

THE POINT

HELP SAVE OUR DUNES

A Message to Local Walkers

Marram Grass is essential for stabilising the shifting sands of the dunes by means of its underground stems. This in turn leads to the establishment of sand dune vegetation.



It's all about people understanding the importance of the Marram Grass, then hopefully there will be more local effort made to preserve and protect this valuable vegetation.

**Please spread the information.
We ALL need to look after OUR dunes.**

*Many thanks.
Andrew Phillips (Berwick Sailing Club)*

The Sailing Club has worked hard to landscape the dunes, either side of the slipway, to create three very distinct crossing points. There has been an attempt to create protected pockets, along the sides of the slipway, in order to allow the Marram Grass to flourish.

The Sailing Club is appealing to local walkers to stay on the clear pathways to avoid trampling and damaging the general areas.



SRI LANKA AND ITS CONNECTION WITH SPITTAL

Twenty years ago, this coming December, the Boxing Day tsunami devastated communities along the coast of the Indian Ocean. Over 200,000 people were killed, including 131 in the small Sri Lankan town of Weligama. Soon after, several Spittal residents decided to help in the recovery of the Weligama community. Fund raising events were held at what was St Pauls Church to provide money for school equipment.

Over £2,500 was realised in Spittal to fund a well at the small village of Thelulla Janapadaya, which was opened on February 2nd, 2014, the villagers are able to access water for drinking and washing, while previously they had to walk four miles to obtain water. The well bears the inscription 'donated by the community of Spittal. In times of drought the villagers use the water for irrigation.

For over ten years many children from single parent homes have been provided with monthly 'food allowances' of 5,000 rupees (£12). In 2023, £18,200 was forwarded to children in need in Weligama. Much of this amount was from Spittal residents, including three former Mayors, all living in Main Street!!

At the moment five University students from single parent families are being assisted with their daily living expenses (totalling £3,200 in 2023). Since 2017 five students have been able to graduate thanks to the help of over sixty supporters from Spittal and nearby communities.

Spittal Well and signs



Food in the church



School books



Kids queuing

On 28/11/23 the Weligama Methodist Church secretary emailed :- "If it is possible, would you be able to provide a little contribution to provide food provisions for the people of Weligama Methodist Church. Almost all of the families are finding it difficult to provide for their families". In December 2023, 200,000 rupees (£500) was sent and last month another 100,000 rupees (£250).

If you wish to learn more about supporting the Weligama community, please contact Scott Weightman by email: scott@scottweightman.com



Scott with kids

DRINKING WATER WELL PROJECT
THELULLA JANAPADAYA
 "සර්වෝදය ව්‍යාපෘති ශ්‍රී ලංකා"
 සහිත ලීං ව්‍යාපෘතිය - තෙලුල්ල ජනපදය
 Donated by: The Community of Spittal through Project Sri Lanka, UK
 Implemented by: Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
 Completion: February 2, 2014.

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TAI CHI

The slow-motion movements of Tai Chi provide improved physical movement and help to relieve stress.

We study a modified form of the Tai Chi Yang style with an emphasis on the health benefits. But the most important thing to us is that you enjoy your session of Tai Chi whilst practicing this ancient Chinese Art.

Sessions are held at Spittal Community Hall, Middle Street, Spittal, TD15 1RZ

Tuesday 13:00 - 14:00 - Intermediate
Friday 12:00 - 13:00 - Beginners

NEW!

SEATED TAI CHI

A Seated group may start if we get enough people interested in joining.

For more information or to register interest in the Seated Group, please email Pete at Berwick Tai Chi:

berwicktaichi@gmail.com



10am to 1pm
SATURDAYS

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

RNLI 200

Westminster Abbey and York Minster recently hosted Services of Thanksgiving to celebrate 200 years of the RNLI. Representatives from Berwick Lifeboat attended these very special occasions.

Mau Watkins was lucky - despite an LNER strike - to attend York Minster on Saturday 20th.

It was a memorable and moving experience with beautiful music, speeches and hymn singing.

We held our weekend last month at the station and the next event is in Bamburgh on the weekend of May 18/19. hosted by the castle.



Brew with the Crew
Sunday 26th May
from 12 - 2

Come along to the next
Brew with the Crew
in the lifeboat station
REFRESHMENTS, SOUVENIRS
& A CHAT WITH THE CREW
Carr Rock, Dock Road

BERWICK HOSPITAL

A video can be seen on youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRtEMkY_OTw

Mark Brough, Project Manager with Merit, appears in the video to report the progress. He tells us that work is going well, it is expected that the foundations and steel frame of the building will be complete early Spring.

The aggregate from the last ward to be demolished will be crushed and reused as the basis of the car park.



“ We look forward to seeing you ”

Mike Greener

The idea for the Community Men's Group came about with three men talking about getting together for a coffee, and where to have it. It was agreed to meet up in the Spittal Community Centre as it was quieter in there, and cheaper! It was also decided to open this up to any man who also wanted to meet up for a natter. A trial run took place recently, and although only four men turned up, it was decided that we would make this a regular thing.

So, we gave it a name, hence the Community Men's Group (a Men's Club sounded too

formal!), and that it would take place on the third Wednesday of each month from the 15th May in the Spittal Community Centre, Main Street, Spittal, TD15 1QY, from 11am to 1pm, and it is open to anyone.

On the day you can just drop in at any time and join in on a conversation, play a game of cards, dominoes, chess, scrabble, or even read a book (there is plenty of them!), all over a cup of tea or coffee, it is entirely up to you.

If you have any queries, please ring 07752 403409.

Entry is £3, which includes refreshments.

GARDENING NEWS

Despite the poor weather the Spring flowers have been stunning this year and with all the rain recently the weeds have had a busy time. However, the gardeners have been working very hard to bring the flower beds up to scratch. We had some mulch delivered to the rose garden recently and the new rose bushes are doing well.

COMPETITION

It is planned to have the doorstep competition again this year so get your pots and troughs ready.

More information on this later.

Look out for our gardeners and stop for a chat. They are an enthusiastic group and would love to hear your opinions and support.

*Mau Watkins,
Chair, Spittal Gardening Group.*

VANDALISM

The Tweed and Coast Nature Trail website continues to have a good steady stream of hits all year round and has been popular with locals and visitors. However, it is not appreciated by everyone as all 15 of the butterfly shaped boards have been deliberately scratched on the perspex and some on the metal surround. One board has had the wing bent which must have taken some considerable force. The map and information board at the top of the cliffs has had the perspex smashed for a second time. The first time the door was replaced for £250, now it is smashed again. If it is damaged further the whole information board may have to be removed. This is very upsetting to the U3A group who worked so hard to raise the money and organise the trail.



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:

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

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

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 June 1st edition newsletter.

To avoid disappointment, please note:
that the deadline is May 18th.