



# Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News

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Autumn/Winter  
2024/25

## 'First in Yorkshire' Award

YOUR parish council has become the first in Yorkshire to achieve a top national award for providing a quality service.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council earned the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) prestigious Quality Award after a passing a rigorous assessment process.

In a confirmation letter to Parish Clerk Emma Garner, the Chair of NALC, Cllr Keith Stevens, praised the parish council, saying it is to be "congratulated immensely."

"Receiving the Quality Award is an excellent achievement showing that your parish council achieves good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Furthermore, this award shows that your council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations; you lead your community and continuously seek opportunities to improve and develop even further", added Cllr Stevens.

Described as being 'closest to the people', there are over 600 parish and town councils in the Yorkshire area, making our pioneering achievement all the more impressive.

Parish Chair, Cllr Tony Nicholson, who is pictured with the letter from NALC, along side fellow councillors and parish council staff, said: "We are delighted with the award, which confirms our commitment to doing our best for the more than 12,000 people who live in Sprotbrough and Cusworth. A big thank you to Emma and her team

and to the parish councillors, who voluntarily give up their time to serve the area."

Achieving the Quality Award is the second of a potential three stage process, with the pinnacle being The Quality Gold Award.

NALC's Cllr Stevens added his encouragement, saying: "I very much look forward to Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council applying for the Quality Gold Award and celebrating more achievements."



## He's behind you!

IN October, we clocked-up our eighth pantomime - all staged at the Goldsmith Centre by the professional actors from Doncaster's highly rated TaleGate Theatre.



Latest production, the bewitching parody Harry Panto and the Serpent of Secrets, had audiences for the two performances spellbound, with plenty of laughs for mums and dads as well as the youngsters.

Every pantomime has been a sell-out and subsidised by the parish council to enable local families to enjoy the fun of a traditional pantomime at a low cost, close to home.

To date, 1,354 residents have enjoyed watching the three Easter and Halloween and two Christmas pantos we have staged.

Look out for news of ticket sales for the next one in Easter 2025 follow us on facebook, X (formerly twitter) and our website: [www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**Our next pantomime with TaleGate Theatre will be *The Frog Prince* on Saturday 5th April 2025. Details soon.**





# Remembering them

IN a repeat of last year, the parish was again adorned with poppies on lampposts to mark the 2024 remembrance commemorations.

A big thank you to our Don Gorge Community Group friends for fixing the poppies along Sprotbrough Road and Melton Road to mark this year's remembrance commemorations.

Parish council staff and councillors placed them along Cusworth Lane to ensure residents and visitors could see how the parish was showing its respect for the fallen.

And Parish Chair Cllr Tony Nicholson (pictured) laid a wreath on behalf of the parish council and residents at a Remembrance Day ceremony at Sprotbrough's St Mary's Church.

- If you would like to contribute to next year's remembrance campaign, please contact our Clerk, Emma, on **01302 788093** or email: [clerk@sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## ON YOUR BIKE

LOCAL cyclists please note that we have installed a free electric bike charging point and maintenance unit alongside the main entrance to the Goldsmith Centre - paid for by Doncaster Council's Active Travel unit.

It's close to the undercover cycle shelter, which was also funded by Active Travel.

Councillor Glenn Bluff, a keen two-wheeler, is pictured trying out the equipment, which includes spanners and an air pump.



## Looking to create an Eco-friendly Garden?



THE parish council can help. We're offering you the chance to purchase one of these home composters for the subsidised price of £15. It holds an impressive 220 litres, so you can soon be composting your garden weeds, vegetable peelings and leafy debris.

Interested? Then please ring the parish council office on **01302 788093** to order yours. (Answer-phone operates outside working hours - leave a message and we'll get back to you).

Here are a few more gardening tips:

### Soil Health and Composting

USING compost is an excellent way to enrich the soil with nutrients and improve soil structure. By making your own compost from kitchen and garden waste, you not only reduce your waste but also provide your plants with the nutrients they need. Composting encourages a rich soil ecosystem that helps combat diseases and pests, leading to a healthier and more sustainable garden.

### Opt for Native Plants

THESE plants are perfectly adapted to local climate conditions and require less water and maintenance than exotic varieties. Native plants also support local wildlife, such as bees and butterflies, contributing to a healthy ecosystem in your garden. Some popular choices for a summer garden include the butterfly bush (Buddleia), sunflower, and wild carrot. By investing in native plants, you not only create a lovely garden but also an environment that supports nature.

### Save Water Through Smart Irrigation

CONSIDER installing a drip irrigation system, which delivers water directly to the plant roots and minimizes waste. Using rainwater, for example by setting up a water butt, can also make a significant difference. Mulching is another effective technique; applying a layer of organic material around your plants helps keep the soil moist and reduces weed growth. By irrigating smartly, you keep your summer garden healthy without wasting water.

### Energy Efficiency with Garden Lighting

SOLAR garden lights are a great choice as they do not use electricity and charge during the day through sunlight. These lights provide a warm glow without the worry of extra energy costs. Additionally, they add a magical touch to your garden in the evenings. With the right lighting, you can enjoy your summer garden even after sunset while simultaneously reducing your ecological footprint.

### Avoid Chemical Pesticides

CHEMICAL pesticides can be harmful to both the flora and fauna in your summer garden. Instead, choose natural alternatives such as organic pesticides or integrated pest management. Employing natural predators, such as ladybirds for controlling aphids, can be an effective way to keep your plants healthy.

