

SPOTLIGHT

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

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*

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.

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:		01923-265881

e-mail: sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk

SARRATT CARE	Hours: 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday	519975
POLICE	Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number	101

Rectors Ramblings

As the seasons turn and autumn colours begin to appear, we come once again to celebrate Harvest. It is a time of thanksgiving — for the fruitfulness of the earth, the labour of farmers and growers, and the abundance we so often take for granted.

Harvest reminds us not only of the gifts we have been given, but also of our calling to share them with others. In a world where many go without, thanksgiving and generosity belong together. We are called to live as people of hope, sowing kindness, justice, and peace in our communities.

Whilst we are privileged to live in peace and our beautiful surroundings many are forced to live in fear and oppression across the globe. Indeed, as you read this, we as benefice churches and members of our communities would have just finished our week of prayer; joining with thousands of others across 124+ countries praying for those who are in need of kindness, justice and peace - all of which, we as people of hope are called to sow. As we live out our lives in love and kindness it cannot help but to trickle out of our communities into others until that trickle turns to a stream, and the stream to a river.

Our wonderful Knatty Knitters who meet in St Paul's Parish room on Wednesday afternoons are using their gifts to show love and kindness to young children from war torn areas of the world. These children in desperate need of life saving heart surgery; are taken to Jordan by the fantastic charity Chain of Hope (www.chainofhope.org) where they are safe to undergo surgery. Each child on the charity's next mission will now receive a little knitted teddy, filled with love, hope and prayers from our little corner of the world to theirs. This is sowing kindness. This is love in action.

In the wisdom and words of St Paul, 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'.

So, as we move into this season of thanksgiving, let us ask ourselves where are we called to sow love and kindness in our villages and across the globe? Where are we called to spread hope, so others too may give thanks.

Every Blessing, Revd Sarah



Inspire

Women Inspiring Women

Join us on the 1st Monday of every
Month in St Pauls Parish Room,
Chipperfield from 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

On **Monday 5th October**
Viktoria will be talking to us
about her experiences when
she was forced to flee her
home in Ukraine to come to
England when the war started.

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

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...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

Sarratt Mums, Toddlers and Baby Group – We are hoping to start meeting again in the newly refurbished King George V pavilion after the October half term. Please call Daphne for information on 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
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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

On Sunday 30th August, James McClelland and Rebecca Hodgekiss tied the knot at Castle Hill, Winchester a historic 19th-century stone and flint building near the Great Hall and a wonderful setting for a very special event, “pre” and “post” celebrations were held at The Westgate Hotel, with the cloud cover breaking and the sun shining just in time for photographs. Moving to Mapledurwell



afternoon tea, drinks and games were enjoyed by all, followed by an evening of feasting, live music and dancing into the morning. James met Rebecca, whilst based in Singapore and working on Tioman Island. On visiting them 10 years ago, in the Seychelles, it was obvious they were a good team and well matched, they both continued, whenever possible, to do their scientific research and HX cruise lecturing. With their love of diving, it was no surprise as they flew off for their honeymoon to the Azores, before returning home to Southsea. We wish them a long and happy married life together.

Ian & Dee McClelland

Grey Knights

We are coming to the end of another season and I am pleased to report that Jenks had a busy summer. The big news is that we have finally sorted out the water pump issue. Thanks to the very clever Jason there is now a new water pump in operation which required some fairly neat footwork to fit it into a rather old engine that was built a mere 90 years before the new pump!! Thank you, Jason.



Also thank you to Diane and Tony Quayle for allowing us to park Jenks in one of their barns.

Alan Milsom 07917-800623

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 19th October at 12.30.

To book please call Jacky Creed – Details below

COFFEE MORNING AND TREATMENTS

Hairdressing, foot care 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 14th and 28th October.

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

For all lovers of art and culture – on your doorstep!

“Fabergé in Ukraine”

Cynthia Coleman Sparke

Almost 150 Members and guests enjoyed the first lecture of our new season in September and you are invited to come to our next intriguing presentation.

By 1900 the Fabergé firm had gained international recognition as one of the leading jewellery houses. From modest beginnings it had a meteoric rise and stunned the press and visitors with its beautiful, extravagant displays at the Exposition Universal in Paris. Fabergé chose Kiev and Odessa as outlets.

