

SPOTLIGHT

November 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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The Benefice: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7595>

the Village: sarrattvillage.co.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

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SARRATT Revd Sarah Miles

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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*

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	Louise Price	0300 123 7481
SARRATT CofE 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

Rector's Ramblings

It seems crazy that we are already in November, the nights are drawing in and the heating being turned on is now open for debate. The 'C' word is being thrown about in my household...and yes, I have already had the 'don't you dare' conversation with my eldest as she tried to switch the car radio to one which only plays Christmas tunes as the family rush towards Christmas!

And yet, there is so much about this month where we need to take some time; to slow down and to pause to reflect. November, as I say to the children is the month to remember... we celebrate All Saint's Day on the 2nd during our Sunday morning services; giving thanks for all the saints known and unknown to us who lived their lives in an exemplary Christian way. And then later that evening we commemorate those who we have loved and lost, remembering our loved ones and all they brought into our lives through our service of All Soul's. This allows us the space to be still and quiet. To remember those dear to us and to aid in our own healing; holding those special memories and loved ones close again for a while as we remember.

Then of course, we follow these acts of remembrance with Remembrance Day; honouring all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us through their acts of service during wars which cost them their lives.

It may feel that we enter November and the season of Remembrance, sombre, with our hearts heavy and this year more than ever, I do indeed feel that way with the conflicts and tragedies that persist across the world. Yet, as I sit here and think of all those I will remember at this time; the pain they would sit with as they look at the state of our world right now; I am reminded that it is through our remembering that we are shaped, and how we shape our future and the future we hand to our younger generations.

The love and encouragement of those we remember on All Souls has shaped the love, strength and determination we now live our everyday with. The stories shared with us as children from grandparents, aunts and uncles and for some of us stories from more recent conflicts also, is

why so many of us gather as community, united to honour those known and unknown to us on Remembrance Sunday.

As a child, one of my greatest delights was visiting my uncle and hearing his stories of bravery and kindness during his time as a POW. I remember the honour of holding a small trinket box hand-crafted and gifted to him for his 21st birthday with an engraved message from other POWs made from bottle tops and polished to shine like silver. A light; an encouragement; a gift of love in a time of darkness. A gift of hope and a reminder of a more peaceful and just future.

Today as I remember, I realise that the act in itself is a powerful thing. Not only does it bind us together either through the pain of loss or the encouragements of love and kindness, but it also reminds us that we are called to be people who live 'in remembrance', not for just one month in a year, but each day. It is through the act of remembering that we are reminded to live in such a way that we build better futures.

Remembrance is not just about the past; it's also about the present and the future. In these times of uncertainty and conflict, it is essential for us to remember so that we maintain hope. We hope for an end to violence and division, for the safe return of those who are far from home, and for the healing of wounds, both seen and unseen. We hope for a world where the lessons of the past guide us away from intolerance and hatred towards lasting peace, love and acceptance.

As people of faith, we know through the teachings of the bible that hope is not a passive act but an active one. In the book of the prophet Micah in the Old Testament we are told that the Lord God requires us to live justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly by His side and Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount tells us that we will be blessed as we bring peace. We are called to work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation in our own lives and within our communities. Our faith teaches us that, even in the face of despair, hope can be a powerful force for change. It can be the light in the darkest of times. So let us gather this month in Remembrance; to give thanks and to honour; but let us also carry and live in that remembrance through the following months until we gather again as bearers of hope in our parish and as individuals. Let us reach out to one another, especially those who may be struggling with the weight of current conflicts or the loss of someone

dear to them. Offer comfort, support, and a listening ear. In doing so, we can help kindle the light of hope in the darkest of times.

Together, as a parish community, we can be a beacon of light and a source of hope filled inspiration for a world so in need of peace.

With every blessing as you ‘remember’

Revd Sarah



We invite women of all ages and backgrounds to join us for time away from your busy lives to share and 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,**

3rd November, beginning at **1.30pm**
and finishing at around **3pm.**

We will have **Mary Nobbs** talking to us about
‘How Chipperfield came to be’. Please email
Fay if you would like to know more

fay.dent@live.co.uk



Dear Spotlight Readers

Many thanks to the 47 readers who have donated to Spotlight. It is greatly appreciated. But I must confess to being disappointed with this result as we print and distribute 870 copies each month, I hope that there are more of you have just forgotten and will donate soon, as we work hard to keep you all informed.

Thanks to all who give their time to produce, pack and distribute Spotlight to our community.

Yours faithfully, Colin Plummer, Treasurer, Holy Cross Church

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...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group: 9.30-11.30am every Monday, term time only, in the Pavilion, KGV Field. 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 to info@sarrattscoutgroup.org	Netherby Bridge Group: 2-4.30pm, Thursdays in the 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 - <u>www.sarrattrebels.org</u>
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Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan

Your Future, Your Plan

On Thursday 6 November 2025, the Sarratt Neighbour Plan referendum takes place.
The polling station will be Sarratt Village Hall.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a *planning* document. It sets out what things we, in the parish, would like to be considered as part of any planning application or call-for-sites consultation. The Neighbourhood Plan allows us to have different policies to the rest of Three Rivers, in order to address local needs and concerns in Sarratt. For example, to conserve the historic character of villages and hamlets, edge-of-settlement developments will not generally be supported, thus hopefully preventing urban sprawl into green fields.

The Parish Council started the process to make a Neighbourhood Plan for Sarratt in 2018, but it has taken seven years and five statutory consultations, navigating Covid-19 lock-downs preventing public meetings and the sad death of the Chair of the working group, John Carter, in 2023. We would like to thank all those who took part in the Public Consultations ensuring this plan represents local views.

The independent external examiner has now deemed that the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan meets all legal requirements and Three Rivers District Council have issued a Decision Notice for it to go to a referendum.

If a majority of people vote ‘Yes’ in the referendum, then TRDC must adopt it. A large turnout gives the result more weight as the voice of the Parish.

The plan does not give us a right of veto, but if adopted it must by law be taken into account in planning decisions.

