

Berwick LITERARY FESTIVAL

18th - 21st OCTOBER 2018

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

www.berwickliteraryfestival.com

Messages



Once again it is my pleasure to introduce the 2018 Festival and to commend it to you. My colleagues on the Steering Group, all of whom are volunteers, have worked tirelessly to arrange the Programme. 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 make a contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of our town. May I also thank all those individuals and organisations, whose support is acknowledged elsewhere in the Programme, for their financial contributions which makes it possible to offer the Festival.

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

Michael Wright (Chairman, Berwick Literary Festival Steering Group)



It gives me great pleasure to support the Berwick Literary Festival in its fifth year. Each year the Festival has grown from strength to strength bringing opportunities for residents and visitors to enrich themselves with the written word, which is so lacking in this technological age in which we live. The success of the Festival is a testament to the vision and organisation of the organisers whom I am deeply grateful for the literary profusion that they bring to the town. This is a wonderful Festival and I hope that all will participate over the three days that it is on.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan (MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed)

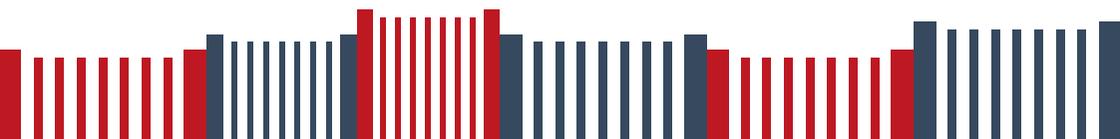
The 2018 Berwick Literary Festival will be the fifth such occasion. It has established itself as an important part of the cultural life of our town and district. The Town Council is pleased to be able to offer support to the Literary Festival as one of Berwick's Autumn Festivals. Once again, there will 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.



Brian Douglas (Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed)

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Contributors

(A-Z)

Douglas Alexander Trump, the transatlantic relationship and the rise of populism



Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, currently Chair of Unicef UK, served in the UK Government for nine years and as a Member of the UK Parliament for eighteen years. He offers audiences a depth and breadth of experience, an understanding of the changing political landscapes in Europe and the USA and a unique perspective on the global economy.

Guildhall
Sunday, 4:00pm - £5.00

Neil Ansell The Last Wilderness

Neil Ansell is a lifelong adventurer who has travelled in more than fifty countries and a celebrated writer of books of immersive nature writing. His latest book, *The Last Wilderness*, is based on a series of solitary walks in the Scottish Highlands in search of wildlife encounters, and explores the pleasures and pains of being isolated in the wilds.

Guildhall
Saturday, 2:00pm - £5.00



Contributors

Catharine Arnold The Silent Killer. Spanish Flu in the last year of WW1

The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 killed 100 million people worldwide, more than perished during WW1. In *Pandemic 1918*, Catharine Arnold traces the course of this deadly virus through the personal testimonies of victims and survivors. Catharine specializes in the dark side of history, and her other titles include *Necropolis*, *London and its Dead* and *Underworld, Crime and Punishment*.

Guildhall
Sunday, 12 noon - £5.00



Linda Bankier and Jane Miller From Cholera to Comic: Using Archives Creatively



Continuing the theme of using archives as inspiration for literature, Linda Bankier (Berwick Archives) and Jane Miller (Berwick Museum) will talk about a joint project with Berwick Academy and Newcastle University. It focuses on the 1832 and 1854 cholera epidemics in Berwick and students creating a comic on the subject.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 4:00pm - £5.00

Contributors

(A-Z)

Torben Betts

Scenes from a Playwright's Life

Torben Betts is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. At last year's Berwick Literary Festival, he gave a talk describing his struggles in becoming and then remaining one. This year, with the help of a few friends, he will be reading selected scenes from his darkly comic plays, work that has spanned twenty years.

Recommended for 14+

St Paul's UR Church, Spittal

Friday, 1:30pm

£5.00/Students Free



Julia Boyd

Travellers in the Third Reich: Sources and Surprises



Julia worked at the V&A Museum before marriage took her abroad and later to Churchill College, Cambridge. She is a trustee of Wigmore Hall and a Cumbrian sheep farmer. Using unpublished sources, she has tried in her book to create a sense of what it was like to travel in Nazi Germany without the benefit of post-war hindsight.

