

Working in Spittal, for Spittal

THE POINT

CLOCK MECHANISM REPLACEMENT FUND



To ensure it is accurate in the future, the clock needs an automated mechanism. If you would like to donate please go to GoFundMe <https://gofund.me/10c2dd64> or cash donations to SIT, c/o 84 Main Street, Spittal.



We reported in our previous newsletter that the clock had significant problems which needed urgent attention. When we took over the building we had fully expected that the neighbours would want the chiming of the clock to be stopped. That wasn't the case, far from it. It appears that even in this digital age, people still lived by the chiming of the hours to the extent that we were told if the chimes were a minute in front or behind the correct time!

We have set up a GoFundMe page for donations and we would like to thank those that have already made a donation. The total cost of replacing the existing mechanism is £12,000, which includes Vat. The GoFundMe target is £7000 as we have already

received a commitment from a funder. That's why the pendulum on the above starts at £5000. We have put one of these pendulum targets in the display case adjacent to the front door of the Community Centre. We hope soon to be moving the pendulum up to £6000, with the aid of some blu tack!

You can go straight to the GoFundMe page at this link - <https://gofund.me/10c2dd64>

Berwick Heritage Open Days

FREE TO EXPLORE

Enjoy open buildings, tours, exhibitions, online events and lots more!

6th–15th September 2024
www.berwickhods.org.uk

f Berwick upon Tweed Heritage Open Days @hodsberwick @hodsberwick

Heritage Open Days is England's largest community led festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Every year in September it brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored, and histories are brought to life. And it's all **FREE!**

Berwick-upon-Tweed is England's northernmost town, only three miles south of the border with Scotland. Berwick's position on the Border and its proximity to the North Sea made it a highly strategic place throughout history. From the medieval fortifications which can still be seen on the northern edge of the town, via the Elizabethan Ramparts visitors really can step through the ages.

Berwick HODS believe that history began yesterday so their exhibitions and talks reflect modern history too. The history on the south bank of the Tweed is just as vibrant, and in 2024 they are planning to delve deeper into the history of Tweedmouth and Spittal too. In 2023 they hosted 75 events during the two weeks of HODs, this year it will be over 90!

If you think you might like to get involved as a volunteer or as part of their steering group do get in touch through their website at www.berwickhods.org.uk. Whether you have a couple of hours to spare during the HODs weeks or would like to offer more they would love to hear from you!

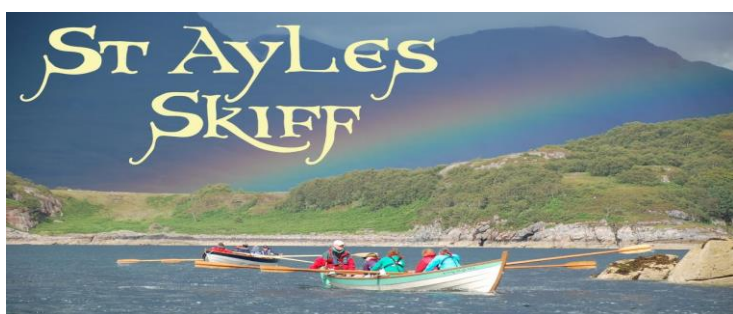


The annual Tweed Picnic Row from Spittal up the river to Paxton House and back will be taking place on Sunday 15th September. The boats are based on the St. Ayles Skiffs, and they are made by the groups rowing them, who come from both Scotland and England to take part in this row.

Previous years have seen a fleet of up to 20 skiffs attend this well-loved, sociable row. Quite a sight to be seen heading off under the famous bridges at Berwick and moored up in front of countless picnic blankets on the banks of the glorious Tweed 5 miles upstream. For those who may not have been before or may have lots of folk wanting to take part, there are opportunities for crew swaps at Paxton House and half way up/down the river so the event can easily cater for more than one crew per boat. Supporters or shore crew meet up with the rowers for the Picnic at Paxton.

The row takes about 2hrs, and we arrive at the beach at Paxton House for 2.00pm An hour at Paxton for a picnic, then back to Spittal. The return journey is massively quicker as both river and tide will be going out at that point,

If you would like to take part in future rows, please contact either Rob Angus (clanangus@hotmail.com) or Paul Ingram (paul@westerbroomhouse.co.uk).



Having a St Ayles Skiff in Berwick has been mentioned before but has never been taken further. Most of the skiff comes in kit form, so it will need somewhere to make it and keep it and people who have some carpentry skills to assemble it. It could take up to six months to put it together. It is advisable to ensure that there will be a crew to row her before the purchasing kit. If you are interested and would like to be involved, please contact me at mikegreener84@gmail.com.



Beach Wheelchairs

As the summer holiday period progresses the Beach Wheelchairs are becoming busier with bookings. New signage is on order for the front, rear and side of the container to make it more attractive and to let people know how to book.

You can register with [Beach Access North East](http://www.beachaccessnortheast.co.uk) on their website, once registered you will have a member number, please note this number you will need it when you call the booking line. The booking line number is 0300 999 4444 and choose the option for Spittal/Berwick. You will be met by a volunteer at the site who will allow you access to the equipment. The location is Spittal Play Area and Splash Park. To find the location, go online to <https://what3words.com/> and enter modern.twigs.value. There is also access to disabled toilets close by at the rear of the Pavilion building. We have a key for these facilities.

If you would like to volunteer for the project and be available to let users in and out of the container then please contact us on 01289 303366 complete the registration form [here](#).

Big shout out to thank our volunteers who make it possible to provide this opportunity for locals and visitors to have access to the lovely beach at Spittal. Lucy Hodgson, volunteer, said 'It made my year hearing the squeals of joy from a little girl putting on her jelly sandals, getting into the wheelchair and going down to the sea.'

Berwick Community Trust.

Berwick Sailing Club

We will be taking part in HODS for the first time. The roadside gate will be open, and visitors will be welcome to visit the Skinnery to imagine the working life of the Herring Girls. We shall set up a slideshow on a loop showing old photos of the Herring Industry. There will be display boards with photos and a short-written article outlining the history of the Skinnery. We shall also display information showing the change of use of the Skinnery to the present-day Berwick Sailing and Canoe Club.

If it's a calm day a couple of dinghies will be rigged, in the Boat Yard, for people to have a look at. There will be a practical task too, teaching visitors how to tie the most important knot for all sailors - the Bowline!

BERWICK LITERARY FESTIVAL

Tickets for the Berwick Literary Festival 2024 events are now on sale and it is difficult to know where to start telling you about this year's Programme. I suppose at the beginning is a good place. As Berwick celebrates this year the 400th Anniversary of the opening of the Old Bridge over the River Tweed, we decided early on that we wanted to support the celebrations by adopting a theme for the Festival.

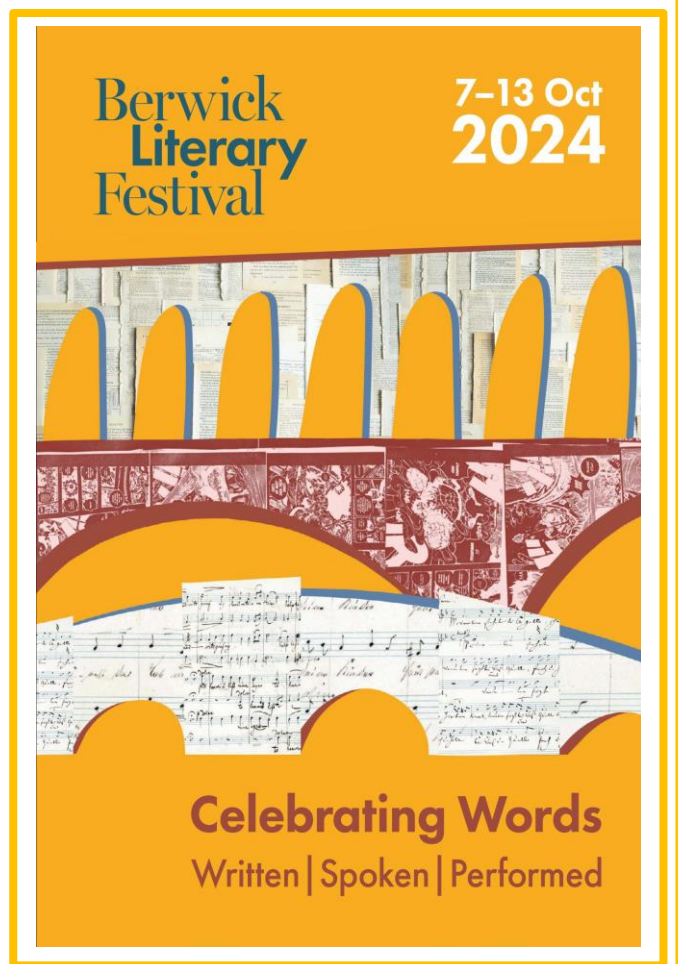
Bridging the Divide echoes the 17th century bridge-building adventures of James VIth and 1st, but also grasps the challenge of the present, and a number of those who have accepted invitations to speak this year have welcomed the theme.

