

South Marston Community News

Gone, but probably not forgotten

by Jenny McEwen, Chair of SMRA



SMRA volunteers had tried many times in recent years to make essential safety improvements to the much-loved wooden bridge structure on the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, even we are admitting defeat, and it has finally gone to the playground in the sky. As with the large wooden cube with monkey bars, it seems our youngsters have fond memories of equipment that has had to be disposed of, as we found when researching what we should now be investing in on the Rec.

Lionel Cave-Ayland and Colin McEwen are seen here taking a short break from their labours before reducing the structure to a handful of holes in the ground. Thanks go to Rachel Case for the loan of her van to take away the debris.

The good news is that removal of old equipment has provided more flexibility to plan out where our proposed new equipment will be located within the play area whilst giving us the opportunity to invest in a range of other changes that will benefit those who use the Recreation Ground for other activities.

Continued overleaf

Work on the Rec drainage

In the last week of June, the heavy machinery came out on the Rec to tackle the long-standing drainage issues. The work coincided with school sports day, which thankfully was able to take place on the adult pitch as we had to ensure the grass was cut short for work to start.



Our contractors renovated the existing piped drains which run diagonally from the play area and football pitch down to Old Vicarage Lane. The whole northern area of the Rec from Thornhill Rd to the Oak tree had to be tackled



The drainage channels were topped up with a root zone mix of sand and soil. This is a good growing medium for grass as it is free-draining. It was also spread all over the pitch before a disc drill planted new grass seed. The field was then aerated using a special machine with metal spikes, before being fertilised. All we need now is some rain to green it all up again.

Our thanks go to Lionel for acting as SMRA's 'project manager' on site.

Work yet to come

SMRA is making good progress with the remainder of our 'Phase 2' project. After widespread consultation with different users of the Rec, we are hopeful that further plans will be going forward in the summer and autumn.

In the meantime, we continue to make safety improvements to the play equipment, including providing new swing seats for the metal and the toddler swings, greasing joints or replacing missing parts, and trimming back overhanging branches from the pathway around the school. Lionel, as our safety officer, is certainly being kept very busy!

It's a Home Win!

This is Swindon Robins under 14's football team, celebrating their league championship win.

Their home ground is our Rec pitch and they report they are very pleased to be based here.



In spite of the mud after the Coronation weekend and Lee's broken mower so that no grass cutting got done, Robins came out on top!

SMRA is delighted that their manager Trevor Claridge lends a hand as a volunteer keeping our facilities in good order – he has recently sanded down and painted the goalposts.

THE F & E HARRIS MEMORIAL TRUST

by Robina Taylor



A reminder of our FREE fortnightly Thursday bus service to Swindon and for ALL residents of South Marston.

Get on the bus in South Marston next to the Carriers Arms Pub, the bus leaves at 9.30am.

The drop off and pick-up location in Swindon is at the bus station and the coach leaves at 12.00pm to return to South Marston.

If anyone would like to be dropped off at the Gablecross bus stop by Sainsbury's on the outward journey to do any shopping in the Keypoint area, the driver will be happy to stop.

On return from Swindon the bus will stop briefly to pick up people at the bus stop by Dunelm, but you need to be at the stop at 12.05pm to ensure collection.

Upcoming bus service dates

July 13th and 27th, August 10th and 24th, September 7th and 21st, October 5th and 19th, November 2nd, 16th and 30th, and December 14th and 28th.

South Marston Friendly Club

Our day trips so far have been enjoyable with gorgeous weather. Our April visit to the Rare Breeds Cotswold Farm Park had a surprise meeting with Adam Henson! he arrived to greet us in the restaurant, where members were delighted to have their photo taken with him, including our village ladies Mary, Dot and Sarah.



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

PROGRAMME 2023

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

A selection of popular songs with some for you to join in with

Tuesday 18th of July at 9.15am – Trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill & Afternoon in Winchester

Tuesday 8th of August at 2pm – Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall

Tuesday 12th of September at 2pm – A talk by Arkells Brewery
Everything 'Beer' including a taste

Tuesday 19th of September at 9.15am – A Day trip to Chichester
A charming Roman Cathedral City

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



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Tots & Toddlers

A warm and sunny hello from all of us!

We had a lovely time celebrating our new King's Coronation with our community. We were pleased to join in with the event in South Marston by providing a play area in the children's tent, which the youngest members seemed to enjoy - and it was out of the rain! We also had a special cream tea at our Wednesday session, which seemed to go down well!



We have celebrated other theme days including; 'National Nurse's Day', which involved some great role play with costumes and medical equipment to investigate. On 'World Penguin Day', the children had fun getting animal figures out of ice blocks - using pipettes of warm water and a bit of banging with tools! We also enjoyed a 'Dino Day' and used plastic dinosaurs with paint to make their footprints.

In the warmer weather, we have been making the most of the wonderful enclosed garden at the Village Hall, playing outside on our climbing equipment and enjoying other messy play.

It's great to see lots of regulars coming to enjoy our sessions and it is such a privilege to see the children develop in confidence and their personalities shine. Thank you to all the adults that make this group a pleasure to be part of by supporting each other and joining in enthusiastically.



Enjoy the summer!

Emma and Rachel

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

South Marston Gardening Club

by Angela Newton

Saturday 19th of August Annual Flower and Produce Show

Is this the year you enter our show? To see what classes are available for entries, please contact Angela for a copy of the show schedule and entry form. Alternatively, a copy can be printed off and delivered to you for a minimal charge of £1.

If you're not a gardener, you may be a keen photographer or crafter. Our two photography categories this year are: 'Wildlife' (not zoo animals) and 'A recognisable building in South Marston'.



Do you brew your own beer or lager or make your own wine? What about baking? We have a variety of baking classes which you can enter such as the legendary Victoria sponge. Why not have a go at this year's 'flavoured' cake, 'A Dorset apple cake'?

This children's classes this year are:

- Age 5 years and under, 'A potato print picture'
- Ages 6 - 8 Years, 'A potato head'
- Ages 9 - 11 Years, '4 x Decorated home baked cupcakes'
- Ages 12 - 16 years, 'A baked cake', any size and flavour

Children can also enter any of the other classes on the Show Schedule alongside adults.

This year, we're trialling unlimited entries of exhibits in each class category. This means you can enter as many times as you like in any of the classes, so, if you have more than one knitted item and can't choose which item to enter, you can enter them all! Or if you can't decide which flavoured 'soft fruit' jam to enter, there's no need to pick between the raspberry and the strawberry!

There's something for everyone, so what's stopping you?

To register your entries, pop along to the Village Hall the night before, on Friday 18th of August between 7– 8.30pm.

If this hasn't convinced you into giving this year a go, come along to the Village Hall at 5pm to view the entries and 'eye up' the competition for next year. At the same time enjoy homemade cake along with a cup of tea or coffee. There will be a raffle and auction of donated exhibits at the end of the show at 5.30pm.

Entry fee 20p per adult payable on the door. A very warm welcome awaits you.

Monday 4th of September, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
'Autumn Garden' speaker Sonia Wright

Sonia Wright Gardens is a long-established plant nursery near the Ridgeway in Ogbourne St George. Besides plants, Sonia offers horticultural courses and workshops.

Sonia has 25 years of propagating and growing experience and a lifelong passion for plants. She has designed and installed major landscape projects and realised medal-winning gardens at The Chelsea Flower Show.

In 2016 her Nepeta Crystal Cloud was one of the top 5 new plants at Chelsea. Sonia has also appeared on the BBC TV programme Gardeners World. In 1992 she spent a month in South-West China on a Kew Gardens plant hunting expedition. A number of new plants were identified.

Plant Sale

We had great weather for it on the 5th of June and it was well attended. Our Gardening Club Committee and Members spent a lot of time and effort putting together a large selection of Flowers and Vegetables,



with the money raised going towards paying for our speakers. A big thank you for everyone's support from sowing and growing through to buying.

All our events are held in South Marston Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane.

Come and join us. It's £12 for an annual membership is £3 on the door as a visitor.

