students Free
4.00 pm	Tony Husband Take Care, Son (The Story of My Dad and his Dementia) £5.00		
7.00 pm	Tony Husband and Ian McMillan A Cartoon History of Here £10.00		

SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre	St. Paul's Church, Spittal	Library	St. Aidan's Hall
10.00 am	Castle Productions Our River - Stories of the Tweed £5.00	Stephanie Bullard and Caroline Roberts How to get published - Northumbrian Authors in Conversation £5.00	Christopher Smith The Women of Wodehouse £5.00	Stuart Reid Gorgeous George (Event for Children) FREE (Booking Essential)	Anne Ryland In Praise of the Ode. (A poetry writing workshop) FREE (Booking Essential)
11.00 am					
12 noon	The Rotary Short Story, The Poetry and Poetry Illustration Competitions (by invitation only)	Poppy Holden Border Ballads (from Ethrick and Yarrow) £5.00	Peter Townsend The Dark Side of Technology £5.00		Poetry Cafe Open Microphone FREE
2.00 pm	Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones State Spies and Private Eyes £5.00	Polly Clark Debut novelist and poet (In Conversation) £5.00	Fiona Anderson Fashioned in Tweed £5.00		Poetry Cafe Open Microphone FREE (Cafe closes at 3pm)
4.00 pm	Dave Randall The Political Power of Music £5.00	Stephen Baxter The Massacre of Mankind £5.00	Linda Porter A Family in Turmoil: the Children of Charles I and the English Civil Wars £5.00		
6.00 pm	Max Adams Walking with Giants: Journeys through Northern Lands £5.00				

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER Programme and Venues

Time	Guildhall	Holy Trinity Parish Centre
12 noon	Colin Young Jack Charlton: the Authorised Biography £5.00	Neil Astley Land of Three Rivers £5.00
2.00 pm	Tom Maxwell Jock and the Giant Killers £5.00	Piers Torday The Story is You £5.00
4.00 pm	Katrina Porteous with Alice Robinson The Blue Lonnien £5.00	

Please note the times in this programme are correct. Some vary from those previously published.

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 (A-Z)

Katrina Porteous with Alice Robinson

The Blue Lonnen

This is a chance to catch two of the region's top performers. Katrina Porteous' evocative poetry is frequently heard on BBC Radio. Accompanied on Northumbrian pipes by Radio 2's Young Musician of the Year finalist Alice Robinson, Katrina will present new work, together with poems from her Portico Prize shortlisted collection *Two Countries* (Bloodaxe 2014).



Photo © Marjorie Baillie



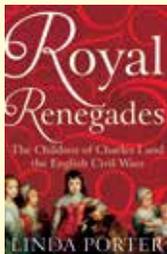
Guildhall

Sunday, 4pm - £5.00

Linda Porter

A Family in Turmoil: the Children of Charles I and the English Civil Wars

Dr Linda Porter studied history at the University of York. She has published three books on the Tudor period and recently moved into the 17th century with her latest book, *Royal*



Renegades. Linda was the historical adviser for Lucy Worsley's *Six Wives* series and reviews regularly for the *Literary Review* and history magazines.



St. Paul's Church, Spittal

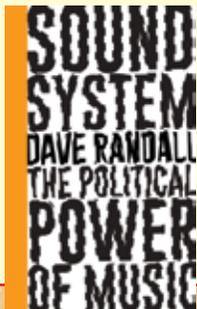
Saturday, 4pm - £5.00

Contributors (A-Z)

David Randall

The Political Power of Music

Dave Randall has toured the world playing guitar with Faithless, Sinéad O'Connor and many others. *Sound System* is his book of raves, riots and revolution. It sheds light on the secrets of celebrity, commodification and culture, and poses the question: how can we make music serve the interests of the many, rather than the few?



Guildhall

Saturday, 4pm - £5.00

Stuart Reid

Gorgeous George (Event for Children)

Stuart Reid dedicated his early life to being immature, having fun and getting into trouble and has written 6 books about 'Gorgeous George'. He is a Silver Medal winner at the Forward National Literature Awards in the USA and was presented with the Enterprise in Education Award for his work in promoting the joy of reading.



Library

Saturday, 11am – FREE (Booking Essential)

Contributors (A-Z)

Anne Ryland

In Praise of the Ode (A poetry writing workshop)

Anne's poetry workshops are guaranteed to get the creative juices flowing. In this session, participants will explore this ancient and celebratory form, with a particular focus on the odes to everyday objects by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. There will be a variety of exercises to inspire new odes, from lofty to playful. Please bring something to write with, and on.

