

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Summer 2006

Skatepark takes off

JUST over a year after opening, Sprotbrough's Anchorage Lane Skate and BMX Park is developing into a showpiece local centre for young people to develop their board and bike skills.

Thanks to an **£18,000** development grant from Barclays Spaces for Sports, local youngsters have been able to tap into free skate and BMX workshops and training sessions, professional displays, shows and competitions, including a trip to Liverpool's Rampwork Skate Park.

In June, coaching specialists Team Extreme came back to the park, where over 100 youngsters were eager to look, listen and learn from experts Neil Danns and Mike Mullen.

It was Extreme's second visit to the site, after a successful introductory event back in November 2005.



Councillors Paul Dent & Doreen Woodhouse with Ben Small and Cat Foy from Groundwork Trust and Team Extreme's Mike Mullen

Coun Paul Dent, Chair of the parish council's Policy & General Purposes Committee, said: "We want the park to encourage young people to take up sport and improve their health as well as helping to strengthen community spirit. We want to see the site develop and to support this we have provided coaching kit and equipment to encourage residents to take part and get the most out of the new facilities."

The parish council commissioned the £100,000 park, boosted by grants of **£25,000** apiece from Barclays Spaces for Sports and waste recycling business WREN.

The skatepark is now home to the recently formed Sprotbrough Fracture Factory skate park user group, which meets regularly under the guidance of local man Steve Gratton, a former skateboarding and BMX champion.

● As Parish News went to press, the Anchorage Lane skate and BMX park was in the frame for a top regional award. It was one of six projects shortlisted for the Village Ventures Awards by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council. More news coming soon on our website.

THEN VANDALS STRIKE

VANDALS burning wooden pallets have caused serious damage to the surface of the skate park's bowl. The fire was started some time between the evening of Saturday 17 June and the early hours of Sunday 18 June. Parish councillors are appealing to local residents to protect the area by reporting any incidents of vandalism. Recently there have been cases reported of vehicles being driven around the adjacent playing field and alcohol is being drunk at the site at weekends. Damage has also been caused to the football pitches, St Edmund's Church and the Scout hut. If you see anything untoward please ring the police on **0112 220 2020** and ask for the Doncaster crime desk. You can also leave a message at the parish council office by ringing Doncaster **788093** (answerphone out of hours) or email: admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk



Former Scout Goes Back To His Roots

FORMER scout Norman Dent went on a trip down memory lane when he presented the prizes at this year's Sprotbrough 6.5 kilometre run and family gala.

Parish councillor, Norman, 82 this year, told the assembled crowd that 70 years ago he too was a member of the 67th Doncaster Sprotbrough Scouts, who organise the popular annual event.

Norman handed out prizes to the winners of the various categories in the run, including one to the overall winner, Howard Darwin, who crossed the line in 24 mins 48 secs - just 19 seconds slower than last year's winner. Irene Boulton retained the crown as first female aged over 40 to cross the line, though her time of 34 mins 25 secs was 1 min 32 secs slower than last year.

But Paul Ashcroft held on to the first male over 60 crown, with his 29 mins 30 secs being some 28 seconds faster than his time last year.

Some 130 people took part in the run - which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary - helping to raise over £3,000 for the scout group from race entry fees and the associated gala.



Norman presents the shield to Matthew Malkin, the first scout to cross the line.



Norman with various race category winners.

The winners of the various race categories were:

● Overall winner:	Howard Darwin	24 mins. 48 secs.
● 1st Sprotbrough male:	James Pratt	26 mins. 23 secs.
● 1st Sprotbrough female:	Jennifer Warren	34 mins. 26 secs.
● 1st scout:	Matthew Malkin	32 mins. 3 secs.
● 1st boy aged 8-11:	Adam Aveling	30 mins. 49 secs.
● 1st girl aged 8-11:	Megan Blackburn	31 mins. 55 secs.
● 1st boy aged 12-15:	Matthew Walker	28 mins. 4 secs..
● 1st girl aged 12-15:	Beth Dobbin	38 mins. 13 secs.
● 1st male aged 16-39:	Dean Watson	25 mins. 38 secs.
● 1st female aged 16-39:	Helen Metcalfe	29 mins. 20 secs.
● 1st male aged over 40:	John Spencer	25 mins. 17 secs.
● 1st female aged over 40:	Irene Boulton	34 mins. 25 secs.
● 1st male aged over 60	Paul Ashcroft	29 mins. 2 secs.

Everyone who competed received a commemorative medal. The next fun run is scheduled to take place in June 2007. For more information ring Janet Graves on Doncaster 853932.

