Spratton



Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2025

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AUTUMN 2025

Cllr Jane Marshall



Parish Council Meetings

Following the summer break, the Council's normal programme of meetings resumes. Parish Council meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of each month**, except August and December. Meetings are open to the public, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start.

In recent months, we have been joined by Spratton's representative on West Northamptonshire Council, **Christine Ware**. She has updated us on various matters, including traffic surveys on the A5199. These are intended to assess the impact of signage at the new roundabout directing motorway-bound traffic through Chapel Brampton, Spratton, Creaton and Thornby. One survey took place before the schools closed for the summer, and further surveys will be undertaken after the new term begins in September.

The Rec

It is disappointing that the playground at the Rec has had to be closed for repairs — especially during the summer holidays. Several residents have asked who manages the Rec and whether the Parish Council has any role. I'm happy to clarify, and apologies if the explanation is a bit long-winded!

The land for the Rec was sold to the village in 1952 to be *"held upon trust as public ground for the purposes of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859"*. The Rec is therefore a **charitable trust** and is subject to the general law applying to such bodies.

The legal conveyance recording the sale set out a detailed constitution for the trust. Sole management and control was given to a **Committee of Management**, while, for administrative convenience, the Council holds the property as **custodian trustee**. This is a common structure for community assets, as a corporate body like the Council has a perpetual legal identity and can hold title without the legal complications that arise when individual trustees change.

The role of a custodian trustee is **very limited**. The legal title to the charity's property is vested in the Council, which also holds custody of all documents relating to the property. Responsibility for insurance of the charity property falls to the managing trustees — in this case, the Rec Committee. The custodian trustee has **no power to manage the property** and **no role in the administration of the charity**. Its duty is simply to perform all lawful acts

necessary to enable the managing trustees to administer the charity efficiently. It must not act if the matter would be a breach of trust or would involve liability for the custodian trustee.

Now that we have three members of the Rec Committee also sitting on the Council, it may be tempting to think of the two organisations as one. They are not. The Council cannot interfere with the Rec's management, and declarations of interest are made when Rec matters arise at Council meetings.

The Council does, of course, greatly value the Rec and recognises its importance to the village. We have consistently offered support where possible — for example, providing grants for grass cutting — and will continue to work with the Committee to understand its needs and support where we can.

A glance at the trust documents is a reminder of how important the Rec Committee is in village life. The documents allow for up to 18 members, in addition to those who may be nominated by village organisations such as the WI, British Legion, Football and Cricket Clubs, the Church and Parish Council.

Gary Ashton has kindly joined the Committee as the Council's representative and has enjoyed being involved.

The Cemetery

Several residents have contacted us about the cemetery. Concern has been expressed about overgrown vegetation, the clearance of paths and an overgrown tree. Steps are being taken to remedy the situation. The upkeep of the cemetery is a priority for the Council.

Next council meetings: 21 October and 18 November, both at 7 pm

Cllr Jane Marshall

Spratton Parish Councillors

Cllr Jane Marshall (Chair)	jane.marshall@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Ruaraidh McDonald-Walker	ruaraidh.mcdonald-walker@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Gary Ashton	gary.ashton@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Tom Beynon	tom.beynon@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Julian Gaywood	julian.gaywood@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr George Matts	george.matts@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Paul Vellum	paul.vellum@sprattonpc.org.uk
Cllr Fiona Young	fiona.young@sprattonpc.org.uk
Alan Youel (Parish Clerk)	clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk
07715 651904	PO Box 821, Banbury OX16 6UB

News from

Cllr CHRISTINE WARE

Ward Councillor for Naseby



I'm honoured and delighted to be representing the villages in the Naseby ward at West Northants Council. The first few weeks of the new council have been busy. There has been plenty of training since May and now I am settling into the rhythm of council meetings, committee meetings and parish council meetings.

My responsibilities at council include sitting on the Democracy and Standards Committee. I'm also substitute for the Planning Committee and the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

I've been to the recent Spratton Parish Council meetings and it has been good to meet everyone there and helpful to understand what is on your agenda. I'm looking forward to providing what support I can to your Parish Council and have already begun my case work for residents. Part of my responsibility as a councillor is as West Northants Council's nominated trustee for Spratton Town and Charity Land Trust and I was made very welcome by my fellow Trustees at my first meeting. It was the meeting where the Trustees were due to review the Allotments. However, due to the incredibly dry weather, the review was post-poned and my colleagues very kindly showed me around. I'm pleased to be involved in such a lovely village organisation.

This week has seen me in Towcester at a workshop on the **development of the Local Plan.** Government targets for housebuilding have changed and West Northants will have a revised number required for development here. By the time you read this we will have had another workshop on the Local Plan. I will keep the parish council informed of progress and the next steps for us all.

In other local news, the **first traffic survey on the A5199** to review volume and speed of traffic has been completed. A second survey will take place after the schools have gone back to provide a comparison. Many of the villages along the A5199 are concerned about traffic through our area and the first step to developing a plan is to gather data so we are able to explore possible options for traffic calming.

Good news is that **the 59/60 bus** is now running on a Saturday as well as during the week. The service started at the end of July and there is now a link to Northampton and Market Harborough at the weekend. The timetable for the bus can be found on the Stagecoach Bus website. If you need help accessing a timetable, please do let me know.

Please do get in touch if you have issues to raise -
christine.ware@westnorthants.gove.uk 07836 368888

Boundary works on Spratton Recreation Field



By the time you read this, contractors will have completed works to repair the boundary between the Recreation Field and Roly Banks. This addresses a long-standing Parish Council obligation to properly fence the boundary line. The work has seen the removal of the overgrown hawthorn and ivy and the reinstatement of suitable low-maintenance fencing along the original boundary. The Parish Council and Rec Committee are also exploring the planting and maintenance of a native species mixed hedgerow to run alongside the new fencing.

These works should deliver improvements to that part of the Recreation Field, including:

- Reducing litter, antisocial behaviour and trespassing on private land in Roly Banks
- Tidying up the scrub land on the Recreation Field side of the boundary
- Helping reduce littering along the boundary line *(see cover photograph)*
- Creating future opportunities for the improved use of the cleared ground alongside the fence

The Parish Council, Rec Committee and others have worked together to agree these long-overdue works. Temporary signage will be added to show how villagers can access the Recreation Field from Roly Banks through other existing routes. The Parish Council and Rec Committee will keep the village updated on any plans to further improve the space next to the fence.

For more information, please email clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk.

