

Stratton Parish NEWS

Serving the Community



Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Summer 2014 Issue 16

2014 Stratton Festival

FREE FESTIVAL
PROGRAMME
INSIDE...



ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

It's not far...
so ditch the car



Saturday 19 July
Midday - 6pm

Grange Leisure, Grange Drive,
Swindon, SN3 4JY

Annual Parish Assembly Update

Our Annual Parish Assembly is an opportunity for all Parish Councillors to update the residents on the areas they have been working on during the last year. This year's Assembly was held on 15 April at Grange Leisure. **See inside for full reports.**



Our biggest achievement this year is the major refurbishment project at the Grange. We now have a 3G AGP which fully meets the FA and RFU standards.

Cllr Tara Cook,
Chair of Community Centre
Committee

Even in these challenging times we have managed to ensure that we have not needed to increase the precept this year.

Cllr Nigel Chalk, Chair of
Finance Committee

Since last year, under a lease agreement with Swindon Borough Council, the Parish Council has taken on an additional 12 open spaces.

Cllr David Roberts, Chair of Recreation Committee



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Assembly
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Peace Memorial
Update
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New Admin
Team
page 13



This year has been quite an eventful year for this Parish!

At the beginning of the year we were informed by Swindon Borough Council that, despite the majority of the residents who took part in the consultation process wishing to stay as part of the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, a new parish council for Nythe will be formed from May 2015.

The Chair of Finance (Councillor Nigel Chalk) will explain the ramifications of this in his report.

We reinstated the Annual Stratton Festival, to celebrate the Feast Day of St Margaret and this took place over three weekends with events in Upper Stratton which were organised by the Upper Stratton Baptist Church, at Swindon RFC and the main event at the Grange Leisure Centre where over 5,000 people turned out and made it a very successful event. So many of those attending the festival asked for it to be held annually, that we decided to hold it again this year on 19 July at Grange Leisure and we hope to exceed last year's attendance figures.

There will also be other events around that time such as the very successful Stratton Stroll (editor's note: taking place on 26 July) which will take in many of the hosterries in the parish. I hope you will all attend.

This leads me on quite nicely to our grand project of upgrading the Leisure Centre, which is now over 35 years old. We decided that it was in need of a facelift and bringing up to date to meet the present day needs. We installed a new gym suite to replace the old under used squash courts, to provide a more welcoming area for the main entrance, to use the old gym suite area to provide updated accommodation for our staff in the centre of the Parish instead of the cramped area that previously housed the Council offices hidden away in Upper Stratton. We changed the Reception area into a Coffee Shop and I am pleased to say that it has been a great success. Another great success has been the All weather Grass Pitch (AGP) we installed to the rear of the building.

The AGP has been so successful that we have had to stop taking any more more bookings at present. I am sure that Councillor Chalk will expand on these later on. Suffice to say that we predict that all of our improvements will be cost negative within 4 years. Nigel will also tell you that all of the projects came in on time and on target to be on budget.

Unfortunately last September I was taken ill and spent a considerable time in the Intensive Care Unit and on Saturn Ward in the Great Western Hospital and did not see the start of the project but Councillors David Roberts, Anne and Nigel Chalk and Pat and Mike Spry stepped into the breach and took control and made sure that everything was OK.

It was at this time that the then Clerk to the Council left us by mutual consent and moved on to pastures new. We wish him well in the future.

This meant that we had to appoint a new Clerk and this took some time as we had to comply with EU regulations which meant that we had to advertise the vacancy throughout the EU. I was amazed at the number of applications that we received. In the meantime we appointed a Locum Clerk to run the day-to-day operations of the Council, and we were fortunate enough to find Mrs Tracy Predeth. After a long process of elimination Tracy was finally appointed as Clerk to the Council with effect from 1 May 2014. We wish her every success.

Finally I would like to thank David, Nigel and Anne Chalk and Pat and Mike Spry for the sterling work that they did for this council and also to thank my fellow councillors for all their support and good wishes during my illness and eventually to thank all those residents who wished me well during what was a very traumatic period.

“
Despite the majority of the residents who took part in the consultation process wishing to stay as part of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, a new parish council for Nythe will be formed from May 2015.”

It gives me great pleasure to be able to say that we have managed to weather the storm. As the Chairman said we have had a few very difficult months, but have managed to keep everything going and as those of you who have had a chance, will have seen, the Grange Centre refurbishment is just about to complete.

Even in these challenging times we have managed to ensure that we have not needed to increase the precept this year. The Grange Centre was losing money and we have worked with Alliance Leisure over the last few years to put new life, into the Centre. From an annual loss, we now expect the Centre to pay for itself in the coming year.

This will help to absorb the cost, as the Chairman mentioned earlier, of losing Nythe from the Parish, a net loss of around £80k per annum. If we hadn't acted now it would have meant a major reduction in services or a precept increase of around 10%, which no-one would have wanted. In fact, the provisional year-end figures show that we managed to stay within our budgets.

In addition, we are taking on the management of 12 new green areas from Swindon Borough Council to help them meet their budget restrictions, again at no additional cost to the Stratton ratepayers.

Finally, I would like to warmly welcome our new Finance Officer, Sandra Kelly, to the fold and we are sure she will soon settle to the tasks ahead of her.

“
Even in these
challenging times we
have managed to ensure
that we have not needed
to increase the precept
this year.”

Thank you for your attention
and here's to another successful year.

“
As a Council we
are also preparing a
Neighbourhood Plan
which will see us, as a
Parish, looking towards
the future.”

Annual Report

Chair of Planning & Highways Committee,
Councillor Andree Murphy

We at Stratton St Margaret Planning & Highways Committee are well aware, as you are, of recent developments in the area as well as the past. No doubt some people say that there's too much development in the Parish, but as a local Parish Council we do take note of the objections raised by the public, both in written form and those who are present at our Planning meetings - those comments are forwarded to Swindon Borough Council. Sometimes they do take note of any concerns or objections raised by those affected and sometimes they don't!

On other matters, some of you will be aware of the plans for the Peace Memorial on the corner of Ermin Street/Grange Drive. These plans are ongoing and the new memorial will be completed by 3 August this year.

As a Council we are also preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will see us as a Parish, looking towards the future. I will now hand over to my colleague, Councillor Anne Chalk, who can enlighten you more on this matter.

Neighbourhood Planning Report

Councillor Anne Chalk

This evening Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is officially launching its Neighbourhood Plan.

You are probably asking what is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Well, it's about me, it's about you, and it affects all the residents of Stratton, but more than that it's about the future. The Localism Act, which received royal assent on 15 November 2011, introduced new rights and new powers to allow local communities to shape their own neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives local people the chance to decide how the area should look. You could have a say in things such as:

- **Housing**
- **Highways**
- **Health**
- **Cycleways**
- **Footpaths**
- **Traffic Levels**
- **Green Spaces**

Close to our hearts is creating a community green space. By asking you and finding out what your needs are we hope to be able to designate that space as a protected area and regenerate existing open spaces in the Parish.

If you would like to be more involved with shaping the future of your Parish, please contact us and join our Working Party.

See page 6 for more details...

Annual Report

Chair of Community Centre, Councillor Tara Cook

Our biggest achievement this year is the major refurbishment project at the Grange. We now have a 3G AGP which fully meets the FA and RFU standards. The Sports Hall has been fully redecorated with a new sprung floor, which is proving very popular with dancers and CEROC – a modern jive group which meets every Tuesday night. The Grange Gym has been very successful with membership at its highest ever. The Coffee Shop is proving incredibly popular with all members of the community. Outstanding projects to do are the awnings to the front of Grange Bar and the Coffee Shop area.

A special note of thanks should go out to the staff who had to live through all the dust and debris of the alterations, especially Ian Green who did a sterling job keeping the project on time.

“
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”

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE HAS MOVED...

The Parish Council office has moved to:
Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Swindon.

Open to the public:
9.00am – 3.00pm Monday to Friday.
Telephone: 01793 823761

Annual Report

Chair of Allotments & Cemeteries, Councillor Pat Spry

White Hart Allotment

The Council continued to support the White Hart Allotment Society and their efforts to promote National Allotment Week on this allotment site. The Meet & Greet event was postponed twice due to seriously bad weather, but eventually, on 10th August we beat the weather and a good time was had by all.

The event attracted quite a crowd, including my husband, Mike, and me. As well as viewing the growing area and appreciating the work done to produce, the vegetables and fruit, we were also asked to judge some of their produce and the efforts the gardeners made to protect their produce:- the scarecrows, then on to judge giant sunflowers; some amazing vegetables, literally all shapes and sizes!

We were also very impressed by the efforts made by the children – getting them involved when they're young is great. Of course the tea and wonderful cakes really did set the whole occasion into a class of its own! Well done to all concerned.

St Phillips Allotment

Mike and I made two visits to St. Phillips allotments this year, and have also chatted, off site, to several allotment holders. No-one raised any concerns, so it seems that all is OK, but if there are any issues of concern, a quick call to the office is all that's needed.

General

Skips will be provided again this year to assist allotment holders in disposing of waste, but there will not be any compost provided this year.

There will be an allotment competition this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing once again all the fantastic arrays of vegetables, fruit and flowers produced by our green-fingered allotmenters.

New Sites

Progress is being made with the additional site at South Marston. The development of the Gorse Hill site is delayed pending some kind of legal issue which is being progressed by Swindon Borough Council.

St Margaret Cemetery

The resurfacing work on the cemetery drive has been completed. Plot availability within the Parish is limited, which is a concern.

Green Road Cemetery

Residents will be aware that the Parish planned to refurbish the smallest Chapel in Swindon at Green Road Cemetery. Unfortunately, we've had to put this project on hold since Parish finances were cut by £85,000 by Swindon Borough Council in 2013/14 and with a further restriction to be imposed in 2014/15.

General

The Council has agreed to introduce a scheme whereby memorial benches may be adopted and leased by residents of the Parish.

Our Grounds Staff have again made sterling efforts in the past year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for making our Parish a more tidy, enjoyable and more beautiful place to live. However, the Grounds Staff are not the only ones deserving of our gratitude.

The past year has been a tumultuous one for the Council, and I want to thank all of our staff, without exception, for their support, assistance and patient understanding. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to former employees, who have rallied round to help out in what has been a very difficult year for the Council. My heartfelt thanks go to all concerned.

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”

Annual Report

Chair of Recreation, Councillor David Roberts

I am pleased to be able to give this short address on behalf of the Recreation Committee on just some of the work carried out over the last 12 months within the Parish.

This, as you all know has been a challenging year for the weather with the grounds team battling rain from October through to February. It is a credit to the team that after all that rain the open spaces are looking in good order. It is only April but already we have carried out three grass cuts throughout the Parish.

The Parish has 14 open spaces of varying sizes and your local Parish Council continues to maintain and equip them to a high standard on a rolling programme. Since last year, under a lease agreement with Swindon Borough Council, the Parish has taken on an additional 12 open spaces. Some of these spaces we were previously leasing from the Borough but we now have them rent-free. You may have seen the grounds team already mowing the newly adopted areas. Thanks must go to the office staff and Cllrs Mr and Mrs Chalk for overseeing the transfer of the open spaces.

Claridge's Pond on Swindon Road is one of the newly adopted sites and is one that will need a lot of work to bring it up to a good standard, having been neglected for many years. Already with the help of Nationwide staff a considerable amount of work has been undertaken, reclaiming the paths and painting the seats. This year we will undertake a survey on all the trees with a view to pruning and we will assess the pond.

The new play area behind the Coleview Community Centre opened in 2013; despite the wet winter it is proving very popular with young people and their parents. The grounds team will continue to develop the play area and surrounding park through 2014.

During the last year improvement work has also been carried out on the open spaces at Stephens Road, Brooks Close and Delamare Drive. During 2014/15 we have a number of new pieces of equipment ready to install. The state of the ground has not permitted installations to date.

In last year's report I brought to your attention the vandalism that had taken place to the new noticeboards and signs. Unfortunately that has not changed and further damage has taken place. A number of the damaged items have been away for repair and are soon to be reinstalled. It saddens me also to report that nearly 30 young trees planted at Merton Fields were broken in half, in one act of vandalism, with all of them having to be replaced.

Last year I told you that the Parish Council was in the process of applying for planning permission to install an artificial grass pitch at the back of the Leisure Centre. I am pleased to report that the new pitch is up and running. The floodlit pitches have proved so popular that we have had to suspend block bookings to allow everyone the opportunity to use the new facility. This new facility is also providing a new revenue income for the Parish.

As well as cutting the grass on our open spaces, the Parish Council has contracts to cut the grass for Haydon Wick Parish Council, North Wiltshire FA and Ruskin Junior School.

Since last year more dog bins have been installed within the Parish and now number nearly 30. We also have contracts to look after the bins in Blunsdon, Wroughton, Liddington, South Marston and Bishopstone.

With the help of the community, the Woodland Trust and local organisations, tree planting has continued throughout the year at Merton Fields, Meadowcroft, Coleview and Stephens Road. This project will be ongoing throughout the years to come.

You may have noticed over the last few weeks that the grounds team have started to clear and prepare the land at the end of Grange Drive in readiness for the installation of the new Peace Memorial for the Parish.

We continue, through a rolling programme, to update our plant and machinery and last year saw the purchase of a new hedge cutter, two

hand mowers, one ride on mower, a new water pump plus many smaller items of equipment.

With spring on its way the team is starting to get ready for the summer planting of flowers throughout the Parish. To save time and money a new irrigation system has been installed at Grange Leisure to water the plants.

Lee Plank and Clive Skinner of the grounds team are currently undertaking their NVQ in horticulture and have plans for more planting within the parish.

This is just a snapshot of the work undertaken in the last year. We must not forget the day-to-day work such as daily inspections of the play equipment, litter picking, weekly sweeping of the AGP, weed spraying, dog bin emptying etc.

“
Since last year, under a lease agreement with Swindon Borough Council the Parish has taken on 12 additional open spaces.
”

Two major events took place in the Parish during the last year; the Stratton Festival and the Christmas Extravaganza. A lot of work went into staging both those events by all the Parish staff and Councillors. My own vote of thanks must go to the grounds team who helped to make these events the success they were. The look on the children's faces at Christmas when they saw the reindeer and Father Christmas was amazing!

All of this work would not have been possible without the Parish grounds staff under the leadership of Danny Mason, the Clerk to the Council and the office staff, plus fellow councillors

who sit on the Recreation Committee. On behalf of everyone in the Parish could I say a big thank you to them all. With your help we are continuing to make Stratton St Margaret a place to be proud of. This is recognised not just locally but also at national level. We are disappointed that Swindon Borough Council is unable to recognise our achievements and put politics aside and focus on what is positive for the community.

Stratton St Margaret In The Wider Community

Councillor David Roberts, Vice-Chair To The Council

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is a member of The National Association of Local Councils for England. NALC represents the interests of town and parish councils in England – a total of around 8,500 councils.

Working with, and for, member councils, NALC is actively involved in lobbying government at national level to advance and protect the interests of member councils, and their communities. NALC is committed to developing the role of town and parish councils, in order that they can represent the communities which they serve effectively, and be at the forefront of community leadership. As the representative for Stratton St Margaret Parish Council I sit on the following committees.

1. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils Swindon Area Committee along with Cllr Nigel Chalk.**
2. **Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, who meet at Devizes. In 2013 I was elected Chair of the Wiltshire Association.**
3. **The South West Conference of Local Councils Association who meet at Tiverton.**
4. **The National Association of Local Councils who meet in London. I sit on the following committees:**
 - National Council
 - Local Larger Councils Committee
 - Policy Committee, Vice Chair
 - Sustainable Communities Advisory Board, Chair

I would like to highlight two pieces of work arising from the above committees that may be of interest to you.

1. For more years than I care to remember NALC has been lobbying the government to enable local towns and parishes to be able to pay bills and accounts through BACS and not by cheques. The new payments system, I am pleased to report, has finally been agreed.

I must personally thank Peter Lacey the Somerset County NALC Secretary and Financial Advisor to NALC and the government, for all his hard work on achieving BACS. Sadly Peter passed away suddenly in 2013 and did not live to see the new bill become law.

2. Those present at last year's annual Parish Assembly will recall that I spoke about the Council Tax Base reforms introduced by the Coalition Government at the end of November 2012. I reported that out of over 250 billing authorities given money from central government to pass down to their local town and parish councils, only 5 had failed to do so, Swindon Borough Council being one of them. The 5 have now become 4 and still include Swindon. This resulted in a loss to Stratton of £88,500. NALC has been pressing The Rt. Hon Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to intervene on these Councils' behalf.

I met Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, with the NALC Chair in early December 2012 to put the case for the 14 town and parish councils in Swindon. He has promised to look into our case.

A message to Swindon Borough Council and all ward councillors, please pass down the money that was intended for town and parish councils, and stop saying, "*We do not have to and why should we*".

During 2013 I attended 23 meetings of NALC on behalf of the parish.

I have been invited, along with Cllr Patricia Roberts, to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May on behalf of NALC.

The Peace Memorial

Although the memorial was commissioned to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, its form and design have been inspired by the locality and the theme of reflection which was chosen by local schoolchildren.

