Spaldwick News

October 2008

The Spaldwick Rose

(Photograph courtesy of Mark Heath)

WELCOME

Welcome to our October Edition

I have a handy tip as we head into the autumn season – don't forget to sweep your chimney before lighting up your fire place! We had a rather smoky evening recently, as we realised a little too late that a bird's nest was blocking our chimney flue!

Moving on, we have an interesting range of contributions for you in this edition. Roger Haines has crafted his final article of the season and provides an important update on progress with the allotments project.

Mark Heath, who has done a great job in establishing a very professional web site for Spaldwick, has an appeal for old photographs of the village. He has also provided us with a great photo for our front cover this month – thanks Mark.

We have some more news from our Spaldwick Primary School and a feature on Playtimes Playgroup. We also have updates from the Spaldwick Oil Buying Group, our Neighbourhood Watch and the Spaldwick Social Events Committee.

Keep your contributions coming in folks; please send me your ideas to 16 High Street, call me on 891920 or e-mail to mtownsend@earthshinesolutions.com. The deadline for contributions is 28th of each month. Thanks to all for your great contributions this month and I wish you all a lucky October.

Michael.

ROGER'S GARDENING TIPS

Plague Arrives In Spaldwick!

I had hoped against hope that the dreaded disease that has attacked the lovely Horse Chestnuts in and around Huntingdon would pass us by, but over the last couple of weeks the tell-tale brown blotches have started to appear on my three trees and also on the trees of our neighbour, John Blatch. It is horrible to drive into Huntingdon and see all those lovely trees around Hinchingbrooke looking so brown and bare. My trees appear to be infected by Leaf Blotch Fungus (Guignardia Aesculi) and not caterpillars of the small moth Cameraria Ohridella or "bleeding canker", both of which can be fatal. So hopefully these trees will return to their full glory next year and Joyce and Grahame will still be able to call their B&B "Chestnut View!"

Now is the time to get into your borders and have a good tidy up and get rid of all those weeds before they seed. Autumn is the time of year when I like to dig up and split any overgrown clumps of perennials as I always think they grow away better now than in the Spring when the soil takes a while to warm up. If you need to move shrubs, conifers or small trees this is an ideal time; they are going into dormant mode, but will still establish well before the cold weather sets in.

In October bare-rooted roses, fruit trees and field grown shrubs become available for planting so if you have any new ones to plant, now is a great time to do it. The same applies to hedging and also, don't forget to

get your winter bedding and bulbs off to an early start before the ground gets saturated again.

Now that the garden season is coming to an end, I will be singing off until the spring and let's hope the weather is kinder in 2009.

Roger

Allotment Update

We have now heard from Anglian Water following our application for a water supply to be connected to the allotments and regrettably they are not in a position to help us with the cost which they have estimated will be £1700!

We will also have to pay water rates, rabbit fence the area we want to use, pay rent (which is under review) and take out indemnity insurance, so you can see the costs are rising. We have re-applied to the National Lottery Local Food Scheme for funding, having been turned down first time round so we are ever hopeful. When the weather was at its wettest, Stewart Barnard and I went to inspect and measure the suggested site and found that one area had flooded but one of the ditches adjacent was very shallow so this may have been the cause of the problem.

We will let everyone know what progress we make in the next few months regarding funding.

Roger

SPALDWICK OIL BUYING GROUP

Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in joining the Spaldwick Oil Buying Group; our chief aim is to see if we can use our collective buying power to reduce the cost of oil for all participants.

We sent out a brief questionnaire to all those that registered interest, to confirm everyone's requirements and to gather the data we need to establish a robust supply framework. Once we have analysed the questionnaire returns, we will be able to engage with a range of oil companies to negotiate a suitable deal.

The basic idea is that we will arrange a "call off arrangement" with agreed service levels & discounts. Participants will be able to call the approved supplier, place their order and pay directly against the agreed terms and conditions. No payments will go through the Oil Buying Group.

We aim to conclude the exercise by end of October, with the framework effective in early November.

If you have any queries or if you would be interested in joining the Group, please feel free to call Michael on 01480-891920.

SPALDWICK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Listening to Our Pupils' Views and Ideas

The Fruity Tooties, This is the name of our Healthy Eating Team. It includes pupils from every class, and they meet regularly. Recently they have been very busy entering competitions as well as spreading the word about healthy eating! The team won a prize in the Active Kids Get Cooking competition organised by Sainsbury. This prize was a visit to a pig farm to see the pigs in their own environment and then on to Sainsbury to view the finished product!

They have also entered the Grow Your Potato Competition, finishing with a creditable 1250g of potatoes which they enjoyed cooked with sausages and plenty of butter! And finally, they have just won a monetary prize in the Key Stage 2 category of the Schools Healthy Eating/Local Produce Competition organised by Huntingdon District Council. For this they created a poster showing local food and farming.
Well done to them all!

The members are now judging the entries to a 'design a soup' challenge they set the pupils. The winning soup will be served at our Harvest Celebration Lunch in October.

The Hooting Parliament is our School Council. The council meets every three weeks to discuss concerns and ideas raised by the classes, as well as to carry out

challenges given to them by Mr Canavan, who is the teacher representative. They are currently preparing a talk they will present to the Spaldwick Welcome Club entitled 'coming to school in 2008.'

