

THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 54 April 2013

EDITORIAL

Deadline for next issue 26 May 2013

CAR BOOT SALES

Sandstell Road Car Park

**These are now taking place every
Sunday from:
Easter Sunday until the end of
September**

All start at 10am - weather permitting!

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The Garden Fete took place last month and, although the turn out for this was on the low side, possibly due to the poor weather (again!), the Gardening Group would like to thank those that did come out and to those that donated. The money raised will go towards the Group's continuing efforts to brighten up the village.

At the AGM the committee was largely re-elected with a few new faces as seconded members. A list of the committee members and the officers of the Trust are available on the website.

Talking of which, the website is currently undergoing a major overhaul and we would like to thank Jeff Steynor for his efforts in doing this. Jeff is not a native of Spittal, or in fact the UK, but has a keen interest in Spittal and has volunteered his time. We have received other offers of help to do this, but Jeff is also a relative, and this helps pay his upkeep when he visits! The website has already got some really good features on it and the upgrade will be an ongoing process. We would also like to thank Northern Lab for continuing to host the website for us.

Our next concert from the Highlights Scheme is the Harald Haugaard Trio (for details see the advert). Harald is one of the most sensational musicians on the Danish music scene and has toured throughout the world. With his unique, characteristic style of playing, he offers contemporary Danish folk music that is deeply rooted in his country's tradition. As a fiddle player, Haugaard is an esteemed, inventive virtuoso player, and passionate musician.

Harald Haugaard regularly presents his trio, gathering Danish guitarist Rasmus Zeeberg and old an mate from folk-fusion band Serras, percussionist Sune Rahbek, in a vibrant and winning combination.

We are delighted to be hosting the Highlights Miniature Worlds Contemporary Craft Tour 2013. One of only seven venues in the North east and Cumbria, which will be held in BURC (formerly St. Paul's Church), details in the advert.

The 2013 Craft Tour celebrates craft work miniatures.

Monumental in its ambition, exploring memory, the human condition, the beauty of nature and objects of remembrance, with participating artists from the UK, Berlin, Japan and the USA. Visitors will be invited to explore these exquisite Miniature Worlds: inspiring stories of what it is to be human and of the wonder of nature, through interactive devices, peepholes, microscopes and magnifying glasses.

Some of the artists included are Rose Ashley, Jessica Howarth, Jennifer Ho, Marie Canning, Laura Jones, Serena Partridge and Rachael Nila Whittaker. One of the artists will be available on the Fri & Sat of the exhibition weekend to meet members of the public, to talk about and demonstrate their work.

Mike Greener – Secretary SIT



**May 11th Scott Weightman's
ORGANATHON AND COFFEE MORNING
in Aid of
Project Sri Lanka Well Fund
To be held at BURC St Paul's Spittal
Please support Scott**

SPITTAL WELL FOR SRI LANKA

The Community of Spittal has made an invaluable contribution to the ongoing work of Project Sri Lanka. Founded in 2005 to help rebuild southern Sri Lankan settlements

destroyed by the tsunami of December 26,, 2004. The Project continues to help forty five children, many orphaned by the huge tidal wave that destroyed their homes and drowned hundreds of the population.

Residents of Spittal continue to sponsor eleven of these children. The money, vital to their survival, is used for food, clothing and school equipment.

At the most recent PSL trustees meeting, it was decided to build another village school, the eleventh, for a community where children are receiving no education; provide twelve Singer sewing machines to set up a small workshop for ladies in one of the villages; and to drill a well for a small settlement with no water supply.

Trustee Scott Weightman agreed to hold a fund raising event on May 11 at St Paul's Church Spittal. The "Organathon" and coffee morning will raise money for a well in a small community where the ladies have to make a return journey of over four miles to access water for drinking and washing.

Scott will be teaching in Sri Lanka in May/June and October/November and hopes that the Spittal fund raising will be successful in helping to reach the £3,000 needed to build the well. Used for drinking water as well as irrigating the fields in times of drought. You can find out more about the project at www.projectsrilanka.org.uk

Family or friends visiting and not enough space?

We have comfortable cottages available. For details telephone **Brenda** on **01289 304175** or see our **website**

www.berwickcottageholidays.co.uk

SPITTAL SCHOOL NEWS

Our recent Comic Relief Dinosaur Walk around Spittal was a great success, raising a grand total of £1276.80. Thanks to all the pupils (and their families) and staff who took part. Especially to Ms. Paterson, who arranged the walk and the sponsorship forms and collection. Well done, everyone!

After the Easter holidays, school restarts on Monday 15th April. In the summer term there will be various after-school activities running, including film, gardening and German clubs. Happy Easter!

BUSINESS NEWS

For those needing garden machinery serviced it can now be done in Spittal. Greencast Grounds & Machinery Maintenance Services was established in 2000 by Neil Skelly, doing local

gardens, contracting to schools & businesses in Berwick & North Northumberland. In October last year the business moved to new premises in East Street, Spittal and was re-named. As well as offering grounds maintenance, they now offer a full range of repairs & servicing for all types of garden machinery. For any enquiries contact Neil on 07450 028462.

BEACH CLEAN **Sunday 28th April**

Come and join us in the
M&S and MCS
BIG BEACH CLEAN-UP
in Spittal

Meet 10am outside the Amusement Arcade
(weather permitting!)

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

St John's Church has been very busy in recent months with our regular community activities for young and old.

First we have a thriving Junior Youth Group for youngsters in roughly the 8-13 age range who meet twice each month in Spittal Vicarage on a Sunday from 3.00-4.30 pm. The aims are to have fun and get to know each other through taking part in different activities and to learn about the Christian faith. The details of the programme for the summer term are on our website and new members are always welcome to join us.

And secondly, on the last Thursday of each month we hold a short service for the residents of Garden House, followed by informal conversations over refreshments. We continue to hold our monthly Creative Church on the last Sunday of each month at 3 pm in Church when we have crafts, refreshments and a short service. All the activities are aimed at families and suitable for every age group. It is continuing to be a very popular event and at our Easter Sunday party we had over 55 children and as many adults enjoying themselves. Again new families are most welcome to join us – just turn up! Finally, St John's will be holding another of our special invitation events in June. On Sunday 16th June to mark the end of the Gala we will be holding a service at 6 pm and we would like to invite everyone to join us with refreshments to follow. Full details of all our activities can be found on our website www.potss.co.uk which is updated regularly. Reverend. Ann Peters.



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BERWICK AMATEUR ROWING CLUB

Interested in trying something new? Berwick A. R. C. would like to invite you to an open session where anyone aged 13+ can come along and check out the club and try out the equipment. This is taking place at the Boat House, New Road, Berwick on Sunday 21st April between 10:30 am and 1 pm, complete with hot and cold beverages and snacks. No experience is necessary but you **must** be able to swim!

The club promotes itself as a place for the competitive member wishing to win medals and trophies, or for those who would like an alternative way of keeping fit and having fun. Over the winter we worked towards monthly indoor rowing challenges, eventually competing in the Scottish Indoor Rowing Championships in January of this year. We had a record number, including juniors, entering this competition and the club was very successful, bringing home many medals.

Since the clocks changed back its onto the water! Berwick rowing club will have members competing from Strathclyde to Nottingham and Henley. The more popular local regattas in the North East will also have good representation from Berwick members, with our own regatta being held at West Ord on 15th June.

We are always looking for new members particularly juniors (13+). Who knows, the next future rowing Olympian may be living in Spittal right now! For further information contact berwickarc@yahoo.com.

SPITTAL AT WAR 1939 – 1945

At 31 Main Street was Taylors' Pork Butchers, this was a branch shop from Marygate, Berwick, selling sausages, black and oatmeal puddings and tripe etc. Availability was not constant; queues would form long before opening.

At 50 Main Street was Martin's Bakery and shop. This business was managed by Mr Tom Patterson. Ministry of Food regulations and general food shortages restricted the range of bakery products. On Saturday mornings, queues would form to buy a type of Madiera cake or cream sponge cake made with synthetic cream.

Spittal Post Office was 62 Main Street. The postmaster was Mr Wm. Ford who, along with his wife, sold stationery and other odds and ends. This small shop was the hub of village life. This was where pensioners drew their pensions, it was also the only place where postal orders and stamps could be bought and telegrams sent, and also where the telephone box and pillar box were situated. This shop is now a house.

At 74 Main St. Was Wm. Bruce, Butchers. Cuts of meat were displayed in the window; no refrigerated counters and sawdust on the floor! He also kept pigs in Sandstell Road. He had an arrangement with the army to collect swill from the field kitchen and 1 St Helens Terrace to feed the pigs. He would get me and other boys to collect the swill in bins and wheel them to Sandstell Road in a barrow.

Next door at 76 Main Street was Nellie Weatherburn's Greengrocers shop, which also sold sweets when available. Both properties have been converted to housing.

At 41 Main Street was Patterson's, a small hardware shop that sold household items, such as pots and pans, crockery, paint, whitewash and distemper. This was the family of Alec Patterson the plumber.

At 86 Main St was another grocer's shop, owned by Andrew Lyall, he also employed a message boy to deliver groceries to his customers. Like so many of the other shops it is now housing.

At 108 Main St was James Edminson's Butchers. He owned an abattoir in Middle St, known locally as "The Killing House". He also grazed cattle and sheep in fields above Spittal, on what is now Eastcliffe and Highcliffe housing estates.

Mrs Barbara Edminson and her daughter Elsie Yourston had a shop at 108 Main St that sold fabrics, thread, wool and other items. Mrs Yourston and her husband were in great demand as entertainers; she, an accomplished pianist; he, an equally accomplished violinist.

At 112 Main Street was Nellie Crisp's sweet shop, in summer she also made ice-cream, subject to the ingredients being available.

Next door the Tweedside Industrial Co-operative Society had its Spittal branch, selling groceries and bread. This was the biggest shop

in the village, managed by a Mr Gray. The shop today is privately owned and is the only shop in Spittal at the present time.

Another Grocer's shop was at 168 Main St owned by Mr and Mrs Andrew Muir, again it is now a private dwelling.

In the early years of the war, there was a fish and chip shop at 60 Middle St operated by Mrs. Meston, assisted by her daughter.

There were two ladies who sold cigarettes from home; Fanny Wales in West Street and Minnie Rule in Middle St.

After the air raid in 1941 that demolished the houses from 7 to 9a Main St and the rubble was cleared away, Willie Beattie who previously had a horse drawn fish and chip van (the horse was called Gypsy) parked his van on the site and traded there in the evening - no shelter for the customers!

The war continued; air raids were still happening regularly, mostly at night, but one tea time we were coming out of school when an enemy plane strafed Main St. I was pulled into the doorway of 84 Main St by the lady who lived there. The same thing happened to other children at different houses. It was all over over in seconds and miraculously no one was hurt. *To be continued..... Jim Cromarty Bsc*



DON'T BE A HOARDER! SPRING-CLEAN YOUR WAY TO FIRE SAFETY

Many Fire Services are experiencing serious fires, injuries and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behaviour.

Excessive accumulation of materials in the home pose a significant threat, to both fire fighters fighting fires and responding to other emergencies in these homes, and also to

residents and neighbours.

Hoarding is the collection or storage of large amounts of items in the home, due to a strong urge to save them or because of the emotional distress experienced at the thought of discarding them. Many rooms in the home are filled up with possessions that residents can no longer use these rooms for the purpose for which they were designed, and everyday living is compromised.

Why is hoarding an issue for the fire service?

Hoarding can be a fire hazard. Many occupants die in fires in these homes. Often, blocked exits prevent escape from the home. In addition, many people who are hoarding are injured when they trip over things or when materials fall on them. Responding fire fighters can be put at risk due to obstructed exits, falling objects and excessive fire loading that can lead to collapse. Hoarding makes fire fighting and searching for occupants far more difficult.

Those living adjacent to an occupied structure can be quickly affected when a fire occurs, due to excessive smoke and fire conditions.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme
presents:

**'Miniature Worlds'
Craft Tour**
from 31st May to 3rd June
BURC (St Paul's Church)
11am to 5pm
(Sunday 12noon to 5pm)
Free Entry!

And finally..... Trying to get tickets for an Elvis tribute band but when I phone I get Press one for the money, two for the show.

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SIT Contacts:

Chairman: Willie Young - Tel. 304862
berwickgas@Hotmail.com
Secretary: Mike Greener - Tel. 306387
mike@spittalisgreat.co.uk
Editor: Chris & Sue Timmins - Tel. 07889
140799 rovtim@fatbloaters.com
Website: www.spittalisgreat.co.uk

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