Our fully illustrated presentation will display the beauty and grandeur of Ukraine’s aristocratic estate, jewels of the Crimean peninsula which attracted some of the richest families.

Cynthia Coleman Sparke is an independent researcher, author and lecturer on Pre-Revolutionary Russian works of art. She partly grew up in Moscow in a family of Russian art collectors. Cynthia used to run the Russian Department of Christies in New York and carried out the restoration of the Alexander Palace near St. Petersburg, Nicolas II’s last residence. She published her book ‘Russian Decorative Arts’ in 2014.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Tuesday 13th October 2026

Sarratt Village Hall

Refreshments from 10.30am and presentation at 11am.

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

Membership is now open for our exciting 2026/27 programme - 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

SARRATT POST OFFICE STORES

(A Community Interest Company)

**At the Heart of our Community
Seven Days a Week**



As the evenings draw in and autumn arrives, we're getting ready for the change of season, with all the everyday essentials alongside plenty of autumn favourites. If you're looking for supper inspiration, take a look at our collection of simple recipe ideas, all made using ingredients available in the shop. Why not try a warming three-bean chilli, fresh pasta with a creamy, cheesy sauce, or steak with garlic gnocchi and fine beans?

You'll also find plenty of choice in our growing organic and 'free-from' ranges, making it easier to adapt many of the recipes to suit different tastes and dietary needs.

If you have a favourite recipe using ingredients from the shop, we'd love you to share it with us. It might inspire someone else's next cosy night in!

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

For more information follow us on:

Instagram: @sarrattpostoffice stores

Facebook: Sarratt Post Office Stores

PINTS OF VIEW, MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

Stephen Morrill is to lead our informal POV discussion at The Boot in Sarratt on Monday **19 October, starting at 8pm**. We shall consider the ethical implications of using live facial recognition technology in the prevention and detection of crime.



Everyone welcome.

Sarratt Horti AGM

Wed 28th Oct, 8pm

Sarratt Village Hall

Brief AGM followed by a talk:

Extreme Allotmenteeering

Speaker : **Alan Clark**

"How I became a gardener, allotments and the pursuit of giant veg!"

Wine and Cheese

Members and non-members welcome

Come and meet our team!



Free Entry



CHARITY PUB QUIZ at THE COCK INN

SARRATT CHURCH END

WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER

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.

PLUS £15 for a burger and a beer/wine

Come along and enjoy a fun evening.

Phone: **01923 282908** to book a table

Email: TheCockInnAtSarratt@gmail.com



October's Sunday Market

My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a watered shoot;
My heart is like an apple tree
Whose bough is bent with thick-set fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon bay;
My heart is gladder than all these
'Cos the Sunday Market's today!



So come and be glad to be at the Village Hall Sunday Market on **October 18th**, to our bargain selection of crafts, bric-a-brac, plants, 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.





SARRATT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN SHOW 2026

Saturday 12th September 2026 – Sarratt Village Hall

The hottest summer on record. And a drought with a hosepipe ban. Not a great backdrop for the 'Horti Show' but the number of entries was the highest for 5 years. Despite all the gardeners talking about how difficult it had been, the judge praised the folks of Sarratt for the high quality of their flowers and produce.

The dahlias section had some magnificent blooms, spectacular to see. Sarah Altman was the winner of the trophy. The rose section included Simon Hammett's wonderful flower, judged as the 'best bloom in show'. And Steven Booth narrowly won the cup for this category. He was also the winner of the 'other flowers' section of the show.

Ron Higgs only entered the show for the first time last year. And this year he won the David Osbourne Trophy for the fruit and vegetables. All of Ron's exhibits were of the highest quality (especially the onions) and the prize was well deserved.

The flower arranging cup was shared between Jennifer Haynes and Ginny McNamara and the cookery cup was won by Sue LaFarge. Julie Mansi's plum jam earned her the lovely Staughton Cup. In the Arts & Crafts section, the creative side of the village was on display. Jennifer Haynes was a deserved winner with having shown her skills with needlework, painting and clay.

The children's cup winner was Roland Cooper with the Vines winning the Three Rivers Trophy for the family with the most points in the show. There were three members who entered for the first time and had some beautiful exhibits. The Merle Liddy Trophy was awarded to Richard Phillips who had some fantastic entries.

When it came to adding up the total number of points for the show, **Steven Booth** was the overall winner of the Clutterbuck Trophy.



And finally, **Simon Hammett** was awarded the Morton Neal Cup for the most points across both shows this year. Well done Simon!

Whilst there was some friendly competition taking place, the real stars of the show were the people of Sarratt who helped to make it a great event in the village calendar.

Many people came along to admire the creativity of the people of Sarratt and enjoy seeing the exhibits. Of course, none of it would be the same without a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of some of the most magnificent cakes. Yes, the real winners were the people who enjoyed an afternoon at the Horti Show.





QUIZ NIGHT



A fundraising event for the Sarratt Scout Group

Saturday 14th 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**



The Boot Sarratt

JOIN US FOR A

Charity
**CHRISTMAS
★ MARKET ★**

IN AID OF
CANCER RESEARCH



SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

11AM – 4PM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
LOCAL STALL HOLDERS

HELD IN OUR
MARQUEE & GARDEN



OUTSIDE
BAR



FOOD



MULLED
WINE



CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR SLOT

TheBootSarratt@gmail.com



SHOP
LOCAL



SUPPORT
CANCER
RESEARCH

Sarratt CE Primary School



What a wonderful start we have had to the new academic year at Sarratt School. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Reception children, along with all of our new pupils and families, into our school community. The children have settled quickly into their new classes and there is already a real buzz of learning, enthusiasm and friendship around the school.

At Sarratt, our values of ***Courage, Compassion and Creativity*** are at the heart of everything we do. We were delighted to celebrate children who have demonstrated these values in our first Gold Book Assembly of the year. Whether showing courage to try something new, compassion towards others, or creativity in their learning, our pupils have made an excellent start and we are incredibly proud of them.



Year 1 have been busy scientists, beginning their topic on the **human body**. The children have been identifying different body parts and carrying out investigations to measure and compare them. Using their mathematical and scientific skills, they explored questions such as whether taller children have longer arms and compared the sizes of different body parts across the class. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they worked scientifically and developed their understanding of themselves and others.



In **Reception**, the children enjoyed a PE session with **Mrs Brown**, moving creatively to music. Through dancing, stretching and responding to different rhythms, the children explored ways to move their bodies safely and confidently. The session was filled with smiles, energy and imagination, helping to build coordination, listening skills and confidence while having lots of fun.

Fun with Flowers

Three new workshops to get started with arranging flowers / or keeping up your skills. To be held at The Boot, The Green, Sarratt at 7pm on the following dates –

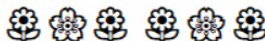
12th October, 19th October, 26th October

£5 per session

Bring simple mixed bunch of flowers like the ones stocked in the shop/a garage together with foliage. Everything else provided

Very informal 😊😊 with coffee ☕☕ and chat too. 😊👉

marilyn@justwebs.co.uk



Local Advertiser?

To reach *every home* in the Parish
every month,
contact us on

sarrattspotlight@googlemail.com

We're just one email away...

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



The Story of Ovaltine in Kings Langley

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER

7.30 for 8.00pm



Join Melissa Linsey, Museum Manager, Dacorum Heritage, as she shares the history of Ovaltine in Kings Langley, where the malted drink was made from 1913 to 2002 and how the company added model dairy and poultry farms nearby in 1930 to supply pure ingredients and promote healthy country living.

Sarratt Village Hall – 7.30pm for 8pm

Non-Members welcome - £4 on the Door

sarrattlocalhistorysociety.org

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE POPPY DAY APPEAL



Remembrance Sunday is on November 8th.

**Poppies will be available at Sarratt Community Post
Office Stores, the village pubs and the School.**

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,
with an exception for Harvest Festival – see below.**

Join us for worship & fellowship. Everyone always welcome.

