

THE POINT

A Newsletter produced by Spittal Improvement Trust
Issue 100

100 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION April/May 2022



EDITORIAL

Deadline for the next issue, which covers June and July is Friday 20th May.

Firstly, we have a word from John Harrison who was the originator of this newsletter.

Congratulations.

I was so pleased to hear that the next issue of The Point will be the 100th. It doesn't seem like nearly eighteen years since I sat in the study at St John's Vicarage trying to produce a draft of a new newsletter for the Trust. It was becoming clear that the Trust's activities needed wider publicity in the community. Although a previous vicar of St John's had produced a parish magazine earlier, copies of which were stored in the church, it was felt that this was not the most appropriate format for what was needed. So there I was, pen in hand, trying to come up with some ideas. Out of the window I looked at Spittal Point – not only had our thoughts as a community been focussed on its future but it had also been the centre of a wider range of discussions – points being made about where our community was heading. What I took to the next meeting of the Trust was very much as you see 'THE POINT' today. To this we owe the commitment of Mike Greener and the willingness of community members to share their views. The Point has kept me in touch with what has happened since I left Spittal in 2010 and through this short note, I send my best wishes for all those plans which have always been at the heart of life in Spittal - and long may they be so.

Thank you for your kind words John.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

NOTICE OF AGM

To be held at 7pm on

TUESDAY 19TH APRIL

in **SPITTAL BOWLING CLUB**

Please contact the Secretary by 12th April if you wish to join the committee.

GARDENING GROUP NEWS

There's not much news at the moment. The gardeners have been tidying the beds but they have to be careful as there are so many Spring bulbs showing through. They are so beautiful and they, along with the lighter nights, do lift the spirits.



The pots in the park need replacing and we will shortly be planning our Summer planting. The baskets on the rails at St. Johns will be planted up for Easter but the others will be done with Summer bedding later on.

In the meantime we are holding our first event of the year. The funds raised at the Spring Coffee Morning will be put towards maintaining the existing floral displays and new projects.

Spittal Gardening Group invite you to join them at our



SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 2nd April 10am-12pm
at Spittal Bowling Club, Sea Road, Spittal

Coffee & Tea, Cakes, Biscuits, Raffle,
Tombola, Easter Egg Tombola
Free Entry



Thank you for all the support you give the Gardening Group through the year. It's very much appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the coffee morning on April 2nd.

Mau Watkins

Chair – 07748 076527



Mambo Jambo are an acoustic duo whose music has been described as musical sunshine and they are bringing their concert of uplifting music from around the world to us in Spittal.

Mixing an astonishing array of instruments with their infectious sense of fun, Mambo Jambo will bring together sounds from roots, world, folk and jazz, as well as their own original songs.

The performance, which is part of the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme, will take the audience on a unique journey as the music of Mambo Jambo twists and turns through continents, tempos and styles in an upbeat rhythmic sound all of their own.

Professional musicians Pete Jack and Frankie Banham have been performing together for over 16 years and between them play an impressive range of instruments on stage. With Frankie on sax, vocals, clarinet, flute, guitar and percussion and Pete on guitar, ukulele, tres (traditional Cuban guitar), banjo, accordion, as well as all kinds of percussion including suitcase and spoons, the variety of music the duo play is astonishing.

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme works with grassroots volunteers from over 65 village halls and community venues across the North of England to bring vibrant, entertaining and thought-provoking performances and live events to the heart of rural communities. Kate Lynch, Director at Highlights says: "Mambo Jambo have gathered fans at concerts and

festivals the length and breadth of the UK thanks to their lively and joyous performances. We are delighted to be able to bring their unique style of music to rural audiences for what will undoubtedly be a fabulous musical treat." Mambo Jambo have played gigs as far afield as Havana, France, Ireland, and Sweden, as well as festivals in Borneo and Portugal and their music has featured on many BBC regional radio music programmes.

Just a brief word about our efforts to take over St Paul's Church. We are still waiting for sight of the initial lease and we are hoping that will be with us in the not-too-distant future. We feel that the long wait will be well worth it as we have so much support for it becoming the centre of our community.

Mike Greener, Secretary SIT

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD LITTER PICKER

I was awarded my Duke of Edinburgh bronze award in April 2019 after having completed the 3 sections (voluntary work, learning a skill, and something physical) as well as a group expedition which involved hiking and camping.

I continued to follow the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and earned my silver award in April 2020, again by completing the various sections but this time over a longer period of time.

I started my gold award activities towards the end of 2020 embarking on 12 months of voluntary work in the local community along with a 12-month fitness program and 6 months of learning a new skill. I completed a 4-day expedition in The Cheviots and a 5-day residential in the Lake District. For my voluntary section, I chose to help clean the beach at Spittal.

As a child, from the age of about 3, I took part in many organized beach clean ups. Some of these were with Spittal Beavers and Cubs and others were with Jus-Rol. This is me in 2007.

I enjoyed spending time on the beach when I was younger and would like everyone to enjoy it as I did.



I have now completed 56 hours of litter picking/rubbish collecting over the course of a year (and a bit) and have enjoyed doing so, finding it rather therapeutic. It has been very interesting watching the beach change in appearance over the different seasons, especially recently following the storms that we have endured.

