

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 57

October 2013

EDITORIAL

Deadline for next issue 19 November 2013

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

This year's **Seaside Festival** was probably the best to date with lots to see and do, we hope you enjoyed it. It's always difficult to make a guess at the numbers of people who came over the weekend, but two sources said that it was probably around 15,000. That's not bad for a voluntary group like ours, especially as we came close to cancelling it as our funding virtually collapsed.

We need grant funding to put on the Festival, but most grant funders do not want to keep funding the same event, as they prefer to see events become self funding. As I said in the last issue, it would be a physical impossibility to charge for entry into the Festival. So we now have to look at other ways to finance it. and, as we are committed to continue with the Seaside Festival, will be looking at new ways of doing this over the winter months, something to do in the dark nights anyway!

There are too many people to thank here for their help over the Festival weekend and the run up to it, but I hope you will not mind giving a plug to the local fancy dress supplier who kindly lent us some costumes at the last minute. With Halloween and Christmas coming up this card may be helpful to you.

JACQUI'S
FANCY DRESS HIRE
JACQUI HOOSON
mail@jacquihooon.plus.com
local delivery service
sells wigs and misc. accessories
over 1000 costumes available
07759164222

We have a lot of events coming up in the next few months, the details of which are all advertised in this edition. We start on 5th October with **SALT!**, a multi instrumental storytelling show for family audiences devised and performed by Ken Patterson, Richard Scott & Chris Bostock. This is a briny mix of stories, songs, sketches, shanties and salt art. The

show is very entertaining with lots of fun and audience involvement. You'll hear briny tales and epic ballads from across the globe and listen to songs - old and new – accompanied on cello, accordion and ukulele. The show also features scientific demonstrations, origami and salt art created live on stage!

Our **Autumn Fair** will take place on 19th October and this is then followed by '**Blown Away**', which is the first of our performances through the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. This is a childrens' show on 25th October and it has been taken up by Spittal First School, so it is not advertised here but there are some places available, just get in touch.

Next comes **Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra** on 10th November, our second Highlights production. They are one of the hardest working bands on the UK roots music circuit and have built a sizeable fan base, following numerous tours and big festival appearances. A hot seven-piece featuring guitars, mandolin, harmonica, accordion, trumpet, double bass and percussion mixing Western Swing, Gypsy Jazz, Hokum Blues, Ragtime, Cajun and roots of country. They originate from Tyneside but have band members from as far afield as Orkney and Warwickshire.

Lastly, on November 13th we have a '**Rallying Around**', a Northumberland Theatre Company production. This is about old soldier Archie, who cons young Mo into giving him a lift.... to Monte Carlo, although Archie is pretty hazy about the route and even their destination! A rollicking new comedy/drama about youth, age and two very different worlds colliding with compassion.

A lot going on in the Autumn as you can see and even more in December. Look out for our Christmas Fair, Reindeer and to round off the year a seasonal performance by *The Berwick Concert Band*.

And now to our projects. I promised in the last newsletter that we would be giving some indication as to what will be happening with the **Fishing Shiel**. We are not quite there as yet with the final plans, but the suggestion has been put to us to turn one side into a bothy for overnight accommodation for visiting walkers and cyclists and the other side into a micro-pub! You might well ask what one of these is and we

didn't know until we looked it up on the internet! It is a no frills pub which only serves locally produced beer and wines and Davie's pies of course. Definitely no gaming machines, juke boxes or televisions. It would probably only be open in the tourist season for a few hours each day. As I say, it is early days as yet but we need to make the building pay for itself as we do not generate enough income elsewhere to support this.

Our **Car Boot** sales have now finished for this year and our thanks go once again to Alaister Brown for organising these and to him and all the other car booters for turning out each week. I know it's not everyone's cup of tea to get involved with the Trust but there is a way you can help without leaving your house. Most of us are now squirreling away presents and goodies for Christmas, yes it had to be mentioned at some point! If you shop online you can make a donation to the Trust without any additional expense to yourself. All you need to do is go to the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.com) website at <http://alturl.com/irtmc> and select Spittal Improvement Trust as your cause. You will then be taken to their main page from where you can choose any of the retailers that donate part of their prices to causes. All the main big retailers are there and you can even get the donation if you reserve online and then pick up in the store; like Currys, Argos and M&S. You will then get an email telling you how much they have donated to your cause, which is hopefully us. The bigger the retail price the bigger the donation and it's available on everything from widgets to fridges and more. It's only pennies perhaps but, if enough people do it, it will soon mount up and contribute to our events and projects. If you are unsure of what to do but want to help out in this way, just get in touch. We will happily send someone around to press the buttons for you!

