

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

Published by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

Printed on recycled paper

Summer 2010

From Drawing Board To Reality

AFTER nearly three years of planning and fundraising, the dream of a state-of-the-art play area at Sprotbrough's New Lane is now set to be brought off the drawing board and turned into reality.

Spearheaded by the Friends of New Lane Park, the necessary funds are in place and the project is 'green for go'.

Chairperson Jonny Madin said: "It has been a lot of hard work by a lot of people behind the scenes and I am delighted that we are now so close to seeing work start on the play area. It has been a real community effort."

As Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press a planning application for the development had been submitted to Doncaster Council. If everything goes according to plan, contractors will move on to the site this autumn and the new-look play area will be ready for local children to enjoy by March 2011.

The parish council, which owns the site, has commissioned Groundwork Dearne Valley to project manage the development, after working closely with the 'Friends' to create a concept that meets everyone's vision for a superb 21st century play area, utilising the latest creative design and materials.

Turn over to Page 2 to see the design and planned features, including tree house, zip wire, hill top fort, suspension bridge, sand digger, embankment slide and much more.

The equipment will cost around £150,000 and there will be additional costs for professional design and contract management fees. The project will be funded by a number of government, national lottery and landfill tax grants as well as £5,000 from the Freemasons' charity fund and £5,000 from Anderson Hydraulics.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council Chairperson, Doreen Woodhouse, said: "This is a fantastic achievement and, on behalf of the parish council, I would like to congratulate the Friends of New Lane for their commitment to see this project through to a successful conclusion.

"We have worked closely with the Friends to support them through what has been a challenging and demanding fundraising exercise and this has been an excellent example of parish council and volunteers working hand-in-hand for the benefit of the wider community."

Update in the next issue.

TRIO JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL

THREE new Conservative councillors have been elected to serve on the parish council following elections at the end of May.

Husband and wife Carole and Martin Greenhalgh, from Park Avenue, Sprotbrough, won seats on the East and Park wards respectively. And Keith Oades, from Crompton Avenue, Sprotbrough, was also elected to serve on East Ward.



Keith Oades

In the Park Ward contest, Coun Martin Greenhalgh polled 251 votes, with Independent candidate Katrina Handley in second place with 110 and Labour's Gary Wilson coming third with 85.

There were two vacancies in East Ward, which was contested by four candidates.

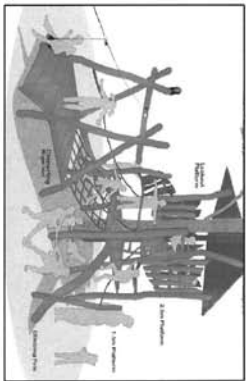
Coun. Oades secured 245 votes and Coun Carole Greenhalgh 241. Labour's Alan Weston and Peter Millar polled 208 and 226 votes respectively.

See 'Setting the record straight' on Page 4



Carole and Martin Greenhalgh

Bespoke Robinia Tree House including 30m Zip wire



Russell Sky Carver installed on top of embankment to increase excitement



Wide Embankment slide



Double Toddler Swings



Small Toddler multipplay unit



Sit on Metal Sand Digger



Cantilever Swing is accessible & provides opportunities for interaction



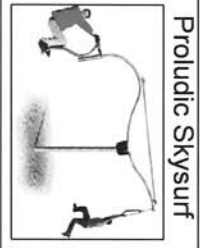
Timber sleeper traversing wall



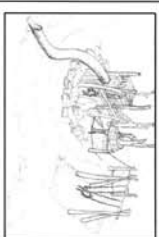
4.4m Swings



Pro ludic Skysurf



Bespoke Robinia 'Hilltop Fort' built onto mound including long tunnel slide



Bespoke Robinia suspension bridge spans 'Play Valley' & provides viewpoint & access



Kompan Spica spinning pole



Sutcliffe spinning dish



Safety surfacing under equipment to be either grass-mat, sand or pea gravel, semi-bound surfaces to other areas. Both formal and informal seating opportunities and litter bins will be provided at various locations



Sprothorough & Cusworth Parish Council

Friends of New Lane Park

department for children, schools and families



New Lane Play Space

NORMAN'S NAME LIVES ON

A *LONG-SERVING* parish councillor's name will live on through a fitting sporting link.

