

## SPALDWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**A reminder - what to do if you see something suspicious**

Make a note of what you have seen - for example - **vehicle registration number** - this is very important and can help the police identify a vehicle & owner/driver/place of registration.

Phone the police on **0345 4564564** and report the incident.

### 2009 Review

Spaldwick remains a safe area - we are fortunate to live in a village with a low crime rate and few road traffic accidents. We have good communication with other villages thanks to the Cluster group that was set up last year.

### 2010 - Priorities - KEEP OUR VILLAGE FREE FROM CRIME & REDUCE SPEEDING

- **Please remember to secure your property**
- **Ask callers for identification - beware distractions at the door**

**Reduce your speed in the village Thank you & Happy New Year**

For more information see [www.mynhw.co.uk](http://www.mynhw.co.uk) and [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)  
David Henrick - 01480896556 [david.henrick@virgin.net](mailto:david.henrick@virgin.net)

Printed by Huntingdon Conservative Office

## SPALDWICK NEWS January 2010



The A4 Class locomotive named after its designer, Sir Nigel Gresley, went through Huntingdon on 6th December. This photograph was taken just north of Offord where a path off the Godmanchester to Offord road gives access to the track.

In summer steam trains go through Huntingdon about once a month, see [www.steam.info/tours](http://www.steam.info/tours)



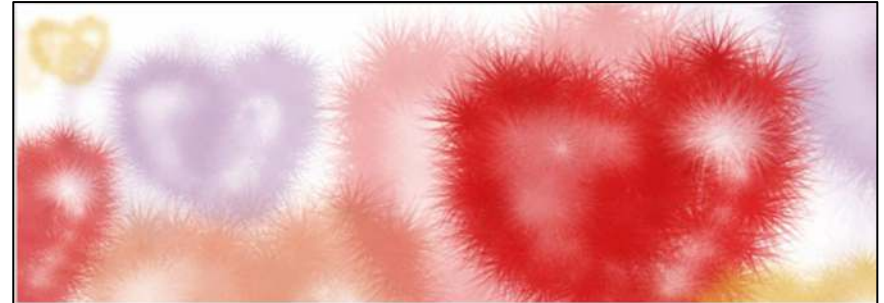
## ***Amanda's Driving School***

**The home of friendly, safe and professional driving lessons with a Female Instructor.  
Based in Spaldwick and covering all surrounding towns & villages.**

**FIRST 5 LESSONS ONLY £60**

***Amanda Fee DSA ADI IAM  
07966 959260***

***[www.amandasdrivingschool.co.uk](http://www.amandasdrivingschool.co.uk)  
email: [info@amandasdrivingschool.co.uk](mailto:info@amandasdrivingschool.co.uk)***



## ***Valentine's Ball***

***An Evening of Elegance and Romance***

***Alconbury Memorial Hall***

***Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7:30-11:30pm***

***3 Course Dinner - Live Band - Formal Dress***

## **Merlins Over Malta Special Edition DVD**



*Follow the epic journey of a vintage Spitfire and Hurricane from Cambridgeshire to Malta*

**Available Now at  
[www.roundelfilms.com](http://www.roundelfilms.com)**

Special Edition

Roundel Productions presents

## **Merlins Over Malta**

Narrated by Martin Shaw



*The story of an epic journey to mark a forgotten air battle of World War Two*

We still have a handful of tickets left so if you call us now you may still be able to get to enjoy a great evening at a bargain price

The atmosphere will be provided by a fabulous live band playing throughout the evening.

A sumptuous 3 course dinner will be served at the tables with frou-frou and elegant settings created by our world renowned team of event creators.

Dress code will be formal so prepare for a night to remember.

Bring your partner, bring a friend or bring a whole group, we guarantee a great evening.

Tickets at just £15.00 per person and can be purchased from Lisa 3 Ivy Way (896996) and Gavin 53 Stow Road (896143)

# St James Church Services

## January

3rd	6pm	Evensong
10th	9.30am	Eucharist
17th	11.00am	All-age Service
24th	9.30am	Eucharist
31st	10.00am	Group 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

## DIARY DATES

Feb 24th-27th	Pantomime, Hansel and Gretel in the Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton
June 5th	Church Garden Party, 43 High Street
July 7th	Village Fete

## NATURE NOTES

From now until well into spring is the leanest time for birds. The "mellow fruitfulness" of autumn is over, the nuts and seeds that are not already eaten will be consumed very soon and the bird food that many people put out is much in demand.



At the moment in my garden I can count 11 blackbirds, 2 wood pigeons, a collared dove and a mixture of tits and finches all gathered around the feeders. I put sunflower seeds in the trays (white seeds, they prefer these to the seeds with the black husks still on), nyger seed

in the hanging feeders for the goldfinches and sprinkle what is termed Soft Bill Mix on the ground. The tits and chaffinches concentrate on the sunflower seeds whilst the bigger birds go for the Mix but also pick up the seeds scattered by the messy eaters above.

Doves and pigeons usually go around in pairs; the fact that there is just the one collared dove may well mean that its erstwhile mate made a meal for a sparrowhawk. There is at least one pair of hawks in the village, I have seen both male and female in my garden at the same time on just one occasion. They usually go for the tits or finches, hardly more than a mouthful, but I have seen several rings of pigeon feathers in the past, a sure sign of a sparrowhawk.

Just once, out of the corner of my eye, I caught sight of a male hawk take a blackbird. He swooped down, took the blackbird in flight and carried on to crush it to the ground, immediately spreading his wings forward to make an umbrella over the prey to restrict its escape. The blackbird put up a fight and did get away for a few moments but the hawk pounced again, this time for good, and immediately started to peck at it tossing beaks full of feathers into the characteristic circle on the grass. At first I thought that he was plucking the blackbird alive but then realised that it was probably pecking at it to kill it for, after a minute or so, it flew off with a now totally subdued blackbird in its talons.



# Forthcoming Events at The George

## Great British Homemade Pie Night

Every Tuesday - 6 to 9:30pm £5.95 per head  
Choice of fillings with chips or mash and gravy



## Chinese Gourmet Night Friday 15th January 2010

An extravaganza of authentic Chinese cuisine  
£22.95 per head - 4 courses



## Live Acoustic Music Night

Last Friday of every month      Tapas Menu Available



## Gourmet Pizza Take-Away/Delivery Service

Full details available on the website  
[www,thegeorgeofspaldwick.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeofspaldwick.co.uk)



## Sunday Quiz Night

General Knowledge, Picture and "Live" Music Quizzes  
Tapas menu available every Quiz Night

**Father Christmas came to Spaldwick** Here are some pictures of him and his Elves. More pictures on the Spaldwick Website [mark.heath@spaldwick.com](mailto:mark.heath@spaldwick.com)



\*\*\*\*\*

££££££££ 100 Club ££££££££

The 100 Club to raise funds to keep the Spaldwick News going has got off to a flying start, there are just 5 slots yet to be taken up. Anyone who would like to join please telephone Sue Appleyard on 896089. Also a number of people who have signed up are yet to pay their £12; we will be coming round collecting in the next week or so. Do not worry, your numbers will still go into the draw.

The first draw will take place in The George on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30pm, first prize will be £40, second prize £20.

We also have at least one more advertiser, so the News can keep going for another year.

## Spaldwick Village Hall - a new chapter

A recent survey of Spaldwick residents re-affirmed the demand for a Village Hall, offering a wide range of facilities, and for a village playing field. The current Village Hall Management Committee decided to stand down in the expectation that a new Committee will bring renewed energy, expertise and ideas to the project.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on the 2nd December 2009, which included 33 members of the public. Seven people were elected to the new Committee (pictured below from left to right):

- Eddie Roughsedge
- Gavin Lessing-Caller
- Greg Rice
- Mark Heath
- John Lock
- Grahame Leach
- Ian Harbour (not present).



### We need your help!

Many people at the EGM signed up to support the Village Hall Project, thank you for your support. Please email [mark.heath@spaldwick.com](mailto:mark.heath@spaldwick.com) if you would like to support the Village Hall project and you have not yet registered your support.

The background to the project By 2000, our old Village Hall was in need of extensive refurbishment, and planning permission for the development of a major extension on the site was refused. A public meeting voted that the old Village Hall be sold (which was completed in June 2002) with the proceeds used to build a new hall. Unfortunately, there has been little progress in seven years, through unexpected difficulties in finding a suitable site for a new Village Hall.

## PARISH COUNCIL

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

### Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 14th January in the Community Room at Spaldwick School commencing at 8 pm.

Please see notice boards for the agenda and confirmation of the date. Minutes of meetings are published on the notice boards and on the village website [www.spaldwick.com](http://www.spaldwick.com).

**Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3) 2010/11** This is a partnership between Parish and County Council, with District Council support. It aims to improve, maintain and promote public Rights of Way. It allows a parish to take a pro-active role and apply for grant funding for Rights of Way improvements. The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to take the lead so that Spaldwick can apply to join the scheme before the closing date, 26th February.

The amount of work involved will depend on the individual. Some volunteers just report issues to the County and others prefer to solve simple maintenance issues on their paths. If more than one volunteer comes forward, each could look after a group of paths. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk who will be pleased to supply you with further information.

### Waste Bin Collection Dates

Mon Jan 4th Blue	Wed Jan 6th Grey	Tue Jan 12th Green
Fri Jan 15th Blue	Tue Jan 19th Grey	Tue Jan 26th Green
Fri Jan 29th Blue	Tue Feb 2nd Grey	Tue Feb 9th Green

**Spaldwick Social Group Annual Report** (full version can be found on the Spaldwick web site)

What an interesting year! When we met for the 1st time as a newly elected committee the general agreement around the room was that we would focus on social events to promote engagement from all villagers across the age groups. It was a year of lots of highs and a few lows. The focal point of a summer Fete was unanimously decided upon and therefore the other events held should lead up to supporting this activity. With this in mind and after careful deliberation the events calendar was determined.

### IT STARTED WITH A HIGH

Spaldwick Village Carol Singing - December 2008 A successful event in the past - this was an easy choice. The focus of this was all about the children of the village and had nothing to do with mince pies and mulled wine!!

This was a great success with a very large party of children and adults from throughout the village following the sleigh for the whole route. Finishing at the George where the warm wine and pies were most appreciated.

### VERY VERY BIG HIGH

Summer Fete July 2009 unanimously voted as the single most important event our village should undertake. Undoubtedly a huge undertaking with significant effort required from everyone in the team throughout the year. Our focus was on getting the whole village together and including something for everyone. Well, even with our enthusiastic optimism, could anyone really believe just how popular this would turn out to be? It was certainly attended by all age groups throughout the village with its share of under 1 's and over 80 's and everyone else in-between. And with more people attending than people living in the village who could not be impressed at the turnout and the positive comments afterwards. What an effort from everyone involved. In addition to the great day we also managed to raise a sizeable sum for the local community.

### Scariest Event of the Year and eventually a big HIGH - Bollywood Barn Dance September 2009

Well we had proved we could keep kids happy at Christmas time (not really that surprising) and we had managed to put on a pretty amazing fete, but could we get the village to turn out for an evening event? Happily as we all now know, we ended up turning people away and extending the size of the venue to cope with the ticket sales. What a great effort by everyone yet again and some more excellent reviews following the event (we even pre sold tickets for next year)

During the year we achieved many of our objectives including getting all ages in our community together, running events that were well received by the village and as a by-product raised over £1000 for various local charities.

Well that brings me to the end of my year as chairman. A year where for many of us we took on things we knew little about and relied on the support of others in the team with more experience to help us through, a year with a few low points but infinitely more high points. I would like to thank everyone from the SSG and this includes their partners and friends we have called upon to support us through the last 12 months. There has been help from people outside this group of dedicated individuals, but it has been your consistent effort that has made these things happen.

Without the attendance from the population of the village this would all be pointless so thank you all for your support

In the words of the great actor Vinnie Jones " its been emotional "

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the journey.

Gavin Lessing-Caller

If anyone wants to be more involved in any of the events planned for this year or would like to suggest other events for us to hold then we would be delighted to hear from you.