

# SPARTA Newsletter

November 2022



SPARTA Fitness Class  
Every Friday 12.30  
Live Online or in LG1, GMH  
It's FREE

## SPARTA CLUBS & EVENTS

Welcome to the November edition of the SPARTA Newsletter.

We start this month's newsletter with a report from the first of our meet the SPARTA clubs' event, which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the Great Minster House Canteen. I hope that many of you managed to pop along and chat to the clubs.

We are repeating the event later this month in the Fry Café in 2 Marsham Street. Pop along again and say hi to us.

We are very excited about the upcoming Civil Service Choir performance this month.

The event promises to be an incredible spectacle with the choir doubling up using a double choir, double orchestra and double trumpets.

The Choir, who are always very supportive of SPARTA, have provided a discount code to all SPARTA members so that you all can get money off the full price tickets. Details can be found later in this newsletter.

Last month also saw the first meeting of the Leeds Climbing Club.

We are really pleased that we were able to help sponsor their first meeting and hope that we can help them to become an established and successful club.

This month we have a full article from the Cygnet Rowing club telling us all about their history. They are the rowing club of the Civil Service and would love to take you for a row sometime.

The History Society will be holding another of their excellent talks again this month.

This month's talk is on women's roles in Medieval society by Dr Eleanor Janega who is a medieval historian specialising in social history.

It promises to be another superb lecture worth attending either in person or online.

Have a great month.



## ROSE D'COSTA

Last month we informed you of the sad news regarding the death of SPARTA Honorary Life Member, Rose D'Costa.

Rose's Funeral was held on Friday 28th October 2022 at 1.00pm at the South London Crematorium and was well attended. Rod Paterson and Sue Johnson represented SPARTA at the funeral and Rod gave a speech during the service.

The funeral was streamed online for all those that were unable to attend in person.

It was also recorded so if you were unable to attend and wish to view the service then it can be watched using the details below:

<https://watch.obitus.com>

username: nibo7304

password: 887031



Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



# MEET THE SPARTA CLUBS

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November SPARTA Events*

SPARTA held the first of their “Meet the SPARTA Clubs” events in the Great Minster House canteen on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

All the SPARTA clubs were represented in one way or another, with the majority manning their own desks at the event.



We were very pleased that DfT Perm Sec, Bernadette Kelly, accepted our invitation to come along and meet the clubs and cut a SPARTA 50 cake.

The History Society filled their table with books from some of their excellent historians and Brian Spurrell even wore a “votes for



women” sash similar to those worn

by the suffragette movement in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.

The Golf Society bought in a very popular putting mat which was even used by DfT Perm Sec, Bernadette Kelly.



It was great that ex SPARTA General Secretary, Peter D’Costa was able to attend to represent the tenpin bowling club. He bought some great props with him in the form of a bowling pin and a bowling ball.

The next SPARTA 50 “Meet the Clubs” event takes place on 16th November in the Fry Café in 2 Marsham Street. Please find the time to come along & meet the clubs.



## LEEDS CLIMBING CLUB

The inaugural DfT Leeds climbing trip took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October and was a huge success. A team of 8 set off after work to join the hordes of students taking on the walls at Kirkstall climbing lab.



Despite picking the busiest night of the year at the wall so far, they all got to enjoy a number of climbs and had great fun doing so. In future they plan to make this a monthly outing though will be looking to avoid student nights in the future.



SPARTA were very pleased to help with part funding for their first meeting.



# CYGNET ROWING CLUB

*Our rowing partners, the Cygnet Rowing Club share with us some details about their history*

Cygnet Rowing Club was founded in February 1890, gate-crashing a sport which then excluded the working classes by creating a club for Post Office employees to enjoy rowing on the Tideway.



By the early 1920s, Cygnet (by then joined by the Civil Service Ladies Rowing Club, now our sister club Barnes Bridge Ladies) was synonymous with Civil Service rowing, having founded the Civil Service Rowing Association in 1922, and holding the first Civil Service Regatta the next year, attended by the Prince of Wales.

