

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust

Issue 21

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EDITORIAL

As always, thank you for your comments. We publish two short letters in this issue. The comments on the event on the Green on July 22nd raised some concerns so it is only fitting that we comment further on this matter, following a discussion with the organisers. I hesitate to add yet more moans at the beginning of this issue but the increasing number of noisy motorbikes (are they really motorbikes or two-wheeled lawnmowers?) and the amount of tipping on the cliff path at the southern entrance to Spittal (an area of natural beauty), have both been commented upon as matters of concern. And there's the weather etc etc. Moans aside there's plenty to cheer us up, so enjoy our offerings in this issue and we hope that we haven't been too outspoken.



Next issue will be the Christmas one so if you plan to hold a fair, carol concert etc then let us know and we'll help you publicise it.

The absolute deadline for material is **November 19th**

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

'Summer in the Park': The idea of this was for the Trust to host several events in Seafield Park over the summer months to make use of this lovely area. What we didn't count on was the appalling weather we saw at the start of the summer. The events that did take place seemed to be enjoyed by those that took part, even if the races at the end of 'Tea in the Park' on the Bank Holiday Sunday were a little keenly contested! Having not been deterred by the elements this summer we are looking at repeating this again next year and local

entertainers are already showing keen interest.

Beach Clean: The September beach clean again saw a good turnout, this time we were honoured by a large contingent from Jus Rol. They again showed their generous side by providing us with some rather swanky looking litter pickers and gloves. The main part of the beach was not in bad shape but that could not be said for the little beach and the area below Huds Head where that team found a rather large, and thankfully dead, conger eel! At least these outings show that we are prepared to do our 'bit'. Personally, I like to see people connecting with others that they would not normally meet and swapping experiences, especially over the carrot cake!

Christmas: Yes, it's on its way! As usual at this time we would ask for anyone that would like to help out at the Christmas Fair to get in touch. Also, if you have any donations to give as raffle or Tombola prizes, anything (well almost) would be appreciated.

Car Boot Sales: Now that we have had the last of this summer's sales, it is time to thank Hazel and Alastair for organising them for us.
Mike Greener



A A VIEW FROM THE PROM

Is anyone else getting annoyed about these noisy scooters bombing up and down the local streets? They sound like demented lawnmowers; surely they must be exceeding the legal maximum decibel levels. *(It's not always easy to see up the street when I am coming out of my drive, and the other day as I eased out on to Main Street I was confronted by several helmetless racers*

hurtling towards me – a close thing. Editor).
Perhaps we should have regular drag races down Main Street - no not Gladys Friday and her friends being chased by frequenters of the local hostelryes! The police have (twice) been informed of our growing concern but must there be an accident, and more than just burst eardrums, before something is done about this? So, if you feel strongly about this make a complaint to the police (use the 101 number). Remember one phone call does not establish a crime wave, several do!

Well, the paddling pool never got filled in the end. Local residents were concerned enough to voice their opinions about it, and heaven alone knows what our visitors thought! One of our readers had their young grandchildren to stay and as they could not use the paddling pool went into the sea. They ended up in casualty at the Infirmary with jelly fish stings for their trouble. Offers were made to clean and fill the pool on a voluntary basis so next year this might be the only way forward. Added to this is the need for the upkeep of the planted areas around the village and weeding the footpaths. If this goes on like this perhaps we should start a campaign for 'Home Rule for Spittal', or even SOS, **Save our Spittal!**

And as a follow up to the comments made re the event on the Green on July 22nd, The Point received a very helpful response from the Council confirming, as we assumed, that the event was covered by the required permits. The event, which was organised by the Rotary club, raised in excess of £7000, due in no small part to local traders, and the people of Spittal. It was never the intention to criticise the event but to raise a genuine concern. All now agree that the lesson to be learned, which was the point of including the comment, is that if we are to have a potentially noisy event on any of our wonderful public open spaces in Spittal, then local residents in the immediate vicinity should perhaps, out of courtesy, be informed well beforehand. It just takes a note through the door.

