

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Winter 2011

A new play area underway

HERE comes the fun!

Three years after a group of local people set out to raise enough money to create a modern play area on the parish council's New Lane playing field, their vision is starting to become real.

So it was fitting that some of the Friends of New Lane Park came along to a 'turf lifting' ceremony to mark the start of construction work that will see Sprotbrough's first natural play facility completed - weather permitting - by the end of March this year.



Happy smiles at the launch

They were joined by pupils from Copley Junior School, who helped develop some of the ideas for the project and couldn't hide their excitement when they saw the bulldozer had moved on to the site to take down the old play area.

Funding for the imaginative scheme came from a number of sources - the parish council; WREN - a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) as part of a voluntary environmental tax credit scheme called the Landfill Communities Fund; BIG Lottery Fund Community Spaces programme; the fundraising efforts of Friends of New Lane Park community group; and a £5,000 donation from the Freemasons charity. The original design had to be scaled down slightly due to the withdrawal of a central government Playbuilder grant and is now set to cost around £132,000, with the parish council contributing nearly £20,000.

Speaking at the launch event Coun Brian Woodhouse, Vice Chairperson of the parish council's Policy & General Purposes Committee, said "I am delighted to be here to see the start of a quality and innovative play park for local youngsters."



Jonny, Jamie and Coun Woodhouse with Copley pupils

Friends of New Lane Park Group Chair Jonny Madin said "It's fantastic that we are on the verge of having our own state of the art play area in Sprotbrough. It should be a great place for the whole family to enjoy quality time together. It's the culmination of three years of hard work by a group of resourceful, determined and focused individuals; supported by what I'm proud to say exists in Sprotbrough, the very strong community spirit."

Ironically, after all the hard work he has put into the scheme Mr Madin and his family, are set to miss the opening of the play area as he's moving overseas to take up a new job in Dubai.

In keeping with the ethos of natural play the designs for the innovative and adventurous play space have been produced by Groundwork - which is managing the scheme for the parish council - with input from local residents and young people gathered at extensive consultations throughout the local area.

Planned features include a tree house, zip wire, hill top fort, suspension bridge, sand digger, embankment slide and much more. Follow progress at www.sc-pc.co.uk



The Goldsmith Centre - 50 not out

THIS year marks the golden anniversary of the popular Goldsmith Centre, on Sprotbrough Road, which has been a constant focus of local community life for the past 50 years. Turn to page 6 for hire charges if you're looking for an excellent venue to host an event

NO TO LIBRARY CLOSURE

PARISH councillors are backing a groundswell of local opinion in opposing the closure of Sprotbrough library and have called on three of the borough's leading politicians to have a re-think.

Residents attended the January meeting of the parish council to make their feelings known. Parish Council Chairperson Coun Doreen Woodhouse has invited Coun Cynthia Ransome, who is a Doncaster Council Cabinet member and represents Sprotbrough Ward as a district councillor, to discuss the proposed library closure. Mayor Peter Davies and Coun Jonathan Wood, who is also a Cabinet member and Sprotbrough Ward councillor, have also been urged to reject the closure proposal.

Coun Woodhouse said: "As well as being a valuable local resource with a wide range of facilities, including public access computers, the library provides a homework base for Ridgewood pupils and is the production centre for Doncaster Talk, the local talking newspaper for people with sight difficulties.

"Our parish has very few facilities provided by Doncaster Council. Most of them have been provided by the parish council, so we do not want to lose any more."

- As Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press, Coun Ransome and the Mayor were due to address a public meeting at the library.

Background

Sprotbrough and Scawthorpe libraries are on a borough-wide 'hit-list' as Doncaster Council looks to balance its books in the wake of the Government reducing its funding to local authorities. Doncaster Council runs 25 libraries and documents placed on its website in January indicated that Council chiefs want to reduce that number

by more than half. Find out more by typing this address into your internet browser: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/about/chamber/default.asp?Nav=Meeting&MeetingID=5107>

The borough council determined which are likely to go and which could stay by looking at each library and its situation and scoring against usage, location, community need, quality of accommodation, capacity to deliver improved services for children and young people, increased skills and learning and value for money services. Edlington library scored the highest with 72 points and Warmsworth the lowest with 30 points. Sprotbrough and Scawthorpe each scored 50 points and were joint 13th in the table, along with Conisbrough and Stainforth.