The Neighbourhood Plan consists of twelve policies and is available, at <http://sarrattneighbourhoodplan.org/>

Please take a look and don’t forget to come to Sarratt Village Hall to VOTE on 6th November

Why not join the
Chipperfield and Sarratt Benefice
Church Choir



When
Practice two
Fridays
a month
7.45pm-8.45pm

Where
Practice at
St Paul's Parish Room
The Common
Chipperfield

Who
Everyone Welcome
All you need is
enthusiasm, commitment
and an enjoyment of
singing.
*Under 18's need to be
accompanied by a
responsible adult.*

For more information contact our Choir Master, Bryan Mundy.
Tel: 07539 030015 or Email: bryanmundy@me.com



SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

7.30 for 8.00pm

The Military History of the Civil Wars in Western Hertfordshire

Sarratt Village Hall – Refreshments served from 7.30pm

Dr John Morewood is President of St Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society and has a strong interest in the Civil Wars – not least because his ancestors fought for Parliament! He will cover the struggle between King and Parliament in St Albans and Western Hertfordshire in the 1640s.

Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org



ADULTS £9
CHILDREN - £6
UNDER 5S - FREE

GET TICKETS VIA THIS QR CODE

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

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SARRATT FIREWORKS NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

THE COCK INN AT SARRATT

FAIRGROUND RIDES
CANDY FLOSS
SCARECROW COMPETITION
BURGERS AND HOT DOGS

MULLED WINE
TOFFEE APPLES
OUTSIDE BARS

DOORS OPEN: 17:30

FIREWORKS DISPLAY: 18:45

NO PARKING ON CHURCH LANE OR AT THE PUB
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLINE, AT THE COCK INN,
OR VIA THE SARRATT SHOP

Holy Cross Church Sarratt - Heritage Open Day

As part of Heritage Open Days, England's largest festival of history and culture, Holy Cross Church hosted its very own version of the Antiques Roadshow.

Courtesy of the Antiques Collective, based in Chorleywood, Eric Knowles from the Antiques Roadshow, ably assisted by Sarratt Local History Society member Greg Edmund of Spink spent the day valuing villagers' treasures.



Over the day, more than fifty Sarratt residents brought a range of heirlooms from ceramics to cinnabar, jewellery to old coins. Unsurprisingly oil paintings of country scenes proved especially popular, as too did family medal groups from past residents who sacrificed all to protect our green and pleasant land.

Like the television programme there were some treasures whose value surprised their owners while other people left feeling disappointed that their family heirloom was worth more to them than anyone else!



Tours of Holy Cross proved popular with John Guy, Graham Peisner and Philip Buller explaining the history of our ancient church. Thank you to them and everyone who helped serve refreshments, baked cakes and put tents up and down. Special thanks to Ryan Gisborne-

Weare from the Antiques Collective, Greg Edmund and Eric Knowles for all their hard work. It was a really lovely day and we raised around £1,000 for Holy Cross Church.

Sue Clark, Holy Cross PCC

SARRATT CARE

RUN BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

SARRATT COMMUNITY LUNCH

Enjoy a lunch with old friends or make new ones at the community lunch. Three courses for a £5 contribution.

**JOIN US IN THE VILLAGE
HALL MONDAY 17TH
NOVEMBER AT 12.30**

To book please call
Jacky Creed – Details
below

COFFEE CORNER AND TREATMENTS

Hairdressing,
chiroprody, massage
and **NEW REFLEXOLOGY**
all available in the
village at affordable
prices or just pop in
for coffee and cake.

**AVAILABLE IN VILLAGE
HALL 10.30-12.00
WEDNESDAY 12TH AND 26TH
NOVEMBER**

To book please call
Jennifer Haynes on
590542 or 07743
133736

TRANSPORT TO APPOINTMENTS

Do you have a doctors
or hospital
appointment and don't
know how you are
going to get there?

Call 07565 399349
between 10.00 and
12.00 weekdays to
arrange for one of our
volunteer drivers to
take you.

Any other queries or to become a volunteer please
call Jacky Creed 519975 or 07769 045270

SARRATT CARE AGM

Tue 4th November Time: 7.30pm
Rear hall of Village Hall
All welcome to come and join us



SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

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

We are busy stacking our shelves with winter treats and essentials - come on in and see what's new or making a popular festive return.

The Post Office is fully stocked with a variety of gift cards including Amazon, M&S, One4all, X Box and more which can be activated to a value of your choice and please remember that you can also pay in cash & cheques, withdraw money from both personal and business accounts – your bank in your local post office.

We are also keeping another recent winter tradition going with a tombola taking place all day in Sarratt Post Office Stores for this year's **BBC Children In Need on Friday 14th November**. Money raised during the 2025 appeal will help BBC Children in Need to continue working in communities across the UK, funding amazing people in family centres, community spaces, youth clubs and refuges, homeless shelters, hospices and helplines.



Please get involved by donating items for prizes before **14th November** or coming along on the day to meet Pudsey and see what you can win!

We had a star-filled week in October that began with a visit from Environmental Health to the shop – **FIVE STARS AWARDED** – the maximum possible! This was followed the next day by the arrival of the real stars, our amazing team of volunteers, who efficiently cleared and prepared the shop for the production company, who transformed both exterior and interior back to the mid-70s. It was quite unrecognisable and full of nostalgic products that had us all reminiscing. Friday was the actual shoot with a number of famous faces walking through the door, all of which you will be able to see once we have, and share, the final programme details. Finally, on Saturday we were able to put all back together and have kept a few of the changes in the shop.

Your patience and the help of our incredible team throughout this disruptive time are really appreciated and we look forward to showing

you over the next few months how we will be investing the fee earned back into our community asset.

Facebook: sarratt post office stores
Instagram: @sarrattpostofficestores



THE BOOT AT SARRATT

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 22ND NOV
11AM-4PM

IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH

CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR STALL
£20 charitable donation +
small raffle prize requested

thebootsarratt@gmail.com
01923 262247

November Sunday Market

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed";
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'The Sunday Market's in the village hall -
Entrance is free and it's open to all!'

So travel to the **Village Hall Sunday Market** on **Sunday 16th November** – to see our selection of crafts, gifts, Christmas decorations and cards, bric-a-brac, home-made bakery, clothing and affordable antique stalls. Tea and coffee is available with biscuits or home made cakes. Start is **10am till 12.30**.

