

South Marston Community News

What a difference!

By Jenny McEwen, SMRA Chair



Not all SMRA's recent work on the Recreation Ground has involved spending lots of money. Big improvements can be made by a willing volunteer with sandpaper and various cans of paint. Our sincere thanks go to Lionel Cave-Ayland for using his time overseeing the recent weed-suppressant spraying on the Rec and transforming the toddler play equipment. All items have been painted, bolts tightened and caps replaced. The recent RoSPA inspector, doing the annual safety check, even commented that it now looked 'cared-for', not always the case with play areas.

Many more expensive improvements have been made as well, all resulting from the series of consultation exercises we did with residents, users and schoolchildren. The first to be completed was the creation of the boundary path around the north and western boundary down to the oak tree. This was something requested by the local dog-walkers and it also meets one of our objectives by helping to keep dogs out of the play area 'section' of the Recreation Ground. The second was the result of a plea made by our local teenagers to provide a space of their own away from the play area. We re-located and refurbished the teen shelter to accommodate this.

Continued overleaf



To improve the recreational attraction and use of the Rec, we provided several large 8-seater picnic tables - one by the teen shelter, and three between the outdoor gym and the play equipment. We are very grateful to the F & E Harris Memorial Trust for funding these and the path.

To enable dogwalkers to have places to sit and chat along the new path, we used the remainder of the 2022 Jubilee Celebration income to purchase a couple of distinctive benches.



One of our real challenges was to design the layout of the play equipment, both existing and proposed. After much detailed effort, we invested some of our available finance in relocating the basketball stand and kickabout area, largely because the equipment providers we consulted told us we should not be locating sports areas too close to play equipment. The failure of the Witches Hat, due to being incorrectly installed, actually offered us the opportunity to relocate it further into the Rec, leaving sufficient space for our proposed new equipment.



The reaction to all the work so far has been very positive. A couple of points have arisen. One fairly urgent one was that the teen shelter was very exposed and the wind whistles through it. Eventually, it will be surrounded by a copse with trees and shrubs, but, as a temporary solution in the meantime, the shelter is now securely wrapped in a plastic tarpaulin.

It was great to get a big thankyou from the teenagers for our rapid response!

We are not finished yet! Roll on the first week of December, when our biggest single purchase arrives - this is the tower/climbing frame unit that acts as the replacement for the much-loved equipment that has been lost in recent years. It has two slides of different heights, climbing nets, monkey bars and hoops. One end of the 6 tower unit is more suited to older children, the other to younger children, so we hope it attracts a lot of use from our village youngsters.

Our consultation efforts also brought out something we didn't know - the youngsters preferred the old wooden swings (now gone) as the remaining metal ones have an 'anti-wrap' mechanism that makes them much slower! After failing to find anyone to supply a replacement mechanism to fit the existing frame, we have hit on a solution that will hopefully mean, when installed, our youngsters will have the swinging experience they desire! All of this work has been funded by 'planning gain' money coming from the Magdalene Close development. We do hope everyone feels we have got value for money out of it.

Finally, this autumn/winter we will be focusing on implementing the landscaping plan. Trees and shrubs are being acquired free via the Swindon Community Forest initiative which will also pay for their planting and maintenance. The area to the side of the tarmac path from the Thornhill Rd gate is being levelled, improved and planted with many perennials and self-seeding plants gifted by local residents which should make a really good display next spring and summer.



Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER winners.



SEPTEMBER

£30 23. Diane Whitford
£10 110. Kay Long
£10 78. Lisa Allen
£10 12. Ian Addison
£10 98. Dot Bird

OCTOBER

£10 31. Pam Rimmer
£10 78. Lisa Allen
£10 77. Maureen Hayward
£10 97. Richard Shovlar

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.

Spinning Colours and Dry Taps

by Barry Thunder

The Honda Heritage Garden has re-opened with the colourful spinners returned. Though they are smaller and on shorter poles, each is firmly cemented into the ground. As many long-term locals will recall, this area is prone to surface flooding from the clay soil there, and even with the pond, it gets very soggy.