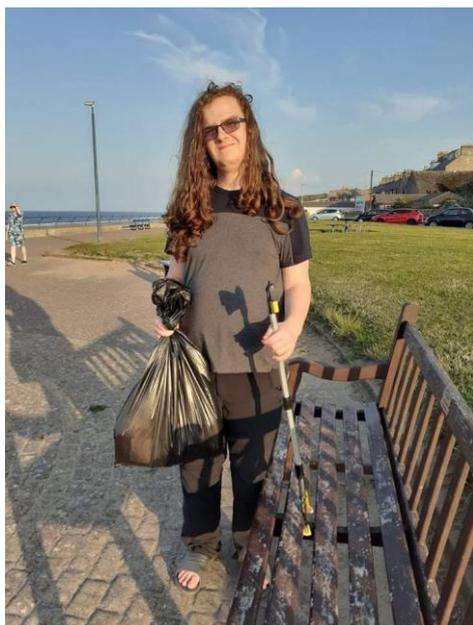
During the last year, I have collected approximately 60 bin bags full of rubbish. The items collected range from the smallest of sweet papers, plastic tops, drinks bottles, cans, a variety of packaging, through to large pieces of roofing felt, entire traffic cones, and the occasional boot.

I hope that my contribution to keeping the beach clean has been of benefit to the local community no matter how small it may seem. Due to this being a surprisingly enjoyable experience I will be likely to continue doing this in the foreseeable future, albeit at a slower rate and perhaps in more forgiving weather.

Joe Kenny.

Ed. Well done Joe, and thanks for picking up the litter that others drop.

Here are some of Joe's photos showing what he has been picking up, starting with a recent one of himself.



A VIEW FROM THE PROM

Isn't nice to see from the previous item that not all of today's youth are glued to their phones!

Two more students have come forward to offer their help in different ways for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Although this is just a few out of many, it is an encouraging sign and they have all got the backing of their respective families. Which in itself is encouraging.

Beachcomber

SPITTAL PLAY AREA RENEWAL

The project for our existing Play Area started gaining momentum in 2001 and was finally opened in 2004. At that time it included a renovated 1950's paddling pool. The project came about because the then existing equipment, e.g. metal swings, slide etc., began to deteriorate, and removed, but they were not getting replaced by the then Berwick Borough Council. The current equipment has now exceeded its life expectancy and maintaining it is starting to get extensive and is becoming and also a possible Health & Safety issue.

The current Berwick Town Council came to the conclusion that the equipment in the entire Play Area now needs to be replaced. This does not include the Splash Park. The work has been out for the required tender period and has now been awarded to a company called Kompan. They have come up with a Play Area full of colourful play items, including the usual swings and climbing frames, but also a stylised ship. It all looks really impressive and I wouldn't mind betting that some adults will get a sneaky go on the equipment as well! You can see an artist's impression of the new Play Area at the following link - <https://bit.ly/3tWy3ya>.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

A letter from the Vicar.

As I write this well before April begins, I am conscious that news changes constantly. Today we are grateful to see the freedom and return to the UK of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe after such a long imprisonment in Iran. Many of us have prayed faithfully and persistently for this day. We have also been praying alongside the people of Ukraine as they face the intense trauma of war in their homeland. Just now we are praying for God's intervention in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It has been remarkable to see and hear our Ukrainian brothers and sisters continue to declare their faith in the face of such trials, as they call out to God in both lament and worship. Psalm 31 continues to speak for this paradox of trust and fear.

I am so grateful to those of you who have given money to enable us to welcome Lena's parents to UK with a love gift of nearly £1300 to enable them to begin to rebuild their lives and personal possessions with dignity. Our Teatime Church produced a beautiful welcome sign for them too. Perhaps some of us will be called and equipped by God to open our homes and lives to support people displaced from Ukraine. Do be asking God how he wants you to share in an ongoing way. It will be different for us all.

There is such a balance between agony and ecstasy in life, and none more so than in the Easter journey which we mark this month. Jesus' own pain, fear, and suffering reminds us that God knows all these human emotions. At times we can be tempted to pass over the painful parts of the story and jump straight to the resurrection. I hope we will not do that this year.

During Holy Week I hope you will give time and attention to the path Jesus took to the cross. I hope you will join me in spending some time in focused prayer on Wednesday 13th April - by taking a prayer walk, using a labyrinth, at St John's Spittal. We hope to have an outdoor prayer walk with some illustrations from the Stations of the Cross, done by one of our own young people from the youth group, as well as indoor prayer stations to accompany the prayer walk. The church will be open for this from 9am

to 7pm. There will be the usual Wednesday morning Communion in Tweedmouth at 10am as well.

I also invite you to join me in a reflective meditation service on Good Friday at 2pm as we sit with the pain of the crucifixion of Jesus. This is such a vital part of the journey we should not miss out on. Berwick Churches Together will be holding the traditional March of Witness through the town, starting at Wallace Green at 11am also on Good Friday.

On Easter Saturday evening we invite you to join us in the Vicarage Garden just before sunset at 8pm for another time preparing our hearts for the hope of Easter. There will be fire, hot drinks and candlelight with a short act of worship.

But there is no point to the Good Friday story without the Easter morning bodily resurrection of Jesus, and the joy and hope that brings us. So, we will gather for an early service, with other Christians from across the area, to celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection at 7.40 am on Spittal beach and 8am in the church gardens. We will follow this act of worship with a shared breakfast at Spittal. This is a powerful service so I encourage you to commit to getting up early and joining us.

Rev Rachel Hudson

And finally....

Bob is walking down a country road when he spots Farmer Harris standing in the middle of a huge field of corn doing absolutely nothing.

Bob, curious to find out what's happening, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, 'Excuse me Farmer Harris, could you tell me what you are you doing?'

'I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize', the farmer replies.

'A Nobel Prize?' enquires Bob, puzzled. 'How?'

'Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field.'

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