



Spratton

Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2023

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Tracy Dixon BSc (Hons) MCSP

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AUTUMN 2023

Cllr Jo Bishop

All change!

For our regular readers you may be noticing a new face beaming at you on this page. I'd like to take a moment to say "Hello", introduce myself and explain some of the recent changes on the Parish Council. I took up the position of Chair for the Parish Council, having been elected at an Extraordinary meeting held in August this year. The position became vacant, when our previous Chair, Cllr John Hunt stepped down both as our Chair and as a Councillor, after serving this parish for over 15 years.

We should take a moment to reflect on this, as 15 years' service anywhere is highly commendable, but when it is done on a voluntary basis, it makes it even more special. John has been part of this village for so long, and has been truly dedicated to helping to make it the wonderful neighbourhood we all share and benefit from. I've only truly witnessed his work over the past few years, but have seen first hand the amount of time he has spent campaigning on our behalf. His success was showcased in keeping the 59/60 bus route operational, which took a huge amount of time, coordinating a number of other villages and liaising with the bus companies and Northampton Council. John is also a very keen environmentalist, and has worked tirelessly on a number of projects that we all can enjoy such as the Jubilee Wood, co-ordinating a Sakura Tree planting opportunity, and most recently supporting the planting of a tree as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

I fully appreciate that I have a big pair of boots to fill, but I am truly honoured to have been given the opportunity to take over the reins from such an inspirational volunteer.

On behalf of our village:

Thank you John for your dedication and long service – we wish you a very happy and active retirement.

So what other changes are there and what will happen in the future?

Earlier in the summer, Emma, our Clerk, resigned from her position to take up another Clerk position nearer to home that gave her a better work/life balance. Emma worked so hard for our Council, responding to the ever growing number of emails, paying invoices, organising meetings and events, responding to consultations, sorting the finances out etc, and generally keeping us all doing the things we should be doing.

We thank Emma for her tireless dedication and hard work over the past few years and wish her all the very best in her new role. Her new parish are very lucky to have someone with her capability, knowledge and approach to this role.

We have tried a number of times to find a replacement for Emma but have so far been unsuccessful. A Clerk's role really should not be underestimated, and there is a national shortage of people with the right skills, knowledge and experience which makes recruitment extra difficult. I recently read a research report highlighting the stress experienced by Clerks nationally, resulting from excessive workloads, bullying and harassment – no wonder people have been migrating away from these roles. Fortunately, more is being done nationally to support Clerks and protect them in the workplace. We also feel that we have a very supportive council and community here.

We have been lucky enough to secure the temporary services of a highly experienced Clerk, Fiona, who is able to provide us with a few hours support each week to keep the ship afloat. Fiona has very quickly taken on a number of issues and is already making a difference to the smooth operations of the Council. We will continue to seek a permanent Clerk– if you are aware of anyone who may be interested in this role please do contact me, or see the advert in this newsletter.

I feel that the Parish Council plays an essential role in representing the residents, and I'm keen to find more ways for people to get involved, raise their voice and for the council to truly represent the village and have an influence on matters further up the governmental chain. I'm keen to explore taking a more modern approach to communications, whilst ensuring that we do not exclude those who may not be as digitally engaged as others.

I appreciate that my own views may sometimes be different to those of others, but I hope that we can all be respectful of each other and recognise the voluntary contribution the Parish Council offers to the village.

I look forward to serving the parish as Chair, and no doubt will be kept busy with lots of the wonderful things that the council organise on behalf of the village.

Cllr Jo Bishop

SPRATTON PARISH COUNCIL
APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND
RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Salary (SCP 18-26 £14.21-£17.10 per hour)

Part-time (15 hours per week)

If you have a genuine interest in helping our forward Council develop and deliver timely and quality services to the local community, this post is ideal.

You will ensure that all legal, statutory, financial and other governing provisions relating to the Council are observed, all Council meetings are properly administered and decisions effectively implemented whilst developing healthy working partnerships with key local and regional bodies.

Suitably qualified (ideally with or be willing to obtain CiLCA – the Certificate in Local Council Administration), highly motivated, enthusiastic and community focused, you will bring sound leadership, staff management, administrative, communication, IT, financial and organisational skills and be flexible in approach and able to meet deadlines. Post will involve working some evenings and weekends.

Please contact Cllr Claire Joseph on email claire.joseph@sprattonpc.org.uk with a copy of your CV and application letter.

Closing date for applications: Friday 27 October 2023

Spratton Parish Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community

SPRATTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jo Bishop (Chair)	jo.bishop@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Scott Bayliss	scott.bayliss@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Lydia Crawford	lydia.crawford@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Colin Donnelly	colin.donnelly@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Claire Joseph	claire.joseph@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Stephen Hole	stephen.hole@sprattonpc.org.uk
Fiona Young (Parish Clerk)	clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk
07715651904	PO BOX 1552 Northampton NN1 9JJ

OUR COMMUNITY

John Hunt

Having had the privilege of serving on the Parish Council for 15 years since I returned to where I was born after many years of working in London, I have now decided that it is time for new blood to take the reins and this has given me time to reflect on our community and how we can most appreciate living in it. However, first I must give my thanks to each and every councillor and clerk I have worked with for their dedication and teamwork and particularly those currently on the Council. I feel that I am stepping down at a time when it is at one of its strongest periods and that it is in the safe hands of the new Chair, Jo Bishop!

Spratton is, on one level, the ideal community. We live in a beautiful, safe and reasonably affluent part of the country and have wonderful opportunities to participate in any of the many social groups, societies and church in the village depending on what our interests are. Even though the local Facebook group does a great job in enabling its users to talk to each other, I can't help feeling the village could do even more to create a stronger sense of community.