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

PINTS OF VIEW

November Pints of View will be held on **Monday, 17th November** at the Boot in Sarratt, **starting at 8pm**.



David Butler will lead our informal discussion on the topic “**Advantages and Disadvantages of a UK Digital ID Scheme**”.

Pints of View is an informal forum in which to exchange views and to explore topical matters, aspects of faith and moral issues over a pint of beer, a glass of wine or a soft drink (there's a 'buy-your-own' drinks policy). **Everyone is welcome.**

John Guy

The Royal British Legion

When you read this, **Poppies** will already be on sale at the Village Shop, the Pubs and the School in support of those in the services who are injured or in need of help in any way. Please, as you always support this cause as generously as possible.



The Parish Council

Simon Diggins and the Parish Council are organising the Service on the Green on **11 November**. Please gather round the War Memorial at **10 45 am**.

The **Remembrance Service at Holy Cross Church** will be on Sunday **November 9th at 10.30am**. Angela Coakley (Reader) is taking the Service, supported by the Sarratt Scouts.

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee morning



A very big thank you for your support for this coffee morning on 20th September - to all of you who came, those who baked the wonderful cakes, who helped on the day and with setting up the Parish room, donated prizes for the raffle and the tombola and generally were a fantastic help. Another very big thank you to the local businesses who so very kindly and generously contributed to the raffle:

Tower Hill Garage
Osteria
Blackwells
British Garden Centre

The Cricketers, Sarratt
The Boot in Sarratt
Talking Pictures
The Windmill Pub

The Plough in Belsize
The Cart and Horses
The Post Office,
Chipperfield

The morning was a great success, thanks to all of you and we raised **£1,626.35** for this wonderful charity which does much for people who are living with cancer.

Ann Soanes

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICKMANSWORTH

Charity No. 1102829

In 2025, we celebrate 50 years of our Society's existence.

Thomas Heatherwick – a modern Leonardo?

Ian Swankie

Most of us will remember the astonishing cauldron at the London Olympics, gradually constructed as part of the opening ceremony. Thomas Heatherwick entered the national consciousness that night and his outstanding work has continued to revolutionise architecture and design. Our fully illustrated presentation explores some modern architectural and infrastructure challenges and how the Heatherwick Studio has used an intriguing combination of curiosity and experimentation to produce a vast range of solutions to overcome these issues, and demonstrates the wonderfully creative ways in which Heatherwick and his team have responded.

Ian Swankie is an official guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, St. Paul's Cathedral and at the Guildhall Art Gallery. He is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars and a qualified tour guide with a special interest in art and architecture.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Tuesday 11th November 2025

Sarratt Village Hall

Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.

Non-Members are welcome to attend, suggested donation £10.

To enquire about membership, ring;

Irene Dubuis on 01923 496670.

Our website offers full details of our work and membership -

TASRickmansworth.org.uk



CHRISTMAS FAIR

NOVEMBER 28TH

3:30PM - 5:30PM | SARRATT SCHOOL

SANTA'S GROTTO | MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
ARTS & CRAFTS | FACE PAINTING | GLITTER
TATTOOS | JAZZY JARS | BINGO | BOTTLE
TOMBOLA | CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

COME AND SUPPORT OUR LOVELY SCHOOL
PLEASE BRING CASH | PARKING AT KGV



SARRATT PTA REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1095298

Harvest Celebrations

Our Harvest supper was a wonderful occasion, when neighbours and friends came together to celebrate the produce of our land, the hard work of our farmers and those that process and deliver our food.



We would like to say a big thank you to the Altman family and Colin Plummer who organised this evening on behalf of Holy Cross. To those people who provided the food: Native Beef for the beef; Mrs Neal for the Apple Juice; and to Sarratt Shop who sourced all the vegetables.



We are very grateful for the generosity of our chefs, Phoebe, Agnes, Daniella and Sophie, otherwise known as “Daphnes”, who gave their time and talents to cook such a

delicious meal, and for the assistance of The Cricketers and The Cock, and all those who decorated the hall with wonderful flowers and those who served us.

The following day was our Harvest Service at Holy Cross, where donations were brought by the congregation, and hymns and prayers of thanksgiving were made. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce and afterwards the donations were given to the New Hope homeless charity in Watford and to those in need.

It was a wonderful weekend, when so many people came together in celebration and thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to come along to our services at Holy Cross, and enjoy being part of Church family.



QUIZ NIGHT

A fundraising event for the Sarratt Scout Group
We still have a few tables left!!

Saturday 8th November
Sarratt Village Hall

Doors open: 7pm
Quiz starts: 8pm

£10 per head

Raffle (please bring cash!)

Bring your own food – plates, cutlery & glasses
supplied (and washed up!)

There will be a bar serving beers, wines and soft
drinks at reasonable prices. We kindly request you
purchase your drinks from the bar. If you wish to
bring your own drinks, there will be a £5 corkage
charge per bottle.

Tables of up to 10 people.

So, gather some friends, make up your team, and join
us on 8th November for a fun evening in support of
your local Scout Group. We can also put individuals
together with others to make up teams.

To attend, please email us at:
events@sarrattscoutgroup.org

QUIZ night



**WEDNESDAY 12TH
November 8PM**

**BOOK NOW!
01923 282908**

**In aid of Sarratt Care
Dinner served from 5pm**

£2/PERSON
TEAMS MAX 6
CASH PRIZE
(1/2 GOES TO CHARITY)
PRIZE FOR
BEST TEAM
NAME

Sarratt Festival of Music 2025

The name, **A Couple of Swells**, a nod to the 1948 musical Easter Parade, gave us a strong clue about our Friday 19 September evening's entertainment.

And **Joe Stilgoe and Liza Pulman** certainly are entertaining! Introduced with wit, style (and no little sparkle), and punctuated with occasional acidic topical references, Liza's sublime voice and Joe's extraordinary piano playing combined to give us an evening of classics from the Great American Song Book (think Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Kern and Stephen Sondheim, among many others).

But this was much more than just a collection of songs from musicals and films of yesteryear. As well as old favourites like People Will Say We're in Love, Mountain Greenery and Close Your Eyes, we had some of Joe's own more recent compositions, including That Was Then, and Harmony (beautiful harmonies right there, of course). They paired Ray Henderson and Mort Dixon's 1926 song Bye Bye Blackbird with Paul McCartney's 1968 Beatles' classic Blackbird to treat us to one of their trademark song doubles. And always that harmony.

