

# SPOTLIGHT

January 2025

visit [sarrattvillage.co.uk](http://sarrattvillage.co.uk)  
[hesp.net](http://hesp.net)

## ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

SPOTLIGHT is produced by Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, for the people of the village and hamlets and welcomes reports of ALL village activities HOLY CROSS - making Jesus known - a church for the whole community

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### MORE ABOUT

The Benefice: [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

the Village: [sarrattvillage.co.uk](http://sarrattvillage.co.uk)

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

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### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR, CHIPPERFIELD

**Priest** Fr. Richard Mway-Zeng, The Presbytery, 96 The Crescent, Abbots Langley WD5 0DS Tel. 266177

Sunday Holy Mass 10am Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30pm Tuesday/Friday Holy Mass 10am

### SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL: [visit sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://visit.sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Chair	Cllr. Sarah Dobson	07881 500488
Parish Clerk	Mrs Lena Mortimer	<a href="mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> , or 262025
Parish Office hours	Monday to Thursday 9am – 3pm	

Alternative arrangements will be notified on the Office Door.

THREE RIVERS DC	District Councillor	Mr. Ciaran Reed	07584 430633
	District Councillor	Mr. Philip Hearn	<a href="mailto:Philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk">Philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk</a>
	District Councillor	Mr. Oliver Cooper	<a href="mailto:Oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk">Oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk</a>
HERTFORDSHIRE CC	County Councillor	Mr. Phil Williams	07738-293769
SARRATT CoE SCHOOL	Head Teacher	Mrs. N.O'Hare	262003
COMMUNITY BOOKINGS	Village Hall website:		<a href="http://www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk">www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk</a>
VILLAGE HALL	Bookings Secretary:		265881 or 07515-452124
			e-mail: <a href="mailto:sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk">sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk</a>
SARRATT CARE	Hours: 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday		270577
POLICE	Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number		101

Cover photo: Friends of Holy Cross Disco Night, taken by Jenny Roberts



## ***View from the Pew***

Good News comes in many forms: the safe arrival of a long-awaited baby; positive test results providing light at the end of the tunnel after months of treatment; restored relationships following disputes and disagreements. For the people of Syria, the hope of a better life following the downfall of the Assad regime – although only time will tell how that will pan out.

Over recent weeks, we've heard the words of the angel of the Lord to the terrified shepherds: "Don't be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people" or as the carol puts it: "Fear not, said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds, glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind."

So what is this Good News? "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Messiah, the Lord." The safe arrival of a long-awaited baby – the Messiah had been promised by the prophets more than 400 years earlier.

Light at the end of the tunnel – as John writes: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Over 30 years later, Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Restored relationships – "to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Regime change – Messiah, the Lord: a new kind of king who came to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to comfort those who mourn. A gracious and compassionate king; a humble and gentle king, full of grace and truth. A king who says, "I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!"

In his letter to Timothy, Paul wrote about God "who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see" – hence the terrified shepherds when the glory of the Lord shone round about them. The Good News is that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

The Good News is available to us all but it's our choice whether we believe it or not. Perhaps you'd like to make 2025 the year when you think again about the angel's "glad tidings of great joy". **Jeannie Poulton**

## SPOTLIGHT ON HEATING AT HOLY CROSS

If you've ever attended Holy Cross Church in winter, you'll know all too well the struggle to keep warm! The current heating system, powered by a 40 year old oil boiler, has long been incapable of heating the church comfortably without guzzling an entire tank of costly fuel. Each winter, we've faced the annual question: *Will the boiler survive another season?*

We're delighted to announce that change is coming! Starting in January, a brand-new heating system will be installed to address these issues and provide a long-term solution. The outdated oil boiler will be replaced with state-of-the-art **Air Source Heat Pumps**, which will deliver consistent background heating through the existing radiators and pipework. This system will maintain a year-round minimum temperature of about 12°C, a key step in preserving this historic building. In the past, damp and crumbling walls have caused concern, but the new heating system is designed to prevent further deterioration.

To complement this, we're installing two **HALO overhead heaters** in the main part of the church. These sleek, purpose-built heaters will provide instant warmth, ensuring a cosy atmosphere for services and special events.

Perhaps most excitingly, the new system is a significant step toward sustainability. Fully electric, it aligns with the Church of England's ambitious **net zero target for 2030**. In recognition of our green efforts, the St Albans Diocese has awarded us a **Net Zero Grant**, covering 20% of the project cost. Additionally, we've secured a **government VAT grant**, further easing the financial burden.



The remaining costs are already covered, thanks to the incredible generosity of church members and a substantial contribution from **Friends of Holy Cross**. We are deeply grateful for their support.

The best news? We're not asking for additional donations for this project! All that's left now is to look forward to a **warm and welcoming Holy Cross Church, all year round**.

While the installation is taking place Holy Cross will be closed due to safety issues, however during this time there will be a Eucharist service each Sunday at 10.45am at St Paul's Chipperfield. Church will close after the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 9am, service has finished and we will keep you updated on the re-opening date, schedule for mid-February. Interment of ashes services in the churchyard will still take place, however any other funeral services can happen at St Paul's Chipperfield or wait until the re-opening.

Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to share this exciting new chapter with you.

