

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 36 April 2010

EDITORIAL



This is our first Point! We would like to thank all the contributors for being so prompt – please keep it up! It is also good to note that we have some new contributors and we welcome them. There will be a full report on Project Sri Lanka and how Scott got on with his orgathon in the next Point.

Chris & Sue Timmins

Deadline for the next issue: May 26th

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

By the time you receive this issue we would have had our AGM and a new committee would have been elected. More on this in the June issue. A couple of comments about recent events, firstly the March Beach Clean saw nearly 60 people turn out, mostly from the Spittal Scout Group and their parents. Secondly, the play, 'A Village Life' was reasonably well attended and we were treated to a very professional performance from the company. So much so that we hope to book them again, sadly not until next year as dates for their new productions are already booked up.

We are having to change tack on the **Fishing Shiel** as we have been advised that funding for the renovation and use of the building will be easier to obtain (the forms never get easier!) if you own it. We have just heard that Berwick Town Council have given us a grant towards the cost to buy it and bids are now going in for the rest of the purchase price.

The new **Splash Park** in the play area has suffered a set back as we have been turned down for a major grant towards the project. However, all is not lost and additional bids will be made to other funding sources to replace this. What it does mean that it is unlikely that

the Splash Park will be open this summer. We have always believed in not cheapening down a project to meet the funds available. It is far better to be patient and wait and until the necessary funds can be obtained.

The **Car Boot Sales** are up and running again, a sure sign the weather is going to change but I'll not commit myself to say which way! These are an invaluable source of funds for the Trust, so please turn out to support them. You never know, you might make a genuine valuable find, just like they do on the telly!

It's difficult to know how much to put in these newsletters about what goes on in the Trust month to month. The last thing we want to do is bore you all! We often attend various meetings, not all of them interesting or even relevant to our needs in Spittal but you have to be 'in it to win it' as they say. However it's often a good way of making the contacts that are so useful for the times you do need it. The main time consumer is the endless filling in of grant application forms that is required to fund the numerous projects we are doing. The wording on the forms is bad enough but it gets a little soul destroying when you get turned down. But it's all worth it in the end, or so I keep telling myself!

Mike Greener (Secretary SIT)

A word from our Vice Chair

The sub committee, reformed to complete the **Spa Well/War Memorial** project have met with the original architect who has drawn some updated plans. With this in mind we have compiled lists of possible funders and with the drawings from the architect we are now about to approach granite companies for costings and advice on the finish for the War Memorial.

Spittal is entered in **Berwick in Bloom** this year. The preliminary inspection is on April 26th with the award inspection taking

place sometime in July. The route will be along Main Street from Shiel and Morrison's to Seafield Park. If anyone would like to help with the gardening (perhaps the start of our very own **Gardening Club**), or if there are any good ideas for improving the beds, please do not hesitate to me on 308813. Thanks to an award from Berwick Town Council we will be purchasing our own gardening tools and hope to eventually have some planters along the street.

Mau Watkins (Vice Chair SIT)

CAR BOOT SALES

Sandstell Road Car Park

These will take place on the following Sundays –

4th & 18th April
2nd, 16th & 30th May
6th June

All start at 10am
(weather permitting of course!)

SCHOOL NEWS EASTER 2010

There's a busy term ahead of us at Spittal School after Easter. But we'd like to start by thanking everyone who supported our Valentine's Disco, which raised around £250. As we've now raised more than £1,000 since October, the money will be spent on buying digital cameras for use in all the classrooms.

The after-school clubs are proving very popular with our pupils. The cookery club has applied for a grant to help pay for a wide range of cooking equipment, which could also be used for other healthy-school-related activities. The PTA is also buying a new table-top cooker to help the club.

An adult-only evening fund-raiser is planned for April 30th at the school. The theme's yet to be decided and a brain-storming session (at least, that's what the PTA's calling it) will be held at the Blenheim to decide on the details. "Adult-only" just means without children – there are no plans for anything along the lines of The Full Monty!

Here's hoping for better weather for our summer term.

SPITTAL SCOUT GROUP



Two members of the 2nd Berwick upon Tweed Scouts at Spittal have been selected to be part of the Northumberland contingent of 36 scouts going to the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden next year. The UK contingent is 4000 strong and there will be over 32,000 scouts and guides at the Jamboree from over 200 countries worldwide, it's bigger than the Olympics! Scott Gorvett and Ross Hume now have to raise £1800 each to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising or knows of any organisations who give grants then please get in touch with Scott on 304139 or Ross on 331357. You may well see them out and about in Berwick and Spittal in the coming weeks and months doing things like bag packing to raise money, please support them if you can. They are also trying to find out when a scout from the Berwick area last went to a Jamboree, please ring if you can give them any information.

Brenda Rollo – Group Scout Leader
(Please log onto our fundraising website at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/2ndbutssg)

SPITTAL SCOUT GROUP

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 30th April.

6.30pm

BURC Church Hall

(Middle Street)

A fund raising event for the Group and to help send two from our troop to the 22nd World Jamboree in Sweden in 2011.

