

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 66 October 2015

EDITORIAL

Deadline for next issue 21st November.

This will be covering December and January.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

I reported in the last issue of this newsletter that the Trust had started 2015 with problems that had occurred from the fact that some of our outside events in 2014 had not been a financial success. I am glad to report that we have begun to rectify this. The main problem we have always had is the cost of staging the Seaside Festival but we cut back on the more expensive costs this year but, we hope anyway, it did not detract from everyone's enjoyment of the weekend. However, we still have to keep a close eye on our expenditure, as a result of this we will not be having the Santa and his reindeer parade this year.

In September we put forward nominations for the 2015 'Love Northumberland Awards'. The 'Litter Competition' was the first of these and it was entered into the Children's project category. The competition was aimed at making children more aware of the consequences of not disposing of litter properly. This ran over the winter and spring and organising team had engaged several schools and children's groups from both sides of the Border and in total, 660 children took part. However, the judges deemed that this was just a continuation of our beach cleaning efforts, much to the amazement of our team, for which we had won an award in 2014.

The second nomination was for the 'Outstanding Individual' and we had put forward Raine Bryant for her sterling efforts in organising all of our beach cleanups and the Litter Competition itself. We were again disappointed as there were, apparently, more deserving cases than Raine's. Lastly, we had entered our Gardening Group for the 'The Best Urban Project' and this came fourth in its category. We will try again in 2016!

In the next couple of months we have two offerings from the Highlights programme. The first of these is the '**3 Boxes**'. They are a trio of musicians and old friends who play folk, blues, swing, ballads and beyond.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme
presents:

'3 BOXES'

Friday 16TH October @ 7:30pm
in the BURC (formerly St Pauls)



Tickets: Adult £7.50, U17's £4
Family £20 (includes refreshments)
On sale in Spittal Food Store
at www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights
or www.thelittleboxoffice.com/borderevents
or call 07752 403409

The second offering is '**The Baghdaddies**'. They play world music with strong Balkan tendencies alongside Caribbean grooves, Middle Eastern rhythms, all awash with influences such as ska, jazz, punk, metal, delivered with theatre and exuberance. We hope you will be able to see both of these acts.

The Trust is involved in a lot of things that cannot get reported on in the space allowed in this newsletter. For instance, we contact the County Council over concerns expressed by some of you. Some recent examples of these are on subjects ranging from the build of sand on the Prom and the road to the Point car park, cars parking on the Prom, the poor condition of the Prom railings and overnight parking of camper vans in various places in the village. We report these through the 'Report a Problem' facility on the County Council's website, which anyone can do. In fact the more people that do this, the more chance we have of getting things

attended to. Up to now, we have had generally favourable responses from the County.

However, there is still a mounting list on our 'To Do List'. Unintentionally it seems that we have drifted into organising events at the expense of leaving behind the project related works. It may be hard to believe but since the Trust started in 1998, we have undertaken approximately £600,000 worth of what is called 'Capital Works', our main projects to you and me! As I say, the list of suggested things can be done around the village is not diminishing. We could do with some new and younger blood, coming into help out so that they can continue the Trust's work. We may not be perfect as an organisation but we seem to be highly regarded by others in other areas. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or can spare some time.

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT

GARDENING GROUP

The Group have been hard at work throughout the summer months and there is more still to do before winter takes its grip on us. We have just received our winter bedding and the team will be putting these out in the weeks to come.

We were involved in the 'Northumbria in Bloom' competition, which covers all the way from us down to the border with North Yorkshire, so it was pleasing to see that Garden House won a Silver Gilt award. The village as a whole is still in the Neighbourhood Awards competition and the results of this are still to be announced. We have everything crossed for this.

Mau Watkins



16th, 17th to 18th October

In 2014 Berwick upon Tweed staged its first ever literary festival. The event was a great success and will remain long in the memory as a triumph. We hope this year's festival will be bigger and better than its predecessor: now staged over three days with more contributors and a loosely-based theme of history, the event is part of the Berwick 900 celebrations.