Today, both clubs welcome a healthy mixture of people from the Civil Service and beyond, though we continue to honour our links to the Civil Service by offering discounted fees to CSSC members.

For over a hundred years, Cygnet has been a competitive club racing on and off the Tideway, and we

maintain a busy schedule of races for those who want to test their mettle, from the Head of the River Race on our own patch, to races further afield, including at St. Neots, Oxford, and even Henley Royal Regatta (though it has been a little while since we last qualified!).

For those who prefer their sport a little more sedate, we are proud of our reputation as a friendly, sociable club for rowers of all abilities and commitment levels.



Although the club had a transient beginning, residing in Putney and Hammersmith before finally settling at the Civil Service Boathouse in Chiswick, just next to



## EXCLUSIVE SPARTA DISCOUNT AT CS CHOIR EVENT

The Civil Service Choir's next concert takes place on Thursday 17th November. The Choir are delighted to be joined by soloists and the superb Brandenburg Sinfonia at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square for a special evening of choral and orchestral music by Venetian composers Antonio Vivaldi and Tomaso Albinoni: double choir, double orchestra and double trumpets!

Tickets are available from [civilservicechoir.org.uk/tickets](http://civilservicechoir.org.uk/tickets)

Use code SPARTAVIV for an exclusive SPARTA members discount of £3





the Civil Service Sports Ground, we are proud of our facilities. Though our generously stocked bar is certainly a plus, the highlight is surely our Bungalow, on Hamhaugh Island near Shepperton.

Although no more than a tent by the river when we first arrived in 1909, the Bungalow is now a fully kitted out facility and hosts our twice-yearly sculling camps.



Another highlight of the Cygnet year is our annual trip to the Rhine Marathon in Dusseldorf, which we have been making for over forty years. We are hosted by our friends at the rowing club RG Benrath, who generously keep us well fed, as well as ensuring we have plenty of the local Alt Bier. As well as a thoroughly enjoyable trip away, having just returned I can confirm that 26 miles on the Rhine is the ultimate test of a rower's resolve!



Both Cygnet and Barnes Bridge Ladies are a home for rowers of all abilities, whether experienced oars or total beginners. Both clubs run regular 'Learn to Row' programs for interested novices, and, if you want to keep going afterwards, we will deduct your course fee from your yearly subs. Once graduated, you can benefit from our quality team of coaches, and fully kitted out gym. Although we are a competitive club, you can train as much or as little as you like, a far cry from the brutal training schedules of our neighbours on the Tideway!



If you are interested, we would love to introduce you to our wonderful clubs: the Cygnet captaincy can be contacted via our website ([cygnet-rc.org.uk](http://cygnet-rc.org.uk)) or email ([cygnet.captain@gmail.com](mailto:cygnet.captain@gmail.com)). For Barnes Bridge Ladies, the website is [bblrc.co.uk](http://bblrc.co.uk).

<https://www.facebook.com/CygnetRC>

<https://twitter.com/cygnetrc>

[https://www.instagram.com/cygnet\\_rc](https://www.instagram.com/cygnet_rc)

## UPCOMING SPARTA CLUB FIXTURES/EVENTS

### November

2<sup>nd</sup> – SPARTA 50 Meet the Clubs Event – GMH Canteen

15<sup>th</sup> – SPARTA History Society Talk – Women in Medieval Society

16<sup>th</sup> – SPARTA 50 Meet the Clubs Event – 2MS Canteen

17<sup>th</sup> – Civil Service Choir present Vivaldi on the Double! at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square at 7.30pm – Tickets available here:

[civilservicechoir.org.uk/tickets](http://civilservicechoir.org.uk/tickets)

Details of club contacts can be found on the SPARTA website

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





# 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*

## SPARTA TABLE TENNIS CLUB



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

## 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)

## YOUR CLUB HERE

Start a club and it can be advertised right here

## 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)

**EXCITING NEW CLUBS  
COMING SOON**

Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

SPARTA  
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Phone 07884 390878  
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