

South Marston Community News

South Marston Coronation Events

By Lionel Cave-Ayland



Saturday 6th of May Free Entry!!!

Come out and join in our festivities from 3pm to 11pm on the Recreation Ground after the Coronation at 11am. Please note that the Car Park is for Disabled Parking only.

3pm - Picnic in the Park:

Bring your own picnic (no glass please). Fun and games for children. See over for the dog show classes, with prizes to be won!

7pm - Party in the Park:

Bring your own refreshments (no glass). Bar available.

Live music throughout the day and night:

Highworth Silver Band, School Choir, Cotswold Voices Rock Choir, and Bee Ska Live Band

Entertainment:

Dog Show, Funfair, Craft Tent, Classic Cars, Model Aircraft, Magic Luke, Cakes, An Ice-cream Van, Bar and Fast Food will be available.

Continued overleaf

Dog Show Classes

- Most Handsome Prince
- Noblest Senior (over 7 years)
- Children's Class (under 16 years)
- Prettiest Princess
- Cutest Puppy (under 12 months)
- Most Regal Expression
- Fancy Dress Dog Handler
- Best Pair



All winners are then challenged for King or Queen of the Show!



You're Invited

Stratton Team Ministry Celebrates the Coronation

A Flower Festival will be held at St Mary Magdalene Church the 6-8th of May.

Refreshments will be available on Sunday the 7th of May from 2-4pm.

Updates

For the latest information on the Coronation Events in South Marston, please check the village website www.southmarston.org.uk and Facebook page.

Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our MARCH and APRIL winners.

MARCH

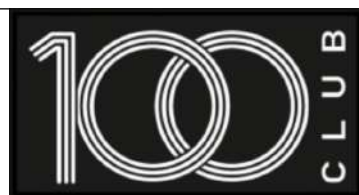
£30. No 53. Mick Liddiard
£10. No 59. Richard Sansum
£10. No 12. Ian Addison
£10. No 24. Rita Smith
£10. No 8. Tina Hiscocks

APRIL

£10 No. 89 Colin McEwen
£10 No. 34 Julie Hatherall
£10 No. 64 Lyn Flitton
£10 No. 84 Jodie Woolhouse

The 100 Club is a £12 annual subscription 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. The SMRA would like to thank all the participants and Club collectors for their continued support in these difficult times.

If you are interested in supporting the SMRA, please contact Julie Hatherall on 07749211867 or Angela Newton on 07789068340 for a number to participate in the monthly draw.



Paediatric First Aid

by Bella Clark

The recent Training Session was a great success with 12 people in attendance, including some teenagers with their parents and a small babe in arms. We learnt about how to manage choking, resuscitation for babies, children and adults, how to use a bandage, the recovery position and how to use the defibrillator.

I learnt that the defibrillator talks to you and tells you what to do! It was also comforting to learn you can simply call 999 and they will talk you through what to do.

Some of the people attending were working in care and wanted a refresher, whilst others were learning for the first time. Everyone came away feeling more confident in their skills.



Election Photo ID

by The Editor

Local elections are taking place on Thursday 4th of May, and you'll need to bring an accepted form of photo ID to vote. Visit the Borough Council website at www.swindon.gov.uk/voterID to check you have an accepted form of photo ID.



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Spring Up and Look Around

by Barry Thunder and Chris Brooks, Open Spaces Working Group

Great things are happening as a result of recent activities in our green spaces. The trees and bushes our volunteers planted in Oxleaze Wood are now budding and coming into leaf. Walnut, red oak, service, beech, sweet chestnut, guelder rose, spindle, dog rose and others are thriving, along with 150 assorted wild flowers. We still plan to plant more trees that will cope with our changing climate and continue to work with like-minded villagers to create woodlands that are interesting for all.

After many years of work at Oak Tree Corner, we are now seeing a successful propagation of snake's head fritillary, wild garlic and a good variety of other interesting and colourful plants that we put in. We replanted much of the hedge with a variety that is now maturing nicely.

The gazebo at St Julians Wood should take on a more natural look when the recently-planted wild honeysuckle and ivy grow up the sides.

During the spring, we tend to leave the green spaces alone so as not to disturb any wildlife. It's a time to enjoy the fruits of our labours and plan jobs for the autumn and winter.



We are reviewing many areas such as Orchard Meadow's fruit trees. The Village Garden is about to be replanted since the hungry deer and rabbits are eating too many of the plants in the central flower bed. Also on the list is what we can do to improve the look of some of the roadside approaches into the village over the changing seasons.

We welcome new volunteers to join us and assist the group in helping to look after our green spaces and also shape local green strategy. There are currently about twenty of us and we are always open to new members support, ideas and expertise.

To find out more please contact Chris Brooks wttmh1@gmail.com or Barry Thunder barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.

Tots & Toddlers

It has been wonderful to see some new faces at the group and we hope you'll continue to spread the word to other families. Each week, it's lovely to see the children speaking and joining in more, increasing their confidence with the adults they recognise.

We've had a lovely time celebrating lots of special dates recently, with the children enjoying creating some handprint coasters for Mother's Day, as well as various crafts for Easter and springtime. We are gradually updating our display board with crafts the children are really proud of. Our Easter egg hunt was thoroughly successful, with the attending adults just as skilled at hiding eggs as the children were at finding them!

A nice, practical update using Tots funds is to install a wall-mounted changing table for the little ones who are in nappies. Hopefully this will get a lot of use during Tots and Toddlers, and when the hall is used by others.

It's so important, again, to recognise how supportive the children's accompanying adults are to the group. Thank you so much for always being there to pitch in. We really appreciate that feeling of community in our village.

We hope to see familiar and new faces as the warmer weather arrives and we can use our outdoor space!

Rachel and Emma

We meet 9-11am on Wednesdays during term time in South Marston Village Hall, welcoming children aged 0-4. There is a small charge of £2.50 for up to 2 children (50p for each additional child) with drinks and snacks provided.



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South Marston Gardening Club

by Angela Newton



Thank you to those who supported our recent 'Seed Swap'. Sadly it wasn't very popular and so we have decided not to hold further ones, as we realise it's probably due to people preferring to buy plants as they have no means to grow from seed.

On a positive note, we were able to donate £34.85 to St. Mary Magdalene church, towards their boiler repairs.

Our talk on 'A Spoonful of Herbs' by Lynda Warren was well received. She was very knowledgeable on everything about herbs and provided very thorough handouts. She also brought along a couple of herb infused dips, which could even be used on a jacket potato.

Monday 8th of May, 7.30-9.30pm - 'Early Summer Colour', Speakers Pete and Bob Biggs

Locals, Pete and Bob, Father and Son run Wanborough Herb Nurseries and are experts at growing herbs and know all about them. They have visited us a few times and talked on various subjects. They will bring with them lots of flowering plants which will be handed around and all the plants go on sale at the end of the evening.

Monday 5th of June, 7.30-9.30pm - Plant Sale



Pop along for plants for your: house, garden or allotment, and get advice from our Gardening Club members.

Enjoy refreshments and homemade cakes. Cash only please.

Annuals	Fruit plants	Hanging baskets	Herbs
House plants	Perennials	Shrubs	Vegetable plants

We're looking for assorted pots to reuse and recycle: tin, ceramic, terracotta, small, medium or brightly coloured ones or anything unusual that we could pot up into a display, such as an old watering can. Please contact Angela on 07789068340 to arrange collection.

Monday 3rd of July, 7.30-9.30pm – ‘Naturally Native’, Speaker Anne Luder

A talk about gardening with British Natives at home – a look at about 30 plants (and their cultivars) that are native to the British Isles and suitable for garden use, helping you to attract nature, and work with our climate.

Anne worked as a garden designer for over twenty-five years, designing both public and private gardens and specialising in allergy-free and challenging gardens. At the beginning of her horticultural career, Anne spent four years in charge of propagation at a nursery in Essex where many of the staff had learning disabilities. She retired a few years ago having been a lecturer at Capel Manor College, where she specialised in therapeutic horticulture for severe physical disabilities. Anne is involved in the landscaping, and is a Trustee, of a Natural Burial Ground in Cheshunt where much of it will eventually be a new British native woodland.

Come and join us. All our events are held in South Marston Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane. Annual membership is only £12 or it's £3 on the door as a visitor.

South Marston Friendly Club

Come and join us in the village hall for our entertaining talks and presentations with refreshments after. Village residents who are not members and over 50 are welcome on our day trips (subject to availability).