RACE NIGHT
FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER

The Blenheim 8pm

*Please leave horse boxes parked prettily,
all droppings will be donated to the
Berwick Rose Society!!*

SCHOOL NEWS

Our autumn term is getting off to a busy start. During this month – weather permitting! – the long-awaited play equipment should be installed in our school field. The apparatus should form a circuit and will include a range of activities including a Balance Weaver, Burma Bridge, Swinging Logs and a Climbing Wall. We know how well the community respects and looks after our outside play equipment and the new items will really enhance our games and physical education. Thanks again to everyone who supported the fund-raising for this – with a special accolade to our PTA. They're few in number but managed to raise a whopping £3,000 towards the overall cost.

Here are some new dates for your diary:
On **Friday October 12th** we'll be holding a **Coffee Afternoon** at the school for the Berwick and District Cancer Support Group. 2pm – 3.15pm.

And our **PTA Hallowe'en Disco** – which always brings out some weird and wonderful creatures - is on **Friday, November 2nd**. It starts at 6.30pm and as usual, all are welcome.
Barbara Henderson

HISTORY OF SEA VIEW WORKS

PART 2

When the Martins took over the Spade Works all the furnaces and chimneys were still in place. They had to demolish all the furnaces, close the open roofs, and put in ceilings and wood floors, starting with the main machine room in the centre of the Works. Some time later they demolished the large chimney which dominated Spittal. The building facing the street was not used until some time later. While this building was empty it was used by the Berwick British Legion Rifle Club as their indoor rifle range.

At the time of moving to Spittal, Martin's Printing Works was an entirely letterpress outfit. The business, which was founded by George Martin, started in the yard where How & Blackhall had their printing business, and then moved to near the top of West Street. It then moved again to the foot of West Street to William (cockle) Cowe's property where they now have their wholesale shop.

It was quite a task having to dismantle all the large printing machines and rebuild them in Spittal. The large machines came out from behind the Cowe's house in Love Lane but the smaller machines and typesetting machines came out through the door up West Street. I gather that they nearly lost control of one typesetting machine while trying to load it on to a lorry. It nearly toppled down the steep hill! Shortly after George Martin (Junior) joined the business he introduced offset litho. Gradually the offset litho expanded, then completely took over from the letterpress. It is now wholly offset litho although there are signs that a new process, digital printing, is starting to make inroads.

Chris Hardie took over Martin's Printing Works in 1992 and has built up and modernised the business, using every bit of available space. The whole site covers over 3 acres of buildings and land. There are now 45 employees at the Spittal Works, and Chris Hardie is the third largest employer in Berwick. David Martin has continued in the Works as Sales Director. *George Martin*

POSTBAG

❖ Reply to the article on the Spittal Forge. I can remember the Spittal Forge working, it was very environmentally unfriendly (*by today's standards: Ed*)! The local people, and in particular my Grandmother, Mrs Hunt of Spa Well House, had to go to extra ordinary lengths to protect their property. She used to line her windows with old towels to stop the smoke and fumes from entering the house via the sash windows. If you were unlucky enough to have washing out when the wind changed you had to rush to get it in. I can remember her joy when they stopped manufacture! But perhaps my grandmother's attitude was a little draconian!

I remember well John Cuthbert who worked there – he later became the putting green man. (*Was this Cubby's Dad?*)
Chris Timmins

❖ And an encouraging letter from a very happy visitor

I have just returned to Upminster, Essex after a holiday in Spittal and I came across The Point online. I just wanted to say how lovely Spittal is, and if things were different, I would move there tomorrow. Living near London makes me appreciate things like walking down an uncrowded street and someone

saying 'Good morning' to me. I am married to a 'southerner' and he loves Spittal too, as do my children. My late father Gavin Mason was born in Fallendon Terrace and spent many an afternoon after school on the beach at Spittal. My grand-mother Maggie Baillie was one of the Holborn family and owned Middle Third Dairies in the 1940s and 1950s. She moved to Spittal around 1913 and thought that it was the most beautiful place on earth. I spent my holidays in Tweedmouth and Spittal and loved coming back to my roots in Northumberland. I can't wait for next year!

(Thank you Anne Humphrey for sharing these thoughts with us – Ed)

CALENDAR 2009

(Printed again in case you didn't catch this in the last issue)

The Trust's 2009 Calendar will feature photographs taken by Spittal folk. So if you have any good views of Spittal with a seasonal flavour that you think would look good in a calendar (*No not the wife posing for a WI calendar*) please send them to Bryan Munro at 127 Main Street – either by e-mail attachment or hard copy through the letterbox. The deadline for contributions is the end of March 2008 so you have plenty of time – and we'll give you a reminder. No great prizes, just a free copy of the calendar AND the fame of course.

And don't forget the 2008 Calendar is now available - a bargain at £3.99

NATURE DESK

BEACH CLEAN

The next beach clean will take place on Saturday 1st December; meet outside the Amusement Arcade at 10am. All are welcome but come prepared for the bracing weather. We will finish with the usual refreshments, perhaps even a mulled wine!

Summer Weather Review

Now that the September figures are available we can look back at the whole of the summer. September was warm at the beginning but became very cold in the latter half. There was also very little rain. So over the summer as a whole the temperature was roughly 0.5 degC higher than average but

the rainfall was 42% higher than average. So yes, you were right – not so warm and rather wet.

John Harrison

THE TWO JOHN'S PUB QUIZZES

Programme of quizzes 2007 - 2008

Come and find out just how much you don't know – and have a good laugh at the same time – the Maltesers are there to be won.

Date	Location (Spittal)	Charity supported
October 5th	Red Lion	Spittal Improvement Trust
October 26th	Red Lion	Great North Air Ambulance
November 23rd	Red Lion	Spittal Improvement Trust
December 28th (Provisional)	To be arranged	Project Sri Lanka
2008		
January 25th	Red Lion	Spittal Improvement Trust
February 29th	Red Lion	Charity to be nominated
March 28th	Red Lion	Great North Air Ambulance
April 25th	Red Lion	Spittal Improvement Trust
May 30th	Red Lion	Project Sri Lanka
June 27th	Red Lion	Spittal Improvement Trust
August 29th (Provisional)	To be arranged	Project Sri Lanka

PROJECT SRI LANKA

Spittal has recently been able to send another £500 to support the re-equipping of the new school in Rassandeniya – thanks to your generous support. The new building was completed during July and the new equipment is now arriving. On September 28th the Project Director, Joy Palmer, together with two of the students working for Project Sri Lanka, came to Spittal to share some of their experiences with local supporters. It is hard to

put into words how wonderful it was to see images of hope in the faces of the young when not so long ago there had only been emptiness and despair. We hope to be able to send a further £500 by Christmas. There was also a encouraging response to our call for sponsors to support the children's education and all the children are now being supported by residents of Spittal. At the meeting Averil Harrison presented Joy Palmer with a stunning banner that she had made depicting Spittal. This will soon be taken over to Rassandeniya to hang in the new school.

We don't have a local planning group or a committee so if you would like to organise a fund-raiser for Project Sri Lanka then just get in touch with John Harrison at the Vicarage who is the local coordinator for the Project.

AND FINALLY

Gladys Friday

A close friend of mine went down to Somerset for a short break recently and found himself one night in a local pub. In came this big guy, apparently called Ham, who was the local trouble maker. After he had been there an hour or so Ham became involved, as always, in a bit of an argument and suddenly there was a dull thud as Ham kned this other guy in the thigh, dropping him to his knees. Apparently this was a regular occurrence – Ham would use his knee as a weapon on men and women alike. Absolutely outraged at this behaviour my friend called at the local police station the next morning. Having logged his complaint, the officer behind the desk said to my friend that he was aware of the problem but that there was nothing he could do – "It's like this", he said, "when Ham knees ya, y' tend to forget". (think about it)

Is exercise good for you? At the age of 60 my grandmother started walking 5 miles every day. She's now 97 and we have no idea where she is. The great thing about exercise is that you can die healthier.

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