

## 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](mailto:clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com)

March 2021



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# SPALDWICK NEWS

## Wishing Spaldwick resident John Blatch a Happy 90th Birthday - by James Blatch

John Blatch, who lives in the High Street, turned 90-years-old on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here his son, James, tells us a bit more about John's impressive past:

"You may know my father from his involvement in village life, but you may not know he is a decorated test pilot, who worked at the centre of UK military aviation through the 1960s. He helped to introduce into service the latest aircraft and equipment including the Autoland system that is now common on the aircraft that (used to) take us on holiday.

Brought up on the Isle of Wight during the war, he joined the RAF, age 16, as an apprentice mechanic, but shortly after training, while on his first posting, he was asked to apply for a commission as a pilot.

After going through flying training, he was posted to 213 (Fighter) squadron in Egypt flying single seat Vampire jets (pictured). During this time, while he was at 30,000 feet above the desert, his engine failed. He glided the powerless aircraft 100 miles back to RAF Deversoir and carried out a safe dead-stick landing.

He was then posted to Habbaniya in Iraq, joining 6 Squadron flying the more powerful Venom.

He was chosen for Fighter Weapons School, the UK's version of Top Gun, in 1955 and became a pilot attack instructor flying the Meteor and then the Gloster Javelin at RAF Duxford.

In 1959, he was accepted into the Empire Test Pilots' School before going on to two successive postings (six years in total) at the secretive Boscombe Down in Wiltshire.

During this time he flew almost every military aircraft type the UK owned, including the Vulcan, Victor, Valiant, Meteor, Lightning, Hunter, Canberra, Shackleton as well as some foreign types such as the American B-47 strategic nuclear bomber.

His work on projects included Blue Steel – one of the UK's early nuclear missiles. He also helped bring the Argosy into service.

He was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1963.

After a test flying career he moved onto hovercraft and spent tours at the Interservice Hovercraft Unit, HMS Deadalus near Portsmouth.

After leaving the air force in 1976, he became a supportive husband to my mother as she began a political career that lasted until she died in 2005.

My father is a modest man, so it would not surprise me if you didn't know much of this, and much of his work was secret at the time, but he was clearly a skilled pilot, who made a significant contribution to the safety and effectiveness of Britain's military aircraft and equipment during his career."



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## Can you support Playtimes' GoFundMe Appeal?

£100s of pounds have already been pledged for Playtimes, as part GoFundMe fundraising drive - if you're able to help with a donation, no matter how small, they would be very grateful.

### Pledge your support HERE.

We really need your help. We are a small rural charitable Pre-School that provides before and after school care and we are located in the village of Spaldwick. We have been running for over 25 years, and take pride in the fact that we have provided, and will continue to provide, an essential service to countless families from Spaldwick and surrounding areas and given their children the best foundations for their education. This preschool also feeds Spaldwick Primary School and is a key part of the local community and village infrastructure.

We are a non-profit making charity and do not run our Pre-School for financial gain. We have to rely on fundraising and donations to make ends meet, and because of Covid-19 we have had to cancel all fundraising since March 2020 and for the foreseeable future. We are now in an extremely fragile financial situation especially when we need to incur unexpected additional costs.

At this time, our hot water heaters are in dire need of replacing and this has to be done as soon as possible before they die on us! The cost of this is at least £450 including fitting so this is the amount that we are wanting to raise so we can get this done however, because our vital fundraising cannot take place, any donations above this amount will help us keep going and help us secure our future.

We know times are extremely hard for everyone, but please if you are can spare anything at all, the Team and children of Spaldwick Pre-School would be so very grateful. Thank you.

Clare Burns - Committee Member

## Concerns over A14 Noise

Concerns are being raised about an increase in noise and HGVs using the A14 - especially since the new stretch of the A14 has opened.

Spaldwick resident Sharan Jackson-Rimmer said: "We have lived in Littlecotes Close for nearly 22 years and when we purchased our house the noise and volume of traffic wasn't a concern.

But, it's not only in Littlecotes that I've noticed the increase in noise - if you walk anywhere in the village it is hard to get away from the constant noise.

I am going to be emailing Highways England to see if they can do something about the noise and air pollution."

If you also feel that the volume of traffic on the A14 is an issue, you can email: [EastRegionEnquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:EastRegionEnquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk).



