Neighbourhood and Home Watch
Looking out for the community

SPALDWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH –
For information about Neighbourhood Watch see www.mynhw.co.uk. Or www.cambs.police.uk

There has been a distraction burglary at the garage in Spaldwick.
A car has been stolen in Ellington recently.
Strangers asked what appeared to be innocent questions: "Please can you direct me to – Great Gidding" or "Please can I come in and use the toilet – I am expecting a baby!"

These criminals usually work in teams - so be on the lookout for other people who may be acting as accomplices – waiting to assist with a crime.

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

Neighbourhood watch information is available at
David Henrick – 01480896556 david.henrick@virgin.net

Waste Bin Collection Dates

Tue Feb 3rd Grey	Tue Feb 10th Green	Fri Feb 13th Blue
Tue Feb 17th Grey	Tue Feb 24th Green	Fri Feb 27th Blue
Tue Mar 3rd Grey	Tue Mar 10th Green	Fri Mar 13th Blue

SPALDWICK NEWS
February 2009

The Belfry in St James Church

There are six bells dating from 1635. They were re-hung in 1921 and again in 1992 when £50000 was raised for strengthening the spire. At the same time the clock was rebuilt by Rob Rushbrook, who then lived on Stow Road. The frame was re-painted last year by Jane Wiggins, also of Stow Road.
See page 5.

Poppy's Puppies

Poppy is a Black and White Springer Spaniel and Jake the Father is also a Springer, with Liver and White colouring. The Puppies were born on January 20th and there are 5 Males and 2 Females. Four of the Puppies are Black and White, like their Mother and only one of those is Female. The remaining 3 are Liver and White like their Father and once again there is only 1 Female. The Parents are both full Springer's but neither is registered. The Puppies will be available for anyone wishing to give them a home in 7/8 weeks.

We can be contacted for further information on Tel 01480 890216 or by e-mail at joyceleach@hotmail.com

Kelly's Massage
07931 220197
Holistic Treatments Price List

Back, Neck & Shoulder Massage 30 minutes	£18	Full Body massage 60 minutes	£30
Back‹ Neck & Shoulder Massage 45 minutes	£25	Pick and Mix Body 120 minutes	£50
Reflexology-45 minutes	£22	Reiki-30minutes	£15
Japanese Face Massage + Neck and Shoulders-60minutes			£35

Based in Spaldwick. Option to have treatment in the comfort of your own home carries a small fuel surcharge if more than 5 miles from Spaldwick Vouchers Available

NATURE NOTES by Brian Davis

How many of you, I wonder, did your Big Garden Bird Watch last weekend for the RSPB? My neighbours 'bagged' the roving Long-tailed tit family that sometimes comes to our nuts but I still managed nine 'regular' species. Jays, which are normally very shy woodland birds, have been seen in several gardens recently, and there was a wonderful view of a perched sparrow hawk, but these rare visitors never choose the Big Day. Having not seen a single Hedgehog last year I phoned around and was relieved to hear that they had been seen by others. This winter should be a good one for hibernating. The results of the UK Countryside Survey for 2007 are now out and comparisons can be made with the earlier surveys made in 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1998. In 2007, the survey teams from Monks Wood and Lancaster collected data from 591 squares of 1km in GB statistically distributed so as to cover all habitat types and draw reliable conclusions about change. For example, some of the largest changes between 1990 and 2007 were in hedgerows and other linear features (down 14.6%) and chalk and limestone grassland (down 27.2%). Between 1978 and 2007, there have been significant declines in total number of plant species, number of bird food species and number of butterfly food species, but since 1998 all three of these indicators have shown an upward trend in eastern England.

Brian Davis lives in Easton and will be making regular contributions to the News. Until he retired he was a scientist at the Monk's Wood Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, now due to be closed this year.

Martial Arts in Grafham

Grafham Tang Soo Do club is run by a highly experienced Black Belt International Tang Soo Do Master.
Training is every Wednesday and Friday evening in Grafham Village Hall, starting at 7:00PM.
Why not just come along and watch to see what we do?
It is suitable for all ages – our youngest members are 7 years old, our oldest is nearing 50, and other clubs have even older members.

