

SPAXTON



Copies of this Information Booklet can be obtained from the following Organisations :

Spaxton Church www.quantockvillagesbenefice.org.uk/st-margaret-spaxton

Spaxton Community News www.spaxtonnews.co.uk

Spaxton Community Shop www.spaxtonstores.com

Spaxton Parish Council www.spaxtonparish.org.uk

Spaxton Village Hall www.spaxtonvillagehall.co.uk

Spaxton (all organisations) www.spaxton.org.uk

INFORMATION AND WELCOME BOOKLET

Spaxton – a brief introduction

WELCOME

On behalf of the Spaxton Community, we welcome you to the village and hope that you settle in quickly. We hope that this community information booklet will be helpful to you. It includes contact names and numbers of many of the different clubs and societies within the village, with which you may wish to become involved, along with more practical information, such as which day dustbins should be put out for collection.

Over time things change and we will keep this document up to date on the Websites of the organisations in the Village that host it. Things also change in what residents want to know, and we will amend and develop the booklet on the basis of your feedback. The names and contact details at the back of the document provide you with ready made route to ask for change and development. We will list to all ideas.

Welcome to Spaxton, whether passing through or planning to stay.

Like many another Somerset villages, we have a well documented history and evidence of earlier archaeological remains, and from these we know of the flints in the fields and trackways over the hills which indicate our earliest inhabitants.

We have the remains of a Roman villa with a tessellated pavement – but this is sadly now four feet under ground!

We know of Saxon boundaries from the 9th Century, of Saxon field names, Saxon estates within the present parish boundaries and even the name 'Spakr's ton' – which is a Norse settlers farmstead.

Duke William (William the Conqueror) in the Domesday Book of 1086 which he led, we have details of the condition of Spaxton and its estates at that time.

From then onwards we have manorial records – now housed in the Somerset Records Office at Taunton – and church records, which provide details of later clergy and local events. In the 16th Century details concerning the lives of local people, their baptisms, marriages and burials are documented in the parish records which are still maintained today.

Until the 1920s much of Spaxton had been part of large estates, the last of these was owned by Lord Taunton and his family, which he sold in 1919. The houses, farms and lands were bought up by individuals and tenants the records of which may be found in the Record Office.

We sit on the edge of Quantock Hills, an area that was the very first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB), the Bristol Channel and the wet lands of Sedgemoor and the WWT lands at Steart Marsh.

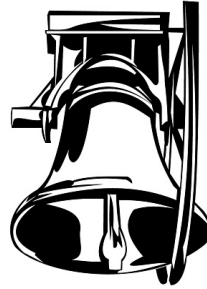
BELL RINGING

The Village Church, St. Margaret's Church, has six lovely bells and a team (band) of ringers who ring regularly on a Wednesday evening for practice and increasingly on occasions such as church services and weddings.

It is possible to observe the bell-ringing from the body of the church through a big window and observers are always welcome.

If anyone would like to learn this fascinating ancient skill please contact any of the ringers and training can be arranged, including at the training tower at St. Mary's, Bridgwater.

For those interested, the contact is Sue Parsons 01278 671854



FLEXERCISE

Flexercise is an AgeUK Somerset initiative, which encourages older people to keep mobile. It is chair-based, fun, informal and open to anyone, no matter what the level of fitness of those taking part.

We use music, play games, do some memory work and finish up with a cup of tea and time for a chat. It is led by trained leaders (Margaret and Eileen) who enjoy seeing older folk laughing and feeling fitter. The leaders have both been trained by AgeUK to deliver this programme and many doctors recommend it.

The class takes place on alternate Wednesdays at 3.00pm at the Village Hall. **Margaret and Eileen are volunteers for AgeUK but a small charge is made to cover the cost of hiring the hall.**

If you would like to participate or are interested to know more, please contact Maureen Anderson on 671457.

GOLF

Enmore Park Golf Club is a 18 hole championship parkland course, which has both membership and pay and play (from £25 per head) .

