

South Marston Community News

Gardening Club Annual Produce Show

by Angela Newton



Our Show was well received, and the number of exhibits was higher than last year, but the number of people entering exhibits was lower. Sadly, there were only two children that entered the Children's Categories.

We had a record number of flowers exhibited that looked spectacular on the Show bench. As ever, there were lots of homemade cakes on sale with the refreshments which, went down a treat. At the auction of donated produce, people went home with items from courgettes, jams and bunches of flowers to the 'Best in Show' bread and butter pudding.

We would like to thank The F & E Harris Trust for sponsoring the Show, together with all the volunteers, the cake bakers and everyone that supported us on the day.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Show Schedule next year, please leave your details with Angela.

Continued overleaf



Congratulations to our 2023 winners:

- Challenge Cup, Vegetables and Fruit – Mike New
- Geoff Sansum Trophy, Best Standard Fuchsia – Richard Sansum
- Hanging Basket Cup – Rosemary New
- Rose Bowl, Flowers and Plants – Jenny McEwen
- Bill Smith Trophy, Best Dahlia in Show – Richard Sansum
- Flower Arrangers Cup – Angela Newton
- Photography Cup – Tony Leathart
- Cookery Trophy – Rosemary New
- Craft Trophy – Jenny McEwen
- Best Exhibit in Show Cup – Jenny McEwen for her outstanding Bread and Butter Pudding
- RHS Banksian Medal for the largest total amount of points in the whole of the Horticultural classes – Angela Newton
- Under 5 years – No entries
- Six to 8 years – No entries
- 9 years to 11 years – William Case - 4 x cupcakes + decoration
- 12 to 16 years – Hollie Case - A baked cake
- Best Exhibit in the Children's Section – William Case for his decorated cupcakes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday 2nd of October 7.30 - 9.30pm

‘Planting Pots for Winter Interest and Spring Joy’, speaker Harriet Rycroft

There will be slides followed by a demonstration on creating container plantings which last from September to May (using bulbs, perennials, shrubs and bedding plants).

Harriet is ex-Head Gardener at Whichford Pottery, and is now a free-range gardener, speaker, and writer. Whilst gardening is her focus, she may stray into natural history, rural matters, travel, and art. She appeared on Gardeners World in April.

Take a look at her website harrietrycroft.com, A Parrot's Nest - at home with plants and nature in gardens and beyond. Harriet will bring her new book 'Pots', published by Frances Lincoln in the Bloom series, to buy at a reduced rate of £10 from £12.99.

Monday 6th of November - Gardening Club Members' Workshop

Monday 4th of December 7.30 - 9.30pm, Social Evening and Quiz

I can't believe how quick this year has gone! We bring our last meeting of the year to a close, where we all bring a plate of food to share. Tea and coffee will be served but feel free to bring drink (alcohol if preferred). There will be prizes for the winning team. A raffle is also available at a £1 per strip. Everyone welcome so invite your family, friends and neighbours. Non-members £3 entry fee on the door or join the Gardening Club for £12 (annual membership).

All Events are at South Marston Village Hall. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. Refreshments included - Optional raffle - A warm, friendly welcome awaits you. For more information, see our Facebook page [@southmarstongardeningclub](https://www.facebook.com/southmarstongardeningclub) or contact Angela on 07789068340 or at angelanewton01@gmail.com.



The Carpenters Arms

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



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Saturday 4th November

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Help Our Village be a Great Place to Live

by Barry Thunder

So easy to say this and even simple to do so at times. However, the reality is such that the need for support from our community never stops.

We all want to enjoy our lives and need time to do so. Some of us have really busy and demanding needs, be it working to earn money to live, raise families or care for elderly relatives or parents. So for many setting aside time to spend helping with an aspect of village life can seem impossible.

Volunteers Needed!



There must be a desire to help to maintain, or even improve, what is around us within the village. What that may be is down to each individual, and what they see as important to them or their family.

A few hours every now and again can often be of big benefit and show instant results; picking up litter like a can or a plastic bottle will help, as will giving a few hours to working in the woodland every few months during the Autumn.

