

Dates for your diary:

:: St James Church: The church is open again, with services on 2nd, 9th & 16th May - see page 3 for details.

:: Summer Festival: St James Church is planning a series of services and concerts - more details next month.

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

:: Community Room Cleaner Needed: See page 2.

May 2021

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK NEWS

Concerns raised over "dangerous" A14 junctions

Concerns surrounding slip-roads joining and leaving the A14 have been raised by Spaldwick Parish Council.

Chairman Steven Fane de Salis joined a virtual meeting (pictured below) with MP Shailesh Vara and Highways England to discuss the safety risks faced by residents. Other villages represented at the meeting included Easton, Ellington, Catworth and Barham and Woolley.



Shailesh Vara is backing a campaign for work to be undertaken, including short term safety measures, while a more long term solution is considered.

Having listened to the concerns, Regional Director of Highways England Martin Fellows, agreed to several site visits.

Mr Vara said: "I am in no doubt that these are dangerous junctions and I am very pleased that Mr Fellows

and his team have agreed to engage with the local community.

The separate onsite meetings at the junctions will help to identify the dangers to be addressed and I know the local community will do all they can to work closely with Highways England. I will be keeping a close eye as matters progress."

Martin Fellows added: "Our road network is a vital part of everyone's life and we'll never stop looking for ways to improve on safety and reliability. Substantial vegetation clearance has already taken place on the A14 over the past year to improve visibility, as well as road markings and signage improvements. We always welcome the opportunity to hear first-hand from residents and to discuss any concerns they have, and this meeting proved to be very useful."



Did you spot the bunnies and eggs on the small green near Littlecotes Close over the Easter weekend?

Bells in Memory - by Julia Rutherford

You might have heard the unusual sound of St James Church bells being rung half-muffled in honour of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Half-muffling means that the bells ring in a sequence which then gives an effect like an echo. This is because one half of the clapper is covered with a leather muffle, so on the front stroke the bell rings a full sound while on the back stroke the sound is muffled. In Spaldwick, the tenor bell (12.5cwt cast in 1635) tolled.

Traditional short peals are also available to mark your own special occasions (in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary) for a donation of £10 - just get in touch for more details by emailing: spaldwickbells@gmail.com.

We would also like to hear from you if are a lapsed ringer who would like to join us.



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Spaldwick Allotments - One Year On, by Carmen Martos

Spaldwick Community Allotment Association would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the Parish Council for funding and enabling the village to have an allotment site.

May 2021 is the one year anniversary of when Spaldwick allotmenters acquired their plots. Who would have envisaged a year ago, as we entered into our first lockdown that if there was something hopeful to look forward to and benefit from, it was an allotment plot? A place to escape to whilst the UK was in national lockdown and a place where one could be distracted from what was happening in the 'outside' world.

Whilst it seemed the UK was in pause mode, the allotment site was making progress in 'play' mode. Fast forward one year to May 2021, Spaldwick Allotment plots now benefit from water facilities; rabbit proof fencing and from last week, hardstanding. Additionally, plots have generated a multitude of produce for their guardians.

As we emerge from (a third) lockdown, the allotmenters remain eager developing their plots and learning what new crops they can grow (in addition to the usual crops). The month of May is often known as the 'hungry gap', in vegetable growing terminology. This is because all last year's crops have finished growing and the current year's crops are not ready to pick. So whilst this year's crops are being planted and slowly growing, so is the allotment community growing - we welcome another family to the allotment site. We now have 25 tended plots.

Now the hardstanding is complete (pictured right), there are a few allotment plots available. Please email spaldwickallotments@gmail.com if you are interested in having one.



Credit: Owen Pope

COMMUNITY ROOM CLEANER NEEDED

Spaldwick Parish Council needs a new cleaner for the Community Room, starting 1st July 2021.

The job is for one hour per week at £10 per hour, on a self employed basis.

Applications can be sent to: clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com.



Pictured: The new hardstanding is complete



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St James Spaldwick - Open again!

Church services re-opened at Easter and we like to thank all those who kindly donated to the food bank collection, the beginnings of which are pictured right.