This year the festival is again being brought across the Tweed into Spittal with an expanded series of events taking place as follows:

Friday 16th 10am & 11:30am – **'How a book is made'** tour of Martins The Printers (tickets £5)

Saturday 17th – all of the following take place in the BURC (St Paul's Church) (tickets £2)

10am - **'Spittal's Maritime Past 1830-1930'** talk and walk with local historian Michael Cullen

12noon - **'Blood in the Borders'** by Richard Moore. Richard is a university lecturer and creative writer with a specialist interest in English, Irish and American literature. His talk will deal with the often violent, often destructive aspects of border life, including high-profile murder cases and the destruction caused by battle. It will also consider Shakespeare's references to Berwick and Northumberland, often written with a criminal or war-based content.

2pm - **'Does My Country Really Need Me?'** by Mike Fraser. When conscription was introduced in 1916, the Berwick Military Services Tribunal decided the fate of those locals who objected to going to war. Among the first to be considered was Joseph Leitch, a Tailor, who claimed exemption as a conscientious objector. Find out how he and other Berwickers fared in front of this body.

4pm - **'Book Printing in a Digital Age'** by David Martin. David Martin is the sales director of Martins The Printers and has worked in the book printing industry for the last 35 years. Having seen many changes take place over that period, David will talk about book printing in a digital age, which could be the biggest challenge book publishers face to date but also their biggest opportunity.

Tickets for the 2015 Berwick Literary Festival are now on sale. Please go to The Maltings Theatre website's Spoken Word section. For details of other events taking place during the festival, please go to our website at www.berwickliteraryfestival.com.

A VIEW FROM THE PROM



There has been some reports in the local paper recently that the toilets on the Prom are to be closed over the winter months. Should it not be the other way round as it always seems harder to keep in the

bodily functions when there is a chill in the air. Just a thought!

Beachcomber

BERWICK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (formerly St Paul's)

The BURC will be holding a Harvest Service on Sunday 18th October at 11am. This will be followed by a Harvest Lunch at 12noon and will include two courses plus coffee. The cost is £4, anyone wishing to join us, please let a church member know for catering purposes.

SPITTAL BOWLING CLUB

As President this season, I'd like to make you aware of our efforts to have a defibrillator installed on the outside of our premises.



This has been in response to the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) efforts in raising awareness of the importance of early defibrillation for people suffering a sudden cardiac arrest, and helping communities to acquire their own automated external defibrillator (AED).

As ours will be classed as a Community Public Access Defibrillator (cPAD) the AED will be located in an external cabinet, thus allowing 24 hour access. The cabinet will be fitted with a combination lock, which ensures that it is always secure. In the event of the AED being required, the code for the lock is obtained by dialling 999. This ensures that the NEAS is always notified that there is an incident in the location, and therefore, an ambulance is deployed.

In the event of a cardiac arrest, the caller would be advised that there was an AED in the proximity, where it was located, and the code. The caller would be asked if someone could fetch the AED, but would be advised not to leave the patient alone to do so, as basic life support is crucial to survival.

The cost to install the defibrillator is £1250 and we will have met this by Closing Day. I would therefore like to thank all who have donated and contributed to this, by either attending or sponsoring a race at the Race Night, by entering the successful Pr-Am day or by making individual donations.

Training sessions to use the defibrillator have yet to be arranged so please watch out for notices giving the times and location of these. I'll give a further update in the next newsletter.

Andrew Burn – President 2015

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DID YOUKNOW?

Several generations of the Spittal fishing family of the Loughs, like the Burgons of The Greenses, have served in the lifeboats stationed at Berwick during the last 170 years. A William Lough was a member of the crew of Berwick's first lifeboat during the rescue of the crew of the schooner Gleaner, in 1853. An article in the Newcastle 'Weekly Chronicle' on 11th October 1952 included a photograph showing seven members of the Lough family, five of whom were current serving members of the lifeboat crew. Shown in this photograph were Bartholomew Lough, senior, who was coxswain from 1919 until 1945, Prideaux Lough, B.E.M., who succeeded his uncle Bartholomew as coxswain in 1945. He was awarded the B.E.M. for mine-clearing services during the Second World War. Prideaux was coxswain during the rescue of the crew of the M.V. Rask. Bartholomew Lough, the second, joined the crew in 1919 and succeeded his brother Prideaux as coxswain in 1951. Edward G. Lough was appointed second cox in 1951. Bartholomew Lough, junior, was appointed motor mechanic in 1930 at the age of 18. The two other members of the family in the photograph were John Lough, senior, another brother of Prideaux, who had served in the crew from 1919, and crewman John Lough, junior.