Playleaders – Y5 pupils who organise lunchtime game activities. The pupils have been trained as young leaders by Pat Forster, Hinchingbrooke Sports College, and now lead a collection of games and challenges for the rest of the school pupils. These include skipping, target wall, stacking cups and basketball.

The Sound Squad is our newest pupil voice group. Each class 2 pupils who are learning new songs with our music teacher, Miss Body. They then teach them to their class. The sound squad also keep a log of favourite songs and when singing is used during the school day, such as to complete the register, multiplication tables tests!, in the playground. The school will be using the work of our Sound Squad members to support our application to become a 'Sing up School' – we are aiming for GOLD!!

October Waste Bin Collection Dates

7th Green, 10th Blue, 14th Grey,
21st Green, 24th Blue, 28th Grey.

SPALDWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Useful Numbers

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Contact details:

Emergencies	Telephone 999
Non-Emergencies	Telephone 0845 456 456 4
Website	www.cambs.police.uk
Crime Stoppers	Telephone 0800 555 111
Confidential anti-terrorist hotline	Telephone 0800 789 321

Update on Crimes

There have been four burglaries in the Spaldwick area during the last couple of months. Please be extra vigilant.

Notice – Dog Owners Please Be Aware

It has been brought to our attention that a family pet was killed on Stow Road on the morning of 22nd September, between around 6:45am and 7:15am. At first it was thought that the cat had been hit by a car, although the vet confirmed that she had in fact been killed by a dog. The family owning the deceased cat have naturally been very distressed by this and have respectfully requested that all dog owners take greater care to avoid this unfortunate incident from happening again.

PLAYTIMES PLAYGROUP

Playtimes Playgroup has been established for nearly 30 years and has been based in our purpose-built building next to Spaldwick School for over 7 years. During the last two years, Playtimes has grown from strength to strength, opening for full days and now also providing a breakfast club. We also provide a mums and tots session on Thursday afternoons (1.30pm to 3pm), called Mucky Pups. This is a great way of meeting new people and also introducing your child into the playgroup environment.

Playtimes have a fantastic building and outdoor provision available to the children, which enables staff to provide the best possible care and learning experiences. We have an excellent, highly qualified team of staff, lead by the Playgroup Supervisor, Sophie Clark (level 6 qualified), who are dedicated towards providing the best possible variety of activities that are as broad, balanced and stimulating as possible. Playtimes is Ofsted registered and was graded as "satisfactory" at our recent inspection, (October 2006).

If you would like to know anymore information or if you would like to enrol your child, please contact us on 01480 890077, email contact@playtimesplaygroup.co.uk or visit our website www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk

ST JAMES' CHURCH SERVICES OCTOBER 2008

5th October	6.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving
12th October	9.30am	Eucharist
19th October	8.00am	Eucharist
26th October	9.30am	Children's Eucharist

There is usually a service at 9.00am Tuesday to Friday

Please note that from October onwards the evening service will be on the first Sunday in each month, with the 8.00am service on the third Sunday.

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

SPALDWICK WEB SITE

Spaldwick resident Mark Heath has set up an excellent web site for the village. It is very well designed and contains some useful and interesting information. You can view it at www.spaldwick.com.

Mark is also keen to develop a section on Spaldwick history. He is appealing for old photos of Spaldwick, like the ones exhibited at the Church at the Open Gardens. Please contact Mark on 01480 891797 or mark.heath@spaldwick.com if you are able to help him.

DIARY DATES

Quiz night - in aid of the Church will be held at Spaldwick School on Saturday 15th November.

Carol Party – will be held in the church on Monday 22nd December.

SPALDWICK SOCIAL EVENTS GROUP

As many of you know the focus of this Committee has been to provide a number of social events for our village throughout the year. Following the decision of some of the committee to hand over the baton, due to other commitments, a number of new faces have joined the remaining familiar team.

Newly voted into office are Alex Baker - Secretary, Caroline Lock - Treasurer and Gavin Lessing-Caller - Chairman.

There are currently 3 events planned over the next 9 months and more information will be revealed in the next issue.

LOCAL ADS

Armoirette – Beautiful piece of furniture, French made, classic design, crafted in cherry wood, ideal feature and storage for dining room. Call Michael or Martina on 01480 891920.

Jogger's/Off-Road Three Wheel Pushchair – M&S Schwinn design, Lightweight folding Alloy frame, safety features, suitable for children age 9 months to 4 years, £20. Call Pete on 891778.

Child's Bike Seat - Padded seat/back, adjustable foot stirrups, quick release design suitable for children up to 22kg, £5. Call Pete on 891778.

Electrolux ZCX6202 Cyclone XL Bagless Cylinder Vacuum Cleaner - Blue & White 2000w, £80. Call Pete on 891778.

Portable Air Conditioner (Homebase) - 9000 BTU/hour cooling capability, £75. Call Pete on 891778.

SPONSORSHIP

This month's edition of Spaldwick News is sponsored by Gavin and Katherine Lessing-Caller: *"We feel that the Spaldwick News and Spaldwick Social Events Group form an important part in supporting our village and community and are happy to sponsor the printing of this edition."*

If you would like to know more about how your business or organisation could sponsor or advertise, please call Michael on 891920.