



# SPALDING & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2022

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Over recent months there has been renewed debate about the merits or otherwise of a Town Council for Spalding. Whilst Spaldonians have been consulted on this question twice in the last twenty-odd years, it does no harm to explore the question again, as there have been some significant changes in the population of Spalding since 2015, the last time the issue was explored.

Spalding's lack of a Town Council has been picked up by a researcher at the House of Commons Library. A useful article explaining why some parts of England don't have a Parish Council cites Spalding alongside Great Yarmouth, Rugby, High Wycombe, Coalville and Chester-le-Street as examples of unparished gaps within largely parished areas..

Spalding lost the ability to govern itself as a result of local government re-organisation in 1974, when the old Spalding Urban District Council was abolished. For many years this did not seem to be a problem. Indeed, in the referendum held in 1998, a clear majority voted against the creation of a Town Council. As a direct consequence the Spalding Town Forum was created. It is a body that is purely consultative and has no statutory powers. Nonetheless, it does afford the opportunity to air issues publicly that affect Spalding, and our Society does have a place on the Forum.

To help inform the debate, I have looked at the statutory powers that a Parish Council has. Whilst there is a detailed list on the Parish Councils website <https://www.parishcouncils.uk/>, the key ones that stand out are:-

- Duty to provide allotments.
- Power to provide and maintain burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria.
- Power to provide and maintain bus shelters.
- Power to make bye-laws relating to pleasure grounds, cycle parks, baths and wash houses, open spaces and burial grounds, mortuaries and public conveniences.
- Power to provide conference facilities.
- Power to provide community centres.
- Powers in connection with crime prevention.
- Provision of entertainment and support of the arts.
- Power to accept gifts.

- Numerous powers in respect of the highways including the power to maintain footpaths, street lighting, provision of litter bins, provision of roadside seating and shelters, power to provide road signs, power to plant trees and lay grass.
- Power to acquire land by agreement, to accept gifts of land and dispose of land.
- Power to provide open spaces and recreation facilities.
- Power to provide public conveniences.
- Right to be notified of planning applications.
- Power to encourage tourism.
- Power to contribute toward traffic-calming measures.
- Powers in connection with public transport, including the provision of bus grants.

That is a significant list, and it is fair to say that not all parishes make use of those powers, but many do. Skegness Town Council, for example, certainly does..

If Spalding were to have a Town Council that had many of those powers, it would need to have significant financial resources, and would also need members with the right skills and experience, supported by staff. Parish and town councillors are not paid, but can receive an expenses allowance. In Skegness, the allowance is £500 per year.

Any Council is only as good as those councillors who are elected to serve on it. Would a Town Council for Spalding resolve some of the issues that are frequently aired? Would it attract those willing to set party politics aside and put the interests of the town first?

There's a pretty general feeling that Spalding's response to The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was disappointing, in terms of both festive decoration and events. Many of the district's small towns and villages seem to have put on much more of a show. Could it be that they all have parish or town councils and Spalding doesn't?

What do you think? Would a town council benefit the town? There are plenty of pros and cons that need to be considered, and by writing this I am hoping to encourage informed debate.

**John Bland**

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## AGM

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**T**HIS YEAR'S AGM was held on 15 March in Spalding Baptist Church. After the covid disruption of the last two years, it was good to be able to meet face-to-face again, said Chairman John Bland, in welcoming members.

Surveying the past year, he said we had called for a change in the law to enable the ultimate owners of neglected properties such as the Bull and Monkey and the Johnson Hospital (often offshore companies) to be identified and tackled. We had also called for SHDC to draw up a shop-front design guide, to include, amongst other things, provisions to deal with the blight of windows blanked-out with vinyl film.

The disappointing reluctance of both local authorities and developers to engage with the public continued to cause needless conflict and/or delays – LCC Highways 'active travel' scheme, the Johnson Fountain and 5G mast sites being prime examples.

We had objected to applications that would preserve the former Sorting Office (for flats) and open yet another gambling outlet in the town centre, both in the conservation area.

The Society continued to be fully involved in the Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group – specifically the Heritage, Events and Markets sub-groups.

Projects and Campaigns Officer, John Charlesworth, reported on the Charlotte Charinton blue

plaque (nearing planning application) and *The Bakers* statue and trees for Swan Walk (taking longer than expected). Once this was complete, the hope was that the Market Art Project could secure sufficient grant funding for the rest of the art works to be carried through together, rather than piece by piece. (The controversy over the Council's handling of the Johnson Fountain is covered on pp.3 and 7.) A new project we have in mind for the future is to restore to the White Hart both its name and the historic ostler's bell.