Tang Soo Do is a traditional Korean Martial Art. The purpose of it is:

- SELF DEFENCE – We protect our lives and possessions from injustice and danger.
- HEALTH – We promote our physical and spiritual health and enjoy strong bodies and sound minds through rigorous training.
- BETTER PERSON – We strive to be of better character through endurance and hard work.

New members, of any age, are always welcome. Please come along on a training evening to learn more.

****

The Spaldwick Carpet Bowls Club held its annual dinner followed by trophy presentations at the Eaton Oak, St Neots, on Friday 16th January 2009. Winners and runners up in the 2008 internal league competitions were presented with their trophies and medals by Mrs V. Jackson. Members present to receive their trophies on the night appear in the photograph.

Left to Right: John Souter, Maureen Heads, Andrew Vickers, Lynette Tuesley, Graham Smith, Grahame Leach. Jim Milton, and Lena Stewart, who won prizes were unfortunately unable to attend

PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 15th January, attended by all 6 councillors and 8 members of the public, Graham Smith of Spen House, 3 Stow Road was co-opted to the council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jim Shears. No other candidate put their name forward.

Amongst other matters, it was noted that the new street light in Church Lane, funded by the Parish Council, with a grant of 54% of the cost from the District Council, had become operational in December.
The lowest of three quotes for removal of the old bus shelter base and restoration of the area to grass was accepted.
It was decided to send the results of the recent traffic survey to the local MP, Chief Constable, District and County Councils and the Highways Agency with a view to obtaining their help in introducing measures to reduce the risk of accidents arising from excessive speed. A summary of the results will also be made available to members of the public.
Two planning applications were reconsidered: - one dwelling on land at 11 Stow Road, and four dwellings on land adjacent to 33Thrapston Road.

The next Council meeting open to the public will be on 15th January at 8.00pm in the School.
The full minutes of the last meeting will be displayed on the notice boards and may also be viewed on http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/spaldwick/

The Council now 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

ST JAMES' CHURCH SERVICES

1st February	6.00PM	Evensong
8th February	9.30am	Eucharist
15th February	8.00am	Eucharist
22nd February	9.30am	Children's Eucharist
1st March	6.00pm	Evensong

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

Stuart Good Those of us who attended the Harvest Festival Supper in The George last year and who remember the excellent job done by Stuart Good with the Auction of Produce will be saddened to know that Stuart died during a heart operation on 24th January. Our condolences go to Rosemary for the loss of a son and to Stuart's family.

ELY 900

This year sees the 900th Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Ely which covers Cambridgeshire and parts of Norfolk. Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, launched the Anniversary with a service in the Cathedral on Saturday 24th January and with visits to other parts of the Diocese.

We will be playing our part with a special service later in the year.

GARDEN NOTES

By Roger Haines

Spring's Around The Corner.

Spring must be nearly here as the snowdrops are opening and the length of daylight is growing. We have now had a few frost free days so plants will be beginning to stir and by the end of the month, tree and shrub pruning should have been completed. If your beds and borders are dry enough to work on, then clear away dead leaves and cut back perennials and split any congested clumps. (If you have any over, please pot them up for the Plant Stall that will be part of this year's Village Fete.) Now is also the time to tidy up your Helleborus Hybridus by cutting last year's leaves to make room for the new ones and emerging flowers.

Under cover, plant peas and broad beans in pots or modules ready to be planted out when the weather improves. If you are growing potatoes, buy them now and chit in a light frost-free cool place in trays (it will take about 6 weeks for the dark green potato shoots to appear). I am growing mine in containers again this year and hope to get a better crop. Before you rush out to buy new packets of vegetable seeds, check what you have left from last year as most of these seeds will be viable for this season. In the fruit garden, plant raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries and strawberries as there is a good selection available in most garden centres now.

Don't forget to keep your winter planters watered and keep dead-heading pansies and primulas. The cyclamen in my displays have been hit by the long frosts so these will now be replaced with dwarf daffodils. When your clumps of snowdrops have finished flowering, this is the best time to lift and split them into smaller clumps whilst they still have their green leaves. One of the best snowdrop displays locally can be found at Chelveston. The churchyard is a carpet of white, simply breathtaking!

