Welcome to 2015, year of Berwick 900. Here is wishing you a happy, healthy and crafty New Year!

Lots of activity is going on and we want to let you know what is happening and how you can be involved. The Guild Hall in Berwick will have a “Berwick 900 Arty-Facts Open Day” where on 24th January between 11am and 3pm you can come along, see demonstrations and find out further information about Art and crafts projects and how you can get involved.

Everyone is invited to get involved, whether you are recent incomers or from generations of Berwickers, Spittalers or Twempies.

1. Church Banners
   Would you like to join with others in the church community to produce a banner as part of St Andrews Wallace Green's contribution to Berwick 900?
   Norma Miles will be showing her plans on 24th January for the church banner that is being created for the Christian theme of the Berwick 900. She will give further details of workshops planned in February as well as showing her designs.

2. Banners for Riding the Bounds
   A local group of Coldstream ladies, led by Ailsa Dickson, made a series of wall hangings to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Battle Flodden. Eight 4’ x 3’6” panels in total were created, and they are now on permanent display in the main hall of Coldstream Community Centre.

   Ailsa will be setting up workshops to create banners based on images from Tony Johnson Berwick 900 Timeline relating to the Borders theme and Riding the Bounds on 1st May. On 24th January she will bring along the Flodden Tapestry now being created and details of the plans for Berwick will be made.

3. “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 24th May will begin with The Mayor’s Parade, starting at 10.45am. The theme 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 information technology, electricians, car mechanics and hairdressers (e.g. A suggestion has been put forward of making a series of wigs and hair-dress to represent hairstyles through the ages). Can you help?

4. Make do and Mend
   Naomi Kenny and Val Knowles’ project involves creating costumes and props for “A Day in the 1940s” on 10th May and the Mayor’s Parade on 24th May. They are currently working with the WI that has their 100th anniversary this year. Interested in finding out more or helping - please come and see Naomi and Alan Knowles on 24th January.

5. Rag Rugging
   On 24th January Margaret Kenny will be displaying the Flodden 500 Rug that was created as a community project involving 30 people in and around Wooler. Margaret will be talking about her ideas for the Berwick 900 project and you can even come along and have a go at “proggy matting” which will be part of the final Berwick 900 project. This will fit in with the “Make do and Mend” events taking place 9th – 10th May to commemorate WW2 and a further 4-day session is planned.
6. “A Bear for Berwick”
Make a costume for a teddy bear for a friend, family member or yourself. 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 from January 2015. Angie Kay from The Needle Works has a selection of patterns in the shops on Hide Hill.

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.

Terri Bearhop will provide patterns on 24th January along with knitting demonstrations. Details of forthcoming workshops will be given.

A selection of bears in some of the Berwick 900 themes will be on display on 24th January. These were previously shown at the Teddy Bear Museum and have kindly been supplied by Sandra Dodds

7. Fishing, Seaside and Maritime exhibition
Berwick Art Group are holding their Annual Summer Exhibition 13th July – 25th July and will kindly be sharing the Watchtower venue with Berwick 900 where there will be a fishing exhibition linking in to “Our Fishing Story”. The fantastic art and craft work created for Follow the Herring will be on show again along with other works. The Watchtower will then be used until 16th August for a display of art and craft works and historical information relating to the Fishing, Seaside and Maritime themes.

8. Berwick Food Festival
Kate Gill from Berwick Food Festival will be displaying, on 24th January, different ideas of how children can get involved with the Food Festival on 5th and 6th September, there are plans to make a fish banner hopefully with 900 fish and a competition to create a Berwick 900 logo using food items such as rice/pasta/other food items. Call in and discuss your ideas…..

9. “Berwick 900 Family Tree”
Trisha McLaughlin will be engaging children to help create a “Berwick 900 Family Tree”. The aim is to encourage local people to create a simple design illustrating an aspect of their family’s history in the town. These symbols bearing the family names will be attached to a symbolic tree to represent the wide variety of people connected with the town over the centuries. Intrigued …come along on 24th January to find out more.

10. 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.

11. 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 24th 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 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”).

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