

## Shunters on the Move

After 6 years in Spittal, Shunters are moving to larger premises, taking over the old J H Wood industrial unit on the East Ord Trading Estate. Outgoing owner Ian Nicholson explained that the move was part of the expansion plans of the business, and the new premises will enable the company to increase their storage offer and accommodate the growing fleet of vehicles.

Ian said "We have enjoyed our time in Spittal, and we will miss the amazing view across the river to Berwick, but our landlord is selling our building and we have outgrown it anyway, so it's time to move on. Shunters Ltd is now in its 43rd year of trading and is a Berwick institution, everyone has heard of Shunters! We have an impressive client list and the company will continue to grow but at the same time offer the same excellent service. The new owner Ryan Porteous and Operations Manager Will Douglas, understand the ethos of Shunters and how important the company is to Berwick, and will carry on the good work. The telephone numbers, e-mail and website all remain the same".

Shunters Ltd specialise in house and commercial moves and provide a packing service and indoor storage. They also have regular runs up and down the country delivering and collecting auction purchases, family furniture and all manner of diverse objects on a part load basis. To contact Shunters, ring 01289 330472 or email them at [info@shuntersltd.co.uk](mailto:info@shuntersltd.co.uk) or have a look at their website at [www.shuntersltd.co.uk](http://www.shuntersltd.co.uk)



## News from the Trust

It's been a year of ups and downs for the Trust. After a long wait we finally got into the former Berwick United Reformed Church, known by most locally as St Paul's Church, on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Our first objective was to make sure that all parts of the building were safe for our intended users. This took us over a month to achieve so we were finally pleased to welcome back into the Hall one the previous users, the Thrive Fitness Zumba group. Over the following weeks and months we have managed to build up a good number of differing groups that are using all three parts of the building. And then we ran into major a problem, which I have mentioned before!

Although we have managed to get the gas supply back on for the Hall side of the building, we are still waiting for the new supply to be installed into the Main Street side of the building. Initially this wasn't so bad as the outdoor temperature was high enough to heat the building. Not so now with this very cold weather that is with us at the moment. We can only use a certain number of electric heaters as too many trips the fuseboard. We have had to buy some gas cabinet heaters to keep the inside temperature up. We would like to thank the groups using the front two rooms for their patience whilst we wait for the new gas supply to be installed. We haven't got a date for this as yet, hopefully it will not be too long!

Once we get into 2024, and it's not that long now, we will need to focus on trying to raise the funding to buy the building. This will take some time but it is a condition within our lease that we buy, or we will have to hand the building back to the Church Synod. Fingers crossed, we will achieve our goal.

For now though, we would like to thank you all for your continuing support in 2023 and we hope to see you at our Christmas Coffee Morning, details are on the poster.

So, from the Trust.....



(The reindeer seem happy, must be because Santa is stuck in the chimney!)

Spittal Improvement Trust invite you to join them for



## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10am-12pm

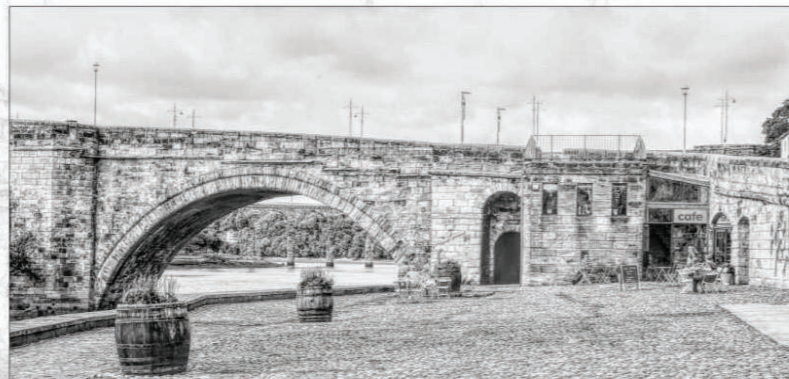
at Spittal Community Centre, Middle Street, Spittal

Coffee & Tea, Mince Pies, Shortbread, Raffle, Chocolate Tombola, Xmas Gift Stall  
Free Entry

A colorful poster for a Christmas Market in Berwick-upon-Tweed. It features a central illustration of a street scene with a church spire, surrounded by festive decorations like holly, mistletoe, and a red ribbon. Text includes 'KID'S FUNFAIR', 'GIFT IDEAS', 'CHRISTMAS MARKET', 'SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER from 11am-4pm', 'FREE ENTRY', 'HOT FOOD', 'Stalls - Entertainment', 'Refreshments in Town Hall', and 'Santa's Grotto &amp; lots more!'.

## Berwick Bridge Photographic Competition

Berwick and District Camera Club is organising a photographic competition in association with Berwick Bridge 400 and Create Berwick to celebrate the 400th Anniversary in 2024 of the Berwick Old Bridge.



### About the Competition

The Competition is split into 4 seasons:

- Autumn 10th November 2023 to 21st December 2023
- Winter 22nd December 2023 to 21st March 2024
- Spring 22nd March 2024 to 21st June 2024
- Summer 22nd June 2024 to 21st August 2024

Images must be taken within the specified dates and must include a clear visual reference to the old bridge.

For each season, a winner and 2 runners-up will be chosen.

When all of the seasons are completed, the winners and runners-up (total of 12) will be exhibited at the 2024 Berwick Camera Club Annual Exhibition, where an overall winner will be chosen by public vote.

