

Dates for your diary:

St James Church Services, March - Sunday 1st (9.30am); Sunday 8th (4pm, Community Room); Sunday 15th (9.30am) & Sunday 22nd (4pm)

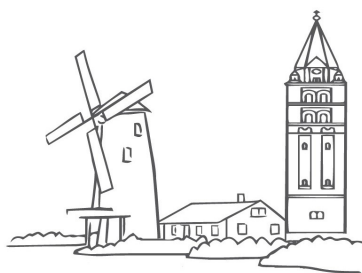
Cambridgeshire Classic Sportive (Cycling Event - see page 2) - Sunday 1st March, Approx. 10am

"Friday natters, because community matters" - 13th & 27th March (Community Room, 1.30-3.30pm)

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 19th March, 8pm, Spaldwick Community Room

March 2020

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK NEWS

Spaldwick Village Hall Funds: The Future

The Village Hall Committee has had several emails regarding requests about how the funds from the village hall could be transferred to the church to support the work they are doing to provide a community space in its building.

There is currently, and always has been, a church representative on the Committee in order to facilitate these discussions. The Committee met on 9th February 2020, in order to hear the feedback from the church meeting and to discuss the ways forward. The representative reported that there was now a new drive to raise regular income to cover maintenance to stabilise its future, before any further work on the development is progressed.

However, it is noted that, pending further information from the church, the village could agree a way in principle for some or all of the Village Hall funds to support any development, should this go forward. The Committee will raise this again at the next AGM, bearing in mind that it has been raised at several previous AGMs and was not supported sufficiently to take forward.

In order to put this to the AGM in April, there would need to be a clear proposal to explain what funds would be required, when, and a breakdown of how these funds would be spent. The church representative is taking this to the Parochial Church Council for further discussion. The committee would also require a written agreement with the church about returning funds if the church subsequently closed or did not use the monies as intended.

If anyone feels they would like to send a different proposal for how to use some or all of the funds, you can do this via the email: villagehall@spaldwick.com and the committee will include your written proposal on the agenda at the next AGM based on the same requirements as above. We will only ask the village to consider those proposals with named proposers.

The Village Hall Committee do not have control over how the funds are spent, they are merely the Trustees of the funds and the village decides on how to use them.

At the 2019 AGM the committee was tasked with establishing a potential long-term investment proposal so that the village could use some of the dividends to support worthy causes in the village (similar to Easton's village funds). Brewin Dolphin are currently in the process of proposing a portfolio for the funds and this will also be presented at the next AGM for consideration.

Due to the breadth of feeling across the village the committee will ensure that all proposals are sent at least a week in advance of the AGM by way of an agenda.

The AGM is now confirmed for Wednesday 29th April 2020 and will be held at the Community Room at Spaldwick School.



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Chris Newman - guitar
Colin Hazel - keyboard & Richard Ashman - percussion
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7.30pm
Friday 8 May (bank holiday)
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Thank you for your support!

Since taking on Spaldwick News in September 2018, it has always been my intention to make the newsletter self-financing through getting local sponsors onboard - and, when reserves allowed, returning this to the village.

I'm therefore delighted to say that we're now in a position to do exactly that! St James Church, Spaldwick School and the Playtimes lighting fund (to replace Emergency and Main Room lights) have received £50 each.

It takes many hours of hard work, but everyone involved with Spaldwick News volunteers their time for free (including myself) - I'm really grateful for the work that our Distributors and Contributors do...and, of course, our AMAZING sponsors!

Thanks again for the positive feedback,

Chris

Playtimes Lighting Fund breaks £490 target

Ivy Way resident Jason Pope has been busy with a fundraising venture, starting an online appeal for Playtimes.

An original target of £490 to buy new Emergency and Main Room Lights in the building was smashed - with £575 raised in total by 19 donors, including Spaldwick News.

Working as an electrician, Jason is pledging to carry out the work free of charge.

Playtimes is a registered charity looking after young children aged 2-11.

Major cycling event to take in Spaldwick

One of the UK's best open road cycling events passes through Spaldwick village on 1st March (see local route, right).