Guildhall

Saturday, 4:00pm - £5.00

Contributors

(A-Z)

John Challis

The Black Cab, a Poetry Reading

John Challis was born in London and lives in Whitley Bay. His first pamphlet of poems, *The Black Cab* focuses on his father's vocation as a London Taxi Driver and features poems about work, class and ancestry. His poems have appeared on BBC Radio 4 and widely in journals and anthologies. He has been awarded a Northern Writers' Award and a Pushcart Prize.

YHA Granary

Saturday, 4:00pm - £5.00



Children's Book Panel



A panel of accomplished local artists and writers will each give a short presentation which will be followed by a panel talk hosted by an academic specialist in this field. They will discuss what Berwick has to offer for illustrators, what attracted this huge amount of talent to the town and why Berwick punches well above its weight with illustrators.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Saturday, 10:00am - £5.00

Contributors

(A-Z)

Bea Davenport Crime Writing Workshop



Crime fiction is the best-selling genre - so it's no mystery that many writers want to try it. But how do you create an original detective, a convincing villain and a pacy plot?

Join five-times-published author Bea Davenport for a writing workshop that takes you through some of the tested tips and techniques for writing compelling crime stories.

YHA Granary
Friday, 10:00am - £5.00
Limited Numbers -
Booking Essential

Jane Dismore Royals, Rebels and Aristocrats: the pleasure and the pain of writing about Britain's 'blue-blooded' families

After fitting writing around my careers as an English teacher and a solicitor, it's now a full-time occupation. I focus on biographical subjects, usually those with royal or aristocratic connections, which will form the basis of my talk. As well as non-fiction books, I write features for history magazines and other publications.

Guildhall
Saturday, 10:00am - £5.00



Contributors

(A-Z)

Liz Flanagan Dragon Daughter



© Sarah Mason Photography

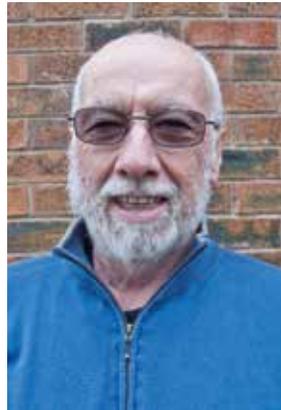
Do you dream of dragons? Do you love stories about magical creatures of all kinds? In this interactive talk, acclaimed children's author Liz Flanagan will be sharing her new book *Dragon Daughter* and inviting you to imagine a fantasy animal of your very own. Recommended for ages 8-12.

St Paul's UR Church, Spittal
Friday, 11:00am
£5.00/Students Free

Michael Fraser John Mackay Wilson (1804-1835) – the Writer of *Tales of the Borders* and Editor of the *Berwick Advertiser* 1832-1835

At a turbulent stage in British history, Wilson wrote his hugely popular *Tales of the Borders* and transformed the *Advertiser* - writing, for example, controversial editorials on The Great Reform Act and the Freeman of Berwick. Mike discusses what Wilson's writings tell us about Berwick then, and about Britain then and now.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Saturday, 4:00pm - £5.00



Contributors

(A-Z)

Poppy Holden

Thomas the Rhymer

Thomas of Erceldoune, Thomas the Rhymer, True Thomas: a man of many names, famous for his journey to the land of the elves and the special powers he gained there. Singer Poppy Holden explores the medieval account of Thomas and how the seemingly inexplicable events of the story can be linked to the real-world geography and history of the Scottish borders.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Friday, 2:00pm - £5.00



Christian Jennings

German Codebreaking in World War Two



Christian Jennings is a writer and foreign correspondent whose new book *The Third Reich is Listening: Inside German Codebreaking 1939-1945*, focuses on the compelling and fast-paced story of German codemakers and codebreakers in the Second World War, covering their operations from the Battle of the Atlantic to Normandy and from Russia to North Africa.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

Sunday, 2:00pm - £5.00

Contributors

(A-Z)

Liz Lochhead and Steve Kettley

**Some things Old, Some things
New**

From the bittersweet to the rude and raunchy, poet and playwright Liz Lochhead weaves a spellbinding and beguiling show, mixing poems, monologues and music. Accompanied by the soulful sax of Steve Kettley, she presents an intoxicating mix of some of her best work over the past 45 years. 'Brilliant, raucous and scabrously funny' (Sunday Times).