The gala and start and finish of the run took place at New Lane Playing Field, which Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council loaned to the organisers free of charge.

WOODLAND HOMES TURNED DOWN

PLANS to build new homes in a leafy area of Sprotbrough have been turned down by Doncaster Council following a campaign by objectors.

Barratt Homes wanted to build 19 two and three-storey townhouses on woodlands off Park Drive, but the application was turned down by councillors at Doncaster Council's latest planning committee.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council opposed the application, together with more than 200 local residents who wrote to the planning committee asking councillors not to approve it.

Barratt Homes now have six months to decide if they intend to appeal against the decision.

Parish Council Backs Sports Scheme

THE parish council has lent its support to a scheme providing sport and physical activities for local youngsters during the summer school holidays.

Councillors agreed to make the Goldsmith Centre and grounds available free of charge to Doncaster Council for nine days during July and August.

The borough council's Active Doncaster Service will use the dates to stage a range of supervised activities for up to 40 local youngsters, aged 8 to 13, each day.

The aim is to run the majority of the activities outside. If the weather is bad they will be staged in the Goldsmith Centre's main hall.

Here's what's planned:

● Mon 24 July	1.45pm - 4.15pm	Tennis
● Mon 31 July	1.45pm - 4.15pm	Cricket
● Tues 1 Aug	9.45am - 12.15pm	Tag Rugby
● Mon 7 Aug	1.45pm - 4.15pm	Cricket
● Tues 8 Aug	9.45am - 12.15pm	Tag Rugby
● Mon 14 Aug	1.45pm - 4.15pm	Cricket
● Tues 15 Aug	9.45am - 12.15pm	Football
● Mon 21 Aug	1.45pm - 4.15pm	Dance (indoor)
● Tues 22 Aug	9.45am - 12.15pm	Athletics

For more information ring Tracey Podmore, Area Coordinator, Active Doncaster, on Doncaster 735403.

PARISH CRIMEWATCH

THIS is the aftermath of arguably the worst piece of vandalism ever carried out in Sprotbrough.

On 29 April, arsonists attacked the re-cycling bins to the rear of the Jackson/Sainsbury's car park causing £6,000 worth of damage, including clearance costs.

The blaze is thought to have been started by a group of six of seven mid to late teenage males who were seen near the bins shortly before smoke started billowing from them. Police are keen to hear from anyone who could help them identify the culprits.

The fire was so intense it destroyed containers housing tonnes of glass, cans, clothing and paper and scattered exploding aerosol cans several metres into the air.

Elsewhere, off-road motorcyclists who continue to use the Trans Pennine Trail illegally are being targeted by Sprotbrough Beat Manager PC Lynne Walker and colleagues, in what can be a risky business for the officers.

PC Walker said: "During the last Motorbike Operation spent most of the day on the Trans Pennine Trail around the Anchorage Lane and Sprotbrough Falls areas. We served two warning notices on offenders and two colleagues tried to stop two large off road motorbikes hurtling down the trail near Anchorage Lane area at 40 mph and were both very nearly run over in the process. Since then, where information has come directly to me, I have served further warning notices to offenders who have been seen riding off road bikes on the public highways.

"I have also been watching the access road off Newton Lane and the 'quarry' at the rear of Inglebrough Drive, following reports of nuisance motorbikes in those areas."

OTHER CRIME ISSUES:

- Police have been keeping an eye on Sprotbrough's St Edmunds Church following incidents, including thieves stealing slates from the roof.
- Over the past few weeks, there have been several 'sneak in' burglaries in Stonecross Drive, Melton Road and Sprotbrough Road, with thieves slipping in through unlocked front and side doors to steal valuables. A male was seen running away from one of them. Leaflet drops have been done in the nearby areas of all these burglaries to remind people to keep their doors and windows secure. An alert has also gone out to all the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the Sprotbrough area via the Watch line system.

PC Walker, who is responsible for community policing in Sprotbrough, can be contacted on : **0114 220 2020**



In another near miss, a woman walking with her nine year old son near the Boat Inn complained of three nuisance motorbikes scorching past them at 50mph, nearly colliding with them as they raced past.

But the Police are fighting back. At the end of May officers from Edlington and Mexborough who work for the West Safer Neighbourhood Team seized 14 motorbikes of various sizes and issued further warning notices in what is thought to be a record haul. The bikes were from all over the west of Doncaster - including Conisbrough, Edlington and Scawsby - plus a quad bike seized from a house at Denaby had been used on the Trans Pennine Trail in the Sprotbrough area.

