

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Support your Community Libraries

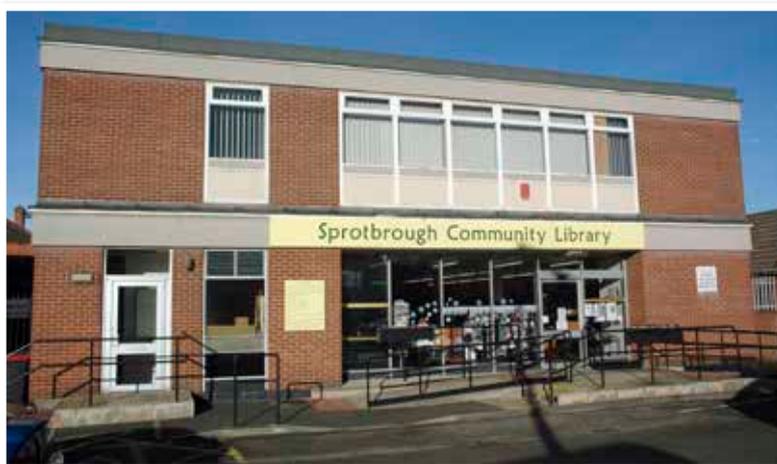
THERE'S a new sign outside Sprotbrough's 'people's library' and lots happening inside, so please give this new community venture your support.

A few months ago, Sprotbrough Community Library Ltd - a not-for-profit organisation - took over the running of the Sprotbrough Road building from Doncaster Council, backed by a £2,500 grant from the parish council.

Since then, volunteer numbers have risen to nearly 50, but more are still needed says Chairman Lyndon Walters, who lives in Sprotbrough.

He said: "We provide all the training required and it's a great place to spend some time if you have a few hours to spare."

Doncaster Council's former library sign has been taken down and replaced with a new one saying Sprotbrough Community Library.



As well as books and CD loans, there are regular exhibitions and the Readers' Group meet 2pm - 3pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the library meeting room. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer please ring the library on **01302 782436**.

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10am - 6pm • Thurs, Sat: 10am - 1pm

SCAWTHORPE Community Library, at Amersall Road, is also looking for volunteers. If you can help, please ring **01302 781786**.



- see pic - and popular fun run, which starts and finishes on the parish council's New Lane playing field.

Area 51, the local skatepark user group, also held events at the equally popular Anchorage Lane skate park.

Turning to the parish council, I would like to thank former Coun Paul Womack for his services and welcome onboard Coun Sarah Gallacher as Paul's replacement as the representative for our Central Ward. It proved to be history in the making at the polls when the number of votes was counted, as you'll be able to find out on page 4.

The parish council continues to support and promote the work of various local groups and organisations including local scout groups and Sprotbrough Music Society.

We face tough economic times ahead but you can be assured that your parish council will continue to maintain a watchful eye on budgets whilst exercising prudent management of our finances.

I would like to close by wishing you and your family a very happy 2013.

An Unforgettable Year

By Parish Chair, Coun Pat Haith

LOOKING back, 2012 will long be remembered as a year of celebrations, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics leaving us with some unforgettable memories.

Although the Olympic Torch route did not go through our Parish, the children at Sprotbrough's Richmond Hill Primary School were given a superb opportunity to touch one of the torches - see the story on page 3 - and it also made an appearance at the village's community run library.

I was delighted to see all our local schools celebrating the Jubilee and we as a parish council produced a special edition of this newsletter as our way of marking the historic occasion.

As in previous years, there were many key local sporting events and I was delighted to present the awards at this year's Doncaster 67th (Sprotbrough) Scouts annual gala

Wind Turbine Worries

By Brad Carpenter

PARISH councillors are objecting to a planning application to erect a 25 metres high wind turbine on a former rubbish dump close to Sprotbrough, claiming the structure would be unsafe.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth parish councillors say the proposed site, the former Scabba Wood Quarry between Cadeby and Sprotbrough, was an active landfill site less than 10 years ago and has been filled to a height which allows the waste heap to gradually settle over a number of years.



