

Spratton



Parish Newsletter Summer 2026

SPRATTON

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Come and discover the wide range of groups, clubs and organisations that make Spratton such a special place to live.

Meet local groups

See how you can get involved

Enjoy a friendly, welcoming atmosphere

From local history and conservation to sports, youth activities, social groups and more — there's something for everyone.

SPRATTON VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026

10AM – 1PM



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

SUMMER 2026

Cllr Jane Marshall



A flourishing community

In April, Spratton held its annual Parish Meeting. Although it falls to me to chair the Meeting it is a village and not a Council meeting. Thank you to all those village clubs and organisations which updated us on their activities and took part in discussion. Reports appear on the Parish Council website. As always, I am encouraged by the range of activities that we have in the village, and by the hard work and commitment of those that run them. It is part of what makes Spratton such a special place to live. Highlights for me this year were the progress made by the Rec Committee, the enthusiasm of the Table Tennis Club, improvements planned for the Village Hall and the numbers of young people who continue to enjoy Scouts and Guides. The installation of Wi-Fi access at the Village Hall is very welcome. It should help all those using the Hall, and it will certainly make it easier for the Council to share information about the many varied topics under discussion at our own meetings. I hope that in turn this will help members of the public who wish to follow Parish Council proceedings.

Following on from **Spratton Community Showcase** (to be held on **6 June**), next year we hope to change the format of the Parish Meeting. Alongside formal presentations, refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to talk to clubs and organisations direct. There may be people in Spratton who would like to help with village projects, but who don't have the time to commit themselves on a regular basis such as a formal committee role, for example. We would like the Parish Meeting to be one of the ways that you can connect with the clubs which interest you and to find out whether there are ways you could get involved.

Volunteers help in other ways too. Our annual **Open Gardens Day**, to be held this year on **14 June**, raises funds for a host of good causes. Thanks to all those getting involved - whether organising, serving refreshments, selling plants or opening your gardens. It is a lovely day out, right on your doorstep!

Draft Local Plan

In the Spring Newsletter we touched on the potential implications for Spratton of the draft Local Plan for West Northants and the proposed housing allocations in particular. The Council is setting up a working party of Councillors and village residents to monitor developments and to consider the way forward. *If you would like to be considered, please contact the Clerk for more information.*

Cemeteries

The upkeep of our two cemeteries and churchyard is a continuing responsibility. Progress is being made but there are still occasions when all is not as it should be. Practical steps to monitor the work being done by our contractors are due to be discussed at our next Council meeting.

Pocket Park

I am delighted to report that Sharon Scanlon and Jane and Adrian Baker have volunteered to take over management of the Pocket Park from Dave Cooke. This is very much appreciated. Repairs are to be made to the lych gate and bench. A map of the graves is being mounted at the entrance to make it easier for those wishing to trace the graves of family members. And finally, following the memorial testing exercise carried out as part of regular maintenance, the memorial to Sgt William Higgs Martin DCM has been restored. (See page 19 for further information).



Enjoy the summer.

Cllr Jane Marshall

jane.marshall@sprattonpc.org.uk

Next Parish Council meetings:

Tuesday 16 June 7pm in Village Hall

Tuesday 21 July 7pm in Village Hall

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



Hello everyone

One of the most enjoyable parts of my role as Naseby Ward Councillor is my appointment by Council as a trustee of Spratton Town and Charity Land. This fabulous charity dates back to around 1676 and administers several acres of agricultural land to the west of the A5199 for the benefit of the parish. The trustees have made me most welcome and I am delighted to be actively involved with this lovely group of volunteers.

The trust volunteers are just a few of the many people within our strong, resilient communities who provide continual support to help people overcome various challenges. Sometimes the work these volunteers do goes unnoticed and I would like to take a moment to recognise them and the work they do. Parish Councillors, those who work in Cafe Doris, the Spratton volunteers who come along to support the Brixworth Community Larder, the trustees of the Spratton Recreation Field, to name just a few. These are some of the unsung heroes who work to help others and to make our communities stronger and better places.

Please take a moment to think about, salute and thank our volunteers. I think that society is a better place because of the dedication of all of them. It is true to say that many of these voluntary groups are facing a difficult year ahead, whether that is due to funding challenges or just not enough people coming forward to help.

Charities Aid Foundation shows that around 5.6 million people volunteered last year, which represents just 10% of the UK population. That's actually 1.5 million fewer volunteers than in 2023 – a dramatic drop that reflects how stretched people are feeling right now.

However, strong, tolerant and inclusive communities can help all to get through anything with just little acts of kindness. There are many organisations close to home and in the wider West Northants area that provide volunteering opportunities. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, even if you have just an hour or two to spare, but don't know where to start, then take a look at Community Action Northants. Details of many voluntary opportunities can be found on their website www.communityactionnorthants.org.uk

For those of you facing challenges - my ask of you is that you seek out support and help through these amazing voluntary groups. They are there for you.

If you want to explore more of what Spratton has to offer then come along to the **Community Showcase on Saturday 6 June** that is being organised by the Parish Council. I hope to see some of you there. (See pages 2 and 13).

With kind regards

Christine

Christine Ware

Ward Councillor for Naseby

e: christine.ware@westnorthants.gov.uk

e: christine@wnld.org.uk

Tel: 07836 368888

SPRATTON TOWN AND CHARITY LAND

Charity Number 20433

Vacant Plots

We do not have any spare plots at the moment but we have a waiting list arrangement. If you would be interested in joining the waiting list please contact the clerk, Pat Parish.

Rents are due at the end of September close to Michaelmas Day and will be collected by BACS payments. The clerk will be in touch with the details.

The wildflower strip is looking healthy and growing well. We now have a bug hotel on the site thanks to a clearance team removing logs from an empty plot.

Grants

If you or someone you know is going on to further education or an apprenticeship in September, the Charity will help you with a grant towards your course expenses for the three years of the course. Please apply to the clerk for an application form which should be returned by the end of 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, to be completed by the end of October.

For further information on spare plots or grants
contact the clerk – Pat Parish, 1 Gorse Road,

01604 847734.

parishpat79@gmail.com

RECREATION FIELD: PLAYGROUND

The Rec Field Charity has been undertaking lots of work in recent months. This has included improvements to the playground, with repairs and cleaning of the old safety surfaces, replacement of the swings, replacement climbing ropes, roundabout repairs, zip wire maintenance and a substantial overhaul of the skate ramps. (See photo on front cover).

Some of these works have been assisted by generous donations from the Community Club and other organisations. We have been grateful for the support of volunteers with simple tasks such as basic ground works like digging, raking gravel, jet washing and other such tasks. We're poised to finalise a substantial grant application which will see the wholesale replacement of the old safety surfacing, to give the park another 20-years of operation.

If you want to help out with the work on the Rec, please get in contact (details at the back of the newsletter on page 34) and we can discuss options with you, from one-off activities to longer-term involvement, depending on your availability and what you fancy getting involved with.

Cllr Gary Ashton

CLEARING UP THE REC

Just a bit of an appeal really. We are running out of ideas of how to address the issue of dog poop left by owners in the Recreation Field.

The Football Club have complained to us on the Recreation Field Charity. They are pretty fed up with having to scour the pitch for poop before every game/training session. Then having to dispose of what they find.

To be honest, they shouldn't have to carry out this task. They pay good money to use the ground, and frankly it's not fair to expect them to do it anyway.

We have taken to marking freshly found poop with a sprayed yellow circle. Hopefully, that will warn folk of it being there, and perhaps shame the few irresponsible pet owners who don't clear up after their dog into putting the offending deposit in the bin.

There have also been instances where owners have actually bagged up their dog's waste, and then left the bag on the grass for someone else to clear up.

Come on guys, you know who you are!

Please can you bag it and bin it, every time.

Cllr Julian Gaywood

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**A Farewell Letter
from
The Reverend Allison**



Dear Friends,

As I come to the end of my time serving as Rector in the Uplands Group of Churches, I write with a heart full of gratitude and affection for you all. I will be moving to Rutland and taking on the Benefice of Uppingham with Ayston and Belton with Wardley, made up of four villages and two Churches. My final service will be to celebrate Creaton In Bloom with a Songs of Praise service at 7pm on 7 July in Creaton Church.

Over these past eight years, it has been a profound privilege to walk alongside you in the life of our churches and village. Together we have shared in so many moments that shape and define our communities—celebrations of joy, baptisms and weddings, as well as times of sorrow, loss, and quiet reflection. It has been an honour to be welcomed into your lives and homes, and to witness the strength, kindness, and faith that bind this community together.

I am especially thankful for the many wonderful people I have come to know. Your generosity, encouragement, and steadfast support have meant more than words can fully express. Ministry is never a solitary calling, and whatever has been accomplished during my time here has been through our shared commitment and care for one another.

As I now take my leave, I encourage you to continue supporting one another and the life of the church during the time of vacancy. Your faithfulness, presence, and willingness to serve will be vital in sustaining and nurturing this community in the months ahead. In preparation for the vacancy the service planner has changed so please do look carefully at the posters in the church porch and notice board or on the Benefice website at <https://www.uplandsgroupchurches.org.uk>

I leave you with this blessing from Scripture:
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.” (Romans 15:13)

May that peace guide and uphold you, and may hope continue to flourish in every church and village.

With my deepest thanks and every blessing,

Reverend Allison

A Tribute to the Reverend Canon Allison Twigg

Revd Canon Allison Twigg moves on to pastures new in early June, after eight years in the Uplands. Her final Sunday in the Uplands will be 7 June.

Allison came to us originally as 'Associate Priest' straight from her curacy post, stepping up to being Rector when Chris Peck retired in March 2020. That meant she had a baptism of fire in her new role, as the Covid epidemic struck within a week, so she had the challenge of steering the parishes through the landscape of lockdowns, including the fast-changing regulations of what was permitted. A very steep learning curve followed in how to deliver online worship. Allison worked tirelessly to try and ensure as many varieties of forms of worship were delivered safely, including Christmas and Remembrance services, involving long hours of trying to put videos together to be available online so folk saw local faces and familiar surroundings.

Allison's previous work as a teacher underpins her passion for working with children and young families. This ministry has grown and flourished under her guidance, including her work with schools, both as a governor and in leading worship in the three primary schools, alongside encouraging the Open the Book Team whose ministry is much appreciated by all the schools. The development of the 'Brunch@11' service each month in Guilsborough Village Hall is a joy to behold. Links with Guilsborough Academy have also been forged to ensure our young people have access to spiritual support throughout their education.