Performing is quite literally in their DNA, and as if to emphasise their versatility, we heard Joe on double bass, and Liza on Kazoo, while I'm sure few will forget Joe's imitation of a muted trumpet, or his air double bass, or the opportunity to select a few tunes for him to blend in his own inimitable style....Ride of the Valkyries in the key of F, anyone?

Music, it has been said, is what happens between the notes, and I was struck by how cleverly the evening was put together; and by how the entertainment transcended the songs - and even those glorious harmonies.

What a swell party it was!

Mike Edmonds

On Saturday 20th September, our Concert was provided by the great **Carducci String Quartet** and **pianist Julius Drake**.

First Schubert and a String Quartet he wrote when just sixteen years old. This work is already classic Schubert, a joy to hear an absolute gem. The quartet played it with much care and enthusiasm with its bold first movement, the beautiful slow third, fast exciting fourth with hints of the opening and of course the second featuring that donkey!

There then followed the String Quartet in E-flat major by Fanny Mendelssohn, (Mendelssohn's sister). This work, composed in 1834, like nearly everything Fanny wrote was lost or ignored for many, many years but fortunately this is now being redressed. The Quartet completely realised the power and significance of this piece with its intense opening followed by an agitated/urgent second then the amazing desolate third with music here well ahead of its time and then the fast and exciting final movement.

Following the interval just one work, Shostakovich: Piano Quintet in G minor, this completed in 1940 and first performed in the then Leningrad. Joining the Quartet at this point Julius Drake opened the work with the solo piano part playing the very high register notes required, then the instruments of the quartet start to enter. It is an extraordinary piece, based on five movements, with all the musicians having significant solo moments and coming together to capture the contrasting atmospheres:

stark/soft/jaunty/tender/menacing/resigned then following a bridge provided by the solo violin the final fifth movement light, gentle and mysterious as indeed the work ends. In the hands of these five brilliant musicians it was just perfection.

John Malin

Pupils from the **Purcell School for Young Musicians**: It's incredible that our tiny village can stage this annual event with truly world class performers. Great thanks to the organisers whose efforts and skill enable such enriching experiences.

On 26th September, we were privileged to witness great young musicians from a great music school. These brilliant students will grace the world's concert halls for many years. Moscow born classical guitarist Kate Yanovskaya moved to England aged 12. Her interpretation of Domeniconi's difficult 'Koyunbaba' piece was sublime. With hints of eastern mystery and exoticism this romantic performance had echoes of the great Spanish composer Rodrigo. Kate's technique was faultless and, amid the beauty, jarring interludes reminded us that there are dark forces in the world. A deeply engaging performance.

Kate was joined on guitar by 18 year old Ukrainian Kate Pavlenko. They performed a second 1980s piece, Mario Gangi's 'Suite Italiana'. With its Turkish - influenced opening themes the work moved lightly and rapidly, transitioning into beautiful, lyrical, harp-like, glistening music. Two tremendously accomplished young guitarists, playing with great delicacy, precision and coordination through a difficult but hugely rewarding piece.

A thunderous piano performance followed from 17 year old Cypriot Anna Avramidou – musicianship of the highest order from an incredibly skilful young pianist. She rattled through Scarlatti's sonata in F sharp major with flamboyance and at times incredible speed. The famous Chopin Sonata in B flat Minor followed, with its doom laden 'death march' – sorrow never to be ignored but juxtaposed by the chaotic, headlong Scherzo which preceded it. The strange, evocative finale was beautifully executed bringing an exciting performance to a deeply satisfying resolution.

Great pianists have appeared at the Music Festival and this amazing young musician can stand proudly alongside all of them. The performance by 19 year old Ukrainian Shlomi Shahaf, a BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist, was astonishing and incendiary. In the Bach Sonata no. 1 in G Minor he combined deep lyrical beauty and flair while maintaining Bach's metronomic rhythm even in the more challenging passages. The Debussy Sonata for Violin and Piano was skilfully played and reflected the pain and anguish from his homeland in the dark, angular passages, especially in the second movement.

Shlomi's finale was truly wonderful. He performed the incredibly difficult showstopper, Bazzini's 'Dance of the Goblins' with pizzazz, great showmanship and outrageous skill – this took real nerve but we were never in doubt that he would pull it off.

This was a great concert which will live long in the memory. **Jeff Baker**

The festival finished with a Sarratt Jazz event with the **Chris Garrick Quintet** – a triumph filled with musical excitement! Many of the audience had been delighted and amazed by Chris Garrick's previous visits, so expectation was high. The 'Homage to Grappelli' did not disappoint. To see and hear such accomplished musicians was a true pleasure honouring and celebrating the versatility of the maestro of the jazz violin.

As band leader, Chris with his easy manner and humour expertly revealed the individual talents of the four other players. Andy Crowdy gave great rhythmic support and wonderful entertainment on his splendid double bass. Eddie Hession calmly produced magic from his button accordion with flying fingers. Jez Cook was outstanding on his guitar and Tom Hooper for his physicality on drums and percussion.

These musicians are much in demand all over the world – we are so lucky to see them in Sarratt Village Hall. It is hard to find the necessary superlatives for the brilliance of Chris Garrick's wonderful and unusual improvised techniques on his violin. Dazzling just about expresses the virtuosity, dexterity and speed. Before the interval we were treated to some exciting African rhythms. These were passed from the violin and repeated by each player – exchanging fours, then threes, twos, and ones. This was a humorous and entertaining conclusion to the first half. The second half of the performance was equally entertaining – the interaction of the players continued, enabling all to shine. This created a dynamic and thrilling atmosphere throughout the programme.

Thanks to Chris and his group for so much pleasure, and true and respectful 'Homage to Stephane Grappelli'. **Pat Newton**

The **Sarratt Festival of Music committee** consists of 6 volunteers. We need help with our marketing and communications, including social media. Do any Spotlight readers have applicable skills in this sphere and would like to help keep the festival successful and vibrant? Or do you know someone?