- Police are carrying out evening patrols near the Wine Press and Sprotbrough Fish Bar premises on Sprotbrough Road, which is a popular area for youths to gather. Following a request from the Police, the youngsters now often congregate on Newton Lane or to one side of the shops, rather than standing directly in front of them which a lot of shoppers used to find intimidating.
- PC Walker has also been investigating reports of youths in cars gathering in the car park of KFC and Blockbuster and causing a noise nuisance. Allegations of drug taking have also been made, though since patrols were stepped up the problem seems to have reduced.

SORRY

IN the last issue of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News we incorrectly stated that Sprotbrough's 28th St Edmunds Scouts rent their meeting hut on Anchorage Lane from Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council. This was not correct, the scouts own the building and we own the land it is built on. We are happy to put the record straight and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

CLICK ON US

YOU can follow the work of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council by visiting our website at www.sc-pc.co.uk.

The agenda and minutes for the various parish council committees are placed on the meetings section of the website and there are various links to other sites, including the local weather forecast from the BBC. You can also email your comments about the site - including any ideas for new pages or suggested improvements - to the parish clerk using the interactive email facility on the 'contact us' page'.

Similarly, if you would like to publicise a local event or community group you are involved with, let us know. Visit the website and use the email link to send your information to us.

Now you see it... ...now you don't

THE former changing room 'portacabin' on Anchorage Lane has moved to pastures new - at no cost to the parish council.

The building was made redundant two years ago when it was replaced by a new brick pavilion, funded by the parish council. Councillors initially tried selling the portable unit but to no avail, and for some time it looked like the parish council would have to pick up the tab for its safe disposal.



The car park on Anchorage Lane

But then Doncaster Council's Community First stepped in with an offer to take the unit away free of charge. It is now enjoying a new lease of life in the Denaby area, providing much needed changing facilities for junior football teams. The parish council now plans to use the space it previously occupied to extend the Anchorage Lane playing field car park.

NEW GROUP FOR SPROTBROUGH PATIENTS

SPROTBROUGH'S Park View Surgery has strengthened links with its patients by forming a new participation group.

The Patient Participation Group brings together patients and practice staff who meet at regular intervals to look at ways of developing services, as well as other issues such as encouraging health education activities.

Group Chair Jean Leese said: "We welcome any suggestions that patients have for making the practice even better. One of our first actions was to arrange for a touch screen information kiosk to be installed at the practice by DIAL Doncaster, and we plan to implement many more new ideas in the future.

The Group has an eight-strong committee, who are pictured here alongside the new touch screen kiosk. L-R: Janet Leese, Chair; Eric Hudson, Janet Himsworth, Secretary; Sue Hollingsworth, Joy Hudson, Philip Crosson, Cathy Dawson and Olive Turvey.

Over the past 18 months Park View Surgery has moved home to a purpose-built medical centre, added 400 new patients and welcomed a new doctor, nurse and two new reception staff.

If you would like more information about Park View Surgery's Patient Participation Group, please ring Jean Leese on Doncaster **788297**.



Briefly

- **THANKYOU** - two local good causes - Sprotbrough NSPCC Committee and Aurora Centre - thanked parish councillors for allowing them to use the Goldsmith Centre free of charge for fund-raising events.
- **COLOURFUL** - Sprotbrough Ladies Circle planted 700 bluebells on land adjacent to the Millennium Walk, to the rear of Challenger Drive, in memory of four long-serving members of their group who have died. In September this year, the Circle will celebrate its 25th anniversary.
- **GOOD FUN** - Sprotbrough Reading and Activity Group organizes quizzes, games and loads more activities every Monday at Sprotbrough Library and Customer Service Centre. The FREE sessions take place between 4pm to 5pm for youngsters aged 7 to 11 years old. For more information ring Doncaster **782436**.

Volunteers Wanted

AN environmental group is looking for volunteers to help manage a local beauty spot.

The Don Gorge conservation volunteers carry out conservation work on the Don Gorge between Conisbrough and Warmsworth, which is classed as an area of outstanding natural beauty and biodiversity.

They carry out a variety of tasks, including tree planting, clearing vegetation, path work and species monitoring.

They meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month, from 10am to 2.30pm, starting out at the landing car park off Nursery Lane, Sprotbrough, near the Boat Inn.

All you need are sensible outdoor clothes and sturdy boots, along with a packed lunch and a drink. All tools and equipment are provided.

For more information contact Don Gorge project officer Rachael Cranch on **01709 864762** or **07917 232910** or countryside ranger Dennis Roe on **01709 864897** or **07717 701296**.

Norman's Christmas Tree Puzzle

CHRISTMAS came early for parish councillor Norman Dent – in the middle of June.

