

South Marston Community News

Planting a Legacy for Future Generations

by Sylvia Brown



The rain held off, the sun shone and South Marston residents (young and old) turned out to help with the last part of our current Recreation Ground re-development - the landscaping. We had around 40 people in the workforce and completed most of the tasks on replacing the hedge-line and tree bank against the Bell Gardens field, and tree and shrub planting at selected locations to provide shelter and interest around the play area end of the Rec.

SMRA and the Parish Council had worked with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Swindon Borough's Great Western Community Forest to access almost £25,000 of government 'Tree for Climate Change' investment. Together, we created a planting plan that aimed to produce colour and interest around the Rec using only native species.

Continued overleaf





Photos left and above show:

- Transporting trees to the waiting workforce (thanks for the transport, Colin).
- Briefing from Neil Pullen (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) on planting the new hedge-line.
- Getting stuck in on the boundary with the Bell Gardens field. We learned to use the wind direction to identify which side to bang in the stakes and how to spread the tree roots in a hole that had to be big enough.
- Celebrating with a BBQ in the car park (thanks to the Parish Council for funding the food and to the Open Spaces Group for providing the shelter and other equipment).

Finally, thanks to Swindon Borough Council's Community Forest initiative and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for the finance, the expert staff and equipment and our two Borough Councillors who got well and truly involved. Together, we have created a lasting legacy of our hard day's work out on the South Marston Recreation Ground.

South Marston Friendly Club

We would like to encourage some new members at our meetings. If you are over 50 and live in South Marston, we would be delighted to welcome you at the Village Hall.

Our coach day trips for the summer will be announced in March, where non members can join us for the day subject to availability.

PROGRAMME 2024

Tuesday 12th March at 2pm – A Day in the Life of a Magistrate

A talk by Tony Hersh

Tuesday 9th April at 2pm – The Life and Mystery of Agatha Christie

A talk by Lynda Warren

Tuesday 14th May at 2pm – Unusual and Interesting Weather

A talk by Chris Brooks

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

Lambing at Roves Farm

By Keeley Lally



Photo credit: Tom Wren/SWNS

An amazing first lambing of the season saw us welcoming a record breaking four sets of triplet lambs – including the three sets pictured above. In total over 70 lambs were born to our Poll Dorset ewes. They can be seen in the lambing shed until early March, after which our Boer goats come in for kidding from March 12th.

A colorful spring event poster for Roves Farm. The background is light blue with white clouds. At the top left is a large yellow sun. The main headline 'Join us this Spring!' is in a large, black, handwritten-style font. Below it are three circular images: a cow (labeled 'Kidding'), a lamb (labeled 'Lambing'), and a rabbit (labeled 'Meet the Easter Bunny!'). To the left of the 'Kidding' image is a cartoon alpaca. To the right of the 'Lambing' image is a cartoon horse. At the bottom left is a cartoon pig and a chicken. At the bottom right is a cartoon sheep. The text 'Easter Trail 29th March - 1st April' and 'Easter Bunny Show Once daily, 2nd - 14th April' are in the center. Below that is a list of activities: 'plus: Meet the Animals | Feed the goats | Indoor Play | Activity Trail | Rugrats & Rascals* | Tractor Rides** | Café | Farm Shop & Butchery'. At the bottom is the website 'rovesfarm.co.uk' and a green circular logo for 'ROVES FARM VISITOR CENTRE EST. 1992'. A wooden signpost points to 'Sevenhampton Swindon | SN6 7QG'.

Join us this Spring!

Kidding
from 12 March

Lambing
6 - 23 April

Easter Trail
29th March - 1st April

Easter Bunny Show
Once daily, 2nd - 14th April

plus: Meet the Animals | Feed the goats | Indoor Play | Activity Trail
Rugrats & Rascals* | Tractor Rides** | Café | Farm Shop & Butchery

Sevenhampton Swindon | SN6 7QG

rovesfarm.co.uk

ROVES FARM
VISITOR CENTRE
EST. 1992

*term time weekdays only. See website for days/times. **£1.50pp, under 3's free. Activities can vary.

