



# Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News

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Spring 2023

## Bringing People Together

COVID-19 had a big impact on local communities like ours, denying opportunities to meet up with friends and family and causing social isolation in some cases. So, over the past year, the parish council has been driving forward a programme of events designed to generate some community spirit, but above all provide a lot of fun.

It started with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee event at Cusworth Hall last June, when it was standing room only as our commemorative beacon was lit in front of hundreds of watchers.



In August we partnered Local businesswoman Jade Dickinson in staging a Summer Fair, a day long feast of activities and music at the Goldsmith Centre and park. We organised a pantomime at Halloween, followed by another in December, with the month being rounded off with a popular weekend Christmas market, complete with ice rink. The event raised **£2,000** which we have donated to Firefly, our chosen charity for the 2022/23 financial year.

Parish Chair, Cllr Tony Nicholson, is pictured with the cheque and councillors Pat Haith, Leanne Hempshall, Stephen Swift, Fiona Cahill and Cynthia Ransome. Firefly transports people free of charge from anywhere in Doncaster to cancer treatment centres in Sheffield. It costs around £1,700 a week to run the service, using a fleet of 10 vehicles which each cover around 250 miles each day.

Library, Sprotbrough Methodist Church, St Mary's Church and Brodsworth Parish Council has just come to an end after offering a warm welcome and refreshments to residents for the past few months.



Dick Whittington Pantomime

This year we already have an Easter pantomime under our belt and the Community Hot Spots initiative we launched in partnership with Sprotbrough

Our next big social event is the Eco Fest at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough, on Saturday 10 June 2023, from 11am to 5pm. It occurs during the national Great Big Green Week campaign (10-18 June) and Bike Week. It's an awareness raising day, part of our pledge to be a carbon friendly parish council by 2030, working with our residents, organisations and local businesses to make it happen. Keep an eye on local social media pages for more information about the event, which will feature exhibitions, demonstrations, children's activities and lots more.

Looking further ahead we have launched the 'Lamp Post Poppy' appeal to give Sprotbrough and Cusworth residents an opportunity to give this year's annual remembrance commemorations a personal

touch. With the help of our friends at the Don Gorge Community Group we are placing poppies on lamp posts in the parish and for just a **£5** donation you can purchase one and leave a message or dedication on a website we're setting up. Ring our office on **01302 788093** to order one. Closing date for orders: Wednesday 31 May 2023.

● FOR the current 2023/24 financial year we have chosen another charity to support - the Sick Children's Trust - which gives families with a seriously ill child in hospital a warm and comfortable place to stay when they need it most. Local families with children being treated at Sheffield Children's Hospital can benefit from the charity's Treetop House and Magnolia House accommodation.

● GOT an event you want to publicise? Why not use the new What's On page on our website. Check it out by typing this link into your browser: <https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-events.html>





# Improvements at the Goldsmith Centre

OUR popular community centre is benefiting from grant-funded improvements designed to enhance the safety and comfort of visitors.

The toilets have been refurbished thanks to a £32,889.79 grant from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.



*Parish Chair, Cllr Tony Nicholson officially opens the refurbished toilets with caretaker Jim Latham*

As this newsletter went to press the work had just been completed, in time for our Easter pantomime. Cheryl Raynor, FCC Communities Foundation grant manager said: "We are delighted to support the parish council to bring this project to fruition. This is a well-used hall and it is hoped the refurbishment will allow the community to continue to enjoy the facilities for many years to come."

Cllr Tony Nicholson, Chair of the parish council, said: "We're grateful to the Foundation for this generous grant which provides modern facilities for the centre's many users."

And new fire doors have been fitted throughout the building thanks to a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Both successful bids were submitted by our Responsible Finance Officer Zoe Attridge-Chambers.

We have also installed new blinds in the main hall and committee room, new mats in the entrance way, made a new seating area in the committee room and introduced a book loan scheme for centre users in the main hall.

The Goldsmith Centre hosts a wide range of groups across the week - as the latest schedule shows - offering a warm welcome to new members. Groups like Little Movers, which meet every Wednesday morning (and every Tuesday afternoon at Scawsby Community Centre).

