

# THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust

Issue 77

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## EDITORIAL

If you have any items of interest that you wish to share with us please send them in to us at [newsletter@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@spittalisgreat.co.uk) by the deadline. The next issue covers December/January, the deadline for this Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

We had a busy summer and it appears that the autumn is going the same way as well. We have our Autumn Fair shortly, the funds from this help us with our running costs, like the cost of producing this newsletter and insurances etc.

**SPITTAL  
AUTUMN FAIR**

**SATURDAY  
14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**11am to 3pm**

**St Paul's Church Hall  
Middle Street, Spittal  
Tombola, Raffle, Stalls  
& Refreshments**

**Enquiries: 07752403409**  
[events@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:events@spittalisgreat.co.uk)

On the same day, believe it or not, we have our second concert of the autumn through the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. A few weeks ago we hosted Flamenco Flow from Spain, a performance that was appreciated by the audience to such an extent that they finished to a standing ovation. We are now looking forward to the arrival of **The Fugitives**, a Canadian music collective from Vancouver, back on tour by popular demand following their hugely successful appearances in Northumberland villages in the autumn of 2015. Touring again with Highlights, they are heading for their first time in Spittal with their brand of indie/ folk

music, stories and banter. The Fugitives are a funny and uplifting group with brilliant musicianship, top-notch song writing, and complex vocal harmonies. Difficult to categorize, they have been described as 'the missing link between Leonard Cohen and The Pogues', and their folk based music encompasses an eclectic mix of styles ranging from bluegrass to jazz, slam folk/ folk hop with harmonies and storytelling.

FROM VANCOUVER CANADA

## The Fugitives

"This show is simply brilliant"  
CBC

"The missing link between Leonard Cohen and the Pogues"  
THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT

"The four part vocals are sensational"  
EDMONTON SUN

Nominated for multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER at 7:30pm**  
BURC (FORMERLY ST PAUL'S), MAIN STREET, SPITTAL

Tickets: ADULT £8 • U17'S £5 • Family £22  
on sale at SPITTAL FOOD STORE, call 07752403409  
online at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights) &  
[www.beboxoffice.com](http://www.beboxoffice.com)

HOSTED BY SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST  
through the **highlights**  
rural touring scheme

And there is no let up over the Christmas and New Year period either. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December we will be holding our **Christmas Fair**, this is then followed a week later by the Christmas Concert by the **Berwick Concert Band**. Santa will also be around on that weekend at the Fishing Shiel. More on all of these events in the next issue. To make all of these events a success, that's for those attending as well as financially, we need your support by donating raffle and tombola prizes. It's always a worry that every issue of the newsletter we seems to have this appeal but it certainly makes a big difference to us and it is very much appreciated.

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

## GARDENING GROUP



The Gardening Group Gardening were delighted that Spittal village won a Silver Gilt in the 2017 Northumbria in Bloom competition. All the hard work was worthwhile.

It's also very encouraging when members of the public appreciate all the effort that goes into the gardening. I was in Seafield Park the other day when I met a couple from Durham. They are regular visitors to the caravan park and the park. From being very disappointed by the state of the seats and the flower beds they are delighted with the work that has been done. They now enjoy sitting there relaxing and they told me they had spent 2 hours there in the sun that morning. I told them about the Gardening Group and about the work that has been done by Len and the dedicated team who are working so hard to make the Park into a haven for locals and visitors to enjoy. A big thank you to you all.

It was very disappointing to hear that we had an incident of dog fouling in the Park. It would be sad if dogs were banned from the Park so we would ask that dogs are kept on the lead from now on. Most people are very responsible and it would be a shame to have to exclude dogs because of one irresponsible owner.

We would like some more old Spittal recipes for our cookery book that is being compiled, see following piece. All proceeds will be going to the Gardening Group funds.

Many thanks for all the support we receive towards our fundraising over the year. The next plan is to plant hundreds of bulbs throughout the village in readiness for the Spring display.