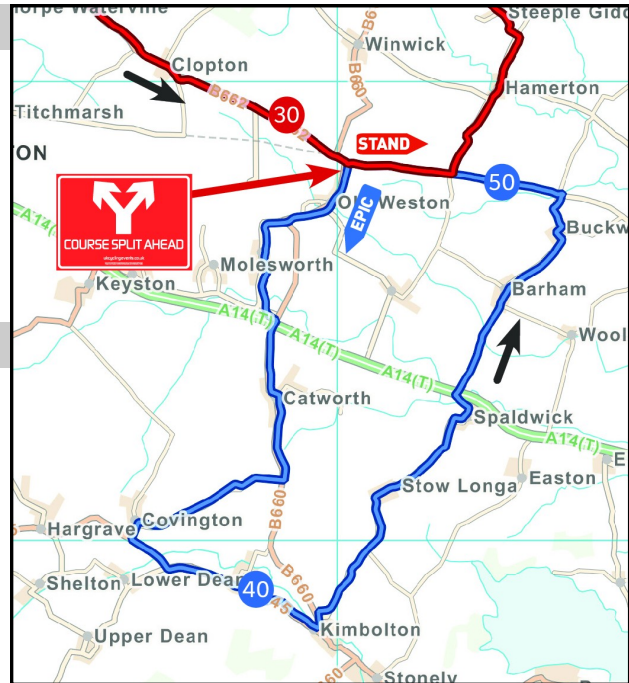
The Cambridgeshire Classic Sportive starts out from Peterborough Showground and passes through rural Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, with a combination of short climbs and descents, as well as the chance for riders to pick up some speed.

The first rider is anticipated to head through Spaldwick after Kimbolton and Stow Longa, just after 10am.

The final rider should cycle through at approximately 1pm.



SPALDWICK
NEWS



Hello March

Here's what's happening

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<https://www.facebook.com/thewheatsheafatitchmarsh>

01/03 KIDS MAGIC & DISCO SHOW - 4PM

04/03 ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING
(CAKE SALE & TOMBOLA RAFFLE) 9 - 11AM

04/03 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON £10 MENU

07/03 RUGBY SIX NATIONS

12/03 QUIZ NIGHT 8PM START, £1 ENTRY

14/03 RUGBY SIX NATIONS

18/03 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON £10 MENU

22/03 MOTHERS DAY

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- **1st March - 9.30am**, Morning Worship
- **8th March - 4pm**, All Age Worship in Community Room – which is warm and has toilets!
- **15th March - 9.30am**, Parish Communion
- **22nd March - 4pm**, All Age Worship: Mothering Sunday service (Please note, this service will be in the church not the Community Room)

St James', Spaldwick Restart Celebration and Consultation

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Spaldwick Re-Start consultation which brought together loads of people, all committed and caring for their local church and community. The event has sparked lots of conversations around the village and we are now looking forward to working in partnership with various other interested groups to see how we can come together to the benefit of us all.

If you offered your skills or time – thank you, we will be in touch shortly. If you took a Parish Giving Pack and would like to donate even £1/month – many, many thanks! Please do remember to return it, and don't forget you can choose for this to be anonymous – we will see your donation but not your name. If you'd like to share your thoughts please feel free to get in touch by following us on Facebook and commenting, emailing stjamesspaldwick@aol.com, or directly with Philip at revphiliphowson@icloud.com or calling his office on 01480 869081.

"Friday natters, because community matters" 2nd and 4th Fridays (13th March and 27th March)

Don't forget to join us at our twice monthly social get together with tea/coffee and cake in the Community Room. Everyone is welcome including small children (but please bring your mum, dad, granny or carer too!). Why not pop in for a quick cuppa before collecting your children from school? We are there anytime between 1.30-3.30pm. Please bring your friends and neighbours and continue to spread the word.



VE Day celebrations - Friday 8th May

Put the date in your diary for our afternoon street tea party where we will be providing tea and cakes, a children's fancy dress competition and some traditional fete stalls such as guess the weight of the cake. More details next issue...

This will be followed at 7.30pm by **Blues in the Pews**. Listen and chill, or join in and dance with Stella Hensley on vocals, Chris Newman on guitar, Colin Hazel on keyboard wizard & Richard Ashman on percussion. Tickets £10 (before 5 May) includes nibbles. Any spare tickets will be available on the door at £15. Wine and soft drinks will be available. Book your tickets online now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-james-spaldwick, emailing stjamesspaldwick@aol.com or from Kim, Amba, Liz or Julia.

Clean up

Thank you to those who have been coming along to our regular church clean, generally held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Susan is co-ordinating this so please feel free to email her on mapidoo@yahoo.com if you are able to join us.



A word from Reverend Philip Howson:

Dear Friends,

Welcome to March! It feels like we've had an eventful time getting here.

