



SPOTLIGHT



June 2026



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 surrounding hamlets. We welcome reports from all village organisations and also items of general interest. Please note that the views expressed in the content of SPOTLIGHT, including any inserts, are not endorsed by Holy Cross Church.

HOLY CROSS - making Jesus known - a church for the whole community

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the Village: sarrattvillage.co.uk

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

Chair	Cllr. Lee Farman	can be reached via the Parish office	01923 262025
Parish Clerk	Mrs Lena Mortimer	262025 or in case of emergency	07967 505590
Parish Office hours	Monday to Thursday 9am – 3pm		

Alternative arrangements will be notified on the Office Door.

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	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:		01923-265881
		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 Sarratt Community Garden (see p.8)

View from the Pew

June is one of my favourite months: firstly, for being my Birthday month and secondly, that summer is truly with us!

This spring, I felt the daffodils were more brilliant, the bluebells more vibrant and the spring blossoms were celebrating the colours of the season for all; that there was joy in creation and hope ahead - a far cry from the stories we read in the papers and scroll on the phone daily!

During May, the service patterns for our churches changed, allowing all to experience a moment to celebrate creation and discover the Creator in different formats, whether formal or informal. I invite all, if you have not already, to join us.

I believe God in his love reaches out to many through creation. In Psalm 104, often referred to as the 'nature psalm', the author celebrates creation's wonder and awe which moves him to praise to his God. In Psalm 8, David, the author, is mesmerised by the structure of the heavens and finds hope in the fact that, despite the vastness of the universe, God is mindful of humanity and cares for them, and this comes with the responsibility to care for our wonderful planet. And finally, in Psalm 121, the author lifts his eyes to the hills for hope, finding reassurance that help comes from the Lord, who 'made heaven and earth', therefore, providing comfort that the Creator will 'not allow your foot to slip' and will watch over your life always, whatever the situation.

So, as we move into mid-summer, I would like to invite you to do two things, well three!

Firstly, to take that moment and breathe in the new season.

Secondly, to investigate the Psalms – available on the phone apps or that shelf at home! Open the bible to the middle and you will find the book of Psalms. Pause and read those words asking God to speak to you through them.

Thirdly, to maybe pop by church this month – perhaps for one of our services (there is always coffee and biscuits too!) and discover that moment to give thanks for the creation, discover the message of hope that came to our world in the form of a baby, lived among us and gave himself for us all .

Ian Chantrell

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS



Sunday 3rd May saw the Christening of our beautiful granddaughter Orealia-Quinn Seraphina at St Albans Cathedral. It was such a special day for all of us, particularly for the proud parents, Alex & Natasha.

The service was followed by a gathering back in Sarratt, where around forty people joined us to raise a glass and toast the happy occasion. An enjoyable and memorable day, even the weather held for us!

Ian & Dee McClelland

Congratulations to **two** Sarratt Marathon runners.....

Marathon, anyone?

If, a couple of years ago, you had suggested to me that I would run a marathon at the age of 64, I would have laughed loudly and told you not to be so ridiculous. So imagine my surprise when I found myself with a ballot place for the London Marathon 2026 and no convincing excuse to back out.

Sarratt is an excellent training ground for runners. You can't go anywhere without encountering a steep hill. The absence of pavements and streetlights do present a problem when training after work, and it was a bit spooky running through the dark lanes with just my torch - so many scary noises! But I managed it somehow and it was fun devising longer routes along the Grand Union canal and the rather inappropriately named Green Loop around Watford. My now adult children took me on fabulous long runs all round London.

The race itself was hugely challenging, both physically and mentally but I can honestly say I loved every moment. The weather was perfect, the crowds shouted and clapped, and I saw lots of family members and friends along the way. I had decided to run in aid of Alzheimer's Research, such a worthwhile charity which does amazing work for the treatment, diagnosis and prevention of this cruel condition. I had hoped to raise £500 but thanks to the generosity of so many people, the figure currently stands at almost £4,500 – and is still rising.

If you ever get the chance to run a marathon, go for it!

Vicky Fern

I'd like to thank my wonderful neighbours in Sarratt for sponsoring me for this year's London Marathon. You probably didn't see me training much along Sarratt Bottom - that's because I didn't train enough! But what a day, the sun shone, the crowds were fabulous and seeing my friends and children at various points with a half inflated palm tree (to attract attention) made it a really wholesome experience for me. It feels like a wonderful achievement and thanks to your generosity I raised £3,500 for my chosen charity, Chain of Hope.



Chain of Hope is led by volunteers who give up their time to save the lives of children born in war torn and developing countries. Babies and kids that don't get access to healthcare and would die without this intervention. I've had the privilege of telling these stories through film - seeing the ripple effect for families whose child is saved by the incredible team of doctors, nurses and surgeons. (See *Inspire* on p.6)

So thank you all - the donation page is still open if you wanted to sponsor! <https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/millie-cortizo>

Now does anyone know a good chiropodist for these toe nails...

