



Stratton Parish News

WINTER 2023 - ISSUE 004

Serving the Community

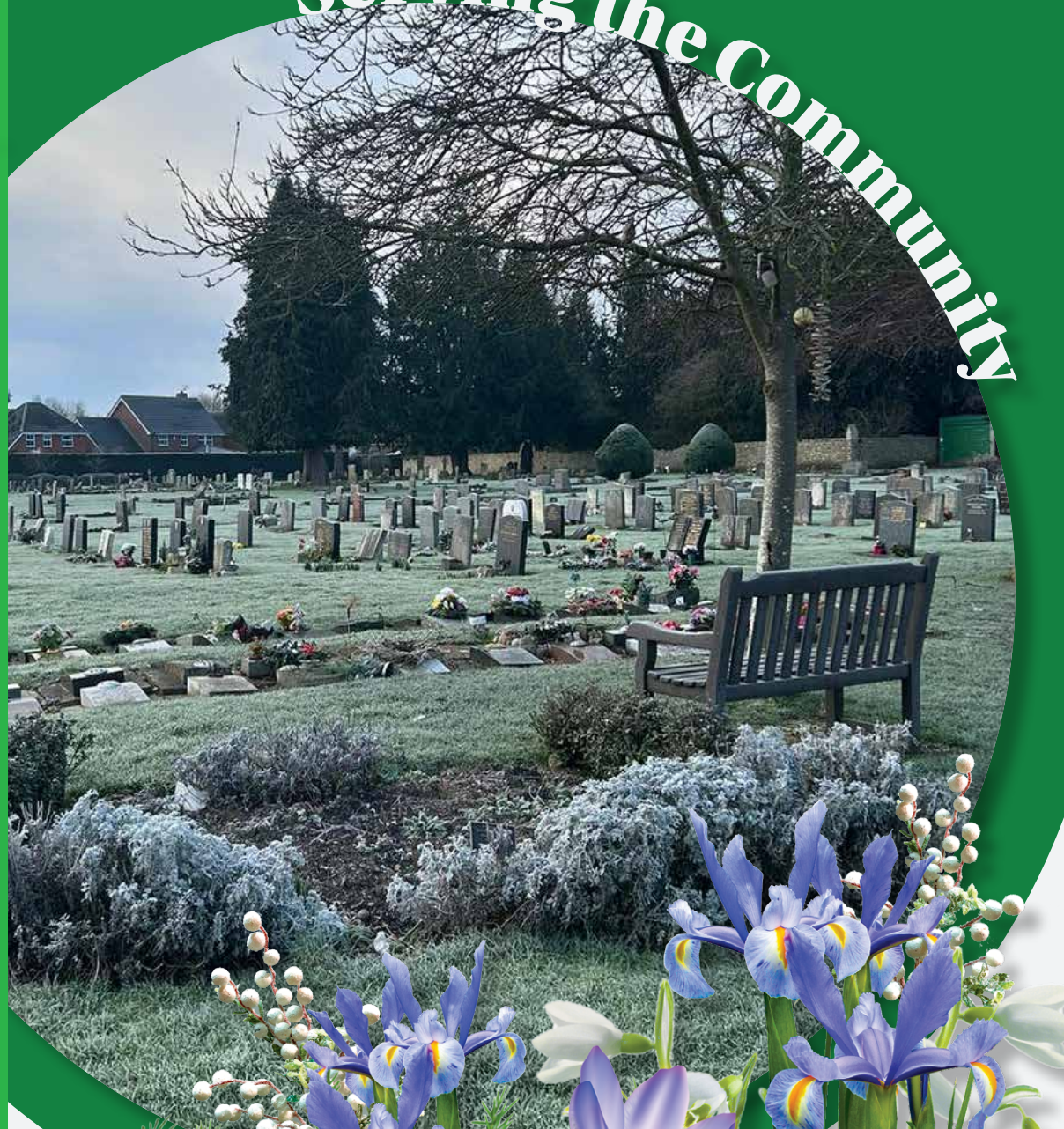
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SSMPC starts with you

Meet Your Council

What is a Parish Council?

A Parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people residing in the Parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with Swindon Borough Council above it in the hierarchy. As the authority closest to the people, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is the first-place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason, we are a vital part of the community and we want to encourage you to engage with us.

What does your Council do?

- Community Safety
- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Playing Fields
- Community Centres
- Litter
- War Memorials
- Consultation of neighbourhood planning

Make sure you participate in the democratic process

Thursday
4 May 2023

by voting to elect your councillors



Councillors are the representative to ensure we are fulfilling the requirements of the local community. They will canvas to find out what improvement the people actually living in the area want from their council tax monies. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has 19 elected representatives who serve as Parish Councillors; as democratically elected local representatives, they have a unique and privileged position and the potential to make a real difference to people's lives. They represent the interests of the whole community. Some represent a political party and others are independent of party affiliations

Electors can identify potential councilors and nominate candidates for election. Candidates must meet the required criteria to be councilors:

- Lived in or within 3 miles of the parish boundary for the whole of the previous 12 months.
- Worked in the Parish as principle or only place of work during previous 12 months.

Information on your current Councillors can be found on the following page and our website under 'Council Governance'.

Local Councillors



Lower Stratton Ward

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



Lower Stratton Ward

Cllr Laura Butcher
e: cllrlaurabutcher@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: cllrbarri Jennings@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: cllrrogersmith@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



Lower Coleview Ward

Cllr Pam Adams
e: cllrpamadams@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Councillors 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

Beechcroft Library Refurbishment

Beechcroft Library in Upper Stratton is receiving a huge investment over 2023! Works have already begun to develop our growing community hub, starting in the beginning of January. Turn to page 15 to read more!



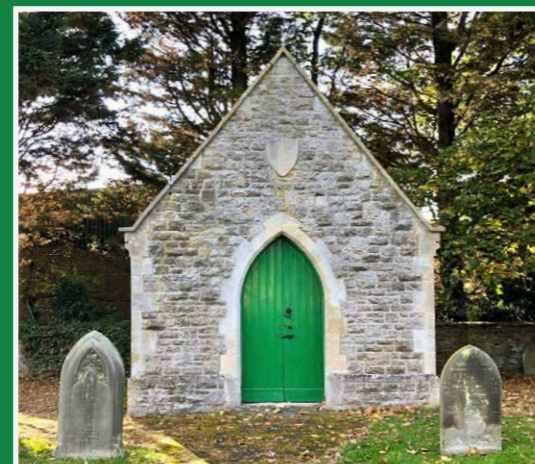
Dorcan Sports Pavilion Demolition

The old derelict sports pavillion at our recreation ground on Greenbridge Road has been demolished. All brick, concrete, plasterboard, metal and timber was recycled. The car park and surrounding land condition will be improved further over the coming months.



Green Road Chapel Restoration Project

After discussions to decide what work needs to be done the proposed works were taken to a Full Council meeting. It was resolved to replace the "thought to be original" wooden floor with a like for like replacement. The current floor is broken in a number of places, and needs replacing before the building can be used again.



The Governance Administrator is currently in talks with Steven Roe from the local Methodist Church about what events will be held once the chapel has been finished. It was mentioned to go into partnership with the Salvation Army to exhibit some art work that homeless individuals around the parish have made and possibly sell to raise money (all proceeds to go to The Salvation Army).

Our Governance Administrator has also been in touch with a local stained glass window company who are on board to install some temporary stained glass windows to the chapel once the renovations are complete.



PRESS RELEASE

NO INCREASE PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT IN 2023/2024

Date Issued : 13th January 2023

Stratton St Margaret Parish Councils Precept for 2023/24 was approved at the Full Council Meeting held on 11 January 2023. The Parish Council are pleased to announce that there was no requirement to request an increase in the precept that is funded by residents via their Council Tax.

Following a thorough and careful process which started in October 2022, the Council resolved to continue to fund services and projects through a precept of £187.10 per Band D property; a decrease of 75p per year per Band D property.

The Band D average figure is used to work out the cost of the precept per household, which reflects the impact of changes in growth assumptions, the number of households receiving single persons discount and/or other discounts and exemptions.

The funding puts in place provision to ensure the effective delivery of all the Councils existing activities and services thereby ensuring that protection of these activities and services are achieved.

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Barrie Jennings extended his gratitude within the Full Council Meeting to the Finance Team for putting together this budget.

The Chairman to the Council, Rob Jandy has the following quote:

"A big thank you and congratulations to the Councils budgeting Officers, Finance Team and Finance and General Purposes Committee for achieving 0% precept increase for the 4th consecutive year, especially during the cost of living crisis."

01793 823761

www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS

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.

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.

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

An Introduction to our Open Spaces Management

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 manage less than 100 acres of land but it's split into more than 100 land parcels.
- Our 4 largest land areas are; Merton Fields 17.5 acres, Meadowcroft Park 14 acres, Greenbridge Recreation Ground 7 acres, Grange Park 5.2 acres and St Margaret's Cemetery 3.8 acres.
- We have machinery to aid us in our work including; 1 tractor with a variety of implements to attach, 1 smaller tractor with loader, 4 large ride on mowers and 1 mini digger.
- We mow our grass every 3 weeks starting end of March until end of October. Some priority areas such as children's play areas and sheltered accommodation bungalows are done fortnightly.
- We have around 2 miles of hedges that are trimmed 1-3 times a year.
- We spend around £75,000 a year clearing rubbish and emptying our 137 bins. 2 men do this full time working very efficiently.
- We have 2 active and beautifully maintained cemeteries and we provide full burial services. In 2022 we carried out 24 full burials and 45 ashes interments in total.
- We spend around £15,000 annually hiring independent surveyors and tree surgeons to aid the maintain our trees.
- We have 2 allotment sites and 151 registered tenants.
- We have 10 children's play areas and 4 basketball/mini soccer courts. We spend around 1,100 hours each year managing and maintaining them at an annual cost of around £17,000. This excludes large improvement projects.
- We have already created and actively manage 5 acres of wild flower meadow. Species diversity is improving annually.
- We usually plant at least 700 trees every year. Some large and many small.
- We provide flower displays in many flower beds and planters around the parish.
- We investigate every single land based enquiry we receive and respond to every resident.



