

South Marston Community News

Major House-building Programme Starts

By Sylvia Brown



Whilst construction work is taking place to the north of the village, we now have major work underway to the south. The drone photo shows preparations for the building of the new link road, to be called Hammerman Way, between Thornhill Road and Old Vicarage Lane (OVL).

The works are on land alongside Bridleway 4 (right side of photo) leading down from Morses Lane, but there are also similar excavations going on in most of the fields in between there and OVL through which the link road passes. Housebuilding itself is due to start in the spring of 2025.

The housing expansion was planned as long ago as 2013 with planning permission finally obtained in 2021. For those, like me, who are directly affected by the work, we may grumble at the disruption, but there is something of a sense of relief that, after 10 years of knowing it was due, it is all finally happening.

Continued overleaf



This photo clearly shows the line to be taken by the new road as it runs west to east towards Red House (top left).

It will then turn southwards to reach the new junction on OVL roughly opposite to Rowborough Lane.

One of the first adverse impacts is that some of the footpaths south of the village (Footpaths 5, 6 and 15) are not now easy to negotiate, but that may soon be remedied. The Parish Council is working with the developers to try and ensure that at least one north-south route to the railway footbridge and one east-west route from the gate opposite the Carpenters Arms to Morses Lane will remain open throughout the construction period.

The drone (nicknamed Aerial Ace by its owner) will be sent up again at intervals during the build-out to provide a lasting record of the changes being made to the landscape.

The F and E Harris Memorial Trust

FREE Fortnightly Thursday bus service to Swindon or Cirencester, open to ALL residents of South Marston. The pick-up location in South Marston is adjacent to the Carriers Arms Public House leaving at 9.30am, with the coach departing to return to South Marston from Swindon / Cirencester at 12.00pm.

UPCOMING FREE BUS SERVICES

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3 October 2024
31 October 2024
28 November 2024

CIRENCESTER

19 September 2024
17 October 2024
14 November 2024
12 December 2024

CARDIFF CHRISTMAS MARKET

27 November 2024

Fun in the Sun

by Lionel Cave-Ayland



Well, the weather was definitely better than last year with no storm clouds or oceans of mud, so thank you weather gods. We had a more condensed programme this year due to the lack of volunteers and some late cancellations. However, there was still something for everyone.

The Car Boot was well attended, some donating any profit to local charities. The Dog Show was popular with many entrants. George Scarrott and Sons provided entertainment for young and old, and the children also enjoyed the penalty shootout. May and her face painting team worked their magic putting designs and smiles on faces. The fun continued into the evening with a raffle raising much needed funds for the SMRA. We then partied into the night with performances from Jinny and Sister Sister.

Thank you all for coming to support this Community Event. It was especially pleasing to see the whole area being used throughout, justifying the time, effort and finances spent over recent years on the Recreation Ground, living up to its name.

Our thanks go to those who supported this event and made it happen. SMRA for providing the playing field, power, insurance and banking facilities for donations and payments. Rachel and her team for helping to organize and publicise the event. Our Sponsors: Crocodile Packaging, Dennis's Removals & Storage, The F and E Harris Memorial Trust, South Marston Parish Council and Trans XL. The school for the use of their goals and bins. The litter picking team for their pre and post event work. Spud for the lights, Matthew Brown for the sound system, John Woodward for bale collection and return. To all of the refreshment vendors and Farr Catering for the ever popular bar. Finally, to the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make this all possible. Thank you all.

