



THE BERWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB

Instituted 22 September 1831

www.bnc1831.co.uk

August 2022 Newsletter

Dear Member

Welcome to our final Newsletter of 2022. While most of us are hoping for rain I'm glad to see that the forecast for **22nd August** and our visit to **Gosford** and **Dirleton** looks fair. The tour of Gosford House is fully booked but you can still join the waiting list at https://bnc_gosford.eventbrite.com If there is sufficient demand we could organise another visit.

There are a couple of places left on the Dirleton Village Tour
https://bnc_dirleton.eventbrite.com

Members who are not participating in the guided tours are reminded that they will have full access to the grounds at Gosford and can explore the Dirleton Castle Gardens for free if they are EH or HES members. Whilst the visit to **Torwoodlee Estate and Galashiels Old Town** on **Thursday 8th September** does not have a limit on participants please register so that we have some idea of numbers. https://bnc_torwoodlee.eventbrite.com

Details of these visits can be found in the Members' section of website.
<https://www.bnc1831.co.uk/> password woodsorrel.

Please note that this year our Annual General Meeting is being held in Berwickshire. Does anybody know when this last happened?

Best wishes

Chris Neville-Taylor President

Berwick Museum and Art Gallery

Berwick Museum & Art Gallery are seeking views on the types of amenities, activities and experiences the public would like to see in the future modern museum. The Berwickshire Naturalists' Club house their library in the Museum's upper reaches.

We have been asked to circulate the following survey which it is intended will

reflect the views of potential visitors. [online survey here](#).

Many thanks.

Lesley Gray

Margaret Rebecca Dickinson

Book, Exhibition, Botanical Art Workshops And School Visits

Book In October 2021, the Berwickshire Naturalists Club published a book, 'Margaret Rebecca Dickinson. A Botanical Artist of the Border Counties' by Elizabeth Towner, to commemorate the artist's life and work in her bicentenary year.

Exhibition This Autumn/ Winter, James Lowther, head of Maltings, Berwick Art, is working with the Berwickshire Naturalists Club, to organise an exhibition of original artworks, 31 of which are on loan from the Natural History Society of Northumbria and 8 (the narcissus watercolours) from the Lindley Collection of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The aim of the exhibition is to increase awareness of Margaret Dickinson's important contribution to botanical art in the area. The free exhibition will be held at the Granary Gallery, Dewars Lane, Berwick-upon-Tweed from 22nd October 2022 to 5th February 2023, from 11am to 4pm.

Botanical Art Workshops To accompany the exhibition, Berwickshire Education Association (berwickea.org/events/) is running, two workshops led by botanical artist, Rachel Sutherland SSBA. These are: Introduction to Botanical Art on November 22nd from 10am to 3pm and Introduction to Botanical Drawing: create your own watercolour on December 6th 2022, from 10am to 3pm.

The workshops will take place at the Conference Room YHA, Dewars Lane, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Each workshop is standalone and starts with a 30-minute tour of the exhibition.

School Visits James Lowther has also obtained funding support from the Sir James Knott Trust to fund seven full day workshops to support visits to the exhibition by First and Middle schools from Berwick and the surrounding area.

The Early Presidents Of The Berwickshire Naturalists' Club

Soon to be published is Lesley Gray's book detailing the lives of the Club's 19th century Presidents. As well as their obituary as it appears in the HBNC each

entry is accompanied by a photograph and sometimes a signature. Look out for more details in the publications section of our website.

<https://www.bnc1831.co.uk/>

Events for October and November

Thursday October 27th

A DAY IN DUNS

MORNING VISIT TO THE 14th CENTURY DUNS CASTLE, TD11 3NW, AT THE KIND INVITATION OF MR. AND MRS. A. HAY

Access, will be through the Castle Street entrance in Duns. Coming from the A1 Entering Duns on the A6105 from east or west take the A6112 for Grantshouse. After 50 yards continue straight ahead into Castle Street. There is a sign for Duns Castle showing a no through road sign. Follow this road and enter the estate through the archway (North Lodge) and continue under the Pavillion Lodge archway and continue down the lime avenue into the private grounds. [///lavender.fond.rots](http://lavender.fond.rots)



Please assemble on the gravel in front of the Castle from 10.30 a.m. for an 11.00 start

As numbers are limited for a tour of the castle please reserve your place through Eventbrite.

https://bnc_duns_castle.eventbrite.com

This is not a suitable visit for wheelchair users.

If the weather is fine members may enjoy their picnic at tables in front of the Castle. Otherwise lunch can be taken in Duns at Maxwells or the Jim Clark Bistro both of which may require making a reservation. Border Baguettes in the square provide good takeaway snacks and Pearson's garden centre on the outskirts of Duns also have a cafe.

AFTERNOON

The **A.G.M.** will commence at 2.00 p.m. at the Volunteer Hall in Langtongate, Duns, TD11 3AF, [///cropping.slopping.convinced](http://cropping.slopping.convinced).

The meeting will be followed by the Presidential Lecture to be given by Mr Chris Neville-Taylor with the title 'The Berwickshire Naturalists' and the Railways. The first hundred years".

There is no designated car park for the Volunteer Hall but parking is free on the adjacent roads.

Thursday 17th November

Autumn Lecture

To be held at the Parish Centre Berwick at 2 pm

This year's lecture will be given by Dr Michael Barke with the title "Mapping Tyneside"

Dr Barke is Reader in Human Geography at Northumbria University and joint author of "Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mapping the City"

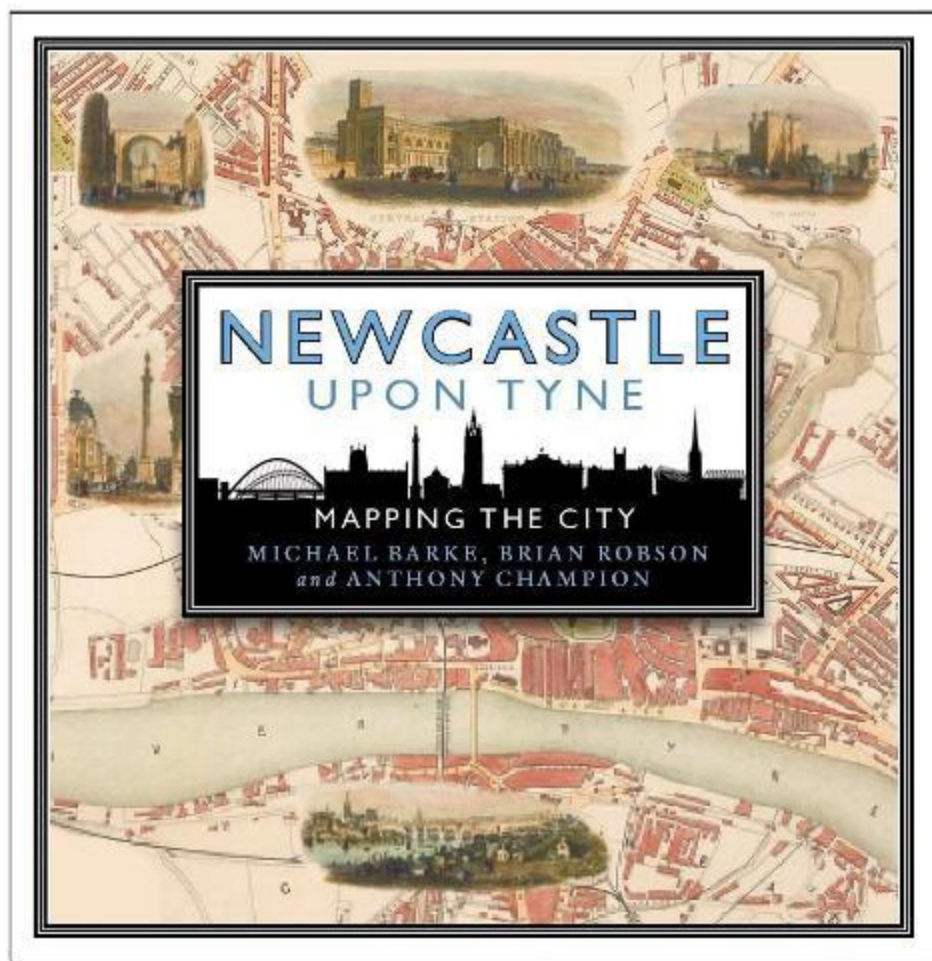
Directions

The Parish Centre is situated between Holy Trinity and St Andrew's Churches. Visitors should enter Holy Trinity churchyard by the main gate off Parade, TD15 1DF. As you approach the church the parish centre is on the left, opposite the Church door.

Parking

Parking for three hours in the Wallace Green car park is free with a disc.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided,
The venue is fully accessible



All our yesterdays

Ralph Carr-Ellison of Dunstan (sic) Hill penned the following piece in 1872 during a period of exceptionally dry weather. Carr-Ellison was President in 1860 and his son followed him in 1893. For more information see Lesley Gray's forthcoming book. (See above)

“Within the last decade of years some very dry summers have occurred, and they were distinguished by a singular scantiness of dew ; because through many weeks of drought the nights were almost always overclouded, so that the radiation of warmth from the earth was intercepted, and the surfaces of grass and other herbage rarely became cold enough to condense the humidity of the atmosphere and cause it to be deposited upon them. The absence of dew for long spaces of time was much noticed by labourers and other country folk. Strange to say, these droughty summers were as prolific as any known in the fine broods of partridge and grouse that were reared by the parent birds. How was this possible? For we know that when these birds are hatched under a domestic hen, they cannot live without liquid any more than barn-door chicks. Nor is there any reason to think that the parent birds of the gallinaceous order can convey water to their young”.

For any further information regarding anything in this Newsletter please contact chrisnevilleataylor@yahoo.co.uk
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