**Scabba Wood
former landfill site**

Parish Council Chair Coun Pat Haith said: "We are not against wind turbine or renewable energy projects, but we believe the location for this development is totally inappropriate. Scabba Wood was a very deep quarry which was filled with household rubbish over a number of years. Methane from the decomposing rubbish is currently being extracted to fuel two electricity generating turbines and liquid is pumped out of the site on a regular basis and taken away in tankers for specialist treatment and disposal. We don't believe the ground can be considered stable and the landfill inert.

"The developers, FCC Environment, want to sit the turbine on a concrete base, but at wind speeds above 25 metres a second the rotor is prevented from turning. The risk is that if the foundation moves due to subsidence, the structure could become unsafe in high winds. We are also concerned that nearby residents, and possibly local schoolchildren, may be affected by 'shadow flicker' from the turbine blades, which reportedly can trigger epileptic seizures."

The safety issue is one of eight concerns raised by the parish councillors and passed on to Doncaster Council, which will determine if the installation can go ahead. The parish councillors have asked for a site meeting with members of Doncaster Council's planning committee before a decision is made. They are also concerned that local residents have not been contacted about the development, which could have an adverse visual impact on local villages.

Coun Haith added: "The application has come out of the blue and we believe that local public consultation has been totally inadequate. We assume the structure will be placed toward the highest point on the site to ensure maximum exposure to the wind and at around 75 feet high the structure would have an adverse visual effect on the area.

When approached for a statement, FCC Environment declined to comment. As Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press, Doncaster Council had not made a decision on the application. You can track progress of the application online at <http://planning.doncaster.gov.uk/online-applications/> and typing reference number 12/01744/FUL in the search box.



Site of the proposed wind turbine, off Cadeby Road.

Anchorage Lane Skatepark update

The reasons why Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council opposes Area 51's extension plans

YOU may have seen or heard in the media reports about plans by skateboarders and BMX riders to extend the parish council owned skatepark facility at Anchorage Lane. Under English planning law, anyone can apply for planning permission for land they do not own, which is what members of Area 51 - the skatepark user group - have done. But no building works can take place without the land owner's permission.

Area 51 initially approached the parish council with a proposal to add a vertical ramp, which we agreed in principle to support, subject to seeing plans showing the proposed size and location. Area 51 subsequently came back with a development that was more than TWICE the size of the existing skatepark. The application does not take account of how much management operating costs would be involved in the project, or the impact on nearby residents.

The skatepark is a parish council owned and managed facility and there are other sporting facilities on the Anchorage Lane playing field site. There is very limited off street parking, with no means to provide additional parking facilities. Anchorage Lane is quite a narrow residential road and the skatepark is surrounded by residential property.

The parish council has opposed the extension plans because we are established, funded and staffed to provide amenities for residents of the parish area only. We also have to balance wider community needs. Other considerations in opposing the development are the result of a detailed independent survey in 2008 of residents living in close proximity of the site who said they oppose any extension due to their experiences of the current skate park. The issue has been thoroughly debated by the parish council and Doncaster Council has offered to explore the development of less sensitive sites with Area 51.

The parish council must balance the needs and interests of all sections of our community. It would be completely irresponsible for us to agree to this development and risk incurring massively increased running costs if and when Area 51 ceased to exist.

The parish council continues to support Area 51 by supporting events held at the skatepark. Parish councillor Peter Millar went to one in September where skateboarders, BMX cyclists, rollerbladers and scooter riders showcased their skills. Peter said: "It was fantastic to watch a range of spectacular and, at times breathtaking, stunts including highest skateboard leap."



Timeline

- 2005** - Skatepark commissioned by the parish council and built with major grant funding after a survey of young residents identified the need for a local facility.
- 2006** - Parish council wins regional award for the park.
- 2007** - Area 51 start an on-going campaign for the park to be extended

- 2010** - Area 51 obtain planning permission to extend the park.
- 2012** - A large warehouse approximately one mile away from Anchorage Lane opens as an indoor skate park, with a small admission charge.

Junior Rugby Pitch Plans For Newlands Park

THE parish council has joined forces with Wheatley Hills Rugby Union Football Club to create a junior rugby pitch on the Newlands Park playing field at Cusworth - providing another community facility in the area.

