

# THE POINT



A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust  
Issue 96 August 2021

## EDITOR'S NOTES

In the last issue we included an insert from *Mr Anonymous*. As it was enjoyed by many of you, we have included another insert. This time it is his recollections of the people and places from his early years.

**Deadline for any items for the October issue is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September.**

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

We have obviously not been able to hold any events since March of last year but that is about to change. We are having two events over one weekend, the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August. The first of these is Bear Fest, which is a music festival. It was due to take place in what was supposed to be the new 'Spittal Community Centre'. As this was not possible, and we did not want to cancel all hard work that had gone into putting it all together, we were delighted when the Northern View in Highcliffe said that they would host it for us. It is taking place over the three days and all the details are on the following poster.

The second event will be taking place in Seafeld Park, it is outdoors so let's hope that the weather is kind to us! Full details are on the poster below, entry is free.

Doorstep Theatre is being put on by the November Club from Morpeth. It is the fresh, fun, and contemporary retelling of the myths that make up the bones of Northumberland. What happens when old spirits and stories find new life? Can Saints rise again? Can pilgrimage be protest?

Music will also play be part of the event with local musicians taking part. The Gardening Group will be raising funds for their work with a variety of stalls, a raffle and tombola.

This is also the final day of November Club's project entitled 'Walk in Your Shoes/Doorstep Theatre'. It will also be a celebration of the 'Walk in Your Shoes' part of their project, which started in Hexham on Thursday 22nd July and followed St Oswald's Way, stopping at several other villages along the way, and ending up with us here in Spittal.

*Mike Greener – Secretary SIT*

**BEAR-FEST** FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST  
80'S DANCE NIGHT - WITH LOCAL DJS

SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

AC/DC GB  
↓  
NEPHILIM  
↓  
FIRES OF FREYA  
↓  
WHEN IT'S DARK OUT  
↓  
SECRET GANG HANDSHAKES  
↓  
DEATH BY OWL  
↓  
NOBLE MISCHIEF  
↓  
SMALL TOWN SPLITTERS  
↓  
& MORE T.B.C.

Berwick Music Festival SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST

DEAN JAMES & THE BLACK DOGS  
↓  
SALMON CITY BLUES BAND  
↓  
& MORE T.B.C.

**BEAR FEST 2021**

Northern View, Highcliffe, TD15 2JL

FRIDAY 6PM TIL 11PM // SATURDAY 1PM TIL 11PM // SUNDAY 1PM - 6PM  
WEEKEND TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ skiddle

WEEKEND TICKETS £10 // DAY TICKETS £5 (under 16s £2.50)  
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! GET YOURS NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Bar available on site - Please do not bring alcohol into the venue

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
2PM TO 5PM SEAFEILD PARK, SPITTAL

**NOVEMBER CLUB**

DOORSTEP THEATRE

[www.novemberclub.org.uk](http://www.novemberclub.org.uk)

*There's word that a miracle has happened up at Heavenfield. Is Saint Oswald (aka the original King of the North) back?*

2pm: music by Alex Renton  
2.30pm: Doorstep Theatre  
3.10pm: music by Iain Petrie & Inspired  
3.50pm: Doorstep Theatre  
4.25pm: music by Crown of Feathers

Spittal Gardening Group will also be having a variety of stalls.

## GARDENING GROUP



On 20th July we had our annual visit from the Northumbria in Bloom judges. We had the usual tour around Berwick before coming to Tweedmouth and Spittal and ending in East Ord Holiday Park. Several of our gardeners met the judges throughout Spittal, at the Park, the Spa Well ending at the Rose Garden and our latest project on the Billendean. There were very positive comments from the lady and gentleman who were our judges this year so we are hoping we retain our Gold award.

We also ran our own doorstep gardening competition again this year. The Albion won the business category and Mr and Mrs Spain in North Greenwich Road won best domestic garden. Runners up won certificates and a full list has been posted in the shop.