Even small actions such as a text and a photo to the right person can be a great help. Recently a thoughtful resident, who was walking her dog and found a fallen tree trunk on the path in St Julians Wood, sent a text to the Open Spaces Working Group, who were then able to respond and clear the tree away quickly, without too much fuss.



Perhaps you would like to find out what you can help with in the village. Why not send an email about what you would be interested in doing to editor@southmarston.org.uk or Barry at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.

Tots & Toddlers

At Tots and Toddlers we have been keeping up with the children's buzzing energy! For our summer term, we have had a sports day event, lots of birthdays and crafts.

To end the summer term, the children decorated some photo frames which we hope will have pride of place in their homes. Before that, we've been enjoying lots of theme days including a teddy bears' picnic with giant books to read, and the children made some medals for sports day.

Most recently, we were really glad to welcome some of you to a small summer gathering. Thank you for turning out in your numbers. It was lovely to see you all.

We are sad to say, this time of year has brought us to saying goodbye to some of our children and adults who have been attending for quite some time! We will all really miss your company and familiar faces. Your help with the washing up, catching up each week and watching the children grow has been a wonderful part of playgroup. We wish all of the children the very best in moving on to new adventures at pre-school, nursery and school and hope you'll visit again when you can.



That being said - we are very much looking forward to the rest of the term with lots of autumnal fun and activities. We would love to welcome lots of new faces and look forward to building up to the colder months with lots of interesting and exciting activities planned.

See you soon!

Emma and Rachel

Tots and Toddlers in 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) with drinks and snack provided.

The F & E Harris Memorial Trust

The F & E Harris Memorial Trust was set up in 1998 by the Harris Family who farmed at Oxleaze Farm, South Marston and following the sale of their land for the development of Keypoint they wanted the village to benefit from the sale and hence the Trust was formed. However, since its inception the village has grown in size and will continue to grow threefold.

The Trustees have to make sure that its resources are managed not only in the short term but also in the long term, so that it can continue to provide support for the village. The Trust has given support to projects such as the new play equipment purchased last year, the upcoming new footpath for the Rec 'to



make it more accessible for all', and picnic benches to make it a place to socialise.

There's the Christmas hampers for our pensioners and coach trips to the seaside and Christmas markets. When the bus service through the village was scrapped the Trust stepped in and organised a shopping coach into town for all to use so that those without transport weren't cut off and isolated.

Dial A Ride

We also have an additional Dial A Ride service which many have utilised to attend medical appointments when they are unable to use other transport. The cost of living crisis has affected us all and sadly the Trust payments to Dial A Ride have been escalating, so we need to revise the parameters for the use of this service so it can continue to be there well into the future.

From the 1st of September a new set of guidelines for the use of Dial A Ride paid for by the Trust will come into effect. These are available on request from the Trust Secretary, Robbie Taylor. This revised service will mean that 'medical' trips for residents without their own vehicles will be funded directly by charging to the Trust.

The Trust will also consider trips for other extenuating circumstances, for example, someone who has no other means of transport needing to visit a sick relative, but these need to be pre-approved each time by the Trust Secretary or one of the Trustees.

Dial A Ride will still be available for residents to book and pay for themselves and represents good value for having a trip out to the garden centre or an extra shopping trip.

Christmas Hamper 2023

To qualify this year the recipient is required to have been in permanent residency in South Marston for a period of 3 years prior to submission of registration. All new applicants must be 66 years of age or over before 1st January 2023.

Application forms can be obtained from Robbie Taylor, by telephone 01793 823757 or email robina.taylor@btinternet.com. Closing date for applications is the 1st of November 2023.

The annual Christmas Market trip for senior citizens of South Marston Village aged 65 or over will be to Winchester Christmas Market on Monday 27th of November 2023. If you would like to go on this trip will you please contact Robbie Taylor and if you need a carer to accompany you please let us know.



Could a Child Save Your Life?...

Free training session for adults and children on
using a Defibrillator and how to give CPR

Thursday 14th of September
3.30 - 4.30pm in the Village Hall

For more details or to book your places email Barry
at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk

Given by...

NHS
South Western
Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust



by Colin McEwen

Taylor Wimpey set for action?

At the turn of the year we got all excited when the Taylor Wimpey Oxford office displayed plans for the development of their proposed site immediately to the south of Magdalene Close. In the fallout following the Liz Truss budget, plans were halted and that office was closed. Following this, the school expansion has been paused by the Borough.

We have recently had a site visit with an advance guard of planners from the Taylor Wimpey Winchester office, who are hopeful that they will get the green light to make progress with their plans by the end of September. Development of their site requires major infrastructure works starting from Thornhill Road that would also serve the other village development phases. It follows that if the Taylor Wimpey spades hit the ground before the end of the year, then the planned completion of the village expansion in 2027 becomes credible.

Nightingale Wood changes

The HHT developments bring with them £900,000 to enhance our local Community Forest areas, which cover our woods and many other green spaces.

Nightingale Wood is owned and managed by Forestry England and the Director of their Western region is proposing to use this for major capital expenditure aimed at raising income from the site. This would feature a number plate recognition pay-to-park system, toilets, snack van etc. based around a larger car park facility.



We provided a detailed rebuttal of the whole concept of trying to commercialise the site and asked that they revert to their original approach of developing the wood as a local environmental asset. This would require minor enhancements to the Wood, and better integration of the site into the surrounding areas of Roves Farm and the wider HHT development. A site meeting with Forest England West and Borough planners has been arranged.

The desire of Forestry England to wring money from their sites reflects the more general problem that, whilst Government initiatives such as tree planting or house building abound, there is a lack of funding to provide the required ongoing maintenance.

This role is increasingly falling on Parish Councils, who are local tax raising bodies. This can be seen as good, but relies on local people getting involved and the community ensuring that their money is being spent on things that they value.

An extraordinary challenge

As the New Eastern Villages developments are built out north and south of the A420, our parish population - and income potential - will increase 15-fold. Managing that growth and responding to maintenance needs across the parish is very definitely a challenge.

As a start, we are considering acquiring a 'lengthsman' - a peculiar term and not particularly gender-neutral! It refers to a parish having a local 'odd job person', paid on a call-off basis for all the jobs that our volunteers are currently struggling with. As the parish grows, this role can be expanded to respond.

Footpaths Maintenance — your input needed

In the interim, we need to continue to manage local maintenance of green spaces through our limited resources and help from volunteers and the wider community. Following the decision to spend your money on keeping our key footpath network open, the question of exactly which footpaths is proving tricky.

You can help. If you walk our footpaths, we would really value your input on where and how we should spend money on the upkeep of footpaths, now that Lionel Cave-Ayland is stepping back from his sterling efforts over the past 2 years.

Future Lionesses wanted!

The England's women's team deserve congratulations on their recent performance at the World Cup.

Did you know that **Swindon Spitfires**, the women's soccer team, train and play their junior matches on the pitches at South Marston Rec.? Or that **Swindon Robins**, the boys' team, are also based at our Recreation Ground?

This provides a great opportunity for our local girls and boys to get actively involved in football.

More information on Swindon Spitfires is on page 21. There are places available for new recruits to the squads!



South Marston Friendly Club

Why not come and join us in the village hall for our entertaining talks and presentations with refreshments after?

If you are over 50 and would like to get to know other residents in South Marston, pop along and we would be delighted to welcome you.

PROGRAMME 2023

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 with pedestrianised centre shopping

Tuesday 10th of October at 2pm – A talk by Lynda Thompson 'Eye of the Wind'

Crew-ing a Brigantine from the UK to the Canaries

Tuesday 24th of October at 10.30am – Harvest Lunch at Marlborough Golf Club

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



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

Bee Home on the Move

by Barry Thunder

Earlier this summer I read a note on Facebook about residents along the Highworth Road hearing a loud buzzing noise and seeing a swarm of bees heading along the road. 'Interesting', I thought, wondering where they were heading and what they did once they arrived.

We have an allotment on the far edge of the site and close to the fence of the Honda Memorial Garden. The Monday after having read this on Facebook, we arrived at the gate into our plot and Alison stopped and pointed at our apple tree, which is close to the gate and just off the grass pathway into the plot. There hanging in the lower branches of the tree was a large mass of moving bees. They must have arrived on the Sunday afternoon as we had been working on the plot in the morning.

Whilst the sight of so many bees was somewhat alarming, they were not threatening in any way other than the size and the number of them packed so tightly together. After a not overly long look and a few photos of them we decided to give the weeding a miss that day and left them to their own devices.

We contacted Ryan our allotment neighbour who happens to be a local bee keeper, and asked if he was interested in the swarm. But thankfully, to my mind at any rate, they had moved on by the next day.

Interestingly, honey bees swarm from a hive when the hive becomes overcrowded. There can be a colony of 40,000 to 50,000 bees in a hive. The old queen leaves the hive together with her female workers and male drones. Scout bees look for a suitable new home site or get gathered up by beekeepers who rehome them. In Britain there are some 250 kinds of bees. Honey bees are known as social bees, which to me is a happy name as the honey they produce tastes delicious!



The Witches Hat Saga

By Jenny McEwen, SMRA Chair

It was not the best news to wake up to. Overnight, we received information that the Witches Hat had become a leaning tower.

Our trusty volunteers were soon out on the Rec and concluded quite quickly it was a serious safety risk. The central support pole was moving significantly in the ground. Having taped it off with hazard netting and erected notices onsite and on Facebook, our first port of call was to phone the suppliers who had installed it, to great acclaim, last September. Our phone and email messages didn't seem to get an answer, which was when alarm bells began to ring.



Our worst fears then materialised. The suppliers had gone bust in mid July, and there was no-one still with the company who could help us. Not having yet officially been put into insolvency meant we had no contact details to make a claim on the warranty. Both SMRA and the Parish Council had insurance, but both companies confirmed that they would not pay for manufacturing or installation defects that would normally be covered by a warranty.

It was lucky that we had the full attention of Lee Wells from Allbuild who had his gang out on the Rec installing additions in Phase 2 of our Rec development plan. He quickly arranged for the removal off-site of the Witches Hat and, together with Lionel and Ian from SMRA, carefully dug down to the foundations to establish the cause.

The conclusion was that the big concrete block into which the baseplate of the pole is bolted had been a job which was rushed – the concrete had not been given the appropriate time to cure. So as soon as the Witches Hat was up and in action, the bolts began to move inside the concrete. The actual equipment was fine – shame about the installation by the contracting company whose personnel were more interested in getting home to Lancashire than in doing a proper job.



Having considered the possibility of re-fixing it in a concrete base of uncertain quality, we concluded it was better to reinstall, with a new concrete base, in a nearby location. We were grateful for the help of the original manufacturers (a company called Cemer in Turkey), RoSPA for advice on safety clearances and two contractors for their detailed and rapidly turned-around quotes for the work.

It's such a shame that this occurred in the middle of the school holidays when our children should have been out playing on it, but:

the Witches Hat will return very soon!

Unfortunately, SMRA is left with paying for its removal and re-installation which does not come cheap. There is a vague possibility that, if and when the suppliers are declared insolvent, we may in a position to recover the cost, but as it's an installation rather than an equipment fault, we have no idea whether we have to chase a third party for whom we currently have no contact details. This expensive incident means we must, for the moment, scale back our plans for new play equipment to be installed later this year.

What is remarkable, though, is the way our SMRA volunteers were constantly on the problem from the very first indication that something may be amiss. The flurry of email exchanges, constant phone calls, documents and time taken out on site to look at our options were considerable.

We are incredibly grateful to Lee Wells for his help on site and his forbearance whilst we threw ideas and issues around.

We hope, in the end, this means we can bring the Witches Hat saga to something of a happy ending.



STOP PRESS

**The Recreation Ground will be CLOSED
on Monday and Tuesday, 11th & 12th September
due to Weed Control Spraying.**

The gates will be locked.

**Please use the Old Vicarage Lane entrance
for access to school and pre school.**

Email: play@southmarston.org.uk

Well Done Winners!

The draw for August will take place at our next meeting in September. Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our JULY winners.

£10 No.106: Ben Jones
£10 No. 17: David Bickley
£10 No. 86: Mike New
£10 No. 34: Julie Hatherall

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.

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.



The Highworth Road Mirage

by Barry Thunder

Residents have to say that Thames Water are consistent in their total failure to find their own water main after their 4th trench was recently dug in the Highworth Road. Once again they failed to provide a water supply to the Honda Heritage Memorial Garden and the Allotment site. We now await a 5th application to dig another hole!

