

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 55 June 2013

EDITORIAL

Deadline for next issue 26 July 2013

Letter to editor:- I would like to thank everyone in Spittal who supported the sponsored "Spittal Well for Sri Lanka" event on May 11 at St Paul's Church. It was a huge success and over £2,700 has been raised so far. I hope the well will be completed later this year or early in 2014. After it is completed I will write a brief article for The Point, outlining the importance of the well to the community - *Scott Weightman*

CAR BOOT SALE's Sandstell Road Car Park

These continue to take place every Sunday until end of September.

Cars £5/Vans £7

All start at 10am

(weather permitting of course!)

NEWS FOM THE TRUST

Spittal Gala is nearly upon us (see the poster) and, although 2013 is almost half gone the weather seems to be lagging behind somewhat! We have already had a busy start to the year but it continues on with a **Beach Clean** and then another performance by **The Berwick Concert Band** at the end of June. This is the second time they will have played for us, following their previously successful concert. We get a breather in July and then it's into the **Seaside Festival** in August - more of that next month. When I say we get a breather, that is just from our events. Work still goes on behind the scenes with the ongoing projects. Work should continue again with the **Spa Well** and **War Memorial** after securing some additional funds but there is still some fund raising to do to finish off all of the proposed works. Our thoughts are now turning to the **Fishing Shiel**, there has never been any doubt that we want to restore it, but what to do with it after restoration has always been an issue. It was never envisaged that it would be open other than high days and holidays but it is a drain on our meagre resources, paying for insurances and the general upkeep and running costs. However, we have had quite an exciting suggestion put forward to us which we are

going to be looking into over the next few months. Any work on the Shiel will involve Listed Building Consent, Planning and Building Regulation approvals so before we get too carried away with this suggestion, we will be looking into whether we can meet all the requirements before we take it any further. The Highlights Miniature Worlds Exhibition is about to take place as I write this so we hope you got a chance to see it and marvelled at the skill involved in the work created. We are committed to bringing world class artists and performers into Spittal and we can only do this by being in the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. Mau Watkins and I have been to see what is on offer for the Autumn and Winter months and we have to chose these by 10th June, so well before they come to us. Audience numbers have been a little disappointing to date with the majority of the people that have been attending coming up from Ashington, Morpeth and Alnwick, as well as from across the Border. What we choose may not be everyone's cup of tea but we hope that more local people will give it a chance and come to see what has been, up to now, a really good night out. We need any unwanted items that you might have that would be suitable for tombola prizes for the Gala. If you have any could please let Hazel Bettison know on 07944757587. *Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

BEACH CLEAN Saturday 8th June.

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!

Family or friends visiting and not enough space?

We have comfortable cottages available. For details telephone **Brenda** on **01289 304175** or see our **website**

www.berwickcottageholidays.co.uk

SMOKING IS THE BIGGEST HOUSE FIRE KILLER

Northumberland Fire & Rescue is reminding

smokers to 'Put it Out, Right Out' whenever they light up; to install smoke alarms on every level of the home; and, to test them regularly. Without a working smoke alarm you are four times more likely to die in an accidental fire in the home. These simple steps can help prevent a cigarette fire in the home:

- **Never smoke in bed.** Take care when you're tired – it's very easy to fall asleep while your cigarette is still burning and set furniture alight
- **Never smoke when under the influence** of drugs or alcohol. If your lit cigarette starts a fire you could be less able to escape
- **Put it out, right out!** Make sure your cigarette is fully extinguished
- **Fit a smoke alarm and test it weekly.** A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999
- **Never leave lit cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended** – they can easily overbalance as they burn down
- **Use a proper, heavy ashtray** that can't tip over easily and is made of a material that won't burn.



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NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

Our lady gardeners have been working since Easter on the grounds around the Church. They are doing a wonderful job, working every Monday to keep the area looking magnificent. If you see them do say 'hello'! We are hoping to hold a Holiday Club during the week of 5th to 9th August based in the Church for members of our Youth Group and other youngsters of Middle School age. Further information will be publicised soon. Our next very special service to which everyone is invited is 'Sea Sunday' on 7th July at 6pm, when we will celebrate our very close link with the sea. This includes our holiday visitors, those who work on our Lifeboat and those whose livelihoods or hobbies are

connected with the sea in any way. Please look out for the poster that will be advertising this service. And finally, we hope to have a team of youngsters to 'man' a stall again this year on the promenade at the Seaside Festival on 10th -11th August. *Revd. Ann Peters.*