The St James re-start event on February 2nd was full of concerned community committed to making their church sustainable. It's taking some time to absorb the feedback, and it will take even longer to implement it: "That's OK" I keep telling myself "we don't have to do everything at once". But I want to – there's so much potential.

The children's 'design-a-church' feedback was particularly helpful: A good church is ... *"busy ... pretty ... exciting ... happy ... full of children"* they said. I agree and am looking forward to shaping the new Sunday afternoon service accordingly.

My thanks to the team who worked so hard on all this, and thanks in advance to the many volunteers who stepped up and offered their time and effort for the future.

As you have probably heard, the church was broken into sometime over the weekend (15th-16th February) – if anyone has any CCTV footage of the area or heard anything please do get in touch.

Lent kicks off with our Ash Wednesday services, and there are a number of Lent Groups going on every week through Lent. You can join them if you like – details are on the Website www.kymchurch.org.uk, but if you prefer private reflection please do download the materials we are using from the website by clicking on "Lent2020" from the menu.

We are also planning a rich celebration during Holy Week (the week before Easter Day). Do check the website for details if you want to join us. Before I started vicaring I didn't pay overmuch attention to these things but have discovered their deep value and so I commend them to you.

Yours, Philip

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Spaldwick School pupils to benefit from NEW laptops

Spaldwick Primary School has taken delivery of 16 brand new laptops to help with the learning and development of pupils.

Friends of Spaldwick School has been able to support over half the cost of the computer, with a donation of £5,400. Another £5,000 has come Woolley Hill Wind Farm fund.

The laptops will enable the school to teach computing, improve the computer skills of youngsters - and make learning more interesting. There are also plans for extra-curricular clubs.

Friends of Spaldwick School would like to thank all of its supporters – committee members past and present, parents, teachers and anyone who has either taken part in running an event or come along and given money so generously towards events and activities that support the charity.

Spaldwick is one of seven parishes that can apply for money from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund.

The wind farm generates enough electricity to power up to 8,000 homes in the UK.



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A14 Safety Concerns



Keyston and Bythorn PCs have recently had a meeting with District Councillor Ian Gardener and the Highways Agency regarding the A14 junctions between Ellington and Thrapston.

They are concerned that the A14 is getting busier and speeds are increasing which means that the junctions between Ellington and Thrapston are no longer fit for purpose.

The earliest that these junctions can be improved will be 2030 so the Highways Agency will be looking into the possibility of reducing the speed limit for this stretch of the road (similar to Southoe on the A1).

Unfortunately, one of the indicators that the Highways Agency uses to see if a road is safe or not is the number of accidents to which the police have been called to. This means that if the police are not called to an accident then the Highways agency are not aware of it.

So if you have information or photos of any accidents on or near any of the junctions on the A14 between Ellington and Thrapston, please email them to ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Number Day at Spaldwick School

Thanks to the support of pupils and parents with 'Number Day', Spaldwick Primary School has raised £135 for the NSPCC!

The children had great fun completing a range of number-based activities, including target throwing, maths hunt and cake making.

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COSTA RICA: Considered one of the most bio-diverse regions on the planet, Costa Rica has an enviable reputation as one of the world's pioneers on eco-tourism.

Offering over 20 national parks and biological reserves and teeming with an extraordinary wealth of wildlife, Costa Rica is the perfect place for intrepid travellers to visit. The capital San Jose, is home to cultural institutions like the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum but Costa Rica is renowned for its outstanding wildlife, beaches, volcanoes, and biodiversity, roughly a quarter of its area is made up of protected jungle, teeming with wildlife including spider monkeys and quetzal birds.

The miles of spectacular beaches are fringed by Costa Rica's lush rainforest, misty cloud forest and towering mountains and volcanoes. Costa Rica has some of the world's most beautiful beaches. With coastlines along both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, its beaches are diverse and uniquely beautiful. From the golden stretches of sand backed by dense jungle and chattering monkeys at Punta Uva to the volcanic black sand and nesting sea turtles at Ostional Beach, there is a perfect beach waiting for you.

If you like indulging in water sports then we recommend that you stick to the South Pacific coastline, particularly to Playa Dominical and Tamarindo, for some exceptional surfing spots. To explore Costa Rica's most untouched and unspoiled rainforest, head to the Osa Peninsula in the south. Here you'll find the Corcovado National Park, which is known as the world's most pristine and biodiverse rainforest. If you are lucky, you might come face to face with a Sloth or be able to admire the colourful bill of a Toucan, you will hear the unusual and energetic call of howler monkeys, this ecologically intense region of Costa Rica is a wonderland of wildlife delights.