An account of the rescue from the 'Rask' in 1950, during Prideaux's coxswain ship, that soon after 6am on the morning of 31st January, the Norwegian coaster M.V. Rask was driven ashore some 400 yards off Saltpanhoe beach, Scremerston. The Rask had a crew of fourteen and there was also one passenger on board. With thirty-foot waves crashing over the deck and the vessel listing at forty-five degrees, the captain ordered the ship's siren to be sounded. The distress signal was heard by railway signalman Thomas Wilkinson and he quickly informed the Coastguard, who called out the Berwick lifeboat J & W and the Berwick Coast Life Saving Company.

Encountering heavy seas the lifeboat could not come close enough to render assistance and had to stand by. The rescuers from the Life Saving Company fired two rockets towards the stricken vessel. The Rask's crew were able to attach a line from the second rocket and the first man was landed by breeches buoy at 10.12am. Unfortunately, wreckage from the vessel caused the line to break and several attempts to attach another line failed. By now, the rescue crews from Goswick and Beadnell had arrived and a fresh attempt was made with a rocket that successfully carried a new line to the ship. The second crewman was brought ashore at 5.05pm and by 6.00pm, after an eleven hour struggle in wild conditions, the rescue of the fifteenth man was effected.

The Berwick, Goswick and Beadnell Life Saving Companies that took part in the rescue were presented with the Ministry of Transport Shield for the best wreck service in the year 1950. At the presentation in the Rum Punched Restaurant in Berwick, Capt .F. G. Buchanan, Chief Inspector of H. M. Coastguards, said: "I think that everybody here knows what happened on that occasion. It was due to their endurance that we got these chaps off. This was achieved partly due to our new rescue rocket. It is probably the greatest distance that men have been taken off from. We could not have done it without our Boxer Rocket."

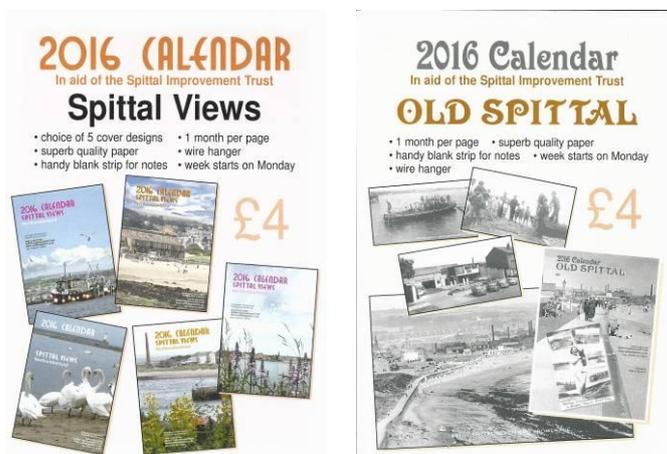
WALKING FOR HEALTH

These will continue throughout the winter but only if the weather is suitable. So, if you are interested in walking along the Promenade on a Friday afternoon then why not join like minded people who meet at 1:30pm in the car park behind the Amusement Arcade. They walk to the end of the Prom, there are many seats available en-route to take a breather, and then

it's back to the cafe where hot drinks are available if required. Why not wrap up warm and come and enjoy a stroll along the Prom in enjoying the scenery, taking in the sea air and maybe glimpsing the dolphins as well! Anyone on their own will appreciate the company for a small walk, at your own speed.

CALENDARS

We have two calendars out this year for 2016. One has nice colourful views of Spittal, the



other has old views of Spittal and these are available in both Spittal and Highcliffe shops. They will make ideal gifts for family members or friends who perhaps have fond memories of our village but live too far away to visit.

More diary dates.....

November

8th – Remebrance Sunday

14th – Berwick & District Youth Activity Group's Christmas Fair 10am to 2pm in the Church Hall.

21st – Spittal Scout Group are holding a 'Gary Dunn Night'. Ask leaders for details.

24th – Spittal Scout Group Christmas Fair in the Church Hall from 6pm.

And finally....

Why do you have to "put in your twopenn'orth"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

and....

What disease did cured ham actually have?

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