

# THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust  
Issue 61 June 2014

## EDITORIAL

### Deadline for next issue 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

We have an extensive list of people who receive the newsletter by email. If you have any relations or friends that would like to join the list, then please let us know.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Our next **Beach Clean** is coming up and people wonder why we bother to have these. They are held quarterly and we know that once we have finished one the next tide just brings in more of the same. Yes, they may be seen as a token gesture but they show we care enough to do them, in all weathers I might add, and it is a good way for people to meet others. If you can't make the regular ones there are those that go out virtually on a daily basis that would be pleased with you company.

### **BEACH CLEAN** **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Meet outside the Amusement Arcade at 10am, weather permitting.

All welcome but come prepared for what the weather brings!

The Highlights Touring Craft Exhibition '**Textile Stories**' is open from 13<sup>th</sup> June, see the advert. It showcases three contemporary designer-makers whose work celebrates and brings to life real and imagined stories of our shared history, told through the medium of textiles: of courage in the face of adversity; the dignity of daily toil and perseverance and the values of thrift and patience.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme presents:

**'Textile Stories'**  
**Craft Tour**  
**from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**BURC (St Paul's Church)**  
**11am to 5pm**  
**(Sunday 12noon to 5pm)**  
**Entry is Free!**

This not just an exhibition though. Highlights offer schools the opportunity of working with one of the exhibiting artists. This year Berwick Middle School have taken up this opportunity and we will be going along to see how the children do with making their own piece of textile art. Probably getting a few pin pricks on the way as well! We are also looking for people to come out and help steward the exhibition.

Next up we have **Spittal Gala**, see the poster on the back page. It is being held, as last year, on the field at the south end of Main Street with the car boot on the Promenade. After hearing views from some members of the community at our May committee meeting about the 2013 Gala and the same arrangements for this year, we fully realise and understand the depth of feeling that has arisen within the village about this. We are all agreed that, looking forward, this matter needs further discussion and to this end we would like to hold a public meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm in the St Aidan's Room of St Paul's Church. Please come along and have your say.

Those that came to tell us their views also advised us that it was the intention of some of the householders on the north end of Main Street to have table top sales on Gala Day. We obviously have no objection to this but we must advise you that SIT's insurances will not cover any activities outside the area specified by us as taking part on Gala Day. Would you please ensure that if you have a table top sale, you do it safely.

The **Gala Junior 5-a-sides** football competition is being held on 14<sup>th</sup> June and we would like to thank the hard working team of the Berwick Rangers juniors Football Club for organising this for us.

After the success of our recent Photographic Competition our thoughts have turned to printing our own SIT Christmas cards, sorry to mention the 'C' word, and summer hasn't begun as yet! I am sure there are many of us who have taken some spectacular photographs of Spittal in winters past and the photos are lying in a cupboard somewhere gathering dust. Why

not seek them out and donate them to SIT. Not only will you see your name in print on the cards but you will be helping the Trust to collect much needed funds to help us.

And don't forget our **Car Boot Sales!**

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

## **CAR BOOT SALE's** **Sandstell Road Car Park**

Every Sunday until the end of  
September.

Cars £5/Vans £7

Start at 10am and there is *no need to book.*  
*All are weather permitting, of course!*

## **A VIEW FROM THE PROM**



This issue's big mystery is  
'Is it sold or isn't'!

We refer of course  
to the Amusement Arcade.  
Whether it has or not is a  
private matter for the  
individuals involved.

What is a matter for us all though is the rumour mill that is working overtime and coming up with splendid stories about demolition and blocks of flats. The Arcade is not a Listed Building under the law but it is recognised as a building with local importance. That still doesn't stop someone from putting in drastic proposals along those lines and waiting for the political climate on these matters to change.

What we need to accept is that change is likely to take place at the Arcade but what do we think is acceptable change. Whoever eventually buys the Arcade will want to make it work as a business, it's a shame but they are unlikely to be in business as a charity! Let's hope that whoever that is will seek to allay our fears by giving us the chance to view their proposals.

*Beachcomber*

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

Church members have agreed a proposal that the Church be open for quiet pray one day each month, from 12:30 to 1:30pm. The first occasion will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June with succeeding dates being posted on the Church notice board on Main Street. Light refreshments will be available and a member of the Church community will be present throughout the period

## **NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S**

St John's Church has been very busy in recent months with our regular community activities for young and old.

Our Junior Youth Group for youngsters in roughly the 8-13 age range continue to meet twice each month on a Sunday from 3.00-4.30pm in term time. The aims are to have fun and get to know each other through taking part in different activities and to learn about the Christian faith. The details of the programme for the summer term are on our website and new members are always welcome to join us. On Good Friday twenty three brave and intrepid youngsters and six adults did a sleepover in church and experienced the peaceful, tranquil and spiritual atmosphere in the building. It was incredible!

We continue to hold our monthly Creative Church on the last Sunday of each month at 3pm in Church when we have crafts, refreshments and a short service. All the activities are aimed at families and suitable for every age group. Again new families are most welcome to join us – just turn up!

We will be holding two more of our special invitation events. On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June to mark the end of the Gala we will be holding a service at 6pm and we would like to invite everyone to join us to celebrate and worship God together, with refreshments to follow. And we will have a special service with the same format and invitations for Sea Sunday at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, the sea being very close to our hearts here in Spittal.

Full details of all our activities can be found on our website [www.potss.co.uk](http://www.potss.co.uk) which is updated regularly.