The Centre's main hall and committee room are available for hire - just get in touch.

Ring **01302 788093**.



*Main Hall*



*Committee Room*



*Book Loan Shelves*



*Little Movers*



# Cusworth Hall Gardens Trust

A CHARITABLE trust set up to help preserve, maintain and repair a hidden treasure on our doorstep celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

The Grade I listed bowling green and pavilion, terrace, rose garden and 18th century walls of Cusworth Park were in need of repair.

Gordon Smith, a trustee of the Cusworth Estate, who was agent to the late Mrs Barbara Pearse [nee Battie-Wrightson] for 26 years, generously stepped in. His donation of an initial £40,000 plus a further £15,000 over the following three years aims to support Doncaster Council in opening this fascinating part of the Cusworth Estate to visitors once it has been made safe.

The gardens were owned by the old estate until March 2004 when Doncaster Council purchased them, intending to include them in a National Lottery Fund supported scheme for the Hall and Park but, unfortunately, it was impossible to carry out the work.

The Trust has provided grants to Doncaster Council, which owns the site, of £10,000 for two apprentice gardeners ; £700 for two archaeological surveys; £5,360 to level and seed the bowling green; and £1,091 for new fencing on Coach House Drive. A further £2,728 has been allocated to purchase two lawnmowers.

The bowling pavilion has been repaired with a grant from the Trust of £5,000 to introduce a supporting beam and new floor to the upper chamber and artist Bill Scott was engaged to paint stunning tromp l'oeuil effects on the walls, depicting what the gardens would have looked like in the early 18th century.

The stone steps leading from the bowling green down to the flower garden have been lifted and re-bedded and a timber handrail fitted.

The orchard has also been cleared and re-planted with apple and pear

trees. The next phase, which is about to start, will see the historic brick walls around the bowling green extensively restored.

The bowling pavilion was originally built in 1726 as a summerhouse to serve the large front garden of the old hall, which was situated in the village. An entry in the Cusworth Estate cash book is interesting.

It reads: "3rd June 1726 B Whitaker paid £2.2s.0d for the Summer House".

It didn't have that name for long because in 1733 estate owner William Wrightson banked up the sloping garden to create a bowling green. Consequently, the summerhouse became known as the bowling pavilion.

The Walled Gardens are currently only open on special occasions. A leaflet explaining the work of the Trust and the history of the Walled Gardens is available from Cusworth Hall or by contacting [cusworthgardenstrust@gmail.com](mailto:cusworthgardenstrust@gmail.com).

There is also a page on Heritage Doncaster's website

[www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/cusworth-hall/walled-gardens/](http://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/cusworth-hall/walled-gardens/)



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

THERE'S a great way to get involved in the community and make a difference to the lives of local young people at 28th St. Edmunds Scout Group, Sprotbrough.

We are currently seeking enthusiastic adults to join our team and bring new ideas and skills to our already successful Beaver and Cub sections. With more volunteers, we can offer even more local youngsters the chance to try out new experiences and challenge themselves in exciting ways. We'll give you a warm welcome and make sure you have all the support you need. You'll meet new people and inspire a generation who will never forget what you did for them.

Our Beaver and Cub sections enjoy a wide range of activities, including camping, kayaking, sailing, climbing, archery, air rifle sessions, gadget making, residential weekends, games, cooking, crafts, and leadership and teamwork training. And best of all, they have lots of fun while learning valuable life skills.

Please email: [28thgsl@doncasterscouts.org.uk](mailto:28thgsl@doncasterscouts.org.uk) for more details

## SKIP IT

A COMMUNITY skip placed at the Goldsmith Centre proved so popular that it was filled in around half the time allocated.

The skip was organised and supervised by parish and district councillors Glenn Bluff and Cynthia Ransome using funds allocated by Doncaster Council.

Councillor Bluff has also launched a drive to clean up any graffiti in Sprotbrough.