The Enmore Park Golf Club, Enmore Road, Enmore TA5 2AN
Phone 01278672100 or www.enmorepark.co.uk

THE LAMB INN

The Lamb Inn is a traditional Village Pub, in a Grade II listed building on Barford Road. It has log fires during the winter months and a pleasant beer garden for the better weather. A selection of Wines, Real Ale, Cider and Spirits are on sale, and a range of home cooked food.

The Pub is open 4 pm to 11pm Tuesday to Saturday, and 12 Midday to 3 pm on Sundays. There is a Pub Quiz at 19:00 on the 1st Sunday of the Month.

The pub has a skittle alley, which can be booked most weekends throughout the winter and on any night through the summer months.

Contact for food bookings and the skittle alley 01278 671350

LOCAL ORGANIC FOODS

There are two good local suppliers of organic foods. Gotherney Manor Farmhouse (TA5 2PQ) is a working farm, with heritage pigs and heritage grains being farmed. It is open on Saturday mornings, and the locally baked bread from Field bakery and organic heritage pork products from the farm are on sale. Plowright Organics grow a range of vegetables, herbs, fruit and eggs at Stowey Rocks Farm (TA5 1JB), and provide an on line ordering and home delivery service.

Contact Gotherney Farmer at www.gotherneyfarmer.co.uk
or on 01278651276, and Plowright on plowrightorganic@gmail.com or
on 01278 734 589

LOGS

There are a number of local contractors that provide fully seasoned logs for log burning stoves. They advertise in the Spaxton News and on the notice board in the Community shop.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library comes to the Village once every 4 weeks, stopping at the Village Hall on the Wednesday between 11:10 and 11:40.

For further details contact www.somerset.go.uk/libraries or
Phone 0300 123 2224.

OIL CONSORTIUM

If you use domestic heating oil, you may like to consider joining the Spaxton and District Oil Consortium, which can reduce your costs. Four times a year, John and Liz Knight from Jack O' Knights cottage, compile individual orders for oil into one bulk order and negotiate a reduced price per litre.

Savings vary according to the state of the oil market at the time, but the consortium price is always less than the best you would achieve by placing an individual order and, sometimes, it is substantially cheaper. You will normally need to order at least 500 litres at a time, but the delivery company are flexible as long as it is close to that level.

You can find out more by phoning John 'n Liz on 01278 671231 or emailing them on Spaxtonoilta5@outlook.com. Letters for the consortium can be left at the Spaxton Community Store.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public Transport is very limited in the area, but there is a service (613) between Bridgwater and Minehead. This service runs twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, and has a pick up point at the Village Hall.

There is a service to London with Berrys Coaches from Bridgwater. There are limited stops on the Main Line at Bridgwater, more trains go from London

THE RAINBOW CAFÉ,

The Rainbow Café operates on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 13:00, in the Village Hall. It provides teas and coffees, cakes and biscuits, and some lunchtime savories. It is a friendly place to meet and provides a warm space. All are welcome.

The Café is run by Kate Sax, and she can be contacted on 671 168 or via email to qv.benefice@gmail.com



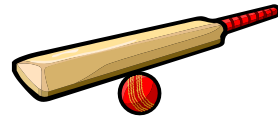
SPAXTON COMMUNITY NEWS

The Community News is the village magazine and was originally created in 1982 to promote events that were going on at the Village Hall. It soon expanded to include local news and any other things happenings in the village. We include the villages and hamlets of Spaxton, Charlynch, Crossmoor, Pightley, Merridge, Aisholt, Radlett and Plainsfield in our catchment. It is produced bimonthly and is delivered to most of the village by volunteers, although some of the outlying houses pick up their copy from the Community Stores. There are 6 issues a year.

Many local businesses advertise in the magazine, so if you're new to the village you may find their services useful. We're always looking for new articles to put into the magazine, so if you have anything of interest that you would like to share, do please jot down something and pass it to us to include in a future issue.

If you would like to receive a copy of the magazine, and are not currently receiving it, or would like to be involved with magazine production or delivery, please contact Philip Ham (Spaxton 671626) or via www.spaxtonnews.co.uk

SPAXTON CRICKET CLUB



Spaxton is privileged to have a senior side together with an improving team of youngsters. All Stars and Dynamo events are being offered. It is hoped a women's team will begin too.

