

# THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust  
Issue 65 June 2015

## EDITORIAL

**Deadline for next issue 18<sup>th</sup> September.** The next newsletter will be covering October, November, December and January 2016.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The observant amongst will have realised that there has not been an issue of this newsletter since December of last year. The reason for this is that we found ourselves in a very serious financial predicament earlier this year. This was mainly due over extending ourselves on two of our events, the Seaside Festival and the Christmas Parade. Both of these are costly to run, rely heavily on grant funding and we are unable to charge an entry fee. It is obviously not feasible to fence off the Prom for the Festival for instance. The problem is that we have to book the entertainment side of these events well in advance of receiving confirmation of funding.

Once we realised the situation we had put ourselves in we had to make some drastic decisions. The first of these was to suspend the newsletter. We have in the past accepted some adverts to help pay for it but we did not want to have a newsletter full of adverts and no news. For the time being we will produce the newsletter to cover four months, instead of the usual bi-monthly.

The next step was to ensure that our events were adequately funded before we made any commitments to pay money out. The Seaside Festival is costly so it will still be taking place this year but we have had to cut back on the costliest entertainments but this should not detract from people's enjoyment of it.

We also have found it necessary at this stage to cancel the reindeer parade at Christmas. Santa has said that he will pay us a visit anyway and, if things improve, he will bring his reindeer.

We do have other issues to deal with, as well as the financial one, and this was brought out at our AGM in March as we did not have any new committee members and two stepped down. Mau Watkins is now Chair of the Trust and is a keen and active member of the committee. We need some new, and younger, blood to keep

the Trust going forward. There is no need to become a committee member but help is always needed, not only for our events but also to work on proposed projects around the village. One immediate and pressing job is for someone to take over the running of our website. This should always be a showcase for the Trust and what we do but also the village as a whole. If anyone is interested in taking this on, then please get in touch.

So, apologies for this tale of woe but we thought it would be better to let everyone know our situation and that we are working to rectify it. On to brighter things now. The **Gala Weekend** is now upon us and it kicks off quite literally with the **Junior 5-a-sides** completion and Berwick Rangers Juniors Football Club will be running it as usual. **Gala Day** itself has a 1940's theme this year and includes a performance by the Berwick Concert Band and Jitterbug dancing. It takes place on the field at the south end of Main Street as before, details are on the poster.

**THE 2015 SPITTAL GALA**  
SATURDAY 20th JUNE  
**5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
SPITTAL SCHOOL FIELD  
Registration - Under 9 & 11 - 9am  
U13 & 15 - 1pm • £9 per team - max 6 per team

**SUNDAY 21st JUNE**  
**11am - CAR BOOT**  
CARS £5.00 - VANS £7.00  
12.15 - FANCY DRESS PARADE  
Led by Gala Queen & Civic Party  
Assemble at Spa Well  
**ENTERTAINMENT BY CHRIS WISH**  
**FUN RACES**  
from 2pm • BERWICK CONCERT BAND • MAKE MEND & DO  
KIDS WORKSHOP 1940s THEME • JITTERBUG DANCING  
TOMBOLA, BOUNCY CASTLES, MUSIC,  
REFRESHMENTS, BURGERS  
**SLATERS FUN FAIR**  
**CHURCH SERVICE - ST JOHN'S @ 6:30 pm**  
ALL PROFITS ARE SPENT IN SPITTAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPITTAL

Also this weekend, we are having the awards ceremony for the **Litter Competition**. This has been running over the winter months and has involved schools and children's groups on both sides of the Border. This has been put together by Raine Bryant, ably assisted by Izzy Graham and Jackie King. The object of the competition was for the entrants to create an innovative message, judged on creativity, originality and expression on the theme of stopping litter. There were many categories, these included writing and performing a song/rap, their own ideas to stop people littering, writing an informative essay or story, think up a slogan, design a poster, enter a quiz or draw a picture. We have had 660 children taking part in this so it has been a difficult task to come up with the winners. This will be hopefully run annually. We are also looking at a bigger project called 'Debris'. This is again about litter but on a wider context. Funding for this is being sourced at the present time.

The **Seaside Festival** will be taking place over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August this year. Due to the reasons stated earlier, the Festival is still taking shape and we are working with some local groups to provide a wide variety of things to see and do. However, the challenge is that the Festival needs long term funders and sponsors if it is going to continue.



Moving away from our events now, we have a couple of projects that have been on the books for some time but now need to get moving. The first of these is the covering of the windows on the old building on the corner of Sandstell/Dock Roads. The idea is to have on each window a full size picture depicting a scene from bygone Spittal, with a few descriptive sentences for explanation. We have the developer's permission to do this on the understanding that the boards will be taken down when the building undergoes development. The boards have been costed with the intention that they are durable and can be used at another location in the future, perhaps along the Prom.

The **Fishing Shiel** is now a major concern to us. We had a proposal for its use and had architectural drawings undertaken for this but since then a lack of time on our part has meant that for too long it has taken a back seat. We have annual costs to pay for the building so we need to put matters in hand to start earning an income out of it. In the meantime it will be open for the annual Heritage Open Days event.

## SANDSTELL FISHING SHIEL

Open as part of



**heritage open days**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am to 3pm**

**FREE TO EXPLORE**

I hope this report hasn't been too depressing to read for you. The Trust is seen in very high regard by many across Berwick, and beyond, for the work that is undertaken in Spittal. In some respect we have become a victim of our own success. We will always strive to make an event the best it can be, and affordable to attend, and will have never cheapened a project down just so that it can be undertaken and ticked off the 'to do list'. All of this comes at a price though, financially, and of time and effort. It would be easy for us to rest on our laurels, or worse give up, but we are not like that. Spittal is worth the effort!

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

## GARDENING GROUP

Spittal is once again entering Northumbria in 'Bloom with Berwick' in Bloom which includes Spittal, Tweedmouth and Ord Country Park. The judges will be here in July with the results being announced at the presentation ceremony in September. It's a special year for us as 'Berwick in Bloom' will be hosting the presentation ceremony in the sports centre. The 'In Bloom' committee have been fund raising and have been fortunate in receiving donations from several companies in the area. The County Council and Town Council have also given grant funding towards the event. We have ran a raffle and enjoyed a Ceilidh Night in the Black and Gold as part of our fundraising. The Spittal Gardening Group are planning the planting for all the areas to be judged. We would be delighted if anyone would like to join us and any help with the watering would be much appreciated. If anyone has any advice to offer we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact me on 01289 308813.

*Mau Watkins*

## BUSINESS NEWS

We have two new businesses to report on. The first of these is **Northern Edge Coffee** who are based the Meantime Workshops on North Greenwich Road, that's next to Nixons Yard. They can boast to be the most northerly coffee roastery in England and they have a passion for producing for producing high quality coffee using ethically sourced green beans. Being in a town which is rich with history, they have decided to name all of their coffee blends after local myths, legends and facts. Their two original blends were Jimmy Strength and Quarter Town. These have now been joined by Coffee Harry Three Bridges and Berwick 900. To help ensure that all of their coffee is ethically sourced, they work closely with their green bean supplier and they are proud to support them in helping to sustain coffee farmers and their communities around the globe. If you would like to know more about what they do or would like to visit the roaster, please email them at dan@NorthernEdgeCoffee.co.uk.

We would also like to welcome **The Furniture Barn**, who will be opening their doors on June 27<sup>th</sup>. They are based in the old fish factory buildings overlooking the beautiful River Tweed, no doubt you have noticed their new signs already. **The Furniture Barn** is a new and exciting business run by Holly Le Versha and her team. Dealing in buying, selling, up cycling

and restoring antique 2nd hand furniture. Also available on site is George Bryson, an upholstery specialist, and Louise Allison who has a business Betty Lou's Burlap and Bunting Bridal Boutique. We will be offering refreshments inside and out so you can take in some breath taking views along with some sunshine soon, we hope!! They will be looking forward to meeting you all very soon.....

We wish both of these new businesses well.

## A VIEW FROM THE PROM



With these two new businesses opening up in Spittal and the recent fire at Martins the Printers, thankfully no one was hurt but a disruption to their business none the less, it is reassuring to see that Spittal is still seen by some as a desirable place to set up a business. It is therefore not only a shame but frankly an annoyance that those looking at the future prospects for areas within Spittal and towards Tweedmouth Docks, can only see a future that being in residential housing.