Allotments Update

I would like to thank all those who purchased the Simply Spaldwick rose which raised £138.72 towards the Allotment Fund.

The latest news on this project is that we have now re-submitted our final application for Lottery Funding and should have a decision in the next six weeks, so here hoping!

SPALDWICK SCHOOL

Governor Visit Day

(A truly great and enlightening visit to the school)

On Tuesday 13th January seven governors joined the children at Spaldwick Primary School to experience a day in the life of a pupil. We had held our first visit day last year and the response from the governors was so positive that we decided to repeat the experience so that new governors and those who had come last time could develop their knowledge of the school. Timetables were created and lunches booked in preparation for the day.
Our visitors spent time in classes across the age range and participated in parachute making, practiced key board playing, wrote poetry, honed their knowledge of tens and units, mixed powder paints, learned about digraphs, explored materials used in buildings and investigated mountains among many other varied activities. During lunch, governors commented on the polite behaviour of the children and the "mood lifting" atmosphere.

At lunch time the pupils look after the Governors

Several governors were able to spend time in the Life Education Classroom – a county resource used by many primary schools. One governor found that he'd "..learned more about the small intestine in two minutes than in 72 years!" Whilst they worked alongside the children and staff, the governors considered how the school promotes its aims and gathered evidence to support their responses.

The responses from the governors were as positive as last year. They felt that to spend time in school watching the children experience the range of opportunities available gave a real understanding and appreciation of life at Spaldwick School.

It gave them an insight into "...such a vibrant and successful learning establishment, the work, planning and commitment that must exist within the Spaldwick School team is just mind blowing; that this is delivered to such a high standard every day, incredible, that you constantly push to improve is just amazing".

These year 1 pupils helped Mr O'Neil with his house investigation recording

The staff appreciated the time given by the governors to take part in this experience – the conversations about how the children were working and approaching different activities buzzed in the staffroom at break and staff were happy to talk about different techniques and approaches that governors had seen in the classrooms. The quotes included in this report have brought smiles and delight in the staffroom. Next year's 'Governor Visit Day' will be placed in the diary and new timetables created so that we can continue to build upon the partnership that we enjoy and value with our governors.

Vicky Arbuthnott (Deputy Head)

Our youngest children helped Mr. Hill with his physical development

New Year's Eve Party

The George saw the New Year in style at their 'Decades' party. Many villagers and regular customers from far and wide turned out to celebrate the start of 2009. The evening started off in the 1940's with the entertainers dressed as a fighter pilot (with associated large moustache!) and an Officer. The first song of the evening saw the dance floor filled with couples dancing in true 1940's fashion and set the tone for the evening ahead. Every hour saw the decades increase and was accompanied by costume changes by the performers with music performed from the relevant era.

A live TV stream enabled all those who would rather have the comfort of the bar very close at hand, still being able to watch the shenanigans of the festivities down in the Barn.

Midnight was marked by a live cannon fire and rapturous cheers from the many patrons.

Mark & Louise would like to thank everyone for their support at their many events during the festive season and indeed, throughout 2008 and look forward to a busy year in 2009 with many more events for the village planned. Upcoming events are always advertised on their website www.georgeofspaldwick.co.uk, so keep an eye out for information on more fun and frivolities.

Did you know that there will be a nationwide church bell ringing to ring in the 2012 Olympics?

If you would like to be part of this, it is not too late to start learning. Most people have the ability to become a good ringer. Great physical strength is not required and people of all ages from 12 upwards are welcome. If you are interested contact Jane Wiggins on 891164

BULK BUYING OF FUEL

Michael Townsend is still investigating the savings to be made by bulk buying fuel. If you would like details call him on 891920

DIARY DATES

February 16th-20th School Half term

February 25th-28th Pantomime, Mother Goose, in Mandeville Hall Kimbolton by Melodramatics. Tickets from Watsons of Kimbolton.

March 21st Disco in the School Hall organised by the Social Group.

July Village Fete on the School Playing Field

Any contributions to the next edition of the Spaldwick News will be welcome.

Contact John Blatch 43 High Street Tel 890853
Email john@blatch.com