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT

BUSINESS NEWS

Sincere apologies to North East Mobility Ltd and any customers trying to contact them, the telephone number should be 01289 331055 not as per Point 56. We are pleased to say that they have employed an apprentice who will be working in their Spittal workshop.

Spittal Improvement Trust
presents:
'Rallying Around'
Wednesday 13th November
7:30pm
BURC (formerly St Pauls)
Tickets Adult £6.50/ u17's £4 and
includes refreshments!
(on sale in Spittal Food Store or
call 07752403409

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

November sees the beginning of that very busy time of year in Church in the run-up to Christmas. Each Sunday at 9 am we have our regular service of Holy Communion, and Morning Prayer on the last Sunday of each month. You would be most welcome to join us. Our Junior Youth group for youngsters aged roughly 9-14 meets fortnightly during term time in the Vicarage on a Sunday afternoon from 3pm. New members always welcome too.

At the end of each month we have our Creative Church at 3pm for youngsters and their families. On Sunday 24th November this will have the normal format of crafts and activities, an informal act of worship and then a meal all together. Do come and join the fun! On Saturday 30th November a group from the church will be travelling to Durham for the afternoon. then to the Cathedral to attend the annual candle-lit Advent carol service in the evening. If you would like to join the group please make contact with one of the clergy or the churchwardens for more details.

The Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 6 pm and the ever-popular Instant Nativity will take place on Tuesday 24th December at 3 pm. Youngsters may come and join in the re-telling of the Christmas story and be dressed as one of the characters – angels, shepherds, kings, and so on. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Christmas morning at 9 am as usual. And finally, the feast of St. John, after whom the

Spittal Improvement Trust
presents:
'SALT!'
Saturday 5th October
7:30pm
BURC (formerly St Pauls)
Tickets Adult £6.50/u17's £4 and
includes refreshments! (on sale
in Spittal Food Store or call
07752403409

Church is dedicated, will be on Sunday 29th December.

Further details of all these services and activities can be found on our website www.potss.co.uk or please phone and speak to one of the clergy (details can be found on the Church notice board).

Revd. Ann Peters.

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

A JOURNEY TO THE ROOF OF AFRICA

On the 2nd October I and 29 other like-minded people are off to Tanzania to complete a Trek of Mount Kilimanjaro; I am very excited but at the same time very nervous! It will take us 5 days to trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro as we have to slowly get used to the lack of oxygen at the high altitude. The summit is at 5,895m (over 18,000 feet) and altitude sickness, due the lack of oxygen, is a major concern.

Trekking up Kilimanjaro is an ambition I have had for a long time, even before 'wor Cheryl' did it, so when a friend of mine told me that she was doing it to raise awareness of a very worthwhile charity, I decided to join the effort and help to raise funds for the charity. The charity is 'It's good 2 give' and it supports children with cancer and their families, for more information about the charity itself their website is www.itsgood2give.co.uk. I have managed to raise over £2,800 so far, if you would like to make a donation please see my sponsorship page at www.virginmoneygiving.com.

Many thanks to those who have already been kind enough to make a donation and those who are about to do so. *Valda Elaine Darling*

SPITTAL GARDENING CLUB

After a wet start to the year, we have been blessed with a warm, sunny, summer resulting in a colourful floral display along the Main Street. Each year, little by little, we improve the quality of the soil in the beds making them easier to manage, and experiment with a variety of flowers trying to make each bed individual.

Over the year we have received lots of positive comments about how the village is looking so much smarter these days, which makes all the hard work worthwhile! However, we are still only a gardening club of two, after three years of enjoyable, but, lets be honest, hard work.