The treasurer's report from Melvyn Price showed the Society's finances to be healthy, with the sales of the 2022 calendar making a very useful contribution.

Election of officers:- Chairman, John Bland; Vice-Chairman, David Jones; Secretary, Marian Boxall; Treasurer, Melvyn Price; Committee, Graham Boor, John Charlesworth, Alwyn Roffe and Robert West.

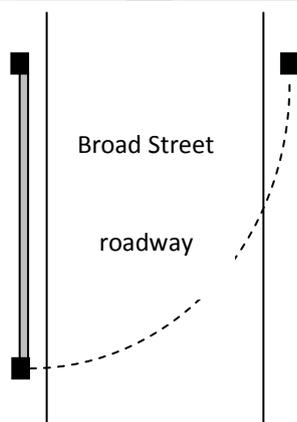
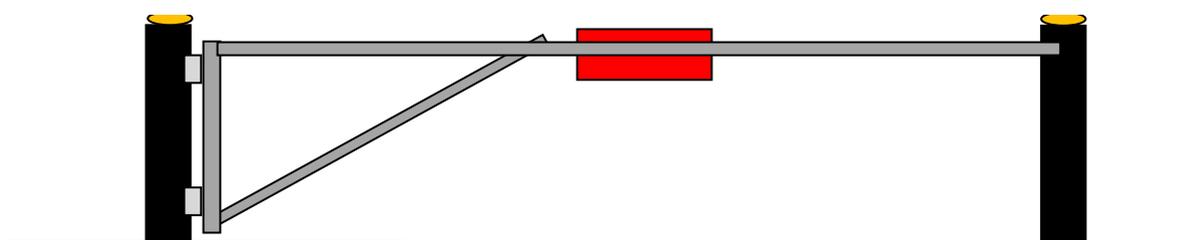
After the formalities, David Jacobs gave an entertaining talk on *250 Years of Local News* – that is, Spalding events that were reported in local newspapers as far back as 1770 and in press items from Canada to Australia. A nudist cricket match that ended in a riot ..... police letting down the tyres of motorists who failed to pay their fine .....One wonders what sort of picture people world-wide have of Spalding.

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## PEDESTRIAN AREA

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**“SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.”** The pedestrian cry gets louder and louder as drivers increasingly flout the road closure sign. Confrontations are reported. The enforcement buck passes backwards and forwards.



Discussion of barriers always seems to be about hi-tech bollards that rise and fall from the roadway and is always rejected by County Highways as much too expensive.

Might a bit of lo-tech have the answer? Installed a little way back up Broad Street from the junction with Herring Lane. Closed at 10am and opened at 4pm. It would need a fastening more sophisticated than a padlock. Also a bit of juggling with job descriptions and an arrangement with the emergency services. But where there's a will there's surely a way. (Sherborne in Dorset has an even lower-tech solution: a chain across the carriage-way.)

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## FOUNTAIN UPDATE

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**I**F EVER there was a historic asset calling to be included in any regeneration scheme for the town centre, it is the Johnson Drinking Fountain. That certainly seems to be the view of the Heritage Sub-Group of the Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group, set up to make recommendations for the town centre's streets and public spaces. One of the opportunities they identify in an initial report reads:

“An ‘eye-catcher’ artwork or feature such as the Johnson Memorial Fountain at the end of Bridge Street could draw people towards the river. Perhaps with landscaping?”

Unbeknown to the Heritage Group, however, there were others deciding on the Fountain. At no point, we understand, was the Heritage Group informed of the existence of this other little group – of councillors – busily duplicating a part of what the Heritage Group had been set up to do. They had to learn about it from the press, when the councillor group announced they'd decided the place for the Fountain was Ayscoughfee Gardens.

Any recommendation that the Heritage Group might have made about the Fountain had thus been pre-empted, and their work and standing undermined.

On 4 April a planning application to site the Fountain in Ayscoughfee Gardens was submitted; and withdrawn a fortnight later. It needed a few tweaks, it was announced. It needed rather more than a few, however.

