

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 74 April 2017

EDITORIAL

Our newsletter is issued every two months but some of you may have realised that we did not issue the newsletter that usually covers February and March. So, apologies if we have left you waiting and here is the latest issue.

Deadline for next issue is Friday 19th May.

SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

NOTICE OF AGM

To be held at 7.30pm on
WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL
in the AIDAN ROOM of
BURC (ST. PAULS) CHURCH
Please contact the Secretary by 12th
April if you wish to join the committee.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

As you will note from the above advert, our **AGM** will be taking place in a few weeks time. We managed to get some fresh blood onto our main committee after last year's AGM and for once we have a full committee. However, we do try to even out the work load by having sub committees for each of our projects and main events. If you don't want to be on the main management committee but would like to help out elsewhere then please get in touch.

People have been asking when the lights in the trees on Main Street are going off. Although they were put up in time for Christmas they are actually called 'winter lighting'. So they will be going off shortly, when men and equipment are available, and in future they will be on from the beginning of November to the end of February/early March. We still have several of these lights to up into the remaining trees but in these cases we have to find a way of getting from the nearest lamp post to each tree. This may entail coming along the front of some houses so we will have to get permission of the house owners first. We also hope to get lights in the trees of Seafield Park, next to the Bowling Club, before the end of the year as well.

This year promises to be another busy one. There are quite a few events in April alone, as you will see as you read through this newsletter. First up is our **Spring Fair**, followed a week later by the '**Mad Hatter's Tea Party**', then it's the **AGM** with finally **The London Klezmer Quartet**. As for projects, restoration of the **Fishing Shiel** is making slow but steady progress, it's all paper work at the moment, and there are other projects still to work up. In addition to all of this there are people going out every day litter picking and others keeping the flower beds tidy.

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT

GARDENING GROUP

**SPITTAL
SPRING FAIR**
(in aid of Gardening Funds)
BUR CHURCH HALL
(formerly St Paul's Church Hall)
MIDDLE STREET, SPITTAL
SATURDAY 8TH APRIL
11am to 3pm
*Stalls, Tombola, Raffle,
Teas/Coffees
& Home Baking*

Some of the ladies of the gardening group have already been taking advantage of the recent pleasant weather and have been out in the street and in the Park clearing leaves and dead wood from the flower beds. The local County Council team have been in the Park pruning shrubs and removing large plants that are too heavy for the ladies to handle. The Park is looking so much better for this so our grateful thanks to the lads for their continuing help. The first round of judging for 'Northumbria in Bloom' is on 27th April, so we have to be ready for then!

The broken lights in the Park and on the Prom have been repaired so hopefully they will not be damaged again. There is just a slight issue with the Park lights as the connection box has been padlocked and nobody knows who has the key! As you will have seen on the previous page, the Spring Fair is on 8th April with all proceeds going to the efforts of the Gardening Group. With the money from this and other events, as well as a generous annual grant from the Town Council, we are able to improve on the annual and perennial planting around the village. After the success of 'Tea in the Park' last summer it's hoped that we may hold some more events there this year.

Watch this space!

Mau Watkins

A VIEW FROM THE PROM



You will have probably received by now several leaflets through your door from people who you have never heard of. Yes, it will

soon be that time that occasionally comes around for us to exercise our democratic rights by putting an 'X' by someone's name as voting time is here again! In fact we will be voting twice on the same day, for two Lower Spittal Ward Councillors to Berwick Town Council and for one Berwick East Councillor for Northumberland County Council.

This all takes place on Thursday 4th May, I hope you can contain your excitement! But let us say, unless you do make the effort and go out and at least put your 'X' somewhere on that ballot paper, you cannot complain about the outcome.