Dog Show at Party in the Park

by Vanna Leathart

The weather is always a worry when planning an outdoor dog show, as 2023 attested. This year, however, it was perfect with the temperature starting to fall at 4pm, just in time to be right. We had a great turn out of around 60 entries. It



was rather hectic for those of us organising it, as our judge sadly dropped out (no fault of her own!) too late to find a replacement. This meant that I had to do the judging and help Tony manage the ring as he was on crutches! The results were:

Most Handsome Boy

- 1st Freddy
– handled by Bruce Ephgrave
- 2nd Scooby – Charlotte Northeast
- 3rd Casper – Debs Gayfer
- 4th Bruno – Sylvia Bajek

Best Senior (dog over 7 years)

- 1st Bruno – Sylvia Bajek
- 2nd Poppy – Melanie Beckett
- 3rd Brandy – Linda Sparrow
- 4th Luna – Mary Woodward

Cutest Puppy

- 1st Daisy Mae – Mary Woodward
- 2nd Charlie – Isaac Conn
- 3rd Neko – June McKay

Best Pair

- 1st Scooby & Charlie
– Beccy & Ruby Brooks
- 2nd Billy & Mia
– Terri Crook & Zoë Lewis
- 3rd Boo & Yoda – Hannah Clark
- 4th Luna & Daisy Mae
– Mary Woodward

Prettiest Girl

- 1st Grace – Jo Higgs
- 2nd Olive – Phoebe Wilson
- 3rd Trixie – Alex Godfrey
- 4th Bonnie – Bob Gray

Junior Handler (Handler 16 or under)

- 1st Albert – Ruby Reade
- 2nd Disney
– Jacob Smith & Hermione Jones
- 3rd Sid – Rosie & Teddy Smith
- 4th Billy – Sienna Crook

Most Melting Expression

- 1st Casper – Debbie Gayfer
- 2nd Marley – Jessica Dodson
- 3rd Billy – Terri Crook
- 4th Grace – Jo Higgs

Best Trick

- 1st Bruno – Martin Bajek
- 2nd Raven – Lacey Morgan
- 3rd Billy – Terri Clark
- 4th Grace – Jo Higgs

And finally, the main result!
(left to right in the photo)

Best in Show – Grace
Reserve Best in Show – Bruno
Best Puppy – Daisy Mae

Thank you to everyone who brought their dogs along, your enthusiasm and sportsmanship made it a wonderful event.



South Marston Friendly Club

We had a very successful tombola stall at the Party in the Park. The photo right was taken by Tony Leathart at the end of the afternoon with just a few prizes left to be won.



A big thank you to our members who donated the prizes and to those who came to visit us on the day. The 'What's my name' teddy bear winner was Jessie Rudnik, with the guess of 'Snuggles'.

PROGRAMME 2024

Tuesday 10th Sept at 2pm

The history of REME museum and its move to Lyneham - a talk by Zoe Tolman

Tuesday 24th Sept at 9.15am

A trip to Lacock with fish & chip lunch and visiting Whitehall Garden Centre for the afternoon

Tuesday 8th Oct at 2pm

A visit and presentation from Stratton Fire Station Firefighters

Tuesday 22nd Oct at 12 Noon

Harvest Lunch at Stanton House Hotel

If you are over 50 and live in South Marston (even if you are not a member), why not come along to our meetings in the Village Hall? It's a great way to meet new friends and neighbours. For more information please contact Sheila on telephone number 828545 or send an email to smfriendlyclub@gmail.com.

Well Done Winners!

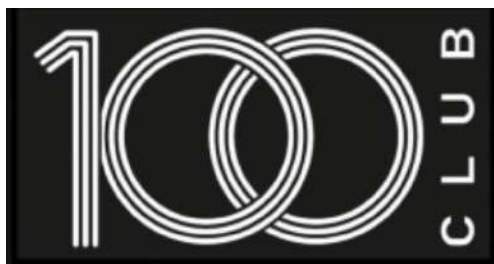
South Marston Recreation Association
congratulates our JULY winners.

£10 No. 23 Diane Whitford

£10 No. 80 Claire Rouse

£10 No. 48 Michelle Giles

£10 No. 28 Jenny McEwen



Our AUGUST winners
will be drawn this
month and published
in the next edition of
Community News.

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.

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Tots & Toddlers

Hello! We hope you had a fantastic summer full of fun and relaxation.

