

Dates for your diary:

: **Spaldwick Village Hall AGM** - Thursday 4th April, Community Room, Spaldwick School, 8pm.

:: **Spaldwick Primary School** - Last day of Spring Term: Friday 5th April

:: **St James Church PCC AGM** - Sunday 7th April, 10.15am.

:: **Parish Council Meeting** - Thursday 18th April, Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School, 8pm.

April 2019

To advertise or contribute news: Chris Hubbard - spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK NEWS

Safety concerns raised over A14 Junction near Spaldwick

North West Cambridgeshire MP Shailesh Vara and Alconbury Ward District Councillor Jim White have told Spaldwick News that they're concerned about current safety conditions at the A14 Easton junction, near Spaldwick.

It comes after the recent collision between two lorries on the morning of February 18th, which led to the closure of the road, emergency resurfacing work and tailbacks stretching to Huntingdon Racecourse. Cambridgeshire Police say the two drivers were treated for minor injuries.

Spaldwick resident Cllr White said: "I'm sure you would agree that the Highways England scheme to build a southern bypass around Huntingdon is impressively taking shape. In 2015, over a year before a spade was struck in the ground, I raised my concerns about the increased risks at the Easton and Woolley junctions. At the time I predicted that traffic leaving the speed restricted area between Brampton Hut and Ellington would be accelerating hard after being bunched up like a concertina in the roadworks. For those slowing down or leaving the Easton junction this would increase their risk of an accident.



Photo: @Traffic_Sgt

The recent incident involving two lorries, which required a 24 hour closure for surface repairs, highlights my point. In 2015, I discussed my concerns with our MP Shailesh Vara, who wrote on my behalf to the then Transport Minister requesting improvements to the Easton Junction.

Since the recent HGV incident, I've highlighted this issue once again to our MP in the sincere hope that the Easton Junction will benefit from an A14 dividend, something which is highly possible should the project finish ahead of schedule. **(Continued on Page 2...)**

Spring Blossom by Rebecca Woolward

Spring was almost upon us as February drew to a close, with several days of blue skies and mild conditions for the time of the year...

Sweet honey-smelling blossom was starting to form on the trees, attracting various pollen-collectors, as captured in these beautiful photos taken by local resident Rebecca Woolward.



Do you have a picture that captures village life in Spaldwick?

Please share it with us spaldwicknews@gmail.com and we will try to include your photo in a future edition.



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Concerns raised over safety of A14 Junction near Spaldwick (Continued from Page 1)

Cllr White continued: "What is an A14 dividend? Highways England have already committed to funding projects in local communities that are adjacent to the A14. I have suggested that Highways England consider funding a dedicated cycle path."

"With other Parishes expressing an interest, the plan is to have a purpose built cycle path that links Spaldwick with Ellington, Ellington with Brampton, and Brampton with Buckden. I'm delighted to announce that Highways England have approved the funding of a feasibility study, which doesn't mean the project will be approved, but is at least a start. I'm sure you would agree, that a dedicated cycle way from Spaldwick to Brampton is very exciting prospect. I'll provide updates when more information becomes available (don't hold your breath though it may take some time to work it all out!)."

Writing for Spaldwick News, North West Cambridgeshire MP Shailesh Vara, said: "It was very fortunate that no one was seriously injured in the recent incident at the Easton junction although it did cause significant disruption as well as escalating concern amongst local residents.

"I am working closely with Cllr Jim White to press for the necessary safety improvements at the junction. I have written to Chris Grayling MP, the Transport Secretary to seek assistance from his Department and also sought a meeting with the regional director for Highways England with a view to finding a way forward."

"I understand that the A14 improvement scheme is progressing well and once completed it will have an impact on the levels of congestion in the local area as well as on road safety. Highways England has committed to funding projects for the benefit of communities adjacent to the A14 and Cllr White and I will be pressing the case for safety improvements at the junction to be seriously considered."

Highways England didn't respond to requests for a comment.

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- **Sunday 31st March** - There is **no** Mothering Sunday service in Spaldwick, but there are services nearby at 10am in Easton and 10.45am in Kimbolton.
- **Sunday 7th April, 9.30am** Jill Dighton - followed at 10.15am by the **PCC AGM**.

Q: What is the PCC?

A: The Parochial Church Council is the executive committee of a Church of England parish. It consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with lay members (ie not clergy!) Legally, the council is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls, etc. Anyone can come along to the meeting but you can only vote if you are on the church electoral roll.

The electoral role is a basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. The roll is completely renewed every six years, at which point all members have to re-apply for membership or else their names will be deleted. We are about to do this now, so if you'd like to be included let one of us know asap and we will get you a form to fill in, or pop into church to find one. To be added to the list you have to be 16+, reside in the parish or be regular worshippers in the church.

Q: So other than being able to vote, what else does the electoral role entitle you to?

A: A pass to get into Ely Cathedral for free!

