

Working in Spittal, for Spittal

# THE POINT

**NEWS FROM THE TRUST:** Things are getting back to normal in the Community Centre. Quite a few of our regular users take all the school holidays for a break, and the summer school holidays are the longest! There are some new groups that are just starting with us. Every Wednesday evening from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October there is a guitar group that will be in the Aidan Room from 7pm, which is at the front of the building. Another group, the 'Free From Dance Party', see page 2, have just started in the Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7pm of each month. Greener Berwick have just held a Bike Repair Workshop in the Hall, and we are hoping that they will come back again. There are more new events still to come before the end of the year.

We still have our problems though. The clock is still causing problems by chiming too early or being behind. We hope to be able to put this right in the not-too-distant future. We have also been waiting for several months for our gas and electric supplier to change our meters over to smart meters. This is at their request. We get notified that someone will be there on a certain date and time and so we go and wait for their arrival. The person doing the job lets us know when they are 30mins away and then calls 10mins later to say that they have been diverted to a gas emergency, which is north of Glasgow!! Mind you, we do not sit around waiting for them as there is always something to do in the Community Centre, so we haven't wasted our time.

*Mike Greener, Secretary SIT.*

## **SPITTAL GARDENING GROUP:**

The gardeners have been busy preparing the areas in readiness for bulb and rose planting. Several types of bulbs and new roses for the Rose Garden in Middle Street have been ordered and over the next month or two these will be planted at the appropriate time.

The shrubbery along from the Play Park has been an eyesore for several years. Now, one of our very brave gardeners has agreed to have a go at clearing it! There are several beautiful shrubs there but the whole area needs to be cleared and hopefully some plants may be rescued.

Finally, may I apologise to our readers. Due to an oversight on my part, the winners of the doorstep competition have never been published. They are as follows:

**1st prize:** 7 St Helen's Terrace.

**Highly commended:** 3 Island View, The Roxburgh Boat, Bay View, 8 St. Helen's Terrace, 13 Commercial Road, the Spittal Beavers planters at Spittal Community Centre.

There are still lots of jobs to be done before the Winter break. Happy gardening.

Mau Watkins  
Spittal Gardening Group

## **Berwick Bridge 400<sup>th</sup> Concert.**

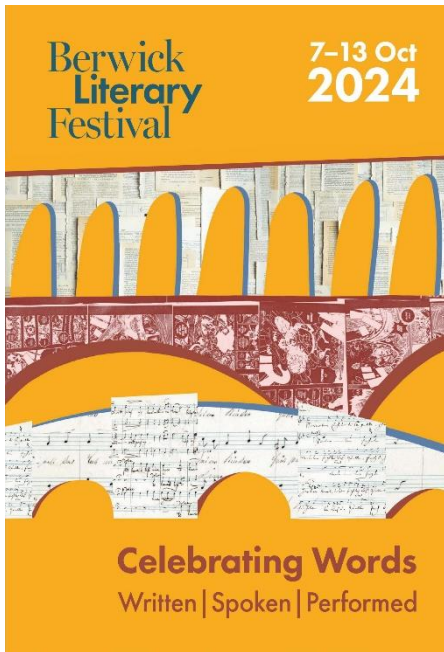


St. Andrews Wallace  
Green  
October 5th 7pm.

**Bridge 400:** The celebrations for the anniversary of Berwick Bridge are still ongoing. The Berwick Bridge 400 Anniversary Concert will be taking place at St Andrews Church, Wallace Green on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. It includes a newly written fanfare, the Berwick Baroque Players, the Thursday Singers, Golden Square Choir, Berwick Arts Choir, Berwick Concert Band and more. Tickets are £15 and available on Eventbrite, <https://shorturl.at/3cYL3>, or cash only at the door.

A second concert, date yet to be announced, will be held in the Tweedmouth Parish Church in November to complete the anniversary year.





October is the month in the calendar when Berwick goes literally Literary!

The following has been taken from the Director's Welcome in their brochure as it is very poignant at this time.

*'In a world so challenged by human division, the search for ways to build peace and reconciliation, to cross apparently unbridgeable chasms in our relationships is urgent and universal. Bridging the Divide echoes the 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge-building adventures of James VIth and 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.'*

Andrew Deuchar – Festival Director.

Full details on what is taking place during this year's Berwick Literary Festival can be found on their website at [www.berwickliteraryfestival.com](http://www.berwickliteraryfestival.com).

We hope all goes well.



In Spittal we are having a mini-Literary Festival of our own. We have our old friends back, Carol and Steve (Fools Gold), who will be telling us the story of 'Dark Light'.

'Dark Light' is a live show, incorporating acoustic music, in a folk vein, combining a true story told and supported by the songs. They also use projected images to enhance and bring the show to life. Audiences will be invited to see if they can solve the true mystery of the missing Lighthouse men!

Dark Light is based on the true events of 1900 regarding the mysterious disappearance of three Lighthouse keepers from a remote island. The mystery is still unsolved until this day. Or is it? The show features all the classic FG elements, a great story, fascinating visuals and of course live music to tell the tale. The music is a mixture of original and very well-known songs. A dark and mysterious tale yes, but there is still plenty of room for humour too!

'Dark Light' will be performed in the Spittal Community Centre, Main Street, Spittal, 7.30pm (doors 7.00pm)

Tickets are £10, Concessions (60+) £8, U16 £5, Family (2 adults + u16) £22.  
 tickets from Eventbrite @ <http://alturl.com/ruvut> & Spittal Food Store and on the door.  
 Raffle & Refreshments



**Join the 'Free From Dance Party'!** This is a gathering of people who want a good dance without the cost of a hangover the next day! Free From Dance Party has been set up to bring people together socially, to move the body in a judgement free zone. Free From Alcohol and Free From Drugs making it a safe space for all.