The Society's inspection of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) accompanying the application revealed it to be a slipshod document, full of factual errors, exaggerations and Aunt Sallys. For example, Kingston's Corner, built in 1908, is said to have been built after World War II. Time is wasted on pointlessly trying to work out where the Fountain originally stood – pointless

because (a) no-one, so far as we are aware, has ever suggested putting it back *exactly* on the same spot, and (b) it only needs a glance at a post-1874 Ordnance Survey map to provide the answer. The Society's 1888 large-scale ON map shows exactly where it was.

The only two sites considered in the HIA are Hall Place and Ayscoughfee Gardens. Why? Other suggestions put forward by the public include the Market Place, the Sheepmarket and Swan Walk, as well as the end of Bridge Street.

The application was submitted again on 19 July, with the HIA improved by correcting virtually all the errors, etc., the Society had pointed out.\* Nevertheless, the choice of Ayscoughfee remains unacceptable both to the Society and overwhelmingly to the general public, so far as one can judge.

Meanwhile, we have been trying to find out just how the councillor group came to be set up, inevitably weakening the rôle of the Heritage Group as it does, and how Ayscoughfee Gardens came to be the preferred option, and so on.

Our first Freedom of Information (FOI) request was made in January and responded to only in April, although the Act requires a response to be made within 20 working days. Our request was refused, as it would “exceed the permitted officer time” to deal with it. Our second FOI request was made on 25 May. As we'd had no reply again within the 20 working days, there seemed to be no alternative but to make a formal complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. This we did, and it is now being taken up. We await developments.

\* If you'd like to see how unsatisfactory the original Heritage Impact Assessment was, our analysis is on our website: [www.spaldingcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.spaldingcivicsociety.org.uk)





## SPECS AND STRAWBS

ONE THING stood out a mile in a 2 June walk round the town centre: that it was our local independent shops had decked their windows for the Jubilee, not the national chain stores.

Boot's, nothing; Aldi, nothing; B&Q, nothing; Iceland, nothing. Lidl, Halford's, CarpetRight, Poundland, B&M, Wilko (surprisingly), Poundstretcher, Yorkshire Trading Co. – all nothing. W.H.Smith, a small gesture to the occasion. Sainsbury's had three festive loops: one of union jacks, two of booze bunting with bottles ("Buy 6 or more, save 25%"). Not hard to see where priorities lay.

The one outstanding exception to this failure of the nationals was Nationwide (*right*) – with its marvellous model of a street party. Two or three trestle tables with tiny plates and cakes, bunting, people gathering at the tables and approaching, others leaning out of first-floor windows, a dad in a doorway dandling an infant on his arm, a pensioner a bit out of things on a bench, a woman bringing tea out from a house, a first-aider keeping an eye on things ..... It was Society member Christine Meggitt who'd put together the street party from her dolls' house collection. The Nationwide organisation had arranged a competition amongst the area's branches. Spalding branch was the runaway winner.

Most charity shops had joined in, looking out red, white and blue items from amongst their donations.

Nearly all the local independents had made an effort, even when you'd have thought their goods

didn't lend themselves to display – such as Mobile Master (only red, white or blue smart phones allowed in the window) and Molsom Optician's (spectacle frames amongst the strawberries and cupcakes). Amongst the flags, national colours and pictures of the Queen, there were a number of shops that had come up with something a bit different or unexpected or inventive:- Element 78, with a revolving crown; Hughes Electrical, with two corgis emerging from beneath a table; Charmed Interiors, with a positive deluge of union jack cushions and bed linen; Jacq Alexander, with two huge elongated antique wooden guardsmen on guard; Gibbs, with its knitted Queen with spot-on hat .....



Perhaps the most eye-catching window was amongst the first to appear: Pennington's laden street-party table across its double window in Red Lion Street (*above*). And the most ingenious was Bookmark's array of books round the Queen's head – what on earth had *Life of Pi* or *The English Patient*

or Iris Murdoch or *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* got to do with the Queen? It took a moment or two for the penny to drop, assisted by the bookmarks poking out from the pages: ah, all winners of the Booker Prize during the last 70 years.

Congratulations and thanks to all the shops that enlivened their windows for the Jubilee. Would that the nationals with their much greater resources had done the same. That *would* have been a display.

**John Charlesworth**

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## PLANNING MATTERS

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**T**HE PROPOSAL to turn the **former Dorothy Perkins** shop into an adult gaming centre was refused by the Council. Merkur Slots appealed. The appeal has been upheld by the planning inspector. Despite overwhelming public opposition, therefore, Merkur Slots have now been given the go-ahead to open their gaming centre. That will make seven gambling establishments in the town centre – and one greengrocer's! The Las Vegas of South Lincolnshire.

