

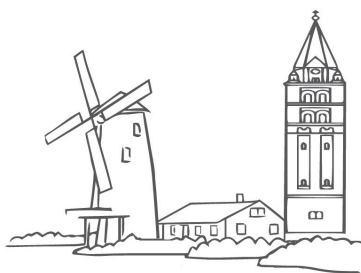
Dates for your diary:

:: St James Church: Services continue on YouTube - search for "South Leightonstone", or live on Zoom (See page 3 for more details)

:: Spaldwick Parish Council: Meetings are currently held by video conferencing. Contact the Parish Council for details: clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com

February 2021

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK NEWS

Your photos reveal extent of Christmas floods in Spaldwick

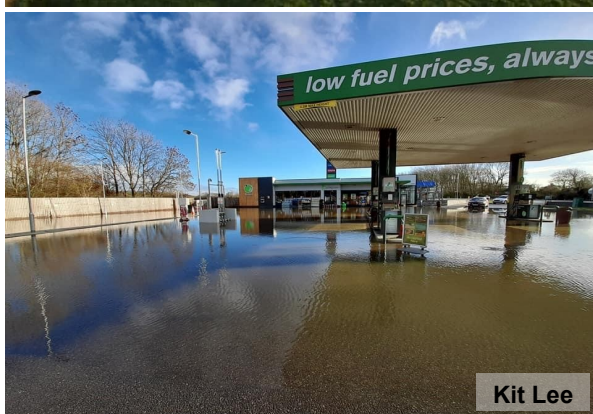
Heavy rain just before Christmas led to widespread flooding across Cambridgeshire and a "critical incident" being declared by the emergency services.

It also hit Spaldwick, with the bridge, roads, Applegreen Service area, homes and numerous fields falling victim to rising water levels.

At one point, Police closed off the A14, causing major disruption on one of the country's main routes for haulage companies and key workers.



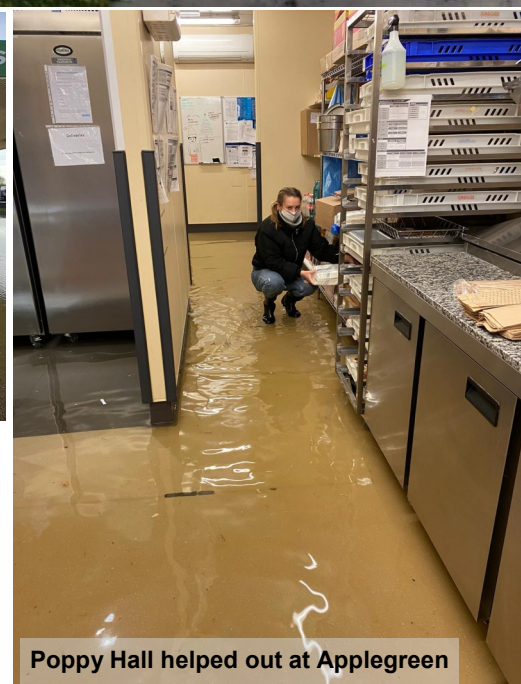
Drone photo by 16-year-old Spaldwick resident, Owen



Kit Lee

Although the village wasn't as badly hit as other parts of the county, the response from residents showed a tremendous community spirit that's still alive and well here.

Offers of help came for elderly and vulnerable residents via the Spaldwick Support WhatsApp group and a small team of volunteers helped to move stock at the service area. Thank you to everyone involved.



Poppy Hall helped out at Applegreen



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A New Year, a new start? January and February can be perceived as quiet months down at the allotment because daylight is short, the weather is generally at its coldest and the soil is frozen or wet most of the time.

But, like most of the winter, these months can be an opportunity to look over the allotment, prioritise jobs and prepare for the growing season ahead. So, for those who are willing to brave the elements, there can be plenty of jobs to do.

It's a good time to remove and dispose of any damaged and rotten crops and debris from the vegetable plot and add them to the compost heap. It's an opportunity to turn the soil if it's not too wet or frozen. If the weather freezes, it will help break apart heavy clods of earth and birds can benefit from any insect eggs turned up in the soil turning process.

Dig in manure or compost and cover the soil with fleece or polythene so it warms the soil in preparation for future planting.

Alternatively, by adopting the 'no-dig' trend, allotment life becomes less strenuous and much easier by simply doing what it intends - no digging! Prepare the soil by laying compost or manure on the top of the soil - less effort and managed in a day. The holy mantra of organic gardening is 'feed the soil and not the plant'.



