

Stratton Parish News

SPRING 2023 - ISSUE 005

Serving the Community

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**Introducing our
new Youth Worker**
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Come Along to Stratton St Margaret Parish Councils

Stratton Festival

For Our Local Community! - Coronation Edition

Saturday 15th July 2023

Meadowcroft Community Centre and Field.	12:00 pm - 17:00 pm
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Royal Themed

**Upcoming Parish
Events**
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TAKE PHOTO ID TO VOTE ON 4 MAY



SCAN ME

All voters need to take photo ID to vote
Find out more by scanning the QR Code
or visit www.swindon.gov.uk/voterID

Don't have an accepted form of ID?

Apply for the free Voter Authority Certificate **online**, by post
(call the Council on 01793 445 500) or **in person** on any
working day between 9.30am and 4pm at the Civic Offices (SN1 2JH)



Meet Your Council

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: 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



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

The property management committee have been busy the last couple of months developing and improving our services throughout the parish.

Beechcroft Library Renovation Project

The back room at the library has been renovated from a storage area and office space into a new usable and multifunctional meeting room. This area has already started to be well utilised by the Stratton Advice Point and other regular library groups. The room is looking tidy, fresh and professional.

At the library the flooring upstairs is due to be replaced in the near future as well as upgrades to the stair banisters.

Meadowcroft Community Centre

Meadowcroft Community Centre has recently undergone an in-depth energy survey to assess our sustainability and the council are committed to converting the building to as close to carbon neutral as possible in the near future.



Did you know?

We not only have precept funds to improve our area for our residents we also obtain funding from Grants, Section 106 and a Community Infrastructure Levy.

What is CIL?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (the 'levy') is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. The levy only applies in areas where a local authority has consulted on, and approved, a charging schedule which sets out its levy rates and has published the schedule on its website. Most new development which creates net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or creates a new dwelling, is potentially liable for the levy.

CIL funding is collected by Swindon Borough Council and allocated to Parishes to use each year. CIL receipts are NOT directly connected to the development that paid them and can be used to invest by the Parish quite broadly however CIL cannot be used for funding 'everyday expenditure'.

What is Section 106?

Section 106 is an agreement between a developer and a local planning authority about measures that the developer must take to reduce their impact on the community. This is designed to make a development possible that would otherwise not be possible, by obtaining concessions and contributions from the developer. A section 106 agreement may be modified or discharged, for help negotiating this process a planning expert's help should be sought.

A section 106 agreement must meet the following requirements: It must be necessary, it must be relevant & it must be reasonable.

S106 money provided from development at Crosslink and Kingsdown School, Ermin Street.

Amount £	Spending Restrictions
15,442.07	Enhancement or provision of community facilities anywhere in the parish
11,231.09	Provision of public open space within the vicinity of the original development
32,263.28	Towards the upgrading of a children's play area anywhere in the parish
104,089.85	Towards the upgrade of outdoor sport facilities or changing facilities/pavilion at Meadowcroft

S106 Money provided from development at Wanborough Road

Amount £	Spending Restrictions
8,934.64	For play provision anywhere in the parish
11,835.10	For open space provision anywhere in the parish
8,098.40	For outdoor sports provision, anywhere in the parish

Total: £191,894.43

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.

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.



Play Area Renovation at Meadowcroft:

Cost of build £26,207

£25,000 from the Renovations budget and £1,207 - S106



Footpath Refurbishment at Meadowcroft:

Cost of build £72,773.40

£26,331.56 - S106 and £46,441.84 CIL money



Car Park Extension:

Cost of build £82,670

Community First Grant £10,800 and £71,870 - S106



Climbing Area at Meadowcroft Funding:

Cost of build £29,307.64

£29,307.64 - S106

Open Spaces



Meet our Open Spaces Team



Stratton St Margaret's Grounds Team

Spring is here, finally, after a long grey winter where the weather was generally cold but dry. The start of spring coincides with the end of one financial year and the start of a new one and this gives us a great opportunity to assess 'how we did'!

We have a small yet passionate land management team and enjoy our work. We receive a great deal of support from the council and from within the office and this is testament to the importance of the department to our residents. Please do keep in touch and give us feedback, good or bad. We love to hear from you.

With rising temperatures and increased sunlight, our parks have sprung to life and our Grounds Team have shifted from project work, to more routine maintenance work. Grass cutting started on the 23rd March, 2 weeks later than last year. The delay was due to the colder temperatures we saw in the latter part of winter. We have an arsenal of equipment for managing grass and we will now spend a large proportion of our time for the next 7 months doing this (read more about this on page 8).

Burials

In our two cemeteries our crucially important work continues in the same way it always has; to a high level. The foundation is set in our office with great administration running the services and the good work continues right through to the practical elements we deliver at our cemeteries. We continue to receive compliments from funeral directors and the public alike on the condition of our cemeteries. We take pride in our burial services and believe we deliver high quality, compassionate services that grieving families appreciate. In the last 12 months we have successfully delivered 22 full burials and 52 ashes burials. That total of 74 equates to a burial every 3.4 working days. This is one of the reasons we need a very well-resourced team. No other parish council in Swindon is delivering burial services and it requires skill, experience and a great deal of care, to do it well.



Biodiversity Action Plan

We completed the first phase of our Biodiversity Action Plan in November last year. This document is available on our website and explains the ecological value that exists within Stratton, as well

as our plan for improving it. The second phase of our BAP starts now, and involves us talking to other landowners throughout the parish and also potential funders, in order to positively influence land management parish-wide. In real terms, this could mean encouraging an industrial estate to plant and maintain more hedges or a company such as B&Q to turn mown grass into wild flower meadows. Connecting good habitat areas across the parish needs a landscape scale mindset and the parish council is the only organisation in a position able to create partnerships and make this happen. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact our office.



Annual Grass Cutting

It's not a subject many people want to hear a great deal about, as long as it's getting done, but we spend an estimated £120,000 a year cutting grass so it is an important subject. To put that another way; more than 8% of all the parish council's money goes on cutting grass. This includes around £22,000 annually on the maintenance, servicing and refuelling of equipment. At current prices we now also average around £30,000 annually replacing equipment. Staffing costs account for the rest of the £120,000 bill. Key areas of grass are cut every 2 weeks from late March to mid-November and general open space areas are done every 3 weeks.

We burn around £8,500 worth of diesel a year cutting grass. That's over 5000 litres of irreplaceable fossil fuels used every year, to provide short grass. Our longer-term goals for grass cutting therefore have to be to make it more sustainable and to educate more people about the various processes of public land management. People need to appreciate that short grass requires management and planning, hard work, a lot of money, and at the moment, a lot of fossil fuels. It is not something we should take for granted.

Within the Grounds Department, we are monitoring the grass cutting industry closely and the development of new machinery. Management of wildflower meadows is becoming better understood and demand for this management regime is increasing all the time. School syllabuses focus much more heavily on the environment now and the general public can see real value in nature. What the public need to see though is action, with organisations actually making a difference. The future of short grass has to be that it will become less common and where it is provided, we must learn to do so in a more sustainable way. Grass can evoke incredibly passionate opinions over what is acceptable and one person's weed is another's wild flower! We will need to manage any changes carefully and considerately and public consultation will be important. Increasing our wild flower areas further is likely, and if it is done right, can come many ecological benefits too.

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.

We love our 2 allotment sites and they continue to thrive. We have 20 people on the waiting list at White Hart. Demand is high and we are needing to review our allotment provision. We receive over £4,000 income annually through the rental process, which is now earmarked for spending back onto allotments.

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

Allotment winter gathering

On the 1st February, at Meadowcroft Community Centre we held a social evening for all plot holders including a Q&A session hosted by Oliver, our Senior Open Spaces Officer.

It was a great success and many issues were raised by plot holders which are currently being resolved. Knowledge and idea sharing between plot holders was another great outcome of the event.

We also had local bee keepers who attended the event and sold their honey and other bee related products. We will definitely be organising a similar event in the future for all plot holders.



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



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	\$106
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

News from Prospect Hospice

Dying Matters Awareness Week takes place this year from 8 to 14 May, led by Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign. Throughout the week, people across the country will come together to encourage communities to get talking about death, dying, and grief. The theme of Dying Matters Awareness Week 2023 is 'Dying Matters at work'.

Dying Matters



At Prospect Hospice, there will be an interactive display in the Heart of the Hospice cafe which everyone is welcome to contribute to. The display will ask different questions on the topic of death and dying, such as 'What do you want people to wear to your funeral?', encouraging us all to think and talk about death, and helping to break the taboo that surrounds it. There will also displays in our charity shops and at Swindon Hub.

Keep an eye on Prospect Hospice's website and social media for news and updates. If you would like to get involved with Prospect Hospice's Dying Matters Awareness Week, please contact larahill@prospect-hospice.net.

Youth



Meet your Youth Worker...

SSMPC would like to introduce Cherry Riley, our new Youth Worker! Cherry has served as a youth and community worker over the last 10 years in Wiltshire and Swindon. Cherry has run youth centres, clubs and trips in the community and enjoys working with a diverse set of young people!

What have we been up to?

Our numbers of youth club members have tripled within the last month. We have invested in new and exciting activities throughout the year, including gaming consoles, arts and craft, cooking equipment and summer trips. At our youth club sessions, we have been working on improving the environment for wildlife by making bat/ bird boxes, growing flowers and plants and taking part in gardening therapy workshops. We have been baking delicious treats and earning reward stars for helping tidy the youth room, clean and help others. These rewards will lead to a PGL trip in the summer holidays.



Things to look forward to...

We will soon be starting our Monday breakfast club, which is free for children and parents. There will be plenty of food and drinks available, so the community won't be short of choice! We have cereals, toast, crumpets, croissants and plenty more, with all the condiments to go with it.

We are proud of our new disability group which is held at Kingsdown Sports Centre classroom and want this to thrive as a safe space for young people to have fun and join in on some great activities.

Stratton Youth Club always welcomes volunteers, either as placements for education or adults looking for workplace experience / wanting to contribute to the community.



Monday

**7 - 8:30 AM
BREAKFAST CLUB
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE
*FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN
OF ALL SCHOOL AGES**

Tuesday

**3:30 - 5:30 PM
YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE
5:30 - 6:30 PM
OUT REACH SESSION
@ MEADOWCROFT**

Wednesday

**3:30 - 5:30 PM
LGBTQ+ CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE
6 - 7 PM
NEURODIVERSITY/ADDITIONAL
NEEDS YOUTH CLUB
@KINGSDOWN SPORTS CENTRE
7 - 9 PM
EVENING STREET SESSION
@ MERTON**

Thursday

**3:30 - 5:30 PM
YOUTH CLUB (AGES 10-14)
@ MEADOWCROFT CENTRE
5:45 - 8 PM
OUT REACH SESSION
@ GRANGE/COLEVIEW**



@SSMPCSWINDON



@SSMPCSWINDON

Beechcroft Library



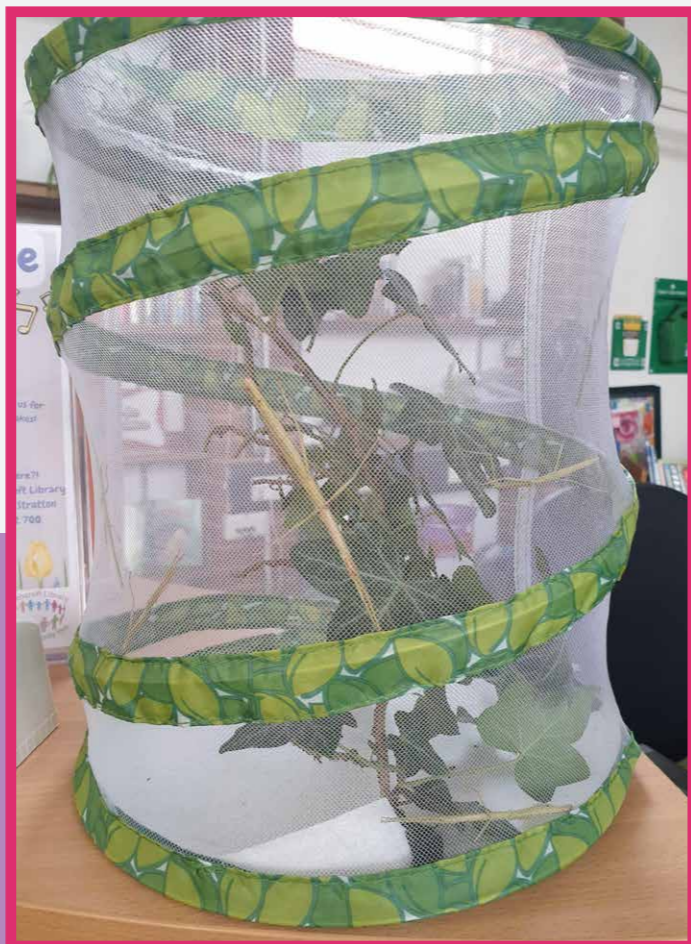
Beechcroft Librarians, Sheila & Vicky

Beechcroft Library and Community Hub always welcomes everyone! We are a Warm Spaces Hub and now have free tea, coffee and squash in the library every day. Not only do we have a large selection of books and audio books and board games available to play in the library, we also run a wide selection of different activities each week

There's sure to be something here for you to enjoy! For more details on any of the library activities, please contact us on 01793 680030 or email us at: Beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Did you know?

Beechcroft Library now have some new additions, 6 stick insects called Simon, Stella, Sally, Sid, Sam and Sue! These were very kindly donated by Butterfly World. We also have a Siamese Fighting fish called Billy. Both the fish and stick insects are proving very valuable and educational.



Have you always wanted to find out more about your Family Tree? Did you know, from April, Beechcroft Library are holding free half-hour sessions every Thursday to get you started! Time slots available are: 4.15pm, 5.15pm and 6.15pm. To book your slot, please contact Beechcroft Library

Family History Research

Every Thursday From April!

Do You Want To Research Your Family Tree?

You Can Find Your Family History As Far Back As You Want To Go!

Free Half Hour Sessions To Get You On Your Way!

16:15, 17:15, 18:15

LEGO PARTY!

CHILDRENS BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGE AT BEECHCROFT LIBRARY!

2 HOURS HIRE!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

01793 680030
BEECHCROFT.LIBRARY@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK

LOTS OF LEGO TO ENJOY WITH UNLIMITED SQUASH!

INCLUDES 18 PARTY INVITES!

ALL THIS FOR £50!

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:

Wednesday 4pm-7pm

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?

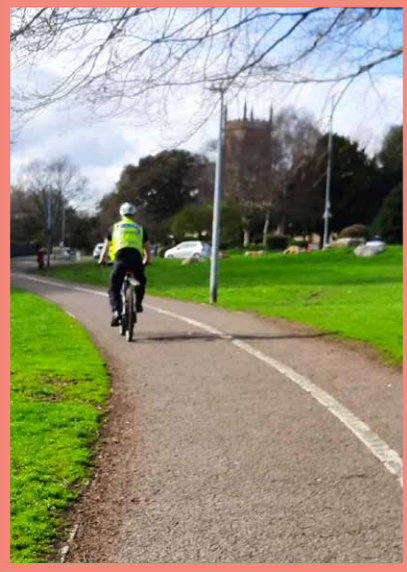
Events

Beechcroft Library has some interesting visits coming up over the next couple of months;

Thursday **6 April** from 1pm – 4.30pm, Citizens Advice will be coming along to give advice about the cost of living. Saturday **15 April** from 10.30am, a free Coding Workshop at Beechcroft Library where there will be some offline animations and games. Saturday **29 April** from 10.30am, our regular Lego Club will be taking place. Wednesday **10 May** from 10.30am, local poet, Janice Carter will be visiting to read a selection of poems from her book "My Kind of Poetry". Wednesday **3 May** at 10.30am, local author, Karl Rutherford will be visiting to talk about his debut crime novel.



Stratton Police



The local Neighbourhood Policing team will be running two bike marking events. This is a FREE event, please bring along your bike and fill out some details and we will mark your bike up. Bike marking helps when bikes are lost or stolen as they hold the owners details so they can be returned to the rightful owners.

This event is free because the parish have provided funds for the equipment and the Police have held and are holding further event to mark-up your bikes. We would like to say THANK-YOU to the Parish for giving us the grant money to purchase these (these were purchased a while back but we still have some spare).

The bike marking event will be;
Sunday 7th May 2023 14:00 – 15:00 – GRANGE LEISURE CENTRE.
Wednesday 24th May 2023 14:00-15:00 – MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE.

WHAT'S NEW?

The Stratton Police Sector will be having two new PCSO joining the team in MAY..... But you will have to keep an eye out on our Facebook page 'Stratton, Central Swindon North and West Swindon Police' for more details.



REPORTING

If you need to report ASB or crimes to police then you can do this by:-

- (1) 101 - non emergency
- (2) 999 - Emergency
- (3) online - Home | Wiltshire Police – You will see on the home page 'Report' with a picture of paper and pen. Click on this link and it will show you all the different reports you can make.
- (4) If you want crime prevention advise or to pass on concerns of the local area then look out on our social media pages about our 'Drop in surgeries'.



Stay up to date:

Facebook -
@StrattonCentralSwindon
NorthAndWestSwindon



Easter Celebrations 23

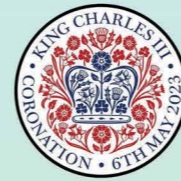
On the 11th of April the Parish Council hosted a free community Easter Lunch for the over 60's and Meadowcroft Community Centre! This gave the local people a chance to come together and meet other similar individuals within our community to help with social isolation and provide a friendly & welcoming place.



The dinner consisted of Roast Beef, seasonal veg & all the trimmings. It was kindly cooked and served to our guests by the Clerk for the Council, Media and Office Administrator, Governance Administrator, Administrative Assistant and Youth Worker! This is something we hope to do more regularly.



Come Along to Stratton St Margaret Parish Councils



Stratton Festival

For Our Local Community - Coronation Edition!

Saturday 15th July 2023

Meadowcroft Community
Centre and Field.

12:00 pm - 17:00 pm



Fun Fair



Chainsaw Carving

Royal Themed Fancy Dress Competition

Food, Beer Tent, Arts & Crafts Stalls,
Live Music, Fun Fair and Much More!



Disney Characters



Inflatables

Allotment Meeting

Ever thought about your own allotment or growing your own food?



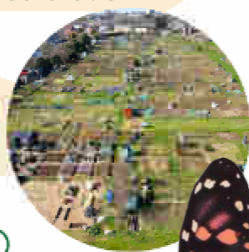
Join us at the Beechcroft Library to chat with our plot holders.

