



Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News

Published by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council. Please recycle after reading. *Summer 2022*

A night to remember

THURSDAY 2 June, proved to be one of the key highlights of the year so far, when an estimated 2,500 people headed to Cusworth Hall to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style.

It was the biggest event in Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council's history, masterminded by parish clerk Emma Garner in partnership with our friends at Cusworth Hall and many supportive groups and individuals who provided attractions to make it a night to remember.

The Hall grounds were a sea of friends and families enjoying being together on a warm, balmy night as this superb atmospheric photo - kindly supplied by Sprotbrough-based professional photographer Shaun Flannery - captures. It was taken just as the commemorative beacon was lit.



Before that, hundreds of visitors went into Cusworth Hall to see a special Jubilee exhibition; local poet Phillip Dawson-Hammond read out a poem he had written specially for the occasion; and it was all hands to the pumps at the onsite Old Brewhouse, where the drinks were flowing. All in all a memorable evening.

The feedback we received suggested that our residents want to see the parish council involved in organising more community events. We have listened and taken onboard what you have said and already marked down a number over the coming months as the chart on this page shows.

Shortly before we went to press we worked with a local resident to stage a Summer Fair at the Goldsmith Centre, featuring lots of children's activities, local business stalls, music and refreshments, which raised vital funds for Doncaster's Firefly cancer awareness and support charity.

As this newsletter is being distributed the Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival is ready to launch, with the parish council being the main sponsor.

We hope you will support and enjoy the events we have pencilled in so far and please let us have your ideas for future activities by emailing sprotcuspc@btconnect.com

You can keep in touch with our work as a parish council by visiting our website:

www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk and following us on facebook and twitter.

We also have notice boards in the parish, Look out for this new one alongside the Goldsmith Centre boundary wall, facing Sprotbrough Road.



Beacon lighting image

shot on a Canon R5 with Canon RF 24-70mm F2.8 at 24mm - ISO: 1250 1/60th sec at F3.2

shaunflanneryphotography.com



Breakfast club support

THE parish council has donated £250 to support the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) charity's breakfast club at the Goldsmith Centre during the six weeks long schools' summer holidays. Free breakfasts will be provided 9am - 10am every Friday, before the start of the NCT's Bumps, Babies and Beyond playgroup.

We have also granted £100 to support a book club the group is looking to start.

Events schedule 2022/23

2022

Scarecrow Festival	Sat/Sun 3/4 September	Sprotbrough	
Halloween Panto - The Panto Zone	Wed 26 October	Goldsmith Centre	5pm
Sprotbrough Christmas Lights switch on	Sat 26 November	Sprotbrough	4.30-6pm
Christmas Festival	Sat/Sun 17/18 December	Goldsmith Centre	
Christmas Pantomime - Dick Whittington	Thurs 19 December	Goldsmith Centre	12pm and 3pm

2023

Easter Pantomime	Sat 1 April	Goldsmith Centre	12pm and 3pm
Summer Festival	TBC May/ June	Cusworth Hall	

A big thank you

COUNCILLOR Cynthia Ransome has paid tribute to two community stalwarts who have retired from a local conservation group after many years of voluntary service.

Liz and Mick Reeve, who live at Lower Sprotbrough, have stepped down from their involvement in the Don Gorge Community Group (DGCG) to enjoy more free time. Liz has been Chair, Treasurer and Secretary of the group at various times and Mick was the Volunteers' Co-ordinator.

Cllr Ransome, who for a number of years was the parish council's representative on the DGCG, said: "The local community owe a debt of gratitude to Liz and Mick for their active involvement in helping to protect and preserve the impressive Don Gorge, which is a natural beauty spot on our doorstep. I wish them well in the future."

A new DGCG has been formed and Cllr Glenn Bluff sits on it as the parish council's representative.

Liz said: "We would like to thank the parish council for their good wishes for the future, as well as all those who have supported them in their various roles within the DGCG since they returned to their home at Lower Sprotborough in December 2002. As someone who had lived in the Gorge for the first 21 years of life, Liz fulfilled a desire to return home in retirement and both she and Mick were more than willing to play their part in the preservation, conservation and promotion of one of the most beautiful areas of Doncaster, if not South Yorkshire."



Mick and Liz Reeve

Goldsmith Centre refurbishment

A MAJOR refurbishment of the Goldsmith Centre will see new fire doors, toilets and kitchen improvements as part of our modernisation programme for the popular community centre which hosts many community groups and events each week.

Our next major capital project will be the creation of a modern play area to replace the existing outmoded equipment alongside the Centre, but this is subject to securing the necessary financial resources to enable improvement work to take place.

Mindless damage

SADLY, we have had to repair one of the swings at the Anchorage Lane play area due to vandalism. It cost £100 to put right and is another example of the cost of mindless damage to a park that is only a couple of years old.

Meanwhile, the basket swing at New Lane has taken longer than expected to be repaired due to the supplier having manufacturing difficulties, hence the long delay.



