

South Marston Community News

VE Day Celebration

by Diane Whitford



A party in the Church garden was held on the afternoon of Sunday 4th May, to celebrate 80 years since VE Day marked the end of the 2nd World War.



Cream scones and cakes were enjoyed and lots of cups of tea were consumed. It was great to see the village getting together to celebrate such a wonderful occasion. South Marston School designed a great display which was in the Church porch to mark the day.

We were fortunate enough to have some superb static model aeroplanes on display in the church grounds together with an immaculate locally-owned Austin 7 car from the 1930s, with wartime music setting the scene.

Our thanks to Mark Rostill and the Swindon Model Aeroplane Club for supplying the planes and everyone that helped make it such an enjoyable day.



Memories of VE Day in South Marston

by Tony Leathart



I met with Terry Sansum, pictured right, to give him the opportunity to reminisce about our village 80 years ago on VE Day, 8 May 1945. He was aged 9 then and remembers how much smaller the village was with a close community where everyone knew each other by name. He described how the houses were decorated with Union Jacks and some had VE painted with whitewash across the front. We were lucky that we had only lost one casualty in the war, Edward Bowles, whose name is inscribed on the village War Memorial. All the villagers were euphoric to see the end of the war in Europe and in the mood to celebrate.

Terry was at the party in the road at Pound Corner on the evening of VE Day and remembers it well. He said that the whole village was there. There were three cars blocking the roads and they were facing the party with their headlights on. The headlights had their covers and shrouds removed for the first time since the blackout. There were barrels of beer at the Old Bake House at the end of the Old Post Office and a gramophone was playing at full volume. All the villagers were celebrating together, dancing, drinking and having a good time.

Terry remembers the evacuees from London of about his age, who lived in many of the houses and with whom he made friends. One boy who lived with his Aunt up the hill beyond the bungalows saw some cows in the field opposite where the solar farm is now and asked her what they were. She said 'they're cows that we get our milk from', and he replied, 'where we come from, it comes from bottles!'.

According to Richard Sansum, he was told by his mother that she missed the street party on VE Day because she was feeding him as a baby in Dryden Cottage and listening to the party just outside!

Did you know that about 44 children from Barking were billeted in South Marston from 1939, together with 3 of their teachers? The village children and evacuees were taught at South Marston School, with the Village Hall used for the younger ones.

During these years, British Summer Time continued throughout winter and the school closed in October so children could assist with the harvesting of potatoes. A programme of Diphtheria immunisations began in 1941 and the school provided hot dinners from 1944 onwards. The school closed on 8-9 May 1945 to celebrate Victory in Europe Days, but it isn't known when the evacuees returned to Barking.

Tots & Toddlers



Welcome back to a brand new term!

We hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic Easter break soaking up the sunshine and getting outside to play. We definitely all needed a little rest after our busy adventures last term!

Remember those decorated rockets soaring into space, landing in slime on alien planets for some giggly, messy fun (we appreciate the patience of all the grown-ups helping tidy up those happy little mess makers!). We managed to get home just in time to create adorable fingerprint bouquets for Mother's Day, and of course, we couldn't forget the much-anticipated visit from the Easter Bunny - what a special way to end our term!

It was such a wonderful final term for me as Tots and Toddlers group co-ordinator. I truly loved being a part of this community, watching the tots and toddlers explore, build confidence, and develop all kinds of new skills - from learning to crawl to confidently using scissors. It's also a lovely time for parents and carers to come together over a hot drink, sharing stories about their favorite coffee spots, local parks and days out, or swapping advice and encouragement on those sleep-deprived days. I thank all of you for your support and making it and the group a wonderful and warm place.

I'm so excited to share that we've found a fantastic new group co-ordinator who brings lots of experience from their time at childcare settings. They're looking forward to welcoming you all each week for more crafts, play, and fun adventures!

