REVIEWS

KIMBOLTON FOOD FESTIVAL

For those who love fine local food and drink, Kimbolton was the place to be last Saturday. Among the many interesting stalls at Mandeville Hall were our very own Louise & Mark from the George Pub, with their range of tasty home-made sausages, which I have to say were excellent! I look forward to the next one.

LOCAL ADS

Free to collector – lots of cardboard boxes (suitable for moving house), call Michael on 891920.

Gazebos for your Garden Party – Don't let the rain spoil your garden party. Gazebos, 9m X 3m and 6m X 3m, are available for hire @ £15 (in aid of church funds). Please telephone John Blatch on 01480 890853.

Musicians wanted to form band – drummer new to village keen to meet local musicians with view to forming rock band. Influences varied, but would welcome some "jam sessions" with guitarists, bass players, vocalists, string players and others! Call Michael on 891920.

Curtain alterations – We would like to hear from anyone who could help us turn our old curtains into something useful on our new house (for a reasonable fee). Please call Martina on 891920.

Spaldwick News May 2008

Maypole dancing is a form of folk dance from Western Europe, with two distinctive traditions. In the most widespread, dancers perform circle dances around a tall pole which is decorated with garlands, painted stripes, flowers, flags and other emblems. The "ribbon maypole" spread across most of central and southern England and is now regarded as the most 'traditional' of May Day's characteristics.

WELCOME

WELCOME TO MY FIRST EDITION OF SPALDWICK NEWS

A big thank you to all those who have made us feel so welcome since our arrival in Spaldwick just two months ago. One of our reasons for moving here was to get engaged in a lively community, and so I am delighted to be involved in helping with the Spaldwick News.

My aim is to build on the very good work undertaken by Hilary Shuker over the last few years and to support the community through sharing knowledge, information and skills. In the coming months I am looking to develop and expand what we do, including features on history, local people, local produce, arts & crafts and other skills within the community. Other ideas include poems, recipes, gardening tips, items for sale, in addition to the usual information on events, etc.

I wouldn't pretend to have all the ideas – please get in touch if there are any features you would like to see included, or indeed contribute towards – this needs to be your news letter. I would also encourage all people of all ages to have a go – please send me your ideas and written contributions at mtownsend@earthshinesolutions.com.

I would like to thank John Blatch for his enthusiasm and support in getting me "up to speed" on many things in taking up this role and also a big thank you to the contributors in this month's edition.
Have a good Bank Holiday! Michael.

DIARY DATES

SPALDWICK OPEN GARDENS

Plans are well advanced for the Open Gardens on the 15 June and our tally of gardens has gone up to 12 as the Playtimes Playgroup is now opening its garden. We have been able to secure an insurance policy so that each garden owner is covered for public liability, which had been a concern to some prospective participants. **So if anyone else wishes to open their garden, it's not too late. Please contact Roger on 891683.** There will be a need for volunteers to help with the setting up (marquee, tables and chairs etc) on the Saturday 14th so if anyone is willing to lend a hand, please contact Roger on 891683.

COFFEE MORNING – This month's Coffee Morning in the church will be on 17th May at 10 o'clock. Funds raised will be for the Thorpe Hall Hospice. Please come along!

CLUBS

SPALDWICK CARPET BOWLS CLUB – for anyone wishing to join the club, please feel free to call Bernard on 890534.

St James Church Services May 2008

4th May	8.00am	Eucharist
11th May	9.30am	Eucharist
18th May	6.00pm	Evensong
25th May	9.30am	Children's Eucharist (adults also welcome!)

There is usually a service at 9.00am Tuesday to Friday.

