

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED FLAG LOCATIONS

A new art trail of flags commemorating women of Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth.



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01 The Blenheim Hotel

Anne Hepple

Anne Hepple Dickinson, a Berwick housewife, became a bestselling novelist and magazine editor after raising her family. Before her death in 1959 she published 27 novels, supported suffrage, and was a local agony aunt.

02 The Blenheim Hotel

Susannah Stephenson

Susannah's husband drove the first train from Tweedmouth to Newcastle in 1847 but later died in a train crash. Left to raise her children alone, no record of support or compensation survives.

03 The Blenheim Hotel

The Spinners and Knitters

Women in Berwick spun wool and knitted ganseys, often as home-workers or at the knitwear factory Pringle's, where they earned equal pay. These crafts continue today and carry tradition, expertise and thrift through the generations.

04 Berwick Shellfish Company

The Fisherwomen and Herring Girls

Herring girls gutted fish all along the coast including in Berwick. Fishermen's wives mended nets, baited lines, hawked fish, raised families, and launched boats. Many also supported the lifeboat service. Their labour sustained coastal life.

05 Berwick Bowling Club

The Salmon Queens

Each year, a Salmon Queen leads Tweedmouth Feast, a centuries-old riverside celebration. Since the 20th century, local girls have taken the role, wearing sashes and gowns to represent the town with pride.

06 St Andrews Wallace Green

The Cistercian Nuns

The Black Nuns of St Leonard's healed, were midwives, and ran 600 acres of land over several centuries. The nuns were literate and politically active, with Prioresses like Froelina in the 1200s negotiating with kings. Their work helped shape Berwick's spiritual, medical, and economic life.

07 84 Ravensdowne

Joy Mitchell

Joy Mitchell, teacher and pacifist, co-founded the Independent Peace Church in Berwick in the 1980s. Arrested for protesting nuclear weapons, she campaigned tirelessly for peace, believing silence in the face of harm was complicity.

08 Berwick Coastwatch

Fraulein Schneider

Fraulein Schneider ran a small school in Berwick. During WWI, she was forced to leave as anti-German sentiment grew. Her story highlights what's lost when fear replaces understanding and cultural exchange.

09 79 Main Street

Mabel Philipson

Former Gaiety Girl Mabel Philipson became MP for Berwick in 1923. One of the first women in Parliament, she focused on housing, women's rights, and health. Her victory was a landslide.

10 Berwick Boat Trips (on the pontoon)

Elizabeth Cocke

In 1624, Elizabeth Cocke was paid to sand Berwick's Old Bridge. Few women appear in civic records, and even fewer were paid. She earned less than men, and less even than boys.

11 Berwick Barracks

Betty Adams and Jane Killeen

Jane Killeen, a trained midwife, worked with KOSB families in the 1800s. A century later, Betty Adams (also Berwick's first female mayor) supported the founding of Castle Hills maternity hospital.

12 Berwick Barracks

Alison MacLaren

Major Alison MacLaren served in Burma during WWII, delivering supplies to soldiers in dangerous areas. Mentioned in Dispatches three times, her courage strengthened morale on the front line.

13 Main Guard Museum

Grace Griffin

Grace Griffin was hanged in 1823 for killing her abusive husband. Her story remains obscure, but it raises questions about justice, violence, and the silence surrounding women's lives in 19th-century criminal history.

14 21 North Road

Margaret Todd

Margaret Todd was a teacher and left work to care for her parents in the 1800s. She died in the workhouse in her 50s. Her life reflects how unpaid care left many women vulnerable and forgotten.

15 Elm Bank Coastal Park

Aggie Knowles

Aggie Knowles ran a sweet shop on Bridge Street, Berwick during WWII. As well as selling sweets, she broke up chocolate so it would not be rationed, and is still remembered for her kindness during wartime austerity.

16 12 Ladywell Place

Ellen Ainslie

Ellen Ainslie worked in the Gretna Green munitions factory during WWI. Married to a KOSB soldier, she died in 1917 aged 26. Her name appears on the war memorial in Tweedmouth.

17 The Promenade Cafe Bar

Miss Kennedy and Miss Stephenson

In the 1860s, Miss Kennedy and Miss Stephenson ran a confectioners and tea room together in Berwick. Their partnership offered security and independence in a time when few paths existed for unmarried women.

18 The Pilot Inn

Bridget Stangroom

Irish-born Bridget Stangroom ran the Rose and Thistle pub alone after her husband died in 1887. Despite scrutiny and legal accusations, she kept the business going for over 40 years.

19 Spittal Bowling Club

The Bondagers

During the 18th and 19th-centuries, bondagers were women farm labourers, hired through a system tying them to male workers. They planted, hoed, and harvested in all weathers, wearing striking clothing and facing exploitation with little protection.

20 Scremerston Memorial

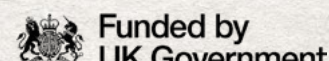
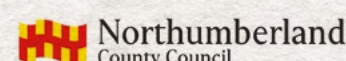
Grizel Cochrane

In the 1680s, Grizel Cochrane disguised herself as a man and robbed the mail to stop her father's execution. Her bold story, part legend, echoes through Borders folklore and Wilson's Tales.



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