It is wonderful to welcome everyone back for a new term, when we'll be celebrating Grandparents Day with handmade gifts, and dressing up for Talk like a Pirate Day.

We'll be marking the Autumn Harvest with a tractor themed session, featuring the favourite rainbow tractor song.

Making the most of the warmer autumn days in the garden space at the hall for messy play activities and larger ride-on toys.



A sad farewell was said to Rachel and Emma at the end of last term, and we give them a very big thank you for all of their contributions and creating such a friendly and welcoming group for all. We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

Tots and Toddlers has been an integral part of our community for many years, providing a friendly and inclusive environment for carers and their tots. We urgently need volunteers to run our weekly group. Without this vital support we are sadly looking to have to pause it until this can be filled.

We'd love to welcome new faces, so if you're looking after a Tot or Toddler please join us! Our group is in South Marston Village Hall on Wednesdays during term time, 9-11am for children aged 0-4, £2.50 for up to 2 children, 50p each additional child, drinks and snacks provided.



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School Update

by Mr Mason Conlan, Assistant Headteacher



It certainly was a busy and fun-filled summer term at South Marston Primary School, with a host of events and achievements to share and celebrate. Throughout, the children, families and wider South Marston community participated and attended numerous special occasions and events, many of which we now share on our new Facebook page, so please 'do like' and 'follow' our new page. We have also been working hard updating our school website, so please do visit <https://smcea.org.uk>.

We have spaces in some of our year groups for new starters across the academic year, so please get in touch and arrange a tour of our welcoming school. We do accept admissions outside of the village.

We are known for our commitment to sports and physical activity. Throughout the academic year, many children have attended swimming lessons, participated in dance and gymnastic workshops and represented the school in numerous sporting events and competitions. Thank you to the families who came to our annual sports day at The Rec to support the children. At the end of term Mrs Doughty, PE Lead, led an assembly to mark the special PE events that children have taken part in. Teachers also nominated children for PE and sports awards.

Throughout the summer term, children across the school enjoyed educational trips and visits, of which some included: Roves Farm, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bourton on the Water, PGL and Bowood House. Real-life, hands-on and engaging experiences are such an important part of our school curriculum.



We have also focused on Performing Arts becoming an important part of our school offering. This year many children: performed at the Wyvern Theatre dance and voice festivals; joined our new choir, music and performing arts clubs; participated in the iSingPop performances; attended musical instrument lessons, and took part in a music concert for families. Next year we're looking forward to developing and enhancing our performing arts and dance offering.

As we all know, reading and arithmetic are such important life skills. We have focused on early reading and phonics skills this year. As a result, we are pleased to have seen amazing progress in reading with fluency, pace and phonics across our early years and key stage 1. Furthermore, in year 4, the children had been focusing on recalling times table facts fluency and within a time limit (as part of a Government requirement). We are pleased with the children's multiplication check results.



A huge thank you to the school PTA for their dedication and organisation to plan a host of fundraising events, which is very much appreciated. The end of the academic year was also the end of primary school for our year 6. We'd like to congratulate them on their hard work and perseverance. Mrs Hamilton-Gill and Mrs Jones arranged a spectacular Leavers' Prom for the children to enjoy, with a DJ, photo booth and candy floss! We'd also like to wish farewell and good luck to teachers – Mrs Mitchell, who is pursuing her passion for Computing, teaching this in a Wiltshire school, and Mr Miller who is taking on a Head Teacher role in Oxfordshire. We will be welcoming new teachers, Mrs Jones and Mrs Richardson to our teaching team.

As we return to a new academic year this September, we look forward to welcoming children to pre-school and reception, sharing new initiatives and projects, beginning with using our new class names (which are now named after trees), and starting the renovation and use of our school library, for the children to enjoy.

A worrying third of kitchen fires attended by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) were in the homes of those aged over 65 and living alone. To combat this alarming statistic, a new safety campaign aims at preventing these incidents and making people feel safer at home, with four key areas to help reduce kitchen fires:

Prepare - Before cooking, create a clear space to prepare your meals safely, keeping tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and take care if you're wearing loose clothing.

Prevent - Only put pots and pans on the hob - even after cooking, as it will stay hot for some time. Never put anything metal into the microwave and don't leave saucepan handles sticking out on the hob as they can get knocked off.

Focus - Never leave cooking unattended. Don't cook when you're tired, or have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that makes you drowsy.

Stay Safe - Keep the oven, hob and grill clean - grease can ignite when hot. Switch off everything when you finish cooking and take pans off the heat.

It's vital that we protect those in our communities who are more vulnerable. We hope to encourage safer cooking behaviours by highlighting potential dangers in the kitchen. Anyone with an older friend or relative who lives alone is asked to share this advice with them. Visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home for more information. If you're concerned for someone's safety, contact the Safe & Well team on 0800 038 2323 or visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits.



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
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Trees and the Future

by Barry Thunder



I consider myself fortunate to live in a village surrounded by many trees and quiet walks on which to enjoy them. Woodland, and even roadside and garden trees, bring a pleasant visual relief from housing and commercial buildings. They also come with the need for maintenance, not simply from fallen leaves, but from ageing limbs to maintaining young trees in their early years of growth.

Sadly, nature presents us problems in the form of disease and high winds. At times this can occur without warning when a tree, or a large part of one, falls in strong winds, or simply when it is unable to support itself anymore. Thankfully no real damage came from a recent fall of a large trunk of a tree in St Julian's Woodland and the path that it fell across was cleared and reopened quickly by our Lengthsman.

With more widespread tree diseases, we can anticipate future problems and remove diseased trees in a controlled manner. For example, a recent survey in Oxleaze Wood by Chris Brooks, identified 12 Ash trees suffering from Ash die back and 2 Oaks that also require felling. As part of the Open Spaces work in Oxleaze Wood we have been coppicing Hazels; from the survey there are 6 more to trim right back. This may appear a brutal procedure, but it promotes new growth and allows more sunlight to enter the space previously covered by the spreading branches; good news for the small ground cover plants, and small animals and insects that live amongst them.

Additional plans are in hand to increase tree planting in the village, in particular to cope with future climate change. One idea is to add a new specimen tree in the centre of the bed in the Village Garden, removing planting that hasn't really thrived. Other locations being considered are Orchard Meadow, the Allotments for a variety of fruit trees and more planting at selected locations on the Recreation Ground.

We are also looking for volunteers to support us with these tasks. If you're interested, please send me an email at barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.

Walking in the Footsteps of Alfred Williams

by Diane Whitford

A merry band of walkers set off to do just that on Saturday afternoon of August 17th. Ian Hamson led the walk and among those in the group were Derek Carter, a Swindon journalist and historian, and also John Cullimore, who wrote the Alfred Williams Hammerman musical.

We began by visiting the houses where Alfred had lived. He was born in Cambria Cottage on Pound Corner and was one of eight children. Family circumstances forced his mother and the children to move to Rose Cottage, which they shared with his aunt. There we were greeted by the present owners who explained to us what the house would have looked like when he had lived there. They took us into their back garden to show us the well, from where the family would have drawn their water and demonstrated that it still works.



Their neighbour kindly showed us into the Wesleyan Chapel in Chapel Lane which formed part of Alfred Williams' Life. We then turned to the house opposite, Ranikhet, which he and his wife built, with the help of a stone mason, using stone salvaged from a derelict cottage and bricks from the lock walls of the canal.

We learnt that Alfred attended the local school part-time whilst working in the fields, as the family had very little money. At the age of 15 he went to work at the Great Western Railway (GWR) factory in Swindon, walking and cycling to get there. It was during this time he pursued his education encouraged by a



vicar from Stanton Fitzwarren. He would even read Shakespeare during his lunch breaks and went on to write books and poems. By the time he married Mary Peck in 1903, he had been promoted to Hammerman.