For the Christmas tree he planted in his Sprotbrough garden back in 1981 suddenly flowered for the first time in 25 years. It initially became covered with what looked like brown pollen, then over the space of a month 1" long pine cones appeared, which then turned into green shoots.



Some of the pine cones that flowered on the tree

Norman called in experts from Markham Grange nurseries to see what they could make of it but they were baffled as well.

Norman, pictured next to the tree with wife Pat, who is also a parish councillor, said: "It's the first time I've seen it happen. I bought the tree from Chesterfield market in 1981, it was only about nine inches tall when I planted it. Now it's as high as my house."

If anyone can shed any light on the mystery, please ring Norman on Doncaster 784218.



Pat and Norman alongside the mighty Christmas tree

Did You Know? *10 facts about Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council*

1. It is a minor local authority, one of over 10,000 parish and town councils in the country.
2. The 17 parish councillors are called members and elected every four years.
3. The parish has six wards which are: Central, Cusworth, East, Park, Stadium and Stonecross.
4. The population of the parish is around 12,500, of which around 9,500 are electors - or parishioners - and eligible to vote.
5. The minimum age to become a parish councillor is 21.
6. Parish councillors are unpaid.
7. Parish councillors are required to sign a Code of Conduct, which includes a declaration of their business and financial interests; membership of other organisations; and personal conduct and ethics.
8. All the parish council staff are part time, comprising a clerk, deputy clerk, three caretakers and two cleaners.
9. The parish council office is based at the Goldsmith Centre and can be contacted by phone/fax: 01302 788093; or email: admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk
10. Facilities owned by the parish council include: senior and junior football pitches; the Goldsmith Community Centre; 50 per cent of Scawsby Community Centre; two sports pavilions, at Anchorage Lane and Newlands Park; four basketball courts; four children's play areas; a skate park.

There are four parish council committees - see back page for more details.

The work of members of the parish council includes setting objectives for improvements and new developments in the local area, together with the maintenance and upkeep of the existing facilities. Members try to reflect the needs of all sections of the community.

Members work closely with other partners, including Doncaster Council, South Yorkshire Police, community groups and parishioners.

The next parish council elections will be in May 2007.

If you would like to consider standing as a parish councillor and would like more information, please contact the parish clerk on **01302 788093**. You don't have to belong to a political party to become a parish councillor.

Disability Friendly Community Hall Opens

A NEW extension to the community hall at Sprotbrough's St Edmund's Church is now open for business after being built with disabled people in mind.

Existing facilities were upgraded in the development, which was designed to create better access for disabled people and wheelchair users and meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Pictured are members of the Hall Development Group who were responsible for bringing the plans off the drawing board. Alan Smith, Judy Smith, Rev Michael Rowberry, Ted Pidd, Julia Moorhouse, Doug King and Rev John Richards.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council contributed towards the cost of the improvements.



● THE site now occupied by St Edmund's Church and Community Hall was once thought to house a hospital or place of hospitality dedicated to St Edmund and administered by a group of holy women – called Anchoresses - who devoted their lives to prayer, meditation and care of the needy. The hospital was dissolved at the time of the Reformation, after which the site became a farm. The stone barn, which forms the basis of the present church and community hall, was built in the 17th century. A brick-built extension was added more than 100 years ago. The farm flourished until the 1940s when the War Office requisitioned the building and land. The Diocese of Sheffield acquired the site in 1952 and the barn was converted into a church with ancillary rooms, including the community hall. The church was consecrated in 1954.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

A vacancy exists for a

RELIEF PART TIME - CARETAKER / CLEANER

**for the GOLDSMITH CENTRE
259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough.**

The above position is to cover for the Caretaker & Assistant Caretaker during holidays and will be for a minimum of eight weeks a year. In addition, cover for any staff sickness may be required. The work involves some late night and weekend working. The rates of pay and conditions are in accordance with nationally agreed. Local Council scales.

Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community who should be aged over 18. Please apply by letter stating suitability for the post and giving the names and details of two referees.

Further information on this post may be obtained from:

A. Unsworth, Clerk to the Council or

T. Hinds Deputy Clerk to the Council

at the above address or by telephone on **(01302) 788093**.

Closing date for applications is **31st July 2006**.

FEASIBILITY PLAN FOR ROMAN RIGG

DONCASTER Council has agreed to carry out a feasibility study to look at upgrading the Roman Ridge between the Sun Inn and Redhouse.

The intention is to provide an all weather surface to allow pedestrians, cyclists and horses to enjoy this route.

A review will take place of existing Traffic Regulation Orders to provide comfort to legitimate users and reduce anti social and nuisance usage. Existing vehicular access to private properties will be maintained.

Working for you!

FOLLOWING the annual meeting of the parish council on 18 May, the following appointments were made to our internal committees, together with representatives to represent our interests on external groups and organisations:

Chairperson: Coun Doreen. Woodhouse
Vice-Chairperson: Coun Fred Thompson

Parish Council

The full Council meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of March and September when it meets at Scawsby Community Centre. No meeting is held in August

Planning & LA 21 Projects Committee

The committee has nine members and meets on the third Thursday of the month, usually at 7pm, though times sometimes vary.

Chair: Coun Brian Woodhouse
Vice-Chair: Coun Norman Dent
Members: Councillors Pat Dent, Elizabeth Jones, Jackie Marsden, Stephen Platt, Fred Thompson, Kerry Wood, Paul Dent

Finance Committee

The committee has nine members and meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November at the Goldsmith Centre. Starting time usually 7pm but this can vary depending on the agenda.

Chair: Coun Fred Thompson
Vice-Chair: Coun Trevor Ashman
Members: Councillors Norma Dent, Norman Dent, Kerry Wood, Jackie Marsden, Stephen Platt, Brian Woodhouse, Pat Bartlett.

Policy & General Purposes Committee

The committee has eight members and meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, excluding August and December, at the Goldsmith Centre. Starting time between 7 and 7:30pm.

Chair: Coun Paul Dent
Vice-Chair: Coun Kerry Wood
Member: Councillors Norman Dent, Jackie Marsden, Stephen Platt, Brian Woodhouse, Trevor Ashman, Pat Dent

Performance Review Committee: Five members

Chair: Coun Pat Haith
Vice-Chair: Coun Stephen Platt
Members: Councillors Pat Bartlett, Norma Dent, Elizabeth Jones

Scawsby Community Centre Joint Management Committee

Chair: Coun Pat Haith
Reps.: Councillors Norman Dent, Doreen Woodhouse, Stephen Platt, Brian Woodhouse.

Representatives to Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillors Allan Jones and Stephen Platt

Scabba Wood Liaison Committee

Representatives: Councillors Fred Thompson and Stephen Platt.

Doncaster Council - Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee

Representative: Coun Stephen Platt

Don Gorge Working Group

Representative: Coun Allan Jones

Keep In Touch

YOU can keep in touch with the work of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council by going along to one or more of our committees. The minutes and agendas can be viewed on our website - www.sc-pc.co.uk. In addition, posters advertising details of the meetings, plus agendas and minutes, are on display at Sprotbrough library, on parish council notice boards and at Thorpe Lane post office and retail outlets.

WOULD you like to attend one of the parish council's monthly meetings but find the venues difficult to get to? We're always welcome to suggestions about alternative meeting places - contact Anita or Tom on Doncaster **788093**.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News

THIS newsletter is delivered with the Sprotbrough Community Newsletter and the Doncaster Advertiser. 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

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD

PAT BARTLETT
72a Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QL
Tel: 310575

ELIZABETH JONES
38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QG
Tel: 858075

CUSWORTH WARD

PAT HAITH
43 St Paul's Parade, Cusworth, DN5 8LJ
Tel: 562015

STEPHEN PLATT
39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 782928

JACKIE MARSDEN
41 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 561462

BRIAN WOODHOUSE
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

STADIUM WARD

TREVOR ASHMAN
53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY
Tel: 785429

DOREEN WOODHOUSE (Chairperson)
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

EAST WARD

PAUL DENT
146 Crompton Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ
Tel: 782621

NORMA PATRICIA DENT
1 Melling Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ
Tel: 784218

KERRY WOOD
23a Marlborough Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA
Tel: 783043

PETER WATKISS
5 Ingle Grove, Sprotbrough, DN5 7AE
Tel: 789469

MALCOLM WOOD
119 Tennyson Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU
Tel: 786864

PARK WARD

NORMAN DENT
1 Melling Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ
Tel: 784218

FRED THOMPSON (Vice Chairperson)
3 Farcliff, Sprotbrough, DN5 7RG
Tel: 852488

STONECROSS WARD

ALLAN JONES
38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QG
Tel: 858075

STEPHEN SWIFT
58 Westmorland Way, Sprotbrough, DN5 7PW
Tel: 817992

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

ANITA UNSWORTH
Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BP
Tel: 788093 (answerphone/fax outside office hours)

DEPUTY CLERK

TOM HINDS
(Goldsmith Centre address)

EDITOR

IAN CARPENTER
Tel: 782603

Meetings of the parish council are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Goldsmith Centre, starting at 7.30pm, with the exception of March and September when they are held at Scawsby Community Centre at the same start time. No meeting is held in August.