The planning Inspector states that, when he visited Spalding, he could only see one other adult gaming centre. The fact that he does not acknowledge the number of bookmakers in the town centre which also have gaming machines is disappointing, to say the least.

It is disappointing also that there have not been any greater restrictions on the opening hours. Who on earth needs a gaming machine at seven in the morning or at 11pm at night?

We welcome the rejection of the shop signage design, but would have appreciated a clear direction that the windows should not be blanked out with any form of vinyl film, whether carrying advertising or not. Whilst Merkur Slots have bullied their way into Spalding, if they are the responsible company they claim to be, it is hoped that they will ensure that their shop window displays are interesting and regularly changed and enhance the town centre.

This sorry episode shows that planning law is in desperate need of reform. There has been universal objection to the application, yet it has been approved on appeal without reflecting the extent of the local opposition. That is simply unjust. The law needs to be changed, so that when a community says no to this kind of business, then that is the end of the matter. This is not about nimbyism. This is about a business that is not appropriate for the location proposed.

Since our last newsletter the application has been approved for the conversion of the former **Fitness**

**Centre** in Spring Gardens (previously The Geest Social Club) into flats; and the application to convert the old **Sorting Office** into flats has also been approved. On the latter, whilst the revised application appears to have addressed some of our concerns, we do wonder what the position would have been if this building had been proposed as a brand-new building today for this conservation area site. Would a building with a significant amount of reflective glass have been deemed acceptable, given the style of architecture of the surrounding buildings? We had hoped for better on this important site in the town. Time will tell whether the decision taken will actually enhance the town.

As for the old **Fitness Centre**, we note that the new owner, having got permission to turn it into flats, has now put it back on the market again. Perhaps someone might buy the building who actually wants to make use of it and would properly restore it to reflect its status as a listed building, rather than as a property speculation, as now appears to be the case.

The other significant application we are awaiting a decision on is the proposed conversion of **Calthrop's** former offices in the Market Place into flats. We are hoping that the owner might clean the brickwork on this building as part of the conversion. Removing over a century of grime from this building would help to transform the appearance of the town centre.

We note that an application has been made for an upstairs flat at **4 New Road**, which was once the home of George Shepherd, recipient of our last blue plaque. The heritage impact assessment supporting the application reveals some interesting interior features and possible evidence that the upstairs of Nos.3 and 4 were once linked as a single dwelling. It would be a pity if the upstairs windows to No 4 were restored, whilst leaving those of No 3 in a state of disrepair.

**John Bland**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

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A WARM WELCOME to new members **Paul Berry, Val Gemmell and Robin Peake.**

We are sorry to lose Pat Wensor from the committee with his knowledge the locality that comes from a Spaldonian born and bred. In particular, we are grateful for the slide quiz he prepared a few years ago and for access to his invaluable collection of vintage postcards.

Joining the committee – or rather, rejoining after several years – is Alwyn Roffe with his valuable professional architectural knowledge.

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## REWILDING AND GARDENS

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**R**EWILDING means letting nature take over. It is gaining ground in conservation use, and is proving to be very effective. (See this year's *Spring Watch* at Wild Ken Hill in Norfolk.) But it needs space. How can we apply it to gardens, and why do we need to?

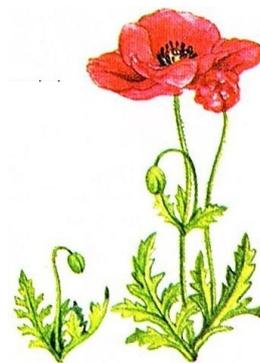
Here in the UK we have some of the most wildlife-poor areas in Europe, but research over many years shows that across the whole of Europe there has been a 70% decline in *all* insect species, not just the pollinators we hear so much about, but beetles, flies, you name it. Insects affect everything we do. The pollinators – bees, butterflies, wasps – are of course the adults. Bees make honey for their larvae, caterpillars eat plants, wasps feed caterpillars to their own larvae, some insects are food for mammals and birds, and so on. Ultimately we all rely on insects and other small creatures – “the small things that run the planet”, as the charity Buglife puts it. Without them soils turn to dust and crops fail.

How has that 70% decline happened? Pesticides have been in use since the 1950s. Most of those early ones have been withdrawn, but the ones used these days, whilst a lot safer for us, are a thousand

times more lethal for insects, according to recent research. Add to that habitat loss and now climate change – which has disrupted both the weather and the life cycles of many insects – and the declines continue.

