

Issue 30

Nov
2020

South Marston Community News

Gazebo update

By Barry Thunder, Open Spaces Working Group



What's happened to summer? A minute ago, or so it seems, we were wondering how to cope with very hot afternoons and lack of water for our new fruit trees. Then suddenly, it's back to high-water levels and planning for woodland maintenance.

The saddest part of the summer was the loss of our woodland Gazebo, belonging to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). Built five years ago, it was destroyed by arson in June.

It was a hub for our community, hosting events from Easter egg hunting and pumpkin carving, to woodland crafts and parties. Our Primary School used it as a natural outdoor learning setting. It was a 'go to place' for many to meet socially, with families from the village using it for small parties and quiet retreats, whilst some village students found it a peaceful place to study for exams during lockdown.

Nothing can replace meeting up for a chat together over a tea and biscuit out in the open air, though emails and phone calls help to an extent.

We have been fundraising with WWT and together with Robbie Taylor and Anne Featherstone have raised £2,419 from village residents and their families far and wide.

Continued overleaf

All contributions from £10 to £500 were welcomed and we have been delighted with the response. Our thanks to all who contributed.



South Marston parish councillor Barry Thunder, with Bellway sales advisor Julie James at the gazebo site

We would have contacted smaller local businesses, but with COVID, we chose instead to approach a small number of larger companies.

Bellway are building new homes in the village and donated £400. We are very grateful for their generous donation, which is a great encouragement to our local community.

Bellway South West Sales Manager, Christel Hawkins, said: *"it is very important for us to support communities ...we were keen to help...we really hope the new event space will help make a difference for village residents for years"*

With the support of Parish Councillors and Clerk Kevin Morgan, we have facilitated additional donations from those unable to do so whilst the WWT system was online. £300 has been donated by Eneco, the company who operate the solar farm along Nightingale Lane, as well as £50 from village residents.

The current running total is £3,169, which, with the insurance money from WWT, will go far in funding a replacement. If you would like to add to the money raised, please call Barry Thunder on 826697.

So, what is next? We meet with the WWT area warden to discuss the options we have identified, priority one being any replacement structure is made from metal, secondly, it must fit into the existing landscape features of St Julian's woodland.

Location is a key consideration, including access and the safety of nearby residents. The Environment Agency have rules on the brook and WWT own the woodland.

At present there are two options: a pre-built structure with a long-life expectancy but possibly a high cost or a one-off design built locally in the village which should be achievable with the funds available. There will be much to discuss.

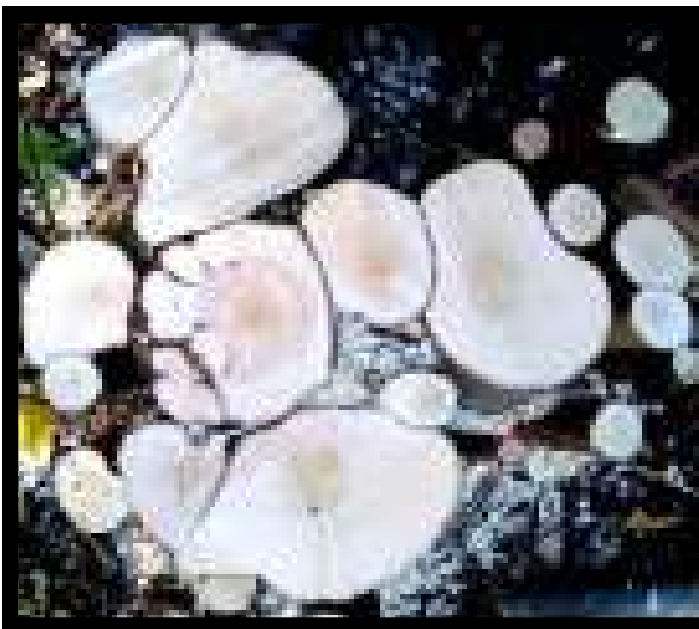
Open Space Update

By the Open Spaces Group

Work is progressing on the Village Garden memorial site, with a new archway due to be erected shortly on the new paved entrance. A big thank you to Robbie and the Trustees of the F&E Harris Memorial Trust for sponsoring this gift to the village.

