

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Winter 2005

Pitch Scheme Dropped. New Ideas Wanted

PARISH councillors' plans to create a new full-size football pitch in Sprotbrough have hit the rocks.

Councillors had planned to introduce the new pitch on a patch of land alongside New Lane playing field which they plan to lease from Doncaster Council.

But the results of a feasibility study mean the scheme will have to be kicked into touch on cost grounds as the land would need a lot of attention before a pitch could be laid.

Doncaster Council obtained the land through a Section 106 planning agreement with developers who built six new homes on Melton Road at the entrance to Sprotbrough. As part of the planning consent the land and a cash sum of **£40,000** was given to Doncaster Council which in turn has passed it on to the parish council to use to provide a new community resource.



The Land as it is Now.

Parish councillors opted to examine the potential of providing a football pitch with the possibility of developing an on-site changing room at a later date. They commissioned a specialist firm to carry out a feasibility study but the findings proved bad news, including:

- an existing overhead power line would have to be buried underground at considerable cost;
- the land is badly drained and would need a new drainage system installing;
- the subsoil is very rocky and would not support a well drained pitch without thousands of tons of top soil being removed and screened.

Councillors discussed the findings at the last meeting of the parish council's Policy and General Purposes Committee, and faced with the prospect of incurring massive costs to take the football pitch forward decided to give the scheme the thumbs-down.

Committee chairperson Coun Paul Dent said: "The scheme would simply be too expensive to continue with. We were faced with tree clearance, cable re-location, new drainage, sand-dressing and re-seeding in order to create a good quality pitch. This coupled with the high stone content put the cost beyond our means.

"We have looked at other options for the site but we really would like to know how local people would like to see it developed. There are ideas, such as a keep-fit 'trim track' or an open space for quiet relaxation. Let us have your ideas and all will be considered."

- Have you got a view on what you would like the land to become? Please let us know by 31 January 2006. Contact the Clerk or Deputy Clerk at Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council, The Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 8BP or email us via the 'contact us' section of our website www.sc-pc.co.uk

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Experts show how it's done...

LOCAL enthusiasts raced along to a thrilling master-class on wheels when two top members of world famous Team Extreme hit the jump ramps at the parish council's Anchorage Lane skate park.

BMX expert Ronnie Remo and Mike Mullen and skateboard star Jak Tonge joined forces to present the highly acclaimed sports development event - including workshop and coaching sessions - which attracted nearly 100 young people to watch and take part.

And it was all free - thanks to Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council securing **£18,000** in generous grants from Barclays Spaces for Sports and the Football Foundation, which must be spent on sport development at the skate park. The money funded the six-hour long event, which was organised by Groundwork Dearne Valley in partnership with Anchorage Lane Skate Park User Group, and will pay for more in the future.

Councillor Paul Dent, chair of the parish council's Policy and General Purposes Committee, said: "It was a superb event, well organised and equally well supported by local young people. I was amazed at the skills many of them had and the day really underlined the value of building a skate park in the parish. In the short time it has been open it has become one of the most popular attractions in the area".



No fear - this local rider shows off his dare-devil skills



Paul Dent with Kendra Breckon, community officer with sponsors Barclays Spaces for Sports.

Dorset-based Team Extreme formed 16 years ago and since then has performed top notch sports displays all over the world, including Cape Town, Monte Carlo, Beirut and Barcelona as well as extensively in the UK. The company has signed up many of the UK's top professional skateboarders, BMXers and inline skaters, many of whom compete regularly and hold world, European and national titles.

Parish councillors thanked volunteers from the 28th St Edmunds Scouts who provided top notch refreshments for the event.

Anchorage Lane skate park opened earlier this year, funded by Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council, with grants from waste recycling business WREN and Barclays Bank's Spaces for Sports scheme. Dubbed one of the best of its kind in the Doncaster area, the design includes various ramps and a large bowl, together with a seated area and a grid at the entrance to prevent dogs from entering the area.

The skate park users group are hoping to secure a grant to decorate the park with modern artwork and cover areas with an anti-graffiti protective coating.