Revd Canon Allison at a baptism recently

Allison's ministry in the community has been much appreciated, including the occasional services of baptisms, weddings and funerals, where her pastoral care has supported many people. Her contribution to the Hollowell Steam Fair has been outstanding. She has also been active in various charities and a great supporter of other community activities, notably Café Doris here in Spratton.

Allison's skill and giftedness have been recognised further afield, and she was made an honorary canon of Peterborough Cathedral recently. She has been Rural Dean in our Brixworth Deanery alongside being the Vice Chair of the Clergy house in Diocesan Synod, which also brings a lot of responsibilities at Diocesan level. Allison has supported various folk through training for lay and ordained ministry and has guided three curates through some tricky transitions, each of whom has flourished under her care.

As Allison moves onto new responsibilities as Rector of Uppingham with Ayston & Belton with Wardley, we give thanks for all she has been to us in her ministry in the Uplands and wish her well in the next phase of her ministry. We pray that God will bless her and others through her.

Judy Craig Peck



Revd Allison and Revd Caroline with the volunteers from Café Doris.

Left to right: Alison Bennett, David Bennett, Philip Roseblade, Revd Allison, Ruth Jones, Jenny Tilley, Revd Caroline, Carol Constable, Bev Gascoin, Marianne Oakes

Farewell to the Reverend Caroline Burnett

Revd Caroline retired from her Uplands ministry just after Easter, having been in post for five years. Caroline came to us with a wealth of experience as a parish priest, as she had been a full-time vicar in her previous diocese. Although her role with us was 'Associate Priest', working in a House for Duty capacity, her contribution has been invaluable, both in the time she gave us, well beyond the Sundays and two days a week she was contracted to do, but also in her wisdom, understanding and support.

Her pastoral care, her preaching, her leading of small groups such as 'The Bible from Scratch' and various Lent and Advent courses have been inspirational. The commitment she has shown in leading some of the Uplands PCCs and supporting all members of the teams that help keep our churches functional has been much appreciated.

It has also been a great blessing that she was able to undertake the role of Uplands Administrator alongside her other parish duties, efficiently ensuring all the behind-the-scenes work has been kept smoothly flowing.

We wish her well in her retirement as she settles into a new area and a different pace of living. May she know God's blessing upon her as she steps into a new phase of life.

Judy Craig Peck

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SPRATTON VILLAGE HALL

Update from the Village Hall - all of the outside doors have been replaced. Thank you to **Scott Tevendale** for his hard work. The doors look great.

We have also installed Wi-Fi in the Hall with the assistance of Jonathan Pykett and Spratton Parish Council. If you have an organisation meeting, presentation or would like somewhere temporary to work quietly, please see the Wi-Fi details shown around the Hall. We will be monitoring the internet usage. If sufficient, we will continue to offer this facility.

The roof – grant applications are in process. We will update as and when we have further news.

We are looking forward to hosting the new **Community Showcase** event on **Saturday 6 June** in conjunction with the Parish Council. Please come along and meet the different groups, organisations and facilities that are within Spratton, including the use of the Village Hall for birthday parties, fund-raising events etc.

Village Hall committee – sprattonvillagehall@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Following the village Annual Meeting in April, a Community Showcase has been planned on **Saturday 6 June from 10am to 1pm** in the Village Hall.

The event is intended to showcase all of the community groups we have in Spratton, and there are plenty of them. Representatives will be there from the Youth Club, Café Doris, FOSS and the Primary School, Brownies, Guides, the Rec Committee, Women's Institute, the Local History Society, the Table Tennis Club, Gardening Club, and much, much more.

Please come along and see what the many societies in the village have to offer. You will be able to talk to representatives from all of these village groups, find out when they meet and how you might get involved. These groups are a superb way to get to know more people in the village and enrich your involvement with village social life.

There will also be “micro-volunteering” opportunities you can find out about; those little things that you might want to help out with, without needing to make any longer-term commitment. Spratton is a great village, and it's the community groups like these that make it such a warm and inviting place to live.

Cllr Gary Ashton



SPRATTON NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY on

Sunday 14 June 2026 from 11.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

PLEASE COME AND ENJOY THE GARDENS & SUPPORT NURSING & HEALTH CHARITIES!

Thank you for your support. In 2025 from the funds raised by 3,500 private gardens which opened, the National Garden Scheme (NGS) donated £3.875 million to the nursing and health charities. Since it was founded in 1927 NGS has donated nearly £78 million. Originally set up to raise funds for District Nurses, NGS is now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK and the beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK, The Queen's Institute of Community Nursing and Carers Trust. It also supports training gardeners and offers respite to horticultural workers who have difficult times.

Spratton is opening 9 of its gardens for visitors to enjoy **on Sunday 14 June 11.00 - 5.00**. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as are able to come. There is a very wide variety of gardens to see - from petite courtyard, a no plant garden, through cottage delights, bee friendly, beautiful borders and wonderful views of the countryside.



Waltham Cottage is opening for the 20th year which is very special and their contribution was marked with a presentation by the NGS Chief Executive Dr Richard Claxton at the lunch held at Coton Manor for the Northamptonshire NGS group.

Thank you too to the new owners of Vale View who have kindly agreed to continue opening. PLUS there will be all sorts of delights for sale at Mulberry Cottage on Yew Tree Lane.

Tickets cost £8 (children are free and dogs are welcome) and are for sale on-line at www.ngs.org.uk as well as on the

Norma and Allan Simons (right) of Waltham Cottage with NGS Chief Executive Dr Richard Claxton (left)

day at Spratton Hall Car Park and the Church. Thank you to everyone who is helping with the sale of tickets.

Refreshments will be sold in support of St Andrew's inside the Church. We are most grateful to Spratton Hall School for allowing us to use the school car park and for printing the maps. You can find out more at www.ngs.org.uk.

If any of you would like to open your gardens to support the essential work of the nursing and health charities or would like to help in some way please do get in touch.

Lucille Knapp 07951 612733

TEA and CAKE @ St. ANDREW'S

Gardens Open – Sunday 14 June, tea and cake will be available in the Church from 11am. Come along and enjoy our home-made cakes provided by members of the village. If you would like to bake a cake PLEASE, we would welcome as many as we can. Your cake can be bought to the church on Saturday, (the Church will be open) or on the Sunday morning.

HELP is also needed, please, to serve the refreshments and these delicious cakes. If you can spare an hour or two on Sunday 14th between 11am and 5pm please let us know. We are in need of extra help and actually it's quite good fun.

ALSO – we are asking the children to design their ideal garden – it can be a painting, collage, or digital design. They could include obstacle course, swimming pool, helter skelter.... all from the children's imagination. These too, to be brought to the church ready for opening at 11am on Sunday. There will be prizes!! Thank you. We look forward to seeing you all on 14 June

*Contact for cakes and help
Linda Fletcher – 07808 734124
or Viv Campbell – 07814 821442*

SPRATTON DEFIBRILLATORS

**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 in yellow metal cabinets.

You can find out more about defibrillators and how to use them by visiting the St John Ambulance website

sja.org.uk/first-aid-advice



**FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
3:30PM TO 5.30PM**

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FOSS—Friends of Spratton School

The Friends of Spratton School have been busy preparing for another exciting end to the school year, with our Summer Fair taking place on **Friday 12 June from 3:30pm–5:30pm**. We're looking forward to welcoming families and the local community for an afternoon of fun, games, food, crafts, ice cream and much more. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our events — whether by attending, volunteering, donating prizes or helping behind the scenes. Your support makes a huge difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for the children.

We are also delighted to share the progress of our school pond renovation project, which has been funded and supported by the PTA. A huge thank you goes to all the parents, volunteers and supporters who gave up their time to help with the first phase of the work, as well as those who kindly donated plants, materials and other resources. Phase 1 involved carefully rescuing and protecting the pond wildlife and plants, draining the pond, removing the damaged liner and surrounding slabs, installing a brand-new liner, and safely returning the water and wildlife to their refreshed home. The next phase will focus on improving the surrounding area to make it safer and more



accessible for the children, while also making the pond easier to maintain in the future.

Alongside this, FOSS has recently purchased a new bubble machine for school, which has already brought lots of excitement and smiles! We are also developing another eco-focused project to create raised planting beds and growing spaces around the Reception entrance. The aim is to provide children with opportunities to learn about planting and nature, while also creating a calm and welcoming outdoor space for the school community to enjoy.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Friends of Spratton School.

If you would like to get involved, volunteer, donate, or find out more about upcoming events and projects, please contact us at info@fosspta.co.uk

Pocket Park

After Dave Cooke's retirement from the Pocket Park, we now have three volunteers involved - myself with Jane and Adrian Baker.

Repairs to the Lych Gate interior have been given the go ahead by the Parish Council and should commence soon.

At the moment, nettle, ivy and weed clearing are our tasks with the summer project of re-painting the railings to come.

June is a colourful month for the wild flowers so do make a visit.

Sharon Scanlan

OLD PARISH CEMETERY

(Now the Pocket Park)

Information from Spratton Local History Society

www.sprattonhistory.org

The old parish cemetery on the Brixworth Road was opened in 1905 when the churchyard was closed for burials. It was closed in the 1950s. It became a Pocket Park in 2012 and obtained grants to replace the old path, repair the Lych Gate and install an interpretation board. It was officially opened in June 2014.

Unfortunately in 1994 the cemetery was vandalised and £20,000 of damage was done. At first it was thought that people from out of the village were to blame, but later it was found that animals had broken in and caused the damage.

During its time as an open cemetery, there were over 70 burials. Some of the graves are of the men who served in the First World War and who returned safely to live their lives in Spratton. There is one Commonwealth War Grave from the Second World War.

Military Graves *(the numbers refer to the grave numbers on the plan soon to be displayed in the Lych Gate)*



1 Private Arthur Walter PAGE

5th Btn Northants Regiment. Died in a Leicester hospital on 24 July 1915 aged 20 years from wounds received at Ypres. He was given a funeral in Spratton with full military honours.

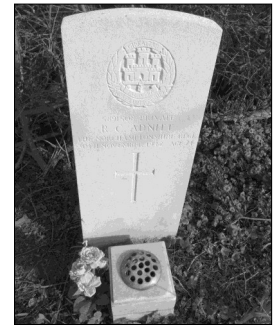
This grave has been repaired by a local resident and Spratton Local History Society after the 1994 damage.



3 Private Richard Charles ADNITT

6th Btn Northants Regiment. Killed in action in WW2 November 1942 aged 24. Died from wounds and buried in Spratton.

This is a Commonwealth War Grave.



9 Private Ernest John Roberts WYKES, 51st Btn Royal Sussex Regiment. Home Service as too young to be sent overseas. Born 1900 in Spratton. Died 15 Jan 1934 aged 33—accident. He fell from a horse and was kicked in the head.

19 Sergeant William Higgs MARTIN DCM

5th Btn Royal Irish Lancers. Died in 1950 aged 58. He had a distinguished career in WW1 and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was wounded a number of times, but returned to fight until the end of the war. Sgt Martin has left a written account of his time as a Prisoner of War.



44 Private Walter Ernest HAYTER

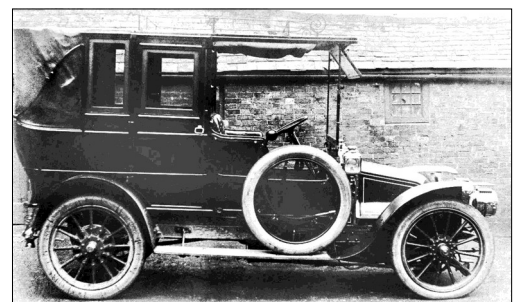
1st Btn Northants Regiment. Died 3 July 1915 aged 21 years and buried in France. His distraught mother died a year later in May 1916 and had his name included on her tombstone. *"Greater love hath no man*

than this, that he lay down his life for his friends".



48 Trooper Charles James WOOD, 3rd Btn

Royal Horse Guards, Machine Gun Corps. He served in France in WW1. He died 26 November 1953 aged 67 and is buried with his parents and two sisters. Born in Sligo, Ireland, he moved with his father and sisters to Spratton (the Dower House in Brixworth Road). He ran a popular taxi service in the village.





Natural Spratton

The Pocket Park

A few changes in the wind this year. The Pocket Park creator and manager, Dave Cooke, is retiring in June and he is overseeing the transition to some new, very able volunteers. These will be led by Sharon Scanlon, Adrian and Jane Baker. Sharon has for some time been organising litter-picks as well as being a faithful individual “Womble” who picks up any litter they find. There is a surprising number of residents who do care for the environment and keep the village tidy as well as allowing appropriate verges or other areas as wildlife refuges. The Scouts and the Parish Council also play their part in maintenance. Many thanks to Dave for creating a permanent legacy of over 120 wild plants in the old cemetery while maintaining the respect and quiet atmosphere a closed cemetery deserves. When he took over the management over 20 years ago there was only coarse long grass, knapweed and meadowsweet down there. It is now a haven for insects and other wildlife with a variety of plants throughout the seasons. He kept a regular photo record of the plants and had a large email list of people who he kept informed with the photos and his seasonal report. The Pocket Park has received several awards over the years and has been one of the “Open Gardens” on the NGS annual Open Day.

Memorial Arboretum

You will have noticed the changes at the bottom end of the Recreation field behind the Skate Park. The Rec Committee have agreed to create a Memorial Arboretum for residents who would like to plant a tree in memory of a loved-one. The company which does the general maintenance in the village, R&G, have already mowed a path through the area so that as and when required trees can be planted around it. One tree is already due to be planted soon and is an English Oak. If anyone has an enquiry about it they can email sprattonrecchar-ity@gmail.com. The project is funded by the Recreation Field Charity.

The Birds

I think the birds are feeling the cold, as we are this May as normally the Swifts have arrived in the village by the first week in May. I did have a pair for a couple of days and nights in one of my boxes but even those have disappeared. I expect they will be back soon but it is interesting to see if the colder May has delayed their breeding this year or if there is something like a weather or predation even they have encountered on their long migration from the southern area of

Africa. Otherwise, if you like to hear Nightingales, Strawberry Hill in Knotting Green, Bedfordshire is a great place to hear them and the dawn chorus with cuckoos and many warblers singing as well as the rarely seen Turtle Dove. I make sure I have a least one trip there every May.

The Swallows and Martins all seem to be arriving late and of course we missed our murmurations of Starlings which gave us such great displays during recent winters.

Local Action

There are a couple of active groups regarding climate action; one is call CA-WN (Climate Action-West Northants) and the other called CAN (Climate Action Nature). The first is more on a county and local level whereas the second consists of representatives from the parish councils in Northants. Both have meetings and trips regarding climate and nature. For example there was a recent informative trip to Courteen Hall Farm where we learnt of the many adaptions to climate that farm is making.

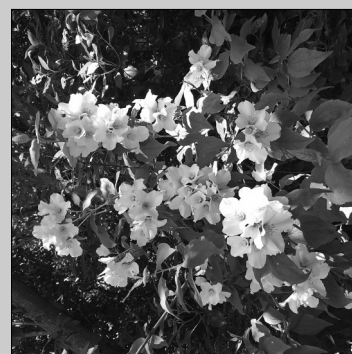
John Hunt

Creaton in Bloom

Sunday 7th June

Come and enjoy a fun day out in a lovely setting
with beautiful gardens.

Enjoy a Barbecue from 12 noon to 2pm
on Creaton Green.



Bar, Live Music, Steam Engines, Fire Engine, Classic Cars, Tombola and
many stalls selling lovely things from 12 noon to 5pm

9 Gardens open from 1pm to 5pm

Flower Festival in St Michael and All Angels Church,
which is celebrating its 800th anniversary!

Cream teas from 2pm

Creaton Singers at 2.30pm and again at 3.30pm in the URC
on the High Street

Creaton Village Shop open until 3pm

Funds raised are for the Church as well as the Playing Field,
URC and Village Hall.

We look forward to welcoming you to Creaton.

YOUTH CLUB

Age 10+
SPRATTON
£1

Wednesdays
6pm–7:30pm

Alternate weeks & term time only

Spratton Community Club



More information
To register



youthworker@cypn.org

07422573625

clubsfor young people
Northamptonshire
involve ■ enjoy ■ achieve

www.cypn.org



SPRATTON SCOUT GROUP

The days are getting longer, and this is allowing all the sections to get out and do outdoor activities, weather permitting. As mentioned in the last newsletter, there are camps for both Cubs (in June) and Scouts (in August) and the Beavers have a District Fun Day at the Sir John Lowther County Scout Activity Centre, near Kettering, in June.

Back in March, eight Scouts took part in the London Monopoly Run and were joined by a few scouts from Brixworth. They caught the 06.27 train to London before racing around the city to visit different Monopoly board locations and complete challenges as a team. After a long but brilliant day, they finally arrived home in the evening. The Scouts thoroughly enjoyed the experience and showed fantastic teamwork throughout.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Our AGM is on **Thursday 4 June at 6.30 pm**, at the Scout Headquarters in Yew Tree Lane. All are welcome.

Our last meeting of the term is **Thursday 16 July**. We always have a Fun Family event, all sections joining with their families. In the past we have done various quizzes around the village, with prizes!

All sections resume next term on **Thursday 10 September**.

NB. Our Scout Group in Spratton is run by a dedicated team of volunteer Leaders. If you enjoy working with children and would like to help occasionally or more often, please contact us.

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

Beavers 6 – 8 years Cubs 8 – 10 ½ years

Scouts 10 ½ – 14 years Explorers 14 – 18 yrs

Graham Smith, Group Scout Leader (M)

07740 855011

**To advertise in
the Parish newsletter**

Please contact
the Editor
jarvis.enid@btinternet.com
for details

It is with great sadness I announce that following our AGM in May 2026 SPG ceased to be, after 15 years as a village club. The club had been suffering from dwindling membership for the last few years and all our extensive efforts to recruit new members, especially younger ones, bore no fruit. In addition, the club member who for the last year has been acting as chair and competition secretary had to resign and no one else in the club felt able to take on either of these roles. It would have been impossible to continue the club at the level it had reached without someone undertaking these two vital roles.

We pay tribute to **Peter Hunt** who had the vision and started the club back in 2011 and to those who through their passion for photography chaired and kept the club going for so many years after Peter left, in particular the late **Alan Roffey, Richard Hollingum and Mark Blaber**.

We also thank the various venues in the village that accommodated our meetings over the years: the Primary School, The Kings Head and Spratton Hall School.

SPG met in February, March and April for our usual monthly competitions to judge our images in both Theme and Open category. The O'Reilly's were on a roll but other members did well too, receiving 2nd, 3rd , Highly Commended and Commended places.

Month	Judge	Theme	1st Place	Open Category 1st Place
February	Alan Edwards	Architecture	Sue O'Reilly	John O'Reilly
March	Ken Page	Decay	Sue O'Reilly	Sue O'Reilly
April	Dave Belton	Light & Shadow	Sue O'Reilly	Ron Wykes

"Old photographers never die, they always stay focused". So, one more time, allow us to share some of our images with you.



“Ashby St Ledgers”
Richard Hollingum



“Auckland Architecture”
Michael White



Pitminster, Devon
Richard Hollingum



History & Avant Garde
Ann Blaber



Don't Clean your hands here
Veronica Johnson-Roffey



“Seen Better Days”
Sue O'Reilly



“Birmingham Old and New”
John O'Reilly

All our images from 2025 and 2026 to date, can be seen full size in colour on the SPG website which will remain active until November 2026. A special display in tribute to the late Alan Roffey, who was an SPG stalwart, has just been put on display in Café Doris for a few months.

Veronica Johnson-Roffey, SPG Committee member

Spratton Garden Club

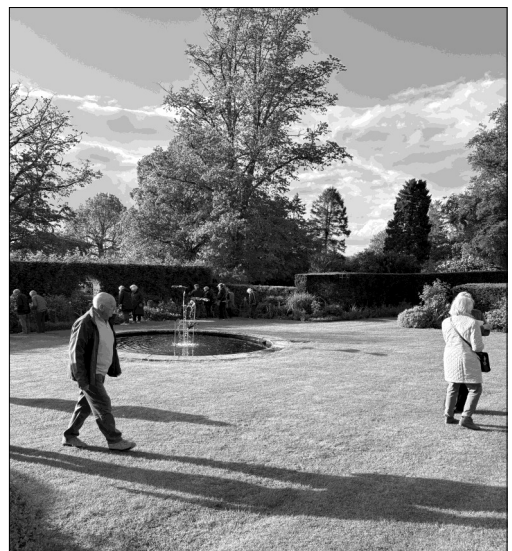
June... at last! Four weeks of long, light days when our gardens can finally welcome all those tender plants and seedlings that have been waiting patiently in greenhouses and on window sills.

June is such a magical month, and we intend to celebrate it with our second self-drive evening outing to 16 Ace Lane, Bugbrooke on **Wednesday 17 June**. Here, the gardens have been designed by the architect owner and offer so much beauty to enjoy. They are a true labour of love, combining horticultural passion with architectural and design know-how. Members will be able to explore herbaceous borders, topiary, water features, a lavender rill, and both pyramid and globe gardens.



Here are some photographs of us enjoying the gardens of Hardwick Hill on a chilly, but sunny, May evening.

In May, on one of our self drive outings, some members enjoyed using Daventry Area Community Transport when we visited the gardens of Hardwick Hill, Priors Hardwick, Southam.



Our summer outings continue with a coach trip to Houghton Hall, Norfolk, on **Sunday 12th July**. Houghton Hall is renowned for its magnificent walled garden, sweeping lawns and contemporary sculptures set against the backdrop of one of England's finest Palladian houses. The award-winning five-acre walled garden includes a spectacular double-border, a formal rose parterre, fountains and a charming glasshouse — plenty to inspire gardeners of every persuasion.

Our second coach outing this summer, on **Sunday 13th September**, is to RHS Wisley, Surrey, one of the most celebrated gardens in the country and the flagship of the Royal Horticultural Society. Wisley is famous for its vast and varied plant collections, its iconic Glasshouse with tropical, temperate and arid zones, and its beautifully designed landscapes ranging from the sweeping Mixed Borders to the tranquil Rock Garden and the vibrant Exotic Garden. It promises a full day of colour, inspiration and horticultural delight.

Summer Social Evening

This year our Summer Social Evening will be held at the home of our valued club members, Frances and Philip Roseblade, at 11 High Street, Spratton. It's always such a sociable, relaxed evening — one of those occasions where everyone can simply enjoy each other's company. There will be glasses of Prosecco, homemade cake, plenty of friendly chatter, and of course a raffle to add a bit of fun. It's a lovely way to unwind together in a beautiful garden setting.

Costs for summer outings

Both our summer coach outings — to Houghton Hall in Norfolk and RHS Wisley in Surrey — will cost around £40 each for members, which represents excellent value for money. This price includes your garden entrance fees and private coach hire, making these days out wonderfully affordable as well as enjoyable.

Non-members are very welcome, and by paying the small £5 annual membership fee, you'll be getting a remarkably good deal. Membership brings some lovely perks: a free bar drink and supper at the AGM, plus homemade cakes at the Summer Social Evening. Not bad for £5!

And finally

Our Club has so much to offer this summer, and with the long, mild days finally here it's the perfect time to get out, enjoy some beautiful gardens, and share good company. Whether you fancy an evening wander, a grand day out, or simply a chat over homemade cake, we'd love you to join us and make the most of this wonderful season together.

Isobel Bromley

For further information please contact:

Elaine Pryor — 01604 845071

Julie Robinson — 07870 751573.

**Bookings for
the Village Hall**

Please contact

Linda Fletcher

07808 734124

sprattonvillagehall@gmail.com

theWI

PLANT SALE

Sunday 14 JUNE 2026

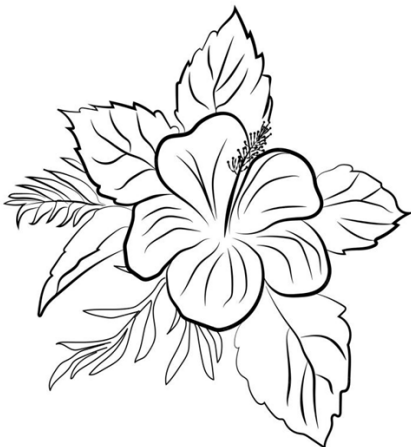
11am to 4pm

ST ANDREW'S

NGS OPEN GARDENS EVENT

DONATIONS OF PLANTS WELCOME

Plant sale profits to WI



**CAKES AND TEA
served at the Church**

**call Rachael at 07399 827042
email rachael.kitty@hotmail.com**



To all Spratton W I members and village ladies

Our AGM in March was well attended, and we all enjoyed the Fish and Chip Supper. Our membership has increased and it is nice to get to know other ladies from the village of all ages. The reports showed that we had had a successful year financially with some very good speakers and a lovely annual outing.

In April Gill Bradley gave us a very entertaining evening of Line Dancing. This is also good for the brain as well as the exercise as we had to remember steps. I think we did very well - Ye Ha!

The May meeting was Resolutions. The WI is very democratic and the two resolutions presented are voted on by every WI in the country. The first one is at a local level, "Accessible toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion for women." The second one is a national campaign, "Action on women's homelessness". The votes are used at the WI National AGM later this year. Enid Jarvis then gave a very interesting talk about our own WI in Spratton and how it was founded in 1923. Local ladies acquired the land and organised the building of the wooden WI hall (now the Village Hall). It was looked after by the members for many years. The song *Jerusalem*, originally linked to the suffrage movement, became the WI official anthem in 1924 and is sung at the beginning of every meeting by many groups.

Future W I Events

Tuesday 9 June ~ Christian Names ~ Susan Copperwheat

Wednesday 15 July ~ Summer Outing ~ Rockingham Castle

Tuesday 11 Aug ~ The Mysterious Death of Amy Robsart ~ Gina Davies

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: Marianne Oakes - Spratton WI President~ 07762 883156

LIVE BANDS ~ STALLS ~ KIDS GAMES ~ FOOD & DRINK

12TH JULY | 11AM - 4PM

Summer Fête

at Thornby Hall



Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre
www.meditateinnorthants.com



Spratton's "Hidden Gem" Community Coffee Shop



Café Doris – Summer 2026

Our AGM has been held as indicated last time - more will be revealed about decisions for this year's projects in due course. We have started to use an accountancy product called Pandle which should make our accountancy issues easier to manage. Also we have found a friendly 'auditor' out there to review our end-of-year figures when that time comes. Outstanding is our attempt at becoming a full Registered Charity, and we will deal with that in due course. Meantime, it's business as usual - "Good bread and good coffee doing good" !



On 28 April we were proud to celebrate the 100 year birthday for one of our lovely customers - Mrs Betty Whittick. Here she is with us with her card from King Charles and Queen Camilla. Rachael baked her a fantastic Café Doris cake which we all shared!

We have recently received two generous and very welcome donations to improve our facilities; two new comfortable bar stools in memory of Ann Tee, who often sat at the servery, and another in memory of Nolan Manning — both of whom are sadly missed. We thank their families very much indeed.

We continue to support Ukraine. 10% of our Coffee Shop takings, excluding bread orders, goes this way, via The British Red Cross. Our total contributions to the respective Humanitarian causes will have reached the £3000 mark since we began by the time you read this. Thanks again.



An independent secular Charitable Society operating two mornings per week
(Tuesdays and Thursdays) 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



Spratton Local History Society

The new programme for 2026-27 meetings is now ready and bookings are being taken for our summer outings.

On **Wednesday 22 July** we have organised a guided tour of Great Brington Church by Blue Badge guide, Gary Shaeffer. If you would like to come, please meet at the Church at 6 pm. £3 per person.

On **Wednesday 19 August** there will be a guided tour of Deene Park near Corby, the home of the Brudenell family since 1514. Book in advance with Hazel on 01604 820787 if you would like to come. £22 per person. Self drive. Meet at 2pm in the Courtyard of the house.

Speaker meetings in the Village Hall begin again on **Wednesday 21 October** with a talk by Stephen Barker on *The English Civil War in 8 Paintings*.

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

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Autumn Newsletter 2026

The deadline for receiving articles
for the Autumn Parish Newsletter
is

Saturday 5 September 2026

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

Editor

Enid Jarvis

jarvis.enid@btinternet.com

Northampton and Lamport Railway

Latest news - May 2026



Come celebrate Fathers' Day (Sun 21 June) at the Northampton and Lamport Railway with heritage train rides where Dad's go FREE! Trains run every hour from 10am to 3pm.

Also, for that extra special Father's Day treat, we're offering 'Cream Tea Specials' on the 11am, 1pm and 3pm services. Travel First Class and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea as you gently roll through the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside. Prior booking for the Cream Teas is essential and tickets must be purchased via our website before midnight on Sunday 14 June.

Other up-coming special events for your diaries include:

- 12 July – Double Diesel Day
- 26 July – Kids for a Quid
- 29-31 August – Our BIG 30th Anniversary Gala event
- 6 Sept – Cheese and Cider Trains

For full information, details of up-coming events and online tickets, please visit the Railway's website at www.nlr.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@nlrailway)

If you're out for a walk along the Brampton Valley Way on a Sunday, why not call into our Buffet for some light refreshments? (open 10am-3:30pm) You don't have to pay to ride on the train, just call in for a quick bite to eat or a relaxing drink and snack while you watch the trains go by.



Steam and heritage diesel trains in action together at the Northampton & Lamport Railway during its annual Gala event in 2024. This year's 30th Anniversary Gala is over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. (Photo by Hayden Sheppard.)

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 School Office	01604 846530 01604 846530	head@spratton.pdet.org.uk office@spratton.pdet.org.uk
FOSS (Friends of Spratton School)	Rob Sabin		info@fosspta.co.uk
Spratton Hall School	Simon Clarke, Head	01604 847292	office@sprattonhall.com

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Uplands Group of Churches			uplandsgroupoffice@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	Adam Martin	07984 289556	adammartin87@icloud.com
Garden Club	Julie Robinson	07870 751573	julierobinson50@hotmail.com
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
Community Centre	Jeff Buckby	07980 188223	sprattoncommunityclub@gmail.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	07895 003072	sharon.scanlan@icloud.com
Youth Club	Sarah Bailey-Shaw	07422 573625	sarah@cypn.org
Table Tennis Club	John Hunt	01604 846705	jfhunt@talktalk.net

Cover photograph: Playground improvements on the Recreation Field
(Photo—Gary Ashton)



PLANTS FOR SALE

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- **BEDDING PLANTS**
- **SEASONAL BULBS**
- **COMPOST 40L**
3 FOR £16.50
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3 FOR £16.50
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3 FOR £22.50

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10 MILES OF KELMARSH****

CONTACT STEVE:

TEL: 07967 836262

STEVE@SANDRGARDENING.CO.UK



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