November will see the start of clearance work on some overgrown footpaths, thanks to Lionel. Also we are planning to undertake the coppicing work on the hazels in St Julian's and Oxleaze. This will be done by volunteers with help from the Community Payback teams, who have finally restarted their regular visits.

Thank you to all who have helped and continue to support work in our open spaces.



What is it?...

A piece of modern art?

A rather odd growth?

No, the article on this page may give you a clue.

Its what a coppiced hazel tree looks like, taken from above, once the Open Spaces Group have finished their work!

South Marston Gardening Club

By Angela Newton

The Gardening Club has cancelled the rest of this year's programme due to the ongoing COVID restrictions.

For more information please contact Mike on 827807 or Angela on 07789068340.

Remembrance commemoration 2020

By the Editor

The planned Remembrance service at 10am on Sunday 8th November has been cancelled, and, sad to say, there will be no gathering at the Village War Memorial due to the recent lockdown announcement.

This is a shame, as the new archway is due to be erected shortly on the new paved entrance of the Village Garden memorial site. The plan was to decorate the arch with some poppies to mark the initial year of the arch and paving area.

The Royal British Legion Swindon branch confirms with deep regret that there will be no formal Remembrance Day parade or church service at the Swindon Town cenotaph.

A short video is being produced depicting key moments and events 75 years ago. Dedicated to all those who have paid the

ultimate sacrifice in all conflicts in recent times. The video will be on YouTube under the 'Swindon Remembers 2020'. Please see Facebook RBL Swindon for further information.

There will be no formal poppy appeal this year but poppies are available in supermarkets and wreaths can be ordered from the Swindon Poppy Appeal Organiser. The Royal British Legion still requests that we observe a 2 minute silence at 11:00 on Wednesday 11th November. 'Stay safe & remember at home'



South Marston Friendly Club

The Friendly Club remains closed until further notice.

The committee and myself would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you all manage to enjoy the festive season with your friends and families.

For more information on the club please contact Sheila on telephone number 828545.

Our Macmillan World Biggest Coffee Morning

By Jodie Woolhouse & Jayne Smith

We have been hosting a community coffee morning for Macmillan together for 4 years now. Every year we are humbled by the generosity of people donating their delicious cakes, pies, biscuits and hard earned money for this great cause. There is always a great sense of community spirit!

This year we were saddened at not being able to bring everyone together and thought we'd have to cancel altogether - but then an idea came to us...We would take the cake to the community, so lovingly served from the back and side of the car, so that's exactly what we did.



Charging through the streets in a car dressed like it was going to a wedding, us in our green Macmillan t-shirts and green cupcake masks, we raised a whopping £503.00. This, although slightly down on previous years, did not include our infamous raffle.

We'd like to thank everyone again for their support, kind words and laughs and we look forward to next year's Macmillan Coffee Morning already.

Macmillan Coffee Morning COVID style

By Alison and Barry Thunder

Having lost friends and family to cancer, we decided to run a raffle in support of the Macmillan coffee morning with close friends and family.

23 prizes were donated and everyone was invited to buy £5 strips of raffle tickets. The prize draw took place on the 26th September and the winning tickets were drawn by Lola and Estoi with Karen, who ensured all was done fairly. We had an enjoyable time in our socially distanced group.

An amazing £245 was raised and sent to Macmillan, a big thank you to our friends and family for their donations and taking part.



COVID 19 Update

Extracted from government websites 1.11.2020, but could be subject to change

The recent government announcement of a short term lockdown means, once again, that we all have to adapt our lifestyles to meet the new regulations. During the spring lockdown, volunteers in South Marston coordinated efforts to help those who were struggling or just needing a friendly ear. It was a marvellous effort, and one that was featured in detail in Community News.

Robbie Taylor has already been in touch with the village volunteers to organise a coordinated response this time round. If anyone would like help or support during these difficult times, then please call Robbie on 823757.