Parish councillors have agreed to name the sports pavilion at Anchorage Lane playing field the Norman Dent Sports Pavilion, in memory of Coun Dent who died earlier this year aged 85.

Norman, of Melling Avenue, Sprotbrough, served on the parish council for over 30 years, representing Park Ward.

In his younger days he played for Sprotbrough Cricket Club, first donning his whites at just 11 years old. In later years he maintained his links with the sport as an official responsible for inspecting local cricket pitches.

Norman was married to Pat - a former parish councillor - for 46 years and the Dent's interest in grass roots community service was passed on to son Paul, who also served as a parish councillor.

Pat said: "He loved being a councillor and had a real interest in helping to improve Sprotbrough and Cusworth through the work of the Parish council."

Parish council chairperson Doreen Woodhouse paid tribute, saying: "Norman gave his own time freely and frequently to serve the community and his commitment and encyclopaedic local knowledge will be sadly missed."

Parish councillors have also agreed to attach a small plaque in memory of Norman to his favourite chair in the committee room at The Goldsmith Centre.

A resident of Sprotbrough for over 80 years, Norman moved the short distance from Warmsworth with his family as a four year old. He became a childhood friend of wartime fighter ace Douglas Bader, who at the time lived at the old rectory on Boat Lane. He is survived by two sons, a daughter and stepson, 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Norman Dent

WELL-COME LOCAL Attraction

A '*HIDDEN*' piece of parish history is set to be recognised thanks to the work of a local voluntary group.

Members of Sprotbrough Preservation Association (SPA) are moving forward with their plans to mark the site of the former well and village pump that used to provide drinking water to the Lower Sprotbrough area, near the Boat Inn.

Their aim is to build a cairn, made from locally sourced stone, at the site of the former pump and place an explanatory plaque on the side.

The site is currently overgrown and the pump itself is long gone and we're not sure what happened to it. Members want to make the site safe whilst marking an important piece of local history.

SPA secretary Bernard Pearson, who lives close to the pump, said: "We're talking to the landowner, Lafarge, and they are supportive of the idea and we have earmarked some stone to use to make the cairn. It will be an interesting stopping off point for people visiting the Don Gorge or travelling along The Trans-Pennine Trail.

"The well is about 20' deep and two feet in diameter and has a brick wall. It has about 6' of water at the bottom which, when we last examined it, was crystal clear. I believe the well was sunk by workers from the former Copley estate, though I'm not sure when, and was last used in the 1920s, shortly before mains water supply was installed to Lower Sprotbrough."

SPA members are currently working on a design for the cairn, which it's thought will be around 3' high and 2'-6" wide when completed.

For more information contact Bernard Pearson on **01302 857291**

Parish Council Grants

DURING the 2009/10 financial year, parish councillors awarded grants worth a total of £2,720 to the following good causes:

- Active Under-5s Playgroup
- Sprotbrough Gardeners' Association
- Area 51 (skate park user group)
- Sprotbrough Music Society
- St Mary's Church roof appeal
- Mencap (charity helping people with a learning disability)
- Sprotbrough Residents Planning Group (to support the production of a Village Design Statement)
- Sue Ryder Homes (residential care for people with neurological conditions)
- SAFE@LAST (helping homeless under 16 year olds)

SAFE@LAST is a registered charity delivering services to young people who are 16 and under and at risk through running away from home. They work with children from South Yorkshire and provide preventative work, a helpline, on-going support and emergency refuge accommodation.

Better for you

IMPROVEMENTS have been made to the exterior of The Goldsmith Centre to make it easier to access the committee room entrance.

Potentially dangerous loose and cracked paving stones have been removed and replaced with a new tarmac surface, which is both safer and cleaner. It has also solved a long-standing drainage problem and also removed the need for on-going grass strimming and maintenance work.

Village Design Statement Launched

SPROTBROUGH residents have launched their very own planning blueprint, designed to protect and enhance the environment in which they live.

The 16 page document, complete with coloured pictures and illustrations and called the Village Design Statement (VDS), was wholeheartedly endorsed at a residents' meeting at St Mary's parish hall on 18th May.

It clearly spells out residents' views on how any future development should take place in the village, including:

- Guidance that any development must have clear regard for design, density and impact on surrounding areas
- The protection of the significant treescape in the village
- The protection of the Don Gorge
- Protecting public and green spaces, together with footpaths
- Possible extension of the conservation area
- Improved traffic management
- Protection of the green belt

One of the main aims of the VDS - a copy of which is being delivered to every home in Sprotbrough village - is as an aid for residents to make informed comments on planning applications which affect their area.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council has backed the project, with two councillors - Alan Smith and Kim Rolt - working with the steering committee that produced the document.

Andy Gutherson, Doncaster Council's Assistant Director of Development and Planning, attended the launch and highlighted



Parish council Chairperson Doreen Woodhouse outside the Old Rectory, one of the listed buildings in the village, with SNPG members Steve Merriman and Kevin Lennox.

the VDS's important contribution to planning issues in Sprotbrough and said it presented residents' views clearly.

He also said his planning officers dealing with applications for the village would use the VDS for reference and consultation.

For more information about the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Planning Group please contact:
Steve Merriman, 7 St Chad's Way, Sprotbrough, DN5 7LF
Tel: (01302) 853024
or email: sm014b3939@blueyonder.co.uk

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

THE following letter from former parish councillor Stephen Swift was published in the Yorkshire Post on 29 April, 2010:

"What a waste of money. Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council is having an election for three councillors that will cost the taxpayer thousands when co-option will cost nothing."

A response from the parish clerk was published in the same newspaper on 21 May, 2010. We are pleased to set the record straight for our readers by reprinting extracts from the clerk's letter:

"Unfortunately Stephen Swift's letter is totally inaccurate, incorrect and misleading - it is the electors (voters) of the parish who decide and not the parish council.

"The correct position is when a mid-term vacancy occurs on the parish council, the requisite number of electors (voters) in the parish have the democratic right to request an election for any vacancy.

"Once a valid request is made, and if more than one candidate's name is put forward, then legally an election must be held. A co-option to the parish council can only be made when electors (voters) in the parish do not request an election.

Elections are run on behalf of the parish council by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Elections are run as efficiently as possible and all costs are kept to a minimum, but there is a price to democracy."

Community Centre For Hire

PLANNING an event or activity and need some space? Then look no further than the facilities on offer at The Goldsmith Centre on Sprotbrough Road. The prices take some beating and there's a special discount rate for people living in the parish:

	Hall (£ per hour)	Committee Room (£ per hour)
Parishioners: private functions: Non-profit making clubs/societies: Voluntary groups:	12.50	10.00
Non-parishioners: private functions:	18.50	14.00
Block bookings for adult classes run as a commercial venture:	14.00	15.50
Children's parties - minimum three hours	13.50	n/a

Commercial hire for purely personal gain: **Individually considered at time of application**

Additions: Performing rights fees. Where music is played. (Not applicable to private parties). Add **£1.20** per booking

For more information, or to make a booking, ring Tom Hinds on **01302 788093**

FIRST AGAIN



PARISH Council Chairperson Doreen Woodhouse congratulates Josh Lowe, who made it two wins on the run by crossing the line first at this year's Sprotbrough scouts 6.5km road race. The youngster set a new personal best of 22 mins 41 secs - 31 seconds faster than his winning time last year.

Nearly 160 runners took part, helping raise around £4000 for scout funds. The gala was also first use of the scouts' new three pole marquee, bought following fund raising by the scouts supporters group and a donation from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Results by age/category

Winner (16-32)	Josh Lowe 22.41
8-11 boy	Thomas Hall 29.00
8-11 girl	Kayleigh Allison 33.46
12-15 boy	Samuel Walton 28.15
12-15 girl	Amber Huddart 41.05
16-39 female	Joanne Wedlock 33.10 (and first Sprotbrough female)
40-59 male	Jon McArthur 26.11
40-59 female	Heather Towndrow 36.25
Veteran male	Paul Ashcroft 32.58
First Sprotbrough male	Sam Booker 24.22
First scout	Tom Douthwaite 33.53

It went with a Big Bang

COFFEE-POWERED cars and bridges made of spaghetti were just some of the exhibits on show at the Big Bang Exhibition at the Manchester Centre, which was featured on Sky TV.

But, arguably, the pick of the crop was the display from Ridgewood and its feeder schools. Pupils showcased a range of their impressive engineering facilities and the trophies gained from a number of national and regional competitions, including the Formula One Challenge and Rolls Royce Trophy.

The Ridgewood students spoke confidently to numerous visitors about a variety of issues, including engineering careers, courses, and the school's links with local industries and universities. DVDs about engineering activities at the school, together with new curriculum innovations, were well received by the large audience.



Ridgewood's feeder schools entered the Primary Engineer competition and Barnburgh school Key Stage 1 team came second in the National Competition. They also received a prestigious Special Award for Engineering Innovation by the Royal Institute of Engineering.

Calling all Parents & Carers

Why not give the Active Under-5s Playgroup a try? We're conveniently based at The Goldsmith Centre, on Sprotbrough Road. This little ditty sums us up:

*Painting, play-dough, and outdoor play,
Why not have a cuppa during your stay?
There's water play and dressing up - they're never stood around,
Try playing an instrument to make the loudest sound.
Come along, join in, give it a go
Or just sit down and go with the flow
You owe it to yourself to check us out,
Our facilities are the best without a doubt.*

- First visit free
- New £30k outdoor play area.
- Lots of activities for all
- Soft area for the tiny ones
- Qualified staff to NVQ level 5 and SENCO co-ordinator

OFSTED registered. Our latest report stated "Children settle happily and develop confidence in a very friendly atmosphere" Everyone receives a warm welcome. Let your child experience the development we have to offer.

What's on

Playgroup - Mums and Tots: Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am - 11.00am

Ofsted sessions - Preparation for Nursery: Monday 12.30pm - 3.00pm; Wednesday 9.00am - 11.30am; Friday 9.00am - 11.30am

Early Ofsted: Monday 9.00am - 11.30am

KEEP THE CRIMINALS AT BAY

By PC Lynne Walker, Sprotbrough's Community Beat Manager

THE past few months have seen intermittent but on-going burglaries in the Sprotbrough area. The spate isn't confined to a particular area or estate but is happening across the full length and breadth of Sprotbrough.

Houses on Sprotbrough Road, Ivanhoe Close, Ingleborough Drive, Melton Road, Millstream Close and Spring Lane are just some of the streets that have been targeted. Most have had entry forced but still one or two have been 'sneak in' burglaries where the burglars have walked in via an un-locked door. Prevent this from happening by keeping your door locked throughout the day and night!

There have been various sightings of between one and four males acting suspiciously in estates. If you do see anyone acting suspiciously and feel that they're up to no good, please ring the Police. We'd rather attend a false call with good intent or a genuine call which deters any 'would-be' offenders than not attend at all.

Be warned, as well, of car crime occurring in the areas of Cromwell Drive and Marlborough Avenue. And remember, crime isn't just confined to the areas mentioned.

To report a crime or live incident

Call South Yorkshire Police on 01142 20 20 20

To report a crime anonymously

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

To contact Doncaster West Safer Neighbourhood Team

Call 01302 385178

The safer neighbourhood team is made up of police officers, police community support officers and Doncaster Council community safety wardens and are there to help make Sprotbrough and Cusworth a better place to live in.