# Oundle Travel

As the world reopens for business, Paula Cockcroft and her dedicated team offer expert, impartial advice and inspiration for your next holiday in relaxed and friendly surroundings in the centre of historic Oundle.

Experience first-class customer service, together with a wealth of knowledge and first-hand experience of hotels, airlines and destinations worldwide.

## HERE ARE SIX OF THEIR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021!

TOP HONEYMOON	TOP CITY BREAK	TOP SAFARI	TOP ADVENTURE	TOP FAMILY	TOP KSI
<b>The Anantara Maia, Seychelles</b>  The beautiful Anse Louis beach in Mahé is the beguiling location for this all-inclusive villa luxury resort where an ambience of stress-free seclusion prevails.  At The Anantara Maia Seychelles Villas, the villas nestle within lush scented gardens and boast uninterrupted views of the Indian Ocean, deluxe bathrooms with outdoor sunken baths, private infinity pools and interiors fusing local materials with opulent Thai silks and Balinese inspired teak furniture.  Each villa has its own butler who will tend to your every requirement.	<b>The JK Place, Rome</b>  The mild Mediterranean climate is a persuasive draw in the spring months and the JK Place has to be our favourite and most stylish hotel in Rome.  Situating just a five minute walk from the Spanish Steps, the staff deliver refreshingly informal service without being too casual and will always go the extra mile, the breakfasts combine home made goodies with fresh seasonal fruits.  The challenge in Rome is always deciding what not to do, there are so many churches, archaeological sites, piazzas and paintings to see, a long weekend is never enough.	<b>Nxabega - Okavango Delta, Botswana</b>  Game drives in the Okavango Delta are remote and secluded with very few safari vehicles. The professionally trained guides at Nxabega offer tailored drives to suit your preferences, promising up-close views of unique wildlife and flourishing vegetation.  Blending harmoniously with the environment, Nxabega offers contemporary safari elegance in just nine tented suites (including a family option).  Extensive indoor and outdoor sitting and dining areas include a range of guest-pleasure amenities, an interactive food and coffee bar, complete with trained baristas and an extensive pool area with inviting loungers.	<b>The Costa Rica Explorer</b>  If you are searching for the ideal introduction to the variety and abundance of Costa Rica, why not try a 15-day tailor made holiday offering a combination of locations, wildlife, habitats, activity and downtime, suitable for all ages.  Our adventure begins in Tortuguero, a perennially popular park, where you cruise the waterways watching for crocodiles, birds, sloths and monkeys, and learn about the work of conservationists who protect the vulnerable turtles that nest along the beach.  From here you head inland to Arenal volcano, one of the country's best known landmarks. Here you cross hanging bridges for close up views of the rainforest canopy and go for a hike along the forest floor, both great opportunities to observe the plentiful wildlife.  The cloud forest is another world, misty and mysterious, filled with giant ferns and delicate orchids, where hummingbirds and butterflies catch your eye and monkeys dart among the tall trees. After your introductory tour you're free to explore at your leisure, with opportunities for horse riding and ziplining as well as hikes in search of the resplendent quetzal.	<b>The Ikos Andalucia, Spain</b>  The brand new Ikos Andalucia brings a new level of luxury and Mediterranean hospitality to Spain's dazzling southern shores.  Offering miles of fine sand, bathed by cooling waters, the Ikos sits on a stunning beachfront setting on the tranquil shores of Playa de Guadalmar and offers more than 21 acres of landscaped gardens and leisure facilities.  The award-winning Infinite Lifestyle ensures virtually every element of your holiday is included in the original cost to ensure your stay is relaxed and memorable.  Less than one hour from Malaga, the hotel offers a choice of dining options and an exceptional array of sport facilities to keep everyone entertained together with a full programme of indoor and outdoor events from tots to teens.	<b>The Chandolin Boutique Hotel, Switzerland</b>  Once in a while we discover a true gem of a hotel, The Chandolin Boutique hotel is one of those!  This quintessentially Swiss hideaway offers classic alpine luxury in the beautiful 'off the radar' village of Chandolin in the Swiss Alps.  Set at an altitude of over 2,000m it is one of Europe's highest year-round inhabited villages with the most spectacular views.  The hotel's design takes its cues from the natural surroundings, exposed larch and pine on the outside with stone and aged oak parquet with warm contemporary tones on the inside.  Breakfast is an impressive spread of local produce, cured meats, cheese and dairy products, while at night, Le Restaurant serves Swiss classics and Val d'Hérens beef accompanied by an impressive wine list of over 400 wines.
For more information, prices and availability please contact: <b>Oundle Travel, Market Place, Oundle, PE8 4EA</b> <b>T - 01832 273600</b> <b>E - <a href="mailto:luxury@oundletravel.co.uk">luxury@oundletravel.co.uk</a></b> <b>W - <a href="http://www.oundletravel.co.uk">www.oundletravel.co.uk</a></b>					

## St James Church

- **Happy Birthday John** - The PCC of St James would like to wish John Blatch a very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday for 23rd February, and to thank him for all he has done for the church and the wider community. We hope you had a great day John!
- **Busy Bells of Spaldwick** - Though full circle bell-ringing is silenced under current guidelines you may well hear the sound of the chimes pealing out across the village - all performed with social distancing and guidelines in place.

These short peals are part of the Christmas Auction and there were due to be Ringing Compliments in February on the 16th; 23rd and 25<sup>th</sup>. John Blatch's BIG Birthday was on 23rd February and Amba and Ian Harbour celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 25th February.

For further information about having the bells rung for your special occasion please get in touch. We'd also especially like to hear from you if you are a lapsed ringer! Please email: [spaldwickbells@gmail.com](mailto:spaldwickbells@gmail.com)

- **St James bags** - "Thank you" to everyone who supported us by buying a St James bag, you have helped us to raise £327.80 so far.
- **Food bank donations** - We look forward to opening the church for food bank donations again once we are safe to do so.
- **Church services** - For the time being our services continue on YouTube search for South Leightonstone, or live on Zoom – just ask Revd Philip if you'd like a link.

This year's Lent course can be download from the website [www.kymchurch.org.uk](http://www.kymchurch.org.uk), under the "Learning Together" tab. You are welcome to use the materials for private reflection, or you could join one of our Zoom groups: Monday evenings (8pm), Wednesday afternoons (2pm) or Wednesday evenings (7.30pm). To join a group, or if you are having trouble printing the booklet, please get in touch.

To contact Rector Rev Philip Howson:

Email: [revphiliphowson@icloud.com](mailto:revphiliphowson@icloud.com)

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

Phone: 01480 869081

***Pictured right: Elaine Woolward captured several snowy scenes around St James Church at the end of January***



## UltraFast Spaldwick Update - by Jason Patel; photos by Mark Heath

The project continues to be rolled out by Openreach, with physical fibre installation being observed in the village. It appears that we're moving pretty quickly!

We still have a bit of waiting to do, but it would appear that we're way ahead of the timeline of 12 months from voucher submission. The estimated period of readiness (subject to change) is Summer 2021.

Pictured below is some of the installation of fibre that took place on Ivy Way on the 20th February, courtesy of Mark Heath.

If you spot any activity, do take some photos and share - you can send these to [broadband@spaldwick.com](mailto:broadband@spaldwick.com)

For the latest broadband updates, please visit [www.spaldwick.com/broadband](http://www.spaldwick.com/broadband)

UltraFast  
SPALDWICK



Spaldwick-based businesses urged to “Click It Local”

Huntingdonshire District Council has launched a new partnership with online retail platform ‘Click It Local’, which will enable independent shops in towns across the district to offer a range of products for customers and have them delivered on the same or next day.

From Tuesday 2nd March, residents in Huntingdonshire can use Click it Local, enabling them to purchase everything from one marketplace – from weekly food essentials, gifts and treats from any independent businesses signed up to the platform.

Items can be chosen from many different shops within an order, with one payment and one delivery fee.

Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, Cllr Ryan Fuller said: “Since the pandemic began last March, businesses across our district have experienced very significant effects on their operating models and income streams as they navigate changing restrictions on their ability to trade.

Click it Local is a fantastic opportunity for our local high street businesses in Huntingdonshire to have an online presence. We aim to encourage more people to shop locally and support independent businesses that are at the centre of our local economy.



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The new service will provide customers with a convenient and safe way to shop online, whilst supporting their local businesses.”