If so, please email us at sarrattfestivalofmusic@uk6.net

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

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles

Church Administrator: Sonya Tolmie

holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377

Holy Cross Services:

9am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month,
10.45am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

St Paul's Services:

10.45am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month,
9am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice

For the most up-to-date information,
see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet.

You can find us on 'A Church Near You' achurchnearyou.com



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

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice

For the most up-to-date information, see our Benefice Weekly News Sheet.

You can find us on 'A Church Near You' achurchnearyou.com

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday 2 ALL SAINTS' DAY & ALL SOULS' DAY

9am	Morning Worship for All Saints Day	Holy Cross
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist for All Saints Day	St Paul's
4.30pm	Service for All Souls' Day	St Paul's
6.30pm	Service for All Souls' Day	Holy Cross

Sunday 9 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)	St Paul's
10.30am	Service of Remembrance	Holy Cross
10.45am	Act of Remembrance	Chipperfield War Memorial
11.05am	Service of Remembrance	St Paul's

Tuesday 11 ARMISTICE DAY

11am	Act of Remembrance	Sarratt War Memorial, The Green
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Sunday 16 2nd Sunday before Advent

9am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.45am	All Together Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's
6.30pm	Compline (traditional night prayer)	Holy Cross

Sunday 23 CHRIST THE KING Sunday next before Advent

9am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

Sunday 30 ADVENT SUNDAY 1st Sunday of Advent

8am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)	St Paul's
10.45am	5th Sunday of Month Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

DECEMBER 2025 (first part of month)

Sunday 7 2nd Sunday of Advent

9am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

Sarratt CE Primary School



It's been a wonderful start to the new academic year here in school. Our exciting Early Years new build is under construction, the KS2 results for last academic year surpassed all local and national figures and we have embraced our new curriculum areas of study.

	National	Local Authority	Sarratt School
Expected level	62.2%	61.1%	76%
Higher Standard	8.4%	10.2%	20%

This was evident on 17th October, when we had a truly fantastic Ancient Civilisations Day in KS2. Each class embraced their history curriculum with creativity and enthusiasm, arriving dressed to reflect their chosen era. Year 3 transformed into wild and wonderful prehistoric cavemen, Year 4 stepped back in time as dignified Ancient Romans, Year 5 dazzled as bejewelled Ancient Egyptians (with a few mummies making an appearance!), and Year 6 brought colour and flair as striking Day of the Dead Mexicans.



Throughout the day, the children were immersed in enrichment activities—exploring customs, traditions, and the fascinating stories behind each civilisation. It was a joy to see their curiosity and excitement come to life!

We were also delighted to welcome Mr Gould, Director of Education for the Diocese and former Trust CEO, who joined us to experience the day and view the progress of our exciting site transformation. It was a pleasure to share such a vibrant moment in our school calendar with him.



Mrs Nicola O'Hare, Head of School

Cricketers Pond

Sarratt Parish Council is happy to announce that the works on the Cricketers Pond are now complete. Local contractor Justin Linnell, supported by and Jon Tyler and Dale Atkins, are all former pupils of Sarratt School! They have carefully and thoughtfully finished the restoration

SPC has received positive remarks throughout the project and residents were kept informed through on-site discussions, e-newsletters and signage around the pond.

With the work now finished, nature will be allowed to take its course. The fencing will remain in place over the winter to help the coir mats settle. The reeds and lily pads will regrow, and the grass seed on the new banks will flourish if not trampled upon. After a period of quiet, the ducks will return to their restored duck house.

Sarratt Parish Council appreciates your patience and support, and looks forward to welcoming new wildlife visitors to the pond this spring.”

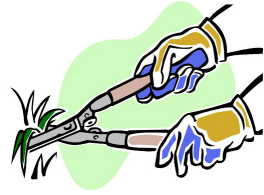
Before



After



Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers



On Sunday October 12th we had a change of venue, and were at Dawes Common, where we last worked over a year ago. The weather was a bit cloudy but dry and warm, just right for our task. We were towards the bottom of the Common, near the glade and the wooden seat, where in the Spring there are carpets of bluebells. We decided to remove yet more of the scrubby brambles to allow even more bluebells to come through – you can't have too many bluebells!

The bramble roots came up fairly easily either by pulling or by digging; thank goodness we now have a batch of strong gauntlet gloves. But the plants had amazingly long stems and of course root wherever they touch the ground, so we had yards and yards of prickles to deal with. We ended up with several piles of brash which we put alongside the far hedge: this will provide cover for small mammals and birds and will of course eventually rot away.

It was a very satisfying morning and we were pleased with the areas we had cleared, hopefully we shall see the beautiful results in the Spring.

Next time, on **Sunday November 9th** we shall be at Penmans Green, up the track from Belsize. **Meet there at 10am**, tools provided but bring your own refreshments.

Do join us if you can, we are always looking for new volunteers, it's fun, good exercise and in our small way we are helping our environment.

Contact **Dawn**, dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com or **07985-492501** for more information about the Wildlife Volunteers.

The intriguing title of our talk in October was 'Quilting Codes - The Underground Railroad and the Patterned Path to Freedom.' Our speaker was Kay Goddard who has a background in textiles and teaches patchwork. Each different pattern in patchwork has a name and about 10 years ago, Kay was asked to find out more about their origins.

Her story began in Ethiopia where men make textiles, weaving patterns in blocks that record the everyday happenings in their villages. They are designed to communicate in silence. In the early 1800s thousands of African people were being taken as slaves to work in the plantations in the southern states of America. Some of the women worked as seamstresses and were allowed to keep scraps of material. They began to use these to make quilts for themselves and their families, incorporating the designs that were familiar to them from home. Symbolism was embedded deeply in the African Tribal DNA so it was natural that when the need arose, they were able to adapt this silent communication.

Many slaves who tried to escape were killed but there were compassionate people who wanted to help them get to the northern States or to Canada where they could be free. Over time, 'the underground railroad' evolved – not an actual railroad but a system of secret routes, safe houses and guides, using railroad terminology as code words. These were brave people because the penalty for being caught sheltering a slave was public hanging.

Those who wanted to escape needed information to help them on their journey. Quilts were used as maps – a 2"x2" grid represented 5-10 miles. Different coloured squares were used to show fields with different crops but a red square always represented danger. The squares sometimes had knots in the middle as an indicator of distance.