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DAYS OUT BY COACH...VIEW OUR FULL LIST OF TRIPS & HOLIDAYS ON OUR WEBSITE!



Birmingham; Bullring & Primark Megastore
Sun 8th & Fri 27th Oct 2023
Adult: £27 | Senior: £25
Child: £15



Westonbirt (Inc. Treetop Walkway)
Sun 15th Oct 2023
Adult: £35* | Senior: £33*
Child: £18*



Gloucester Quays
Fri 20th Oct 2023
Adult: £35 | Senior: £33
Child: £18



Cotswold Wildlife Park
Mon 23rd Oct 2023
Adult: £32* | Senior: £26*
Child: £23*



Cadbury World
Wed 25th Oct 2023
Adult: £45* | Senior: £43*
Child: £35*



Disney On Ice
Sat 4th Nov 2023
Resorts World Arena, B'ham
Adult: £98* | Senior: £97*
Child: £96*



Birmingham; Christmas Market, Bullring & Primark Megastore
Sun 12th Nov, Sat 2nd & Sat 16th Dec 2023
Adult: £27 | Senior: £25
Child: £15



BBC Good Food Show
Sat 25th Nov 2023
NEC, Birmingham
Adult: £53* | Senior: £50*
Child: £30*



Worcester Christmas Fayre
Sun 3rd Dec 2023
Adult: £26 | Senior: £24
Child: £15



Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Market
Sat 9th Dec 2023
Adult: £24 | Senior: £22
Child: £15

TOURS MARKED WITH AN * INCLUDED ADMISSION

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

Hello From Your New Borough Councillor

by Matthew Vallender



Following the by-election on the 20th of July, I have been elected as your newest Borough Councillor. I want to say a massive thank you for all of the support over the campaign – it is an absolute privilege to have been elected. It was an incredibly tight win and I want to thank every resident who took the time to go and vote – however I am here to represent every resident and work hard to represent you no matter which way you voted.

I have already been hard at work addressing the 'to do list' of issues raised with me by residents during the election campaign – with my first priorities including:

- Continuing to be hardworking and visible all year round
- Lobbying for a South Marston Bus Route to be reinstated
- Pushing for the South Marston 20mph zone to be implemented as soon as practically possible
- Providing a strong voice on planning, roadworks and the New Eastern Villages developments
- Continuing to support our local businesses, charities, community groups, and sports groups

I will be joining the Planning and Achieve Net Zero Policy Development Committees on the Council (both of which are issues I know residents are incredibly passionate about) and I have already attended the first Net Zero Committee meeting where we agreed our work programme for the year. I look forward to working constructively with the Labour administration while holding them to account for their promises.

Finally, if you have any local issues you wish to raise with me, my phone number is 01793 295171 and my email address is Mvallender@swindon.gov.uk. If you wish to receive any updates on my work as one of your Borough Councillors, I would encourage you to follow my Facebook page [@cllrmattthewvallender](https://www.facebook.com/cllrmattthewvallender) or join our community Facebook group [Stratton Saint Margaret and South Marston in Touch](https://www.facebook.com/StrattonSaintMargaretandSouthMarstoninTouch).

I look forward to working hard over the next 3 years delivering on residents' priorities.

Matt

School Update

by Marie Hendry, Head of School

Following on from the last article, I would like to share some information about our school spanning the 1930's to the start of the 1970's. You may recall from the last article that up until 1932, Annie Cross was Headteacher. After her retirement that December, logbook entries mentioning her in the role of 'manager' suggest that her involvement in school life did not end with her retirement. Edna Whaley was her successor in January 1933 followed by Gladys Baker in June 1934.

The number on roll at this time declined from the start of the decade with 68 pupils on roll to 41, when in 1937 the school saw a big change. On January 1st, the school reopened following the Christmas break as a Junior Mixed and Infants school. Records tell us that 'senior scholars have been transferred to a new senior school at Upper Stratton.' As a result of this, school now had 26 children 'on the books' and no change to the staffing. This was a very significant event in the history of the school and indeed village, I am sure you will agree. In 1938 and following this change a report by Her Majesty's Inspector concludes, "The children are happy and well-behaved, they are interested in their lessons and show initiative and self-reliance..." Numbers were very low at 21 by this time, causing concern, but that was soon to change.