Huntingdon Mayor, Karl Webb: “In these unprecedented times, we need to find more ways to support our local businesses. The Click it Local initiative can make a real difference, from business owners to our residents, shopping has become more accessible to all.”

Sue Wing from Huntingdon Business Improvement District added: “We welcome the announcement that HDC is partnering with Click it Local. This will provide an excellent opportunity for local businesses.”

If you are a business interested in finding out more about signing up with Click it Local, please contact: [hello@clickitlocal.co.uk](mailto:hello@clickitlocal.co.uk)

Town & Poors Charity Field

This followed January’s Parish Council Meeting.

**Planning application for hard standing** - Cllr S Parfrey explained the application has now been approved, as per previously outlined conditions regarding the positioning of the gates.

**A request from an allotment holder to allow beehives** - The Council agreed they are in favour of the request. Cllr G Smith informed the Council that there were no objections from the Allotment Association. Following discussions, Cllr S Fane de Salis proposed that a designated area of the field, in consultation with the allotment association, be fenced off for the requested beehives for an annual fee of £25; this was seconded by Cllr G Smith and carried unanimously.

**Allotment Association** - An open day is also being planned for 2nd May. The Council were asked to consider a request from the Allotment Association for the potential to install fruit trees using posts; this will be added to February’s agenda.

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## Spaldwick Parish Council

January's meeting was held on Thursday 21st by video conference, due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

*Attending the meeting virtually were: Chairman S Fane de Salis, Vice Chairman G Smith, S Jackson-Rimmer, 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 and District Cllr I Gardener updated Councillors regarding support from the District and County in relation to the pandemic, work completed by the County Wide hub, the vaccination programme (and related scams), services affected by the pandemic, the proposed Luton airport holding stack and flooding in the area.

- **Monthly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection** - Cllr S Fane de Salis confirmed the inspection has been completed and everything is fine, he noted some grass-cutting is needed though.
- **Grass-cutting** - Following discussions about the quotations received, Cllr G Smith proposed the contract be awarded to CGM on the basis that their quote was the joint lowest (£200 + VAT per cut) and that several other local Parish Councils use them. This was seconded by Cllr S Parfrey and carried unanimously.

### Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.

- **Progress update regarding the issue of motorcyclists using byways during winter months** - signs require updating to prevent this. Hunts District Council is investigating.
- **MVAS (Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign) Flashing Speed Sign** - The Clerk confirmed that the application and agreement have been submitted. Highways will obtain costings for the NAL sockets and moveable posts and advise; these will be presented to the Council for discussion as soon as they are available.
- **Safety concerns have been raised by a resident regarding pedestrian access at the Petrol Station and the potential for coloured tarmac as a safety measure** - Following discussion, Cllr S Fane de Salis proposed the Clerk write to Applegreen to pass on the comments; this was seconded by Cllr S Parfrey and carried unanimously.

### Community Room:

The Community room can only be used for very specific purposes due to the current lockdown. Cllr S Fane de Salis proposed purchase of cleaning items from Grafton products which were discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council, and acceptance of re-opening documents, which are based on recommendations from Cambs ACRE, in readiness for hire. The proposal was seconded by Cllr S Jackson-Rimmer and carried.

### Village Defibrillator:

Cllr S Fane de Salis informed the Council that a resident had offered to purchase the defibrillator in memory of her late husband. Cllr S Parfrey noted that the Spaldwick Social Group had also offered to fund its purchase and informed the Council that an update regarding the Wooley Windfarm funding application was anticipated by 1st February. On this basis the Council decided to defer making a decision regarding the purchase until next month's meeting.

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





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## Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for March/April 2021:

Grey	2nd March	16th March	30th March
Blue	9th March	23rd March	6th April
Green	11th March	25th March	8th April

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

[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/whatgoesinwhichbin](http://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](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- Universal Credit - Help to claim line 0800 144 8444
- Disability Huntingdonshire - 0330 3553 256 [info@dish.org.uk](mailto:info@dish.org.uk)
- Family Action - This group helps to provide practical, emotional, and financial support to families. [www.family-action.org.uk](http://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](mailto:familyline@family-action.org.uk)

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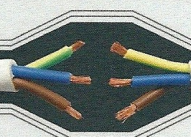
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