Rev. Ann Peters.

## **BERWICK WILDLIFE**



### **GROUP**

**Saturday 21st June**

**Needle's Eye, butterflies, orchids, birds.**

Meet 10.00 at the Jingling Bridge (NT996542).

**Wednesday 2nd July**

**New Water Heugh, hedgerows, woodland & maritime grassland.**

Meet at 7.00pm at the end of the Old Paxton Road, Letham Shank, Berwick (NT979536).

**Saturday 12th July**

**Spittal Cliffs, butterflies, flowers, sea birds**

Meet at 10.00 at the car park at the extreme SE end of Spittal Main Street (NU009510).

Members and non-members alike are welcome.  
[www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](http://www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Many of us have to travel up and down the A1 for an appointment at either Wansbeck or one of the Newcastle hospitals. There apparently is a facility for finding out if you could have your outpatient appointment locally in Berwick. It seems not to have been clearly advertised or posted but its called **Berwick Bookers**. Nothing to do with the gee-gees!

All you have to do is simply call them on 01289 356625 or 01289 356626. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. They do advise that they can only change appointments if there is staff, equipment and medicines etc available at Berwick. That's understandable.

Call it paranoia but there could be a hidden agenda here. Perhaps it hasn't been too well publicised so that they do not get many calls. No calls, no need for additional facilities in Berwick. So, let's get phoning!

## SCOTTISH BORDERS AFRICA AIDS GROUP

SBAAG is a local charity based in the Borders which raises money to support communities in Africa coping with the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS. The group also aims to increase the understanding of the impact of HIV in Africa. The Group was formed in September 2002 as a response to the tragic death of Dr. Sandy Logie, who had been a consultant physician at Borders General Hospital, Melrose for many years. Sandy died in 2001 from AIDS, contracted as a result of a needle stick injury from a patient while he was working at St. Francis Hospital, Zambia. The Group's initial purpose was to support the work at St Francis by sending funds to the Sandie Logie Clinic. This clinic provides care for patients with HIV. Further information can be found at [www.saintfrancishospital.net](http://www.saintfrancishospital.net).

The Group is a Registered Charity and their income comes through members' subscriptions, from donations and fund-raising events. The subscriptions cover all admin expenses so they can guarantee that 100% of all donations and fund-raising go directly to AIDS-related projects in Africa. They continue to support the Sandy Logie Clinic in Zambia but funds also go to projects in South Africa, Malawi and Kenya. Projects are identified by members and who usually have direct experience of the country and the people involved. You can find out more at [www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/sbaag](http://www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/sbaag) or write to The Secretary, SBAAG, 9 Abbey

Row, KELSO TD5 7JF. Alternatively, you can meet them at these following local events:

August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at the Spittal Seaside Festival

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> in St Paul's Church hall where will be a Chinese cookery demonstration.

## LAST SALMON FISHERY IN BERWICK

Since reporting on this in the last issue, this group have been active in corresponding and meeting with people and organisations interested in their efforts to ensure the continuation of the last salmon-netting fishery at Berwick-upon-Tweed. In particular they have been seeking reassurance that no rapid decision should be made that may result in the closure of the fishery.

They have submitted a proposal which is basically as follows:-

The Freeman have offered to consider purchasing the Fishery from the Harbour Commission, subject to external valuation. Given their historical involvement in the salmon industry in Berwick and their commitment to conserving Berwick's heritage, the Freeman are a most suitable body to secure the long-term continuation of the fishery.

The Freeman would lease the fishing to a suitable person and work closely with Mouth of the Tweed and our partners to develop the heritage aspects of the salmon netting to benefit the visitor economy. Mouth of the Tweed has been approached by one prospective operator of the fishery, who has already submitted an application to the Harbour Commission. The Freeman welcome recommendations regarding the most suitable person to take on the fishing operation, should the purchase by the Freeman go ahead, as it is essential that the operation is conducted with integrity.

They envisage that their role is to explore the potential for Tweed netted salmon as a premium product, hopefully ensuring that a proportion of the catch from Gardo would be sold in Berwick as a distinctive local food item.

**And finally....** The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

### SIT Contacts:

**Chairman:** Willie Young - [berwickgas@Hotmail.com](mailto:berwickgas@Hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Mike Greener – 07752 403409

[mike@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:mike@spittalisgreat.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.spittalisgreat.co.uk](http://www.spittalisgreat.co.uk)

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**THE 2014**



# **SPITTAL GALA**

**SATURDAY 14th JUNE**

## **5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**



**Spittal School Field**  
**Registration - Under 9 & 11 - 9.00 am**  
**Under 13 & 15 - 1.00 pm**  
**£9.00 per team - max. 6 per team**



**SUNDAY 15th JUNE**

## **CAR BOOT**



**STARTS 11.00 am - CARS £5.00 - VANS £7.00**

**12.15 - FANCY DRESS PARADE**

**Led by Pipe Band, Gala Queen &  
Civic Party - Assemble at Spa Well**

**ENTERTAINMENT BY CHRIS WISH**

## **FUN RACES**

**3:00 pm - MINI MARATHON - 4:00(ish) PRESENTATION OF MEDALS;  
TOMBOLA, BOUNCY CASTLES, MUSIC,  
REFRESHMENTS, BURGERS**

## **SLATERS FUN FAIR**



**CHURCH SERVICE - ST JOHN'S @ 6:00 pm**

**ALL PROFITS ARE SPENT IN SPITTAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPITTAL**