

Village Dates:

- :: **Defibrillator Training** - Saturday 10th February, 2pm (Community Room)
- :: **Village Quiz** - Friday 15th March, 7-9pm (Community Room)
- :: **Easter Picnic Party** - Saturday 30th March (Details TBC)
- :: **Spaldwick Carpet Bowls** - Thursdays, 7.30pm (Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton)

February 2024

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK

NEWS

Christmas Celebrations in Spaldwick



It was another magical Christmas in Spaldwick, with celebrations at St James Church; the Christmas Carol Party; a much-anticipated visit from Santa on his sleigh; beautiful lights; carol singing and get-togethers at The George!

Thank you to Spaldwick Social Group for arranging the sleigh visit, during which a collection raised £583.27 for Hunts Community Cancer Network.

Liz and Doug Pecarski (pictured above right) say they were "blown away" by everyone's reaction to this year's Christmas display outside their home, The Old Chapel. More than £500 was raised for Woodgreen Pets Charity, where Liz volunteers every week!

She said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to have so many people enjoy our decorations - so from the bottom of our tinsel-topped toes, thank you!"

You can find out more about Woodgreen at: www.woodgreen.org.uk

More events planned for 2024!

Spaldwick Social Group has lots of events planned for the coming year, with plans for each season! Below are the dates to keep free in your calendar. Precise details will be released in future months:

SPRING	30th March	Easter Picnic Party
SUMMER	8th June	Garden Showcase & Spaldwick Party
AUTUMN	11th October	Music Bingo Quiz, Cheese & Wine
WINTER	6th December	Christmas Lights
	15th December	Santa's Visit

Litter Picking

Do you have some spare time and want to get out more? Would you be interested in doing some litter picking?

The Parish Council is aware there is one lovely resident very kindly removing litter from grass verges, etc in the Thrapston Road/A14 bridge area. Would anyone else be interested for other parts of the village?

The Parish Council is purchasing some litter picking equipment, so if you would like some please let Sarah know:
clerk@spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Silent Auction

Opens March 6th midday
Closes April 6th midday



Do you have a skill or item to donate to a village silent auction in aid of St James Church development of the community space?

Items already listed are:

- Indian Head massage and Reiki
- 2 sacks of well rotten horse manure
- Bottle of Champagne
- 2 Hours gardening

Please let us know if you are able to donate. A full listing will be available on our Facebook page, and in next month's village news. To get in touch message our Facebook page, email stjamesspaldwick@aol.com or see the PCC (Julia

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***** QUALIFIED PRESCHOOL PRACTITIONER VACANCY*****

Playtimes is seeking a confident, nurturing and reliable childcare practitioner to work within its friendly and professional setting.

The successful candidate must have a full and relevant level 3 qualification and a passion for working with children. Child Protection and Paediatric First Aid qualifications are desirable but not essential as these can be provided. Effective communication skills are essential.

Start date: End Feb-Early March 2024

Working hours include:

Mondays 8am – 9am
Tuesdays 8am – 3pm
Wednesdays 8am – 6pm
Thursdays 8am – 6pm

There is the opportunity to work additional hours and some of the hours above are negotiable, however 8am starts are essential.

Our preschool is open Monday to Friday 9am - 3pm. We also run a before and after school club for our linked primary school. This would be a term time only role although there would be the opportunity to work at our school holiday club if the candidate was keen to do so.

Playtimes are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We expect all employees to share this commitment. This position is subject to a full DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) check, return of two satisfactory references and completion of a 3 month probationary period.

All posts involving direct contact with vulnerable children are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Closing date for applications is 28th January 2024
Interviews will be from Thursday 1st February onwards
For an application pack or more information please contact:
Sophie Clark (Manager)
07886 833711 sophie@playtimesplaygroup.co.uk



2024	Morning activity	Afternoon activity
Mon 19th Feb	Spring Slime	Pompom Animals
Tue 20th Feb	Baking Spring Shortbread	Lolly Pop Stick Bugs
Wed 21st Feb	Making Bird Feeders	Butterfly Printing
Thu 22nd Feb	Making Bug Hotels	Hungry Caterpillar Story Craft
Fri 23rd Feb	Pizza Making	Nature Walk

Open 9am-5pm - £35 or £5 per hour with min 3 hours bookable.
Packed Lunch and Hot Tea available at £1.75 each.

Email: playtimesoffice@gmail.com or call 01480 890077 to book your place

Activities and events subject to change. Many other activities will also be available throughout the day.

At Playtimes, we are passionate about empowering our children to become independent learners who have the confidence to explore their environments and embrace everyday challenges with determination. We ensure the children have a caring, stimulating and challenging environment to do so.