The grass area has been nicely cut and we are hoping that the wildflower turf laid around the pond area and along the brook will flower for the first-time next spring. Sadly the raised beds, given to the village by Honda, are suffering from a lack of attention. These beds are available to villagers to use for growing flowers or fruits for the enjoyment of all. If you would like to know how to grow your own in these beds, please email our editor Sharon at editor@southmarston.org.uk.

Dry taps.... alas the hoped-for mains water supply to the Heritage Garden and Allotment site remains dry. Despite Thames Water digging five holes in a variety of locations along Highworth Road, a connection still hasn't been made.

The latest hole dug in front of a resident's driveway and in front of the stopcock for the property did reveal the water pipe. However, the trench was then promptly filled in, without any connection made to a water supply that we know of. A faint hope remains that now TW have revealed a water pipe in the road, there will be another attempt to connect this to the water pipes at the allotments.



Shed-moving the old way! Two of our hardworking allotment volunteers decided to relocate an old wood shed to repurpose it. They used wooded rollers to move it and saved themselves a great deal of effort!

South Marston Youth Club

by Rachel Messenger



Help us get the Club up and running again...

I've been given the remit, by the Parish Council, to generate support for re-starting the Youth Club. For many years South Marston benefited from a vibrant and popular Youth Club run by Julie Hatherall and a group of dedicated parents. As the pandemic took hold the club closed and has remained so ever since.

The recent successful 'Have Your Say' event run by the South Marston Recreation Association (SMRA) heard the voices of young people in the village who feel the club is sorely missed. There were some wonderful ideas shared at this event. We'd like to work with the community and young people themselves to re-open the club. It's so important not just for the activities but for their overall health and well-being, and it provides additional social activity for young villagers ill-served by public transport.

Previous calls for volunteers made it all sound a bit daunting. As those who have run a youth club will know, it can be both exhausting and exasperating. Nowadays, it's also an arena full of regulation concerning child safety, which needs addressing but adds to the load if only a couple of people are involved in managing the Youth Club and its activities.

The solution is to gather together a wider range of parents and older teenagers who will share the load. We are calling for volunteers who can assist in various roles such as finance, events, safeguarding, and risk assessments. We also need volunteers to run the weekly or fortnightly sessions, that can be on a rota basis as volunteer helpers. Surely there are parents out there who would welcome a youth club for their children and would be prepared to give up an evening every one or two months to secure it?

For those more closely involved in leading the sessions, these roles might provide valuable work experience and we could potentially offer opportunities for youth work training qualifications. We will work with Youth Action Wiltshire and will encourage peer support from, and for, young adults.

Many opportunities can develop from a thriving Youth Club and it would be so wonderful to see it back up and running again. If you can help and would like more information or have ideas to suggest, please contact me by email to rachel.messenger@southmarston.org.uk. Thank you in anticipation.



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Tots & Toddlers

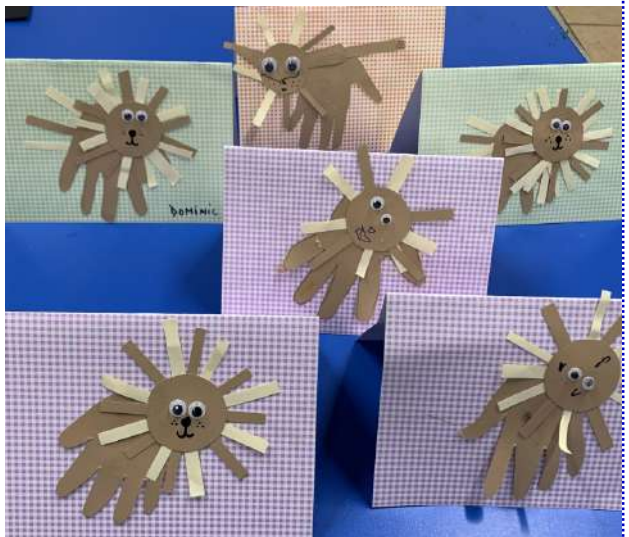
We have had a great start to the new academic year at Tots and Toddlers. We continue to welcome new faces as well as seeing our regular children and adults. It's such a pleasure to be part of a supportive and friendly group and to see our youngsters thrive as they develop and grow in confidence, and communicate more and more.

This term we have focused on a few national celebration days, including National Grandparents day. The children created handprint cards for grandparents or other loved ones. We are so fortunate at Tots to have a few grandparents (and even a great-grandma!) who regularly attend with their little ones, so it was especially good to celebrate with them and recognise what they do for their families.



We also enjoyed National Animals day and enjoyed creating a special lion card. This required working on our fine motor skills using scissors and glue sticks.

In our messy play we have enjoyed free painting with some natural resources including sticks, conkers and apples. We've used diggers and scoops to play with crunchy autumn leaves, smooth conkers, sticks and lavender.



We invite you to come along and join us with your tots and toddlers and watch them play with friends, while you can enjoy a hot drink and a chat. Hope to see you soon!

Emma and Rachel

Tots and Toddlers runs 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 snacks provided. Contact: racheljones878@gmail.com

Aldi Joins in Works at Oxleaze Wood

by Barry Thunder

October saw us continuing to replant the diseased ash trees in Oxleaze Wood and coppice the many hazel shrubs, which is very hard work when they have been growing for around 20 years. We were highly impressed with the team from Aldi who joined in the work with our Open Spaces volunteers.

Using hand saws to cut through the branches of six inches or more and then moving these clear is hard enough...but with 10-20 ash trees as our target to fell that day and with the chain saw not working correctly, we decided to use hand saws to fell some of the trees.



All of the team stepped up to the challenge, working hard to reach our goal. We also managed to plant about 15 assorted saplings grown by Chris. Together with Nigel and Norm, we all enjoyed a successful but hard working day in the woods.

Mike Povey sums up the day... 'The Aldi store management team took a day out of store to spend time 'team building' in Oxleaze woods. Any hopes of a nice relaxing day in the wood were quickly shattered as we were put to good use felling and planting trees. A great time was had by all and we were grateful for a day outside and giving back to the community. Residents may or may not know of Aldi's presence in the parish with its Swindon distribution centre in the industrial estate. It was a fantastic way to give back to the local area that we are happily part of.'

2023 Poppy Appeal

Since its emergence as a symbol of Remembrance after the First World War, poppies have taken on various shapes and sizes, from handmade silk and cotton poppies to wartime poppies. This year sees the launch of a new plastic-free poppy.

Wearing a poppy shows you care, and helps the Royal British Legion raise vital funds to support the Armed Forces community all year round.



SUPERMARINE SPORTS CLUB

Welcome to our Local Club

by Paul Ferris

We're on Supermarine Road, South Marston, and our primary aim is to support the Bowmen and Rugby Clubs at the Supermarine Sports Club, providing them with excellent all year round facilities to enjoy their sports.

The Rugby Club provides opportunities to play from under 6 years right through to the ladies', and men's teams, and is always happy to welcome new members – no experience needed, just turn up on a training day.

The Archery Club saw a dip in membership following the pandemic, but is now starting to emerge from it with new members joining and regular 'beginner courses' held. Fancy trying something a little less physical than rugby, why not sign up?

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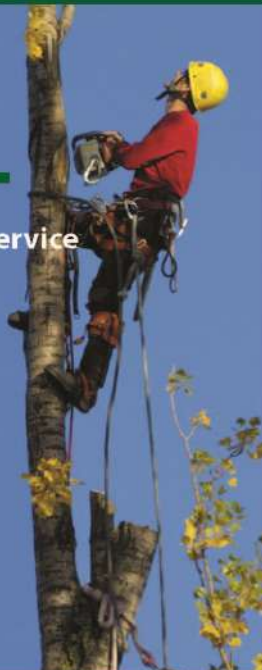
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We also seek to support local groups around the Swindon area and every year we give the club over to South Marston School PTA to hold their Winter Craft Fayre, which is being held on Friday 17th of November. We also open our doors to Threshold Housing Link for a charity sleep out in aid of homelessness, this year being Friday 1st of December.

