

NORTH BERWICK TRUST

North Berwick Trust Ltd's bi-annual Newsletter



North Berwick Trust Chair Sir David Tweedie and Vice-Chair Dr Libby Morris planting a tree at North Berwick Trust's community orchard.

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Letter from the Chair

By Sir David Tweedie

I am delighted to welcome readers and friends of North Berwick Trust to this fourth edition of our newsletter. This bi-annual update on Trust news is published in spring and autumn each year.

Over recent months the Trust has been further developing their grant schemes and funding opportunities with the grants budget for 2023/24 rising to £280,000 to support community groups and individuals in need in North Berwick. In recognition of rising costs, the upper limit for the maximum grant award has also been increased from £30,000 to £32,000.

The Trust's 'Forever Fund' is now well established and over £1.23 million has been awarded in grants since 2018. Read more about our latest grants round and new multi-year funding opportunities on pages 2 and 3.

Stronger links are being formed with North Berwick High School to support our most vulnerable young people via the Trust's Young Person's Scholarship (page 3).

The Trust has also been looking beyond the 'Forever Fund'. A separate funding stream has been developed for capital grants which will be officially launched at this summer's Fringe by the Sea festival. Come along on 10th August to meet the Trust at our free event, learn more and enjoy the 'North Berwick Trust Hub' (page 5).

The Estates Group having been working to further improve North Berwick Trust Park (page 6) – with North Berwick's first community orchard and new benches (perfect for summer picnics!). Thank you to all who joined in to plant trees and also to those who braved the rain on 8th May to sew flower seeds at the Community Hub site, as part of the King's Coronation Volunteer Day (page 7).

Plans are also afoot to improve the 'triangle' of Trust land next to Law Primary School with landscaping and a pump track for all to enjoy (page 7).

Thank you to all at North Berwick Trust for giving their time and expertise to developing these projects. Special thanks must go to Olwyn Owen, who has been a trustee since 2016 and resigned at the June board meeting. Olly volunteered considerable time and valued expertise to the Trust. She was instrumental in developing the grant programmes and was Chair of the Grants Group. We wish her all the very best.

With best wishes
Sir David Tweedie

Contact Us...



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News from the Trust's Grants Group

North Berwick Trust has now awarded a total of £1,239,456 and supported 172 community projects since its 'Forever Fund' grant scheme was established in 2018. In addition, it supported over 50 local businesses and self-employed people with grants during the Covid pandemic.

Many of the 33 projects awarded grants in 2022 are now being delivered. These include a £30,000 grant to fund a youth worker at North Berwick Youth Club and £20,000 to North Berwick Health and Wellbeing Network for our local community centre 'Kindness Coop' – our town's foodbank provision. Herbspace, which offers a special place where young people can immerse themselves in and reconnect with nature, relax and gain confidence was awarded £7,000 to help support young people with their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

There have also been several art projects coming to fruition with funding contributions from the Trust – these include the marine waste art mural at North Berwick Trust Harbour and art installations at the old telephone boxes on North Berwick High Street, delivered by pArticipate – a division of North Berwick Environment and Heritage Trust.

Farewell to Grants Group Chair

North Berwick Trust's Grants Group Chair, Olwyn Owen, resigned from the Trust at the June 2023 board. A trustee since 2016, Olly was instrumental in establishing the 'Forever Fund' general grants scheme and offered professional advice to the Trust. Olly will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



Herbspace: a sanctuary for young people - nestled in the gardens at Abbey Nursing Home, North Berwick.

Multi-Year Funding Available from August 2023

From the autumn 2023 grants round, a multi-year funding option of £32,000 annually for 3 years (i.e. £96,000 in total) will be available.

Multi-year grant awards provide funding security, enabling organisations to plan further ahead and enhance their project delivery. Multi-year funding also enables organisations to enter into longer term commitments and improve stakeholder relationships.

The Trust will open for multi-year funding applications once per year as part of the already established autumn grants round. The first opportunity to apply will be from 23rd August to 4th October 2023.



Marine Waste Plastic Mural at North Berwick Harbour. Inset: Trustees attend unveiling of the mural. Sir David Tweedie, Mr Gordon Moodie, Dr Libby Morris.

North Berwick's 'Forever Fund'

The 'Forever Fund' supports a wide range of projects, all of which meet one or more of its aims:

- Support and enhance recreational, cultural and sporting activities and facilities for our community;
- Support and enhance educational and lifelong learning opportunities for our community;
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment and public green space in North Berwick, and improve the sustainability of our community;
- Conserve and enhance the historic and built environment of North Berwick; and
- Help those in need in our community.

