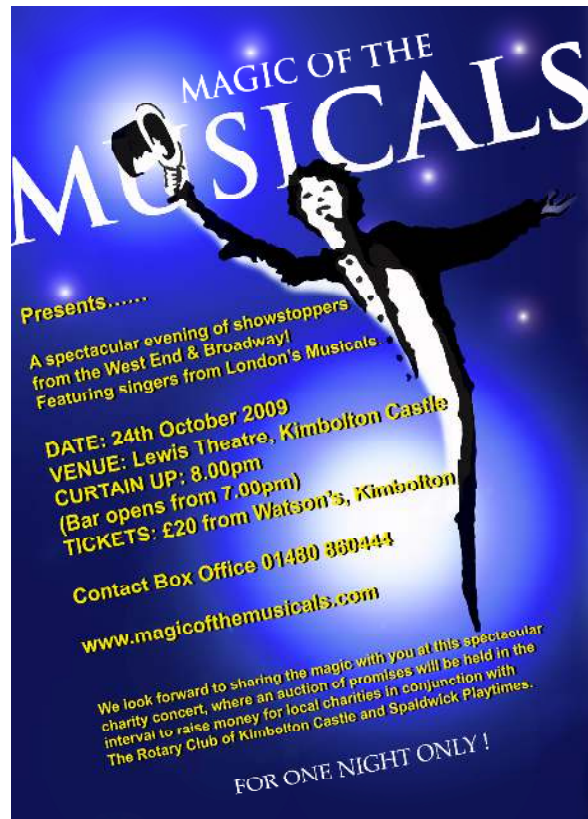


SPALDWICK NEWS

October 2009



The Church Clock

Rob Rushbrook, who lived on Stow Road completely rebuilt the clock in the 1980's and installed an automatic winding mechanism. The black machinery is original, the green is new, made by Rob. (He was Chief Engineer at Lola Cars)

St James Church

Harvest Festival and Supper

Friday 2nd October
Service at 6.30pm
Supper at 7.15pm
Ploughman's Supper
And Drinks

Tickets From:

John Blatch 43 High Street Tel. 890853

Romi Good Ivy House High St Tel 890287

Amba Harbour Three Ways High St. Tel 890565

Or email john@blatch.com

Or Just Come Along

Pictures from the Church Garden Supper on 5th September.
The weather was kind and it was an enjoyable evening.

£1083 was raised for the
Church.



St James Church Services

2nd October	6.30pm	Harvest Festival
4th October	8.00am	Eucharist
11th October	9.30am	Eucharist
18th October	6.00pm	Evensong
25th October	9.30am	Eucharist

The Harvest Supper and Sale of Produce will follow on from the service at about 7.15pm on Friday 2nd October. If you cannot come to the Service please come to the Supper. Tickets will be available on the night.

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

DIARY DATES

Oct	2nd	Harvest Supper, Church	(PCC)
Nov	21st	Quiz, School	(PCC)
Nov	28th	Advent Fair, Ellington Church	(PCC)
Dec	20th	Carols Round the Village	(Social Gp)
Dec	22nd	Carol Service, Church	(PCC)

NATURE NOTES 52

Brian Davis

We had a good splash of rain around the beginning of August (55 mm in 10 days according to the Silcock rain gauge) but only 15 mm since then. However, that splash dampened the ground thoroughly and encouraged a mole to make several forays into my lawn covering an extraordinarily large area in



just a few days, and Tony Ellis has had a similar experience. I tolerate moles in our orchard but not in the lawn when I want to play croquet! I was reminded of a study done in the Dutch polders in the

1960s when someone introduced a mole into a pasture and measured the daily length of new runs produced. It dug about 13 metres a day for the first four days, 38 metres over the weekend, and a further 13 metres on the seventh day, making a total of 102 metres in one week! The study does not relate how it continued to expand its territory but there were lots more wormy cow pats in the field to discover and exploit. Neither Tony nor I have managed to trap our moles but I thought I was doing quite well by catching seven young rabbits in cage traps this summer until I heard that Tony had caught 70. Myxomatosis now seems to have decimated the rabbit population around Easton.

Forthcoming Events at The George

Great British Homemade Pie Night

Every Tuesday - 6 to 9:30pm

Choice of fillings with chips or mash and gravy

£5.95 per head

North African Gourmet Night Friday 16th October

An extravaganza of North African cuisine

£22.95 per head - 4 courses

Celebrate Christmas at The George

Christmas Party Lunch Menu

Christmas Party Dinner Menu

Christmas Day

Live Acoustic Music Night

Last Friday of Every month

Tapas Menu Available

Gourmet Pizza Take-Away/Delevery Service

Full details available on the website www,thegeorgeofspaldwick.co.uk

Sunday Quiz Night

General Knowledge, Picture and Eive Music Quizzes

8.30pm

Tapas menu available every Quiz Night

Is it easy to change ISPs and what is the best ISP?

Absolutely, and I strongly recommend that you look for a better deal. It's really easy to move and generally hassle free. You just ask your current ISP for what's called a MAC code, and give this to your new ISP. The process should happen automatically with a minimum of disruption. I'm often asked to recommend an ISP. Currently, you cannot really go wrong with Zen Internet (www.zen.co.uk) or Naims (www.naims.co.uk). These are very well regarded, and you'll never be put through to a call centre in India, or have to wait long periods of time to get through. Don't just stay with your ISP due to apathy, or believe that BT is the best.

(Make sure that you pass on the MAC code. I changed from One-Tel to BT and One-Tel did not disconnect me, I suffered 6 months of increasingly threatening letters from debt collectors before they finally gave up chasing me for rental charges. John Blatch)

Question: My friend gets high-speed broadband with his cable service. Will we ever get that in Spaldwick?

Unfortunately no. It's just not financially viable for cable companies to install cables in Spaldwick.

SPALDWICK SOCIAL GROUP

The Bollywood Barndance was very good evening enjoyed by about 79 dancers, there were 80 but the Chairman, Gavin Lessing-Caller, twisted his knee and had to sit out. Thanks to all those who helped and to those who attended. Photos in the next edition of the News.

The Spaldwick Recipe Book has got off to a good start with a number of recipes already offered, some from Norma Major and from our local MP's Shailesh Vara and Jonathon Djanogly; keep them coming in, the deadline is December but please do not wait until then. Email to lessing-caller@gmail.com or 53, Stow Road

Question: When is BT going to introduce new, faster technology?

You may have heard on the news that, in some areas of the country, new technologies are being introduced (using optical fibre) to deliver speeds of up to 100Mbit/s. Bad news I'm afraid. As we are a rural area, the only thing that we'll see for the foreseeable future is the introduction of a technology called ADSL2+, which is being rolled out as part of BT's major 21CN upgrade programme. We currently have ADSL. Unfortunately, while it was initially planned for our exchange to be upgraded to ADSL2+ in the second half of 2009, we are currently waiting for BT to announce a revised date. ADSL2+ will improve speeds, but not in a dramatic way, and the improvement will be related to the speed you get now. The higher the speed you can get now, the better the improvement with ADSL2+. If you currently get a speed of about 4Mbit/s, you may get 5Mbit/s with ADSL2+. A handy increase, but nothing earth shattering!

Question: What is Local Loop Unbundling and will we get it?

I wouldn't hold your breath! Local Loop Unbundling is where other companies (such as Sky) put their own equipment in BT exchanges. In areas where it is available (our closest unbundled exchange is Buckden), you can get very cheap deals. For example, Sky offers a base broadband package to Sky subscribers absolutely free. We may eventually get unbundling, but many companies are focusing on more populated areas first.

What about mobile broadband? Is it any good?

Yes and no. Mobile phone companies, such as Vodafone, O2, T-Mobile and 3, have started offering mobile broadband services. With these you connect a small USB dongle to your PC or laptop. However, one of the challenges in Spaldwick is the lack of 3G coverage. Acceptable mobile broadband performance requires good 3G coverage and, currently, only 3 offers that. Luckily, 3 offers the best value-for-money mobile

PARISH COUNCIL

The next scheduled meetings will be held at 8 pm in the Community Room at Spaldwick School on Thursday 1 October 2009 and Thursday 5 November 2009.

Please see notice boards for agendas and confirmation of dates.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Minutes of meetings are published on the Parish Council website

<http://eoe.xarg.co.uk/spaldwick/> They can also be viewed on a link from the village website www.spaldwick.com

CLERK: David Stowell, 23A Thrapston Road, Spaldwick PE28 0TA
davidstowell@onetel.com Phone 890065

Waste Bin Collection Dates		
Tue Sep 29th Grey	Tue Oct 6th Green	Fri Oct 9th Blue
Tue Oct 13th Grey	Tue Oct 20th Green	Fri Oct 23rd Blue
Tue Oct 27th Grey	Tue Nov 3rd Green	Fri Nov 6th Blue

MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS

For one night only, singers from West End musicals will put on a stylish concert in Kimbolton in October.

This prestigious evening will be held in the Lewis Theatre, Kimbolton Castle on Saturday 24th October 2009.

The event will raise funds for local Children's Charities through the Rotary Club of Kimbolton Castle and Spaldwick Playtimes

The musical extravaganza promises to be quite a night and the four singers boast quite a CV between them.

They have previously performed in such shows as; Chess, Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Cats and Mary Poppins.

They will be singing a selection of hit songs from various musicals throughout the night.

One of the main organisers, Lisa Hayes told me;

"In previous years, we have put on these charity concerts in other parts of the country with great success. We are really looking forward to a magical evening in such a beautiful setting as Kimbolton Castle.

The main aim of the evening is to raise some much needed cash for local charities, and I can't think of a nicer way of doing it than sitting and enjoying such a fabulous show!"

A bar and an Auction of Promises will be available during the evening.

"We are very lucky to have had such amazing support from global and local businesses – some superb prizes for the auction have been donated already.

It's great that people are so keen to be part of the evening."

Tickets are £20.00

CONTACT: You can obtain your tickets from Watson's Box Office 01480 860444.

Get the most from broadband in Spaldwick!

Dr Mark Heath, who lives in Spaldwick, co-founded the telecoms research company Unwired Insight and led the local campaign that brought broadband to the village. Following many questions he regularly receives from local people, he's decided to write a column on getting the most from broadband. If you have any questions, or want further information, then email him at mark.heath@spaldwick.com or go to www.spaldwick.com/broadband.aspx.

Question: I'm not sure I'm getting the maximum speed I should with my broadband service. What should I be getting?

Answer: A lot depends on the quality of the line from your home to the BT exchange, which is situated in Woolley. With a good line, many people in Spaldwick should be getting peak download speeds of 4 to 5 Mbit/s. To test the speed of your connection, try the site www.mybroadbandspeed.co.uk.

Question: If my speeds are poor, is there anything I can do?

Answer: Absolutely! Firstly, make sure that you have your broadband filters in place (even on Sky boxes). Even with filters in place, internal wiring in your home can play havoc with the broadband signal. If you have a BT master socket in your home (older houses may not have this), then I recommend that you purchase a filtered faceplate, such as this one <http://www.adslnation.com/products/xte2005.php>. This is perfectly legal and is allowed by BT. It fits over the BT master socket and cleverly isolates the broadband signal from the telephone wires around your house. In many cases, this will substantially improve your broadband speeds. I've often seen speeds double with this.