**An evening with
 The Berwick Concert Band**
Saturday 29th June 7:30pm
BURC (St Pauls) Church
 Tickets Adult £5.50/ u17's £3.50 and includes refreshments
 on sale in Spittal Food Store
 or call 07752403409 online at
www.borderevents.com/boxoffice

THE WINNER OF THE WRITING COMPETITION

A SPITTAL TALE -MY SPECIAL MEMORIES

I have many happy memories of Spittal, although most of my school life was during the war I always felt safe in Spittal. I was 4 years old when the war began and 10 years old when it finished. Having lived in many different places and countries since I left Spittal at the age of 24, I realise how fortunate I was to spend my childhood in Spittal. One would think driving up Spittal Main Street it has remained timeless and never changed; but it was very different during the war with barricades along the beaches and barbed wire along the promenade wall and the jetty. No one was allowed on the beach in case of mines being washed up or explosives. The swings were taken away with the school gates and any other iron, all needed for the war effort. No street lights could be lit at nights and all the houses had "blackouts", even cars and bikes could only have dimmed lights. Amazing there were not more deaths and accidents. There was an air raid shelter built in the school yard. This created a great talking point in the village, would it be strong enough etc etc and great excitement at school when we were all lined up and had to practice how to get in and out.

I remember my first day at school; I was given a doll and crib to play with and thought it was wonderful, not realising that not every day would be like that. I soon got into learning and enjoying it. I have vivid memories of Miss Cringle's class, being taught the importance of spelling correctly and legible writing, good manners and respect for others. She was a strict teacher but fair and what she taught me has been of great importance in my life. I also have happy memories of Miss Simpson, who taught me to love reading. Every Friday

afternoon, she would choose a book to be read aloud by the class; each one of us would take a turn to read the marked chapters. Children of the New Forest, David Copperfield and most of the classics featured on Friday. Such excitement waiting to hear what happened next, yet feeling anxious if it was your turn to read. No need, Miss Simpson would guide you through it. There were no computers in those days and no "Twitter" so no one found out in advance, what happened next. The other excitement was "Gas Mask Practice". It was compulsory to carry them wherever you went. You pulled the rubber hood over your head, the tube hung down in front, it was most important that the holes were closed and you could see out of the eyepieces. After a few minutes the eyepieces would "steam up" and no one could see where they were going. The teachers had such patience; boys ears and girls hair always got caught when taking them off- and, of course, we would all take the giggles. At that age no one seemed to think it was serious. You may imagine a class filled with young children looking like something from Dr. Who

I wonder if the children still go to St. John's Church on a Monday morning. We would march two by two into Church, sing hymns, listen to a story by Rev Robson then march back. I loved Christmas time, singing carols and Easter when we would get a "Pace" egg to roll on Easter Monday.

Although it was wartime with food rationing, sweet coupons, and shortages of lots of things, even toilet paper was a luxury, we still had a happy childhood. The joy of Monday morning, standing, filled with anticipation, in the queue outside Nina Crisps sweet shop, clutching sweet coupons and my monday penny; will there be any jelly baby's left!! or toffee fish, that lasted longer when you sucked them, such decisions. Also being careful keeping your school savings separate. We took sixpence on Monday for a saving stamp added to your book, when the book was full the teacher would say "well done", this encouraged you to save and taught us the value of regular saving. Another memory of sweet coupons was friends telling you Fanny Whales, who had a small shop run from her house in the back street (West Street) was selling licorice twists and laces without coupons.

This meant racing home to the moneybox or borrowing from a friend and get there as fast as your legs would carry you, again stand in a queue. Sometime by the time you got to the counter she would say "sorry hen none left". Your heart would sink, then just as you thought all was lost she would say "you can have a

sherbet dip without a coupon", joy it was worth the wait after all. So many memories come flooding back, the Sunday school trip we would be given a brown paper picnic bag prepared by the Church Ladies Committee, of course we would immediately start trading agreements with friends exchanging cheese sandwiches for egg etc., the delight of seeing iced buns, cakes, and chocolate, what a treat. Then such fun, running in the egg and spoon race, sack race, and three legged race, and somehow everyone got a prize!! Then there was the Spittal Fete; SLATERS SHOWS would come to the common on Sandstell Road, the first time I saw the Chairplanes and Waltzer I thought they were magic; then there was the crowning of the Spittal Salmon King. The Committee chose one of the older Salmon fishers. How splendid he looked in his robes and crown sitting on the float on a golden Throne.

I shall always treasure my special memories of Spittal. Spittal looks better than ever, thanks to the Improvement Trust. I agree Spittal is a **VERY SPECIAL PLACE.**

by Jane Mannings nee Jean Heckels



.And finally.....I kept wondering why the Frisbee was getting bigger and then it hit me....

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