



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017/8

This is our first Annual Report since we registered as a charity, and I and my fellow Trustees wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about Berwick Educational Association (BEA).

We provide adult education in a wide range of subjects to people who live in Berwick and the surrounding areas. We do this through lectures, courses, workshops, guided tours and excursions. Our subjects range from Astronomy to Book Binding, from Poetry to Geology. You will find more details on our website [www.berwickea.co.uk](http://www.berwickea.co.uk). Our guiding principle is that our events should be of high quality, that they should be accessible to everybody and that they should be fun! We are a not-for-profit organisation, run entirely by volunteers and we fund our events by charging a small entrance fee to cover our costs, which are principally lecturers' fees and premises rental. The number of events we organise has grown rapidly. In our first year, ending July 2015, we held 16 events. In the year to July 2018, we held 149 events, with a total attendance of 2,586.

Berwick-upon-Tweed is an amazing place! I don't know whether it is its turbulent history or its unique location, part of England but nestling under the Scottish border, but for a town of its size (about 12,000 people), it has an amazing amount going on. The Maltings Arts Centre, the Granary Gallery, Berwick Visual Arts, Berwick Film Society, Berwick Arts Choir, and many other groups all contribute to a vibrant cultural life. In the autumn, we have a panoply of festivals, Food and Beer, Film and Media Arts, and Literature.

BEA is another piece of glass in the mosaic that is Berwick, and we work actively with other groups to make Berwick better.

- This year, we worked with Berwick Visual Arts to provide guided tours, lectures and art workshops based around two prestigious exhibitions in the Granary Art Gallery, '*Scottish Colourists from the Fleming Collection*' and '*Drawn From Life: People on Paper*'.
- A lecture on Handel and Haydn preceded a concert by Berwick Arts Choir's performance of Handel's *Te Deum* and Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*.
- Both Berwick Film Society and The Maltings Art Centre support our Film Studies course.

- Berwick Community Trust helped us buy easels for our Art workshops.

The success of BEA is due largely to the generosity and hard work of our volunteers. Their efforts have enabled the smooth running of classes, and helped create the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere which continues to attract local people. There is a huge amount of work involved in running events and our volunteers are very hard-working and always good humoured! We are also very grateful to our lecturers for providing a rich and varied educational experience of great interest and the highest academic standards throughout the year. Finally, we would like to thank our various venues in Berwick for their flexibility, kindness and good advice: North Northumberland Voluntary Forum, Berwick Community Trust, and YHA, Berwick.

**If you hadn't heard of BEA before and you have read this far, I hope you will try out one of our events. We are always glad to see new faces!**

*This report also contains information required by the Charity Commission, and this is set out below:*

**Name:** Berwick Educational Association (BEA)

**Registration No:** 1173505

**Address:** 10 Grange Road, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1NN

**Trustees:** Pam Campion (Chair), Angela Elliott, Kate Gill, Cian McHugh, Jacqui Parkin, Maura Veitch, Maurice Ward.

New trustees are recruited from those who have participated actively and effectively as BEA volunteers.

### Structure and Management

The trustees meet regularly to review BEA's policies and performance. Day-to-day operations are handled by:

- Programme Director: Pam Campion
- Programme Managers: Pam Campion (Art), Angela Elliott (History, Literature), Martin Laidler (Science), Cian McHugh (Film, Music), Maura Veitch (Literature).
- Treasurer: Jacqui Parkin
- PRO: Cian McHugh, Kate Gill
- Volunteer Management: Angela Elliott

### Objectives and Activities 2017 - 2018

The object of BEA is for the public benefit to promote the education of people in the local community of Berwick -upon Tweed and surrounding areas, in such ways as the charity thinks fit, including, but not limited to, organising educational courses, day schools and excursions. Our activities during the year have included a number of weekly educational courses, practical art classes, individual lectures and some excursions.

### Achievements and Performance

BEA has benefited our local community by providing a wide range of high quality adult educational courses and classes in a number of subjects such as history of art, local history, modern history, archaeology, chemistry, geology, astronomy, literature and film studies. We have provided a variety of practical art workshops that have also attracted people from all over the county, and our tours of local exhibitions have also attracted interest from a wide area. Our courses also provide work for a number of locally based lecturers, artists and craft workers, and therefore support the local economy.

The large and growing number of attendees suggests we are meeting a local need.

If we itemise each of our activities as one event (including classes, lectures, excursions and tours) we held 149 events during our first year as a CIO. The number of people recorded as attending each of these activities comes to 2,586. Most of these will have been adults from the local area, often older and perhaps retired, and many will have attended multiple events.

### Financial

During the year ended July 31 2018, we had income of £20,226.53. We have made a surplus over costs on most of our lectures and other events, which has enabled us to build up a contingency fund. Our policy is to maintain this fund at a level that will enable us to pay any outstanding bills and allow us to increase both the number of our events and the range of our subjects while keeping our entrance costs very affordable. We do not hold any funds as custodian trustees.

Pam Champion  
Chair of Trustees  
December 2018