Meet our Open Spaces Team



Stratton St Margaret's Grounds Team

The Grounds Maintenance Team at the Memorial Garden, Ermin Street.

Oliver says; "At the time of writing, we are about to commence our very first apprenticeship scheme. A young man from Swindon has successfully gained an apprenticeship with us for the next 18 months and will work within our team daily, whilst also undertaking a part time training course in Horticulture, at Lackham College. This will bring our team up to 10 full time people in total, including myself. We also have a specialist gardener that helps us with our flower beds for just 6 months of the year, 10 hours a week.

It requires a large, well organised and very determined effort to keep all of our land clean and tidy and our assets up to date. This is the level of staffing that i believe is necessary in order to provide the services to our land that local people expect and deserve. I have worked hard to justify building resources to this level. I'm really proud of my team, they all work hard and bring different skills to the table"

Foxes!

We wish to reiterate our opinion we have on Foxes. These animals are highly intelligent and adaptable and do not need our assistance to exist.

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

They can be very disruptive to gardens, smallholdings and to farming. Please do not feed them. Allow their wild population to live in balance with us instead.



OPEN SPACES cont.

The Parish Council is passionate about the environment and with the Senior Open Spaces Officer we are always looking for ways to make our services more sustainable and environmentally beneficial, without this affecting the core services that people really want. The Council now has a Biodiversity Action Plan to promote this balance. You can find this plan on our website.

Sustainable 2023



Here are some of the positive changes that have been introduced to our services in recent years:

- 5 acres of wild flower meadow already created and another 2 are being added in 2023, most notably at Covingham Drive and Merlin Way road verges. Native wild flower seed has been sown into the existing grass using a chain harrow and hand sowing.
- Around 10,000 trees planted in the last 6 years, many of them into new hedges. This has included several community orchards where fruit trees are now available to the public.
- Various specific habitat improvement projects undertaken, including the dredging of ponds at Church Park (nxt to St Margaret's Church) and Claridges (Marshfield Way) and the installation of hibernacula's for amphibians to hibernate within.
- At our workshop we have just increased our rainwater collection capacity, taking it up to 8,000 litres total. Using our trailer mounted water bowser, with pump, we use rainwater (which is more beneficial to plants than tap water) to water our flowers and new trees especially during the summer, when droughts are becoming more common.
- In 2020 we changed our rubbish collection services so that a large proportion of the waste we collect is taken away and burned in an incinerator to produce electricity.
- We recycle as much of the waste as we can, especially metal and timber. Plastic is difficult logistically for us to recycle, for further information on our waste services contact our office.
- We have changed 2 of our vans over to fully electric models in the last 2 years. They produce zero emissions within our parish and are invaluable to our services.
- We have converted most of our handheld groundscape machinery, such as strimmers and chainsaws over to electric, so that they are not producing harmful emissions. These machines are also quieter and more comfortable to use.
- We have closely examined our travelling and we ensure our vehicle usage is reduced as much as we can. This includes ensuring we empty our 137 bins efficiently.



Allotments

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

We want to remind residents that we have an allotment site located on Beechcroft Road called St Philips Allotments the waiting list for this site includes no more than 10 people so we would love for more people to apply for one at this site to stop any vacant plots becoming neglected and overgrown.

If you are interested in applying for an allotment please send your full name, address and contact details to info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

We are currently looking for volunteer groups to help cultivate overgrown plots at our St Philips site this spring and summer, if you are interested or know a group you think will be able to take part please email info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Full Plot Our largest plot available	3/4 Plot Suitable for experts	Half Plot Half of a full plot	Quarter Plot Our most popular size	1/6 Plot Perfect for beginners	1/8 Plot The smallest plot we currently offer
£ 88 /per year	£ 66 /per year	£ 44 /per year	£ 22 /per year	£ 16.50 /per year	£ 11 /per year
• 12 metres x 45 metres	• 12 metres x 45 metres	• 12 metres x 22 metres	• 6 metres x 22 metres	• 6 metres x 11 metres	• 6 metres x 11 metres



Youth



Our Space...

The Parish Council is currently investing in new shutters and doors for the Youth Room. These improvement works are in place to make our room more modernised and secure for the future provision and space itself.



MEADOWCROFT
COMMUNITY CENTRE
SN2 7JX
01793 823761



PLEASE COULD YOU SPEND SOME TIME ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

The Parish Council offered its first Youth Christmas Dinner for young people at Meadowcroft Community Hall. The event went well with 44 young people having a meal together all in one place. Young People got to socialise with each other and enjoy some festive joy whilst watch a film. The event was free and was a great success with young people commented on how fun it was doing something different as did parents. With the Youth Team managing the hall, we even had the Deputy Clerk and Clerk of the council helping and cooking this was a great way for young people to meet more of the parish council team and for people to communicate together.

Xmas Celebrations



Things to look forward to...

Plans for the upcoming February Half Term include: Trampolining, Climbing, Litter Picking & more!

Make sure to follow our social media pages to keep up to date with all of the latest Youth Club activities!



