SPALDWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
December 2008

A reminder of some useful telephone numbers:

Report any suspicious activity to the Police on - 0845 4564564 or Crimestoppers - 0800 555111

Neighbourhood watch information is available at www.cambs.police.uk

A SATNAV system was taken from a motor vehicle in Spaldwick.

If you have a SATNAV do NOT display the fact - and make sure that you lock your vehicle.
As we approach the festive season – a time of goodwill to all – please remember that not everyone will apply that philosophy. When you take all those goodies back to your car – lock them in the boot out of sight!

Would all Spaldwick Neighbourhood watch co-ordinators please contact me so that I can update my list
Many thanks
David Henrick tel. 01480 896556 david.henrick@virgin.net

December Waste Bin Collection Dates

2nd Green	5th Blue	9th Grey
16th Green	19th Blue	22nd (Monday) Grey
30th Green		

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SPALDWICK NEWS

December 2008

The Christmas Rose is not a rose but a Hellebore, Latin name Helleborus Niger. It is frost resistant and flowers through the winter starting with white flowers which often age to pink. In the wild the flowers are quite small but cultivated plants are larger, some varieties can be double. Within the same genus is the Helleborus Foetidus, the Stinking Hellebore.

DECEMBER 2008

You will know from last month's edition that Michael Townsend has had to give up the production of the Village News. In the eight months that he has spent as editor, however, he has certainly made it something worth continuing and we are surely all grateful for his contribution and hope that we can carry on.

For the moment, at least, I have taken over the responsibility but, if there if anyone has an interest in taking the reins I shall be happy to pass them on.

John Blatch

CAROL PARTY

In The Church

Carols, Readings, Food and Drinks
Monday 22nd December
At 7.15pm for 7.30pm
St Andrew's Worship Band
Mulled Wine, Mince Pies,
Sandwiches, Tasty Bites
Adults £5, Children £2.50
Tickets from Rosemary Good, John Blatch, Amba Harbour, Edie Adams, Sue Appleyard or just come and get your ticket on arrival

The Five Parish Advent Fair which was held on 22nd November was a great success and raised £920.00. Representing Spaldwick, Romi Good had a wonderful cake stall and Amba Harbour catered for the children (and grandparents!) by running a fantastic toy stall. A most beautiful patchwork cushion made by Margaret Plummer was raffled. Many thanks to all contributors and supporters.

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 4th December 4th in the School. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The minutes of the last meeting are displayed on the notice boards and may also be viewed on http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/spaldwick/

DIARY DATES

Carol Singing Round The Village Sunday 21st Dec.

Start at the School at 4pm finish at The George at 6pm. All are welcome to join in.

Carol Party Monday 22nd December

In the Church, Carols, Readings, Food and Drinks 7.15pm for 7.30pm

New Year's Eve at The George

A Decades evening with live entertainment Come along and age 10 years in every hour.

ST JAMES' CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2008

7TH December	6.00pm	Evensong
14th December	9.30am	Eucharist
21st December	8.00am	Eucharist
24th December	5.00pm	Crib Service
25th December	9.30am	Eucharist
29th December	9.30am	Eucharist 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:

CRIB SERVICE

During December a travelling Navitity Set will be going round the village and will return to the Church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.
If you would like to host the Holy Family for a night please contact Amba Tel. 890565

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

The PCC and Clergy and their families wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

GARDENING Notes by Roger Haines

The Poinsettia - Love It Or Hate It!

No-one can fail to notice that Christmas is nearly upon us as every Garden Centre now has a sea of red poinsettias, a much loved (or for some) much hated Christmas plant.
The poinsettia was first discovered in 1828 by Joes Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico who found it growing by the roadside. He sent some cuttings to his home in North America and since then, its popularity has grown, to the point where, in America, a National Poinsettia Day is celebrated on December 12th.
The actual flower of the plant is small and yellow and is at the centre of the red bracks. When choosing a poinsettia, pick one where the tiny yellow centre flower is still in bud and with none of the red bracks damaged. The plant by nature is brittle and branches will break off to weep a white milky sap that can cause skin irritation but is not poisonous. Leaves should always be of a dark healthy green appearance and plants with yellowing leaves may have been either over-watered or previously exposed to cold. The poinsettia always needs to be kept in a warm bright room out of drafts and the compost kept slightly moist. Because of the susceptibility to extremes of temperature, never be tempted to buy a plant that has been offered for sale in an open air environment where it may have caught a chill!
Amongst those poinsettias offered for sale these days, there are now colour variations including cream, burgundy and pink as well as marbled and spotted plants. Amongst all these, it is the deep red poinsettia that is regarded as the Christmas Flower and is also is know as 'The Flower of the Holy Night'.

Spaldwick Community Primary School
Gold Sing Up Award winners.

Spaldwick Community Primary School have just been awarded the first "Sing Up" award in the whole country.

Sing Up was founded one year ago as a national initiative to get all primary school children singing regularly. The Sing Up site provides valuable resources such as song lyrics and backing tracks, as well as running the award scheme. Schools can apply online for silver or gold level awards by filling in a pledge form, making an action plan and then providing evidence such as photos and sound files to show how the plan has succeeded. **Spaldwick have not only been awarded the first gold, but they are the ONLY award winners so far!**

Spaldwick have been busy making sure they qualified for gold by setting up the Sound Squad (pupils who volunteered to initiate and monitor singing within classrooms), holding weekly Sound Sessions where children can record their own song compositions, and ensuring every class sings every day by using their Sound Box of fun songs. All the teachers have taken up the challenge to lead singing within their classrooms and in assemblies, and even the parents have got involved by joining in with audience participation numbers. Kirsty Body (music co-ordinator) now hopes to reach Platinum soon, which requires the school to be nominated for its achievements. Everyone is thrilled to get the Gold award particularly as it is for something which the whole school enjoys.

School Staff and pupils enjoying singing at Spaldwick School