The memorial has deliberately taken an unconventional form, to be a positive enhancement to the locality and to be a part of everyday life rather than a monument that is only acknowledged once a year. It comprises three elements: the new zig-zag path crossing the site which symbolizes chaos and the blood shed in conflict; a grail sculpture which provides a focus for reflection and contemplation; and a brick sculpture symbolizing St Margaret and the dragon protecting the grail and incorporating a seat for people to sit and reflect.

The grail forms the heart of the memorial with a world map and words of dedication and honours and acknowledges those affected by all conflicts throughout the world and throughout time.

The monument was designed by Tony Currivan, an architect working with Swindon Borough Council. The brick sculpture was designed in collaboration with and made by local artist Jane Rickards. Jane has been involved in a number of public space sculptures including the memorials at Alexandra Palace and Temple Quay in Bristol.

A Memorial Dedication Service will take place on Sunday 3 August at 3pm. The Royal British Legion will lead a parade from Grange Leisure to the site. All residents are warmly welcome to attend.

Parish Precept

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Precept for 2014/15 will be staying the same as last year.

The council continues to look at ways of reducing costs without affecting services and even though we have completed a major refurbishment of Grange Leisure Centre and added an All Weather Grass pitch we have managed this at no additional cost to the local taxpayer.

We will also be taking over the management of 12 areas from Swindon Borough Council to help them meet their budget constraints and it will give us the opportunity to improve local open spaces.

Cllr Nigel Chalk

Neighbourhood Planning –

Join Our Working Party

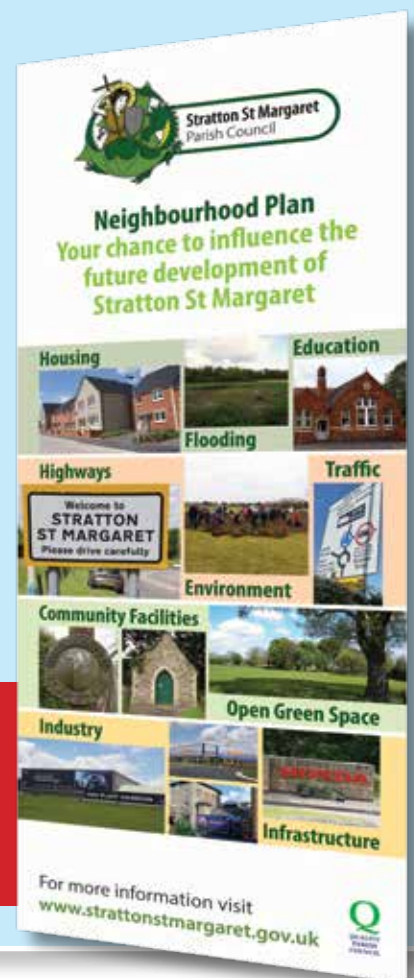
Help to shape the future of our Parish

As announced at our Annual Parish Assembly in April, the Parish Council is working with members of the local community to shape the future of the Parish.

Neighbourhood Planning gives local people the chance to decide how the area should look. For example you could influence the design of new housing, what health centres are needed in your area or, what and where, the green open spaces will be in the future.

By asking you and finding out what your needs are we hope to be able to develop a plan which is relevant and current for everyone. We've enclosed a copy of the survey with this newsletter and invite you to complete and return it to us by the end of July or at Stratton Festival on 19 July.

If you would like more information about the Neighbourhood Plan or to join our Working Party, please contact Cllr Anne Chalk via info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



PULL
OUT AND
BRING WITH YOU
ON THE DAY

20



14

Stratton Festival

Bringing the community together

19 July 2014

Midday – 6pm

Grange Leisure,
Grange Drive, Swindon,
SN3 4JY

FREE ENTRY



CHILDREN'S ZONE



ANIMAL ZONE



VINTAGE VEHICLES



BRING
YOUR DOG
ALONG
TOO!



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council

For more info: www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk or call 01793 823761



@StrattonPC



Find us on Facebook

CHILDREN'S ZONE

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Arts & Crafts | 12.00pm – 2.00pm |
| Bubble Workshop | 2.45pm – 3.30pm |
| Circus Workshop | 3.45pm – 4.30pm |
| Magic Show | 5.00pm – 5.45pm |

Youth Entertainment

Mobile Youth Club – BIOS Van equipped with Xbox, PS4, iPad Gaming, Internet Access **12.00pm – 3.30pm**
Box Fit in the Gym **3.45pm**

ANIMAL ZONE

Andy's Animal Encounters: Reptile Tent **all day**
Dog Agility – Have a Go sessions **all day**
'Drove Vets' Dog Competitions **2.00pm – 4.30pm**

Registrations taken on day.



VINTAGE VEHICLES ZONE

Motorcycles, Tractions Engines and Classic Cars on display.
Don't miss the Vintage Rally in the Main Festival Arena at 3.30pm.



CRAFT FAYRE

Over 30 stalls selling a wide range of arts and craft and homemade cakes and sweets.

GRANGE BAR

Open as usual serving bar meals throughout the day.
Real ales available here too!

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

Exchange £1.50 for a Stratton Groat
2 Groats for a pint!

Real Ales and Local Ciders available all day

Try our very own
'Stratton Festival Ale'
brewed especially by
Arkell's Brewery



STRATTON FESTIVAL DISCO

7.30pm – 11.30pm

Adult ticket £5

Child ticket £2.50

Family ticket £10

(2 adults & 3 children)

Tickets on sale now from Grange Leisure.



**Ditch the car...
it's not far...**

Arrive by foot, bike or bus
and visit Swindon's Travel
Choices stand for a **FREE**
smoothie.

COFFEE SHOP

Serving Lavazza coffee,
slushes and lite bites!

FL
Bur

LIVE MUSIC ZONE

Ethemia
Charlie Anne
Full On
Nightshift
B Genius with
Joelly Powell
Duo Onyx
W?C (Who Cares)

*Times to be announced



FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

All funds raised through registrations will go towards the Chairman's Charity this year which is the Intensive Care Unit at the Great Western Hospital.

