

SPOTLIGHT

March 2025



visit sarrattvillage.co.uk

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7595>

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: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7595> **the Village:** sarrattvillage.co.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

SARRATT Revd Sarah Miles

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	Jenny Roberts	jennyroberts315@gmail.com or 07808 131759
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Administrator	Mrs. Sonya Tolmie	holycrossstpauls@outlook.com or 264377
Youth Worker		
Friends of Holy Cross	Mrs Sue Clark	sue@suemclark.com or 07850 285471

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	clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk , 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	Philip.hearn@threerivers.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Mr. Oliver Cooper	Oliver.cooper@threerivers.gov.uk
HERTFORDSHIRE CC	County Councillor	Mr. Phil Williams	07738-293769
SARRATT CoE SCHOOL	Head Teacher	Mrs. N.O'Hare	262003
COMMUNITY BOOKINGS	Village Hall website:		www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk
VILLAGE HALL	Bookings Secretary:		265881 or 07515-452124
			e-mail: sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk
SARRATT CARE	Hours: 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday		519975
POLICE	Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number		101

Cover photo by Jenny Roberts

View from the Pew

We are so blessed in our villages to see the seasons change as we move into longer days and hopefully sun. However, things can go unplanned. Floods, rain, snow and fire can cause worry fear and concern to those journeying through.

We can be at a loss why these things occur and its extreme nature - it can challenge our faith and beliefs especially as we see suffering

This month, as we journey into Lent's 40 days to Easter it's a time to pause and reflect – a time to possibly fast - giving up something and using the time or cost for others. Some take courses at local churches, some decide to serve, some decide to just be still and listen. Listen to the pulse of nature, breathe its air as it touches us - it can be different and so special.

Many of us at this stage, will - I am sure, be thinking “chance would be a fine thing!” Then I say, maybe your first prayer would be “Lord, give me some space”. For some, it's hard to be still as our mind wanders on who to call, what to tidy, and the general guilt for being still and to switch off can be a challenge.

John 15 v.16 reminds us that He chose us and not the other way round...meaning that He knows us fully and...our diaries!

Our church is open daily. Our beautiful footpaths and woods are there - even our showers and bathrooms, on the drive to work and friends, or that plot in the garden we escape to could be the place just to pause, to ask those ‘why’ questions or just to give thanks.

This year, while on a conference, we looked at different prayers and one was repeating a bible verse, phrase or part of a song. “The Lord is my Shepherd” could be a start. Allowing the words to calm us as we repeat them or consider its meaning with our thoughts.

So however you spend your Lent, why not ask God for a moment to pause and allow it to take us on a journey – a journey that may take us to be thankful for the blessings and the moments we have.

Ian Chantrell



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

10.30am on Friday 7th March at St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

On the first Friday in March each year we unite in prayer with people throughout the world. In every continent, people will be meeting for the service which this year has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands.

The theme, ‘**I made you wonderful.**’ is taken from Psalm 139:4 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Ladies from the churches in Sarratt, Chipperfield and Bovingdon will be taking part and the service will be followed by some delicious refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

Inspire

When did you last take time out for yourself?
Time to be still & consider the things that allow you the space to be inspired & grow as the woman you are called to be?

This is a new group, especially for women of all ages and backgrounds. We invite you to join us for time away from your busy lives to share & enjoy conversation, talks & activities over tea, coffee and cake, as we encourage each other to flourish and grow.

Meeting in **St Paul’s Church Parish Room** on the **first Monday of every month, 4 March**, beginning at **1.30pm** and finishing around 3pm.

Please email Fay if you would like to know more:

fay.dent@live.co.uk



PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

It is with great sadness we report the death of **Keith Mardling**. Keith lived in and around Sarratt for many years with his wife, Jan, and children Oliver and Sarah, before moving to Devon. He will be fondly remembered by scores of past pupils of Sarratt School for his inspirational sports coaching and particular enthusiasm for basketball. Our thoughts go to Jan and the family at this very sad time.

Our dear friend, **Brian Sanders**, sadly passed away in the early hours of 1st January 2025 due to many years of poor health. Both he and his wife Gillian were two of our dearest friends for nearly 30 years.

Brian, being a wonderful cook having been a chef for many years, could give good advice on just about every detail how to cook, and believe me a meal served by him was just perfect!

If anyone was fortunate enough to have Brian as Toastmaster at their wedding or any other function, he knew how to perform with his natural persona for the job. He was a perfectionist, and could cope with sudden changes to the schedule or table layout from his host or hostess, but always admitted that changes at the last minute could sometimes be more difficult to deal with.

So when he was Toastmaster at our wedding in 2008, we made sure that we had everything correct in time!

Always a perfect gentleman, a very kind and generous man, with a wonderful sense of humour and marvellous company.

Sadly, a void was left in Brian's life in 2023, when his beloved wife Gill died. We truly believe that he continued to deeply grieve for her until his death earlier this year.