Picnic time at Newlands

A NEW wildlife and picnic area is planned for a copse area at Newlands Park, following a clean-up and clearing of some vegetation. An online survey carried out by the parish council found that local people want to see a mix of picnic tables and benches installed at the site to encourage families to enjoy the fresh air and play opportunities.

A few months ago, parish councillors and staff took part in a clean up at the park, filling several sacks full of litter and other discarded rubbish.

New members welcome

A Sprotbrough Rainbows, Brownies and Guides group is recruiting again after its numbers reduced during the Covid lockdowns.

Rainbows 5-7 years
Sprotbrough Methodist Church Hall
Thursday 4.45pm-5.45pm. (There is currently a waiting list for Rainbows)

Brownies 7-10 Years, 2 Groups available
Sprotbrough Methodist Church Hall
Monday 6.15pm-7.45pm
Thursday 6pm-7.30pm

Guides 10-14 Years
Sprotbrough Community Library
Monday 7pm-8.30pm
To register your daughter's interest please follow this link:
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Are you eligible for a grant?

EVERY year the parish council awards a number of small grants to local worthy causes that benefit residents living in the area we serve.

Over the years these grants have helped make a difference to many voluntary organisations that are doing great work in our communities. So don't miss out on an opportunity to boost your fund-raising. Check out the guidance notes by visiting www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants

You can either fill in the online form or print the pdf and send the completed version to the parish council office at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough Road.

SMALL CHANGES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IN their latest Environment and Sustainability Update, Doncaster Council put the parish council under the 'spotlight' for the work we have been doing on sustainability and climate change:

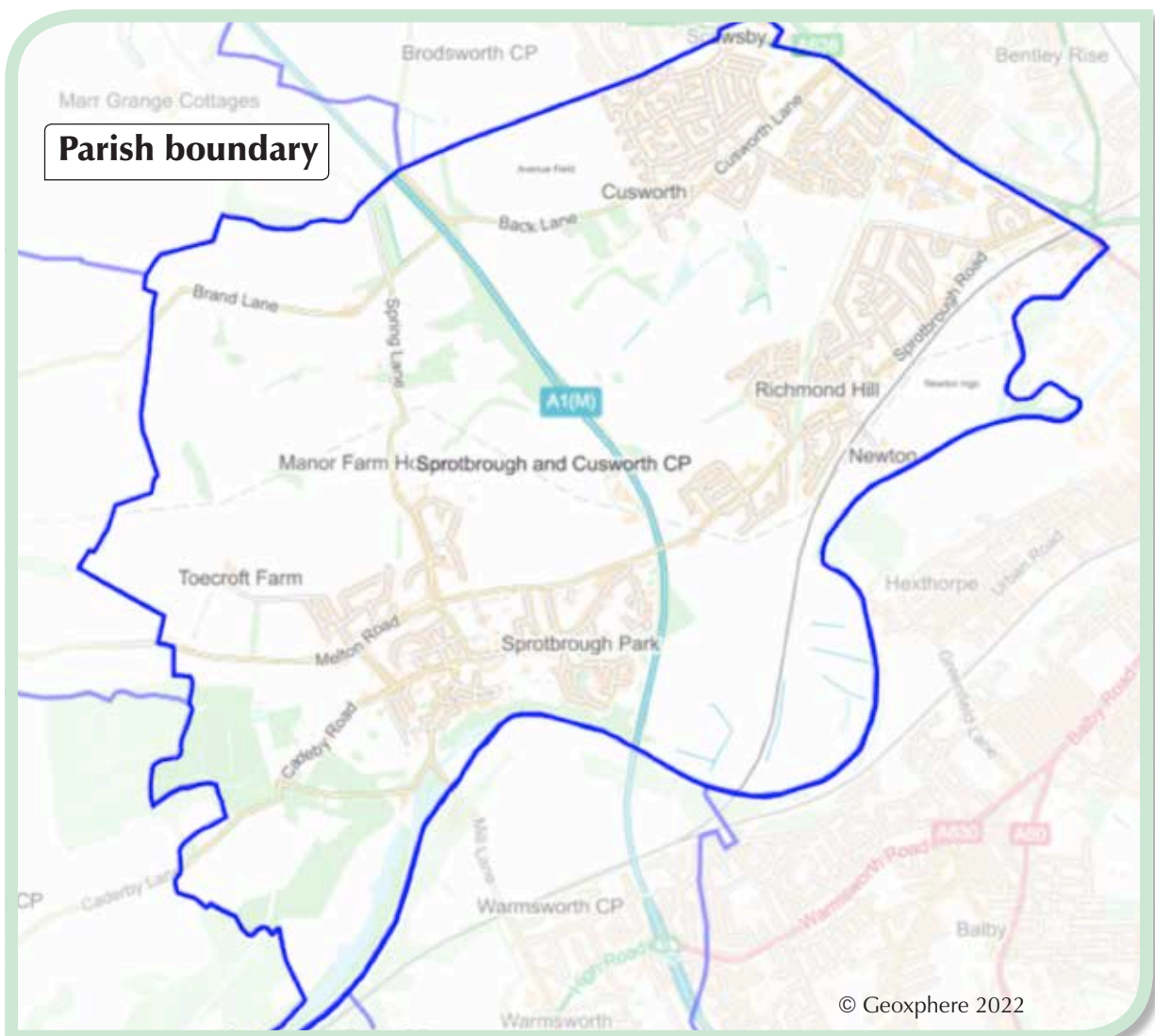
Spotlight: Sprotbrough & Cusworth PC

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council initiated a Climate Change Working Group back in September 2021 following their declaration of a Climate Emergency. The group drafted an action plan which was agreed at full council. Since then Sprotbrough and Cusworth PC have:

- Installed new recycling bins within their Goldsmith Centre, helping staff and visitors to recycle effectively
- Provided subsidised water butts for residents
- Planted 60 trees at Anchorage Park
- Provided litter picking equipment for local groups and residents to help improve public space within the parish
- Engaged communities across the parish to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, and agreed to subsidise the cost of providing small fruit trees to residents.

The Parish Council are also working on a range of food waste resources for local residents, and are looking at ways to lower their own carbon footprint. The co-development and sharing of such resources, experience and knowledge will be beneficial to Parish and Town Councils of all sizes when working with communities.

Exploring Sprotbrough and Cusworth



Qualified guide for visually impaired runners

THE local Broddy Pit Top Runners are encouraging blind or visually impaired people to join their social group now they have a qualified guide runner in Keith Allen.

Keith, who has gained his guide running licence from English Athletics, will offer support and encouragement to anyone who wants to team up with the Runners. For more information on Keith visit www.findaguide.co.uk and type in Doncaster on the link.

Keith is pictured far right on this pic of runners, taken by group leader David Duffy. Visit the Broddy Pit Top Runners facebook page.



PARISH NEWS IN BRIEF

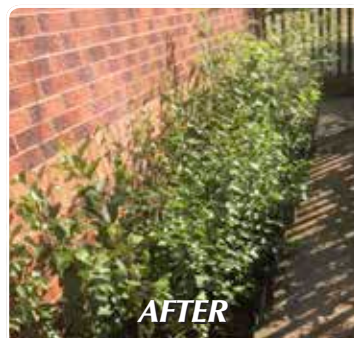
- **THANKS** to the resident who reported that lids had been removed from the culvert at Newlands Park, creating a safety hazard. Our site manager Steve Hutchinson has now drilled them back on. If you see any damaged equipment on parish council property, please report it on **01302 788093**
- **THE** Goldsmith Centre, on Sprotbrough Road, is now an official water refill station where people can top up their drinking water containers when passing. There are now more than 274,000 refill stations across the world - visit www.refill.org.uk to find out more.
- **OUR** 'pilot' water saving scheme, which offered parishioners a discount for purchasing a water butt direct from the parish council, has proved popular, with 50 being bought by residents. Experts suggest that people on a water meter who irrigate their gardens regularly can save up to £8.50 a month on their summer bills by connecting a water butt to their gutters. We are looking to repeat the scheme next year.

All the parish council's sites now have water butts in place

- **THE** Plant a Tree for the Jubilee initiative we launched to commemorate the Queen's Platinum anniversary resulted in parishioners applying for 20 fruit trees to plant in their garden, all supplied free of charge by the parish council.
- **PARISH** councillor Stephen Swift is reminding dog walkers that green garden waste bins are not for disposing of dog 'poo' bags. He spoke to a resident whose green bin had been left unemptied after the council contractor saw a poo bag under the lid, apparently been put there by a dog walker.
- **AND** a good tip for gardeners from Councillor Swift - get the best from your home-made compost by leaving it for three years! By the third year it will have turned to soil.
- **A REMINDER** that tickets for this year's Halloween Pantomime on Wednesday 26 October will go on sale on Monday 5 September. Ring the parish council office on **01302 788093**. The show will be staged by The Panto Zone and is for youngsters of all ages.
- **WE'VE** had some scorching weather during the summer and the temptation is for local youngsters to 'cool off' in the canal at Sprotbrough and other local waterways. Parents - please tell them not to, as there are hidden dangers beneath the surface and the water is very cold. Sadly, many youngsters across the country have died this year after entering waterways - they are a dangerous playground.
- **IF** you would like to create a home for our feathered friends, please type the following link into your browser - it's a simple guide to making a bird box: <https://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/providing-birds/putting-nest-boxes-birds/make-nest-box>

We plan to fix some bird boxes to the trees at Newlands Park, so if anyone would like to make one and donate it to that project, please contact us on **01302 788093**.

- **THE** rowan, wild cherry and silver birch saplings are coming on nicely after being lovingly nurtured by our Anchorage Lane site manager Kerry Wood. What a difference a few months makes as these 'before and after' photos show. Kindly donated by the Woodland Trust, they will eventually be planted at Anchorage Lane.



WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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