

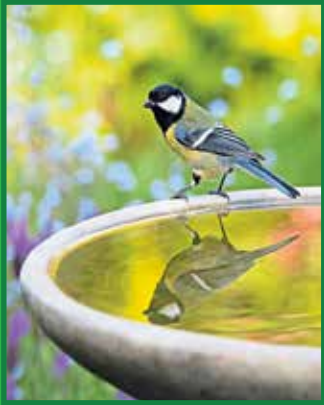


Stratton Parish News

SUMMER 2022 - ISSUE 002

Serving the Community

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Lower Stratton Ward

Chairman Robert Jandy

E: cllrrobertjandy@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Annual Message from the Chairman

Stratton's Annual Report from **Robert Jandy**

In many ways this has been a **busy and momentous year** for Stratton St Margaret. We have many things to celebrate, we have kept our precept to a 0% increase for the 3rd year in a row, which me and my fellow Councillors believe is a massive achievement, also more “boring” things such as having pieced together a Corporate and Strategic Plan for the first time, giving the Council priorities and goals moving forward and planning future finances to provide the very best services to the community.

We are currently implementing a Youth Provision within the Parish for the first time and we are heading towards having the Local Government Award Scheme Quality Award. We have also completed and implemented the Neighbourhood Plan after many years of finalising the details.

We now work firmly in partnership with Stratton Junior Football Club with the lease agreement for the pitches at Merton and Jutland Avenue and we value this connection and what this organisation brings to the parish. We have invested into our Meadowcroft Play Park and upgraded this with new equipment, which saw a grand opening last year.

In February this year we planted a tree and commemorative plaque in the green area between Weedon Road and Gayton Way (Coleview) to celebrate the local hero John White and his efforts in the community over the years in football training

for the younger generations.

Another big announcement is that we have reinvented and redistributed the Parish Council Newsletter after a period of 4 years!

The Council has supported local organisations over the past year to the sum of £15,300 through the Grand Aid process.

We are currently undertaking a lengthy study and consultation with regards to the Library facilities and enhancing the Community Hub in Beechcroft Road and also to build a Skate Park within the Parish!

Thank you!

None of the above can happen without the hard work and dedication of all the Stratton St Margaret Parish employees and Councillors. From the Clerk, the Open Spaces Team, Finance Team, Admin Team, Library Team and the Democratic Team, we offer our thanks for your continuing efforts. We should cherish our open spaces, brilliantly maintained by the Parish Council Open Spaces Team.

To the Councillors, thank you for all you do. Your voluntary time is a vital and integral part of the local scene.

Working together to make Stratton St. Margaret the very best it can be.

Meet Your Council



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Anne Brooker
e: cllrannebrooker@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Laura Butcher
e: clllaurabutcher@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Tom Butcher
e: cllrtombutcher@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Glenn Castle
e: cllrglenncastle@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Merton Ward

Cllr Claire Crilly
e: cllrclairecrilly@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Alison Foley
e: cllralisonfoley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Oladapo Ibitoye
e: cllroladapoibitoye@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward

Cllr Barrie Jennings
e: cllrbarriejennings@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward

Cllr Pratap Mane
e: cllrpratapmane@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Andree Murphy
e: cllrandreemurphy@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Tara Page
e: cllrtarapage@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Teresa Page
e: cllrteresapage@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward

Vice Chairman Tim Page
e: cllrtimpage@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Roger Smith
e: cllrogersmith@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward

Cllr Joe Tray
e: cllrjoetry@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward

Cllr Matthew Vallender
e: cllrmatthewvallender@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward

Cllr Ravi Venkatesh
e: cllrravivenkatesh@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Councilors are elected by the community to decide how the council should carry out its various activities. They represent public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which he or she has been elected.

PROPERTY

Meadowcroft Community Centre

Our community centre has some great improvements due to commence over the next 12 months. We are extending the existing car park by an extra 30 spaces to alleviate the pressures put on the local area, especially on weekends.

Our community hall is always available for hire for £14.42 an hour, please contact info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk to make an enquiry.

Meadowcroft Recreational Grounds

Opposite our community centre we have a large recreational field spanning approx 12 acres! Make the most of this vast open space during the summer sunshine!

Plans are also underway to extend and develop the play park to provide more for the older age groups, including a bouldering wall (see pictured).



Green Road Chapel

We are currently going through the process of renovating the Chapel in our cemetery on Green Road. Our Governance Administrator has met with 2 contractors within the past few weeks to discuss the work that needs to be done and are currently waiting on quotes from contractors.

Once all of the renovations have been completed, we are hoping to hire out the chapel to local groups to be able to display and sell their art work in the chapel.