Team Extreme stars BMX riders Ronnie Remo and Mike Mullen and, kneeling, skateboarder Jak Tonge.

My View...

...Christmas - Past & Present

By parish council vice chair Fred Thompson

At this time of year I often think of Scrooge and The Ghost of Christmas Past, for it reminds me of Christmas as it was when I was much younger.

Christmas used to be the high spot of the year. Preparations began in early November when cakes, puddings and mince pies were home made. In mid-December the Christmas Club money was spent in Mr Kemp's local grocery shop. He had a huge stock of once a year luxury food and drink. The church choir went carol singing around the country mansions and on Christmas Eve there was the midnight service. Then the early wake-up on Christmas morning wondering what treasures the bulging pillow cases held.

The war brought austerity although by careful management housewives managed to keep the festive spirit alive. For many young men it was a time of separation from family and friends. I had one Christmas at home when I joined up; it was overshadowed by embarkation leave.

One Christmas in India was spent in the sick bay, two more in places where palm trees grew and holly never did.

World champs brave 'inTENTS' pressure

A PAIR of local scout leaders beat off howling wind, freezing snow and torrential rain to earn their place in the record books as world tent pitching champions.

Graham Hunt, pictured, from Sprotbrough, and Wayne Clark, from Scawsby, braved extreme conditions in London's normally tranquil Earls Court and still managed to pitch a two-man tent in the impressive time of just two minutes 57 seconds. The dynamic duo beat off teams from France, Italy and Poland to land the title and a prize of some top notch camping equipment.

And it all happened by chance, as Graham, a leader with the 28th St Edmunds Scouts, explained: "We were on a scouting weekend down south when the heats for the tournament were taking place on the campsite. We entered for a laugh and did so well we got through to the final, which took place at the national Camping and Outdoor Show.

"The competition was judged on speed but to make things trickier the organisers blasted us with wind, rain and snow machines as we pitched the tent. We really looked like we had been through the mill when we finished."

● FACTFILE: Sprotbrough's 28th St Edmunds Scouts rent their meeting hut on Anchorage Lane from Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council.



College life in London, post war, despite a diet of whale-meat and strict rationing, brought wonderful parties though students then took no pleasure in binge drinking. Mature students were planning new careers, mine would take me overseas. Christmas in Nigeria had cold, starry nights like that of the first Christmas at Bethlehem. We watched the children welcoming Santa riding in on a camel and we listened to the Queen's speech on a crackling BBC world service transmission after the traditional turkey dinner. I had one Christmas climbing Mt. Cameroon and one with the super backdrop of the snow capped Ruwenzori mountains in Uganda.

Wonderful, memorable times. Can we bring back the magic? Can we recover the real meaning of Christmas? We could and we should for it was and should be the greatest day of the year.

Bee a local buyer

A SPROTBROUGH bee-keeper has his honey products showcased in a guide to local food producers in South Yorkshire.

Danum Apiaries, run by former parish councillor Phil Cunningham from his home at Brompton Road, Sprotbrough, appears in this year's South Yorkshire Local Food Directory. The business produces various honey types from sites in South Yorkshire, including a farm at Denaby, as well as beeswax, candles and polish. For more information ring Doncaster 852435 or email: phil.cunningham@freenet.co.uk

The local food directory is produced by the Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which campaigns for the protection and enhancement of the countryside for the benefit of all. Copies are available at Sprotbrough library.

Website continues to develop...

SPROTBROUGH and Cusworth Parish Council's website is going from strength to strength.

The agenda and minutes for the various parish council committees can now be viewed 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 find us at www.sc-pc.co.uk

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'.

If you have any ideas for improving the site, or 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.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

THE former changing room 'portacabin' on Anchorage Lane will disappear soon - hopefully at no cost to the parish council.

The building has stood empty since being replaced by a brick pavilion over two years ago. Councillors have tried to sell the portacabin but with no buyers coming forward it looked like they would have to fund the safe disposal of the structure.

That was until Doncaster Council's Community First stepped in with an offer to take the building off the parish council's hands free of charge. It will soon be enjoying a new lease of life in the Denaby area where it will provide much needed changing facilities for five junior football teams. Once removed, the parish council plans to use the space it previously occupied to extend the car park at Anchorage Lane.

