

# The History, Culture and Politics of Berwick upon Tweed

Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential, with partners [www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk)

at The Castle Hotel, Berwick upon Tweed: [www.thecastleberwickupontweed.co.uk](http://www.thecastleberwickupontweed.co.uk)

**Fri-Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (with option stay on for an extra night free)**

## Provisional Programme



This residential will broadly follow the pattern of recent RW events at WHall and elsewhere. Hence we aim to be flexible, expecting up to 40 participants in total which will enable several choices for discussion/seminar sessions in groups of up to a dozen. This programme will remain provisional, open to some minor modifications. A *facilitator* `...contributes structure and process to help take the discussion forward...'. We have a line-up of experienced *facilitators* for the discussion circles/seminars/workshops

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### Fri 16 November

**14.00 onwards:** Arrival and registration. Book sales, second hand and new from late afternoon on...  
Given home and work commitments with Friday travel difficulties some may not arrive until 18.00, hopefully in time for dinner. It helps if you can give some idea in advance of your likely arrival time.

**16.00 Tea and biscuits**

**17.00: Welcome: Introductions, and review of programme plans.**

**18.00 Dinner**

**19.00 – 20.30: The Culture of Berwick upon Tweed Through the Ages**

**Lecture by Jim Herbert, local historian and author of *Berwick Time Lines*.**

Jim has worked at Berwick museum for a number of years and is something of an expert on all things Berwick and has written a number of books about the town.

**20.45 Bar and bed...**

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### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November

**08.30 Breakfast**

**09.30 – 11.00: Evidence of Women and their Lives in the Berwick Archives**

**Lecture by Linda Bankier - Berwick Archivist and historian.**

Linda has organised many events and exhibitions in the town. As well as giving lectures she has helped many people trace their ancestors and Linda created a fascinating collection of documents and knowledge about the area.

**11.00 Tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits**

**11.30 – 12.45: The History of Parliamentary Representation of Berwick, Berwickshire and East Lothian since the Union of 1707**

**Key-note Lecture by John Home Robertson.**

John spent 23 years at Westminster and 8 years as Holyrood as a Labour MP. His ancestral home was Paxton House which is well worth a visit.

**13.00 Lunch**

**14.15: Jim Herbert will conduct a walking tour of The Elizabethan Walls of Berwick.**

As well as pointing out many interesting buildings Jim will include information about Lowry who frequently painted Berwick upon Tweed. (Lowry used to stay at The Castle Hotel when in town, so you will be walking in his footsteps!)

**16.30 Tea and Cake**

**17.00 – 18.30: Workshops and discussion groups** on themes from the above programme and especially on representative democracy issues arising from the Key-note Lecture. Options with Notes and suggested advance reading will be sent to all participants in advance and will be published on the RWF website.....

**19.00 Dinner**

**20.00: Forum - Speakers, Organisers and Participants on the Platform (6) – Reviewing the sessions, the arguments and discussions.** Plenary and small group discussions on this.

**21.30 Optional....**

**Relaxed social event**

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**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**08.30 Breakfast**

**10.00 – 11.30: John Mackay Wilson (1804 –1835), the Writer of “Tales of The Borders” and Editor of the Berwick Advertiser 1832 – 1835**

**Lecturer: Mike Fraser, BA, MSc, MPhil.** In his latest local historical study Mike turns his attention to a significant early nineteenth century Berwick literary and political writer. At this 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 Freemen of Berwick. Mike discusses what Wilson’s writings tell us about Berwick then and Britain then and now.

**11.45: A Review of the weekend**, with ideas and suggestions for future RWF events and for future Berwick Trades Council Days.

**12.45 Soup and sandwich lunch**

**Homeward bound....**

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**Fees:**

£120 pp for residents - this fee includes all the programme above including all meals and refreshments. **Delegates also have the option to stay for free at The Castle Hotel on Sunday night if they would like to extend their stay.**

£60 pp for non-residents - this includes all the above meals (except breakfast) and refreshments

Deposit: £30 pp with the balance being paid at latest 3 weeks before the date of the event

Berwick Trades Council members and supporters, subsidized rate: £10 per day, payable on the Day

**Some RWF financial assistance will be available for** those in receipt of benefits; anyone on low income and deterred by full-fee payment; especially, students and young people (16-40 years of age!). Contact Derek Tatton on 01538 528178 or email [derektatton@btinternet.com](mailto:derektatton@btinternet.com) for details

**HOW TO BOOK**

**To book return to**

**[www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk/events1.html](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk/events1.html)**