1

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A YOUTH PROVISION WHICH OFFERS A YOUTH CLUB AT MEADOWCROFT AND STREET BASED PROVISION?

2

OTHER THAN THE FOR MENTIONED, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WITHIN THE PARISH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

3

WHICH PART OF THE PARISH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THIS: COLEVIEW, LOWER STRATTON, UPPER STRATTON, MERTON?

PLEASE SEND ANY SUGGESTIONS TO

**INFO@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK
BY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023 AS THESE WILL BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE NEXT YOUTH PROVISION SUB COMMITTEE.**



Volunteering

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council have some brilliant volunteering opportunities for you to get involved in. Whether you would like some experience in library work, or would prefer to get out and about in the open spaces to help improve our community, we have something for everyone!

This is the perfect opportunity for someone looking to broaden their skills and help their local community whilst doing so!



What can I do as a Volunteer?

We have a range of volunteering jobs available, depending on the season, including:

- Litter Picking
- Allotment Work
- Community Events
- Library Work
- Youth Work & more!

*Must be over the age of 16 to apply.

Head to our website to download an application form.

We look forward to welcoming you onboard!

Youth Volunteering

Our Youth provision has grown leaps and bounds since starting in June 2022, and we are now in a position where we would like people to come and volunteer their time whenever they can.

We have fun at the heart of our work with lots of activities and games & there is something fun for everyone. We would like some help between the hours of 3.30pm-5.30pm Monday to Thursday. In order to volunteer all persons will need to be DBS checked which will be provided. For more info get in contact with Shea at 01793 823761 or email shea.stew@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Amazon tree planting volunteers



12 **Nationwide volunteering at the Youth Club allotment plot**



Community Grant Aid

Do you want to start a community project, group or club? Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is proud to support local through our grants scheme!

In the November Full Council meeting, the Council awarded a total of £17,720 on Community Grants to the following organisations...

Organisation	June 2022	October 2022	S106
Ferrell Dance School		£500.00	
Friends of Beechcroft Library		£1,820.00	
1st Stratton St Margaret Scout Group			
Guiding Groups		£3,000.00	
Methodist Church - Clock		£1,000.00	
MHA Live Swindon	£2,000.00		
Pegasus	£650.00		
St Philips Church Make Lunch	£500.00		
St Philips Church Warm Spaces		£1,500.00	
Prospect Hospice		£4,000.00	
Stratton Advice Point		£1,400.00	
St Johns Ambulance	£1,000.00		
Stratton Juniors			
Stratton St Margaret Baby & Toddler Group		£1,500.00	
St Margaret's Pre-School	£2,500.00		
Swing out dance		£1,000.00	
Thursday Club	£600.00		
SUB TOTAL	£7,250.00	£15,720.00	
		TOTAL AWARDED	£22,970
		REMAINING	£2,030

Hear what our successful grant applicants had to say...

"We are very pleased and very grateful to receive such good news, especially with so many worthy people bidding. We will work hard to put your generosity to best use for the benefit of our community." -*Beechcroft Friends*

"**Thank you very much** for the letter informing us of the Parish Council's decision to award us a grant towards our church clock repairs. We are very grateful for this grant and it will be most helpful towards funding the cost of the repairs. We will keep you informed of the progress." -*Methodist Church*

"**Wow! Thank you so much!** I will truly make the funding work for the community's health and wellness. Let's create smiles!" -*Swing Out*

"Thank you for your email. We are grateful for your support with a grant towards our warm spaces." -*St Philips Church*

"Please thank the Parish Councillors for their support of the hospice, **we are very grateful to have been awarded.** Best wishes from everyone here at the hospice." -*Prospect Hospice*



This year sees the return of two of the most popular fundraising events for Prospect Hospice – the Spring Run and Starlight Walk.

The Spring Run takes place on Sunday 12 March at Stanton Country Park & the Starlight Walk makes its return on Saturday 24 June.

To register & for more information visit www.prospect-hospice.net

Beechcroft Library



Beechcroft Librarians, Sheila & Vicky

The Beechcroft Library and Community Hub always welcomes everyone!

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

Did you know?

Beechcroft Library has a brand new Homework Club! Our homework club offers a place for your child to work in a supportive environment outside of school hours. We are here to help you in a range of subjects- English, Maths, Science, Art and many more!

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

BEECHCROFT LIBRARY HOMEWORK CLUB!

$a = \frac{V_f - V_i}{t}$

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 6-7PM

AT BEECHCROFT LIBRARY:
118 BEECHCROFT ROAD
SN2 7QQ
01793 680030

STARTING WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2023, UP UNTIL THE EASTER HOLIDAYS!

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi$

Beechcroft Library provides spaces with respect, warmth and accessibility. We now have free tea and coffee in the library every Wednesday and Saturday, so you can have a drink while you meet our fantastic team, take part in one of our many groups and activities or just pick up a good book!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

AT BEECHCROFT LIBRARY

BEECHCROFT LIBRARY
UPPER STRATTON
SN2 7QQ

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
01793 680030
BEECHCROFT.LIBRARY@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK

HOURS AVAILABLE:
TUESDAY 4PM-7PM
WEDNESDAY 4PM-7PM
FRIDAY 2PM-5PM
SATURDAY 12PM-5PM

Beechcroft Library are looking for volunteers! This is a great opportunity to develop your skills, work within a small team and get to know and support your local community! The hours we are looking to fill are:

The hours they are looking to fill are:

Tuesday 4pm-7pm
Wednesday 4pm-7pm
Friday 2pm-5pm
Saturday 12pm-5pm

If you would like to volunteer then please get in touch with Beechcroft Library :

beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
or
01793 680030



What's On?

Renovation Project

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council decided to completed a major refurbishment at Beechcroft Library during January. This included a new platform lift to make the upstairs more accessible and available to more local groups who use the library. The upstairs has had new tables & chairs and is available to hire again for local groups. Please visit our website for more details.

The library has also benefited from a new front desk and board game shelf which many customers have already started to enjoy.



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Warm Spaces

FOR STRATTON

Providing spaces with respect, warmth & accessibility.

- ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE
- FREE WI-FI
- ACCESSIBLE TOILETS
- BABY CHANGING FACILITIES
- FREE ACTIVITIES

Beechcroft Library
Your Community Hub

MON - CLOSED . TUES - 10AM-7PM . WED - 10AM-7PM
THURS - 10AM-7PM . FRI - 10AM-5PM . SAT - 10AM-5PM
SUN - CLOSED

BEECHCROFT LIBRARY, UPPER STRATTON, SN2 7QQ 01793 68 00 30

SSMPC is now on Radio!



Monday 19th December saw the start of our partnership with Swindon 105.5's radio station!

Jessica Mutlow from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has started her radio training with Swindon 105.5. She will be on air, monthly, chatting and updating everyone on what's been happening within the Stratton area.



Jess

"By working and broadcasting onto another media platform, we will be able to reach a larger target audience. It is a great medium to use within our parish as we will be able to hear and listen to the voices from those living within our community. We are hugely grateful for this new venture as a parish and want to thank all the team at Swindon 105.5." -Jess



Going forwards we will be live every second Monday of each month from 9:30am-11:00am with Des Morgan. Our next live slot will be 13th February 2023. This is now the SSMPC designated slot which we will be discussing current and upcoming events, developments and updates within the parish. We plan to feature some of our Open Spaces members talking on behalf of the grounds team on the work they're doing. As well as our local youth worker, Shea discussing all things youth club and youth club activities!

Tune in to 105.5 to hear more!...



We are also in the process of making some changes to our website so it's more user friendly by both our website and mobile phone viewing. We want to make sure that when you go to view our website all pages clicked onto, you're able to scroll through smoothly.



Named for an Old Testament pathway to Heaven seen in a dream, the pub in Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, may have been the area's earliest. The building, or parts of it, date back to the 18th century. Closed and boarded up by 1999, it was later converted to homes.

Originally called 'Three Cups' mentioned in a 1650's deed, and a marriage settlement in 1670's, later owned by R Reed when transferred to T & E Gilbert in 1702, and then to P. Goddard in 1738. It is believed that the name changed when owned by a William Jacob. The pub was one of only two pubs of this name in the whole of England (the other is in Cornwall).

Jacob's Ladder



1867-1889 Host DIX provided a dinner for 80 to 100 members of Oddfellow's on their Anniversary celebrations. North Wilts Herald 10-08-1867.

1887, A Rabbit coursing match will take place on Feb 12 between two well-known dogs at £5 a side over 11 courses. Sweepstakes will follow.

1911 R.A.O.B. 'Thomas Calley' Lodge to be opened at The Jacob's Ladder.

1912 - Dinner & Social on behalf of Widow & children's Benefit.

1941 Collect 2s 10½d for War Comforts Funds During WWII Mr F C Dent led the local Fire Watch group from the pub.



Christmas Celebrations

2022



We are more than thankful to those who attended our Christmas event and helped to illuminate the festive spirit in Stratton this year!



Over December SSMPC got into the festive spirit and hosted some Christmas celebrations at Meadowcroft including a Carol service with Grange Infants Choir and Swindon Brass Band as well as a giant snow globe & festive crafts!



Grounds Team & Local Police



Swindon Brass Band

“What a lovely evening. Thanks to all the staff, we were kept busy all evening, a great night was had by all”



Snow Globe & Festive Crafts

What's on

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 Community Allotment Event, a Coffee Morning at Beechcroft Library, and the Parish Council Annual Assembly!

Wednesday 1st February - Community Allotment Event

Come down to Meadowcroft Community Centre at 6pm for our community allotment event. This is the perfect opportunity for plot holders to discuss allotment queries with our allotment management team. There will also be local bee keepers attending to provide educational info and some local honey!

Saturday 18th February - Community Coffee Morning

Join us at Beechcroft Library for a coffee morning with live music, a raffle and home-made cakes to raise money for our Chairman's Charity Swindon Carers.

Every Friday - Community Cafe

Come down to Meadowcroft Community Centre and enjoy a tea or coffee & meet your neighbours from 10am-12pm. Help prevent food waste and take away surplus food from local supermarkets.

Wednesday 26th April 2023 - Parish Council Annual Assembly

A great opportunity for members of the public to learn what activities the various Organisations in the parish carry out during the year. It is also an opportunity to raise any issues with the Parish Council.

Follow us on Facebook for more details & to stay up to date with the latest events! - @ssmpcswindon

Parish Developments



At the end of November our Stratton St Margaret Parish Council office & grounds team planted some beautiful plants around Meadowcroft & filled the new flowerbeds.

We planted early flowering Crocuses around the office and native bluebells into the wild flower areas on the park. Crocus flowers lead the way for other spring bloomers to follow. They bloom bright and early, bringing much needed color after a long winter.

We can't wait to see them bloom throughout spring!



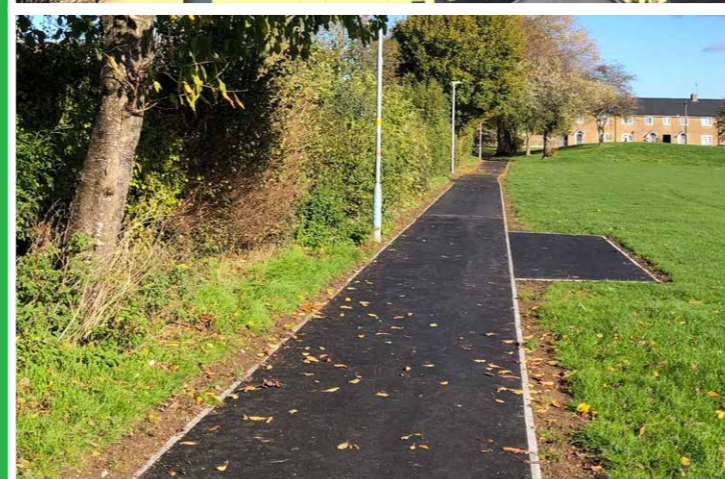
Our new public bicycle repair and maintenance stand provides a workstation for cyclists to make self-service repairs when they're out and about. The station can also be used to repair pushchairs & wheelchairs! All the necessary repair tools are enclosed within the unit including; Hex key set, phillips screwdriver, flat screwdriver, adjustable spanner, flat wrench 8x10 mm, flat wrench 13x15 mm, tyre levers and an integrated pump. This will be installed at Meadowcroft Recreational Ground soon. We hope this will be used and loved by many in the local area!



Meadowcroft Park Investment 2023

A new road sign has been fitted directing you from Meadowcroft Road into Addison Crescent. If you turn down this road you'll find Stratton St Margaret's parish council offices. Also located here is Meadowcroft Community hall, many free public parking spaces, Meadowcroft field, park and soon the skatepark; planned to be completed by spring 2023!

Our newly resurfaced and widened pathway at Meadowcroft Park is now complete. In total it is 340 meters long. We plan to install a bench along the path overlooking the beautiful Meadowcroft green. This busy route is now safe and sound for many years to come!



We have just installed playground markings onto our newly resurfaced 340 meter tarmac path at Meadowcroft Park. Huge play and learning benefits for a relatively small investment. We will be adding these into other areas across Stratton over time!

Upcoming Developments

- Total revamp to play area at Delamere Park. Details to follow in spring.
- Complete pond at White Hart Allotments and improve the access ramp to the site. Replace water taps with water troughs.
- Carry out coppicing and other habitat management work at Merton Fields Park.
- Complete winter safety work to trees. 11 small contracts have been agreed with local contractors and are being delivered.

Grange Leisure

Find your courage and try something new this year! Whether it's coming to meet new people, trying out a new sport, learning a new routine or receiving fitness advice, we've got you covered with a friendly team and community.

After teaming up with the Get Swindon Active Campaign we are delighted to introduce our first step in getting Swindon active. We are launching 'Get The Grange Walking' – a 30-minute walking club twice a week starting in February. Every Tuesday & Thursday at 11am.

Led by our studio Coordinator Claire Mccrogan, we are extremely excited to offer this new service to the local residents of the Parish. This is free to both members and non-members and will be capped at 20 people per session. Please book in advance via our Leisure centre app, in centre or over the phone.

New Course!

From Monday 13th March The Grange Leisure Centre are delighted to be expanding our Nutrition and Wellbeing services.



Due to the successful uptake of our first Nutrition and Wellbeing course we are pleased to announce we will be launching our second course starting in March. This course is going to focus on the role of nutrition and lifestyle techniques to support our emotional wellbeing. When we think about our mental health, it is very easy to disconnect our physical body from our emotions, but research now shows that these are intrinsically linked. What we eat, how the systems of our body work and the way we live our lives can directly impact the production of the feel good hormones that can decrease our feelings of fear and anxiety. The new online course will look at how we can adapt our eating patterns and adopt new lifestyle techniques to boost serotonin, lift our mood and help us feel motivated and positive as we move into Spring.



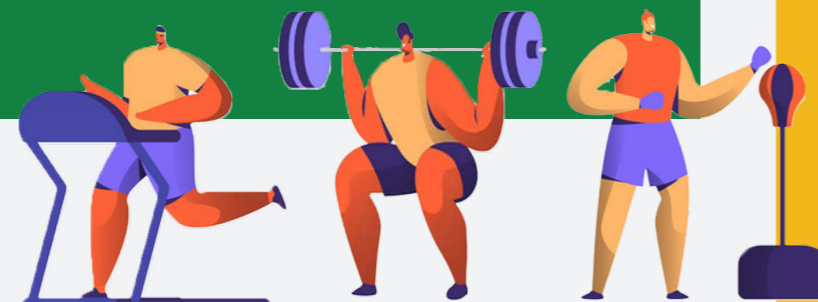
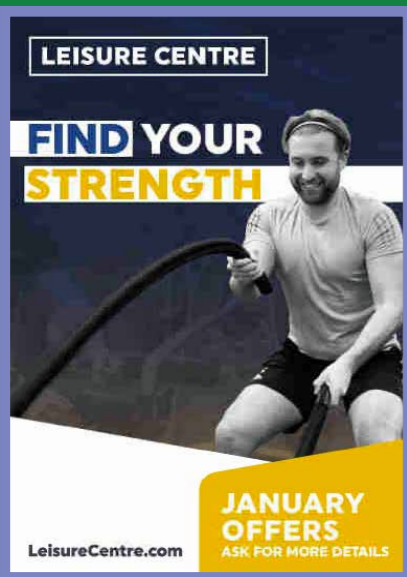
Class Additions!

As of February 2023 we will be adding to our Studio Offering with 2 more holistic classes to feature after popular demand from our members.

Yoga – Mondays 12:15 – 13:00
Body Balance – Wednesdays 09:30 – 10:15

Looking for your next event?

The Grange are delighted to announce further investment into our Private Function Rooms and Patio Area. For more info on our competitive rates and top service, please email grange.reception@lexleisure.org.uk



Opening Times

Mon - Fri 06:30 - 22:00
Sat - Sun 08:00 - 18:00

Stratton Police update

PCSO GUODONG XU and the Team would like to say;

新年快乐/新年快樂

Which means Happy New Year in Mandarin and Cantonese and 2023 is the year of the Rabbit!

Community

The community remain at the heart of everything we do and the information you provide us with means we can look to actively target areas most affected by ASB. 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.

It is worth reminding that 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. To contact your local CPT about a local community-related matter, such as a school visit then please email SwindonAreaCPT@Wiltshire.police.uk



A Message from your Local Team

The last three months went by way too quickly!

We have been kept busy in the Stratton area over the past 6 weeks with a rise in Graffiti.

This is a problem that the Police and Parish are aware of and we are working together to try and establish who is causing the issue and to understand what can be done to prevent this going forward.

We are tackling the issue with a problem solving approach involving partner agencies. The recent Graffiti has been mainly of an offensive nature, however we do want to reassure everyone that Stratton is a safe community for all.

Our residents are very lucky that the open spaces are well maintained and offer a lot for the community.

- Best Wishes, the Stratton team.



PC Deller



PCSO Xu



PCSO Muhammed

Winter Activities



G	A	O	L	S	G	C	O	I	O	L	I	B	L
R	R	S	Y	L	L	I	H	C	T	A	H	E	S
D	R	S	R	N	E	Z	O	R	F	G	E	T	O
A	E	N	I	H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E	U
E	T	O	A	U	S	Z	A	P	L	E	Y	E	P
R	N	W	N	R	I	I	B	F	S	C	C	N	G
B	I	F	F	S	E	C	A	C	O	R	A	R	I
R	W	L	R	E	L	R	B	R	I	V	H	V	W
E	L	A	A	V	C	B	A	D	G	E	R	H	Y
G	F	K	C	O	I	N	I	B	O	R	N	L	A
N	A	E	S	L	C	E	C	F	E	A	S	C	I
I	E	L	H	G	I	F	I	F	R	O	S	T	N
G	R	E	N	E	R	O	O	N	N	H	H	O	D
R	C	A	N	I	C	Y	H	L	S	U	O	G	U

- ICY
- GLOVES
- CHILLY
- HAT
- SNOWFLAKE
- FROST
- GINGERBREAD
- HIBERNATE
- ICICLE
- BADGER
- WINTER
- SOUP
- FROZEN
- SCARF
- ROBIN



FAQ's



Can you cut the grass outside my house?
SSMPC mow all of the grass on the land we own every 3 weeks from March to October. Please get in touch to find out if the grass is our responsibility.

Can you fix the broken street light on my road?
Swindon Borough Council is responsible for all of the lighting across Swindon. Head to their website to report a faulty or damaged light (swindon.gov.uk)



What time does the Youth Club run?
Our Youth Club runs from Monday - Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at Meadowcroft Community Centre for young people aged 10-14 years old.

Who makes the decision on my grant application?
All grant applications are taken to a full council meeting where councillors vote to make a decision.



How do I get added to the allotment waiting list?
Please email us at info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk with your name, address, contact details and preferred allotment site.

Can I buy a grave in Stratton?
SSMPC owns 2 cemetery sites, Green Road and St Margarets. You must live within the parish boundaries to purchase a plot as grave spaces are limited and residents take priority.



Did you know?

In Saxon times Stratton was a market town and had a fair.

Since May 2015, Nythe has been legally separated from Stratton St. Margaret and now forms its own parish council.

During the 1940's there was a bacon factory where Greenbridge is now.

We use 30,000 polythene black bags on rubbish removal every year! (lets keep recycling to help reduce this number)

Beechcroft Library is partnered with The Swindon Food Collective & has a food donation drop off point.

2023 Meetings

Date	Event	Start
January		
11th	Full Council	7pm
18th	Property	7pm
25th	Planning	7pm
February		
8th	Open Spaces	7pm
15th	Planning	7pm
22nd	Youth	7pm
March		
15th	Personnel	7pm
22nd	Planning	7pm
29th	Full Council	7pm

Date	Event	Start
April		
5th	Property	7pm
12th	Planning	7pm
19th	Finance	7pm
May		
17th	Full Council	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

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

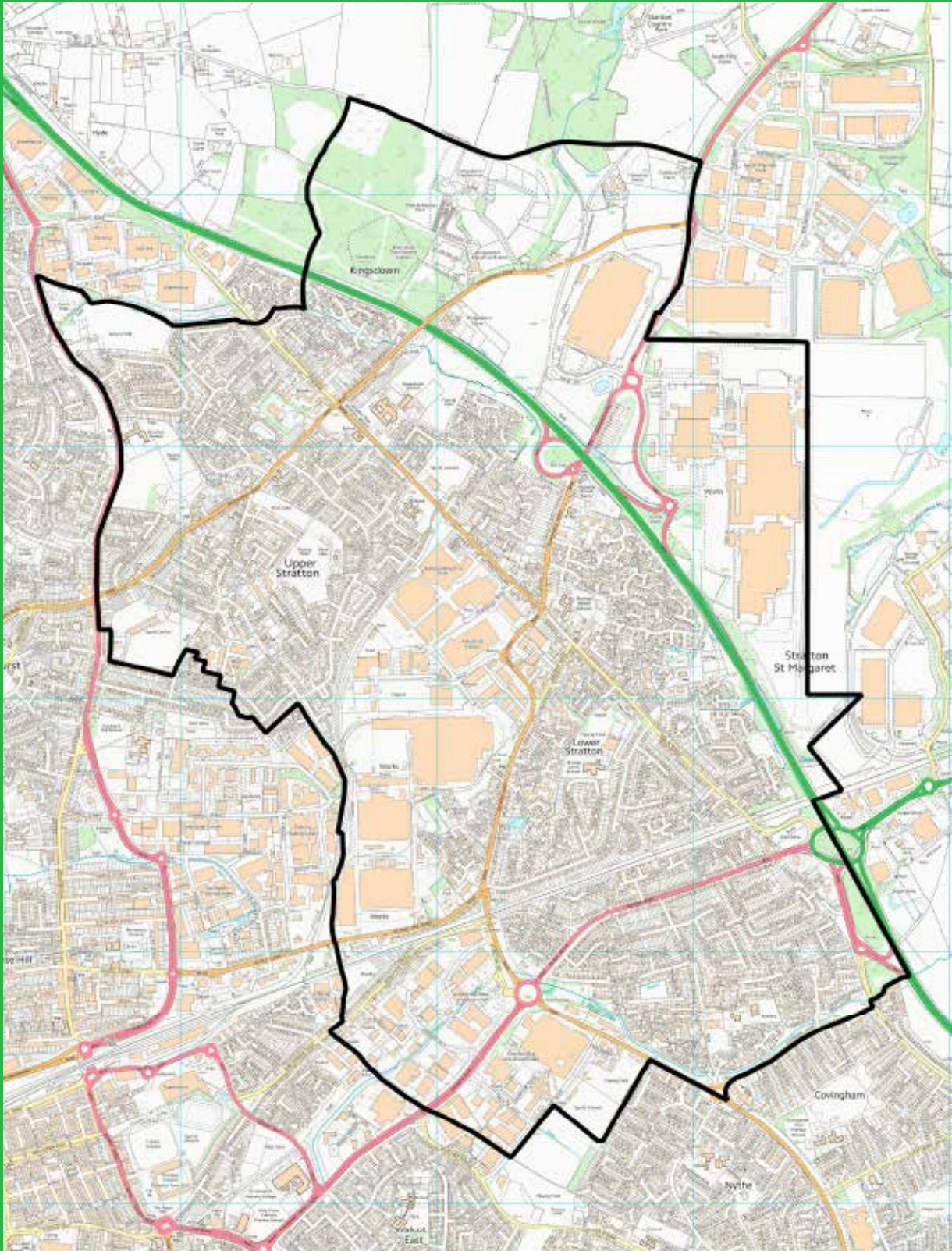
Beechcroft Infants	01793 823278
Colebrook Infants	01793 331960
Colebrook Junior	01793 823057
Grange Infants	01793 823278
Grange Junior	01793 823278
Kingsdown	01793 822284
Ruskin Junior	01793 332107
St Catherines Primary	01793 822699
St Lukes Academy	01793 705566
St Phillips Pre School	01793 705769



Local Contacts



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



Serving the Community since 1894