Warm regards, **Jenny Roberts & Neil Altman**

## **Holy Cross News**

### **November Meeting of Sarratt Parochial Church Council – PCC**

Two main topics dominated the agenda for the November PCC. The first was the programme of services and community/family friendly activities to celebrate Christmas, which will have all happened by the time you read this article! The second was the new heating project, as set out above.

Looking ahead to 2025 Sarah, our Rector, shared details of a Bereavement course starting in January, a planned introduction to Christianity course, plus a new prayer and praise evening.

Further details and copies of the PCC minutes are available from **Sonya - [holycrossstpauls@outlook.com](mailto:holycrossstpauls@outlook.com)**.

**The next meeting of the PCC is 27 January 2025.**

**A new group**, especially for women of all ages and backgrounds, will be begin in 2025 on the **first Monday of every month**, the first being on **3<sup>rd</sup> February**.

More details to follow... likely to be 1.30om to 3pm in St Paul's Parish Room Chipperfield.

A time to come together, over refreshments and conversation.



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### ...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

<p><b>Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group:</b> 9.30-11.30am every Monday, term time only, in the Pavilion, KGV Playing Fields. We are a nice friendly group. Please come and join us. Enquiries to: <b>Daphne Tyler 07970 894205</b></p> <p><b>Sarratt Scouts:</b> Sarratt Scout Group: For boys and girls. Explorers (aged 14-18) meet Monday evening, Beavers (6-8) and Scouts (10-14) meet Wednesday evening, and Cubs (8-10) meet Thursday evenings. Enquiries <a href="mailto:info@sarrattscoutgroup.org">info@sarrattscoutgroup.org</a></p>	<p><b>Netherby Bridge Group</b> meets from 2-4.30pm on Thursdays in Sarratt Village Hall's Back Room. New individuals and pairs are welcome to join this friendly group of contract bridge players - £2 a session includes teas and biscuits. Contact <b>Margaret Stratford 01923 260475</b></p> <p><b>Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club:</b> Training on Saturdays at KGV Field - <a href="http://www.sarrattrebels.org">www.sarrattrebels.org</a></p>
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# **SARRATT CARE**

## **JANUARY UPDATE**

### **‘SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH’**

In the Village Hall on **Monday 20th January at 12.30**  
For contact please ring Jacky Creed – details below

### **‘COFFEE CORNER’ and TREATMENTS**

(treatments include hairdressing, massage and chiropody)

In the Village Hall **from 10.30 to 12 noon**  
on **Wednesdays the 8th and 22nd January**

For details please ring Jennifer Haynes on 590542 or  
07743 133736

### **TRANSPORT TO APPOINTMENTS**

To arrange for a volunteer driver  
please ring 07565 399349

### **ANY OTHER ENQUIRIES or PROBLEMS**

Please ring Jacky Creed on 519975 or 07769 045270  
If no reply please feel happy to leave a message

**THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH** Charity No. 1102829

***‘How to Get Down from a Yak’ – tribal textile art.***  
**with Chris Aslan**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Sarratt Village Hall**

Our New Year presentation is completely different and utterly compelling. Nomadic textiles of the Kyrgyz, Turkaman and Karakalpak are explored, along with the rise and fall of nomadism and where nomadism fits in the modern world. The lecture displays houses made from wool to guarantee warmth in cold winters; carpets which tell stories; embroideries, weavings and kilims with a practical or mythological purpose - all ready to be packed at a moment's notice onto a yak or camel, to move on.

Everyone with an interest in textile art or in Middle Eastern cultures will find this lecture fascinating and rewarding – delivered by a real expert who has lived in these creative communities.

Chris Aslan, born in Turkey, is widely travelled and established a UNESCO workshop in Uzbekistan, reviving 15<sup>th</sup> century carpet and embroidery design, becoming the largest non-governmental employer. He also lived for several years with nomadic yak herders in the Pamir mountains of Tajikistan. Chris is now a travel guide, writer and lecturer.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

**Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.**

Hall entry for non-Members by suggested donation of **£8**.

**Our website offers full details of our work**  
**[TASRickmansworth.org.uk](http://TASRickmansworth.org.uk)**



## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

**Derek Youell** - We are very sorry to have to report the death, on 17th December, of Derek Youell.

Derek moved to Sarratt with his wife Joan 20 years ago and they very quickly immersed themselves in village life.

Derek was involved in U3A, Dance Club, and helped with Splat productions and fund-raising events for various local societies. In his time, he acted as Chairman of the Bowls Club, Treasurer for Sarratt Care and was one of the founders of the local Probus Club.

Before Sarratt, Derek and Joan lived in Surrey where, as a councillor, Derek held office of Mayor of Epsom and Ewell. Derek passed away peacefully at Fonthill House Care Home in St Albans where he moved in September. He leaves behind his son Chris, daughter-in-law Jackie and grandchildren Jasmin and Georgina.

**Ian and Dee McClelland** of Church Lane are delighted to share the news of their first grandchild and congratulate Alex and Natasha on the birth of their first child, a beautiful daughter Orealia-Quinn, born on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Dorchester.

## CHARITY PUB QUIZ

**AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT CHURCH END  
WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025, STARTING AT 8pm**

Entry **£2** per person,  
with a maximum of **six persons** per team.

Cash prize for the winning team with at least  
half of entry fees being donated to:

Additional prize for the funniest and most original team name.

Come along and enjoy a fun evening.

Phone: 01923 282908 to book a table

Email: [info@cockinnsarratt.co.uk](mailto:info@cockinnsarratt.co.uk)



# Grey Knights

After much thought by the committee, it has been decided to sell Bubbles. She was a popular vehicle but she became in need of a lot of attention and the Grey Knights does not have the resources to undertake such work. The good news is that Jenks is now in good working condition having had thousands spent on the roof and various other key items. Of course we have to remember that Jenks is 90 years old and we have to respect her age.



The Grey Knights held its annual Christmas party in the Cock on 3 December and a good time was had by all. The usual game of throwing the toy monkey over the beams and into a bucket competition was enjoyed by all. The winner was presented with a cup.

**Jenks has a number of local trips over Christmas including vehicles on the Green on Boxing Day.**

**If you would like to book Jenks, please call  
07917-800623.**

Alan Milsom



# SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

Serving our community 7 days a week  
(A Community Interest Company)



The end of 2024 brought two extra visitors to Sarratt Post Office Stores; the first, an Environmental Health Officer, blew in with Storm Darragh and came to inspect Sarratt Green Café. We are proud to say that we were awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating which is a testament to all the hard work from the volunteers that ran the cafe this year – thank you!



The second, Father Christmas, came on a beautiful sunny December afternoon brought in by a magical sleigh expertly driven by Elf Ellen Kilchmann - they were greeted by a crowd of excited children and adults before Santa was led to the café grotto where he listened to everyone's Christmas wishes. Thank you to all involved in creating and coming along to enjoy this fun, festive afternoon a great way to start the celebrations.



We also welcomed two new shop volunteers in December and are keen to welcome more in 2025 so, if trying something new is on your to do list for January, why not pop in to find out about joining the team, making new friends, catching up with old ones all whilst making an invaluable contribution to the Sarratt community. All welcome and no experience required.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Please follow us for latest news and updates:

Facebook : [sarratt post office stores](#)

Instagram: [@sarrattpostofficestores](#)



# SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## METRO LAND AND THE BIRTH OF COMMUTING

A talk by Ralph Hilsdon

**Tuesday 14 January, 7.30 for 8.00pm**

Commuting was the key that allowed London to grow outwards (rather than upwards). The Metropolitan Railway did not invent commuting but they harnessed it to create the desirable residential areas known as Metro-land along their routes.



Ralph's talk will follow a short Annual General Meeting.

**Sarratt Village Hall** - Refreshments from 7.30pm  
Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

[sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org](http://sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org)

## PINTS OF VIEW

### MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY



There'll be no Pints of View in January. The first Pints of View of 2025 will be held at **The Plough, Belsize**, on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm**. Join us then to consider how the world can be put to rights. Everyone welcome.

## 2024 Poppy Appeal

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we would like to thank everyone for their incredible generosity in helping to raise £1,906 towards the 2024 Poppy Appeal for Sarratt

A huge THANK YOU to the Sarratt Post Office Stores, Sarratt School, Adams Nursery, The Plough, The Boot, The Cricketers, The Cock, and the Cart and Horses for your support, and to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal and its significance as a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future

Very best wishes, Tracy Nurse and Carol Chorley

# ANNUAL SARRATT VILLAGE HALL GRAND QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of funds for and to be held in

**SARRATT VILLAGE HALL**

on

**Saturday 25th January**

**7.00 for 7.30pm prompt start**



*Try to win The Peter & Trish Clements Cup*



Preferably each table to consist of 10 people  
Each table to provide and bring their own Picnic Supper



*A Licensed Bar with Wine, Beers and soft drinks*



Raffle

*Donation of prizes would be greatly appreciated.*



**Cost of £8-75 per head**



Please let **Colin Plummer** know if you would like to take part or if you can arrange a table.

Tel. **01923 263123** or **07921 541582** or  
E-mail. [colin.plummer@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.plummer@btinternet.com)



We've been having a wonderful time celebrating the most magical time of year here in school - Christmas lunch, a pantomime, Nativity and lots and lots of singing!!! It really is the best time to be in school.

It all began at the end of November with our annual parent and teachers Christmas Fair. This year was the most successful yet with the community raising over £3,000 for the school!



We still have lots to look forward to in our final week with our KS2 Festival of Seasonal Music and our Christmas Service before we break for a well-deserved end of term.

We hope you've all had the merriest of Christmases and we wish you the happiest of New Years.



Nicola O'Hare and the staff and children at Sarratt School

## No Sunday Market in January

We're having a rest after Christmas, and will be back reinvigorated on **Sunday February 16th**, at 10am as usual. If anyone is interested in having a stall we usually have plenty of space - it's not expensive, informal and a lot of fun (and you get free tea, coffee and biscuits!).

Any enquiries please ring **Larry** on **265386**.



Our last meeting of the year was our Christmas Party. The hall and tables were beautifully decorated as always and the food was plentiful. The Sarratt School Choir entertained with festive songs. Always a fun occasion enjoyed by all.



We also took part in the fabulous Tree Festival at Holy Cross decorating our tree with lots of hand-made decorations including angels we made at our annual craft day in November – always a popular event.

Our next meeting will be **8th January** in the Hall and we'll be discussing next year's resolutions and having some fun social games.

In February our talk will be 'Frank Sinatra and the Mafia'!

We didn't have a walk in December, so the next one will be on the 4th Wednesday of January followed by a pub lunch.

