

THE POINT

A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 86



EDITORIAL

Deadline for the next issue, which covers August/September, is Wednesday 17th July.

GARDENING GROUP NEWS

The Gardening Group are currently working flat out getting ready for the 'Northumbria in Bloom' judges visit on July 19th but also because we want the village to be a pleasant place to live. We are delighted when people use the Park, so we were very disappointed and saddened when a group of Mums decided to have a picnic with their children and the children damaged plants, trampled over the beds and litter was left on the flower beds. We involved the police so, hopefully, there will be no more vandalism. A lot of time and planning goes into the work in the park and the compliments we receive make it all worthwhile.

If you have been in Seafield Park recently you will have seen the eight beautifully renovated benches, work completed by Paul Holloway and Kevin Bolton from EDF Energy, also David Moor and Malcolm Flatman from Work Place Solutions. They did this through their Helping Hands Community Projects Scheme at Torness Power Station. The work was carried out quickly and professionally by the Spittal men who have appreciated the work the Gardening Group have done in the park over the last three years and who wanted to help in making it a park we can all be proud of. They also painted the eight pathway lights and the three entrance gates to the park. The work on the seats has been very much appreciated and they are looking great. The writing on the seats has been redone and we'd love to know if any of the children who worked with Maureen Raper and chose the wording could get in touch to tell us who was involved.

We are hoping to have a water tap fitted in the Park soon, which is being undertaken by the County Council, it will be a great help if we have another hot Summer. However, we still have a problem with the flower beds along the North End of Main Street. If there is anyone at this end of the street who have an external tap that they are prepared to let us use for filling the water bowser, it will save us having to go back

to the Park each time and it would be very much appreciated.

Over the years, Jim Walker and his late wife Connie have been great supporters of Spittal Improvement Trust and the Gardening Group. Jim asked us if we could dedicate a plant in memory of Connie in the Park. Connie loved Spittal and her garden, so we have chosen a beautiful wisteria which has been planted and wired along the north wall inside the Park in her memory. The plant has established well, and we hope it will give great pleasure for many years to come.

Spittal Gardening Group invite you to join them for



AFTERNOON TEA IN THE PARK

Sunday 14th July 2pm to 5pm
Seafield Park, Sea Road, Spittal
**Music, Entertainment, Children's Games,
Raffle, Tombolas, Treasure Hunt,
Tea/Coffee & Cakes**
FREE ENTRY

All proceeds will be spent on the ongoing planting in Seafield Park,
Spa Well and the flower beds around Lower Spittal
If wet, you will find us in St Paul's Church Hall in Middle Street

The plans are well ahead for this year's Tea in the Park on Sunday July 14th. In addition to the poster here there will be other posters put up as a gentle reminder! We look forward to seeing you all there to enjoy the baking, the music, the raffle and the tombolas. There will be fun and games for the children too. As usual we would be very grateful for any donations of raffle/tombola prizes or baking on the day.

Here's hoping for a gorgeous Summer with the gardens in Spittal looking their best. We are planning to go ahead with the doorstep gardening competition again this year, so we are looking forward to seeing your pots and hanging baskets along the streets. There will be a first, second and third prize for commercial premises and the same for private properties. Let's make the village look beautiful.

For any queries contact Mau (07748 076527), Sheila (01289 331994) or any of the Group.

Mau Watkins

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

We have given over the front page to the Gardening Group for this issue as they have at least something positive to report, sadly that's not the case for this piece! Apologies for the late issue of the newsletter, we were awaiting to find out news on some of the topics that follow.

Our AGM was held in April, as there were no new committee members nominated, our main committee remains the same as last year. Our meetings are held in the front room of St Paul's Church on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Meetings are open, so you are more than welcome come and hear what we discuss.

The **Seaside Festival** will be going ahead again over the weekend of 10th & 11th August, but we have had to cut back on some of the usual offering due to being able to secure enough funding. We are indebted to Berwick Town Council, the Northern Angel Fund for Berwick and Berwick Civic Society for their grants, without which this year's Festival would have been cancelled. A decision we nearly had to make towards the end of June. Now we know what funding we do have we are now starting to pull the Festival together. Our aim for the Festival has always been to make it a cheap but enjoyable day out for a family, so we hope that what we do offer this year achieves this again. After this year's Festival is over, we will take stock of what will happen for future Festivals.

