

Did you know that the Town Council puts on regular film shows at Sprowston Diamond Centre?

Once a month we offer a recent or award-winning full-length movie for view to the public.

The first showing was in 2012 and the films have been well supported by our residents. We try to provide a varied programme throughout the year which will appeal to a range of tastes and to create a friendly atmosphere with refreshments served before each screening.

The aim is to offer the convenience of being able to watch great movies in a friendly, accessible and comfortable venue without having to travel too far.

Performances or Screenings are held on the first Monday of each month, unless a Bank Holiday then it will be the following Monday, in the School Room. Doors open at 1.00pm and film performance starts at 1.30pm. Tickets are £5.00, including refreshments, just turn up on the day.

In March we screened the very popular historical drama Downton Abbey and in April will be screening the BAFTA Best Film and Golden Globe Best Motion Picture (Drama) winner 1917.

We look forward to seeing you and gratefully appreciate your support which directly results in our ability to continue to offer this service to our community.

Future films will be listed on our website, face book and noticeboards.

Blue Boar Lane open space beginning to take shape

Following on from the installation of tarmac pathways and bullnose fencing, two new picnic tables on hard landscaping have been erected and two new benches made from recycled materials. The tables and benches have all been placed away from nearby houses to reduce late night anti-social disturbance to local residents.

Novelty bins have been positioned close to play equipment and the small opened topped bins replaced with larger lidded ones to discourage littering.

Whips have been planted to infill the boundary hedge adjacent Atlantic Way, which will encourage wildlife, and Snowdrops on banks where there is less footfall.

Further planting will include over a 1000 native daffodils and additional trees in small copses to supplement those already there.

In February the area was vertidraind to improve drainage.



Local projects benefit from Grant Scheme

Sprowston Youth Engagement, White House Farm School coffee morning and the Papillion Project have all received grants from district councillors representing Sprowston.

Following Broadland Council's introduction of a grant scheme where district councillors can spend an annual budget of £500.00 on local projects and activities in their wards, Councillors Judy Leggett and John Ward gave donations to support Sprowston Youth Engagement Project, the Sprowston Church Project, coffee morning at White House Farm School, and the Papillon Project at Sprowston Community Academy to purchase a new polytunnel cover.

Further grants will be available from 1 April 2020. If you have a community project or cause you're passionate about please get in touch with your local district councillor because they might be able to help you.

For more information <https://www.broadland.gov.uk/communityfunding>



Sprowston Matters



www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk
Sprowston Town Council
 Issue 54

Street Light Replacement Programme

With a high percentage of Sprowston's street lights being close to 30 years old, there is now a visible deterioration of the street lighting system and this year has seen a record number of faults reported.

A structural survey was undertaken to assess the condition of the lights. The survey highlighted 448 out of a street lighting stock of 856 should be considered for replacement.

In December councillors agreed, in principle, to a street lighting replacement programme, at an approximate cost of £520,000, which will begin to replace these 448 street lights with new energy efficient LED lights. Work is expected to commence later this year subject to a successful tendering process.

The Council has now taken over responsibility from developers for street lighting on Everett Close, Dungar Road, Blaxter Way and Lurkins Crescent. If you notice a light flickering, bulb out or any other problem with lighting columns on these roads please report them to Sprowston Town Council on Tel: 01603 408063 or email: townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk

Street lights sited within other housing estates at Whitehouse Farm are still the responsibility of developers at the moment.

You may be interested to know that one of the largest street light replacement schemes in Sprowston started with a faulty light on Greenborough Road. This was around 32 years ago when a young boy, now 40, was playing outside his home and a large piece of concrete fell from a street light and hit him on the head. Fortunately, it was a glancing blow as the piece was the size of a small fist and weighed over a pound. If it had hit directly it could have been very serious. As it was, he needed two stitches.

After this incident it was realised that this was a problem with all the concrete lamp posts in Sprowston and was caused by the metal spike at the top rusting and expanding, this then caused the concrete to break away.

Obviously after this incident all the concrete posts of this type had to be replaced.

Annual Town Meeting



Each year the Town Council facilitates an Annual Town Meeting. This is a public meeting, not a Town Council meeting, and is a chance for members of the public to ask any questions of the Council and receive updates on the Council's work and activities during the preceding year.

The 2020 Annual Town Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 22 April 2020 in the Council Chamber, Council

Office, Recreation Ground Road. The event will open at 6.30pm with the meeting beginning at 7.00pm. The Agenda is to be confirmed and will be circulated nearer the date.

All members of the public are invited to come along. Councillors will be in attendance to answer your queries on matters relating to Sprowston in an open question and answer session.

I am Graham Gill the new Beat Manager for Sprowston and Old Catton. I was previously a front-line response officer based at Sprowston and I also have previous experience at being a Beat Manager in a different area.



I have been appraised of the current issues and priorities in the area and I am looking forward to seeing you when I am out on Patrol.

Please come and speak to me, it would be a great opportunity for you to raise your issues or concerns with me.

I will be holding various engagement sessions at various places and times during the year. These will be published on Twitter and the Broadland Police Facebook page.

My next sessions will be at Sprowston Library on Tuesday 17 March 2020, 5.00pm - 7.00pm and Saturday 18 April 2020, 11.00am - 1.00pm.

You can always contact me on 101 ext. 6727 or email graham.gill@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

High recommendation for Community Building

Sprowston Diamond Centre was nominated for the 2019 Broadland Enhancement Awards and the Town Council was pleased to receive a Certificate of High Recommendation for the building. Sprowston Diamond Centre is available for hire for children's parties, corporate events, exercise classes etc. further details on www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk

Office opening times and tel. enquiries Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm (after hours answerphone)
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Sprowston Town Council and Sprowston Diamond Centre

Diary of a Groundsmen

This is not a list of everything we do but gives a general overview of the work we carry out to keep Sprowston looking its best.

