

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust

Issue 33

October 2009

EDITORIAL

Well I hope that you are impressed with the continued success of this community newsletter – we ask for sunny weather for the Seaside Festival in



August and what did we get? SUNSHINE. Now where did I put that lamp – it needs another rub – it's amazing what you can find at a car boot sale. The leaves are now falling and the darts season has started (a sure sign of the coming winter), and we look ahead to the 'C' word. I apologise if this offends but I came across someone the other day – not a Spittaler I hasten to add – who has already bought and wrapped all their 'C' presents and written their 'C' cards - sad or what? The Trust has events planned for 'C' season but we'll give you details in the next issue which should be coming through your door towards the end of November.

Deadline for the next issue: Nov 16th

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Although the weather hasn't been up to much this year it seems to have been a long summer for SIT. The weather was kind to us for a change for both **Gala Day** and the **Seaside Festival**. The Festival itself exceeded our expectations and we achieved our aims of putting on an event that was enjoyed by many, from across the Borders that was (thankfully) profitable. We have received enough encouragement to be already planning the 2010 Festival, but we do not intend to over-reach ourselves. We do not intend to make it bigger, just improve on what we did. One disappointment was that we had to cancel 'Tea in the Park' at the last minute due to an administrative oversight.

Prospective consultants/contractors for the upgrading of the **Paddling Pool** were interviewed in July and now questionnaires have been circulated through the schools to explore the best way forward. We hope to be able to put forward a proposal to you soon as we have to submit grant applications by December to ensure that we can use the new facility next year.

The **Fishing Shiel** is also a step closer to being acquired by SIT. So as not to jeopardise any future grant application we are in the process of acquiring a Licence from the Tweed Foundation for us to use the Shiel. This will enable us to have free access and to draw up our proposals for its future use. The Shiel was recently opened for 'Doors Open Day', part of the Berwick Food Festival. Nearly 200 people visited over the weekend and we were encouraged by the comments we received on our efforts to preserve the building. Some interesting stories were relayed by some of the fishermen who worked out of the Shiel. Most people wanted very little to be changed internally as this could spoil its character, something we will keep in mind.

We know some of you continue to express concerns over the gardening that has been lacking this year throughout the village. We are hoping to address this matter with the County Council and will strive to ensure that this situation is not repeated next year.

Things are a little quieter now event-wise although there is a possibility that we will be able to show films in the Church Hall in the new future. The 'C' word is fast approaching and we will be trying new things out in the run up to the festivities. We are also arranging for plays to be staged in the Church Hall in January and March by a touring theatre company, more of all this in our next issue.

Our **Car Boot** organisers, Hazel and Alistair, have certainly got the bit between their teeth.

The last one was supposed to be on 13th September but due to the exceptionally good late summer weather they have decided to press on with additional ones.

CAR BOOT SALES

*The additional dates for these are:-
11th & 25th October starting at 10am
Sandstell Road car park as usual and
weather permitting of course.*

A Thermos and thermals may be advisable!

Lastly, we were saddened at the loss of Alan Archer, to his family and to the community. He was a founder member of SIT, and was in fact responsible for our logo. Although not directly involved in the Trust in the last few years he was a keen supporter of all our endeavours. We hope to be working with the family to provide a lasting memorial to Alan which will be a tribute to him and his family, and also enhance the area.

Mike Greener (Secretary SIT)

AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING

To be held in BURC Church Hall,
Middle Street, Spittal

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

10am to 11.30am

Stalls, tombola, raffle and refreshments.

All are welcome.

