

Thursday 26th October 2023 (morning) 10.00am

https://bnc_berwick.eventbrite.co.uk

Tour of Berwick upon Tweed Walls and Parish Church

Visit Leader: Canon Alan Hughes, Council Member

Mobile: 07941 757412



John Speed 1610

As with all outdoor trips, check the forecast and come prepared. Walking shoes and some energy are required as we perambulate the one mile route, pausing to view key points with benches available.

Directions:

- Drivers, those familiar with Berwick parking restrictions may have better ideas, enter via B&M car park TD15 1JS. Do not park in the first area (short stay of only 3 hours) but continue through to the area beyond, which is 24hr long stay and free. Ideally situated for the walls walk, visit to the church, afternoon AGM and Lecture, with a short stroll back to the vehicles.

- Train and bus travellers, the Scots Gate is a half mile walk into town from the station, if your bus stops at Golden Square then the gate is

100yards round the corner on Marygate.

Meet: on top of The Scots Gate, beside entrance to B&M Store, the gate top reached on foot by paths and steps either side of the road on the town side (///spare.shell.themes).

When: 10am for 10.05 start. The walk will end at Berwick Parish Church at noon, for a half hour tour of the unique Commonwealth Church. The adjacent Parish Centre will then be open for members to gather for the afternoon AGM and President's Lecture. Participants will be very welcome to eat picnic lunches in the Parish Centre, where there will be coffee and tea available.

Toilets: there are public toilets at B&M and at The Parish Church.

Dogs: on a lead, please.

Cost: there is no charge for this event.

Refreshments: chat to other members over a picnic in the Parish Centre before the AGM or there are numerous cafes and restaurants in the town.

Booking: by Eventbrite only. Numbers will be restricted to 25 members. Guests will only be permitted if the tour is not fully subscribed. It is essential that the number of attendees is known in advance, as we will commence the tour when the roll call is complete. Please follow this link to book a place:

Berwick's Town Walls and Berwick Parish Church.



Drone image by Oliver Cowgill

Berwick, Bar-Vick, Barley Place, evidence of our first residents is lost in the mists of time. Very little has been found from before medieval times, nothing Roman, and, recently, a tiny gold cross was found in the Tweed (7th-10th Century), now on display in Berwick Museum. The recent excavations on the Berwick Hospital rebuild site uncovered a thriving 13th Century fishing village, the artefacts of which are to be displayed in the hospital. Some notable dates:

- 833: Berwick is mentioned in The Chronicles, after The Battle of Carham.
- 1018: Malcolm of Scotland claimed The Tweed as a Scottish river and Berwick a Scottish town.
- 1124-1153: in the reign of David of Scotland Berwick was designated the most important of the four Scottish Royal Burghs, with Roxburgh, Edinburgh and Stirling.
- 1147: Berwick was surrendered to England and a castle built.
- 1216: King John wrought havoc in Berwick.
- 1266: King of Scotland held his birthday celebrations in town.
- 1291: King Edward I assembled his court in Berwick Castle to favour John Balliol 'Toom Tabard' as King of Scots against Robert Bruce.
- Good Friday 1296: King Edward I attacked Berwick after being denied passage over the Tweed and many thousands were slaughtered and "the streets ran with the blood of its inhabitants for many days".
- 1305: one of the limbs of William Wallace was exhibited in town.
- 1306: The Countess of Buchan was imprisoned in a cage on the walls of the castle for many years for participating in the Coronation of Robert the Bruce. When she was released she was taken in by the Carmelites.
- 1309: King Edward II overwintered in Berwick after invading Scotland.
- 1312: Robert the Bruce tried to take Berwick by stealth but a barking dog sounded the alarm.

- 1314: King Edward II fled to Berwick after his defeat at Bannockburn.
- 1320: King Edward II built his walls.
- 1333: Battle of Halidon Hill.
- 1368: Berwick ceased to be a Royal Burgh of Scotland.
- 1438: The Riding of The Berwick Bounds first took place and is continued today.
- 1482: Berwick finally ceded to England during the reign of King Edward IV
- 1513: The Battle of Flodden took place, King James IV slain, his body brought to Berwick.
- 1548: John Knox preached in Berwick.
- 1558/60: Queen Elizabeth I built her walls.
- 1570: plague in the town.
- 1603: King James VI passed through Berwick.
- 1604: Charter Market granted to the town after he became King James I of England.
- 1611: Old Bridge started, 1624 opened and will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2024.
- 1639: King Charles I stayed in Berwick.
- 1648/52: Berwick Parish Church built from stones salvaged from Berwick Castle by Monck's Regiment of Foot which became The Coldstream Guards. The regiment was incorrectly named owing to the wrong question being asked by The King: "where have you marched from?" Instead of "where were you formed?". The regiment should have been named The Berwick Guards.
- 1650: Oliver Cromwell entered Berwick and proclaimed Chief Magistrate in the town in 1657.
- 1717/1721: Berwick Barracks built.
- 1746: The Walls and Berwick Act drawing Berwick into The Realm having formerly been 'a toon apart'.
- 1750: Town Hall built.
- 1779: John Wesley preached in town.
- 1810/21: Berwick pier built.
- 1823: last death sentence carried out, when Grace Griffin was hanged on Gallows Hill near the present railway station.
- 1825/26: Lighthouse built.
- 1847/50: The Royal Border bridge was built and opened by Queen Victoria.
- 1857: stocks last used in Berwick.
- 1923: War memorial unveiled by Earl Haig.
- 1925/28: Royal Tweed bridge was built and opened by The Prince of Wales, later Duke of Windsor.
- 1956: Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh visited.
- 1964: Barracks closed as a Garrison after 243 years.
- The rest of Berwick history is in living memory.

Leaflets will be handed out after the tour, describing the built architecture which we will have viewed.