SMRA Update

by Jenny McEwen

It has been a busy couple of months for SMRA. The start of the New Year was dominated by work on the Landscaping Plan for the Recreation Ground Development Project. We had to contend with the grant application for Government funding, numerous site visits to check where planting could take place to avoid sewers and electric cables, as well as working out what to plant where.



Then we had to contend with the weather - constant rain meant difficulties over grass-cutting and several football matches were cancelled. Despite the recent drainage work completed on the Rec, the ground quickly becomes waterlogged, although recent work funded by the Parish Council on the ditch against the hedge on the Old Vicarage Lane boundary means the water can, at least, get away.



Ground conditions have not been favourable for installing the latest piece of play equipment, the Motoric track climbing frame / slide unit, but that is still anticipated for spring.

'HAVE YOUR SAY' Event: We had an even larger attendance at the second of these events on the 6th of February, which may have had something to do with a contentious planning application. Nevertheless, most attendees stayed and chatted about other matters such as flooding and future development in the village, as well as the first look at the landscaping plans. We also reported on how many of the issues raised at the first Have Your Say event last October had been actioned or answered.

SMRA Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 12th March 7.30pm

Come and join us in the Village Hall to hear about our work, our achievements this year and to help us with our future plans.

All South Marston residents welcome

The F and E Harris Memorial Trust

Homeline Customers - Important changes to careline devices

Between now and the end of December 2025, many telephone providers (e.g. BT, Virgin Media, O2) are moving their customers from old copper landlines over to new digital fibre landline services.

Read more about the digital switchover at www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines.

We want to make sure that all Homeline customers' (careline) devices continue to work correctly. Here are three important things for Homeline users to do:

1. When your telephone provider contacts you, please let them know you have a Homeline device to make sure this doesn't get disconnected
2. Call Swindon Borough Council on 01793 464430 / 616427 to let us know when your telephone provider is upgrading your landline service
3. Test your Homeline device once a month by pressing the button on your pendant. Don't worry - it won't call 999. The team will check if you're ok first, and you just need report you're testing the device, they will expect these calls

The Council are in contact with Homeline users directly, while Council Leader, Councillor Jim Robbins, has also written an open letter to Communities Secretary, Michael Gove, to help ensure phone companies engage with local authorities.

Fortnightly Village Bus Service to Swindon / Cirencester

Available to ALL South Marston residents for free.

The pick-up location is adjacent to the Carriers Arms Pub leaving at 9.30am. The returning coach will depart Swindon / Cirencester at 12.00.

SWINDON DATES

21 Mar 2024 18 Apr 2024

16 May 2024 13 Jun 2024

11 Jul 2024 8 Aug 2024

5 Sep 2024 3 Oct 2024

31 Oct 2024 28 Nov 2024



CIRENCESTER DATES

7 Mar 2024	4 Apr 2024
2 May 2024	30 May 2024
27 Jun 2024	25 Jul 2024
22 Aug 2024	19 Sep 2024
17 Oct 2024	14 Nov 2024
12 Dec 2024	

2024 Day Trips

This year's Summer Seaside trip for eligible pensioners is to Southsea / Portsmouth on Monday 24th of June 2024.

The Christmas Market trip is on 27th of November 2024 to Cardiff.