What can gardeners do? Each garden is different. A garden with a lawn, few trees and shrubs and extensive pesticide use will not have much to offer. Lay off the pesticides, dig a pond if you have the space, leave some untidy areas, don't do too much digging – there are thousands of beneficial creatures in soil – and your insects will increase, as will your birds and visiting bats. Although your garden may not make much impact on its own, your neighbours' range of insects will be different, so that the mini-habitat of each garden adds up to a large and varied habitat in itself.

It has been calculated that the total area occupied by UK gardens adds up to very much more than the space occupied by the country's nature reserves, and would amount to about one-fifth the size of Wales. Gardens are very important. **Annette Faulkner**



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## GRASS

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**S**HOPPERS at any of the Holland Market stores will no doubt have noticed the closely cut strips of grass in the carparks. Some may also have noticed that the grass always seems to have been freshly mown the day before their visit. It's beginning to look just a bit faded now in the summer heat, ever so slightly brownish, but this grass won't green up again, unfortunately, after a rain shower or two, because it's not really grass. It's plastic. (Weren't we all trying to reduce our use of plastic?)



A recent article in the *Guardian* pointed out that natural grass cleans the air via photosynthesis, absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen. It is a habitat for insects and worms, which attract birds that feed on invertebrates, and it helps rain to drain away.

By contrast, research shows that artificial grass – a fossil fuel product mostly made in China and Vietnam – can increase urban flood risk because rain can't drain away into the soil, leaving most of it to run off; and when it breaks down, it can release microplastics, which are likely to be harmful to human beings. Nor is it maintenance free. “Dog faeces have to be scraped off, the grass pile has to be swept, weeds creep through, [and] pet urine causes bad smells.” “When I have gone in to remove artificial lawns,” says Charlotte Higgins, a professional gardener from Wiltshire, “the mess is horrendous. They often stink, and when you lift up the plastic grass you find a sea of dead worms.”

(*The Guardian*, 30 April 2022.)

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER

# HEAT CANCELS MARKET

## RECORD UK TEMPERATURE

40.3°C (104°F) at Coningsby, Lincolnshire – Tuesday, 19 July

**“Keeping hydrated in the heat is important, so drink plenty of fluids. The combination of sweating more in the heat and going to the toilet more, means you lose more fluid than you take in and become dehydrated unless you replace the lost fluid by drinking water.”**  
*Drinkaware* (charity).

**“Trees for shade and cooling water features in urban areas are important too.”**

**“Heat waves are deadly extreme weather events that will grow worse for at least the next 30 years”** (*Robert Ward*, Policy & Communications Director, London School of Economics).

**M**ANY A PERSON must have wished for a drinking fountain in the town centre during the recent heat-wave, to cool their thirst or refill their water bottle. Many more will in the future: shoppers, visitors, market traders. But they don't *have* to wish in vain.

on more or less contaminated well water. The water company's imaginative tribute to her invaluable contribution to the town's health and wellbeing, a public drinking fountain, was both practical and symbolic. Like the mains but in miniature, it put pure water literally within reach – of any passerby, whatever their class.

The Johnson Drinking Fountain could be reinstalled there in the centre, in full working order, as other towns and cities are doing with their historic drinking fountains. The Johnson Fountain offers two potential gifts to the town: as a key feature in the enhancement of the centre, and as a source of refreshment in the heat-waves science tells us we must now expect as normal. It beggars belief, therefore, that on the very day of that record-breaking 40°C at Coningsby the planning application went in again to put the Fountain away at Ayscoughfee Hall – as an expensive non- functioning garden ornament.

“Come and quench your thirst,” it said. To bring it back into the town centre in working order would be true to those intentions. Once, the danger was polluted water; in the coming years, dehydration. To put the Fountain in the former private pleasure grounds of the gentry, an ornament behind keep-away metal railings, is to deny its very essence. Its invitation is as apt now as it was 150 years ago.

Far from honouring the memory of Mary Ann Johnson, putting it there might be considered an insult. Her generous gift had brought pure mains water within reach of the poor, previously dependent

Those who wish to see it back in the centre are not nostalgic dreamers living in the past. On the contrary, it is those councillors seeking further exile for the Fountain in Ayscoughfee Gardens who are far behind the curve, apparently unaware of global heating and the needs of future generations. We have the opportunity to bring the past in aid of the future. Let's not squander it.