Guildhall
Friday, 7:00pm - £10.00



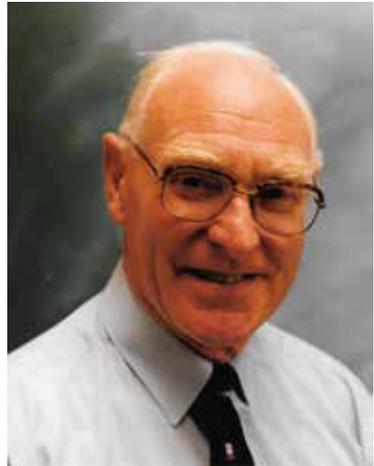
© AlistairCook_LR

George Martin

A History of Tweedmouth

I am a master printer, previously M.D. of Martin's Printing Works. When I retired I wrote *An Anecdotal History of Spittal*, then recently wrote *An Anecdotal History of Tweedmouth*. My favourite pastime is bridge and I am a high ranking player. I also played bowls until two years ago. I am secretary of Berwick Probus Club.

St Paul's UR Church, Spittal
Saturday, 10:00am - £5.00



Contributors

(A-Z)

Fordyce Maxwell **A Farmer's Boy**

Award winning journalist Fordyce Maxwell considers half a century of dramatic change in two businesses he knows intimately - farming and journalism. In spite of being a Berwick Rangers supporter, an England cricket fan and the oldest of a family of nine brought up on a small farm he remains an optimist.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Saturday, 12 noon - £5.00



Tom Maxwell and Tony Black **Partners in Crime – the Collaborative Writing Process**

Tom Maxwell, local author of two critically acclaimed football books, has recently completed his first novel with his friend Tony Black, who he first met while working at the *Edinburgh Evening News*. Tony, described by Irvine Welsh as “my favourite British crime writer”, will join Tom in Berwick for a fascinating discussion on the collaborative writing process.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Saturday, 2pm - £5.00



© Ian Atkinson

THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2018 Programme and Venue

Baptist Church, Golden Square

7.30 pm **Wilson's Tales (Andrew Ayre): Tales of Torment** - £8.00 from www.maltingsberwick.co.uk or on the door (more information from www.wilsonstales.co.uk)

FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER 2018 Programme and Venue

The Guildhall

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

St. Paul's UR Church, Spittal

YHA Granary

Martins Printworks

10.00 am - 11.00 am
Sarah Reay
The Half Shilling Curate,
A personal account of war
and Faith 1914-1918 - **£5.00**

9.30 am - 10.30 am
Richard Moore
Through a Glass Darkly
£5.00/Students Free

9.30 am - 11.00 am
Tour of Martins the Printers
Limited Numbers - Booking Essential
£5.00

10.00 am - 4.00 pm
Schools

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Maryam Sinaiee
What is Persian Cooking?
All About? - **£5.00**

11.00 am - 12.00 noon
Liz Flanagan
Dragon Daughter
£5.00/Students Free

11.00 am - 12.30 pm
Tour of Martins the Printers
Limited Numbers - Booking Essential
£5.00

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Poppy Holden
Thomas the Rhymer - **£5.00**

1.30 pm - 2.30 pm
Torben Betts
Scenes from a Playwright's Life
£5.00/Students Free

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
**Linda Bankier
& Jane Miller**
From Cholera to Comic:
Using Archives Creatively - **£5.00**

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
**Liz Lochhead and
Steve Kettleby**
Somethings Old, Somethings New
£10.00

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER 2018 Programme and Venue

The Guildhall

10.00 am - 11.00 am
Jane Dismore
 Royals, Rebels and Aristocrats
£5.00

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Rotary Short Story Competition
 (by invitation only)

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Neil Ansell
 The Last Wilderness
£5.00

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Julia Boyd
 Travellers in the Third Reich:
 Sources and Surprises
£5.00

6.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Sean O'Brien
 A Poetry Reading
£5.00

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

10.00 am - 11.00 am
Children's Book Panel
 A Panel Discussion
£5.00

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Fordyce Maxwell
 A Farmer's Boy
£5.00

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Tom Maxwell & Tony Black
 Partners in Crime
£5.00

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Michael Fraser
 John Mackay Wilson (1804-1835)
£5.00

St. Paul's UR Church, Spittal

10.00 am - 11.00 am
George Martin
 A History of Tweedmouth
£5.00

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Harriet Smart & Emma Salisbury
 Criminal Endeavours
£5.00

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Christopher Smith
 Intimations of Immortality
£5.00

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Theresa Muñoz
 Settle and Spark
£5.00

YHA Granary

9.45 am - 12.15 pm
Anne Ryland
 Prose Poetry - Form or Non-Form?
 Workshop
 Limited Numbers - Booking Essential
£5.00