We have great indoor and outdoor spaces for almost every occasion; a place to hold wedding receptions, birthdays, anniversaries, engagement parties, company events, and wakes... but it's not all about business.

You can find out more on our websites at www.supermarinesportsclub.co.uk, www.supermarinebowmen.org.uk or www.pitchero.com/clubs/supermarinerfc.



Winter Fayre

Free
Entry!

Friday 17th November 6 – 8:30PM
At Supermarine Sports and Social Club

Stalls – Refreshments – Carol Singing – Father Christmas

South Marston Primary School PTA are looking forward to hosting their Annual Winter Fayre, where we will have 20 independent craft stalls selling a variety of things, as well as the school stalls where we will have a tombola, along with a refreshments stand selling lots of yummy cakes and hot drinks.

The choir will be singing and there will be a second hand Christmas Jumper sale. There will also be a Christmas Grotto with a visit from Father Christmas plus lots more. Please come along, join in the fun and find some early Christmas gifts and support the PTA while you do.

Carriers Arms

**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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**Please keep an eye on our facebook page for any further
events and Christmas festivities.**

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

South Marston Friendly Club

After another successful year, why not come and join us in the Village Hall for our entertaining talks and presentations with refreshments. If you are over 50 and would like to meet other South Marston residents, we would be delighted to welcome you.

PROGRAMME 2023/24

Tuesday 14th Nov at 2pm – A presentation of Stories and Experiences of a Navy Commadore during the Falklands War

Thursday 14th Dec at 12 noon – Christmas Lunch at Blunsdon House

Tuesday 9th Jan at 2pm – A Social Afternoon with Bingo & Mince Pies

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

The F & E Harris Memorial Trust

Please note that the Christmas hampers for registered eligible pensioners will be distributed from The Carriers Arms on 7th of December 2023 between 2 - 4 pm.



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Celebrating Christmas with the Church



St Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston
Seeking, Sharing and Serving God Together with Stratton Team Ministry

Sunday Morning services at South Marston St Mary Magdalene Church
(unless otherwise stated)

12th November	10am	Remembrance Service
	11am	at the War Memorial
19th November	10am	Team Service at St Leonard's Church, Stanton
26th November	11am	Holy Communion at Coleview Community Centre
3rd December	10am	All Age Worship Christingle Service
10th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th December	11am	Team Carol Service at Coleview Community Centre
22nd December	7pm	Carol Service
24th December	5pm	Crib Service
	9pm	Holy Communion
15th December	10am	Holy Communion at St Margaret's Church
31st December	10am	Team Service at St Margaret's Church
7th January 2024	10am	All Age Worship
14th January 2024	9.30am	Holy Communion



Meeting Point at the Village Hall from 10am to 12pm is a 'drop in' for all members of our community to join us for Coffee (tea also available). Every third Saturday of the month.



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 Second Saturday of the month.

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

St Mary Magdalene's, welcomes you to visit for private prayer. The Church will be open daily from early morning till early evening.

Let's SMILE again

by Hazel Andrews



The ever popular South Marston in Lights Event (SMILE) competition will be running in the village again this year. A chance for villagers to get their Christmas lights out and turn the village into a magical twinkly Christmas winter wonderland. So get ready to put on your best displays.

This year there will be prizes of a Christmas goodie bag for the best displays around the village, including the 'Best in Village', and more categories...

Judging will take place in the week before Christmas, when it will be a great opportunity for everyone to take time and walk around the village to enjoy the festive light displays at their best.

The winners' Christmas goodie bags will be delivered to their doors.

To make sure your lights display doesn't get missed out by our judges, you can send your address to me by email to andrewshazel@yahoo.com.



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South Marston Gardening Club

by Angela Newton

Our last meeting of the year is our Social Evening and Quiz which you are all welcome to attend. It's on Monday 4th of December at 7.30 to 9.30pm in South Marston Village Hall.