Whether you soar over the canopy on Zip Lines, traverse the tree tops on hanging bridges, or explore the rich wildlife on horseback, you will never be bored in Costa Rica, nature lovers will delight in the 400 tropical bird species, as well as the tapirs, monkeys, jaguars and pumas that live in the jungle.

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January's meeting of Spaldwick Parish Council was held on Thursday 16th:

It was Chaired by Steve Fane de Salis - also present were G Smith (Vice Chairman), J Pope, S Jackson-Rimmer, S Parfrey, E Woolward and one member of the public.

Here are some of the items discussed, based on the draft minutes of the meeting:

Monthly Ferriman Road Play Area Inspection:

- Cllr G Smith recommended some recognition for the members of the public for all their hard work in removing the hedges around Ferriman Road Play Area. It was agreed to buy two £50 vouchers from The George as a gift.
- Playground inspection report by Wicksteed - Brambles have been removed; the suggested need for the equipment to be repainted will be addressed.

Update regarding dog poo bag dispensers:

- *Cllr S J-R suggested that one dispenser should be located on Parish Council Land on the open space by the bridge. This will be discussed with Cllr R Johnson*

Community Room:

- Consider the purchase of an external sign - ongoing

Other items:

- A resident's raised concerns about the location of the Bus Stop on High Street and the issue of parked vehicles causing a problem at this location. A suggestion is to add an additional stop on Stow Road. Cllr R Johnson will canvass neighbours.
- Consider co-opting to fill the vacancy created by Ian Harriman's resignation - Only one resident has expressed an interest, W Bircham, and as no others have come forward Cllr G Smith recommends they be co-opted, seconded by Cllr S F de S. Motion carried.
- At a recent Parish Council meeting, District and County Councillor Ian Gardener explained that he is in discussions with the Highways Agency regarding the conditions of the roads in the villages surrounding the A14. He has asked that if anyone has any photos/details regarding the road conditions in Spaldwick and the surrounding areas that they forward them to ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Councillors' questions:

- A resident has contacted The Parish Council regarding vehicles travelling the wrong way through the no entry signs on The Green. They have asked if anything can be done. Cllr S F de S has inspected the signage, and reported there are no right turn and no entry signs clearly visible at this location. A report has been submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the white lines on the road surface being worn. Cllr G Smith mentioned that new signs have been erected around Spaldwick with two signs on The Green. These have been put up on behalf of National Grid to remind their drivers to stick to the required route, A14, via Catworth to Kimbolton.

Town & Poors Charity Field:

- Update regarding gates and fencing - Cllr R Johnson has fixed the posts and gates in place. The bolts have been welded to hinder theft.
- Reply from HDC regarding notification of intent to create allotments - A full planning application is required for change of use to create an area for car parking.
- Some quotes received for hard-standing, more awaited.
- Michael Frain reported that since the initial meeting last October the Spaldwick Community Allotment Association (SCAA) has had three meetings. He presented Spaldwick Parish Council with a draft copy of the rules to peruse

:: The next Spaldwick Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 19th March at 8pm in the Community Room.



**House Concerts at Colmworth -
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House Concerts are about listening to new and up and coming artists. It is hoped our events help to spark interest in the people who come to play and the listeners support by putting money into the hat, following their YouTube channels and buying CDs.

We have had some great artists here in the short time we've been hosting and like to think we are helping the industry as we do not take any cut in the entrance or collection hat.

Any of you that went to see Tom Jones last year may have heard the lovely Megan O'Neal? Megan come and did a house concert for us in August and we are so proud that we may be helping to launch her career.

Our next event is on Friday 13th March when we will be welcoming Rob Lane and Minnie Birch.

Do feel you can come along and help support these up and coming artists.

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Spaldwick's Alex Rice to take on 100-mile cycling challenge - by Jo Rice

As you may recall, young village resident Alex Rice has been busy fundraising towards his trip to Ghana in July.

He, and other school friends, will spend two weeks working in a school and on outreach projects within the community of Elmina, a small fishing town in southern Ghana.

Alex is required to fundraise a total of £2,500 to take part in this life-changing challenge, with a portion of the money being used to fund the projects he will be working on there.