ABL Complete
landscaping service

Contact
07810317333

BARNES COACHES

01793 821303 | barnescoaches.co.uk



**Black Country
Living Museum**
Wed 3rd April 2024
Adult: £53* | Senior: £49*
Child: £28*



**Blossom Trail Scenic
Drive & The Valley,
Evesham**
Thu 4th April 2024
Adult: £25 | Senior: £23
Child: £15



**Birmingham;
Bullring Shopping OR
Legoland Discovery
Centre** (admission not included)
Sat 6th April 2024
Adult: £27 | Senior: £25
Child: £15



Longleat
Sun 7th April 2024
Adult: £66* | Senior: £63*
Child: £45*



**Concorde & Aeropace
Bristol Plus Cribbs
Causeway**
Mon 8th April 2024
Adult: £39* | Senior: £36*
Child: £26*



Hampton Court Palace
Mon 8th April 2024
Adult: £54* | Senior: £47*
Child: £28*



**Warner Bros. Studio
Tour The Making of
Harry Potter**
Mon 8th April 2024
Adult: £98* | Senior: £96*
Child: £71*



**Isle of Wight by ferry
(Shanklin & The
Needles)**
Tue 9th April 2024
Adult: £64* | Senior: £59*
Child: £43*



**Exbury Gardens
(Inc. Train Ride)**
Wed 10th April 2024
Adult: £46* | Senior: £43*
Child: £21*



Tower of London
Thu 11th April 2024
Adult: £62* | Senior: £54*
Child: £30*

TOURS MARKED WITH AN * INCLUDED ADMISSION

**VIEW MORE DAY TRIPS ONLINE OR CALL BARNES
TO REQUEST A FREE DAY TRIP LEAFLET!**



by Colin McEwen

Swindon Borough Council: Ambitious but cash strapped

The new Administration have finished consulting on their Swindon Plan, based on 'Combatting Inequality' and 'Building a Better Swindon'. They are strapped for cash because the cost of 'care' has ballooned to 80% of annual income and will need to work in partnership with others, although the plan remains vague on details.

As a first step, the Borough is to stop emptying litter bins and generally maintaining the Town Centre as well as the parished areas. It is negotiating with Parish Councils to take on / pay for the work.

HHT Firing up!

As predicted, the HHT consortium have now exercised their options and purchased all the land required for the 500-house expansion of the village itself and the 1,880-home new village of Rowborough. Taylor Wimpey will remain a lead player with the parcel to the south of Magdalene Close with Hannick transferring their land to Vistry PLC (Bovis homes). We are due to meet with them shortly and I have already asked that they dig out the ditch along Old Vicarage Lane.

On the planning front, we have lodged an objection to the HHT proposal for the junction across Thornhill Road as being unsafe and pressed for changes to their latest surface water proposals.

Crown Timber Live again !!

A planning application for 57 dwellings has been lodged for the Crown Timber site, to include a footpath around Hoddinott's Corner, which would be welcomed. The site previously had permission for 47 dwellings, which raises issues relating to surface water storage at a site that is upstream of the Greenfields culvert as well as short on amenity space.

Community News

Congratulations to the Communications Working Group for reaching the landmark 50th edition of Community News. Members of the group (Sylvia Brown, Barry Thunder, Tony Leathart, Pam Jackson and Diane Whitford) take on this task every two months and the volunteers in the delivery team make sure it reaches everyone in the village. The Parish Council helps fund its production together with advertising and sponsorship, and long may it continue to provide interesting stories about village life as well as providing information on what goes on in our very active community.

Panattoni: Warehouses galore!!!

Panattoni has finally taken possession of the ex-Honda site, with full planning permission to put up 8 'big boxes'.

The design has incorporated many of the comments made at the village consultation events and should significantly reduce the flood risk to the village.

Owen Follett, the Project Delivery Director at Panattoni, writes:

'Following the grant of planning permission in December, we are pleased to be starting on the redevelopment of the former Honda site.'

The first phase of the works includes the demolition of the existing buildings, and then construction of the infrastructure works. These will relate to highway and drainage, alongside earthworks allowing us to bring forward plots for future construction of the buildings.'

Timing

'Immediately following possession of the site, our contractor will commence the soft-strip of the facilities (removing the ceiling, wall and floor finishes etc.) and undertake demolition to facilitate the confirmatory site investigations requested by the Environment Agency.'

By mid-March, demolition works should be fully underway on the former Engine Plant and Car Plant 1, with Car Plant 2 following at the end of the summer. Earthworks are programmed to commence within Phase 1 in May / June 2024 with completion of the Phase 1 infrastructure targeted for autumn 2025.