We have also met with a funding issue for the project to bring the **Fishing Shiel** back into use. We have been trying to secure two large funders for the main part of this project, these being the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Northumberland LEADER Fund, the latter of these is European funding. Both funds have changed their funding criteria since we started applying to them. The LEADER Fund is now no longer available to us as we cannot start and complete the project before the fund finishes. At least the change in the HLF funding is more in

line with our proposals for the Shiel and is still available to us. The problem is that HLF want to know where are finding the rest of the project funding from. We have some small funders that we can apply too but they want the big funders in place first before they will commit funding. In fact, one small fund that we had secured has now pulled out as it has taken too long for us to get to where we are now. Our main committee has given us until the end of this year to find the necessary funds for the project otherwise we will have to rethink the Shiel's future.

The Trust is now involved in a new group that has been formed called the **Tweed Estuary Protection Group (TEPG)**. This group came about due to the concerns by those in other groups and by some individuals about the environmental impact from use of jet skis on the river, in the estuary and out in the bay itself. The concerns are that they have been seen to chase the swans and other water birds and the dolphins out in the bay. Apparently, the River Tweed Estuary seems to be the only one in England that does have any implemented 'safe use' measures in place. Nobody wants to stop people enjoying themselves, so long as they do it responsibly. It's early days for this new group as yet but we will be reporting on its progress in future issues of the newsletter.

Mike Greener

BUDDING LOCAL VIRTUOSO

My name is Ross Hume and I have lived in Spittal all my life. I began playing the violin at the age of 9 and by the time I was about 13 or so I knew that I wanted a career in music and it's my ambition to play in an orchestra. I have gained a place at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester to study for a Masters in Violin Performance and I am so proud and excited that my hard work so far has paid off. Completing this degree will bring me a step closer to achieving my ambition. There is only one thing standing in the way, the cost. The Student Finance available for a Master's degree is limited. The tuition fees are just over £20,000 for the two years of the course. I have applied to numerous national funders and grant makers, but I have been turned down by them all, so I am appealing to the people and businesses of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Could you help me with a donation towards my costs, if you can please go to this link www.gf.me/u/trt2yf. Thank you.

Ross Hume

Ed: We were asked to put this piece into the newsletter by a very talented local young man

who needs our help. We will try to support any local business or person through this newsletter but first we have to ensure that the request to us is genuine. If you have something that you wish us to consider then please get in touch.

SPITTAL VARIETY GROUP

Spittal Variety Group's (SVG) forthcoming production will see them bring to life the amazing '**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**', which is on at The Maltings from Wednesday 3rd to Saturday 6th July. The



worldwide favourite musical will enthral audiences of all ages, with its blend of humour, drama, intrigue, outrageousness, colour, with music and lyrics by Richard M Sherman and Robert B Sherman. Alas, SVG are not based in Spittal anymore so here is a potted history about the group.

Alex Moor started Spittal Variety Group in 1961 with a small group of friends performing in St Paul's Church Hall, Spittal. He produced variety shows, then in 1963 he produced a pantomime, the first one being Cinderella. This was well received, so much so he continued producing pantomimes every year after that. As well as variety shows, which he took on tour around Berwick and the surrounding area, he produced musicals too. SVG have performed many musicals through the years, Finian's Rainbow, The Boyfriend, Gigi, Showboat, Oklahoma, South Pacific, Annie, Oliver, Anything Goes, Brigadoon, Annie Get Your Gun, Calamity Jane, Me & My Girl & My Fair Lady.

SVG was, and still is, very much a family group, a lot of our members are related, either husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, aunties, uncles and even grandparents. Many of their senior members have more than 20, 30 and even 40 years membership, our members range in age from 9 to 80 years old !! Over the years they have given thousands of pounds to various charities, but all local, Alex wanted any money donated to benefit the people of Berwick and district, a policy they stand by today. They have performed in St Paul's Church Hall, Wallace Green Church Hall, Springhill School, and The Old Theatre, Hide Hill, before making their home in The Playhouse until 2005 when it closed. They have now been performing at The Maltings Theatre since 2006 and are still receiving full houses and plenty of requests by new members.

Pantomime is definitely their speciality and over the years they have performed most of them, Jack & the Beanstalk, Sinbad the Sailor, Goldilocks & the 3 Bears, Mother Goose, Robinson Crusoe, Babes in the Wood, Sleeping Beauty, Aladdin, Dick Whittington, Little Red Riding Hood, Humpty Dumpty, Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs, Puss in Boots, even the Wizard of Oz, but Cinderella is always their favourite.