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Patience is key. Days are still too short and cold to think about sowing your precious onions, lettuce, peas directly outdoors... without some protection from the harsh elements. Garlic bulbs are the exception. Any plants or seedlings in a cold greenhouse should be covered with layers of newspaper on frosty night (and removed when on warmer days). Seed potatoes can be ordered ready for placing upturned in empty egg boxes to be placed on a bright windowsill or in a dry, frost free shed or garage to encourage them to 'chit'.

For those who don't wish to brave the freezing or wet weather at this time, it can be a chance to be indoors and plan for the growing season ahead by creating a planting schedule of what, when and where will be sown and planted.

Use the time to sort out left over packets of seeds to use up when you've decided what plants you might want to grow and what you don't.

Happy New year to you all.



Spaldwick has one of the best service areas in the country!

Despite the challenges of lockdown, the Applegreen site won in the "Midlands up to 4mlpa" regional category at the Forecourt Trader of the Year Awards.

The awards honour the hard work, innovation and creativity of forecourt retailers nationwide.

The event was held virtually on Thursday 14th January and hosted by TV presenter and magician, Stephen Mulhern. Well done to the team!

St James Church

Christmas past:

We've had some amazing feedback from those that enjoyed the crib displays both across the village and within the church.

The carol service "under the stars" was well supported too, although slightly darker than we'd planned! The George's mince pies and mulled wine (pictured below) were most welcomed.



Photos supplied by Julia Rutherford

We had lots of donations to the Godmanchester Food Bank, and this is something we have been encouraged to continue with. Keep an eye out for the next collection date – we will leave the church open for contributions.

We are looking ahead to the summer and hopefully a less restricted lifestyle. Plans include some fundraising events as well, as a summer festival, to include outdoor services with picnics. Roll on summer!

In the meantime, services continue on YouTube search for South Leightonstone, or live on Zoom – just ask Philip if you'd like a link.

To contact Rector Rev Philip Howson:

Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/revdphiliphowson/>

Phone: 01480 869081



Spaldwick Auction:

Thank you to the individuals and businesses who supported the auction by contributing some amazing Lots, and by your very generous bidding.

We are delighted to say we raised over £1,000 towards the upkeep of St James, we hope everyone enjoyed their items, and the experiences which will - in many cases - be taken when the weather improves, and when local businesses like The George are able to open their doors again.

Thank you:

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported the church during 2020 including:

- The gardening team of Eddie Roughsedge, Pete Rimmer, Gerry Southerington, Simon Richards, William Brown, Guy Parkes and Alex Rice.
- Ian Harbour and Jason Pope (Spaldwick Electrical) for their essential maintenance.
- Sue Appleyard and Liz McCue and the church cleaning group who generally meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
- And, of course, everyone who has so kindly signed up for the Parish Giving scheme which helped give us some much needed financial stability in a particularly difficult time for everyone.

THE HIGHWAYMAN CAR SCHEME



Do you know what it is?

This is a scheme to help provide transport for people who are not able to make essential journeys by public transport or any other means.

A team of volunteer drivers take you to appointments at the Doctors, Hospital, Dentist, etc alongside social drives such as visiting relatives or friends and even shopping. The scheme is aimed at helping people get out and about.

Passengers pay the driver on the day of travel to contribute towards fuel expenses. This is at a rate of 30p per mile with a minimum charge of £3.00

To arrange a journey or for more information please call: 07786 520540

If the phone is not manned at the time of your call, leave a message on the answerphone and the coordinator of the drivers will get back to you.

We are always looking out for volunteer drivers, so if you want to help your community give us a call. We would love to hear from you.

The scheme is supported and advised by Cambridgeshire County Council and Care Network. Cambridgeshire

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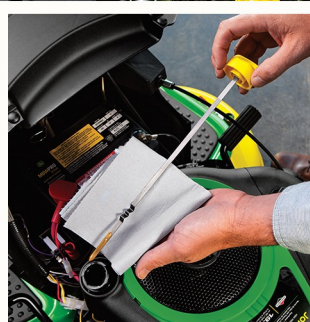
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Friends of Spaldwick School



It's been a busy fundraising year for FOSS (Friends of Spaldwick School), despite the challenges of Covid restrictions.

Parents and villagers have donated through the Bags2School scheme, the Halloween pumpkin competition, and the children's Christmas card artwork.

The last fundraiser of 2020 was the Christmas Game Card, which you may have seen published in December's Spaldwick News (pictured). The 1st prize was £50, with Tesco donating a hamper for the runner-up. The winners were Fiona and Kate!