AROUND THE CLUBS

Have you seen the poster about the group now meeting at The Blenheim? It goes something like this:

*How does Bob Marley like his doughnuts?
Wi – Jammin.....Well so do we on
Wednesday nights from 8.30pm at The
Blenheim Hotel.*

*“You’ve hidden in your bedroom for far too long, come out to The Blenheim and play us a song. You may be nervous, you may be shy, just pluck up the courage and give it a try. You’ll be welcome to join us and take a turn, you never know there may be something to learn. There’ll be music and singing and laughter too; what this night needs is someone like **YOU!**”*

Do you play an instrument? Fed up of playing to yourself? Come and join us at The Blenheim on Wednesday evenings. All abilities welcome. For further details ring 306079.
(I’ll let Simon Cowell know! - Ed)

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Go-Green Biofuels is a locally-owned company that has been set up on a commitment to help the environment by reducing carbon emissions. They maintain that we can all play our part and Bio-diesel can be effectively used in all forms of transportation and heating appliances. In order to continue supplying an environmentally friendly (locally sourced) bio diesel to the local community they need to collect waste vegetable (used cooking) oil from as many catering establishments as possible, and that includes domestic kitchens as well!

They are based just off Sandstell Road and opposite the Sailing Club. Their website, www.go-greenbiofuels is full of information on what they do and ‘how and why’ this all works and they would welcome your interest. So please contact them by email: info@go-greenbiofuels.co.uk or by telephone at 07874 846 700 for further details.

SCHOOL NEWS

The new school year has begun and 15 new starters have joined our reception class! They’ve settled in really well on the start of their journey through the school. Most readers will be aware of the current concerns on class sizes and whether numbers should be limited, especially in the younger age groups. Parents who’ve chosen Spittal School can rest assured that with this small number of pupils their child will get the best of attention – as pupils always do throughout the school! One new starter was somewhat taller than all the others! She is our new head teacher, of course, Mrs Catherine Taylor. Mrs Taylor was appointed to come to Spittal from Swaffham in Norfolk, where she was head of a primary school. She’s now living in the borough and settling in as well as her brand-new charges.

The long-awaited Spittal Centenary book should soon come off the presses at Martin’s. Look out for this – it covers the whole 100 years of the school’s history, with reminiscences, newspaper articles, entries from school log-books and photographs. This book is the result of hundreds of hours of extensive research by ex-staff members Angela Darling and Yvonne Gallagher, alongside Linda Bankier from Berwick

Archives. The school would like to thank everyone who's been involved in this project. The busy PTA at Spittal will soon be drawing up a list of events between Halloween and Christmas – so do watch this space! Last year the PTA raised more than £2,000, which was spent on extra resources for the pupils. We know you'll continue to support us and any parent is very welcome to join in or offer their ideas. If you would like details of future PTA meetings, please call 01289 307 413. Finally, we're still collecting Morrison's gardening vouchers, so if you have any spare do hand them in to school or to the chair of governors, Debbie Purvis, at 48 Main Street. They'll go towards seeds and equipment for the school garden.

LET'S GROW' VOUCHERS

Morrison's are again issuing vouchers for schools to collect and redeem for gardening equipment. Spittal First School would be pleased to receive any vouchers that you have, they are available until November 1st. Please drop them into 48 Main Street and they will get to the School. Thank you.

SPITTAL SCOUT GROUP



We have been back a few weeks now following the summer (?) break. By now we will already have had a Beaver Sleepover and a Cub Camp. In November we will be holding a Beetle Drive and a Christmas Fair.

**SPITTAL SCOUT GROUP
BEETLE DRIVE
MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
BURC (ST PAUL'S) CHURCH HALL
6.30pm**

and

**SPITTAL SCOUT GROUP
CHRISTMAS FAIR
TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
BURC (ST PAUL'S) CHURCH HALL
6.30pm**

Admission at door for both, which includes refreshments. All are welcome.

We are also looking for leaders or parent helpers to help with all sections of the group as Paul Wilkinson will be stepping down as Scout Leader in July next year. No experience is

necessary and it doesn't need to be every week, any help would be appreciated.

Please remember to log onto our fundraising website. We have managed to raise over £50 just by using the links displayed. The address is: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/2ndbutssg
Brenda Rollo – Group Scout Leader

NATURE DESK

Peregrine Falcon

This relatively rare bird was spotted recently around the Berwick bridges. The peregrine falcon is a quick and efficient raptor. Death is mercifully swift for its prey, coming in the form of a single blow that seems to come out of nowhere. It is a speck high in the sky as it keeps watch for its prey, then it snaps back its wings and plummets downwards at speeds estimated to be as high as 180 mph. If it makes contact, a blow from its talons instantly breaks the neck or back of its flying prey. It then retrieves the body from the ground. Typical victims are pigeon and grouse but its appetite for game birds has led to its persecution by gamekeepers. During wartime when pigeons were used to carry vital messages, destruction of the peregrines was actively encouraged. The adult has a dark crown, a moustache cheek pattern and grey upper parts, and its white under-parts are barred with black. It is a truly wonderful bird and I have only ever seen it once in the wild.