We are unlikely to see a mass employer here ever again but some of the existing businesses here, or small start up businesses and internet based companies etc, can merge in well with some housing. What better work/life balance than to get up in the morning and get to work with a view across the Tweed like we have!

*Beachcomber*

## GARDEN HOUSE

Garden House held a **Coffee Morning** in April for the Spittal Gardening Group, which was much appreciated. £150 was dully raised at this and the money went towards bedding plants along Main Street. They will also be holding a **Strawberry Tea** in August at a date still to be confirmed. Garden House are also looking for volunteer drivers to take residents out on shop trips. If you would like to help them out with this they would be please to hear from you.

## BERWICK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (formerly St Paul's)

The BURC are having a musical evening on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Appearing will be The Thursday Singers, Border Tarts and Two's Company, the evenings compere is Sandy Moore. Tickets are £5 on the door.

## RNLI



There has been a change in Launching Authority Officials at the Lifeboat Station with Gordon Blackett taking over from long serving Tom Wakenshaw as Lifeboat Operations Manager. Both are Spittal men and we would like to offer our thanks to Tom for his sterling work in the past and good fortune to Gordon in what might be a difficult future ahead for our Lifeboat Station. This comes from recent news that the RNLI have announced changes to four lifeboat stations in the North East of England and Scottish Borders following an extensive review of the area to ensure the charity continues to provide the most effective lifesaving service to the public. Under proposals approved by the charity's trustees, an inshore lifeboat will be added this year to Eyemouth in Scotland and the lifeboat station at neighbouring St Abbs will be closed. In Northumberland the RNLI has plans to put new state-of-the-art Shannon class lifeboats at Seahouses and Amble over the next three years as part of the fleet's modernisation programme. This means that the older 16 knot Mersey class all-weather lifeboat at Berwick-upon-Tweed will not need to be replaced at the end of its operational life in 2018.

This year's **Berwick RNLI Festival** will be taking place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. A fun family day out for free including; Live exercise, capsizing demo, live music, market stalls, boat trips, beer tent, Fun Fair. The RNLI will be joined by HM Coastguard, Northumberland Fire and Rescue, Eyemouth Lifeboat and, subject to availability, a Sea King from RAF Boulmer. This year, teams are welcome to enter a raft race and compete for the Lifeboat Shield. Boat trips will be provided on a fast rib that will give the public a white knuckle ride on the river estuary. As part of Berwick 900 programme of events for 2015, 'Our Maritime Story' marks the 170th anniversary of the first lifeboat stationed at the mouth of the River Tweed. 'Our Maritime Story' illustrates the story of the Port of Berwick, its whaling industry and the vessels and sea-trade associated with the town over the centuries.

## BERWICK RANGERS JUNIORS FC

The Juniors FC, who train on the school field, will be having a **Summer Sponsored Walk** on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. This will start at Morrisons car park and will provide back down the North

Road into Berwick, over the Old Bridge, along Dock Road, up the Billendean, along Cemetery Loaning, Etal Road, Shielfield Terrace and in to Shielfield Park. If you feel up to a good walk, more like a hike though, or would like to sponsor them, then please get in touch on either 01289 306245 or 07802 519518.

## WALKING FOR HEALTH

Would you be interested in walking along the Promenade on a Friday afternoon? Then why not join like minded people who meet at 1:30pm in the car park behind the Amusement Arcade. They walk to the end of the Prom, there are many seats available en-route to take a breather, and then it's back to the cafe where hot drinks are available if required. Why not come along and enjoy a stroll along the Prom in beautiful summer sunshine, enjoying the scenery, and maybe glimpsing the dolphins as well! Anyone on their own will appreciate the company for a small walk, at your own speed.

## DID YOU KNOW

Do you know someone with sight problems? Then this is a reminder that **Berwick and District Talking Newspaper** are again on hand to help! News, Letters, Announcements, Sport and other items of interest are recorded from the Berwick Advertiser. Memory sticks are sent out to clients who can listen in the comfort of their own home, they will supply a player for the memory stick. Their service is completely free of charge. Interested? For more information please call 01289 382238 or 01289 308171. They look forward to welcoming you.

### And finally....

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

and...

Do you ever wonder why you give out your email address?

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