SPALDWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Working with other villages

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators from surrounding villages met recently to form a cluster – with the aim of working together to improve communications and influence the appropriate authorities regarding concerns, for example -

- Encourage local policing team to focus on the things which are important for us
- Ensuring we are represented at North West Huntingdon Police panel meetings
- Ensuring we are represented at County NHW meetings

Speedwatch

Speeding through villages was identified as a top priority in response to concerns voiced by local residents. Speedwatch uses electronic equipment to display to drivers the speed at which they are travelling – trained volunteers record registration numbers and other details of speeding vehicles. This information is passed to the Police who arrange for letters to be sent to offending motorists.

This initiative has been running successfully in nearby villages.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact me – details below.

The current status of Speedwatch:

- Police team being trained on April 24th
- Police will train the volunteers that have already come forward from our villages

Police will bring equipment to us and stay in the area when we are ready to carry out our first checks

For more information see www.mynhw.co.uk and www.cambs.police.uk

Report suspicious activity to the Police - 0845 4564564

Crimestoppers - 0800 555111

SPALDWICK NEWS
May 2009

Bench Mark
Somewhere in Spaldwick

EVERY BODY NEEDS
A MASSAGE

FOR INCREASED CIRCULATION
IMPROVED MUSCLE TONE
AS A WAY OF RELEIVING STRESS
A CHANCE TO TOTALLY RELAX

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

25% OFF FIRST MASSAGE

CALL; TONY @

ACHEAWAY MASSAGE

01480 890668 OR 07793406705

There is a charge of £10 per month for advertising in the Spaldwick News which helps to offset the printing costs. Please contact John Blatch, 43 High Street, Tel. 890853, Email john@blatch.com, if you would like to help yourself and the News by advertising.

Hopefully this year will be better. There are three fundraising events planned, a Garden Party, the Harvest Supper and a Quiz but we must keep our fingers crossed that nothing requiring major expenditure occurs. The roof, from which lead was stolen 2 years ago, is no longer insured until we install an intruder alert with automatic dialling to the police, which would cost £5000.

Nature Notes by Brian Davis

I've been watching a red-tailed *lapidarius* bumblebee this afternoon quartering my orchard in search of a vole burrow wherein to make its nest. The first hole may have been occupied as it reappeared quickly, but when it disappeared underground for five minutes I guess it may have found a suitable vacancy. And removing an old carpet from my compost heap revealed a two foot Grass snake. Highlight news, this month though, is the first Easton record of a Parakeet, courtesy of Geoff Prigmore's bird feeder. And in February a Polecat was shot near Magpie Farm. This larger relative of Stoats and Weasels was once widespread in England. Now common only in Wales and Scotland, it has been spreading eastwards recently and there are confirmed records from eastern Northants. The domestic Ferret was bred from Polecats and they still hybridise quite readily. Like Mink, another, though introduced, relative, they are terrible for chickens and nesting game but, if it were not for our penchant for rearing pheasants to shoot, Polecats might be seen as good for reducing Rabbit numbers. Talking of hybrids, now is the time to see the False Oxlip, e.g. in the corner of Easton churchyard. This cross between Primrose and Cowslip turns up quite commonly where the parents co-exist. The true Oxlip is a woodland plant common only in Essex though occurring in a few woods in southern Cambridgeshire. The Flora of Huntingdonshire describes it as "forming great sheets of yellow [in Waresley Wood] in mid-April", but in recent years it has been badly eaten back by deer and few of the plants we saw this week had flowers.

ST JAMES' CHURCH SERVICES

3rd May	6.00pm	Evensong
10th May	9.30am	Eucharist
17th May	8.00am	Eucharist
	3.00pm	Baptism and Sunday Worship
21st May	9.00am	Ascension Day Service
24th May	9.30am	Eucharist
31st May	10.00am	Group Service at Ellington

There is usually a service at 9.00am Tuesday to Friday

For more information about the church – services, baptisms, weddings, ministry to the sick, or funeral services contact one of the clergy or churchwardens:

Father Jonathan Young (Rector)	01480 891695
Father Martin Kettle (Curate)	01480 890284
Rosemary Good (Churchwarden)	01480 890287
John Blatch (Churchwarden)	01480 890853

On Sunday 31st May our Rector, Jonathan Young completes 40 years in holy orders. To mark the occasion there will be a group service for all of our parishes at Ellington Church at 10.00am. Everyone will be welcome.

Church Finances The financial report presented at the PCC AGM on 22nd April showed that, for the second year, expenditure exceeded income and church funds have been depleted by £3700 in that period, with the Fabric Fund now having a balance of just £211. A few years ago the balance was £20000 but repairs to the tower and roof in 2002 took all of that sum and the income since then has done no more than pay for running repairs.

Gardening Notes by Roger Haines

From 'Stickybud' to glorious leaves in seven days

April has been a marvellous month for growing; sunny bright days and temperatures at night not giving us any frosts, have meant that blossom and leaf have galloped on. We have three horse chestnuts in our front garden and these went from bare stickybuds to full leaf canopy in a week. Our newly planted greengage and apricot produced a little blossom but the Cox's Pippin planted last year is a mass of flower.

My potatoes, planted in containers, have now been earthed up to the rim and will have to be covered at night if frost is forecast. I have planted my runner and french beans, ridge cucumbers, courgettes and squashes in pots in the greenhouse ready to plant out in mid-May. Our latest container, a large wooden trough which our neighbour thought was some kind of funeral accessory has been planted with carrots, beetroot, radish and 'cut again' salad leaves, all of which have sprouted.

I have moved my potted dahlias that were planted as tubers out of the greenhouse as they were growing too quickly, and will move them back in on cold nights. The lawn is growing at a pace and has certainly benefited from its Autumn scarify followed by Spring feed. Grass cuttings are great for speeding up the compost heap as long as you add them in layers with other garden material and vegetable waste. Hoe-ing of the flower beds is constant but we do seem to be quite weed-free (no peeping over the hedge to see how many weeds you can spot)! This month has been very dry so keep an eye on any newly planted plants as they may need some extra water.

The garden has seen great bird activity and our long-tailed tits have built a beautiful moss nest in the berberis. Only a yard from the front door, the robins are now feeding in their nest and further along, in the pyracantha hedge, wren, blackbird and thrush are in residence.

I hope to replace the last of the original rabbit fencing this month as a lone baby rabbit has breeched the defences and is causing havoc! Where's my gun?!

Forthcoming Events at The George

Great British Homemade Pie Night

Every Tuesday - 6 to 9:30pm
Choice of two different fillings,
served with mash or handcut chips & gravy
£5.95 per head

Live Acoustic Music Night

Last Friday of every month
Tapas menu available

Ladies Night – Hosted by The George & Calmer Beauty

First Wednesday of every month from 8pm
Purchase a bottle or large glass of wine and receive a free nail paint that evening
by the ladies of
Calmer Beauty in the Hemingway Suite.
Also receive a 10% voucher for any treatment at
Calmer Beauty redeemable before the next Ladies Night.
Tapas menu available

BBQ and Live Jazz Band In the Garden Monday 4th May From 2pm

Sunday Quiz Night

Tapas menu available every Quiz Night 8.30pm

Still to come….
'Tea at The George' - Cream tea afternoons, The Ritz style
Race Night in aid of Help for Heroes; A Jolly Boys Outing
Coach party to The Proms…… and more

42nd OXFAM WALK

Why not join the Oxfam Walk on Sunday 17 May 2009, starting and finishing at Chilford Hall, near Cambridge.

Enjoy a refreshing day walking in the Cambridgeshire countryside with your family and friends while raising money for Oxfam's Emergencies Fund. There are a variety of routes on offer. Choose between 4, 8, 12, 16 and 22 miles or a marathon route of 26 miles.

For a registration form, please phone 0300 200 1244, email events@oxfam.org.uk or visit www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/fundraise/walk.

Also don't miss our own Family and Dog Walk to Leighton Bromswold on Sunday 7th June, starting 11pm at the War Memorial. Come along with or without dog. Donations to Spaldwick Social Group Fundraising.

On **Bank Holiday Monday** there will be a May Fair in Alconbury with Stalls and Entertainment or, if you prefer, a Jazz Band at The George

DIARY DATES

May 4th	Alconbury May Fair	(PCC)
June 6th	Ellington Gala	
June 7th	Charity Walk	(Social Group)
July 11th	Village Fete	(Social Group)
July 11th	Songs of Praise Service	(PCC)
September 6th	Garden Party, 43, High St.	(PCC)
September 26th	Barn Dance	(Social Group)
Oct 4th	Harvest Festival Supper	(PCC)
Nov 21st	Quiz	PCC)

COMPOST GIVEAWAY

This is being run again during the two week period commencing 11th May. Each householder is entitled to one free bag which may be collected from one of the following locations :

(1) Grassed area at Number 11 Ivy Way;
(2) Verge at corner of Royston Avenue / Stow Road:
(3) Green at Littlecotes Close / Thrapston Road junction;
(4) Verge outside children's play area, Ferriman Road;
(5) Mount Pleasant northside verge (near Stow Road)
Members of the Parish Council have volunteered to deliver bags to anyone who requires help in collecting their bag. If you need help please contact the Parish Clerk on 890065.

A Real Allotment Lottery

I regret to inform those of you who were interested in taking an allotment in the village, that, after nearly a year of trying, our final re-application for lottery funding has been turned down. The powers that be decided that we were not a good risk as we were not already up and running (which is a joke considering we had made it clear from the outset that we needed the money to get us going), that we hadn't got sufficient support from *beneficiaries* (we're not sure what this means) and that we hadn't put in place a system of *monitoring and evaluation.* We think this has something to do with minorities as we had to produce, amongst other things, an equal opportunities statement. For an Allotment Society!!!!!!!!

As with so many things these days, ordinary, law-abiding folk who are trying to improve their community don't get a look in when it comes to funding. We are, of course, very disappointed but would like to thank the Parish Council for their support and the provision of the field.

Roger Haines

Waste Bin Collection Dates

Wed May 6th	Green	Sat May 9th	Blue	Tue May 12th	Grey
Tue May 19th	Green	Fri May 22nd	Blue	Wed May 27th	Grey
Tue Jun 2nd	Green	Fri Jun 5th	Blue	Tue Jun 9th	Grey

PARISH COUNCIL

The ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Thursday 14th May at 8 pm
in the Spaldwick School Community Room. This is the meeting at which the
Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the next 12 months are elected, and other
appointments made. Members of the public are invited to attend. Please check the notice boards in case a change of date has to be made.

The agenda will include:
The Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report Parish Council Financial Report for the year to 31 March 2009 Reports from other Village Organisations Open Forum, when other matters of concern to the electors can be raised.

The full minutes of the last meeting are displayed on the notice boards and may also be viewed on http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/spaldwick/
The Council comprises:
Keith Armer (Chairman); William Brown; Richard Johnson; Bernard Plummer; Jason Pope; Graham Smith; Robert Wooddisse.

The Clerk is David Stowell, 23A Thrapston Road, Spaldwick, PE28 0TA
davidstowell@onetel.com Phone: 890065

KILIMANJARO 2009

David and Charlotte Irwin of Ivy Way recently climbed Kilimanjaro, here is their report.

We are back from our Kilimanjaro climb. Whilst England coped with the worst snows in years we scaled the mountain in mixed conditions varying from -10C to the high twenties on descent two weeks before the celebrities.
After 5 days of trekking through plantation, rainforest, heather moorland and alpine desert in both sun and rain, our final assault commenced in the moonlight at 11pm. We climbed the cone of the volcano without our torches under the incredible African night sky slowly zigzagging up the ash scree slope. Having had no problems for the previous days we all felt the altitude, suffering from extreme exhaustion, nausea and headaches but luckily by taking it slowly we were all able to reach the crater rim. At sunrise we had reached Stella point then staggered up to the summit at Uhuru peak, at 5895m above sea level shortly afterwards. A clear sky meant we had spectacular views all around looking towards Kenya to the north and the vast plains of Tanzania to the south. Meru, the volcano we had climbed the previous week looked tiny in the distance.
All of our party reached the summit raising over £7000 for various charities but also having a really incredible adventure. There was very little wildlife to be seen but plenty of flora and spectacular scenery. Sadly the mountain is suffering the ravages of popularity and litter now is commonplace on the track. We all felt incredibly fortunate to have been able to succeed together and are wondering what Ruth's next bright idea might involve!

Full Time Administrator

Small, busy organisation at Bicton Industrial Park, Kimbolton is looking for a great full time Administrator, Monday to Friday, 9-5.

We are seeking someone who is enthusiastic, hard-working and flexible, with good computer skills and an excellent eye for detail.
If you want a busy, but really interesting role, then do get in touch.

For further details please contact Civil Ceremonies Ltd on 0845 0048608