Why not give us a try?

See you **2.15pm** at **Sarratt Village Hall** on the **second Wednesday of the month**. You will be given a warm welcome with tea and cake! A lovely friendly way to spend an afternoon - or phone our President **Leone** on **07894 421748** for more information.



# **Top Flight Comedy Returns to Sarratt!**

After the superb and sold-out debut in October, Stand up Sarratt!

## **Comedy night is returning to the Village Hall on February 7th.**

We have another amazing line up of top-class comedians.

**New Zealander and rising comedy start Matt Stellingwerf**

**Star of TV's "Smack the Pony" Fiona Allen and**

**Jonny Awsum – a semi-finalist from TV's Britain's Got Talent.**

The night will be hosted by compere John Mann – a seasoned and regular performer across the UK's best comedy clubs.

Doors will open at 7pm and the show will run from 8pm to 10pm. Again, we will have 2 well-stocked, and well-run, bars on the night.

Tickets are already selling out quickly so do book early to avoid missing out on what will surely be another fantastic night of comedy.

Look out for the flyer through your door for a QR code to scan to purchase tickets or alternatively use the poster on the Village Hall external or Village Shop notice boards.

You can also go to <https://www.lastlaughcomedy.co.uk> Click on "Sarratt Village Hall" and you can purchase tickets from there.

*We hope to see you there for what will be once again a fun and entertaining evening of comedy right here in the heart of the village!*

## **ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS AND SEWERS**

SPLAT has a large amount of materials and trims that need a good home. If anyone would like all or any of it we would be delighted to pass it on to you. We would love it to go to good use rather than having to put it into recycling.

Contact either Anne Griffiths on **265386** or Pam Hildick on **267927**

## BOXING DAY ON THE GREEN

Weather permitting, Joe Brownsell is once again organising the very popular vehicle exhibition on The Green. Cancer Research collectors will be present as usual.



## Sarratt Village Hall AGM

### 8pm, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Your Village Hall is incorporated as a Charitable Trust and run by a Management Committee of volunteers, coming both from local organisations and elected.

Every year the committee holds an AGM to report on the previous year's operations and at which all inhabitants of the area of eighteen years and upward are entitled to attend and vote for the Elected Members of the committee to serve alongside the Representative Members, which are appointed by the local clubs and societies. Our Village Hall is an important focal point of our village community, and depends on the support of volunteers to run it and look after it. This is not a particularly onerous task, but it does need doing for our village.

The committee is allowed to have 8 volunteer elected members and not all 8 places are likely to be filled by re-election of existing members, so if anyone is interested in joining the committee and helping run our Village Hall, please let **Larry Griffiths** know on **01923-265386**.

You are all invited to attend to hear our progress to date on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Hall, and to help select the Elected Members.

Hall details are available on our website: [www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk).

The hall is available for hire by contacting:

**Booking Secretary on 01923 265881**

or email: [sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk](mailto:sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk)

or on-line via our website.



## Have you thought about keeping Bees?

Why not join the West Herts Beekeepers Training programme. With four theory sessions, a practical guide to putting together a hive, help with sourcing bees and hands on mentoring throughout your first year you could be harvesting your own honey in summer 2025!

Training sessions held in Sarratt Village Hall during February and March. If you are interested, please contact Sue Clark ([sue@suemclark.com](mailto:sue@suemclark.com)) or go to the West Herts beekeepers website for more details - <http://westhertsbees.org.uk>

## Sarratt Horticultural Society: 2025 Subscriptions

Membership subs for Sarratt Horti Society are due in January. Our 2025 shows will be on **6th April and 14th September** and we will be organising other events throughout the year. The subscription remains **£3 per adult or £5 for a household** and can be left at the shop in an envelope marked with your name, address and email. New members can complete a membership form which is available from the shop or from the Membership Secretary- Audrey Hammett ([audreyhammett1@btinternet.com](mailto:audreyhammett1@btinternet.com)) and return it with the subscription at the shop. The form and lots of other information about our wonderful Horti Society can also be found on our website: [www.sarrathorti.co.uk](http://www.sarrathorti.co.uk).

Our Committee members will be delivering the show schedules and membership cards late January/February.

## **The Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt, and St Paul's Church, Chipperfield**

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Benefice website: [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles

Church Administrator: Sonya Tolmie

[holycrossstpauls@outlook.com](mailto:holycrossstpauls@outlook.com) 01923 264377

**Holy Cross Church will be closed between January 6 and February 15 to enable improvements to be made to the church heating. During this time, all services will take place at St Paul's Church. There will be Eucharist (Holy Communion) at St Paul's at 10.45am each Sunday.**

Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice  
For the most up-to-date information, see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet on [hcsp.net](http://hcsp.net).

### *Church Opening Times*

Holy Cross is open each day between 9am and 4pm  
(except between 6 January and 15 February, when the church will be closed)  
St Paul's is open each day between 10am and 4pm



*The gifts of the wise men*



# CHURCH CALENDAR

Holy Cross Church will be closed between January 6 and February 15 to enable improvements to be made to the church heating. During this time, all services will take place at St Paul's Church. There will be Eucharist (Holy Communion) at St Paul's at 10.45am each Sunday.