Nearby residents have attended meetings of the parish council to raise their concerns about potential noise and parking problems on match days. An agreement between the parish council and the rugby club addressing these issues and other matters is in place and discussions are ongoing with the club to minimise any environmental or other issues.

The scheme, which has been approved by the parish council, would require some trees to be felled to accommodate the new pitch. The Woodland Trust are considering an application from the rugby club which, if granted, would see new trees and shrubs being planted on the site.

To discourage cars from parking in the residential areas on match days, Doncaster Council will erect a 'No Through Road' sign on Ferndale View.

More details about the scheme in the next issue of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

Carrying the torch

YOUNGSTERS at Richmond Hill Junior School had chance to see one of the torches used in the pre-Olympics torch route.

Debbie Wood, wife of parish councillor Kerry, arranged for her colleague Joe Byrne to bring his torch into the school, where their son Alex Wood (front, kneeling) was a pupil. Joe, who works with Debbie at British Telecom's Doncaster call centre, was selected by his employer to carry a torch along a route through Shrewsbury.

● RICHMOND Hill Primary School has been judged by Ofsted to be a good school where pupils achieve well. The new assessment framework is much tougher than before and schools are only notified the afternoon before the inspection, giving a true evaluation of a school.

Headteacher, Jill Foster said: "There were many pleasing comments in the Ofsted report about our pupils, staff and governors, who represented us in a way which clearly shone to the inspection team. We are very pleased with this judgement which saw the school achieve a grade of 'Good' for Achievement of Pupils, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour and Safety of Pupils together with 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Management."

Chair of Governors, Malcolm Wood, praised everyone involved with the school, saying it was a good example of teamwork.



Olympic Year Remembered

SPROTBROUGH Ladies Circle (SLC) celebrated the Olympics by showing off their creative skills.

SLC members created a flower version of the Olympic torch for inclusion in Sprotbrough St Mary's flower festival. St Mary's, whose origins can be traced back to the 12th century, is currently undertaking the second phase of restoration work to the church roof - chancel and south aisle. The church has to match the funding it has received from English Heritage and the flower festival provided a welcome fund-raising opportunity.

Pictured are the talented arrangers - Jean Cragg, Ayleen Thew, Edna Faruqi, Leo Hall, Jackie Jennet and Joan Severn - with their horticultural masterpiece, which was one of 12 Olympic themed displays at the church, all generously provided by local people.

SLC was formed in 1981 and meets at the parish council's Goldsmith Centre every two weeks on a Thursday.

NEW CONSERVATION PROJECT IN THE LOWER DON

THE Revival Partnership, a collection of statutory, charity and community organisations focused on improving the management of the Lower Don, its tributaries and surrounding land, has been asking local people what improvements they think need to take place.

The partnership has been asking people to complete an online consultation questionnaire on the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's website to gather feedback.

The aim is for sub-groups in the partnership to develop and drive forward a series of projects aimed at making a real difference both to how wildlife thrives in the Lower Don area and to the way in which people enjoy the local environment.

The Revival Partnership wants to make it easier for people to enjoy the local environment by improving access and education and creating benefits for local wildlife.

For more information visit www.ywt.org.uk or ring the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on 01302 853941.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH?

A look at some of the local groups that are putting the spirit into our community

PUZZLING....

A NEW library has opened at Sprotbrough, but you'll be puzzled by the lack of books...

For this library loans out jigsaw puzzles and at just £1 a month for each puzzle, it's great value.

Pop along to the Stable Room, St Mary's Church, Sprotbrough, on the second Tuesday of each month and take your pick from 200 puzzles.

The library was started by Carole Hall and June Spencer and all proceeds are donated to the St Mary's Church Roof Appeal.

Tea, coffee and cakes are also served for £1 and many folk just come along for a browse round and to enjoy the company.

● Puzzle library openings:

Tuesday: 8 January, 12 February, 12 March, 9 April, from 10 - 12noon.