The new lockdown regulations can be found on Government and Borough Council websites. Check for the details on single person households, support bubbles, exemptions for children and for those who are most vulnerable. However, in general, stay at home and do not gather with people not in your household other than, for instance, childcare, education or where you can't work from home. Shopping for essentials and accessing medical care is OK. Exercise in outdoor public places, but only with members of your household or one other person from a different household. Retail outlets and pubs can operate 'click and collect' or food take-away services.

How to get a Coronavirus test

A free NHS test is only available if you have at least one of the COVID symptoms - a new continuous cough, high temperature and a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If you have symptoms, the test must be done as soon as possible but no later than 8 days after they first appear. Book a visit to a test site - they are open 7 days a week OR order a home test kit if you cannot get to a test site. If you're ordering a home test kit on day 7, do it by 3pm. On day 8, you need to go to a test site - it's too late to order a home test kit.

If your test is because you have symptoms, you and anyone you live with or have been in contact with must self-isolate until you get your result. You also need to contact your employer and school if a child to keep them updated.



If you are not sure about anything, always check via the NHS or government websites or use the following:

- Public Health England South West 0300 3038162
- Use NHS 111 on line portal or call 119 to get a test
- Swindon Borough Council or your GP surgery

Flu vaccinations

Just a reminder for the most vulnerable of our residents. Local surgeries have been busy contacting priority patients to invite them to flu vaccination sessions.

If you are in a priority group (over 65, long term health problems, those who have been shielding) and haven't been contacted or were unable to attend a vaccination clinic, please ring your GP surgery as soon as you can.

For others, there is the option to arrange a vaccination at a pharmacy, or to ring the surgery to see if they can offer you the vaccination.

Please remember it is important to go to your appointments **unless** you, or someone you live with, has symptoms of the coronavirus.



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- ✓ Cloak rooms
- ✓ Mobility bathrooms
- ✓ Wet rooms
- ✓ Shower rooms



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South Marston CE Primary School

By Mrs Hendry, School Head



I am delighted to report that our whole school community is finally back together and what a fantastic first term it has been! The children have impressed and amazed me with their desire to learn, reconnect, explore and grow.



Their maturity around the procedures we need to follow in order to stay safe and their resilience has been incredible. I am very proud of each and every pupil. Below is a snapshot of the exciting learning that has been happening in each class this term.

Pre – School & Class 1 have really enjoyed being back with their friends; playing, exploring and learning together both inside and out. We have all been getting used to new routines and have settled into these very well. The children have been enjoying a range of activities linked to our books for the term (*The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Wonderful Rhyming* books by Julia Donaldson). We've made collages, large natural art pictures, played with patterns, explored rhyming words and retold stories. We've also been appreciating the joys of Autumn and all the seasonal treasures in our world around us – collecting conkers, counting acorns, studying leaf shapes and colours, and much more. Term 1 has been very busy!

Class 2 has settled back into school life beautifully! All of the children are so happy to be back with their friends, and we've been doing lots of fantastic learning! This term, we've all become historians and have been learning about *The Great Fire of London*. We've all really enjoyed learning about this and the children made some lovely posters, videos and puppet shows to show off their new knowledge. All of the adults in Class 2 are so very proud and can't wait to see what the rest of the school year holds!

Class 3 have made an excellent start to the year and had a great first term back at school. We have written persuasive letters and stories based on 'The Day the Crayons Quit' in English and have been busy looking at place value and addition in Maths. In Science we have been investigating different rock types and learning all about fossils and how they are made. We have become experts about mountains in Geography, getting creative with our final projects to show how much we have learnt. We have really enjoyed learning about Britain in the Stone Age as our topic this term, studying Skara Brae and Stonehenge and creating our own cave paintings. Next term we will look at how life changed for Britain in the Bronze and Iron Age.

Class 4 have returned seamlessly back to school life. In English, we have been looking at *'The Day the Crayons Quit'* and have written our own persuasive letters and stories based on the fantastic story.

Our whole class focus has been around Egypt. In History, the class have learnt about the amazing Ancient Egyptians, with particular interests in mummies, hieroglyphics and the curse of Tutankhamun. The children have looked at the importance of the River Nile to Egypt in Geography, looking at trade, tourism and land usage. A favourite moment of the term is our Design & Technology work, which set the challenge of building a vehicle to cross the Sahara Desert.