The 1st XI are in Division 6 of the Shrubbery Hotel Somerset Cricket league playing on Saturdays. There are also a number of friendly fixtures throughout the season, both on Wednesday evenings and on some Sunday afternoons.

Keith Bellinger is the Club Captain and coaches the Youth programme. Please contact him on 671431 or via spaxtoncricketclub@outlook.com if you would like to play or offer your services as a coach or other supporter

SPAXTON, St MARGARET'S CHURCH,



The church building is dedicated to St. Margaret, and may originally have been a simple timber structure next door to the Manor House, which is now known as Court Farm. There is evidence, however, that by Domesday it had become a stone built Norman church. The Church tower was rebuilt in the 15th Century and the south aisle added in the 16th Century. The Almshouses, now known as Cooke's Cottages were also built in that era. The Church is located a few minutes stroll off the main High Street, down Splatt Lane, which is the road opposite the school. There is a 9.30am service on the first, third and fourth Sundays and a 10am Benefice service on the second Sunday. This Benefice service takes place in each of the six churches

in turn. Regular information about services is put on the church notice board and in the Spaxton Community News.

The church is there to help you to settle in and feel at home. The Church Wardens are Josh Schwieso (671396) and Wulf Franzen (671891)

The clergy who officiate at the church are Revd Eleanor King 734777 or 732855 (Elenor is based in the Rectory at Nether Stowey) and Kate Sax 671168 who is based in the Rectory in Spaxton, or be email to qv.benefice@gmail.com

**SPAXTON
COMMUNITY
STORES
&
POST OFFICE**

The Spaxton Community Stores opened in January 2015, and the Post Office counter followed just over a year later. The Spaxton Community Shop Society Ltd. has over 300 shareholders and shares are still available, information on this is in the shop or available from the shop treasurer.

The shop is one of 22 Community Shops in Somerset, with about 350 in the UK overall. These shops are owned by communities and run for their benefit. They provide services which would otherwise have been lost and recycle profits into community projects.

With some justification we consider our Community Stores to one of the best and most successful examples.

The shop sell the goods you would expect to find in a well-stocked local shop, as well as a wide range of local produce. This includes organic vegetables, meats, honey, preserves, bread, cakes, milk, beer and cider. There is a wet fishmonger who visits the shop on Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 on Wednesdays. The shop has have locally made greeting cards, books by local authors, and maps of local walks. It's impossible to list everything, and the shop will order items that may not be currently stocked if asked. Prescriptions from the two local surgeries can be delivered to the shop to be picked up from there. The shop is also a great source of information, with local services set

out on the notice board. The shop sells newspapers and they can be ordered too.

The Post Office offers all normal Post Office services. These include postal services, cash withdrawals and deposits, banking, travel money, bill payments and phone top-ups.

OPENING HOURS

STORES: Mon-Fri 8:30am – 17:00 Sat 8.30am – 12.30pm

POST OFFICE: Mon– Fri 9am – 12:00, 1pm - 4pm; Sat 9am – 12:00

Spaxton Community Stores has become a social hub for the village. Nearly 50 people volunteer to help in the shop and this is a great way to meet the friendly folk of Spaxton. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact our shop manager, Karen Dennett.

And to tempt you further you can have **15% off** your first order when you bring a copy of this article with you the first time you come into the shop.

www.spaxtonstores.com or info@spaxtonstores.com and 671487

If you would like to know more please come into the shop or get in touch with Karen Dennett (01278 671487).



SPAXTON FLOWER SHOW

The Spaxton Flower Show Committee hold two shows each year. The Spring Show which is held in late March or early April in the Village Hall, while the Summer Show is in August, taking place in the in a marquee on the playing fields, where other events also take place. Both are popular village events.