## JANUARY 2025

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</b> (Sunday nearest 6/1)	
9am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF CHRIST</b>	
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's
12.30pm	Benefice Lunch	St Paul's Parish Room
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>	
10.45am	Altogether Service Benefice Eucharist with breakfast	St Paul's
6.30pm	Compline (traditional Night Prayer)	St Paul's
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>CONVERSION OF PAUL</b> (Sunday nearest 25/1) <b>St Paul's Patronal Festival</b>	
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

## FEBRUARY 2025 (first part of month)

<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE</b> <b>Candlemas</b>	
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

Please continue to pray for the health of our nation  
and for each other

## Sarratt Care Christmas Lunch

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 45 people sat down to enjoy a 3 course Christmas lunch. The tables are always decorated very festively with flower displays donated by Adams Nursery.

Rev. Sarah Miles said grace before the meal. Afterwards, while everyone was enjoying a tea or coffee with mince pie and chocolates, the school choir came in to sing. This is always an enjoyable end to the event.

All our events are subsidised. We rely solely on any grants we are able to be awarded and mostly donations. As has been the tradition for many years, the Christmas lunch is free. We were so pleased that this year that we were fortunate enough that Hertfordshire County Council Winter Social Celebration Grant gave us a sum to put towards the cost of the lunch and I would like to thank them.

I would also like to thank the Cock and those who organise the firework display for their contribution towards the meal. The combination of the two donations has meant that the meal has not depleted our funds too much.

While I am writing about Sarratt Care lunches I'd like to remind all residents of Sarratt that our monthly lunches are not age restricted. We would love to see some younger members of the community joining us. Perhaps a group of Mums would enjoy a chance to get together whilst their children are at school. We start with a small sherry or beer; these are paid for by our members donating a little on their birthday month. The main course is not overlarge because there is a soup course to start, then main course and dessert followed by tea/coffee. Quite a lot for the middle of the day and all this for just £5.

We would love to see more residents joining us so please if you are interested call **Jacky Creed** on **01923 519975**.

# Sarratt Football Club



We're currently sitting ninth-place in the Spartan South Midlands Division Two, having tasted defeat only once in our last 10 league fixtures.

Frustratingly, the recent poor weather had led to several postponements for both our teams.

After suffering penalty heartbreak in the Hertfordshire County Cup to neighbours Chipperfield Corinthians, we bounced-back with a 1-1 league draw against Milton Keynes Irish Reserves, before Luke Marsh & Will Cloke's strikes led us to a 2-1 victory over Milton Keynes College in the Division Two Cup. We booked our spot in the quarter-finals of the competition, where we'll take on Newport Pagnell Development in February.

Our Reserves enjoyed a fantastic afternoon in the Cecil Hudson Cup second round, defeating AFC Evergreen 4-2 in dominant fashion. Propelled by Asha Alleyne-Nodwell's hat-trick on his first start for the club since returning in November, Jake Christie added a fourth to stamp our ticket to the quarter-finals. An away trip to Edgware & Kingsbury Reserves awaits in early February.

You can keep up to date with all the latest Sarratt FC news on social media. Find us at [@SarrattFC](#) on X/Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Admission to King George V Playing Fields on matchday is FREE! Draught beer, tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are all available to purchase in the Pavilion. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

## **Upcoming Home Fixtures (Subject to Change)**

28th December - First Team vs. Bovingdon (2:00pm)

4th January - First Team vs. Newport Pagnell Development (2:00pm)

11th January - Reserves vs. Cuffley Reserves (2:00pm)

18th January - First Team vs. Tring Corinthians (2:00pm)

25th January - Reserves vs. Croxley Green (2:00pm)

***Tom Scarborough, Sarratt FC Secretary***

# Sarratt Scout Group



*Gavin Daly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes,  
Sarah Dobson*

After the success of our 2nd Quiz Night reported in the last edition of Spotlight, we have booked the hall again for what will now be an annual event. **The date for our Quiz Night next year is Saturday 8 November, so please log this in your diaries.**

Our last Spotlight article focused on our Quiz Night and our attendance at the Remembrance Day Services and the Green Beret weekend, rather than our weekly meeting programmes that we've been running this term, so here's what we've been up to since returning to Scouting after the October half term.....

The Beavers have had a great term. They have learnt about Air activities and Navigation, and have also been out to Rock Up in Watford and had a Christmas craft night. They finished the term with a Christmas party with lots of games and prizes. We have had three new adult team members join to help run the activities, which has been great. We are now planning ahead to the New Year with more great activities and badges.



The Cubs have had a brilliant time this term. Our first session back after half term was an evening with Petsman aka Animal Encounters. The Cubs faces speak for themselves! Later in the term Elfrieda led a very useful session on Emergency Aid, demonstrating how our parents can really share important skills and talents with our Cubs.



The Cubs also learnt how to build fires with flint & steels in freezing cold weather, and hiked across fields to Holy Cross Church to partake in their Christmas Tree Festival. They also decorated a Christmas tree at Holy Cross as part of the Christmas Tree Festival and got creative with Christmas crafts. Talking of talents, the Cubs

brought their musical energy to the doorsteps of Sarratt on Thursday 19 December, carol singing for their final session before the Christmas holidays.

The Scouts have been busy working on navigation skills, planning a route one week and following the route the following week but in the dark! They've also had an evening at the Chorleywood Scout Campsite playing wide games and eating smores. We're looking forward to telling tales from our axe throwing evening for our pre-Christmas outing.

