

THE POINT

A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 78 December 2017 & January 2018

EDITORIAL

Deadline for the next issue, which covers February and March, is 20th January.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

There is plenty going on in December, as you will see from the posters displayed in this issue.

We start with our **Christmas Fair** in St Paul's Church Hall on Saturday 2nd December. We again would appreciate any donations of prizes for the raffle and tombola's. This is one of our important events as it helps us with our general running costs, which includes the cost of issuing this newsletter.

SPITTAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY
2nd DECEMBER
11am to 3pm

St Paul's Church Hall
Middle Street, Spittal
Stalls, Raffle,
Chocolate Tombola,
& Seasonal Refreshments
Spittal Improvement Trust

Following on from last year success, Santa will be paying us another visit in 'Santa's Grotto'. This will be taking place once again in the Fishing Shiel, which has been magically transformed for the occasion. Last year it was a joy to see not only the children but the mum's and dads, and grandparents, all being amazed with the Grotto and joining in. In fact Santa said, before he took off for the North Pole, that he had nearly as many adults on his knee, mainly the ladies, as did children. Perhaps that's why he is coming back this year! The proceeds from

this event will go towards the Shiel's, full details are on the following poster.

Spittal Improvement Trust Shiel Restoration is excited to announce

Santa is coming to Spittal!

On the 9th & 10th December
10am to 5pm

The old Fishing Shiel on Sandstell Road will undergo a *Magical Makeover* For the arrival of *Santa*.
Featuring *Santa's Grotto* and a *festive cafe*.

Not just for children!
Pop along for some festive baking & a glass of mulled wine.

£3.50 TO VISIT SANTA
EVERY CHILD
GETS A GIFT

OPEN FIRES RAFFLE HOT CHOCOLATE COFFEE
TEA GIFT FROM SANTA SOUP MINCE PIES

Also on during the same weekend as Santa's Grotto will be the **Berwick Concert Band** who will be performing their annual Christmas Concert for us again on the afternoon of 9th December. Last year we moved their concert from an evening performance to the afternoon. This proved popular last year as it enabled more people to come and enjoy them. They will again be conducted by Ed Chester and we will be putting on our Facebook page their concert programme. We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy their performance, perhaps after visiting Santa! Full details are on the following page.

A short break from the posters. We are in the process of revamping the **Trust's website** and we are looking to include all businesses, accommodation providers, services etc in Lower Spittal. Therefore, could you please email your details to info@spittalisgreat.co.uk with the website and contact details and we will ensure they are included.

An afternoon with

**The Berwick
 Concert Band**
 Conductor Edward Chester

The Band will be playing popular light music with a hint of Christmas!

**SATURDAY
 9TH DECEMBER
 at 3pm**

BURC (formerly St Pauls), MAIN STREET, SPITTAL
 Tickets: ADULT £6 • U17'S £4 (incl. light refreshments)
 on sale at SPITTAL FOOD STORE, call 07752 403409
 or online at www.beboxoffice.com
HOSTED BY SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

Local musician Iain Petrie has kindly organised an evening of music in the Fishing Shiel as a fundraiser for the restoration work to be carried out on the building. As the following poster says, it's '*A Wee Christmas Cozy*', just the thing to put you in the festive spirit. He is combining his musical talents with Victoria Betts and Electric Penelope no less and it should be a memorable evening.



***A Wee Christmas
 Cozy at the Shiel***

Sandstell Road, Spittal
**Friday 15th December
 7:30 to 11pm**

**Featuring: Victoria Betts,
 Iain Petrie and Electric Penelope.**

Mulled wine, alcoholic & juicy drinks will be available.

Tickets: £5 available at Spittal Shop and on the door.

Enquiries: events@spittalgreat.co.uk

Proceeds go to the restoration of the Shiel.

Our last event for this issue is the **Burns Supper Night**. We will again be joining together with members of the BURC (formerly St Paul's Church) to hold a traditional Burns Supper in memory of the bard, with the haggis piped in, followed by readings, songs, neeps and tatties.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL
 MIDDLE STREET, SPITTAL

**Burns
 Supper**

THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY
 AT 7:30PM
 TICKETS: ADULT £8
 (includes supper)

Available in Spittal Shop
 at www.beboxoffice.com
 or 07752 403409



That's all of the events out of the way, apologies for all of the posters in this issue but it does make it easier than repeating all the details of dates, times, ticket prices and where you can get them.

As you will have no doubt noticed by now, we have ten new Christmas lights on the first part of Main Street and we have to thank Berwick Town Council for not only getting these for us but for also putting them up. When they first went up six didn't come on when they should have, and two do not go off at all, even during the day! Steven Monks, the Town Council's electricians looked into these and rectified four of them. The remaining two that do not go on have been traced back to a fault at the bottom of the lamp post, which we are hoping that the County Council, who are responsible for the lamp posts, will be up to fix before Christmas.

Just a reminder that we have on sale two different designs for our 2018 calendar. These can be purchased in the Spittal, Highcliffe and Hopes of Tweedmouth shops. We are grateful to the proprietors of the shops for selling them on our behalf.

We are already looking forward to 2018, which should be an exciting year, with, hopefully, the Shiel restoration underway and some of our annual events having a World War 1 theme as it is the 100th anniversary of the end of that terrible conflict. It now only remains to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year from all of us at the Trust. Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement.

Mike Greener - Secretary

GARDENING GROUP NEWS

The hardworking team of gardeners are having a break for a few weeks after planting a mixture of several thousand bulbs in the Park, the Spa Well, along Main Street and around the boat at the Dock Road entrance to the village. We can hardly wait to see the results in the Spring! We would like to thank you for all the bulbs and plants that have been donated. Many of the bulbs were bought locally and when large numbers were needed the good old internet was put to good use.

The recipe book has neared completion and will be available in time for Easter and all proceeds from the book will be going towards funds for gardening. Maureen Raper has spent a lot of time putting the book together ready for printing and we would like to thank her very much for her hard work. We would obviously like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent in recipes. We had such a good response that book two may be in the offing!

In the 'Northumbria in Bloom' Neighbourhood Awards Competition, Spittal Bowling Club were an entry and they won an award. So it's congratulations to them! There are five levels of award and they were awarded a Level 3 with some very encouraging and helpful comments for improvements for next year.

After the festive season we will be planning the Spring Fair. Last year it was suggested that it would be appropriate to have a proper plant stall. Nearer the time if you have any excess plants we will consider having a plant sale table. If you have any tablecloths in the cupboard, that you no longer need, we would be delighted if you would like to donate them to us as we would rather not use paper ones if possible. (what about the laundry I ask!).

Please contact Mau on 07748076527 or Sheila on 331994 with any queries or comments. Now can we wish you all a very happy festive season and thank you for all the support this year.

Mau Watkins



A VIEW FROM THE PROM

Has anyone else noticed the number of delivery vans that have become a daily sight running around our streets? It seems that

every parcel delivery company visits Spittal once a day, twice in some cases. You can then add to that the vans carrying out the home deliveries for the supermarkets, one of which

doesn't even have a store in Berwick, Then, as if they are waiting for the sun to go down and night draws in, we then see the vans delivering take-out food.

Probably everyone these days has at least one of the aforementioned vans arriving to their door at some point during the week. This is leading, if not already done so, to a culture where we will eventually have no need to go across our doorstep at all. Our only face to face contact will be with the delivery driver. It was also recently reported in the news, the real one not the fake one, that some people, particularly the elderly, are not going to the shops because they feel that they are not confident enough to go through the self check out tills.

And yet it is at this time of year that we are encouraged to remember those that might live alone and who possibly do not get to see anyone very often. There will be a time when the majority of people are at home and there will be no-one left to drive the vans. Perhaps that is why the online retailer Amazon is looking into the technology of making deliveries by aerial drones!

Beachcomber

BERWICK SALVATION ARMY



The Berwick Salvation Army would like your help to make Christmas special this year for the elderly in our community, some of whom will be spending the day alone. They are putting together and delivering gift parcels to care homes and to individuals in the Berwick area. There are currently 3 drop off points that will be collecting gifts and cards between 9am and 4pm from Monday 27th November to Sunday 17th December. These are The Salvation Army, Church Street, Monday to Friday, Harvestfield, Ramparts, Monday to Saturday and Holy Trinity First School during school hours only. For more information or to get involved contact Jason at Jason.wearmouth@salvationarmy.org.uk or Carly at Carly-srobertson@hotmail.com.

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP



BWG are holding their meetings once again in St Paul's Church. Their next one is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 17th January and it is entitled 'Red Squirrels Need our Help' by John Rae. Entry Members £2.00 and visitors £3.00.

Citizens Advice has reopened in Berwick at which they will be carrying out Face-to-face and drop-in and appointment sessions. These take place on Tuesdays and Fridays between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm at their branch at 5 Tweed Street, Berwick, TD15 1NG. You can contact the Northumberland Adviceline Monday to Friday, between 9.00am to 4.30pm, on 03444 111 444. For the Debt Advice Helpline the number to call is 01670 339960, Monday to Friday between 9.00am to 4.30pm.

You might like to consider volunteering for Citizens Advice, which has been described as 'the most rewarding experience of my life' by one of their current volunteers. Citizens Advice is a registered charity, which rely on volunteers to provide the invaluable service which helps so many people within our local community.

The problems they are most often asked about concern benefits, employment, debt, housing or relationships but they will help people who come to them with any enquiry including legal matters, consumer rights, and immigration.

Citizens Advice Northumberland is currently looking for more volunteer advisers, to join their teams at their office in Berwick. Training is given to help develop the skills and knowledge you need to help their clients and they are able to cover expenses such as travel costs.

People volunteer with them for lots of different reasons, but one thing that their volunteers tell them is that volunteering with their local Citizens Advice is enjoyable, rewarding, challenging and varied. For many volunteers, the best thing is getting to meet a variety of new people, whilst for others it's learning new skills and gaining confidence.

There's a real team spirit and they provide a supportive environment to make sure that you get the most from your time with them.

Whatever your reason for volunteering, this is your chance to make a real difference to the lives of other people. You can read about their volunteering opportunities at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering>.

For more information, please contact Michelle Turnbull on 01670 522008 or by email at:

michelleturnbull@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk.



CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES:

(From other groups to which all are welcome, all are December dates. More details of these on our Facebook page.)

Thursday 14th - Berwick URC (St Paul's) Christmas Coffee Morning in Church Hall 10am to 11:30am with the usual stalls, tombola etc.

Sunday 17th – Spittal Scout Group Carol service in St Paul's Church at 6pm. Refreshments after in the Church Hall.

Sunday 17th – Spittal Community Carol Service in St John's Church at 6pm.

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve - Instant Nativity for all the family in St John's Church at 3pm. Children can come dressed as their favourite nativity character to be part of the play – with no rehearsals necessary. Just turn up!

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve – Carol Service in St Paul's Church at 11am followed by tea/coffee and mince pies.

Christmas Day - St John's Parish Church:
Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9am on Christmas Day.

And finally....

Did you hear about the school's Nativity Play?

Two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph, and they are on their way to the inn in Bethlehem.

Meanwhile on the other side of the stage, a lad in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone, calling to make a reservation!

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