The slaves came from different countries and spoke a lot of different languages and dialects but they learnt to understand the meanings of the patchwork patterns which could also be scratched into the bark of a tree or drawn in the dust and wiped away if anyone was coming. Some examples are the Flying Geese – 'it's time to go': when the geese

started to fly north, they could follow their direction and find water where they landed. Drunkard's Path was an instruction not to walk in a straight line which would leave them vulnerable to detection.

Jacob's Ladder was a reminder that God was with them and the Log Cabin denoted a safe house. When they reached their destination, the Dresden Plate in a church window sent the message, "you're welcome, free and in a safe harbour." What a relief that must have been after travelling on foot for hundreds of miles, often without shoes.



Kay brought a patchwork quilt with her that she had made to demonstrate the different patterns. We were grateful to her for a very informative talk.

We meet at **2.15pm** on the second Wednesday each month in the **Village Hall**. Newcomers are always welcome. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th November** when Paul Barwick will speak about a New Zealand lady who was part of the French resistance. The title of his talk is *The White Mouse*, so our competition will be 'a mouse'!



On the **fourth Wednesday of each month**, we organise a walk ending with lunch at a local pub. Our September walk started and ended at the Two Bridges in Croxley Green, taking us through Cassiobury Park. While the 'long walkers' went over the golf course and back along Little Green Lane, some of the 'short walkers' had fun on the gym equipment in the Park! Our walk in October starts and finishes at the Artichoke, another Croxley Green pub.

Sarratt Football Club



Goals from Ollie Evans and Roman Pirani secured three points at home against The 61FC, which also marked the start of four victories on-the-trot.

Travelling to Buckinghamshire to face Old Bradwell United, Harry Foot scored the solitary goal to ensure we travelled home with the win. Zamar Beckford marked his return to the club with a goal in a 3-1 League Cup triumph over Milton Keynes College, before a 4-1 thrashing of Eynesbury United at KGV Field.

At the time of writing, we sit second in the Spartan South Midlands Division Two; our highest league position for many, many years!

A dramatic penalty shootout win over Tring Corinthians also saw us advance to the next round of the Division Two Cup.

Our Reserves picked up their first victory of the season in mid-September, when Russ Fardon and Ruben Viera found the target against Redbourn Rovers to get off the mark in the Herts Senior County League Division Three.

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 Field 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 November - First Team vs. Tring Corinthians (2:00pm)

8th November - Reserves vs. Welwyn United (2:00pm)

15th November - First Team vs. Old Bradwell United (2:00pm)

Tom Scarborough
Club Secretary & Welfare Officer, Sarratt FC

Sarratt Scout Group

Gavin Daly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes, Sarah Dobson

Scout Group Annual Quiz Night Saturday 8 November

It's still not too late to bag a table for the Scout Group Quiz - not only does it raise funds for your local Scout Group it's also a lot of fun! So please join us by booking a table. Or if you would like to attend but don't have enough people to make up a table we can join you up with others. See separate advert in this edition of Spotlight for more details.

Position Vacant

We are still looking for an adult volunteer to help with some of our "back office" administration, including processing bank transactions and DBS checks. You don't need to have any accounting or scouting experience for this. The role takes no more than an hour a week and can be done at home. We really need someone for this important role so if you can help please contact us at: gsl@sarrattscoutgroup.org

Section News

The Beavers started the Autumn Term with some games in the Village Hall and talking about their chosen charity - Playskills, which is a brilliant local organisation that originated in Chipperfield, and a few weeks later one of their volunteers came to a Beaver meeting to spend time with the children as part of working on their Disability Badge. Donations are still welcome on our justgiving.com page: "1st Sarratt Beaver Group - Fundraiser for Playskills". The Beavers have also been on a hike around Flaunden; have made bridges from plastic bottles and cardboard for their Builder Badge; and have been working on their Communication Badge.

The Cub Section has had a cracking start to the Autumn Term with their camp at Phasels Wood, where the Cubs got to experience the Cresta Run rollercoaster, archery, caving, high ropes and some team challenges as well as a campfire circle. They've also been busy at their weekly meetings with more outdoor challenges - this time zipwire and tomahawk throwing at Paccar Campsite. They've also been out and

about litter picking in Flaunden for their Environmental and Global Badges; practising their knot skills in the Village Hall; and firelighting with a spot of backwoods cooking at Chorleywood Campsite.

The Scouts have been engineering! They took on the responsibility of erecting the stage for the Sarratt Music Festival, closely supervised by the leaders and parents. They were rewarded the following week with pizza and chips after our hike back from Chenies. We've also been on the high ropes and zip wire at Chalfont Scout Activity Centre. We're now building up to a busy period after half term where we have 2 camps to fit in during November, including the preparation and cooking required before we go! The Scouts together with the other Sections at Sarratt will be "on parade" and taking an active part in the Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Cross on Sunday 9 November.

The Explorer Section has experienced a bit of a change this term. Mark Allen and Susie Baker stepped down as Assistant Leaders over the summer due to other commitments - we thank them for all their help with the Sarratt Scout Group over many years. In addition our Explorer Leader, Sarah Dobson moved to Devon in September, though is still helping with the section admin. A decision was therefore made at the start of the Autumn Term to run joint meetings with the 1st Ricky Explorer Unit (led by Brad and Campbell), together with Tom Coleman, our regular parent helper at Sarratt, as 1st Ricky only had 4 Explorers in their Unit. So combining the 2 Units seemed to make sense and so far the new model seems to be working well.

The Unit kicked off the term with pizza making and programme planning plus a farewell to Sarah. The following week Brad and Cam continued working with the Explorers from both Units on what they would like to do during the Autumn Term over firelighting and cooking sausages at the Chorleywood Campsite. The plan for the term is now in place, including helping run some activity bases at the District Scout event, Green Beret, in November. For their weekly meetings, this term has seen the Explorers out and about most weeks with a wide game on Sarratt Green, Archery in Rickmansworth and a mega "chip shop hike" from Sarratt to Amersham !

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 5¾ - 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

Chess Valley Bridleway

Chess Valley Bridleway finally managed, after having to cancel three times before, were able to go ahead with their annual fun ride. Starting from The Plough in Belsize where Anna the landlady provided some pre-ride refreshments of mulled wine, hot chocolate, sausage rolls and toasties, and even some snacks for the trusted steeds.