This month we would like to include a plant and seed swap.

Benefits of an allotment include; keeping fit, positive mental health, providing food for family, fresh air, community and so much more.

Tea, coffee and cake available.

Date: Sat 22nd April 3pm-4.30pm
Venue: Beechcroft Library



World Earth Day!

Come and plant a sunflower at Beechcroft Library on Saturday 22nd April 1pm - 3pm! Take them home and watch them grow!

Planting bee-friendly flowers is an easy way to help keep our buzzing friends alive, and the sunflower is the perfect option for a summertime plant. They're rich in nectar, and are the perfect colour to attract bees. They even help detox contaminated soil!



@ssmpcswindon

Meadowcroft Field SN2 7JX

Car Boot Sale

8am - 12pm Sunday 30th July

Per Pitch

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

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 coming Spring & Summer months, we have an outdoor cinema evening, our Annual Assembly, the Stratton Summer Festival and a car boot sale!

Saturday 22nd April - Allotment Meeting

Ever thought about having your own allotment? Join us at Beechcroft Library to meet plot holders and share tips & advice for growing your own food! Teas, coffee & cakes will be available...

Saturday 22nd April - World Earth Day

Come and plant a sunflower at Beechcroft Library on Saturday 22 April from 1pm-3pm to celebrate World Earth Day

Wednesday 28th April - 2023 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.

Saturday 15th July - Stratton Festival

Roll up Roll up to Stratton Festival, for our local community, on Saturday 15th July 12-5pm There'll be food, drinks, arts&crafts stalls, birds of prey, princesses/villains/heros, live music and much more for you all to enjoy!

Sunday 30th July - Car Boot Sale

Time for a clear out? Want to grab a bargain? Come down to Meadowcroft Field from 8am for a Car Boot Sale!

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

2023 Annual Assembly

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the Parish Assembly!

7-9pm, Wednesday 26th April
Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive, Swindon, SN3 4JY

GRANGE
LEISURE AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come along to have your say, ask those questions, and enjoy some nibbles, tea and coffee.

18

Tel: 01793 823761
E: info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Meadowcroft Community Centre
Addison Crescent, Swindon
SN2 7JX



Parish Developments



We have 10 children's play areas in Stratton. In the last 12 months we spent £15,000 maintaining them, including staff time. Every year we spend £25,000 minimum, on larger improvements projects. Last year we actually spent £60,000 on the play area at Meadowcroft Park and a further £50,000 was spent on the same play area the year before. The investment was needed and it is now one of the best play areas in Swindon. The next project on the horizon is the improvement of Delamere Park Play Area, where we are about to spend £75,000 fencing the play area in and adding new equipment. Stephens Road is going to be the play area where we invest heavily next year.

In the last 12 months we have spent over £5,000 on new trees & flowers. We also received £2,000 of grant funding towards maintenance of our trees from Swindon Borough Council and obtained around 850 free saplings from the Woodland Trust. Every year we add more trees and flowers which is clearly a positive.

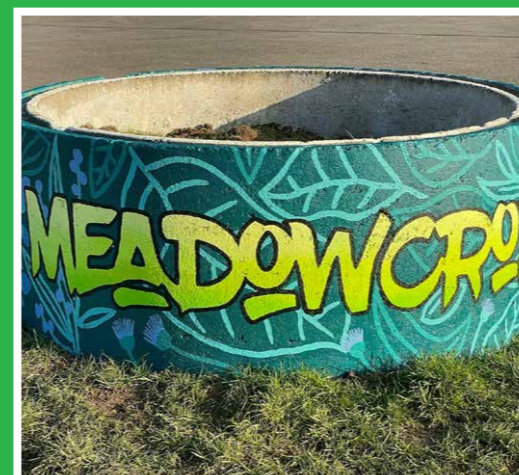
We spent £26,000 on tree surgery in the last 12 months, split into 31 different contracts. That equates to a new contract every 12 days. Managing this number of contracts throughout the year is only possible with modern technology, with the use of mapping, camera, and location software apps, not to mention having trusted contractors.



Open Spaces Investments 22/23

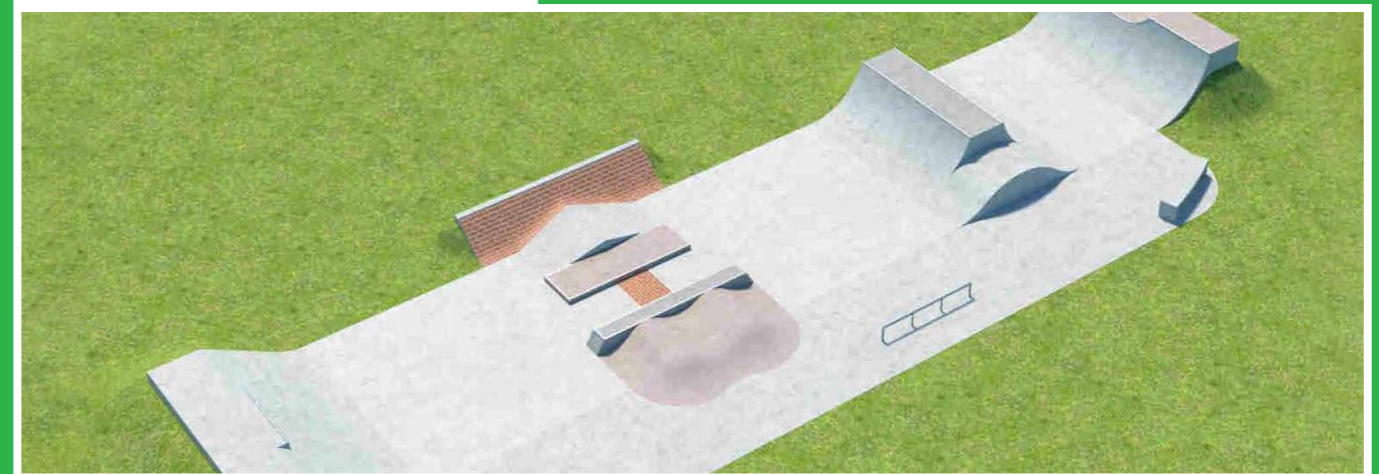
Project work is a crucial part of what we do as well. Making big positive changes to sites in order to improve them needs to be done on a general rolling programme. In the last 12 months we spent £28,000 on 13 different smaller groundworks projects. The Open Spaces Officer manages these contracts and they include anything from access improvements through to tarmacking. Last year we delivered some major groundworks projects as well. Meadowcroft Community Centre car park was extended at a cost of £88,000 and a 340-metre path was completely rebuilt there as well, at a further total cost of £78,000.

Our own Grounds Team has obviously delivered many smaller projects as well, everything from habitat management works through to improvements to public access.



Upcoming Developments

A new concrete Skate Park costing £113,000 is being built at Meadowcroft Park this year. 8% of this cost is being covered with a grant from a landfill company. This project is underway now and is due for completion in June. The Open Spaces Officer has had this project on his radar for 5 years and with the help of many people inside and outside of the parish council it is finally being delivered. It will entertain and amuse thousands of young people and adults throughout its lifetime, and we are committed to its success.



Commemorations in the Community



The parish recently bought some pin badges for our local junior and primary schools to commemorate the Kings Coronation. We will also be giving a few extra pin badges out and our Stratton Festival 2023! The design was inspired by King Charles' love of the planet, nature, and his deep concern for the natural world. "The emblem speaks to the happy optimism of spring and celebrates the beginning of this new Carolean era for the United Kingdom.

The Parish Council will be installing a Blue Plaque for John Arkell on the Arkells Brewery on 25th April at 12pm followed by a gathering at the Kingsdown Pub.



Born into a farming family in 1802 in Kempford, South Gloucestershire, John Arkell emigrated to the New World in his late twenties and took with him a group of local people who sought a refuge from the tough conditions endured in agriculture at that time.

They arrived in Canada and set up farming. He established a strong community and founded a village, still named Arkell to this day. However, three years later, John returned for love. His fiancée preferred to live in England so he came home to marry. In 1843 he bought his farm in Stratton St Margaret, where he grew his malting barley.

In 1861 he built a new brewery on the present brewery site. John was forced to convert the old Kingsdown Inn into offices and build a new pub across the road. Yet the expansion was still gathering pace and John was to buy up another 20 pubs in the next ten years. Acquisitions reached a peak with the addition of three pubs in one year (1877) and a further seven by 1881.

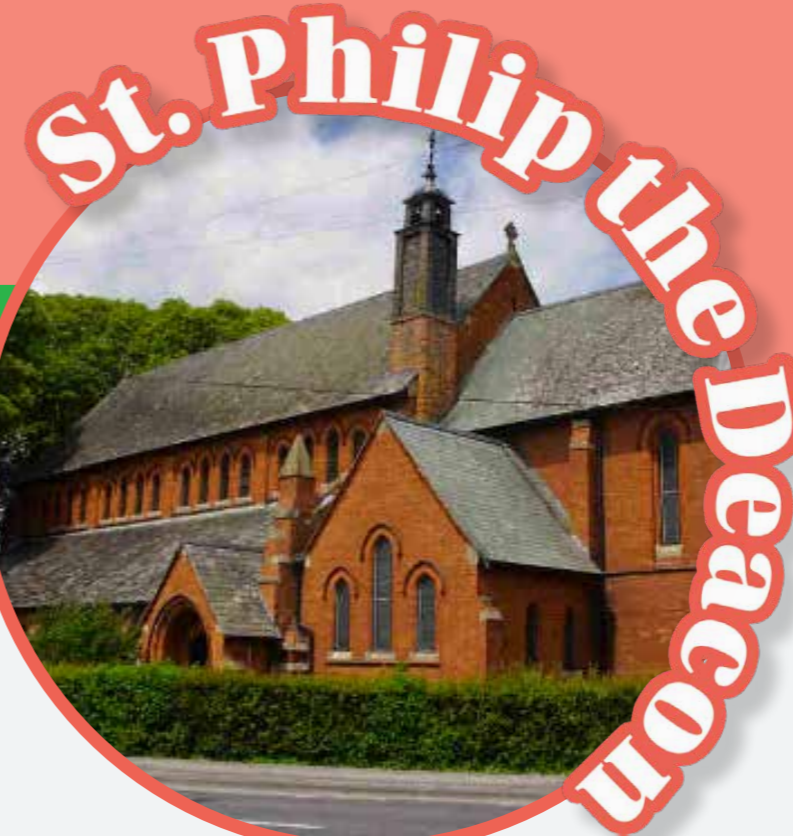
We are all very excited at the blue plaque for John that will coincide with the Arkell 180th Anniversary year – 2023.



The original iron mission church of St Phillip's Church in Upper Stratton opened 27th December 1879 with 230 sittings. The Iron mission building had started life being used as a Free Christian Church, having been built in Regent Street, Swindon in 1861, bought by John Arkell and was shortly donated for church use. The first baptism was on 27/06/1880 of William James Whiteman, son of Thomas a labourer and Sarah by St Margaret's curate J H Calley.

At a Parochial Review in 1903 it was decided that Stratton needed a second church to cover Kingsdown & Upper Stratton.

As the Bishop of the day had not been consulted, he decided that the church would be named after a lesser saint. As a result, St Philip the Deacon is one of only a few churches in the country to bear the name.



The new church was erected in 1904-5 at a cost of £3,700, is an edifice of brick in the Early English style, with green slate tiling roof, from the designs by Mr. W. A. H. Masters, architect of Swindon: and built by William Jones of Gloucester, there are 463 sittings. The foundation stone was laid by Edith Arkell. The dedication service was held on 24th June at 3:30, attended by local dignitaries and Bishop Dr. Forest-Browne.

The single bell came from the former Nythe farm. The iron mission was then used as a parish hall and Sunday school.

The organ was rebuilt in 1925 in memory of parishioners who died in the First World War.

It became its own parish in 1932.

The Bishop of Malmesbury officiated at the official consecration service and Rev. J C Hawksworth was appointed as the first vicar.

Vicarage built by Oswald S Breakspear 1947, replaced 1965.

During the war German prisoners attended Christmas mass and sung Silent night in their own tongue.

A small Lady Chapel has been created and the Agnes Woodley Room made and designated as a choir vestry. A stage has also been built at the back of the church.

Spring Activities



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

- DAFFODIL
- FLOWERS
- LAMB
- RAINBOW
- SHOWERS
- CHEERFUL
- BUTTERFLY
- CHICK
- TULIP
- BLOSSOM
- HATCH
- MEADOW
- GROW
- BLOOM
- DUCKLING
- LEAVES

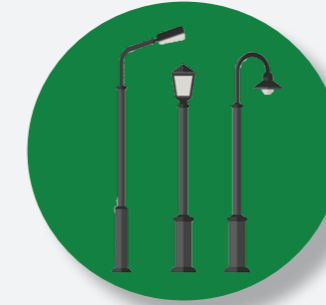
FAQ's



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 7am - 9pm depending on the day. Please go to page 11 or follow our Facebook page for more details!

Who makes the decision on my grant application?

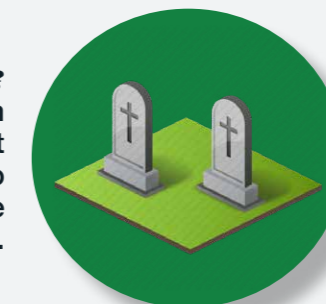
All grant applications are taken to a full council meeting where councillors vote to make a decision.



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 1861 John Arkell built the Arkells Brewery on the present brewery site.

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

SSMPC is now on Radio! With a regular slot every second monday of the month. Tune in to 105.5 to hear more!...

We currently spend £80,000 annually clearing rubbish from public areas and have a network of volunteers that help too.

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



2023 Meetings

Date	Event	Start
April		
5th	Property	7pm
12th	Planning	7pm
May		
17th	Full Council	7pm
24th	Planning	7pm
31st	Open Spaces	7pm
June		
7th	Youth	7pm
14th	Planning	7pm
21st	Personnel	7pm
28th	Property	7pm

Date	Event	Start
July		
5th	Open Spaces	7pm
12th	Planning	7pm
19th	Finance	7pm
26th	Full Council	7pm
August		
16th	Planning	7pm
September		
6th	Youth	7pm
13th	Planning	7pm
20th	Personnel	7pm
27th	Full Council	7pm

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



ROOM TO HIRE AT - BEECHCROFT LIBRARY

Private Booking= £10 per hour

Community Bookings= £10 per hour



ROOM TO HIRE AT - MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Private Booking= £15 per hour

Community Bookings= £12 per hour

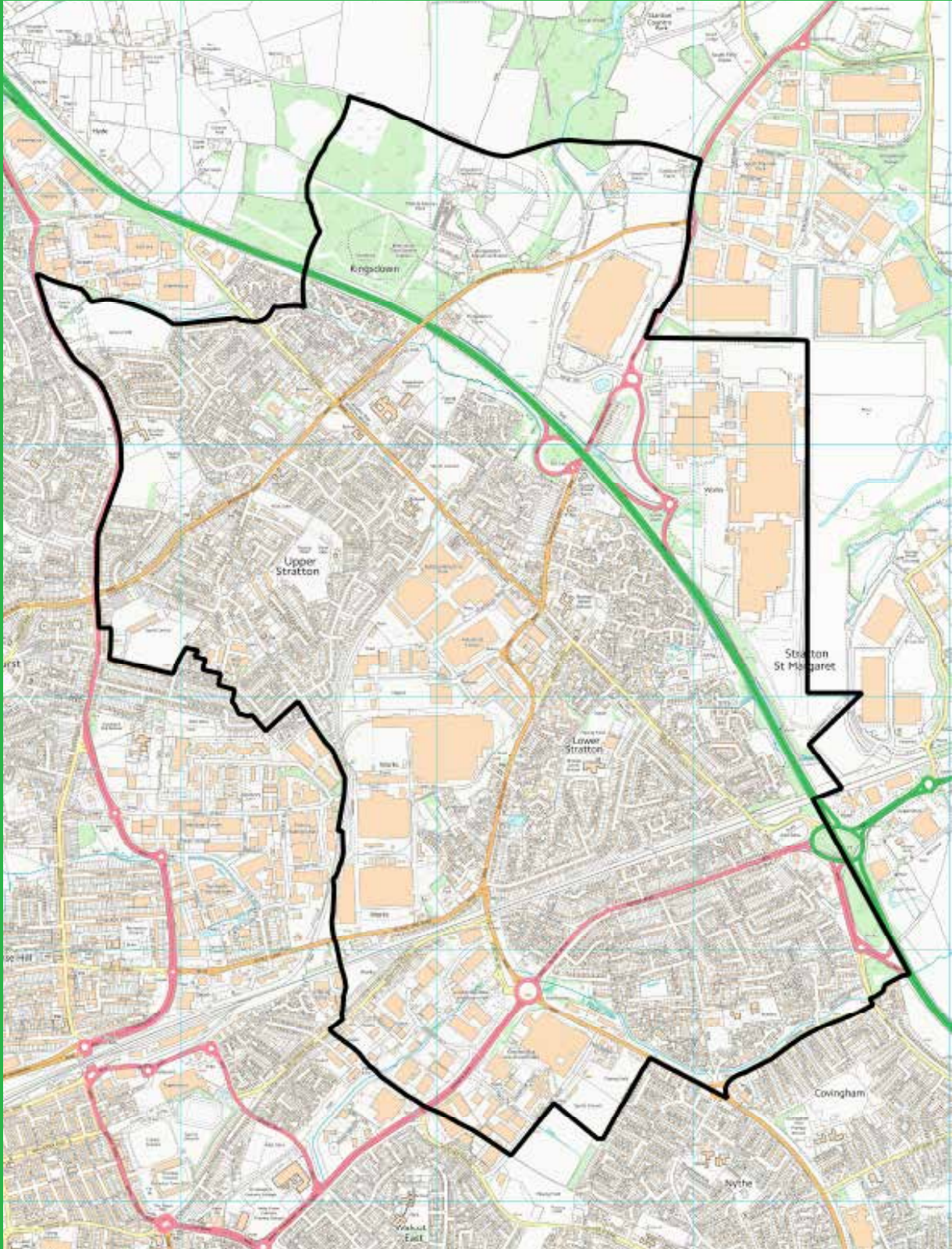
Local Contacts

01793 680030
 beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
 Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7QQ

01793 823761
 info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
 Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7JX



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



Serving the Community since 1894