Tickets for all events can be purchased via our website the programme is also available to view on our website, which can be accessed at this link - <http://alturl.com/newih>.

So, enjoy the programme and book your tickets! You will find well-known names, some who are just starting out on their published writing careers, some who are local and some not! Poetry, art, music, join history, fiction and science ...and much more – even comedy!

We warmly welcome everyone to Berwick-upon-Tweed, audiences or performers and hope you will find this, our 11th Festival, as energizing, challenging and entertaining as every one of the previous ten!

Jennifer Heald, Festival Manager.



Connecting Threads is the cultural strand of the landscape-scale project Destination Tweed. We connect creative practitioners with conservationists, environmentalists, scientists, river specialists and communities of place and purpose, to celebrate the River Tweed through our five-year programme of cultural activity.



Artist Annie Lord is inviting people to contribute to a new artwork in celebration of the Old Berwick Bridge, its 400th anniversary this year, and the men and women who first worked on its construction. Since this April, Annie Lord has been artist in residence in Berwick-upon-Tweed, thanks to Connecting Threads.

Throughout her residency, Annie has developed handmade paint, made from the same sandstone used to repair the bridge. The sandstone creates a warm, reddish-brown colour, and provides an exciting, unpredictable material to work with.

Participants will each receive a limpet shell from Berwick beach, filled with handmade, locally sourced, sandstone paint as well as a stone-shaped piece of paper and paintbrush. They will be asked to create an artwork in honour of one of the named workers who contributed to the construction of the bridge, 400 years ago. These artworks will be displayed as part of Berwick Heritage Open Days over the weekend of the 14th and 15th September.

The full press release is at this link - <https://shorturl.at/Flozk>. Also, Annie Lord's 'Artist's Talk' will take place on 15th September from 11am to 12pm in The Straw Yard at the Parade adjacent to Berwick Barracks, TD15 11DF. More details at this link - <https://shorturl.at/1M70S>

GREENER BERWICK REPAIR CAFE
BIKE REPAIR



WORKSHOP

Saturday 21st September 2-4 pm
Spittal Community Centre

FREE (places limited to 10). Adults only
Covering: Home Maintenance & Roadside Repairs
Demonstrations by Tim Astley (ex Bridge St. Cycle Shop)
Please book by email : repaircafe@greenerberwick.org.uk



10am to 1pm
SATURDAYS
19th October
16th November
21st December

SPITTAL
COMMUNITY HALL
MIDDLE STREET, SPITTAL
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
TD15 1RZ
FREE ENTRY
Refreshments

Table Top Sellers must book in advance by
emailing: spittalicbs@gmail.com

Spittal Bowling Club
Rosebowl Open Pairs
Sunday September 1st
Entry Fee £8 Per Pair
Closing Date for Entries
Monday August 26th
Tel 01289 307039
Email spittalbc@btinternet.com
Or Message Our Fb Page

Spittal Bowling Club
Floodlight Open Pairs
Monday Sept 9th
Entry Fee £8 Per Pair
Closing Date for Entries
Monday September 2nd
Tel 01289 307039
Email spittalbc@btinternet.com
Or Message Our Fb Page

SIT Contacts

Chair: Mau Watkins – 01289 330500
mrswatkins2@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary: Mike Greener – 07752 403409
mikegreener84@gmail.com

Website: www.spittal.org.uk

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive 'THE POINT' monthly by email let us know by emailing mikegreener84@gmail.com.

To avoid disappointment, please note that the deadline for the October 2024 issue is September 18th.