Tea and coffee will be served but feel free to bring something a little stronger and a plate of food to share. Prizes to the winning team. A raffle is also available at a £1 per strip.

Everyone welcome so invite your family, friends and neighbours. Non-Gardening Club Members £3 on the door. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. A warm, friendly welcome awaits you.

For more information, visit our Facebook page [@southmarstongardeningclub](https://www.facebook.com/southmarstongardeningclub) or contact Angela on: 07789068340 or email: angelanewton01@gmail.com.

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by Colin McEwen

Ward Councillors Get Involved

Vice Chair Sylvia Brown and I recently met with our new Borough Councillors, Tom Butcher and Matthew Vallender. Following a tour of the HHT development area, we agreed to work together on the challenges facing the village and specifically on some of our more intractable problems.

Flood Risk

Parish Councillors, many of whom were themselves affected by the recent Storm Babet, have been gathering evidence from across the village to add to our understanding of the main risk areas.

Matt Vallender has agreed to take up with the Borough Council the current lack of maintenance of major flood alleviation ponds upstream of the village and has also established a contact at the Environment Agency who has suggested a site meeting.



We also know the significant problem of surface water flow across the southern area of the village, which was the main cause of the flooding inside one house that was seriously affected this time round. As many residents point out, this is in an area subject to major housing development in the future. Since the 1990s, we have sought to build a picture of flood risk within the parish, and it was a major focus of work on our Neighbourhood Plan. We constantly use our 'flood information bank' in dealing with the housing developers to make sure they put in appropriate engineering solutions which should prevent housing, new and existing, from flooding.

The PC is completing a photo report on the flooding of the 20th of October as further evidence of the 'at risk' areas. Thank you to those who have already contributed pictures and do please urge neighbours and friends in the village to send more photos and report flooded properties to the Clerk, rather than just posting on Facebook.

Positive news is that if and when the Panattoni scheme is confirmed it involves extensive landscaping, to include opening up the stream, and promises a significant reduction in flow off the site in extreme conditions.

20mph Zone

Readers may recall that a new plan for speed limits on our roads was displayed at April's Information Event, supported by a Swindon Borough Council Highways officer. Although it seemed to me that the 20mph element was independent of any development issues, the Borough now say that the scheme is reliant on the timing of the HHT development. Tom Butcher is taking this up for us.

Bus Service

Matt Vallender is in conversation with Stagecoach to see if we can reinstate the S6 Oxford route through the village or get an occasional No. '7A' route from Highworth diverted via Highworth Rd / Thornhill Rd to Sainsburys. I wasn't successful when our service was lost, so let's hope that his efforts and the new developments bring success.

Development

I remain confident that work will start by Christmas. Just don't ask which year.

SMRA Have Your Say Evening

We were pleased that this initiative was a success and have noted the points raised which fall within our ambit. Some of the items have already been discussed and progressed. The majority of the queries and questions focused on a few topics; pathways, roads, flooding, development etc, and we will shortly be grouping these and compiling and publishing responses on these issues on the website.



Please note, we can always be contacted direct by email to our Clerk, Kevin, or by popping along to 'open 10 minutes' at the start of our monthly meetings.

Part-time general 'Handy Person' wanted

The Parish Council is looking to employ someone that has a background of grounds and general maintenance skills. We are open to this role being self employed or employed. The role would require the individual to have their own transport.

Hours, salary, and further details to be discussed at the next stage but would be dependent on skills and availability.

If you believe that this could be for you, please contact our Parish Clerk on clerk@southmarston.org.uk

Have Your Say Update

By Ian Clark, SMRA



'Have Your Say' was born out of two main things: a fair observation that SMRA communications with our neighbours about the changes at the Rec could have been better, and a request to the Parish Council for better opportunities for villagers to have a voice than at the open 10 minutes at the monthly PC meetings.

After a great deal of discussion and preparation, SMRA held a successful and very constructive 'Have Your Say' drop in event in the Village Hall on the 3rd of October. Villagers could make suggestions, raise concerns or ask questions on any aspect of village life, with a promise that whatever SMRA couldn't answer they would pass on to those who could. Many took us up on our offer, and we thank everyone who attended.