We remain grateful to the Parish Council for their constructive input into the development plans, and we look forward to welcoming Parish Councillors to the site in April.

If you have any questions, please email PanattoniParkSwindon@connectpa.co.uk or contact us by telephone on 0800 029 7171.'



Tots & Toddlers

Hello from Tots and Toddlers!

We've had a lovely start to the year with lots of different activities, crafts and play opportunities. We have welcomed some new faces to the group, including a tiny youngster joining us from at just over a week old! It's such a pleasure and privilege to provide a group with a regular and consistent environment for our children and grown-ups to feel part of and grow into.

This term we have made some decorative binoculars, using lots of cutting and sticking skills as part of the 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. Other crafts have included making some bears to practise threading skills.

To support the development of gross motor skills we also have a lovely range of soft play equipment including a slide, tunnels, and cubes to encourage climbing, jumping and balancing.

Over the next couple of months, we will be celebrating the special ladies in our lives for Mother's Day, as well as enjoying activities with ice on the less well known 'International Polar Bear Day'!

If you are looking after a Tot or Toddler on Wednesday mornings in term time, please pop along and join us.

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.

There is 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



Tailor  Made
Cleaning Services

**Do you need a
window cleaner?**

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

01793 461696

Visit our website to see what other services we offer
www.tmccleaninggroup.com

Update from Your Local Borough Councillors:



**Russell Holland,
Tom Butcher and
Matthew Vallender**

Nightingale Lane Planning Application -

An Update from Councillors Matthew Vallender and Russell Holland

As many residents will be aware, February saw a controversial planning application for a residential caravan site on Nightingale Lane. As your local Conservative Councillors, we are completely opposed to such an inappropriate planning application on a site with a single lane track access that regularly floods and is not in the Neighbourhood Plan.

We delivered information leaflets to every household in South Marston giving potential reasons why the application could be objected to on planning grounds and encouraged residents to submit these to SBC. There were a large number of objections and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to write an email.

We have been encouraged by the Highways Department objecting to the site, and the very clear planning policies that allow us to base our objections in evidence.

The community in South Marston is fantastic and it has been great to see so many people feel able to give their views. Recognising the views of the majority of residents in the village, we will continue to do everything we can to fight this completely inappropriate planning application and we will keep residents updated as we work on this. Thank you for your support.

Swindon Plan - An Update from Councillor Tom Butcher

Swindon Borough Council recently hosted a series of Let's Talk Swindon events across the town for residents to attend. These sessions were packed and we received some really great feedback on what residents want to see included in the Swindon Plan. This is an important document that sets out our long term priorities for the town, centred around our 3 main missions of Reducing Inequality, Building a Better Swindon and Achieving Net Zero. Thank you to those residents from South Marston that attended and participated in the sessions. The plan should be published in the next few months and then it's onto delivery!

If any residents wish to raise any local issues with us, please contact us on the details below - we are always happy to help.

Cllr Russell Holland (Conservative), 07914 569256, RHolland@swindon.gov.uk

Cllr Tom Butcher (Labour), 07795 070254, TButcher@swindon.gov.uk

Cllr Matthew Vallender (Conservative), 01793 295171, MVallender@swindon.gov.uk,
Facebook - [@cllrmatthewvallender](https://www.facebook.com/cllrmatthewvallender)

South Marston Gardening Club

2024 Meeting Dates and Programme

All our events are held in South Marston Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm unless otherwise stated. You can join the Gardening Club for £15 Annual Membership or as a Visitor for £5 on the door.

Monday 4th of March 2024

AGM followed by 'Q&A' with Roger Moore and Michael Salter.

This is your chance to ask any questions you may have about gardening. These two gents have an enormous range of knowledge. Spread the word and come along to get advice or tips.