We are always looking out for people to join us on the committee to help with the organisation of the shows and fund raising. Schedules for the show are delivered locally and we welcome entries from adults and children in a wide range of classes.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Spaxton Flower Show please contact the secretary, Sally Foxhall, 671027 and www.spaxtonshows.co.uk

SPAXTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club is open to all ages from Under 7s/8s through to Under 16s. The minis section is quite small at present and would welcome new players. There are teams for Under 9 and 11, playing matches on Saturdays. Training is on Thursday evenings from 6pm – 7pm on at the Spaxton pitch (next to the village hall) from March until July, and during the winter (usually after October half term until March) this moves to the all weather astro turf pitch at Chilton 1610 sports centre at Bridgwater.

The Teams compete in the Taunton Youth league, with matches on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoon depending on Age groups.

The club prides itself being a very friendly club, which welcomes newcomers of all those in the ages and all abilities, and even though everyone likes to win, the main emphasis is on players enjoying their football and having fun.

For more information please contact the Club's Secretary, Sue Compton 01278 456667 / e-mail sue.spaxtonjfc@gmail.com

SPAXTON PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council comprises elected representatives from the villages of Spaxton, Aisholt & Merridge and Charlynch, who work within a small annual budget to maintain basic amenities for local residents. Elections are held every 4 years and meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month.

The Parish Council offers financial assistance to the Parochial Church Councils towards the upkeep of the cemeteries at Spaxton, Charlynch and Aisholt, and also contributes towards the running costs of both Village Halls.

From time to time they are able to assist with modest community projects, such as the replacement of the seesaw at the children's playing field, and the award of small grants towards local organisations such as the junior football club. Such requests for financial assistance are don through the clerk for consideration at the December meeting, which is when the budget for the following financial year (commencing 1st April) is decided.

In the recent past one or two major projects have been coordinated and partially-funded by the Parish Council, such as the construction of the new footpath along the "S" bend in the High Street, and the purchase of land adjacent to the Village Hall to serve as additional playing field facilities.

The Parish Council's other responsibilities include the maintenance of public footpaths and lending support - or otherwise - to local planning applications.

Requests or queries to the Parish Council should be addressed to the Chairman, Mr.Simon Stretton, and sent via the clerk, Sue Felstead at Greenway Farm, Skimmerton Lane, Wembdon, Bridgwater, TA5 2AX, telephone 01278 425853 or e-mail suzike@aol.com

For minutes and agendas of Parish Council meetings, please visit www.spaxtonparish.org.uk or keep an eye on the Village noticeboards outside the Village Hall and Aisholt Church.

SPAXTON SCHOOL

Spaxton Church of England School is situated on the High Street in Spaxton. It is a relatively small school, where every child can be valued as a unique individual. The latest OFSTED report celebrated the school as 'Outstanding' and said that Spaxton School is '...most effective at providing a very good and

enriching education for its pupils.'

The Head Teacher is Mrs Rood, (currently on Maternity leave) with Gary Tucker providing cover as Head Teacher.

For newcomers to the village who may have young children and want to know more about the school, parents are encouraged to take an active role in the life of the school and the school warmly welcome any visits.

The School says that these are some of the reasons why you might choose to send your child to the school :-

- Nurturing class structures encourage close working relationship, teamwork and focused learning with an outstanding curriculum (Ofsted).
- Fantastic rural setting with outside area with playing field, adventure area, reflection area and pond.
- Happy children who enjoy coming to school.
- Wrap around care - extended hours care offered through **breakfast and after school club, 8.00 -8.45am and from 3.15 – 5.30pm.**
- Extra-curricular clubs and activities such as multi sports and gymnastics.

To find out about Spaxton School, the contacts are :

Tel:01278 671409

Website:www.spaxton-school.co.uk

Email:Office@Spaxton-qet.co.uk



SPAXTON SCHOOL PTFA

The PTFA (Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association) are a group of people who help support the local primary school through valuable fund raising. The PTFA makes a valuable contribution to school life and provide numerous extra opportunities for the children. Funds have been provided for : the annual school trip, weekly French lessons for all the children and some much needed maintenance work around the school.

The group welcomes parents and those who just want to assist the school, and it's an excellent way to meet others in the village. There is a meeting about every 6 weeks after school in the school.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining in or helping out, then please contact Alison Ingram (spaxtonptfa@spaxton-get.co.uk)

SPAXTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Club was established about twelve years ago and has a small but enthusiastic membership. The Club meets on Tuesday evening in the Village hall at 7.15pm.