All of the groups are run by dedicated volunteers and, as always, more are needed. I never cease to be amazed at the talent, interests and skills of so many residents who have either lived here for many years or are newcomers. If some of these would like to find ways of sharing what they know or some of their life stories, whether it be in the Newsletter or some talks, I'm sure there could be some creative events waiting to emerge. Even if we could find someone willing to organise a table tennis game in the Village Hall now and again, there is a table tennis table with bats and balls which belongs to the Village Hall, just sitting



there most of the time waiting to be used! Or we could take a leaf out of the Allotments book when they recently had a table of donated vegetables from the allotment holders and made it available for people to take what they wanted for a donation. A big thankyou to Lise Budd for instigating this and inspiring such sharing projects in the village. May there be many more!

Over my time on the Parish Council we have had many creative projects such as supporting nature with the Natural Spratton Group leading projects such as Jubilee Wood, Footpath to Teeton and the Pocket Park. Other projects included the installation of mobile speed signs in 2014; the appointment of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the village; the installation of new LED street lights across the village; celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the planting of a tree in Gorse Road; and taking the lead in gathering contributions from parishes on the 59/60 bus route to Market Harborough to keep the service running since July 2018. Much of the work to support the village consists of very important everyday work in administration and keeping services and facilities running smoothly in the most cost effective way.

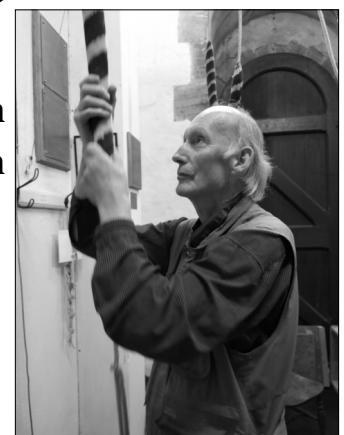
It has been very successful in its work which can be evidenced by the minimal increases in its council tax and precept requirements and general improvements. It is easy to forget that the Parish Council is attempting to support the village at all times in a positive way and of course there are always matters upon which opinions differ. To name but three:- the Folk Festival, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Conservation Area prompted and implemented by the former Daventry District Council. These were not universally popular at the time.

Having dealt with many other parish Chairs in the county it is clear that the challenges parishes face are similar and the solutions varied. Each village finds its own way of representing its residents and can learn from each other. If they can get together they are much stronger and more able to influence the regulatory authorities, eg; West Northants Council or even the government.

With the various challenges facing the world at the moment, I believe that Parish Councils are a vital channel and opportunity for residents to step up with inspiring ideas that, perhaps previously, were not the norm. Whether it be climate change, cost of living, protection of the natural species or other threats, the solution to the question of what can we do, has to be found in joining together.

Once again thank you to all who have supported the Parish Council over the years and for the kindness shown to me in my role as Chairman.

*John Hunt tolling the church bell
for the funeral of HM Queen
Elizabeth II in 2022*



Spratton Town and Charity Land

(Charity Number 204331)

For students

It is not too late to apply for a grant towards your studies if you are aged 18-25yrs, live in Spratton, and going onto further education . Students starting an apprenticeship can also apply.

Contact the Clerk for an application form which has to be returned by the 31st October.

Do not miss out on this financial help.

All village organisations are entitled to a grant towards any projects they are undertaking. Please apply to the Clerk for an application form.

Allotments

At the moment we have two full and two half allotment plots available. There is no increase in the rents this year. They remain at £17.50 for a half plot, £35 for a full plot until September 2024.

Surplus food sale

One of our tenants organised a sale of surplus food grown on the allotments and it raised nearly £200. The money has been ring-fenced for future allotment development.

For further information on plots or grants contact the Clerk:

Pat Parish, 1 Gorse Road, 01604 847734.

parishpat79@gmail.com



Allotment fruit and veg proves the perfect recipe for fundraising and friendship

The inaugural Spratton Allotments Surplus Sale saw the village come together to raise almost £200 for charity.

With the recent wet and warm weather resulting in a glut of garden goods, allotmenters decided to make the most of their excess produce and hold a table-top sale where shoppers could donate whatever they felt appropriate in return for a selection of delicious fresh fruit and vegetables.

Dozens of customers were able to choose from a wide selection of vegetables including potatoes, carrots, celeriac, chard, leeks and sweetcorn, soft fruits including raspberries and blackberries, freshly picked flowers and homemade jams and chutneys.

The funds raised were donated to Spratton Town and Charity Land, the organisation responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the allotments.

Organiser Lise Beynon said: "It was brilliant to see so many come out and support the surplus sale. All of us met people we didn't know and it has gone a long way to establishing a real sense of community among allotment owners and other villagers.

"Thank you to everyone who donated flowers, fruit and vegetables and we are grateful to everyone who came along to make a purchase. Hopefully everyone has enjoyed using their local produce and we can do it again in the future."

*If you are interested in having your own allotment please contact Pat Parish
by emailing parishpat79@gmail.com*

Daniel Owens

Lise Beynon 07984 150028



At the allotment fruit and vegetable sale villagers were able to choose from a fine array of freshly grown potatoes, carrots, beans, marrow, leeks and soft fruits as well as homemade jams and chutneys.



A message from
The Reverend Allison Twigg
Rector, Upland Group of Churches

As I write this, the children have returned to school. The leaves on the silver birch tree, always the first to turn in my garden, are starting to gain Autumnal colours. Surprisingly, there is no chill in the morning air that says the season is changing, as we seem to be having a late heat wave which is great for all those who have September holidays booked. As Autumn comes, we all often take a moment to pause and reflect. The start of a new school term begins with shared photos of children and grandchildren full of anticipation in shiny new clothes and we all gasp and can hardly believe how grown up they look as another year begins.

