

## Damage in town

Finally, we don't want to dwell on the bad stuff, but we must acknowledge that there have been a few instances where damage has been done to council property over the past month. Over the past week there has been a bin burning spree, including some at Five Arches and really sadly, the bear bin in the Osborne play park – this has been temporarily replaced with the frog from Flagstaff park.



There was also damage done to electrics on Spittal Promenade which affected the Splash Park – it can be really disheartening when these instances happen but the eagle eyes of the public have really helped to identify issues in the area. We also had an instance of people (adults!) drawing on a planter on Marygate with permanent pens - thank you to the member of the public who tried to discourage them and those who subsequently let us know about the damage which was cleared up by the wardens. They have also been dealing with a spate of graffiti in town and Northumberland County Council have been helping us deal with some that has appeared on a few of our benches. You may not be able to fix the cause but you can try to clear up after them!



## Contact the Town Council

You can email us at [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk) or telephone us on 01289 302391. Website: [www.berwick-tc.gov.uk](http://www.berwick-tc.gov.uk)  
Or you can pop into our office on Marygate. Our current opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10-12pm & 2-4pm

## Contact Northumberland County Council (NCC)

If you have a question about NCC services you can speak to someone in person in the Library on Walkergate on Tuesday and Friday 10-1pm or telephone NCC on 0345 600 6400  
Website: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

**BRIDGE STREET**  
SHOPS RESTAURANTS  
CAFÉS BARS GALLERIES

The Old Bridge may be closed but Bridge Street is still open for business!

**Free Tai Chi in the Park**

TAI CHI, the ancient Chinese art, is an amazing total Health & Wellness workout for the entire Mind & Body. What better place to practise this art than in Castle Vale Park

11:30am Thursday mornings, starting from 6th June 2024 (subject to weather conditions)

For more information and to register your interest for the limited places Email Pete on [berwicktaichi@gmail.com](mailto:berwicktaichi@gmail.com)

**REPAIR CAFE**

TECH \* PHONES \* GUITARS  
SEWING MACHINES  
SEWING REPAIRS  
MECHANICAL STUFF  
ELECTRICAL \* TOYS  
FURNITURE \* FRAMES  
P.A.T. TESTING \* HI FI  
BLADE SHARPENING

TOO BROKE TO BUY

**CAFE**

**LAST SAT. OF EVERY MONTH 10-1pm**

Supported by Berwick Town Council  
NCC Climate & Environment Fund

SALVATION ARMY CHURCH  
53 CHURCH ST,  
BERWICK UPON TWEED

We will do our best to repair your things but can offer no guarantee. Brought to you by Greener Berwick Zero Waste Action Group.

[www.greenerberwick.org.uk](http://www.greenerberwick.org.uk) [info@greenerberwick.org.uk](mailto:info@greenerberwick.org.uk) @greenerberwick

**Berwick Heritage Open Days**

Enjoy open buildings, tours, exhibitions, online events and lots more!

6th-15th September, 2024

[www.berwickhods.org.uk](http://www.berwickhods.org.uk)

**Berwick Literary Festival**

7-13 Oct 2024

Celebrating Words  
Written | Spoken | Performed

**Fix My Street**

If you have a pothole, or other problem on your street that needs to be sorted, you can report it quickly and easily at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). This is a site for reporting local problems like fly-tipping, blocked drains, broken paving slabs, graffiti, etc. and you receive updates when repairs take place. It shows reports that have already been created, plus any planned roadworks, which saves time and avoids multiple reporting. Fix My Street works on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers and is monitored by the local town and county councils.

# Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council

# NEWSLETTER

September 2024



## Staffing News

Our new Operations Manager, Stephen Robinson, started at the Town Council this week and is already making a positive impact on the team - we will be hearing from him in October's issue of this newsletter! We are also currently recruiting for a dynamic and proactive Chief Officer who can lead and support Councillors and staff - deadline is 9am on 30th September and further details are on our website.



We are also going to install 7 benches within Spittal play park itself – these will be a fun bright blue colour, also in recycled plastic and will be a great addition to the town. Let us know what you think of them!

We try to recycle benches where we can to save money, an example this week is the benches now in position by Newfields pitch and by the Highcliffe Hill bus stop. These came from the old decommissioned skate park at Highcliffe and we are really pleased to be able to reuse them. We had the invaluable help of Fabvent to get this job done. They have assisted us with many projects in town, from making bus stops safe after vandalism, play park repair, removing benches embedded in concrete and this week have lifted the benches at St Helen's Terrace and fitted the replacements. Craig and the team are indispensable to us and another example of a great working relationship for our wardens.



## New Picnic Tables

We recently installed 2 new recycled plastic picnic benches outside Spittal playpark, both with space for a wheelchair or pushchair. We hope these will stand up well to the seaside weather as they are more robust than wood and should require less maintenance. We couldn't have done it without help from the Premier Building Team (below), who collected the made up tables, laid paving and completed the installation. We really value the relationships with local contractors in town and we hope to build on these more as we progress. Having skilled local people we can rely on to help with larger jobs is invaluable and so appreciated.



Make sure you get a copy of our e-newsletter regularly by joining our mailing list. Simply email [info@berwick-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@berwick-tc.gov.uk) and ask to be added. The newsletter will now be arriving into your inbox every 6 weeks.