Services in May:

- 2nd May: Morning Worship, 9.30am
- 9th May: Family Worship 4pm, followed by APCM
- 16th May: Parish Communion, 9.30am

Please note that one way systems are in place in all churches and you are required to maintain social distancing. Please bring your face mask and your phone with the track and trace app on your phone (or we can take your contact details instead).

Summer Festival:

Next month we look forward to sharing details of our summer festival of services and concerts that will take place across all our churches this summer. These are likely to include flexible options of outdoor services, fun community events, picnics and BBQs!

Communion at Home:

The Vicar is now able to offer Communion at home to those not able to attend church. If you or someone you know is continuing to shield, please get in touch.

To contact Rector Rev Philip Howson:

Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

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

Phone: 01480 869081



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 support is now mainly the collection of prescriptions from 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



Summer Half Term Holiday Club!

A super fun week planned for our Summer half term holiday club! See below for just some of the exciting activities we will have on offer. Don't forget to reserve your place – all 2-11 year olds welcome.

Tuesday 1 st June	Wednesday 2 nd June	Thursday 3 rd June	Friday 4 th June
Forest School: Making Fires	Science: Instant Ice Lava Jars	Crafting: T-Shirt Designing	Crafting: Junk model Challenge
Cookery Fun: Toasting Marshmallows	Cookery Fun: Making Pizzas	Sports: Sports Day Challenges	Sports: Football
Crafting: Keyrings	Crafting: Spring Flowers	Science: Slime and Gloop	Forest School: Den Building
Sports: Table Tennis Challenge	Sports: Wii Sports Competition	Cookery Fun: Decorating Cakes	Cookery Fun: Cheese Pinwheels

Prices:
8.00am – 6.00pm → £30, 9.00am – 4.00pm → £25,
Other sessions available, please enquire.

If you would like to book your child in - please email playtimesoffice@gmail.com or call 01480 890077

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Did you know, in the UK, a car is stolen on average every ten minutes? (ITV, 2020). Whilst we can't always prevent it, there are simple steps we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of car crime:

- 1. **Leave your car locked** - A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: 44% of cars were broken into via an unlocked door.
- 2. **Leave your car well-lit** - 80% of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near streetlamps or in a busy area can deter thieves.
- 3. **Leave your car empty or with no items on show** - Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself.

Following 3 simple steps will help to keep your car safe, but there are further steps you could take:

- Store car ownership information at home, not in your car.
- Secure number plates with anti-theft screws available from car accessory stores.
- Keep your car keys out of sight in your home
- Use a Sold Secure www.soldsecure.com approved anti-theft device on your car. You can search for suppliers on www.securedbydesign.com
- When parking in a car park, look for a 'Park Mark' www.parkmark.co.uk indicating the car park meets recognised security levels.



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USEFUL CONTACTS:

- Call 101 - For all non-emergencies, general enquiries and to report crime.
- In an emergency, when a life is in danger or there is a risk of violence or serious injury or when a serious crime is being committed **please call 999**.
- Use Crimestoppers to make a report **anonymously** by calling 0800 555 111

Cambridgeshire Hearing Help reaches out to Spaldwick residents

If you're an NHS hearing aid user, Cambridgeshire Hearing Help is pleased to announce the limited re-opening of its hearing aid re-tubing service.

If your hearing aid needs cleaning and maintenance, the charity has a 'drop-off and pick-up 10 minutes later' service at nine HAM Centres in Soham, Ely, Cambourne, Girton, St Ives, Chatteris, Fulbourn and Great Shelford.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP

To comply with the social distancing regulations and Covid-19 risk assessments, the re-tubing process will take longer and therefore sessions will be **by appointment only**.

The charity's asking that hearing aids are handed to them in a sealed envelope labelled with your **Name, Date of Birth, Postcode and contact phone number**.