Monday 8 April 2024

Creative Approaches to Gardening for Nature by Laura Holmes

As a garden designer, Laura focuses on creating gardens that encourage wildlife, from planting and water features to naturalised habitats. In this workshop she will share some creative ideas that you can easily incorporate to create a space that is both beautiful to be in and supports nature.

Monday 13th of May - Speaker Antony Powell 'Scent in the Garden'

Monday 10th of June - Plant Sale 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Monday 1st of July - Speaker TBC

Friday 30th of August -
Annual Flower and Produce Show
Registration

Saturday 31st of August -
Annual Flower and Produce Show
(refer to Show Schedule for timings)

Monday 2nd of September -
Speaker Kate Holton 'Caring for
Houseplants'

Monday 7th of October -
Speaker Hugh Warick 'Hedgehogs'



Monday 4th of November - Christmas Wreath Workshop
(Gardening Club Members only)

Monday 2nd of December - Social Evening with a Christmas Quiz

Annual Flower and Produce Show

This year our Annual Show is being held slightly later in the month than normal, on Saturday 31st of August.

Please note the new categories that have been added to some sections:

- Cakes, Bakes and Preserves, has a new category 'Quiche' - any size and flavour
- Homebrew - now has non-alcoholic options 'Cordials', 'Syrups' & 'Juices'

The two Photography Categories are:

- Flowers
- Trains, Planes and Automobiles

Note: Photographs MUST be printed on photographic paper and not exceed 7" x 5" / 17.78cm x 12.7cm in size.



Children's Section – up to 16 years old

Children can now choose to enter any one of the three categories:

1. Fruit or Vegetable monster
2. Decorated cupcakes
3. An Art or Craft item

All classes 1 to 78 can be entered as many times as you like so entries are unlimited.

The biggest change of all is that the Committee has agreed to open up the show to the surrounding areas of South Marston, so anyone living around South Marston can now enter.

For more information or to request a copy of the Annual Show Schedule, please contact Angela Newton on 07789068340 or email angelanewton01@gmail.com.



Update from the Open Spaces Working Group and the Allotments

by Barry Thunder



It's always a pleasing time when daffodils bloom, hedgerows bud and blossom appear on some trees. To me these are an indicator that Spring is not too far away, though sadly I am writing this during a rather violent hail storm! But whatever we are faced with, the work tasks must continue.

Working closely with our appointed contractors has enabled work to proceed at a pace. It has helped us to tackle the temporary path repair to the tarmac surface on the pathway from Thornhill Road to the Preschool gateway. It will last until a new path is laid during the expansion of the village school. Hedge cutting has been extended to include both roadside hedges on the Recreation Ground. The allotment site and the Oxleaze Wood hedges, including those along Moses Lane, have all been cut back, several for the first time in over 10 years! Significant improvements have also been made to the sportsfield drainage ditches.

Looking ahead, plans include clearance work on the 50 or so diseased and dead trees along Moses Lane bordering Oxleaze Wood, and clearing back the encroaching verges on the road surface.

On the allotment site, clearance has started to prepare the site for our new tool store and workshop in the proposed 20ft steel shipping container. This will be modified to provide a secure storage for Open Spaces machinery and tools, together with a well-equipped workshop for repairs.

Additional plans are to replant the car park space that originally housed the flowering area known as 'Lionel's Ridge', as well as completing a new grassed area for the social use of all tenants, together with some seating (yet to be planned). Alongside the Heritage Garden entrance, the muddy area in front of the manure / chipping store is to be replaced with a new hard-core surface, improving access for tipping vehicles.

News Updates

The sale of the Honda site to Panattoni has now been completed. This means that the entire Allotment area and Heritage Garden, that had been owned by Honda, will be taken over by Panattoni.

The management team at Honda will temporally continue to manage the site until Thames Water complete the mains water connection into the site. This is due for completion on February 27th, so by the time you read this we should know the outcome of their 6th attempt to do this work!

As the village continues to grow and the workload expands, we are taking on additional help by way of a Lengthsperson, who will be responsible to the Parish Council for work tasks. Starting in April 2024, this will be a new addition to the Parish Council's ability to manage outdoor tasks in the village. More details to follow in the next edition of Community News.

Allotment plot vacancies

There are two plots available currently. Annual rental to villagers is £32 together with a £50 refundable deposit. For more details contact Barry via email to barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk

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

www.acuhome.co.uk

HERITAGE TREE CARE

Professional
Tree Surgeons

Comprehensive Service
Qualified Staff
Fully Insured

Free quotations
and advice

Call Ian Walding
(N.C.Hort / N.D. Arb)

01793 790210

Email: ian@heritage-treecare.co.uk
www.heritage-treecare.co.uk



School Update

By Mrs Hendry, School Headteacher

Following on from our last update I would like to take you through the School's history from 1988 until the present day.

From the archive logbooks, in June 1988 the first Ofsted inspection took place with the inspectors onsite for 3 days in the midst of the 125th anniversary celebrations! By 1999, there were 99 pupils on roll across 3 classes and space once more had become a pressing issue, with the school noted as 'more than crowded', but the LEA at the time would not grant another classroom. This escalated beyond anyone's imagination in the summer when a tent was loaned by the South Marston Recreation Committee to provide shaded outside activities. The Evening Advertiser ran an article on this which was soon picked up by the national newspapers and Central TV.

The story became exaggerated, suggesting the tent was being used as a classroom, and finally led to even being mentioned in Parliament by the then Spokesperson for Education, Theresa May. The School's Headteacher Mr Norman had been away for a few weeks whilst this was happening and lamented that he'd missed all the fun! The school finally became a four-class school in September 1999, but without room elsewhere, because the hall had to become a classroom once again.

Mr Ray Norman's last entry in the logbook was in July 2000 as he left to become Headteacher at Lethbridge Primary School. Mrs Gill Lewellyn became Acting Head in Autumn Term 2000, the position becoming permanent in Easter 2001. Further improvements to the school during this time were a new Headteacher's office, and a new pond which was opened in 2004 beside the mound. This was maintained by Year 6 children under the expert guidance of village resident, Mary Case. It remained in place until 2021, when it was filled in due to the cost of maintaining it.

Many of you will remember back in July of 2007, when areas of the school and houses in the village were flooded, after days of rain. Roads became impassable and waterflooded into the school office, reception corridor and the kitchen at the back of the hall. Staff at the time worked late into the night and that weekend to ensure school was safe and accessible for pupils' last day of that academic year.

Headteacher, Mrs Gill Lewellyn retired in December 2007 after 14 years at the school, and 7 of them as Headteacher. During her time, the school received and retained numerous awards and saw another Ofsted inspection resulting in another 'Good' grading. Following her retirement Gill was a very welcome visitor back in school on many occasions.

Mrs Alison Lowe joined as Headteacher in January 2008, with some of the current staff working alongside Alison in those days and having very fond memories of that time. During her time a more topic based approach to the curriculum was embedded.

In 2009, the building of a fully functioning kitchen and dining room extension enabled cooking of hot meals on site. After 5 happy years, Mrs Lowe moved to her second Headship post in January 2013, when Mr Luke Maddison was appointed the new Headteacher.



During his time at South Marston, Mr Maddison saw 2 Ofsted inspections take place and guided the school through the process of becoming part of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust (DBAT) in 2016. Throughout Mrs Lowe's and Mr Maddison's time at the school there were many detailed meetings, consultations and plans regarding the expansion of the village and school.

Mr Maddison moved onto a Wiltshire Primary School in April of 2020 with myself taking over from him as Head of School and later Headteacher. This was just as schools were being asked to close at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic; what a time to be taking over as Headteacher! School found itself in very new waters as staff and pupils remained at home, working remotely and keeping in regular contact via Zoom video calls. School staff were incredible during this uncertain time, taking on cleaning duties to ensure everyone's continued safety, working in 'bubbles' and finding new and creative ways to keep in touch with our pupils learning at home. Resilience and good spirit were certainly seen in abundance during this time.

Last June saw our 150th birthday and our celebrations for this very special milestone were certainly enjoyed by all! At the time of writing this, the school has 100 pupils on roll, split over four classes with a busy and thriving Pre-School.



We are very proud of our history and our hopes for the future, of our vision and Christian ethos, of our wonderful pupils, families and staff, and are excited to see what the next chapter brings for our school.

As ever, our heartfelt thanks go to our archivist Mrs Hilary Brooks for her work on the school's history.

Village Travel Survey 2024

by Claire Fleming, Travel Plan Officer, SBC

Last year, Swindon Travel Choices asked for your views on potential initiatives that would help you discover the area. We had a good response and hope it will be repeated with this year's survey - details are in this edition or go directly online to www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SM2024.

There's a £100 Sainsbury's voucher prize draw for all who respond to the survey by the closing date, April 1st. Last year's winner was Rob Newn...this year it could be you!

A quarter of last year's respondents were keen to know more about electric vehicles, so these were sent our guide, which is also available online at www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/electric-vehicles-faq.

People indicated that they'd like to walk more, so plans are underway to organise a walk for the May half term, so watch this space. Bike maintenance classes, which we organised last summer, were also requested. We will run these again, as long as your interest is noted in your survey responses.

Many residents want to see a bus service in the village. Swindon Travel Choices will work with future developers and local stakeholders to keep this paramount.



Getting around South Marston

South Marston Parish Council and Swindon Travel Choices are keen to hear residents' views on getting around the village and the wider area sustainably.

We would be grateful if you would take part in a short survey to help shape future activities. Follow the link below or scan the above QR code.

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SM2024/
Closing date: 1st April 2024

Visit www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk to help you travel sustainably.

All responses will be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 Sainsbury's voucher**

South Marston Parish Council, Swindon Borough Council, and a 'Be the Change' logo are also visible.

Proudly independent Veterinary Practice

Big Enough to cope...



www.drovevets.co.uk

Contact us on 01793 522483

Text or WhatsApp us on 07700 160175

...small enough to care

Wroughton ● Abbeymeads ● Ridgeway Farm ● Marlborough ● Royal Wootton Bassett ● Stratton

50th Edition of Community News!

by the Editor

Do you remember the very first edition back in November 2015? Launched by the Parish Clerk at the time, Claire Penny, it was initially produced as an A4 sized 12 page magazine, before becoming the version that you're reading now today.

For the last 25 editions, I am proud to have been editor and am thankful to the great teamwork and support of our Communications Working Group, who help voluntarily to produce each bi-monthly issue. We continue to look forward to future editions, and reaching a wider readership as the village grows.

We're always looking for more subjects and for residents to share their hobbies and village memories. Please get in touch if you can help editor@southmarston.org.uk.

We're grateful for the articles and updates written by many residents, on both regular and featured topics. There also remains an ongoing need for volunteers' help across the village, some have featured in previous editions, so here's a snapshot review.



Thoughts from the vicarage

This letter is firmly centred in our season of Lent where we take the opportunity to work on our own personal journeys with God. Discipleship is deeply personal work that we do out of our relationship with God. If we feel a distance in the relationship, then it is probably down to us, and we need to do the work to close up that distance. If we feel close, then the question is how can we go deeper into our relationship?

Where most of us fall down, and I include myself in this, is in our attitudes and behaviours. How do we act when we are being tested. We are supposed to display the fruits of the spirit but how well do we do that when our fruit is being squeezed? We all do it, we pop to our local veg and fruit counter and when we pick the kiwis, or any other fruit, we give it a little squeeze to check its ripeness. What looks good on the outside may not actually be good on the inside, a mistake I'm sure many of us have made with avocados!

How does this apply to us and our discipleship? Well, how do we behave when we have to wait, or queue? Do we miss church in favour of a lie in from time to time or decide because there isn't a service in our local church to have that Sunday off? Do we moan when we don't like the hymn choices or service times because they don't suit us, forgetting about the effect on someone else? Do we shout at our family then turn up on a Sunday all sweetness and light? Do we treat others as Jesus commanded us, to love one another? Or do we treat some people as less than ourselves? Are we kind in our words?

There is one church I know that used to keep the nice biscuits for the 8am service and put out the cheaper plain biscuits for the later service! Do we say one thing in public and then have a private moan. I have to be honest. I know some people who display a greater Christian spirit who've never set foot in a church than those who attend every Sunday. I have to say that nothing upsets me more than when Christians are bad to one another and it's even worse when they do it in front of non-Christians.

I include myself in all of this; I lose patience, I'm tempted to be selfish, and I often feel convinced that my behaviour is not as it should be. We can carry on thinking we are alright, but God sees us as we truly are, he sees through our public images; our carefully curated personas and our self delusions. So, our challenge this Lent is to take a long hard look at ourselves and ask where could we do better? We are called to shine as lights in the world so let's stop putting our own and other's lights out.

Blessings, Eileen



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)

3rd March at 10am	All Age Worship
10th March at 9.30am	Holy Communion
17th March at 10am	Team Service at St Margaret's Church
31st March at 8am	Easter Morning Holy Communion
7th April at 10am	All Age Worship
14th April at 9.30am	Holy Communion
21st April at 10am	Team Service at St Margaret's Church



Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall from 10am to 12pm is a 'drop in' for all members of our community to join us for refreshments 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

💻 stmchurchoffice020@gmail.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.

Come and join us at the Village Hall, 10 - 12, every third Saturday in the month - next dates; 16th March, 20th of April and 18th of May.

There will be refreshments including bacon butties and delicious cakes.

Enquiries or for table reservations please call 01793 824339.

Community Coffee Morning



Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our January and February winners.



JANUARY

£10 No. 73 Barbara Rudnick

£10 No. 67 Steve Hatherall

£10 No. 58 Richard Sansum

£10 No. 2 Isabel Clark

FEBRUARY

£10 No. 51 Brian Bell

£10 No. 94 Angela Holman

£10 No. 103 Stacey Woolhouse

£10 No. 110 Kay Long

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.



The Carpenters Arms

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

**Curry
at the
Carpenters!**

**MARCH THROUGH APRIL 2024
EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY NIGHT,
18:00 TO 20:00**

CALL TO BOOK 01793 822997



SAUSAGE MONTH!

At the Carpenters Arms

All through March 2024

Book Now 01793 822997

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. **Community Coffee Morning:** 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

- **Community Coffee Morning** - 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 (2nd Monday if a Bank Holiday falls that month) in the Village Hall from 7.30-9.30pm
- **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**



Carriers Arms

LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD



MARCH: LIVE MUSIC FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY: Sat 16th March

9pm—'Pulse' The ultimate party duo. FOOD VAN: Spud Shack—freshly baked jacket potatoes and more

APRIL: LIVE MUSIC: Sat 27th April 8.30pm- Drew Bryant Upbeat solo acoustic guitarist performer covering artists such as The Beatles, Arctic Monkeys and Oasis. **FOOD VAN: 7pm White Horse Pizza, fresh, artisan wood fired pizza**

MAY: LIVE MUSIC: Sat 25th May, Old Friends Acoustic Duo, 8:30pm 12 string acoustic style duo covering artists such as The Stereophonics, Men at Work and The Beatles. **FOOD VAN: Indian SMILE, fresh Indian home cooked food using organic ingredients**

Carriers Arms, Highworth Road, South Marston 01793 822051

Special
OFFER
20%
OFF

Your first treatment.

Everything Beauty

Over 20 years of Experience

Based in a Beautifully Converted Shepherds Hut
Located in South Marston Village

~ Contact Kerry for all your Beauty Needs ~

Tel: 07858 814409

dermalogica

gel
otter

hello
GORGEOUS

Lycon
precision waxing™