£6.00/team

**Refreshments included,
also raffle & tombola**

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP

Forthcoming events in Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal:
Wednesday 12th May, 7.30 pm. Annual General Meeting and Display of our Work.
A very short formal meeting followed by an opportunity to see what we have achieved in 2009, what we plan for 2010 and how you can assist our efforts to help conserve wildlife. Free refreshments too! Everyone welcome.
If you would like more information about the Group, or any of our events, visit our web site:
www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk,

BERWICK SAILING CLUB



Invitation to join in the fun ..

Your local sailing club, based at Sandstell Road, Spittal, are holding a weekend sailing course for beginners and warmly invite you to join them. This will take place over 22/23 May which will be an exciting weekend where you can come along and be introduced to sailing, with plenty of water-based training in the sailing club's own boats. The course is for adults and children (9 or over) who can swim reasonably well.

If you enjoy the training weekend you can then join the club on a temporary membership and progress your sailing on Friday nights with the friendly members who run it (there's always a BBQ afterwards!). The training weekend is £60 and is deducted from your membership fee should you choose to join.

To book a place on the weekend, or for further details, please telephone Claire Weeks on 01289 305082.

www.berwicksailingclub.co.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



LAUNCH OF SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM

In response to the ever changing risk in Northumberland the service are establishing a

team dedicated to Water Rescue Operations at Berwick Fire Station. This resource is in support of teams at Hexham and Morpeth and 17 Fire-fighters from Berwick have recently attended a Swift Water Rescue course in Bala, North Wales where they have been trained to a National Standard in readiness for their launch in spring 2010. They will be provided with specialist equipment and a powered boat to allow them to respond to a wide range of incidents.

The team intends to hold a number of high profile events for partner agencies and the public, to raise the general awareness of the service capabilities and equipment available for water related incidents.

If you have any questions please contact Berwick Station 01289 330753.

NEW FIRE STATION

Berwick is set to benefit from a new Community Fire Station, with help from Government investment, subject to final approval. In recent years, as well as fighting fires and attending other emergency calls, Northumberland Fire & Rescue has been committed to developing links with local people and partner organizations' to take a wider role in helping to make communities safer.

If successful, the new fit for purpose Station will be available for use by Community groups and will be built on the existing site with building work expected to begin in 2012 and completed by 2014.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS



Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service provides a Home Fire Safety Check and fit Smoke Alarms free of charge to members of the public in the Berwick area.

Protect yourself and your family from the devastating effects of fire & call Freephone – 08007311351

Email NFRS-HFSCReferral@northumberland.gov.uk

QUIZ NITES at the RED LION

As the two John's have now finished we are looking to new people to continue the quiz nites. Inness our friendly local barber has kindly offered to step into the breach together with a mystery quiz setter! The first quiz will be in September and will be in aid of Berwick and District Cancer Support Group. We will announce the details nearer the time. If anybody else would like to help out please contact the editor or Mike and that way we could have a pool of people to draw upon and run more quizzes over the autumn and winter for our good causes. Don't be shy!

SPITTAL BOWLING CLUB Centenary

Our local bowling green is 100 years old on the 30th June! A number of special events will take place starting with the opening of the green on the 17th April at 2.30 pm.

Members are being asked to be at the clubhouse at 2.00 pm, wearing club dress, to allow a photograph of members to be taken before 'the first jack' at 2.30 pm. This photograph will feature in the Centenary Booklet which will be available early in the season. After the game, tea will be served and the evening entertainment will be provided by 'NITE –TALK'.

In the June Point we will be featuring a short history of the Club and it's achievements over the 100 years.

EVENTS at the BLENHEIM

Readers are reminded that on every Wednesday evening two local Musicians Tracey and Jane are there to entertain you – sing along or play along welcome. There is even a guitar for you to play which the Pub provides. The fun starts at 8.30 pm

Also on the 10th of May lasting for 16 weeks The Blenheim is having a darts competition and on the 16th of May again for 16 weeks a pool competition is being held. First prize in each case is £200 and the competitions start at 8.30 pm.

THE PARISH CHURCH

A date for your diary - St. John's Garden Party will take place on the 27th June and full details will be given in the June Point.

It was decided at the Church's AGM the railings (subject to the weather) will be replaced during the summer half term.

ST. JOHN'S RAILWAY and LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We are pleased to inform you that we now have two speakers lined up for the autumn for the following topics; "Spittal Holidays" and "The Fishing Industry In Spittal" If readers have information or pictures that would help the speaker for "Spittal Holidays" please contact the editor.

BEACH CLEANS

The next one is to coincide with the 'Clean up Berwick' week and will take place on

Saturday 24th April.

The next regular Beach Clean will take place on

Saturday 12th June.

On both dates meet as usual outside the Amusement Arcade at 10am.

All are welcome but come prepared for the prevailing weather conditions, i.e. sun tan lotion and a Mac!

We will finish with the usual refreshments.

Gladys Friday is taking a short break and will be back next issue.

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Printed in Spittal by Shiel and Morrison