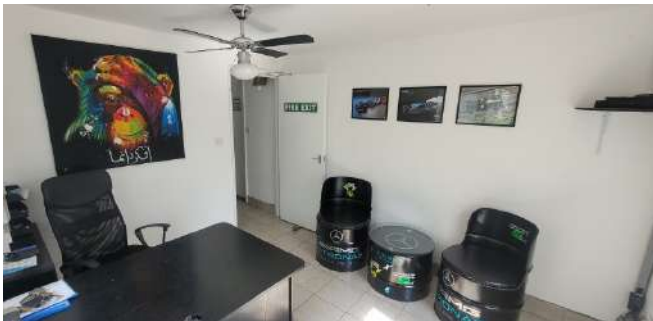
Contact Angela on 07789068340 for more information on any of the above.

A Welcome Addition to the Village

by The Editor



This week the former Mitchy Motors unit opened with its' new owners L & S Auto Services. They have been running for 10 years, with the last 6 years spent offering mobile vehicle services.



Their latest expansion offers on site vehicle repairs and services at the old farm barn on Nightingale Lane. Refurbished throughout, with new ramps in the workshop and an updated reception area.

Come and meet Dan and Richard at L & S Auto Services, who can be contacted on 01793821360 or 07746525949.

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Cotswold Wildlife Park
Wed 26th July & Tue 15th
& Wed 30th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £32*
Senior Ticket: £26*
Child Ticket: £23*



Liverpool FC Stadium
Wed 2nd August 2023
Adult Ticket: £64*
Senior Ticket: £58*
Child Ticket: £33*



Festival of Quilts
Fri 4th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £43*
Senior Ticket: £41*
Child Ticket: £15*



Birmingham; Bullring & Primark Megastore
Sat 12th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £27
Senior Ticket: £25
Child Ticket: £15



Gloucester Quays
Sun 13th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £19
Senior Ticket: £17
Child Ticket: £15



Alton Towers
Sun 20th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £39
Senior Ticket: £37
Child Ticket: £20
Coach Travel Only
Admission not included



Anderton Boat Lift, Boat Ride & Lunch
Mon 21st August 2023
Adult Ticket: £64*
Senior Ticket: £62*
Child Ticket: £46*



Moreton (Market Day) & Bourton-on-the-Water
Tue 29th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £20
Senior Ticket: £18
Child Ticket: £15



Black Country Living Museum
Wed 30th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £48*
Senior Ticket: £44*
Child Ticket: £22*



Blists Hill Victorian Town & Ironbridge
Wed 30th August 2023
Adult Ticket: £50*
Senior Ticket: £47*
Child Ticket: £26*

TOURS MARKED WITH AN * INCLUDED ADMISSION

Pickup all these day trips from your nearest pickup points: Cirencester, Higworth or Swindon!



Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our MAY and JUNE winners.

MAY

£10 No. 8 Nesta Pearce
£10 No. 60 Sheila Jinks
£10 No. 36 Eileen Lester
£10 No. 85 Maralyn Selwood

JUNE

£30 No. 81 Paul Flitton
£10 No. 43 Brian Bell
£10 No. 121 Eileen Lester
£10 No. 57 Mandy Larcombe



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. The SMRA would like to thank all the participants and Club collectors for their continued support especially in these difficult times.

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

School Update

by Marie Hendry, Head of School

In this next edition of our school's history, I am pleased to share more about the school's early years from approximately 1904 until the start of World War 2.

The first school logbook we have is from 1903 which is stored in the Wiltshire Archives. At that time, the headmistress was Annie Cross who remained in position until 1932. 2 supplementary staff assisted her and between them, they taught the 77 children on roll. Using only 2 rooms, conditions must have been very cramped!

Many of the supplementary/untrained teachers changed regularly, as did the number of children on roll. There were 97 children attending a little later in 1910, when a Diocesan inspector noted *"I have again nothing but praise for this charming little school. The brightness and cheerfulness of the children and the feeling of affection between them and their teachers were most marked..."*

The logbook was very scant in detail in those days but the regular weekly scripture classes by the vicar were always recorded and there were many references to the health of the children. Through research, we know that the 1914 – 1918 war did not feature in the logbook until it was alluded to in an entry in November 1917. The pressures of war became more evident when, in March 1918, the vicar visited to discuss the rationing of coal to the school.

The school continued much as before in the 1920s and 1930s. The building remained unchanged, except for occasional redecoration. The children's learning continued along with special events such as a whole school trip in 1930 to Weston-Super-Mare.

Headmistress Annie Cross retired in December 1932 after an incredible 30 years in post. Edna Whaley became head in January 1933 but was soon replaced by a temporary Headteacher and Gladys Baker took on the headship in June 1934.

To end, I would like to mention a perhaps more well-known pupil – Alfred Williams (1877–1930), and known as 'The Hammerman Poet'. Williams was born in South Marston and lived here most of his life. His writings include references to South Marston School, which he attended full time until the age of 8 and then as a 'half-timer' until the age of 11. This was at a time when education was not free, and money had to be found each week to send children to school.



Alfred Williams as a schoolboy.
Courtesy of Local Studies,
Swindon Libraries

Once again, I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Hilary Brooks, our school archivist, for her dedication to researching our school's history. Allowing us to step back in time with the information she has gained and ensuring the past of our wonderful school remains ever present.

School's 150th Birthday Party Celebrations

by Eleanor Mitchell, Class Teacher

South Marston School opened in 1873 on July 25th and we are thrilled to be celebrating its 150th Birthday. Each class has been learning about the school's history, how its changed over time, along with the local area with the study of maps.

Key stage 2 were recently introduced to Margaret and Dee, who both attended our school back in the 1950s. The ladies shared some wonderful stories about how the school used to run, the lessons they had, what things got them into trouble, and much more. The



children had prepared some thoughtful questions and learnt fascinating facts, such as how boys and girls used to play on separate playgrounds, and how cows used to graze the area where we now have the mound.

In the afternoon, parents joined us for a picnic birthday party, when the sun shone down on us as we enjoyed music, cake, drinks and a detailed history of the school told by our Year 6 children. It was also the perfect opportunity for the grand opening of our new dedicated Wellbeing space; the Lavender Lodge. This has been a big project for our Wellbeing ambassadors, who have raised money, along with PTA, to have this built for the ongoing mental health support we provide in school.

A huge thank you to Sodexo for supplying the cakes, and to our PTA who not only supplied drinks and served us during the picnic, but also bought a South Marston Bear souvenir gift, for each child and staff member in the school. The party was a joyful way to kick off the celebrations which will continue over our anniversary year.



by Colin McEwen

Getting Out and About

As I write we are having great weather to get out and enjoy our local countryside. As with most things, there can be frustrations. The responsibility for keeping the footpaths passable lies with the landowner. Parish Councils have a power, but not a duty to maintain them.

For the past couple of years, the Parish Council's volunteer Footpath Monitor, Lionel, has been doing sterling work with landowners and adding posts and signs. He has just walked the designated footpaths and reports that, with the exception of an area at the end of Morse's Lane, they are passable.

This is peak growing/falling over period for the vegetation and this has coincided with a reduced availability of Community Payback labour which is usually utilised. The Parish Council has just designated an extra £1,000 for maintenance of the paths if intervention by our Open Space volunteers and/or contractors is needed to ensure they are passable.

By all means be pro-active in keeping the ways open, but please be mindful that you are on someone else's land.

Although we have a good footpath network, getting west onto the Thornhill Road Bridleway remains a challenge. The most direct route for many is along Bridleway 4 (beside Magdalene Close) and past Manor Farm and Oxleaze Wood before crossing Thornhill Road by Wythburn Nursery.

The poor state of that Bridleway and poor sight lines at the road junction are problems that cause people to walk round Hoddinott's Corner instead. This has its own problems, with no footpath on either side of the bend itself and we are frequently asked what can be done to improve matters.



As a Council we have encouraged proposed developments to provide footpaths from the village centre. The permission for 70 houses on the Crown Timber site was to provide a footway right round the bend but 3 years on and despite our promptings, this is no further on and the permission has lapsed for the moment. Better news is that permission has been granted for 6 houses in the St Julian's Paddock and this will supply a length of footway from opposite Ash Gardens, which takes us slightly further towards meeting our objective.

Longer term, we are battling with the main developers to use Bridleway 4 and an upgraded Morse's Lane junction to give safe and more direct access to the Keypoint roundabout. I also note that the bridleway surface has recently been considerably improved. Although care has to be taken at the Thornhill Road crossing, perhaps this more direct route might now be explored.

Persistence sometimes pays off

Many villagers have been regularly commenting on the appalling state of rubbish at the Keypoint end of the bridleway alongside Thornhill Rd. The bin is too small and is not emptied regularly enough. This is the responsibility of the owners of the Keypoint site, and it is their maintenance company that is supposed to manage collections.

After many attempts this and last year to persuade the company that this is a problem that has to be solved, we now finally have a promise from them of a bigger bin and that regular collections will be undertaken.



HHT Expansion

We still have no idea when the project will get going, but we are just finishing our responses to the 4th version of the major Strategic Design Code and Surface Water documents. Many people have the idea that, once Outline Planning Permission is granted, developer's detailed proposals are just waved through. This is not true! However, there is a 'Presumption in favour of development', so the Borough and its Officers have to be pretty sure of their ground before turning an application down.

Many of you came to the Information Event this Spring and commented on the proposed traffic calming proposals. There is still no news on these, we hope to bring them into the limelight again as part of the latest HHT initiatives.

New Councillors

I am pleased to welcome Rachel Messenger onto the Parish Council following her visits to a couple of meetings and chat about what we do. We were also pleased to have Tom Butcher, the new Borough Councillor for our ward, at one of our recent meetings.

Hello from your new Parish Councillor

by Rachel Messenger

I have lived in South Marston for over 20 years. I am not sure where the time has gone, but after raising 6 children in the village, I feel it is time to give back to the community that has given so much to my family.

Each of my children attended preschool and primary school in the village. Tots and Toddlers, Saturday Scene, and Meeting Point have been highlights of village family life.

Living in the centre of the village, I have seen pram races, bands, floods, and even dinosaurs passing by at times. I love the sign saying cows are crossing from my home to the Carriers. The village fete has been a highlight of every year. I have always appreciated the work of SMRA. We have a gardening club, a lovely church, a village hall, and open spaces. The allotments have grown and developed along with the open spaces which have taken so much work and care. I have enjoyed sports days and many picnics in the recreation ground. I have loved meeting with other families and have even enjoyed the outdoor gym equipment when nobody is watching.

I have been a registered nurse for over 30 years, working at PMH, GWH, in the community, and in primary care. Community health and well-being are important to me. I support our NHS. I am a psychology graduate and I have spent the past 6 years training to be a therapeutic counsellor. I am very pleased to now be a Parish Councillor. I just need to watch my spelling of the two!!

I would love to see the Youth Club re-opened, for a bus service running through the village, and to see safer roads and pavements. I have volunteered to be a road monitor so you can all help me to report the potholes and safety concerns. I would like to see the village hall used to its full potential and likewise the beautiful church.

The pandemic has especially shown how the village can support each other. I would like to engage with the community as much as possible so everyone gets heard and can be a part of decision-making. I have lots of ideas and would like to hear lots more. It's an exciting time and I look forward to being an active member of the Parish Council. Thank you for allowing me to grow and develop in this new role.

Rachel



Growing on the Village Allotments

by Barry Thunder



With the sunshine, much of the work between the Autumn and Spring months starts showing the results of the hard work. Broad beans and peas are bearing early pods, whilst the fruit trees and bushes have tiny apples and pears and even early strawberries to tempt the palate.

Our allotment site has eight new fruit trees, which are showing their first fruits and landscaping the expanded car park edges is planned.

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We are planning to build a new hedge alongside the tree line on the Highworth Road. This will add new habitat and food for birds from the berries that will eventually follow as the new hedging develops.