We walked across the fields via Morses Lane, to the footbridge over the railway from where we could see the farms where he had worked.

Time went on and Mary became very ill and Alfred would go to visit her twice a day in Swindon Hospital and then cycle home. They were very poor and Alfred was too proud to accept offers of meals or food from neighbours and became ill himself, and one night weak from exhaustion, he succumbed to a heart attack. He was only 50; and his wife died three years later.

We ended our walk in the churchyard at Alfred and Mary's grave. We then visited the church where he and his family had attended services throughout his life.

In his book 'A Wiltshire Village' he tells stories of his childhood and how he and his friends had played tricks on the elderly sexton at the church. For example, they would run up the church tower, which was out of bounds to them, and the Sexton would go part way up to try to get them down, but they would go further up the narrow staircase where he couldn't reach them. He would go down the staircase and when his back was turned they would quickly come down and run off, knowing he wouldn't be able to catch them.

It was an excellent walk and impossible to write all I learnt that afternoon about this very clever man.

Carriers Arms - Live Music

Saturday 28th September

LIVE MUSIC: 9pm, Drew Bryant, a live upbeat solo acoustic performer/songwriter, covering artists such as The Killers, Kings of Leon and Arctic Monkeys.



Saturday 26th October

LIVE MUSIC: 9pm, Bedrock, a 4 piece Pop/Rock Covers band, with 80s/90s rock with a bite.

Food van : We Meat Again, serving delicious burgers, fries, shakes.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for any updates

Carriers Arms, Highworth Road, South Marston 01793 822051

SMRA

by Jenny McEwen

At one of the Have Your Say events, a young adult asked if we could mark out a 100m running track on the Rec. This was done alongside the boundary path adjacent to the Bell Gardens field.

It was much appreciated, and has, we hear, been well used. However, now we are back into the football season, it creates some confusion about where the edge of the football pitch is.

We have now found a solution which is on ground that is more level than the previous site, and this has been created at the same time as the football pitches were lined. This location is available all year so anyone interested in winter sprint practice will be able to use it.



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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**South Marston
Parish Council**

Parish Council News

by Colin McEwen

Our Footpaths

It's that time of year when footpaths get overgrown if they are not maintained. We have a policy of strimming the central areas, such as in Oxleaze and St Julian's Woods and endeavouring to keep more distant routes open. This requires us to use a combination of paid contractors, our Lengthsman with landowners all playing their part as well. We keep tabs on the state of the footpath network by walking it ourselves and chatting to users.

If you're a walker it would be great if you could join us to help establish and maintain our footpaths as the village expansion unfolds and new routes become available.

Verge Cutting

Those who attended the last Have Your Say event discussed with us the awful state of the roadside verges.

Since pressing for action, we're pleased to say Swindon Borough Council quickly came out and cut the verges on the three main village roads.



The Parish Council has paid for the cutting of the verges on Nightingale Lane and Morses Lane and has tidied up some of the junctions where visibility was affected.

Before (left) and after (right) show what a difference this can make for pedestrians and cyclists where very narrow roads are shared with vehicle traffic.



Finally, after continued complaints to Swindon Borough Council, which is responsible for cutting the verges alongside the A420, our Borough Councillor Matt Vallender has persuaded them to make a start! Unfortunately, the stretches further to the east will require traffic management arrangements to accompany the contractors, but they are definitely now on the approved list of works.

HHT Village Expansion

Initial construction work is now taking place south of the village along the proposed route of Hammerman Way. We believe 'marketing signs' are about to be put up.

Detailed planning applications have been received for four of the new housing parcels south of Magdalene Close. Taylor Wimpey will build 134 houses south and east of Magdalene Close, whilst Vistry will deliver 137 on land south of that, bordering Old Vicarage Lane.