...AND LUNCHING IN SPROTBROUGH

CAROLE and June have been keeping busy with their latest venture - organising a Parish Luncheon Club at the Newton Hotel, Sprotbrough Road, on the last Thursday of the month.

They launched in January 2012 expecting around 20 people to turn up, but it was nearer 40. Since then numbers have increased to between 45 and 50 and it's a huge success.

The next dates for the Parish Luncheon Club are:

Thursday: 31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April etc

Meet at the Newton 12 noon for 12.30 and bookings are made in advance by telephoning either June on Doncaster 785759 or Carole on Doncaster 782776

The two events are becoming popular regular items on the Sprotbrough calendar as part of Carole and June's Outreach in the Community campaign, which has attracted plenty of praise.

Sprotbrough W.I. - Inspiring Women

SPROTBROUGH W.I. claims to be the largest evening group in South Yorkshire and enjoys 'Inspiring Women'.

Members attend monthly meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall to hear a guest speaker and during the year they raise lots of money for local charities, much of it at the April Spring Fayre and August Open to all Afternoon Tea.

Outings are arranged to special places of interest and members can also take part in events and activities organised by the Nordon Group - made up of six WIs in our area - including walks, treasure hunts, darts and dominoes.

For more information about Sprotbrough W.I. contact Janet Taylor on Doncaster 850782 or Anne Hind on Doncaster 855569.

Centres of your Community

CHECK out the activities taking place at the parish council's community centres - Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough, and Scawsby Community Centre - by visiting our website on www.sc-pc.co.uk and clicking on the 'community centres' button. Ring: 01302 784962 to book Scawsby Community Centre

LIVE MUSIC AT ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

SPROTBROUGH Music Society will stage its first concert of the New Year on Thursday 17 January, when the Davis Clarinet Quartet - whose leader Rachel Davis comes from Sprotbrough - visit St Mary's Church Hall.

On Thursday 21 February, the young Canadian violinist Katie Stillman and pianist Simon Lane will provide the entertainment with music by Mozart, Schumann and Bartok.

On Thursday 14 March, a talented trio consisting of a pianist, violinist and saxophonist, called Jazzed Up are set to offer an eclectic programme of music.

And the final concert of the season will be on Thursday 24 April, with a performance by the ensemble Concert Royal, called Jane Austen's Musical England.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council has supported the Society with a grant donation to enable these performances to take place. Events are held at St Mary's Church Hall and normally start at 7.30pm.

For more information contact Joyce Liversidge on Doncaster 853430.

Lots drawn to pick new parish councillor

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council made local political history with our latest by-election.

After four recounts failed to separate the two candidates standing for the vacant seat on our Central Ward the winner, **Sarah Gallacher**, had to be determined by drawing lots - the first time this has happened in Doncaster.

Doncaster Council Chief Executive Jo Miller was called in to supervise the draw after it ended in a dead heat, with Labour candidate Sarah, pictured, and Conservative Symeon Waller each polling exactly 129 votes.

Primary school teacher Sarah finally won after her agent, Coun Kevin Rodgers, drew lots on her behalf, picking the one returning officer Jo Miller had marked with an X.

It's believed to be the first time a councillor has ever been elected in Doncaster by drawing lots.

Sarah takes up the seat made vacant by former parish councillor Paul Womack, who resigned due to ill health.



A Tragedy at Sprotbrough

Bell Pond - the story behind the name

In 1850, John George Fardell, Rector of Sprotbrough writes - "It possesses little in the way of picturesque beauty - little of those attractions which mark the character of the brook-stream, sauntering through all pleasant places, seeking out happy nooks and peaceful recesses. But Bell Pond is the ancient of days, and possesses its peculiar history and its peculiar associations."

Where is Bell Pond I hear you ask? On foot, it can be reached following this route. Taking the road between the Goldsmith centre and Sprotbrough Fish Bar, walk under the railway bridge and down into the tiny hamlet of Newton, at the T-junction, turn right and follow the Don navigation for about 1 mile. From the flood defence bank that you now find yourself on, Bell pond is on your right.