Wendy and Alan Williams



SARRATT CARE

MARCH UPDATE

‘SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH’

In the Village Hall on **Monday 17th March 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 5th and 19th March**

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

WHAT'S ON WHEN – March 2025

When?	What?	Page
Wed 5	Coffee Corner and Treatments - Sarratt Care	6
Fri 7	World Day of Prayer	4
Sat 8	Ceilidh Dance	12
Sun 9	Wildlife Volunteers	22
Tue 11	Sarratt Local History Society	15
Tues 11	The Arts Society Rickmansworth	8
Tues 11	Sarratt Parish Council Meeting	33
Wed 12	WI	18
Wed 12	Charity Pub Quiz	13
Sun 16	Village Hall Sunday Market	15
Mon 17	Sarratt Community Lunch	6
Mon 17	Pints of View	9
Wed 19	Coffee Corner and Treatments - Sarratt Care	6
April		
Wed 2	Chess Valley Bridleway Association AGM	11
Sat 5	Sarratt Horticultural Society Spring Show	16

...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group: 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: **Daphne Tyler 07970 894205**

Sarratt Scouts: 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 info@sarrattscoutgroup.org

Netherby Bridge Group 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 **Margaret Stratford 01923 260475**

Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club: Training on Saturdays at KGV Field - www.sarrattrebels.org

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

Charity No. 1102829

The Festival of Britain – A Nation Celebrated. Art, Architecture and Design in Post-war Britain.

Matthew Denney

Tuesday 11th March 2025

160 people enjoyed our brilliant February lecture on the 200th Anniversary of the National Gallery. Continuing the British theme we now present a fascinating presentation on the 1951 Festival of Britain. From lavish displays on the South Bank and at Battersea to events on village greens and in community halls across the nation, the country celebrated. Our nation, still recovering from the physical, financial and mental conflicts of WW2, decided for a while to party. Our lecture will explore the origins of the Festival, look at some of the characters, and show the incredible design, art and architecture which flourished in Festival year.

Matthew Denney is an auctioneer, valuer, lecturer, writer and educationalist with a particular interest in this period of British history and the artistic revolution of the time.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Sarratt Village Hall

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**

ESSENTIAL

FIRST AID

TRAINING PROVIDED BY
COMPLETEFIRSTAID

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH PARISH
ROOM CHIPPERFIELD**

£30 PER PERSON

**8TH MARCH 2025
9.30AM TO APPROX 1PM**

CONTACT SONYA FOR MORE INFO



01923 264377



holycrossstpauls@outlook.com



PINTS OF VIEW

Monday 17 March



There will be a change of venue for the March get-together. The meeting will be held in The Boot at Sarratt beginning at 8pm. Rob Hildick will lead our informal discussion on “**AI and the future of knowledge: who can we trust in a Post-Truth world?**” POV is an informal gathering in which to explore topical matters, moral issues and ethical dilemmas over a quiet drink. Everyone welcome.

Sarratt Parish Council Notice

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

8 MAY 2025



This year will be the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and has been designated a national day of celebration by the Government. It will not be a Bank Holiday but it is hoped that, in common with other organisations and communities across the country, Sarratt will also celebrate this historic event.

In outline only, and broadly following the Government's suggestions, Sarratt Parish Council are proposing the following programme:

- 0900 VE Day Flag Raising and Commemorative Service (Sarratt Green)
- 1730-1830 Family Picnics, stalls, fancy dress and activities (Sarratt Green)
- 1830-1845 Bell-ringing (Holy Cross)
- 1845-2030 Picnics, activities continue
- 2030 Communal Singing
- 2045 Beacon/Bonfire Lit
- 2100 National Anthem

It is hoped that individuals and organisations will want to take stands, organise activities and generally make this a celebratory event to mark the end of the war in Europe.

Several organisations within Sarratt have been approached to help support this, but we would welcome hearing from any other groups who would like to get involved.

More generally, any and all suggestions are welcome. If you are able to help or have an idea, please contact:

The Parish Office - clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk

or Simon Diggins - simon.diggins@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk

VE DAY MEMORIES

Spotlight Special Edition'

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, the defeat of Nazi Germany in Europe. The village will hold its own commemoration and celebration, but we would like, in May's Spotlight, to include memories of the day from those who were there, or were told stories of the day by their parents. For some, it was a bitter-sweet day, remembering family members who had died or injured and, of course, our armies were still fighting in the Far East, but for most it was a day of enormous celebration: the War in Europe, after six long years, was finally over.

If you would like to share those memories, or even have photos, family or business records of the day, perhaps a family diary entry, please send them to **Simon Diggins**, simon.diggins@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk or the Parish Office. Spotlight will need the article in late April and so the **cut-off date is 31 Mar**, to give Simon a chance to scribble! However, as always, the earlier the better. .

CHESS VALLEY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the **AGM** on
Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at Flaunden Village Hall
Doors open 6.30pm AGM 7.30pm
Talk by Mari Durward-Akhurst
Bronze Medallist at Paris Paralympics 2024
Silver Medallist European Para Championships 2019

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
New Committee Members Welcome
Renew Your Membership

Light Refreshments available

r.s.v.p secretary@cvba.org or
any committee member via facebook or instagram

Join Our

Ceilidh dance

With the fabulous

Brimstone Band

all the way from Chipping Norton

Saturday 8th March

7pm – 11pm, Sarratt Village Hall

Tables of ten available

- and no experience necessary!

*Tickets are £25 – bring your own
supper & full bar available*

Please contact Sue Clark on:

sue@suemclark.com

All proceeds going to Friends of Holy Cross Charity

CHARITY PUB QUIZ
AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT CHURCH END
WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 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 Sarratt Care.



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**

“Stand up for Sarratt” Comedy Night
2nd Sold out show goes down a storm!

Quirky compere John Mann introduced Matt Stellingwerf, Fiona Allen (star & writer of Channel’s 4 Smack the Pony) before the fantastic Jonny Awsum (semi-finalist of Britain’s Got Talent) headlined the show with a superbly upbeat, energetic musical closing set – including a brilliant stage debut for Sarratt’s very own Ant Soothill, who joined Jonny playing a variety of “instruments” in a very funny number!

If you missed out, the good news is that Stand Up for Sarratt will return on **Friday 23rd May** (great way to start Bank Holiday weekend!). The night will be compared by award winning Philip Simon, who will introduce Keith Farnon (as seen on Michael McIntyre’s comedy roadshow), Karen Bayley (first female recipient of the prestigious comedy store “King Gong” award) and headlining is the absolutely brilliant whirlwind of a comedian Steve Royle – master of comedy, juggling and general chaos!

Tickets on sale now at **lastlaughcomedy.co.uk** – please do book early as February’s show sold out a few weeks before the actual night.

Sarratt Village Hall AGM – 8 January 2025

Chairman Roger Dudley reported that the hall has had another successful year, having progressed on building extension plans, with planning permission to build small front and back extensions. These projects will be funded from the existing healthy reserves from several years' fundraising – a big thank you to all who have helped in raising money.

Since the last AGM, Sean Aylett has sadly died – Sean was the architect who designed this wonderful building and was involved when we did extensions and alterations over the years. He did this all for minimal payment – so we would like to acknowledge and record our gratitude to him.

Also thanks to Jenny Roberts for keeping on top of the bookings – not an easy task and to John and Elaine Daly for all their efforts both in setting up the hall, and especially in the cleaning.

Treasurer Colin Plummer gave the financial report for Oct 2024 to Sept 2025. Donations were lower than last year due to fewer fundraising events. However, expenses were down with wage costs a little lower, no large equipment costs, but electricity costs were up as the 5 year contract expired; most other costs were similar to last year. Our aim is that the expenditure plus 10% equals the hire charge income, and any donations and event income are a bonus for improvements, which last year succeeded with a surplus of over £2,200. Future funds will be considerably reduced with our planned extensions and the further 15% VAT on gas and electric supplies. Hire charges have been increased by 3% from 1/1/2025. Colin also thanked Sarah Altman for examining our accounts and preparing her report and hoped she will continue to do so in the future.

The committee currently consisted of 11 members appointed by Sarratt Societies, Clubs, and Organisations, and 5 elected members. Elected members have to be elected every year at the AGM. There are currently no co-opted members. The following five persons offered themselves for election to the management committee: Colin Plummer, Larry Griffiths, Jeff Baker, Anthony Soothill and Tony Bond. Their election was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



A walk in time through Sarratt Bottom



Tuesday 11 MARCH 7.30 for 8.00 pm

For centuries, Sarratt Bottom has been a distinct and separate part of Sarratt with its own characters and stories.

We will take a walk in time along Sarratt Bottom, from Long Meadow Cottages to Park Cottages, meeting some of the characters that have lived there and learn how the Bottom has changed over the centuries.

Sarratt Village Hall - Refreshments from 7.30pm

Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org

March Sunday Market

Black in the Sarratt night the Mount Wood hill
Aslant my window sleeps beneath a sky
Deep as the bedded violets that fill
March woods with dusky passion. As I lie
Between cool walls I watch the host
Of the stars lit o'er Hertfordshire's plain,
And drowsily the habit of these most
Beloved of English lands moves in my brain,
While silence holds the dominion of the night
Save when the Sunday Market's here to excite!

So wake up and run to the **Village Hall Sunday Market** on **Sunday 16th March**, 10-12.30pm, to see our exciting selection of crafts, bric-a-brac, home-made bakery and affordable antique stalls. Tea and coffee is available with biscuits and/or home made cakes. Any enquiries, please ring **Larry** on **265386**.

SARRATT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW 2025



Saturday 5th April 2025 – Sarratt Village Hall

The Sarratt Horti Spring Show is here! Remember entries and payment needs to be in the shop by **6pm on Wednesday 2nd April**. Entry forms and the schedule are on the website – www.sarrathorti.co.uk but if you need a schedule or entry forms, please email the secretary on sarrathorti@gmail.com

Flower classes include – Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinth, Primulas, Pansies and many other Spring Flowers.

Vegetable, Fruit and Produce classes include a variety of types.