PROGRAMME 2023

Tuesday 9th May at 2pm - A Tour of the Universe

'An Introduction to key contents of our Solar System and beyond' by Tony Herst

Tuesday 23rd May at 9.15am – Coach trip

To St. Fagans Historic Museum and Gardens

Tuesday 13th June at 2pm – Experiences as the Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire

A talk by Shirley Ludford

Tuesday 20th June at 9.15am – Coach trip

To Bournemouth

Tuesday 11th July at 2pm – The Jay Birds Choir

A selection of popular songs with some to join in with

For more information about the club, please contact Sheila on telephone number 828545 or email – smfriendlyclub@gmail.com.

The Wonky Veg Club

by Lindsey, Volunteer Lead

Our Club at Roves Farm has just celebrated its first anniversary! February half term saw the Wonky Veg crew in the barn teaching children and adults how to make biodegradable plant pots out of old toilet roll tubes. Thanks to all the visitors over 200 broad beans were sown and the seedlings have now been planted out in the patch.



At the end of last year a polytunnel was erected on the patch and over winter we were busy building raised beds, tables and seed trays. Now it's fully planted with peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, chilies, salad, leeks, celery, onions to name a few. Outside we have started planting parsnips, onions, beetroot, carrots and potatoes.

Volunteers and regulars are increasingly joining our open sessions held on Sunday's 2-5pm, Tuesday's 4-7pm and Thursday's 9am-12 noon. All are welcome! If you are interested in coming please get in touch via email to wonkyveg@rovesfarm.co.uk or just turn up to the sessions at Roves Farm.



Exciting upcoming events at the Carriers Arms !!!

Friday 5th May - Coronation Special Quiz, part of the village celebrations. Start time - 8pm

LIVE MUSIC:

Drew Bryant, 17th June, solo singer singing all your pop and rock classics across the decades

Bee Skas, 26th August, a five piece Ska band very popular in Swindon

Trios Amigos, 23rd September 9pm, a 3 piece party style band playing classics from old up to today, Rock Ska Funk and more

Old Friends Acoustic Duo, November 25th, acoustic style music from 50s up to 80s, including artists such as Stereophonics, Men at Work and Green Day.

Real ale on tap. Find us on Facebook.

Regularly show Sky Sports and BT sports, free guest wi-fi.

Thornhill Road Bridleway - New Signage

by the Open Spaces Working Group

We have seen an increase of cycling and walking in our village, over past years, more so since the lockdown. In addition, we expect more usage from the upcoming new road between Old Vicarage Lane and Thornhill Road.

It has long been a concern that the previous signage at the Hoddinotts Corner entrance to the Bridleway had become unreadable and the signs at the KeyPoint roundabout entrance were small and inadequate in directing new users to the Bridleway.

Our requests to the Borough Council to improve this signage fell on deaf ears, so the Parish Council commissioned and installed bespoke new signs to provide clear direction for the safer route along this busy section of road.

Signposted from Nightingale Woods is a new 'Ramblers Retreat' covered seating area that is open to walkers, dogs and cyclists next to the Roves Farm café and Farm Shop.



Heading North to Hoddinotts corner



Opposite Morses Lane crossing point



Key Point Roundabout



Hoddinotts corner heading South

The School's History

by Marie Hendry, Headteacher

As we approach our 150th birthday in June, it has been wonderful to look back at the extensive work on the school archive that Hilary Brooks dedicated so much time to. Having worked an incredible 19 years at the school, she retired in September. We are incredibly grateful to Hilary for her time on this and view it as priceless gift – not every school can say they have the rich history.

To start the series of articles to commemorate the school's big birthday I would like to share some interesting facts I have learned from the time of our school opening in 1873.

Some artwork from when the school opened can be seen at either end of our school hall today! At the boys' end, a picture painted by Henry Holiday of London, representing a Greek stadium or racecourse. The object of the picture is to illustrate and enforce the passage of Scripture in the 24th verse of the ninth chapter of the first Epistle to the Corinthians. On the wall at the girls' end is a picture illustrative of passages in the thirty – first chapter of the Book of Proverbs and is meant to point out a moral to the scholars. Both pictures are surmounted by a stone frame, connecting them to the architecture of the building.

We look forward to sharing more about the school's history in future editions.



The Carpenters Arms

----- South Marston -----



SATURDAY 6TH MAY @ 7.30pm

Join us for a right royal knees up with **British**
music from the 60's to present from

"Black Dog Acoustic Duo"

....with a special food menu, fit for a King!!

The Carpenters Arms, Old Vicarage lane, South Marston, Swindon, SN3 4ST
Tel: 01793 822997 Email: thecarpentersarms1@gmail.com www.carpentersarmsswindon.co.uk

Community Speed Watch

by Grahame Robertson, South Marston CSW Team Leader

The monitoring of speed limits throughout the village is sponsored by Wiltshire Police, with vetting and training carried out by them. They also ensure that the speed gun is calibrated at regular intervals.

Surprisingly, there are many drivers who disregard the current speed limits throughout the village. On Old Vicarage Lane, for instance, there is a 30 mph speed limit which runs past the Recreation Ground to the Village School. The damage that a vehicle doing 30mph could do to a pedestrian, particularly a child, is frightening, yet even though there are chicanes on this stretch of the road, drivers still exceed the speed limit!



Community Speed Watch is a purely voluntary service provided by willing participants who reside in the village. We all have busy lives and obligations, so the process of monitoring the speed limits in the village are taken in hourly sessions, to ensure maximum flexibility for the volunteers. There is no system or rota to be adhered to, and volunteers offer to do a session when it is convenient to them.



If you would like further information or are interested in volunteering, please contact either myself on 07962 370938 or Jo on 07762 360566.



Travel Survey Winner

by Claire Fleming, Travel Plan Officer, SBC

This is Rob Newnham receiving his £100 Sainsbury's voucher (prize) from answering our recent travel survey.

I'd like to thank all the residents that took the time to complete the survey, as it will help to shape our activities going forward.

It's Goodbye from Greenshawe Services

by Graham and Heather Bishop

After nearly 30 years in South Marston, we are retiring our landscape, tree surgery and engineering company. We have worked on domestic and commercial projects, including Go Outdoors, and ranging from the highest - 100ft high poplar trees in Castle Eaton to the lowest - digging a septic tank hole at Acorn Bridge estate!



Greenshawe has worked throughout the village, at the allotments, Village Garden, St. Julians, the School and the Solar Farm. The most interesting project was for the school, when we were asked if soil/plants could be provided for the raised beds by the railings. We were landscaping in Old Town that day, and the excess soil and plants were transported over! The owner was SO pleased it went to a good home!

Graham was curious as a child about how things worked, taking them apart and sometimes getting them working again. He enjoys enhancing engineering machinery, e.g. extra controls on the small Ferrari tractor. Heather plays accordion to those needing sing-along music, including the South Marston Friendly Club, and busking in town, and at car boots sales. Before Covid, she spent a few years with Marlborough accordion orchestra playing concerts at old people's homes.

We've enjoyed the work immensely, but not the gradual increase in rules and regulations. Despite this, we would recommend youngsters start their own garden business. It's wonderful meeting people and chatting about their gardens.

People are welcome to have a look at our closing sale and make an offer. Items include: mowers, petrol trimmers, hand tools, woodchip, paving, wood, pots, and much more; please call Graham on 07836 273506.

Annual Seaside Trip

The F and E Harris Memorial Trust would like to remind eligible pensioners that this year's trip will be to Brighton on Tuesday the 4th of July 2023.

If you would like come on the trip, please contact Robbie by email to robina.taylor@btinternet.com.



My Happy Place - Part 2

by Laura Tweedle

Following on from my article in 2020, I was approached by Sharon, The Editor, to put together a piece about my new, additional 'Happy Place', G5 Evolution Martial Arts. Initially it took some persuasion from my lovely husband Richard to begin my journey into Martial Arts. Both our children attend the club and back in August 2020 I decided to join too. I was a bit apprehensive and remember being very nervous completing the application form to join. Self-doubt crept in and the thought of grading through the belts terrified me!



It has been a rollercoaster of a journey and one that has helped me to develop and grow as a person. Both our children have attended since 2017; it was such a joy to take part in something they both loved and enjoyed. You really don't appreciate the challenges they face until you completely submerge yourself and it has allowed me to believe that anything is possible and you are never too old to learn something new!

Now in April 2023 I am a blue tag, having graded seven times. Each time is terrifying, exciting and mentally exhausting. I can't explain the thrill of being put out of your comfort zone into your stretch and panic zone followed by the feeling of excitement and pride on passing your grading. During your grading you have two or three black belts (Sensei's) who watch and mark you with a Pass, Merit or Distinction. The spotlight being on you is something I have had to ease myself into, as the thought of it is overwhelming. I have learnt to enjoy each grading and to perform to the best of my ability, pushing myself each time.



The instructors at G5 are amazing and talented and the owner Shihan has taught me so much, helping me more than they will ever know. It is safe to say that I am really enjoying my journey so far. If you are looking to improve your fitness, push yourself outside your comfort zone and help your mental well-being, G5 is the place for you. They offer free trials and also have the most wonderful coffee shop in which I also volunteer. It really is an awesome and friendly place to be in and I cannot recommend it enough.



Panattoni Permission Granted

The mega industrial site owners have been granted permission to redevelop the former Honda airfield site. Forecasted to generate 7,000 long term jobs, Panattoni will now complete the purchase of the site and commence demolition of the car factory followed by extensive infrastructure and landscaping work. A very, very large first warehouse is planned for a specific occupier, which will be followed by development of other sites as potential buyers come forward. The buildings will be sold to occupiers, with Panattoni retaining ownership and maintenance responsibility for the overall site.

As before, no vehicle access is permitted from our side of the site, but footpath/cycle links are planned through the site accessed from Highworth Road at Oak Tree Corner and, subject to future development, Crown Timber and KeyPoint.

Panattoni worked with the Parish Council to hold a village information meeting and listened to the concerns of residents whose gardens back onto the site by moving back the southernmost building and increasing security and shielding measures. Other modifications increased the flood alleviation measures to significantly reduce the risk of repeating the 2007 event at Greenfields.

At the SBC Planning Committee meeting, both the Panattoni Director and Borough Councillors acknowledged the positive role that the PC had played in representing residents' interests. Panattoni committed to work with us as the build progresses.

These warehouses are big, but the nearest has been moved back to 200 yards from the closest village property, with the existing lagoon now being retained and a nature area being developed around it. The brook is to be opened up through the site and further planting will exploit its ecological value.

Warehouse development in our parish is driven by its location, road links and relatively cheap land for economic development. As a Parish Council we, together with the Borough's Planning Officers, seek to maximise the benefits and alleviate the problems that come with it whilst keeping residents informed and engaged.

HHT Rowborough and South Marston: All is Silence!

It's 15 years since the initial HHT crew pitched up at a Parish Council meeting. It didn't go well. 5 years later, a financial crisis and a change of both Government and Planning Policy, the planning application was submitted. 10 years further on, this has been granted with conditions. Following a flurry of activity over New Year, many of the conditions have been met. But the Taylor Wimpey office at Oxford has been closed as a result of the economic downturn and their workload is said to have been transferred to the Bristol office, who have yet to get in touch with either us or the Borough. Which leads us on to:

School Expansion

Originally planned in 2012, the tripling in size of the school is needed to take the influx of children from the HHT expansion. Everyone is keen that it is in place in advance of the demand, whenever that arrives. The expansion is to take place on part of the Rec., as agreed by the village in our Neighbourhood Plan referendum. HHT have agreed to transfer the field behind Bell Gardens to the Parish Council by way of compensation. So, all the parts are in place, but bringing them together is another matter! Meanwhile, the school is currently over-subscribed following the completion of Magdalene Close and not all village children can get in. Not what we want!

Magdalene Close

Builders Bellway appear to think that they have finished, but the access points from the bridleway and Rec. still have issues. Additionally, the western part of the site now drains to the north rather than south as originally planned. There was a ditch that would have taken the water south to Old Vicarage Lane, but Bellway managed to fill this in and have not adequately reinstated it. This means that the nearby field floods and is permanently boggy. We and the Borough Planning Officer are chasing this up!



Village Information Event

The Parish Council arranged a drop-in event in early March to outline and consult on initiatives within the village which are being financed through financial obligations from developers in the village. This includes improvement works to Oxleaze Wood and its access, further developments on the Recreation Ground, including better drainage and new equipment, and the latest plans for the 20mph zone in the centre of the village.

A big thankyou to all those who came and talked to us about these various matters, and offered views on what we could provide.



Now you see it...now you don't

by Anne Featherstone

We don't make a song and dance about it - others have already done that. 'Litter-Free' is a song professionally recorded in October 2021 by litter-pickers in a video filmed on a clifftop in the seaside and port town of Felixstowe. Sung to the tune of 'We'd like to teach the world to sing' the Litter-Free song goes...

I'd like to see the earth, my home, completely litter free. Grow lots of trees, help birds and bees, keep plastic from the sea. I'd like to teach the world to sing a pledge to say we care. For living things and joys they bring, the Earth's a place we share. I'd like to see the world unite, to sing out special song. Our voices joined in harmony, together we are strong. We're litter free, what the world wants today, we're litter free, what the world wants today, we're litter free'.

In South Marston, Mandy, Nigel, and I began keeping records in 2021 but volunteers, including us, have been picking up litter for years before that. In 2019, we held our first Community Litter Picking event. By 2021, a strategy had emerged and throughout that year we collected 149 bags during 152 litter picking hours. Our strategy still is a combination of formal and informal picks made up of groups, pairs, and individual volunteers, focusing on keeping tidy the 3 main Village Gateways as well as other hotspots such as the Recreation Ground and the Village Car Park.

The village garden and the village centre get attended to before and after special events, as does the Recreation Ground and car park. For example, we ensure the village centre looks its best for Remembrance Day and the Recreation Ground is clean after community events.

Across 2022 we collected 55 bags of litter in 75 hours. Face masks and rubber gloves featured highly then. So far this year 32 bags of litter have been collected in 21 hours. We might add to these figures the regular fortnightly picks by one of our volunteers, and the carrier bags filled by others when, for instance, out walking the dog. What it tells us, we can see with our own eyes; there is a problem in South Marston with littering and fly-tipping. Sadly, it is also a problem nationally, as is dog fouling.



Lots of the litter we collect is associated with drinking and drug taking. We are heartened by the recent government headline regarding Nitrus Oxide. You may have seen the shiny metal canisters. We have always held the view that this laughing gas is not funny at all.

Money saving is one aspect of volunteering. However costs are still incurred in waste management such as the collection of the bags of litter we fill and the fly tips

we identify. The Parish Council fully supports our efforts and budgets £250 annually for our bin bags and to replace equipment. The emptying of litter bins and dog waste bins are an additional cost on the Parish Council.

More than saving money, all of us who turn out to litter pick are rather passionate about South Marston and the community that lives here. We want it to be the best it can be. Litter pickers are just a small part of a large volunteer force in the village.

We could perhaps write other verses to the Litter-Free song with words that convey our frustration when we sweep a stretch and almost immediately litter re-appears. We take this personally and admit to being outraged when so much hard work has been done to create a clean scene and a safe place for wildlife.

Absolutely, we would want to say 'Thank you' in our song to the drivers who show their appreciation with nods and waves. Also, we congratulate our resident youngsters who 'slam dunk' their wrappers into the bins.

'The Litter', a 1967 rock band, released an album called \$100 Fine. We wish we could report that fines for fly-tipping and for littering have been issued. Unfortunately, the Police so far have not been able to act even when we have provided video evidence of the perpetrators. We would ask you all to pick up litter you notice, rather than pass it by. We would appreciate extra pairs of hands too, so if you would like to get involved, please email VIEWS at southmarstonviews@gmail.com. The Litter Picking Team.

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Dear Friends,

The beginning of April this year marked the start of Holy Week, the culmination of the previous five weeks of preparation that is Lent. During Holy Week we re-enact the highs and lows of the key events in the last days of the life of Jesus. We ride into Jerusalem on a donkey whilst the crowds gather and wave their palm branches and shout Hosanna. We gather around the Passover table as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and shares with them the very first bread and wine. We sit and wait with Jesus in the garden as he prays to his Father one last time. Then we gather at the foot of the cross to watch as Jesus is put to death. On Holy Saturday we wait - as Jesus' disciples did, for the chance to serve the body of Jesus in the tomb. Then on Easter morning we gather and witness the empty tomb and celebrate our encounter with the risen Christ.



Each of these acts takes us deeper into the story and experience of Jesus and his disciples and every time we rehearse it we learn something new. It stands in somewhat stark contrast with the Easter celebrated by the rest of society, who will have been eating hot cross buns and chocolate eggs long before Easter Sunday dawned. I have learnt from experience that waiting until Easter to buy your Easter eggs means that you are more than likely to be left with only the most weird and frankly disgusting combinations to choose from. By Easter Monday it's all gone, and the shelves will be full of something else - this year probably coronation and union flag decorated cakes.

This can make those of us who keep Easter feel disconnected from the culture in which we live. There have always been generational divides, but the fast-ever-changing technological world can make these divides seem greater. We recently watched the first Mission Impossible movie, from 1996. At the time of release, we marvelled at the amazing tech: watches that could take a phone call, ear buds that fitted in your ears with no wires, phones that could track someone's every movement. Imagine that! Well we don't need to as they are now in use every day. What was pure fantasy just a few years ago has become our everyday reality.

When we feel disconnected from the culture around us it can be tempting to batten down the hatches and reject the changes, but by doing this we risk pushing away connection and people. Though we have to hold firm to what is true and important we must be open to new opportunities, to seek for what is real and can enrich our lives.

Blessings

Elveen

Stratton Team Ministry

Seeking, Sharing and Serving God Together

Stratton Team Ministry will be conducting Sunday Morning services at South Marston St Mary Magdalene Church (Unless otherwise stated).

7th of May	10am	All Age Worship
14th of May	9.30am	Holy Communion
21st of May	10am	Team Service at St Margaret's with Archdeacon Christopher
4th of June	10am	All Age Worship
11th of June	9.30am	Holy Communion
2nd of July	10am	All Age Worship
9th of July	9.30am	Holy Communion

Please Note up to date guidance from the Government and Church of England is followed.

Saturday Scene offers a very friendly welcome and gives an informal space for children to explore together in a Christian environment. Join us in St Margaret's Centre at 4pm on Saturday **13th of May, 10th of June & 15th of July.**

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:

Diane Whitford ☎ 01793 824339

Stratton Team Ministry is also pleased to welcome you for Private Prayer at **St Mary Magdalene's Church**, open daily from early morning till early evening.

MEETING POINT



St Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston

The 'drop in' is for all members of our community

Come and Join Us for Coffee

in the Village Hall, from 10.00 - 12.00

on Saturday 20th of May with
Community Craft Fair

Enquiries or reservations please call 831473.

A New Vision for the School's Next Chapter

By Marie Hendry, Headteacher

Over the past year, a very important piece of work has been taking place in school, involving many conversations, periods of quiet reflection and deliberation, on our new vision - *'Encourage one another and build each other up' 1 Thessalonians 5.11. Flourishing together with Community, Hope, Perseverance and Friendship.*

Since taking over as the Headteacher and navigating the school through the pandemic, it has been a desire of mine to ensure the school's vision is fitting and appropriate for today and into the future. The old vision and strapline of 'Achievement for All' had been in place for many years and perhaps does not now reflect the school and what we have been through in recent years. It was very important to me that as a Church of England Primary school our new vision was deeply rooted in the Bible and something that pupils and staff could aspire to daily.

Deciding upon a new vision is a huge decision and not one I was prepared to take lightly – getting it right was key and our many stakeholders needed to be part of it. We have worked with the Diocese of Bristol, our Trust, our Academy Council, Reverend Mead, our staff and parent community and last but by no means least, our pupils. Gathering views, sharing ideas, asking for wisdom and steering us to introduce our new vision to those connected with our school. It has been quite a journey - exciting, thought provoking and at times overwhelming, with its importance!

The pupils' role has been crucial. Through assemblies, worship, and meetings, they have been brilliant at sharing their thoughts and shaping the new vision, which was shared with parents in September and was agreed by the Trust in October. Since then we have been busy in school learning about what it means and how we can live by it. Our next exciting step is to have a piece of artwork to display around school which embodies it – before Easter the children were tasked with producing their interpretation of what the new vision means to them and we have had some incredible art work, making the final design decision very challenging!

Finally, to finish I would like to share some of the reasons why we feel it fits us:

- As a school we are a family – we know each other well and work together to support one another. Visitors always comment on our welcoming atmosphere, the culture we have created and the children's interactions with one another.
- It links to our behaviour ethos of *'Ready, Respect and Safe.'*
- It encompasses everyone, Pupils, Parents, Staff, Academy Council and our Trust!
- It supports our focus on positive mental health and well-being.
- The idea of 'build' incorporates our future expansion and growth in that way.
- The values of community, hope, perseverance and friendship, as chosen by the pupils, will be our four key values explored via parables from the Bible.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our new vision and this important journey for our school this past year.

Allotment Update

by Barry Thunder

After the incessant rain and cold winds, the allotment site is slowly coming back to life. Despite the wetness, planting has been taking place with some potatoes, onion, and broad bean plants. The apple trees are in blossom and hopefully will survive any coming frosts.

Whist not required at present, our mains water is yet to be connected. The new water troughs are full from the recent rain. Plans for this year are to add eight more fruit trees to our orchard and landscape the expanded car parking area, adding colour from new bushes and ground cover planting. We are also looking to create some new plots to take on additional tenants. Our current waiting list is at zero, except for a specific plot location request. We recently added three new tenants and an additional plot to a current tenant. If anyone in the village would like an allotment plot, please contact Kevin, our Parish Clerk, or send an email to me at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.