The Explorers first meeting back after the half term break was creating the pebble poppy next to the War Memorial on Sarratt Green for Armistice Day using the pebbles that had been painted by the young people from each of our 4 sections. This was followed by a giant Hide & Seek around Sarratt Green with a number of the Explorers successfully managing to stay completely out of sight of the leaders who were trying to find them! We've also made use of the flood-lit facilities at Paccar Scout Campsite with a High Ropes night, and worked on the Explorers Chief Scout's Platinum Award with the Explorers delivering presentations on a variety of topical international issues.



In the lead up to Christmas, we've had a Christmas bake-off (lots of gingerbread biscuits were involved!!), and held a movie night, which was the Muppets' Christmas Carol, and apparently the closest adaptation to Charles Dickens' original storyline of all the films made about his book - who would have thought! Our last meeting of the term will be a trip into London to see the Christmas Lights.



We'd also like to thank Colin Worrell who was Treasurer of the original Sarratt Scout Group back in the 1970's - then known as the Boy Scouts, who has found the handwritten Declaration of Trust for the then Boy Scouts dated 1967 and passed it to the current Scout Group as a historical record.

Finally, if you have a child who would like to join the Scout Group please contact us at: [admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org)

All our Sections are open to both boys and girls.

Beavers: Age 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - 8 years - Meets Wednesday

Cubs: Age 8 - 10 years - Meets Thursdays

Scouts: Age 10 - 14 years - Meets Wednesdays

Explorers: Age 14 - 18 years - Meets Mondays

## Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers

Unfortunately not much to report this month, as we had to cancel our task on Sunday December 8th. It is very rare for us to do this but the gales and rain of storm Darragh were just too much and would have been dangerous.

However, we didn't miss out on the Festive Refreshments as we met at Kay's for a very enjoyable social time and nibbles. Many thanks to her and to Stephen.

So we shall attempt to cut back the hedge alongside Quickmoor Pond on **Sunday January 12th**, meet there at Commonwood at 10am. It's on the right as you head towards The Cart and Horses Pub. Let's hope the weather behaves this time.

Please contact **Dawn** for more information, **01923-267071** or **dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com**.

Meanwhile the Wildlife Volunteers wish you a Very Happy New Year, and why not make it your New Year's Resolution to join us?



# Parish Council Report

*Sarah Dobson*



The following report covers the key points arising from the SPC Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December.

## **PLANNING**

### ***SPC Comments on new Planning Applications:***

SPC would like to remind parishioners that for certain types of planning applications (typically prior approvals and lawful or permitted development) that these applications are assessed by TRDC from a legal perspective to see if they are lawful, and if they are, approval will be granted by TRDC. As such for these types of applications SPC generally makes a comment of 'noted' unless we have strong reasons to object to the application.

- **24/1918/PDE: The Laurels, White Shack Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4ND** - Prior Approval: Single storey rear extension (depth 5.40 metres, maximum height 2.59 metres, maximum eaves height 2.59 metres)

*SPC: Noted*

- **24/1801/CLPD: Penmans, Penmans Green, WD4 9AZ** - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Stationing of caravan/mobile home for ancillary residential use. *SPC: Noted*
- **24/1833/OUT: The Royal British Legion site, Church Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6HL** - Outline Application: Development of up to 18 residential dwellings with access onto Church Lane (Appearance, Layout, Landscaping and Scale reserved) *SPC: A comprehensive response will be prepared by SPC before the 3 January submission date. Residents will be made aware of the application using the SPC email distribution list.*

### ***To note an application in Chorleywood:***

- **24/1946/NAC: Chiltern Hills Golf Course, Green Street, Chorleywood** - Neighbouring Authority Consultation: Buckinghamshire County Council PL/24/2859/FA: Reconfiguration of existing 9-hole golf course and construction of a golf driving

range; construction of green plateau for use as football playing pitches, including a permanent 11v11 football pitch with floodlights; erection of temporary changing facilities; erection of permanent clubhouse; and associated access, landscaping and parking.  
*SPC: There were no comments.*

### **Recent TRDC Planning Decisions:**

- **24/0990/FUL: Sarratt Church of England School, WD3 6AS - Demolition of existing demountable and caretakers block and construction of single storey teaching block with associated landscaping works**

*SPC: No objection. We support these improvements within the school site to increase the safety of pupils and staff and improve the learning environment. TRDC: Approved*

- **24/1507/FUL: Whiteway Field, Penman's Green, WD4 9AY - Erection of a car port.**

*SPC: No Objection. TRDC: Approved*

- **24/1450/FUL: The Orchard, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6AT - Installation of solar panels on existing garage flat roof.**

*SPC: No objection. We support the addition of green energy source and the approach to minimise any visual impacts. TRDC: Approved*

- **24/1391/FUL: Dellfield Farm, Plough Lane, Sarratt, WD3 4NL - Erection of agricultural barn** *SPC: Was not made aware of this application TRDC: Approved*

- **24/1339/FUL: 15 Church Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6HN - Subdivision of site and construction of detached bungalow with associated access and car parking.** *SPC: We do not generally support splitting of existing single plots to provide additional dwellings in the*

*Conservation Area as this can lead to overdevelopment. However, due to the position of this proposal, the fact that this plot is effectively a brownfield site and the proposal is for a 3 bed bungalow, which is under-represented in this area, we are not objecting to this application. If officers are minded to approve, we ask that permitted development rights are removed to restrict this development from being expanded in the future. TRDC: Refused. (The reasons given by TRDC for the refusal were: 1) By virtue of its siting, scale, design and orientation, the proposed development would detract from the neutral contribution the existing*

site makes to The Green, Sarratt Conservation Area, resulting in an incongruous addition which would harm the character and appearance of the conservation area. 2) Does not contribute to affordable housing. 3) No evidence for biodiversity net gain.