SPROTBROUGH FIRST RESPONDER HELPS SAVE A LIFE

A SPROTBROUGH woman has had an emotional reunion with the man whose life she helped to save.

Educational psychologist Marjory Russell, a member of Sprotbrough First Responders' team, was driving to a school at Balby when she spotted a crowd gathered around a man who had collapsed and looked very ill.

Marjory suspected he had suffered a heart attack and immediately put the training she had received from South Yorkshire Ambulance Service (SYAS) into action. The man was not breathing and the faint pulse that she initially found then stopped. She put him on his back and began giving him cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) emergency life support. When the ambulance arrived, emergency medical technician Steve Boundy and paramedic Tony Bramall were so impressed with Marjory's efforts they asked her to carry on helping in the back of the ambulance.

Once 58-year-old Sid Whittle was stable he was taken from Balby to Doncaster Royal Infirmary and then transferred to Sheffield's Northern General Hospital for further treatment. Steve and Tony were so impressed with the way Marjory applied her skills they invited her to Doncaster Ambulance Station and presented her with a certificate of commendation and she got the chance to meet Sid again. An emotional Sid said: "If Marjory hadn't stopped to help I wouldn't be here today."

Marjory said she was just glad to help and was pleased to learn that the man had recovered. She said: "I was worried that Sid would die if I didn't do something, so I got him on his back and did CPR. Once we were in the ambulance I could feel him making an effort to breathe under my hands. I was a bit late for school, but I had a good excuse.

"It was great seeing Sid again and looking so well this time."

Sprotbrough has a six strong team of qualified First Responders who have been trained by South Yorkshire Ambulance Service paramedics to provide immediate care to people in the local area who :

- have collapsed;
- are showing signs of having a heart attack; or
- are having difficulty breathing.

Members, who are all volunteers, give up a few hours of their time each week to go on a local rota. Whilst on duty they can be called on to respond to calls in the Sprotbrough area to administer treatment until an ambulance crew arrives.

The service is put into action once a 999 call has been received and an ambulance has been despatched.

The members have been trained in resuscitation techniques and the use of a defibrillator - used to deliver a controlled electric shock to the heart - as well as other skills to enable them to deal with incidents confidently. SYAS has kitted out the team with a £1600 defibrillator, oxygen cylinder and other equipment, plus a mobile telephone link to the ambulance service's communications centre at Rotherham. Importantly, the skills members learn can be applied at any time, as Marjory did at Balby. She was not on duty at the time, but none of the people who had gathered round the man knew how to help him.

Currently there are over 180 First Responders in South Yorkshire, attached to 23 community schemes like the one operating in Sprotbrough.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council is backing the Sprotbrough First Responders' team by allowing them to use the Goldsmith Centre free of charge for their six-weekly refresher training sessions. Councillors were so impressed with the volunteers' commitment to helping the local community that earlier this year they awarded a grant to pay for a special fluorescent jacket for each member. If you would like more information about the scheme, or are interested in joining, please contact David Smith or Julia Massey at South Yorkshire Ambulance Service on 01709 820520 ext 857. They would also like to hear from anyone interested in starting a similar scheme in Cusworth or Scawsby.



Marjory and Sid reunited

LIVE MUSIC IN SPROTBROUGH

SPROTBROUGH Music Society is bringing two top musicians to the village next month.

On Thursday 12 January, Anna Wolstenholme, on flute, and Alexis White, on piano, will perform at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Anna studied at Cambridge University with the Royal College of Music and Alex was a student of the Yehudi Menuhin School before being awarded a scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music.

For more information about this and other concerts in the Society's 2005/06 Season - including the Golano, Hacker, Frith Trio on 16 February and Archaeus String Quartet on 23 March - ring the membership secretary, Mrs J. Liversidge, on Doncaster 853430.

- Sprotbrough Music Society receives financial support from Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council.

FEED THE BIRDS

GIVE the wild birds a helping hand ready for Spring by hiding a nest box in the hedge and another high up on the wall. Sparrows like terraced nest boxes. Put them in the shade, not in the hot sun. Feed the birds all-the-year-round food. Wild birds are getting fewer and fewer and we need to take on the responsibility for their well-being.