SMRA

By Angie Newton

For all those with happy memories of playing on, or supervising their children on the climbing frame in the Rec (pictured opposite), we're sad to say it was deemed to have reached its end of life and is now in the playground in the sky!

Our recent playground audit, completed by RoSPA, brought up a number of issues - deemed mostly low or very low risk. We are gradually working through this and trying to organise remedial action.



We are also looking at replacing the lost equipment. If you are interested in helping us decide what kind of play structure would fill the gap so we can continue to cater for all age groups, then please make contact with me - we'd welcome ideas. So far, we have learned that wood structures are expensive and don't last long enough! Email smra.chair@outlook.com or phone 01793 832034.

On a brighter note, we can report that the changing rooms finally have a new roof that doesn't leak! Both the Village Hall and Rec buildings have QR codes posted up outside so that people can use their phone App to monitor COVID risk.

A Football Association grant has enabled the football pitch to get a makeover. The drainage is better as the internal boundary ditch finally connects to the roadside ditch on Old Vicarage Lane. Now the Bellway site has improved the water flow away to the south on their property, we might have less soggy grass on the Rec! Many thanks to Bev at Spitfires for organizing the grant.

The F & E Harris Memorial Trust

Residents' hampers will be distributed to eligible pensioners on Thursday 3rd December 2020 from 2 – 4 pm at Westwinds, Thornhill Road, South Marston.

If you are unable to collect your hamper please contact:

Robbie Taylor – telephone number 823757 or email robina.taylor@btinternet.com

When collecting your hamper, the Trust would respectfully ask that you wear a face mask and try to keep at least 2 metres from people you do not live with. The Trust accept and are mindful that some people are unable to wear face coverings.

With the ever changing COVID restrictions, we may have to change the day or the collection point and if this is necessary we will notify you by putting notices on the village notice boards / VIEWS emails / direct email or telephone.

Barnes Coaches are continuing to provide the Thursday bus service to Swindon and have assured us of safe distancing for passengers. It's a good opportunity to do your Christmas Shopping.

Santa's sleigh deer's early visit to the village!

By Rachel Case

Taken one afternoon in the Orchard.

Wasn't at all phased by us walking up to him. Then another one arrived, but then they were spooked.

Was wonderful to be that close to such a beautiful animal.

So blessed to have an extended garden and so glad I didn't put a six foot fence up at the bottom of my garden.





South Marston In Lights

(SMILE)

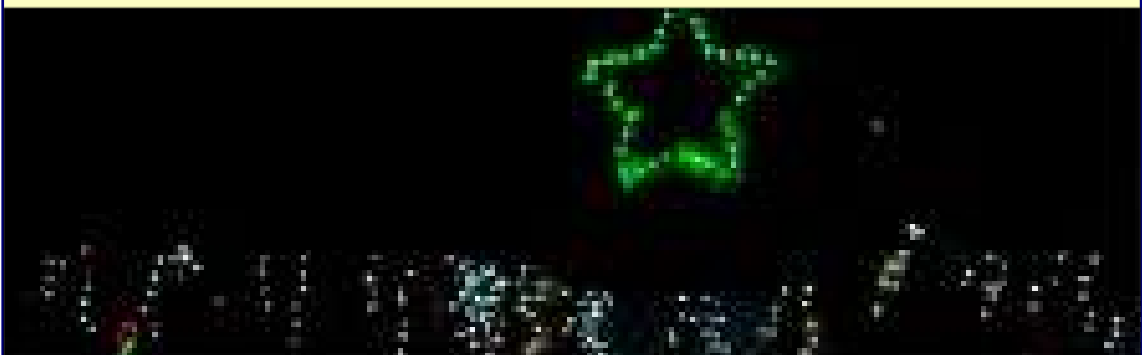
Let's SMILE this Christmas!

We can brighten Christmas up through SMILE, our South Marston in Lights Event.

The F&E Harris Memorial Trust has generously agreed to sponsor the fun again this year by providing vouchers as prizes for the best decorated village homes. .

Every home in the village can enter. Just get all the lights and decorations out and up by Friday 18th December.

Let's make it our best, brightest and biggest SMILE so far!



On Christmas Eve at 6pm we are asking everyone to come outside and ring a bell for 2 mins to spread some Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly his sleigh.

After a tough year it would be an amazing memory for children and our community. End 2020 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness!

The loss of a village volunteer

By Helen Millard

On Thursday 8th October, Isabel Mary HONE died after a week spent in GWH. She was 86 years old. She had lived in the village for over 50 years and loved South Marston dearly. She moved into Yew Tree House in 1969 arriving with her husband and three children. She taught Geography for many years in Faringdon and was a well respected and much admired teacher.

Isabel and her husband Gordon were active members of the village, they made many friends here and always kindly helped others. Isabel was Captain of the belltower and taught many people to ring, she ran the Church fete White Elephant stall for years and was latterly an active member of the Friendly Club. One of the memories from the many cards we have received said "*Isabel put the friendly into the Friendly Club*".



She was so proud of her children and loved watching her grandchildren grow up; she was a major and much loved part of their lives. She was so pleased 'Yew Tree' stayed in the family, passing to Helen and her family, when she moved two doors along to 'Blenheim'.

Many village children would remember her helping at South Marston Pre-school when her daughters created and ran it - she was Grandma to many village children, which she loved. She adored her beautiful cottage garden and often shared plants and cuttings with many people in the village. Two villagers who were particularly kind to her as her health declined recently, were Rita Smith and Jackie Marshal; they both showed great patience and loving support.

Isabel was laid to rest with her beloved husband who died 26 years before her leaving her heartbroken. Yet no one would have known the sadness she constantly carried; she was always so positive and cheerful. The village has lost a vibrant member and we all will miss her dreadfully. The family will hold a Memorial service to celebrate Isabel's life next year when we are able to, and everyone will be welcome. A notice will be posted on the village Facebook page and in the VIEWS emails.

Helen, Celia & Paul Hone, Duncan, William, Eleanor & Alasdair Millard.

South Marston Church News

Seeking, sharing and serving God together

Hello Everyone



It's hard to believe that it is now November. Looking around at the changing colours and the trees losing the leaves, it is a season that reminds me of loss as we move towards darker days and longer nights. November is, of course, the season of remembrance, a time to stop and reflect, to pause and wonder. This year, as we look back on all that has happened we know that we have all experienced loss.

We have all lost many of the events that we use to celebrate and mark special occasions: weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, proms and parties. Many of us have cancelled holidays and missed precious times with family and friends, the opportunity to give a friend a hug or to meet and share memories. Things that we looked forward to have passed without being marked and there is a sense of weariness as we look ahead to what is to come. Some have lost loved ones and have not had the opportunity to say goodbye to them as they would have liked. Many of us are still separated from those we love, unable visit or even call.

Yet, there is much to be thankful for.

Walking around I still see the rainbows in people's windows and even though many are faded, they cause me to smile. A reminder of how the community, in the depths of lockdown, came together to create something to brighten and cheer our towns and villages. Businesses are reopening and we have all learnt to appreciate so much more what we have locally: the local pubs, butchers, greengrocers, grocers, takeaways and hardware stores that have been able to provide what we needed when trips to bigger places meant rows of empty shelves and disappointment. Some of us will have connected with our neighbours for the first time as we stood on our doorsteps to clap for carers.

I wonder what we will learn from this time. Will we remember how life slowed down? The joy of being able to stop and spend more time with children without being rushed due to never ending schedules, the pleasure of a phone call with an old friend who we haven't had time to catch up with for years, time to walk and explore our beautiful countryside and notice things that we are usually too busy and distracted to see. The time to truly stop and enjoy the sound of birds singing, the unfurling of leaves and blooming of flowers that were all more noticeable during lockdown.

We will always remember this time, no doubt it will be handed down to our children and grandchildren. The times when they moan of being bored during the 6 week school holidays and we can say 'I remember when, children had 6 months away from school....'. We will, of course, remember all that we have lost, and it is so important

that we take the time to grieve and recognise that loss. But I hope that we will also remember what we have gained. The simple, God-given pleasures that surround us all the time, if only we pause to look and listen to the world around us they are always there: glimpses of God's grace, ever present in a world that at times feels strange and unfamiliar.