The following are logbook extracts from the start of World War II:

1 Sep 1939

"When school assembled this morning, the children were dismissed until further notice. This was in accordance with instructions received from Headquarters, owing to the country being in a state of National Emergency."

13 Sep 1939

"School reopened this morning. During the closure 44 children from Barking, Essex have been billeted in the village. These children have been evacuated owing to War having been declared with Germany. The Village Hall is at present being used as a school for these evacuees, who with three teachers commenced work this morning."

9 Oct 1939

"The working of the school was re-organised as from this morning. The evacuees have been absorbed and the whole redivided into two groups, according to age. The younger group (7, 8, some 9 year-olds) are being taught in the Village Hall by Miss Wood, a Barking teacher. Only 5 South Marston children have been removed. The rest, (some 9, the 10 and 11 year-olds) are in the school, being taught by the Head Teacher."

There followed numerous changes in the number of evacuees and the organisation of teaching over the next few years. Interestingly, there was no mention of the evacuees returning home at any point in the logbook, only the return of desks and chairs that had been on loan from Northbury School, Barking.

Around the 1950's running water was installed and the lavatories were connected to the main water supply with a teachers' lavatory provided in 1953. These must have been very big and welcome advancements at the time! Past pupils may recall the partition in the main room (now the school hall) creating two classrooms. It was fitted in 1955 due to a shortage of space and remained in place for many years.



Source of photo unknown. Please contact the school if you know the owner of this picture.

A report by HMI in 1956 commented that "There is a close link between school and village. It is unfortunate there is no adequate space for folk dancing."

After 26 years service to the school Gladys Baker resigned in 1960, Sarah Ellison took over duties as Headteacher on the 1st September 1960 and a series of improvements began. Electric lights were fitted, the school field was fenced, a further extension of the cloakroom and toilets took place and a new mobile classroom was installed in the playground to accommodate the infants.

As ever, we are incredibly grateful to our archivist Mrs Hilary Brooks for her work on researching our school's rich history as well as being appreciative of the photos and memories past pupils have kindly shared with us. We look forward to sharing more with you in future articles.

Dear Friends,

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare".



These words - from the poem 'Leisure' by WH Davies - were written over a hundred years ago, yet, despite the massive shifts in technology and culture we still cheat ourselves of time to 'stop and stare'. I can imagine the poet dreaming of a future time when technology might transform our living, slowing us down offering more leisure, more opportunities to reflect on what it is to be a human or just to be.

Confounding that dream, technology has done the opposite, filling our activities even more. We might stop and stare, but at the TV, our laptops or our tablets. Children's lives too can be all about packing in so much activity. Dashing to this group, to that club, the next sporting activity, with no time to just to be at peace, quiet, just thinking.

Followers of Jesus are encouraged to stop and stare. Jesus said "And why do you worry and labour? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these". Take time, stop and stare.

Our lives are busy, we're always on the go and God didn't create us to withstand the constant barrage of information, technology and communication. God offered us Sabbath - time, not exclusively a Sunday - when we can contemplate and pray deeply. Remember that Jesus often went off to 'a certain place' to pray, to reflect and make space for God and to stop and stare. If Jesus needed to, we must follow his example.

So, this September, take time to grasp the opportunity to just stop and stare, to see and listen for what God can offer you, as well as noticing the beautiful countryside that is around us here in South Marston.

Every Blessing,

Revd 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)

10th of September	9.30am Holy Communion
17th of September	10am Team Service at St Margaret's Church
1st of October	10am All Age Worship
8th of October	9.30am Holy Communion
15th of October	10am Team Service
29th of October	10am Team Service at St Leonard's Church
5th of November	10am All Age Worship
12th of November	10am and 11am at the War Memorial Remembrance Service

Please Note up to date Covid 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 9th of September & 7th of October

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** will be open daily from early morning till early evening.

St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston

MEETING POINT

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

Come and Join Us for Coffee

In the Village Hall from 10am - 12pm

Saturday 16th September and Saturday 21st October

Enquiries or for table reservations please call 01793 824339





**SOUTH MARSTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2023**

The Chair's Review

Yet another busy year when we have been tackling more and more local services that Swindon Borough Council can no longer afford to provide.

At the same time, we seem to spend an increasing amount of time on trying to influence the numerous and often very large developments for housing and warehousing in our parish.

Inside this report, I cover some of the main activities during the last year along with a summary of how our income was spent. My thanks go to my fellow Councillors and staff, and particularly to all our volunteers without whom we would simply not achieve what we do. Thank you for reading this!

Colin McEwen



We aim to ensure that South Marston is:

Green and Rural - by maintaining and enhancing our green places and negotiating new rural open space with public access

Clean - by providing and emptying dog bins, giving litter picking volunteers support and equipment, as well as hedge-cutting and annual leaf clearance

Vibrant - with financial support to SMRA to provide the Village Hall and a well-maintained Rec and giving support to local events, projects and initiatives

Well informed - by providing information events, website and Facebook pages, and the free village magazine 'Community News' with household delivery

Influential - by negotiating with developers and the Borough Council on the future of the parish

Published by South Marston Parish Council

August 2023

Annual Report

by The editor

The Parish Council's recent work on improving facilities and influencing development is covered in the Chair's Annual Review in this year's Annual Report.

The aims of the Council are listed as ensuring that South Marston is:

- Green and Rural
- Clean
- Vibrant
- Well Informed
- Influential

The report can be read as a PDF on the village website at <http://southmarston.org.uk/2022-2023-annual-report-to-electors>.

Carriers Arms

Trios Amigos - 23rd of September 9pm

A 3 piece party style band playing classics from old up to today Rock Ska Funk and more!

The Belladonna Treatment - Saturday 21st of October

A four piece originals band playing alternative British rock

Halloween party - Saturday 28th of October, from 9pm

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.

Real ale on tap. Find us on facebook.

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



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



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(summer months)

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**Pre-booking
required!**

ROVESFARM.CO.UK

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5.30-9PM

Your Parking Space

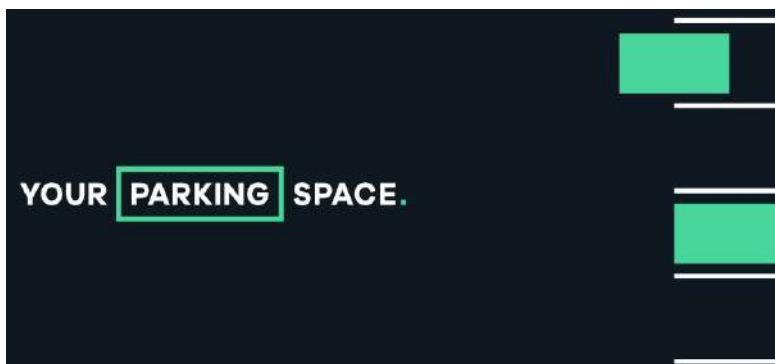
by Lionel Cave-Ayland

It's a little known fact that you can use the car park at the local Sainsbury's like a 'Park and Ride' facility. It is managed by YourParkingSpace.co.uk and you can book online for daily, weekly or even monthly slots. Just type in Sainsbury's Oxford

Road and follow the instructions. There seems to be a standard price of £3.49 for 1 hour up to 8 hours, yes it's fantastic value.

Janet and I have used it several times over the past years and it enables you to travel on Public Transport to the east to Oxford or west to Swindon, Bath and Bristol.

You will be doing your bit for the environment too and you only have to drive 2 miles. So go on, give it a try, you will have a great day out and feel good about it as well.



Acupuncture

Acupuncture treatment can help with many health conditions including back pain, fatigue, digestive disorders, poor sleep, arthritic pain and migraines to name just a few!

Hazel Andrews Lic.Ac AAC

7 Ash Gardens, South Marston.
SN3 4XX

For more information call me on

01793 827507

hazel@acuhome.co.uk

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 and Mary Crichton

Meeting Point: Diane 824339, **Saturday Scene:** Pat England 826505

South Marston Church of England Primary School: 823379

SMRA: Julie Hatherall 07749211867, Jenny McEwen 07770633362

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

As we head out of Summer and into Autumn, another successful Annual Produce Show from the Gardening Club has taken place. The year seems to speed up as dates are now showing meetings and trips for Christmas!

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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