You may have seen Alex washing out wheelie bins, gardening, cleaning cars or painting fences, or perhaps you have attended the wine tasting, or the Christmas Coffee and Shopping Morning that he helped to organise.

As his departure date draws near there is time for him to undertake his final fundraising push - a sponsored 100 mile bike ride from Kimbolton all the way to Hunstanton! Alex really hopes that you will be able to support him one last time.

The route has been plotted to be mainly on back roads and is planned for Good Friday (10th April). His training has already started in earnest, and he will continue to get on his bike



Pictured (L-R): Greg & Alex

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regularly in between revising for his GCSEs.

Alex's parents have created a GoFundMe page if you like to donate online, or Alex would be happy to receive a donation directly, especially if you have some helpful advice on this massive undertaking!

If Alex's endeavour is not entertainment enough, his Dad, Greg, has volunteered (!) to make up the peloton and follow in his slipstream. Now that should be worth a bob or two! Thank you in advance for any support you feel you can give.

To donate please use this link:
www.gofundme.com/giro-di-ghana

Or to follow his progress, you can like the Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ghanafundraiser

Please clean up after your dog!



The issue of dog fouling in Spaldwick is again causing a stink. Sharan Jackson-Rimmer writes: "Once again I'm sorry to say that an irresponsible dog owner has let their dog poo in the church yard and haven't cleaned it up!

This must be extremely distressing for those visiting their loved ones. It also isn't fair to those volunteers who look after the church yard.

There is a bag dispenser in the kissing gate that accesses the field at the side of the church, so there really is no excuse!"

There have been additional concerns raised over dog fouling near the school entrance on Ferriman Road - and how this could end up in classrooms.



In October 2019, Spaldwick Parish Council held a meeting to discuss the future development of Spaldwick Allotments.

Behind the scenes, a few people met to create the Spaldwick Community Allotment Association (SCAA) to work alongside Spaldwick Parish Council with the planning and development of the allotment site project. SCAA has met a couple of times to progress this project and is pleased to be able to update you with some news regarding the Spaldwick allotments.

Spaldwick Parish Council's aim to prepare the site has begun. The Parish Council will endeavour to prepare the site by ploughing or flailing the field, fencing the allotment site and staking out individual plots. The good news, we are told, is that this is planned to happen by April 2020. Hopefully, no more named storms will hinder the progress.

For clarification, the allotment site is located on the right hand side of Stow Road (the field next to the last house on the right), as one leaves Spaldwick towards Stow Longa. Many of you may have already noticed the large, new wooden gate at the entrance of the site, when driving out of Spaldwick towards Stow Longa.

Those Spaldwick residents who initially expressed an interest have already been contacted. I would ask if anyone else is interested in holding an allotment plot and would like to be added to our waiting list, please email the SCAA Chair, Mike Frain at michaelfrain20@gmail.com with your interest.

SPRING FUN QUIZ



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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for March/April 2020:

Grey	3 March	17 March	31 March
Blue	10 March	24 March	7 April
Green	12 March	26 March	9 April

Spaldwick Community Speedwatch



Volunteers are urgently needed for Spaldwick Community Speedwatch.

Training sessions are being run by Cambridgeshire Speedwatch:

- Saturday 7th March – 10.00-11.30, Cambourne Police Station
- Saturday 16th May – 10.00-11.30, Cambourne Police Station

If you are able to help and would like more information please contact Coordinator Sharan Jackson-Rimmer: csw.spaldwick@yahoo.co.uk

Spaldwick Community Primary School Mystery Readers



Could you spare 15 minutes at the end of a school day? We are looking for local residents to visit our Curiosity Cubby and become a 'Mystery Reader'. The aim is to show children that adults love reading too. You could read a book about a special interest or hobby, a book you particularly enjoyed as a child or a current children's book brought from home, or selected from the school library. If you are interested in joining in please email head@spaldwickschool.org.uk

In order for the class to gain the full impact and excitement of the reader experience, please keep it a secret and hence a mystery!

- If you are looking for a school place in September, we are offering personal tours with the Headteacher. Come along and see Splendid Spaldwick in action.

Ellington WI - Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 3rd March - Our speaker will be telling us about how all the new flavoured gins are made. We also get to taste them!
- Tuesday 7th April - We have a local entertainer talking about his years as a magician and demonstrating some of his magic.

For more information, contact: Ann Bentley, President (nigelbentley@btinternet.com) or Sue Rice, Secretary (normanrice@btinternet.com).

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