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4	<i>1st Sunday of the month</i>	18th Sunday after Trinity
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross
3.30pm	Forest Church	St Paul's
Sunday 11	<i>2nd Sunday of the month</i>	19th Sunday after Trinity
<i>Note change of times and venues for services today</i>		
9.30am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.30am	Sarratt Harvest Festival Eucharist	Holy Cross
Sunday 18	<i>3rd Sunday of the month</i>	20th 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 25	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i>	Last Sunday after Trinity –
	Bible Sunday	
9.30am	Morning Worship	St Paul's
10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Holy Cross

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

Sarratt F.C.



We've had a mixed bag of results at the start of this new season, with two wins and two losses from our first four matches. All away from home due to our refurbishment works at the KGV Pavilion, we kicked-off the campaign with a 3-1 victory at Totternhoe, with Rob Swan featuring on the scoresheet alongside new signings Connor Calcutt and Ed Canham.

Despite Calcutt finding the net again just a few days later, we fell to a 2-1 defeat at Harpenden Town Development, before bouncing back with a 3-2 win over Stony Stratford Town. Captain Sam Wiltshire found the back of the net, with newcomers Charlie Gatehouse and Ryan Cole also opening their Sarratt account.

Calcutt scored his third of the season in Cambridgeshire, but it wasn't enough as our hosts Eynesbury United took the points with a 3-2 win. Tomi Anifowoshe was the other scorer in yellow-and-black.

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

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

Upcoming Home Fixtures (Subject to Change)

3rd October - Redbourn Rovers (3:00pm)

17th October - Pitstone & Ivinghoe (3:00pm)

14th November - Tring Corinthians (2:00pm)

Tom Scarborough
Communications & Welfare Officer, **Sarratt FC**

Sarratt Tennis Club Finals Day



The most exciting tennis tournament of the year (in your local area...) took place on September 6 at Tennis Club courts, KGV playing fields. Once the gazebo was in place, the food laid out and the gleaming trophies put on display play could commence.

The first match was the Men's Singles between Simon Ashby and Paul Curtis. Simon quickly ran away with the first set 6-2, but then Paul seemed to get his eye in and won the second set 6-1 which led to an exciting tiebreak. Simon played consistently well and won this 10-6 to claim the victory. Well done Simon, winner three years on the trot. Commiserations to Paul for not troubling the engraver again!!



Next up was the Women's Doubles with Kath Curtis and Cathy Vines versus Clare Bennett and Sarah Haynes. In a very closely fought match, Kath/Cathy took the first set 7-5, with the second set to Clare/Sarah 6-4 who went on to win the tiebreak 7-5 to claim the trophy.

On the other court was the Men's Plate competition between Dominic Curtis and Craig Bennett. Craig took the first set 6-1 followed by a far closer second set with Craig being successful 7-5.

The final match to take place on the day was the Mixed Doubles between Emma Dickins & Simon Ashby vs Kath & Paul Curtis. Even with some of the competitors having already played matches no effort was spared with plenty of action & exciting rallies. The Curtis combo were victors in the end 6-4, 6-2.

The Men's Doubles Final was played later in the week between Simon Hammett & Paul Olney vs Andy Coote & Rob Hildick with Hammett/Olney winning 6-4, 6-2.

Some great tennis was played and enjoyed by over 30 spectators. Special thanks must go to Nick Ratliff for coming along especially to run the barbecue, Kath Curtis for organising the food, Simon Hammett for setting up and a special mention to Judith Wildgoose for all her work this year with regard to coaching and the newly launched website where you can find out more about joining & playing.

In September, we were intrigued to hear our speaker, Michael Jolly, Chairman and Chief Executive of Madame Tussauds from 1983 to 2001.

Michael began by telling us the history of Marie Tussaud (née Anna Maria Grosholtz), a remarkable woman. Born in France in 1761, her mother was housekeeper to a former doctor who opened a salon of wax figures of famous people in Paris. Marie was fascinated so he taught her how to make figures and how to run the business and when he died in 1794, he left the business to her. A year later, she married François Tussaud but in 1802, she left her husband and elder son in Paris and took her younger son to London, with all the wax figures on a horse and cart. For 31 years, they toured the UK setting up exhibitions in cities around the country. She ran the business single-handed and became very well known. Aged 74, she decided to settle in Baker Street and increasingly brought her son Joseph into the business. Madame Tussaud died in London aged 89 and Michael showed us the death mask her son took of her.