For more information about the church – services, activities, baptism, weddings, Holy Communion, ministry to the sick or funeral services contact one of the clergy or churchwardens

Father Jonathan Young (Rector) 01480891695
Father Martin Kettle (Curate) 01480890284
Rosemary Good (Churchwarden) 01480890287
John Blatch (Churchwarden)

May Waste Bin Collection Dates

7th Green, 10th Blue, 13th Grey,
20th Green, 23rd Blue, 27th Grey

CRAFTS

PATCHWORK & QUILTING – ANCIENT & MODERN

By Margaret Plummer

I enjoy making patchwork of all kinds and in the process have learnt a great deal of history. A patchwork quilt is a combination of three distinct crafts, each with their own history and traditions. A quilt usually has three layers; the top layer can be plain fabric, 'wholecloth', pieced fabric, 'patchwork', or decorative patterns applied to a piece of fabric, 'appliqué'. The middle layer is wadding, combed sheep's wool or even an old blanket, depending on what is available. The bottom layer is usually a piece of fabric.

Materials range from silks, velvets and fine cottons to pieces cut from worn clothes. Richer people could afford the best while others, for reasons of economy and thrift, used what was available to them. The three layers were stitched together with small running stitches; this is known as the quilting process. Patchwork and quilting have a long history; quilted fabrics have been used for protective armour, for warm padded clothing and bedding and for decorative hangings and artefacts. There are many examples to be found in museums and private collections around the world.

Here in the UK, North Eastern England and Wales have their own distinctive quilting patterns which, together with the Amish in North America, give us many of the traditional designs used today. In the past quilting, patchwork and appliqué were all done by hand, but like all successful crafts have adapted and changed over the

Centuries. A hand-pieced quilted bed quilt is a real family heirloom; I made one as a wedding present for each of my three children. Many people enjoy hand quilting, but the pace of modern life means that time is often limited and we now have new tools for quicker results. Rotary cutters, rulers, cutting mats, sewing machines and computers are all on hand with software of all kinds... You can even get your quilt machine-quilted professionally. There are many quilting magazines and books and some of us have enough fabric to cover Spaldwick!! Quilting is a very sociable activity, we share ideas, jokes and outings, produce charity quilts and organise exhibitions. There are problems (according to my husband); quilters do not mend things or sew on lost buttons, they occasionally leave pins and needles in the wrong place and would rather sew than cook! It is a wonderful hobby.

LOCAL PEOPLE

Martin Kettle – My Role at Whitemoor

In view of the unhappy brushes which Spaldwick has had recently with crime (I'm thinking of the south aisle roof), I am hesitant to mention my professional association with criminals; however, the editor has asked me to do so, and so I shall do my best to fulfil the commission without hesitation, deviance or recidivism. My day job is as Head of Reducing Re-offending at Whitemoor Prison, just north of March.

The title breathes optimism, since this is a High Security prison, one of the five in the country known as 'dispersals' which house those with the most serious crimes and longest sentences, or who are most difficult to manage.

Among my responsibilities are 'Offender Management', which is government-speak for assessing the individual's risks and needs, and planning and providing the right interventions to address the needs and reduce the risk. This includes education, vocational training and other productive work, and Offending Behaviour programmes (which are largely 'cognitive behavioural' in approach, i.e. helping people learn to think and react differently, and hence behave differently). In the teams for which I'm responsible are prison officers, psychologists, probation officers, teachers and others. I also have a watching brief over the healthcare provision, and I am responsible for the planning and delivery of Substance Misuse work. I am also head of a special unit called the 'Close Supervision Centre', a unit with a high staffing ratio and special mental health input, which houses a small number of prisoners about whom I had perhaps better leave you to deduce an impression from the title.

In among all that, I fulfil the normal tasks as one of a team of about 10 governors – taking charge of the prison for days here and there, doing disciplinary hearings and investigations, and so on. It is utterly engrossing work. I am very glad to have my small role in the parishes as a counterweight – it is not healthy to be too much sucked in to the life of an institution like this – but the camaraderie under pressure builds a strong sense of teamwork, and just occasionally there is a glimpse of real change in an offender - which, given the nature of these men's lives and the choices they have made, is hardly ever less than a miracle.