Spring 2023 Grant Awards

In our most recent grants round (spring 2023), the Trust awarded £103,162 to support 11 projects, as listed. As usual, the projects are very diverse and will benefit a wide cross-section of the community.

Support includes £12,700 for Beach Wheelchairs to purchase a second all terrain power wheelchair, over £25,000 to Can Do for an inclusive play project for North Berwick residents and over £6,000 to support the Firth of Forth Lobster Hatchery with their education project.

To read more about the Trust's 'Forever Fund' grants programme and the Young Person's Scholarship, including examples of some of the projects the Trust has supported to date, please visit www.northberwicktrust.co.uk/grants.

Spring 2023 Grant Awards		
Name of Awardee	Project	Award (£)
Beach Wheelchairs	Purchase of a second all terrain power wheelchair.	12,700
BBOP (Bring Back the Outdoor Pool)	Summer promotional events.	810
Can Do	Inclusive play for North Berwick residents.	25,810
Dirleton Playgroup	Core funding for ongoing running costs.	3,000
Enjoy Leisure	North Berwick Leisure Centre - Pool Pod.	31,219.12
Firth of Forth Lobster Hatchery	The Hatchery Education Project - 2023 season.	6,320
Leuchie House	Guest engagement programme.	11,862.90
Individual Applicant	Community art project.	3,000
NB Environment Heritage Trust	North Berwick heritage guides.	3,000
North Berwick Amateurs Football Club	Pitch fees, equipment and mental health training.	2,790
North Berwick Swimming Club	Training equipment, storage and club branding.	2,650
		Total £103,106.02

Young Person's Scholarship Now Open For Applications

North Berwick Trust's Young Person's Scholarship has re-launched this June and is now open for applications at any time.

Funding of up to £10,000 in total is available each year, shared between up to 3 applicants.

The scholarship is for 14–25-year-olds who live or study in North Berwick. The fund is designed to assist young people to move their life forward in a positive way and progress their careers.

Priority will be given to those who could not afford to pursue their ambitions without support.

The Trust has been working closely with North Berwick High School to identify the young people who would benefit most from this funding opportunity.

Application forms and guidance notes are available to download from the Trust's website at any time -

www.northberwicktrust.co.uk/grants/north-berwick-trusts-young-persons-scholarship.

For queries and support, please email the Trust's Grants Manager at grants@northberwicktrust.co.uk.

YOUNG PERSON'S SCHOLARSHIP
 NORTH BERWICK TRUST
 DO YOU NEED FUNDING SUPPORT TO FULFILL YOUR AMBITIONS?

APPLY TODAY!
WWW.NORTHBERWICKTRUST.CO.UK

OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14 - 25 WHO LIVE OR STUDY IN NORTH BERWICK

Grants Group Case Study:

£17,000 awarded for Big Belly Bins

North Berwick is lucky enough to attract lots of lovely visitors year-round but especially in the summer months. This raised a continuing challenge for the council's hard working rubbish collectors as despite their best efforts the bins particularly along the seafront were often overflowing. At one of their regular Climate Cafes when concerns were raised Sustaining NB decided to take action.

A meeting was arranged between interested parties – ELC, Scottish Seabird Centre, Community Council and Coastal Area Partnership representatives, North Berwick In Bloom, Caledonian Horticulture and others, hosted and fuelled by Steampunk. A solution was soon reached. The increased capacity and efficient technology of the enclosed Big Belly Bins which could hold ten times the amount of rubbish of conventional bins in key areas was the answer. To enhance the attraction and entice use of the bins it was decided that they should be decorated in the glorious seabirds that grace our shores. Seabirds were chosen to highlight the need to protect our seaside environment and fragile habit of the birds. A QR code displayed on each bin links into The Scottish Seabird Centre's website with more information on the birds, what happens to the rubbish after it's collected and how ELC's Waste Services Team can capture more valuable recycling when people dispose of their litter responsibly.

East Lothian Council were not in the position of being able to finance this project so fundraising started in earnest.

SIX Big Belly Bins

These fabulous bins with designs by six talented, local artists depict seabirds that can be seen along North Berwick's coast line.

Find the bins, scan the QR code for more info.

Feed the bins your rubbish and help keep our sea litter free.



SUSTAINING NORTH BERWICK

A community project led by Sustaining NB

Bins owned & maintained by East Lothian Council
Sponsored and supported by








Ruth Hunter Pepper of Sustaining NB commented, 'This has been a collaborative community effort made possible by the generous financial support of NB Trust, St Andrew Blackadder Congregation, NB Community Council, Coastal Area Partnership, NB Rotary and Stella Moffat Trust. Our six talented artists; Steven Butcher, Lorraine Thomson, Julia Zeller-Jacques, Rachel Marshall, Susan Cameron and Helen Wyllie have given us their time, talent and skills and produced beautiful artwork that will be enjoyed for years to come. The input, support and positive encouragement of everyone involved has been tremendous. This project would not have been possible without the £17,000 donation from NB Trust. A huge heartfelt thank you for helping our sea stay rubbish free and North Berwick look lovelier for locals and visitors alike'.

The Seabird Centre will host an exhibition of the artwork in their gallery space from July to October.



Join in the fun at North Berwick Trust Festival Hub

Once again, and for the fourth year, North Berwick Trust is a master partner of Fringe by the Sea, providing grant funding of £30,000 to support the festival through its 'Forever Fund' general grants scheme.

The Trust has continued to support the festival due to the huge benefits it brings to the town – socially, culturally and economically.

From 4th – 13th August, nestled in between Fringe by the Sea's event venues in North Berwick's Lodge Grounds, you'll find the North Berwick Trust Hub - the heart of the festival where all are welcome to pop-by and hang out to enjoy delicious street food and refreshments, as well as live music from The Lighthouse Live stage. Plus, there's plenty to keep all ages entertained in between shows with the Weaving Wonder tent, drop-in workshops, enviro-zone, Night Owl book shop and much more. Look out for the Trust's giant noticeboard, showcasing many local Trust funded projects.

Open from 10am-11pm daily from 4th - 13th August.

Meet the Trust at Fringe By The Sea

THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST
10.15 - 11.15 AM
THE LODGE STAGE

Come along to this free community event to meet trustees and find out more about the Trust's grant programmes and its work.

Trustees Sir David Tweedie and Dr Libby Morris will outline the Trust's vision and plans for the future, and there will be a chance to hear from some of the groups who have received grant funding - Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick Harbour Trust, North Berwick Environment Heritage Trust, North Berwick Youth Project and Fringe by the Sea.

<https://www.fringebythesea.com/north-berwick-trust/> for tickets.



Autumn 2023 General Grant Round

Opens: Wednesday 23rd August
Closes: Wednesday 4th October

The Trust welcomes applications for up to £32,000 from organisations, charities or individuals in need who live or operate within North Berwick. If you would like to discuss potential applications or need help in applying, please contact the Trust's Grants and Communications Manager, Catherine McCoy, on 07874625206 or email grants@northberwicktrust.co.uk.

News from the Trust's Estates Group

Town's First Community Orchard at North Berwick Trust Park

A community orchard planting day took place on Saturday 25th March at North Berwick Trust Park, off Pilgrim's Way.

Groups throughout the community teamed up to plant 55 trees to enrich the area and create North Berwick's first community orchard. Varieties including apple, pear, plum and crab apple were planted.

The trees were part funded by North Berwick Trust, along with £1000 from The Queen's Green Canopy and £304 from North Berwick Rotary.

£510 was also donated by the general public towards the cost of the trees, mainly by those coming together in their community groups and families to plant their own trees in the orchard.

The Lighthouse, the co-working office space in North Berwick where the Trust is based, donated and planted five fruit trees in recognition of their fifth anniversary.

Thank you to all those who made it along – it was a fantastic turnout and real community event.

Thank you to North Berwick In Bloom and Bass Rock Community Group for their assistance on the day.



New Picnic Benches for North Berwick Trust Park

Two new wooden picnic tables and two new benches were installed at North Berwick Trust Park in May - just in time to enjoy your summer picnics! These benches were funded by North Berwick Trust for the community to enjoy. Please look after them and take any litter home with you or use the bins provided around the park.

Plans Afoot for Trust's 'Triangle'

The Trust's Estates Group have been working hard to develop plans for the 'triangle' of Trust land next to Law Primary School. The aim is to create a community space for all to enjoy. The concept design is drawn from the landscape, where the Law, the sea and the fields close by are visible. The space is proposed as a rich and biodiverse landscape with a series of open spaces, in different scales to accommodate groups/gatherings of different sizes, both informal and formal. The proposed paths, meadows, and belts of trees in sweeping forms are inspired by both the sea and the local landscape

Having consulted with both the primary school, North Berwick High School and local neighbourhood residents, the exciting plans include biodiverse planting, wildflowers and mixed native hedgerows to encourage wildlife and insect corridors. Paths will be included to connect Farquharson's Rest with Law Primary and provide a safer route to school.

The plan also includes space set aside for the pump track spearheaded by North Berwick Community Pump Track Group. The Trust was first approached by the Group in 2021, when they were struggling to identify suitable land for the project. The Trust have offered to lease a portion of the 'triangle' to the Group for this purpose, subject to planning approval from East Lothian Council.

The Council are seeking planning approval to procure and build 5 pump tracks in East Lothian towns, in partnership with pump track construction company Velosolutions. It is now hoped that North Berwick will be included, bringing the pump track under the control of East Lothian Council who will manage its procurement and ongoing maintenance.



'Volunteer Monday' For Kings Coronation

Thank you on behalf of North Berwick Trust and North Berwick in Bloom to all those who braved the dreich weather (and the mud!) on Monday 8th May to join us to sow flower seeds at the Trust's sites off Pilgrim's Way - It was so lovely to see young and old getting involved and helping out.

As part of the King's coronation celebrations, North Berwick Trust participated in 'The Big Help Out Volunteer Monday'. Over 60 local residents came together on the Trust's Community Hub site and also at the entrance to the North Berwick Trust Park.

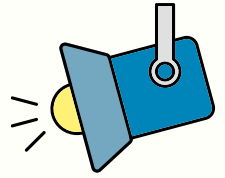
3kg of mixed flower seeds were scattered. These included native varieties such as chrysanthemum, cornflower, poppy, zinnia, marigold and lupin which will attract butterflies and bees.

We are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of our labour in the coming months with beautiful floral displays. The flowers will brighten the entrance to the park and provide a pleasant outlook onto the Community Hub site.

Special thanks to North Berwick Community Council, Bass Rock Community Group and Rotary Club of North Berwick for their much appreciated assistance and organisation on the day.

Future development options for the Community Hub site are being considered by North Berwick Trust.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT!



This edition we are shining the spotlight on one of our newest trustees, Ben Palmer, to find out about his volunteer role with the Trust...

Ben grew up in the Midlands and Norfolk before moving to Edinburgh in 1995 to complete his degree in Landscape Architecture. He has settled in Scotland and having lived in Edinburgh for just under twenty years relocated with his family to North Berwick.

Ben is a Landscape Architect who takes a professional and personal interest in what makes unique places. He graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 2000 and has been a practicing Landscape Architect since, working on projects across the UK and overseas. Recently this has included V&A Dundee and St James Quarter in Edinburgh. Through this experience, Ben has designed and delivered many landscape and public realm projects, often involving a range of clients, stakeholders, and engagement with community groups.

How long have you lived in North Berwick and how do you like to spend your time?

I moved to North Berwick from Edinburgh with my family five years ago, and we are all feeling very settled and proud to call the town home. My nine and fifteen year old children attend Law Primary and North Berwick High and my wife has built a business based from home. Working during the week in Edinburgh, the weekends and evenings are filled with family time, cycling, paddle boarding, walking, socialising, music, gardening, cooking, and reading. Regardless of the activity, North Berwick and the surrounding areas provide a beautiful environment to engage with. As a family, we have made strong connections here in a relatively short timeframe and are very happy to call North Berwick home.

Time with North Berwick Trust?

Around a year, and still plenty for me to get my head around!

Why did you decide to join the Trust?

Having recently moved to North Berwick I wanted to play a role in how the Trust can support the town and community as it evolves. Places are always changing, and professionally I am involved in how this can take place with the most positive outcomes for communities, places, and the environment. The opportunity to be involved in an organisation such as North Berwick Trust that influences how people live in, work in, and enjoy the town holds a similar interest.

What are your main responsibilities as a trustee?

My current focus is as part of the Estates Group which is responsible for the management and future of North Berwick Trust's landholdings. This draws on my professional background and interests. Part of this to date has been meeting with stakeholders and developing plans for the future of the landholding, both of which I particularly enjoy.

What are you hoping to achieve during your time at North Berwick Trust?

To facilitate a project or projects that bring positive change to the town and allow all to feel they have a stake in how North Berwick makes its next steps into the future. With special places like North Berwick this takes care and time, but I truly believe there is always something that can be done to enhance through sensitive and bold interventions.



Describe the Trust's work in 3 words...

Place. Community. Sustainability.

What is your favourite place in North Berwick?

I spend quite a lot of time cycling on the John Muir Way and other local trails, but I really enjoy the walk from the top of the Law, along the Glen and towards the town centre along East Beach. You experience all the highlights of North Berwick and get a sense of the history of the place...while typically ending with a good cup of coffee and slice of banana bread!