With the council's help decreasing every year because of lack of funds (as in the rest of the UK), we are finding it harder and harder to keep up the good work. Any volunteers would be very warmly welcomed, but ANY help that can be given would be greatly appreciated, eg watering the beds in a dry spell, (many thanks to those who did help this year), or helping to keep the weeds at bay once the flowers have been planted. We know that not everyone has the time to volunteer every week, so this year we thought about having a "Tidy up the Beds in Spittal" day on Sunday 20th October (weather permitting) from 10 am to 12.00 pm (Two meeting points – outside St Paul's Church and Spittal Food Store). This would entail digging up the annuals and generally tidying up each bed ready for planting. Simple! If you could take your own gardening tools along that would be brilliant! Look forward to seeing you then.



BERWICK IN BLOOM RESULTS

On Tuesday 17th September, 9 members of the Berwick in Bloom committee travelled to the Stadium of Light in Sunderland for the Northumbria in Bloom awards. It was very well attended with 450 volunteers from across Northumbria. The area covers from Berwick in the north to Stockton on Tees and Redcar in the south. Berwick, which includes Tweedmouth and Spittal, came away with a silver gilt, St John's Church - silver gilt, Garden House - silver, Ord Park - gold and Berwick Allotments - gold. The results were an improvement on last year but there is still much work to be done, especially in Spittal, to attain that elusive gold!

SPITTAL PHOTO COMPETITION

In aid of Spittal Improvement Trust.

Competition Themes "Spittal is Great" or "My favourite place". Photos may be used by SIT FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES - TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY - SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS.

The winning entry will receive an A3 canvas print of their photo, certificates for runners up.

Entry Fee per Photo

Under 16 years £1 per photo

Over 16 years £2 per photo

Open to amateur photographers only. Enter as many photos as you like.

Deadline

Entries to be received by midnight 30th April 2014

Enter by post or online.

By Post Send A4 or 10"x8"

Write your name, age category, address and phone number on the reverse. Enclose the relevant fee per photo paid by postal order.

Post to:

The Judges

Spittal Photo Competition

181 Main Street

Spittal, Berwick-Upon-Tweed

TD15 1RP

Online

Pay the relevant fee per photo using the paypal button. Change the quantity of photos at check out. Then send an email with your pictures as an attachment to photocomp@spittalisgreat.co.uk Be sure to include all your details including address, phone number and paypal transfer details.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme
presents:

**Rob Heron & The Tea Pad
Orchestra**

Sunday 10th November

7:30pm

BURC (formerly St Pauls)

Tickets Adult £7.50/u17's £4 and
includes refreshments!

(on sale in Spittal Food Store
or call 07752403409)

SPITTAL AT WAR CONT.....

The chemical works that produced acid for batteries and industry was badly damaged in the bombing of Sandstell Road.

The gas works on North Greenwich Road continued to produce gas for the whole borough. Many houses in West Street and Middle Street had gas light and cookers.

Street lighting in Spittal was also by gas, but was banned because of the blackout.

The gas works also had a nice little by-product in tar which was used by the villagers to tar wooden sheds and pigeon lofts. Coke was another by-product as fuel for heating boilers for schools and industry. All from coal mined at Scremerston and Blackhill collieries.

At 18 Main Street was Johnson's carters and contractors. They would move anything by horse drawn carts, from fish to fertilisers.

Spittal had two coal merchants Edward Cromarty - my father's cousin who garaged his lorry in the old lifeboat house on Sandstell Road, now 'The Waterfront'. 'Eddie' would also move furniture for anyone moving house.

The other coal merchant was Wm. Allan who worked from Princess Street, now Geo Craig Builders. He would, for a few pence, re-charge accumulators used with battery wirelasses.

George Allen's house at 1 Main Street, in spite of being bombed all around it, somehow survived until a second bombing raid closed the business until after the war.

At 41 Main Street Alec Patterson carried on business as a plumber. An old fashioned reliable tradesman who had many customers and was the only plumber in Spittal.

On Sea Road was Burn's, joiner and undertaker, one of the oldest businesses in Spittal. First class tradesmen and providers of the most dignified funeral arrangements. Now the site of private housing, nos 3 - 7 Sea Road.

At the top end of Main Street was Black's Spade Works. This was a noisy foundry manufacturing thousands of spades for the war effort. This business was managed by Mr. Barney Parkes.

To be continued....Jim Crombie Bsc.

And finally..... What did the grape say when an elephant sat on it? Nothing. It just let out a little whine.- (wine?!)

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