SPALDWICK NEWS

June 2009

These tadpoles are in Easton Brook, see Nature Notes on Page 3 .

Two years ago Rosemary Good, Ivy House, gave me a bucket full of small frogs; I put them in my pond and within a few days they had all disappeared. Last year, however, I had a pond full of wriggling tadpoles, but they too disappeared within days of turning into frogs.

This year no tadpoles at all, neither in my pond nor in Rosemary's, they obviously all went to Easton.

John Blatch

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NATURE NOTES 49 Brian Davis

The Easton Brook has been full of interest this year; clumps of frog spawn were spotted in March and it is now teeming with well grown tadpoles between Brook House and the road culvert. These have attracted the attention of a shoal of about five small pike, six to ten inches in length, seen during Easter week! They must have swum up when the brook was full during the winter for it has been almost dry downstream of Crown Cottage recently. There has also been a Little Egret in the brook, perhaps gorging on tadpoles (or pike), and a Mallard with a nest of eleven eggs on the edge of the brook opposite the church. At the other end of the village, a swarm of bees tried to set up house, using holes in the brickwork. It couldn't be wasps at this time of year as only queen wasps survive the winter, and it takes some months for them to produce large numbers of workers which then build their papier-mâché combs, underground or in a hollow tree. In the autumn one may frequently get large buzzing 'drone flies' in the house. These are just large hoverflies and are quite harmless. I just catch them and put them outside. Bees and wasps are easily distinguished by having long antennae while most flies have very short ones – and only one pair of wings. What has fifteen pairs of wings? Answer: a family party of Long-tailed tits passing through our garden this week. Eight to twelve per nest is normal, but can all these have come from one nest? Crown Cottage had one nest and there was another in the hedge in Broadweir so perhaps this was a double family. Finally, I must mention the impressive series of Dryad's saddle bracket fungi growing on an elm stump in Chapel Lane.

Forthcoming Events at The George

Homemade Pizza Night

Every Tuesday - 6 to 9:30pm
Served with Salad or Handcut Chips
£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

Gourmet Indian Night
Friday 12th June

An extravaganza of the finest Indian 'A La Carte' cuisine
£24.95 per head for 4 courses

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

National Award for Spaldwick Primary School.

On Friday 22nd May , Spaldwick School proudly received its Platinum Award from the National Sing Up Music Programme.
The school has been recognised for placing singing at the heart of its school life.

The Award was presented to Miss Prior at the school's Singing Celebration. During this event children in every class performed to the parents and invited community guests.

There was also singing from two school choirs, from the newly formed Spaldwick Singers and, to the delight of the pupils, a special song performed by all the school staff!!

The pupils also gave the first performance of a song written especially for the celebration. Congratulation to Fiona Denton for her winning lyrics.

Spaldwick Youth Singers

This is a wonderful achievement for our school. Everyone associated with the school has worked together and it is fantastic to have their enthusiasm, dedication and enjoyment of singing recognised. We now look forward to sharing our love of singing with the wider community and encouraging other schools to SING-UP!'

Miss Prior [Head teacher]

SPALDWICK VILLAGE FETE

Date: Saturday 11th July
Time: 11am - 4pm

Things are really 'Hotting up' with what promises to be a fabulous fete.
We have loads of fun and games planned for you and your families – so make sure the date is in your diary!

Why not invite friends along so they can enjoy the day with you?
At only 50p per adult and kids free – it will be the best (recession-friendly) day out you have ever had!!

The only two things we need now are;

- A glorious sunny day!
- Volunteers to help on the stalls/set up/pack down – helping for anything from one hour to all day (if you are feeling really generous!) Any extra hands will be gratefully received.

Please contact Lisa Hunter for more info on 07769 646131

Waste Bin Collection Dates

Tue Jun 2nd	Green	Fri Jun 5th	Blue	Tue Jun 8th	Grey
Tue Jun 16th	Green	Fri Jun 19th	Blue	Jun 23rd	Grey
Tue Jun 30th	Green	Fri July 3rd	Blue	Tue July 7th	Grey

PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was held on 30th April 2009. When space allows, the minutes will be published on the parish notice boards. In the meantime they may be viewed on the website http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/spaldwick/
At the end of the meeting Mr Keith Armer informed the meeting that he had decided to retire from the Parish Council having been a member for 19 years and Chairman for 15 years. Mr Brown expressed thanks to Mr Armer for all the work he had done for the Council and wished him well in the future.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 14 May 2009
The following elections to office and appointments were made:
Chairman: William Brown
Vice Chairman: Robert Wooddisse
Representative to Village Hall Management Committee: Graham Smith; Tree Warden: Richard Johnson; Children's Playground Inspector: Jason Pope; Accounts Checker: Graham Smith.

