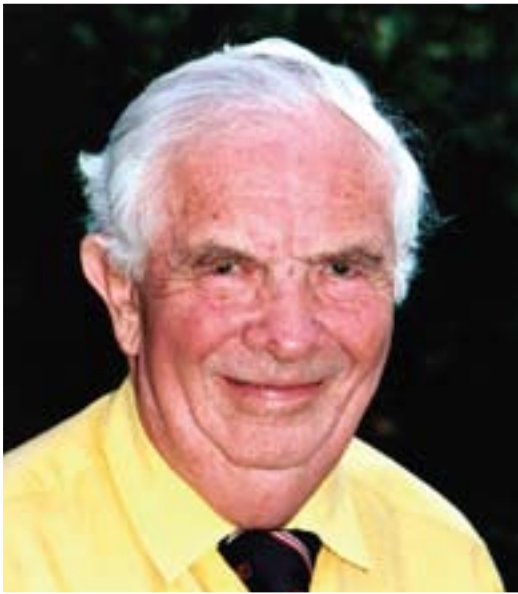


Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

Published by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council
Printed on recycled paper

Spring 2008



Fred Thompson

Fred's memorial is welcome resting place

A MEMORIAL to a former parish councilor is now providing a welcome resting place to Sprotbrough residents and visitors.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council has paid for a new public bench to be placed next to the Millennium Cross, on Main Street, in memory of Fred Thompson, who died last year aged 84.

A plaque on the back of the bench says Fred was a 'gentleman of integrity and dignity at the heart of his community'.

His wife Delia is pictured sitting on the bench with councillor Doreen Woodhouse, chairperson of the



parish council, and vice-chairperson Brian Woodhouse. Fred, whose home was close to where the new bench has been installed, served as a parish councillor from 1988 to 2007, including spells as chair, vice-chair and chair of the finance committee.

He cared passionately about the local area, and was actively involved in trying to ensure that all new housing developments were carefully managed and in keeping with their surroundings.

A former teacher, Fred fought in the Far East during World War 2 and then taught in Africa. The couple came to Sprotbrough in the 1950s when he joined the staff at the then High Melton teacher training college.



We're 20★ years old

Welcome to this latest edition of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News, the first to be produced in colour in our anniversary year. The newsletter first appeared in 1988, when the lead story of the Winter edition reported that Sprotbrough parents were still not satisfied with recent safety improvements made to Richmond Hill Bridge, saying that, if anything, the situation had been made worse. In July of that year, the hump-back bridge had been the scene of a serious accident when a nine-year-old local youngster was hit by a vehicle after stepping onto busy Sprotbrough Road to pass other pedestrians. The accident led to the formation of the Richmond Hill Safety Campaign, which hosted a packed public meeting at what is now The Goldsmith Centre.

Sadly some things still have not changed. That same edition also reported that vandals had struck again, breaking down saplings at Cusworth Hall and on Cusworth Lane.

We'll mention other local items from down memory lane in future editions this year.

DRIVE THE BURGLARS OUT

By PC Lynne Walker, community beat officer

OVERNIGHT between Thursday, 20 March and Friday, 21 March, several burglaries occurred in the Birch Close, Lime Court and Oak Court areas of Sprotbrough. These consisted of the offender(s) forcing entry to conservatory doors or gaining entry via insecure doors. Houses and garages were targeted.

Property including large screen plasma TVs, lap-top computers and other electrical equipment were stolen. In one of the burglaries, car keys were stolen resulting in the theft of a BMW car.

Then overnight between 26 and 27 March, burglars broke into two conservatories on St Mary's Walk and Church Street and made off with plasma TVs.

Officers from the West Safer Neighbourhood Team are implementing certain measures. However, we strongly advise that you should be vigilant about the security of your property and ensure that doors are locked at all times during the day and night to prevent such crimes from occurring. We also advise that you take stock of security measures in place at your home, your shed and garage, which may prevent such crimes happening to you in the future.

Remember:

Most house burglaries occur at the rear of occupied dwellings. Secure and high fencing may prevent easy access into your garden.

Secured side/back garden gates prevent access to the rear of your house - try to secure your back garden, if possible, using bolts/padlocks to side/back garden gates.

Close curtains/blinds so burglars won't be tempted to break into your house having seen precious valuables on display.

Timer lights are a great deterrent - burglars don't know whether you're in or out.

Alarms - a great preventative measure in deterring burglars. The burglar may be put off by the fact that you have an alarm system installed in your house. Should an offender gain entry, once the alarm activates, he/she will not remain in the house long enough to ransack it.

South Yorkshire Police Crime Prevention Unit recommend four alarm companies in Doncaster, due to the fact that these alarm companies meet with Home Office approval with regard to the equipment they install and the installation of it.

Lazer Security, DMB House, 2 Beckett Road, Doncaster. Tel 344773

S J Security, Hyde Park Corner, Doncaster. Tel 739332

Apex Alarms, 2 Highfield Road, Doncaster, Tel 761600

Advance Alarms, 224 Thorne Road, Doncaster. Tel 341854 or 0800 034 5038

All about Smartwater

SMARTWATER is a clear liquid solution containing a blend of harmless chemicals which, when applied to property, provides it with a 'forensic fingerprint.' This has been likened to 'DNA profiling.' Once applied, SMARTWATER makes the possession of stolen property a risky business - the smallest amount is enough for forensic scientists to verify the registered owner.

SMARTWATER is quick and easy to apply - a quick dab is sufficient to mark your property and the mere presence of it on an item is enough to trace it back to you. In areas where SMARTWATER is prevalent, the success rate in deterring burglaries has been phenomenal! With the kits come SMARTWATER stickers which are placed at the front and rear of your house. SMARTWATER kits can be purchased for as little as £10 - the normal price being £35! It's a sound investment - liquid gold!

Please contact Community First Warden, Donna Flicker, DMBC Edlington depot Tel 01302 736000 or PC Lynne Walker, Edlington Police Station Tel 01302 385488 or e-mail lynne.walker@southyorks.pnn.police.uk for more details.

Contacting the police

In the event of a crime being committed or if the offender(s) has/have recently left the scene, please dial 999. For all other non-urgent matters, please dial 01142 20 20 20

Volunteers stage fund-raising event

AS Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News was being distributed, organisers were putting the final touches to what is hoped will give a major fund-raising boost to a needy local project.

On Sunday 4 May, the Friends of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Play Areas - New Lane Group are staging a fun day at the New Lane play area, from 10am onwards. See the advert on the next page for details of the attractions.

The parish council wants to modernise its four children's play areas and equip them with modern facilities that meet the leisure needs of today's children and young people. The only problem is that it could cost as much as £500,000 to bring the four sites up to today's standards - money we don't have. Which is why community involvement like this is so important.

The New Lane play area is spearheading the way, led by a group of dedicated volunteers who are trying to raise the money needed to give their local facility a much needed makeover.

Parish councillors donated £700 towards the cost of staging the event and have offered free use of facilities for fund and awareness raising events. Late last year, supporters held a consultation day at The Goldsmith Centre to unveil a selection of sketches and designs that showed what a revamped New Lane play area could look like.

This photograph was taken on the day. The event was very well attended. Coun Doreen Woodhouse, chairperson of the parish council, said: "I'm delighted to see the community coming together to raise funds to modernise a valuable local amenity. I urge local residents to do your bit by supporting the event and making the organisers' efforts worthwhile".

The other three parish council owned play areas are at Anchorage Lane, Sprotbrough, Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough, and Newlands Park, Cusworth.



Sprotbrough engine house - the future?

THE remains of the old engine house - which used to pump water to long gone Sprotbrough Hall - exist just off the canal towpath below Sprotbrough lock and have been gradually deteriorating for many years.

The Don Gorge Strategic Partnership (DGSP), which includes a representative from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council and many other organisations have, with the permission of the landowner, commissioned a feasibility study to investigate what can be done to this important listed building. This includes looking at whether to conserve the remains or try and rebuild the waterwheel. Some readers may remember the building when it had a roof on it? a water wheel inside it? or even an earlier project in the late 1970s to restore the engine house. If so you may have valuable knowledge which could help the DGSP feasibility study come to the right conclusions about the future of the engine house.

Contact David Blackburn on **07875 175413** for more information.

● **PARISH** councillors donated £300 to the Don Gorge Community Group to cover the general administration, postage and printing costs to help members carry out various voluntary projects in the area.

