



# THE POINT

A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust

Issue 98 December 2021/January 2022

## EDITOR'S NOTES

If you have any items of interest that you wish to share with us please send them in to us at [newsletter@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@spittalisgreat.co.uk) by the deadline. The next issue covers February/March, the deadline for this is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Firstly, let me apologise for the late issue of this newsletter, especially as we have got two good performances this coming weekend. Hopefully, some of those who get this by email will still be able to get to these performances.

The first of these is the 'The Opera Dudes Christmas Special' who are in festive mood. They are coming to us through our normal source, the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. It is Il Divo meets Morecambe & Wise in this festive fun-packed frolic! A show full of seasonal cheer with something for everyone - wonderful singing, audience participation and ridiculous sketches. Yule be laughing till your sides hurt, enchanted by the wonderful music and not a turkey in sight. Music includes a couple of operatic favourites, showstoppers from the west end, classical piano and swing as well as some Christmas favourites as you have never heard them before. This show is suitable for all ages and is provides a real entertaining night out and it will put a smile on your face this Christmas.

The second performance is on the following day and it by the Berwick Concert Band, conduction by Edward Chester. They will be playing a selection of music from films and theatre, as well as traditional Christmas Carols.



An afternoon with  
*The* **Berwick**  
**Concert Band**  
*Conductor Edward Chester*  
The Band will be playing popular  
music with a hint of Christmas!  
**SATURDAY**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**at 3pm**  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, 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.spittalisgreat.co.uk](http://www.spittalisgreat.co.uk)  
**HOSTED BY SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST**  
[events@spittalisgreat.co.uk](mailto:events@spittalisgreat.co.uk)

As we are still waiting to take possession of the old BURC, formerly St Paul's Church, our other church in Spittal, St. John's, have kindly allowed us to use their church for the Autumn season of performances. Therefore, the Band and SIT will be donating all of the proceeds from this performance to the 'St John's New Boiler Fund'. You will find more details and ticket booking information for these two performances on our Facebook page and website, links to these are on the back page.

We have one final event this year and that is our 'Xmas Coffee Morning' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Spittal Bowling Club, and our thanks go to them for hosting this for us. Details for this are on the poster on the next page and our social media. If you have any donations for the raffle the tombolas or the gift stall, then please contact Mau Watkins on 07748076527.



SWING SONG MERRILY ON HIGH with the **opera**  
**dudes**  
Hark The Happy Opera Dudes Sing  
Glory To The Newborn Swing!  
All the usual Opera Dude mix of music and madness with added  
tinsel and festive frolics. Put a smile on your face this Christmas  
Yule be laughing till your sides hurt, enchanted by the wonderful  
music and not a turkey in sight! Don't miss this seasonal treat.

**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER at 7:30pm**  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MAIN STREET, SPITTAL



Towards the end of October we lost one of our committee members David Spence.



David had worked at Jus-Rol, a local pastry company since the late 70's originally in their Amble factory and then in Berwick. He took early retirement at the end of 2015 and moved onto a part time job driving a minibus at Longridge Towers School, which took him full circle as he'd helped out driving for his Dad's minibus business back when that was running.

As you can see in the photo, David's love of Berwick Rangers was no secret having followed them since 1964. One of his favourite quotes was that he'd seen them have 6 good seasons and 51 rubbish ones. David's other great love was music and he built up a record collection unrivalled in Berwick. David's favourite artist

was undoubtedly Marc Bolan and he'd been a regular attendee at the 'Bolan Bops' where fans would meet up and celebrate Marc's music in locations all over the country.

David was also a lover of practical jokes. One time he got his boss at Jus-Rol to phone a number, which was a recorded message of argumentative person on the other end and his boss ended up slamming the phone down. David loved a quiz whether that was hosting it or participating in one. He once held a music one in the Red Lion, which went on to half past midnight!

David recently lost his much beloved dog Debbie who was a permanent fixture with him around Spittal for the last 10 years. Usually with dogs they bark to stop people coming into the house but Debbie used to hate it whenever anyone was trying to leave the house. Debbie loved to sit in the window and bark at everything that went past. Debbie loved a sardine or haggis from the chip shop and when she wasn't eating those she'd often make a meal of David's belongings like the time she tore his Berwick Rangers hat to shreds although being frugal David still wore it for a bit until eventually getting new one.

Although David is no longer with us I'm sure memories like these of him always will be, and to steal a phrase from his favourite singer, "I'd like you all to keep a little David in your heart."

*These words were taken from a longer piece that was read at David's funeral service by his good friend Ian Beresford.*

From all of us, we hope you and yours enjoy Christmas and the New Year, when it comes.

*Mike Greener - Secretary*

## SPITTAL'S REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES



Not content with getting a Gold Award in this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition, Spittal Improvement Trust's Gardening Group, and friends, turned their talents over several weeks to knitting poppies for two cascading displays, which were placed at our War Memorial and over the entrance door to St Paul's Church, for Remembrance Day. In total about 1800 poppies were knitted, 350 of those are at the War Memorial and the rest at the church. Sixteen volunteers knitted, crocheted, and sewed the poppies in various sizes and colours. Predominately there were the usual red poppies to remember the fallen,

as well as white poppies, for the civilians who died in the conflicts, purple for animals killed, mainly the horses in WW1, and black poppies, to remember those that had served and died from the Commonwealth Countries, as well as Africa, India, and the Caribbean Islands. Altogether almost 40 people helped by donating wool, creating the poppies, and putting it all together. Our thanks go to all of those who took part and we hope that everyone had a chance to enjoy them. They are now being stored in readiness for next year.

## GARDENING GROUP

The gardeners will shortly be storing their tools ready for a well-earned break through the coming Festive Season.



Following our great success in the Northumbria in Bloom competition this year, the work has continued through the last few months. The flower beds in the street have been tidied as has the Park. More bulbs have been planted in the street and in the Park, it's lovely to look forward to the Spring and the Spring flowers.

On Saturday 13th November, a group met at the Rose Garden in Middle Street. Many more bulbs were planted and a more shrubs had an extensive hair cur. There is still plenty of dense shrubbery for the birds and hiding places for smaller animals and insects. There are also some new roses ready to be planted there too. The Christmas trees for the street and the Park have been ordered and will be in place very soon. Again this year people will be encouraged to hang baubles on the tree in the park in memory of their loved ones at Christmas time, although no glass baubles, please!

Spittal Improvement Trust are holding a Coffee Morning in Spittal Bowling Club on Saturday 11th December where the Gardening Group will have a Christmas stall. Please come along to see us on the day.

It just remains for me to say thank you to all the gardeners and the members of the group for all their hard work through the year. I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

*Mau Watkins*  
 Chair, Spittal Gardening Group  
 07748076527

## A VIEW FROM THE PROM



We said at the end of 2020 that "It's been a funny old year". Well, 2021 has had its fair share of ups and downs

as well. Covid is still about, mutating by the minute it seems. Then we have been in and out of lockdowns, wearing masks, not wearing masks and now back to wearing masks. And yet the year seems to have just flown past. But I do not think any of us enjoyed the brief but disruptive visit from Storm Arwen. We are told that Arwen was "an event, the likes of which we haven't seen for 60 years" and the UK needs to be prepared for more extreme weather due to, guess what, yes the climate crisis. The storm is also thought to have blown a rare sea turtle from Mexico 5,000 miles off course, after it was discovered on a beach in North Wales. The poor thing now has to self-isolate for 10 days and have a clear PCR test before it can catch the next flight home!

*Beachcomber*

## CALENDARS & SECRET SPITTAL BOOKS

We produced two calendars for 2022, the 'Spittal Views' is now available, the 'Old Spittal' one will be available shortly. All three 'secret Spittal Books' are also still available. Both the calendar and the books are, or will be, on sale in the Spittal Food Store and Grieves the stationers in Berwick, prices may vary. They would make ideal Christmas presents. We would like to thank those people who allowed us to use their photos, or memories, in the calendar and the books, it's much appreciated.

## BERWICK SALVATION ARMY



Each Christmas we provide toys and gifts for children, most of whom are referred to us by local schools, health services and agencies. We can only do this because of the tremendous

generosity of the public who kindly donate gifts and money to enable it to happen.

If you would like to contribute to the appeal, we would be delighted to receive donations of brand-new toys and gifts suitable for ages 0-18 years old (please note we cannot accept used toys). We prefer gifts to be unwrapped as gift wrap and tape is provided to the family so that they are able to first see the gifts they are giving and then wrap them themselves.

How you can do this:

Buy a toy in the local toy shop Playtime and leave it there for us or bring a new unwrapped toy into our Furniture Shop Harvestfield, 2-4 Marrtree Business Park, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1TU which is open from 9am to 4pm.

or

Give a money donation via our Just Giving page at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/saberwick](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/saberwick)

or

Choose and pay for a gift from our Amazon Wishlist and it will be delivered directly to us.

Thank you for your help over this Christmas season. Between us we can help to make Christmas morning a little brighter for children and families than it might otherwise have been.

Feel free to contact us for any further information at [berwick@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:berwick@salvationarmy.org.uk).

*Captain Timon Stettler*

## NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH



*Family carols and pop-up nativity*

An opportunity to become part of the Christmas story, sing carols and celebrate together this Christmas. Come on your own or with the family. (Under 8's must be accompanied by adult)

Come "dressed up" for Christmas!

December 19, 2021 | 2PM  
St. John's Church, Spittal

Info  
07479283706

The list of all our services for December can be found on our benefice Newsletter at this link - <https://bit.ly/3xNFMZv>.

We will have special Carol Services at Spittal on December 19th at 2pm for our family Teatime Church, followed by an Adult Carols at 6pm. Tweedmouth will have a Carols by Candlelight Service at 6pm on Christmas Eve. If you are someone for whom Christmas is not an easy or happy time you might like to join us for a quiet reflective Longest Night service on Tuesday 21st December at 7pm in Tweedmouth church.

This Christmas may you know God's light in your heart, your home, your family, and your world.

*Rev Rachel Hudson  
Vicar of Scremerston, Spittal & Tweedmouth.*

**And finally....**

Once there was a snowman,  
Who stood outside the door,  
He wished that he could come inside,  
And run about the floor.  
He wished that he could warm himself,  
Beside the fire, so red,  
He wished that he could climb  
Upon the big white bed.

So he called to the North Wind,  
"Come and help me, pray,  
For I'm completely frozen,  
Standing here all day."

So the North Wind came along,  
And blew him in the door,  
And now there nothing left,  
But a puddle on the floor!

~ Anon

**and.....**

Snowball  
~ Shel Silverstein

I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pyjamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first - it wet the bed!

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