### SPALDING AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

I enclose a cheque for:- [ ] £8 for individual membership; [ ] £12 for 2 persons in the same household;  
[ ] Free if in full-time education; [ ] Details of a standing order mandate

Please send to **Melvyn Price, 3 Morus Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QL**

Name ..... Address .....

Post Code ..... Telephone ..... Email .....

**Gift Aid**

[ ] I am a tax payer and I wish to Gift Aid my annual subscription . Please send me the appropriate form.

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## SPALDING CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS

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**I**N MAY, Councilor Liz Sneath hosted a gathering at Spalding Cemetery to celebrate the improvement works carried out by SHDC, and I went along as one of the representatives of the Friends of the Cemetery.

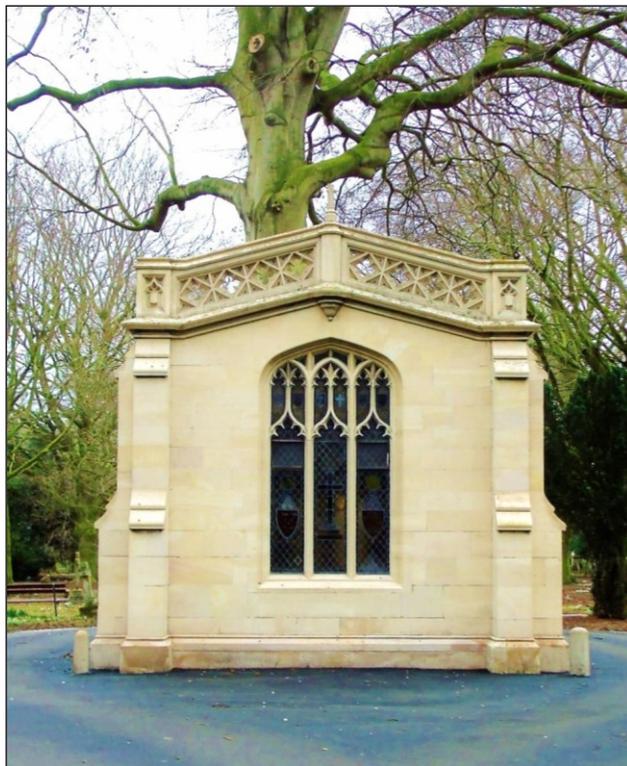
The Council has newly kerbed and resurfaced over a mile of tarmac on the main access roadways, as well as well as creating new parking spaces. They have also cleaned the two chapels, gateway arch and the Johnson Mausoleum (*right*), as well as painting the railings at the entrance. Some trees were also removed and hedges cut back to improve access. New information boards are also being trialed.

When the contractors were relaying the road, they unearthed several grave footstones that had been re-used as edging. These have now been sympathetically laid on one of the roundabouts in the 'new' part of the cemetery.

The Spalding Improvement Commissioners bought the original six acres of land in 1854 and had the chapels erected at a cost of £4500. The lodge was then added and additional land was also bought in 1876 and 1924, bringing the size to twelve acres.

The Johnson Mausoleum (1843) was originally in the grounds of Holland House in High Street and carefully re-erected in 1894 on the original northern boundary of the Cemetery. It is well worth a visit on the Heritage Open Days, as the masonry is very fine with exquisite floor tiles.

There are 35 Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery as well as several notable burials. The most unusual of these is that of James Bradshaw, who died

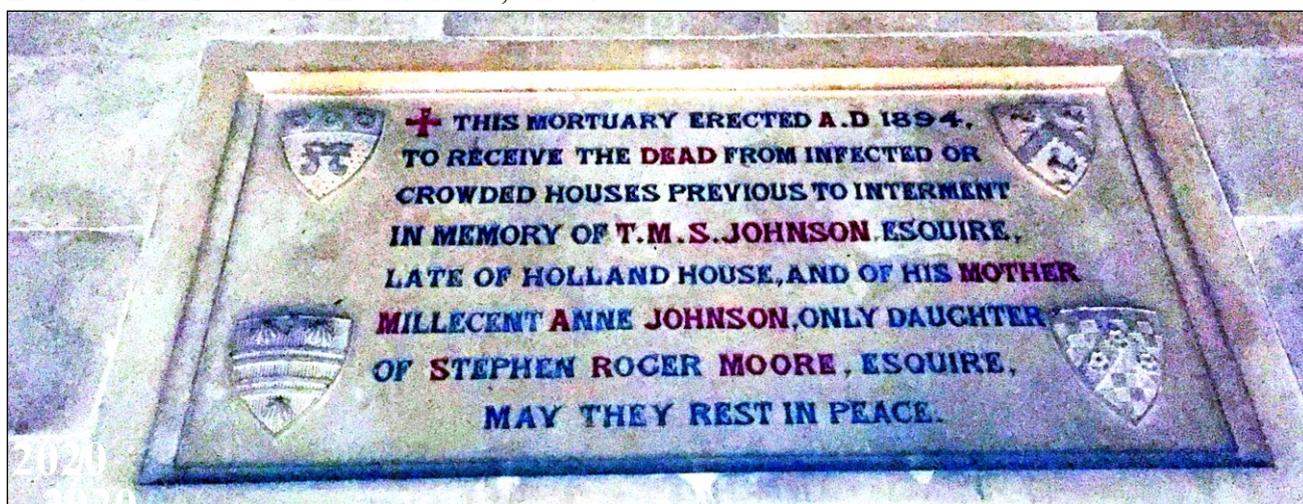


in 1894 and was known as The Spalding Giant. He was 6ft.10in. tall and his coffin measured 7ft.3in.; but at the moment we don't know where the grave-site is.

The cemetery is also a home to several tree, animal and bird species making it a year-round wildlife haven.

The Friends of Spalding Cemetery regularly help to maintain the cemetery, removing holly and ivy where it is causing damage and trimming back the overgrown trees. We are also hoping to help renovate the right-hand chapel, so that more services can take place there. We have a Facebook page and our own website for people interested in finding out more about this hidden gem.

**Pat Wensor**



Memorial stone inside the Mausoleum. The Mausoleum was moved from Holland House to the Cemetery at the wishes and entirely at the expense of Colonel C.T.J.Moore (surviving executor of T.M.S.Johnson) to be used for the remains of the poorest of the poor as above.



# CALENDAR 2023



We are hoping to produce a calendar for 2023 with photographs of Spalding and its surrounding villages and countryside by members.

We're looking for pictures that capture the landscapes, heritage, nature or beauty of the area, whether well-known views or fascinating details that few people may have noticed. Pictures that have a clear seasonal feel, too. They may have been taken a year or two ago or next week. Please send them to John Charlesworth at the address below – before 20 August – on either disc or memory stick or as prints.

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## MUCH APPRECIATED

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- **SHDC Communities Team** for the Saturday Spring Festival, which brought lots of people into the town – more than there were attractions for! Full marks for placing the 'virtual reality' tent next to the traditional swing-boats and the sheep and goats next to *The Hiring*.
- **SHDC** for the recent Ayscoughfee Gardens refurbishments, particularly the new fountains animating the lake.
- **LCC Highways** for the four replacement trees in West Elloe Avenue.
- **SHDC** for the surfacing improvements to the Daffodil Cycle Route, particularly as the work was carried out by local contractors. The improved section runs from near

the Cemetery Gates as far as the rear entrance to the Johnson Community Hospital. Improvements are still needed, however, on the remaining bit to Enterprise Way, which belongs to the County Council.

- **BetFred** for a repainting and general smartening up of their frontage to Hall Place.
- **The Card Factory**, also in Hall Place, for a similar smartening up, though the fascia still remains too large.
- The 'Book Fairies' of **Ayscoughfee Hall School**, who chose *The Hiring* plinth as one of their hiding places for a couple of children's paperbacks neatly tied up with ribbon. Did anyone find any elsewhere?

### AN INVITATION TO THE MIDDLE AGES

Spalding lost much of its mediaeval past in Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries and in the great fire of 1715. There is more evidence, however, than the Prior's Oven. Dr. John Cleary is hoping to develop with Sarah Grundy of the LCC heritage office a committee of interested people to oversee research into Spalding's mediaeval past, and invites Society members who would like to be involved to get in touch, via the Chairman at [Johnrgbland@gmail.com](mailto:Johnrgbland@gmail.com) – other contact details below – who will pass your interest on to Dr. Cleary.

**Chairman:** John Bland, 36 Park Avenue, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1QX.

**Secretary:** Marian Boxall, 78A Edinburgh Drive, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2RT.

**Treasurer:** Melvyn Price, 3 Morus Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QL

**Newsletter:** John Charlesworth, 37 Regent Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2YN.

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