

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust

Issue 62

August 2014

EDITORIAL

Deadline for next issue 22nd September.

If you have any relations or friends that would like to join the email list for The Point, then please let us know.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

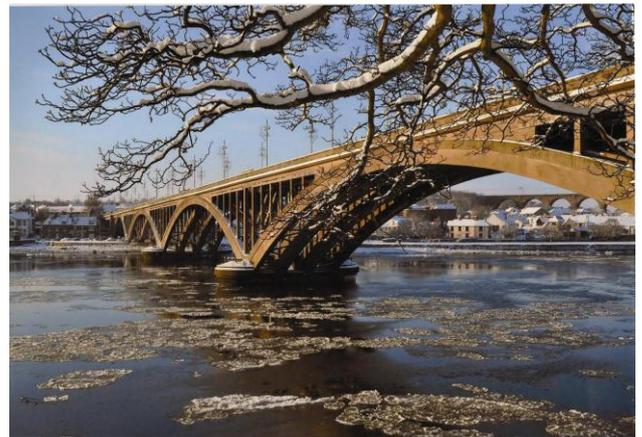
The public meeting regarding the **Gala** was held and the differing views were aired, at the meeting and subsequently after, from people from both ends of Main Street. The situation regarding the use of the school field was clarified in that the field can be used but heavy vehicles would not be allowed on. The financial success of the Gala relies in part on the donations received from the vendors and amusement rides so it is imperative that they can be accommodated. The Trust also has issues with getting enough volunteers to run the Gala and adequately steward the area. At the present time the field at the south end of main Street offers the best choice for all of the considerations that the Trust have to face in holding a successful and safe Spittal Gala.

I would like to clear up a point that has been wrongly quoted in the press. The Trust has **not** put an offer in to buy the Amusement Arcade. What we have done, at the suggestion of the council, is put in a request that we are notified in the future if the Arcade ever comes on the market in case we have the means to make an offer. This is called '**The Community Right to Bid**' and it came into force in 2012 and its purpose is to give communities a right to identify a property that is believed to be of value to their social interests or wellbeing and gives them a fair chance to make a bid to buy the property on the open market if the property owner decides to sell. Currently only eligible community groups, local parish councils or local neighbourhood planning forums and charities can nominate. In some areas communities have nominated their local pubs and libraries, in this area Berwick Barracks has been put on this list, not by us I hasten to add!

We have unfortunately had to stop our **Car Boot Sales**. We have not been attracting the sellers as in previous years and this is due mainly to the competition with other car boots in

Berwick. We are a bit further out for most sellers as they obviously like to see the big crowds. We must take this opportunity of thanking Alistair Brown for his tenacity in persevering with the car boots in fair weather and foul over the years. He has brought in a significant amount of sorely needed funds for us and it will be greatly missed.

The first **Photographic Competition** was duly completed in the Spring and the Judges would like to thank all the entrants in the Adult and Under 16 categories for their wonderful photos of "**Spittal is Great**" or "**My Favourite Place**". The photos covered the board for ideas from scenes, to having fun, or inspired artistic interpretation. The 1st Prize Adults and Overall Winner went to Alex Seaton of Spittal. All the Judges agreed that the composition, clarity and colours were truly beautiful and well composed, as you can see below. He has won an A3 canvas print of his winning photo kindly donated by Fantasy Prints of Berwick.



The 1st Prize Under 16 of the framed photo was won by a student from Berwick Academy.



The **Seaside Festival** is almost upon us and we hope to keep up our high standards and give everyone a much needed weekend of fun. Let's hope the weather plays along as well! As we put this newsletter together there are still some finer touches to make with who is coming and timing of performances. This year we can even offer wheelchairs to hire for those less able to get up and down the Prom. If you would like to book one please get in touch.

Mau Watkins writes for the **Gardening Group**, that the '**Northumbria in Bloom**' judges came to Berwick on July 8th on a very dismal day weather wise. Luckily by the time we reached Spittal the sun was peeping through and all our hard work was shown to good advantage. We have concentrated on Main Street this year and we are very pleased with the results. We have spent a considerable amount of money on the plants but the main reason for our success is we have recruited some more volunteers. Thanks to Liz, Kenny, Mike and Pat for joining in and a grateful thank you to anyone who is watering beds for us. It is much appreciated. Garden House was entered in the special award category for care homes.

The Neighbourhood awards judging was on 29th July when we walk around the village with the judges looking at community involvement in village projects and amenities. Unfortunately, the vandalism we are encountering is a bit soul destroying after the many hours of work involved never mind the expense. Plants have been pulled out and strewn about and some of the flower beds have been damaged by bicycles being ridden over them. However, we are forever optimistic and hope that as this is the 50th anniversary of 'Britain in Bloom' it will our Golden year too. We will find out in September. Also in September we are pleased to welcome back again **Fyfe Penni Piece**, all the way from Aberdeen no less, who will be performing for us as a fundraiser for the **Gardening Group**.

'FYFE PENNI PIECE'
Saturday 13th September
at 7:30pm
BURC (St Pauls) Church
 Tickets: Adult £6/u17's £4
 (includes refreshments)
 On sale in Spittal Food Store,
 call 07752403409
 All proceeds to the Gardening Group
 to keep Spittal blooming!

The Sandstell Fishing Shiel will be open once again as part of the national '**Heritage Open Day**'. This is a project of ours yet to start but we will hopefully start the search for grant funding over the winter months.

**SANDSTELL FISHING
SHIEL**
 Open as part of

 heritage open days
13th & 14th September
10am to 3pm


The Trust put forward a bid to be considered for the '**Love Northumberland Awards 2014**' for our beach cleaning efforts and I am pleased to say that we won our category, '**Best Coast & Countryside Project**'. The awards night was held at Alnwick Gardens on 22nd July and the awards were presented by the Duchess of Northumberland. Credit for this achievement should go to Raine Bryant and her team for the sterling way that they are out there virtually every day picking up discarded rubbish. We are taking part again in the **Marine Conservation Society's 'Big Beach Clean'** in September and we are looking forward to involving the pupils from Tweedmouth Middle School in this. We are always looking for helpers for the beach cleans so why not come along to our next one.



SPITTAL BEACH CLEAN
FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
at 10am
 Meet outside the Amusement Arcade.
 All are welcome but please come prepared
 for the prevailing weather conditions

Lastly, we always appreciate any unwanted items that will fill up our bottle and gift tombola's or go towards our raffles.

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT

A VIEW FROM THE PROM



People have been asking why the banks around Spittal are looking rather unkempt for lack of grass cutting. It is apparently due to a rare beetle that has been found in the grasses. The name of the beetle has not been disclosed but we suspect that its Latin name is 'Brevis de viaticus'. Translation in 'And finally...'

Beachcomber

BERWICK RANGERS JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

The club started in 1990 and we have around 13 teams ranging from Under 8's up to Under 17's. Our current Under 9's and Under 10's team play their matches in Spittal School field on Sunday mornings. The Under 10's team in their 1st season together have just won their league, they play in the Northumberland Mini Soccer League playing home one week and away the next right down towards the Newcastle area. Our season has not long ended and we would like to thank Spittal School for the use of the playing field.

The club also takes part in an annual exchange programme with a club from the town of Zeewolde in Holland. This year was the 25th Anniversary of the exchange and on 24th May - 1st June we took 48 boys- ranging from ages 10 to 17 and 8 adult Committee members. We travelled by coach and ferry and whilst there had a very busy and fun-filled week. The boys were in 3 teams - Under 12's, Under 14's and Under 17's and they played 3 games of football each. We went on a Canal tour of Amsterdam, visited a Theme park and did other activities. Lots of friendships have been made over the years and long may this tradition continue.

SCOTTISH BORDERS AFRICA AIDS GROUP

On Friday September 19th in St Paul's Church Hall there will be a cookery demonstration starting at 7.30 pm. All money raised will be used to support families and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. Learn to cook Chinese food and surprise your family and friends. Originally from China, Yvonne Eade has lived in and is keen to share her family's tips and recipes. She will show how to cook simple Chinese food at a fraction of the cost of a take

away and a recipe and instruction sheet will be provided for everyone.

There will be an opportunity to taste the food and some lucky people will take home a freshly cooked meal. Tickets are £4 and available from the SBAAG stall at the Spittal Seaside festival in August or contact Chris Jary 01289 309509.

BERWICK HOPPA



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Berwick Hoppa service commenced their summer timetable on 9th July and runs on the following days to Spittal, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The service is a hail and ride service, this means that as well as being able to board buses at any of the regular bus stops situated along the route, passengers can hail the bus on roads where there are no bus stops. However, the driver will only stop to pick up passengers providing it is safe to do so.

It runs at a set price of £1.20 for adults, 60p for children under 16 and is free to English concession card holders. The bus runs on a circular route to and from Berwick Holiday Centre and comes to Spittal along dock Road. It reaches the Albion corner at 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 13:15 14:15 before returning to Berwick. There are two additional times on Saturdays and school holidays only at 15:15 and 16:15.

And finally....

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

And staying on the baby theme...

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

The translation for the beetle? Why 'Short of money' of course!

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SPITTAL SEASIDE FESTIVAL 2014



AUGUST 9th & 10th

Les Amis d'Onno Equestrian Display
Medieval living history · Archery
Fusion Kite Team · Birds of Prey
Vintage Military Vehicles · Live Music
Punch & Judy · Children's Entertainer
Donkey Rides · Fun Fair
Market · Car Boot · Refreshments

Both days start at approx 11am

www.spittalisgreat.co.uk