Money raised has recently contributed towards maths resources for the school, meaning that bubbles have their own equipment, including clocks and magnetic shapes.

There will be many more opportunities to raise money for the school in 2021!

Spaldwick Parish Council

December's meeting was held on Thursday 10th by video conference, due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Attending the meeting virtually were: Vice Chairman G Smith, J Pope, S Parfrey, W Burcham, County Councillor I Gardener, Clerk S Cardwell and 5 members of the public.

Here is what was discussed, based on the draft minutes.

County Council Update:

County Cllr I Gardener provided an update, including Covid-19 and winter support for families and individuals, a joint agreement with Peterborough City Council for health visiting and school nursing services and a three-year Falls Prevention pilot.

He also provided details of a trial 'Demand Responsive Transport' (DRT) scheme for West Huntingdonshire and a warning about misuse of blue badges. Cllr Gardener then went on to update the Council about a Highways review of J15 on the A14, a delay in the completion of the New Shire Hall building, registration for Solar Together Cambridgeshire and the new arrivals flightpath and holding area for London Luton airport.

Following a question from Cllr J Pope, County Cllr I Gardener also stated that the Brampton Hut roundabout update (including pedestrian/cyclist crossing) is nearing completion.

Planning:

A number of planning items were discussed at the meeting, all of which can be viewed at www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Highways & Byways:

- Flashing Speed Sign - For two of the four locations proposed by Cambridgeshire County Council, it was decided to purchase moveable posts and appropriate sockets, due to grass-cutting concerns (provided the sockets are no more than £500 each). Locations would include High Street, Thrapston Road and Stow Road.
- Huntingdonshire District Council is investigating the updating of signs addressing the issue of motorcyclists using byways during winter months.

Village Defibrillator:

Cllr S Parfrey confirmed that the grant application is in and that he has submitted the additional policies which were required. Cllr J Pope noted that Spaldwick fundraising have also offered to finance the defibrillator.

Mobile Post Office Van:

A previous request for the mobile Post Office van, which visits local villages, to come to Spaldwick was denied. Barham and Wooley Parish Council are currently interested in requesting this service. Cllr S Parfrey proposed Spaldwick reapply; this was seconded by Cllr W Burcham and carried unanimously.

Councillors' Questions:

A resident has made a request regarding pedestrian access at the petrol station, and coloured tarmac as a safety measure. This will be added to January's meeting agenda.

TOWN & POORS CHARITY FIELD:

Cllr W Burcham advised that there has been no Allotment committee meeting, but she had sent an email regarding the request to have beehives at the allotments and there were no objections. The Council agreed that the item should be added to the January agenda for further discussion.

Parish Council meetings are being held via Zoom, unless the current coronavirus situation changes.



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Spaldwick Social Group

Thank you to Spaldwick Social Group for ensuring that the Christmas Santa Sleigh went ahead at Christmas - children young (and old) loved it!

It really is a special part of living in our village, and will create memories for years to come. £205.88 was raised for Huntingdon Community Cancer Network via the collection buckets.

A special mention must also go to the Social Group for their efforts in putting up a Christmas tree on the village green. At a time when many of us needed spirits lifting, due to a very different festive season, it was lovely to see!



Calling all parents! - By Lisa Hunter



The words 'Homeschooling' and 'Lockdown Birthday' breathe fear into most parents...

Local company Creative Team Events have completely turned their business on its head going from delivering over 400 corporate events per year, all over the world...to designing virtual events for all to enjoy.

After a busy Christmas and New Year, they have now turned their hand to trying to save parents/employees throughout the UK from the monotony of lockdown.

Director and Spaldwick resident Lisa Hunter reported an upturn in companies requesting fun activities for their employees kids.

She said: "Whether for individuals or entire departments, I think our clients realise these activities act as a stress reliever and treat for their kids and free them up to do some uninterrupted work!"

They are also really popular with parents needing fresh ideas for lockdown birthdays!"

Activities include; A Zoom Zoo, Chocolate making, TikTok dance party, Virtual Magic & An Interactive Science Party.

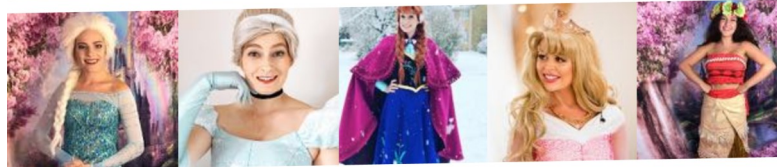
For full details of what is on offer, [click here](#).