Beachcomber

FISHING SHIEL

Usually on most of the projects that the Trust undertakes you are able to work out the extent of the project, go out to tender to get the most competitive price and then you know what funding you need to look for. Not so with the Shiel. Firstly we had to apply for a 'Change of Use' for the building from the County Council. To do this we obviously had to let them know what were our intentions for the building but we also had to prove that bats were not utilising it for their own intentions as either a summer or winter roost. This was by far and away the most expensive study ever undertaken by us! This was not helped by the fact that there are very few who are registered to carry out the study.

That done we progressed onto obtaining the 'Full Planning Permission'. This was a more detailed look at our proposals by the architect and after submission we were told that we had to undertake a 'Flood Risk Assessment'. Yet another not quite as expensive study but one that proved quite difficult to satisfy the Environment Agency and the County Council. The difficulty came when you had to prove that the building would not be flooded out any time within the next one hundred years and it had to take into account Global Warming! There are of course guidelines that you have to follow which factor in the potential rise of water levels over this period. We managed to do this but had only 20mm to spare, that's three quarters of an inch in old money! We finally got Planning Permission Approval in late January but we have to have an escape plan for anyone staying in the Shiel in the event of a flood warning.

The next stage for this project, still staying with the paper work side of things, is to obtain 'Building Regulation Approval' and work up the documents that we can send out to competitive tender for the actual restoration work. To help raise funds needed for this stage, the team that created Santa's Grotto, are now transforming the Shiel into an Easter setting for the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. We hope that you will come along and support this event, but don't be late!

Don't be *late* for this very important date!

SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST SHIEL RESTORATION INVITES YOU TO A

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

SATURDAY APRIL 15TH 10AM-5PM
SUNDAY APRIL 16TH 11AM-5PM

AT THE OLD FISHING SHIEL,
SANDSTELL ROAD, SPITTAL

TEA PARTY REFRESHMENTS, OLD STYLE CARNIVAL GAMES, CRAFTS AND MORE!

CAKES, FINGER SANDWICHES, SOUP, TEA, COFFEE, PUNCH

Not just for children!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE SHIEL RESTORATION

FISHING ON THE TWEED EXHIBITION

A long standing aim of the Berwick Town Team has been to try and get The Tweed Fishing Industry to have a higher prominence locally and hopefully begin a drive towards establishing a permanent heritage centre somewhere in the town. To kick start this process we are going to put an exhibition on in the Watchtower Gallery that covers the subject as fully as possible. The exhibition started on the 18th March and runs until the 21st April. Our aim is to assemble as many of the previous displays and exhibitions as possible while adding some new bits.

The entire Watchtower Gallery Exhibition space of some 200 metres of wall space is to be given over to showcasing all previous exhibitions & projects as well as some new ones on The Tweed and Estuary and its Fishing Industries. Just some of the subject areas to be covered are:

- Early history of Salmon Fishing on the Tweed
- The Decline
- Current net fishing
- The Holmes Family
- Berwick Salmon Co
- Photographic History featuring Jim Walker, Jim Gibson and Berwick Record Office
- Poaching on the Tweed and how it sustained families
- Films of fishing on the Tweed
- History of the Ice Houses
- Herring Fishing in Berwick & Spittal
- Berwick Harbour & Dock - history & pictures.

Additional items include specialist lectures held each Saturday afternoon during the exhibition given by local experts on the Tweed and its Fishing History / Industry. Tides permitting it is also hoped to coordinate an event with M Hindhaugh & Team doing demonstration fishing one evening by the Old Bridge.

The exhibition is open on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12noon to 4pm.

Berwick Town Team

SPITTAL FIRST SCHOOL



Last term the older children have been finding out about the Vikings. They learnt where they lived and what they did in their villages. They came from Scandinavia and they invaded lots of parts of the country including Holy Island in Northumberland.

Before Christmas we had a busy time with the older children visiting The Maltings to watch the pantomime. We had some amazing parties and towards the end of term we had a gigantic Christmas Fair. The money raised has been put towards improving our school library. The youngest children had a fun trip to Whitehouse Farm where they saw Santa. Sally, from The Hirsell, came to visit school and worked with the children to create wreathes and willow stars using natural materials. The younger children performed a traditional nativity play while the older children performed 'The Hopeless Camel' and 'The Dinosaur Nativity'. Everyone enjoyed their performances.