GET FESTIVAL FIT! IN THE GYM

Come along to meet our Fitness Team – Gary Turland and Anne Harris – who both bring a wealth of knowledge and years of experience within the fitness industry.

Take part in gym challenges throughout the day with prizes to be won!

Try your hand at boxing and more....



“STRATTON JUNIORS” FOOTBALL CHALLENGES...

Registrations on the day.
Mini tournament to win the Stratton Festival Football 2014 Cup.

FESTIVAL FOOD

burgers, hot dogs, pizzas, ice creams and more...

MAIN FESTIVAL ARENA

| | |
|---------|--|
| 12.00pm | Festival Opening with Radio 105.5's Shirley Ludford! |
| 12.05pm | Zumba |
| 12.25pm | Power Hoop |
| 1.00pm | Kirsty Farrow Dance Academy |
| 2.00pm | Leadership Martial Arts |
| 2.45pm | Grange Juniors' Djembe Drums |
| 3.45pm | McInerney School of Irish Dancing |
| 4.30pm | Street Dance |
| 5.15pm | Air Cadets Drumming Corp |
| 5.30pm | Stratton Festival Dog Show 2014: "Best in Show" |
| 5.50pm | Stratton Festival Football Tournament 2014: Prize Giving |

COMMUNITY AND CHARITY GROUPS ATTENDING:

- ABC Affected by Cancer
- British Heart Foundation
- Community Police
- FOGS
- The Kirsty Farrow Dance Academy
- Outset Swindon
- Parish Council's Grounds Team
- Stratton Churchway Bowls Club
- Swindon Travel Choices
- Swindon College
- Woodland Trust
- And more...

Just sign up on the day!

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| All age challenges | 12.30pm – 2.00pm |
| Juniors Coaching | 2.15pm – 3.00pm |
| Adult football | 3.15pm – 4.15pm |
| Juniors football | 4.30pm – 5.45pm |

TO BE HELD ON THE ALL WEATHER GRASS PITCH

STRATTON STROLL

Saturday 26th July 2014

OVER 20 ARTISTS  ACROSS 6 VENUES

Stratton Stroll is organised by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council working closely with local businesses and community groups

KINGSDOWN ARMS (12pm - 4pm)

MEMMI Stage

Missin' Rosie
Andrew Paul Davies
Acoustic Junkies
Ells & Southern Wild

THE CROWN (1pm - 5pm)

Drove Young Stage

Benji Clements Band
Gilmore N Jazz
Aural Candy
Imperial G Men

THE NEW INN (2pm - 6pm)

Swinton Shuttle Stage

Faye Rogers Band
The Racket
The Automaniacs
Simon Hall

GRANGE BAR AT GRANGE LEISURE (3pm - 7pm)

Charlie-Anne Stage

Aidan Page
I Am The Sea
I Never Learnt Russian
Dirty Smooth
Who Cares
Charlie - Anne

THE WHEATSHEAF (4pm - 8pm)

Sheep Music Stage

Barney Goodall
Al O'Kane
Jack Moore
Ali Finneran

THE RAT TRAP (7pm - 11pm)

Holmes Music Stage

Kova Me Badd
British Harlem
Ben Maggs
Ethernia



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



Supported By Holmes Music

A great FREE music festival!!

Picnic and Praise

Stratton Churches together are holding a joint service as part of the Stratton Festival

At Grange Leisure

On Sunday 20th July 2014

At 11.00am

Please bring a picnic, refreshments supplied



Everybody and friends welcome

The Kirsty Farrow Dance Academy

CLASSES TAUGHT IN FULLY EQUIPPED DANCE STUDIOS BY QUALIFIED ISTD, RAD AND LCM TEACHERS

CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

TODDLER MUSIC & MOVEMENT
PRE-SCHOOL DANCE
(BALLET, MODERN & TAP)
BALLET MODERN TAP
MUSICAL THEATRE
(SINGING, DRAMA, DANCE)
STREET JAZZ HIP HOP NATIONAL DANCE
PRIVATE OR GROUP SINGING LESSONS
BOYS ONLY STREET DANCE CLASSES



Classes held at:

Esprit Centre, Headlands Grove, Swindon

Contact Us Now

07980 918192

enquiries@tkfda.co.uk

www.tkfda.co.uk



Follow us on Facebook or visit www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council

Supported by:





L-R: Emma Freemantle, Finance Assistant; Sandra Kelly, Finance Officer; Georgina Morgan-Denn Assistant Clerk; Tracy Predeth, Clerk to the Council; Jodie Smart, Administration Assistant; Angela Lovering, Office Services Manager.

Parish Council's New Administration Team

The Parish Council has a new administration team: The team, led by the Clerk to the Council, undertakes the democratic services of the Parish Council servicing Council, and committee meetings, organising public events,

administering burials, allotments and planning applications, dealing with residents' queries and financial controls, ensuring that the Council keeps abreast with current legislation and assisting its members in serving the community.

The team works from the new Parish Council office at Grange Leisure. See page 4 for opening times.

Better Late Than Never...

STRATTON'S CHRISTMAS

EXTRAVAGANZA!

Once again, it snowed in Stratton on the night of the Christmas Extravaganza, leaving a magical mystery evening which many children of all ages will remember for years to come. Local families who attended the Christmas Extravaganza at Grange Leisure in November 2013 were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended this enjoyable event again this year.

We were told by Father Christmas that he had over 350 visits from local children who were also able to feed his reindeer and have their photo taken sitting in his sleigh; a memory caught on camera to last forever.

Throughout the afternoon and into the evening the entertainment was superb with choirs, dancers, jugglers, and the popular Colonel Custard walking on stilts and making animals and swords with balloons from his pockets.

There were stalls of every type, arts and crafts, cakes, tombola and many more. Some stall holders have already booked their place for this year. I overheard a visitor say **"the staff have been fantastic!"**, and I agree. Not only did they plan, prepare, and build the fantastic fairyland, they also managed to recruit elves, fairies and a snowman. It was more than memorable, simply fantastic. Well done everybody!

Cllr Mike Spry



Around the Parish...



Have You Been To Stratton Wood Recently?



WOODLAND
TRUST

Have you been to Stratton Wood recently? Over the past 12 months lots has happened here, with new paths, new waymarking, seasonal ponds and artwork all being added to this woodland. On a sunny summer's day, head over to enjoy a site which is great to explore with friends, family or if you want to have a quiet tranquil stroll.

The recent sunny weather has brought out a lot of wildflowers such as yellow rattle, oxeye daisy and meadow cranesbill. These flowers can be found throughout the site, but for a truly spectacular display, head for the two wildflower meadows at the northern end of the site.

Over the winter and into spring 2014, volunteers from the local community and Swindon's Volunteer Rangers have been undertaking hedge-laying along Kingsdown Lane. This is a traditional way to manage hedges to obtain a thick, livestock-proof hedge. It has made a huge difference, making the entrance much more open and welcoming and it also results in a hedge which is great for nesting birds.

We have had 18 volunteers attend in total in 2014, giving over 100 hours of their time, which is a fantastic effort and greatly appreciated. Hedge-laying can only be carried out when birds are not nesting – so the aim is to continue in the autumn/winter of 2014.

If anyone wants to find out more, please contact the Site Manager Sarah Stebbing on sarahstebbing@woodlandtrust.org.uk or 0845 293 5764.

We also are fortunate to have a couple of volunteers undertaking weekly butterfly transects – and there can be a lot to see, especially on a sunny day, such as peacock, orange tip, common and small blue as well as small tortoiseshell butterflies. Last year an astonishing 1,905 individual butterflies were recorded by our volunteers!

Three routes are now marked out with coloured way marking posts – two go around Stratton Wood and if you are feeling more adventurous one links to Stanton Park so you get to explore 2 lovely woods in one go. The Woodland Trust is about to install some information boards which will map out the routes and also give a little more information about the site.

Woodland Trust will be attending the Stratton Parish Council Festival on Saturday 19th July so please do come along and say hello. We will be making clay tree faces or leaf crowns for you and we look forward to hearing about your stories of Stratton Wood and we can give you more information about our favourite wood in Swindon (well we are a bit biased)!

Advance Warning:

Over the coming autumn/winter, SSE need to install a new electricity cable through the site which means the car park is likely to be closed at some point during this period. We regret that this will cause some disruption to visitors to Stratton Wood.

We are working closely with SSE to finalise the work schedule and will keep people informed through onsite posters and through the Parish Council newsletters and website.





Successful Ofsted rating for Colebrook Infant Academy

The recent Ofsted inspection of Colebrook Infant Academy judged the school to be "good", which delighted staff, parents and children, given that the criteria for inspection has been tightened considerably.

"Children make good progress from the moment they enter... by the end of Year 2 their attainment in reading, writing and maths is above average... the achievement of all pupils is good."

The children were fantastic during the visit and Ofsted recognised the collective strength of the staff team and governors.

www.colebrookinfants.co.uk



Swindon Radio 105.5

SWINDON
105.5



Daring to be different...

We introduced Swindon 105.5 in the last Parish magazine. This non-commercial 24hr radio station is located in Stratton St Margaret at the Bentley Centre.

The **Voice of Stratton** is aired on the fourth Sunday of each month at 2pm with local interviews, comments and a range of music.

Programmes are presented by a range of local volunteers, learning new skills and in return for training, helping to

provide a radio service for Swindon, engaging with the local community including schools, New College, local groups and businesses.

Swindon Radio 105.5 have collected many awards, the latest being, the Scoot Headline Award for achievement in the Community Radio Class. Also the High Sheriff of Wiltshire has given them one of his two Annual Achievement Awards.

Grange Leisure

A New Beginning



The Grange Leisure refurbishment is now virtually complete and is definitely open for business.

The centre, built in the 1970's, had become tired and a lot of money was needed to catch up on outstanding maintenance to bring it up-to-date for the community and make it something to be proud of.

The first move was to relocate the Gym; the rebuilt squash courts give a new 40 station fitness suite over two floors with changing area. Frank Bruno visited the Gym and said it was of a high standard.

The All Weather Grass Pitch (AGP), which is to Football Association and Rugby Football Association standard can be used as a 9-a-side or two 7-a-side pitches. It was fitting that the first users were Stratton Junior FC.

In the main hall the new sprung floor is ideal for the CEROC dancing classes which are held every Tuesday. The hall and changing room roofs were replaced at the same time.

We also took the opportunity to redecorate and gave the Grange Bar its own access, and installed an outside canopy area and ramp to the bar.

A great success is the newly styled reception area which includes a café; this has been a huge hit providing a relaxing atmosphere. The café serves Lavazza coffee and a selection of snacks and treats. Cooked meals can be eaten here if you do not wish to go into the bar.

The last part of the rebuild was to relocate the Parish Office from Meadowcroft, reducing costs and enabling a greater integration of staff. A patio area has been added for summer café use, and a community library has been installed and the Parish Council is currently investigating the possibility of installing solar panels to reduce energy costs.

Cllr Anne Chalk

Grange Community Library

A new library point will be opening this summer at Grange Leisure – A partnership between Stratton Parish Council and Swindon Library Service. This service will provide free access to library facilities including a varied selection of books, a children's library and the library computer network whenever the centre is open.

OFFICIAL OPENING ON MONDAY 7TH JULY 2014

Claim your
FREE 1-Day Pass*



to use anytime by completing the form below:

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

*T&C: This offer is applicable to gym only. ID will need to be provided for use of this pass. Pass valid for one day only. Only one pass may be used per person.

Grange Bar & Coffee Shop

Two-course senior lunch every Tuesday and Thursday in the Grange Bar from 12.30pm – 2.00pm £4.25.

Light bites available in the coffee shop from 8am – 9pm every weekday. Try one of our new Bruschettas in the comfy surroundings of our coffee shop. And for the kids... Starslush has landed at Grange Leisure!

STOP PRESS:

Kitchen refurbishment is currently taking place until the 15th July 2014 and a reduced menu applies.

Stratton Councillor is Mayor of Swindon

Stratton St Margaret Councillor Teresa Page became Mayor of Swindon in June, having spent the last twelve months as the Deputy Mayor. Cllr Page said she was looking forward to the year ahead and could not wait to get started. She said: *"I am absolutely delighted and very proud to be Swindon's mayor, not just for me but for everyone who was born in Ireland that lives in Swindon."*

As mayor, Cllr Page has selected Prospect Hospice and the Goldenhar Family Support Group to support during her year, having heard about the case of Morgan Sharpe, who suffers from the birth defect syndrome. She said: *"I read about it and thought I have never heard of that. I asked around and quite a few other people hadn't either so hopefully we can raise a bit more awareness this year."*

"Prospect Hospice do such fantastic work in Swindon and the surrounding area it is good to be able to support them."

We'd like to wish Cllr Page success in her role this year.

**SIGN UP
NOW**

Grange Leisure vs Mt Snowdon!

Join members of staff from Grange Leisure and the Parish Council as we tackle Mount Snowdon on Monday 11th August 2014.

The hike is very achievable and it will be a fantastic achievement to reach the summit. Our aim is to raise money for two worthy causes:

MIND and the Intensive Care Unit at the Great Western Hospital.

Transport provided with a small cost of £25.

To sign up or for more information see Gary Turland or ask at Reception.



Grange Social Club

Next event 17th July

**For a trip to Weymouth
for £10. Please call
Mrs Carter on
01793 823855**

**New members
welcome!**

Grange Leisure Open Day

Grange Leisure held an open day in April, coinciding with the Annual Parish Assembly, to celebrate the completion of the refurbishment project. Throughout the day over 100 visitors came through the doors to enjoy a range of taster sessions and activities offered at the new and improved leisure centre.

Visitors were able to try their hand at Young at Heart 50+ badminton and football coaching for kids on the all-weather-grass pitch.

The Grange Bar's two course lunch was so popular it went to second sitting and the smoothie machine powered by pedalling was a hit with the younger visitors!

Try out the new gym using the voucher opposite or call to arrange a show around of the new facilities by ringing 01793 825525.



Dorcan Performing Arts Group Training

DPAG meet every Tuesday evening at Dorcan Academy Covingham from 7pm until 9pm in term time only. We offer children from the community who are over the age of nine years the opportunity to tread the boards.

A donation of £2 each for each session and an annual membership fee of £5. Everyone is issued with a DPAG T shirt and lanyard with membership card.

Productions take place throughout the year. Find us on Facebook!

White Hart Allotment Society

Let's get back to the allotment for another year of agricultural aspirations!

Through your committee the society will be holding several fun and relaxing events on the allotments again this year.

Your support and ideas are welcome, as are additions to our committee.

Please contact:

Stuart Leach,
Chair of the society
with your ideas by emailing:

Stuartleach24@hotmail.com



Police Warning To Residents

There has been a disturbing recent increase in the number of catalytic converter thefts committed in this area where high wheel based or 4x4 vehicles have been targeted. These crimes are being actively investigated but everyone can help to reduce the risk of further attacks. Please also be aware of any strangers in your area who appear to be behaving suspiciously or paying particular interest to these types of vehicles. Record descriptions of such people and any vehicles that they may have with them.

Contact the Police on **101** or dial **999** in an emergency. Remember that you can also provide information anonymously to Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.



New Air Ambulance For Wiltshire



**Wiltshire
Air Ambulance**

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust (WAACT) signed a 10-year contract in Swindon with Heli Charter Ltd for a new helicopter, which will come into service at the end of the year, when the lease on the current 12 year old aircraft expires.

The Wiltshire helicopter will be the first Bell 429 to operate as an air ambulance in the UK. It has a top speed of 150 knots and a range of 400 miles making rapid response to any incident within the county achievable within minutes.

Starting in the late autumn of 2014, the contract with Heli Charter covers the provision, maintenance and flying of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance for up to 19 hours a day, every day of the year. It also includes a replacement helicopter to be provided after 5 years. Paramedics and other medical support will continue to be provided by South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST), with whom the Charity enjoys a close, efficient and effective working relationship.

For more information about Wiltshire Air Ambulance www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk

Council Meetings

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 mainly held on Tuesdays at the Council Offices.

Before every meeting the Agenda can be viewed on noticeboards throughout the Parish and on our website. All minutes are uploaded on the website. Here is the current calendar until the end of December 2014.

| Date | Council/Committee | Start |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| July 2014 | | |
| 8th July | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 15th July | Personnel | 7.00pm |
| 22nd July | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 29th July | Council | 7.00pm |
| August 2014 | | |
| 5th August | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 19th August | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| September 2014 | | |
| 2nd September | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 2nd September | Finance | 7.00pm |
| 9th September | Recreation | 7.00pm |
| 16th September | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 23rd September | Community Centre | 7.00pm |
| 30th September | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 30th September | Council | 7.00pm |

| Date | Council/Committee | Start |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| October 2014 | | |
| 14th October | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 14th October | Allotments & Cemeteries | 7.00pm |
| 28th October | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| November 2014 | | |
| 4th November | Finance | 7.00pm |
| 11th November | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 18th November | Personnel | 7.00pm |
| 25th November | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 25th November | Council | 7.00pm |
| December 2014 | | |
| 2nd December | Recreation | 7.00pm |
| 9th December | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |
| 9th December | Community Centre | 7.00pm |
| 23rd December | Planning & Highways | 6.30pm |