On Sunday 15th August there will be an event in Seafield Park (see poster) where the Gardening Group will have several stalls. We hope to see you there. The raffle which should have been drawn at the 2020 'Tea in the Park' will be drawn whatever happens. It's long overdue!

On Saturday September 11th we plan to restart the get togethers at the Rose Garden in Middle Street. A small number of the Gardening Group have worked very hard to keep the shrubbery looking tidy and the roses pruned but now it would be very much appreciated if some more helpers were willing to come along as there is still much to be done.

We would be delighted to welcome any new faces who would like to join us. It's a large undertaking covering the whole of Spittal and we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact me on the number below and we can arrange to meet up with the gardeners. We are a very friendly group of people and it's not all work. We do play too when conditions allow!

Give me a ring.

*Mau Watkins*

*Chair*

*07748076527*

## A VIEW FROM THE PROM



Summertime and the holiday season is in full swing. It has been a pleasure to see the beach and prom busy with families making the most of the sunshine and enjoying the simple pleasures that Spittal has to offer - the sea, the sand, and the space, especially at low tide.

Walking along observing the antics of children running in and out of the waves, their squeals of delight mingling with the cries of the ever-present gulls, it is easy to think that nothing has changed from back in the day because everything still looks the same as it ever did.

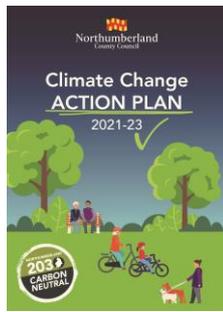
But things are changing, and fast. It's just that we aren't in the main aware of it. The North Sea always known to be bracing is warming up helped by the increasing heat in the upper atmosphere and the stronger sunlight. This is lovely for the paddlers and the bathers but more challenging for the creatures that live in and depend on the sea. They are having to adapt quickly in order to survive as their watery world alters as the planet heats up.

This has been a biblical summer, one where the doomsday warnings of climate scientists have felt increasingly close to the bone. First came the plague (Covid), then the flood, and now the fire. In the past we have watched floods and landslides occurring in other countries, but they were far away. '*It doesn't happen to us*' was our reaction. But now it does. We have recently seen images of devastating floods in Germany, deluges and flooding in London, wildfires burning up the Turkish coast and tracts of California, whilst the Canadian west coast heatwave was so fierce it cooked mussels in their shells on the beach.

Yes, it all makes you think as you survey the happy scene on Spittal beach. All of us are going to have to make changes if we want to keep on enjoying this wonderful planet for many more summers. It is encouraging to see that world leaders are finally jumping on the '*we must do something*' band wagon, but suffice to say, this wagon has already left the station.

*Beachcomber*

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN



Following on from the comments in the previous piece, we thought it would be a good idea to see what our County Council's aims are for combating climate change. The following has been taken directly from their website.

*"We understand that addressing climate change needs to be acted on urgently which is why we have declared a climate emergency, and have set our goal to make Northumberland carbon neutral by 2030.*

*Climate change is a significant long-term challenge for the planet and for Northumberland. We are committed to taking action to reduce the impacts climate change will have on all our lives long into the future.*

*Since the publication of our Climate Commitment Action Plan 2020-21 in January last year, we have continued to work hard on this agenda and have made good progress against our plans, despite the upheaval caused by Covid-19.*

*Our key target of a net-zero Northumberland by 2030 still stands. Whilst our first Climate Commitment Action Plan set the foundations of our climate change programme, we are now able to publish more detailed plans for projects that will be delivered soon, together with a longer-term vision for net-zero."*

You can see NCC's entire document 'Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2023' by way of a video presentation at this link – <https://bit.ly/3iAaV38>

A PDF copy is also available at this link – <https://bit.ly/3xEQMwT>.

For climate change queries you can contact them by email at – [climate@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:climate@northumberland.gov.uk).

