

SPARTA Newsletter

December 2022



A VERY SPARTA CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the December edition of the SPARTA Newsletter.

Yes, it's almost Christmas again and as we head into the festive period, we start with a report from the second of our meet the SPARTA clubs' events, which took place on 16th November in the Atrium Café in the Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, which was very successful.

We have also heard a lot of praise for the Civil Service Choir double choir, double orchestra and double trumpet section performance of Vivaldi that took place on 17th November. I hope that many of you were able to attend this incredible event.

We had planned the SPARTA AGM to be held on 14th December, but train strikes have derailed our date (pun intended).

We have now rearranged the AGM to take place on 18th January. The meeting will be held in Room LG11 in Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road and will be available online also.

If you have not received an invitation yet and would like to

attend then please get in contact with me at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk and I will send you the appointment.

The History Society are holding two talks this month.

The first is on Mary Seacole, who was recently voted one of the top 100 Great Black Britons. It promises to be an interesting talk.

The second is a Christmas themed talk. Mikesh Mistry will be giving a talk on Christmas during the First World War.

I am sure that we all have heard many of the myths of Christmas during that period, hopefully Mikesh will be able to clear those all up for us.

From all of us at SPARTA we wish you all a Very Merry SPARTA Christmas

Have a great month.



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

CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR

The Civil Service Choir held their special Double Choir performance on 17th November at the Holy Trinity, Sloane Square.

This was the first concert that the choir have performed using two choirs, two orchestras, and two trumpet sections.

The performance was huge success and was enjoyed by a large attendance.

Civil Service Choir
and
Brandenburg Sinfonia
Directed by Stephen Hall, OBE
Thursday 17th November, 7:30pm
Holy Trinity, Sloane Square
Vivaldi Double!
Double choir, double orchestra, double trumpets!
An evening of choral and orchestral masterpieces by Vivaldi and Albinoni
BOOK NOW
Tickets £18 & concessions
Book now: trybooking.co.uk/BXNG
Supporting: The Centre for Cultural Enterprise, The Learning and Skills Improvement Fund, The Skills Partnership, by you
Civil Service Choir @CSChoir civilservicechoir.org.uk

Check out the SPARTA website for upcoming events



MEET THE SPARTA CLUBS

16th November SPARTA Event

SPARTA held the second of their “Meet the SPARTA Clubs” events in the Atrium Café in the Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street on 16th November 2022.

Once again, 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 DLUHC Perm Sec, Jeremy Pocklington, accepted our invitation to come along and meet the clubs and cut a SPARTA 50 cake.

The Art Club table was well received on the day with a number of people enjoying a doddle on their art pads.

The Golf Society once again, bought in a very popular putting mat which was used by DLUHC Perm Sec, Jeremy Pocklington, who was the only person to sink his first putt on the tricky putting mat.



The event was as successful as the first event and all the clubs were pleased with the interest from staff in their activities.

We hope that we can hold similar events next year, either for individual clubs or as similar gathering of the clubs.

Please let us know how you would like future “meet the club” events.

FUTURE CLUBS

One great outcome from the “Meet the Clubs” events was some of the ideas that were shared with us for new clubs. Here are some of the ideas that they shared with us.

- Netball**
- Football**
- Badminton**
- Hockey**
- Board Games**

We will be looking at contacting everyone who has shown an interest in these new clubs and will be looking at setting up new clubs in the future.



If you are interested in taking forward one of these new clubs, then please get in touch with us at SPARTA@dft.gov.uk



SPARTA IN 2022

Here is a short celebration of some of the SPARTA activities that have taken place in 2022

2022 was a great year for SPARTA. This was the first year that the SPARTA clubs were able to begin normal activities. Some clubs found it easier to restart than others, but excellent steps were made by all.

This year the Superstars Cricket Club were able to arrange 29 matches and after cancellations played 19 matches. Superstars do not play in a league, so all their fixtures are friendly matches that they arrange themselves.



As many of the leagues have not restarted for some of our other clubs this maybe something that these clubs have to do next year to ensure that they can continue to offer a full fixture list to their members.

The Superstars also held a tour over one of the Bank Holiday weekends in Fishguard, Wales. The weather scuppered two of the games, but they won both of the remaining fixtures.

The SPARTA Golf Society held a full set of fixtures this year, which

included among them their Spring, Summer, Autumn and Presidents' Day events.



The Golf Society visited a number of great courses this year including Hever Castle, Nizels, Copthorne, Flackwell Heath, Orsett, and Cottesmore.

They are planning a similar number of events for next year at some equally good golf courses.

You can check out their fixtures on their website:

www.spartagolf.co.uk/index.php

The Civil Service Choir's main event this year was their concert held in November when they used a double choir, double orchestra, and a double trumpet section

The performance proved to be highly successful and rightly received huge praise from all of those that were lucky enough to attend.

The SPARTA History Society held a range of talks throughout the year. Many of these talks were hybrid



UPCOMING SPARTA CLUB FIXTURES/EVENTS

December

5th – SPARTA History Society Talk – In Search of Mary Seacole Q&A with Helen Rappaport

12th – SPARTA History Society Talk – Christmas in the First World War - Mikesh Mistry

January

17th - SPARTA History Society Talk – China with Professor Rana Mitta

18th – SPARTA AGM – Room LG11 Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road

Keep up to date by checking the SPARTA website

Details of club contacts can also be found on the SPARTA website

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/



SPARTA IN 2022 continued

Here is a short celebration of some of the SPARTA activities that have taken place in 2022

versions with Historians attending in person and the talk being streamed online to a live audience.

The talks are still proving to be highly popular with around 100 people attending in total at each event. If you have not attended one of these talks then I can highly recommend putting them on your To Do list for 2023



SPARTA was really pleased to have 46 entries for the CS 10km and 5km fun run in May in Battersea Park. It was the first time for a long time that we had been able to enter teams for these events.

SPARTA was really pleased that we had both the winner of the Men's 5km and 10km races which were won by Jack Spoor and Jack Millar respectively.



James Nichols

We also won the Men's team in the 10km race which was made up by Jack Millar, Conall McNally, Luke Watson and

All those that were able to take part in the races had a great time.

The main SPARTA event of the year was the highly successful SPARTA Sports and Wellbeing Day in July which returned to Chiswick for the first time in many years.



We hosted a full range of sports, recreation, and wellbeing events for everyone that was able to attend.



The day was a huge success, and we look forward to putting on an equally good event next year.

We finished the year with the well attended the "Meet the Clubs" events in GMH and 2MS. These are just some of this year's events, we look forward to bringing you more next year.



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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

SPARTA GOLF SOCIETY 

www.spartagolf.co.uk/

YOGA CLASSES 

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/yoga

SUPERSTARS CRICKET CLUB 

www.superstarscricket.org.uk

SOFTBALL CLUB 

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

HISTORY SOCIETY 

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/history-society

FITNESS CLASSES 

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/fitness-class

TENNIS CLUB 

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tennis

TENPIN BOWLING 

www.spartarecreation.co.uk/tenpin-bowling



Check out all the SPARTA clubs on our website

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