EDITORIAL
Deadline for the next issue, which covers February and March, is 16th January.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST
We have an early start to the festive season as our Christmas Fair in St Paul's Church Hall is on Saturday 1st December. As always, we again would appreciate any donations of prizes for the raffle and chocolate tombola. This is one of our important events as it helps us with our general running costs, which includes the cost of issuing this newsletter.

On the following weekend Berwick Concert Band will again be performing for us their annual Christmas Concert on the afternoon of 8th December. They will again be conducted by Ed Chester and their concert will be from a variety of music that will hopefully satisfy all tastes, and you get to sing along with a few of them! We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy their performance with us, full details are on the following poster.

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, neaps and tatties. Again, details are on the following poster.

These events alone will keep us busy for the next couple of months!
Just a reminder that we have on sale two different designs for our 2019 calendar. These can be purchased in the places shown on the poster below. We are grateful to the proprietors of the shops for selling them on our behalf.

2019 SPITTAL CALENDARS
On sale in the following:
Spittal Food Store
Highcliffe Shop
Hope’s Newsagents Tweedmouth
Grieve’s Stationers Berwick

The Christmas lights have been put back up onto the first part of Main Street, thanks go to Berwick Town Council for doing this. However, this has highlighted a few problems from the erection of the new street lights. One of the street lights doesn’t work at all; a couple of the power boxes, that we paid for all those years ago, are missing; and several of the Christmas lights are not working. Hopefully this will be sorted out shortly, preferably before the end of the festive season. We are currently arranging to put Christmas trees up along the street and in the park to add some further Christmas cheer. It only remains to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year from all of us at the Trust.

Mike Greener - Secretary

GARDENING GROUP NEWS
The bowser and the tools have been packed away till the weather improves but not before several thousand bulbs have been planted throughout Seafield Park, the Spa Well and the boat on Dock Road.

Sponsored by the Gardening Group and Spittal Improvement Trust there will be 3 Christmas trees sited throughout the village. One tree will be lit in the park along with Len’s reindeer silhouette and stars. It’s also planned to have a small tree planted in the park to grow for years to come and hopefully to have lights in the trees similar to those along the street.

Thank you for all the support we have had through the year. A very happy Christmas and best wishes to all for 2019 from the Gardening Group.

Mau Watkins

A VIEW FROM THE PROM

Over the past couple of months there has been an outpouring of emotion on two fronts, first came the programme on TV entitled ‘Drowning in Plastic’. This programme delved into the sorry state of affairs that we have got ourselves into with the amount of plastic that we use in our everyday lives. You might think that this is just a problem just associated with the affluent West, but the use of plastic is a problem all over our world. The pictures shown in the programme of rivers blocked up with tides of plastic waste was truly shocking. We are fortunate here in Spittal that there are people willing to go out daily picking up litter, including plastic, washed up on our beaches, but they can only pick up what they see. The truly astonishing fact is that microscopic pieces of plastic are everywhere. The programme presenter even went to the Artic, long thought to be a pristine environment but that’s not the case, they looked at Walrus poo under a microscope found plastic in that! Plastic is now thought to be airborne and that means that we are breathing it in. The world has finally woken up to this problem, hopefully it’s not too late!

Not being content in our efforts in killing off our planet, the second outpouring came with the 100th anniversary of WW1. Most people will agree that the scale of the loss of human life, both amongst service personnel and civilians in all areas of the conflict, was truly staggering. It seems that we humans can not settle our differences in any other way than by resorting to physical violence. It was heartening to see though that today’s youth took a very active part in the WW1 commemorations and that they seemed to realise the tragic loss of live. Perhaps hope there then as they are our future.

Beachcomber
A BETTER HOSPITAL FOR BERWICK

Ed: A message from the organisers.

We are campaigning for the hospital and services that Berwick deserves.

People power, in the form of a protest, a lot of emails and huge numbers of people turning out for the consultation exercise, has already changed the plans for the integrated hospital and leisure centre, so they will now be on separate sites. There’s still a long way to go to make sure the new hospital is built with room to expand and the services we all need. Public pressure, working together as a community, is the most valuable weapon we have. Please sign up and join in!

What you can do?

- Display the poster on the back of this newsletter in your window.
- Visit our website where you can register for updates on campaign news, volunteer, give feedback and sign our petition. Address is: www.abetterhospitalforberwick.co.uk
- Talk to friends and family about the campaign.
- Join our Facebook group.
- Join our Twitter conversation.
- Use the phone numbers at the bottom of the poster on the back page if you are offered appointments outside Berwick.
- Come to our public meeting on Wednesday 5th December at 7pm-9pm in the Town Hall.
- Look out for our stalls at public events around Berwick.

If you don’t have access to the internet, you can phone or text our mobile on 07943 657226 and leave your name and number. We can then make sure you get a text message or a phone call if anything urgent happens. Please only use this number if you cannot access the website. Calls will be answered between the hours of 2pm to 6pm.

The campaign is run entirely by volunteers. We are not party-political. We want the best local health services that Berwick and the surrounding area can get. If you want to get more involved, we currently have groups working on research, local publicity (leaflets and stalls), fundraising, youth engagement and media and we’d love to hear from you!

Thank you from the team at ‘A Better Hospital For Berwick’

CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES:
(From the churches and groups to which all are welcome, all are December dates.)

**Thursday 13th** - Berwick URC (St Paul’s) Christmas Coffee Morning in Church Hall 10am to 11:30am with the usual stalls, tombola etc.

**Sunday 16th** – Spittal Scout Group Carol Service St Paul’s Church at 6pm. Refreshments after in the Church Hall.

**Sunday 23rd** – Carol Service St Paul’s Church at 11am followed by tea/coffee and mince pies.

**Sunday 23rd** – Carol Service St John’s Church at 6pm.

**Monday 24th Christmas Eve** - Instant Nativity for all the family in St John’s Church at 3pm. Offers the opportunity for children to dress up as characters from the Nativity, and to hear the Christmas story from the point of view of the sheep.

**Christmas Day - St John’s Church with St Paul’s Church** – Combined Christmas Communion will be celebrated in St John’s Church at 9am.

**Sunday 30th** – Informal Service in St Paul’s Church at 11am

**And finally**…

How did Scrooge win the football game?

_The ghost of Christmas passed!_

**Wait, there’s more**….

Did Rudolph go to school?

No. He was Elf-taught!

**Cracker jokes left over from last year I’m afraid!**

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abetterhospitalforberwick.co.uk

email abetterhospitalforberwick@gmail.com
facebook.com/groups/abetterhospitalforberwick/
twitter @BHFBerwick
hashtag #ABetterHospitalforBerwick

USEFUL NUMBERS – KEEP UP DEMAND FOR SERVICES IN BERWICK!
Berwick Bookers – 01289 356625 or 356626 – they will check if your appointment can be held in Berwick
Patient Transport – 0191 215 1515 – arrange transport to your appointment. If refused, you can appeal:
Patient Transport Appeals – 0800 032 0202 – most appeals are granted for Berwick residents
Visitor Car Service – 01289 356601 / 07774 788 627 – the porter will let you know the timetable for visiting patients in major hospitals from Berwick. 24h notice needed. Out of hours number - 01289 356605