For full competition details, please go to:

<https://www.berwickcameraclub.co.uk/club/bridge400-photographic-competition>

Here you'll find details on how to enter, the prizes plus terms and conditions.

**SIT Contacts:**  
**Chair:** Mau Watkins – 01289 330500  
[mrsWatkins2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mrsWatkins2@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Secretary:** Mike Greener – 07752 403409  
[mikegreener84@gmail.com](mailto:mikegreener84@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.spittal.org.uk](http://www.spittal.org.uk)

To avoid disappointment, please note that the deadline for the January 2024 issue is December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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Follow us on:

# What do you want for Christmas?

Can't be new front teeth as there is no dentist you can meet  
 or do you wish it would be like it was  
 Christmas grottos for ten Bob!  
 Santa sat there clothed in red  
 With sparkle in his eyes and said  
 What would you like this year  
 As each child with glee and hope  
 Climbed upon his knee  
 In awe indeed as each child whispered in his ear!  
 Received a toy wrapped up for either girl or boy!  
 Oh no Political correctness is now the game  
 And girls or boys receive the same  
 Or do you long for the lovely shops!  
 That Paxton and Purves stocked the lot  
 Dalgleish's in West Street was full of magic air  
 The minute you entered there  
 Or when Woolworths was in Marygate  
 To have a big spend with coppers and sixpences  
 In our sweaty hands earned by been kind and good  
 Like we were told all children should!  
 Straight to pick and mix delights'

Or perhaps a sister who had been kind  
 Or when we had a mind to think of a mother or aunt  
 A small bottle of California poppy please?  
 As we approach the counter with shaking knees  
 Or now today Christmas lights are the talk of the town  
 As each and everyone looks around still finding  
 Money to pay the electric bill!  
 Or as you look and feel the starving families bombed out with greed  
 Oh! what has come to have so many conflicts and war?  
 That leaves so many folk sore  
 With less and less hospitals to deal in such dire heat!  
 As we look at shops teaming with lit up Santa's and trees  
 Costing a fortune if we please!  
 The cost of giving so long ago  
 Was given nothing when a baby was born in a stable  
 The star on the tree to share in our hearts  
 As we gather together and play the BIG PART

Anne Bradley

## GARDENING NEWS

As we near Christmas the gardeners will be giving the gardens their final tidy up before the break. Nearly 500 bulbs have been planted over the last couple of weeks and the flower beds in the park have had a tidy in readiness for the Christmas decorating to be done.

The Christmas trees should be delivered and set up by December 2nd to allow the branches to drop before the lights are put on. The new roses for the garden in Middle Street have arrived and will be planted soon, weather permitting! And, I hope you have enjoyed the poppy display once again. The making of most of the poppies were thanks to members of the Gardening Group. Well done.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who supports our gardening work over the year. We do appreciate the donations to our events and for the plants passed on to us. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

A very happy Festive Season to you all.  
 Mau Watkins, Chair Gardening Group

**BERWICK  
 CONCERT BAND  
 CHRISTMAS  
 CONCERT**

**St John's Church, Spittal  
 Sunday 10th December, 3pm**

Admission £5  
 in aid of St John's Church Boiler Fund  
 Tickets available at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)  
 or Spittal Food Store and on the door

Berwick Arts Choir presents:  
**Festive  
 Fantasia**

Saturday  
 December 16th 2023  
 at 7:00 pm  
**Berwick Parish  
 Church**

Directed by  
 Marion Scammell with  
 Kit Hobkirk and  
 Berwick Arts Orchestra

Tickets: £10 (under 18s free)  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
 Grieves Stationers,  
 Church Street, Berwick  
[www.berwickartschoir.co.uk](http://www.berwickartschoir.co.uk)

Berwick Arts Choir - over 75 years of choral singing in the Borders

**BeSSt**  
 BERWICK, SPITTAL & TWEEDMOUTH

**NOTICES FOR DECEMBER 2023**

**CELTISH CONCERT:** It is a delight to invite you to come to a concert by Celtish, a duo of superb musicians who will perform Advent and Christmas Celtic folk style music in Tweedmouth Church on Thursday December 14th at 7.30pm. It is an ideal event to invite friends and neighbours to come along with you. Entry is by donation (suggested minimum is £5) and we will serve seasonal refreshment in our new kitchen servery. An excellent evening is in store – please don't miss it!

**Christmas Services 2023**

**Sunday December 17th**  
 St John's, Spittal  
 4pm Carols by Candlelight  
 with RNL

**St Peter's, Scremerston**  
 6pm Carols by Candlelight

**Saturday 23rd December**  
 St John's, Spittal  
 4pm Follow the Star  
 Crib Service

**Sunday December 24th**  
 St Boisil & St Bartholomew,  
 Tweedmouth  
 4pm Carols by Candlelight

**St Peter's, Scremerston**  
 7pm First Communion of Christmas

**Monday December 25th**  
 St Boisil & St Bartholomew,  
 Tweedmouth  
 10am Christmas Communion

"Come let us adore him"

**Thursday  
 Singers**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**Sunday 17th December**  
**3-4pm**  
**Spittal Community Centre**

ENTRY BY DONATION IN AID OF  
 THE FOOD BANK & THE SALVATION ARMY

With Cameron Robertson, Lucy Cowan,  
 Frances Orde, Nigel Chandler, Adam Flowers, Lindsay Benton,  
 Margaret Rowland (Piano), Directed by Alison Coates