Sprotbrough Fun Day

Sunday 4th May

Come and enjoy a fun day

for all the family and help your local community to raise money for a much needed new playground at
New Lane park, Sprotbrough.



Sponsored bike ride
Bouncy castle
Falcon display
Tug of war contest
Sack race
3-legged race
Beer tent

Mums 'n' Dads races
Raffles
Competitions
Fire engine visit
Aerobatics display
Plus many more fun things to do

Please come and give us your support as we try to raise £200,000 towards playground equipment and installation at New Lane.

New Lane park Sprotbrough 10am onwards

ON THE BUSES

BUS operator Stagecoach has published timetables for two new services that pass through Sprotbrough.

Service 224 replaces the old 74 and now operates up to every 30 minutes from Mexborough, via Goldthorpe, High Melton and Cadeby into Doncaster. Stagecoach say there are now twice as many journeys through the daytime plus additional ones at peak times. In addition they provide an hourly evening and Sunday service along this route. Customers using the 224 will benefit from the introduction of brand new low floor easy access buses.

Service 225 replaces the old 49 and also operates up to every 30 minutes from Sprotbrough into Doncaster. The journey time from Doncaster to Sprotbrough Church is between 13 and 17 minutes.

Pick up a copy of the timetables or call Traveline on 01709 515151, or visit their website www.stagecoachbus.com/yorkshire.

National Concessions Scheme pass - did you know that senior citizens and disabled people are now entitled to free travel on local bus services anywhere in England from 09:30 to 23:00 on weekdays and all day at weekends and on bank holidays?

Doncaster residents are also entitled to free travel from 09:00 on weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays on the following services:

Any bus or tram within South Yorkshire. Between stations on the South Yorkshire rail network. To and from West Yorkshire on Northern Rail services (without changing trains in West Yorkshire)

Into South Yorkshire by bus from neighbouring areas (but not until 09:30 from the Peak District).

For more information call Traveline on 01709 515151

Association's Historical Inspiration

SPROTBROUGH Preservation Association's (SPA) new logo, pictured here, has strong links with the past.

Members have adopted the crest of former local landowners the Copley family, who built long gone Sprotbrough Hall in the late 16th century.

SPA, which formed over 30 years ago, has also set out its aims and objectives in a new mission statement - *Working to preserve the environment and architectural character of Sprotbrough for the benefit of residents and visitors.*

New members are always welcome, with meetings held every six weeks. For more information ring the secretary, Bernard Pearson on Doncaster 787398 (temporary number) or write to him at Ferryboat Cottage, 2 Lower Sprotbrough, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7NB.



NEXT STOP ADRENALINE ALLEY

IT was thrills and spills for members of Anchorage Lane Skate Park User Group when they took part in a full day of skate boarding and BMXing at Corby's Adrenaline Alley, as these photos show.

The trip proved to so popular that an extra coach was needed to accommodate the 80 members of the group who travelled down to improve their skills at this new skate facility.

It was the latest event funded by the sports development grant awarded to Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council by Barclays Spaces for Sport. Over the past two years the grant has paid for visits to other skate parks across the UK as well as for several skate and BMX workshops at the parish council's skate park at Anchorage Lane, Sprotbrough.



The climb of his life...

PARISH councillors are backing a young Sprotbrough lad's ambition to climb one of the highest mountains in the Himalayas.

They awarded a £200 grant from parish council funds to David Lloyd to enable the Ridgewood School pupil to take part in an army cadet sponsored expedition to the summit of Kalar Pataar which, at around 26,000 feet, is nearly as high as Mount Everest.

David, 15, who lives at Park Avenue, had to raise £1200 to guarantee his place and the parish council's grant brought a successful end to his fund raising activities. He's pictured top row, fourth from the right in this photo, wearing an army hat.

A lance corporal with the Royal Dragoon Guards army cadets, based at the Territorial Army base on Daum Road, David will join over 20 other cadets from across the north in the three weeks long trip of a lifetime in August this year.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to taking part. It has been a tough selection process, culminating in five days of tough training during the Easter holidays to assess the fitness of everyone who is signed up to go.

"I would like to thank the parish council for helping me raise the money I needed."

The expedition will be led by a captain from the cadet force, accompanied by an ex-special forces guide.

After completing his studies, David hopes to become an officer in the Royal Engineers.