Although construction work is starting, the A420/OVL upgraded junction with traffic lights must be in place prior to occupation of any housing.

There are some remaining issues we want to discuss with them concerning housing layout, car parking and pedestrian and cycle links. We have still not seen any detailed plans for the green open space and the flood measures that intersperse and surround these parcels which would help show how the whole development hangs together.

The developers expect to be closing Old Vicarage Lane to construct the new junction with Hammerman Way, the new road that will link to the proposed Thornhill Road roundabout just south of Morses Lane. An event at the Village Hall is being planned, hopefully in November, for residents to see and discuss their plans.

Initial meetings with Taylor Wimpey have been positive. They favour residents being able to control maintenance of the open spaces and are enthused by the advantages of the Parish Council rather than a management company being the vehicle for this.

Approval given for other A420 development sites

Keypoint: The remaining industrial site at Keypoint now has two separate planning permissions, the latest being a standard warehousing unit. This is more likely to go ahead than the original permission for the Renewable Energy Centre, or 'incinerator' as it was termed locally, not least due to a shortage of suitable waste. Current plans would include a cycleway through to the Honda/Panattoni site and beyond.

Flowers and Fine Dining?: An application for a DIY store and garden centre on the old Madison Hotel site by the White Hart roundabout has been approved. It is an expansion of the St Margaret's Retail site, sharing the current entrance on the A420 (which will be improved) and the exit onto Gablecross.

You will then have the choice of buying a drive-thru coffee on that site or going to Symmetry Park further east for coffee or a burger, also now granted planning permission. We have asked for a payment towards litter picking!



Swindon Borough Council

As previously reported, the Borough Council has financial problems that result in it cutting back all services that it is not legally required to do, so it will no longer provide 'nice to have' things which Parish Councils are having to take over if wanted by their communities.

However, it also wants us to take on much that they are legally obliged to do. A year into negotiations, the Borough still hasn't been able to define what this would involve. If it's going to happen then it will become effective next March. Currently all that we know is that it won't involve road repairs and that it needs to be decided by October.

.....Stop Press! Honda Panattoni.....

Following the Parish Council's site visit, we have told the Borough that we have no adverse comments to make on the application. We are pleased that extensive groundworks are designed to reduce the current flood risk to the village.

In view of the Symmetry Park proposal for a wind turbine, we contacted Panattoni direct to ask if this was a risk on the ex Honda site. They have assured us that, unlike at Amazon, the entire roof areas will be strong enough to support additional solar panels, which means occupiers should not need to consider turbines to meet their net zero targets.

Parish Council Logo Refresh

by the Editor



South Marston Parish Council

You may have noticed a new-looking Parish Council logo at the start of the Parish Council News Update. The former logo was produced some seven years ago and was limited to a single fixed size and format which didn't work well for many of our uses, including the need for being able to clearly enlarge the size, as well as being able to photocopy at a good quality.

It has now been refreshed with a fresh, simple, and modern design, whilst retaining South Marston's historical visual identity of the bulrushes. The colours and typography are also now aligned with our current printed and digital communications.

A logo selection has been designed to cater for a range of uses tailored for specific applications including, but not limited to, labelling waste bins, marking equipment, and for printed and photocopied papers and notices.



South Marston Parish Council

South Marston Gardening Club

7 October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm – Hedgehogs by Hugh Warick

Would you like to know more about hedgehogs and how we can help them? Come along to find out more.

4 November, 7.30pm to 9.30pm – Christmas Wreath workshop

Although this is a Gardening Club members' only event, there may be a few spaces available. If you are interested, please contact me to find out more and to book.

Annual Flower and Produce Show held on Saturday 31st of August

The cold and wet weather along with slugs, were just some of the battles for gardeners this year. Yet our summer Annual Show still managed to have some beautiful displays of flowers and vegetables. Our South Marston Gardening Club committee members give up their time to put the Show together. We hope that



everyone who attended and placed entries went away happy. It was lovely to see a few new faces too. We would like to see more people entering next year and it would be especially nice for more children to get involved.

Our 2024 Cup Winners

- Challenge Cup (vegetables and fruit) – Mike New
- National Vegetable Society Medal (NVS) – Mike New
- Geoff Sansum Trophy (best standard fuchsia) – There were no entries
- Hanging Basket Cup – Rosemary New
- Rose Bowl (flowers and plants) – Angela Newton
- Bill Smith Trophy (best dahlia in show) – Jenny McEwen
- Flower Arrangers Cup – Mary Case
- Photography Cup – Mary Case
- Cookery Trophy – Angela Newton
- Craft Trophy – Jenny McEwen
- Best Exhibit in Show Cup
 - Anne Featherstone for her handmade waistcoat and matching bow tie



- RHS Banksian Medal for the largest total amount of points in the whole of the horticultural classes – Mary Case
- Under 5 years – There were no entries
- 6 to 8 years – Raine McElroy for her artwork
- 9 years to 11 years – Katy Gillen for her artwork
- 12 to 16 years – There were no entries
- Best Exhibit in the Children's Section
– Katy Gillen (pictured right) for her artwork



The Royal Horticultural Society 'special recognition' award went to 'Jumbo' Hunt for his 'outstanding' cake entered into the Victoria sandwich class. Despite it being twice the size of the others, the taste, texture and rise was amazing and deserved acknowledgement. However, he was disqualified for failing to follow the supplied recipe. This led the committee to plan to add a 'cake of choice' for next year's Show.

We would like to thank our Show sponsors The F & E Harris Memorial Trust; all the volunteers, cake bakers (we had a large and wonderful selection to serve with refreshments) and everyone who supported us on the day. If you would like to receive a copy of next year's show schedule, please leave your details with Angela.

All our events are held in South Marston Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane. Annual Memberships are only £15 or as a Visitor for £5 on the door. Refreshments included – optional raffle. Please contact Angela on 07789068340 for more information.



The Carpenters Arms

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

Night of Mediumship with Barbara-Ann Winer

Monday 21st October – Tickets £10

Dinner & Drag Night

Saturday 4th November – Tickets £30

Breakfast with Santa

Monday 23rd December & Tuesday 24th December – Tickets £10

All Tickets on Sale SOON!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for when tickets are available 😊

01793 822997

thecarpentersarms1@gmail.com

Dear Friends

As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34.

In our Sunday services, we've been focusing on Jesus, the bread of life. The passage above goes on to the feeding of the 5000, but before Jesus physically feeds them, he 'teaches them many things'. Jesus' ministry had a holistic approach focused on healing, teaching and feeding, for the body, mind and soul. In society today we focus on our physical ailments by visiting the doctor and our mental health with a psychologist. But how are we looking after our souls? Do we invest our time in nourishment that challenges and changes us, or do we leave it to chance?



The recent Olympics and Para-Olympics in Paris has hosted athletes competing against the best in the world. When you're high profile, whatever your chosen field (sports, politics etc) there are immense highs which are often followed by huge lows or crashes. For athletes, looking after their bodies and eating the right things are a daily routine and key to their best performance. Though what's really interested me is the British athletes speaking about the importance of looking after and feeding their souls.

If we look back to when Paris last held the Olympics in 1924, you might remember Eric Liddell whose story, along with that of Roger Bannister, was made famous in the Film 'Chariots of Fire'. Liddell had a strong faith and refused to race on Sundays, because that was the day set aside for God. He changed his distance from 100m to 400m, because the heats for the 400m were on a weekday, and went on to win Gold.

In 2020, swimmer Daniel Jervis in his poolside interview after competing in the 1500 freestyle final said, 'I am proud of a lot of things in my life but the thing I am most proud of is that I am Christian, and obviously God was with me tonight. I am just grateful to be representing him'.

Ahead of this year's Olympics Andy Peaty spoke about recent mental health struggles in dealing with the intense athletic daily routine pressures, which he said his Christian faith helped him with, and to appreciate life. He describes finding centredness 'the only place I found it was at church, the peace is every Sunday in my week'.

Clearly, these athletes have found a way to sustain and feed their souls which should be a role model to others. If we want our young people to find this nourishment, we need to model a healthier way to make time to attend to our souls, not 'an if we can fit it in', look to the example of the Good Shepherd who has come to guide his sheep.

Blessings,

Elveen

Stratton Team Ministry

Seeking, Sharing and Serving God Together

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

8th September	9.30am Holy Communion
15th September	10.30am Team Service at <i>Stratton Methodist Church</i>
29th September	10am Team Service at <i>St Margaret's Church</i>
6th October	10am Harvest All Age Worship
13th October	9.30am Holy Communion
20th October	10am Team Service <i>St Margaret's Church</i>
3rd November	10am All Age Worship
10th November	10am Remembrance Service
	11am at the War Memorial

St Mary Magdalene Church welcomes you and is open daily from 10 til 4pm for private prayer.



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, www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

South Marston Churchwarden:

Diane Whitford ☎ 01793 824339

St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston

Welcomes you to a

**Community Coffee
Morning**



Come and join us in the Village Hall for refreshments
(including bacon butties and delicious cakes)

10-12

● Every third Saturday in the month

Next dates: 21st September
19th October
16th November

**Enquiries or for table
reservations please call**

01793 824339

Get to know

Your Community Policing Team



Wiltshire Police

YOUR FORCE, YOUR AREA



SCAN HERE

- Meet your local Community Policing Team (CPT) police officers and PCSOs
- Find out about crime stats in your area
- Learn about local policing meetings and events
- Read the CPT priorities
- Contact us



Wiltshire Police
www.wiltshire.police.uk

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: cassie@edandcassie.co.uk

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
Parish Council**

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).



BARNES COACHES

01793 821303
BARNESCOACHES.CO.UK



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Sat 5th Oct 2024 - Oxford
Adult: £84* | Child: £82*



**London Postal Museum
(Inc. Mail Rail Train) &
Covent Garden**
Sun 6th Oct 2024
Adult: £48* | Child: £27*



**Brecon Mountain Railway
& Abergavenny**
Sat 19th Oct 2024
Adult: £53* | Child: £28*



**The Royal Mint®
Experience**
Sun 20th Oct 2024
Adult: £49* | Child: £37*



**St Fagans National
Museum of History**
Sun 20th Oct 2024
Adult: £28 | Child: £15



**Westonbirt The National
Arboretum**
(Inc. Treetop Walkway)
Fri 25th Oct 2024
Adult: £35* | Child: £19*



**Warner Bros. Studio Tour:
The Making of Harry
Potter** Sat 26th Oct 2024
Adult: £99* | Child: £72*



Mean Girls The Musical
Sat 26th Oct 2024 - London
Adult: £138* | Child: £136*



Tower of London
Sun 27th Oct 2024
Adult: £62* | Child: £30*



Cotswold Wildlife Park
Mon 28th Oct 2024
Adult: £34* | Child: £27*



**Isle of Wight, Ryde (via
Hovercraft)**
Thu 31st Oct 2024
Adult: £45* | Child: £25*



The View from The Shard
Thu 31st Oct 2024
Adult: £61* | Child: £45*



Cadbury World
Fri 1st Nov 2024
Adult: £56* | Child: £36*



Kew Gardens
Sun 3rd Nov 2024
Adult: £49* | Child: £24*



**Simply Christmas /
Creative Craft / Cake &
Bake International**
Sun 3rd Nov 2024
Adult: £36* | Child: £24*

All trips include return coach travel. Tours marked with an * include admission tickets.
Local coach pickups in Highworth, Swindon and local surrounding areas.

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