By Ellie-Mae, Harley and Stuart

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme presents: **The London Klezmer Quartet**



**Friday 21st April
@ 7:30pm**

BURC (St Pauls Church)

Tickets Adult £7.50/u17's £4

Family ticket £20

(includes light refreshments)

on sale in Spittal Food Store,

call 07752 403409 or online at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights &

www.beboxoffice.com

email: events@spittalisgreat.co.uk



Inspired! to take the stage

Following on from the success of last years music project, Spittal based music producers Iain Petrie and Anna Emmins are set to return with ten new talented Singers to the Maltings Theatre on 27th April.

Backed by a band of musicians from Berwick Academy, the show promises to be a highlight on this year's event list. 'The response we got last year was phenomenal' says Iain, 'We had such a positive result, not only on a musical level but on the level of increasing the confidence and wellbeing of the participants. It was clear we should continue and build on the success of last year'. The show is the official launch of their CD which features original compositions from the 10 singers, produced and arranged by Iain, Anna and trainee producer Fraser Young, who was on the course last year: 'Inspired literally changed my life, and to be asked back to work as part of inspired is amazing'. Says Iain 'The music this year is on such a high level, we have so much talent right on our doorstep. Working on music like this with such talented and dynamic young people, I feel like I have the best job in the world. I would encourage everyone to come and see the launch show and support this new generation' Tickets for the show on 27th April are now available from the Maltings Theatre or through their website www.maltingsberwick.co.uk

Iain Petrie

RNLI



The Berwick Ladies Lifeboat Guild work tirelessly all year fundraising to support the Berwick RNLI Crew. We try and have an event or opportunity each month, this can be anything from a souvenir stall to a quiz night. Each year we have two big events, one being the House to House and the other the annual Fete at Carr Rock. This year will prove to be a challenge, as of the 1st of January, charities are no longer allowed to go house to house for collections. However, most of our house to house collectors have kindly agreed to help us out on the street collections throughout our week in May. The other big event is the Annual Fete held in August. This takes a lot of work but as it has been in place for several years it's almost like a tick the box process as all our traders look forward to attending every year. Having said that, it helps to have a few different things added each year to keep up interest. Although fundraising can be hard work, all of us in the Guild are happy to support the hardworking crew that we have here in Berwick. Their dedication to the RNLI is to be admired, they train hard and go out in very dangerous seas to save lives and we are all volunteers. *Lynda Miller, Chairman of Berwick upon Tweed Lifeboat Ladies Guild*

BERWICK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Easter Coffee Morning held in the church hall on Maundy Thursday 13th April from 10am-11.30am with stalls, Tombola and a raffle.

Good Friday 14th April morning service 11am led by Rev. Stephen and Mrs Sheena Hewitt.

Easter Sunday 16th April Easter Beach Service, Spittal Beach (St Helen's Terrace) starting at 8am. A short service on the beach, followed by breakfast in the Aidan Room, Berwick URC Church (St Paul's). Easter Sunday Communion Service 11am led by Rev. Colin Richards.

Spittal Scout Group are holding their St George's Day Service in Berwick URC, Spittal at 11am on Sunday 23rd April. The service will be led by Rev. Stephen Hewitt.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

We hold 'Community Coffee Thursdays' where you can come in from the cold, grab a table and chat with your friends. We will be serving coffee and cakes on Thursday mornings from 9am to 10:30am. If you have toddlers, there is also space for them to play. Or if you are by yourself and you want to meet people, or you just want to sit and be quiet, you are also welcome.

We also have at 3pm on the last Sunday of the month a 'Creative Church' for families with crafts, child friendly worship ...and food!

And finally....

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?

He was eggspelled!

Why do we paint Easter eggs?

Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

Ok, we'll improve on the jokes for the next issue!

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