From the ground it is quite impossible to see its shape properly but from the air it possesses the form of what can only be described as a horse-shoe. Although peaceful and serene today, providing a haven for an abundance of wildlife and a much-needed watering hole for the grazing sheep, the pond hides a much sinister past and if the imagination is loosened for a moment while I relay this story, you may well feel differently about the scene from here-on in.

Fardell continues - "Its character now is distinctly marked. It is without form, if not void; amid a confusion of shapes; mysterious, amid a brood of mysteries. Its waters know no current - they are mute, motionless, death-like, fearful; they are deep and appalling, but contain the soul of hidden mysteries; they are surrounded by a host of goodly trees, which have undergone no change from generation to generation; they are peculiar in their character; they are strangers among strangers, yet faithful to their purpose; they are aged among the aged, yet bid defiance to storm or hurricane; they are safely anchored to the banks by countless cables, gnarled and twisted and tough. Indeed the pond possesses the same reputation as a haunted house; and therefore the inference may be drawn that some historic deed, some adventure, some misfortune, is associated with Bell Pond".

The Rector paints a pretty bleak picture of what we now see as a pleasant expanse of water in a quiet and unspoilt corner of Sprotbrough. He is setting the scene for a tale of love found and lost, desertion, isolation, ostracism, loneliness, and death.

He goes on - "In the year 1685, immediately after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, upwards of 80,000 individuals sought a

spot of refuge in this country. Among this body of refugees was the remnant of an ancient family of the name of Dumas, consisting of only two individuals, Madame Dumas and her only daughter, Isabelle. Madame Dumas died and Isabelle was left alone in the world. She was adorned with surpassing beauty and loveliness. She enchained all hearts by her personal charms, but more by her unostentatious goodness, unsullied purity and true female dignity. Unfortunately for her, she formed an attachment to the youngest son of an old Catholic family, an offshoot of one of the ancient Catholic Nobility.

The passion was mutual, and after a severe trial she was induced to renounce her Protestant belief and to embrace the Roman faith. The adoption of this step entailed upon her the loss of all her old friends; and as calamities never come single-handed, her lover, who then was a commander in the Royal Navy, lost his life in an attack off Sandwich with a body of smuggling Hollanders.

Thus having lost everything, and being cut off from all hope for the future, she very happily obtained a refuge in a family then resident at Sprotbrough, a distant branch; it was surmised, of the De Maulays, of Hexthorpe. But the heart of Isabelle was stricken with an incurable blight. Her days were the days of gloom and despondency - her nights the nights of sadness and anguish.

She wandered alone through the intricacies of what was then called Conisbrough forest, climbed the barren heights of Cadeby, or lingered alone in the depths of the valley below. Her foster friends pitied her fate, and tried to soothe her feelings by the words and deeds on consolation and comfort; yet, on the strength and nobleness of her mind they placed the fullest confidence.

At length she was missing; instant search was made for her in every conceivable direction, and by every available means. 'Twas all in vain. In the course of a short time, however, the secret was laid open. She had drowned herself in the pond not too far from Sprotbrough. Her corpse was taken from its hiding place and immediately interred, without inscription or headstone, in the churchyard of Sprotbrough. From that mournful period these dark waters bore the name of Isabelle Pond, which has since been corrupted into Bell Pond".

This article has been extracted from the Doncaster History website <http://doncasterhistory.co.uk/> with the permission of the author, Sprotbrough man Symeon Waller. Check out the site.

DAWN PATROL

in Sprotbrough

OFFICERS from Doncaster Council's Communities North Team conducted an early morning patrol along Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, following complaints of dog fouling.

They spoke to a number of responsible dog owners and didn't need to issue any fixed penalty notices to culprits.

The officers - who are members of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team - regularly carry out patrols in anti-social 'hot-spots', tracking down irresponsible dog owners, litter louts and fly-tippers.

If you have a problem in your neighbourhood, contact them on 01302 736000. You can also follow them on twitter :

[@northareateam](https://twitter.com/northareateam) and [facebook.com/doncasternorth.sna](https://www.facebook.com/doncasternorth.sna)

SIGNED UP

TIRELESS campaigning by a road safety conscious Sprotbrough mum has resulted in two new 'playground' warning signs being erected on New Lane.

Lynne Gardiner worked with the parish council to persuade Doncaster Council to install the signs, which warn drivers that they are approaching the entrance to the parish council's New Lane park and playground.



Gardeners empty their account to local good causes

FIVE good causes have benefited from the winding up of a long-standing Sprotbrough organisation.

Sprotbrough Gardeners' Association, whose roots could be traced back to the 1940s, decided to call it a day a few months ago after falling sales impacted on the store they rented from the parish council.

Committee members met to decide what to do with the over £3,000 they had in their bank account and generously decided to share it across the following organisations:

- **Sprotbrough Preservation Association** which aims to preserve and maintain buildings or structures on historical significance and sites of environmental value within the parish - **£800**
- **Sprotbrough Library - £800**
- **Sprotbrough St Mary's Church - £800**
- **Firefly** - local charity providing transport to treatment for cancer patients - **£800**

Colin Severn, the Association's secretary, said: "We wanted to keep the donations local and, after awarding the four big grants, we kept a little bit back to pay off any outstanding bills we had before giving the residue to the British Legion's Poppy Appeal."

Doncaster Council Sprotbrough Ward Councillors' advice surgeries and contact details

Last Saturday of the month except August and December.
The Goldsmith Centre Committee Room, 10am to 11am

Coun Jonathan Wood - Tel: 01302 **737120**
Coun Cynthia Ransome - Tel: 01302 **862239**
Coun Doreen Woodhouse - Tel: 01302 **783710**

Doncaster Council Great North Road Ward Councillors' advice surgeries and contact details

Third Tuesday of the month at Scawsby Community Centre, 7pm to 8pm

Coun Bill Mordue - Tel: 01302 **783904**
Coun Kevin Rodgers - Tel: 01302 **786331**
Coun Deborah Hutchinson - Tel: 01302 **724788**



Public welcome

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council meet on the third Thursday of the month at The Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of March and September, when the meeting is held at Scawsby Community Centre. No meeting is held in August. For more information visit : www.sc-pc.co.uk

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Alan Smith Vice Chair (Conservative)

38 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NJ

Tel: 01302 785578

Coun Sarah Gallacher (Labour)

12 Chestnut Grove, Sprotbrough, DN5 7RW

Tel: 01302 311186

CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Pat Haith Chair (Labour)

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

Tel: 01302 562015

Coun Jane Nightingale (Labour)

2 Sherwood Avenue, Scawsby, Doncaster, DN5 8QH

Tel: 07801 532262

Coun Stephen Platt (Green)

39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ

Tel: 01302 782928

Coun Joanne Ward (Labour)

24 Canterbury Close, Scawsby, Doncaster, DN5 8NR

Tel: 01302 561774

EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Lynnette Chipp (Green)

250 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BY

Tel: 01302 785866

Coun Adrian Green (Labour)

15 Radcliffe Lane, Scawthorpe, Doncaster, DN5 9JE

Tel: 01302 786892

Coun Peter Millar (Labour)

60 Hunt Lane, Bentley, Doncaster, DN5 9SE

Coun Alan Weston (Labour)

2 Castle Grove, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7PZ

Tel: 01302 310544

Coun Malcolm Wood (Labour)

31 Ferndale View, Cusworth, Doncaster, DN5 8HG

Tel: 01302 786864

PARK WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Martin Greenhalgh (Conservative)

16 Park Avenue, Sprotbrough, Doncaster DN5 7LW

Tel: 01302 564672

Coun Kerry Wood (Conservative)

23a Marlborough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA

Tel: 01302 783043

STADIUM WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Trevor Ashman (Labour)

53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY

Tel: 01302 785429

Coun Judith Rodgers (Labour)

46 Petersgate, Scawthorpe, Doncaster, DN5 9JE

Tel: 01302 788864

STONECROSS WARD COUNCILLORS

Coun Allan Jones (Conservative)

38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7QQ

Tel: 01302 858075

Coun Ray Bartlett (Conservative)

72a Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7QL

Tel: 01302 310575

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Ian Carpenter - Editor and webmaster

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