

# SPOTLIGHT

## on Sarratt Parish

October 2017



## ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

SPOTLIGHT is produced by **Holy Cross Church, Sarratt** for the people of the village and hamlets and welcomes reports of ALL village activities.

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

EDITOR	Michael Edmund	sarrattspotlight@googlemail.com	
ADVERTISING	Michael Lench	optimal@ic24.net	
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Tony Bond	familybond@live.co.uk	261941

### More about:

*the Benefice:* [www.hcsp.net](http://www.hcsp.net)

*the Village:* [www.sarrattvillage.co.uk](http://www.sarrattvillage.co.uk)

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SARRATT

Rector	Rev'd Michele du Saire micheledusaire.hcstp@gmail.com	265848
	<i>The Vicarage, The Street, Chipperfield, Herts WD4 9BJ</i>	
Readers	Mrs. Angela Coakley angelac3000@aol.com or Mr. Philip Waine	264380 268904
Church Wardens	Nikki Clough Mr. Alan Poulton	07795 362953 260295
Organist/Choirmaster	Mr. David Clough	264884
Administrator	Ms. Machaela Gravestock	Office: 264377
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:holycrossstpauls@btconnect.com">holycrossstpauls@btconnect.com</a>	
Children's Church	Mrs. Linda Clough	264884
Youth Worker	c/o Rev'd Michele du Saire during vacancy	
Friends of Holy Cross	Mrs. Kate Hobhouse	<a href="mailto:kate@hobhouse.uk.com">kate@hobhouse.uk.com</a>

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

Priest	Fr Paul Harris, c/o The Presbytery, Dunny Lane, Chipperfield	275046
	<b>Sunday</b> Holy Mass 10am <b>Saturday</b> Vigil Mass 6:30pm <b>Tuesday/Friday</b> Holy Mass 10am	

### SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	visit <a href="http://www.sarrattparishcouncil.co.uk">www.sarrattparishcouncil.co.uk</a> Cllr. David Turner	268445
Parish Clerk	Mrs. Janice Dawes	262025
Parish Office hours	<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday 1pm - 4pm; Tuesday, Thursday &amp; Friday 9am - Noon</b>	
	Additional opening from 7pm on the evenings of meetings. Alternative arrangements will be notified on the Office Door. Out of hours emergencies: contact Cllr. David Turner on 268445	

### THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor	Mrs. Marilyn Butler	263456
District Councillor	Mrs. Alex Hayward	291574
District Councillor	Mrs. Heather Kennison	773683

### HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor	Mr. Chris Hayward	291574
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### SARRATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Co-Headteachers	Mrs. N.O'Hare & Mr. D. Smith	262003
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### SARRATT COMMUNITY BOOKINGS

#### VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall website: <a href="http://www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk">www.sarrattvillagehall.co.uk</a>	
Bookings Secretary at the Hall Tuesdays (only) 10am-4pm	
e-mail: <a href="mailto:sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk">sarrattvillagehallbookings@live.co.uk</a>	
Telephone bookings	265881

### SARRATT CARE

10am - 12noon Monday to Friday	270577
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### POLICE

Neighbourhood Watch non-emergency number	101
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Please note: unless otherwise indicated, all phone numbers in Spotlight have the prefix 01923.

The information on these pages is, we believe, correct as we go to press.

# Harvest Reflection...

Last month, Michele looked at the subject of gratitude and encouraged us to be thankful. Harvest is a time when we bring in the fruits of our labours and farmers in our area will have been harvesting, packing and gathering in. They prepare, plant and harvest their crops, yet the harvest will be only as good as the weather. In France this year many vineyards had to bring in grapes early due to the heatwave and although we can

reflect on receiving the benefits of our labour, there is an element of not quite knowing what the harvest will be. Some might argue that this is due to the greater mercy of God in the provision of weather. Whether the harvest is good or bad, the input from the farmer and others who grow crops will be the same.

Likewise in life, the input we give to our jobs, family, friends and community will bring many blessings. The other side of generosity is the concept of receiving. The farmer receives his harvest, and we will receive the benefits of our labour in wages or maybe from our investments as we get older - yet many struggle with the idea of receiving from others. The idea that we may need to ask for help, whether that be families going to the DENS food bank or asking your employer for a pay-rise tends to bring up issues around pride, and yet our attitude to how we learn to

receive from others will often be the foundation to how we learn to serve and give.

In my experience it is more often than not harder to receive than to give. Yet at the heart of the Christian message is the notion of receiving unconditional love, mercy and grace from God. We may take this for granted, yet in seeking to understand the implications of this and experiencing an unconditional love: when

we have lost our temper, let somebody down or disappointed them, does not seem congruent. Some of us may think that we don't ever need to receive - as we have worked hard, invested well and provided for our families, and to an extent

you would be right, however, our attitudes and thoughts on receiving, seeking help and support will mould us into better givers.

My challenge to you then at this harvest time is to try to open yourself to the possibility of receiving in a new way. This may be just seeking some advice or looking for someone to help around the house or garden. I sense we might learn much about ourselves as Christians and much about a loving, generous God who blesses us with a harvest, whether we have carried out the hard work or not.



Giving ...  
...starts the receiving process  
Jim Rohn

# SARRATT CARE

**CARE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES**

MONDAY TO FRIDAY from 10am to noon: call 270577

(When CARE is in the Village Hall, call 267421)

## CARE Dates for October

### CARE LUNCH

Monday 16  
12.30pm in the  
Village Hall.

Cancellations or  
Confirmations,  
please, to Carol  
Chorley on 265096  
by Thursday 12.



### COFFEE CORNERS

Wednesday 11 and  
18 10.30am to noon  
in the Village Hall.

Appointments for  
Chiropody, Massage  
and Hairdressing can  
be made with Jackie  
Creed on 519975



## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS



**Chris and Steve Cavalier** are delighted to announce the arrival of two grandchildren. First to be born was Leo Cavalier, son of James and Sarah. Just seventeen days later he was followed by his little cousin Sofia, daughter of Clare and Benn.

We are so thrilled to welcome these two beautiful new additions to our family.

## October Sunday Market

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage trees,  
And fill all the fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With sweet kernel; to set the budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees.  
Perchance the Sunday Market shall not cease,  
Whilst ev'ry month it seems to cast its spells



**So come to the Village Hall Sunday Market on Sunday 29 October\***, to see our spellbinding selection of bargains – with craft, bric-a-brac, home baking and affordable antiques stalls. Tea and coffee is available with biscuits or home made cakes. 10am till midday. Any enquiries please ring **Larry on 265386**.

**\* Please note for this month only the market is on the last Sunday – next month we will be back on the third Sunday (19 November).**



## GRAPEVINE MOVIES 2017-2018

SEASON OPENS FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

Doors will open at 7pm, food will be served from 7.10pm and the lights go down at 8pm

It is time to prepare for another thrilling season of GRAPEVINE MOVIES and the OPENING NIGHT will be Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. Doors will open at 7.00 pm. A medium Chicken Curry (v. Vegetable Curry) will be served from 7.10pm. There will be the brilliant Cat and Mouse duo to get the evening off to a fine start, followed by the main event. This film is based on the true story of 5-year old Saroo who became lost on a train. He travelled across India to Kolkata (Calcutta) where he had to learn to survive alone. Eventually he was adopted by an Australian couple, (Nicole Kidman and David Wenham). As an adult, Saroo, played by Dev Patel, sets out to find his lost family. As always there will be Colin's jolly good bar. Ice cream will be on sale during the interval.

The dates for your diaries are:

*\*please note change of date*

*October 6<sup>th</sup> \*November 3<sup>rd</sup> \*December 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 12<sup>th</sup> February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>.*

If you require any further information or if you would like to volunteer as a helper, please contact:

**Maggie Goldthorpe on 262586 or Debbie Kingston 896925.**



# *The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Invites You*

## **to Sarratt's First Ever Freshers Fair**

2nd November in The Village Hall at 6pm

If you are a club or organisation or business in the village,  
this is a fantastic opportunity to

- Promote your group
- Share with others what you do
- Meet potential supporters/clients/volunteers

&

**HAVE SOME FUN**

If you live in the Village, come along and see what is on offer  
A chance to browse, try, taste, explore & Enjoy Free Prosecco

You can Exhibit for Free, and Tables are on offer on a first come first served basis,  
so email [Angelac3000@aol.com](mailto:Angelac3000@aol.com)

### **SANCTUARY GUILD Friday**

6 Avril Reddy  
13 Kate Soothill  
20 Sue Ward  
27 Liz Heike



### **CHURCH FLOWERS Saturday**

8 Gill Oxenham  
15 Margaret Stratford  
22 Cecilia Neal  
29 Jean Machin

# Parish



**Christian Meditation in the UK**  
The World Community for Christian Meditation

Following on from the introductory talk in July, we will start a series of six weekly meetings on **Tuesday 26 September**, from 12-1, in St Paul's Hall to further explore Christian meditation, which is also known as contemplative prayer. Each meeting is self-contained, so it is not necessary to come to every meeting. At the end of the series, we will continue with a weekly meditation group. For further information and details, please contact

**Lorna Tett, 01923 771163 or email:  
lornathiele@hotmail.com**

## DAYS CHARITY

**If you have become 80** during the year, or will do so before the end of 2017, please contact **Carol Chorley, Tel. no. 265096**

Thank You

## Last Minute News: Macmillan Coffee Morning

Join the world's biggest coffee morning  
For Macmillan Cancer Support

29th September  
Sarratt Village Hall  
10am to 11.30am

A technical issue prevented publication of this notice last month. If you see it in time, please try to attend this very worthwhile fundraiser.



# Snippets

## Chandlers Cross Residents Association

**This year's AGM** will be held in Chipperfield Village Hall, The Common, Chipperfield, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 9BS, on **Wednesday 18 October** from 8.15 to 10.00pm

It will be followed by guest speaker Steve Morrill speaking about the history of Commonwood House, which has been a favourite topic with the History Society. This will be followed by cheese and wine.

All CCRA members and local residents of the hamlets between Chandlers Cross and Chipperfield are welcome.