- **24/1129/FUL: Waterdell House, Little Green Lane, Croxley Green, WD3 3JH – Construction of carport to front of dwelling**  
SPC: No objection. TRDC: Approved

### ***Planning Enforcements:***

A list of the latest TRDC planning can be found on the SPC website.

### ***Planning Appeals:***

APP/P1940/W/24/3346997 & APP/P1940/W/24/3349084 - land to the rear of 47 Church Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6HN - Demolition of existing structures and construction of five detached dwellings with associated parking, bin and cycle storage, landscaping and access improvements. Ref. No: 24/0023/REF. No further updates.

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES**

- **2025/26 Budget** – The Council reviewed the proposed budget for the next financial year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) and agreed a 2.5% increase was appropriate to cover the Council’s forecast expenditure next year. This will see the budget (Precept) increase from the current year’s figure of £108,337 to £111,045 next year. The impact of this for parishioners on their Council Tax is an increase in the cost of the services SPC provides from £97.95 last year to £100.39 next year (or £2.45 for the year) for a Band D Council Tax householder.
- **Policy Review** - The following policies were reviewed and agreed for adoption:
  - Co-Option of Councillors
  - Protocol for the Reporting of Meetings
  - Correspondence
  - Press and Media

These will now be made available on the SPC website and reviewed again in December 2026 in accordance with the new 2-year review cycle.

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Cllr Garvey's reported that the Woodland Management Plan implementation was in progress. She is currently going through the process of selecting a contractor for the tree work and will then apply for a £3K grant to help with this large expense.
- The tree in front of Springfield at the Chipperfield end of Sarratt Green will be cut back by UK Power Networks in the Spring as it's entangled in their power lines. A cordon has been put up around the tree to protect passing walkers from any falling boughs in the meantime.
- Signs stating 'Footpath' or 'Bridleway' have been erected on Dawes Common to request horse riders to refrain from riding their horses on the footpaths as they are getting 'churned up' with the wet weather making it difficult for walkers.
- Quotations are being received to cut back the lilies and reeds in the Cricketers Pond. SPC hopes to appoint a contractor soon, with the work undertaken early in the New Year.
- The Boxing Day Car Festival has been approved and Greg Edmund will be undertaking some metal detecting on the Green the day after. SPC was pleased to learn the Village Hall Committee has approved the installation of a cabinet in the rear hall to display the artifacts Greg has already discovered.
- SPC has delighted to be asked to decorate a tree at Holy Cross Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival earlier this month. SPC has also received many positive comments about the Christmas Tree it has erected and decorated on the Green in front of the school.

## HIGHWAYS

- **Storm Damage** - The recent storms have highlighted the poor state of many of the trees that border our roads, mostly on County Council verges. They shed branches and some fall into the road creating dangerous conditions for all. Cllr Diggins will be writing to the County Council on this.
- **Fault Reporting** - Please continue to report faults using the Herts CC portal: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways->

- **Letter on the State of the Parish Roads** - A letter has been sent from SPC to the Lead Councillor at Herts County Council, our County Councillor, our District Councillors and our MP, requesting a strategic rethink of how the roads in Sarratt Parish are looked after. A response has been received from our County Councillor, Phil Williams, advising he has passed our letter to the HCC Highways Officers. It is hoped a meeting with them will be arranged in the new year. SPC has also prepared a detailed paper on specific issues to discuss with the Officers, and we hope to engage with HCC Highways officers to agree a maintenance schedule over the next couple of years that prioritises the most urgent problems.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

- **KGV Playground Update** - There was a potential visit from Caloo to the playground last week to level the ground around the roundabout. Cllr Alder had been unable to visit the playground in the last few days to check if they had been, but it's thought a visit would have been unlikely due to the bad weather. Caloo will also come on 13 January (weather permitting) to replace the surface of the basketball court and do remedial work. The Clerk will alert the Village that the playground will be closed at this time. Cllr Alder also advised that following some concerns from members of the public about the other rotating piece of equipment, he had spoken to Caloo who confirmed all the equipment meets the relevant British Standard.
- **KGV Pavilion Update** – Cllr Dobson advised the TRDC Policy & Resources Committee had approved £200K of District CIL funding for the extension and refurbishment of the Pavilion. This was followed by a photo-shoot at the pavilion with Cllr Dobson, Tom Shurville of Sarratt Football Club, Ciaran Reed, our District Councillor and Lead Councillor for TRDC,



Stephen Giles-Medhurst to accompany a press release on the grant that TRDC have now sent out.