And why not also sign up to NCC's monthly climate change newsletter at this link – <https://bit.ly/2X5QBhz>

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS (HOD's)



If you would like to help us and can spare a couple of hours particularly over the period 17th - 19th September, then please do get in touch with us at [lbankier@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lbankier@northumberland.gov.uk). Just let us know what days you would be available on and when. We try to make volunteer sessions about 2 hours in length.

We hope some of you can help.

### SECRET SPITAL THE BOOK

We have found a typo in the 'Secret Spittal East Book'.

The Bacon Factory in Sandstell Road was opened in 1934, not 1943. If you find any other mistakes or typos then please let us know.



We hope to have the 'West 2' book ready and out in time for Christmas. Yes, the 'C' word. It would make an ideal present for those who are interested in our history.

## waypoint church.uk

A few weeks ago we held a service on the grass next to the path at Spittal Point, just up from the car park.

We will be doing the same on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August and the service will be from 10:30am to 12pm followed by a bring your own picnic. We'll enjoy contemporary worship songs, hear stories from local people about what following Jesus means, and there'll be games and beach fun for 0 to 11-year-old children. Everyone is welcome.

We will be doing the same on the following three Sundays, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September. We also have baptisms in the sea planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> of September!

Find out more about Waypoint Church on our website at: [www.waypointchurch.uk](http://www.waypointchurch.uk)

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH



Despite not having been a teacher for many years, I still tend to think and operate in academic years, so August is a month for rest, play and relaxation – preferably on a beach somewhere hot for me

As I write I am away on retreat in sight of the sea but not close to it. The weather has been spectacularly hot but today it is cloudy and cool – almost a day to curl up under the covers and sleep. I have realised, as I have sought rest this week, just how extraordinarily weary I am. This past year and a half have taken so much out of many of us, and my sense is that recovery is not a quick matter of few days off 'normal'. Our emotions have taken great hits – fear, anxiety, sadness, grief and pain, even when our bodies may have been healthy. Our sense of attachment has been both threatened but perhaps deepened, but so too our sense of detachment from one another has been palpable. Relationships have changed through distance, and lack of physical contact, and just when so called freedom beckons so the limitations restart. No wonder we are weary!

This August it seems even more important than ever to come to the God who designed rest and restoration as part of the created order of things for human beings. Come to Jesus who had days of desperately needing to get away from it all, away from crowds, into the hills and onto the water. Come to the Holy Spirit who offers us a deep inner peace in the midst of the storms. Let us each respond to the God who invites us to bring our burdens and replace them with his rest. We may be very familiar with the call of Matthew 11:28 about taking Jesus' yoke, but perhaps this newer paraphrase will speak new life into Jesus' words.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

That's some promise to cling to this August, and some invitation. No rules, just a watch me, learn from me and keep company with

Jesus. At home, on holiday, on retreat, in our garden, on our walks, on the beach or along the river, in our bed, let us actively keep company with Jesus and learn to live lightly.

*Rev Rachel Hudson.*



Upcoming services are as follows:

### SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

8:30am – Holy Communion at Spittal.  
10:15am – Morning Worship at Tweedmouth.  
(coffee from 9:45am\*)  
11am – Holy Communion at Scremerston.

### SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST

10:15am – Holy Communion at Tweedmouth.  
(coffee from 9:45am\*)  
11am – Morning Worship at Spittal.  
4pm – Tea and Bible Study at Scremerston.

### SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

10am - Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Tweedmouth. Please note the start time.  
(No services in Spittal and Tweedmouth)

### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

8:30am – Holy Communion at Spittal.  
10:15am – Morning Worship at Tweedmouth.  
(coffee from 9:45am\*)  
11am – Holy Communion at Scremerston.

*\*Coffee is served outside so does depend on suitable weather!  
Please bring your own mug if possible.*

### **And finally....**

It was at a miniature golf course on a brutally hot day when I saw a father with 3 kids.

"Who's winning?" I asked cheerfully.

"I am" said one "no, I am" said another.

"No" the father said, "their mother is!"

#### **SIT Contacts:**

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