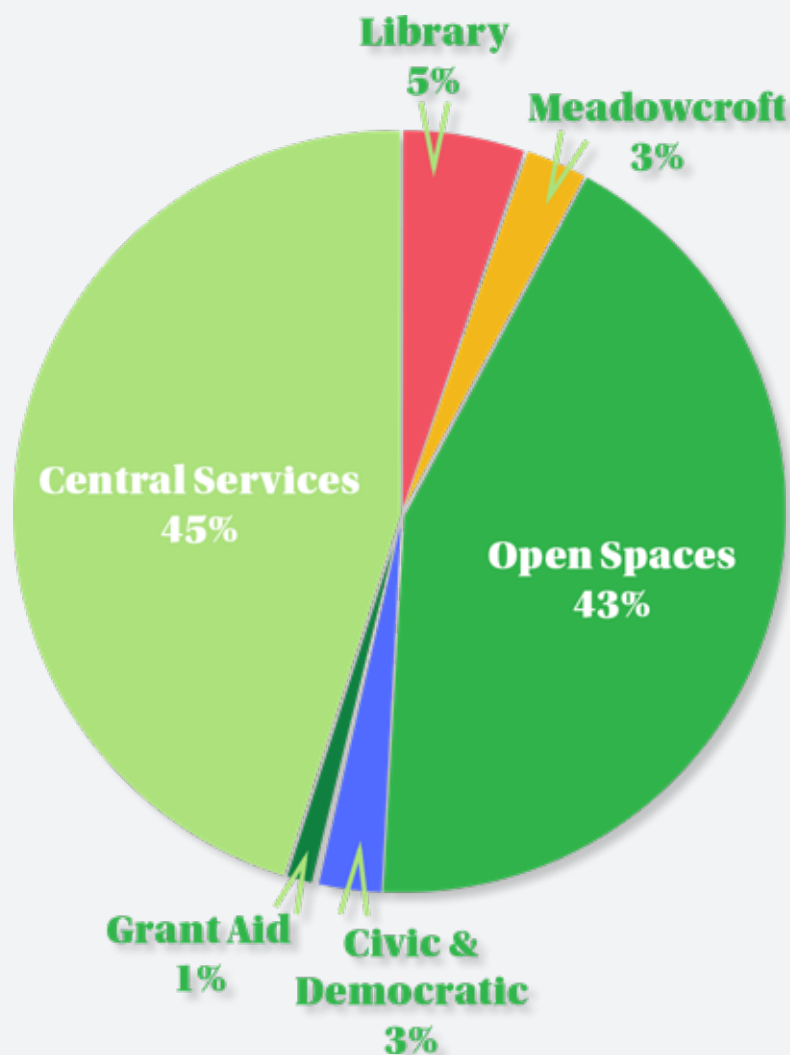
We are also going through the process of contacting some local stained glass companies. The chapel was built in 1869 and we would love to bring the building back to its former glory including some beautiful stained glass windows to be in keeping the victorian architecture!

If you know anyone that makes stained glass art & would like to get involved please get in touch with us on 01793 823 761 or email info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk





FINANCE



Councillors understand the difficulties we have all faced in the past two years and the cost of living squeeze we will face this year. As a consequence, we were determined not to ask for any additional money from hard pressed parishioners. SSMPC is pleased to report that the committee recommended that the budgeted precept for 2022/2023 remain frozen at 1,369,964 pounds, the same level it has been for the past three years.

This chart shows a general overview of where the precept is spent.

The council's finance team have been working very hard throughout the year to improve and develop the councils systems and controls. They ensure our day to day relationships with banks, suppliers, internal budget holders, contractors, and partners are conducted in a proper and prudent way.

Thanks to our teams dedication & hard work in June 2022 we passed our internal audit!

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS

Committee

Although not a decision-making body, this committee meets regularly, once a month, to look at planning applications within Stratton Parish and comment on developments in our neighbouring parishes.

Parishioners are always welcome to attend and air their views and to observe our workings. The committee can 'call-in' to the Borough Council those plans it believes to be contentious. Committee members are kept informed concerning road works as it affects, or might affect, our local roads.

In 2019 the planning committee introduced a neighbourhood plan

under the Localism Act 2011.

The aim of this plan is to give communities the right to shape and develop their areas. The Stratton St Margaret neighbourhood plan has been prepared by residents and led by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and shaped by various surveys and public consultations to accurately reflect the needs and wants of the community.



OPEN SPACES



Our Open Spaces Management team have been doing what they do for decades and we think their experience shows. It might surprise you how busy and complicated public land management can be, so please read on to get a taste of it.

- We have 10 people in our department and an arsenal of equipment to aid us in our work which includes 1 large & 1 small tractor, 4 ride on mowers and a mini digger.
- We have around 160 acres of land to manage, split into over 100 land parcels, ranging from large to small.
- We mow all of our grass every 3 weeks from end of March to end of October. Some priority areas are done fortnightly.
- We have around 2 miles of hedges that are trimmed 1-3 times a year depending on priority.
- We spend around £15,000 annually maintaining trees.
- We spend around £75,000 a year clearing rubbish and emptying our 137 bins.
- We have 2 active cemeteries and we provide a burial service every 4.8 days on average.
- We have 2 allotment sites and 151 registered tenants.
- We have 10 children's play areas and 4 basketball/mini football courts. We spend around 1,100 hours each year managing and maintaining them at an annual cost of around £17,000. This excludes any improvement projects.
- We have created and now actively manage around 5 acres of wild flower meadows.
- We usually plant around 500 trees every year.
- We provide flowers in many flower beds and planters around the parish.
- We help residents with their wide ranging land management queries and often have to take action to encourage private land owners to improve the maintenance of their own land.
- We always investigate every single enquiry we receive and will always reply to residents. We welcome your feedback. Oliver Saunders, our Open Spaces Officer, will happily speak with you.

Meet our Open Spaces Team



Stratton St Margaret's Grounds Team

Summer Gardening Top Tips!

In summer you will probably see a lot of beneficial wildlife activity in your garden and hopefully lots of flowers.

A great way to help bees and butterflies is to grow plants in your garden that provide lots of nectar for them to feed on. Some good examples include Buddleia, Lavender, Hebe, Ivy, Foxglove, Honeysuckle, Oregano, Caryopteris and Jasmin. Nearly all plants that are highly beneficial to pollinators require a lot of sunshine, so make sure you plant them in the sunniest parts of your garden.



It's a great idea to provide a bird bath and keep it topped up with water. Why not create a cool, damp spot for amphibians by making a log pile in a shady corner? For best results semi-cover the log pile in soil to insulate it from extreme temperatures and line it with moss. If you are really adventurous, why not create a pond? The internet is full of advice on how to build one.

Water management is very important. It is a good idea to use rain water in your garden rather than tap water, as it has more beneficial qualities within it for plants and is more sustainable.



Committee

OPEN SPACES cont.

We have around 5 acres of wild flowers throughout our parish, split into 3 larger areas and around a dozen smaller ones. We are always looking for new areas where we can attempt this but WE DO understand that residents want and need short grass in most areas in order to be able to use it. Lists of wild flower species that we have growing can be obtained from the office but here are a few pictures, all taken on our land, to show you a few of them.

White Campion



Devils-bit Scabious



Restharrow



Foxes!

We know foxes are intelligent, wild creatures with strong survival instincts and there are many living in Stratton. Foxes are beautiful creatures that are there is much to admire about them.

They do not need our help though. **PLEASE DO NOT FEED THEM.** They are capable of feeding themselves. We are receiving a greater number of complaints from residents, about the numbers of foxes living in peoples gardens. They can be very disruptive for people and we do not want to encourage their numbers to grow.



Their diet is wide-ranging and includes invertebrates, birds, mammals, carrion and fruit. Because a fox can take poultry, lambs, gamebirds and other wildlife including species of conservation concern, it is one of the main subjects of predator control (Reynolds & Tapper 1996).

Fox populations have grown rapidly in the last 25 years due to excessive amounts of food being available for them generally. In 1995, their population numbered around 240,000 in the UK. By 2018, this number had reached 357,000 (Natural England, Mathews et al 2018). Latest numbers are unknown.

We have heard of people leaving out food regularly for them. This also encourages rats. We have even received reports of residents throwing food over the fence into our allotment site at St Philips road, to feed the foxes that live there. Please do not feed them.

Please let these animals fend for themselves without encouraging them.

Allotments

In Stratton we have 2 allotment sites available to rent for those living within the parish (St Phillips & White Hart).

The waiting list for the allotments is still around 1-2 years long. If you would like to be added to the list please contact us at info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Multiple plots have become vacant this season at St Philips and our Allotment Administrator is working hard to get these cultivated and ready to be rented out.

We recently installed new water troughs at St Philips which will help us to be more economical with our water consumption and makes it more convenient for the plot holders.

At our White Hart site we are currently in the process of creating 14 brand new plots which will be ready by October 2022 to rent out to those next on our waiting list.



| Full Plot Our largest plot available | Half Plot Half of a full plot | Quarter Plot Our most popular size | 1/8th Plot The smallest plot we currently offer |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| £ 80 /per year | £ 60 /per year | £ 40 /per year | £ 20 /per year |
| • 12 metres x 45 metres | • 12 metres x 22 metres | • 6 metres x 22 metres | • 6 metres x 11 metres |



Sub Committee

Youth



We have a dedicated Youth Club Committee!

The Youth Club committee is there to influence change and create the best possible outcomes for the young people living in Stratton. Once a quarter we meet to discuss old changes and to implement new ones this means that the wider community will always have a say too. Whenever we have a meeting parents and carers can always attend to talk about change or upbeate the current work.

What to expect in Stratton?

Lots of exciting activities including; Music & Performing arts, Extreme & Club sports, Arts and Crafts, Circus skills, Xbox gaming, Film nights and Informal guidance and chats.

The most important part of the youth club is giving young people a safe space to communicate with other young people and the ability to chat to with professional youth workers. Something to remember is that youth work is there for ALL young people and will always grow naturally based around the need. Youth Workers will be delivering in different areas around the parish meaning that all of Stratton will have a strong workforce ready to engage.



Meet our Youth Development Worker,

Shea has served as a youth and community worker for over 18 years in many different cities and towns, creating changes within wider communities! From youth centres to running mobile provisions Shea has a skill set that is vastly diverse and is passionate about engaging with the younger generation.

Shea is super excited to be part of the first ever youth service for the young people in Stratton. The service is going to bring a new generation of provision to the parish enabling young people to grow personally in a space that never judges or discriminates.





WANT TO TRY SOME
NEW & EXCITING
ACTIVITIES?

DO YOU NEED
SOMEWHERE
TO CHAT TO A
YOUTH WORKER?

Monday



Tuesday

3:30 - 5:30 PM

YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE

5:45 - 8 PM

EVENING STREET SESSION
@ MERTON

3:30 - 5:30 PM

YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE

5:45 - 8 PM

EVENING STREET SESSION
@ GRANGE

Wednesday

3:30 - 5:30 PM

YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE

5:45 - 8 PM

EVENING STREET SESSION
@ MEADOWCROFT

Thursday

3:30 - 5:30 PM

YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE

5:45 - 8 PM

EVENING STREET SESSION
- INTEL BASED



@SSMPCSWINDON



@SSMPCSWINDON



Meet our Council Office Team

Us who work for the Parish Council are proud of what we do! Stratton St Margaret is one of the largest Parishes in the UK with an annual precept of £1.3million and has nearly 23,000 residents. We are larger than most towns! Over the last 12 months we have had many changes and developments within our team to work more effectively & efficiently, read on to find out more...

Clerk

In February 2022 Amy Loxton was officially appointed as Clerk to the Council. Amy's role is to be Head of Paid Service implementing the decisions and policies of the Council within the Scheme of Delegation. To oversee the management of the Parish Council and carry out the statutory duties of a Proper Officer.

Reporting into Amy are 3 x Senior Officers (Deputy Clerk, RFO and Senior Open Spaces Officer) and then our amazing supporting staff.

Working together to make Stratton St. Margaret the very best it can be.

"I have worked within the public sector for my entire career, primarily within the HR and Corporate remit, which is how I joined the Parish Council in 2016 as the HR Officer. Since then, I have completed my degree and CiLCA qualifications and progressed to the Deputy Clerk, then the Acting Clerk and Proper Officer for one year prior to being appointed as the permanent Clerk and Proper Officer in February this year. I am lucky enough to have a team of experienced and driven people who are all experts within their field. I'm also a resident of the Parish and myself and my 3 children are active in the community." - Amy Loxton



Amy

Clerk

- Proper Officer
- HR Officer
- Management of the Council
- Implementing decisions & policies



Chris

Deputy Clerk

- Assist the Clerk
- Events Management
- Management of the Admin Team



Zoe

RFO (responsible finance officer)

- Accounts management
- Annual Budget Estimates
- Risk management
- Investments
- Utilities



Oliver

Senior Open Spaces Officer

- Public Land management
- Planning & organising local developments
- Contractor management



Angela

Facilities Officer

- Property maintenance management
- Risk Assessment
- Overseeing construction/restoration work
- Health & Safety

RFO

In March 2022 Zoe West was promoted to RFO. Zoe's role as RFO is to provide day-to-day financial management of the Parish Council under the direction of the Clerk & Proper Officer. To manage the Council's financial affairs within the legal framework for local authorities and to comply with current legislation, statements of recommended practice. To ensure that the Council complies with the Financial Regulations as approved from time to time by councillors. To act as the Council's "Responsible Finance Officer" (RFO) described in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003

"I started with the Parish in 2017 as a Centre Assistant at Grange Leisure whilst studying AAT (Finance qualification). My previous experience was working within communities as a Neighbourhood Warden. Since being at the Parish I have had various roles including Bookings & Income Assistant, Assistant Finance Officer, Finance Officer and now currently RFO/ Finance Officer. I have completed my FiLCA qualification and am working towards my CiLCA (Local Government qualifications)" - Zoe West

Deputy Clerk

In May 2022 Chris Matthews returned to SSMPC as the Deputy Clerk. Chris's responsibilities include the operational management of the Parish Office and Council Governance including deputising for the Clerk/ Proper Officer in the scheme of delegation.

"I originally started working for the Stratton St Margaret Parish in 2014 as Senior Food & Beverage Officer based at the Grange Centre. In 2019, I was TUPE'd to Grange where I became the Centre Manager for the last 3 years. During this time I managed the day to day running of the Leisure Centre and all of its staff, retaining a strong working relationship with the Parish Council. In May 2022, I re-joined Stratton St Margaret Parish Council as the Deputy Clerk." - Chris Matthews



Shea

Youth Worker

- Youth club management
- Organise and oversee community programmes
- Implementing a sustainable youth provision



Joanna

Finance Assistant

- Finance admin to support the RFO
- Invoice & payment management



Lauren

Media Administrator

- Social Media management
- Website management
- Graphic Design
- Marketing
- Office Admin



Jasmin

Governance & Burials Administrator

- Managing & organising the burials process
- Supporting bereaved families
- Governance reports



Maddie

Administrative Apprentice

- Allotment Administration & Management
- Land Registry research
- Office Admin

Beechcroft Library



The Beechcroft Library and Community Hub always welcomes everyone!

We also have 4 public computers available for use, no need to book these, just come along!

Not only has it got a wide selection of books and audio books for everyone to choose from, it also runs a selection of activities each week, including an Art Group, a Friendship Group, Toddler Storytime, Lego and Chess/board game clubs. Come and have a look, there's sure to be something here for you to enjoy.

We offer a Free Confidential Welfare Benefits Advice Point every Thursday between 10.30am and 12.30pm. For more details, or to book an appointment, please visit www.strattonadvicepoint.co.uk or call 07413 454045.

Beechcroft Library Lego Club

Did you know?

that Beechcroft Library has a Swindon Food Collective box in the library?

We always need the following items; toiletries, sanitary products, household cleaning products, baby food/nappies, & pet food. This month we especially need: small bags of sugar, small jars of coffee, biscuits, long life milk, long life juice, laundry pods and deodorants.



Beechcroft Food Bank



Take action to fight food poverty in Swindon

Items Needed in July:

- Long life juice
- varieties of squash
- small bags of sugar
- tinned fruit
- tinned puddings

every contribution is hugely valued

thank you!

Beechcroft Library is looking to set up a regular

Book Club

Interested in reading and discussing popular books?

For more information & to register your interest please contact us: 01793 690030

or beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



July Activities at Beechcroft Library



Join the summer reading challenge! - Gadgeteers

Sat 9th 11am - 12pm - Stargazing! What is astronomy all about?

Sat 23rd 11am - 1pm - LEGO Club- Gadgets & Science themed!

Regular Free Activities & Groups

- Tues 13:30 - 15:30 Fun Art Group** (everyone welcome)
- Wed 10:00 - 12:00 Friendship Group** (connect with new friends)
- Thurs 10:30 - 11:15 Toddler Storytime** (stories, rhymes & songs)
- 10:30 - 12:30 Stratton Advice Point**
(free confidential Welfare Benefits advice)
- 13:30 - 15:30 Bereavement Group**
(meet for support & companionship)
- Fri 11:00 - 12:30 Sew, Knit & Natter Group**
- Sat 10:30 - 13:30 Board Games** (Chess, Scrabble etc)
- Sat 11:00 - 11:45 Saturday Story Time** (ages 7 & under)*



* Every first & third Saturday of the month (2nd & 16th July)

188 Beechcroft Road, SN2 7QQ. Tel: 01793 68 00 30

What's On?

Don't forget to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which runs from Saturday 9 July to Saturday 10 September. The aim is for children to read at least 6 books during the school summer holidays and there are stickers and rewards for every book read. Children who complete the challenge receive a medal and certificate! Come and sign up and get your free pack from the library from 9 July.

Beechcroft Library will also be running some events during the school holidays, such as Star Gazing in July, craft events and more, in line with the Gadgeteers theme. Follow our Facebook Page Friends of Beechcroft Library to find out more!



Bereavement Support Group

Every Thursday
1:30pm - 3:30pm

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, we are here for you. Come and join our bereavement group to meet and talk with others for companionship & support during a difficult time.

Activities & refreshments will be available.

Grief is as unique as you are, and as individual as a fingerprint. Each person will be affected in their own specific way.

For more information, please contact us:
E-mail: beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
Tel: 01793 680030
Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, SN2 7QQ



Councillor Surgery with Claire Crilly

Pop down to Beechcroft Library on the first Thursday of every month between 1pm and 2pm, starting in July, for a councillor surgery with Cllr Claire Crilly. Councillor surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk their local councillor face to face. If you would like to obtain information or advice, make a complaint or enquire about services that the Council provides, these sessions are open for anyone to come and have a chat!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Sunday 5th of June 2022 SSMPC celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Held on Grange Leisure Centre field, around 4,000 residents & 24 vendors attended and enjoyed a fun filled day of activities.

We hope everyone had a wonderfully royal time celebrating the Jubilee with us!

We managed to raise over £1,600 for our Chairman's charity, Swindon Carers Centre! Thank you to everyone who took part & made donations.

A massive thank you is also due to our fabulous team who spent months planning & organising the event!



**Drove Vets
Dog Show**



**Pre School
Bunting Competition**



**Face Painting &
Glitter**



**Circus
Games**

"Our daughter played with lots of other children with the guy doing bubbles and balloons were fab!! Stratton historians had a great stand inside along with the library. All great for kids and also interesting for adults!" – Jess A



**1st Stratton Scouts
Axe Throwing**



**Donkey
Rides**



**Raffaele's
Ice Cream**



**Tractor
Rides**



"We spent 3 hours there, Had a brilliant time. Drove Vegs Dog Show was good fun. Everyone seemed to be happy and having a good time" – Gina N



**Charity Cake
Stall**



**Hog
Roast**



**Adult Assault
Course**



"We had an amazing time, depends what you're looking for really. Music was good, cakes were good and the general atmosphere was really nice" – Diane S



**Magic Mirror
Photo Booth**



**Magic Mirror
Photo Booth**



**Magic Mirror
Photo Booth**





Upcoming Events



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council hosts a variety of public events throughout the year ranging from festivals, to commemoration events.

Over the next few coming months, we have a car boot sale, 4 open air cinema events & BEST enrichment sessions.

Sunday 17th July 2022 – Car Boot Sale!

Come down to Meadowcroft Field from 8am – 12pm to grab some bargains and have a clear out!

Friday 22nd July & Saturday 23rd July - Open Air Cinema!

Come to Meadowcroft field for a FREE open air cinema event!
Harry Potter - Friday 22nd July @ 7:30pm
Mamma Mia - Saturday 23rd July @ 7:30pm

Friday 2nd September & Saturday 3rd September - Open Air Cinema!

Come to Grange Leisure Centre for a FREE open air cinema event!
Avengers - Friday 2nd September @ 7pm
Grown Ups - Saturday 3rd September @ 7pm

29th July - 26th August - BEST summer sessions

Join BEST 'be a better you' throughout July & August for some free summer holiday enrichment sessions at Meadowcroft Community Centre.

For 5-16 year olds, come and learn some new skills such as:
Boxing, Martial Arts & Football!



f @ssmpcswindon

Meadowcroft Field
SN2 7JX

Car Boot
Sale



8am - 12pm Sunday 17th July

£5

Per Pitch

01793 823 761 info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
Meadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent,
Swindon, SN2 7JX



FRI, 2 SEP AT 19:00

SAT, 23 JUL AT 19:30

MAMMA MIA!
THE MOVIE



OPEN
AIR

CINEMA

MEADOWCROFT FIELD
& GRANGE LEISURE



GROWN UPS



SAT, 3 SEP AT 19:00

FRI, 22 JUL AT 19:30



Horizon
EXPERIENCES

BEST
BE A BETTER YOU

In partnership and fully funded by



FREE SUMMER HOLIDAY
ENRICHMENT SESSIONS
AT MEADOWCROFT
COMMUNITY CENTRE

DATES

- 29/07/22 13:00 - 15:00
- 05/08/22 13:00 - 15:00
- 12/08/22 13:00 - 15:00
- 19/08/22 13:00 - 15:00
- 26/08/22 13:00 - 15:00



- For ages 5-16
- Learn basic boxing, marital arts
an football skills
- Make friends
- Build confidence!

To book your place, please email
info@bestrust.co.uk quoting Stratton

COMING SOON...



DATE & TIME: TBC

F
R
E
E

C
A
F
E

Help us reduce food
waste by coming along
and putting surplus food
to use. Available every
week.

@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

Grange Leisure

Since Parkwood Leisure has been working alongside the Parish, Grange Leisure has seen many benefits and growth within the last few years. During times of Covid and the centre having to be closed, we wanted to ensure when we reopened, it was a safe environment and to showcase our outstanding facilities at Grange.

The refurbishment of the Leisure Centre has seen the whole place take on a new modern feel, with updated facilities available such as our new coffee shop and **FREE** to use Soft Play.

The 55-station gym, including all of the latest equipment is available for everyone to come and enjoy! Whether that's Junior gym sessions or for a workout, programs and inductions!

We have a **BRAND NEW** class program with over 30 classes available, Les Mills classes, Indoor cycling studio, Walking Netball, HITT and Pilates available for all!

We have 4 x Badminton Courts available to book and also Indoor football!

Our indoor cycling studio is the perfect opportunity to learn spinning whether that's with family or friends, you can come down and enjoy a Les Mills virtual class (these include RPM and Sprint classes)

Studios are available to hire, whether that's community events, dance schools, meeting rooms or even venue hire, we have everything available for you!

Looking to book your perfect event? Whether that's kids birthday parties, wedding receptions (With our indoor marquee), surprise parties, dog shows and many **MORE!!!**

Our Artificial Grass pitch is the best priced pitch in **SWINDON!** Perfect for a kick about with your friends or even teams looking to host somewhere to train.

We always continue to serve the community, ensuring we provide the best to all of our members, guaranteeing everyone leaves with a smile on their face!

We look forward to welcoming you to Grange Leisure and Community Centre.



What's On?

Opening Times

Mon - Fri 06:30 - 22:00

Sat - Sun 08:00 - 18:00

GRANGE

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

WE ARE THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

We pride ourselves on being here to help you on your fitness journey, and ensuring your visit is as comfortable as possible, no matter your age or ability.

Situated in the heart of Stratton St. Margaret, Grange Leisure and Community Centre offers a wide range of accessible facilities and you can also relax in our cafe.

GYM

Our spacious gym area is filled with a range of state-of-the-art equipment, with over 50 stations for you to exercise with confidence.

CLASSES

From HIIT to pilates or BodyPump to Low intensity body conditioning, we have group exercise classes to suit everyone of all levels.

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Badminton, five-a-side, netball - our sports hall hosts a range of sports for you to try.

EVENTS

With its own private bar and an enclosed outdoor patio area, the Stratton Suite is available for birthday parties, christenings, wedding receptions, award ceremonies, conferences. The main hall with a private bar can host larger functions [up to 350 people seated].

For more information,
contact us today

LeisureCentre.com

01793 825525

Grange Drive, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY



Follow us on social media

LEXLEISURE

Working in Partnership with your Local Authority



SCAN HERE FOR



A 3 DAY PASS

at the Grange Leisure and Community Centre

Parish News

Ash Die-Back

Disease or *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* is a serious problem to our native Ash trees. It arrived in the UK in 2012, and will kill around 80% of Ash trees across the UK. At a cost of billions, the effects will be staggering. It will change the landscape forever and threaten many other species.

It's a fungal infection that is carried by wind infecting new trees. Infected spores can carry for miles in the wind, so it spreads incredibly fast.

At Stratton Parish Council we are aware that these trees pose a health and safety threat which is why we are commissioning a special survey this summer to check their health. Any dangerous trees, particularly Ash, will be reduced or removed immediately. We usually spend around £15,000 a year managing our trees and we are budgeting more and more annually to ensure they are safe.

It is important that we all plant a tree in our garden if we have space and can manage it. A greater variety of tree species in the landscape is a good way to avoid mass extinctions caused by diseases such as Ash Die back Disease.



Meadowcroft Park to Receive Huge Investment in 2022 and 2023

At a meeting on Wednesday 29th June, the Parish Council agreed to the following new projects all of which will be paid for using grant funding and s106 funding. S106 money comes from housing developers who have built houses within the parish. Total spend will be around £300,000.

1.



Extend the car park to create an extra 30 minimum spaces to cope with the increasing usage. Football and other events occurring on the weekends create a lot of extra traffic at Meadowcroft. Parking is a real problem and we have received many complaints about the way the local roads and pavements are used especially when the football pitches are busy.

2.

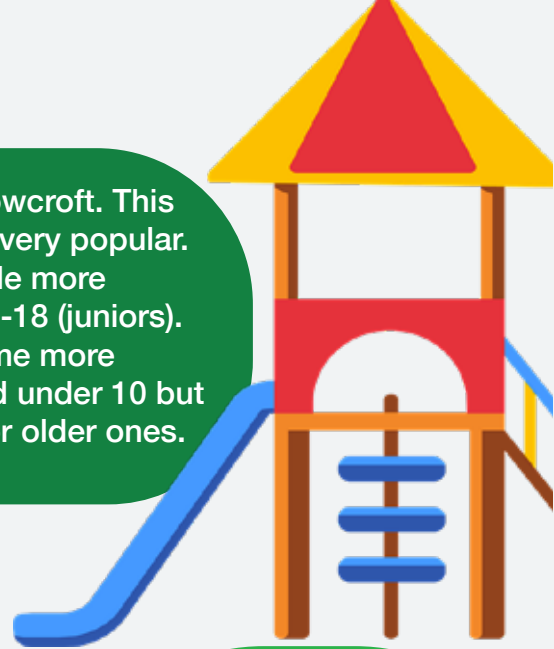
To resurface and widen the 340-metre-long footpath that crosses the rear of the park from Farrfield to Dockle Way. We have received several complaints in recent years including notification of people actually falling over on the surface. It would also benefit from being wider so that people walking or on bikes or scooters can pass each other more easily.





3.

To improve the play area at Meadowcroft. This area has a large catchment and is very popular. There is obvious demand to provide more equipment for the age category 12-18 (juniors). The proposed plans do deliver some more equipment for young children aged under 10 but they focus mainly on equipment for older ones.