Millie Cortizo"

Anna Rankin – our new High Sheriff of Hertfordshire

The service at Holy Cross on Saturday 18th April was a joyful occasion as Anna Rankin of Micklefield Hall made her declaration of office as incoming High Sheriff in the presence of a judge of the High Court, and the retiring High Sheriff, Nicholas Buxton, transferred the badge of office and the High Sheriff's sword to Anna.

Anna was proposed by Sally Burton, a former High Sheriff, and appointed personally by King Charles on the advice of the Privy Council. Alongside her prime shrieval duty to support the police, the judiciary and the emergency services, Anna's theme for the year is Family: "*where families thrive, communities flourish*". We wish her well as she encourages the many charitable and voluntary organisations who work with the most vulnerable families in our county.





Inspire

Women Inspiring Women

Join us on the 1st Monday of every Month in St Pauls Parish Room, Chipperfield at 1.30 to 3pm.

Have time away from your busy lives with activities, conversations and inspiring talks over tea, coffee and cake!

We would love you to join us

Monday 1st June we will be hearing about the work of “**Chain of Hope**” a charity that saves the lives of babies born into war-torn and developing countries

For more info contact Fay on fay.dent@live.co.uk



Millie Cortizo will be the speaker at Inspire on 1st June so this is a great opportunity for women to find out more about “Chain of Hope” and to give a donation to their work if you would like to.

The charity supported by Inspire on a regular basis is “Charis Tiwala”, the only organisation in Herts working specifically with women in the sex industry. (Did you know that most sex workers in the UK are mothers working to support their children?) Charis Tiwala has been accepted by the ‘Big Give Small Charity Match Funding’ which will match each donation if they reach their target of

£1,875 between 12.00 on 22nd June and 17:00 on 29th June.

BUCKS ART WEEKS, JUNE 2026

Barbara Robjant SWA

As part of this, I am exhibiting at home at ‘Corndean’. Little Windmill Hill, Belsize, WD4 9DG. Open 10am-5pm on Saturday 6 June, Sunday 7, Thursday 11, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

Please come and have a browse through my paintings, which are a mix of landscapes, still lifes and figures in acrylics and mixed media.



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...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group is now closed while renovation work is done on the KGV pavilion, and expects to be open again by the end of September. 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 -
www.sarrattrebels.org

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

It's been a while since we updated you on the Community Garden. So far this year has been one of the best we've had! The team is growing, both in number and in knowledge and experience, and the plots absolutely reflect that.

A changing climate is bringing some pretty big challenges, the biggest of which is drought. We have 19,000 litres of captured rainwater behind the shop and 3,500 at the allotment. Without imminent rain these will run out by June. How do we mitigate this?

1. Choosing *where* to plant; the garden behind the shop has a much greater supply of water, so this is the preferred place to plant salads and other annuals (that's pretty much all of the edibles)
2. Choosing *what* to plant; perennials can cope with prolonged dry spells much better than annuals, especially if they have well-developed micorrhizal fungal relationships. These are helped by...
3. Concentrating on our soil. The addition of compost/woodchip/leafmould helps the soil to retain moisture both through mechanical and biological means. Keeping the soil covered is key, preventing the drying wind from reaching the top of the topsoil. We mulched heavily last Autumn, and thank goodness we did! The areas that we missed are now bone dry and lifeless, while those that were deeply mulched are cool, damp, and full of life. The necessity of mulching influences the amount of time we spend making compost, and collecting mulches.

Despite these challenges, the team has done an amazing job, and the garden behind the shop is not only into full production, but is also looking immaculate, ready to be opened for

THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME on Sunday 7 June.

There will be live music, teas, an organic bread stall, and of course, the chance to look at the garden in detail. Entry is **£5**, all of which goes directly to the NGS which funds nursing charities to the tune of approx **£3 MILLION** each year.

Please join us, please spread the word, please bring your friends and family. See you there!

Flo Garvey

Visit ngs.org.uk/who-we-are/beneficiaries/ if you'd like to know which charities are supported by this scheme.

Ed.

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 £7 contribution.

Join us in the Village Hall Monday 15th June at 12.30.

To book please call Jacky Creed – Details below

COFFEE MORNING AND TREATMENTS

Hairdressing, chiropody and massage, all available in the village at affordable prices or just pop in for coffee and cake.

Available in Village Hall 10.00 - 12-00 Wednesday 10th and 24th June.

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

‘Spotty and Specky’: Late Constable and how not to paint in the early 19th century!