Please RSVP to Sacha Coombe ([sachacoombe@gmail.com](mailto:sachacoombe@gmail.com)) if you are coming, so we have an idea of numbers.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Poppies for this year's Remembrancetide** will be on sale at the Village Community Shop, and the village pubs from 28 October. Details and times of both the Remembrance Service and the Flagpole Ceremony will be in the November edition of Spotlight.

Following the Church Service, Lunch has been organised at The Cock. If you would like to come, or want more details, please contact **Carol Chorley on 265096**



**Lest We Forget**

## Friendship Club

A small number of us gathered on Monday afternoon. It seemed a long time since we had all been together. After we had sorted ourselves out we decided to have our tea and cake straight away then we sat and caught up on the news and what we had been doing during the summer. We planned out the themes of our next meetings through to Christmas. Nothing too strenuous of course! Make our Christmas cards at the October meeting, go out for a Christmas Dinner in November and our usual Christmas Tea Party in December – sounds about right!

After all that working out more tea and cake was required before we did the larder raffle and made our way home. The word searches which Sue had brought along were given out as 'homework' to bring back next time. Oh dear! I seemed to have forgotten mine!

So our next meeting when we shall be making Christmas Cards is on **Monday 9 October at 2.15 p.m. in the Village Hall**. Hope to see you ALL there, fit and ready to go!

**Jackie Boughton**

# AUTUMN FAYRE




**Saturday 14 October 10.30am till 4.00pm**

**Sarratt Village Hall, Sarratt, WD3 6AS**

Beat the rush and come and buy your Christmas presents early!

At our Fayre, there will be a wide range of stallholders including books, bags, jewellery, fashion, homeware, children's toys and gifts. There will also be homemade cakes, jams and charity cards. Refreshments available throughout the day.

Find us on  Rickmansworth and Cherleywood Cancer Research UK

In kind association with Hamptons, Rickmansworth. All proceeds to charity.



## Pints of View October Meeting



October Pints of View will be held at **The Plough, Belsize, on Monday 16 October, starting at 8pm**. Everyone is welcome. Do come and consider how the world can be put to rights.

**Bob Shearer & John Guy**

## Christmas carols

**Are you interested** in joining the Holy Cross choir to sing carols at the annual carol service on **December 17**, and also on the Green in December? No audition required, just enthusiasm. Sopranos and men especially welcome. Please either contact **David Clough** on **264884** or come to Holy Cross Church on **Friday 6 October** or following Fridays if unable to come on the 6th which is our first rehearsal. We start at 8.00pm – all music supplied.





# What a Show!

*Muir Stratford*

*The Sarratt Horticultural Society Autumn Show in the Village Hall on Saturday 9 September was the usual display of colour,*



**Another excellent Show** had 53 entrants and 245 entries despite some difficult growing conditions. The new Show Secretary Steven Booth had an excellent Show and was the overall winner. Steven also won the Morton Neal Trophy for the highest aggregate points in the Spring and Autumn Shows as well as the David Osborne Cup for Vegetables, his real love, and Fruit.

John Hopkins gave him good opposition finishing as the Show runner-up, whilst also winning the Dahlia Trophy. The Village Hall was a riot of colour, with other winners being Christine Head for Other Flowers, Joan North and Pam Dickins for Roses, Joan North for



*"...a wonderful sight..."*

Cookery, Ted North for Arts and Crafts, with the Flower Arranging Leader Trophy being shared by Chairman Jennifer Haynes, Marilyn Butler and Gill Oxenham.

The Haynes Family had a very good Show with Katie winning the Children's Cup, Daniel winning the Staughton Jam Cup and the Family winning the 3 Rivers District Council Trophy.

In presenting the Cups, Parish Councillor Anthony Soothill congratulated all concerned for an outstanding Show in the usual Sarratt tradition.



*What a Show...  
and What a Whopper!*



*Imagine emerging from the hedge right by those chevrons...*

# Good Effort!

Walkers and motorists know the dangerous bend on Sarratt Road between Deadman's Ash and Micklefield. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Footpaths Officer John Goodman, and the agreement of all landowners concerned, there is a new gate that makes it safer for all. Including Daisy.





**Halloween will soon be with us** and is great fun especially for the kids, but it is only for one evening. Extend the party and feel good as well. How? By making Pumpkin soup. Don't throw away the pumpkin; instead make it into a first class meal. Here is an old French recipe. I have added the potato and carrot, it adds a little sweetness and thickens the soup slightly. Cook, freeze, heat, eat!! Use the pumpkin, (or buy one or two, very cheap after the day)! Pumpkins keep for months in a cool place, as long as it's frost free. You can dry and toast the seeds to eat as well. Pumpkin - around 4lb (2Kg). Medium onion. Large carrot. Large potato. Salt & Pepper. About 3-3 ½ (2Lt) chicken or vegetable stock. 2 Tablespoons olive oil. 2 cloves garlic peeled and chopped fine. 3 (2pt) milk containers (easiest) Break, chop or cut the pumpkin up into pieces about 6- 8 inches any old shape. If you have a pressure cooker, cook for 3 minutes in about 1pt water. Then just pull the skin off - it's so easy that way. Otherwise, steam or boil 'till soft. Put the flesh and liquid into a preserving pan or divide into smaller portions. Whilst it cooks, chop the onion up in small pieces with the garlic in a small saucepan and gently simmer in the oil until soft. Chop the potato and carrot into small pieces, in about 2 pints of chicken/vegetable stock and simmer 'til soft. Then put all the ingredients and liquids into the large pan, mixing well and add salt and pepper to taste. Cool and blitz, adding a little milk or water if you like thinner soup. Bottle. Freeze. Or keep for a week or so in a fridge. Yummy.

**John Rickard**



“...at the very heart  
of Sarratt village...”  
Matthew Gould”

Sarratt School sits at the very heart of Sarratt village, both figuratively and geographically. Along with the Church and the shop, the village hall and our three pubs, it is one of the threads that tie us together. We all have a stake in its future, and an interest in its success. We have a wonderful parents' association in SPA, led by the indefatigable Jackie Saraj. And there are opportunities for anyone else who wants to get involved.

Elsewhere in this edition of Spotlight our wonderful Acting Head, Mrs O'Hare, gives an update on school life. *[It's on Page 25 - Ed.]* But I wanted to write to introduce you to the Governors of the school. We are a group of volunteers who

are responsible for setting the direction of the school and overseeing its management. We are currently eight strong, including Revd Michele and Mrs O'Hare. Most of us have children at the school. Almost everyone lives in or near the village. We are united by a common determination to see the school prosper, giving the best possible education to our children.

Any school has to be judged by the quality of the education it gives. We have watched with pride as the school, after a difficult period, won a glowing endorsement from Ofsted, and increasingly warm reviews from everyone who comes to inspect it.



As a relative newcomer to the village, with my two daughters in the school, it has been a privilege for me to spend the last 18 months on the Governing Body. I have just taken over as Chair from John Manning, with Julie Disdale and Tony Coupland as the Vice-Chairs.

And we are now looking for at least three more Governors - one from the parents, one from the staff, and one from the wider community. If you feel you have skills and experience that would help us achieve our goals, and you would like to apply, then please do get in touch. Alternatively, if you would simply like to make a donation, or sponsor equipment or other vital resources at the school, we would be delighted to hear from you too.

Either way, please take an interest in our school. Whether or not you have children at Sarratt school, it is an important institution for our village, and for the future of our village.

The Governors are also focussed on a number of other priorities, including:

- **the ethos of the school:** we want to ensure it continues to be caring, warm and respectful. The 'Sarratt Way' is important to our children, so it needs to be important to us as well;
- **the school's Christian character:** it is proudly a Church of England school, with a strong link to Holy Cross. Revd Michele plays a big role in the life of the school. We want it to stay this way, while still being a school for children of all faiths and of none;
- **the school's place in the village:** we want the school to play a full role in the life of the village, and for the village to feel part of the school's wider community;
- **the school's long-term future:** we want to make sure the school has the best possible foundation for the coming years. We know that small village schools like ours are coming under pressure, up and down the country. So we have recommended to our parents and staff that we join a Multi-Academy Trust with Christ Church school in Chorleywood. We believe that, together, we will be stronger, better and more viable for years to come. Our shared plan is for a small, local network of schools that each keep their own character and ethos, but which support each other in pursuit of the highest standards and performance, and which together can make the most of our finite budgets.

# WHAT'S ON WHEN?



# ...AND WHERE?

When?	What?	Where?
<b>September</b>		
26 (for 6 weeks)	Christian Meditation	8
29	Macmillan Coffee Morning	8
<b>October</b>		
6	Grapevine Movies	6
	Christmas Carols	11
8	Wildlife Volunteers	22
9	Friendship Club	10
11	Coffee Corner	4
	Sarratt WI	23
14	Autumn Fayre	10
15	Coffee Corner	4
16	Pints of View	11
18	Sarratt Care Lunch	4
	Chandlers Cross RA AGM	9
28 Onwards	RBL Poppies on Sale	9
29	Sunday Market	5
<b>November</b>		
2	Freshers Fair	7

## ...AND THESE REGULAR MEETINGS

**Sarratt Mums, Babies and Toddlers Group** 9.30-11.30am Mondays in the KGV Pavilion; also **Lanes Children's Centre (265829)**

**Sarratt Beavers, Cubs and Scouts:** Open to boys & girls. Scout Troop (age 10-14) meets every Wednesday evening. Cubs (age 8-10) and Beavers (age 6-8) meet every Thursday evening. Enquiries to [info@sarrattscoutgroup.org](mailto:info@sarrattscoutgroup.org)

**Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club.** Training on Saturdays at KGV Field

**Sarratt Bowls Club** 7.15pm Tuesdays King George V Pavilion (274323)

**Netherby Bridge Group** meets 2-4.30pm Thursdays in Sarratt Village Hall back room. New individuals and pairs are welcome to join our small group of contract bridge players. £2 a session includes tea and biscuits, **Contact John Kelly 01442 834977** or **Neil Milbank 01442 832355**

**Sarratt Book Club** meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8pm. Contact **Jeff Baker (263062)** for information

# CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of England Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield  
 Holy Cross Church, Sarratt; and St Paul's Church, Chipperfield.  
 Rector: Reverend Michele du Saire

## October 2017

Tuesday to Thursday of each week:	8am Morning Prayer	St Paul's
<b>Sunday 1 (1st Sunday of month)</b>	<b>16th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
8am Holy Communion		St Paul's
10am Benefice Communion		Holy Cross
<b>Sunday 8 (2nd Sunday of month)</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
8am Holy Communion		St Paul's
10am All Age Worship		St Paul's
10am Holy Communion and Children's Church		Holy Cross
<b>Wednesday 11 (2nd Wednesday of month)</b>		
10am 2nd Wednesday Holy Communion		Holy Cross
<b>Sunday 15 (3rd Sunday of month)</b>	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
8am Holy Communion		Holy Cross
10am Benefice Communion		St Paul's
12 Noon Baptism of Lucca Iannaccone		St Paul's
6.30pm Compline (traditional night prayer)		Holy Cross
<b>Sunday 22 (4th Sunday of month)</b>	<b>19th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
8am Holy Communion		Holy Cross
10am Open House Family Service 'Aspects of Remembrance'		Holy Cross
10am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)		St Paul's
<b>Sunday 29 (5th Sunday of month)</b>	<b>Bible Sunday</b>	
10am Benefice Fifth Sunday Family Service		Sarratt Village Hall
(venue to be confirmed, see church notice boards)		

## November 2017

Tuesday to Thursday of each week:	8am Morning Prayer	St Paul's
<b>Sunday 5 (1st Sunday of month)</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>	
8am Holy Communion		St Paul's
10am Benefice Communion		Holy Cross
6.30pm Taizé-style Service 'Remembering loved ones'		St Paul's
<b>Wednesday 8 (2nd Wednesday of month)</b>		
10am 2nd Wednesday Holy Communion		Holy Cross
<b>Saturday 11</b>		
11am Remembrance Ceremony, War Memorial, Sarratt Green		

You are warmly invited to join us for worship & fellowship

# 1st Sarratt Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

*Gavin Daly, Sarah Dobson & Warren Gillmore*

At the beginning of September, 1st Sarratt Scouts, Cubs and Beavers re-started their weekly meetings after the summer break, with each Section having a programme of exciting activities planned for the Autumn Term, with the emphasis in September being to get outside as much as possible while the evenings are still light.



This term the Beaver Colony will be working on their Creative, Communicator, Safety and Navigator Activity Badges. They started the new academic year with a games night and welcomed six new Beavers to the Colony. As always a great turn out of parent helpers on the first night ! The Beavers will be going on camp in early October to Phasels Wood in Kings Langley, and arranging a night out at Quasar, which is always fun. We have also organised a trip for them to Paradise Wildlife Park in October where the Beavers will have a great day feeding and looking at the animals.

In Cubs the Autumn programme will incorporate the Cubs' Scientist, Environmental Conservation, International, Entertainer and Artist Activity Badges, with their final camp of the summer planned at the end of September at Brentwood in Essex. The new term kicked off with their Scientist badge, learning how the heart, circulatory and breathing systems of the human body work, with a some fun exercises in the Dell to test changes in their pulse rate with different levels of exercise. Chris Farman, one of the Assistant Scout Leaders, also talked to the Cubs about how a solar eclipse occurs and shared his photos of the recent eclipse in the United States that he witnessed over the summer. The Cubs have also had an evening out to Phasels Wood playing wide games and taking turns on the climbing wall.



The Scout Troop have been busy setting up a new Owl patrol to accommodate increased numbers, designing a new scout t-shirt to replace the scout shirt at less formal occasions and suggesting activities they would like to do as a Troop. This term we will also be taking part in a survey on the River Chess. Our scouts will also be busy preparing for a county competition and for an incident hike in the local area using all of our skills to navigate to prearranged locations to find food and resources for lunch and dinner, so if you see hungry Scouts in the area please do not feed them!

It is also Scout Community Month in October so if you have any community events or activities that you would like any of the Sections to support please let us know.



## Contact:

**Beavers** (6 - 8 years): Gavin Daly  
gavin@sarrattscoutgroup.org

**Cubs** (8 - 10 years): Sarah Dobson  
sarah@sarrattscoutgroup.org

**Scouts** (10 - 14 years): Warren Gillmore  
warren@sarrattscoutgroup.org

## Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers



**On Sunday 10 September** , we were again at Commonwood, in the area near to Dellfield on the bottom road. Our task was to rake up the grass which had already been cut. This grassland is left uncut until early September for the benefit of the chalk loving flowers that grow there. Although we are basically on chalk, Sarratt lies mainly on an acid clay top, so chalky areas are in short supply. Beautiful blooms such as Field Scabious, Knapweed, Agrimony, Ladies Bedstraw, Wild Basil and the delicate white Burnet Saxifrage grow here, all beloved by bees and butterflies. Altogether there were 14 different species flowering here before it was cut, and there are more earlier in the year. The cut grass has to be raked and

removed so that not too much goodness goes back into the soil – wild flowers thrive on poor soils.

Nine volunteers worked hard and soon finished the task. The sun shone and it's a beautiful place to be with the satisfaction of knowing we are helping the local wildlife.

On **Sunday 8 October** we shall be working at Morton's Pond at the North end of Sarratt Green, to try to remove some of the overgrowth of vegetation to allow more water to fill the pond. Meet there at 10am. Please come and help if you can, more volunteers are always welcome. Tools and refreshments provided. For more information please call **Dawn, 267071**, or **Brenda, 269956**

**Dawn Pitts**

## Sarratt W.I.

**13 September 2016** was the hottest day of that Summer, however, 13 September 2017 must have been one of the coldest, so we at Sarratt WI were happy to be in the Village Hall and settled down to enjoy our speaker Mr Richard Thomas. His talk was entitled “ A Walk with the Admiral” We all had our own ideas and expectations as to its content, most assuming seafaring tales about Admiral Horatio Nelson.

However, we were surprised and intrigued when we realised it was about the road named Admiral’s Walk in Hoddesdon. Richard

showed us slides of his research which went back to 1521 when the area was just open fields called Ffore Lese Meadow. We saw an early map where the land was divided up and sold, and he told us of various owners until a few buildings began to appear on the land. By the early 19th century the land was owned by Admiral Donat O’Brien, a fascinating and brave character who fought in the

Napoleonic Wars and was captured three times, and imprisoned in France. After each capture, he escaped and walked hundreds of miles through Europe to eventual safety, and it was these walks which inspired the name of the road. We were all hugely impressed by Richard Thomas’s vast amount of research, mostly done before the Internet came about. He brought to life many of the occupants of the now busy residential area of Four Leys

Meadow, where he himself has lived for fifty years.

We also made arrangements for our next monthly walk and pub lunch which will be in the

Ley Hill area – we now have as many members just coming to enjoy the lunch and company as walk beforehand! We shall also have a Fun Craft Day in November, our Christmas Party in December and a visit to Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley in Jonly I’m afraid!  
**Telephone Dawn 267071** for more information.

**Carole Maddison**

# The Grey Knights



I imagine that the holiday season was the reason that the only outing the buses enjoyed last month was taking 18 Grey Knights and their ladies to the Hit or Miss pub and restaurant in Penn Street. It was a good social evening and with only 9 people on board each bus Jenks' bus coped well with North Hill. New driver Andy had a hands off training session in Jenks' bus but we hope to get him behind the wheel soon. We have a wedding coming up but there is plenty of scope for more bookings. The Sarratt Village buses are running well so do think about using them.

**John Roe 260755**  
**john.nroe@gmail.com**

**Thanks go to** Dawn Pitts and Gregory Edmund from the Sarratt Local History Society for providing a fascinating historical walk and talk around Sarratt Green on Sunday, 20 August. To all present, the stories of past residents were once again brought vividly back to life, even if occasionally revealing the odd unsavoury crime. Gratitude must also be extended to Pam Turner for hosting the group afterwards with light refreshments.





# Comings and Goings

*Nicola O'Hare*



**In July**, Sarratt C of E Primary School waved goodbye to the year 6 class. After a year full of triumphs and challenges the children in year 6 were ready to make their transition to secondary school. The leavers are all due to begin the next phase in their education journeys at a number of local schools including; King's Langley Secondary, St Clement Danes, Croxley Danes, Rickmansworth, Watford Grammar School for Boys, Westfield Academy, Townsend Secondary and Merchant Taylors. Their final days at Sarratt included a fabulous musical production, a trip to the river, a leaver's picnic and a special service in church. We wish the children the best of luck in their future endeavours.

We are now fully up and running with our new school year. After saying goodbye to the children and some staff who have moved to pastures new, we are now welcoming adults and children into our school community. The new reception class have been getting to grips with their new surroundings and are settling in well. We have also welcomed some new members of the teaching team; Miss Heir and Mr Young have joined the team in years 3 and 4. They are both newly qualified teachers and are raring to go with bags of energy and enthusiasm for the job. Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Pinner are appointed as teaching assistants in years 5 and 6. Mrs. Goldspring, who was with us last year providing class cover, is now teaching in year 5.

We are all delighted with the start of the new academic year and are looking forward to all of the new opportunities and exciting events coming our way.



## A MINOR INCONVENIENCE

by Nick Cervantes-Watson

**When our editor** first asked me to write my story, my immediate response was which story? Knowing that Mike speaks to everyone in the village I wondered if my wife had let slip some family secret or whether he wanted me to write about the day that Margaret Thatcher finally drove me out of the Conservative party. But no, it was my cancer he was talking about. I was genuinely surprised as I now consider it a minor inconvenience rather than a big part of my life.

After living in the village for about three years, and having had numerous tests I was diagnosed with cancer of the throat in September 2013. A week later I was admitted to the Churchill hospital in Oxford and underwent eight hours of surgery. Two weeks later I was home, sans teeth, with most of my tongue and part of my jaw bone removed and eating through a feeding tube. I was offered chemo and radio therapy but refused them as the possible side effects seemed to outweigh the possible benefits – the prospect of possible total

lack of taste had been enough to put me off; I enjoy my red wine too much.

Despite warnings that I might never eat normally or speak again, things were more or less back to normal by Christmas and in the New Year I was back doing a short shift in the village shop. By March the cancer had returned and I underwent further surgery at the Churchill. After another two weeks I was home again, sans even more of my tongue, having been told that I really needed chemo and radio this time. The treatment lasted six weeks

and since August 2014 I have not needed any further treatment apart from some massage to the lymph glands. There were no permanent side effects and my sense of taste was back to normal within two or three weeks.

I was remarkably lucky with the support I received from the NHS and from family and friends without which I would not have got through the experience. I have received more hugs in the last three years than at any time in my life! I genuinely think that the last few years were more stressful for my family than they were for me – patients suffer, their loved ones suffer more.

It is now nearly four years since my first operation and I think of myself as cured. I do not worry about the cancer returning though I would admit to a certain anxiety in the days leading up to my regular, now six monthly, checkups. At no time did I suffer any pain apart from the sore throat that prompted my initial diagnosis. I have lost a lot of weight, a good excuse to replenish my wardrobe. I am not as strong as I once was and have come to accept that I will never windsurf again and that horse riding, which I had gone back to after moving to Sarratt, is a thing of the past – but I continue to swim regularly. Fortunately I don't suffer from embarrassment and have come to accept that my speech will always be different from before – no more public speaking but happy to talk in small groups where I can get a word in edgeways. Customers in the village shop seem to understand me and I am only too happy to repeat things when asked.

I have discussed dental implants with my surgeon but he has advised against because of the radio therapy. Recently a young child in the shop asked why I had no teeth. Neither of us was embarrassed but I suspect his mother was. Unfortunately I was too slow to reply that the tooth fairy had stolen them! I have adjusted to eating and need meat and certain vegetables to be processed to the consistency of baby food. Chefs fall over themselves to cater for me and I still eat regularly in restaurants. The Cricketers always does me proud.

I only have myself to blame for the cancer. I was a pipe smoker for over 50 years. Vaping allowed me to give up with ease. I have others to thank for my recovery.



## News from the Terraces...

**Our first team** have been relegated to division 1 of the Herts Senior County League. Our new Manager, Boomer Burgess, is settling in very nicely and has introduced some new players into the club. Among these are some very talented young lads.

We also have a new Chairman, Simon MacQueen who is also one of our more senior players. Simon and Boomer are very keen to push us upwards and expand our match day experience. Yes I am still club secretary and tea maker.

Our season has started well with the new players beginning to blend in with the older lads. Our first team so far have played 6 games, won 4 lost 2. The most notable thing is they seem to find scoring goals no problem at all and their goal difference is 16. It is early days yet but we are second in the league and are still settling the side down. The skills of these 16 year olds is quite breath-taking, I have seen some amazing goals scored at Sarratt but last week young Marcus received the ball at chest height, with his back to the goal and in one movement bought the ball down, turned and volleyed it into the top corner

of the net from 30 yards out. Even the opposition players were stunned. Also returning to the club is James Charlton who at the moment is our top scorer. James is the cousin of our skipper Tom Shurville and his uncle is Jerram who is still making very tasty rock cakes.

Our reserves started their season last week with a 3 – 1 defeat away to Oxhey Jets Vets. Their season will improve as players become available and settle in together. Their new manager, Michael East, is beginning to get things together. This will be helped by our new training session at Croxley Danes School on Tuesday evenings.

Our Autumn Challenge Golf day was again run at West Herts Golf Club and despite the weather was enjoyed by everyone. The numbers were down again this year but the proceeds will go a long way towards paying our donation to KGV.

We only have fixtures to the end of September at the moment, to keep up to date go to the FA Full time web site for Herts Senior County League.

**Mick Warner**



## ...and from beyond the boundary

**The Sarratt Junior Cricket Club** were back in action on Monday nights this summer with the usual blend of complicated assault-course warm-ups, slip catching, technical skills and the all-important weekly matches. With many of the same children back for a fourth or fifth year, it was time to start making a bit more use of the leather ball and the older group spent plenty of sessions fully padded-up and working on their skills. We also had a few new joiners to the younger group and we were really impressed by the attentiveness and willingness to learn from all involved.

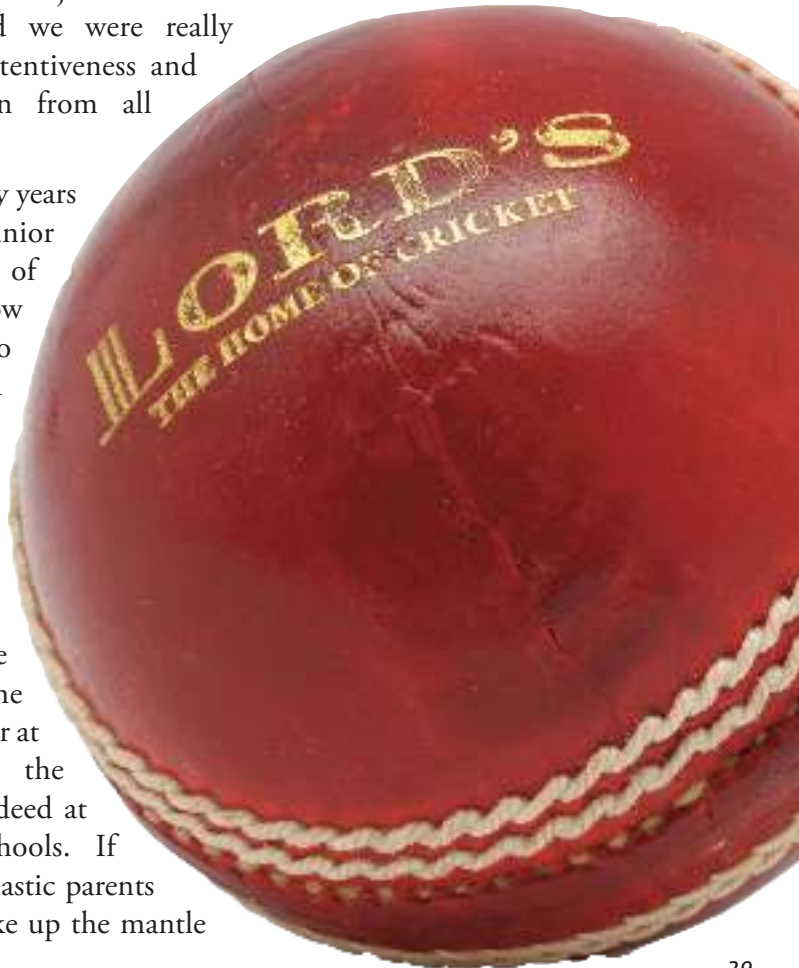
After five really happy years of running the junior cricket club, many of our recruits are now moving on to secondary school and we are unlikely to have the numbers to keep going with the Monday night sessions in 2018. We much hope that all those involved will be able to slot into the cricket going on either at Sarratt School in the summer term, or indeed at their secondary schools. If there are any enthusiastic parents out there keen to take up the mantle

and keep going with the younger ones then please contact:

sarrattjuniorcricket@hotmail.com as we have a list of past members and some kit we would happily pass along.

Well done to all those involved over the last five years. We've seen the children really develop their skills into budding young cricketers and we wish them the very best for their continuing cricket.

**Robert C Garvey**



## August weather

*Philip Buller*

Someone recently wrote in the Daily Telegraph that in August the British reached for their brollies and turned the heating on. I must confess to having done both! It wasn't a very warm month, temperatures generally staying at or below average. Hottest day was the 28th, Bank Holiday Monday, when the mercury reached 27.8C [82F]. Nationally this was the hottest late August holiday ever, the previous record of 27.2C was exceeded in many places, the crown going to Holbeach, Lincs at 28.2C. The previous record for Sarratt was 25.7C recorded in 2000. Many have now forgotten that the date for this holiday was changed in 1965 from the first Monday of the month to the last. It's also seemed a wet month with the only really dry spell being the week leading up to and around the Bank

Holiday, but I recorded only 50.1 mm [2ins] for the month. This is just 82% of the norm for August. It may come as a surprise, but based on records for the last ten years, August was the third wettest month of the year here in Sarratt and fifth wettest when using 36 years of records. This month also marks the end of the three months of summer [for meteorologists that is] and the total rain for this period came out at 161.6mm [6.4ins], just below the long term average. For the nation as a whole this was the 11th wettest on record, for Sarratt only the 20th!



### **NEXT MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT**

Please e-mail articles for next month's issue to:  
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or place into the SPOTLIGHT box in the Village Shop by  
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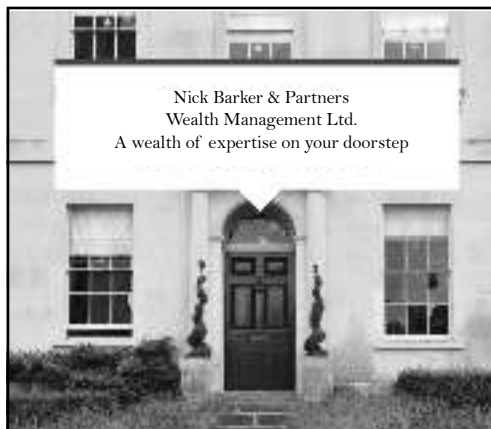
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*But the best-laid plans ...*

## Does Sarratt's Labyrinth need to find another way?

For the third year running, Sarratt Green has been the site of a labyrinth, carefully cut by Colin Plummer into the grass 150 yards up from the Village Shop. This year the design was a trefoil, three adjacent interconnecting spirals which ended in a central space. A small marquee was erected beside it and parishioners and visitors alike were encouraged to look at the literature in the tent and then, holding a ribbon or a stone, slowly to walk the path through the labyrinth while meditating, praying, just relaxing or doing whatever felt right for that particular person.

The weather was not very kind to us during the week when the labyrinth was active, gusty winds, frequent showers and very little sunshine dampened the spirits and reduced expected attendance.

Zeus does not bring  
all men's plans to fulfilment  
- Homer

Despite that, a number of people each day took the opportunity to walk around including a group from the village school. The official opening took place on September 10th with a small group led by our Rector, Michele, and ending with a short evening service led by David Clough on September 17.

During the very windy night of Tuesday - Wednesday, disaster struck; the tent was blown away, with all its metal supports and ended in the hedge outside the home of David & Pippa Alexander on the East side of the Green. The following morning it was rescued by Colin Plummer assisted by Jeannie Poulton and Terry Brownsell. Despite this we were not dispirited and we anticipate the labyrinth to return next year, possibly in another form.

**Robin Gain**