Our members have been successful in the weekend tournaments with several players scooping trophies or making it into the quarter and semi finals.



New members are welcome to come and have the opportunity to try your hand! Beginners and experienced bowlers welcome. The club can supply woods for you.

For further details contact Anne Milne on 671468



SPAXTON SOCIETY

Founded in 1973 to focus attention on the village and surrounding countryside, the Spaxton society meets on the second Thursday of each month, starting in September and running through March, to hear talks covering a wide range of topics. While having a strong historic focus, it is much wider than that, with talks on environmental and ecological issues and much more besides. As well as the winter meetings, occasional summer visits are arranged to local sites of historic interest.

The Society has more recently been engaged in drawing up a Village Design Statement, on behalf of the Parish Council, bringing together the views of villagers and organisations about the future growth and character of this corner of the Quantock Hills.

Meetings are held in the pavilion at the Village Hall from September until the April AGM. Everybody is made to feel welcome. An annual membership fee is charged.

For more information please contact Josh Schwieso on 671396

SPAXTON TODDLERS GROUP

There is a Spaxton Toddlers group that meets in the Village Hall, each Friday from 10:30 to 13.00, which is linked to the Rainbow Cafe. It is an opportunity for Mums, Mums-to-be, Dads, Grandparents & Carers to meet in a friendly atmosphere for refreshments and chat while the little ones also enjoy themselves. Siblings up to 4 years are also welcome.

For further details contact Kate Sax Suzanne on 671107

SPAXTON VILLAGE HALL

We are a registered charity providing both the village hall and playing fields for people of the village and beyond. The hall was originally built in 1939, and has been improved several times. In 2000 with the help of a generous legacy from a local resident, who was one of the Village Hall Trustees, and grants from local government and the Countryside Agency, and more recently the hall has benefited from the construction of a new entrance and store and an energy efficiency makeover with the addition of photovoltaic panels with the help of grants from Viridor and LARC. The hall is equipped with a large catering kitchen and a modern toilet block with changing facilities for those of you who are keen on energetic sports whether indoors or on the field. There is a modern heating system throughout the building.

We hold a wide range of events, some regular and some occasional. Several groups meet regularly at the hall and there is always scope for a new club or activity. There are two main rooms available, one with a permanent stage and seating for about 120 people, the other will seat 56 people which has splendid open views of the playing field, church and open countryside. Capacity for dances and parties varies according to how tables and chairs are set out and a licensed bar can be arranged if required. You can hire the hall for family celebrations, wedding receptions, or a birthday party when your house just is

not big enough – lots of space for the children to play both indoors and on the playing field weather permitting.

Adjoining the hall are the playing fields which have a range of children's play equipment and there is also a cricket field and football pitch used by our local teams.

The Village Hall also has the defibrillator that we have in the Village.

You can find what's on at the hall by checking the website www.spaxtonvillagehall.co.uk or from the Spaxton Community News and to make bookings email or phone the Bookings Secretary (Kim Bellinger, bookingsvh@hotmail.com or Tel. 671431 before 9pm).



Started in September 2009, the lottery helps to raise much needed funds for the Village Hall. There are now six prizes each month, which total 50% of the monthly takings, the other 50% going to the Village Hall. As 450 tickets have been sold at present, the total prize money each month is currently approximately £370, with a top prize of over £160.

Application forms for an annual ticket costing £20 (or £5 per quarter) can be obtained from Spaxton Community Shop or by phoning Jan on 671376 or Alison on 671485.



SPAXTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The members of Spaxton W.I. meet at the Village Hall at 7.30 on

the first Wednesday of the month. During the winter months meetings are held at 2.30pm. There are a range of speakers at the meetings, as well as organized visits and social outings.

It's another a great way to get to know people in the village. All ages welcome.

Contact Gail Wainwright Tel. 671920

SWIMMING

There is a swimming pool at Quantock Lodge Leisure in Over Stowey. There are set times for family, adult and lane swimming and these need to be checked.

