

# BERWICK 900 "ARTY-FACTS" NEWSLETTER No. 1 November 2014



**If you are keen to help us celebrate 900 years of Berwick's history and cultural heritage in 2015, here are some ways for you to get involved.**

## 1. "Bunting banners"

As an initial contribution to Berwick 900, we are asking you to create a design inspired by one of the Berwick 900 Festival Themes or an event, character or topic from the Berwick 900 Timeline (*see the attached documents for further information*).

During the next few weeks we would like to receive a selection of designs representing a variety of themes and topics. The designs can be reproduced and printed onto "bunting banners" or ornamental shields as colourful decoration for events in the Berwick 900 festival.

The design can also be used as the basis for your own art or craft project using your chosen method and materials that will be a further contribution to be displayed during Berwick 900. Depending on the types of materials used, some of your finished pieces could be incorporated in or attached to a Berwick 900 tapestry-style frieze for display at the "Creative Berwick" Show in October 2015 (*see item 4 below*).

## 2. "Crafts and Trades through the Ages"

The May Fair is one of the key events in the Berwick 900 programme for 2015.

The activities on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May will begin with The Mayor's Parade, starting at 10.45am. This is the first time a procession of this kind has been organised in Berwick. The theme we are adopting is "Crafts and Trades in Berwick through the Ages" and we want to design, create and make a variety of costumes, props, banners, etc. illustrating this theme that can be worn, carried or displayed in the Parade.

A variety of methods and materials could be used and subjects can vary from historical trades like shoemaking or shipbuilding, to butchers, bakers, printers, carpenters and fishermen, or modern businesses such as electricians, car mechanics and hairdressers (e.g. we think the idea of making a series of wigs and hair-dress to represent hairstyles through the ages will be fun to explore). Some funding will be available towards the cost of materials for the Parade.

We plan to organise a workshop session early in the New Year to explore ideas and identify practical actions and projects that can be undertaken by individuals or groups.

Please let us know if you would like to have further information, attend the workshop and/or want to suggest ideas or contribute items for the Mayor's Parade.

## 3. "A Bear for Berwick"

The invitation to make a costume for a teddy bear for a friend, family member or yourself was made at the launch of "Arty-Facts" at The Town Hall in October. A number of people have already offered to sew, knit or crochet a costume (or even make chain-mail) for a teddy bear, based on one of the Berwick 900 themes. We propose to produce a basic costume template that can be scaled to suit the size of the teddy bear and downloaded from our website [www.berwick900.org.uk](http://www.berwick900.org.uk) from January 2015.

The teddies will be invited to attend a Teddy Bears' Picnic during the Berwick 900 festival and will obviously be returned safely to their owners.

Please mention this idea to your friends and family and let us know if you would like to join in this fun activity that can involve your younger friends and family members.

#### **4. “Creative Berwick”**

The finale to the Berwick 900 Festival will be an exhibition of the art and crafts pieces that reflect the various Berwick 900 themes. The finished Timeline will be displayed along with several new artworks made specially for the Show. We also hope to include some craft-working demonstrations, so please let us know if you would like to present one of these at the event. If you have any information relating to the history of your craft we would be delighted to hear from you and include this into a project.

“Creative Berwick” will be staged in Berwick Town Hall over the weekend 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and will be complemented by an exciting outdoor community performance project entitled “The Great Performing Rope”.

#### **5. Your own Berwick 900 project**

We shall be delighted to hear about any project you are planning to undertake that is inspired by one or more of the Berwick 900 themes, and will discuss ways in which your work can be displayed to the public and incorporated as part of our events programme. This can also include existing pieces, for example work created for Follow the Herring, please let us know what you have in mind.

#### **6. Schools and Family Groups**

Please send us suggestions for projects you are considering as part of the Berwick 900 “Arty-Facts” programme. We shall be delighted to discuss these in detail in the next few weeks so that you can get underway with your project early in the New Year.

We are keen to engage young people and community groups in our Mayor’s Parade on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, so let us know if you would like to be involved and we will contact you to discuss how you can participate.

In addition, several community arts projects are being organised in association with Berwick 900 during 2015.

Information will be circulated in the New Year by the directors of each of these projects (Chloe Smith for “Tidal”, Strongback Productions for “Wait and Sea” and November Club for “The Great Performing Rope”).

#### **7. Craft activity workshops**

We propose to organise or to publicise and support a series of art and craft workshops to help people develop their skills and create materials for display during Berwick 900.

We plan to offer workshops between late January and early May 2015 - details to follow.

Let us know if you or your group are planning to run, or are willing to organise a workshop that will demonstrate and encourage participation in your particular craft and support Berwick 900.

#### **Attached to this Newsletter:**

- List of Berwick 900 story themes and dates
- Berwick 900 Timeline of key events, characters and topics (with appropriate theme links)
- Current Berwick 900 programme of events for 2015

#### **To send your ideas or offers to contribute, or for further information please contact:**

Derek Sharman      Email: timetoexplore@btinternet.com    Tel: 01289 330218

*or*

Annie Robinson      Email: robinson.akc@tiscali.co.uk    Tel: 07501 863065