

Working in Spittal, for Spittal

THE POINT

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

It's always difficult to start this piece as most of the 'News' is centred around the Community Centre. So, I will start there. We are obviously relying heavily on those booking for either one event right up to those booking more frequently.

The layout of the building does pose problems at times. The Hall has always been where most of the bookings are, and that goes right back to when the Church were doing this. It seems that our Hall is the largest in Berwick, and it also has good access. We try to ensure that Middle Street doesn't get too congested with parked cars. That's not always possible and we hope our neighbours are not to put out!

Just to give you an idea who books with us, in the Hall the more frequent users are Zumba, Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Little Lights, Wee Bairns Yoga, Tai Chi and the Waypoint Church. The front of the building hosts on a regular basis Knit & Natter, Berwick Arts Choir and Waypoint Church. From August onwards the Spittal Variety Group uses the front rooms for rehearsals several times a week up to their annual pantomime. There are quite a

few groups that use the building less frequently. Spittal 1st School, funeral services and private functions being some of them. The problems that arise are making sure, for instance, that a group using the Hall do not drown out an event going on in the front rooms.

Whether the group is being run as a business, or is being run by volunteers, we have met some very dedicated people. And we hope to meet more in the future!

On a personal note, I have always hoped that we would eventually have a Community Café in the front room off of Main Street, which we have kept its original name the Aidan Room. To start with, this does necessarily have to be open every day of the week. We would probably start off with two days a week and build it up from there. When people can walk in off the street, met up with others, have a cup of tea or coffee, or simply sitting and enjoy your brew whilst reading a book from our extensive library, then it becomes a Community Centre!

Mike Greener

Secretary, Spittal Improvement Trust.



GARDENING NEWS

Now that Spring has sprung the gardening group are back out and hard at work keeping the village looking lovely in the streets, rose garden, park and Spa Well. Say Hi to them if you are passing, I'm sure they will be pleased.

Mau Watkins,

Chair, Spittal Gardening Group.

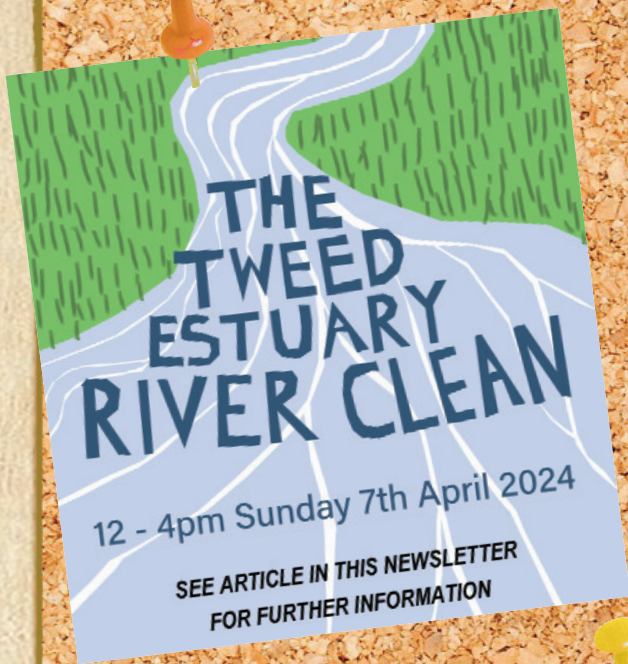
FixMyStreet

This is a site for reporting local problems

(like fly-tipping, blocked drains, broken paving slabs, graffiti etc.) and you receive updates when repairs take place. It shows reports that have already been created, plus any planned roadworks, which saves time and avoids multiple reporting.

Fix My Streets works on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers and is monitored by the local town and county councils. Click on this link to report a problem to Northumberland County Council. The more people that report the same problem, the more likely it is gets fixed! <https://shorturl.at/bipGJ>

WHAT'S ON



THE TWEED ESTUARY RIVER CLEAN
12 - 4pm Sunday 7th April 2024
SEE ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



SPITTAL'S
Table Top Sales

10am to 1pm
SATURDAYS

20th April
18th May
15th June
20th July

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

CONCERTS IN THE SPITTAL COMMUNITY CENTRE AUDITORIUM

'Night of Guitars' on Friday 5th April. Tickets from on Eventbrite <https://shorturl.at/NU139>.

'Old King Coal' on Friday 12th of April
Tickets from on Eventbrite <https://shorturl.at/bdqY7>
Tickets also available from Spittal Food Shop.



ANSWERS
ABOUT **LIFE**



Thursdays from 18th April @ 7pm
Spittal Community Centre

Main Street, Spittal,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1QY

Alpha is a series that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment. It's free and there's no pressure or follow-up.

info & register: www.waypointchurch.uk/alpha



SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

Working in Spittal, for Spittal

NOTICE OF AGM

SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST'S AGM

TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

AT 7pm IN THE

SPITTAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

MAIN STREET, SPITTAL

All are welcome.

An Ode to Mothers

*It's hard to be a mother
Never mind a mum
In days of turmoil and unrest with Bill's for
coal, gas and fuel,
A mother of all colours and creed and a dad
of all nations and working so hard from
starvation to servitude to make ends meet.
A mother can be far away, or, near and dear.
Is it such a big deal
That a stereotype mum is no longer real.
For those who can remember the Oxo mum
That appeared on our TV's who gave the
OXO a necessary ingredient for super
meals and in double quick time with pinny
and no sweat
Is no longer the housewife we expect
for in our local communities of Spittal,
Scremerston and Tweed.
who have belonged for many generations
mums or mothers have been replaced
by a different gender or friend
Who now do the mothering
instead, but we all remember
the mothers of the OXO age
Who didn't work because part time
Was not allowed or stayed at home
to cook and clean but now
because work for them is so hard to find
dash out for trains or travel and leave
the home stuff far behind
local fishing, Pringles, Jus-Rol
have long gone for a mum to
step out to work and be back in time.*

Anne Bradley



TWEED AND COAST NATURE TRAIL

The **SPRING** inserts for 14 boards are now installed along the trail from Coronation Park in Berwick to the Spittal Cliffs. See the website for the route, Explorer Quizzes for the kids, audios, wildlife identification pages and geology trail.

www.tweedandcoast.org

Sunday 7th April 2024, 12-4pm
Meet at Queen's Gardens,
Bridge End, Tweedmouth
TD15 2HD

(W3W: ///fence.print.joke)

Join Connecting Threads to paddle along the Tweed Estuary by canoe, cleaning the river as we go.

As part of the Great Borders River Clean we are looking for keen river volunteers to help clean the Tweed as it makes its way to the sea.

Outdoor instructor Ollie Jay will lead an expedition by canoe, helping to us get to harder to reach places on the wide river estuary. Other groups will continue on foot, targeting the river bank. Artist Chloë Smith will lead a creative zine making workshop, helping participants to explore the wildlife of the river.

Lunch, litter picking equipment, canoes and PPE provided – but please do bring a picker and gloves if you already have some!

Canoe spaces are limited and must be booked in advance. Each canoe can hold two people and at least one person per boat must have previous experience and be a competent paddler. Buoyancy aids will be provided.

All volunteers must dress appropriately for the outdoors, and must wear sturdy, thick soled footwear. Canoeists should wear clothes they are happy with getting muddy and wet, and are recommended to bring a change of clothing. The river estuary is an unpredictable ecosystem and weather can change rapidly. Be prepared for anything!

Volunteer travel bursary available for those travelling from outside the Berwick area.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Canoe activity suitable for ages 10+ if accompanied by an experienced adult.

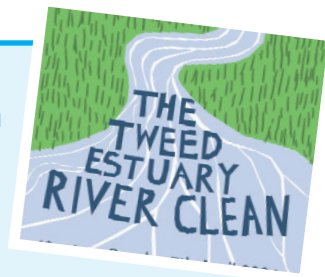
Please book in advance to let us know you are coming, any dietary requirements and if you require support with travel costs.

The aim of this event is to clean the Tweed, creatively highlight the importance of tackling pollution, celebrate this incredible river and what it means to us and the wildlife that calls it home.

Destination Tweed Connecting Threads Project

Joanna Helfer, email: joanna@sup.org.uk

Tel: 07887 861767





Waypoint Church is launching Little Lights baby and toddler group every Thursday, 10am-11.15 from the 18th of April. We'll meet weekly in term time in the Spittal Community Centre, Main Street, Spittal, TD15 1QY.

Little Lights will be a welcoming group for 0-5's and their grown-ups where we can enjoy songs, Storytime, toys, crafts, activities, and

complimentary refreshments.

Our programme will also include special events on the beach or in the park to take advantage of the wonderful outdoor spaces that we have on offer on our doorstep.

The cost is just £2 per family. To register, and to check out our programme, please visit our website

www.waypointchurch.uk

Or scan this QR code.



If you would like any further details, please:

Email: littlelights@waypointchurch.

We look forward to meeting you and your little ones soon!

UPDATE FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH



It is time to say goodbye as Vicar of Spittal, along with Scremerston and Tweedmouth. As many of you know I am taking early retirement due to my husband's health issues, and we are moving back home to Morpeth.

It has been a joy to be amongst you, and to share in aspects of the community life of Spittal. Arriving as I did during the Covid lockdown period made for challenges in getting to know people, but many walks and chats along the prom enabled me to get to know some of you well.

I have been privileged to take many funerals for Spittal families, and to serve the RNLI as Chaplain. It was really special to launch the new Sea Sunday event in 2023 and great things are planned for July 14th 2024 in the church gardens.

St John's Church remains at the heart of the

community, and I am delighted that we have just been able to install a new boiler to keep the building warm. There remain weekly services of Holy Communion, held every Wednesday at 10am, and Teatime Church for families on Sundays at 4pm is growing in strength and popularity. The church is now open most days and everyone is welcome to find peace and solace in the building - and perhaps discover more of the God we worship and follow. I wish you all the richest blessing of peace for yourselves and for Spittal.

Advance notice of the Easter Day celebration services: Sunday 31st March at 8am on the beach at Spittal, followed by breakfast in St John's Church. This is a chance to join with other Christians across Berwick to start the day in joyful song and prayer. Our main morning services of Holy Communion will be held at Tweedmouth at 10am and Scremerston at 11am.

*Every blessing Rev Rachel Hudson -
Vicar of Scremerston, Spittal & Tweedmouth*

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

SIT Contacts:

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Follow us on    www.spittal.org.uk

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NEED A VENUE?

Book the
SPITTAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
Contact SIT

Let us know if you have a public event in Spittal that you would like included in the May 1st edition newsletter. To avoid disappointment, please note: that the deadline is April 18th.