Details of times and types of swimming can be found out from info@quantocklodge.co.uk or 01278 733375

TABLE TENNIS

This takes place in the Village on Thursday evenings from 19:00.

Contact Katie Griffiths for more details on 671659



UPHOLSTERY CLASS

This class is held at the Village Hall each Monday from 9.30am to 4.30pm. It is a friendly group with a skilled professional tutor. No previous experience is necessary.

For further information call Jan Rigden on 671376

WALKS

There are many walk in the lovely local countryside inside the Quantock ANOB. There are guides for a number of walks round Spaxton, with copies held in the Spaxton Community Stores, and some maps for those wanting walks further afield. Hawkridge Reservoir is nearby and has a car park and is a great base for some of the walks. There is also fishing in the reservoir, with the appropriate license. There are a number of National Trust and English Heritage sites that are a short drive from the Village.



WATERMANS GARAGE

Terry & Christine each have over 25 years experience in the Motor trade, and offer a friendly & personal service for all your motoring requirements.

They are keen to look after customers old & new, and can be contacted either by calling in or by telephone to 01278 671254. Debit/credit cards welcome.

YOGALATES

Yogalates is a mixture of **Pilates and Yoga**. The class provides a mix of exercises that helps core strength and improves posture, increasing flexibility and reducing stiffness. Most of the work is on the floor, but there is some standing work too.

The class is open to all ages, and is run by a qualified instructor with 20 years experience. Exercise mats are supplied, but you can bring your own if you prefer. It is a weekly drop in for an hour (£6:50 a session. £6.00 for Senior Citizens), on Wednesdays from 10-11 in Spaxton Village Hall.

If you are interested, contact Cally Stephens on 07387 287860 or email on callystephens18@icloud.com

CONTACTS and KEY DATES

Note : In the Village you only need to use the 6 numbers for Spaxton numbers , and do not need the 01278

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS		
Parish Council – Chairman	Simon Stretton	671137
Clerk	Sue Felstead	425853
Village Hall – Management	Glyn Richards	671550
Bookings	Kim Bellinger	671431
St. Margaret's Church	Benefice Office	732855

SERVICES		
Doctors' Surgeries	Cannington	652335
	Nether Stowey	732696
Dustbin emptying	Every three weeks on Thursday	
Public House	The Lamb Inn, Barford Road	671350
Newspaper deliveries	Paper Shop, Bishop's Lydeard	01823 432456
Mobile Library	Wednesday (monthly)	0300 123 2224
Milk deliveries – Dairy Crest	Tues, Thurs & Sat	08456 063606
Milk deliveries – Milk and More	Mon, Wed and Fri	0345 606 3606
Spaxton Community Stores	Karen Dunnett	671487
Spaxton Oil Consortium	John 'n Liz Knight	671231
Waste Recycling	Every Thursday	
Waterman's Garage, High Stree	Terry & Christine	671254

GROUP CONTACTS		
Bell Ringing	Sue Parsons	671854
Cricket	Keith Bellinger	671431
Flexercise	Maureen Anderson	671457
Junior Football	Sue Compton	456667
Rainbow Cafe	Kate Sax	671168
Short Mat Bowls	Anne Milne	671468
Spaxton Community News	Philip Ham	671626
Spaxton Flower Show	Sally Foxhall	671027
Spaxton PTFA	Alison Ingram	By email
Spaxton School	Gary Tucker	671409
Spaxton Society	Josh Schwieso	671396
Table Tennis	Katie Griffiths	671659
Toddlers	Kate Sax	671168
Upholstery Class	Jan Rigden	671376
Women's Institute	Gail Wainright	671920
Yogalates	Cally Stephens	07387 287860

SPAXTON WEBSITES

Spaxton	www.spaxton.org.uk
Spaxton Community News	www.spaxtonnews.co.uk
Spaxton Parish Council	www.spaxtonparish.org.uk
Spaxton Flower Show	www.spaxtonshows.co.uk
Spaxton Bygone Photos	www.spaxton.net
Spaxton School	www.spaxtonschool.co.uk
Quantock Online	www.quantockonline.co.uk
Spaxton Village Hall	www.spaxtonvillagehall.co.uk