

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 70 June 2016

EDITORIAL

Just a reminder that if you have family and/or friends that might like to get an emailed copy of our newsletter, then just us know and we can add them to our growing list. Copies get emailed to ex-Spittalers and friends all over the world. We send to every continent except South America and Antarctica!

Deadline for next issue is 23rd July 2016.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

We have a busy summer ahead, hopefully the weather will decide to improve along with the season as it was decidedly cool when putting this piece together!

Most of our summer activities are mentioned in other pieces and you will find the details of this year's Gala Weekend on the back page. We have had a few more recruits to both the beach cleaning and gardening teams. This is very much appreciated and a reminder of the practically daily work that goes on, sometimes unseen by most of you, in an effort to keep our village in good order. In addition to the two teams mentioned you can add to them those that deliver this newsletter and those that help out at all of our other events. Thanks to you all.

Mike Greener - Secretary



Entry into this year's competition has now closed and volunteers are currently marking the entries for the 'Lets Talk Rubbish' anti litter competition for kids. Prizes have been donated by the public and local businesses and include days out for the family. Our MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, is presenting the prizes and trophies in July at the winners Prize Giving Tea. Cllr. Jim Smith will again be compare and quiz master for the event, as he did last year.

The litter team are out daily in all weathers on both beaches and the cliffs removing fish hooks, broken glass, sharp broken cans, razor wire from BBQs, which is a hazard to kids, dogs and wildlife. There is all manner of other litter

left on the beach and cliff path or washed down the Tweed collected by the team and left by the Council bins for collection.

Our theory, and it would really make a difference, is that if everyone that cares can also help by picking up a few pieces a day when they walk on the beach or cliffs. Of course you must take care and bear in mind your personal Health & Safety, you can view this at <http://www.thebigtidyup.org/healthsafety/1289>.

There was a report in the Berwick Advertiser recently that the County Council are taking a 'zero tolerance approach' to littering, and that includes fly-tipping which has become more evident along the cliff tops. They have plans to continue to introduce targeted enforcement patrols across the county. The impact of littering is that it is obviously unsightly but it comes at a huge cost to the County Council, and thereby us, in clearing it up.

We have not seen any sign of enforcement patrols here, perhaps due the litter team doing such a good job, the County's job, in keeping the place litter free. Now there's a thought!

If you would like to help us in helping to keep our coastal area safe and clean, please contact Raine Doelberg on 01289 298369.

GARDENING GROUP NEWS

Our Spring Fair was a great success. Our thanks go to all the people who donated money, raffle prizes and their time and thank you to all the people who supported us on the day. The money we raised will be spent on plants and projects around the village.

The Summer bedding plants for the street have arrived for the flower beds and the planters so over the next few weeks the Gardening Group will be clearing and planting in readiness for the Berwick in Bloom judging, which takes place in July. The ladies of the group have been working hard in Seafield Park too. It's a mammoth task but already the beds are beginning to look much better. We were lucky enough to obtain a large number of plants from outside Beds for Berwick before the building was demolished. All these have been planted in the park. Many

thanks to all who helped with the digging up and transporting of these.

The seats in the park are in a sorry state but thanks to our miracle man Len Shepherd, who has taken on the renovation of these, we can see a great improvement already. Much of the wood is rotten and will have to be replaced. Many thanks to Len for his hard work.

We would also like to thank G M Craig's who have repointed the wall and replaced the stone edging round the triangular flower bed on the Billendean. He donated the materials and the manpower to the Gardening Group. The children of the Tweedmouth Middle School will be planting this bed with a birthday theme for the Queen's 90th.

We would also like to offer our thanks to Neil Skelly and MKM's for their kind donations of much needed compost.

We will be having a stall this month at Spittal Gala and at our 'Afternoon Tea in the Park' on July 17th, all proceeds will go towards our gardening efforts. Any donations for our raffles would be very welcome.

Once again we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us. Contact Mau on 07748076527 or Sheila on 331994 if you have some time to spare.

Mau & Sheila



The 2017 calendars will be in the shop soon.

SANDSTELL FISHING SHIEL

The renovation of the Shiel has been an ongoing project for some years that we have never managed to get moving on, mainly due to lack of time on our part. There have always been two major concerns in our thinking of how to proceed with the Shiel. The first of these was the matter how to run the Shiel once it was renovated but the overriding concern was for it to pay for itself.