12.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Poetry Cafe
FREE

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
John Challis
 The Black Cab. A Poetry Reading
£5.00

SUNDAY 21st OCTOBER 2018 Programme and Venue

The Guildhall

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Catharine Arnold
The Silent Killer.
Spanish Flu in the last year of WW1
£5.00

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Tony Spawforth
The Story of Greece and Rome
£5.00

4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Douglas Alexander
Trump, the transatlantic relationship
and the rise of populism
£5.00

Holy Trinity Parish Centre

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm
Stephen Platten
Edwin Muir - One Foot in Eden
£5.00

2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Christian Jennings
German Codebreaking in World War Two
£5.00

Slightly Foxed Bookshop

11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Alan Martin
Book Signing with
Tank Girl writer / co-creator
FREE

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)

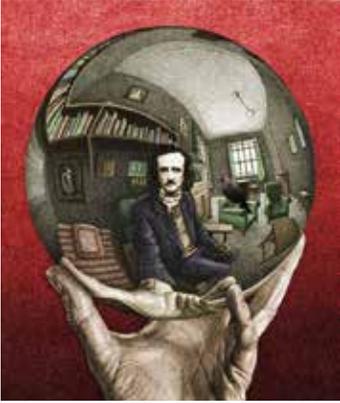
1 Church Street (close by the Town Hall), Berwick-upon-Tweed

Tel. 01289 306051 • E-mail: info@grieve-stationers.co.uk

Contributors

(A-Z)

Richard Moore Through A Glass Darkly



From the mid-18th century, the reaction against the formal elegance of Georgian Society was steadily undermined by one thing: the Cult of the Gothic. Come and meet vampires and ghouls, hear how the Gothic arose and how writers as diverse as Edgar Allan Poe, R.L. Stevenson and Bram Stoker exploited it.

St. Paul's UR Church, Spittal
Friday, 9:30am
£5.00 / Students Free

Theresa Muñoz Settle and Spark

Theresa Muñoz lives in Edinburgh and is a Research Associate at Newcastle University. Her first collection *Settle* was shortlisted for the Melita Hume Prize for Poetry. She is the recipient of a Muriel Spark Centenary Award and has been writing a sequence of poems inspired by Spark's life, legacy and letters, entitled 'Why We Love You'.

St Paul's UR Church, Spittal
Saturday, 4:00pm - £5.00



© Iain Clark

Contributors

(A-Z)

Sean O'Brien A Poetry Reading



Multiple award-winning poet, Sean O'Brien, will be reading from and talking about his recently-published ninth collection, *Europa*. Sean's many awards include the T.S. Eliot and several Forward prizes. He is a respected critic, translator, editor, playwright, novelist, broadcaster, experienced writing tutor and mentor. He lives in Newcastle, where he is a Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University.

Guildhall
Saturday, 6:00pm - £5.00

Stephen Platten Edwin Muir – One Foot in Eden

Muir, an outstanding poet, author of an elegiac autobiography, translated Kafka and lived a tortured life travelling Europe with Willa, his wife, also a writer. Stephen Platten, sometime Bishop of Wakefield, lives in London and Berwick and writes widely on culture, literature and theology.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Sunday, 12 noon - £5.00



Contributors

(A-Z)

Sarah Reay
The Half-Shilling Curate,
A personal account of war
and faith 1914-1918



The Half-Shilling Curate was an Army Chaplain who in 1915 was attached to the DLI and Northumberland Fusiliers. His descriptive account, from his own personal letters and writings, illustrates the value of love and faith during the Great War. He was the only known Army Chaplain during the war to be awarded the Military Cross for exemplary gallantry on a ship.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 10:00am - £5.00

Anne Ryland
Prose Poetry ~ Form or
Non-Form?

It has sparked discussion and controversy, not to mention resistance! To define prose poetry simply as a block of prose possessing poetic qualities is to understate its rich possibilities. Discover more at this writing workshop. We will read some contemporary prose poems and then, through a variety of approaches, experiment with the elusive form ourselves. All writers welcome, including beginners.

YHA Granary
Saturday, 9:45am - £5.00
Limited Numbers -
Booking Essential



Contributors

(A-Z)

Maryam Sinaiee What is Persian Cooking All About?



Maryam Sinaiee was born in Tehran, Iran. She learned to cook from her mother and extended family, and is passionate about Persian history and cuisine. She moved to the UK in 2011 and started a food blog, The Persian Fusion, which is now one of the most popular Persian food blogs in English. *Nightingales and Roses* is her first cookery book.

Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Friday, 12 noon - £5.00

Harriet Smart and Emma Salisbury Criminal Endeavours: crime writers Emma Salisbury and Harriet Smart compare notes

Join Emma Salisbury and Harriet Smart as they discuss what makes crime fiction so compelling and explore the similarities between historical and contemporary crime fiction. Emma's latest book, *Absent*, is the fourth in her police procedural series set in Manchester, while Harriet has recently published her sixth Northminster Mystery, *The Echo At Rooke Court*.

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



Contributors

(A-Z)

Christopher Smith **Intimations of Immortality: The Sacred Imagery and Ideas in T.S.Eliot's The Four Quartets**

Christopher Smith is a retired Anglican priest, living in Berwick. His talk will look at the ideas and allusions present in *The Four Quartets*, which spring from Eliot's religious knowledge and experience; an exploration of which poetry lovers might find helpful in their reading of the work.

**St Paul's UR Church, Spittal
Saturday, 2:00pm - £5.00**



Tony Spawforth **The Story of Greece and Rome**



I am a historian, writer and broadcaster and prof emeritus of Ancient History, Newcastle University UK. I've published (including the one I'll be talking about) 12 books, academic, reference and popular. In my illustrated talk I shall be talking about my latest, trying to persuade my audience that another tome about the ancient world is just what they need.

**Guildhall
Sunday, 2:00pm - £5.00**

Festival Hub

Come and join us in The Corner House Cafe on Church Street



In the cosy, warm atmosphere, while enjoying locally roast coffee and delicious food, you might compare notes with fellow festival goers, meet a contributor or chat to our bloggers.

On presenting a festival ticket you will receive 50p off the price of your hot drink.

Opening Hours for the Festival Weekend

Friday 19th October 9.30 am - 7.00 pm

Saturday 20th October 9.30 am - 6.00 pm

Sunday 21st October 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

www.thecornerhouseberwick.com



Martins the Printers

have been operating in Berwick for 120 years from their period factory crammed full of the latest technology and are one of the last remaining book printers and binders left in the UK and the only one in the north of England. The tour takes around 90 minutes and includes a guided tour round the working factory. Note that this is a working environment with some noise and changes in floor levels.

Limited Numbers - Booking Essential.

Martins the Printers, Spittal on Friday at 9.30am and 11.00am



Programme of Events for Schools

A range of events for schools will be taking place in the weeks leading up to the Festival, and during the weekend itself.

The illustrator **Kate Leiper** and storytellers **Alice Fernbank** and **Becca Harris** will be working with children and young people in local schools on the theme of Fantastic Beasts and Mythical Creatures.

We will be displaying some of the results of their labours in The Guildhall over the Festival weekend.

Schools will also be invited to send students to talks taking place in Tweedmouth on Festival Friday.

All of these events are provided free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

ROTARY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Now in its fifth year and run by Berwick Rotary Club, all pupils attending the local schools are invited to submit a Short Story. The hundreds of entries are read and the shortlisted pupils invited to an Oscars style Award Ceremony in The Guildhall where pupils or readers read excerpts from the stories and the prize winners announced. (Attendance at the event is so high from pupils and parents that it is not possible to accommodate members of the public).

Patrons and Sponsors

**Thank you to the following, who have all supported the
2018 Berwick Literary Festival:**

Margaret ANDERSON
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(Sandra and Ian Dods)

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Christopher CLAY

Audrey CONWAY

David CONWAY

Nolan DALRYMPLE

Mark DODDS

Chris and Colin FLEETWOOD

Gerry FOLEY

Mike FRASER

Alison GALLICO

Michael GALLICO

Ian GRAY

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Madeleine KNIGHT

Jackie Kaines LANG

Joe LANG

HB LONGBONE & SON

(Allison and Bryon Longbone)

Fordyce MAXWELL

Liz MAXWELL

Lady Ann MAWER

Sir Philip MAWER

Laura MCGINLAY

Ruth McNEELY

Marion MEAD

Monica MENIS and Cian McHUGH

Richard MOORE

Flora MOXON

Judith NICHOLSON

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Hilary O'SHEA

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Christine SMITH
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BLF Steering Group 2018

Lindsay Dalgleish • Nolan Dalrymple • Colin Fleetwood
Trudy Gray • Ann Mawer • Flora Moxon • Michael Wright

Chairman of Festival Trustees: Christopher Smith

Charity Number: 1168860

In association with the festival
Wilson's Tales - Tales of Torment!

*More stories from Berwick's own 19th century literary sensation
Wilson's Tales of the Borders - re-presented for the 21st century*

For this year's Festival, the Wilson's Tales Project presents an evening of drama, poetry and history. The Domestic Grievances of Gustavus McIver is a tragi-farce of an untameable shrew, staged by Alice Dobie in the manner of the Jeremy Kyle show.



**Baptist Church, Golden Square
Thursday 18th October at 7.30pm**

Tickets £8.00 from www.maltingsberwick.co.uk or on the door
More information from www.wilsonstales.co.uk

SLIGHTLY FOXED
presents
a book signing with
TANK GIRL
writer/co-creator
ALAN MARTIN
11am - 2pm, Sunday 21st October 2018

**FREE ART PRINT
FOR EVERYONE
THAT COMES ALONG!**

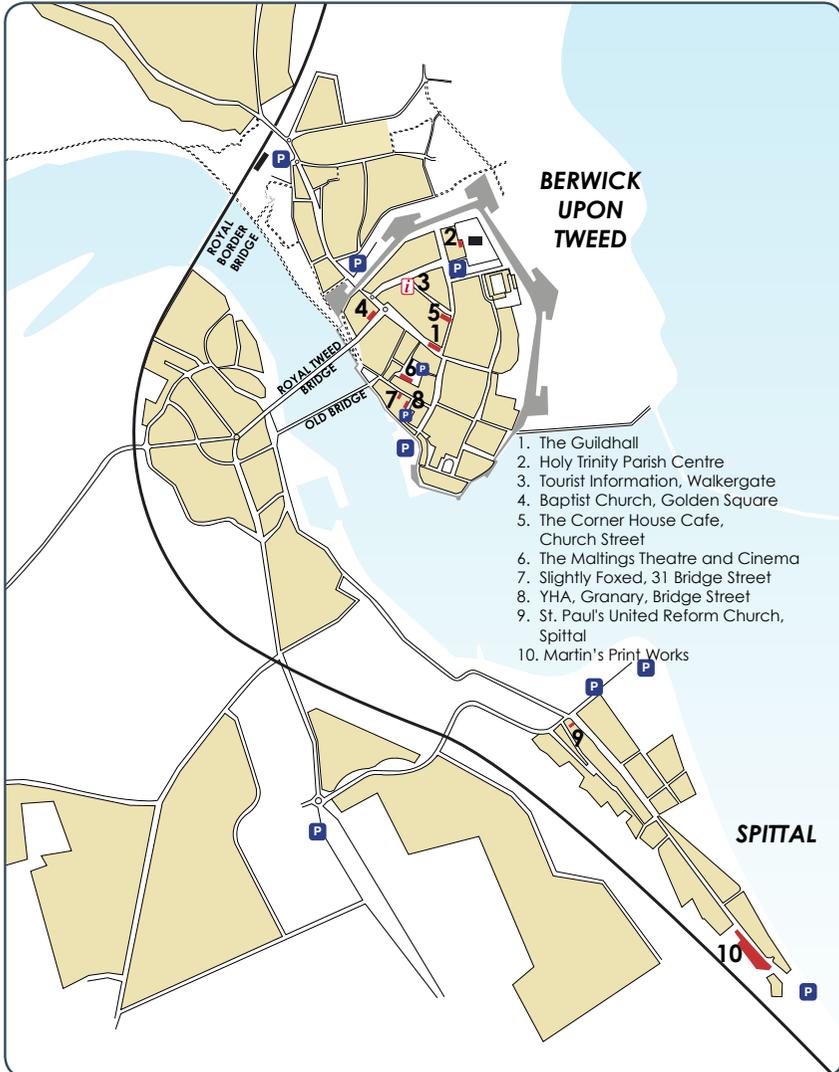


SLIGHTLY FOXED Bookshop
31 Bridge St. Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1ES

**TANK GIRL MERCHANDISE,
BOOKS AND COMICS
FOR SALE**

Venue Map

Provided by Jim Herbert
Berwick Time Lines



Borders Bus B1 runs from various stops in Berwick to Spittal to arrive in time for Friday and Saturday events.

Further details: www.bordersbuses.com

Tickets

Tickets for all events will be available at
The Maltings, Berwick upon Tweed from beginning of September

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 Liz Lochhead and Steve Kettle 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



Facebook, Twitter and Instagram -
facebook.com/berwicklitfest @berwicklitfest
Please post comments using #berwicklitfest



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