Councillors Ward Surgeries

Swindon Borough Ward Councillors conduct Surgeries to keep in touch with the electorate. If you have a problem at a local level, please contact your Councillor.

| Date | Location | Time |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Gorse Hill & Pinehurst | | |
| Cllrs John Ballman & Ray Ballman | | |
| Contact Cllrs John and Ray Ballman for more information | | |
| Stratton St Margaret and South Marston | | |
| Cllrs John Haines, Colin Lovell, Russell Holland | | |
| Last Saturday of each month (apart from December) | Grange Leisure | 10.00am - 12.00pm |
| Penhill & Upper Stratton | | |
| Cllr Paul Baker | | |
| Last Monday of every month | John Moulton Hall, Penhill | 10.00am - 11.00am |
| Cllrs Teresa Page & Joe Tray | | |
| Second Saturday of every month | Upper Stratton Library, Beechcroft Road | 11.00am - 12.00pm |
| Covingham & Dorcan | | |
| Cllr Kevin Parry | | |
| Contact Cllr Kevin Parry for more information | | |



**SUNDAY
24TH AUGUST
INDOOR TABLE
TOP SALE**

£8 FOR TRADERS
50p ENTRANCE FEE FOR BUYERS
SETUP 8.00AM
OPEN TO PUBLIC 9.00AM
SALE CLOSES MIDDAY
CONTACT GRANGE LEISURE
01793 825525
FOR MORE INFORMATION

**TABLE TOP
SALE**

Contact information

Parish Councillors

Ward Key: Coleview:C Stratton St Margaret:SM St Philips:SP Lower Coleview & Nythe:LCN

SM Mrs B Archer
15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4LY
t: 01793 822263

LCN Miss A Bridges
94B Berkley, Bruce Street, Rodbourne,
Swindon, SN2 2EN - Contact via office

SM Mr N P Chalk
5 Day's Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4PQ
t: 01793 346165

SM Mrs A M Chalk
5 Day's Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4PQ
t: 01793 346165

LCN Mr B V Cockbill
44 Stratton Road, Swindon, SN1 2PR
t: 07725 592147

SP Mrs T Cook
82 Cloche Way, Swindon, SN2 7JN
t: 01793 826378

SM Mrs C Ennis
Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village,
Swindon, SN3 4XH
t: 01793 831335

SP Mrs E A Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LQ
t: 01793 822110

SP Mr J Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LQ
t: 01793 822110

C Mr J C Foley
94B Berkley, Bruce Street, Rodbourne,
Swindon, SN2 2EN - Contact via office

LCN Mrs J Harper
19 Stratton Road, Swindon SN1 2PN
t: 01793 824272

LCN Mr P Mane
8 Lansbury Drive, Upper Stratton, Swindon,
SN2 7LF - Contact via office

SP Mrs A L Murphy
2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7QR
t: 01793 337144

SP Mr P Owen BEM
192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LH
t: 01793 822164

SP Mrs T Page
13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7QN
t: 01793 825481

SP Mr T Page
13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7QN
t: 01793 825481

C Mr D R Roberts
27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham,
Nr Swindon, SN6 8BQ
t: 01793 782144

LCN Mrs P M Roberts
27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham,
Nr Swindon, SN6 8BQ
t: 01793 782144

SM Mr R A Smith
39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon SN3 4WE - Contact via office

SM Mrs P Spry
1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
Swindon, SN3 3NH
t: 01793 485528

SM Mr M Spry
1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
Swindon, SN3 3NH
t: 01793 485528

C Mrs R Tran
44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4HE
t: 01793 826283

SP Mr J Tray
3 Cairndown Way, Stratton
St Margaret, Swindon
t: 07813170202

Parish Council Contacts

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Tracy Predeth, Parish Council Offices,
Grange Leisure, Grange Drive,
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 4JY
e: clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Local Member of Parliament

Justin Tomlinson, MP
t: 01793 533393
e: justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Gorse Hill and Pinehurst

Cllr John Ballman
t: 01793 694584
e: jbswin@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Ray Ballman
t: 01793 694584
e: jbswin@yahoo.co.uk

Stratton St Margaret and South Marston

Cllr John Haines
t: 07901 534640
e: jcthaines@hotmail.com

Cllr Colin Lovell
t: 01793 321634
e: colinplovell@gmail.com

Cllr Russell Holland
t: 07999 566623
e: rholland@swindon.gov.uk

Penhill and Upper Stratton

Cllr Paul Baker
t: 01793 334598
e: pauljbaker@ntlworld.com

Cllr Teresa Page
t: 01793 825481
e: teresapageswindon@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Joe Tray
t: 07813 170202
e: j.tray@ntlworld.com

Covingham and Dorcan

Cllr Dale Heenan
t: 01793 613189
e: dale.heenan@googlemail.com

Cllr Richard Hurley
t: 07966 533997
e: rhurley@swindon.gov.uk

Cllr Kevin Parry
m: 07914 309291
e: cllrkevin.parry@ntlworld.com

Police Contacts for North East Swindon

Area Sergeant
Sgt Donna WEST 1201

Stratton (Upper, Lower and Coleview)
PC Jack NEWMAN 1966
PCSO Mandi COLES 6020
PCSO Stuart BIRD 6100

Highworth
PC Sandra HIGGINS-HUGHES 2514
PCSO Steve WELLS 6230

Rural North
PC Marc JACKSON 1945
PCSO Juliet EVANS 6236

Email:
swindonnortheastnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
Tel: 101 - non emergency contact and 999
emergency contact

Upper Stratton Community Surgery
Swindon Garden Centre, Hyde Road
First Saturday of each month from
11.30am until 12.30pm



North East Team:
swindonnortheastnpt-stratton
Highworth:
swindonnortheastnpt-highworth&villages