Despite there not being as many horses a previous years, it was a beautiful morning with a few participants in the slow, medium and fast rides. A lovely time was had and it's a great opportunity for riders to meet up with other local riders.

CVBA helps to maintain all the bridleways in the area, whether it's communicating with the local councils to report issues and advise on how to rectify or arrange for our lovely groundsman, Andy, to clear/cut back the tracks so they remain accessible all year round for the riders.

CVBA this year alone has spent nearly £5,000 on the tracks alone, ensuring that riders can safely ride round the area.

So, this is also a plea to all local riders to support your local bridleways association, Your contribution of £30 a year - even if you ride once a week, that's 60p a ride - goes a long way in helping us keep the tracks accessible and safe.

Membership options can be found at <https://cvba.org.uk/>

Parish Council Report

Lena Mortimer – Clerk



The following report covers the key points arising for the SPC Meeting held on Tuesday 14th October 2026

Announcements

We welcome newly co-opted councillor Mr Philip Mitchell. He has been a Sarratt resident for over 10 years, heads his own publishing company and is good ‘at getting things done.’ He would very much like to help Sarratt Village in any way he can. We still have 2 vacancies to fill.

We need your help...

Casting ***your vote*** at the Village Hall Polling Station for the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan. **6th November 2025.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum is a vital moment for the successful ratification of the Sarratt Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of this is to protect Sarratt’s village status from inappropriate development and the preservation of the quality and specifications of any housing allowed.

The Neighbourhood Plan is not a political document, so any printed matter associated with it must be neutral in emphasis. Posters, web material and flyers is being created that is compliant with neutrality – this with the assistance of Cllr Reed, Former Cllr Soothill and webmaster Michael Edmund.

A good turnout on the 6th November will ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan shows strong support for the referendum decision. Postal votes are available, and should be submitted by the end of October (date to be confirmed by TRDC).

PLANNING (CLLR ALDER) - Applications to consider:

- [Construction of first floor side extension](#)
Norcott House Commonwood Sarratt Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 9BA Ref. No: 25/1710/FUL
- [Demolition of existing garage and construction of single storey side and rear extensions and construction of two front dormer windows and rear rooflight, external materials including timber boarding and render](#)
Callipers Hall Lodge Bucks Hill Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 9BP Ref. No: 25/1659/FUL
- [Construction of single storey rear extension](#)
47 Church Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6HN Ref. No: 25/1649/FUL
- [Erection of cattle shed](#)
The Old Rectory Church Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6HJ Ref. No: 25/1634/FUL
- [Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a two storey side extension, juliet balcony; loft extension including rear rooflight](#)
Dellfield House Plough Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 4NL Ref. No: 25/1615/FUL
- [Retrospective: Erection of Agricultural Polytunnel](#)
The Lodge Redhall Lane Chandlers Cross Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 4LU Ref. No: 25/1602/RSP
- [Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Enlargement of the dwelling house by the construction of one additional storey and single storey rear extension](#)
Tarn Dunny Lane Belsize Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 9DQ Ref. No: 25/1504/CLPD
- [Replacement of existing windows with galvanised steel windows](#)
The Old School Church Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6HL Ref. No: 25/1492/FUL
- [Construction of single storey rear extension](#)
2 Myrtle Cottages The Green Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6AT Ref. No: 25/1438/FUL

District Cllr Reed informed the meeting that the TRDC planning Committee meeting is due to discuss the Clovercourt Application (land to the rear of 73 Church Lane) at its forthcoming meeting on 23rd October at 19:30.

Recent decisions: *None* **Appeals:** *None*

PLANNING ENFORCEMENTS (from TRDC planning officers):

20/0077/COMP: Grove Lodge, Fir Tree Hill - Unauthorised fencing works in the Green Belt (David Heighton) Fencing requires planning permission as over 1m in height adjacent to road. Owner made aware that the fencing at this height is unacceptable. Enforcement notice has been served in respect of the fencing and deposit of hard surfacing. An enforcement appeal has been lodged and is live (ground (a) appeal only). Appeal dismissed in respect of fencing and allowed in respect of the hardcore. Compliance with the fencing required by 11 July 2025. Officers have written to the owner regarding compliance and will be escalating to our legal department with a view of prosecution.

22/0031/COMP - Ravenswood Farm, Church Lane, Sarratt (Clara Loveland) - Residential use of agricultural buildings (Clara Loveland) Following site visits we served a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) which has been responded to. Contrary to previous comments, the building does benefit from planning permission for an agricultural building (17/1070/FUL).

Planning application 23/1078/RSP was refused on 4 grounds (Green Belt, character, substandard living accommodation and lack of affordable housing. This was dismissed at appeal. An enforcement Notice was then issued and an appeal lodged. Following PINS decision to quash the notice, officers are reviewing the matter with the view of re-issuing the notice in the coming weeks.

22/0130/COMP – 1 Micklefield Green Cottages - Material change of use of land to equestrian purposes including erection of structures (David) Planning permission permitted the change of use of land from equestrian and erection of stables. Works required by 28 June 2025 including removal of temporary structures and new planting. Officer to check compliance.

23/0035/COMP – Sarum, Templepan Lane - Works not in accordance with 20/1468/FUL - Extent of hardstanding (Scott) Owner advised

planning permission required and suggested changes were required to make acceptable. Officers to consider expediency/action.

23/0102/COMP – Hunterswood Lodge, Penmans Green - Material Change of Use: Agricultural to residential (forming extended garden area) (Alannah Stringer) Owner to be advised that planning permission is required. Application 24/0347/FUL permitted. Officers to monitor use of extended area (Not currently used for domestic purposes - To be closed)

23/0112/COMP – Land to the rear of The Woodyard, The Green - Works Not In Accordance With Approved Plans - Fenestration Detail (Scott) Not expediate, minor changes. To be closed.

24/0029/COMP – Harrietts End, Quickmoor Lane, Sarratt - Breach of Condition 5 pursuant to 19/0209/FUL - tree protection (Alannah Stringer) Tree protection measures in place. To close.

24/0057/COMP - Long Pightle Mobile Home Park - Additional caravans on site greater than approved (Scott Volker) Site visit taken place, no evidence of new caravans but new track created. A further visit will take place.

