

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Summer 2013

Community library celebrates its 1st Birthday

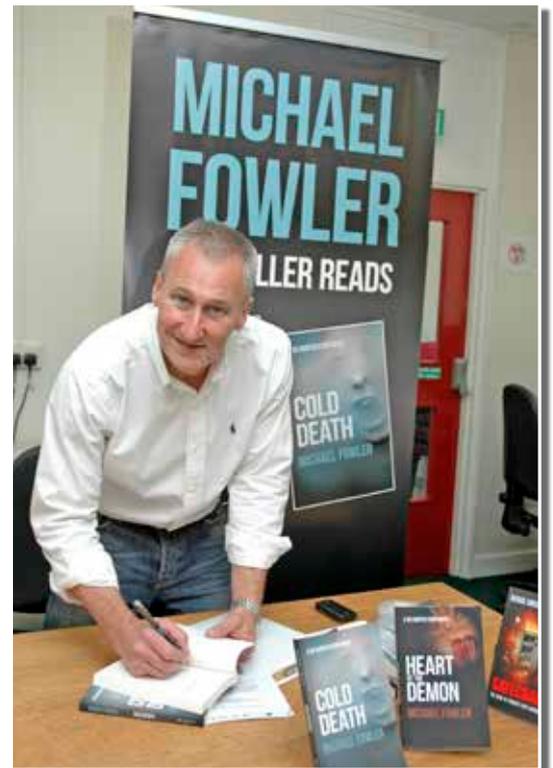
THE parish council backed Sprotbrough Community Library celebrated its first birthday in new hands in style. Organisers arranged a four hours long festivity that started with a visit from Doncaster's Civic Mayor, Coun Christine Mills, who gave a big thumbs-up the fledgling voluntary venture.

Jill Brooksbank from Doncaster's Early Trust Team led a storytelling session for younger children, followed by a talk and book signing by former South Yorkshire policeman turned author, Michael Fowler.



And the Cusworth Singers, with Luke Cannon, provided a musical interlude to round off a successful event.

Lyndon Walters, Chairman of the voluntary organisation that now manages the new-look library, went along to a recent meeting of the parish council to give councillors an update on progress. Parish Chair, Coun Pat Haith, said: "Last year we gave the volunteers a grant of £2,500 to help them take on and develop the library, including funding training costs and the success of the venture so far suggests that was money well spent. It's now up to local people to use the facility to help it thrive and grow".



You can read more about the community library's story so far on page 2.

~25 YEARS NOT OUT~

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish News is also joining in the celebrations after notching up 25 years of bringing news of the work of your parish council direct to your home.

The early editions were printed in black and white until changes in printing technology made it possible to produce a colour version for a comparable price.

Over the years we've reported on new investments by the parish council to make life better for Sprotbrough and Cusworth residents, including a sports pavilion, new play areas and upgradings of the two local community centres.

We've also brought you stories of local people, often unsung heroes, who have selflessly done their bit to help our community in different ways.

Each of the three editions of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News produced in 2013 will feature a look-back at stories from previous years. Turn to page 4 to see a flavour of what we reported between 1988 and 1996.



Sprotbrough Community Library - the story so far

Background

On 31 March 2012 Doncaster Council terminated the employment of the paid librarians at Sprotbrough Library. The running of the library became the responsibility of a group of local volunteers, who formed a new private company limited by guarantee - Sprotbrough Community Library Limited (SCLL) - specifically for this purpose.