For Doncaster Council **Call 01302 736000**

This was Lynne's last article as she retired from South Yorkshire Police in June 2010. Our thanks and best wishes for the future. Lynne's replacement is PC Dan Lindley who can be contacted on 01302 385178

TRANS PENNINE TRAIL

FIND out more about the Trans Pennine Trail, which cuts through our parish, by visiting www.transpenninetrail.org.uk

Support your local garden shop

SUMMER'S here and there's no better time to join your local garden shop.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Garden Association's garden shop is run by volunteers and has everything you need for a bloomin' good garden. Why pay garden centre prices when you can take advantage of fertiliser, plant and lawn products at discount prices?

Membership is just £2 a year, or £1 if you are over 65.

We are situated at the right hand side of The Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough Road, and open:

Wednesday 2pm - 3.30pm (plus 6.30pm to 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month).
Sunday 10.30am - 12noon

For more information ring the secretary, Colin Severn, on **01302 784616**.

Don't miss our annual show at The Goldsmith Centre on 11th September, 2010. Children welcome to enter free.

THIS YEAR'S PARISH PRECEPT

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council's precept (parish rate) for the 2010/11 financial year - which funds the running of the council and the services and activities it provides - is £140,195

Against Parish Council Advice

AREA 51, the name of the local skate park user group, have submitted a full planning application to extend the Anchorage Lane skate park, against the wishes of local residents.

Councillors confirmed to Area 51 before the group submitted the planning application that the parish council has no surplus funds or other resources to support the maintenance and increased operating costs associated with a larger skate park.

The Autumn 2009 edition of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News reported on a public consultation exercise which found that that residents who live close to the skate park were against the proposed extension to the site. The parish council continues to support their stance.

BE A FRIEND OF CUSWORTH PARK

IF you would like to find out more about becoming a friend, including details of talks, visits and demonstrations, ring the secretary on **01302 782342**

Enjoy The Great Outdoors On Your Doorstep

ARE you interested in local conservation and have a few hours spare to take part in local voluntary work to improve the area?

If so, the Don Gorge Community Group's conservation volunteers would like to hear from you. They meet fortnightly, on a Tuesday, at the Boat Inn car park, and take part in activities like repairing fences and cutting back foliage near the Trans Pennine Trail from 10am to 4pm.

Currently up to 15 people meet up under the supervision of Doncaster Council countryside warden Dennis Roe. Equipment is provided, just come along in suitable clothing and footwear. For more information ring Bernard Pearson on 01302 857291.

Councillor Steve Platt is Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council's representative on the Don Gorge Community Group.

Visitor Centre - The Community Group is looking at options for a new visitor centre at the Don Gorge. One suggestion is a 'floating' version based on a barge moored alongside the Boat Inn.

Parking - members have been examining opportunities for creating additional parking areas close to the Don Gorge, including a site in woodland close to the Boat Inn car park.

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

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 (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

Carole Greenhalgh (Conservative)

16 Park Avenue, Sprotbrough, Doncaster DN5 7LW

Tel: 564672

Keith Oades (Conservative)

39 Crompton Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8ED

Tel: 783668

Alan Smith Vice Chairperson (Conservative)

38 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NJ

Tel: 785578

Malcolm Wood (Labour)

119 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU

Tel: 786864

PARK WARD COUNCILLORS

Martin Greenhalgh (Conservative)

16 Park Avenue, Sprotbrough, Doncaster DN5 7LW

Tel: 564672

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)

6 Barnburgh Hall Gardens, Barnburgh,

Doncaster, DN5 7DS

Tel: 01709 893457

OFFICERS

Anita Unsworth - Clerk to the Parish Council

Tom Hinds - Deputy Clerk

Ian Carpenter - Editor and webmaster

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough,

DN5 8BP. Tel: 01302 788093 (Answerphone outside office hours)

Email: admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk

Website: www.sc-pc.co.uk