So - if you need an idea for a birthday or virtual family get together, speak to Lisa & her team by sending a message to: lisa@creativeteamevents.com

Disney Singalong

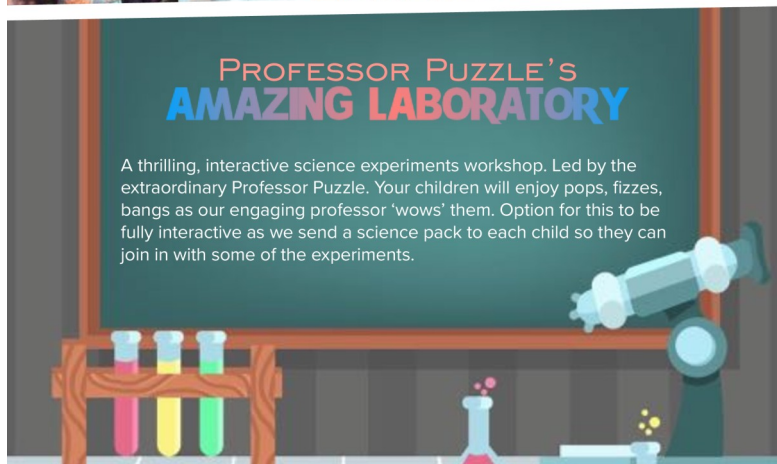
Join in with this musical extravaganza. Led by a costumed actress playing one of the Disney princesses.

She will take you through a musical journey with all your favourites from Frozen, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Moana and more. A spectacular experience will be waiting for you.



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Council warns about unofficial waste carriers

After another large fly-tip was discovered just outside Spaldwick, on the farm road next to the A14, Huntingdonshire District Council is urging people to carry out checks on who is taking their waste away.

Although the culprit may not have been from around here, the authority is also reminding residents that recycling centres are open during lockdown.

Any concerns or information about illegal waste carriers, please email crm_cpe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



How you can help stop fly tipping



1. Check the company has a "waste carriers" licence with the Environment Agency by phone or online.
2. Get a quote (it costs £120 per ton to get rid of waste legally) - is it too good to be true?
3. If you choose a company, they should show you their Waste Carrier Licence on arrival - if not, do not use them.
4. Find out where the waste is going for disposal before they load their van or trailer - note it down.
5. Take a picture of your waste and the vehicle that is going to take it away - save it just in case!
6. Once loaded, the carrier must give you a receipt which describes the waste they have taken and the cost charged.
7. If you communicate via Facebook, Messenger or Text, screen shot and save your messages.



Photo: Huntingdonshire District Council

Covid-19 Vaccine Scam Warning



Sadly, scammers continue to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic to commit fraud on unsuspecting victims.

We've had reports of fraudsters sending fake text messages, which claim you are entitled to a dose of the newly-approved vaccine.

The bogus message states that you are entitled to a vaccine and to receive more information you should click on the link.

Unfortunately, these texts are fake. Once you click on the link, you are taken to a webpage, which is branded to look like a genuine NHS page, which requests to see 'proof of ownership of address' in the form of your bank account, sort code and a full bank card number.

Do not give your bank or card details to make payment for a vaccine or to prove your residential address.

Coronavirus vaccines are free and the NHS will never ask for any money or your bank details.

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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for February/March 2021:

Grey	2nd February	16th February	2nd March
Blue	9th February	23rd February	9th March
Green	11th February	25th February	11th March

A complete list of materials that can be recycled can be found at:

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/whatgoesinwhichbin

SPALDWICK COVID-19 SUPPORT NETWORK

A small group of Spaldwick residents are continuing to help those in our village who are vulnerable or are having to self-isolate. We are pleased to say that at the moment there is a lot less demand for assistance, and is now mainly the collection of prescriptions from the Kimbolton and Alconbury surgeries.

If you would like help please get in touch using the contacts listed below, either by a phone call (leave a message if no answer) or text message, and they will take it from there.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Amba – 07526 382240

Julia – 01480 890203

Becky – 07958 306740

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Citizens Advice Bureau - National Advice Line 03444 111 444 www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- Universal Credit - Help to claim line 0800 144 8444
- Disability Huntingdonshire - 0330 3553 256 info@dish.org.uk
- Family Action - This group helps to provide practical, emotional, and financial support to families. www.family-action.org.uk (Family Line Providing a listening ear to help with parenting questions or give guidance around more complex issues). Mon-Fri 9am – 3pm 6pm-9pm Phone 0808 802 6666 Text 07537 404 282 email familyline@family-action.org.uk

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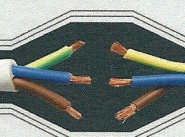
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