We were fascinated to hear a bit about how the waxworks are made. Their aim is to capture a character rather than a likeness. Someone goes to meet the celebrity and photograph them, taking a box of glass eyes and swatches of hair with them! They build a relationship with them, discussing how they would like to be portrayed. The subject donates the clothes they would like to be wearing.

A waxwork takes about 3 months to complete – they've tried using technology to speed up the process but it didn't help. A sculptor uses the photographs to make the figure out of clay and from that, they make a complete mould. The head and hands are made of wax but anything that doesn't show is made of fibreglass. The head is hollow, allowing the eyes to be set from behind. The photographs are used again for colouring flesh tones and designing the teeth. Artists use specialised

tools to implant real hair into the artificial scalp one strand at a time, which can take weeks. Hats are popular! Maintenance teams regularly take the heads off the waxworks to shampoo, condition and style the hair on display figures to keep them looking fresh. Michael told us that they find creating a good likeness of young women very difficult but that the late Queen Mother was easy. Part of the enjoyment of a visit is discussing which figures you think are good and which aren't.

Celebrity Surprises – did that really just happen?

Michael shared some of his experiences with us:

Margaret Thatcher was very particular about her hands – she wanted to be shown sitting at her desk, hands folded. As a thank you, Madame Tussauds decided to make a bronze of her hands. Michael went to Downing Street to present them to her. When she came into the room she said, “Mr Jolly, it must be so nice for you to meet me!”

In 1987, **Michael Jackson** was asked if he would like to be in the museum. He was very enthusiastic and his agent asked them to make two and give him the other one – something they'd never done before. They had a good relationship with the police so they told them Michael Jackson was coming to the unveiling. The police instructed them not to tell anyone which they didn't but that evening, the news appeared in the Evening Standard! By 8.30am the next day, there was a crowd of about 3,000 people and by the time Michael Jackson arrived at 11am in a swanky limousine, the crowd was so large it was causing major traffic problems. Michael went up in the lift with Michael Jackson and his manager and Jackson was like a timid, shy, frightened little boy. After the unveiling he bounded onto the bonnet and roof of his car to say thank you to the crowd and the whole of Marylebone Road was blocked in both directions!

Someone went to South Africa to meet and photograph **Nelson Mandela** not long after he came out of prison. The unveiling of his waxwork coincided with his visit to the UK to thank the people who had helped him. After the press had gone, he had been invited to stay on for a cocktail party with guests, usually about 12-24 people. 200 people came! Michael had 15 minutes on his own with Mandela. He spoke as though he'd known Michael all his life. There was no sign of any anger or resentment over what had happened to him. A remarkable man.

The Dalai Lama was coming in the middle of the day so he was invited to stay on for lunch. Most people say no thank you but he said yes! Bearing in mind that people believe that he is the Buda re-incarnate, Michael read copiously about him and his beliefs in preparation for the lunch. On the day, there were 5 monks and the Dalai Lama at the table interspersed with Michael and 5 members of his team. After one of the monks had said something very solemn, the Dalai Lama started the conversation by saying, “Mr Jolly, do you know any good jokes?” Michael admitted that he didn’t. “Don’t worry, I’ve got a few!” He was charming.

The late **Queen Elizabeth** had her waxwork redone regularly and on one occasion, Michael met her in Warwick Castle when she was on a tour of Warwickshire. He had done his homework and knew that you should never raise a topic – allow her to lead and you follow. She started talking about air travel. She wasn’t keen and didn’t like the noise of aeroplanes. “You much find it tiresome when Concorde goes over”, said Michael. “Oh no, I get the dogs out, look up and say, ‘That’s my plane!’”

We will be celebrating our **70th birthday** at our **11th November** meeting,. We have a talk on **The Women of Bletchley Park** and then a celebration of our milestone. **Any ex-members or people that have supported the WI over the years are welcome to attend.**

Please RSVP to Leone@harrvcharles.co.uk.