To book an appointment:

- Phone: 01223 416141
- Email: enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
- Website: www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

March's meeting was held on Thursday 18th 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, S Parfrey, W Burcham, County Councillor I Gardener, S. Cardwell (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

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

- **School field:** Spaldwick School Headteacher Louise Worrell addressed the Council regarding access to the school grounds and field outside of school hours. She explained the gates have been locked at certain times, due to Covid precautions and to avoid groups gathering. Mrs Worrell asked for feedback from the Council regarding their understanding of access requirements. Cllr S Fane de Salis provided details of some Section 106 stipulations in regard to use of the field for "organised activities," but advised that he did not have a copy of the plan referred to. The Headteacher will make further enquiries.
- **County Councillor I Gardener** spoke about safety on the A14 and how he's made an initial request for a barrier for the footpath adjacent to the A14, between Spaldwick and Easton.
- **Allotment field hardstanding:** The Parish Council was successful in their bid for £15,000 towards creating an area of hardstanding at the village allotments.
- **Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.**

- Plans for a new bus stop on Stow Road have been deferred, due to current coronavirus restrictions.

- Highways have been informed about damage to the village green, because of recent roadworks.

- **Community Room**

- An enquiry has been made about running a fitness class from the Community room once restrictions are lifted on 17th May. Re-opening documentation and purchase of cleaning products were agreed at a previous meeting.

- Cllr S Parfrey informed the Council that a decision should be made in May regarding the funding grant applied for a village defibrillator. Following discussions, he will contact the resident who has offered to purchase the defibrillator and also the landlord of The George to discuss positioning of the device.

- A request for a mobile Post Office van to visit Spaldwick has been made with Royal Mail. Cllr S Parfrey is waiting to hear from them.

Town & Poors Charity Field (Allotment field)

- Further enquiries are to be made with the Allotment Association regarding the planting of fruit trees.

- All allotment holders have been contacted to advise of the Council's intention to allow beehives on the field, with no concerns being raised by the agreed deadline.

- Two allotment plots have been handed back and will be issued to new tenants.

- To date, there were three people on the waiting list with additional plots to be created. The aim is for a total of 26 plots.



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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for May/June 2021:

Grey		11th May	25th May
Blue	4th May	18th May	1st June
Green	6th May	20th May	3rd June

A complete list of materials that can be recycled can be found at:
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/whatgoesinwhichbin

Spaldwick Goes Green - by Lisa Hunter

As a part of Earth Day, Spaldwick School is launching its new fundraising and environmental efforts by becoming a local drop off point for certain recycled items!

In a bid to reduce plastics and bring awareness to environmental issues, the fundraising group for the primary school has set up 3 collection bins for the items shown here.

The drop-off points will be to the far right of the school, at the back of the staff carpark.

Please collect as much as you can and do your bit for the planet (and raise funds for the school at the same time!)

If you have mobility issues and would like someone to collect your items, please call Lisa on 07769 646 131.

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All brands of flexible dishwasher tablets

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All brands of flexible wipe packaging and tinted rigid plastic tubs used for home cleaning



All brands of tinted fabric conditioner bottles and caps



Electric toothbrush heads and covers



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Dental floss containers

Fragrance twin pack plastic sleeves



Flexible stain remover powder packaging



Flexible home cleaning wipe packaging



Flexible dishwashing tablet packaging



Outer plastic sleeve

Foil inside dishwasher protector



Dishwasher cleaner and freshener outer packaging

Flexible plastic dishwashing salt bags

Spaldwick Community Speedwatch - by Sharan Jackson-Rimmer



With the lifting of COVID restrictions we are looking to restart the Community Speedwatch sessions in the village.

These sessions take place once or twice a month for an hour at a time (usually in the morning), so the commitment isn't huge and it's something that can benefit the community.

If you would be interested in joining me and the other volunteers please email me:
csw.spaldwick@yahoo.co.uk

Ellington WI - by Sue Rice

Ellington WI is still going strong and has been having meetings on Zoom over the past few months.

All being well our May meeting will be in groups of 6 in some members' gardens and we will be back in the village hall in June.

The June meeting will be on Tuesday 1st June at 7.30pm when there will be a very quick but much postponed 2020 AGM followed by a Beetle Drive and time to catch up with everybody.

From then on we will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall or going on outings.

New members from Spaldwick are very welcome and we have a great programme of events for the year. If you would like to come and see what we are up to please contact Ann Bentley, President, on 01480 891628 or Sue Rice, Secretary, on 01480 896139.

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