John Dougall

Berwick Wildlife Group

Forthcoming events:

Wednesday 11th November 7.30pm.
Aisling Lannin. Talk on Marine Pollution.
Marine life around the coast of the British Isles is as colourful and fascinating as that anywhere in the world's oceans, but it is under threat, particularly from pollution and over-fishing. Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal.

Thursday 19th Nov. 7.30 Maltings. North Northumberland Bird Club special Silver Anniversary Event : "**TAKING STOCK: MY LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHY**" - an evening with Laurie Campbell at The Maltings, Berwick.

If you want more information on any of the above events, or would like to know more about the Group, phone 01289 330591, email mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk, website www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk, or

just come to an event. Everyone is welcome – there may be a small charge (no charge for children, but they must come with an adult).

COMMUNITY WRITERS

We have in our midst a wealth of creative writers which we have not highlighted in the past. To make up for this oversight the following children's books are for sale. These would make ideal Christmas presents, the dreaded 'C' word already, and help to support local writers.

'A Children's War' – How children who attended a village school coped during wartime.

'A Seaside Village School' – 100 years of education at Spittal Community First School.

'Seaside Magic' – Two children visit their grandmother in Spittal and she takes them on a magic journey in the past.

'Sammy and Sally and the River Tweed' – the story of two salmon born in Scotland and their journey via the River Tweed to Spittal estuary.

'Places for Children to visit in Northumberland' – illustrated by the children of Spittal First School.

'Two Crowns for one King' – The story of King James VI journey from Scotland to become King James I of England and Scotland.

Most of these books have been illustrated by local children. All enquiries should be made through Maureen Raper at 01289 305213 or email mavismaureen@btinternet.com

COMMUNITY READING GROUP

The Devonshire Trophy competition is aimed at encouraging children and their parents to read more books. Entries are to be handed into Berwick Library before 17th November, it is marked externally and winners will be announced in December.

The categories are Children 5-8 years, 8-12 years and 13-16 years. Children have to write 500 words, or less, on a book that they enjoyed most of all. Adults have to write about a book 'that changed my life'. The entry fee is £1 for children and £3 for adults. Money received will go to prizes. If you need any further guidance on this then please contact Maureen Raper on 305213.

THE PARISH CHURCH

St John's is currently fund-raising for the repairs to the West Window and to the railings. We would value your help. There are some fund-raising opportunities between now and 'C' – see local posters for details. We have been fortunate in receiving a very generous donation of £1500 from our church patrons, the Mercers' Company, towards the cost of the railings. Details of the services at 'C' will be in the next issue of The Point but there will certainly be the traditional PARISH CAROL SERVICE on December 24th 'Come early to get a back seat'. Unfortunately this will be my last 'C' here in Spittal as I shall be retiring in April – my situation changed very quickly after my comment in the June issue. Just ask if you want to know any more.

In the meantime why not come along to celebrate HARVEST – our harvest festival is on Sunday October 18th - as a finale we have a HARVEST SUPPER at 6.00 pm to which you are all welcome. Our harvest giving this year will go to support the work of WaterAid. *Rev John Harrison*

AND FINALLY

Gladys Friday

Isn't this story just **so** typical of men??!!

A flight from New York to London runs into real trouble out over the Atlantic and a crash is inevitable. The passengers are obviously terrified and one woman leaps up and shouts hysterically "If I have to die I want to die feeling like a real woman". She takes off all her clothes and continues "Is there any man on this plane who wants to make me feel like a real woman?" After a moment's shocked silence, a man at the back of the plane stands up and says "Yes, OK", and taking off his shirt he says "Here, iron this will you".

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