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St James Church News

There are a number of St James Church events coming up:

- **Village Quiz in the Community Room, Spaldwick School** - 15th March 7-9pm - £5 per person, teams of 8 – or just come along and we'll make up teams.

Ticket includes soup and roll, bring your own snacks and drinks. Tea and coffee available. Email: stjamespaldwick@aol.com; leave message on 01480 890203; or see PCC members (Julia Rutherford, Amba Harbour, Elaine Woolward and Diana Sands).

- **Jimmy's Easter Breakfast Club, Teddy Tower parachute jump and Silent Auction of Promises** – Sunday 7th April, 10.30am-Midday.

Why not join us for a social Sunday morning? Stroll along to St James for a bacon butty or croissant, and hot brew to start your day. Children are invited to make a parachute for teddy and see how far he can fly from the tower. Find out who won the items in the silent auction. Why not join us for the 9.30am service where we will be thanking volunteers around the village. If anyone would like to suggest people, or groups to be thanked please get in touch.

To find out more, email: stjamespaldwick@aol.com, leave a message on 01480 890203, or see PCC members (Julia Rutherford, Amba Harbour, Elaine Woodward and Diana Sands).

St James Church Services:

- **Sunday 3rd March, 9.30am** - Morning Service followed by Jimmy's Breakfasts.
- **Sunday 17th March, 9.30am (St Patricks Day)** - Parish Communion.

Defibrillator Training

A new defibrillator training session is being planned for the village.

It will take place in Spaldwick Community Room on Saturday 10th February, 2pm.

The Public Accessible AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is a compact, portable device which can be used on an adult or child, when it has been recognised that they have had a sudden cardiac arrest or heart attack.

The AED is designed specifically for untrained members of the public to use, and as the first 8 minutes of heart failure are the most vital, the use of a defibrillator on a patient during this time, increases survival considerably.

To express your interest in attending this presentation, please RSVP to: clerk@spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk



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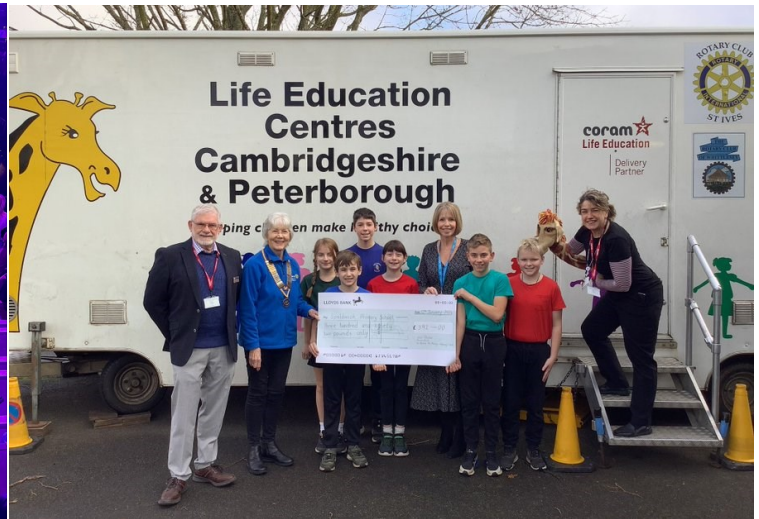
Spaldwick Primary School - by Headteacher Louise Worrell

This term, Spaldwick had the pleasure of hosting a visit from Life Education, a wonderful educational programme that promotes healthy living and personal development. This visit was made possible thanks to the generous support of our fantastic PTA (FOSS) and the Rotary Club of St Neots St Mary's.

Our children thoroughly enjoyed the interactive sessions and learned valuable lessons about making positive choices for their wellbeing.

As has become a Spaldwick tradition, our talented children from Year 4, 5, and 6 had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Young Voices event at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. They showcased their musical talents alongside thousands of other young performers, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

We currently have staff vacancies at our school. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our dedicated team, please visit our website:
www.spaldwickschool.org.uk



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Above: Just before Christmas, Spaldwick School children took part in a 'Santa Dash' around the school grounds!

Polling station officials wanted!

There are scheduled Police and Crime Commissioner elections being held in Huntingdonshire on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

Alongside these, we also have the risk of another snap General Election hanging over us!

In addition, already implemented changes now mean Voter ID is required to be shown in polling stations.

Because of this, the elections team at HDC need to increase their staff pool for polling stations and for the counting of ballot papers.

If you're interested in getting involved, or know someone that might be, please contact:
elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



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Are you getting a good Full Fibre deal? By Jason Patel, Spaldwick's Broadband Champion

It's now been more than two years since Spaldwick upgraded to Full Fibre (FTTP). Since October 2021, upwards of 50% of the village has signed up.

It means there's now a good chance your original contract could be ending. As with all services, it doesn't normally pay to be loyal - and new customers get much better deals. If you want to save some money, take action now!

The change-overs are pretty simple for most - you pick a date, the provider sends you a new router, you install it and it just works. As an example, my bill has reduced by £40 a month going from £76 to £36 for the same speed service at 900Mbps.

I would suggest visiting each providers' website directly, or using a comparison site such as broadbanddeals.co.uk

Here's a table to make your life a little easier, but feel free to change or stick as you like (Note: Price per Month is *average* over the contract term, including any setup charges):

Speed / Provider	100 -150 Mbps	490-500 Mbps	900 Mbps	Term
Vodafone	£ 24.00	£ 28.00	£ 36.00	24 Months
BT	£ 40.37	£ 45.62	£ 54.62	24 Months
Sky	£ 29.28	£ 35.03	£ 41.03	18 Months
TalkTalk	£ 28.83	£ 39.83	£ 45.83	18 Months

Spaldwick was one of the first rural villages in the UK to get standard ADSL broadband, in 2004, following a successful local demand registration scheme.

Following a subsequent local registration campaign, we were then one of the first rural villages in the UK to get 'superfast' fibre broadband, and received significant national attention. Fibre broadband was switched on in 2014, and take-up in the village quickly exceeded 80%, with one of the highest take-ups in Cambridgeshire and across the UK.

The ultimate broadband technology – called Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) – offers improved reliability and connection speeds up to 1 Gbps (1000 Mbps).

A handy questions and answers section, about what faster internet speeds could mean for you, is on the village website at: www.spaldwick.com/broadband



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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for February/March:

Grey		13th Feb	27th Feb	12th March
Blue	6th Feb	20th Feb	5th March	19th March
Green	8th Feb	22nd Feb	7th March	21st March

The Mobile Library visits Spaldwick and Stow Longa on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (Round H10)

Spaldwick : High Street 10.45am to 11.05am
Stow Longa : The Green 11.15am to 11.45am

Spaldwick Neighbourhood Watch - by David Henrick

A campaign, warning us about the dangers of an emerging scam, has started.

Quishing, also known as QR code phishing, involves tricking someone into scanning a phony QR code with their phone or device. The QR code then takes the user to a fraudulent website that might download malware or ask for sensitive information. It's the latest trend used by scammers to get to your hard-earned cash.

In some cases victims have lost thousands. One victim lost £13,000 after scanning a code on a station parking machine.

QR codes are often found on things like parking machines, charging points, emails, even restaurant menus. Once scanned, scam codes will take you to a bogus website where you innocently input your details thinking you're paying for a service or visiting the genuine site, when in fact, you're sharing all your personal details with the scammers.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, don't share your details.

Spaldwick's feathered friends - by Kitluen Lee



It appears that Fieldfares, a large member of the thrush family, have decided to migrate to our area for the winter away from the cold in Scandinavia and Russia - where they normally reside. They can be seen as a flock of 100 or more birds feeding on berries.

Described as 'skitty' when disturbed moving as a large flock. One to watch out for in the fields up to April!

Friends of Spaldwick School

Friends of Spaldwick School are pushing ahead with their latest big fundraising project - a bike track.

The track will be designed to teach pupils (early years and KS1) vital knowledge about road awareness and safety as well as give them a fun area to play.

Every £1 donated gets FOSS closer to their goal, so they would be very grateful for any donation you are able to give in support. If you pay income tax, by adding Gift Aid to your donation they will receive an extra 20p for every £1 donated!

FOSS's Bike Track

Fund Raising Thermometer



They said: "We are aware £10K is a BIG total to try and raise, but together we can do this and provide a fantastic new opportunity for our children and our wonderful school. Thank you so much for your support."

To support the fundraiser, head here:

gofundme.com/spaldwick-school-early-years-bike-track

Ellington WI

Ellington WI will be having its AGM and annual supper on Tuesday 7th March, when we get through the business side of things as quickly as possible before enjoying ourselves!

On Tuesday 2nd April, we have a talk about mindfulness; and on Tuesday 7th May our speaker will be talking about 'losing your sight is not losing your life'. We meet at 7.30pm in the village hall and visitors are very welcome with a charge of £5 to include refreshments and raffle ticket.

We also host a monthly coffee morning for local residents on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm. If you decide to become a WI member, we also have a walking group, a book club and craft sessions.

For further details please contact the Secretary, Sue Rice: normanrice@btinternet.com or the President, Jan Sherratt: jgollop@btinternet.com.



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