May you know the blessing of God's grace and abundance this autumn, as you remember what we have gained and mourn what we have lost.

Reverend Elveen Mead



November Services at St Mary Magdalene

Stop press - the recent announcement of impending lockdown means Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- To broadcast acts of worship
- Individual prayer.

We still have a strong digital presence

10am Sunday Services with Rev Elveen Mead and Rev Mark Tidey will be on our Facebook page ***StrattonTeamMinistry***.

Available after on the website **www.strattonteamministry.com** via the video tab at the top of the page.

Monday – Saturday Morning Prayer is live on our Facebook page (as above) at 9am and remains available for you to access at any time.

Stratton Team Ministry is pleased to welcome you back for Private Prayer:

- **St Margaret's Church** will be open by appointment - please contact the office on 01793 826505.
- **St Mary Magdalene's South Marston Church** will be open on Sunday afternoons until 5pm, and from 9am until 5pm every Wednesday.
- **St Leonard's Church** will be available for private prayer by phoning Roger and Liz Hillman on 01793 762935 - they will arrange with you for the building to be open at a time that can be quiet and safe.

Please understand in the current situation not all details are available at the time of print and may be subject to change.

Keep checking out our website which will have the most up to date information.
www.strattonteamministry.com.

Getting in touch

We are very happy to hear from you if you have any questions about the church, our timetable of services and events, or if you need support.

Church Office:



01793 826505



stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com

South Marston Churchwarden:

Richard Sansum



01793 831473

Community Policing Team (CPT)

By PCSO Jo Bennett



Hello from PCSO Jo Bennett and PC Amanda Stevenson. We are 2 members of the North, East and Rural Neighbourhood Community Policing Team who cover Highworth, South Marston, Inglesham, Sevenhampton, Hannington, Hampton and Castle Eaton.

PCSO Bennett previously worked in a customer service role, before joining Wiltshire Police and, for the past year, has enjoyed getting to know the different communities. PC Stevenson has been an officer with Wiltshire Police for just over 12 years, following work in the sport and recreation industry. She has worked as a frontline response officer and spent time working in the intelligence department as well as intel for the drugs team. After having her children, she returned to working as a frontline officer for CPT, based in Swindon.

The main job of a PCSO is to work alongside police officers and to be out engaging with the community, being the eyes and ears of the police service. The job is regularly described as being similar to the old style 'Bobbies On The Beat'. It's not only their role to engage with the residents of the parish, but to build strong relationships with the schools, businesses and any other organisations within the patch. PCSOs also help to target local priorities for example, speeding and anti-social behaviour.

If you see any of our officers out and about, please come and say 'Hi' and have a chat. Wiltshire Police wants to build a partnership working community. We look forward to seeing you.



**SOUTH MARSTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council

By Colin McEwen

School Expansion

We have seen the Borough's plans for the expanded school and have given cogent preliminary comments, as have the school/Academy (DBAT - the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust). The Borough has sent the plans back to their consultants for a re-draft.

There will be a Public Consultation at some stage. Because of COVID concerns this may be 'virtual' rather than a village hall exhibition. We are encouraging the Education Department officers to engage with us and to plan the school as part of the expanded village centre, with the developer funding opportunities that this can bring, rather than seeing the site in isolation.

Fibre Broadband

Finally, some progress to report.

BT are the Universal Service Providers responsible for fulfilling requests from eligible consumers. The Field Co-ordinator has recently been in the village signing up "wayleave" agreements for the ducting to be run along private land to provide a full fibre service for 3 areas of the village, hopefully within the next 6 months.

He confirms that this is a Universal Service Obligation scheme rather than Community Partnership. Ducting will be brought to house boundaries but the link to the house will be by a separate contract with BT or other provider.

I have his contact details and will ask for further details, to be put on the website.

Car Park

We are currently experiencing fast food litter (and more) in the village car park caused by evening visitors. It doesn't help that the light in the car park is not working due to an underground fault and we are concerned at the impact of that on legitimate users after dark.

The Parish Council has been exploring ways to provide some light, at reasonable cost, and is finally agreed on a solar light option due to the cabling problems. Hopefully, this will soon be implemented.

Rain Event

There was an amber warning of rain from the Met Office for the weekend 2nd-4th of October and it duly rained a lot.

Fortunately there was no absolute deluge of the kind experienced in 2007. Nonetheless, one property was flooded in the village and others along the A420.

I rode round the village on the Sunday afternoon to see what could be learnt. The outflow from the flood storage ponds serving South Marston Industrial Park had flooded across the road west of The Bends on the Highworth Road and flooded a house there. The water was back in its channel by the time that I was there.



I took photos of the storage pond off the Highworth Road, which has a lot of growth in it. Whilst this is excellent for nature, we are questioning whether the capacity of these ponds, and the other 4 upstream of them, has become lessened over the years.

The flooding of the properties off the A420 is reported to result from the roadside ditches not being maintained and we will work with the residents to try to get this addressed by the Borough in its capacity as Highway Authority.

Roads

It is a relief to many residents to now have Old Vicarage Lane open again after 6 months of having to think twice about how to reach what would otherwise be quite local destinations. We hope that this does not mean an increase in the possibility of 'rat-running' traffic through the village when the A420 is blocked.

It is a shame that the Carpenters Arms was looking forward to more village custom with the opening of the road, but is, of course, now affected by the current lockdown restrictions.

While the road works at the White Hart are progressing, it's also worth noticing whether the closure of the slip road from the A419 onto the A420 is pulling in more traffic through the village from Highworth en route to Sainsbury's. The saving grace is that it is likely to be temporary, but then the Old Vicarage Lane closure was originally only intended to be a few weeks.

Rising from the ashes

By Chris Brooks, Open Spaces Working Group (OSWG)

You may have heard of ash die-back, and noticed some of our local trees looking less than healthy. Ash is the most common tree in St Julian's wood and Oxleaze wood, but ash die-back is expected to kill around three quarters of all of our ash trees. This will leave gaps - it would be nice to allow them to fill naturally with native trees. Unfortunately, many young trees die because deer strip the bark from them.

Apart from ash, we currently have oak, field maple, willow, poplar, cherry, lime, hazel, alder, and a few others. It would be good to replace some of the dead or dying ash with trees less commonly found locally; trees such as beech, birch, holly, hornbeam, whitebeam, service, walnut, apple and plum.



A dead ash tree

As a start, I have begun trying to grow some wild fruit trees from seed. Barry Thunder has kindly allocated an area of the allotments for the saplings. An acquaintance in Highworth recently mentioned that he digs up a lot of young walnut trees that grow on his land. He has generously offered to give some to the village.

Later on I hope to use some of our funds to buy saplings of the other trees. Of course, growing trees from seeds is for the benefit of our grandchildren, but I'm hoping that you'll begin to see new young trees around our sites within the next three or four years.

If you have any young trees you don't want, particularly anything unusual, please let me know and I'll see if I can fit them into our plans.

How will these ash replacements help the countryside?

Given global warming and the changing weather patterns, it's important that our woods contain a wide variety of trees. This gives our woods the best chance of surviving. Additional fruit and nut trees will also provide food for many wild animals, birds and insects, whilst tree diversity will support rarer and possibly endangered wildlife. As time goes by it will also encourage different fungi.

If you're interested in finding out more about our tree planting, local green spaces or helping the OSWG, please contact Chris on 01793 829868 or wttmh@tiscali.co.uk.


**richard
james**

thinking of buying **new**?


take a look at some of our latest new homes, available in developments near you...

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 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes



 available homes from £220,000

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01793 831 444

Kingsdown Retirement Village



 2 bedroom bungalows



 available homes from £300,000

Kingsdown Road | Swindon | SN3 4TD

01793 501 651

incentivised.com

Baby Loss Awareness week

By Louise Warneford

Held annually from the 9th-15th October, it is a special opportunity to mark the lives of babies lost in the womb or soon after birth. 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage.