Doncaster Council proposed "an alternative delivery model" for libraries that scored 50 or below, which could include:

- A self-service facility in another Council facility or partner or private commercial outlet;
- An increased mobile service;
- A facility run by the community/volunteers; and
- A postal service.

Doncaster Council said that in 2009/10 the library service cost £19.70 for every person living in the borough and the aim is to reduce this to £12.30 by 2014/15. Chiefs also want to cut back the number of computer workstations based in libraries from the current 12 for every 10,000 people living in the borough to 8.5. On a borough population base of nearly 300,000 that would see the number of workstations reduced by around 100, from 360 to 255, potentially hitting disadvantaged families who don't have access to a personal computer at home.

Update on this story in the next issue.

Fitting tribute to Norman

A **LASTING** memorial has been unveiled to a sports loving former parish councillor who served the area for over 30 years.

Parish councillors have officially renamed the pavilion at Anchorage Lane playing field the Norman Dent Pavilion, in memory of Coun Dent who died last year aged 85.

Friends, relatives and current parish councillors and staff attended an official dedication ceremony at Anchorage Lane.

Norman, of Melling Avenue, Sprotbrough, also had a favourite chair he liked to sit in at parish council meetings at the Goldsmith Centre, to which parish councillors have now added a commemorative plaque.



Erika's Still Dainty at 80

A **PARISH** octogenarian is proving that age is no barrier to keeping fit.

Erika Sinclair, from Sprotbrough, celebrated her 80th birthday in December and continues to run her own yoga class at Sprotbrough St Mary's church hall every Thursday evening.



A mum of three, she started yoga in the 1960s and in the 1970s completed training that enabled her to take regular evening classes at Orchard and Richmond Hill schools.

It's hard to believe that Erika came to this country in 1950 as a vulnerable 19-year-old, having left the economic depression of her native Austria in search of work. She started working 12 hour shifts in the harsh, noisy environment of Keighley's textile mills, initially living in sparse, shared accommodation with a number of other young women. Food was scarce and it was all a far cry from the home she left in quiet, rural Judenburg, where she had never seen a factory. But, thankfully, life got better, she stayed in West Yorkshire for four years, met and married optometrist husband Donald and the couple moved to Harrogate then Rugby before eventually settling in Sprotbrough.

Contact Erika on Doncaster 852296 for more information about her yoga class.

Millennium Walk's 10th anniversary

A **LOCAL** way-marked walk, introduced by the parish council to celebrate the Millennium, celebrated its 10th anniversary in style. Over 80 walkers completed the route as part of this year's Doncaster Walking Festival. A map of the walk can be downloaded from the parish council website

http://www.sc-pc.co.uk/millennium_walk/default.asp

Remembering Lionel

A **FORMER** parish councillor who played a key role in reorganising the geographical structure of the parish council into its current six wards, has died.

Lionel Schultz, of Kendal Close, Sprotbrough, served as parish councillor for a number of years, including a spell as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and represented Sprotbrough and Cusworth at meetings of the parish councils' regional association.

Coun Malcolm Wood paid tribute, saying: "Lionel served the local community well and was successful in resolving some local issues at national level, including helping to bring about changes to the rules for stubble burning."

WELL DONE VOLUNTEERS

AN historic link with Sprotbrough's past is being highlighted through the work of a team of local volunteers.

Members of Sprotbrough Preservation Association (SPA) are well on the way towards achieving their ambition of marking the site of the former well and village pump that used to provide drinking water to the Lower Sprotbrough area, near the Boat Inn.