The Honda Heritage Gardens area looking popular with young families and as the weather improves, offers a lovely clean grassed area for picnic and play.

Many of our tenants are asking what has happened to the water supply that Thames Water have been digging for over the past year. We hope that this will be 'Third Time Lucky' but at the time of writing this, the answer remains unclear. We look forward to being able to fill the four water troughs we installed twelve months ago in anticipation.

Learn Life Saving Skills

Come to the **FREE training session** on
how to use a Defibrillator and do CPR, in helping save lives!

See the defibrillator in action, it even plays audible instructions to follow

You and your family are invited to attend
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All ages are welcome

For any queries please contact barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk

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Sat 12 Aug



Mad Hatters Tea Party
Sat 26 Aug



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The Dog Days of Summer

by Open Spaces Working Group (OSWG)

We tend to leave the green spaces alone during the summer, apart from allowing new growths and keeping the paths clear. 12 tree saplings and 26 shrubs are being looked after to be planted in late autumn. The saplings will replace some of the ash trees we had to cut down in Oxleaze and the shrubs are for cover on the verge alongside Thornhill Road to the Industrial Estate and Dennis's Removals to Ash Gardens.



There's a new main gate into Oxleaze and the inside slope has been made easier for buggies and wheelchair access.

Honeysuckle is climbing up the St Julians gazebo to give it a more rustic feel but the ivy also planted is much slower.

It promises to be a good year for many species in our countryside. Be on the look out for dragonflies, hawkmoths, cuckoo spit, ladybirds, butterflies and more.

Enjoy the village green spaces with thanks to all of our local volunteers. If you would like to help out, contact Barry at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk or Chris at wttmh1@gmail.com.

Carriers Arms

LIVE MUSIC:

Chelsea Millard, Saturday 5th of August from 9pm, solo singer covering artists such as Bruno Mars, Amy Winehouse, Brian Adams and AC/DC



Ska Sisters, 26th of August, from 9pm, 3 girls playing sax and singing

Trios Amigos, 23rd of 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 playing music from 50s up to 80s including artists such as Stereophonics, Men at work and Green Day.

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Carriers Arms, Highworth Road, South Marston, Swindon, SN3 4SE, 01793 822051

Dear Friends,

Having celebrated my birthday in June, I got to thinking how do you like birthdays? Do you try and forget it, or do you make it a big event every year? Do you like presents, or would you rather have experiences? Christians celebrated the birthday of the church at the end of May, as it's celebrated fifty days after Easter, which of course means it moves around every year.



We remember the story in the book of Acts in the bible, when the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of Jesus *'And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.'* Acts 2 verses 2-4.

It's the moment from which a confused, frightened group of people with a little hope, became inspired and energised with the confidence and courage to go and tell the world that they had found something wonderful.

Birthdays can be a time for re-evaluating, looking back and planning forwards. How have you changed for better and worse over the years? What do you want to achieve in the future? It could be said that the church needs to do the same – let's face it, since those heady early days it has not been completely swathed in glory.

Whether you are a part of the church or not, it's good to take stock and work out where next – for yourself, your family, or an organisation you're part of. To look back on when we have not taken care of ourselves or others; where we have not been that nice or thoughtful; where we have allowed ourselves to become lazy and self-serving. To look at the things we have done well, the talents we have made best use of, the times when things worked well, or when doing the right things has improved our wellbeing and those around us. Christians can ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to feel real and vital, to help us change and move forward in hope, courage and energy like those first Christians. The Holy Spirit hasn't gone away, but just like with our bodies, we don't always listen – and it shows!

Perhaps it's a good time in the year to take stock of ourselves and the things we belong to – better weather, longer days and the abundance of nature around us, somehow make us feel that new things are possible. So, if you decide to begin a new healthier regime, or take up a pastime that will enrich you, or repair a relationship, I wish you every success. And if it's your birthday month, I wish you a Happy Birthday!

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).

