

# THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust  
Issue 79 February/March 2018

## EDITORIAL

No, your eyes are not deceiving you, this is the February/March issue of our newsletter. I would like to blame the recent bad weather for the delay, like the 'leaves on the line' for the trains, but I don't think we would get away with it!

**Deadline for the next issue, which covers April and May, is 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

### SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

#### NOTICE OF AGM

To be held at 7.30pm on  
**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
in the AIDAN ROOM of  
**BURC (ST. PAULS) CHURCH**  
Please contact the Secretary by 18<sup>th</sup>  
April if you wish to join the committee.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

We have moved our **AGM** permanently back from the end of March to the last Wednesday in April. The end of December is our financial year end so this gives us a bit more time to have our accounts finalised. Details for the AGM are on the above poster. We have had some injection of new blood on the committee over the past two years and this has made a big difference with not only sharing out the workload but also bringing forward new ideas. However, there are still opportunities to get involved with us, not only on the main committee but with individual events or the Gardening Group. Anyone wishing to stand as a full committee member will need to let us know by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Otherwise, the AGM is open to all.

I probably say every year that 'This year promises to be another busy one', this year promises to be busier than ever! There are some notable anniversaries taking place this year. These are the some of the most notable 100<sup>th</sup> ones, Women's Right to Vote (February), the Spanish Flu Epidemic (March) which may have killed 100 million people, and of course the end of World War 1 (November). We will be giving some of our events later in the year a

WW1 feel to them to mark the end of this conflict. 2018 is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both the Beatle's hit song 'Hey Jude' and the release of the first 'Planet of the Apes' film, if you need reminding about your age!!

Our first event takes place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March when we are hosting another offering from the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. On that day we are delighted that coming to perform for us will be poet, broadcaster & comedian Ian McMillan and Olympic composer Luke Carver Goss.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme  
**Ian McMillan &  
Luke Carver Goss**  
**Words, Music, Glee & Delight!**



**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**@ 7:30pm**  
**BURC (St Pauls Church)**  
Tickets Adult £8/u17's £5  
Family ticket £22  
(includes light refreshments)  
on sale in Spittal Food Store,  
call 07752 403409 or online at  
[www.beboxoffice.com](http://www.beboxoffice.com)  
email: [events@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:events@spittalisgreat.co.uk)

They will be presenting a hilarious night of words, music and improvisation, featuring stories, songs as well as a musical created out of thin air! Bard of Barnsley Ian McMillan hosts the weekly BBC Radio 3 radio show 'The Verb'. He is also 'Poet in Residence' for Barnsley FC, The Academy of Urbanism and, until recently,

English National Opera. His rip-roaring poetry shows are legendary and he has the verbal gymnastics of a north country Spike Milligan coupled with the comic timing of Eric Morecambe. So it should be a great evening. Full details are on the poster on the front page.

Following on from this will be our annual **Spring Fair** on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be in aid of the work undertaken by the **Gardening Group** so more on this in their following piece.

Whilst I am on with the events I might as well give a plug for our second Highlights offering this Spring and that is a band called Ubunye.

## Highlights Rural Touring Scheme **Ubunye**



**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
@ 7:30pm**

**BURC (St Pauls Church)**

Tickets Adult £8/u17's £5

Family ticket £22

(includes light refreshments)

on sale in Spittal Food Store,  
call 07752 403409 or online at

[www.beboxoffice.com](http://www.beboxoffice.com)

email: [events@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:events@spittalisgreat.co.uk)

Ubunye are a Huddersfield based band which comprises of singers, who were originally from South Africa, and gospel and R&B players from Yorkshire. They perform an inspirational blend of jazz, Isigqi, traditional Zulu music and Afro-pop. This young and vibrant group reach back into the past and combine tradition with their contemporary flare and the raw power of African voices in harmony, the pounding rhythm of Africa blended with the explosive energy of a live band. Looks like this will be another good night, full details are again on the poster.

As for our projects, these have had to take a back seat over the past few months but as we are now coming out of the gloom of the winter, and just like the spring bulbs, we will be

endeavouring to push these to the fore in the coming months.

Last, but by no means least, the Trust will also be celebrating an anniversary of their own this year as in September we will be 20 years old. It seems like just yesterday that we took our first tentative steps out as a community group. Along the way we may have pleased many with what we have achieved, on the other hand, there may be those who we haven't pleased, hopefully not as many! I certainly think that we have tried to do our best with what we have to hand, and that is commitment by a few who have given their time, and at times their own money, to bring about what we have achieved. At our Autumn Fair in October we are looking at putting on an exhibition of those achievements, and no doubt some things we didn't get right.

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

## **GARDENING GROUP NEWS**

A belated Happy New Year to you all. Despite the changeable weather the girls have been out clearing up the beds and are already planning the work in readiness for Spring.

**Spring**  
has sprung

## **SPITTAL SPRING FAIR**

*(in aid of Gardening Funds)*

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL  
MIDDLE STREET, SPITTAL**

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**10:30am to 2pm**

*Stalls, Tombola, Raffle,  
Teas/Coffees  
& Home Baking*

As you can see by the above poster, our next event is the **Spring Fair** on April 7<sup>th</sup> which is, as usual, a fundraiser for the Gardening Group. There will be the usual stalls and refreshments and this year we are hoping to have a plant stall. If you have any spare plants please we would be delighted to have them. We would

also appreciate any donations for the raffle and tombola.

Maureen Raper has worked very hard compiling the recipe book which will be on sale very soon. All proceeds from the book are going towards the gardening funds. Thank you again, Maureen for all the many hours you have spent on this.

A big thank you to everyone for the support over the last year. If you would like to join either the Group's work or activities then please contact myself Mau Watkins (07748076527) or Sheila Heckels (01289 331994) or indeed any of the gardeners.

*Mau Watkins*



## A VIEW FROM THE PROM

Well, here we go again!

It was reported recently in the 23rd February edition of the Berwick Advertiser, under the title of 'Spittal

Point development could be phased', that our Town Councillors have called for a public meeting to discuss yet again, the planned redevelopment of Spittal Point.

Apparently the owners, who have a long-established planning permission to build 136 homes on the site, have lodged to discharge a number of existing conditions attached to their planning permission of 2009. Our local County Councillor has called in the application for discussion by committee 'due to the scale of the plan and its importance to local regeneration'. In response the Town Council's planning committee called for a public meeting.

Commendably, one of our local Town Councillor's has specifically asked that we, the people, should see the plans and have them explained to us as to what impact they will have on the village. The existing proposal is for a development of 136 houses, which is a lot for Spittal but a previous scheme drawn up by a national builder proposed a scheme for 650 'units' on it. That would have meant all flats!

It would be good to see the proposed plans, even better though to see work actually starting on the Point as the area has been derelict for so many years. So many of us, past and present, have said that we wouldn't see it happen in our lifetime, that number is growing, rapidly!

*Beachcomber*

## BERWICK ART GROUP

The Berwick Art Group meets in St Paul's Church Hall, Middle Street, Spittal, on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, September to November and March to June, from 2 to 4pm. We're a mixed BAG (*sorry .....*) of artists: we presently number about 30, of all abilities and artistic interests. The group welcomes artists from all levels, from beginners up to professionals.

One meeting each month is often usually a demonstration/workshop led by a local artist where they give us insights into a particular technique. The other is a so-called free session, for members only, where they can work on their own or create an artwork on a theme which has been decided in advance. Members can bring along suitable items to draw or paint, but you don't *have* to bring anything as there are usually plenty of items to choose from. You can just bring along whatever you're working on at the time.

Our next meeting is on Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>, which will be a members only session, the theme of which is 'Items from the seashore'. Bring along any shells, driftwood, netting, pebbles etc you may have. The following meeting is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at which we will be having a 'PAINTING A SEASCAPE' demonstration with Brian Turnbull. As this is a demonstration, no materials are necessary.

Some samples of works-in-progress and works for sale can usually be seen on the Gallery page of our website, together with pictures from the summer exhibition. Also, our future meetings and annual events can also be found on the Events page.

BAG annual membership fees are £35 (our year starts in September), with occasional small additional charge to cover tutor/materials costs. Newcomers (i.e. those who have not previously been members) may join in March, in which case the fee is £20; this entitles new members to full privileges relating to tutored sessions and exhibitions etc for the spring/summer term.

Non-members are welcome at demonstrations / workshops for a fee of £4. Non-members may also come to one members-only session, for a 'taster', but are required to join if they wish to attend more.

For full details, please contact us through our website at [www.berwickartgroup.co.uk](http://www.berwickartgroup.co.uk). You can also follow us on our Facebook page.



## NEW BUSINESS'S

We would like to welcome two new businesses into Spittal, Shunters Ltd and The Fight Club. Both have set up in the old Fish Factory either side of the car wash, just off of Dock Road. We wish them well.

### SHUNTERS LTD

Shunters have been established for over 35 years in Berwick, originally formed as a courier company, they now specialise in house and office removals, managed storage and part loads of furniture, antiques and fine art. They work for some of the best known names in North Northumberland The Borders, taking full or part removals, part loads to London and the South East and collections from Auction Houses up and down the country. The size and nature of their work is diverse, but every job is treated with the same amount of care.

They say that their move to Spittal marks a very important stage in their development and growth for Shunters Ltd, having looked for larger suitable premises for over a year. Their new home in Spittal will provide them with excellent access, parking for their vehicles, improved office and short term storage facilities and one of the best views of Berwick in the area! Their work is predominantly for householders, so get in touch with them if you, or someone you know, need something moving or are moving house. Their contact details are 01289 330472 and you can find their website at [www.shuntersltd.co.uk](http://www.shuntersltd.co.uk).

### THE FIGHT ACADEMY

The Fight Academy Gym is run by Rob Currah and Liam Holborn, who are part of the Northern Free Fighters. They teach Mixed Marshall Arts, Brazilian Jui-jitsu, Wrestling, K-1, Kickboxing and they themselves take part in major tournaments across the UK. As well as Rob and Liam, the Fight Academy also has two assistant instructors in Dave Brown and Sean Phillips.

The gym is open Monday (Striking and takedowns), Wednesday (Grappling and Wrestling), Thursday (MMA technical), Friday (MMA stand up, kickboxing and boxing) from 6pm, Tuesdays (Strength and conditioning) at 5.45pm, Saturday (strength and conditioning) and Sunday (Open mat) from 9.30am. Seminars and private tuition is available on request. They have ladies only nights as well.

Blending kickboxing, grappling, ju-jitsu, Muay hai and many other arts, MMA is the fighting concept of the future. The school has a coloured belt grading up to black belt and a

junior and senior instructor programme. The classes offer an excellent cardio-vascular workout and take students through both the stand up and ground strategies of MMA. The classes are for those who want to compete in the cage and also those who want to use its exercise programme to get fit. Lessons are held on matted areas and focus mitts, shields and kick bags are used to develop explosive kicking and punching. Crash mats are used so students can practice shooting in safely. So, if you are still thinking of working off the excesses from Christmas give them a call on 07772 980558. You might need a gum shield!

### And finally....

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women getting the vote, we thought that you might like the following, if not you are probably a male of the species!

### Women's advice to Men

The reason why our bras don't always match our underwear is because....

WE actually change our underwear!

No, we're not impressed with your car... It takes no special skills to make car payments each month!

Lay off the beans several hours before bedtime. Our bedtime headaches are inversely proportional to the number of baths you take!

The next time you and your buddies joke about armed women in combat...

Take a poll to see which of you successfully aim at the toilet rim!

We don't care if you hold the remote unlike you, however...

We just don't enjoy watching 29 seconds of 101 different programs!

If only women gossip...

How do you and your friends keep track of "who's easy"?

And last but NOT least...

Don't insist that we "get off the bl@@@dy phone" and then not talk to us!

#### SIT Contacts:

**Chair:** Mau Watkins – 01289 308813

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