The physical restoration work is being carried out by volunteer members of the Don Gorge Community Group - a section of the Don Gorge Strategic Partnership - under

Doncaster Council supervision. They have cleared the overgrown site then, using locally sourced stone donated by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, started to build a stone cairn to mark where the pump used to be. Recent poor weather has slowed down progress but the work is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Before sealing off the cairn the volunteers will place a time capsule inside it, containing local items of interest depicting life in the local area in 2011.

SPA secretary Bernard Pearson, who lives at Lower Sprotbrough, close to the pump, said: "It's very satisfying to see the project well underway. When completed, it will make an interesting stopping off point for people visiting the Don Gorge or travelling along The Trans-Pennine Trail."

Building materials for the project were part-funded by a grant from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council.

The original Lower Sprotbrough Well was 21'-6" deep and two feet in diameter and had a brick wall lining. It had about 5' of water at the bottom which was very clear. It is believed that the well was sunk by workers from the former Copley estate over 100 years ago, though the exact date is not known.



Volunteers at work



Flashback - the old pump in use.



Looking down the well

02/11/2010

It was last used in the 1920s, shortly before mains water supply was installed to Lower Sprotbrough, but the fate of the metal pump which sat at the top of the well is unknown.

For more information about SPA contact Bernard Pearson on 01302 857291



The part - built cairn

YOUR IDEAS WANTED

WE want to plant up to five more trees on parish council owned sites in the Sprotbrough and Cusworth area and we would like your thoughts on 'what and where'.

We have four recreation areas at Anchorage Lane, Newlands Park, New Lane and The Goldsmith Centre and we would like you to tell us the kind of species you prefer and exactly where you would like to see them planted. We will take professional advice about suitability and maintenance issues before making a decision but we welcome your thoughts. Ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093 or send a letter to the address on the back page.

ANITA'S GOT STAMINA

THE Goldsmith Centre's longest-running hirer is celebrating nearly 40 years treading the boards.

Anita Hall started her Ridgeway School of Dance there back in 1972 and she's taught hundreds of local people since then. "I'm now teaching the children of former students", said Anita, who runs classes in ballet, tap, modern and street dancing every Thursday 4.45pm-9.00pm and Saturday 9.00am-3.30pm. Contact Anita on Doncaster 710889.

Bagging litter was their Goal

LOCAL young footballers have been tidying up litter 'hot-spots' in the parish as part of a sponsorship deal with two fast food chains.

Sprotbrough Ward councillor Cynthia Ransome joined McDonalds staff and under-16s players from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Crusaders in The Big Tidy Up event which took place on the parish council's playing fields and nearby cycle track at Anchorage Lane, in support of the Tidy Britain Group in Sprotbrough.

Coun Ransome, Doncaster Council's Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, said: "I am pleased to see McDonalds working in partnership with the local community to help get rid of litter."



Paul Durkin, Chairman of the Crusaders - pictured with Cynthia, Mark Clapham from McDonalds' town centre restaurant and Council employee Sean Price - said McDonalds are one of our supporters. "As a local junior football club we try to instil into our players the responsibility that comes with being part of a team".



And young players from Bentley West End Junior Football Club were 'snapped' here bagging plenty of rubbish down by the canal towpath, alongside the Boat Inn. The lads' excellent clean up efforts are supported by KFC's Sprotbrough restaurant and Atkinson's Cleaning Services.

Pictured are Callum Fox, Mason Brocklesby, Douwi Stewart, Matthew Tomlinson, Connor Goodwin, Alex Markham and Daniel Harrison.

Two new play groups at Goldsmith

THE parish council has played a key role in helping two new play groups to start up at Sprotbrough's Goldsmith Centre following the folding of the Active Under-5s Group.

Active Under-5s closed in November last year after running for around 17 years, having taken over from a previous group that had started around 40 years ago. But thanks to the support of local volunteers, two new groups have started up to plug the gap.

Starz meets every Tuesday 9.15am -11am during term-time for babies and children aged up to five years old. The group is run by Lisa Glossop (nee Hizzett) and two other

mums, with the simple message 'bring your child, or children, and have some fun'.

The cost is £2.00 a week for the first child (50p up to six months old) and £1.00 for each additional child. Snack and drinks provided.

Lisa, who attended the Active U-5s, over 30 years ago, said: "I'm really proud of what we've achieved so far. We started off with nine children and our record daily attendance currently stands at 48 - which really helps to burn off the calories.

"People have been really supportive. I put an appeal on facebook for baby walkers and

within minutes I was offered 10."

Starz are desperate for more helpers to set up the toys and generally help out. If you could lend a hand ring Lisa on Doncaster 782950.

And the Childminder Group are providing a vital new service every Thursday 9.15am - 11.15am at a cost of £2 per child.

Organiser Cynthia Ward said: "Numbers are increasing steadily and more childminders and children are welcome.

For more information ring Cynthia on Doncaster 788867

BLUE LIGHT NEWS

- FOLLOWING PC Lynne Walker's retirement last year, Sprotbrough and Cusworth now has a new Community Beat Manager, PC Dan Lindley, who is based with the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Edlington Police Station. Dan's contact detail are: Tel: (01302) 385488. Email: daniel.lindley@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
- GO to South Yorkshire Police's website www.southyorks.police.uk and type in your postcode to read about how the 'bobbies' have been responding to local concerns.
- IN a county-wide crackdown on theft and burglary, South Yorkshire Police are urging Sprotbrough and Cusworth residents to log their expensive Christmas presents and any other precious belongings on immobilise.com - the world's largest FREE register of ownership details.

In addition to acting as a major deterrent to criminals, the big difference with Immobilise is that as well as getting your stuff back if it's lost or stolen, the system helps to catch the thieves as well. The database is linked directly to police systems, so when officers

recover any property, for whatever reason, they can check it against items logged on Immobilise. For example, if someone arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly has your stolen mobile phone in their pocket, police will also be able to link the theft to them as well - but only if it's registered.

Any item can be registered on immobilise. The easiest items to log are electricals, or anything that has a serial number, but you can even log jewellery or ornamental items using the photo upload and description functions. You can register as many items as you like, and then if they are lost or stolen you simply log back on to register them as such. The police can check any property they recover, whether that's when a person is brought into custody for any reason, property recovered from criminals in raids, or even during one of their now routine checks on second-hand dealers. And if they find anything that is listed as stolen, not only will you get your belongings back, but the thieves can be brought to justice.

Visit www.immobilise.com to get started

Estate misses the bus

SPROTBROUGH residents have failed in their bid to get a bus operator to overturn its decision to withdraw a service from their estate.

Stagecoach now operates the 224/225 service straight down Sprotbrough Road and on to Doncaster having previously taken it along Tennyson Avenue and Anchorage Lane. The company blamed financial viability and lack of demand from users for having to make the change.

Stagecoach's commercial manager explained

the reasons at a public meeting organised by the parish council at The Goldsmith Centre, attended by 27 members of the public, together with five parish councillors, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's (SYLTE) External Relations Manager Pam Horner and Doncaster Council's representative to SYLTE, Coun Mick Jamieson.

Mrs Horner said SYLTE can award small grants to subsidise services that have been rerouted and consequently left residents more than 800 metres away from the route.

But in this case she said all residents who were previously served by the old route did live within 800 metres of the new one.

Mrs Horner also explained the role of community transport for people who have difficulty walking - please see the following article to find out more.

Some residents also complained about the Anchorage Lane road surface and Coun Jamieson agreed to take their concerns back to Doncaster Council's Highways Department.

All about Door 2 Door services

DOOR 2 Door is the new name for community transport. Do you find it difficult using standard public transport? Do you want to be able to get out and about, meet new people and make new friends? Don't worry - Door 2 Door may be able to help.

Door 2 Door services are designed for people who cannot use standard public transport. Each service will pick you up from your home and can take you around your local area and beyond.

Door 2 Door is great for meeting new people, making new friends and being able to visit places you couldn't get to before. For example, if you want to travel to the town centre or a local supermarket, Shopper Bus

(previously known as Dial-a-Bus) is the best service for you. It offers transport from your home at certain times and on certain days.

For example, services for the Sprotbrough area are:

Monday 9am

Barnburgh - High Melton - Marr -
Sprotbrough - Morrisons (return 11:30am)

Tuesday 10:20am

Clayton - Scawthorpe - Sprotbrough -
Doncaster town centre (return 2:30pm).

Thursday 9:15am

Barnburgh - High Melton - Sprotbrough -
Doncaster town centre (return 1:00pm).

For more information call the Door 2 Door operator, Doncaster Community Transport,

on Doncaster 342400. The advisor will go through the application process with you. Once you have applied you will be sent a welcome pack which will include your registration number. You can also pre-book your first return trip.

Shopper Bus costs 50p for a single journey or £1 for a return one.

- If you need to travel at a certain time, and to a destination not available on Shopper Bus (for example if you are visiting a friend in hospital or travelling to an evening class) then the Dial-a-Ride service will suit your needs better. Ring Doncaster 342400

Fish Pass as Water Powers By

PLANS are at an advanced stage to create a fish pass at Sprotbrough weir, sitting alongside a new hydroelectric facility to generate renewable energy from what is a powerful waterfall on the River Don.

The project will see the untapped force of the Don harnessed for the first time in many years. The current weir was built in the 1940s to enable water borne freight to travel to the Humber estuary but as long ago as 1279 a corn mill, with its wheel turned by the river flow, was believed to have been sited on the island between the canal and river. The 21st century version will see the power of the river turned into usable energy via a turbine and then sold on to the national grid.

British Waterways and the Environment Agency have devised both projects, working closely with Doncaster Council, Don Gorge Strategic Partnership (DGSP) and other local interest groups.

Creating a fish pass is a key objective of the Sprotbrough Heritage, Access and Recreation Project (SHARP), which has been agreed by (DGSP) and aims to create ways of improving public access to and enjoyment of the Don Gorge - seen by many as an underutilised local treasure.

The fish pass and hydro facility have yet to be submitted for planning permission but **Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News** understands the proposal is to build them on the Warmsworth side of the Don, with construction of both taking place at the same time. The pass would slope up through the riverbank, having three levels to allow fish to rest as they negotiated the climb between the two river levels.

The design being considered also includes a separate tunnel for eels to pass through.

To avoid heavy lorries and plant equipment having to negotiate the hairpin bend and bridges, an access route through Warmsworth quarry and along a temporary track next to the river is proposed. Construction work would take around 22 weeks and, if everything goes to plan, would be completed by the end of 2011.

Many species are set to benefit from the fish pass, which would be around three metres wide along its entire length, including:

- Otters - carnivorous animals that generally hunt their prey in water, with fish making up 80 per cent of their diet. Their continued existence is dependent on the river fish population.
- Salmon and sea trout - are currently able to reach the weir but go no further.
- Eels - have slumped to less than two per cent of 1980 population levels. Weirs are believed to be partly responsible for their decline as they block access to the growing and feeding grounds.
- Coarse fish, including barbell, chub, dace, perch, pike, roach, gudgeon, common bream and silver bream, carp and bleak - there are strong populations of barbell below the weir as a result of stocking and 'wash down' from upstream. However, they need to be able to migrate upstream to spawn which is currently impossible.

We'll carry an update on these two projects in the next issue.

Help Needed

SPROTBROUGH gardeners are finding themselves in a hole because of a shortage of helpers. The green-fingered group, who run a gardeners' shop at The Goldsmith Centre and have been a feature of local life since the 1970s, are in danger of folding through lack of support. Email secretary Colin Severn at cesevern@yahoo.co.uk if you can help or want to find out more.

Find out more about YOUR parish council

YOU can find out more about the work of your parish council by attending our committee meetings. Here's some information about them:

Parish Council

The full parish council meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at The Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of March and September when it meets at Scawsby Community Centre. No meeting is held in August.

Planning Committee

Meets on the third Thursday of the month, usually at 7pm, though times sometimes vary.

Finance Committee

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November at The Goldsmith Centre. Starting time usually 7pm but this can vary depending on the agenda.

Policy and General Purposes Committee

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, excluding August and December, at The Goldsmith Centre. Starting time between 7pm and 7:30pm

The minutes and agendas of meetings can be viewed on our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk. In addition, posters giving details of the meetings, plus agendas and minutes, can be viewed at Sprotbrough library, Sprotbrough Post Office and on parish council notice boards. To confirm the timings of meetings ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093 - an answerphone operates when staff are out.

2011 CENSUS IS COMING

THE census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The next census in England and Wales is on March 27th, 2011. The census tells us how many people are alive, where they live, and the types of people they are (young, old, married, single). This means decisions like working out who needs facilities in the future are based on accurate, relevant details.

You need to complete and return the census form your family receives so that services and facilities in our community can be identified, including schools, hospitals and emergency services. Census statistics help work out the amount of funding allocated to facilities in communities. Find out more by coming to the parish council meeting on Thursday 17 February 2011 at 8.15pm when Michael Whetton, Census Area Manager will give a presentation.

Thumbs-up from Auditors

BDO, the Southampton-based firm of accountants appointed by the Audit Commission to undertake audits of local councils, gave Sprotbrough & Cusworth a clean bill of health for the eighth successive year after auditing the parish council's financial accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010

BDO's report states: "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return for Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

Community Centre for Hire

PLANNING an event or activity and need some space? Then look no further than the facilities on offer at The Goldsmith Centre on Sprotbrough Road. The prices take some beating and there's a special discount rate for people living in the parish:

| | Hall £ per hour | Committee Room £ per hour |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Parishioners: private functions: | | |
| Non-profit making clubs/societies: | | |
| Voluntary groups: | 12.50 | 10.00 |
| Non-parishioners: private functions: | 18.50 | 14.00 |
| Block bookings for adult classes run as a commercial venture: | 14.00 | 15.50 |
| Children's parties - minimum three hours | 13.50 | n/a |
| Commercial hire for purely personal gain: | Individually considered at time of application | |
| Additions: Performing rights fees. Where music is played. (Not applicable to private parties) | Add £1.20 per booking | |

To make a booking, ring Tom Hinds on 01302 788093 (weekday mornings only) or email sprotcuspc@btconnect.com



Doncaster Council Sprotbrough Ward Councillors' advice surgeries and contact details

Last Saturday of the month except August and December. The Goldsmith Centre, 10am to 11am

Coun Jonathan Wood Tel: Don 737120
Coun Cynthia Ransome Tel: Don 862239
Coun Doreen Woodhouse Tel: Don 783710

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

Michael Goodwin (Conservative)

14 Ingleborough Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7AD

Tel: 783275

Paul Womack (Conservative)

51 Clifton Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NL

Tel: 785208

CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

Pat Haith (Labour)

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Tel: 562015

Stephen Platt (Green)

39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ

Tel: 782928

Carolyn Taylor (Conservative)

6 Nottingham Close, Scawsby, DN5 8PH

Tel: 782522

Brian Woodhouse (Conservative)

159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

STADIUM WARD COUNCILLORS

Trevor Ashman (Labour)

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Tel: 785429

Doreen Woodhouse Chairperson (Conservative)

159 Cusworth Lane, Doncaster, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

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Tel: 785866

Carole Greenhalgh (Conservative)

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Tel: 564672

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Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News

IF you have a friend, neighbour or relative who lives in the Sprotbrough and Cusworth area but does not receive a copy Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News please let them know they can pick up a copy from Sprotbrough Library, Sprotbrough Post Office, The Goldsmith Centre, Scawsby Community Centre or from your local parish councillor. Past copies can be viewed on our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk