



Stratton Parish News



Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Community Planting Scheme

As part of its continuing effort to brighten up the Parish, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is launching a Community Planting Scheme.

Following the recent planting of the Peace Garden, Ermin Street, and the Rose Garden, St Margaret's Cemetery, the Council is keen to encourage the community to become involved in brightening up public areas.

As part of the Borough wide Connecting People, Connecting Places initiative, a community project aimed at bring communities closer together, the Parish Council is developing a number of community events in partnership with Swindon Borough Council, youth organisation and the police, to involve the community in public planting schemes and litter picks. Among the ideas being developed are bulb plantings along Oxford Road and landscape plantings at Brooks Close, Melford Walk and Meadowcroft.

The community planting scheme will be part of the Connecting People Connecting Places initiative. An initial meeting to discuss planting and litter picking events and suitable locations will be held on the 8th September 2010.

If you would like to become involved in the Community Planting Scheme or have any suggestions as to where you would like to see community planting schemes please contact the Council Offices. All events will be publicised on the Parish notice boards and the website.



Council Offices: Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Tel: 01793 823761 Fax 01793 820188 - More Info at - www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk Email - admin@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Audit Notice

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

**Audit Of Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2010
Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15 - 16
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 Regulations 13, 14 & 16**

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by the Audit Commission of Westward House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8SU (ref. Mr. M Robinson).

Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From 30 July 2010 to 26 August 2010 between 10 am and 4pm (Monday to Friday) any person may inspect the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2010 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below (Ref Mr P. Russell). They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
2. From 27 August 2010 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. From 27 August 2010 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may object to the

Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

**Paul Russell
Clerk of the Council
Stratton St Margaret Parish Council
Addison Crescent
Upper Stratton
Swindon SN2 7JX**

Tel: 01793 823761
Fax: 01793 820188
Email: clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
Website: www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

New Councillors

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is pleased to welcome four new Councillors who were co-opted onto the Council on Tuesday 18th May 2010 at the Annual Parish Council meeting. Nigel and Anne Chalk, Pratap Mane and Alison Hacker met with Councillors prior

to the meeting and were formally welcomed on board at the meeting. All four have enthusiastically embraced their new roles and responsibilities and are quickly learning the ropes. Their contact details are included on page 8.



New Councillor Pratap Mane



New Councillor Anne Chalk

Marathon Man

Lee Plank would like to thank everyone who sponsored him for taking part in the London Marathon. Lee completed the 26 mile run in four hours and 1 minute raising **over £3000.00** for the Anthony Nolan Trust.



Participatory Budgeting

At the Annual Parish Assembly on the 20th April 2010 a participatory Budgeting event was held. Groups were invited to present a case to receive a grant of £250
The following ten organisations took part in the event:

- **Beechcroft Thursday Club**
- **2nd Stratton St Margaret's Brownies**
- **Stratton Advice Point**
- **Meadowcroft Mother & Toddler Group**
- **Swindon Community Responders**
- **Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust**
- **Kidz Club –
Upper Stratton Baptist Church**
- **Swindon Stroke Support Group**
- **Coleview Luncheon Club**
- **Swindon Rugby Football Club**

On the night the groups had three minutes to present their case for funding to the audience who then voted on which four should receive a cheque: The following received the highest votes.

- **2nd Stratton St Margaret's Brownies**
- **Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust**
- **Kidz Club –
Upper Stratton Baptist Church**
- **Swindon Stroke Support Club**

The Parish Council would like to thank all the organisations who took part in this initiative. It made for a very entertaining meeting with over sixty people attending. As a Quality Council Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to community engagement and is hoping to repeat the

event in the future, if any local organisations would like to come forward to register their interest in being involved in the event please forward details to the **Parish Office (01793) 823 761**



Brownies make their case for funding

Hyde Road Planning Application

Barrett Homes Plans for 92 New Homes

As many of you will know Barratt Homes has submitted a planning application for 92 dwellings at the former Zarlink site in Hyde Road, next to Kingdown School. The planning application was considered by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council's Planning Committee at its meeting in June. Thirty local residents attended to raise their concerns about the impact the development would have on this part of Swindon.

The Parish Council has resolved to raise objections to the planning application on the following grounds:

- The site is currently designated R4 Recreational Open Space in the the Swindon Borough Local Plan and this designation should carry a level of protection to help save and preserve the precious open space within the Parish which is gradually being

diminished through development.

- The proposal is premature to the development of the Eastern Development Area and the possible strains and requirements that may place on Kingsdown School.
- Any development of this site would result in the loss of an important open space.
- The proposals would result in the over-development of the site.
- The proposals would result in additional traffic movements which the current highway infrastructure would be unable to cope with.
- The proposals would constitute a traffic hazard by encouraging unacceptable additional vehicle movements along a highway that is already dangerous and used by 1,300 school children daily.
- The proposals do not provide adequate play provision. Stratton St Margaret

Parish Council has identified through its open spaces master plan study the requirement for a NEAP (Neighbourhood Area Equipped for Play) in this part of the parish.