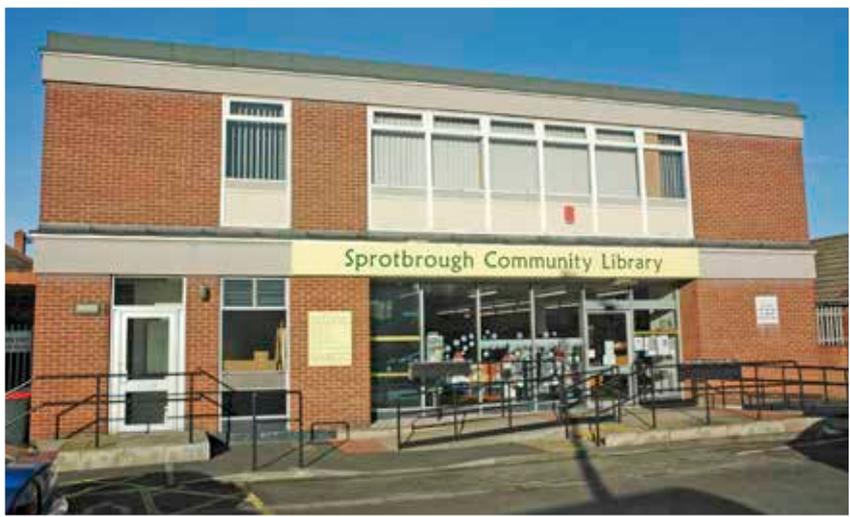
SCLL have negotiated a 15 year lease with Doncaster Council. The Council support the library in a variety of ways, including:

- providing the library building and running costs, including repairs and maintenance
- ongoing maintenance of the stock of books, CDs etc
- a management resource to deal with issues that arise

Operations

The library has been open for business six days a week (excluding Sundays).

It is managed by a committee of seven people and all the work is undertaken by unpaid volunteers. The number of active volunteers has fluctuated slightly during the year, with an average number of 45 helping out each week.



Service to the community

Since SCLL took over, there has been a significant increase in usage by the local community for courses and meetings. Currently, the following courses are available, most of which run weekly:

Baby Massage, Art Classes, Computers for Beginners, iPads for Beginners, Practical Philosophy, Conversational French, Local History and Family History. Part of the upstairs area of the library has been dedicated as a permanent exhibition area. To date, there have been three art exhibitions, a camera club

exhibition, and a display by Churches Together in Sprotbrough. This is an excellent facility for local groups to connect with the public and to increase interest and awareness in their activities.

The group of volunteers who run Talking Newspapers for the Blind had moved away from the library in 2011 due to the uncertainty over its future. They have now returned and are very happy with the facilities and support offered by SCLL. SCLL have branded the library as Sprotbrough Community Library and it is a key part of their philosophy to develop the library as an important community centre. The idea is to attract people into the building, to maximise the use of the centre, and to encourage them to become regular users of the core library facilities.

Finances

Under the terms of the lease, SCLL keep the income from the normal library services and from hiring out the meeting rooms. Also, there are regular fundraising activities, mainly coffee mornings organised by the Friends of Sprotbrough Library (FoSL), and sales of books which have been donated to the library. In addition, there have been one-off grants and donations from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council, Sprotbrough Gardeners Association and others. As a result, SCLL has kept solvent and there are funds in the kitty for equipment, developments and projects.

The grant received from the Parish Council was £2,500 and of this £1,493 has been spent so far on: legal costs £355; cleaning equipment £179; office equipment £93; projector £310; exhibition facilities £356; marketing £198.

Photographic Competition

The library is holding a photographic competition to choose 12 photos to appear in a Sprotbrough 2014 community calendar. More details at the library.

Sprotbrough Community Library

Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough

Tel: 01302 782436

Opening hours :

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri : 10am - 6pm

Thurs, Sat : 10am - 1pm

Scawthorpe Community Library

Amersall Road, Scawthorpe

Tel: 01302 781786

Opening hours :

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri : 10am - 5pm

Sat : 10am - 1pm

Both libraries are keen to welcome new volunteers to help out with a range of tasks, including keeping the buildings clean. Please contact them if you can spare a few hours on a regular basis.

Thanks Alan

ALAN Weston has called it a day after clocking up over 10 years as a parish councillor, representing the East Ward.



Alan Weston

Alan served for two separate terms on the parish council, an initial eight years from 1995, before taking a break and then returning two years ago after being elected back into office.

Sadly, a long-standing eyesight problem has reluctantly prompted him to step down from the parish council and governor roles at Sprotbrough's Orchard and Copley schools. But he continues to help out as a volunteer with the Talking Newspaper for the Blind, which is produced and distributed from Sprotbrough Community Library.

Alan, who has been a Deputy Chair of the parish council and Chair of the finance committee, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed being a parish councillor, in particular being involved in helping to bring the new Park View doctors' surgery to Newton Lane after the parish council provided the land to enable the development to go ahead."

"Parish Chair Coun Pat Haith praised Alan, saying: "His wise words, experience and financial knowledge will be sorely missed."

- The new member for East Ward is Coun Peter Gallacher, whose contact details are on the back page.

BRIEFLY

Pegged

PARISH councillors have pegged the 2013/14 parish precept at £157,728, the same figure as 2012/13.

Action Fraud

SOUTH Yorkshire Police have, in most cases, stopped taking reports of fraud from members of the public. Instead they are signposting people to a national online and telephone reporting facility called 'Action Fraud'. Members of the public are encouraged to report fraud and internet scams directly to Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling **0300 123 2040**. Data from Action Fraud will then feed into the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), together with input from almost all UK financial institutions. South Yorkshire Police will still take action if, for example, an immediate response is needed because the victim is in danger or the suspect is present and could be arrested.

In the frame

THERE are hundreds of scenes from our local area on the photo sharing site flickr. Go to www.flickr.com and type Sprotbrough and Cusworth into the search box.

Burglaries down

SOUTH Yorkshire Police have told councillors that the number of burglaries being committed within the parish is at a 10 year low.

Slow down

THE parish council has written to Doncaster Council asking for a speed indicator sign to be erected on Cusworth Lane to help reduce the number of motorists going too fast.

Turbine

FCC Environment, the company which was refused planning permission to erect a wind turbine on top of the former Scabba Wood landfill site on Cadeby Lane, has until 3 July 2013 to lodge an appeal against the decision.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council
In Partnership with

AREA 51

7th July 2013

BMX/SKATE/SCOOTER

10.00am till 7.30pm **JAM!!**

High Bar / Comp / Best Trick / BIG Air
MUSIC/ FOOD & REFRESHMENTS/ RAFFLE & PRIZES



Anchorage Ln, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5
Find out more about the events and what's happening
visit www.area51doncaster.com or Join AREA FIFTYONE



Design by Daniel Braamood

Marking an historical artefact

MEMBERS of Sprotbrough Preservation Association are looking at how they can highlight the site of the former Copley Engine House, next to Sprotbrough lock.

The group have been in discussions with the landowner to explore the possibility of erecting an information board close to the remains of the pump, to explain how it used to work.

The pump was constructed around 1700 by engineer George Sorocold for Sir Godfrey Copley, the then owner of Sprotbrough Hall. The existing structure is largely derelict but originally contained a crank shaft and fly wheel, driven by a water-wheel powered by the flow of the River Don via a sluice. The mechanism was designed to pump water 150 feet up to the village and into a tank on the roof of the Hall. From there, gravitational flow fed a fountain in the grounds of the Hall and also supplied drinking water for the villagers via an outlet on Main Street. There was also a swimming pool in the grounds of the Hall, used by guests.

The outlet in Main Street was moved to the top of Boat Lane and can now be seen in the wall of the Old Rectory.

The inspiration for the Sprotbrough Hall project came after Sir Godfrey visited Chatsworth Hall, Derbyshire, where he saw the Emperor Fountain blast a jet of water 290 feet into the air. Much of the original ironwork was moved to Barnsley for storage around 1986 but has not been found since. The site remains a Grade 2 listed monument.

The original pump was replaced by a longer narrower building containing a three row pump, which later became impractical to use for health reasons as the river became polluted.

Down Memory Lane

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News is 25 not out. The first edition appeared in late Summer 1988 and we have aimed to produce three editions each year since then to keep you up to date with the work of your parish council as well as other local news. To mark our Silver Jubilee we're looking back down memory lane, with 2013's three editions featuring some of the stories we've carried down the years, starting off with 1988 to 1996.

1988 Sprotbrough parents still were not satisfied with recent 'safety improvements' made to Richmond Hill bridge, saying that if anything the situation had been made worse. In July 1988 the bridge was the scene of a serious accident when nine years old Charles Tetley was hit by a car after stepping on to the busy Sprotbrough Road. He suffered a broken leg and head injuries but made a full recovery. Parents united in their concern formed 'Richmond Hill Safety Campaign' A special meeting of the then Richmond Hill First and Middle schools governors, chaired by Coun Malcolm Wood, asked Doncaster Council to look at traffic hazards close to both schools. In that same year, former parish clerk Betty Bostock retired after working for the parish council for 12 years.

Four new roadside signs were erected to let motorists know they were entering the Parish of Sprotbrough.

1989 'Sprotbrough says no to toxic waste' was the headline of the Summer 1989 edition as the then Sprotbrough Parish Council entered the first stage of its fight against Leigh Environment's plans to build a toxic waste handling plant at Kirk Sandall. A public meeting held jointly with Brodsworth Parish Council at a packed Scawsby Community Centre backed the formation of a local action group to lend support to Kirk Sandall Action Group who were spearheading the fight against the proposed plant.

During the year, the 67th Doncaster Scouts celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of scouting in Sprotbrough.

1990 Parish councillors were expressing their concern over the threat of prolonged traffic congestion at the junction of York Road and Sprotbrough Road during the construction of the North Bridge Relief Road.

Youngsters from Richmond Hill were spearheading a campaign to encourage people to stop dropping litter at Sprotbrough Flash. Graham Dobbs,⁷ Matthew McDonald,⁷ Danielle Martin,⁷ Lois Pugh,⁷ Daniel Deakin,⁸ James Morgan,⁸ and Martin Micklethwaite,⁸ produced four colourful posters urging people to take their litter home that were mounted on specially produced boards at the Flash.

1991 Councillors pledged to monitor operations closely at a controversial local landfill site following a 'fact-finding' public meeting. Scabba Wood landfill site, between Sprotbrough and Cadeby, had been in the news since local people voiced their fears of possible health risks resulting from the disposal of potentially dangerous materials - including asbestos - coupled with the threat of local water pollution.

Doncaster Council were recommending that Newton be designated a conservation area. The boundary of the conservation area had not yet been defined but a sketch incorporating the wooded former quarry to the west and some open fields to the east had been drawn up.

1992 The parish council used the Summer edition to ask parishioners what they thought of its proposals to implement tougher dog control bye-laws to stop dog fouling on parks, playing fields and verges. A questionnaire in the newsletter posed three questions: Leave things as they are? Introduce poop scoop byelaws and accept the extra cost involved? Introduce a total ban on dogs from our playing fields?

The following Winter edition reported on the response to the survey, which found that 86 per cent (239) of the 279 people who responded were in favour of banning dogs from playing areas. Some 24 people were in favour of introducing poop scoop byelaws and just 16 people thought nothing should be done.

The parish council planted 40 new trees to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne and also purchased goalposts and other equipment for two new football pitches at Cusworth. York Bar FC were the first team to hire the senior pitch.

1993 An appeal was launched for more volunteer wardens at Sprotbrough Flash, to join the 20 who were already helping out with school visits and guided walks.

Local historian Gordon Smith revealed in a special column how Whitbread, the then owners of the Newton Hotel, had not done their homework. The pub sign carried an image of the famous astronomer Sir Isaac Newton, when the pub had actually been named after the nearby district called Newton.

Councillors were disappointed at the poor response to a public meeting they organised on drug abuse amongst local youngsters. Only a small number of residents turned up to hear a talk by an officer from South Yorkshire Police's Drugs Squad.

1994 Sprotbrough's community bobby, PC Jim Gardiner, hailed the success of local neighbourhood watch schemes after vigilance by local watch members led to four men being arrested in Clifton Drive, allegedly in possession of stolen goods. And a white transit van, stopped by police near Warmsworth after a tip-off, was later found to contain items allegedly stolen from the Ivanhoe Close and Tennyson Avenue areas.

Youngsters from Saltersgate First School helped plant some of the 6,000 newly introduced saplings at Newlands Park.

The parish council celebrated reaching its 100th birthday, a century after being formed as a tier of local government in 1894.

1995 Former parish clerk Mike Draper retired after seven years managing the affairs of one of Doncaster's busiest parish councils. He was replaced by former Doncaster Council engineer Ian Olsson.

Sprotbrough Parish News - as we were then called - gained national recognition after the National Association of Local Councils highlighted the publication as a shining example of how to present council and other information to the public.

The Queen Mother sent her best wishes to Sprotbrough on the day the village officially honoured its bravest former resident. World War 2 fighter pilot Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, whose stepfather was the rector of St Mary's Church and lived in the Old Rectory on Boat Lane, was remembered at a special ceremony to unveil a plaque in his memory.

1996 Sprotbrough Parish Council officially became Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council.

Our then oldest reader, Mary Branney was presented with a bouquet of flowers by parish council Chairman Coun Norman Fisher to celebrate her 107th birthday. When Norman asked spritely Mary, a resident at Clifton Court residential home, if she was born and bred in Sprotbrough she replied "No, I've only lived here for the last 70 years".

Doncaster's first anti dog-fouling scheme was launched at Cusworth Park and Newlands Park, with the installation of six new dog waste bins, four of them funded by the parish council.

● In the Autumn edition we look back at the years 1997 to 2004

Tributes paid to Alastair

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular Sprotbrough doctor who was also a tireless community volunteer.

Dr Alastair Graves, 52, died in April after fighting a brave battle against cancer and more than 1000 people attended his funeral at St George's Minster, which included a guard of honour from members of the 67th Doncaster Sprotbrough Scout Group, where he had been actively involved for more than 10 years. Dr Graves was a Beaver group leader and he and his wife Janet were key organisers of the annual Sprotbrough Gala, which was due to take place this year as *Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News* went to press.

Shortly before his death, Doncaster Scout Band went to Dr Graves' home to play a musical rendition of one of his favourite James Bond themes and 67th Doncaster Sprotbrough Group Scout Leader Ken Burley presented him with the Parish Council Cup, which is annually awarded to the person who has contributed the most to the Group in the previous year. Ken said: "Alastair was a wonderful man, a 'doer' who was always eager to lend a hand. He is sadly missed."

Earlier this year the UK's Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, awarded Dr Graves his prestigious Chief Scout's Commendation of Meritous Conduct for his support to the scouting movement.

Dr Graves was also a keen supporter of and honorary buildings officer for Sprotbrough Cricket Club and helped organise the club's annual bonfire and barbecue.



Dr Alastair Graves

NEW HEAD FOR COPLEY

COPLEY Junior School has appointed a new headteacher to take over from Alan White, who retires in September.

Mrs Elizabeth Crayton, will join the school from the Isle of Wight, where she is currently headteacher at Newport Church of England Primary. Prior to that she was headteacher at Branton St Wilfrid's Church of England School, Doncaster, where she had worked for 14 years, joining as a deputy head before moving up five years later.

Mrs Crayton says she is looking forward to making a significant contribution to Copley Junior's continued drive towards excellence, building on the great success already achieved and recognised in the school's 2011 Ofsted inspection.

SERIOUS DOG ATTACK AT CUSWORTH

POLICE have been investigating a serious dog attack on the footpath leading from Cusworth Park into Newlands Park on Thursday 28 February.

A local man was walking his Border Collie along the footpath when it was attacked by a larger dog which it is believed was tan in colour. The attack was very serious and the Collie subsequently had to be put to sleep as a result of the injuries it sustained.

Police have made enquiries and have been keen to speak to a young woman who was walking three dogs in the area at the same time. She is described as between 17 and 21 years old, with shoulder length dark hair, wearing jeans, dark boots and possibly a dark coloured top.

The area in question is used quite frequently by dog walkers who may be able to help with further information.

PC Dan Lindley, from Doncaster West Safer Neighbourhood Team, said: "It is of the upmost importance that anyone walking a dog in public keeps it under control. If your dog is aggressive towards other dogs, please consider using a muzzle to prevent other dogs and animals being injured."

Anyone who has any information about the attack should ring 101 to contact PC Lindley.

Goldsmith Centre charges pegged

PARISH councillors have pegged hire charges at Sprotbrough's Goldsmith Centre at the 2012 prices.

There won't be any further increases until at least April 2014, making the building excellent value for money if you're planning a party or any other social event.

Hire charges		
Category	Main Hall(per hour)	Committee Room(per hour)
Parishioners' private functions	£14.00	£12.00
Non-profit making clubs/societies	£14.00	£12.00
Voluntary groups	£14.00	£12.00
Non parishioners private functions	£22.00	£18.00
Block bookings for adult classes	£15.00	£13.00
Retired people groups with 15 or more members	£5.00	£5.00
(No charge if less than 15 members)		
Children's parties - minimum three hours	£15.50	N/A
Commercial hire for purely personal gain	All applications are referred to the Parish Council for consideration	All applications are referred to the Parish Council for consideration
Charity events	All applications are referred to the Parish Council for consideration	All applications are referred to the Parish Council for consideration

You can also check out the various activities taking place at the parish council's community centres - The Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough, and Scawsby Community Centre - by visiting the parish council website on www.sc-pc.co.uk and clicking on the 'community centres' button.

Feature article - Sprotbrough beware!

On 25th April, 1599, a baby boy was born to middle gentry parents in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The child was christened Oliver Cromwell. His family had once been one of the wealthiest in the county although, by now they ranked closer to the bottom when compared with their peers. That said, Oliver had inherited money and lands from his now deceased Father and Uncle and was able to gain a top education at grammar school followed by Cambridge University.

After his schooling he made money through farming and by charging rents on his land. His money had to stretch quite far though, as he had a wife and eight children to support along with his widowed Mother. He dabbled with politics but was never very influential, until, that is, the English Civil War 'kicked off'. In 1640 he became an MP for Cambridge and raised troops for the cause in 1642. He fought on the side of the Roundheads, or parliamentarians, against the Crown. His success in battle saw him climbing the career ladder as fast as lightning until he became commander of the entire army.

He overthrew the Stuart Monarchy by having Charles I tried and executed in January, 1649. By July, 1650, he was leading his army north to crush Scotland, then over the sea to subdue Ireland and up and down the British Isles taking on every Royalist army that tried to stand in his way.

Understandably, people were afraid of Cromwell's presence in their town, so that in August 1651 when he passed through Doncaster, extreme caution was required.

At Sprotbrough Hall, lived Sir Godfrey Copley, who had control over who crossed the Don River in the gorge as he owned and ran the ferry. The Ferryboat Inn, now the Boat Inn, stood on the banks and at the boarding point for it.

Although Cromwell marched into Doncaster closer to town, where the river was bridged, he could have quite possibly opted to cross the river in Sprotbrough. Because of this possibility, Sir Godfrey received a letter from his brother-in-law Darcy Wentworth along with other friends, urging him to undertake certain measures to ensure his and his family's safety at this volatile time.

The letter went as follows (spelling errors and all):

"Esteemed Sir,

'Such is the condition of our cuntry at present as requires care to be taken as passingers; And there beeinge a by way over your ferry wee thought fitt to desire you would be pleased to command that your ferry boate to be locked up that there be noe passidge for frind or strangers feet untill you have further notice that there may be passidge with safetie.'

We rest

Septemer 7th 1651

Your frinds & ser[vants]

Darcy Wentworth

John Copley

.....

.....

G. Byan"

Good cousin be carefull whome you entertaine for the danger is greate.

The letter is of a serious nature and carries a strong message. 'Lock up your Ferryboat to both friends and strangers' and be careful who you have round for tea!

It would be 250 years before the Copley's provided a bridge at this point. It came in the form of a toll bridge. By now, the Civil War was ancient history and on the adjacent bank of the Don stood the thriving quarrying community of Levitt Hagg.

Today lower Sprotbrough is one of the most picturesque corners of Doncaster with its quaint pub by the canal and its nature reserve providing a haven for wildlife and a gateway to the Pennines beyond. Sprotbrough can rest easy again as the marauding armies have long since vanished. The 'danger' is no longer 'greate' for us.

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

Be a Special?

South Yorkshire Police is currently recruiting members of the Special Constabulary and is looking to increase its numbers from about 320 Special Constables now to 650 by 2015.

If you are interested in joining the Special Constabulary or you know someone else who may be, please go to www.southyorkshire.police.uk where full details can be found.

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 (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

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Coun Jane Nightingale (Labour)

2 Sherwood Avenue, Scawsby, Doncaster, DN5 8QH

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Coun Stephen Platt (Green)

39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ

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Coun Joanne Ward (Labour)

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Coun Lynnette Chipp (Green)

250 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BY

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15 Radcliffe Lane, Scawthorpe, Doncaster, DN5 9JE

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Coun Peter Gallacher (Labour)

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Coun Malcolm Wood Vice Chair (Labour)

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Coun Judith Rodgers (Labour)

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38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7QQ

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