24/0065/COMP - York House School, Sarratt Road - Breach of Condition 2 of 23/1779/LBC (Nick Withers) Further remedial works to be requested to entrance brick wall. Discussions on-going.

24/0094/COMP – The Boot Public House, The Green - Erection of static caravan and tent (David Heighton) Officers served Planning Contravention Notice and received response. Currently considering next steps alongside marquee.

24/0116/COMP – Crestyl Barn, Watercress Farm, Moor Lane (Nick Withers) Works consented by Environment Agency, not development. Area of site currently in an untidy condition, owner to make improvements to clear/improve condition. Works underway.

24/0132/COMP – Bucks Hill House, Bucks Hill (Alannah Stringer) Letter sent to owner to improve and secure property by 20 December. Works to be completed by end of April. Officer to organise visit in coming weeks.

24/0137/COMP – Coltspring Farmhouse, Sarratt Road - Material Change of Use of Building for Home boarding for dogs (Alannah Stringer) Planning application submitted via 25/0162/RSP. Planning

permission granted retrospectively subject to conditions requiring action within 6 months. Officers to visit in November.

25/0022/COMP: The Lodge, Redhall Lane - Unauthorised Operational Works; erection of buildings (Nick Withers) Planning permission required and application submitted, 25/0579/RSP (currently invalid).

25/0053/COMP – Popes Croft, Chandlers Lane – Removal of trees (Scott Volker) Site visit to take place. Planning app received - 25/1648/FUL (invalid)

25/0070/COMP: The Woodyard, The Green - Works not in accordance with planning permission 24/0046/FUL: Fenestration and material detailing not as approved. (Nick Withers) Officers reviewing.

25/0103/COMP: 2 Flint Cottages, Solesbridge Lane, Use of Outbuilding as Dog grooming Salon (David Heighton) Officers gathering evidence.

25/0139/COMP: Red Lion Cottage, The Green - Unauthorised works: Window replacement without listed building consent or planning permission Officers reviewing submitted information.

HIGHWAYS - (CLLR DIGGINS AND CLLR ZERNY)

Meeting with Herts County Councillor Louise Price: Cllrs Diggins and Zerny met with County Councillor Louise Price on 29th September. We discussed the following:

- Scheduled works for 2026/7 – most important of which will be resurfacing, as opposed to just patching, North Hill; we asked Cllr Price to let us know when it will be scheduled. We also asked that Bucks Hill be included; it has been unexpectedly patched up, but not resurfaced.
- More broadly, we have asked that, in planning in-year and next year priorities, we are consulted. We believe, with some justification that we have much better sense of priorities than an algorithm-driven, planning cell in County Hall.
- We also raised with Cllr Price the broader, more holistic review of our highways, combined with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to establish a parish-wide 30 mph limit, to benefit all road users. Disappointingly, Cllr Price appeared not to have read our strategy paper. She then cited resources and the possible changes to the

strategic authority as a reason not to advance this work. Cllr Diggins pushed back, explaining that this paper was sent-out over a year ago and it will be a while before we have clarity over the new strategic authority; we cannot sit around doing nothing until then. It was eventually agreed that we will re-send the paper to Cllr Price and arrange a meeting with the County Cabinet Member responsible for Highways.

- M25 night-time closures/HGVs using local roads: SPC has asked Herts Highways for appropriate signage with weight restrictions on the points of egress into the village, and to provide confirmation of their current signage assets
- Old School Lane Potholes. Correspondence was received from a parishioner regarding the state of Old School Lane where potholes had caused damage to her car and very nearly badly injured the parishioner herself. Soon after, Herts Highways repaired the road.

Cllr Diggins explained the legal position to the parishioner, has promised to raise it with Cllr Price, and will write to Herts Highways, yet again deploring the state of our roads.

- Cllr Price commented that the damage criteria is being changed at Herts Highways department but the practice of working reactively to complaints will continue.
- It is not known how the Local Government Reorganisation will affect funding.
- Good news about M25. When it is closed, the managers of the M25 remove Solesbridge Lane from SatNav information, thus diverting traffic away from it.
- The speed limit on Sarratt Road was discussed, and it was agreed that targeted reductions in speed limits on key dangerous sections of road is likely to get implemented more quickly than trying to get a blanket change implemented across the Parish.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

CRICKETERS POND: Works Completed. We now need to allow nature to take its course, So, the fencing will remain in place over the winter to help the coir mats settle, enable the reeds and lily pads to regrow, encourage the grass seed on the new bank to flourish, and allow the ducks to return to their restored duck house. Total cost: £10,700.00

(Grant received: £3,000.00, Filming Revenue received: £3,650.00, rest from SPC funds)

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN PHASE 2: To source free saplings for planting. To approach local volunteers with support from former Councillor FG. Continue to seek grants.

POLICY AND RESOURCES – (CLLR LOWRY)

The bank transactions for September were reviewed and approved

- Grant application forms have been distributed to prior applicants. Replies must be received by SPC by the 24th October.
- The new account with the CCLA Bank is now open, and SPC will make a small deposit this month to commence transactions.
- The 5 year forecast was presented. Increases in precept charged is in line with an anticipated 2.5% annual increase in inflation.
- SPC is preparing for the Chancellors changes to Council Tax banding, anticipated by pundits in the next budget.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REED

The TRDC Local Plan is in its final stage, with Regulation 19 reached by the end of the year, the result of which will be communicated to all Councillors. The final site allocations will be made at the December meeting.

The beneficial result of the Local Plan Sub-committee Green Belt review is that it has been established that Sarratt contains no Grey Belt land. So direct over-development is not such a threat; but urban sprawl may be.

The Church End Conservation area review is at #2 on the list of reviews. The Green is at #5. The meeting thanked Dist. Cllr Reed for his attendance and information.

Next meeting

Tuesday 11th November 7.30pm, held in the **rear room of the Village Hall**. Members of the public welcome to attend.

To contact Sarratt Parish Council (SPC) please contact Mrs Lena Mortimer, the Parish Clerk, on 01923 262025 or email her at :

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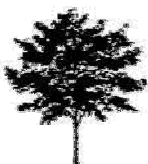
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