Scabba Wood Update

A SPROTBROUGH woman who believes her son's leukaemia has been caused by emissions from the nearby Scabba Wood landfill site has vowed to continue her campaign to close the tip even though local health chiefs say there is no link.

Lorraine Bonsall, whose son David has the disease, presented an 800-name petition demanding the closure of the Cadeby Road site to owners Waste Recycling Group, who then invited her to come and see tipping operations at first hand.

Doncaster public health chiefs have pointed to the findings of a large study into the health effects of living adjacent to landfill sites which concluded that there was no association found between leukaemia and living next to landfill.

But following concerns raised by local people about a decision to extend the life of the Scabba Wood beyond its planned closure this year, the parish council wrote to Doncaster Council asking when tipping operations will stop. The reply from the borough council's Minerals and Waste Planning Team said the tip had now reached its maximum approved height but that, allowing for settling, additional tipping would be needed to achieve the overall contours required for the agreed restoration programme.

What we understand so far is that:

- Tipping is likely to continue until May 2006 and will be followed by a programme of bringing in soil to deposit on the site, which is likely to last until Autumn 2006.
- The height of the restored tip will be three metres above the highest point of Cadeby Road adjacent to the site.
- The slopes of the restored site will be relatively shallow.

Doncaster Council said that under the terms of the planning permission for the site - which was granted by the former South Yorkshire County Council in 1986 - the site must be completed and restored by March 2011, and the operators can legitimately continue operating until that date. The borough council said it had little or no powers to close the site prematurely, though the operators have said they expect to cease tipping in May 2006.

FESTIVE CRIME MENU

Served up by South Yorkshire Police to help you have a happy Christmas

STARTERS

Shop-a-holly

When the shops are crowded, the pickpocket has more of a chance to steal from you. Try and shop during quieter times if you can, however this is not always possible. Always stay alert and be extra careful with your wallet or purse, keep it close to your body and try and pay for items with a debit card rather than carrying too much cash. If you do use a cash machine be aware of your surroundings when keying in your PIN number and withdrawing your cash. Put your cash away before moving from the machine. Don't be distracted. If someone gets too close to you or you feel uncomfortable, cancel the transaction and walk away. And never write down your PIN number.

Gone in 60 seconds

If you travel into Doncaster or another town using your car, always park in a well-lit area. Remember to put recently bought gifts out of sight in the boot, along with other items thieves find attractive, such as laptops, satellite navigation systems and mobile phones.

MAIN COURSE

Your pad

Having spent a fortune on all those presents don't make it easy for someone to steal them. Keep them out of sight and away from prying eyes until last thing on Christmas Eve. Remember, thieves window shop, too. Always take handbags, wallets and car keys up to bed with you. If you go out for the evening, leave some lights on and perhaps a radio. This will give the impression your home is occupied.

Cardboard heaven

Once all those gifts have been opened please dispose of any empty cardboard boxes that once contained expensive electrical equipment. If you leave them outside your home you may be advertising to the criminal what Santa has left behind.

Christmas dreams

If you are lucky enough to be going away at Christmas there are a few things you could do to prevent any nasty shocks on your return. Try and make your home look like it's still occupied. Ask for help from your neighbours if you can. You could ask them to collect your post, open and close your curtains, or even park their car on your drive occasionally.

Before you leave, remember to cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries. Lock all outside doors and windows and if you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is serviced regularly and set before you leave.

DESSERT

Don't be a clown in town

Never leave your coats or bags on the backs of chairs; busy places make it easier for the sneak thief. Try and plan your evening in advance, get your cash out of the cash machine during the day and not at night. Use available public transport, it's safer and quicker than walking.

Mobile madness

If you use your mobile phone at night be aware of who is around you. Mobiles attract robbers. Set your phone to vibrate rather than a loud ring tone and be discrete when using it. Avoid walking and texting as all you are doing is showing a potential thief what type of phone you have. Keep a record of your phone's serial number. To obtain yours key into your handset *#06#. If you lose your phone or have it stolen, give this number to your service provider who will block your phone.

Don't blink when you drink

Never leave your drink unattended or accept drinks from strangers as you never know what they may have added. If someone in your party has had too much to drink look after them, ring for a taxi and stay with them until they are home safely. Go out in a group, stay as a group, go home as a group. Look after your friends and don't let others take advantage of them. And do not walk home alone!

Christmas crime advice

If you would like further crime prevention advice please ring 0114 2 20 20 20 and ask to speak to your local crime reduction officer or visit: www.southyorks.police.uk and click on 'Crime Reduction'.

See it - report it

If you see a crime take place dial 999 and ask for the police, or if you have information about a crime call CRIMESTOPPERS anonymously on 0800 555111. Just tell them what you know not who you are. The information you give may lead to a financial reward.

An ICE idea

A MOBLE phone can play a vital role when minutes matter in an emergency.

South Yorkshire Ambulance Service is urging people to store emergency contact details in their mobile phones because paramedics are sometimes unable to get contact details from shocked or injured patients.

By entering the acronym ICE - In Case of Emergency - into the mobile's phone book, users can log the name and number of someone who could be contacted in an emergency, which could be vital in a life or death situation.

Roman Ridge Study

THE findings of a feasibility study into making the historic Roman Ridge site more accessible to the public will be discussed with members of Cusworth & Scawsby Action Group at their January meeting.

The study, which has been carried out by Doncaster Council, is expected to recommend developing a cycle route through the area.

Council officials will attend the meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 24th January at Scawsby Community Centre, Barnsley Road, at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome. Ring Pat Haith on Doncaster 562015 for more information.

BIG-HEARTED LADIES

WELL done to The Sprotbrough Ladies' Circle, regular users of The Goldsmith Centre, who donated over £1,000 to good causes during 2005. Benefiting from their goodwill were the Tsunami Appeal (£500), active Under-5s playgroup (£250) and Bluebell Wood Hospice (£350). New members are always welcome, the group meets at the Goldsmith Centre's committee room on the second and fourth Thursday of the month 7.15-9.45pm.

Protecting Our Hedgerows

PARISH councillors are disappointed their plans to support a new hedgerow preservation scheme have been turned down by Doncaster Council.

Doncaster Council has obtained money from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Liveability Fund to implement its Hedgerow and Green Lanes Action Plans, which include planting new hedgerows at various points across the borough. The borough council then invited local groups and individuals, including parish councils, to suggest local sites that could benefit from the funding.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council put forward two sites in our area that councillors thought fitted the bill but borough council officials didn't agree and gave the thumbs-down to our proposals, saying the scheme had been over-subscribed.

Parish councillor Paul Dent, Chair of the parish council's Policy and General Purposes Committee said he was "very disappointed" with Doncaster Council's response. Councillors agreed to see if there was any possibility of re-submitting their ideas next year.

The scheme was rolled out on the back of Doncaster Council securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Transform Your Space initiative to pay for the new post of Hedgerow Research Officer for 12 months.

Hedgerows are important because, nationally, over 600 plant, 1,500 insect, 65 bird and 20 mammal species are known to live or feed in them. A hedgerow is a boundary structure that shares the characteristics of both woodland edge and scrub habitats. Green Lanes are old tracks that evolved before the formal road system, and because they have been largely unmodified, still retain some of their physical, biological or archaeological features. The special value of both hedgerows and green lanes is that they provide a haven from the tidiness of the street scene and gardens. Without these hedgerow trees, bramble and nettle patches, animals and plants would not be able to move around the borough so freely. They also support large numbers of aphid predators and provide a free source of biological control to nearby gardeners.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL AT WORK

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.

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 & Local Agenda 21 Projects Committee

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

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.

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.

Contact the clerk or deputy clerk on Doncaster 788093 (phone/fax) if you would like more information.

Remember - it's your parish council

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 - ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093.

SPROTBROUGH & CUSWORTH PARISH NEWS

THIS newsletter is delivered with 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

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PAT BARTLETT
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ELIZABETH JONES
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JACKIE MARSDEN
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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.