

Village Events:

:: **The "Common Ground" Project, St James Church, Spaldwick** - Tuesday 12th July, 7pm. (See Page 2 for more details).

:: **Pimms & strawberries in the garden** - Friday 29th July, from 7pm at The Cedars, 2 High Street. (Ticket details, Page 5)

:: **BBQ and village history/photos** - Friday 19th August, 7-9pm. The Lodge, Uphorpe Farm. (Tickets £10, more details on Page 5).

July/August 2022

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK

NEWS

Spaldwick Celebrates The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Friends and neighbours came together in Spaldwick over the long Platinum Jubilee weekend in June, to celebrate The Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Ivy Way pulled out all the stops, with a street party to mark the occasion, while homes across the village were decked out in Union Flag bunting.

Spaldwick Community Primary School celebrated with the children going in their finery for a special afternoon tea.

The George Pub also welcomed customers in for a special "Best of British" themed menu over the weekend, including afternoon teas, music and a bouncy castle.



Spaldwick Parish Council Planning Consultation

Application Ref. 22/01167/FUL; 'Construction of 20 dwellings with associated access, car parking and landscaping, Land East of Ivy Way Spaldwick'

In line with planning process, Spaldwick Parish Council has been included as a statutory consultee to provide views on this proposed development by Huntingdonshire District Council.

This piece of land is the field opposite Applegreen services on the High Street, and to the east of Ivy Way.

To view the application in detail visit:
<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications>
(Searching: 22/01167/FUL)

This application is scheduled to be discussed at the next Spaldwick Parish Council meeting on Thursday 21st July at 8pm. Any change to this will be advised on social media and the Parish Council website.

Sarah Cardwell, Clerk and RFO to Spaldwick Parish Council
clerk@spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk



Spaldwick School Playing Field

Spaldwick Primary School Headteacher Louise Worrell attended this month's Parish Council meeting. She explained the reasons why the academy had restricted access to the school grounds.

Mrs Worrell also informed the Parish Council that access to the field can be gained by emailing the school.

So, if you want to use the field to play games with your children, out of hours, please contact the school office in advance via email:

office@sps.acesmat.uk

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After winning the first match of the year at Alconbury, the club travelled to Renhold. Over previous years, this has been one of our tougher fixtures and it proved no different this time.

Despite a steady start, the club soon found themselves behind. At the interval, while enjoying our hosts' wonderful refreshments, the feeling was that we were unlucky to be losing by 11 shots and that maybe we would be able to reduce the deficit. Unfortunately, this optimism was short-lived as Renhold won all three games in the second half of the evening: which resulted in the club losing by 25 shots.

Two weeks after the defeat to Renhold, we welcomed Riesley to The Mandeville Hall for the first home match of the year. The evening consisted of six games, four before the interval and two afterwards.

From the very start this was a close match. During the first four games the lead changed many times with our visitors taking a one-shot lead into the interval. While enjoying the refreshments, there was also the chance to catch up with the visiting members. All agreed it was once again great to test our skills against each other. The final two games were as equally close: with two ends left to play, Spaldwick still trailed narrowly. The club then, with skill and a little bit of luck, scored eight shots to gain a 23-17 victory. The result was in doubt until the last wood was played.

If you wish to try this gentle fun game, for which no experience is necessary, we offer no obligation free taster sessions. For more information, contact Andrew on 01480 891201.

Where
the early bird yoga goers
and
the late risers latté lovers
find Common Ground

The 'Common Ground' in Spaldwick has had it's busiest month on record with art classes, a movie night, a jazz concert and 2 birthday parties being held alongside the weekly toddler group, yoga and singing classes. Jenny Jones who recently moved to Spaldwick said "we've met lots of new people through the events at the CG, everyone has been so welcoming and it's great to be part of such an lively village community".

Although this headline is a few years down the track, we wanted to tell you about a village led project which is underway to repurpose part of St. James' Church in to a new community space.



The 'Common Ground' project aims to revive the role St. James' plays in the village, extending it beyond traditional religious and spiritual uses, to become a place for everyone in Spaldwick to enjoy, at the heart of our Community. We are currently gathering ideas from the village as to how we want to develop the space and will be holding community meetings as well as knocking on a few doors over the coming months to see what you think.