The season of remembering and giving thanks for what has gone before is pertinent in our church and village communities too. **Harvest Festival** is being marked in the village church on Sunday 1st October at 11.00 am followed by a shared lunch. Here we will give thanks for God's goodness and give thanks for both the Harvest and those who have gathered it in. All are welcome. Collections of dried, tinned and fresh products along with toiletries will be gladly received and passed on to local charities.

On the 29th October at 5.00 pm in Guilsborough we will have the Annual **Service of Remembrance and Hope** where we remember all those who we have loved and lost. All those who have been bereaved that have marked funerals in the churches in the last three years are invited personally but this is a service for all our village communities. However old or recent your loss is, we hope that this service will give you a sense of peace and hope.

Remembrance Sunday, this year being marked on Sunday 12th November at 10.30 am, is always very poignant. The service will begin in church and move to the War Memorial for 11.00 – all are very welcome to join in.

Remembering the past should be more than just looking backwards though, as we remember what has gone before, we also acknowledge the present and look to the future too. We celebrate what has gone before but we should not cling on to it without hope for what is to come. We can learn from our collective and

individual pasts and learn lessons that help us to work for a world of peace and justice for all people looking to build the world described in the book of Revelation in the Bible. Here we look forward with hope to a world where *'there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.'*

We would love to welcome you to one or more of these special times of hope and remembering. Please join us.

Reverend Allison Twigg

Dates for Worship in Spratton, St Andrew's Church

First Sunday of the month

11.00 am Worship for All—a family friendly and informal service

Third Sunday of the month

8.30 am BCP Holy Communion—a quiet and gentle said service using traditional language

Fourth Sunday of the Month

11.00 am CW Holy Communion—a service with hymns

Additional information about other services across the Uplands Group of Churches, which includes St Andrew's Spratton, can be found on our Website

<http://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk>

Parish Council news



Spratton is now signed up to the Hedgehog Highway Scheme, and the council will be distributing a number of hedgehog doors, throughout various village groups and for individuals to install in their gardens. A growing number of parishes and organisations are signing up and supporting the conservation of our wonderful hedgehog population. We are aware of a number of sightings in our village and hope this scheme will help our little prickly friends keep safe. You can read more about this on the parish website or here: <https://hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project> If you would like to apply for a free hedgehog 'door' please contact the Clerk on clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk

Cllr Jo Bishop



Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal

The Battle Back programme

Established as a government initiative in 2009, The Battle Back programme recognised the need to support wounded, injured and sick service personnel, primarily from the Gulf and Afghanistan campaigns.

The Ministry of Defence committed £35m to provide support over the first four years of the programme. This took the form of provision of military and civil service personnel to coordinate, manage and deliver the Army Recovery Capability, including staff for the Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centres and the Battle Back Centre.

In addition to MOD funding, the charity Help for Heroes committed an unprecedented total of £70m in support of Recovery. This included not only the capital investment to fund the initial building costs of the Personnel Recovery Centre in Colchester, the Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre in Catterick, but also the redevelopment of Tedworth House.

Help for Heroes also provided a critical £15m over four years in support of Individual Recovery Plans and a further £6m for a Quick Reaction Fund, managed by ABF The Soldiers' Charity, to provide individual benevolence across the Army to those injured in training or wounded in action since 9/11. The Royal British Legion has committed £50m over ten years to the ARC, representing the largest single contribution in its 90 year history. This extraordinary level of commitment was used to fund a Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall, with the remainder funding the running costs of the Centres in Colchester, Catterick and Edinburgh and a significant contribution to the sustainment of Tedworth House, which was formerly run by Help for Heroes.

So, from the outset:

UK Charities contribution (in cash) £135m

UK Government contribution (in services) £35m

Yes, without the generous and continuous support of the British public, many thousands of badly damaged service personnel would have been left without any help in their physical and mental recovery.

The Battle Back Centre Lilleshall was established by the Royal British Legion in 2011 to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The aim is to help ensure the best possible recovery for the Armed Forces community, whether it's returning to duty or successfully transitioning to civilian life.

Since the centre opened in 2009, 7137 wounded, injured or sick serving and ex-serving personnel have attended the British Legion's Battle Back Centre, each one of whom has been equipped with a Personal Recovery Plan focusing on their physical development, which in turn leads to stronger mental health, preparing the way for their onward career path, either in the Services or civilian life.

Courses at Battle Back Centre are specifically aimed at people starting their recovery plan. The length of the recovery process varies according to individual circumstances which for some can be a long process. Battle Back Centre coaching staff can often face understandable issues with motivation, communication or isolation, with people feeling unable to attend or participate and generally being non-communicative.

Ted Youd, a Warrant Officer in the Royal Lancers, came on his first Battle Back Course after being diagnosed with Q disease (a bacterial infection):

"I wasn't right," says Ted. "I used to just lie in bed and wait for the family to come home and then get up for an hour or two and then go back to bed. Sometimes, I couldn't even stand up to brush my teeth. That was where I really started to spiral downhill. I couldn't even stand up for nine months, I didn't even have the motivation to get up to see my family.

Then there I was, a gobby WO1 with this group of people who've all had similar symptoms and we were doing physical stuff for an hour. It was a light at the end of the tunnel. Not instantly, but something was there, something to say you might get better."

Thanks only to the voluntary contributions of you, and people like you, the Army Recovery Capability, through the Battle Back Centre is actively helping to rehabilitate serving and former members of Britain's Armed Forces.

And finally...as the Poppy Appeal approaches

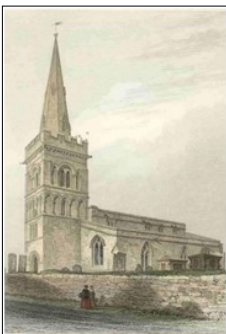
Last year's local door to door collection was completed thanks to the efforts of just 4 people. Before Covid, we were 10.

So please consider joining us, just for your street, if you can.
Just drop me an email, text or even call.

Thanks!

Chris Prior-Jones, Spratton Poppy Appeal Organiser

chpriorjones@gmail.com 07970 762032



St Andrew's Heritage Society, Spratton

(formerly the Friends of St Andrew's Church,
Spratton)

Advance Notice for your diaries

A Special Widescreen Double Bill

Family and Friends Film Night

December 10th in St Andrew's Church

We intend to present a special Christmas Double Bill
of classic films for your entertainment, starting at

4pm Children/family film
with free popcorn and soft drink

followed by

7pm Classic Christmas film for adults
with wine/nibbles & popcorn.

4pm showing - £10 per family (2 adults & children)
7pm showing - £5 per person

More information will be posted in due course –
so let us know your favourite Christmas film!

To reserve your places please contact either:
David Bennett - 07962 231798
or Linda Fletcher – 07808 734124

News from Spratton CE Primary School



Wrap-around care

We are so happy to be back from the summer holidays and welcome our new reception children to our school. There are lots of changes this term, including the introduction of a new after-school club provided by Pacesetter Sports & Wellbeing. More information can be found about the after-school club online at: www.pacesetteronline.co.uk

The after-school club is in addition to our breakfast club which launched earlier this year. Both clubs are open to all pupils and we do hope this is a welcome addition to village life as wrap-around care is something that lots of families have been enquiring about for some time.

Governors

We are looking for more church and community governors for our school! Could you, or do you know someone who could, volunteer some time to support us? Attendance at six meetings per year and a couple of visits to school over the course of the year are the minimum commitment. All training given and DBS check required. Email office@spratton.pdet.org.uk if you'd be interested in volunteering as a governor and helping our school community.

Mrs Liz Crofts (Executive Head) and Mrs Rebecca Dunkley (Head of School)
www.sprattonprimary.org.uk
School Office: 01604 846530

WINTER NEWSLETTER

The deadline for receiving articles for the Winter edition
of the Parish Newsletter is:

Saturday 25 November

Please send articles to the Editor as Word documents and images as jpgs

jarvis.enid@btinternet.com

Scouts

In July, six of the Scouts had a great time attending Forest Fest UK International Scout and Guide Camp, held at Walesby Forest Centre in Sherwood Forest. Seven more Scouts joined us from Pitsford as well as leaders from both groups. There were over 2,000 from all parts of the world! They could choose from many outdoor activities, such as climbing, abseiling, shooting, swimming, canoeing, circus skills, stilt walking and crafts. Each evening there were musical performances on a large outdoor stage. In all a great time was had by all.

County Cub Camp was held this year on land bordering Boughton House, near Kettering. For some it was the first-time camping. They now look forward to a packed programme this term.

Beavers had a visit from an airline pilot and a visit to Sywell Aerodrome, earning their Air Activities Badge, stages 1 and 2. They earned their Emergency Aid stage 1 with a visit from a First Responder. The term badge was My Outdoors Challenge Badge.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 12 Nov - Parade and Remembrance Service at St Andrews Spratton

Thursday 7 Dec - Group visit to the Pantomime at The Deco Theatre

Thursday 14 Dec -Christingle Service at St Andrew's Spratton

All are welcome to attend the services with the young people.

Finally, as this is the last magazine of the year, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year from all at Spratton Scout Group

Yours in Scouting

Graham Smith – Group Scout Leader (M) 07740855011

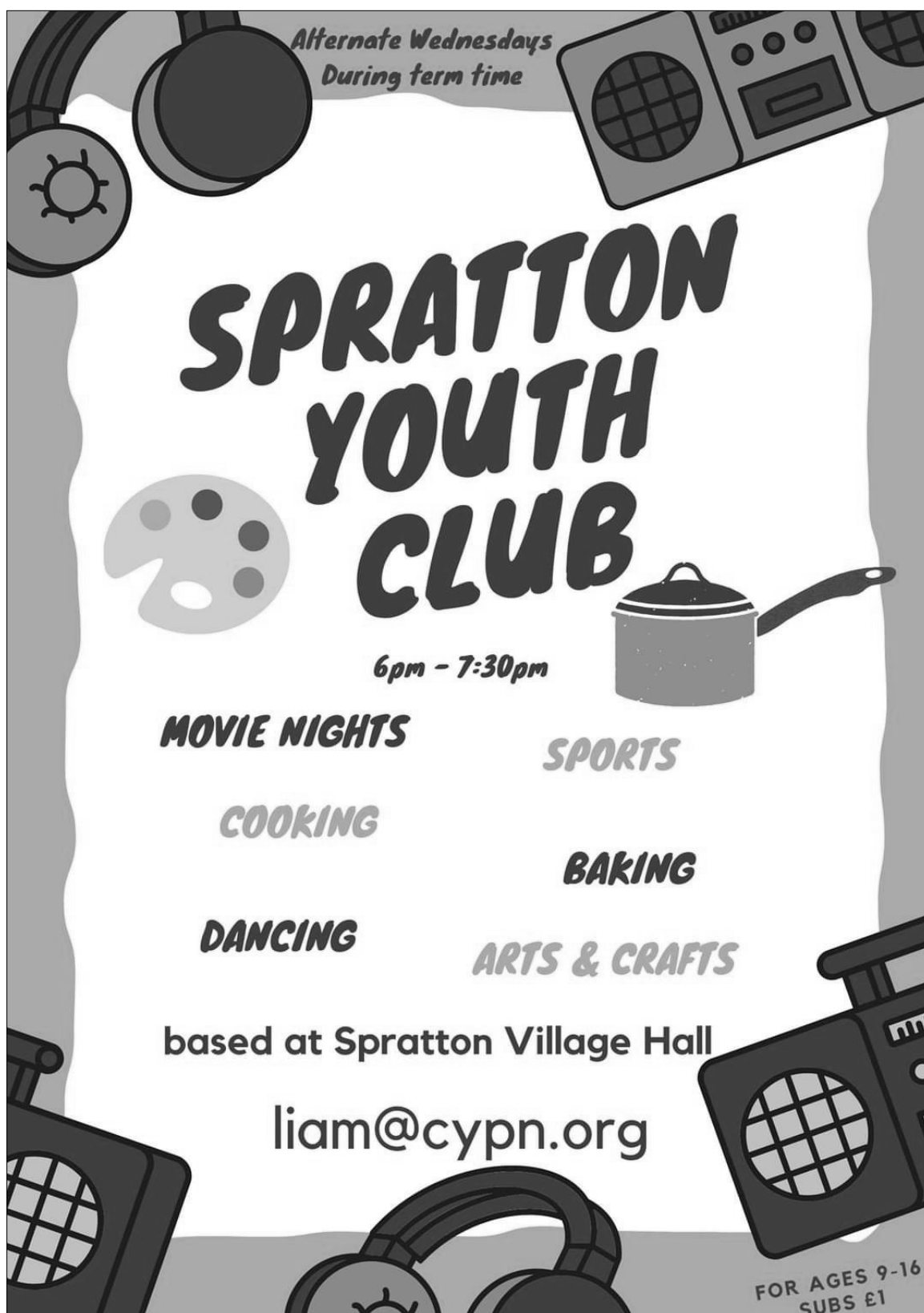


ALL SECTIONS (BOYS AND GIRLS) MEET ON THURSDAYS IN TERM TIME

Beavers (6 – 8 yrs) meet 5.45 to 7 pm at the Scout Hut (Yew Tree Lane) from April to October half term and after, at Spratton Village School until Easter.

Cubs (8 – 10 ½) meet 6.30 – 8 pm at the Village Hall (Next to the Village School)

Scouts (10 ½ - 14 yrs) meet 7.30 – 9 pm at the Scout Hut (Yew Tree Lane)



*Alternate Wednesdays
During term time*

SPRATTON YOUTH CLUB

6pm – 7:30pm

MOVIE NIGHTS **SPORTS**

COOKING **BAKING**

DANCING **ARTS & CRAFTS**

based at Spratton Village Hall

liam@cypn.org

FOR AGES 9-16
SUBS £1

Spratton Garden Club

Members of Spratton Garden Club have enjoyed a number of social outings this summer. The costs of hiring coaches has increased dramatically in the last twelve months and so we are very proud and pleased to have been able to continue with this most enjoyable and rewarding aspect of our Club's programme. Spratton Garden Club is extremely grateful to receive a grant from Spratton Town and Land Charity which is so vital in continuing our community coach outings.



Hampton Court Castle Gardens

In July we enjoyed a coach outing to Wisbech to view the beautiful walled gardens of Peckover House and had a guided tour of this elegant Georgian house. Afterwards we visited Elgood's Brewery where we strolled through its four acre gardens, consisting of herbaceous borders, specimen trees, a herb garden and a beautiful lake. The weather was perfect; we had a delicious and very generous lunch provided by Elgood's Brewery and, to accompany our tour of the gardens, we had live music!

Our Club's recent outing was to Hampton Court Castle, Herefordshire. Here the restored gardens featured slow-moving canals flowing around island pavilions. Ancient trees stood gracefully in open meadows. Some members experienced a guided tour of the castle and were fascinated by its history.

Later in the day, we travelled to Ralph Court Gardens where we were treated to viewing twelve different styles of gardens which took us on a tour of the world from Italy to Africa. Never before have we been as entertained by the wit and humour of such inventive and creative gardening! (Even the toilets were Orient Express Style carriages!)

These gardens put a smile on our faces and were well worth the journey to Herefordshire.



Ralph Court Gardens

Because our annual Social Evening is traditionally an outdoor event, it was cancelled this year due to abysmally wet weather on the evening of the 26 July. It seems that this is the first time it's had to be cancelled and so apologies to everyone. Let's hope for finer weather in July 2024!

We have two more events before the end of this year. On Wednesday 11 October we have a guest speaker, Karen Gimson, who will be giving a talk about "My Life as a Garden Designer" and our Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on 29 November. Both events will be at Spratton Sports and Social Club at 7.30 pm. All are welcome and hopefully we'll see you there.

Annual membership fee for Spratton Garden Club is £5

Guest Speaker Evenings: £2 members. £3 non members.

*For further information contact Elaine: 01604 845153 or Julie: 01604 843064
or Isobel: 07980 081767.*

Isobel Bromley (Secretary, Spratton Garden Club)

**SPRATTON NGS
GARDENS
OPEN FOR CHARITY 2023
THANK YOU!**



2024's date is Sunday 09 June

We had a beautiful sunny day on 11 June when 11 of the kind gardeners of Spratton opened in support of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) Gardens Open for Charity. Thank you SO much to everyone who came along to enjoy the gardens. A really big thank you too, of course, to all the garden openers who worked so hard to make their gardens "right for the day" and the individuals who helped make it happen from within the village, plus of course the unseen but essential help and support from the NGS County Organisers (who are volunteers) and Head Office team!

Four of the garden owners were interviewed in their gardens, and broadcast live on the Radio Northampton Breakfast Show on the Tuesday before they opened.

Over 260 people came to the village to visit the gardens – including two new ones, Cotfield and the "no dig" vegetable garden at 25 Yew Tree Lane. We raised just over £2,000 for the charities NGS supports, from entry fees, donations,



Helping hands at the Open Gardens

plant, cake and biscuit sales. The WI kindly gave a donation from their Tombola and one of the garden opener's young grandsons had a stall in the garden and appeared to have great fun raising £45 from selling cakes, biscuits and plants! Smart Plants also made a donation and sadly bid us farewell as they are retiring.

The marvellous team in St Andrew's additionally raised £622 from sales of refreshments. There was a rolling slideshow of photographs of the gardens and the map in St Andrew's, which may be taken up as an idea for other openings.

It was with sadness that we heard Norma and Allan Simons have decided that they will no longer open their garden. So NGS would especially like to thank them for the many many years they have opened their charming, special garden – and been the first most people visited – setting a very high standard.

Originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses, NGS has donated over £63 million. In 2022 despite all the challenges faced, NGS donated more than £3 million to the main beneficiaries of Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK, Carers

Trust, Queen's Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK as well as to Horatio's Garden, Maggie's and the Army National Charity. There is much more information on-line at www.ngs.org.uk including gardens still opening nationwide and around the county as well as the Impact Report and information about Gardens and Health and Well Being.

Next year – 2024 – the chosen date for Spratton is Sunday 9 June and registration for gardens has already started, so if you would like to open YOUR garden as part of the group opening, please do get in touch. Thank you once again and please keep gardening!

Lucille Knapp
07951 612733

Crown Building & Carpentry

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Based in Spratton

James: 07794234596 / 01604 847440

Email: info@crownbuildingcarpentry.co.uk

Web: crownbuildingcarpentry.co.uk




Spratton's "Hidden Gem" Community Coffee Shop



Café Doris - September 2023

On 15 June we held our Fizz, Food and Friends buffet lunch to celebrate our 10 year anniversary. Quite a celebration and thanks to all who contributed.....



Our ongoing contributions to the DEC Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Fund have now reached a new milestone of over **£1000** - **another major new milestone** ! So keep coming and we will keep giving !

An independent Charitable Society operating two mornings per week in
St Andrew's Church Spratton, NN6 8HR

For details please contact David Bennett, 4 High Street, Spratton. NN6 8HZ.

Tel. 07962 231798

cafedorisccs@gmail.com



The Little Odd Job Co.

Call John Today
07970 801248

References available

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the home?

Book us now to work through your jobs,
big or small.

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- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ External decoration
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- ✓ Kitchens
- ✓ Shower rooms

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Wendy Yvonne

ELECTROLYSIS CLINIC

Facial hair, Skin tag, Milia and
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Wendy Coleman: VTCT Level 4 Qualified,
B.A.B.T.A.C., M.B.I.A.E

DAWN MALLARD HAIRDRESSING HAIRDRESSERS FEDERATION REGISTERED 17 Brixworth Road, Spratton NN6 8HH 01604 847260

LADIES

WASH, CUT & FINISH	37.00
WET CUT	30.00
BLOW DRY	23.00
LONG HAIR	26.00
DRY CUT	26.00
RE-STYLE & FINISH - from	45.00
ROLLER SETTING	23.00
EVO SHINE TREATMENT	22.00
OLAPLEX-STAND-ALONE TREATMENT	23.00
OLAPLEX WITH COLOUR	14.00

TECHNICAL SERVICES - INCLUDING CUT & BLOW-DRY

FULL HEAD COLOUR	75.00
ROOTS	70.00
FULL HEAD FOILS - LONG HAIR	80.00
FOILS & ROOTS	89.00
BALAYAGE & ROOTS	89.00
FULL HEAD FOILS - SHORT HAIR	73.00
HALF HEAD FOILS	67.00
HALF-HEAD FOILS - LONG HAIR	72.00
TEE SECTION	58.00
ONE FOIL	4.00
SEMI-PERMANENT COLOUR	68.00
EVO COLOUR (NO PEROXIDE/AMMONIA)	68.00
PERMING OR TEXTURISING	75.00

WEDDING HAIR

PRE-TRIAL PER HALF HOUR	22.00
WEDDING HAIR	40.00
PUT-UPS PER HALF HOUR	25.00
BRAIDING from	25

LADIES SENIOR CITIZENS & STUDENTS

WASH, CUT & FINISH	35.00
BLOW- DRY	21.00
BLOW- DRY - LONG HAIR	23.00
DRY CUT	21.00
ROLLER SETTING	21.00
WET CUT	26.00

SENIOR CITIZENS TECHNICAL SERVICES

FULL HEAD COLOUR	70.00
ROOTS	64.00
SEMI PERMANENT	60.00
PERMING	70.00

GENTS SENIOR CITIZENS & STUDENTS

DRY CUT	14.00
WASH & CUT	17.00
WASH, CUT & FINISH	20.00

GENTS CUTTING & STYLING

DRY CUT	16.00
WASH & CUT	18.00
WASH, CUT & FINISH	20.00

CHILDRENS CUTTING & STYLING

UNDER 4'S DRY CUT	9.00
UNDER 13'S DRY CUT	12.00
OVER 13'S DRY CUT	15.00

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

FREE TEA & COFFEE

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY 8.30am to 6.00pm
TUESDAY CLOSED
WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY 8.30am to 6.00pm
SATURDAY 8.30am to 1.00pm

SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We have had two very pleasant outings this summer: a guided walk round Cottesbrooke in June and a lunch and tour of Chester House Estate in July. Thank you very much to Hazel Petersen for organising these.

Our new book on the history of Spratton Church of England Primary School is being printed at the moment and will be available during the autumn.

We are also preparing another publication on our research into the 1921 Census for Spratton. That is in its early stages.

Everyone is welcome to attend our speaker meetings in the Village Hall. £2 members. £3 non-members. Our autumn programme is as follows:-

Wed 18 October – *Richard III – Hero or villain?* a talk by Steve Dimmer

Wed 15 November – *The Maiden Voyage of the Titanic* – a talk by Paul Brown

Wed 13 December – Christmas meeting. *Any Old Iron?* A talk by Jon-Paul Car on the Butlin family of Spratton.

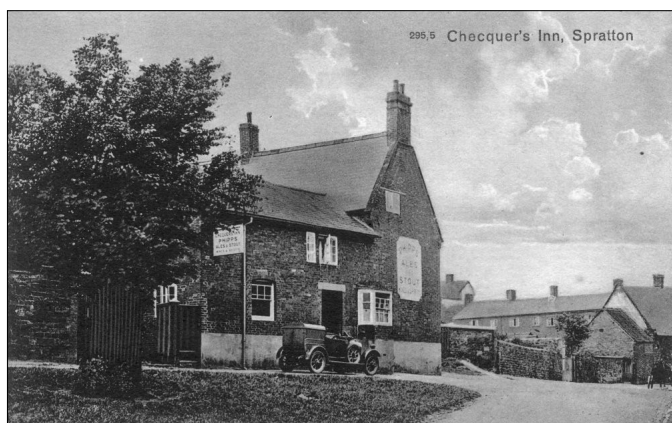
Enid Jarvis

100 years ago



The King's Head , Spratton, is thought to stand on the site of a medieval hostelry used by visiting clergy from the Abbey of St James in Northampton. The present building was probably built in the 17th century. It was bought by Phipps in 1925.

The Chequers Inn, Manor Road, Spratton, closed in the 1950s and is now a private house. In the 1920s Albert Gooden was the landlord.



SPRATTON PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Winners of theme 'Perspective'

Our return from the summer break in early September saw bumper entries for both competitions. The Theme this month was "Perspective" and the judge, Warren Alani, had 27 superb photographs to choose from but selected a very evocative shot of Bugbrooke Church as his 1st place, taken by Sue O'Reilly. 2nd place went to John Hunt with a clever shot of "The Inner Workings" of a combine harvester followed by Phil Roseblade in 3rd place with his "Take Your Seat" shot.



*1st place: Bugbrooke Church
by Sue O'Reilly*



*2nd place: The Inner Workings
of a Combine Harvester
by John Hunt*



*3rd place: Take
Your Seat
by Phil Roseblade*

Open Competition

Sue also won the open competition with her superb photograph of a Kingfisher having just caught its lunch. A beautiful photograph of a Japanese Anemone taken by Richard Hollingum was 2nd and Michael White took the 3rd spot with a Puffin "Coming into Land". There were a total of 26 entries for the open competition.



*1st place: Kingfisher at
lunch by Sue O'Reilly*

*2nd place:
Japanese Anemone
by Richard Hollingum*



*3rd place: Puffin Coming
In To Land
by Michael White*

Our themed competition for October is “Portraits” and I’m sure we will see some very interesting and varied entries for this along with the open competition.

The church display was changed with a new set of images in early August and these will be refreshed again sometime in November or December.

If you would like to join us one evening to see what we are all about feel free to contact us on either www.sprattonphotographygroup.wordpress.com or our contact details: veronica.johnson@btinternet.com 07721623714

John O’Reilly

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CARERS



Do you support a family member, friend or neighbour on a regular basis?
Then you are considered an unpaid Carer but may not realise this.

Why not come along to our monthly Carers group to access practical advice, emotional support and meet other local Carers in a similar situation. Carers and Cared For are both welcome, with free refreshments provided and a friendly atmosphere guaranteed.

We meet in the Upstairs Community Hall at Brixworth Library, on the first Tuesday monthly between 1.30—3pm.

Do pop in and say hi. Our next few meeting dates are:-

3rd October – Pets as Therapy

7th November – Craft Session

5th December – Festive Celebration

For further information on this group or any other support offered by Northamptonshire Carers please contact:

Kay Giles at Northamptonshire Carers on 01933-677907 option 1

or email admin@northamptonshire-carers.org

or visit www.northamptonshire-carers.org

(Please note this group is run by Northamptonshire Carers with the kind support of Saxon Spires & Long Buckby GP practices).

To all W I members and village ladies

Quite a lot has happened since I last wrote. We had an entertaining talk by Ginny Davies, entitled "The Fringe and Beyond", in June. In July we had a lovely outing to Broughton Gardens and Broughton Castle.

In August our speaker, Michelle Frost came, who is a deaf Anglican vicar. She could hear until she was 16 years old so has to cope with it not being obvious from her voice that she is deaf. She showed us some basic signs and how to finger spell our names and recognise others names.

This month, members of Northamptonshire Police gave a very important talk on Cyber crime and ways to recognise it and keep safe on line.



W I 2023 outing to Broughton Gardens and Broughton Castle

Future W I Events

Tuesday 10 October ~ "Northamptonshire Walks" ~ Dave Askew

Tuesday 14 November ~ "Christmas Wreaths" ~ Ben Martin

Tuesday 12 December ~ "3 in Accord" ~ Accordion Group

Party time ~ This will be the last of our 100 years celebrations!

Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. New members are very welcome to come along for a couple of free visits. Join our friendly village ladies and have an enjoyable night out. If you have any queries, please phone:

Carol Constable - Spratton WI ~ 07581 029057



Northampton and Lamport Railway

Autumn news

Tickets for our ever-popular Santa Specials are now on sale!

What better way to get in the Christmas spirit than a great family Santa experience?!

Santa Specials run on Saturdays and Sundays from 26 Nov to 23 Dec. All tickets include a meet with Santa, a present for children and complementary on-train refreshments.



For the ultimate VIP experience, why not choose our Breakfast with Santa package? This is an intimate experience for small groups, which includes a personal meet and greet with Santa during breakfast and a special festive goody bag for each child, plus a train ride, present and SECOND meet with Santa in his Grotto.

Prior booking is ESSENTIAL for all tickets

All trains will be hauled by one of our steam locos, subject to its availability. Alternatively, trains will be hauled by one of our heritage diesel locos.

Our 'Platform 3 Buffet' will be open throughout, serving hot and cold drinks, snacks and freshly prepared hot food.

Full information and tickets at www.nlr.org.uk.

Other up-coming events:

Sun 1 Oct – BIG Kids for a Quid - to celebrate Grandparents Day, adults ride for just £1 when accompanied by a full fare-paying child!

28 & 29 Oct – Halloween 'Trick or Treat Trains' and extra spooky after dark 'Fright Night Trains'!

For full information, details of up-coming event and online tickets, please visit the Railway's website at www.nlr.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@nlrrailway](https://twitter.com/nlrrailway)



COTTESBROOKE
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

CHARITY NO: 1074147

PLEASE come and have a lovely day out shopping and ALSO support your local Riding for the Disabled Group at their Autumn Fair, this year kindly being hosted by the Welford Christmas Tree Farm on the A5199 on Tuesday 3 October from 11 am—7 pm. There are a super range of 40 stall holders including jewellery, clothing, bags, homeware, pies, cakes, jams and crafts. There are lots of pictures on Facebook and Instagram [#Cottesbrooke_rda](#) We are also offering refreshments from tea and cake to pizzas!

Cottesbrooke RDA is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers. In existence for over 50 years, we now meet in Holdenby. With no central funding, we rely purely on our efforts to raise money to fund the cost of grazing, caring for the ponies, tack and hats and boots for the young people. This means that the youngsters – many of whom are severely disabled and cannot walk unaided - can ride once helped onto a pony. Many of their medical consultants provide enthusiastic feedback about the benefit riding and contact with the horse has provided to the individual.

Ben – seen in the photos with his favourite pony Buster has been coming to ride for over 10 years. His mother Michelle says: “Riding helps Ben physically as he is encouraged to use his core muscles to sit upright and he also has to stretch his arms



and legs – his wish to progress has encouraged

him to find other forms of exercise to help him with his riding.”



*If you would like to donate or volunteer
please let me know:*

Lucille Knapp 07951 612733

The Cottesbrooke Group of
Riding for the Disabled



Invite you to an

Autumn Fair

of Beautiful Gifts & Clothing
& Local Artisan Foods

at The Oak Barn,
Welford Christmas Tree Farm,
Welford, Northants NN6 6JF
By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Miles

Tuesday October 3rd 2023
11am - 7pm

£5 Entry On The Day

Refreshments available all day in the Tipi Cafe
cottesbrookerdafair@gmail.com

Kindly sponsored by



@cottesbrooke_rda



LOCAL AUTHORITIES

West Northamptonshire Council		0300 126 7000	www.westnorthants.gov.uk
Spratton Parish Council	Clerk Fiona Young	07715 651904	clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk
West Northants Cllr	John Shephard	07802 246660	john.shephard@westnorthants.gov.uk
West Northants Cllr	Daniel Cribbin	07986 240144	daniel.cribbin@westnorthants.gov.uk
West Northants Cllr	Michael Warren	01604 781082	mike.warren@westnorthants.gov.uk

SCHOOLS

Spratton CE Primary School	Liz Crofts, Executive Headteacher	01604 846530	head@spratton.pdet.org.uk
	Rebecca Dunkley, Head of School	01604 846530	office@spratton.pdet.org.uk
FOSS (Friends of Spratton School)		07779 096797	sprattonPTA@gmail.com
Spratton Hall School	Simon Clarke, Head	01604 847292	office@sprattonhall.com

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Rector, Upland Group of Churches	Revd Allison Twigg	01604 846099	revallisontwigg@gmail.com
Church Warden	Bill Blowfield	01604 847457	bill.blowfield@btinternet.com

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Village Hall Bookings	Linda Fletcher	07808 734124	
Recreation Field Charity	Ben Martin	07931 774199	sprattonreccharity@gmail.com
Town & Charity Land	Pat Parish	01604 847734	parishpat79@gmail.com
Editor Parish Newsletter	Enid Jarvis	01604 821260	jarvis.enid@btinternet.com

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Football Club	Gill Donnelly	01604 821949	
Garden Club	Cherill Hammond	01604 847428	cherill.hammond@hotmail.com
Local History Society	Enid Jarvis	01604 821260	jarvis.enid@btinternet.com
Women's Institute	Carol Constable	01604 845252	carol.constable@gmail.com
Natural Spratton	John Hunt	01604 846705	jfhunt@talktalk.net
Photography Group	V Johnson-Roffey	07721 623714	veronica.johnson@btinternet.com
Sports & Social Club	Jeff Buckby	01604 846585	
Scout Group Leader	Graham Smith	01604 847176	grahamsmith8hh@btinternet.com
Cub Leader	Ruth Dand	07870 686607	
Beaver Leader	Carol Constable	07581 029057	carol.constable@gmail.com
Girlguiding, Spratton	Linda Fletcher	07808 734124	
Brownies	Katherine Rose		1stsprattonbrownies@gmail.com
Spratton Cares	Jo Bishop	07810 524813	sprattoncares@mail.com
Youth Club	Liam Bailey-Shaw	07427 073395	liam@cypn.org

Cover photograph by John Hunt:
Autumn Leaves in Harlestone Firs

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SPRATTON HALL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

An independent day prep school welcoming girls and boys aged 4-13.



“We were looking for a family friendly,
academically excellent, rural school...
and we found it.

My only regret is that we didn't
come here years ago!”



Spratton Hall Parent 2023

OPEN MORNING

Friday 6th October 10am – 12pm
Entry from Reception to Year 8.

DISCOVERY DAY

Friday 10th November 2pm – 3pm
Children aged 2 to 4 and their parents.



scan



01604 847292



sprattonhall.com