With these concerns in mind we can now reveal that we are working in partnership with two people from the village who also want to breathe a new lease of life into the Fishing Shiel. The Trust will still undertake a full restoration of the building, an architect is currently working on this, and then it will be run as two businesses, a traditional style bunkhouse accommodation and a cosy, dog friendly cafe and tourist information hub.

Our partners realise the depth of heritage and local interest that the Shiel commands and they will respect and promote this history, maintaining as many of the original features of the building as possible, including artefacts that remain from its days as a working fishing Shiel.

Keeping the history of the Shiel alive features heavily in everyone's objectives for the future of this great building. It is our combined intention to gather as much information as possible on the life of the building and its relevance to the community, so as we can then recount this history to future visitors entering the Shiel in its new capacity.

The aim is for the Shiel to become a unique visitor attraction for the community and for tourists to Spittal. To impart information relating to this historic building and its role within the thriving fishing industry of its time and to be a place to receive a warm welcome, be a community hub and guidance on the local area.

The partners will be endeavouring to support local businesses, by incorporating as much locally sourced produce as possible. To support local fundraising events and organisations, such as the Trust and Spittal Community First School. And to be part of a rejuvenation project that we feel could only enhance and benefit Spittal and it's community.

We will be having a formal open day at the Shiel when the proposed plans have been fully completed. In the meantime we will be having a display with our partners at the Gala, so if you or anyone you know has information, photos or a story to tell about the Shiel and its fishing heritage, then come and see us, we would love to

hear from you.



A VIEW FROM THE PROM

It seems that the railings are to be repainted at last, won't be able to lean on them for awhile I suppose.

Hope that they remember to do the repairs as well, otherwise we might end up on the beach!

You are probably fed up to the back teeth with hearing about whether we should stay in or leave the European Union. It's been very confusing listening to both sides of the debate, only time will tell who is right. It is one of the most important, if not the most important, issues that we as mere mortals will get the chance to vote on. At least use that right to having your say, whichever way you decide, and vote.

Beachcomber

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council are encouraging people to take care when enjoying the county's coast this summer.



With the popularity of beach parties during the warmer months, the council is providing some early advice by urging beachgoers to act responsibly and take some precautions before taking the plunge.

Last year the council received a number of concerns from residents about beachgoers putting themselves or others at risk – either from dropping litter, careless use of disposal barbecues or going into the water after drinking alcohol.

Councillor Liz Simpson, chair of Safer Northumberland, said: "We want people to enjoy themselves and make the most of our spectacular county's beaches - but we want them to do it safely.

"That's why it is important that beach-goers, in particular those having beach parties, act responsibly to ensure the safety and the maintenance of our beautiful unspoilt coastline." Advice includes staying clear of the water when under the influence of alcohol, and ensuring that children are always accompanied by an adult when near the water.

All litter should be taken home, keeping beaches clean and safe of dangers such as broken glass. And those using disposable

BBQs should be extra vigilant to avoid the risk of fire when the dune grass is dry.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Would you be interested in walking along Spittal Promenade on a Friday afternoon?

These walks are still taking place, weather permitting, so why not come and join like minded people who meet at 1:30pm in the car park behind the Amusement Arcade.



Coming to a Prom near you!

And finally....

A couple for you:

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

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THE 2016



SPITTAL GALA

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SATURDAY 11th JUNE

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

SPITTAL SCHOOL FIELD

Registration - Under 9 & 11 - 9am

U13 & 15 - 1pm • £9 per team - max 6 per team



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SUNDAY 12th JUNE

11am - CAR BOOT

CARS £5.00 - VANS £7.00

12.15 - **FANCY DRESS PARADE**

Led by Gala Queen & Civic Party

Assemble at Spa Well

ENTERTAINMENT BY CHRIS WISH

FUN RACES

**TOMBOLA, BOUNCY CASTLES, MUSIC,
REFRESHMENTS, BURGERS
AND MUCH MORE!**



SLATERS FUN FAIR



CHURCH SERVICE - ST JOHN'S @ 6:30 pm

ALL PROFITS ARE SPENT IN SPITTAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPITTAL