

# SPARTA Newsletter



## GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW THEY DO IT

Welcome to the March edition of the SPARTA newsletter.

How do you get a huge choir to practice and perform during lockdown? Well the Civil Service Choir have been at it again.

This time they have recorded one of the iconic songs from the 1960's, the Beach Boys, God Only Knows.

The choir has in the past performed live at the Civil Service Awards. This year obviously that was not possible as the awards were done virtually so they recorded a virtual performance especially for the awards.

The recording was unveiled and played for the first time at the awards last month. The Beach Boys were so concerned about recording this song they prayed beforehand. The Civil Service Choir didn't need to pray as their version is a brilliant tribute to the original.

If you would like to watch it then it can be found at this link:  
<https://youtu.be/K3MDHR-tt8c>

Check out the CS Choir website at [www.civilservicechoir.org.uk/](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk/)

And their entry on the SPARTA website [www.spartarecreation.co.uk/civil-service-choir](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/civil-service-choir)

## SPARTA LAUNCHES VOLUNTEER ISSUE

*This issue of the SPARTA Newsletter has a special article regarding Volunteering*

SPARTA is always looking for volunteers. Whether it's to help with Sports Day or running a SPARTA club, SPARTA wouldn't function without the help of the many enthusiastic volunteers who do so much of the day to day work throughout the SPARTA network.

SPARTA also needs more input from younger staff who can help shape SPARTA and drive it's work forward along with keep it relevant for the future.



Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



# SPARTA NEEDS YOU



***SPARTA and the SPARTA clubs are looking for volunteers to help SPARTA continue thriving for another 50 years***

SPARTA and the SPARTA clubs are almost entirely run by volunteers.

All the fixtures that are arranged by the sports clubs are entirely organised by volunteers. All the History Society and Choir events and all the other club activities are entirely organised by volunteers. All these volunteers do this work because of only one thing, they love their sport or activity and want others to enjoy it too.

Each year we have many brilliant events but our list of volunteers for these events, which count as corporate activities, is getting thinner and thinner. To continue holding such a wide range of high quality events **WE NEED YOU**.

Did you know you can take up to 3 days a year of special leave for volunteering purposes?

That leave could be used to help at Sports Day (Fit for Business Day) or be a SPARTA official at the CSSC games, or you could even start your own SPARTA club and take that club to attend a CSSC event.

There are loads of areas that you could become involved in so why not help YOUR Recreation Association to continue thriving?

Get in contact TODAY at [SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)

## YOUNG SPARTA

For SPARTA to stay relevant for another 50 years we also need to tap into the newer generation of Civil Servants and get some younger staff involved.

Our clubs need to keep up with current times, adapt to new technology and to continue their great work for future generations along with ensuring SPARTA stays diverse in its approach and thought.

For this to happen we need some of the younger staff to help with the development of the clubs and SPARTA.

What new clubs would the younger staff like to see created, an online gaming club maybe, or a club that arranges trips to music gigs or theatre performances?

SPARTA is open to all new ideas. Get in touch TODAY.





## SPARTA IS 50, THE GOLF SOCIETY IS 100

In past editions of this newsletter we have mentioned that this year SPARTA is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The outbreak of Covid 19 has made putting on some large social events this year almost impossible that is, until the Government announces that it is safe to do so.

At this time, we are still hoping that Sports Day will be able to take place this year and have pre-booked the facilities at the old CSSC ground at Chiswick for 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Obviously, at this time, a lot still has to go right for the day to go ahead but we really hope that we can hold the event.

Some things we have been able to do though. For a start we have created a SPARTA 50 logo which you will see below.

We are also, with the help of the SPARTA clubs, looking at putting on a number of events to celebrate our anniversary. Keep an eye out for updates on our website and future copies of this newsletter.

SPARTA was originally formed in November 1971, so we are planning something special for later on this year. Keep a watch out for details.

One event that is already booked to go ahead is the SPARTA Golf Society Centenary event. Yes, the Golf Society is actually 100 years old this year, which is an incredible achievement.

They are holding their Centenary event on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at Chobham Golf Club, Woking.

If you are interested in attending any of their events this year, then please get in touch with them. Details of their full programme of events can be found on their website at

<http://www.spartagolf.co.uk/>

This year is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Service Sports Council. You can find details regarding their anniversary plans on their website at

<https://www.cssc.co.uk/>

SPARTA is a Departmental Association, so we are an affiliate

of the CSSC. We send teams to CSSC events and we receive some funding through them indirectly from the Cabinet Office.

SPARTA will be arranging a number of surprises throughout this special year so please keep a check of our website

[www.spartarecreation.co.uk](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk)

Although we already have a number of things planned we would welcome any ideas that you may have for ways that we could commemorate SPARTAs 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Please send any ideas to [SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)

Remember SPARTA is Your Recreational Association so any input you have regarding the services that SPARTA should provide is always welcome.

We will do all we can to provide the services that you want from us.





# THE SPARTA CLUBS

*SPARTA supports a number of clubs and associations across the UK and is always looking to start new clubs. Here is just a taster of the current clubs*

**CD CLUB**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/cd-club](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/cd-club)

**SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY**   
[www.spartagolf.co.uk/](http://www.spartagolf.co.uk/)

**YOGA CLASSES**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga)

**SUPERSTARS CRICKET CLUB**   
[www.superstarscricket.org.uk](http://www.superstarscricket.org.uk)

**SOFTBALL CLUB**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/softball](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/softball)

**RAILWAY SOCIETY**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/railway-society](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/railway-society)

**CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR**   
[www.civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://www.civilservicechoir.org.uk)

**HISTORY SOCIETY**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society)

**FITNESS CLASSES**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class)

**TENNIS CLUB**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis)

**TENPIN BOWLING**   
[www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling](http://www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling)



Want to start a new SPARTA club or volunteer to help SPARTA?  
Get in touch with us at [SPARTA@dft.gov.uk](mailto:SPARTA@dft.gov.uk)

Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

**SPARTA**  
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