Thank you

PARISH councillors have thanked Doncaster Council for granting over £20,000 to enable two local improvement projects to go ahead in the parish.

The district council gave a grant of £11,930 to fund the full cost of new fencing at Anchorage Lane playing field, which has made the site safer by preventing unauthorised drivers from gaining access and damaging the field. In addition, DMBC also chipped-in £9,500 towards the cost of upgrading Anchorage Lane car park to provide better drainage and extra car, bike and disabled parking spaces.

Trevor Heptinstall, Doncaster Council's West Area Manager, was singled out for the excellent support he has given the parish council.

SCHOOLS REPORT

SPROTBROUGH'S Copley and Richmond Hill primary schools have received good reports following the latest round of Ofsted inspections. Richmond Hill's chairman of governors, parish councillor Malcolm Wood, said: "I'm delighted with the progress the school is making. It is a tribute to the commitment of our staff and the efforts of our pupils."

CUSWORTH & Scawsby Action Group members have been told what the top three 'wishes' of Ridgewood pupils are - a local youth centre, better lighting for footpaths and alleys, and for people to stop taking drugs. Two of the school's youth councillors came to a recent meeting of the action group to give the results of the survey, which was carried out through the school's suggestion box facility. The councillors said they also wanted better use of the sports facilities on the school site.

Bloomin' lovely

THE green-fingered efforts of local infant and primary schoolchildren have brought a splash of colour to Sprotbrough and Cusworth verges and community areas. Earlier this year the youngsters planted bulbs donated by the parish council which are now in flower.

CALLING ALL RUNNERS



THE call has gone out for runners to sign up for this year's Sprotbrough 6.5 kilometre road race, which takes place on Sunday 22 June.

Full details and a downloadable entry form can be viewed on the 67th Sprotbrough Scout Group's website www.sprotbroughscouts.co.uk

As usual there will be trophies for the male/female winner in various age categories, together with a veterans' section, and prizes for the first Sprotbrough male, female and scout to cross the finish line. The minimum entry age is eight on the day of the race and children aged under 10 must be supervised by an adult.

Last year 169 people took part in the race, which start and finishes at New Lane and passes through Cadeby. The race entry fee is £7 for adults and £3.50 for under 16s. Everyone who finishes will receive a souvenir medal and entries will be accepted on the day.

The popular annual event celebrates its 22nd birthday this year and as usual will be staged alongside the scouts' gala at the New Lane playing field, with all proceeds swelling the coffers of the 67th Sprotbrough group. Last year's event raised over £3,000 in spite of torrential downpours.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council are supporting the event by letting organisers have free use of the playing field.

The gala opens at 1pm and the race gets underway at 2pm. This year's sponsors are Riverside Motors and Adrian Welch Glass and Glazing Ltd.

Pictured are members of the 67th Sprotbrough Scout Group celebrating the delivery of their new minibus, which was bought with generous financial support from The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Doncaster Youth Bank and Doncaster 7 Round Table.

● PARISH councillors donated £300 to the 67th scouts to pay for 50 kite kits so they can take part in a kite flying event at Cusworth Park.



On our doorstep

FIND out more about our nearby Discovering the Ancient Don Gorge project by visiting the new website www.yourfind.org.uk.

You can contribute to the project by voting for your favourite finds in the Web Museum, with the most popular ones set to be turned into Myfind postcards to be freely distributed to the public through museums, libraries and archives.

Join us at the

Great Yorkshire Show

SPROTBROUGH Gardeners' Association are planning a trip to the Great Yorkshire Show on Tuesday 8 July.

If you are interested in joining them please call in at the gardeners' store - next to the Goldsmith Centre - and book your place(s).

The store is open every Sunday 10.30am til 12 noon and Wednesday 2pm til 3.30pm

The cost will be approximately £23 per person.

All welcome.

FEEDBACK

Flatten it first....

IN the last edition of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News we reported that a new corrugated cardboard recycling container had been introduced at the far end of the Sainsburys car park on Sprotbrough Road. Unfortunately, one reader was disappointed with the capacity of the container after taking a load of cardboard to it, saying it was not much bigger than a wheelie bin.