In February we removed the Christmas Wreaths and Decorations from graves at the cemetery and looked forward to seeing spring bulbs flower.

The lighter evenings begin to arrive and the parks are open longer, responsibility for locking the gates now moves to the caretakers.

Now it's March hedge cutting will stop in preparation for the nesting season, although brambles will continue to be trimmed all summer.

April and the start of the Bowls season. The green is prepared for its first game. Gully sacks are placed in the surrounding ditches and the first cut takes place after the turf has been dew brushed or switched.

Dew brushing or switching is a regular task and is generally the first job of the day. It removes worm casts prior to mowing and early morning dew preventing fungal diseases which spread quickly on wet leaf surfaces.

Grass cutting is in full swing and all staff, when not on other duties, will be mowing verges, recreational areas, open spaces, roundabouts, allotments and tennis courts. Some areas are cut weekly however, verges are cut in rotation on a daily basis.

Its late Spring and play equipment is in greater use. Whilst checked all year-round equipment will now, and throughout the summer require



extra maintenance with shackles, connectors, braking mechanisms, chains and caps replaced, bolts tightened, bearings oiled and wet-pour repaired.

An annual inspection is made by our insurers and more complex repairs or replacement of equipment is carried out by specialist companies.

Mid-summer and the busiest season for tennis courts. By now courts are marked out on a weekly basis. Occasionally they are closed, on a rotational basis, to prevent wear and tear.

Its August, and time to start cutting our extensive span of hedgerows around Sprowston including the cemetery, Barkers Lane, Sparhawk Park and Sprowston Recreation Ground. Hedges will be regularly cut until the end of February.

Football season has started and pitches are white lined weekly, slitted bi-monthly to aerate the ground and brushed if required.

It's time for wild plant areas, home to Yellow Rattle, Cow Parsley, Dock, Rag Wort, Wild Garlic, Fritillaria, also known as Snakes Head and native daffodil to have their annual flail. This

prevents overgrowing of undesirable species and helps to spread the wild flower seeds.

September the end of the bowls season and work starts immediately to prepare the green for next season. The gully sacks are removed, pressure washed and stored. The grass is scarified and cut in four directions. Pictured is the fourth and final load of moss. Who would have thought all this could be removed from such a small area of grass? After a close cut a 3-tonne top dressing is applied and granular feed followed by brushing to work the material into the grass surface. The green is then put to bed for winter with just an occasional cut if required. However, switching or dew brushing continues throughout the Winter.

Verge cutting is still carried out on a daily basis, weather permitting, and will continue into November. The cemetery is mowed weekly until winter when it reduces to once a month.

The Sycamore tree in the picture suffered autumn wind damage and has been felled. It stood in Sprowston Recreation Ground behind the tennis

courts. A replacement will be planted during winter months.

Grass Tennis Courts are due to be scarified, verticut and a granulated feed applied. An occasional cut will take place throughout winter but the grass courts will now close until the first week in May.

Leaf clearing has started, this stops the grass from being killed and prevents slippery surfaces forming and is carried out until early winter. Leaves at the cemetery are blown into piles, collected and spread around Hazels grown for coppicing and wildlife. Leaves on recreational play areas are mulched insitu, chopped into pieces and left to work into the grass.

In November we discover a chaffer grub infestation in some of the tennis courts. The damage is made worse by the Crows that eat them. This could impact on the availability of these courts next season.



With the recent purchase of a pressure washer we have been able to clean play equipment and benches in house and the hard surface tennis courts.

Winter is here and weed trees, Salix Caprea also known as Goat Willow, are removed from the Millennium Woodland. They are planted to protect saplings of other species, but can become a pest if left to mature.

Larger logs from felled Goat Willow are left in piles for the benefit of insects and small mammals.

It is thought that both the scientific name Salix Caprea and common name Goat Willow probably derive from the first known illustration of the species in Hieronymus Bock's 1546 Herbal, where the plant is shown being browsed by a goat.

During the dormant season bare root whips of Birch, Beech, Hazel, Hawthorne, Blackthorn and Wild Rose are planted to regenerate existing hedgerows. Hazels are coppiced and

brambles and wild roses, which can grow 12 feet very quickly are cut back to keep pathways clear.

Memorial benches from the cemetery are moved indoors for repair and painting.

Sports areas and compacted play areas are vertidraind. A machine with 12inch spikes is hired to aerate the ground to improve drainage. This involves perforating the soil with holes to allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots. It helps produce a stronger, more vigorous lawn.

Whatever the weather or time of year graves are prepared for interments or topped up. In the last 12 months over 68 interments have taken place.

Now that our vehicles are in least use, they are sent to professional companies for servicing whilst we carry out maintenance of small equipment, minor repairs, painting, and planning for the year ahead.

And so, the seasons start again.

Name our Tractor

Having recently purchased a new Iseki horticultural tractor to replace a very old John Deere, Sprowston residents are invited to have a bit of fun and name our tractor.

Go to our Facebook page to participate. Please keep it original, entertaining and clean.



War Memorial gets a spruce-up

Pictured local man Stuart Warming proprietor of S.A.W. Home Improvements, and colleague Wayne Wright carrying out cleaning and repair works to the St. Cuthbert War Memorial on Wroxham Road on behalf of the Council.

Work included the removal of moss and weeds, joints scraped of debris, blocks cleaned and rejointed and repointing of the red clay copings.

The tall central bronze plaque bears the names of those Sprowston men who fell in the First World War, whilst the smaller flanking plaques record those who died in the Second World War, some as young as 19.

The memorial became a Grade II listed monument in 2018