Sarratt WI meets at **2.15pm** on the second Wednesday each month in the **Village Hall**. Newcomers are always welcome. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th October** when we will be holding our Annual Meeting.

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 07894421748.**

Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers

On Sunday September 13th we were again at Commonwood. As we are all realising, autumn has come early, but it was quite warm and humid, the welcome forecast rain appearing later in the morning.



This time we were working down near the lower road near Dellfield. There is a triangle of grass there and an interesting area of chalk grassland, on a slight slope where the underlying chalk is nearer to the surface than in some areas. This results in a different and precious range of flowers which love the chalk. Each year we have the grass cut on both sections in early September and rake it up for our September task

The grass has to be cut and cleared away if we want the flowers to flourish, as wild flowers thrive in low-nutrient soils. In past times when meadows and commons were full of flowers, sheep would have eaten the grass and kept it very short. This allowed the more delicate flowers to thrive. Hedge Bedstraw and Ladies Bedstraw grow here, and Field Scabious, Wild Basil and Wild Marjoram, and plenty of Knapweed, all these attract bees and butterflies. Do go and have a look at this little area in the height of summer - it's buzzing !

Around the glade area there are also berries for the birds to fatten up on – the dull red of hawthorn, bright scarlet of rose hips, blackberries, sloes and elderberries, a delicious feast.

Even with the drought we have had, there still seemed plenty of berries.

On **Sunday October 11th** we shall be again working at Commonwood, removing some of the overgrowth of sycamore saplings. Please help if you can, 10am there, tools provided.

Contact Dawn 267071 or

dawnmlpitts@btinternet.com for more information.

Sarratt Scout Group

*Georgina Donnelly, Verity Allen, Dan Haynes,
Sarah Dobson*



SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT



Our 4th Annual Quiz will be taking place on the evening of Saturday 14 November in Sarratt Village Hall - see the advert elsewhere in this edition of Spotlight for more details. We have greatly appreciated the support the village has given to this event over the last 3 years, with more than 100 villagers taking part on each occasion. We hope you will be able to come along again this year to what is our main fundraising event. It's great fun and a really sociable evening supporting your village Scout Group.

With the Scout Group only having just started back after its summer break, there's not much to report on about our weekly meetings. Beavers kicked off the term with a Scavenger Hunt on Chipperfield Common, Cubs had a return visit from 'Petsman' who brought along his collection of reptiles, birds, spiders, and small animals, while Scouts were in the Village Hall for a welcome back meeting. Phoenixes, the joint Sarratt and Rickmansworth Explorer Unit, were back at the Aquadrome on the stand-up paddleboards.

The leaders have an exciting programme of activities indoors and outside for their young members planned for the rest of the term. We've also had 4 new children join the Beaver Colony, and 1 new joiner into the Cub Pack with several children moving up to the next section for the start of the new term, but still have space available for anyone else interested in joining.

The Sarratt Scout Group is open to boys and girls aged 5¾ to 14, with the Phoenix Explorer Unit (run by Rickmansworth Scouts) catering 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 5:30 - 6:30pm
Cubs: Age 8 - 10 years - Meets Thursdays 6:00 - 7:30pm
Scouts: Age 10 - 14 years - Meets Wednesdays 7:00 - 9:00pm
Explorers: Age 14 - 18 years - Meets Mondays 7:00 - 9:00pm

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 the Scout Group plays in our local community, please read on and let us know if you can help.

We 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.

We also need a **Group Administrator** to help process DBS checks and other admin for the Group. The role can be done from home, and takes 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 8th September***

2026. Full minutes when approved and other information is available on the SPC website sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk

Full minutes when approved and other information is available on the SPC website sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk



Find out the latest updates

To receive emails about any urgent or important updates for Sarratt Parish residents use this web link to sign up to this service run by SPC

<http://eepurl.com/iZ4fes>

Crowdfund to help support prevention of the over-development of Sarratt

This fighting fund is to support the paid-for professional expert and legal resources needed to help stop unsustainable development in Sarratt. This fund will be used for the larger development applications, appeals and other processes such as the recent response to the Three Rivers Local Plan Reg 19 stage, where a planning consultant produced our response. These activities are not cheap, for example the Reg 19 response cost £5,000. At the recent public meeting the speaker from a recent appeal against a large development in Carpenders Park said they spent about £30,000 for each expert or barrister they used.

So this is why we need to build an additional fighting fund with the support of our residents. So far over £6,000 has been donated, which will be matched by SPC. Thank you for those who have supported so far. To donate, please see the link on the SPC website.

New Councillors

We welcome two new councillors Mike Sparks and Fraser Johnson. They bring further experience and skills to the work that SPC conducts.

There are further Councillor vacancies, so please do contact the Clerk if you are interested to find out more.

PLANNING RECENT APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED:

Land at Long Spring Sarratt Lane 26/0849/FUL - Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site comprising 2no. Gypsy/Traveller pitches...

SPC: A detailed objection response with some professional input submitted.

Land To The North And West Of Cottage Farm Redhall Lane 26/1340/PDPA - Prior Notification Agriculture: Construction of agricultural buildings...

SPC: Noted. Our position remains the same as for the previous application. The proposed structures are some distance away from the existing buildings, which will lead to development in what is currently a large area of open fields, and would impact the openness of a Greenbelt area.

Bay Tree Farm Bucks Hill 26/1271/FUL -Construction of an outdoor riding menage

SPC: Our position remains the same as for the previous application. No objection on the basis this is in an area with other menages, is low impact with no lighting and is for private use only.

Toledo The Green Sarratt 26/1238/FUL - Demolition of the existing dwelling; construction of detached two storey dwelling

SPC: We recognise the extent of the approved permitted developments, so we support the more logical approach this application proposes. As this site borders the conservation area, we ask that any development meets the design codes set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Moonshine Farm Bragmans Lane 26/1242/PDA - Prior Approval: Change of use of existing agricultural barn to one self contained residential dwelling with associated parking

SPC: We note that this is not a new construction but is a new residential unit in a Green Belt location. If officers are minded to

approve we ask that requirements added to the permission to ensure this dwelling remains ancillary to the main house.

The Ash Bucks Hill 26/1229/FUL - Construction of first floor rear extension...

SPC: No objection. We support investment in the dwelling and request the applicant take the opportunity of these changes to improve the energy efficiency of the building. It is not clear how this addition will effect light for the neighbouring properties, so this will need to be checked carefully.

York House School 26/1215/FUL & 26/1216/LBC - Installation of solar panels on the roofs

SPC: We support this application and the investment in renewable energy.

RECENT NOTABLE DECISIONS:

6 Caroon Drive 26/1251/CLPD - Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Construction of a single storey rear extension.

SPC: Noted TRDC: Approved

Sarratt Village Hall 26/1075/FUL - Variation ... to allow an increase to the front extension **SPC: We support this sensible revision to the previously approved plans that will provide additional benefits to the community. TRDC: Approved**

The Briars House 13 The Briars 26/1024/FUL

Conversion of existing garage and construction of a single storey link extension to form residential annexe. **SPC: No objection on the basis of minimal change to existing footprint and no impact on neighbouring properties TRDC: Approved**

Land Off Old House Lane Old House Lane 26/0977/PDNA

Permitted Development Notice: Construction of agricultural barn

SPC: Noted TRDC: Approved

Cherry Tree Lodge Farm Finches Avenue 25/1013/FUL -Demolition of equestrian complex and construction of 2no. single storey detached dwellings... **SPC: We object to this application on the basis that it is effectively a significant change of use to create 2 new 5 bed dwellings in a Green Belt location, without very special circumstances. We**

recognise that this site is in part a brown field site and the quality of design and sustainability being applied. However, we cannot see in this application, the required very special circumstances that would justify new, large dwellings that do not match identified housing needs in the Parish. **TRDC: Approved (any further permitted development rights have been removed)**

See the council in action and have your say

Date of the next Sarratt Parish Council meeting is
Tuesday 13th October 7.30pm, held in the vestibule 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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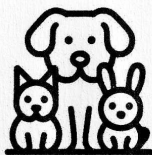
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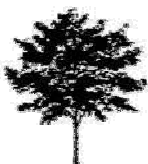
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