## Local Services Update

The wardens have also been busy with repairing and updating more benches in town – locations include Etal Way, Farne Road, North Road, Riverside Road and Pier Road. We were really pleased to be able to start work on the benches round the Rose Garden in Flagstaff Park – these benches have now been sanded, filled where needed and repainted and make the area even more lovely to spend time in. They have also completed work on the group of seats opposite Farm Foods and are working on those at Pensioner's Rest near Askew's Crescent.



We have a bit of a mystery at Tweedmouth in the seated area opposite Pets at Home. We have now removed 2 benches that were beyond repair but another one has disappeared without trace....has a random garden style bench appeared near you? Let us know...We are hoping to replace these missing benches as soon as we can.



**Butterfly TOUCH**

A NEW 'FREE' service to provide 3 Reflexology, Aromatherapy or Oncology Massage sessions to anyone in the Berwick District (Berwick, Cornhill, Wooler, Belford and Holy Island), who is currently or within the last 24 months, receiving treatment for cancer, can access this service.

Call Our Therapy Line Now: 01289 763352  
www.berwickcancersupport.co.uk/butterfly-touch

A SERVICE PROVIDED FREE BY THE BERWICK & DISTRICT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



The Pipes and Drums of Canada performing in front of the Town Hall on 21st August

## OCTOBER SOCIAL

<p><b>Destination Tweed</b></p> <p><b>Neen Kelly</b> Tourism Business Engagement Officer Maximise River Tweed Trail Opportunities</p>	<p><b>Chamber of Trade</b></p> <p><b>Stephen Scott</b> Chair Late Night Christmas Shopping</p>	<p><b>Visit Berwick</b></p> <p><b>Liberty Holloway</b> Tourism Officer General Tourism Enquiries and Discussion</p>
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**OCTOBER 3RD**  
4pm (4.30pm start)  
The William Elder Building  
56-58 Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 1JT

October Social at the William Elder Building - a great networking opportunity for local businesses in the Berwick-upon-Tweed area. To RSVP please complete their online form.



## Play Parks

The trampoline at Flagstaff has been fixed, sadly the seesaw is now out of action but we are working on replacing that as soon as we can. It has been in place for around 8 years and whilst it had been repaired up to standard in the past, it is now due an upgrade.



The Newfields swing has also been fixed and put up again by Fabvent. We were informed at the end of August that toilet cleaner had been poured over the baby slide and trampoline in Spittal. This is very disappointing behaviour especially in an area where children play and we are really grateful to the public for letting us know so we could action the removal.

## Bins

The wardens have replaced bins in various locations this month including sites on Billendean Terrace, Riverside Road, Farne Road and Five Arches. This is a reminder that dog waste can go in these black bins, there is an image of a dog on these so please look out for it (see below). The new recycled plastic wood effect bins for the high street on Marygate have arrived to replace the black ones currently there – these will be put out from October onwards once the area is less busy and the black ones will be used elsewhere where needed.



You may not know this but replacing bins is an expensive business, they are around £150 each including the base paving slab so we do try to look after them and reuse them where we can!

## Seagulls

We have been informed that some people are feeding the seagulls in town – this can create big problems for those areas, encouraging gulls to approach people on the high street and becoming aggressive. It also, of course, means even more mess in town! Please try and discourage people from doing this if you see it, we will be putting up some signs in town regarding this soon.



## Upcoming Council Meetings

**Monday 16th September:** Planning Committee  
**Monday 30th September:** Full Council Meeting  
**Monday 14th October:** Communities and Local Services  
 All of these meetings will be held at the Council Office on Marygate at 6pm.  
 Meetings are open to the public, please come along.

## Winter Fuel Payments

We had a representative from Citizen's Advice Northumberland at the Communities and Local Services Meeting on 2nd September to give information on the recent changes to winter fuel payments. Their website provides links to their leaflets and also an audio version of the presentation. If any residents find it difficult to use the options provided on the website please let their team know by emailing [community@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk](mailto:community@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk) The Berwick Community Trust are also holding 2 open sessions on this on 11th and 12th September - please see details below.

As seen on Martin Lewis the rules for receiving the Winter Fuel Payments is changing

**Were you or someone you know born on or before 22 Sept 1958?**



### NEW Eligibility Rules for Winter Fuel Payments

You could be eligible to claim Pension Credit

But you need to do it NOW, The qualifying period is 16 - 22 Sept 2024

We are holding 2 open sessions to help you check if you can claim

**Thurs 12th September**  
10am - 2pm

Berwick Community Trust,  
William Elder Building,  
Castlegate  
TD15 1JT

**Wed 11th September**  
1pm - 4pm

Berwick Community Trust,  
William Elder Building,  
Castlegate  
TD15 1JT

Things you will need to bring:

- Details of all income and savings
- NI Number

## Council Grants

Please don't forget that we have a grant scheme which supports local initiatives. Let us know what you are planning and we may be able to help you! We have a form you can complete online but if you are unsure about what you can ask for, give us a ring on 01289 302391 or visit us in the Marygate office. We welcome projects that promote the economic growth of the area, encourage people to visit and help to maintain the environment. To apply you need to be an independent organisation based here or active in the local area. You can apply for up to £2500 towards the cost of your project. There are a few more do's and don't's, the full guidelines and form are available here. We look forward to hearing from you!