When, after 18 unexplained miscarriages, I was finally able to carry a baby to full term, I felt overwhelming gratitude to those who had made this birth possible. Without UK Consultant, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Dr Hassan Shehata's diagnosis of the body's natural killer cells, and the expert fertility service from Gynem Clinic I, Prague doctors and staff, I would have remained childless.

I decided to share my story of determination, giving hope to others having difficulties with pregnancy. It covers the incredible struggles in our journey to have a baby. Anyone who has ever experienced miscarriages will relate to it. From almost constant grief and loss, to the joy I have today in my son.



My book is a testament to courage and determination and also serves as an expression of gratitude to the medical team who supported us along the way and who helped bring our beautiful son, William, into the world.

Louise lives locally and can be contacted on louisewarneford1967@gmail.com or n.roberts971@btinternet.com

Well Done Winners!

Congratulations to our September and October 100 Club winners from South Marston Recreation Association.



£30 No. 11 Pauline Oxby
£10 No. 44 Charlie Goodheart
£10 No. 89 Colin McEwen
£10 No. 69 Margaret Turner
£10 No. 39 Val Goodheart
£10 No. 4 Mary Williams
£10 No. 69 Margaret Turner
£10 No. 11 Pauline Oxby
£10 No. 20 Dougie Graham

The 100 Club is an annual subscription of £12 with the chance of winning £10, £30 or £100. All profits are used to support the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and the Village Hall.

If you would like to participate in this monthly draw, please contact Julie Hatherall on: 07749211867

The end of the allotment year

By Lionel Cave-Ayland

We are slowly coming to the end of another allotment year, one like no other. We are just left with the last of the winter veg to pick. COVID has meant dealing differently with many situations. Fortunately, allotments have always had their individual plots, and social distancing is the norm.

Through these troubled times we have found ways of coping. Most would agree that getting exercise in the outdoors has great benefits for our mental and physical wellbeing. Allotments can be whatever you want them to be. A sanctuary away from life's many problems, a place to reflect, relax, get exercise and of course grow your own crops.



When I first started, sheds were not allowed on our allotments, most now have them. Some painted in various colours and decorated inside to individual tastes. Some even have a lean-to with patio area.

Over the years there have been many characters such as Smiler, a man of few words, with his trusty grey Ferguson tractor with two furrowed plough.

Then there's Bertie, a man of many words who was more than happy to share a tale or two. More recently there has been Tom Le Maitre who finally gave up his allotment after over 30 years. Yours truly has now taken on the mantle of Longest Serving Allotment Holder. This year we sadly lost Terry Scragg, many of his Allotment colleagues formed a guard of honour through the village on the day of his funeral.

New characters have now emerged. Electric John and Mechanic Nick mow, mend and build. Derek also is only too willing to help and source the odd item, our own Amazon Prime.

Soon we will have the first fall of snow and all the allotments will look the same. We will be tucked up in our homes thumbing through various seed catalogues, choosing what to grow next year. I am sure the rabbits, pigeons and deer will also be hoping for something new to eat.



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Editor's note

Community News will continue to be delivered to village residents. It is also available to download and read as a PDF on the Community News page of the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/news-updates/community-news>

If you would prefer to receive Community News by email, please send a request.

Call for contributors - we're looking for more people to write for the magazine, please email editor@southmarston.org.uk

Best wishes, Sharon

About Community News



**SOUTH MARSTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

South Marston Community News is produced by the Communications Working Group of South Marston Parish Council. Although funded by the Parish Council, the Editorial Board of Community News operates independently and aims to produce an impartial, community focused magazine of interest to all residents.

Community News is produced in partnership with our printers, Orchard Press (www.Orchard-Press.co.uk) and sponsored by Eneco, which manages South Marston's solar farm (www.eneco.co.uk)





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A message from the Communications Working Group

We are trying to minimise the COVID risk by getting the printers to provide sealed packs of Community News for each volunteer in the delivery team. It has also been advised that gloves are worn during their delivery rounds.

The magazine can be read online too, as a PDF on the Community News page of the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/news-updates/community-news>

Thank you to all our volunteers, readers and supporters for your ongoing contributions. We look forward to welcoming you back with our next edition in January 2021. Stay safe.