9th of July	9:30am	Holy Communion
16th of July	10am	Team Service at St Margaret's Church
30th of July	10.30am	Team Service at Coleview Community Centre
6th of Aug	10am	All Age Worship
13th of Aug	9.30am	Holy Communion
27th of Aug	10am	Team Service at St Margaret's Church
1st of Sept	10am	All Age Worship
8th of Sept	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 **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 15th of July

Please note there is no meeting in August

Enquiries or reservations please call 831473.



Tyre beds

Here is a great example of recycling in the village, photo courtesy of Heather Bishop and Karen Fowler. Have you used any recycled materials in your garden?



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Borough Councillor Update

by Tom Butcher



Obituary

Cllr Pam Adams sadly passed away unexpectedly on the 11th of May. Pam was elected last year to represent the ward of St Margaret & South Marston and had been greatly enjoying getting stuck in to the work and serving the community tirelessly.

She is survived by her husband Charlie, her sons Stephen and Luke, her grandchildren and wider family and friends. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her.

Councillor Update

I am very proud to have been elected to serve the St Margaret & South Marston ward on Swindon Borough Council. I am born and raised in Stratton and stood for election as I believe that there has been a decline in the town, and want to work to make the ward and Swindon as a whole the best it can be. I intend to focus particular efforts on improvements to roads and infrastructure, as well as green initiatives such as tree planting.

I have had a lot of casework from residents already, and am pleased to be making quick progress on some of our most troublesome areas. Feedback on the recent works to Oxford Road has been very forthcoming with Borough Officers conducting a survey of the Oxford Road/Nythe Road junction recently to look at safety concerns with the lane merges and traffic lights. A report with recommended improvements will be produced. Officers are also looking at the footbridge over the White Hart roundabout, which suffers issues with flooding. This is a key link to Swindon for active travel for South Marston residents and I will make sure that it is fit for purpose.

I met with South Marston Parish Council recently too, who provided very useful feedback on the NEV housing development plans and the related infrastructure around it. I was particularly impressed with their detailed scrutiny of these plans, as well as their pragmatic and pro-active approach. I look forward to working together with the parish to ensure that the best interests of South Marston residents are well represented here.

Please get in touch with me via email tbutcher@swindon.gov.uk or phone 07795 070254 if there is anything I can help with.

'Remember Me' Roses

By Lara Hill



Prospect Hospice invites supporters to celebrate the lives and honour the memory of loved ones who have died, by purchasing a beautiful rose, made from recycled metal and available in four colours; red, pink, white and yellow.



Each rose will be tagged with the name of the person being remembered and will be displayed in the hospice's gardens, forming an art installation to be revealed at the hospice's annual garden fete on the 9th of September. After the display draws to a close at the end of September, there is an opportunity to collect your rose to cherish at home.

The Remember Me Roses are a perfect way to hold dear the memory of someone special and help support the work of Prospect Hospice at the same time. All funds raised through this campaign will go towards providing specialist end of life care for those who need it most.



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Cosmetic acupuncture also available

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Useful Contacts

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

Wiltshire Police Community Support: PCSO Victoria Townsend
victoria.townsend@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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, emmalouiselarge@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

With the finer summer weather, SMRA has undertaken the much needed drainage works on the Rec whilst our green areas and allotments flourish.

The School held a birthday party for their 150th anniversary celebrations and the Parish Council welcomed a new member.

You can read Community News on the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/latest-posts/community-news>. Or opt to receive Community News by email, via a request to editor@southmarston.org.uk.
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.

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).



**SOUTH MARSTON
PARISH COUNCIL**





Kiri's Cat Clinics...

Kiri Brown, Veterinary Surgeon, works at our Marlborough and Stratton branches and has been part of the Drove team for 9 years.

Kiri's love of cats has driven her to gain additional qualifications in Feline Care and establish our new **Cat-Only** clinics at our Stratton Branch.

During our Cat-Only clinic times **there will be no other non-feline pets in the waiting area.**

'Cat parking' areas will help to reduce cats stress levels, with partitions, blankets and pet friendly aromatherapy products.

To attend one of our Cat-Only Clinics,
please contact our Client Care Team on 01793 522483

Or you can text or Whats App us on 07700 160175



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