St. Aidan's Hall

Saturday, 10am – FREE (Booking Essential)



Christopher Smith

The Women of Wodehouse

Christopher Smith is a retired Anglican priest, living in Berwick, who has always enjoyed the language and the humour of P.G.Wodehouse (also known as 'Plum'). His talk is an affectionate and light-hearted look at some of the women in Plum's books, which might hold some surprises for those not familiar with the author's work and some delight for his devotees.

St. Paul's Church, Spittal

Saturday, 10am - £5.00

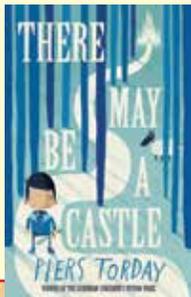


Contributors (A-Z)

Piers Torday

The Story is You

Join the Guardian Children's Book Award winner Piers Torday, as he talks about his new book *There May Be A Castle*, a story about love, loss and the power of imagination. He will tell you how he was inspired to become an author by his father Paul Torday (*Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*), and inspire you to follow your dreams.



Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Sunday, 2pm - £5.00



Photo © James Betts
Book Cover Artwork © Rob Biddulph

Peter Townsend

The Dark Side of Technology

Peter Townsend is a Physicist with a diverse background in applications from optics, ion implantation, lasers, and luminescence, to cancer detection and music. His latest book *The Dark Side of Technology* looks beyond innovation to known and potential dangers from information loss, social isolation, and events that threaten our very survival.



St. Paul's Church, Spittal
Saturday, 12 noon - £5.00

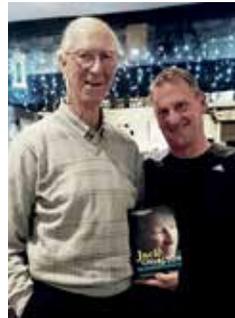


Contributors (A-Z)

Colin Young

Jack Charlton: the Authorised Biography

Durham-based football writer Colin Young worked for several national newspapers and covered the fortunes of the Republic of Ireland national team for over 15 years. In 2016, he wrote the authorised biography of England World Cup winner Jack Charlton. Recalling the many hours of interviews and writing, Colin presents the story of how he completed his book about Ashington-born 'Big Jack' in just four months.



Guildhall

Sunday, 12 noon - £5.00

The Rotary Short Story, Poetry and Poetry Illustration Competitions

Berwick Rotary has again organised and sponsored a Short Story Competition for young writers at our local schools. This year's subjects are 'Adventures around the River Tweed' for ages 9-13 yrs and 'Living in the Borders' for age 18 and under.

New this year, we are running a Poetry writing competition for 5-13 year olds, in association with Berwick Visual Arts, inspired by the paintings in the Scottish Colourists exhibition at the Granary Gallery.

This year's Poetry Illustration Competition's poems are: First Schools 'Mystery Creatures' by Wes Magee, Middle Schools 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll and Upper Schools 'Macavity the Mystery Cat' by TS Elliot. Winners' illustrations will be displayed in a town centre window until the end of October.

The winners of these competitions will be announced at an awards ceremony in the Guildhall on Saturday 21st October at 12 noon.

Poetry for All

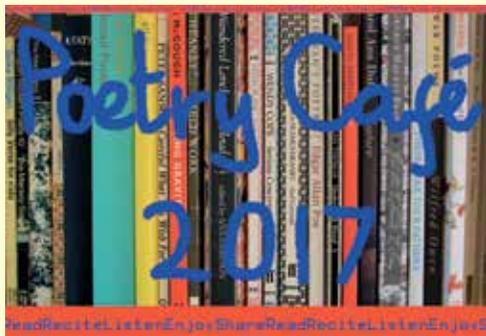
St. Aidan's Hall, 46 Church Street
Saturday 21st October

Poetry Writing Workshop

Join prize-winning poet and writing facilitator
Anne Ryland, in *Praise of the Ode*.

10 am - 12.00 noon

Places Limited • Free • Booking Essential



Poetry Café

12 noon - 3 pm (Open Mic - Free)

The Poetry Café is for anyone who loves poetry or wants to find out more about it. This will be a friendly, informal event, with delicious poems and scrumptious cake. Bring some poems to share (written by you or a favourite poet), or just come along and listen, drop in for a coffee or stay all afternoon.

**Email blfpoetrycafe@outlook.com
if you would like to book an 'Open Mic' slot.**

The Festival Hub



Again, The Corner House Café on Church Street in Berwick will act as the Festival Hub. People attending can rub shoulders with other Festival-goers while enjoying excellent food and locally roasted coffee. They can also perhaps chat with a writer or with the Festival Bloggers by the open fire. Festival tickets can be presented to receive 50 pence off a hot drink.



Opening Hours for the Festival Weekend

Friday 20th October 9.30 am - 7.00 pm

Saturday 21st October 9.30 am - 6.00 pm

Sunday 22nd October 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

www.thecornerhouseberwick.com



**BROWN BEAR, Hide Hill - 5% OFF food and drinks
on production of a Festival ticket during the Festival**

BOOKS

Books featured during the Festival will be available to buy and for signature by the author at most events.

They can also be bought from

Geo. C. Grieve Limited

Stationer and Bookseller

1 Church Street (close by the Town Hall)

Berwick-upon-Tweed

Tel. 01289 306051

E-mail: info@grieve-stationers.co.uk

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who have all supported the
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Festival Photographer: Nicholas Box

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In association with the Festival

Wilson's Tales Tales with a Twist



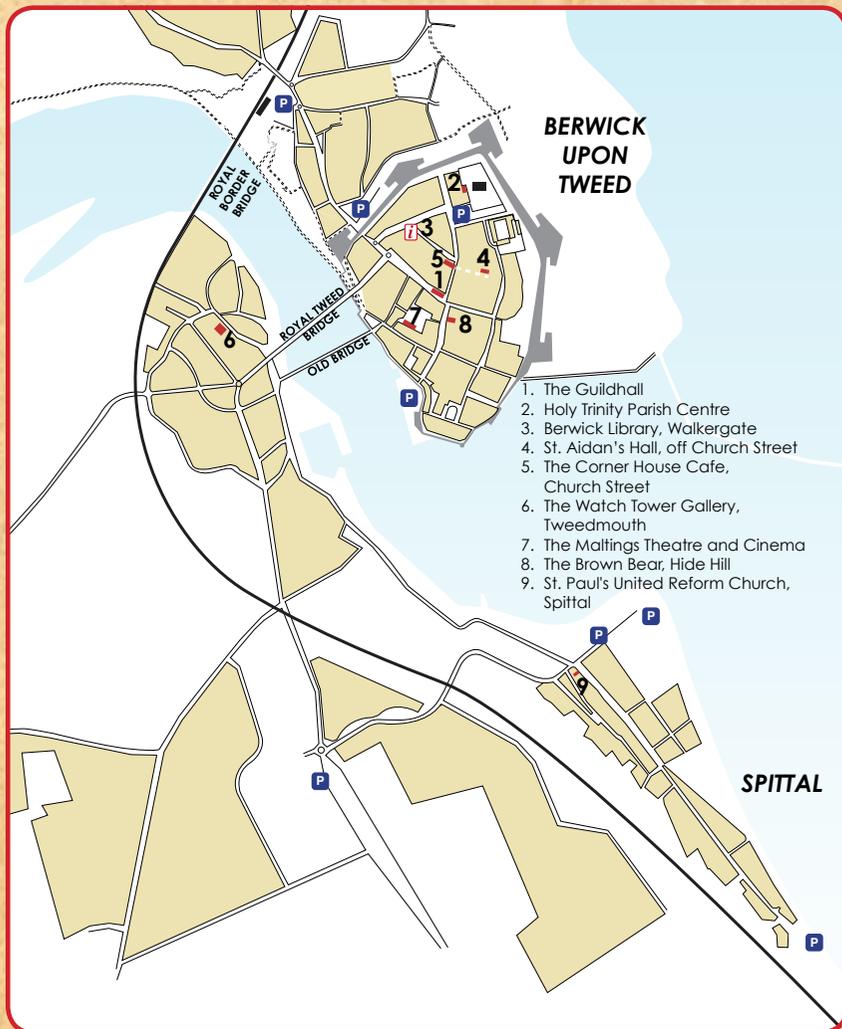
Wilson's Tales of the Borders was a publishing sensation that originated in Berwick in 1834 and remained world famous for over a century. The Wilson's tales project, in association with Northumberland Theatre Company, present a humorous dramatisation of *The Disasters of Johnny Armstrong* and launch Volume 4 of their revival edition of the tales.



Watchtower Gallery, Tweedmouth
Thursday, 7.30 pm - £10.00

An Exhibition at the Watchtower Gallery will include original artwork from *The Tales*, new work commissioned for the project and Charles Nasmyth's work on his illustrated book on *The Legend of William McGonigal, Scotland's worst poet*.

Venue Map



Map provided by
Jim Herbert, Berwick Time Lines



Tickets

Tickets for all events will be available at
The Maltings, Berwick upon Tweed from 1st September 2017

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.

Weekend Pass

In addition to tickets for individual events, a weekend pass will be available giving access, subject to availability, to all events (other than the talk by Ian McMillan and Tony Husband and the Wilson's Tales event).

Pass-holders who wish guaranteed access to a particular event are advised to request a complimentary ticket for the event in question.

Price: £30.00 (£25.00 to Patrons)

You can find more information about the Festival on our website

www.berwickliteraryfestival.com

Use this also for Festival blogs



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Please post comments using #berwicklifefest