Spratton Defibrillators

A defibrillator, or AED, (Automated External Defibrillator) is a lightweight, easy-to-use medical device designed to help in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. It checks the heart's rhythm and, if needed, sends a controlled electric shock to try and restart it. AEDs are built so that anyone, even without medical training, can use them in an emergency. You'll often see them in workplaces, schools, gyms, and other public areas where quick action could save a life.

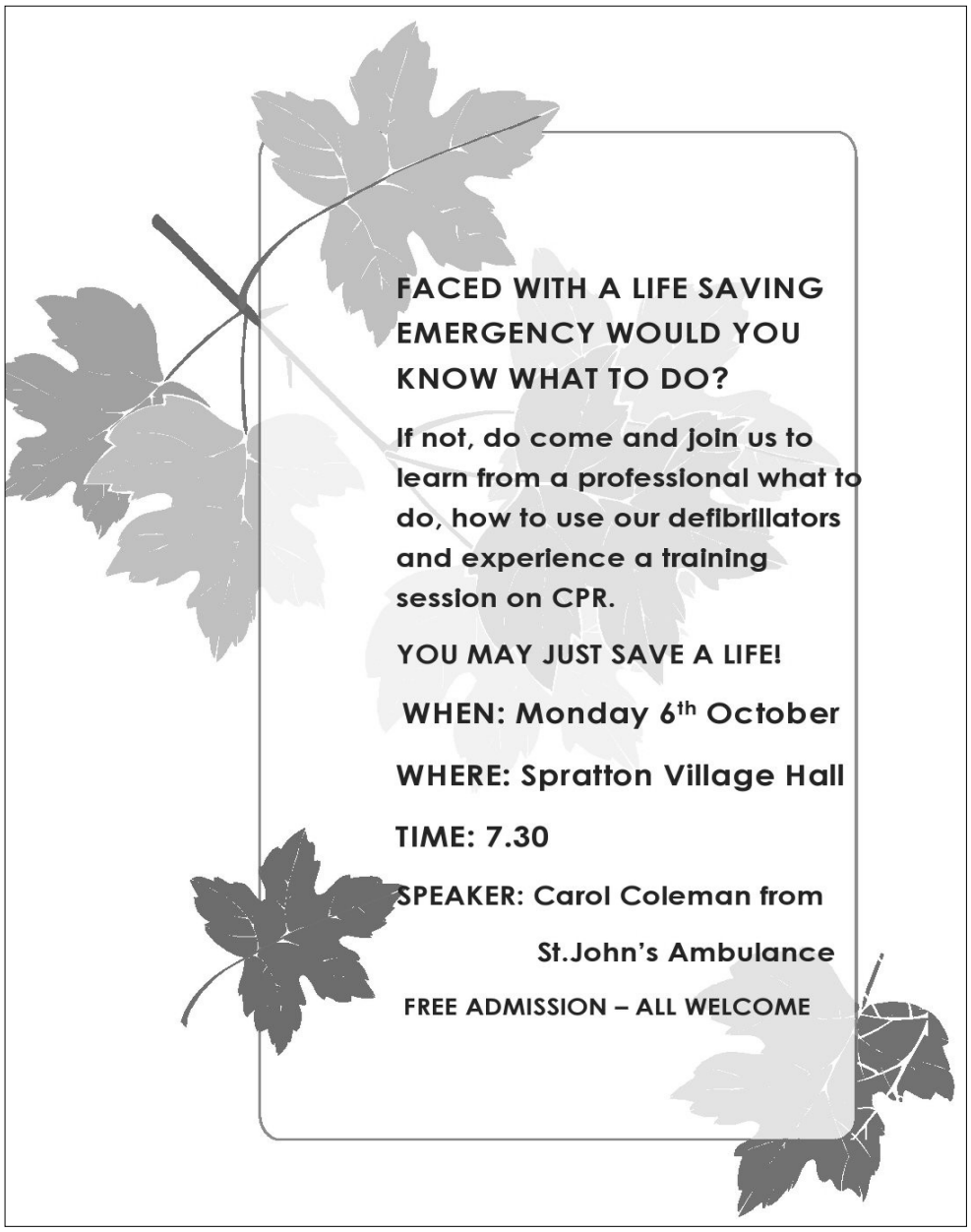
Parish Council news….

We have two defibrillators in Spratton; one on the pub wall next to the car park and the other on the club wall next to the Recreation Field car park. Both are housed in yellow metal cabinets and are checked regularly to make sure they are ready to use in an emergency. Please have a look at these locations so you know where to find the equipment before you need it.

Defibrillators are very safe. An electronic voice in the machine will tell you what to do and you don't need specific training to use one.

There is plenty of useful information online if you would like to know more; please search the St John Ambulance website for terms such as AED, defibrillator, CPR and the Recovery Position.

Cllr Gary Ashton



Defibrillator meeting organised by Spratton W.I.



A message from The Reverend Caroline

Facebook has, apparently, become the social media platform of the old and decrepit – or at least that's how Gen Z (13 – 28 year olds) or even Gen Alpha (those under 15 years old) probably see those of us who use it. I'm one of those old and decrepit folks and I enjoy how it allows me to keep up with friends and family.

The idea that it's older people who use Facebook is borne out, perhaps, by the fact that the page called 'Ladybird Books Flyaway Home' has 81,000 followers. It features illustrations from the famous Ladybird Books going back to the 1950s and earlier, all from an extensive collection owned by an enthusiast called Helen. She selects a picture every day of the year and posts it on Facebook. So, in winter we have frosty fields and frozen ponds; in spring, blossoms and billowing sheets on the washing line; in summer, blooming gardens, seaside and sandals, harvest and baked hillsides; and in autumn late berries and fallen leaves; all followed by the December Advent calendar of wintry and Christmassy scenes. It's a joy for those of us with a nostalgic heart to have these daily pictures that reflect the changing seasons.

I admit to a little jolt of excitement and pleasure when I see the first picture of each season: blackthorn in flower, a crowded sandy beach, golden decked trees, a bare landscape stripped of greenery or a chilly looking robin. The changing seasons revive our spirits and mark out our lives with times for rest and times to be active, times to stay close to home and times to explore and travel. They remind us of birthdays and anniversaries and bring back memories of bonfire parties and cosy winter evenings. I often wonder what it must be like to live in a climate where there are no seasons – just one long summer or winter.

In church, the seasons we keep allow us time for reflection, growth, remembering, celebrating and for examining our thoughts and behaviours. As with the seasons dictated by the earth's orbit of the sun, the church's seasons allow us to experience life in all its depth and fullness.

In October the church enters a season of remembering; we remember our own loved ones departed and also those who've died in wars. Then we move on towards the seasons of Advent and Christmas. And so the year turns round again.

Our service for remembering our loved ones will be on **Sunday 26 October, 5.00pm** at Guilsborough Church. Do join us and lean into this opportunity to experience the changing scenes of life.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH SPRATTON

A letter to parish residents from

DAVID BENNETT

Treasurer of Parochial Church Council,
St Andrew's Heritage Society and Café Doris

Some information and a few requests

I am writing in my role as Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Spratton, a position I've held for the past five years, having previously served as Assistant Treasurer and Acting Treasurer for many more. It is a privilege, of course, though not without its challenges.

Especially if you are new to Spratton, I thought it might be helpful to explain a little about the work of St Andrew's Church and the related organisations, and to invite your support in whatever way feels right for you.

1. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Spratton

The PCC is a legal body of trustees. At present, there are seven members, including three officers (Bill, our Churchwarden, Linda, our Secretary, and myself as Treasurer) and our Rector, who is also Chair. Ideally, there should be nine active members. We are responsible to the Diocese of Peterborough and the Bishop for both the running of the church as a place of worship and the care of the church building itself.

St Andrew's is part of the Uplands Group of Churches, which brings together eight local churches under the care of the Rector. This means that our clergy resources are shared across the group, and we are fortunate to have the Rector, the Reverend Allison Twigg, who is also Rural Dean, Associate Priest the Reverend Caroline, volunteer Assistant Priests Reverends Judy, Catti and Eric, and two temporary Assistant Curates in training, Reverends Cecily and Jo, who are supported by a wider lay ministry team. The Uplands Group contributes towards the cost of the clergy appointed but most of our clergy are unpaid giving their time voluntarily.

We are blessed with a beautiful historic church at the heart of our village, but its upkeep is a significant responsibility. The presence of an active church makes a real difference to village life, and it is hard to imagine Spratton without it.

It is important to note that the Church of England does **not** centrally fund the running costs of St Andrew's. All day-to-day expenses must be covered by us locally. On average, our monthly bills come to over £2,500, which includes insurance, heating, administration, and our contribution towards clergy costs. This does not include the ongoing maintenance of our 900-year-old building.

At present, around 17 people on the parish electoral roll give regularly through direct debit, covering about 20% of our annual running costs. We are deeply grateful for this support, but it is not nearly enough to sustain our work. You can find out more about our church and Benefice at *www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk*

Request: If you value the role of St Andrew's in our community, please consider contributing financially (through the secure Parish Giving Scheme, which includes Gift Aid where applicable) or by offering your time and skills as a volunteer. Every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference.

https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/spratton-st-andrewnorthampton/#:~:text=This%20Parish%20is%20registered%20with,or%20Apple%2FGoogle%20Pay%20wallet.

2. The St Andrew's Heritage Society

Formerly known as *The Friends of St Andrew's*, this voluntary group exists to raise funds specifically for the maintenance and repair of the church fabric. Its constitution is secular, so membership is open to all — of any faith or none.

In the past, the Heritage Society has raised over £130,000 for major projects such as tower repairs, window restoration, heating upgrades, roof works, and the installation of the outer north porch door. Currently, the Society is less active due to a lack of officers, but it still holds funds and has great potential to support future projects.

Request: We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining or revitalising the Heritage Society as an independent organisation with its own committee. Your involvement could help secure the future of this historic building for generations to come.

3. Café Doris – Community Coffee Shop

Café Doris is entirely independent of both the PCC and the Heritage Society. It has been running successfully for 12 years, governed by its own constitution and volunteer Board of Trustees. The café is run as a not-for-profit venture, aiming to provide high-quality, good-value refreshments while supporting local suppliers and creating a welcoming space for everyone.

In addition to covering its costs, the café contributes surplus funds to charitable causes. For example, it currently donates 10% of its direct café income to the British Red Cross Ukrainian relief fund. It has also funded useful resources for the church (including a widescreen TV, donation station, and internet provision) and supported other village initiatives.

The café team also provides hospitality at church events, and we are grateful to every volunteer who helps to keep this much-loved community hub thriving.

In summary

I hope this helps clarify the different roles of the PCC, the Heritage Society, and Café Doris. Each organisation serves our community in a different way, but together they contribute enormously to village life and the preservation of our Grade I listed 12th-century church.

We warmly welcome your interest, support, and involvement in whichever way feels right for you. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the team if you would like to know more.

With warm regards,

David Bennett, *davidhbennett@btinternet.com* 07962 231798

Northamptonshire age UK
Let's change how we age

Age UK Northamptonshire provides many services that enable older people to live independently in their own home and make more of life. They can help you claim benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Pension Credit, but it may surprise you to learn that they can also make the process of setting up a **Lasting Power of Attorney** much easier. We none of us know what the future holds but a Lasting Power of Attorney gives someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf and in your best interest, if there comes a time when you are no longer able to make your own decisions.

The charity works with Maureen Evans, a local paralegal representative, who can prepare and register a Lasting Power of Attorney for property and financial affairs for you or a relative. Maureen can also arrange this for health and welfare, along with helping you draw up a Will. This can either be a single or a mirror Will for clients who have a partner.

As well as organising monthly appointments at The William and Patricia Venton Centre in Northampton, Roger Harris (seen here taking instructions from Roger Aris) can also visit you in your home.

You can call Roger for more information and details of fees on **01604 631030** or email ***roger.harris@ageuknorthants.org.uk***

www.ageuknorthants.org.uk

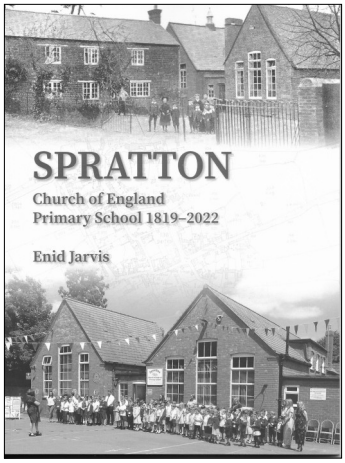
Registered charity 1059995



Spratton CE Primary School News

There have been a couple of exciting developments over the summer for the school in conjunction with our Local History Society (and our brilliant Parish Magazine editor, Enid Jarvis).

Primary School history book



You may remember that Enid published a superb book, *The History of Spratton CE Primary School 1819 – 2002* this time last year. We are delighted that the book has been awarded 'Heritage Award, Best Published Book' by the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum! The commendation reads:

"This touching and meticulously researched book chronicles the 200-year history of Spratton's village school, focusing on its role as the heart of the community. Particular attention is paid to the contributions of headteachers over the decades and the evolving educational landscape of rural England.

Enid Jarvis collaborated with current pupils during the writing process, teaching them to become historians themselves—an inspiring intergenerational exchange. The book appeals beyond the local community, offering national relevance as a social history of rural schooling. Judges praised its layout, use of primary material, and emotional resonance.



With warmth and academic rigour, it documents how the school shaped village life for two centuries. The narrative is both deeply personal and widely relatable—we were all schoolchildren once. This publication not only honours Spratton's educational legacy but also stands as a model for other communities seeking to preserve their institutional histories."

Copies of the book are available in the village shop or via the History Society website *www.sprattonhistory.org*

History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects

Further to this fantastic achievement, the school, in association with the Local History Society, have had an exhibit accepted for Northamptonshire Museum and Libraries 'History of Northamptonshire in 100 objects' extended exhibition. Entitled the 'Archer Attendance Medals', these four medals were won by Mary Archer (later Mrs Bard Leeson) for five years regular attendance at Spratton CE Primary in the early 20th century.

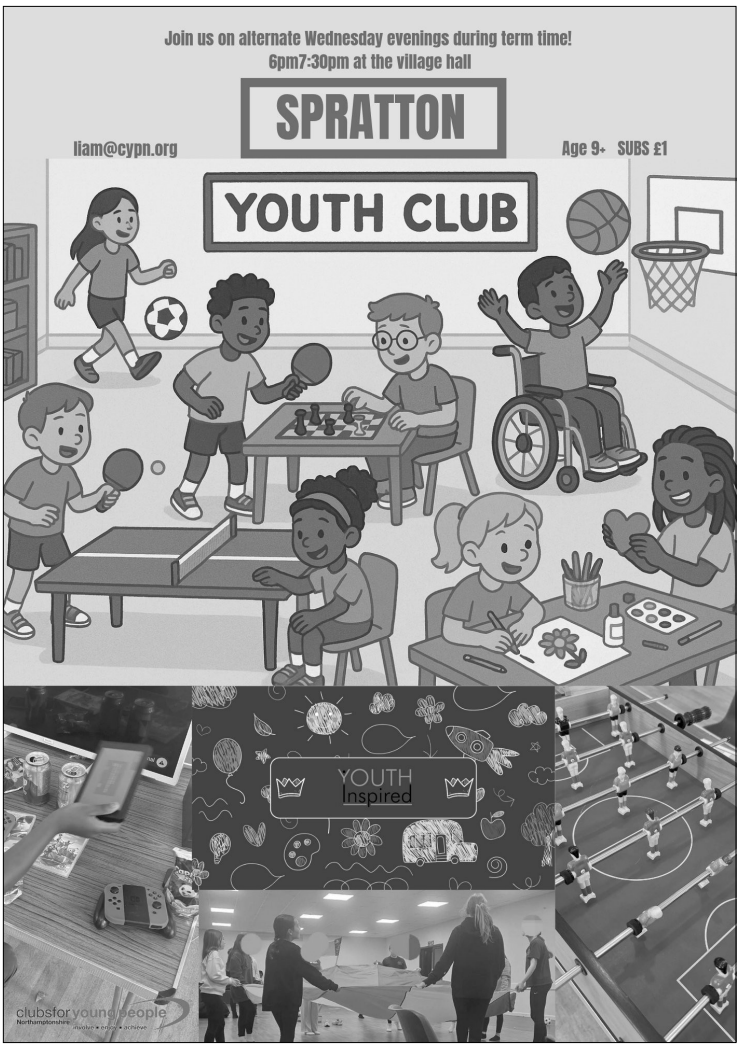
We are delighted to be displaying both the commendation plaque for the Award and the Archer Attendance medals as part of the exhibition in our school foyer. Members of the public are very welcome to pop in to have a look during usual school opening hours.



At the beginning of the 20th century schools relied on grants from the local authority, but in order to receive grants they had to show good attendance by the children. The authorities came up with the idea of rewarding children with good attendance records with medals and certificates.

Margaret Archer received these medals in the period leading up to the First World War and her sisters received certificates in 1911 for excellent attendance

Mrs Liz Crofts, Headteacher



Join us on alternate Wednesday evenings during term time 6pm—7.30pm

at the Village Hall. Age 9+ Subs £1

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FRIENDS OF SPRATTON SCHOOL

We welcome everyone back to school after what feels like a very long summer holiday.

We finished the school year with our increasingly popular Summer Fair on the 19 July. Despite the absolute downpour we had that day, we still managed to put on a fantastic event with the help of all the volunteers, stall holders, and the school staff. The event had to be split between the School Hall and the Village Hall, but that didn't stop us having more than six stalls open, refreshments, a BBQ, a Bouncy Castle, and stacks of activities for the children.

Thanks to the community's generosity
we managed to raise around £500 that day.





Looking ahead, we have our AGM coming up where we will be looking to find new members to bolster up our committee.

Sadly, we said farewell to several members this year, with children moving on to secondary school. **Andrew, Dawn and Vicky:** Thank you for all your amazing support over the last decade. Without your support, we would not have achieved so many amazing events over the years.

While we still need to form the new committee, this hasn't stopped us from getting some dates pencilled in for this school year. These are only provisional dates for now but keep an eye out for posters and information once things are firmed up.

Christmas Fair - Friday 5 December 2025 - 3:30pm till 5pm – Spratton CE Primary School

Easter Bingo - Friday 27 March 2026 – 6pm – Spratton Village Hall

Summer Fair - Friday 12 June 2026 - 3:30pm till 6pm – Spratton CE Primary School

As always, thank you so much for your continued support – every penny raised goes straight back into enriching our children's school experience.

Jonathan Pykett, Chair – Friends of Spratton School *info@fosspta.co.uk*

GIRLGUIDING IN SPRATTON

September already. We're all set to begin a new term of Brownies, Guides and Rangers meetings in Spratton.

We will continue to work on various badges (including lots of new ones) and challenges. We have a varied term of activities planned including; ice skating, Panto visit – "Oh yes we are!" swimming as well as cooking, crafts and just having fun together.

If anyone is interested in joining our units, we all meet on Monday evenings at Spratton Village Hall.

Brownies – 6pm – 7pm (aged 7 – 10yrs)

Guides – 7pm – 8.30pm (10 – 14yrs)

Rangers – 7pm – 8.30pm (14—18yrs)

Do you have an interesting job or hobby that the girls would be interested in learning more about or 'having a go' at? Please get in touch, we'd love you to come along and talk to the girls about it.

We are also in need of new volunteers, over 18, to join us and become our new leaders. Maybe you were a member of Girlguiding previously or would fancy getting involved in a different activity. If interested, you are welcome to come and meet the rest of the guiding team and girls to see what we do.

Our Contact details:

Brownies – *1stsprattonbrownies@gmail.com* - Katherine

Guides & Rangers – *sprattonguidesandrangers@gmail.com* - Linda

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Linda and Katherine

Shhhhhhhh!



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Scouts

I hope that you all had great summer vacations and are ready for the coming autumn. We were very lucky with the weather and hope that there is still something of summer left!

Ethan Jones has taken over as Scout Leader and I am retaining my Group Scout Leader role, as well as looking after the Scout Hut and garden as before.

All three sections have been planning for the autumn term. Activities will include climbing, camping, crafts, an event at our John Lowther County Scout Centre and hopefully a visit to the Panto at the Deco Theatre, among many other things.

We are very pleased to announce that an Explorer Scout Unit has started, at Spratton Scout Hut, for 14 – 18 yr olds. This is a joint venture between Brixworth, Pitsford and Spratton and takes place on a Monday night during term time. Ethan Jones is the leader from Spratton, on the team.

Lastly, a reminder that the Remembrance Day Service is on **9 November.** This is special as we all parade up to Spratton church to take part.

Please note we do have some vacancies in all sections for new members.
We would love some adult volunteers too. Come to a meeting and see if you like it.
It's very rewarding and a lot of fun

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

Please contact us if you would like to add your child's name to our waiting lists.
Beavers 6 – 8 years Cubs 8 – 10 ½ years Scouts 10 ½ - 14 years
Explorers 14 – 18 years

_Graham Smith Group Scout Leader (M) 07740855011

Autumn Newsletter

The deadline for receiving articles for the Autumn edition

of the Parish Newsletter is

Saturday 15 November 2025

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

(Do not send pdfs)

Editor—Enid Jarvis *jarvis.enid@btinternet.com*



Radley House

Bed & Breakfast
Located in Spratton,
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Contact Sharon:
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Email:
sharon.scanlan@icloud.com

Dawn Mallard Hairdressing

Brixworth Road, Spratton

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are sorry to see her leave
her salon, but wish her
the very best of luck
in her retirement.

We shall all miss you!

We would love you to join us at the

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Entry fee £5 on the day

Wendy Yvonne

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SPRATTON COMMUNITY CLUB CIC

The club opened on 7 June and has been warmly received from everyone who has entered. It has been a very successful opening, and we've had some big events over the summer. We also have some plans for the future – but whether these go ahead will depend on demand from the village. The potential ideas are:

- A monthly Quiz night – set up as a league if we get regular teams joining – first one is planned for 30 October
- Halloween party for kids and then an adult party afterwards – 31 October
- A monthly Bingo night – not planned in yet but something we want to do
- Potential monthly 'live music act' – not planned in yet but we are doing some research
- A Thank You night for all helpers/ members to get us to be able to open

If you have any more ideas of what else you would like to see at the club please contact Iain on email address below. We are still happy to accommodate hiring out the venue to the village for celebrations etc (had one Christening and one teenage birthday party since opening).

We are also looking for volunteers to help behind the bar, or being part of the committee – the club definitely won't survive without the help of more volunteers.

If this is of interest to you, or would like any other details
please contact Iain Wiseman at – Iainwiseman@btinternet.com"

NEW ROLE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

NCALC (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) has invited all Parish Councils in Northamptonshire to appoint what it calls "Champions" for climate and nature. These are volunteers who serve as the council's main advocate and contact for environmental sustainability, biodiversity and climate resilience.

I have been nominated by the Parish Council and will act as its appointee jointly with Jenny Tilley. As it is a new role, I am not sure what it entails but it appears that one of its main aims, as well as to improve and enhance the environment for nature, is to be a point of contact between the Parish Council and West Northants Council on environmental matters. This would normally be our elected WN councillor, Cllr Christine Ware and she will continue in her vital role of representing the new Ward of Naseby (including Spratton parish).

John Hunt

Spratton Table Tennis Club

Spratton Table Tennis Club was started in January 2024, as an inspired idea by John Hunt, as he knew there was a table tennis table in the Village Hall which wasn't getting any regular use. Since then, we have had four other tables very generously donated to us and about 14 enthusiastic players meet on alternate Tuesdays from 6pm-7pm, each paying £1 to cover hall hire. We vary in age from teenage to somewhat older and have a range of abilities, so everyone is able to join in and have fun.

Outdoor table tennis table

We have noticed that in many public parks around the country an outdoor table is provided for anyone to use, free of charge. This got us wondering whether we could obtain one to install on the Recreation Field in Spratton. We contacted the national governing body, Table Tennis England, who confirmed we were eligible for a cost subsidised table, provided it is for community use.

We applied to Spratton Parish Council for a grant and set up a Just Giving page for anyone who wished to donate towards the cost. We were absolutely delighted when SPC gave us £750 and even more amazed and thrilled when we raised £645 from very generous donations from people in our community. In addition, the Spratton Recreation Field Charity has generously bought the non-slip matting that we needed to place around the table. We also had a team of volunteers to lay the concrete for the base so this all helped to keep our costs down.

The table is now in place on the corner of the Rec nearest to Welford Road and is encouraging lots of people to give it a go. To make it as accessible and inclusive as possible, we have provided bats and balls in a locked box, attached to the side of the table. You can send a text to a telephone number provided, to receive the code to unlock the box. We just ask that you replace the bats and balls after use so that others can also enjoy them.



John Hunt cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new outdoor table tennis table on the Rec. This was paid for by a grant from the Parish Council and donations from the local community

Left to right: Sharon Scanlan, John Hunt, Jenny Tilley

If you discover that you love playing and would like your own bat and balls but are unable to purchase them, please let us know and we may be able to donate a set for you to keep.



If you would like to join our very friendly group to play indoor table tennis on alternate Tuesdays then please get in touch so we can let you know when the next club meet is.

You could also hire the village hall and use the tables that are there if you wanted to organise your own session with friends.

Email *sprattontabletennisclub@gmail.com* 07356 277244 or 01604 846705 or Facebook Spratton Table Tennis Club.

SPRATTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Another season has kicked off for both the Adult and Junior Teams, some more successful than others.

The Adults have a new Reserve manager (Mauro Albuquerque) but have had a difficult start to the season.

The Junior 6 a side tournament was hugely successful with a plethora of kids of all ages/ abilities enjoying themselves on Spratton Recreational Field.

We are very keen on making the Football Club synonymous with the village, so if you wish to help either of the clubs (Adults/ Juniors) with volunteering, whether on the field (coaches/ managers/ training) or off the field (Committee/ event planning etc.) The club definitely won't survive without the help of more volunteers.

If this is of interest to you please contact Iain Wiseman at – *Iainwiseman@btinternet.com."*



SPRATTON NGS
GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY
2025
THANK YOU!

Next date is Sunday 14 June 2026

It's been quite a year of "weather"! Very wet in the beginning and more recently very dry!! SO a big challenge for gardeners! Happily the enthusiastic gardeners of Spratton took it in their stride and once again opened their gardens for the National Garden Scheme NGS (*www.ngs.org.uk)* on 8 June to raise funds for the nursing charities.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy the gardens and a really big thank you too, of course, to all the garden openers. There are many individuals who helped make it happen from within the village, especially support from Spratton Garden Club members and others who took the entrance fees - plus of course the unseen but essential help and support from the NGS County Organisers (who are also volunteers) and the NGS Head Office team!

This year there was a new garden to see, which is always interesting – The Sheiling on Church Road – which is being re-invigorated by Jane and William Marshall. Kerry Herd at Mulberry Cottage excelled in raising additional funds by selling plants, honey from her bees, wonderful home-made origami cards and bug houses, increasing the funds by over £440!

Just under 200 visitors came to the village to visit the gardens and in total £2,200 was handed over to NGS. The marvellous team in St Andrew's additionally raised £720 for the church, from sales of refreshments.

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.

Planning and organising for 2026's opening has started. The date for Spratton is **Sunday 14 June** and registration for gardens with NGS is open. If you would like to open YOUR garden as part of the group opening, please do get in touch. Thank you once again, please get involved, help is always needed – the nursing charities need our support. And, of course, please keep gardening!

Lucille Knapp

07951 612733



GARDENS OPEN – JUNE 2025



We should like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the teas for the Gardens Open in June, whether it was baking delicious cakes, serving lovely customers, washing up and just generally helping; thank you from Viv and myself for all your hard work. We raised over £700 for the Church.

Thank you also to all the children who took part in the 'Tray Gardens' competition. Well done. They were lovely.

Please look out for the date for 2026 Gardens Open. We shall definitely need your generous help again to produce another successful event.

Thank you

Linda and Viv



Entries for the Tray Gardens competition

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Remembrance 2025

2025 is an important year for Remembrance, with the 80th anniversaries of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan, commemorated by events both large and small, internationally and in the United Kingdom.

Lamp post poppies will soon appear in Brixworth Road here in Spratton, reminding us of Armistice Day on 11 November and Remembrance Sunday on 09 November.

The British Legion would be deeply grateful for your support for the many service and ex service personnel who live continually with the scars of their commitment to our country's defence.

Poppy trays will be at the village schools and businesses, in addition to our door to door collection in early November. Our aim is to call on every house in Spratton during this time.

We would be grateful for some help with this enjoyable task - please contact me if you are interested.

Many thanks

Chris Prior-Jones, Spratton Poppy Appeal Organiser

chpriorjones@gmail.com

Spratton Garden Club

As we all know, this has been an exceptionally hot, dry summer and many of us have struggled to maintain healthy looking flowers and shrubs in our gardens. Our Club members and friends have been privileged to visit both large, professionally managed gardens, and smaller, more personal ones and it's been fascinating to see how these gardens have managed in this summer's difficult weather conditions compared to our own!

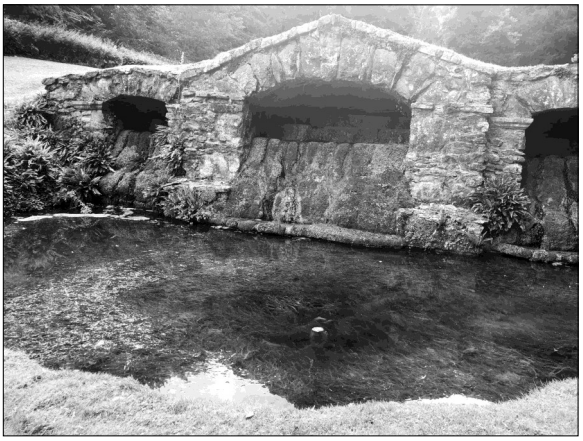
Two gardens we visited on self drive outings were to Flore. The weather was glorious and so too were the gardens at The Old Bakery and Rock Springs. Although the gardens at the latter venue were very English, as we enjoyed our meal at long tables in a courtyard setting it was easy to imagine being in a beautiful Italian garden enjoying good food and wine with friends. As a member said, "It doesn't get much better than this!"



Italian style gardens at Flore

In July our coach outing was to two gardens in Oxfordshire. At Waterperry Gardens there was plenty to enjoy: a garden centre, shop and restaurant. All were bustling with people but a walk around the extensive gardens (some of which had watering systems in place!) left us feeling relaxed and appreciative of this venue's history.

The second garden visited was Rousham Gardens (considered by Monty Don to be his favourite English garden and who described it as William Kent's masterpiece). These gardens have been used as a venue for films and television and they are extensive at around 24 acres, consisting of woodlands, rivers, lakes, ponds, cascades, statues and



At Rousham Gardens in Oxfordshire

walled formal garden areas. Walking in these grounds was a delightfully tranquil experience, leaving one feeling serene and in awe of such glorious landscaping.

In August we had our annual Summer Social Evening, held again at Dale House, Yew Tree Lane. This year we rang the changes and served Prosecco in place of Pimm's, together with a selection of Cherill's home made cakes and scones. It was a lovely evening and enjoyed by all. We send a big " thank you" to Fiona and Chris Cox for allowing us to use their beautiful gardens. Afterwards our Club made a donation to the National Gardens Schemes charities as a token of our appreciation of their work.



Summer Social evening at Dale House

Our final Club outing will be to Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire in September. Let's hope the sun continues to shine for us on that outing but that our gardens recover from 2025's summer heatwaves very soon.

Isobel Bromley, Secretary, Spratton Garden Club

Spratton Pocket Park

It has been a strange year, starting with very wet conditions that encouraged exuberant plant growth, including grass, followed by a hot dry period which caused an early die back. Thus most plants have now set seed and are getting ready for winter. There are still a few including Colchicum (Naked Ladies) and Devil's-bit Scabious making a good show. Most of the damsons are now on the ground.

We finally had some rain but too little and too late to extend this year's flowering season but let us hope for better conditions next year.

Dave Cooke

Spratton's "Hidden Gem"
Community Coffee Shop



Café Doris – September 2025

The latest news is that we have applied to HMRC Charities Commission to be registered with them, which means that we will have more formal paperwork to do – but this results from our popularity and turnover increase, so we should not complain !

Have a look at the Visitors Book when you are next in church – see how many different nationalities you can spot. We were delighted and a bit taken aback last week when 6 visitors from South Korea came in to enjoy a coffee and visit our church when on their way to Scotland! We love it when we can extend hospitality and show-off our unique surroundings to others.

We do not take the credit for the importance of our unique building of St Andrew's, buts it's a joy to have visitors appreciate what a wonderful resource our forebears created.

Our Tuesday "Good Loaf" *https://thegoodloaf.co.uk* bread delivery and collection service continues to be very popular and no wonder. The bread is fantastic with no additives artificial or otherwise. We fully support the ethos of "Good Bread doing Good". Do please remember to place your orders with us by Friday mornings at the latest to avoid being disappointed.

We are pleased to advise that your Ukraine donations have now reached over £2500 since we began, our money now being distributed through Red Cross Ukraine rather than the DEC.

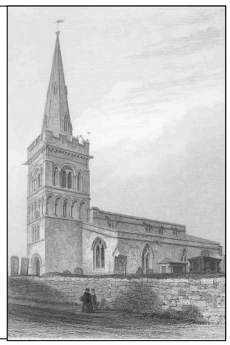
Its great that we recently have had Christingle marmalade, Allotment Piccalilli, MU Cards, local plums and even figs to distribute – so a big thank you to all those who share these with us. We'd also like to thank all the wonderful regular fresh cake-makers for making our Café so inviting. Thanks everybody.

David Bennett, 4 High Street, Spratton NN6 8HZ
Tel: 07962 231798 cafedorisccs@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Heritage Society, Spratton

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

Fundraising for a new 5 year maintenance and restoration programme



Organ Celebration:

The Concert on Sunday 29 June was a great success, thanks to all who contributed, the generous sponsors whose kind donations made it all possible, the volunteer musicians who performed so well, the live widescreen (which made such a difference) and the volunteer cake makers and servers who worked so hard to provide lovely refreshments. We now have a fully working heritage instrument AND a dedicated fund left over for future maintenance.





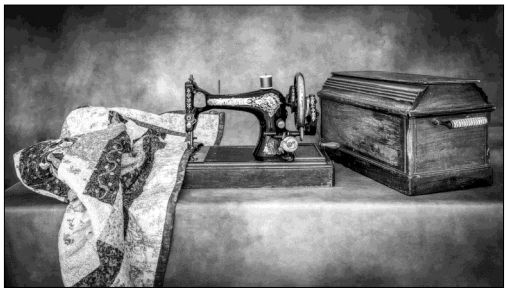
The next event, which we are supporting, is a special modern Nativity Play *(Joe Carpenter and Son)* billed for the evening of **Friday 12 December** in St Andrew's and to be organised primarily by Pam Townsend, not of this parish but whom most of you know. This is to be a one-off, written in the modern 1950's context and volunteers are being sought not only to participate but to support a refreshments team. A second performance is planned for Guilsborough Church on the Saturday evening so it's very much a joint effort. More details later. It will not be ticketed—donations will be invited and the church will be the beneficiary of surplus income.

Please contact David for more information.
Bill Blowfield, Chair 07887 510520
David Bennett, Treasurer 07962 231798

Spratton Photography Group
Enjoying Digital Photography

Our AGM took place in May followed by another excellent presentation by member Michael White on his exciting photography trip to the Galapagos.

The last competition meeting was June where the theme was "Machinery" and members produced some excellent images in both this and the open category for our judge Malcolm Hupman from Corby Photographic Club to give plenty of feedback and eventually choose his winners and runners up.



"Workhorse" Sue O'Reilly



"Turner on his Lathe" Brian Pere

During the summer break members had the opportunity to take part in photo events with West Haddon and Inspire Photo clubs. Paul Nickerson from Desborough & Rothwell Photographic Society was the judge for our return to competition in September where the theme of "Panorama", and the open section produced some excellent images by club members to impress him.



"Quiet Moment"
Richard Brown

"Bradford Mosque"
Veronica J-Roffey



All our Images can be seen on the SPG website, and a selection of club members' images are always on display in Café Doris.

For SPG to remain viable we need to increase its membership, so we continue to actively try and recruit new members and have had several initiatives including displays in Brixworth Library and Guilsborough surgery. Anyone interested in joining this friendly club please contact us or just come along to one of our meetings in Spratton Hall School to see what we do.

You can contact us via our website:
www.sprattonphotographygroup.wordpress.com or via 07721 623714

Veronica Johnson-Roffey, SPG Committee member

To all Spratton WI members

and village ladies

Our talk in June was one called "You cannot be serious" given by an ex - Wimbledon Umpire. It was certainly entertaining as well as informative.

In July we had a lovely annual outing, which this year, was to a National Trust property, in Buckinghamshire, near Wing. It was owned by the Rothschild family and certainly had some beautiful furnishings in the house. There were also art works by such as Stubbs, Gainsborough, Rubins and Rodin and a wonderful collection of Chinese ceramics. Luckily it was a beautiful sunny day and we very much enjoyed walking around the gardens.

In August our speaker showed us a number of photos of local Northampton-shire places which had something unusual about them. He did his talk as a quiz and we had to answer questions which were marked at the end. Well done Hazel for getting the most correct answers!

Future W I Events

Tuesday Sept 9 ~ Scandalous Georgians ~ Philip Nash

Tuesday Oct 14 ~ Victoria Wood ~ Steve Dimmer

Tuesday Nov 11 ~ Air Ambulance ~ Barbara Lunnon

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. If you have any queries, please phone:

Marianne Oakes - Spratton WI President~ 07762 883156



JOE CARPENTER & SON, an English Nativity Play

Friday 12 December at Spratton Church

Saturday 13 December at Guilsborough Church

at 7.00pm

Come along and see a Nativity Play with a difference!

Suitable for children from around eight years old.

Brixworth Cricket Club Ground Purchase Appeal

Help us secure the future of our club

Brixworth Cricket Club celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2022, with cricket having been played in and around Brixworth since 1847. In 2008 we moved to our 'new' ground on Northampton Road which has given us the chance to grow significantly – from 2 adult teams and 2 junior teams to 4 senior teams today, along with a thriving ladies and girls section plus around 200 juniors aged from 6 to 15 (with more waiting to join) from Brixworth and surrounding villages.

It's a transformation which would not have been possible without the generosity or vision of our landlord, Dr Dallas Burston, whose idea it was to build the ground in the first place, plus, of course, a lot of hard work and commitment from many club volunteers along the way.

We now have a unique opportunity to purchase the cricket ground at Northampton Road following the decision of Dr Burston, to retire and sell his assets in Brixworth.

We're proud to support the local community, including schools, clubs and charities – promoting wider participation in cricket and offering the use of our various facilities to many different aspects of Brixworth and surrounding villages.



Brixworth Cricket Ground on Northampton Road, opened in 2008



One of the best grounds in Northampton-shire

Since the first game was played here, it's a facility where hundreds of young cricketers have learnt to play the game along with countless top quality league and international players who have enjoyed competing in Premier League cricket and a host of celebrity and charity games.

Club President, **Devon Malcolm, himself a Spratton resident,** recently commented, *"I remember playing in that first game and I thought then what a special ground it could become. Over the years, we have welcomed countless international cricketers and top local players who were blown away by the facilities. Our junior programme is going from strength to strength and I was proud recently to host a Caribbean Cricket Day at the club which was a great success.*

It really is a sporting venue we should all be incredibly grateful for and one that we have to ensure we can continue to enjoy for many decades to come."

Maintaining our legacy

We are determined to keep our various cricket programmes going – across all sections of the club, with at least the same number of teams that we have now. If we had to move away, there's no way that we would be able to achieve that.

We are exploring all funding options, as well as calling on our own members, supporters and sponsors and we've had an encouraging start to our campaign, approaching a third of the way to our target.

However, we have to complete the purchase by 1st May 2026 – so time is very much of the essence and we're asking for donations to be made by the end of this year.

How can you help?

If you're passionate about sport and all the benefits it can provide, as well as growing an increasingly popular local community asset, then we'd love to receive your support.

Please visit the donation page at *https://donate.brixworthcc.co.uk*

Or, if you have any questions or would like to make a larger donation, please contact us direct on *brixworthcricket@btinternet.com*

THANK YOU!

Spratton Local History Society

History Society Archive

We continue to receive requests for information about the history of Spratton and we have helped with information about wells and the brickworks. We were interested to know that the Vintage Sports Car Club had an article on William Rhodes Moorhouse in their magazine and they acknowledged the help given by our Spratton book on the subject. We have been sent information that we can add to the archive. We know that people from Spratton worshipped at the Rothwell United Reform Church in the 18th century as we have been sent copies of the Rothwell church register from 1719.

Book Award



As mentioned on page 12 we were delighted to win the Best Publication Award from the Northamptonshire Heritage forum at their Award Ceremony at Wicksteed Park in the summer for our book *Spratton Church of England Primary School 1819—2022.* The picture shows Enid Jarvis receiving the Award from the Mayor of North-ampton.

Programme

In August we had an interesting guided walk through Northampton town centre and places associated with the two World Wars. Terry Whenham, the guide for our walk, will be the speaker on Wednesday 16 October, talking about *Prisoners of War at Pattishall.* Village Hall 7.30 pm

On Wednesday 19 November, Bob Foster, a volunteer presenter for the Mary Rose Trust will talk to us about *The Mary Rose.* Village Hall 7.30 pm

SLHS Publications

Our books are on sale in Spratton Village Store or from the Chairman. They can be also purchased via our website *www.sprattonhistory.org* and sent by post.

Enid Jarvis, Chairman SLHS jarvis.enid@btinternet.com

Northampton and Lamport Railway

Autumn news

Tickets for our ever-popular Santa Specials are now on sale! Santa Specials run on Saturdays and Sundays from 30 November to 21 December. All tickets include a meet with Santa, a present for children and complimentary on-train refreshments.

We also have a very special Santa Paws day on Sat 29 November. This is where the WHOLE FAMILY gets to meet Santa, including dogs! Dogs also receive a present from Santa and get to ride on the train (where they also get a small treat).

Prior booking is ESSENTIAL for the above

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:

20 & 21Sept – *Rail 200 Gala* – our big annual gala with an action-packed timetable and guest steam loco!

Sun 5 Oct – *BIG Kids for a Quid* - to celebrate Grandparents Day, adults ride for just £1 when accompanied by a full fare-paying child!

25 & 26 Oct – *Halloween 'Hocus Pocus Trains'* and extra spooky after dark 'Eerie Night Express' 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 Face-book, Instagram and Twitter (@nlrailway)



Current visiting steam loco 'Bagnall No 2' at Pisford and Brampton Station (Photo: Thomas Woolley)

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

West Northamptonshire Council		0300 126 7000	www.westnorthants.gov.uk
Spratton Parish Council	Clerk Alan Youel	07715 651904	clerk@sprattonpc.org.uk
West Northants Cllr	Christine Ware	07836 368888	christine.ware@westnorthants.gov.uk

SCHOOLS

Spratton CE Primary School	Liz Crofts, Headteacher	01604 846530	head@spratton.pdet.org.uk
	School Office	01604 846530	office@spratton.pdet.org.uk
FOSS (Friends of Spratton School)	Jonathan Pykett	07734 567012	info@fosspta.co.uk
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	sprattonvillagehall@gmail.com
Recreation Field Charity	Julian Gaywood	07973 405837	sprattonreccharity@gmail.com
Town & Charity Land	Pat Parish	01604 847734	parishpat79@gmail.com
Editor Parish Newsletter	Enid Jarvis	01604 821260	jarvis.enid@btinternet.com
Café Doris	David Bennett	07962 231798	cafedorisccs@gmail.com

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Football Club	Iain Wiseman	07791 844731	iainwiseman@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Cherill Hammond	07548 393762	cherill.hammond@hotmail.co.uk
Local History Society	Enid Jarvis	01604 821260	jarvis.enid@btinternet.com
Women's Institute	Marianne Oakes	07762 883156	ari@oakesonline.plus.com
Natural Spratton	John Hunt	01604 846705	jfhunt@talktalk.net
Photography Group	V Johnson-Roffey	07721 623714	veronica.johnson@btinternet.com
Community Centre	Iain Wiseman	07791 844731	iainwiseman@btinternet.com
Scout Group Leader	Graham Smith	07740 855011	grahamsmith8hh@btinternet.com
Cub Leader	Ruth Dand	07870 686607	sprattoncubs@gmail.com
Beaver Leader	Carol Constable	07581 029057	carol.constable@gmail.com
Girlguiding, Spratton	Linda Fletcher	07808 734124	sprattonguidesandrangers@gmail.com
Brownies	Katherine Rose		1stsprattonbrownies@gmail.com
Litter Pick Wombles	Sharon Scanlan	01604 820084	sharon.scanlan@icloud.com
Youth Club	Liam Bailey-Shaw	07427 073395	liam@cypn.org
Table Tennis Club	John Hunt	01604 846705	jfhunt@talktalk.net

Cover photograph: Litter picking along the boundary between the Recreation Field and Roly Banks. *Left to right:* Cllr Gary Ashton, Sharon Scanlan, Jenny Tilley, John Hunt

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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Scan to book or visit **sprattonhall.com**