# Focus on Anchorage Lane playing field



## BLOOMIN' GOOD

*GREEN-FINGERED* site manager Kerry Wood has turned a section of the Anchorage Lane pavilion into a nursery, where he's growing shrubs and trees ready for planting around the edges of the playing field.

These two photos, taken two years apart, show how Kerry's careful nurturing is paying dividends, with a healthy array of plants.

Kerry is a familiar sight to Anchorage Lane users as he takes a pride in keeping the area spick and span.



'before' and 'after'

## NATURE FRIENDLY

A *NEW* community orchard is set to be a key feature of enhancements to Sprotbrough's Anchorage Lane playing field.

Towards the end of January/early February, apple, pear and plum trees will be planted close to the play area, funded by a grant from Well Doncaster's Earth Day project.

A picnic table will also be installed, plus bird boxes, a bug hotel and hedgehog house, as we try to create a nature-friendly park alongside the existing play and sports facilities.

Some 1,000 white crocus, yellow daffodil and bluebell bulbs have been recently planted near the play area, so look out for an impressive splash of colour when they start flowering next Spring onwards.



## A GOOD RESULT

*THE* pavilion at Anchorage Lane, which is no stranger to muddy boots and football gear, has been given a make-over, thanks to Community Payback.

Under the Community Payback scheme, offenders perform unpaid work in their local community as a 'payback' for their crimes. The work has to benefit the community, not take away paid work from others, or make a profit for anyone.

Thanks to everyone involved.



## Clean up

*STAFF* from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust joined volunteers for a 'skate and litter pick day' at Anchorage Lane, removing four large items and 24 bags of rubbish from the beck than runs along the edge of the park.

Everyone who helped was offered a free coaching session at the skate and BMX park.

## An apple a day...

*THESE* apple and pear trees are the latest additions to the Goldsmith Centre playing field, bringing the number of fruit trees we have planted on the site to 11



## THUMBS UP



*ALL* our sites and play areas have passed annual safety inspections by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

And new safety signs, have been installed at every play area, setting out '*dos and don'ts*' to follow when using them.

## Borrow this camera to spot heat leaks

WE held Stay Warm at Home events in Sprotbrough and Scawsby in early November to help residents identify cold spots where they live, using our free-to-borrow thermal imaging camera.

Visitors were also able to take away free items to help keep warm plus recipes and useful tips and advice.

If you would like to borrow the camera, which is simple to use and comes with full instructions, please ring our office on **01302 788093**



## Festive music 🎵🎶

THE next Friends of Cusworth Park meeting will take place at Cusworth Hall on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 10.30am, when Doncaster Waites will present a programme of festive music, using authentic instruments that may have been familiar to early residents of Cusworth and the surrounding area.



## DON VIEW

WE have been successful in a joint bid with our friends at the Don Gorge Community Group to secure funding to pay for three new seats facing the River Don, alongside the Trans Pennine Trail between Sprotbrough's Boat Inn and the A1 motorway bridge.

Funding for the seats has come from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust's All Hands on the Don project, which in turn is financed by the National Lottery's Heritage Fund and other donors.

As a parish council we are keen to promote the use

of the many public footpaths that criss-cross the geographical area we serve

As this newsletter went to press the Don Gorge Community Group volunteers - pictured - had started the groundworks for the seats, which are set to provide welcome resting points on this popular, picturesque cycling and walking route. You can follow their progress on their facebook page.

## Community grants

check if your organisation is eligible for one

SECTION 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 won't mean much to most of our readers. But a lot of local organisations have benefited from it.

For it allows parish councils like ours to spend a limited amount of money on supporting local good causes that benefit our residents.

This year we have already awarded grant to these local activities and voluntary groups:

Sprotbrough Library	Ridgeway School of Dance
Sprotbrough Music Society	Sprotbrough Crusaders football
Scarecrow Festival	Sprotbrough Christmas Lights

If your group needs a bit of financial help, please check your eligibility for a Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council grant by visiting this page on our website:  
[www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants](http://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants)

## Find out more

It's your parish council and you're very welcome to attend our monthly meetings, which are held in public.

Future meetings will be held on:

- Thursday 19 December 2024 at 7pm at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough
- Thursday 16 January 2025 at 7pm at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough
- Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7pm at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough
- Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7pm at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough

Supplementary information, including documents relating to what we will be discussing at each meeting, can be found on our website:

[www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## VOTING TIME ✓

ELECTIONS for the City of Doncaster's Ward, Town and Parish Councillors will take place on Thursday 1 May, 2025. If you are interested in standing to be a parish councillor in Sprotbrough & Cusworth ring our office on **01302 788093**

Follow us on Facebook and X to keep in touch with our activities.



# WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Glenn Bluff**  
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**Councillor Laura Bluff**  
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### CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Fiona Cahill**  
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**Councillor Tony Nicholson (Chair)**  
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**Councillor Pat Haith**  
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**Councillor Leanne Hempshall**  
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Email: [leannehempshall@outlook.com](mailto:leannehempshall@outlook.com)



### DANUM WARD COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Jane Nightingale**  
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### EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Lynette Chipp**  
Telephone: 01302 785866



**Councillor Angela Curtis**  
Telephone: 01302 785477



**Councillor Frank Calladine**  
Telephone: 07934 219040



**Councillor Lauren Hogg**  
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### PARK WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Martin Greenhalgh**  
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**Councillor Cynthia Ransome**  
Mobile: 07792 287109



### STADIUM WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Tony Rawlings (Vice Chair)**  
Telephone: 07958 393240



**Councillor Judith Rodgers**  
Telephone: 01302 788864



### STONECROSS WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Stephen Swift**  
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