Plus we have:

Flower Arranging – “Tip-Toe Through the Tulips”; “Bootiful!”; “An Arrangement in a Sherry Glass”

Arts & Crafts – A tapestry, embroidery, knitted, patchwork quilting or cross-stitch article. A painting or drawing. Item of jewellery. Clay article. A wooden article. A metal article. And Photographs – “The Green Belt” and “Still Life”

Cookery – 5 savoury Palmiers. 1 Cornish pasty. A slice of carrot cake. A jar of lemon curd. 5 jammy dodgers

Children’s Classes – any child under 12 may enter, there are copies of the entry forms in the Sarratt Shop

5 yrs & under – A picture of an animal using potato prints

6-8 Year Olds – A photograph of my favourite toy

9-12 Year Olds – 5 peppermint creams

Any Age – Cress grown in an unusual container

Open to members – if you want to join, please email the secretary on sarrathorti@gmail.com – it’s only £3 per person or £5 per household!

Those entering, please come to the Hall from **8-11am** on the **Saturday** to put in your exhibits

ALL are welcome from 2:30pm to see the great entries, have afternoon tea, buy from the trading stall and win the raffle. We will also have our normal auction of exhibits at the end of the Show – pick up bargains for flowers, vegetables and cookery!



Chipperfield Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 5 APRIL

7 for 7.30 prompt

Tables of up to 8 people.

£10 per head

**Prizes, Raffle, Licensed pay bar with wines,
beers and soft drinks**

Bring your own picnic supper

**For tickets and more details please contact
Hugh Clifford on 07970 646154 or email
hugh@barrettfirrell.co.uk**

**To raise funds for the Village Hall
Registered charity no: 250164**

Sarratt WI

In February, our talk was titled 'Frank Sinatra and the Mafia' and we were treated a most entertaining and informative presentation with a slideshow by Brian Greenham, an ex-Scotland Yard detective.

The question he posed was 'was or wasn't he (involved with the Mafia)?' I think that by the end we were all convinced after learning how Frank was brought up in a Mafia-connected family with Sicilian origins and about his connections with many of infamous Mafia names such as 'Lucky Luciano'. It seems much of his career employment and promotion to stardom depended on those Mafia connections as much as his own talent.



In February, we also enjoyed a snowdrop walk around Sarratt followed by lunch at The Boot. We have a **walk every 4th Wednesday of the month followed by a pub lunch.**

In March, we are looking forward to '**Man on the Spot**' by **Bill Hamilton**, an ex-BBC journalist. During his time in television news, he covered the war in Lebanon in 1982, AIDS in Africa, and the plight of neglected children in post-communist Albania. Nearer home, he witnessed the aftermath of the IRA bombings in Brighton and inner-city riots in Brixton and Toxteth.

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.

SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES



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

We are delighted that Sarratt Green Café has opened its doors again and will be open in March on Saturdays between 10-12pm, so please do pop in, just behind the shop, for a warming drink, pasty, sausage roll, bacon bap, tea cake and a chat. A great way to start your weekend.

You can also enjoy browsing and taking part in our jigsaw and book swaps which have proved so popular that we will be offering a free book to each customer to recognise **World Book Day on 8th March.**

Other notable dates this month, that we have all the flour, milk, eggs, lemons, sugar, flowers and cards to help you celebrate, include Pancake Day on 4th March and Mother's Day 30th March. British Summer Time also begins.

Though if you should wish to escape this, we have plenty of travel money - euros, dollars and money cards are in stock with all other currencies available to order.

Something for everyone every day.

We look forward to seeing you soon and in the meantime please follow us for latest news and updates posted in the left hand window of our noticeboard and on:

Facebook: sarratt post office stores
Instagram: sarrattpostofficestores

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

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles

Church Administrator: Sonya Tolmie

holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377

Holy Cross Church has been closed in recent weeks, to enable improvements to be made to the church heating. During this time, all services have been held at St Paul's. All being well, Holy Cross will re-open on Sunday, 2 March, with Morning Worship at 9am. For the most up-to-date information, please see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet on the Benefice website hcsp.net.

Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice

Church Opening Times

Holy Cross is closed for the heating work at present, but, normally, is open each day between 9am and 4pm
St Paul's is open each day between 10am and 4pm



Service for Ash Wednesday, 5 March, 9.30am, St Paul's
(see church calendar on facing page)

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date information,
please see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet on the Benefice website
hcsp.net.

MARCH 2025

Sunday 2	Sunday next before Lent	
9am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

Wednesday 5 **ASH WEDNESDAY**

9.30am Service for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes St Paul's

Sunday 9	1st Sunday of Lent	
9am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

Sunday 16	2nd Sunday of Lent	
9am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross
10.45am	All Together Family Service	St Paul's
6.30pm	Compline (traditional night prayer)	Holy Cross

Sunday 23	3rd Sunday of Lent	
9am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

Sunday 30	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
9am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	Holy Cross
10.45am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	St Paul's

APRIL 2025 (first part of month)

Sunday 6	5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide begins	
9am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

Sunday 13	PALM SUNDAY – Holy Week begins	
9am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

Wildlife Volunteers

Sunday February 9th was like many other days in the month as far as the weather was concerned, grey, overcast with a slight drizzle. Undeterred, the Wildlife Volunteers turned up at Commonwood to clear more of the overgrown Old Chalk Pit. There was a record number, we were very pleased to welcome two new members, which took the workers on the day to eleven, plus young Freddie, Janice's grandson, who worked so hard collecting litter around the area.