Single Point Swing



Basket Swing



Climbing Area

4.

To build a brand new skate park for Stratton on Meadowcroft Rec. This will not be delivered until Spring 2023 but this is now agreed and the contractor has been chosen. An enormous amount of planning and public consultation has gone into preparing this project. The proposed plans can be seen below. It's not too late to give your opinion to us on this!



Police update

In 2020 we restructured our Police in order to better focus on the Communities we serve, this has enabled us to have small groups of dedicated officers given a responsibility for a geographical area. Our team's work closely with local authorities, charity organisations and residents to help decide policing priorities which helps us find long term solutions.

C o m m u n i t y

The community is at the heart of everything we do, the information that the community provide us with, helps us shape our response to issues that directly affect you. Since the end of the pandemic reports of crime have started to go back to the levels we saw pre-pandemic but under this new model we are able to look at sustainable long term solutions and preventative measures to help reduce this demand, more importantly to make the community in which we are based a safer place to be.



Our Swindon Police Facebook page will advertise community consultation events that will give us the opportunity to speak with you directly on the issues that are of concern. I would also like to remind the public on how to report a crime to the Police. This can be done either by phone (in case of an emergency please contact 999 and for non-urgent crimes and incidents please call 101) or alternatively you can report a crime on our website www.wiltshire.police.uk.

Your Local Policing Team

Your local Policing team hope that you enjoy some nice weather over the summer. We are mindful that we can sometimes see a rise in anti-social behaviour. Stratton is a great area to live and I know the Parish council work hard on developing and maintaining recreational area's for children and young adults. This helps with reducing anti-social behaviour by providing areas and activities for young people to use safely.

Many thanks your Local Stratton Team;-

Sergeant POOLE, PC
DELLER, PCSO RILEY, PCSO
MUHAMMED, PCSO XU.



SGT Poole



PC Deller



PCSO Riley



PCSO Xu



PCSO Muhammed



FAQ's

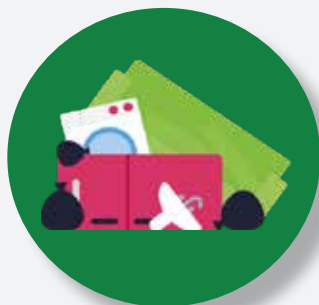


How do I report a damaged man hole cover?

Check the manhole lid for the company name and contact them directly for repairs

Do you clear fly tipping?

We are responsible for clearing all fly tipping from public land in the parish (landowners are responsible when it is on their private land)

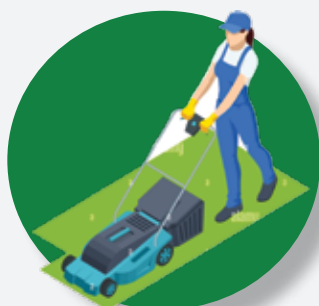


Do I need to be a member to use a public PC in the Library?

No, the computers in the library are free and available for everyone to use!

Will you cut the grass outside my house?

If we own the land then yes! We mow all of our grass every 3 weeks from end of March to end of October. Some priority areas are done fortnightly.



How long is the allotment waiting list?

Around 1-2 years & we are expanding our site to speed up the wait. Please contact us if you would like to be added to the list!

Can I buy a grave if I live outside Stratton parish?

Unfortunately, no. We have limited grave space and parish residents are our priority. You must live within Stratton Parish boundaries when purchasing a plot.



Did you know?

The pond at Church Park, near St Margaret's Church, which dries out each summer is home to a thriving population of the very rare Great Crested Newt. We manage the pond accordingly to protect this species. Contrary to popular belief they actually spend the majority of their lives out of the water.

Ermin Street in Stratton is part of an old Roman Road known as the Ermin Way. It was one of the oldest Roman Roads in Britain. Running from Glevum (Gloucester) via Corinium (Cirencester) to Durocornovium (Wanborough) where there was a large Roman settlement.

The Parish Council has been accredited with the Quality Award through the Local Council Award Scheme. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

2022 Meetings

| Date | Event | Start |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------|
| July 2022 | | |
| 6 th July | Property | 7pm |
| 13 th July | Planning | 7pm |
| 20 th July | Full Council | 7pm |
| 27 th July | Finance | 6pm |
| August 2022 | | |
| 24 th August | Planning | 7pm |
| 31 st August | Open Spaces | 7pm |
| September 2022 | | |
| 14 th Sept | Personnel | 7pm |
| 21 st Sept | Planning | 7pm |
| 26 th Sept | Full Council | 7pm |
| October 2022 | | |
| 5 th Oct | Finance | 6pm |
| 12 th Oct | Property | 7pm |
| 19 th Oct | Planning | 7pm |
| 26 th Oct | Youth | 7pm |

| Date | Event | Start |
|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| November 2022 | | |
| 2 nd Nov | Open spaces | 7pm |
| 23 rd Nov | Planning | 7pm |
| 30 th Nov | Full Council | 7pm |
| December 2022 | | |
| 7 th Dec | Personnel | 7pm |
| 14 th Dec | Planning | 7pm |
| 21 st Dec | Finance | 6pm |
| January 2023 | | |
| 11 th Jan | Full Council | 7pm |
| 18 th Jan | Property | 7pm |
| 25 th Jan | Planning | 7pm |
| February 2023 | | |
| 8 th Feb | Open Spaces | 7pm |
| 15 th Feb | Planning | 7pm |
| 22 nd Feb | Youth | 7pm |

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and accessible. All of our meetings are open to the public and press and are held in Meadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent, Swindon, SN2 7JX. With the exception of the Annual Assembly which is due to be held at Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive, Swindon SN3 4JY. Before every meeting the Agenda can be viewed on our noticeboards

at Meadowcroft Community Centre, Beechcroft Library and Grange Leisure Centre (as well as on our website). All minutes are uploaded on the website.



Useful Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Beechcroft Library | 01793 680030 |
| BEST Trust | 01793 200124 |
| Community Centre | 01793 823761 |
| Drove Vets | 01793 821821 |
| Grange Leisure | 01793 825525 |
| Great Western Hospital | 01793 604020 |
| Merchiston Surgery | 01793 823307 |
| Open Spaces | 01793 823761 |
| SSM Womens Institute | 01793 829900 |
| St Margarets Church | 01793 826505 |
| Stratton Parish Council | 01793 823761 |
| Swindon Carers | 01793 531133 |
| Swindon Mind | 01793 432031 |
| Swindon Sexual Health | 01793 604038 |
| The Pest Controller | 07557 023940 |



@ssmpcswindon



@ssmpcswindon

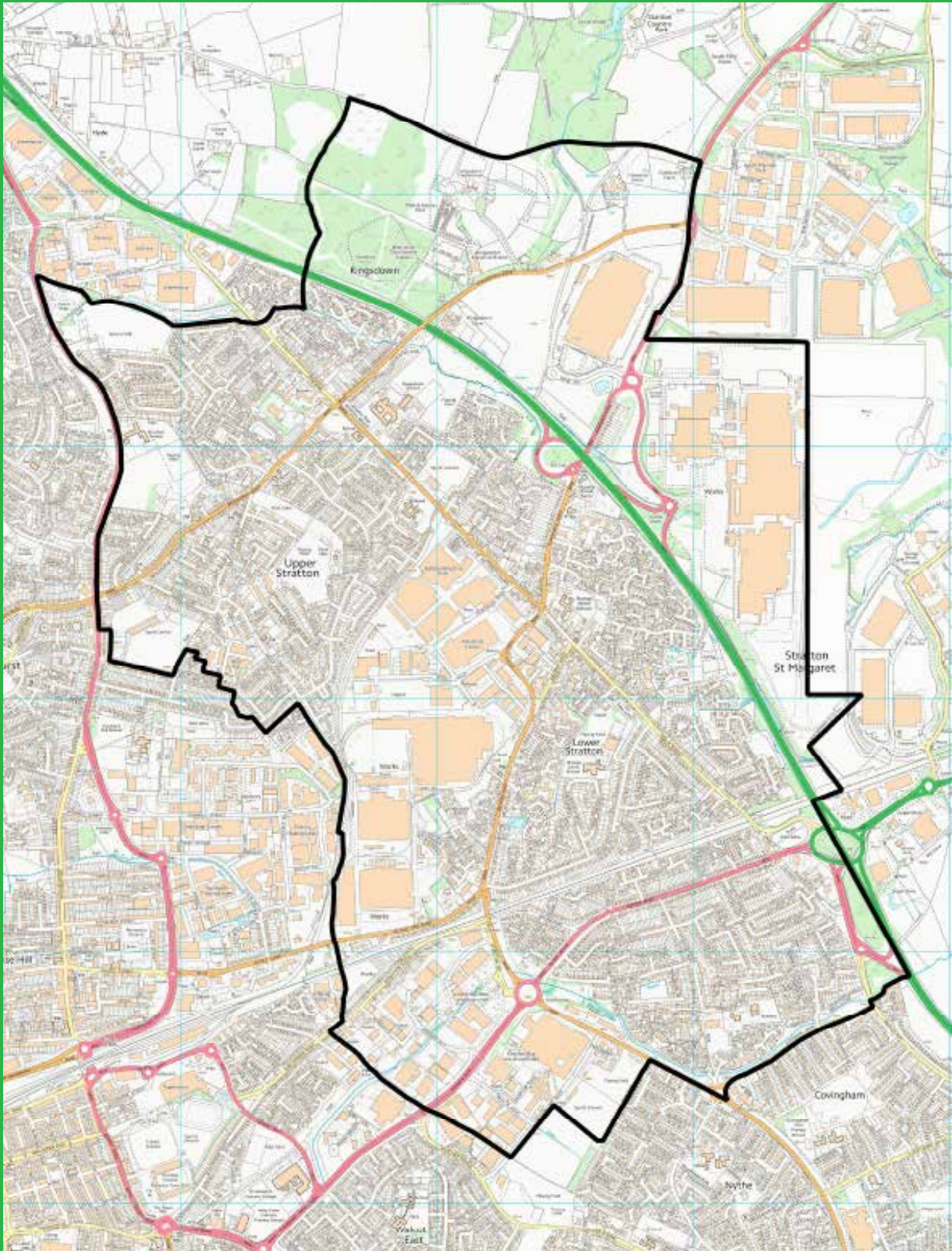
| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Co-op Funeral Service | 01793 539432 |
| Hillier Funeral Service | 01793 522797 |
| Pearce Funeral Service | 01793 832072 |
| G&L Evans Funerals | 01793 237852 |
| Franklin Memorials | 01793 766715 |
| AE Smith Funerals | 01793 237885 |
| Kingsdown Crematorium | 01793 822259 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Beechcroft Infants | 01793 700220 |
| Beechcroft Infants | 01793 823278 |
| Colebrook Junior | 01793 823057 |
| Grange Infants | 01793 823278 |
| Grange Junior | 01793 823278 |
| Kingsdown | 01793 822284 |
| Ruskin Junior | 01793 332107 |
| St Catherines Primary | 01793 822699 |
| St Lukes Academy | 01793 705566 |





Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



Serving the Community since 1894