Doors will be open from 7pm to kick off the dancing and then then doors will be closed 7.20pm, think of it as not being late to your exercise class! We dance till 10pm and then take part in a relaxation exercise and breathwork to allow a chilled start to the weekend. Dress to dance, or anything you feel comfortable wearing, you may even make it an excuse to get dressed up, anything is welcome.

The music will be dance/clubbing/Ibiza/House style tunes, something to get the body moving and a sweat triggered. Bring a water bottle and an attitude to dance and laugh.

Ticket Non-refundable, but if the event organiser needs to cancel for any reason, the price of the ticket minus booking fee will be refunded. Tickets can be bought at [Free From Dance Party \(wegottickets.com\)](http://Free From Dance Party (wegottickets.com))

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE  
'HILDA HOUSE COMMUNITY'



**Saturday 9th November 2024**

**11.00-3.00**

**Spittal Community Centre TD15 1QY**

(next door to 'Hilda House')

**Launch of 'Hilda House Community' and Book Launch  
'Theology and Flourishing'**

Essays in honour of Elizabeth Baxter; published by Sacristy Press 2024 editor: The Revd Professor Helen Leathard  
(A unique gift from Holy Rood House, Thirsk)

Refreshments and light lunch provided. Copies of the book, and information about  
the Community will be available. All are welcome to this celebratory event.

For more information and booking please contact: [elizabethbaxter@gmx.co.uk](mailto:elizabethbaxter@gmx.co.uk)

We are in the process of setting up a new Charity the 'Hilda House Community' in Spittal, with an accompanying Educational Centre. It will be a pastoral care and educational Charity. We are almost there, although unlikely to be registered by the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. However, part of the day will be to Launch the 'Hilda House Community' and speak to it, and there will be information available. When I stepped down at the end of May from my responsibilities at the Charity, Holy Rood House in Thirsk, North Yorkshire, the Trustees generously presented me with a draft book 'Theology and Flourishing' Essays in honour of me. This came as a complete, and I felt, undeserved surprise, and in addition to a launch at Holy Rood House back in the Spring, they were keen that it be launched here from 'Hilda House'.

So, the 9th will see two launches! The book is being published by Sacristy Press, and some of the contributors will be speaking at the event. There will be music, refreshments and a light lunch provided, and the event will be open to all. Please kindly let me know if you would like to attend.

Contact: [elizabethbaxter@gmx.co.uk](mailto:elizabethbaxter@gmx.co.uk)

## Coffee Morning

Spittal Bowling Club

**Saturday 5th October 2024**

**10.30am-12pm**

Entry - £3.00



**Raffle & Tombola**



In aid of The President's Charity  
**The Grove School**



**The Tweed River  
Jazz Band**

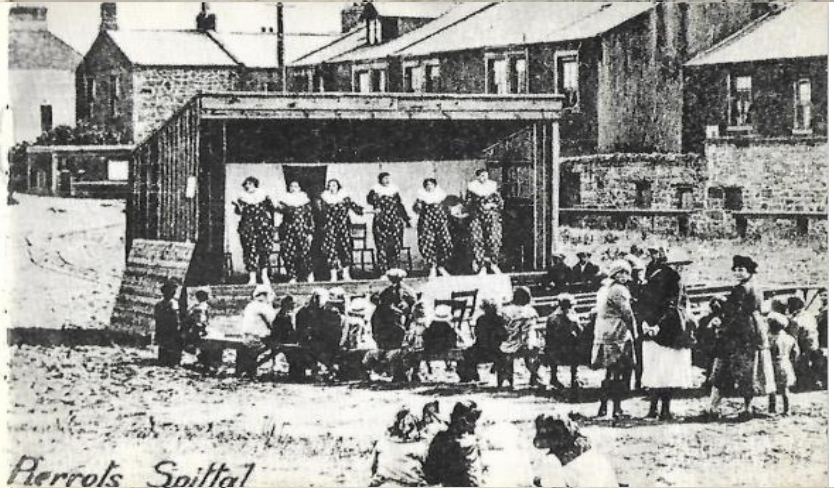


**Spittal Bowling Club  
Sunday 6th October**

Main Street, Spittal, looking south on a quiet winter afternoon in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In the distance, beyond the chimney of the Helen Iron Works, can be seen the roof of St. John's Church, without the tower which was completed in 1894. The shadow of the new St. Paul's Church, rebuilt in 1878, is clearly seen on the roadway. These details help to date the original photograph, taken by C. Wilson.



In a less sophisticated age, sea-side concert parties were a popular feature of almost every coastal holiday resort. The Spittal Pierrots are still remembered with affection by many, both holiday makers of former years and residents alike. This postcard showed their stage on the area now occupied by the putting green.



*Pierrots Spittal*

Before the establishment of the modern omnibus service, the ferry provided the easiest means of travelling to Berwick. Ferry men would row passengers across, while the most famous of the larger ferry boats was the paddle steamer "Susan," often seen in photographs taken before 1908. Her successors, notably the "Border Chief," seen here at Spittal landing, continued until the mid 1950s.



*Border Chief Spittal*

Spittal took part in the annual, and national, Heritage Open Days (HODS) last month. We put up the usual information posters on and in windows, gates, fences, railings, rain water pipes, walls etc. So, thank you to those of you who allowed us to do this. We had many visitors walking around the village looking at the posters, and they still are! We had lots of photos on display in the Community Centre and 120 people came in to see them. For those of you who didn't get a chance to see them, the above photos will give you some idea of how Spittal used to be all those years ago.

### SIT Contacts

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

To avoid disappointment, please note that the deadline for the November 2024 issue is October 18<sup>th</sup>.