Many hands make light work, they say – not quite true, as it was hard work removing huge brambles, but we made great headway and have cleared a large area. The hope is that some of the wild flowers that love chalk and were flourishing there will return. These include beautiful pale mauve Field Scabious,



Knapweed, the yellow Common Agrimony and Wild Marjoram. These are all loved by butterflies, bees and other insects, which in turn provide food for the birds. Hopefully the Dogs Mercury which also grows there will not be too rampant, and Foxgloves will pop up as well.

A very satisfying morning, good fun and good exercise too.

On **Sunday March 9th**, we shall be at Penmans Green, removing yet more scrubby brambles which refuse to give up on areas we have already worked on. Meet at **10am up the stony track from Belsize**, with strong gloves and your own refreshments, tools are provided.

It was great to have some new volunteers, but there is always room for more. Why not give it a go? Just turn up on the day or contact:

Dawn on 01923 267071 or dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com
for more information.

Sarratt Football Club

A Tuesday night in January proved to be one of Sarratt FC's most memorable nights in our history. Drawn against Amersham Town, a club two divisions above us, in the prestigious West Herts St Mary's Challenge Cup, little was expected of our meeting in Buckinghamshire. However, a remarkable night and outstanding performance from each individual player resulted in a 2-1 victory, with goals from Harry Foot and Sam Wiltshire.

We now face the defending champions Harpenden Town in the semi-finals. Another tough challenge, but we're determined to force another cup upset!

Our Reserves continue to make ground in their bid to survive in Herts Senior County League Division Two. Valuable points were gained in home draws against both Enfield & Kingsbury Reserves (0-0) and Norsemen (2-2). Ruben Vieira and Russ Fardon were the scorers in the latter fixture.

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 KGV Pavilion. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Upcoming Home Fixtures (Subject to Change)

1st March - Reserves vs. Everett Rovers Reserves (2:00pm)

4th March - First Team vs. Aston Clinton (2:00pm)

8th March - First Team vs. Milton Keynes College (2:00pm)

15th March - Reserves vs. Wormley Rovers Reserves (2:00pm)

22nd March - Reserves vs. Enfield Rangers (2:00pm)

Tom Scarborough
Sarratt FC Secretary

Sarratt Tennis Club



If you've been thinking about playing tennis, at any level, now is a great time to make contact with us. Spring is approaching and a few more members are emerging to play on our courts located in the King George V Playing Fields. Throughout the week, this includes regular Club sessions (free to members) and coaching practice provided by Edward Harwood, our qualified coach, at a small additional cost.

CLUB SESSIONS

Tuesday 6.00pm-7.30pm & 7.30-9.00pm

Friday 9.00am-11.00am

Sunday 9.00am-11.00am

COACHING SESSIONS

Wednesday 12.30pm-1.00pm Sarratt School

Thursday 6.30-7.30pm (Women) 7.30pm-8.30pm (Men)

At all other times, included in the membership fee, players can book and use the courts via a centralised booking system.

Please do come along to find out more, as we welcome new members of all ages and abilities, including those who haven't played before. If you are interested, please contact:

Jackie Youell by email membership@sarratttennisclub.co.uk

Badminton

Would you be interested in playing badminton regularly on a Tuesday evening from 8 to 10pm? We have in Sarratt a group of 4 of us who run badminton club sessions every Tuesday. Currently we are looking for new players.

If so, please contact **Colin Waller** on **07748-587181** for more details.

We are a very friendly club and we welcome all standards but I'm afraid we are only open to adults.

Sarratt Scout Group



Gavin Daly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes, Sarah Dobson

Our last report was very short as we had only just started back after the Christmas break, so here's what we've been up to since the beginning of January.....But first we were very proud of 2 of our Leaders this month - Gavin Daly, our Beaver Leader, and Dan Haynes our Scout Troop Leader and one of the Group Scout Leaders, who both received the Chief Scouts Award for Good Service in recognition of the time and effort that have put into delivering an engaging programme of weekly meetings and weekends away for the young people in their Sections over many years. Julia Pich, our District Commissioner, joined one of their weekly meetings to present them with their certificates. Well done Gavin and Dan!!

The Beavers have had a great start to the term finishing off their Health and Fitness Badge. We also celebrated Chinese New Year and a lovely parent volunteer came to the meeting to show the Beavers Chinese writing. We had an evening seeing what the Beavers could make by recycling materials they had bought in from home and we also did the "egg drop" experiment, which all the children loved and got really involved with. Next term we will hopefully engage in a District Fun Day in April where the children will meet Beavers from other Colonies and earn more badges. We have invested two new Beavers into our Colony which takes us up to 25 children. For the rest of this term we have some fun activities planned, including cooking and communication skills which will incorporate an Easter Egg hunt.

The Cubs have enjoyed a really varied programme so far this term due to the fact that we have 3 leaders who all put their time and talents into creating fun sessions. We've night- hiked from Chipperfield to Sarratt, conducted science experiments, and visited Rickmansworth Fire Station to learn about Fire Safety. We also welcomed Chorleywood Film Club last month to come and talk about their upcoming Young Filmmaker competitions. Parent helpers who work in the videography world came and helped our Cubs make their own Stop Animation films. It was great fun! For DIY week, several parents came with saws, drills and a lot of courage to teach the Cubs important skills like sawing, drilling and joining to make a wooden box. Thanks to our able and committed parent helpers and well done Cubs!