We took the reader's complaint up with Doncaster Council who told us that the container was capable of holding 0.8 tonnes of flat packed cardboard. Disposal and capacity problems have occurred because users have not been flattening their cardboard before placing it in the container. As a consequence the unit has not been used effectively and to its full capability. This in turn has created additional problems. When the unit is full, other users have been leaving their cardboard on the floor around the bin, which is both a fire risk and likely to attract anti-social behaviour. So the message is: please flatten your cardboard before disposing of it, and if you have a lot to get rid of please use the council recycling points at Balby and Carcroft.



Charlie's getting ready for his 'ton'

SPRIGHTLY Charlie Mason is looking forward to receiving a telegram from the Queen later this year.

Charlie, a member of the Sprotbrough Sequence Dancers, celebrated his 99th birthday after the last edition of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press and he's now counting down the months to his 100th in December.

Charlie, from Scawsby, has been a member of the tea dance group - who meet at the Goldsmith Centre every Friday - for the past 18 years.

Don't forget, the Goldsmith Centre makes an ideal, reasonably priced, venue for a social event. To check availability ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093.

See and Hear

PARISH councillors donated **£300** to Sprotbrough's St Edmund's to part cover the cost of installing a loop sound and audio visual system at the Anchorage Lane church.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Citizens' Advice Bureau	735225
Civic Theatre	342349
Customer Service Centre (Sprotbrough Library)	782436
(for enquiries about Doncaster Council services)	
Dome	370777
Doncaster Council - main switchboard.....	7344444
Doncaster Primary Care Trust	320111
Doncaster Royal Infirmary.....	366666
FLAG (to clean up dumped rubbish, graffiti etc)	736000
NHS Direct.....	0845 4647
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.....	762000
South Yorkshire Police (non urgent)	01142 202020
Train enquiries.....	0845 748 4950
Yorkshire Electricity.....	0800 073 3000
Yorkshire Water - water supply enquiries	0845 124 2424
Yorkshire Water - drains, sewer, flooding enquiries.....	0845 1242429

MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at The Goldsmith Centre, starting at 7.30pm, with the exception of March and September when it meets at Scawsby Community Centre, Barnsley Road, Scawsby, at the same start time. No meetings are held in August. The Planning Committee meet immediately before the Parish Council, at 6.45pm.

The Finance Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November at the Goldsmith Centre at 7pm. The Policy, General Purposes and Local Agenda 21 Committee also meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, with the exception of August and December. Starting time is usually between 7pm and 7.30pm, depending on whether there has been a Finance Committee meeting immediately before.

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

Michael Goodwin (Conservative)

14 Ingleborough Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7AD

Tel: 783275

Paul Womack (Conservative)

51 Clifton Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NL

Tel: 785208

CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

Pat Haith (Labour)

43 St Paul's Parade, Scawsby, DN5 8LJ

Tel: 562015

Stephen Platt (Green)

39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ

Tel: 782928

Carolyn Taylor (Conservative)

6 Nottingham Close, Scawsby, DN5 8PH

Tel: 782522

Brian Woodhouse Vice chairperson (Conservative)

159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

STADIUM WARD COUNCILLORS

Trevor Ashman (Labour)

53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY

Tel: 785429

Doreen Woodhouse Chairperson (Conservative)

159 Cusworth Lane, Doncaster, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

Lynnette Chipp (Green)

250 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BY

Tel: 785866

Sheldon Ransome (Conservative)

85 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU

Tel: 785635

Alan Smith (Conservative)

38 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NJ.

Tel: 785578

Debbie Wood (Conservative)

23a Marlborough Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA

Tel: 783043

Malcolm Wood (Labour)

119 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU

Tel: 786864

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Norman Dent (Conservative)

1 Melling Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ

Tel: 784218

Kerry Wood (Conservative)

23a Marlborough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA.

Tel: 783043.

STONECROSS WARD COUNCILLORS

Allan Jones (Conservative)

38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QG

Tel: 858075

Kim Rolt (Green)

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Tel: 850557.

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Tom Hinds - Deputy Clerk

Ian Carpenter - Editor and webmaster

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

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Website: www.sc-pc.co.uk

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News

If you have a friend, neighbour or relative who lives in the Sprotbrough and Cusworth area but does not receive a copy Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News please let them know they can pick up a copy from Sprotbrough Library, Sprotbrough Post Office, The Goldsmith Centre, Scawsby Community Centre or from your local parish councillor. Past copies can be viewed on our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk