



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 64 December 2014

EDITORIAL

Deadline for the next issue is 23rd January.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The festive season is upon us once more and there are plenty of things going on in the village over the next few weeks. For our events we start with a **Beach Clean**, these are now on Fridays as we seem to get more people out. Something for us retired folk to do no doubt!

BEACH CLEAN

The final one of the year will be on
Friday 5th December.

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

All are welcome but come prepared for the
bracing and probably cold/wet weather!

There is in fact a small group of concerned villagers who have taken it upon themselves to carry out their own individual beach cleans on a daily basis. Our hats go off to them.

This is followed by a performance by the '**Berwick Concert Band**', followed a week later by the **Santa Parade and Christmas Fair**.

An evening with

**The Berwick
Concert Band**

**Saturday 6th December
@ 7:30pm**

BURC (St Pauls Church)

Tickets Adult £6/ u17's £4
(includes light refreshments)
on sale in Spittal Food Store,
call 07752 403409 or online at
www.borderevents.com/boxoffice

In January we are hosting two performances from the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. The first of these is a children's story telling and musical performance of '**The Snow Bear**', this

is being taken into Spittal School. Later in the month we have the '**The New Budapest Café Orchestra**', which comprises of four fabulous players of violins, guitar, accordion, double bass, saz & balalaika. They play powerful and driving folk-based music from Eastern Europe, including an impassioned but often tender mixture of Hungarian Czardas, Russian and Ukrainian folk songs, with dances from Romania and Moldavia as well as their own compositions. The music evokes vivid images of Tzigane fiddle maestros, Budapest café life and gypsy campfires. Good enough to make you want to book a holiday in Budapest!

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme
presents:



**Friday 30th January
@ 7:30pm**

BURC (St Pauls Church)

Tickets Adult £7.50/u17's £4
(includes light refreshments)
on sale in Spittal Food Store,
call 07752 403409 or online at
www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

and

www.borderevents.com/boxoffice

We are also collaborating with the Berwick United Reformed Church in holding a **Burns Supper Night**. This is still being arranged but the basic details to date are as follows.

Burns Supper Thursday 22nd January

@ 7:30pm

St Pauls Church Hall

Tickets Adult £8

(includes supper)

on sale in Spittal Food Store,
call 07752 403409 or online at

www.borderevents.com/boxoffice

It is not often that we get the chance, or have the space, to recognise individuals in this newsletter but there are some that have reached important mile stones. So it's many congratulations to Samantha Seaton who has put in 20years with Nixon Plant Hire, Joan and Paul Angus who recently celebrated 25years pulling pints in the Red Lion and Bill Knox, who retired after a long career in the motor trade.

Copies of the 2015 calendar are still available in the Shop, but once they've gone, they've gone!



2015 Calendar
In aid of the Spittal Improvement Trust
Spittal Views

- choice of 5 cover designs
- superb quality paper
- handy blank strip for notes
- 1 month per page
- wire hanger
- week starts on Monday

£4

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT

GARDENING GROUP

In 2006 the Royal Horticultural Society formed the Neighbourhood Awards now known as "It's your Neighbourhood". This is a competition for voluntary led groups interested in the improvement of surrounding areas in their

community. There are five levels, the highest being "outstanding" and the next level is "thriving". Spittal was well represented at the awards ceremony, which was held in Ponteland on Tuesday 4th November, and we proudly brought back a total of five awards in all.

The Main Street, Spa Well and Robert Dickman's garden at Aberwicke House, all got "outstanding". St John's church garden, Sea Field Park, including the bowling green, and the Splash Park area all got "thriving". The judges also gave encouraging and helpful comments on how we could make further improvements to our planting. There will be more gardening news in the next issue.

Mau Watkins

A VIEW FROM THE PROM



As 2014 draws to a close we will look back and remember the commemorations that took place for the start of WW1, which turned out to be one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

However, it was at Christmas 1914, five months after the start of this war, that took place one of the most extraordinary events in any conflict when troops from both sides put down their weapons, sang carols, gave each other presents and even had a game of football. It served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

Christmas is seen as a time for giving, usually these days to close family and friends. When we are reminded of the injustices that go on in the wider world through 24 hour TV coverage, we can fulfil our consciences by donating to good causes through the internet or by phone from the comfort of our armchairs. There is nothing wrong with that as such but this means that there are fewer people who are prepared to do things outside their front door.

You only need to ask anyone involved in local voluntary groups, be it the Scouting movement, junior football teams, elderly and health support groups. Any number of local organisations in fact are crying out for people to donate a little of their time to support their good works. It can be very rewarding to see the difference that you will make. Make a point this Christmas to start giving of some of your time. You can of course wait until the festivities are over!

Beachcomber

CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES:

(From other groups to which all are welcome, all are December dates. More details of these on our Facebook page.)

Tuesday 2nd - Spittal Scout Group Christmas Fair in Church Hall from 6pm. Entry £1.

Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th - Faces Around the Manger. A series of talks and discussions led by John Crawford in the Aidan Room of St Paul's Church at 2pm.

Wednesday 10th – Have a 'Healthy Christmas' at Berwick Library, 11am to 4pm. A day of activities plus free coffee, tea and mince pies.

Sunday 14th – Spittal Scout Group Carol service in St Paul's Church at 6pm. Refreshments after in the Church Hall.

Thursday 18th - Berwick URC (St Paul's) Christmas Coffee Morning in Church Hall 10am to 11:30am with the usual stalls, tombola etc.

Sunday 21st - St John's Carol Service at 6pm, when we will sing the traditional carols and retell the Christmas story.

Monday 22nd - BURC and SIT joint Carol Service at 7pm followed by hot drinks and mince pies.

Wednesday 24th – St John's 'Instant Nativity' at 3pm when the youngsters are invited to come dressed as one of the characters in the story and take part. There will be no acting or rehearsing and the story will be narrated by members of our Church youth group. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Berwick United Reformed Church:

Services on Sundays December 7th, 14th and 21st are all as usual at 11am.

Christmas Day Family Service at 9:45 am

St John's Parish Church:

Normal Sunday services of Holy Communion on December 7th, 14th and 21st at 9am.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9am on Christmas Day.

Saints Day services at 10am on Friday 26th (St Stephen) and Saturday 27th (St. John).

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP

Our next winter meeting is on Wednesday 21st January at 7.30 p.m. in BURC (formerly St Paul's), when internationally renowned ornithologist Graham Bell will give a talk about the 'Wonders of Bird Migration'. For details please contact Fiona on 330591 or mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

....about patient transport to hospitals?

Do you have trouble getting to a hospital appointment in Wansbeck Hospital? Have you tried using Patient Transport Service (PTS), but been refused? Have you been unable to attend an appointment at Wansbeck because you couldn't get there? Do you know of other people who have had problems with transport? Spittal resident Linda Pepper, one of the Berwick public governors for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, wants to hear from you. If so please contact Linda by email : l.pepper@virgin.net or leave a message on Linda's mobile 07510 285737 and she will get back to you.

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

In the worship area of the Berwick United Reformed Church, known to most of us as St Paul's Church, an old bell on display. This was once known as the 'Spittal Old Town Bell'.

This bell was formerly fastened to a long pole on Spittal Point and it was rung in bad weather to help the local fishing boats find their way back to a safe harbour. The bell was given by the people of Spittal to the first meeting house, which was built on the site of the current church in 1754. This was on the condition that "*it continued to be freely used to guide fishermen and other seagoing folk to safety through bad weather*".

The bell did ring at least ring out on one occasion during a period of dense fog when the Berwick Advertiser of 5th August 1870, that '*the bell of Spittal U.P. Church was rung at intervals*'.

And finally.... from the Christmas cracker

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

Freeze a jolly good fellow

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

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SANTA IN SPITAL



FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER

SANTA & HIS REINDEER

IN SPITAL

5:30pm – CHRISTMAS FAIR STARTS

6:30pm – SANTA & REINDEER PARADE DOWN

MAIN STREET (FROM SOUTH END)

**7pm – CAROLS AROUND THE TREE followed by
LIGHTING OF THE TREE**

**Brass Band, Street Entertainment, Hog Roast,
Hot Chestnuts, Refreshments.**

DONATIONS BY BUCKET COLLECTION

All times are approximate

For further details call: 07752403409