The Parish Council is committed to ensuring the protection of all open space within the Parish and will do its utmost to ensure that these areas are protected. However, Swindon Borough Council is the planning authority so local support is needed to ensure that these precious green spaces are protected. Other areas of land currently threatened with development include the former Headland School site (180 dwellings), the former Cement Works in Ermin Street (85 dwellings), The Premier Club site and the Triangle on the other side of the A419 (industrial units).

Annual Report 2009/2010

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council with a number of projects being undertaken as well as addressing some of the issues raised in the Audit Commission's Audit Report for the year 2008/2009.

Among the projects delivered in 2009/2010 was the Stratton Community Leisure Centre architectural feasibility study to help inform Council on opportunities for improving the use of space both internally and externally. The Health & Fitness Studio was refurbished and much of the centre was redecorated.

Improvements to the open spaces included the painting of the play equipment in all play grounds and the continuous repair and maintenance of equipment. A number of the hedges and trees along the A419 sound barrier were reduced and Council invested in new grounds equipment to improve the standard of grass cutting and maintenance.

The new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was installed at Greenbridge by Swindon Borough Council as part of the Section 106 agreement completed and responsibility of the MUGA has passed to Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. The Council has

also been negotiating the lease of the Greenbridge Road Recreation Ground to Swindon Rugby Club which has been using pitches since December 2009.

When considering its budget for 2010/2011 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council reduced its precept and is committed to continue to reduce it over the next three years.

Table. 1 – Budget & Actual Comparison

Net Expenditure	Budget £	Actual £
Recreation & Sport	417,425	596,851
Open Spaces	42,148	36,790
Cemetery, Cremation & Mortuary	54,154	45,791
Planning & Development Services (inc Markets)	54,792	29,298
Highways Roads (Routine)	1,750	540
Other Services to the Public	2,500	1,156
Net Direct Services Costs	572,769	710,426
Corporate Management	88,905	53,909
Democratic & Civic	129,906	81,702
Net Democratic, Management & Civic Costs	218,811	135,611
Interest & Investment Income	(27,000)	(6,298)
Capital Expenditure	-	30,086
Transfers to/(from) other reserves	128,500	39,590
Reversal of Statutory Adjustments	-	(120,843)
(Deficit from)/Surplus to General Reserve	(32,080)	72,428
Precept on Borough Council	861,000	861,000

Table. 2 – Service Income & Expenditure

Notes	2010 £	2010 £	2010 £	2009 £
	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
CULTURAL & RELATED SERVICES				
Recreation & Sport	1,098,243	(501,392)	596,851	602,494
Open Spaces	38,345	(1,555)	36,790	20,292
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary	71,127	(25,336)	45,791	62,01
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES				
Planning Policy	17,178	-	17,178	-
Community Development	12,120	-	12,120	8,600
HIGHWAYS, ROADS & TRANSPORT SERVICES				
Highways/Roads (Routine)	540	-	540	-
OTHER SERVICES				
Other Services to the Public	1,156	-	1,156	13,127
CENTRAL SERVICES				
Corporate Management	53,909	-	53,909	82,506
Democratic Representation & Management	56,486	-	56,486	13,647
Civic Expenses	25,216	-	25,216	26,433
Net Cost of Services	1,374,320	(528,283)	846,037	829,113

For the full copy of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts please go to www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Council Meetings

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and accessible. All meetings are open to the public and press and are held on Tuesdays.

Date (2010)	Council/Committee	Time
Tuesday 3rd August 2010	Planning	6.30pm
Tuesday 10th August 2010	Recreation & Highways	7.30pm
Tuesday 31st August 2010	Finance	7.30pm
Tuesday 7th September 2010	Allotments & Cemeteries	7.30pm
Tuesday 14th September 2010	Community Centre	7.30pm
Tuesday 21st September 2010	Planning *** If required	6.30pm
Tuesday 28th September 2010	Council	7.30pm
Tuesday 5th October 2010	Planning	6.30pm
Tuesday 12th October 2010	Recreation & Highways	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th October 2010	***Planning *** If required	6.30pm
Tuesday 26th October 2010	Finance	7.30pm

Delamere Drive Play Area

£45,000 investment into improving the Delamere Drive Play Area

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has agreed to invest £45,000 into improving the Delamere Drive Play Area. The Council has been saving the money up for the last two years and is now ready to go.

The two climbing frames are to be removed as they have come to the end of their useful life and they will be replaced with new equipment to be supplied by SMP Playgrounds and installed by our Grounds Team. But instead of deciding on your behalf what equipment to install we thought it would be a good idea to ask you

what you would like in the play area.

A Consultation Fun Day was held on Saturday 31st July 2010 when local residents were invited to comment on the type of equipment they would like to see. However, for those who were unable to attend the consultation or who would like to input into the process, a questionnaire can be collected and a display can be viewed at the Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 7JX. The consultation will close on Friday 10th September 2010.

Meadowcroft Community Rooms

This extremely valuable local asset is currently being underused. The Parish Council is endeavouring to identify ways that its usage can increase and the subsidy of the centre reduced.

As part of this initiative local groups and community organisations are to be contacted over the next few months asking for their views on whether they would like to use the centre. If your group would like to be included please contact us at the Council Offices on 01793 823761.



Stratton Community Leisure Centre

News and information from the Stratton Community Leisure Centre and Health and Fitness studio



Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Health & Fitness – Become a member of our Gym

Annual membership

£222.00 (Month 13 Free)

Committed fitness membership

£18.50 per month (paid via direct debit) with a minimum 6 months commitment. The direct debit will roll on after the initial six month period unless one month's written notice is given

Non committed fitness membership

£25.00 per month (paid via direct debit). Cancellation is possible with one calendar month's written notice—as a comparison the 3 month gold pass was £72.00 or £24.00 per month

The annual and committed fitness membership provides members with a FREE fitness assessment, induction, reassessments and gym pack (towel, water bottle and gym bag). Any new member who decides to take out a non committed option will be required to pay an assessment/induction fee (including programme) of £13.00 and a fee for any reassessment and gym pack. All committed and non committed memberships also receive FREE aerobic classes.



Stratton Fitness suite

Weddings at Stratton Community Leisure Centre

When choosing your wedding venue why not consider the Stratton Suite? The team at Stratton Community Leisure Centre are committed to ensuring that your wedding plans are in safe hands and that all your needs and budgetary requirements are taken care of.

The Stratton Suite is an ideal venue for your wedding and has its own bar. The room can be furnished with round or oblong tables with table linen coordinated to your chosen wedding colours.

- **Suitable for 120 guests (seated)**
- **Excellent catering and menu options (tailored to your needs)**

Please call us on (01793) 825525, to view the Suite and discuss your plans.

Spinning Classes

Monday: 12.15-1.15pm
Wednesdays: 10-11am & 7.15-8.15pm
Thursdays: 5-6pm
Fridays: 1-2pm
Saturdays: 9.30-10.30am (11 - 15yr olds only)
Members = £4.20
Non-Members = £5.20
Gym Pass holders = FREE
11-15yr olds = £2.80 members
 £3.80 non members
10 spaces available and it is bookable 6 days in advance. Booking is advised.

Shop & Drop

Available During School Term Times
Members: £2.80 Non-Members:£3.80
Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am-11.30am
Ask at reception for more details.

Little Nippers Crèche 0-4yrs

Available During School Term Times
Members: £2.00 Non-Members:£3.00

Majestic Dance Night

Saturday 16th October 2010
 The George Thorby Big Band & Nitelife
7pm with 7.30 start non stop music & dancing. All proceeds to be donated to the Prospect Hospice
 Tickets available mid April **£15.00** each
 First come, first served as this is expected to be a very popular night
 info on **01793 825525**
 or email: Mark Beazley on
 opsman.bar@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Hall space for hire.

If you are a club looking for indoor hall space please contact reception on 01793 825525.

Become a member of **Stratton Community Leisure Centre** for some great deals. For more information contact the Centre on **01793 825525.**

Voluntary Action Swindon

Supporting Voluntary Groups in the Community

Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS) is the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Swindon, and the membership is derived from a wide range of organisations that deliver services to the Voluntary and Community sector.

VAS provides a wide range of services including a rolling training programme, community development outreach work, print and design workshop, meeting rooms, equipment hire, a library, office space and information, advice and guidance on Voluntary and Community sector matters. Other services include the Swindon Local Involvement Network (LINK) which seeks to involve local people in influencing their health & social care services. Voluntary Action Swindon also host free computer courses as part of the Online Centres initiative to introduce people to computers and the Internet. Courses cover the basics of mouse

and keyboard use, guide you up to using emails, shopping, banking online and more.

Seniz Ismet is the VOICE Development Officer at VAS and will focus on strengthening the voice of the Voluntary & Community sector in Swindon and is eager to put her past experiences to good use within her new appointment at Voluntary Action Swindon. She can be contacted at the VAS office on Tel: 01793 538398 or

by email seniz@vas-swindon.org

New on-line directory makes it easy to find a voluntary group

Over 1000 groups have signed up to the new on-line directory! It will be a vital tool to connect voluntary associations, bodies, charities and groups with people who may require their services, or with people who may want to get involved in some way. New organisations are signing up daily. You can sign up by going to www.vas-swindon.org.uk



Seniz Ismet

How much electricity do you use

Would you like to save money and energy?