Sarah Cove

Today we offer a fresh and illuminating examination of the late works of one of England’s greatest painters, who introduced revolutionary techniques.

John Constable R.A. was born exactly 250 years ago on 11th June 1776. His exuberant, almost abstract, brush and palette-knife work shocked audiences a full 50 years before the advent of Impressionism. Constable only sold about 20 paintings to English collectors, family and friends during his lifetime as their rough and ‘specky’ surfaces horrified audiences with their lack of ‘finish’. Our fully illustrated lecture explores Constable’s brilliance in his later years.

Sarah Cove has for 40 years worked as a painting conservator, art historian, writer and lecturer. In 1988 she founded the Constable Research Project and is now the recognised authority on Constable’s painting materials and techniques.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Tuesday 9th June 2026 in Sarratt Village Hall

Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.

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

Membership is now open for our exciting 2026/27 programme beginning in September – incredible value for 10 lectures from world class experts and other benefits.

Our website offers full details of our work and membership

TASRickmansworth.org.uk

PINTS OF VIEW

Pints of View is taking a summer break. Our next get-together will be on Monday 21 September, when we’ll meet at The Boot in Sarratt at 8pm. Other POV Autumn dates for your diary are Monday 19 October and Monday 16 November. Pints of View is an informal forum in which to consider topical matters, moral issues and ethical dilemmas.

Everyone welcome.

CHARITY PUB QUIZ
AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT CHURCH END
WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE
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

JUNE'S SUNDAY MARKET

O time! Who knows't a lenient hand to lay
Softest on sorrow's wounds, and slowly thence,
Lulling to sad repose the weary sense.

The faint pang stealest unperceiv'd away;

On thee I rest my only hope at last,

And think when thou hast dried the bitter tear

That flows in vain o'er all my soul held dear,

I may look back on Sunday Markets past,

And meet life's peaceful evening with a smile -

As some lone bird, at day's departing hour,

Sings in the sunbeam of the transient shower,

Forgetful tho' its wings are wet the while.



So rest your hopes and lull your sorrows at the Village Hall Sunday
Market on **Sunday 21st June**, to see our peaceful selection of bargains
– with crafts, cards, jewellery, good used clothes, curated bric-a-brac,
home-made cakes, books, nick-nacks and affordable antique stalls.

Tea and coffee is available with biscuits or home made cakes. Start is
10am till midday. Any enquiries please ring Larry on 265386.



JOIN US AT OUR SCHOOL

Summer Fair

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
3:15PM-5:30PM



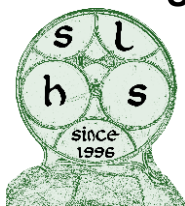
For an afternoon of fun including:

Bouncy Castle • BBQ • Games • Crafts • Stalls • Sweets & Treats • Bar • Raffle •

Entertainment...
and much much more!

COME AND SUPPORT OUR LOVELY SCHOOL
SARRATT PTA REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1095298

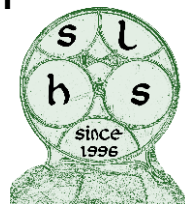
SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Story of Berkhamsted Castle

Michael Long

TUESDAY 30 June 7.30 for 8.00pm



Michael, a Historian, Lecturer and Author, will share the story of Berkhamsted Castle, from Duke William of Normandy, fresh from defeating Harold at the Battle of Hastings through Thomas Beckett's rebuilding, the siege of The French Prince Louis and the death of the Black Prince.

Sarratt Village Hall – 7.30pm for 8pm

Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org



This year's fun competition is "A commemorative mug or cup and saucer with a label if not obvious from the item itself."

This will be judged by Stephen Morrill as always with a prize for the winner.

The poster is rectangular and framed by a decorative border of green and yellow chevrons. At the top, it says 'LET'S CHANGE LIVES TOGETHER AT' in green and purple. Below that, it says 'Parish Room, St Paul's Chipperfield 26th' in black. In the center is a photograph of a white coffee cup on a saucer with a spoon, containing a latte with a heart-shaped foam design. Below the photo, it says 'Saturday 26th September 10am to 12.30' in black. At the bottom, there is a green box with 'MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT' in white, and 'LET'S DO COFFEE' in purple below it. A small logo for 'FBI REGULATOR' is visible in the bottom left corner.

Sarratt Festival of Music 2026

Here are details of the concerts for this year. Please make a note of these dates in your diary.

Friday September 18th Jeneba Kanneh-Mason solo piano

We are delighted to welcome rising star Jeneba from the world-renowned Kanneh-Mason family with an attractive programme of music ranging from Scarlatti to Chopin.

Saturday September 19th Giants of Jazz Piano with Martin Litton and an 8-piece band.