- **Good Friday, 4.30pm - Messy Church** will be back at the Easter Garden. Join us from 4.30pm as we build an Easter garden and enjoy teas and hot cross buns. All ages are welcome, but children need to be accompanied.
- **Easter Saturday, 3-5pm** - Join us for tea and cake and the chance to take a trip up the tower to see spectacular views of the village (£2/adult, £1 child accompanied by a responsible adult). Teddy Bears will be parachuting from the Tower – bring teddy along with his own homemade parachute or make a parachute with us. There will be prizes for the best decorated egg (real or chocolate) by a child, and for the best homemade Easter bonnet. Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt and more.
- **Easter Day, 21st April, 9am** - Communion with Jonathan Young.

To get in touch: stjamesspaldwick@aol.com or call Amba on 890565 or Julia on 890203.



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A look beneath Spaldwick's Medieval Bridge



The next time you are heading towards the A14 or Belton's Hill out of Spaldwick, spare a thought for the hidden craftsmanship which is directly beneath you! There is a medieval stone bridge across the Ellington Brook, which you may recognise from the bottom of the Spaldwick sign situated on the Village Green (pictured above).

The medieval portion of Spaldwick Bridge was constructed in the 15th century and consists of three arches. A post-medieval extension was added to the medieval bridge, thus doubling its width. Local historians think the original structure was probably made of timber.



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**:: There's more information about Spaldwick's history on the village website:
www.spaldwick.com/history**

Playtimes Playgroup

The children attending Playtimes had a dress-up day to mark World Book Day on March 7th, where everyone had the chance to transform into their favourite character!

The children looked great, with costumes including Little Red Riding Hood, The Tiger Who Came To Tea, Elsa and lots of Super heroes. We made our own stories up and drew our own pictures to go with them, as well as bookmarks and masks.

The little ones are still interested in a story called 'The Hairy Toe' - and have been making hairy toe biscuits, where they measured out the ingredients and mixed the dough together, before making their own shapes and characters from the book. They have also been creating various different characters using junk modelling materials and re-told the tale in their role play!

Preschoolers also made the most of February's unseasonably warm weather and sunshine in the park, practising their climbing skills and having fun on the swings. A daily chart has also been introduced, with the children able to change the day, date, weather and season.

There has been a change of dates for our Easter Bonnet Parade and party. It has been rearranged for April 26th at 9.30am.

We will be holding a raffle during the morning, so if anyone has any donations we would very much appreciate them. Any money raised will go to Playtimes.

Dates for the Diary:

- 29th March - Mother's Day Tea, 2-3pm (If your child does not normally attend on a Friday, you are more than welcome to join us!)
- 1st April - Parents Evening, 6-7pm
- 26th April - Easter Bonnet Parade and Party, 9.30 am

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Red Nose Day

Spaldwick School spent Red Nose Day taking part in danceathon.

From 9:15 am until 3:15 pm they made sure one class was dancing, it ended with the whole school and lots of parents joining in together. The children can't wait to see how much they raised for a great charity.

Playtimes Playgroup and Spaldwick Parish Council are awarded Woolley Hill Wind Farm cash!

Playtimes Playgroup has been lucky enough to be granted £5,000 from Woolley Hill Wind Farm's Community Benefit Fund!

They are now in the process of organising a refurbishment of the toilets and hope to have the work completed soon. Some of the money will be used to replace the building's carpets.

Spaldwick Parish Council has also been awarded £5,000 to replace the village War Memorial with a new granite memorial, using a local stonemason.

As previously reported, the War Memorial has become worn due to erosion of the soft stone and is too fragile to repair. It was originally erected around the early-1920s and is now nearly 100-years-old. Various options have been considered by the Parish Council, and after consultations and site visits with the War Memorial Trust a decision was made to replace it with a new Memorial to look identical to the old monument. This will be in a harder wearing granite at cost of approximately £12,000.

Grants Officer at the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, Michael Ruddy, said: "The Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund invites applications from not for profit constituted groups (not individuals) delivering charitable projects with public benefit for residents in seven Parishes, including Spaldwick.

"Grants will be offered normally in the range of £250 to £5,000, although in exceptional circumstances higher sums may be considered. The fund is 'run' twice a year – 1st February and 1st August are the deadlines for applications to CCF."



Volunteers needed! Are you handy with a lawnmower?



Photo: Shona Blair Roughsedge

Thanks to Pete Rimmer and Eddie Roughsedge for their hard work in keeping the Churchyard grass neat and tidy.

Without the attention that the grounds have had over the last couple of years from several volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to see the lovely snowdrops as the weeds would be too invasive.

However, we need more people to help with caring for the Churchyard as we head into the summer months. In the growing period, the grass needs cutting every two to three weeks - the more volunteers that come forward, then the smaller the commitment!

Please don't leave it to two or three community-minded people to keep our churchyard looking fabulous. It is an asset to this lovely village!

**:: Please contact Pete Rimmer to help:
pete.rimmer@yahoo.co.uk**

How is Spaldwick's plastic waste re-used?

Your recycled plastic items collected by the bin lorries in Spaldwick are now being re-used in new packaging made by Huntingdon-based Chrapak Ltd.

Huntingdonshire District Council says the aim is to reduce the amount of plastic going to landfill - already, 55% of waste here is diverted from going into the ground.

A spokesperson told Spaldwick News, "We need more plastics recycled and less going to landfill, so the next step is to improve the quality of materials that are collected for recycling. This can be done by ensuring no food is left in any plastic container, simply give the containers a wash, and place your recyclables into your bin loose.

"As for plastic bottles, give them a rinse, then squash and replace the lid before placing into the blue bin for recycling."



SPALDWICK CARPET BOWLS CLUB

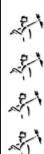
New Meeting Details

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February's meeting of Spaldwick Parish Council was held on Thursday 21st February.

The Chairman is Steve Fane de Salis. Also present were: M Robinson (Vice Chairman), G Smith, I Harriman, R Johnson, County Councillor Ian Gardener and seven members of the public.

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

County Councillor Ian Gardener provided an update:

- At the budget meeting the County Council agreed a 2.99% increase on Council Tax, plus a 2% increase for Adult Social Care. The increase is partly due to inflation and increased demand pressures across service areas, in particular Adult & Children's Social Care funding.
- There is additional funding from the government and from Highways (for potholes etc.) Last month 1,100 potholes were repaired by dragon patches; Cllr Gardener urged people to use the online reporting tool.
- Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service was rated as at a good standard and one of the best two performing Fire Authorities of 14 inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate.
- Ofsted also a very good report across the County.
- Paint can be taken to recycling centres to be mixed and used again (for charities etc.)
- The Mayor is looking at a strategic bus service review but for this year services will remain unchanged.
- Electric charging points are being looked at by various villages
- Cllr Gardener has put in an objection to the new catchment arrangements for Hinchingsbrook School (which would affect Spaldwick students).



Other points of Interest:

- **Planning:** Residents spoke to raise concerns regarding the proposed development of a pair of semi-detached houses on the Land East of Ivy House
- **Track Clearing:** Responsibility regarding Long Lane following resident contact with SPC and Highways - A vehicular access difficulty complaint was received from a resident after Highways denied responsibility. Online complaint logged by Cllr S Fane de Salis, with Highways responding that they could not see an issue. Cllrs Harriman and Fane de Salis to assess visually but the Parish Council does not own Long Lane, so it is Highways' responsibility.

Community Room:

- Councillors discussed cleaning job applications received and the role.
- Booking process, charges for additional cleaning of the room following a booking, key safe code management, cancellation policy were discussed, as were bookings being noted in the calendar by function rather than by names, return of payment following a cancellation and deposit for single-use bookings.

Village Defibrillator:

- Councillor M Robinson was tasked with finding out more about a village defibrillator.

:: Full minutes from Spaldwick Parish Council meetings can be viewed online at www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk

:: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 18th April, 8pm in the Community Room. All are welcome.

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Spaldwick Village Hall AGM

Thursday 4th April, 8pm
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Agenda on www.spaldwick.com/villagehall

Any contributions prior please email
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or by post to: Ivy House, 38 High Street, Spaldwick
on behalf of the Committee
All are welcome.

Agenda

1. Welcome – Purpose of the meeting
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Financial report
5. Progress on suggestions to date:
 - Buryfields
 - Church
 - Others
6. Further suggestions from the floor
7. Village Hall Committee proposals
8. Committee members resign
9. Committee members appointed
10. Close of meeting



Escape is a youth club for children aged 11 and over.

We will be meeting on the following dates:

29th March

First date back after the Easter Holidays is 26th April

Between 7pm-9pm, at Spaldwick School.

Entry costs just £2 per session.

We have a range of activities available and arrange trips out such as sledging at the SnowZone MK and Xtreme360 Trampoline Park in St Neots.



Escape is run on a voluntary basis by a small group of parents, so we are always looking for more help. We would love to hear from any adults who would be interested in helping on an occasional basis or joining the committee. If you are interested, or you have any ideas for activities, fund raising etc., please contact us at escape@spaldwick.com.

Or get in touch on Facebook:



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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for April/May 2019:

Grey	Tues 2nd April	Tues 16th April	Tues 30th April
Blue	Tues 9th April	Tues 23rd April	Tues 7th May
Green	Thurs 11th April	Thurs 25th April	Thurs 9th May

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



Spaldwick School Environmental Area



The children at Spaldwick School really enjoy outdoor learning and we were really excited to be awarded Lottery Funding to develop our environmental area. The new area will provide opportunities for den making, planting and developing habitats for minibeasts. We also have a fabulous story telling chair, a whiteboard and seating.

Our next step is to redevelop the pond so we can include pond dipping amongst the exciting things we can do. We are looking for help and advice so please contact the school office if you're an expert or a keen novice.



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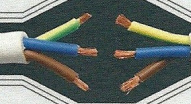
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