Swindon Borough Council are making fifty OWL[®] Micro Energy Monitors available from Swindon Libraries. The monitors are simple to use and can be borrowed FREE, by library members, who are also Swindon Borough residents, for a one week period.

Monitors can be reserved at the following libraries

- Central Library
- Highworth Library
- North Swindon Library
- West Swindon Library
- Wroughton Library
- The Mobile Library

Joining the Library is easy and free.

The monitors are easy to fit and will tell you in real time how much electricity your house is using in kWh and how much it is costing you. This will allow you to see how you are using your energy and take steps to save money and carbon. It is estimated that over £900 million is wasted in the UK every year, by leaving domestic appliances on when not in use.

Mother and Toddlers

The Meadowcroft Mother and Toddler group is held every Thursday morning at Meadowcroft Community Centre, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton.

There is no need to book. These drop in sessions are open to all, childminders / carers / grandparents and parents for children aged 0 – school age, older siblings are welcome during school holidays. Sessions are held on a

Thursday morning: term time 9.15 - 11.15 and during the holidays 10.15 – 12.15.

The groups offer companionship for children and adults alike and offers a range of different craft activities each week. There is a wide selection of toys, books and ride on bikes available along with refreshments during the morning.

So why not come along with your child and enjoy an enjoyable morning of play and crafts,

for more information please contact **Jodie on 079 009 888 56** or **Sarah 078 127 828 99.**



In Bloom & Allotments Competiton Prize Giving

Please note the following date for your diary Thursday the 16th September 2010 will be the Prize Giving Evening which will be held at the Council Chamber, The Council Office, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon starting at 7.30pm.

The evening will have information on the planned Community Planting

scheme and how you can become involved in this initiative.

Prizes will be award for the winners of Stratton in Bloom and the best Allotments Competitions. Refreshment and nibbles will be provided so come along and enjoy an evening sharing horticultural tips and gaining inspiration for your gardens and allotments.

Stop Press

Two Stratton brothers and next-door neighbours, Jeff and Reg Bolton, opening their gardens at 38 & 39 St. Philips Road, Upper Stratton on the 24 and 25 July, in aid of Prospect Hospice and raised £1,071.66. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council would like to congratulate them on their wonderful efforts.

Contact information

Parish Councillors Ward Key: **C** Coleview, **SM** Stratton St Margaret, **SP** St Philips, **LCN** Lower Coleview & Nythe

SM - Mrs B Archer

15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4LY
822263

SM - Mr N P Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PQ
346165

SM - Mrs A M Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PQ
346165

SP - Mr M R Cook

26 St Philips Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QH
825535

SM - Mrs C Ennis

Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village, SWINDON, SN3 4XH
Contact via office

SP - Mrs E A Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

SP - Mr J Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

C - Mrs A Hacker

86 Meadowcroft, Swindon, SN2 7LB
Contact via office

LCN - Mr D K Holmes

89 Wheeler Avenue, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7HL
520017

SP - Mr G Lawson

24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QB
Contact via office

LCN - Mr P Mane

8 Lansbury Drive, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7LF
337144 *Contact via office*

SP - Mrs A L Murphy

2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QR
337144

SP - Mr P Owen BEM

192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LH
822164

SP - Mrs T Page

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QN
825481

C - Mr D R Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mrs P M Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mr R A Smith

39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4WE
831190

LCN - Mrs P Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SM - Mr M Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SP - Mr P A Steele

25 Okus Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QA
723744

C - Mrs R Tran

44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4HE
826283

LCN - Mr J Tray

3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON
07813170202

C - Vacancy

Clerk to the Council

Mr P Russell, Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN2 7JX
Tel: 01793 823761
clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Member of Parliament

Justin Tomlinson, MP - 01793 522123
justin@swindonconservatives.com

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4JY
Tel : 01793 825525 Fax : 01793 832201
E: leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Paul Findlow, 879959 St Philips Ward
Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips Ward

Janet Heenan 337591 St Philips Ward
Russell Holland, 07999566623 St Margaret Ward
Mark Edwards 709834 St Margaret Ward
Ray Fisher 07791500164 St Margaret Ward
Glenn Smith 725649 Covingham & Nythe
Dale Heenan 613189 Covingham & Nythe
Richard Hurley 07966533997 Covingham & Nythe

Become a Councillor?

We currently have one vacancy for a Councillor so if you would like to learn more about how to be involved in the local democratic process of the Parish Council please contact the Clerk, Mr Paul Russell (01793) 823 761.