An entertaining evening exploring the many styles of jazz piano from Scott Joplin to Thelonious Monk via Fats Waller, Art Tatum, Count Basie and many others.

Friday September 25th The Aquarelle Guitar Quartet with Craig Ogden

A 24-stringed quartet – 4 acoustic guitars! International soloist and SFM favourite Craig Ogden joins the Aquarelle ensemble in a wide-ranging programme of music from the Renaissance to the 21st century.

Saturday September 26th Apollo 5

Some years ago we were lucky enough to have vocal ensemble Voces8 at the Festival. Apollo 5 are part of the Voces8 Foundation and stand out as one of Britain's most dynamic vocal groups.

4pm Singing Workshop with Apollo 5

Open to all. No ability to read music required. With an emphasis on fun and the joy of singing this is an unmissable chance to participate and be inspired.

7.45pm Apollo 5 "A Day in Paradise"

A truly eclectic mix of vocal styles. Music from William Byrd, Eric Whitacre, Tom Petty and Bill Withers and many others.

As ever, booking forms will be widely available in July and included in Spotlight. They can also be downloaded from the website www.sarrattfestivalofmusic.co.uk The box office will open on 3 August.

All concerts take place in Sarratt Village Hall and start at **7.45pm**.

Sarratt WI



We have no speaker in May as it is that time of year...the Annual Meeting. After welcoming two new members to the club and presenting pretty posies to those who celebrate birthdays this month, we had the opportunity to sign up to forthcoming activities including a Canal Boat trip in July and Afternoon Tea at Church Gardens in August. There is clearly more fun and socialising ahead of us.

The formal part of the meeting started with a comprehensive review of the year – however did we pack all of that in? Cakes, walks, lunches, visits, games and crafts along with some excellent and varied talks ranging from Secret Codes in quilts to tales of Murder and Intrigue.

Next, the Annual Statement of Accounts was presented and adopted by the membership. Finally, we were delighted that Leone had agreed to stand as president for another year and she and the Committee were met with a warm response. We look forward to another interesting and educational year. We are a group of companions who care about each other and the support that a chat over a cup of tea provides should not be underestimated!



Photos taken on our trip to West Herts College where we ate delicious meals made and served by students.

Sarratt WI meets at **2.15pm** on the second Wednesday each month in the **Village Hall**. Newcomers are always welcome. On **the fourth Wednesday of each month**, we organise a walk ending with lunch at a local pub. For more information, please contact our president **Leone Ashby** on **07894-421748**.



SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

(A Community Interest Company)

At the Heart of our Community Seven Days a Week



A World of Wine

We have introduced a thoughtfully handpicked new wine selection accompanied by friendly tasting notes beside each bottle to help you discover wines from around the world.

The new collection ranges from the sunshine of Sicily to the vineyards of South Africa, New Zealand, France and Greece, with each wine chosen for its character and drinkability. Come and see for yourself:

- **The Mediterranean whites full of summer flavour**

The **Planeta Allemanda Moscato Bianco** from Sicily is light, floral and fruity, with notes of peach and orange blossom.

The crisp **Villemarin Picpoul de Pinet Blanc** offers fresh citrus and mineral flavours from the Languedoc, while the Greek **Lyrarakis Assyrtiko** brings green apple, lemon and a clean almost saline finish.

- **Characterful whites from further afield**

South Africa's **DeMorgenzon DMZ Chenin Blanc** combines citrus and tropical fruit with gentle oak and minerality.

New Zealand's "**Fat & Sassy**" **Tony Bish Chardonnay** is richer and creamier, with ripe stone fruit and buttery citrus notes.

- **Elegant reds with personality**

The organic **Lulu l'Alouette Chinon** from the Loire Valley is fresh and vibrant with raspberry and redcurrant flavours.

Meanwhile, the **Marqués de Cáceres Rioja Reserva 2020** is smooth and full-bodied, with plum, cherry and subtle vanilla spice.

A truly international selection, bringing a little wine adventure to the heart of Sarratt without having to leave the village!

However, if you are going further afield - **do you know the way to getting the best exchange rate on your foreign currency?**

Simply order your travel money **online** at postoffice.co.uk by 1pm and then collect it from our Sarratt Post Office the next day. Easy, secure and local – the more you order the better the rate! We do always have euros and dollars in stock, but this gives YOU a better exchange rate.

Thank you to all our volunteers and customers - every hour you volunteer and every pound you spend helps keep us in the village!

PART-TIME POST OFFICE COUNTER ASSISTANT

Sarratt Post Office Stores

We are looking for a reliable and enthusiastic **Part-Time Post Office Counter Assistant** to join our team.



What We Offer

- Full training
- Friendly village working environment
- Part-time hours
- Opportunity to work within the local community

We're Looking for Someone Who Is

- Friendly and customer-focused
- Trustworthy and dependable
- Comfortable handling cash and transactions
- A good communicator with basic IT skills

Previous Post Office experience is not required.

Interested? Please contact **Jane Watson** ✉ jane@sarrattvillage.org

The Grey Knights – Jenks' Bus

The Village institution that is Jenks' Bus was out and about in the lovely April sun. She immaculately completed two outings – both bringing great joy to all.



One, a Wedding taking a party of 10 from Sarratt to Watford and return to the Boot. The other, a Sarratt WI trip from Sarratt to West Herts College and return. She carried a party of 16 and still an additional bus was required to accommodate the whole group of lovely ladies.

Jenks' bus is available for your joyous occasion. No charge is made but a donation is appreciated to keep her on the road.

Contact Alan Milsom 07917 800623

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

Rector: Revd Sarah Miles 07525 491496

Benefice Administrator: Anita Ayrey

holycrossstpauls@outlook.com 01923 264377

Everyone is welcome to attend any service in the Benefice

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

Church Opening Times

Holy Cross each day between 9am and 4pm

St Paul's each day between 10am and 4pm

Book your places today

Do your children love being outdoors?

Being creative through nature? Discovering the world
around them through mud, sticks and leaves?

Forest Church has arrived in Chipperfield!

Why not join us for some den building, bug finding fun, in
our beautiful outdoors?

St Paul's church Chipperfield 1st Sunday of the month at 3.30pm

for more details contact

Revd Sarah 07525491496

suggested donation £2.50 per child to cover materials

CHURCH CALENDAR

A new pattern of services & times of worship has begun – see below

Join us for worship & fellowship. Everyone always welcome.

JUNE 2026

Sunday 7	<i>1st Sunday of the month</i> 1st Sunday after Trinity	
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist with Baptism	Holy Cross
3.30pm	Forest Church	St Paul's
Sunday 14	<i>2nd Sunday of the month</i> 2nd Sunday after Trinity	
9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's
Sunday 21	<i>3rd Sunday of the month</i> 3rd Sunday after Trinity	
9.30am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	St Paul's
	<i>Coffee & croissants available between the morning services</i>	
10.30am	All Together Informal Worship	St Paul's
6.30pm	Compline (traditional night prayer)	Holy Cross
Sunday 28	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i> 4th Sunday after Trinity	
	<i>Holy Cross Flower Festival Weekend</i>	
9.30am	Flower Festival Morning Worship*	Holy Cross
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist*	St Paul's
	<i>*Changes to new service pattern because of the Flower Festival at Holy Cross</i>	
6.30pm	Prayer & Praise coming soon, start date to be advised	St Paul's

JULY 2026 (first part of month)

Sunday 5	<i>1st Sunday of the month</i> 5th Sunday after Trinity	
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross
3.30pm	Forest Church	St Paul's
Sunday 12	<i>2nd Sunday of the month</i> 6th Sunday after Trinity	
9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's

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

Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers



On Sunday May 10th a small group of stalwart volunteers gathered on Sarratt Green bearing forks and trowels, to dig up daffodil bulbs. The Parish Council had recognised the problem and authorised us to do this. It was a chilly morning but we were soon warm because it was hard work. After weeks without rain the ground was hard like concrete and it is, of course, full of stones. We began around the old pump which is surrounded by a patch of Lady's Bedstraw (yellow flowers in June-July), taking care to cause minimal damage to the turf, then moved further towards the north end, ending up with a whole barrow-load of bulbs to be stored and planted elsewhere next autumn.

We were surprised to see that the badgers had been digging for the roots of Pignut which flowers in May. Usually they stay in gardens but the very dry soil must have made the worms (their normal main food) scarce so they have preferred the humps and slopes on the Green.

On **Sunday 14th June**, we shall be back at **Penmans Green**, meet at the top of the track from Belsize at **10am**, tools provided but bring your own refreshments. For more information contact Dawn, 267071 or dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com

Sarratt Green

25 years ago, many of the local residents understood that planting on Sarratt Green was not permitted as it is a Local Wildlife Site. But the population has changed since then and this information has been forgotten, with the result that cultivated, large flowered daffodils have been planted with good intentions but unfortunate consequences. Some of the bulbs have now been dug up and will be replanted in different sites in the autumn. The problem is that daffodils are very hardy and they spread, eventually forming large patches although the new bulbs are smaller and with fewer flowers.