*Mau Watkins (07748076527)*

## OLD SPITTAL RECIPES

We are all proud to live in such a lovely village as Spittal. The gardening Group have been working hard to keep the all of the beds and Park beautiful with flowers and shrubs. To help raise funds to keep improving the floral aspect of the village, Maureen Raper (author, tutor and moderator) is creating a recipe book and would welcome any traditional Spittal recipes from local people to print in the book. If you would like to have a recipe considered for the book then please drop these in to Maureen at 2 St Helens Terrace or email them to her at [mavismaureen@btinternet.com](mailto:mavismaureen@btinternet.com). Thank you.

## AUTUMN CHANGES



*A seasonal poem, courtesy of James F Robson of Wooler.*

Summer moving into autumn, nature set in change  
The landscapes of the hills and valleys, re-arrange  
And as the summer beauties loose the richness of their hue  
A new array of colours paint the countryside anew.  
The distant beds of bracken-turned to gold from green  
Leaves of red, brown and yellow glow through evergreen  
The pastures rich with grasses their colour starts to fade  
Where golden crops once stood-is dark where new seeds laid  
The arctic geese have landed-the swallows have all flown  
The seeds from trees and flowers, scattered winds have blown  
Waiting for the springtime to regenerate their pose  
Through the mornings icy chills and night-times early close.

## FISHING SHIEL

We are now in the grant application phase for this project. That means a lot of form filling and waiting in anticipation for the letter (or more likely email these days) to drop onto the door mat telling you have, or have not, succeed in getting funds. We have already secured some initial funding from the Berwick Preservation Trust, which we are very grateful for, but now we need to look for the bigger grants. We are looking for a large sum of money as the restoration will cost a staggering £160,000. We have set up a fundraising account as a way that local people can make a donation, however small, towards the project. You can do this at [www.gofundme.com/sandstell-fishing-shiel-restoration](http://www.gofundme.com/sandstell-fishing-shiel-restoration)

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*



**19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

This year's Festival promises to provide something for everybody! For adults there will be a wide range of stimulating and entertaining participants, including the award-winning radio and TV poet Ian McMillan; along with the *Private Eye* cartoonist Tony Husband; the poet and debut novelist Polly Clark, who has been praised by literary superstar Margaret Atwood; the rock guitarist Dave Randall, who is used to playing to thousands of people and the poetry publisher Neil Astley, whose most famous fan is Meryl Streep. This Festival prides itself, however, on not only attracting speakers of national renown but also on promoting Northumberland authors and this year is no exception, with many of the sessions being allocated to talented regional speakers.

There will also be an exciting and enjoyable programme for children and poetry enthusiasts can participate in a writing workshop at the Poetry Café, while there will be a new production of the popular Wilson's Tales. The full programme of events can be seen at the Literary website at [www.berwickliteraryfestival.com](http://www.berwickliteraryfestival.com). Events from the programme that are happening here in Spittal take place in St Paul's Church and are as follows:

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**: Tickets for all are £5; students free.

**10am** Richard Moore-Star Wars & Broomsticks: Superstition & Science in 'Hamlet' & 'Macbeth'.

**12 noon** Ian Lawson - Use of (the) Force.

**2pm** Thorben Betts: Writing for Stage & Screen.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**: Tickets for all are £5.

**10am** Christopher Smith - The Women of Wodehouse.

**12 noon** Peter Townsend – The Dark Side of Technology.

**2pm** Fiona Anderson – Fashioned in Tweed.

**4pm** Linda Porter – A Family in Turmoil: The Children of Charles I and the English Wars.

The Berwick Literary Festival, which is now a Charity, was established in 2014 and is organised by a Steering Group of volunteers. The financial support of our Patrons is crucial in enabling the Festival to be established and is equally important in allowing the Festival to continue to develop. The Steering Group is seeking to recruit new Patrons.

## GOODIE PATCH

This is the woodland area running alongside Dock Road and stretching up to the railway and Billendean. It is the only large area of woodland that can be viewed from the estuary and as such is an important feature in the general townscape. Residents of both Tweedmouth and Spittal have talked about and sought a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the Goodie Patch.

Tweedmouth Residents Association has been lobbying for protected status for over 5 years. Northumberland County Council agreed to protected status in 2016 and we are now nearly at a point where the TPO has been confirmed.

The Residents have now asked how the woodland will be managed in the future.

The Goodie Patch could be managed by locals! After seeking advice an application has been made to the two landowners (the Council and Northumbrian Water) for Asset Transfer. The Council has agreed to explore this proposal and suggests a long-term lease. Northumbrian Water has asked for time to consider their options. Realistically the woodland is a single entity and bringing it under a single management structure is cost effective. It should also give the resulting project some benefits from scale. One suggestion is managing it from the redundant Water Board Pumping Station. If this becomes a realistic option it would also be possible to develop outdoor education facilities using the estuary as a marine classroom. This could bring jobs in and promote tourism for a wide range of locals and visitors.

To this end we are establishing an organisation to care for the woodland and to develop outdoor education facilities. Hopefully our next newsletter will be able to update on this work.

## BERWICK RNLI LADIES GUILD

Since the last magazine we have had a very busy time. We held our annual Fete on the 20<sup>th</sup>



of August and thankfully the weather was very kind to us and lots of people turned up to enjoy the wide variety of stalls and attractions. The displays in the water by the crew were fun to watch too. The final amount raised on the day was £7740.00, absolutely fabulous, so thank you to all who contributed in raising this figure. The guys in Berwick RNLI Crew will benefit hugely with this money and it will allow them to

continue giving fantastic help to those people who find themselves in danger at sea.

The next big fundraiser was the Berwick Light Parade held by the Goldwings. I am sure if you were around you will know it was again a fabulous light parade, ending in a huge Firework display. This year however didn't generate as much money as previous years, this is mostly to do with the weather, but those who attended had a fabulous time.

Sadly we lost our President Lady Rose Crossman in August. Lady Rose played a huge part in the running of the guild for many years and contributed a huge amount of Jams, homemade aprons and raffle prizes to mention but a few. You could always rely on Lady Rose at any fundraising function and she attended each event with enthusiasm. She will be missed by all who knew her.

*Lynda Miller - Chairman of Berwick RNL  
Ladies Guild*

## ST JOHNS CHURCH

Everyone is welcome to drop in for 'Coffee & Chat' each Thursday from 8:45am to 10:30am during term time. On offer is filter coffee, tea, herbal tea, homemade cakes, hand massage, a supervised toddler area for those with little ones and all in a warm friendly atmosphere, which people say they find peaceful and relaxing as well!

We also have a gardening group - inspired by Mau Watkins. It aims to keep the church gardens tidy and has a number of helpers from the Trust.

On August 12<sup>th</sup> we really appreciated being part of the Seaside Festival and hosting our event in the Church and gardens. Again we offered teas, coffees and delicious home baking and had a lot of visitors getting bargains at the table top areas. Outside there was glitter tattoo; children's crafts; raffle; and adult and kids' tombola. Special thanks go to the Saints Alive teenagers from the Newcastle Diocese Youth Camp who came along from Seahouses and with their fun, energy and hard work certainly kept us all very much alive and on our toes!

*Mary Higginson  
(Coffee and Chat co-ordinator)*

## BERWICK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

There will be a concert on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm in the BURC (formerly St Paul's Church) and performing will be The Golden

Square Singers and the River Tweed Ukuleles. Tickets are £5, to be paid at the door, and this includes refreshments. There is no charge for accompanied children.

## CALENDARS

We have two calendars out again this year for 2018. 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.

**2018 Calendar**  
In aid of the Spittal Improvement Trust  
**OLD SPITTAL**

**2018 Calendar**  
In aid of the Spittal Improvement Trust  
**SPITTAL VIEWS**

Sold in aid of Spittal Improvement Trust  
Reg. Charity No. 1145398  
Printed by Shield & Morrison

Sold in aid of Spittal Improvement Trust  
Reg. Charity No. 1145398  
Printed by Shield & Morrison

- 1 month per page - wire hanger  
- quality paper - week starts on Monday

*All funds raised for the benefit  
of Spittal Improvement Trust*  
[www.spittalisgreat.co.uk](http://www.spittalisgreat.co.uk)

### And finally....

When your photo is taken for your driver's licence, why do they tell you to smile? If you are stopped by the police and asked for your licence, are you going to be smiling?

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