We wanted to ensure that news of the event reached as many people as possible, so it was advertised through a variety of media; via posters and signs, Facebook groups, the VIEWS mailing list, the school newsletter, and leaflets distributed to our closest neighbours.

Although the event was primarily for villagers to have their say, SMRA took the opportunity to showcase our latest package of improvements at the Recreation Ground, and how they fit into the longer-term plans for the expanded Recreation Ground and Village Centre.



Information boards and displays were prepared, for instance on how the new school building will fit, together with its new 'interim' car park alongside Old Vicarage Lane. Also shown was a plan of how the expanded Village Centre might look once the housing developers start on it, with facilities, a new car park, cycleways and paths.

As an alternative to looking forward, our Chair, Jenny McEwen had amassed an amazing display of photos and items from SMRA's 50-year history, and these garnered a lot of interest on the night.

It was a very busy evening with many suggestions, issues and concerns logged, along with a fair amount of positive feedback over the recent improvements at the Rec and existing Village Hall.

There was also a good deal of interest in the new piece of play equipment (pictured) due to be installed in early December.

Apart from the displays, it was good to be able to have coffee and biscuits, and just sit and chat with residents, young and not so young, about village matters.



The items discussed ranged from flooding to footpaths, road safety to maintenance of grass and hedges, request for sports and other facilities, and many more topics. We were especially impressed with how engaged the younger age group were. Several constructive items were raised by them and they were keen to assist in getting a village Youth Club off the ground. We were able to address almost 70 questions and issues on the night. All those relevant to the remit of SMRA were then discussed at length at the next SMRA meeting and those we couldn't answer were passed onto the Parish Council for their attention.

Some of the most common questions related to when things would be happening in the village, such as the long-awaited housing development, the school expansion and the new Village Centre. Unfortunately, SMRA and the Parish Council can only give a rough idea of timescales, as they are totally dependent on the developers.

What we can say is that there will be significant future community consultation on the detailed design of the new Village Hall, the pitches and informal sports areas on the expanded Recreation Ground behind Bell Gardens and Yew Tree Gardens. This will be a real opportunity to help shape how the village can perhaps provide a better range of services and facilities, including many of the ideas raised at the event.

All questions on the night were logged, along with some passed on via email and we have arranged for a set of information pages to be uploaded to the South Marston website. We will gradually populate these with the outcomes of this and update them as a result of future 'Have Your Say' events.

SMRA responses to items and actions being taken are available to read in detail on the village website at the dedicated page: www.southmarston.org.uk/have-your-say-event-update.



School Update

By Marie Hendry, Head of School

Following on from the last article, I would like to share some information on our school spanning the 1970's to the mid 1990's which I hope you will find interesting.

After Sarah Ellison's appointment as Headteacher in 1960, a series of improvements began at school from the resurfacing on the playground (and the end of segregated playtimes!), electric storage heaters being installed and in 1971, a new mobile classroom was added to the playground to accommodate the infants. All of the upgrades and new facilities being welcome additions no doubt to both staff and children alike at the time.

A photo showing the mobile classroom on the playground



Courtesy of Mark Winter

Logbooks from the time also tell us of country dancing festivals and the Wiltshire Music Festival that pupils took part in. School visits became more regular around this time with trips to the Roman Baths, Bristol Zoo and Cheddar Caves.

The school's Centenary in 1973 was celebrated and an entry from the time tells us that to mark the occasion; an exhibition of the children's work took place as well as folk and maypole dancing on the playground and on 25th June that year, 'parents and managers were invited to school for the presentation of Centenary mugs.'

We are particularly proud of our swim teaching, a part of our legacy and as a school makes us unique, in that so many year groups swim regularly, taught by our own highly trained and skilled teaching staff. In the archives, it is wonderful to read that swimming lessons, contests and other sporting events were featured in the 1970's. One particular logbook entry I wanted to share with you is from:

14 December 1978

"The Mayor presented a swimming prize, our school having come 1st in a national swimming contest, sponsored by a large company (Coca Cola) – we won out of 48,000 children! The school was packed with people. Ended at 10.30pm."

What an occasion that must have been! Further information about our swimming and indeed sporting successes can be found in the 'Archive' section of our school website.

Headteacher Malcolm Emery left in July 1985 with his successor, Steve Bicknell taking up the role of Headteacher. Like previous Heads, Mr Bicknell divided his time between teaching and Headship duties. At this time, there were three classes, one with the youngest pupils and the other two with a mix of three year groups. The number on roll was 53, with 19 children in the top class, 16 in middle class and 18 in reception/middle. Mr Bicknell took the top class.

The late 1980's saw further swimming achievements and a very exciting production of 'Oliver!' happening. Every child in school had a part with parents supplying much of their costumes; a total audience of over 250 people thoroughly enjoyed what must have been an effort and a triumph to put on.

The Autumn of 1991 saw Ray Norman take over as Headteacher and the number on roll rise to 75 over the 3 classes. Discussions quickly turned to extending the school but it wasn't until September 1993 and a short stint learning aboard a double decker bus loaned by Telford Travel (how utterly amazing!) that the school reopened in September of that year to 3 new classrooms, a proper cloak-room and a staff room.

I do hope you have enjoyed reading about this period in the school's history, as ever our special thanks go to our Archivist, Hilary Brooks, for ensuring our wonderful past stays very much present for us to celebrate and enjoy.

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!

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Highworth and South Marston United Charities

by Barry Thunder, Trustee to HUC and SMPC Parish Councillor

The charities having been in existence in various forms for over 150 years, still today being able to support people of Highworth and South Marston who may find themselves in sudden financial difficulty.

There are two funds available, The Relief of Need Fund and The Educational Fund: The money available is limited and therefore any assistance given cannot be repeated later.

The Relief of Need fund makes grants for items or services to assist residents who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. In the recent past we have helped a homeless couple with their rent deposit and contributed towards a new cooker when the old one was condemned.

The Educational Fund supports the education or training of residents who are under the age of 25 years, and who, or at least one of whose parents are resident in the area. The fund provides for special benefits not normally provided by the school or other institution. In the recent past we have helped a school with a grant towards educational materials not normally provided by the school, contributed towards the cost of one pupil on a school residential visit and paid towards a school uniform for another pupil.

Both charities share the same board of trustees and welcome enquiries all year round.

If you are in sudden distress or know of someone who is, the Highworth and South Marston United Charities is here to help.

Application forms can be obtained from Highworth Town Council office or South Marston Parish Council.

The logo for Tailor Made Cleaning Services features the company name in a green, sans-serif font. A stylized house icon is positioned between the words 'Tailor' and 'Made'. Below the name, the words 'Cleaning Services' are written in a smaller, lighter green font. A thick, curved line in shades of green and grey sweeps across the bottom of the logo area.

Tailor Made
Cleaning Services

Do you need a window cleaner?

**Call us today for
your FREE Quote on:**

01793 461696

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

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

Regular Village Events

- **Meeting Point** - Every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Village Hall
- **Parish Council Meeting** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall
- **The Gardening Club** - From March to December every 1st Monday (occasionally 2nd Monday if a Bank Holiday falls that month) in the Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
- **The Friendly Club** - 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall
- **Tots and Toddlers** - on Wednesdays during term time, 9-11am in the Village Hall

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**



Christmas Experience at Roves Farm

Santa's Grotto & Toy Shop

Featuring: Live Elf Show
Reindeer Food Station
Living Nativity Scene
Paper Crafts
Santa's Sleigh Photo Booth

New Grotto
for 2023!

Pre-book at rovesfarm.co.uk

Sevenhampton | Swindon | SN6 7QG | @rovesfarm



The Carpenters Arms

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

**CELEBRATE NEW
YEARS EVE WITH US!**

£15 Per Ticket*

Live Music from

"Mark Colton"

**Includes a Finger Buffet. Entry
from 7pm. Tickets Available
within the pub.*