The north end of the Green (where most of the planting occurred) is maintained as a conservation area and the daffs could smother the smaller wild flowers as well as changing the character of the site. The designation of Local Wildlife Site is given on the basis of a detailed survey, the most important part of which is a list of the total number of plant species on the site, which was 119 for the Green, including some attractive wild flowers: Lady's Smock (or Cuckooflower), Pignut and Bulbous Buttercup (all flowering in April-May), Lady's Bedstraw and Harebell (flowering in June and July). These plants are all disappearing

from the countryside and are evidence that our village green has existed for hundreds of years without being ploughed, re-sown, disturbed or polluted. The central position of Sarratt Green contributes to the character of the village and it is part of our heritage.

Brenda Harold

Notes from Sarratt Mill - Who's that knocking at my door?

There is a little lobby off our kitchen where there is a back door that's now serving as the front door.

The real front door is under the Regency Veranda. It leads into a pretty entrance hall and a lovely staircase and was installed by the last working miller of Sarratt Mill. It was well away from the dust and noise of the Mill workings and by then the miller and his family were successful enough to have 'pretensions'. They would have considered a front door designed for the taking in of deliveries, or even post, not suitable for their personal use. Indeed, when we bought the house about 40 years ago, neither door had an actual letter box. Instead, by the back door, there was a crude wooden box which, when opened in the morning, contained the bottles of milk delivered by United Dairies (in an electric milk cart that somehow managed to get down the hill), letters and packages delivered by the postman (no couriers then), and a big plump toad who had made his home there.

It was very charming but hardly a suitable place for delivery of Anthony's confidential legal documents, so we reluctantly had a proper letterbox and flap cut into that door. The plump toad chose to move to under a dripping water tap by the garage.

We loved our real front door and the elegant feel of the house as you entered that way, and for ages we tried to get people to use it. But it was away from the main drive and its death toll came when the world became a less honest place and we had to install a house alarm. Since the garage and our car were close to the back door, and visitors drove up that way, it was simply not practical to have the alarm in the old front of the house. So we, very, very reluctantly, started to arrive and leave and welcome visitors at the much less nice door by the kitchen. And that is where my little 'note' for today really begins.

Among the many other oddities of this house, the back/now front door doesn't have a bell but does have a knocker. You can't really express any personality or emotion when pressing a bell. But a knocker is quite different. There are aggressive callers who bang out a full crescendo of violent knocks, and demanding callers who use the knocker like an

announcement of Doomsday. Others are content with one sharp knock. A few do a kind of Morse code. And some are so self-effacing as to barely bring any pressure to the knocker in their hand, but just let it drop.

It was last January, as I sat in the kitchen peeling potatoes, that I heard such a timid little knock. Indeed, it was so timid I wasn't sure I had heard it at all. But there it was again... more a tiny tapping than knocking. I got up and moved the couple of yards through from the kitchen into the lobby where you can see anyone at the door through its glass panels. There was no one there!

I returned to my potatoes. Tap tap... tap tap... Tappity tap. I leapt from my chair this time, took two long strides and I could see through the door. But again, no one was there! No one was there, but the left hand glass pane seemed blurry. I looked closely and it was covered in little scratches. I briefly wondered how they got there but returned to the kitchen.

The peeling was done. I put my potatoes by the hob and sat down with a coffee. Tap tap... Tappity-tappity- tap... I was out in the lobby instantly this time and I saw..... a whirring mass of brilliant yellow and grey feathers . My mysterious and not so timid visitor was a grey wagtail, its breast a brilliant egg-yolk yellow. And it was balancing on the doorknob attacking what it thought was its rival... its own reflection in the glass.



It has been with us for months now. We thought it would leave and join a real mate as the weather got warmer but here it still is, not only carrying on its constant war with our door, but delighting in balancing on the wing mirror of anyone foolish enough to park their car nearby. Sometimes it goes from car to car. Sometimes from door to car, valiantly defending its territory like some Don Quixote knight jousting with windmills. It makes nasty little deposits everywhere, quite apart from its scratches in the glass. And I can't imagine its emotional state, constantly facing a perceived threat.

We have become used to our whirring, tapping visitor now. We recognise the tiny knocking and some of our more particular guests even bring plastic bags to cover and protect their wing mirrors. And just as the previous people in this house must have become used to and fond of the plump little toad, we have come to accept and even welcome our valiant but delusional feathered friend.

Meanwhile our real front door remains un-attacked, pristine and visitor free... human or avian.

Angela Colman

Sarratt Scout Group

Georgina Donnelly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes, Sarah Dobson



The Beavers thoroughly enjoyed the Rickmansworth & Chorleywood District Beaver Fun Day at Chorleywood Scout campsite, with activities on the theme of 40 years of Beavers.



We celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday by making masks of endangered animals and decorating a birthday message using leaf printing. The Beavers practiced their teamwork skills playing

giant noughts and crosses in Chipperfield Common woods and we are back there again this week for a nature ramble.

