

# NORTHUMBERLAND ILLUMINATED

David Taylor

Northumberland is renowned for its breathtaking scenery, tiny villages, historic monuments and sparkling townscapes. Largely rural in nature, its sweeping beaches and heather-clad hills are a delight to the eye. But after dark it takes on a completely different character.

A satellite image at night would show only a dark mass west and north of the bright paint-splat of light that is Newcastle. But if you could look more closely you would find pockets of light illuminating some of our greatest treasures: candles lighting ancient religious relics from the first flowering of Christianity in Britain; the 900-year-old floodlit Hexham Abbey looming over the town; the 'Spirit of the Staithes' sculpture on Blyth's waterfront - a modern interpretation of the town's long connection with the sea; a wooden cross at Heavenfield commemorating a battle fought in 633 AD between a Northumbrian army led by Oswald of Bernicia and Welsh invaders.

While others are comfortably tucked up on their sofas for the evening, David Taylor has sought out these places, turning his creative eye to the lighting challenges posed by each location. From the lights of Berwick-upon-Tweed twinkling reflectively in its river to a moody Winter's Gibbet, lit by torchlight against a darkening sky and a stark reminder of a more brutal past, David's images are captivating.

If you are looking for a book which will give you a deep warm glow on a dark winter's night, and an utterly fascinating perspective on this ancient border county, look no further.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Taylor is an award-winning landscape and travel photographer. He was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and now lives in the delightful Northumbrian market town of Hexham. His work has enabled him to travel all over the world, but his first love remains the awe-inspiring countryside and stunning coastline of his home county. His images of the area are much sought after and are frequently used for promotional and marketing purposes by Northumberland National Park.

David also writes features and supplies images for a variety of national and regional magazines; his regular photography workshops around Northumberland are extremely popular with novices and experienced photographers alike. David's stunning and atmospheric images are regularly exhibited at venues around the county.

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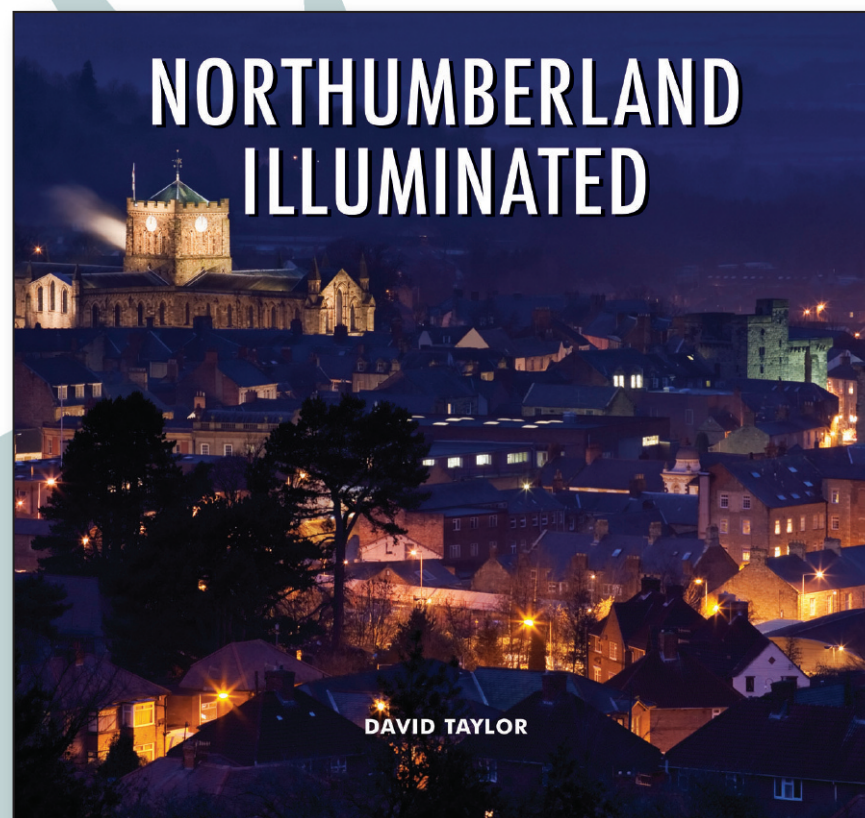
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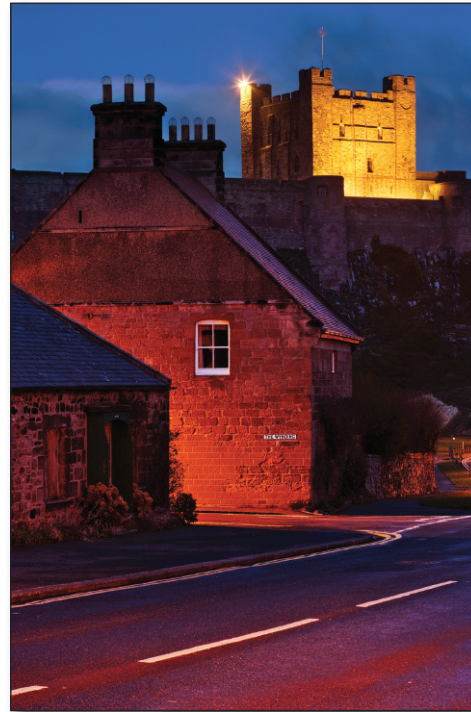


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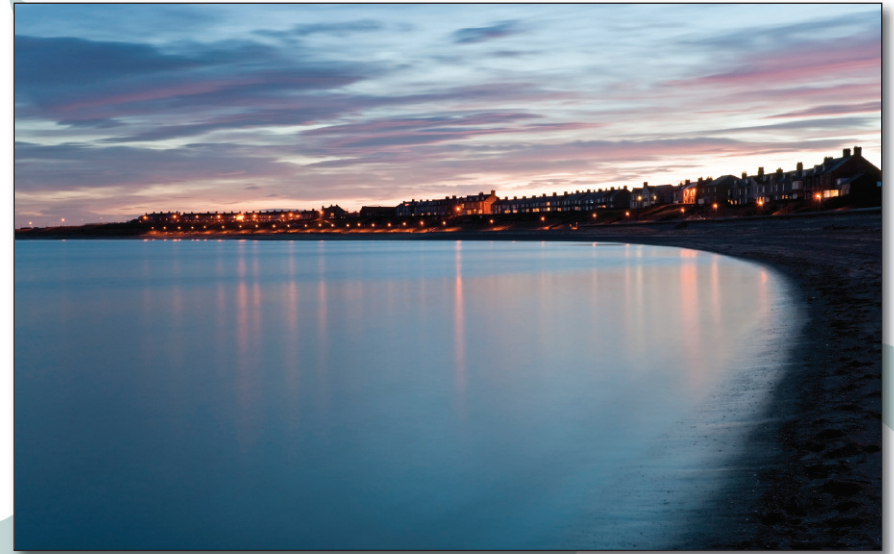
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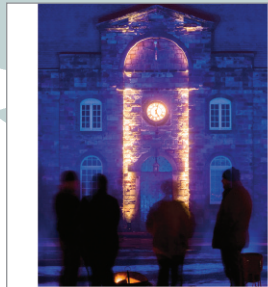
*St Mary's Lighthouse, near Whitley Bay, which was completed in 1898 and remained in operation until 1984. A causeway, accessible only at low tide, allows visitors to reach the island on which the lighthouse sits.*



*Bamburgh Castle floodlit at night. Restored by Lord William Armstrong in the nineteenth century, the castle sits on an extrusion of basalt and overlooks the Northumbrian coast.*



*The sweep of the bay at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, reflecting street lamps and the colours of a late-winter sunset.*



Above:  
The Clocktower of Berwick Barracks, during the Northumberland Lights Festival. Housed in the Clocktower are the Borough Museum and Art Gallery, which explores the history of the town, and the King's Cross Scottish Burial Chamber.

Right:  
An impressionistic view of the road bridge in Hexham. Architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner noted that Hexham had experienced 'flooded towns', with bridges in the eighteenth century, two of them having been destroyed by flooding within the space of eleven years.



*The imposing, Gothic-style Police Station in Blyth, lit as part of the Northumberland Lights Festival. The King's Head pub is visible on the left of the picture.*

*Example of a double-page spread.*