The big news from Scouts since starting back in January is our team of chefs, selected following some heats at the weekly meetings, went on to be crowned District Champions in the District Cooking competition at the start of February. This earned them a place in the County Finals on 9 February where they secured 7th place. Well done to our talented team that included Charlie, Lottie, Raphael and Flo. Their menu included pea, mint & feta toast, followed by a stir fry and then pancakes with strawberries and maple syrup for pudding. For their other meetings the Scouts have been testing out their DIY skills making robin boxes to put up in their gardens, and held an indoor 'pub' games night with skittles and quoits.

As usual the Explorers first meeting at the start of a new term was planning what they would like to do each week through till Easter. Our second meeting saw their first idea ticked off with a night backwoods cooking at Chorleywood Campsite with cheesy pittas, chocolate bananas and s'mores cooked over an open fire. We then held a pub games night in the Village Hall which turned out to be very competitive as 3 teams worked their way round 6 different games / challenges. We've also been down to Mill End Scout Hut where their Explorer Leader ran an archery night. For our last meeting before the half term break we took over half the pool at William Penn for the Explorers to complete their Stage 5 Swimming Badge, which involved swimming in their clothes and learning about different rescue techniques. We've also booked a 1-night 'chill out' camp at the end of April before the Explorers get stuck into their GCSE and A Level exams, and then a weekend in Dorset in July when they finish. The Autumn will see us heading to Dartmoor.

Finally, if you would like to get involved helping with the Scout Group in any way please contact us at info@sarrattscoutgroup.org and if you have a child who would like to join the Scout Group please contact us at: admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org

All our Sections are open to both boys and girls.

Beavers: Age 5¼ - 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

Parish Council Report

Sarah Dobson



The following report covers the key points arising from the SPC Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February.

PLANNING

Much work has been done over the past six weeks by Cllr Farman and former Cllr Soothill to rework the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan to comply with the recommendations of the Examiner. Final versions of the plan will be submitted by 21 February for a further six-week District Consultation. It is hoped following this the Examiner's final review will be fairly quick and once she has given her approval, the plan can then be taken to a Parish Referendum. The latest documents are available on the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan website.

Planning Applications Reviewed:

Certain types of planning applications (typically prior approvals and lawful or permitted development) 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 it has strong reasons to object to the application.

- **25/0162/RSP: Coltspring Farmhouse, Coltspring Riding Stables, Sarratt Road, WD3 4LR** Retrospective: Change of use of existing ancillary use outbuilding to dog day care; additional hardstanding at frontage. *SPC: No Objection*
- **25/0111/CLED: Holly Hedges Farm, Olleberrie Lane, Belsize, WD3 4NU** - Certificate of Lawfulness Existing Use: Continued use of the land for a single-unit mobile home within the residential curtilage for ancillary use to the main dwellinghouse. *SPC: Noted*
- **25/0067/CLPD: White Cottage, Sarratt Road, WD3 6AH** - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Erection of a single storey side extension and alterations to fenestration. *SPC: Noted*
- **25/0068/FUL: 7 Downer Drive, Sarratt, WD3 6BD** - Alterations to frontage to allow new parking provision including new crossover and alterations to front landscaping to facilitate.

SPC: No objection. We support this appropriate application that has followed the advice given and has produced a comprehensive application

- **25/0079/VAR: Land at the rear of 17 - 49 & land adjacent to 97 Church Lane, Sarratt - Deed of Variation: Variation of the existing S106 Agreement (relating to planning permission 22/0601/OUT and 22/0602/OUT) to vary the Mortgagee in Possession Clause to reduce the time from five months to three months** *SPC: This variation is noted. Without any supporting information available for this requested change there is local concern as to the reasons for this change.*
- **24/2073/OUT: Land to the north of Little Green Lane, Croxley Green, WD3 3SP - Outline Application: Development of up to 600 residential dwellings (Use Class C3(a)), construction of a 5-bedroom property for childrens social care and supported living (Use Class C3(b)). Two vehicular access points from Little Green Lane and further pedestrian / cycleway accesses. A one form entry primary school (Use Class F1(a)) (plus expansion land for a two form entry primary school). A mixed use local centre including provision for NHS health and social care services (Use Class E(e)), community building (Use Class F2), retail and cafe provision (Use Class E(a-c)), car parking and associated infrastructure. A country park, areas for play and recreation, allotments, community orchard and landscaping with associated infrastructure including sustainable urban drainage systems. (Layout, scale, appearance and landscape as reserved matters).**
SPC: Given the substantial scale of the development proposed in this application, immediately adjacent to houses in Croxley Green whilst being part of Sarratt Parish, SPC Planning Councillors have met with the Croxley Green Planning Councillors and will work closely together to construct our respective responses due in on 18 February.

TRDC Recent Planning Decisions

- **24/1995/PDF: The Mulberry Bush, Moor Lane, Sarratt - Prior Notification: Change of use of 3no. agricultural building to flexible commercial use Class C1 (hotels)** *SPC: Noted. We also note that the Herts Highways response incorrectly includes the Dawes Lane entrance as access. The Dawes Lane entrance by formal agreement is for agricultural use only, so will not apply for the leisure use referenced in this application. TRDC: Approved*
- **24/1981/FUL: Dellfield House, Plough Lane, Sarratt, WD3 4NL - Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a two storey side**

extension including accommodation in the roofspace served by rooflights and internal alterations SPC: *No objection on the basis this application will result in minimal footprint change, not impact any neighbouring properties and will significantly improve energy efficiency.*
TRDC: *Withdrawn*

- **24/1975/FUL: Langdale, Bucks Hill, WD4 9AT** - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension; erection of a single storey front extension; internal alterations.
SPC: *No objection on the basis that this application appears to be smaller and will have less impact to neighbouring properties than the previously approved application.* TRDC: *Approved*
- **24/1964/CLPD: Sandfield, Dawes Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6BQ** - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Demolition of existing conservatory and side projection; construction of a single storey side and rear extension; and alterations to fenestration.
SPC: *No Objection* TRDC: *Approved*
- **24/1730/FUL & 24/1330/LBC: Great Westwood, Bucks Hill** - Conversion of garage wing to habitable accommodation to form storage room, staff welfare accommodation and flexible accommodation to provide guest suite or accommodation for live-in carer including alterations to fenestration.
SPC: *No objection. If officers are minded to approve, please can they include a restriction that this building must remain ancillary to the main dwelling.* TRDC: *Approved*
- **24/2071/PDE, 24/2070/PDE & 24/2069/PDE: Doggetts, Penmans Hill, WD4 9DJ** - Prior Approval: Single storey rear extension (depth 8.00 metres, maximum height 3.85 metres, maximum eaves height 3.35 metres)
SPC: *Noted. We understand this property is locally listed so we request that checks are made that these proposals do not impact that status*
TRDC: *No objection*
- **24/1919/PDT: The Laurels, White Shack Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4ND** - Prior approval: Enlargement of the dwellinghouse by the construction of one additional storey (4.77m height) and raising of ridge to result in an overall height of 7.95m (Class AA) SPC: *Noted. We assume checks will be made to ensure that neighbouring properties are not unduly impacted by this application.* TRDC: *Approved*

TRDC Planning Enforcement Cases

A full list of the latest TRDC Planning Enforcement Cases is available on the SPC website.

Planning Appeals

- **APP/P1940/W/24/3346997 & APP/P1940/W/24/3349084 - land to the rear of 47, 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 update
- **APP/P1940/W/25/3358883 - 15 Church Lane - Subdivision of site and construction of detached bungalow with associated access and car parking.** Ref. No: 25/0002/REF - New
- **APP/P1940/C/24/3349464 - Ravenswood Farm, Church Lane - Enforcement Notice Appeal - New**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The meeting welcomed Jo Deacon, Woodlands Consultant, who is working with Environment Cllr Garvey to deliver implementation of the 10-year Woodland Management Plan to talk about her approach. She will be responsible, with Cllr Garvey, for seeking and analysing quotations obtained for woodland work; applying for grants to help fund the work; and helping SPC ensure the health and safety of the Sarratt woodlands.

Other environment / sustainability matters included:

- SPC's name has been added to a list of councils who support the safe disposal of lithium batteries campaign. This doesn't require any action or funds, just SPC's name as supporters.
- Allotments – one plot recently taken, but there are still some vacancies.
- Tree audit – Over and above the scheduled work in the 10-year Woodland Management Plan, a regular tree audit needs to be undertaken to identify any new trees in need of attention. The Clerk is coordinating with the Chorleywood Parish Clerk on this, and will learn from their experience.
- Footpaths – The gate to the footpath crossing the road over Dawes Lane in front of the metal gate on the other side of the road will be replaced by the Herts RoW team.
- Fly-tipping – SPC paid £681.60 for a grab lorry to remove the large fly tips on SPC land in the Dawes Lane car park and Commonwood. There was a total of 2.12 tonnes of rubbish dumped illegally. Thanks go to Andrew Whitewood for arranging its removal.

- Ash tree on the corner of the Cricketers car park adjacent to Sarratt School – TRDC has now given approval for this to be removed (required as it was covered by a Tree Protection Order). The work will be done during the school holidays at Easter.
- Tree at Springfield on the Green – BT has now removed this.
- Dawes Wood – UK Power contacted to remove the branches close to the power lines.
- Cricketers Pond clearance – awaiting final quotations and looking at grants to help fund the work.
- Parking on Sarratt Green – the current row of posts will shortly be extended beyond the Village shop to prevent parking on this section of the Green

HIGHWAYS

- Cllr Diggins noted that many road works are in progress in the area, and that some pothole remediation has taken place. It was also noted that the quality of some of these repairs is of very dubious quality. Cllrs Diggins and Dobson are actively seeking a face-to-face meeting with Herts Highways representatives to agree a plan to address the state of the roads in the Parish.
- Cllr Dobson advised that with effect from 21 February anyone driving along Roughwood Lane between Chorleywood/Little Chalfont and Nightingale Lane will require a permit according to roadside notices – although it is not clear how this is going to be enforced or what the penalties might be.
- The Clerk will be following up on a request for the new Shopper Bus to supply a Saturday service

POLICIES & RESOURCES

The January bank transactions were approved and the bank statements and reconciliations signed.

The following policies were reviewed as part of the Council's 2-year review cycle - Risk Management, the Financial and Non-Financial Risk Register / Assessments, Asset Management & the Asset Register and Treasury and Investment Management. The policies can be viewed on the SPC website, replacing the previous versions.

OTHER MATTERS

Great British Spring Clean

This is scheduled for 21st March to 6th April. The Litter Group are looking at how to make this event special.

VE DAY 80 Celebrations Update

A first meeting with local village organisations was held on 28 January during which the events proposed for the day were outlined. The day is to be one of celebration to mark the 80th anniversary since the end of WW2, rather than one of commemoration. It is planned for Thursday 8 May (actual date of VE Day in line with current government guidance) and will start with a short service at 09:30 at the War Memorial and continue with an evening picnic at 17:30. This will be accompanied by stalls, music, and the lighting of a beacon. The Village Hall has been booked as an alternative venue in the event of bad weather. It was noted Croxley and Chorleywood are planning events on Saturday 10th. The final decision on date for Sarratt may be influenced by the availability of some of the activities e.g. Morris Dancers, ice cream van, hog roast etc. The next meeting is on 25 February at 19:30 at the Cricketers Pub for anyone wishing to come along/be involved in the event. A decision on the definitive date for the event is expected to be agreed at this meeting.

Sarratt Fair

The Fair organisers joined the SPC meeting and have requested to come to Sarratt on 15-19 July. Council explained there had been concerns from local residents whose homes front onto The Green, about the arrival of the Fair on a Monday for the opening of the Fair on the Friday. There were also concerns the Fair was planning to come when some families would be on holiday. The Fair organisers explained the difficulty of arriving later in the week, as once they had dismantled the Fair at the previous location, they have nowhere to park en-route to Sarratt. In the past they were able to stay at Bovingdon Airfield, but that is now in private use. They also explained SPC's proposal to reinstate the May date for the Fair is not possible this year as they are already booked at another venue. It was agreed the Fair would see whether they could spend extra days at their previous venue, before arriving in Sarratt and would also investigate whether a June or early July date may be possible.

Parish Councils Meeting with TRDC

Cllr Dobson attended the quarterly meeting between the District Parish Councils and TRDC, chaired by Lead District Councillor, Stephen Giles-Medhurst. Cllr Dobson summarised the key points arising from the meeting:

- TRDC are installing EV charging points in car parks in the district that they own – there are none in Sarratt. This will include 4 points in the

public car park next to M&S in Rickmansworth (in addition to the 4 points M&S are currently installing in their own car park); Rickmansworth Northway and William Penn car parks; Ferry car park, Lower Road, Chorleywood; and Croxley Green Community Way car park; as well as other sites in South Oxhey and Abbots Langley. These will be available for use by car park users during the day and local residents overnight.

- Climate and sustainability – details were provided of the Local Energy Plan and Commercial Food Waste Collection.
- Local Plan - The original housing target for TRDC was an advisory 12,500 units over 15 years as set out under the previous National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). TRDC had opted for the lowest impact figure of around 4,500 houses. The new NPPF now requires 13,300 to be built and this figure is mandatory. As the 4,500 house proposal will not now be seriously considered, TRDC are opening a new ‘call for sites’ with a focus on brownfield locations. TRDC may also include some sites previously discounted in the next iteration. Unless there are some particularly significant / sensitive sites put forward in this next round TRDC are not proposing to run another Reg 18 Consultation and hope to accelerate the process so their new Local Plan can be approved in early 2026.
- Budget – a summary of the TRDC budget was provided. Of note was £400K of resources planned to complete the work on their new Local Plan over the next 12 months.
- Local Government reorganisation into Unitary Authorities – this will impact the County, District and Town Councils which will merge into potentially 2 separate Unitary Authorities for Hertfordshire (West and East). Parish Councils will remain in place but may have additional responsibilities. This is planned to happen within 3 years, with initial plans to be submitted in March and full proposals in November. SPC agreed it would input its views into the process.

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of Sarratt Parish Council will be held at 7:30pm on **Tuesday 11 March** in the Rear Room of Sarratt Village Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

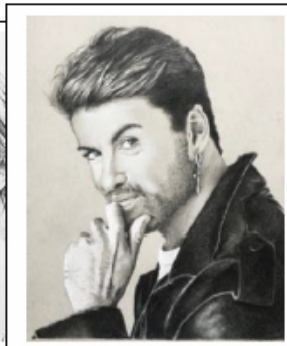
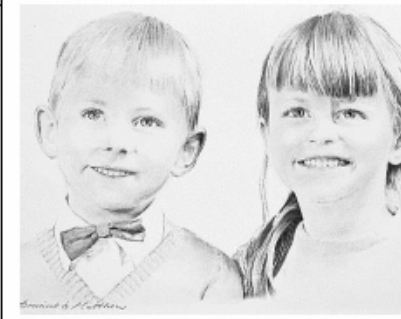
To contact SPC, please telephone **Mrs. Lena Mortimer**, the Parish Clerk, on **01923 262025** or email her at [**clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk**](mailto:clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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