Last week we were welcomed by St Laura's Care Home in Kings Langley where the Beavers served tea and chatted to the residents. We hope to return in the Autumn Term - there were several



requests for the Beavers to sing, so we will have to get practising! This month we will be visiting Kings Langley Fire Station, getting on the water at the Aquadrome and going on another hike. We also have the highlight of the year - camping in tents over at Tolmers Scout camp. This year we are joining forces with the Cubs, no doubt it will be a very active weekend!

This term is all outdoors for the Cubs, ideal for shaking off time spent in the classroom and for gaining new skills. After a 10 minute lesson in map reading and using a compass, the Cubs took it in turns to lead the pack on a successful group hike from the Cock Inn in Sarratt to Newhall Farm and back to the Village Hall (via the playground!). Considering many of them had also been on a sports day competition at St Clement



Danes during the day, I think they showed remarkable resource and stamina! Thank you to all our parent helpers who came. Charlotte gave important lessons in shelter building in Chipperfield Woods this month, and Fiona took the Cubs swimming last week, where many of the Cubs gained their Level 2 Swimmers badge as well as Level 1. We are looking forward to joining the Beavers on Camp next month where we shall be kayaking, orienteering and learning to shoot a rifle! Great fun.



The Scouts are trying to make a community impact once a month. We'd welcome some suggestions on how we can help out in the community. Otherwise we have been preparing for our expedition in July. We've been doing menu planning, route planning, writing kit lists and practicing our navigation skills. Our navigation practice was our favourite hike to the chip shop in Croxley. Now we're preparing for our summer activities at the Aquadrome - kayaking, raft building, canoeing and our summer finale will be a session on stand up paddle boards, everyone's favourite (if you prefer to use the paddle board as a diving platform, if you like paddle boarding please don't judge us).

The combined 1st Rickmansworth and Sarratt Explorer Unit now has a new name - the Phoenixes, following the tradition of Explorer Units having a distinctive name. Since Easter the Explorers have joined other units in the District for an evening of rifle shooting, have been backwoods cooking as they work towards their Chef Badge and played outdoor games. Looking ahead, they will be out on the water at the Aquadrome and are busy preparing for their Summer Camp.

Sarratt Scout Group is open to boys and girls aged 5¾ to 14, with the Phoenix Explorer Section for 14-18 years olds. Anyone is welcome and can come along for 2-3 weeks to "try it out" before deciding to join.

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

If you have a child who would like to join the Scout Group please contact us at: admissions@sarrattscoutgroup.org

Also a reminder that we still need your help to fill some key roles for the Group.

If you care about the importance of scouting in young people's lives, helping them benefit from all the activities we organise for them, and if you value the role Sarratt Scout Group plays in our local community, please read on and let us know if you can help.



We need an **Assistant Treasurer** to help with bank payments and other associated admin. You don't need to have any accounting experience for this.

We also need another **Group Scout Leader** who can help with the overall running of the Group and some of the administration. This role is shared with other adult volunteers.

Both these jobs can be done from home, plus attending a leadership team meeting 3 times a year and take no more than an hour a week. No prior experience of Scouting is needed.

If you are more interested in working directly with our young people, we are also looking for **adult volunteers to assist the Section Leaders**, by helping at our weekly meetings - but this doesn't need to be every week, and a couple of meetings each half term would be a huge help. Or perhaps you would like to come along to a meeting to talk to the young people about a particular interest or hobby that you have.

If you would like to find out more about any of these roles or helping with the Scout Group in any other way please get in touch at gsl@sarrattscoutgroup.org

Parish Council Report



*News and updates from SPC, including the key points arising for the SPC Meeting held on **Tuesday 14th April 2026**. Full minutes when approved and other information is available on our website sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk*



Find out the latest updates
receive emails about any urgent or important updates for Sarratt Parish residents use this web link to signup this service run by SPC
<http://eepurl.com/iZ4fes>

SPC Annual meeting

SPC held its Annual meeting on Tue 28 April, where annual reports covering all areas were delivered. It was reaffirmed that SPC's role includes:

- Care for and maintain local assets
- Support residents and the wider community
- Help ensure Sarratt remains a welcoming place to live and visit.

The full reports can be viewed on the SPC website.

We were also pleased to be able to give out the annual grants to recipients. These grants are key to supporting local organisation who provide essential support and services in our Parish. Grant recipients included:

- Sarratt Care
- Spotlight Magazine
- The Days Almshouse Charity
- The Grey Knights
- Sarratt Mother and Toddlers Group
- Sarratt Community Shop and Post Office
- Sarratt Festival of Music
- Sarratt Local History Society
- Holy Cross Church
- Sarratt KGV Playing Fields

Trees

Urgent tree assessment completed and priority tree dealt with. Secondary priorities registered with National Power who say they will investigate. Work continues with the asset management plan updates. We are working with Andrew Taylor from the HCC Countryside Management Services, to continue exploring grants and in particular the Higher Tier of Countryside Stewardship registration.