So, come and be enchanted with the tale of the doting but wacky father Caractacus Potts who with his two adorable children Jeremy and Jemima, along with newfound friend Truly Scrumptious, try to outwit the bombastic Baron Bomburst and his wife who have outlawed all children from their Kingdom.

Buy your *Toot Sweets* which are *Truly Scrumptious* and take a trip via *Hushaby Mountain*, making sure to collect *Me Ol Bamboo* on the way to The Maltings and make yourself comfortable in the *posh seats*, next to the person with the *Chu-Chi Face* holding the *Roses of Success* and savour the result of the *Teamwork* which brings you...

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

For more information about becoming an honorary member of SVG, email them at: svq1961@hotmail.com.



A VIEW FROM THE PROM

The new yellow barrier put up across the road leading to the car park on Spittal Point did its job for a while by

preventing the overnight parking of caravans and camper vans however, due to it being 'damaged' the vans are back! It seems like it didn't seem to take long for the word to get out.

Plastic use has been in the news again, not what is in the seas this time but its use in the supermarkets, before it gets into the sea. There are many products on the shelves that have either excessive packaging, take the shoe box sized package for a Dinky Toy for instance, to the different coloured plastic bottles used to tempt us to the manufacturer's brand of juice or bath products, many of which can't be recycled. However, if we want to be eco-friendly it's up to us to choose what can be recycled. Our largest supermarket chain records around 80 million 'shopping trips' per week worldwide. Now wouldn't it make sense for that one supermarket to insist on the right packaging on behalf its customers? Just a thought - *Beachcomber*



The new 'Berwick Visitor Centre', which is located within the renovated former Methodist Church on Walkergate, has been open since April and it is the place to visit to find out about the Town's history, where to go and what to do in Berwick-upon-Tweed. It also has an exhibition of the history of the various areas around the Town, which includes some excellent information and photos about Spittal.

The Visitor Centre unveiled a new locally made promotional film about Berwick recently, at which one of the founding members Chris Hardie, of Martin's the Printers here in Spittal, explained that the centre's ethos is to enthuse and excite visitors about Berwick and encourage them to explore Berwick fully, visit the many outstanding historic and architectural beauties we have in the Town and in doing so visit the many fine cafés, pubs and restaurants. In short 'To stay longer, discover and enjoy, and to spend money!' In the long term this is about establishing Berwick as a visitor destination and compete with the likes of Alnwick, Holy Island and Bamburgh.

The Visitor Centre also houses the new Tweed 1000 tapestry depicting 1000yrs of Berwick history. This has been made by the local community, for the community and as such will belong to the people of Berwick.

In addition to the displays to see there is a café area, which has staff that know about the town, and the new film being shown upstairs. Entry to the Visitor Centre is free and it not only has a café it has toilets as well and the Centre is also Children and Dog friendly!

THE MEANTIME WORKSHOPS

Bear Claw Brewery and Karmic Cakery, who are situated within The Meantime Workshops on North Greenwich Road, are now both open every Saturday.

The Karmic Cakery hours are from 10am, for home cooked food and cakes, and 12noon for Bear Claw Brewery, for draught and bottled micro brewed beers. This is in addition to their regular openings of every Wednesday 10am-4pm for Karmic Cakery and the 1st Wednesday



of the month 12noon-11pm for Bear Claw Brewery.

The two businesses are working well opening together as they can cater to everyone, with food being ordered from the cakery and taken next door to the brewery to have alongside a beer, as well as designated drivers and younger family members being able to frequent the cakery for refreshments and a play with the toy box and games. The nicer weather has meant the outside seating has been put to good use and hopefully it will get plenty more use in the weeks to come. These two small, independent businesses hope you can come along and support them some time soon.

And finally....

A married couple in their 60's is visited by a fairy who grants them both a wish.

"I want to travel around the world with my darling husband" says the wife.

Two tickets for a luxury cruise magically appear in her hand.

The husband says *"Sorry, but I wish to have a wife 30yrs younger than me."*

The fairy waves her wand and the husband becomes 92yrs old.

The moral of this story is, don't forget that fairies are female!

and.... One to try out the next time that you are at the chippie.

"Would you like anything on your chips?"

"Does it cost extra?"

"Ten pence."

"Alright, I'll have four sausages and a steak pie please".

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