When added to the £30K already pledged by SPC, the KGV Charity and a local benefactor, plus £7,700 from the National Lottery, there is still a funding shortfall of ca. £160K. The project team is looking to reduce the total project cost / shortfall with an alternative reduced-height roof structure, which will require a new planning application, although this will not invalidate the £200K grant from TRDC. There will however still be the need to secure additional funds from other sources and the project team will be applying for a grant from the Football Foundation and the Bernard Sunley Trust together with local fundraising activities, which will probably include ‘Buy a Brick’ for the new pavilion. All of the above has resulted in a decision to push the start date for the construction back to the end of the football season in May 2026, rather than May 2025. The next step is to appoint a professional project management company and run the formal tender process to select a contractor.

- **VE Day 2025, 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Croxley Green have succeeded in getting a flypast from the Battle of Britain flight on VE80 Day. Cllr Diggins will pursue this as Sarratt is probably also on the flight path. Chorleywood will share details of their portable beacon as a number of Parish Councils in the district have expressed an interest in this as a potential option for VE Day. Cllr Diggins is also keen to engage with other organisations in the Parish who would be interested in participating in an event to mark this milestone anniversary.
- **Joint Parishes Meeting** - This meeting is held every 6 months and the meeting in November was attended by Cllr Dobson and the Clerk, together with representatives from the other Parish Councils in the Three Rivers District - Chorleywood, Watford Rural, Croxley Green, Batchworth and Abbots Langley, together with representatives from TRDC and the Police. The police reported crime figures were down by 16% compared to the previous year, although shop lifting by organised gangs is a growing problem. Using Herts Connect to report crime and provide information can be vital to apprehending offenders. The Police are launching some new initiatives to ensure residents can meet them unofficially – like ‘Coffee with a Cop’ in Rickmansworth at one of the coffee shops.

Chorleywood noted The Bank in Chorleywood, a new restaurant and club, is causing extensive issues with noise and parking. Chorleywood is also planning to become a Market Authority for their Christmas Fair, so eliminating the need for the stall holders to apply for individual licenses. This has the added advantage of enabling Chorleywood to host other fairs. Chorleywood is running a very successful Community Shed for people to come together and is hoping to start up a Repair Café which could rotate from Parish to Parish throughout the year. Details will be shared with the other Parish Councils to forward to their residents.

Shivani Dave, from TRDC came to discuss the Emergency Plan she is developing which sets out how the district will deal with large scale disasters, such as fires and power outages, or flooding. As part of the plan, venues are being identified across the district to be Reception Centres in the event of residents having to be evacuated from their homes. Sarratt Village Hall has volunteered to be one of these. Shivani also reported on the TRDC Local Strategic Partnership, which involves the District Council, the police and fire service and a number of large charities. The objective of the group to make the district a better place to live, and to work jointly to resolve problems, such as belonging, safety, economy, environment and to increase opportunities for job creation. These meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes for the meetings can be found on the TRDC website: <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk>

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next monthly meeting of Sarratt Parish Council will be held at **7:30pm on Tuesday 14 January** in the Rear Room of Sarratt Village Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

To contact SPC please telephone:

Mrs. **Lena Mortimer**, the Parish Clerk, on **01923 262025**  
or email her at [clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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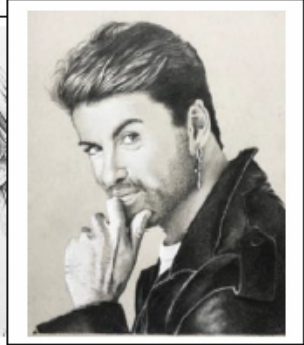
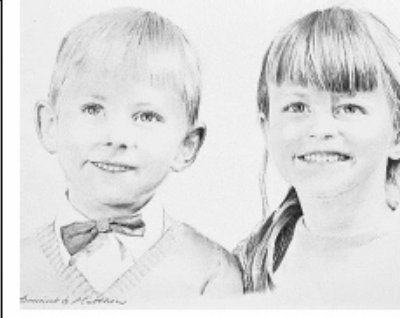
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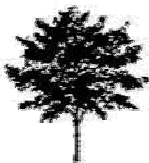
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- PHYSIOTHERAPY** Neck and back pains, muscle and joint problems. Incontinence, acupuncture, home visits. ANNE STICKLAND offering a local service . [anne.stickland@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.stickland@btinternet.com) 01442 832090
- PROCARE** -Thorough Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning with outstanding local service. Carpets dry in 30min. 100% satisfaction guarantee. [www.procare-cleaning.co.uk](http://www.procare-cleaning.co.uk) Call Matthew on 709450
- TOE-TAL FOOTCARE** for the treatment of corns, callus, ingrown or thickened nails, nail trimming, and other complaints. Appointments in your own home (40 minutes – 1 hr) at £40. 07799 033974
- SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES** 262106
- SARRATT TENNIS CLUB** - Social Tennis, Coaching, Teams, Floodlights  
Membership - Jackie Youell [membership@sarratttennisclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sarratttennisclub.co.uk) 261990
- TIMELESS INTERIORS** Interior design service, 777260  
Meadow Cottage, The Vale, Chesham, HP5 3NS.
- T.R.SHAW** – Painter and Decorator 15, Alexandra Road, Chipperfield 268892
- WASP PROBLEM?** Wasp/Hornets nests destroyed. £50.  
Normally same day service, including weekends. Fully insured. 07833 459321 or 07780 953222

## WHITEWOOD ESTATES

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Office: 35a High Street, Bovington





Santa John Griffiths – Elves Ellen Kitchmann and Maria Moylan



Santa Nick Mortimer and the litter crew

**DEADLINE for February is Sunday 19 January**