Recycling

In an attempt to make recycling of some items easier for our residents, the Clerk is to keep two bins at the Parish Office for the collection of spent AA/AAA and 9 Volt batteries. Also, a bin for tablet blister packs. The Clerk will then dispose of the waste at Chorleywood and Morrisons. PLEASE BRING THESE WASTE ITEMS TO THE PARISH OFFICE.

PLANNING

RECENT APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED:

Old Plough House Plough Lane Sarratt WD3 4NN

Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of two storey rear extension; 26/0696/FUL & 26/0697/LBC

SPC: No objection. We support this sympathetic proposal which does not impact the heritage front of the building. We encourage the applicant to use the opportunity of these works to maximise the energy efficiency of the building.

Bay Tree Farm Bucks Hill WD4 9AU

Construction of an outdoor riding manège, Ref. No: 26/0677/FUL

SPC: No objection on the basis this is in an area with other manèges, is low impact with no lighting and is for private use only.

Belsize House Plough Lane Sarratt WD3 4QP

Construction of part-single, part two storey rear extension and side porch, ... 26/0670/FUL & 26/0671/LBC

SPC: No objection. We support this sympathetic proposal which changes the later 1960s rear parts and does not impact the heritage front of the building. We encourage the applicant to use the opportunity of these works to maximise the energy efficiency of the building.

The White Cottage The Green Sarratt WD3 6BL

Construction of single storey rear extension and side/rear porches; installation of new side and rear doors, 26/0663/FUL & 26/0664/LBC

SPC: No objection. We recognise this is a smaller sized proposal than previously submitted. We encourage the applicant to use the opportunity of these works to maximise the energy efficiency of the building.

Willow Cottage Penmans Green Sarratt WD4 9AZ

Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Construction of an outbuilding with indoor swimming pool, Ref. No: 26/0624/CLPD

SPC: Noted.

15 Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HN

Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Refurbishment and repairs to existing garage Ref. No: 26/0611/CLPD **SPC: Noted.**

Holly Hedges Farm Olleberrie Lane Belsize WD3 4NU

Erection of a stable block and associated hardstanding _ 26/0607/FUL
SPC: No objection. As this is a new building on a greenbelt site we ask conditions added to ensure this building is for equine use only and remains ancillary to the main dwelling.

Farmhouse Newhall Farm Bucks Hill WD4 9AH

Permitted Development Notice: Erection of 3no. agricultural barns. Ref. No: 26/0571/PDNA

SPC: Noted. We would like to note that this is a significant additional built form in an open area.

Land Rear Of Myrtle Cottages The Green Sarratt WD3 6AT

Construction of single storey detached self build dwellinghouse with accommodation in the roofspace served by front/rear dormers, side rooflights and solar panels, and associated shed, parking and landscaping works Ref. No: 26/0550/FUL

SPC: We recognise 2 bed bungalows are under represented in the stock of dwellings in Sarratt. The proposed site is in the Sarratt Green conservation area and this application would be a back land development, which have strict restrictions in the conservation area policies. We are not sure the proposed design fully meets the design policies in the neighbourhood plan. Also the proposed design does not appear on the information given to be in keeping with the adjacent locally important buildings. For these reasons and the current potential unsustainable overdevelopment of Sarratt we are unable to support this application. If officers are minded to approve this application then we request it is called into the planning committee.

RECENT NOTABLE DECISIONS:

Cakebread Cottage Dawes Lane Sarratt WD3 6DA

Listed Building Consent: Reglazing, refurbishment and repair / redecoration of 12no. windows_Ref. No: 26/0296/LBC

SPC: No objection TRDC: Approved

The Grove, Grove Mill Lane, Grove Mill, Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 4TG

Erection of a temporary building with external accesses for use as a conference centre within the Walled Garden (build period of 39 days to start on 20/04/26 and to be removed by 29/05/26)_Ref. No: 26/0120/FUL **SPC: No objection TRDC: Approved**

Laurel Cottage Finches Avenue Redheath WD3 4LN

Certificate of Lawfulness Existing Use: Use of Laurel Cottage and associated land as an independent dwellinghouse (Use Class C3). Ref. No: 25/2223/CLED

SPC: No objection TRDC: Refused (due to condition from a previous planning permission in 2008)

See the council in action and have your say

Date of the next Sarratt Parish Council meeting is

Tuesday 9th Jun 7.30pm, held in the **rear room of the Village Hall.**

Members of the public welcome to attend.

To contact Sarratt Parish Council (SPC):

Mrs Lena Mortimer, the Parish Clerk, on 01923 262025

or email clerk@sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk

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