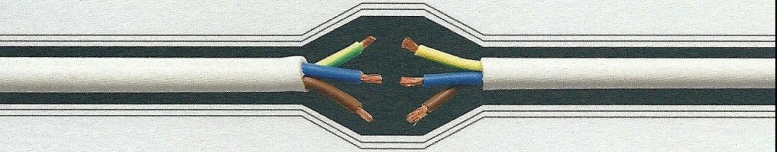
If you're interested in learning more about the project please join us every 2nd Tuesday of the month (next meeting 12th July, 7PM @ St James) or feel free to contact:

Guy Player or Elaine Woolward at
hello@spaldwickcommonground.co.uk



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Spaldwick Allotments - "Sowing the Seeds" by A.Y.

After 23 years, we're finally putting down some roots in Spaldwick - literally!

When I first caught wind that there were to be allotments in the village way back in those halcyon days of autumn/winter 2019, I casually floated the idea past my hubby. He pulled a face; I pulled one back. For once we were in total agreement - we're not allotment people. We're barely even gardeners. Chop back and mow, that's us.

So we soon forgot all about it - and never really thought about it again until March/April 2020 when...well, you-know-what happened and our grown up daughter and son came home for lockdown. She's a vegan (or 'vay-gan' as, for reasons known only to herself, my mother insists on calling her) and, having only ever grown sunflowers and whatnot as a kid, loved the idea of growing her own veg. So, with a little gentle bully...er... persuasion, we all agreed to help (or hinder, as she rather rudely puts it) and she gave Spaldwick Allotment Committee a call. And that's how we'll remember Lockdown 2020: one glorious, hot summer of digging, planting and weeding on our little family plot together. Utter bliss!

But then lockdown ended. And our kids went back to their lives elsewhere. So we had a dilemma: whether to keep the allotment or let it go? It was a much easier decision than you might imagine. As I say, we're not gardeners, but the thought of giving it up started to weigh heavily on our minds through the gloomy winter months.

I couldn't help but be reminded that, back in the dark, dismal age of three channel TV and shops that closed on Sundays and half-day Wednesday, my dad had an allotment. Well, allotment's probably a bit of a stretch. What he actually had was a vegetable patch in our garden, complete with a greenhouse he'd made from locally salvaged bits and bobs that other people had chucked away. And he'd spend most of his summer evenings out there - usually dressed only in his tatty ol' swimming trunks and half-wellies - lovingly digging, planting and harvesting all manner of fresh fruits and veg for us to eat which, of course being a kid at the time, I never fully appreciated at all. Oh I didn't mind the digging so much - I used to 'help' (ok, hinder) with the long-handled yellow spade I got on a trip to Llandudno once. I didn't even mind the planting or harvesting - that was the fun bit. But the eating...? Not so much.

Typically, I thought most of what we grew - aside from the delicious strawberries of course - was absolutely revolting. Carrots - ugh! Beetroot - no way! And the less we say about the rest of the disgusting red and green things the better! Kids eh.

Back then, though, my dad wasn't unusual. Most of the older people around us grew at least some of their own fruit and veg - even if it was just tomatoes in a Woolies growbag in front of the spare bedroom window, like my Dad's Dad used to do.

I was born and raised in Liverpool and these were still the post-war years, when the scars of the Blitz were still very much evident - not only on the faces and bodies of the people, but right across our city. Friends still lived in post-war prefabs; vast swathes of the landscape still very much consisted of ruined buildings or empty wastelands awaiting redevelopment; and food shortages and rationing were still at the forefront of the minds of most adults. Not in mine, of course - well, I was only seven and completely unaware of how important the, by then, largely rundown and mostly abandoned remnants of the allotment in the big field at the back of our new house had been during the Dig for Victory campaign of wartime Britain.

To me, my big sister and our new friends, it was just a new and unexplored playground - albeit with the odd potato plant or raspberry bush inexplicably popping up here and there.

So how bemused and bewildered my 7-year-old self would be if she could see me now - down at my very own allotment at every opportunity, just like my dad and many of the previous generation used to be. I could just imagine her (my!) baffled/horrified little face as I pull up yet another (yuk!) bright orange carrot; or snip off yet another bunch of (ick!) peas or spinach for tea. And, ok, so she'd still love the strawberries - nowt's changed in that regard - but what about the sprouts? Or the beans, caul, broccoli, sweetcorn or squash? And gawd only knows what she'd make of me scouring t'internet into the small wee hours - looking for free horse dung or old slabs. But that's how we roll now, my husband and I - total converts!

Now in our third year, it's just starting to look good and largely done with the same 'make do and mend' attitude of my dad and the post war generation - albeit with a modern twist thanks to Market Place and the like. Sadly, my dad has dementia now and, although his beloved greenhouse still stands (mostly!) his allotment is long gone. But both my parents loved it when they were finally able to pay a visit to ours this year - although neither of them or our daughter can believe we're still at it. And neither can we!



Above: Our daughter still loving growing sunflowers after all these years.



Above: Dad tending his allotment in our garden in Liverpool, c1978 - and (below) with my Mum in our greenhouse, January 2022.



The Queen's Green Canopy, Spaldwick

Around 100 saplings have been planted in Spaldwick to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council was awarded the young trees as part of the national Green Canopy Scheme, run by the Woodland Trust.

A number of varieties have gone into the ground, adjacent to the allotment site, along the perimeter of the field to form a hedge over the far side. They include elder, hazel, crab apple, rowan and dog rose.

A smart plaque (pictured right) has also appeared at the entrance to the field to celebrate the occasion.

- **Celebration** - If you'd like to donate a bunch of flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, or have the church bells rung in your honour please get in touch with your preferred dates.
- **Jimmy's Breakfast Club** - Why not join us for a social Sunday morning? Stroll along to St James to start your Sunday with a bacon butty or croissant and hot brew, with the chance to catch up with fellow villagers on 3rd July, 10.15-11.15am

Summer Community events for your diary:

Thank you for everyone who supported the cream teas on Father's Day at Threeways, The Green. We have two more events coming up, where we hope you can join us:

- **Pimms & strawberries in the garden** - From 7pm, Friday 29th July at The Cedars, 2 High Street. To RSVP, leave a message on 01480 890203.
- **BBQ and village history/photos** - 7-9pm, Friday 19th August at The Lodge, Uphorpe Farm. Tickets are £10. Leave message on 01480 890360 to book yours. Please bring your own bottle!

Services for July/August:

- **Sunday 3rd July 9.30am** - Morning worship with Jill.
- **Sunday 17th July 9.30am** - Communion and baptism with Rev Philip.
- **Sunday 7th August** - Morning worship with Jill, including Jimmy's Breakfast Club and bacon rolls.
- **Sunday 21st August** - Communion with Rev Phillip.

Jubilee Funding for Playtimes

Playtimes has been awarded £245 in funding, which will be spent on improving their sandpit and mud kitchen area in the garden.

The money has come from Woolley and Barham's Platinum Jubilee village event.

Library Van - Monthly Visits



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

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

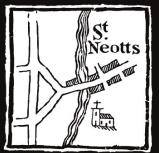
As well as a large range of library books, you can get your NHS hearing batteries and replacement walking stick ferrules. You can dispose of old household batteries.



Image: See historic photos of Spaldwick and learn more about the history of the village, at the BBQ on Friday 19th August.

Crazy Lego!

Family friendly summer exhibition, come and build amazing creations with Lego and Duplo!



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Family

Walks

Events

Exhibitions

Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for July/August 2022:

Grey	5th July	19th July	2nd August	16th August	30th August
Blue	12th July	26th July	9th August	23rd August	
Green	14th July	28th July	11th August	25th August	

Spaldwick Parish Council News

In addition to Spaldwick School Head Louise Worrell updating the Parish Council on accessing the field (see page 1), other matters discussed at the latest meeting included:

• Village Grass Verges:

Unfortunately, the contractor that the Parish Council engaged to cut the grass verges missed the last two cuts. We have contacted them on a number of occasions and have not received an explanation or a resolution to the issue. This is obviously out of our control.

We will be looking for a new contractor, but in the meantime we have had a kind offer from someone who will be cutting the verges. Please bear with us while we try to find a new contractor.

• Platinum Jubilee Mugs:

We have had a great response to our Jubilee mugs but we still have a few available.

Mugs can be ordered on the Spaldwick Parish Council website:
www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk



• Volunteer Day:

We are very blessed to have such a lovely preschool in our village. We would however be very grateful for some assistance.

On Saturday 16th July, 10am-4pm, we are having a volunteer day for gardening, basic maintenance and improvements to the buildings and grounds.

If you can spare even half an hour to assist us in any way then please do and we will provide refreshments.

• Social Media Help:

We would also love for someone who is a dab-hand at social media to help us with our marketing. This could be anyone at all. Perhaps someone wanting to volunteer for their Duke of Edinburgh award, or just some kind person who can spare a few minutes of their time.

Email: playtimesoffice@gmail.com to offer help - or call 01480 890077.



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