Acupuncture

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SMRA Update

By Jenny McEwen

South Marston Recreation Association held their Annual General Meeting in early April. We now have a very active Management Committee, shown by the vast improvements made to the Village Hall (see below, all decked out for a wedding event) and the new equipment on the Recreation Ground. Grateful thanks go to the Parish Council and the F&E Harris Memorial Trust for all their financial support. We would very much welcome new members should they wish to join us - there are more initiatives to come!

The following were elected as Honorary Officers for the coming year:

Chair - Jenny McEwen,
Vice Chair - Adam Rudnik
Treasurer - Ian Clark

Rachel Case is the Village Hall book-keeper, and Julie Hatherall is our accounts manager. Lionel Cave-Ayland is our Safety Officer, having duly obtained his RoSPA qualifications.



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Useful Contacts

South Marston Parish Council: clerk@southmarston.org.uk 686150

Wiltshire Police Community Support: PCSO Jocasta Bennett 07825658418

Neighbourhood Watch: martinhoffen@smsinternet.co.uk 823513

South Marston Church: via Stratton Team Ministry 826505

Church Warden: Diane Whitford 824339

Parochial Church Council (PCC): William Hiscocks, Diane Whitford,
Mary Crichton and Dorinda Balchin

Meeting Point: Richard 831473, **Saturday Scene:** Pat England 826505

South Marston Church of England Primary School: 823379

SMRA: Jenny McEwen 07770633362, Julie Hatherall 07749211867

Village Hall hire: Rachel Case on rcase@sky.com 07741549393

Youth Club: clerk@southmarston.org.uk 686150

Tots and Toddlers: racheljones878@gmail.com, emmaloiselarge@hotmail.com

F&E Harris Memorial Trust: Robbie Taylor 823757

Gardening Club: Angela Newton 07789068340 angelanewton01@gmail.com,
Mike New 827807

Friendly Club: smfriendlyclub@gmail.com Sheila on 828545

Facebook page (South Marston): Sharon editor@southmarston.org.uk

Swindon Dial a Ride: 521123

Swindon Streetsmart 445501 or streetsmart@swindon.gov.uk

Editor's note

This edition ahead of the upcoming Coronation Celebrations, sees an abundance of Spring activities having taken place in and around the village with some great voluntary work carried out - thank you for your selfless efforts.

If you would prefer to receive Community News by email, please send a request to editor@southmarston.org.uk. Alternatively, read it on the Community News page of the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/latest-posts/community-news>.

With best wishes, Sharon

About Community News

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.



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Stirling Scottish Adventure
Mon 24th July 2023
5 Days: From £649
Inc. Highland Safari, Stirling Castle, BoNESS & Kinnell Steam Train & Loch cruise!



By Hook & By Crooke, Enniscorthy - Ireland
Sun 11th June 2023
5 Days: From £579
Inc. Huntingdon Castle & Gardens, Johnstown Castle, Waterford Crystal & Dunbrody Famine Ship!



Sights & Fruity Delights, Garden of England
Fri 4th August 2023
4 Days: From £499
Inc. Cathedral, winery, Pashley Manor, ice cream parlour!



Barmouth
Mon 19th June 2023
5 Days: From £499
Includes visits to Shrewsbury, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth, Betws-y-Coed, Llandrindod Wells.



Dambusters Inc. Lancaster Plane & Training Lake
Sun 6th August 2023
5 Days: From £559
Plus Peak District, Lincoln & Skegness!



Folklore, Fables & Smugglers Tales Colchester
Fri 21st July 2023
4 Days: From £429
Inc. Audley End House, Green Island Gardens & "Essex Smuggler's Trail" with local guide on-board!



Legends of Sherwood Majestic Merriment
Sun 13th August 2023
4 Days: From £459
Inc. river cruise, Belvoir Castle & Robin Hood walking tour!



Gardens, Glory & Gallantry of Lincolnshire
Sun 23rd July 2023
5 Days: From £579
Inc. Sissinghurst Castle Gardens and Hever Castle & Gardens.



Jersey by Sea
Sat 19th August 2023
7 Days: From £749
Inc. full-day island coastal tour!

Home pickup & drop off service available on all tours 4 days & over! See website for full details.

On next at Roves Farm...



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- ◆ Interactive shows ◆ Fossil dig

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29 Apr - 1 May

27 - 31 May

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