NEXT MEETING - Thursday 11 June in the Community Room at Spaldwick School.
If no request for an election to fill the vacancy caused by Mr Armer's resignation was made to the Returning Officer by 27 May, the Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option at this meeting. Any elector wishing to be considered, in the event that it is filled by co-option, is invited to inform the Clerk in writing before 4.30 pm on Wednesday 10 June.

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

Charity Walk

- Do come along for the walk from the War Memorial to The Green Man, Leighton Bromswold on Sunday 7th June, starting at 11 o'clock. Come by yourself or bring your dog.

Village Fete

Plans are well in hand for the Village Fete on Saturday July 11th. Volunteers to help will still be welcome. Contact Gavin Lessing-Caller at glcaller@aol.com or telephone 01480 896143 or Lisa Hunter 07769646131

DIARY DATES

Please note some of these dates are changed, if you have already noted them in your diary please check.

June 7th	Charity Walk	(Social Group)
June 27th	Ellington Gala	
July 11th	Village Fete	(Social Group)
July 12th	Songs of Praise	(Church)
Sept 5th	Garden Party, 43 High St.	(Church)
Sept 26th	Barn Dance	(Social Group)
Oct 2nd	Harvest Supper	(Church)
Nov 21st	Quiz	(Church)

St James Church Services

7th June	6.00pm	Evensong
14th June	9.30am	Eucharist
21st June	8.00am	Eucharist
28th June	9.30am	Eucharist

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

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No Gardening Notes from the expert, Roger Haines, this month, so with the space to fill, here are some notes from an amateur. John Blatch

Gardening with Wildlife

Rabbits are the gardeners' big enemy. They can be kept out by a constantly repaired wire netting fence or they can be shot, trapped, poisoned or given some revolting disease. I cannot keep them out of my garden because they are resident in it, and I will not see them killed, so I must live with them.

They do perform a useful function, they keep the grass short, in fact I have mowed just twice so far this year. Unfortunately the rabbits do not nibble in regular stripes so I do not have a lawn but a grass patch that is slowly turning into rough pasture, For about a day or so after mowing it looks presentable.

The rabbits are, partial to flowers. Petunias are their favourites, so I have planted these only in the troughs around the conservatory. I thought that they would not attack them but then I saw a rabbit eying a trough and I banged on the window just as he was up on his hind legs with his mouth open, so I have had to put netting over the troughs.

I also persuaded myself for several weeks that they did not like lobelia, which I had planted in unprotected beds as well as boxes. Then I realised that those in the boxes were about three times the size of the others and, on closer inspection, could see that they had sneakily nibbled the tips leaving most of the foliage so that one had to look closely to see the damage. So the beds too are now netted, initially with plastic netting, which they promptly chewed through, and now with wire and boards. It is beginning to look a bit like an inner city allotment, but the defences are easily removed for visitors or parties.

Muntjacs have been resident in the past although not at the moment, but they do make occasional visits. They like roses and water lilies, both of which are only just coming into flower. It remains to be seen whether they will have the initiative to get over the 40cm high rabbit fence around the roses. They cannot do too much damage to the lilies, they just take bites out the flowers and leaves that can be reached from the edges of the ponds.

Squirrels do not do much damage, except when they bury nuts and are careless about what they are digging up, such as bedding plants. Birds do surprising damage to the 'lawn'. I have left the bird feeder in one position for too long and, with their tiny beaks, they have dug sizeable holes around the base in the search for fallen seeds. I moved the feeder and put bits of turf in the holes, which the blackbirds promptly pulled up to search for grubs, so I had to net there as well.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch
Looking out for the community

Recent Incidents in our area

STOW LONGA - Theft of a Motor vehicle, this has been found burnt out in Northamptonshire.

There have been a number of burglaries to homes and garages. Be vigilant and ensure that you have **locked** and secured your homes and outbuildings. If you are in the garden and you have been in the garage don't leave it open, if you can't see it lock it as this could be the chance for a potential thief to strike.

There has been an incident in Sawtry where a victim had arranged to have some maintenance work done to her home; an amount of money was agreed however, the victim was asked for more money than the amount originally agreed. Report any incidents like this with as much information as you can such as descriptions and registration numbers of vehicles.

Theft of motorcycles in Huntingdonshire - Since the middle of April 2009, Cambridgeshire Constabulary has received reports of 9 actual or attempt thefts of motorcycles from predominantly residential addresses, across Huntingdonshire. In most cases, the motorcycles have had some form of lock fitted, however they appear to have been simply lifted on to waiting vehicles. Most of the thefts have occurred from the front of the victim's properties where the motorcycles have been in full view of passers by.

There are some security measures that can be taken to limit the opportunities for further thefts, therefore if you own a motorcycle or know someone else that does, please suggest that they consider security/crime prevention advice.

For more information see www.mynhw.co.uk or www.cambs.police.uk
Police 0845 4564564 Crime stoppers 0800 555111
David Henrick 01480 896556 david.henrick@virgin.net