You can report any incidents to him at [glenn.bluff@2247.co.uk](mailto:glenn.bluff@2247.co.uk) and he will contact Doncaster Council's cleaning team to get it removed.



## Marking the King's Coronation

PARISH Councillors at their March meeting agreed to give pupils of schools in the parish a commemorative bookmark to celebrate King Charles' Coronation.

The parish council's logo features in the design. £100 grants are also available to support groups holding coronation events.

Please email: [sprotcuspc@btconnect.com](mailto:sprotcuspc@btconnect.com) for more information.

## WATER SAVER CAMPAIGN REACHES 75

FOLLOWING the successful launch in summer 2022 of our discounted water butts' campaign, the scheme was reintroduced last winter and proved just as popular.

To date some 75 properties in the parish have benefited from the initiative which has offered 100 and 210 litre barrels at prices subsidised by the parish council. We will look to continue the scheme in the future.





# If you see it, please report it

ILLEGAL quad and motorbike riding continues to blight some areas of the parish. Recently, deliberate riding across a football pitch at Anchorage Lane resulted in matches being called off and damage to the surface of the field.

If you see illegal riding taking place on recreational areas, please report it via **101**, or on South Yorkshire Police Off Road Bike Team's facebook page. They are trying to build up a picture of where illegal activity is taking place.

In another act of vandalism, a motorbike was deliberately set on fire on the BMX/ skatepark at Anchorage Lane. And the new play area at Anchorage Lane seems to be a party gathering point for local youths, which is resulting in glass bottles being smashed and left on the ground, posing a risk to families wanting to use the facilities properly. Our caretaker, Kerry, has painstakingly had to pick up every piece of glass to ensure the area is safe to use.

## Cost savings from in-house team

IN a major cost-cutting measure, parish council staff have taken over responsibility for emptying all the waste bins on our recreational sites.

The work was previously carried out by Doncaster Council. As well as making savings we now control how often they are emptied, which is a big benefit for the users of the sites.

Please help us to keep them clean and tidy by using the bins.



## Grants for local groups

SECTION 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils like ours to spend a limited amount of money for purposes which they have no other specific statutory expenditure. We have just awarded Sprotbrough's Forget me Not café a **£435** grant to support their community work.

The café meets at St Mary's Church every first Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm - 3.30pm, offering a welcoming social meeting place to people suffering mental health related illnesses, and their partners and/or carers. Light refreshments and activities are provided. For further Information please call Hilary on 01302 310577 or

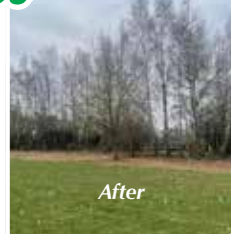
Angela on 01302 851530

- If your group needs a financial helping hand, check out your eligibility for receiving a grant by visiting:  
<https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants.html>

## Sprucing up at Newlands

CONTRACTORS have spruced up a previously untidy group of trees at Cusworth's Newlands Park.

As these before and after photos illustrate, the long-standing copse has been opened up and enhanced following pruning and a follow-up clean-up by our caretaker, Steve. This is part of a programme of maintenance of the site to ensure the health of the trees and improve security at the site.



Next meeting of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

You are very welcome to attend

**May 18th 2023** at Scawsby Community Centre at 7pm

Further information, including documents relating to each monthly meeting, can be found on our website:

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

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



# WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

## CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Glenn Bluff**  
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Email: glenn.bluff@2247.co.uk



**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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## DANUM WARD COUNCILLOR

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

**Councillor Lynette Chipp**  
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**Councillor Angela Curtis**  
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**Councillor Frank Calladine**  
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**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

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**Councillor Judith Rodgers**  
Telephone: 01302 788864



## STONECROSS WARD COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Stephen Swift**  
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**Councillor Dave Glover**  
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## OFFICERS

**Emma Garner** - Clerk to the Parish Council  
**Tom Hinds** - Deputy Clerk  
**Zoe Attridge-Chambers** - Responsible Finance Officer  
**Ian Carpenter** - Editor

## Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

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