Cassie

We love welcoming new faces! If you're caring for a tot or toddler on Wednesday mornings during term time, we'd be delighted for you to join us. Tots and Toddlers meets on Wednesdays during term time from 9am to 11am at South Marston Village Hall. There's a small charge of £2.50 for up to two children (just 50p for each additional child), and we provide drinks and snacks. We can't wait to see you!

The Warm Dry Spring is Great, but...

by Sylvia Brown

When we planted 33 new trees and 100 or more hedge whips around the village at the end of February, we were pleased that the sun shone and the rain kept away that day.

Little did we think March would arrive with a very unseasonable rise in temperature and weeks with little or no rain. We had expected to do regular watering in the first two summers after planting, and had put a considerable amount of money to cover that in our grant application to the Trees for Climate Change programme. However, we hadn't bargained on hot dry weather in March, and arrangements hadn't yet been put in hand.

Sterling efforts by our volunteers gave us a short breathing space to get a plan into action. Some local residents and allotment holders are providing water supply and labour to help at the Orchard, Village Garden and Allotments.



However, the real problem was the Rec with its lack of a water supply with sufficient pressure. We now employ Allbuild to do regular watering on request - they fill up a bowser from a well at their yard, transport it over to the Rec and trail it around giving all the newly planted trees and whips some much needed refreshment.

The new hornbeam hedge near the big central oak tree has now been given a bark mulch, thanks to Lionel and the Probation Service team, that keeps the dampness in the soil as well as making it look neat and tidy.

As villagers may have noticed, we have already been rewarded with some really good displays of blossom just 2 months after planting.

Do Residents Read Community News?

by the Editor

Yes they do! In our last edition, we asked to hear from any residents who might be interested in taking up opportunities in the village. As a result:

- A significant number of residents signed up to be involved in the consultation and development work on the design of the new Village Centre this spring/summer.
- All of the six new allotment plots were let within a week of being offered.
- We had a response to the request for a new village 'lengthsman' to undertake various maintenance tasks around the village, and the position has now been filled. We hope to introduce him to residents in the next issue.

It's pleasing to know that you not only read Community News, but may also be encouraged to do similar things. Melody's recent article on her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Volunteering was called 'inspirational' by one resident. Joshua, her son, is now following in her footsteps and has just started his first community project as part of his DOE award. Congratulations to Melody and good luck to Joshua!

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South Marston Primary School Update

by Mrs Hendry, Head Teacher

It's been a vibrant few months at school, filled with exciting events and achievements. As many of you will know, we are still celebrating our recent positive Ofsted report, which you can find on our school website.

Last term kicked off with a fantastic celebration for World Book Day! Both children and staff had a wonderful time dressing up in pyjamas and as their favourite book characters, enjoying reading sessions and engaging in book-themed activities.

In addition to our academic achievements, we've continued to excel in a variety of sporting events and competitions, from football and gymnastics to netball, swimming and dance! We've also introduced tap dancing into our PE curriculum, and the children have been working hard and having a great time mastering this new skill.

Some of our KS2 children truly shone when they performed at the Wyvern Theatre as part of a voice festival alongside other local schools in Swindon.



Our Year 5 and 6 children recently enjoyed an educational trip to the STEAM Museum, which tied into their English curriculum. More exciting trips are on the horizon, including visits to Hill End, 'We The Curious' Science Museum and Roves Farm. These outings are an integral part of our curriculum, providing hands-on learning experiences that enhance classroom lessons and spark children's curiosity.

We continue our strong connection with our local church, St Mary Magdalene, attending celebration assemblies there, visits that support our RE curriculum and our recent Easter Service. Many of our children participated in a 'Create Your Own Easter Garden' competition, and the entries were absolutely stunning! Some you may have seen on display in Church.

A big thank you to our dedicated PTA for organising events like the recent disco and Mother's Day sale, which help raise much-needed funds for our school.

Lastly, we wrapped up the term with an exciting History Focus Day. Both staff and children dressed up in costumes from different historical periods, including Ancient Egypt, the Tudors and the Vikings. The day focused on the importance of history and historical skills, with some classes even visiting a local archaeology site to put their learning into practice.

It's been a fantastic few months, and we look forward to more exciting adventures and achievements in the coming months!

New Webpages on the Village Development

by the Editor

With the construction of the new housing developments now well underway, we have produced a new dedicated information section on the village website.

This can be accessed from the website homepage via the link in the top right box titled 'Village Expansion'. On clicking, it will take you to the webpage as pictured below, where you can find out more information on planning, the latest news and the archaeology works being undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeology.

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Village Development

Swindon eastern expansion will lead to the village tripling in size and new villages at Rowborough and south of the A420.







Planning Process

The National Government sets overall planning strategy. This includes a 'presumption in favour of development' that has to be taken into account by Planning Authorities like Swindon.

[Read more](#)

Latest News/Updates

Here you can find a selection of plans, notifications and links to more detailed information which we aim to update as construction progresses. [Read more](#)

Museum of London Archaeology

MOLA has been commissioned by the developer Taylor Wimpey to investigate the archaeology south of the village and are publishing a number of blogs about the dig and how it relates to South Marston's past. [Read more](#)

South Marston Friendly Club

If you are local and over 50 years of age, we welcome you to pop along to the Village Hall for one of our monthly meetings and see what we are about.

After the speaker, enjoy tea/coffee, biscuits and raffle which is all included in your membership, first visit is free. We thank TransXL for their kind support for our club.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13th May at 2pm

The Golden Age of Children's Television

A talk & presentation by Jeff Evans

Tuesday 10th June at 2pm

AGM then Saxon Group Riding for the Disabled

A talk about their activities by Kady Chapman

Tuesday 24th June at 9.15am

A Day trip to Weymouth

Barnes Coaches will pick up at South Marston School with a comfort stop on the way

Tuesday 8th July at 2pm

Pippins Doughnuts

The startup and methods of a local business presented by Karen Velthuysen with tastings.

For more information please contact by email: smfriendlyclub@gmail.com

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Well Done Winners!

Congratulations from South Marston Recreation Association to our March and April winners.



March

£10 No. 78 Lisa Allen

£10 No. 58 Richard Sansum

£10 No. 91 Martin Taylor

£10 No. 99 Sally Marston

April

£30 No. 25 John Cummings

£10 No. 91 Martin Taylor

£10 No. 87 Nesta Pearce

£10 No. 71 Leslie Jefferies

£10 No. 47 Nikki O'Doherty

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 F. E. Harris Memorial Trust

The annual free Summer day trip for senior citizens of South Marston Village aged 60 or over will be to Windsor on Monday 16th of June 2025.

The coach will depart at 9am from outside South Marston Primary School and return to South Marston at 4.30pm.

If you would like to go on this trip and need to be accompanied by a carer, or take a wheelchair, please let us know.



If you have already registered for this trip and are unable to attend please let Robbie know as soon as possible, so that your seat can be offered to another villager on the reserve waiting list. Your prompt response is greatly appreciated.



Stray Dumper trucks and a Surprise Road

The beginning of groundworks on the expansion site was marked by a stream of yellow dumper trucks transporting construction material around Pound Corner and the appearance of a new 'road' opposite Manor Cottages on Old Vicarage Lane.

A flurry of emails between the Parish Council and the developers resulted in a prompt apology and steps being taken to ensure future compliance with the ban on construction traffic coming round Pound Corner. We have also held a site meeting where the developers said that the 'road' is temporary and gave assurances about the flooding risk. Eventually, it is planned to become allotments and orchard.



With the diggers at the door, the reality of what housing and commercial development means is hitting home. We may regret the loss of countryside and would rather have no development at all, but, as we agreed in the village referendum some 8 years ago, that was no longer an option.

It could be worse!

30 years ago, talk was of a 26,000 dwellings town of 'New Marston' focussed on a high-rise centre around a new rail station by the Carpenters Arms, but it failed to get through the Local Plan discussions at the time.

This was followed by an 8,500 house scheme, with 650 houses added to the village. We worked with Borough Planners to reduce these numbers, and the current 'New Eastern Villages' plan has 6,500 houses, with 500 adjoining the village.

The Parish Council put a lot of effort into lobbying for these changes, but also looked to ensure that the expansion of South Marston was high quality, was able to address existing problems such as lack of footways and safe cycle routes and that any benefits would be shared by both new and existing residents.

For instance, it's all low rise (no 3 storey town houses), with reduced density and less affordable housing numbers compared with other NEV sites. The Neighbourhood Plan specified 'green fingers' that extend south from the Rec towards the retained countryside by the railway line, and all green areas would be accessible by the public.

The tag line for our Neighbourhood Plan was '*Making South Marston a Great Place to Live*'. Within a few years, we will find out how successful we have been.

Development Positives...?

So now seems a good time to assess what might be the benefits that development north, south and west of the village should bring to all residents, to weigh against the drawbacks. I've included boxes for you to score each item out of 10.

- £1.65 million Community Centre with meeting room, 160-seater Hall, kitchen and café selling everyday essentials, constructed to modern standards of insulation and heating []
- Expanded School making local primary school provision more secure []
- Significantly increased car parking for both the expanded School and the new Community Centre []
- Ownership of the field adjacent to the current Rec, properly drained to sports standard []
- Replacement full sized football pitch and modern changing facilities ready for a village team []
- A signalised junction at the Carpenter's Arms to get out onto the A420 []
- New secondary school, doctors surgery and District Centre south of the A420 []
- Vastly improved network of off-road footpaths, bridleways and cycleways throughout the Parish, to include 'Carpenter's Walk' from the village centre, paved walks along the brook and a nature trail through the Panattoni site []
- Reduced risk of flooding from the Panattoni upgrade to the ex-Honda site []
- More affordable homes for village family members []
- A neighbourhood play area for young teens with a multi-use games area []

.....what overall score did you get?

For me, the jury is still out, and though the South Marston expansion has delivery plans and some degree of clarity, that's not yet the case for much of the development south of the A420.

But, as outlined overleaf, it could have been so much worse.

The Great British Spring Clean

by Anne Featherstone, Nigel Hole and Mandie Olive

On the 19th and 23rd March, 11 South Marston volunteers took part in the nation's biggest mass-action Keep Britain Tidy campaign. 28 bin bags of litter were collected from along Highworth Rd, Thornhill Rd and Old Vicarage Lane. We were joined by Ward Councillors Matt Vallender and Tom Butcher, and two teenagers who were working toward their Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



Together, Jamie-Ann and her brother Ryann Dunn have spent 17 hours of their free time collecting 18 bags from various locations within the village. They clean up independently on the Recreation Ground and in our woodlands, whilst they are under supervision at all times when litter-picking our village roads.

The volunteer aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which we are currently able to facilitate on a limited basis, promotes the objectives of the scheme which young people are able to join in Year 9. The scheme helps young people build confidence and resilience by testing themselves in unfamiliar environments. Personal challenge is at the centre of the DofE scheme. If you would like to help with the programme, please email southmarstonviews@gmail.com.

Litter picking can be a funny business. We did uncover some bones on Highworth Road verges, but quickly identified them as deer skeletons. Empty drink bottles and cans and snack and confectionary wrappers always dominate. Vape related litter is

on the increase. Dog poo bags, used and unused, are amongst the detritus and are often found hanging on the hedges.

Sadly, some drivers passing through South Marston just toss their rubbish out of their vehicles. Other drivers come here intent on leaving their rubbish behind. There is thoughtless and careless behaviour as well as accidental but it all contributes to the littering.

We can make a big difference by taking poo bags and litter home or putting it in the bins provided. Ensuring rubbish bins and recycling containers are secure all helps, especially when storms are forecast.

We thank our regular team members for always turning out and working hard. We filled 36 bags in the Spring Clean 2024, 29 bags in the Autumn Clean 2024 and 35 bags between events. So, as you can see, we do work all year round and we cover all areas of the village. Our equipment is funded by South Marston Parish Council and we are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from our Open Spaces and Allotment lead, Cllr Thunder.

Some useful contacts are:

You can report an injured animal to the **RSPCA** on 03001234 999.

Swindon Borough Council is responsible for the removal of dead animals from public land and roads under their control and will aim to remove them within 24 hours after being notified. In order to use this service, you will need to create an online account known as 'My Account'. **Swindon Borough Council** is also the link to report fly-tipping and dumping.

The M4 and A419 are the responsibility of the **Highways Agency** 0300 123 5000.

Contact nigel.hole@southmarston.org.uk for reporting concerns about South Marston Brook. Telephone the **Environment Agency** on 0800 80 70 60 if there's an urgent environmental incident.

Contact southmarstonviews@gmail.com if you would like to join our litter picking team.



Have Your Say event

Drop in: Wednesday 28th of May

6.30 to 8pm in the Village Hall

Featuring updates on Village Centre Design and the housing development

South Marston Parish Annual Meeting will take place at 8pm - all welcome!



SMRA update

by Jenny McEwen

As the weather warms up we are seeing the results of our hard work on the Rec. The recently planted cherry trees are all in flower, pictured right, and the entrance from Thornhill Road is looking particularly pretty, with the flower border alongside Stonecroft beginning to burst into life.



Several tasks have taken much longer than hoped. It didn't take many months for the wind and the rain to tear the temporary tarpaulin around the teen shelter.

It now has some wind proofing and proper seating, and we expect the new wood cladding to do its job in keeping out the elements.

The roundabout in the fenced-off toddler area is out of action and it is proving to be a much harder nut to crack. Although the toddler area was installed in 2003, the supply company still exists and has been very helpful with advice.

Amazingly, they are still able to supply the necessary



parts to make it work properly again, but the real problem has been actually getting it out of the ground and then dismantled for repair. It is no longer the minor refurbishment job that we originally thought it would be.



Diggers appearing on the Bell Gardens field adjacent to the Rec prompted flurries of questions about what is going on. This field will become an extension to the current Rec space, but before any drainage works are carried out, the archaeologists are on site with their excavators to see whether there is anything of interest.

The Village Hall continues to be a popular venue for parties and smaller weddings. However, the recent incident of an unsupervised teenage party highlights the need for hirers to take responsibility. No adult was present, contrary to the hiring agreement, and the party had to be stopped at 10pm by SMRA's caretaker. Further cleaning then had to be dealt with on the following morning before the next hirers arrived. The large deposit we require for any party hire is only returned if the Hall is left clean and tidy. Needless to say, in this case, it was not refunded!

BARNES COACHES

May Half Term day trips, by coach!



London: Kensington OR Park Lane
Sat 24th & Tue 27th May 2025
Adult: £32 | Child: £15



Jurassic Coast Cruise with cream tea & Exmouth
Sun 25th May 2025
Adult: £52* | Child: £32*



Highclere County Show
Mon 26th May 2025
Adult: £42* | Child: £24*



Legoland Windsor
Tue 27th May 2025
Adult: £29 | Child: £15 coach only



London Zoo
Tue 27th May 2025
Adult: £32 | Child: £15 coach only



Weston Super Mare
Tue 27th May 2025
Adult: £27 | Child: £15



Cardiff OR Barry Island
Wed 28th May 2025
Adult: £29 | Child: £15



Battersea Power Station (Shopping & Leisure)
Wed 28th May 2025
Adult: £32 | Child: £15



Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens
Thu 29th May 2025
Adult: £37* | Child: £27*



Milestone Living Museum, Basingstoke
Thu 29th May 2025
Adult: £48* | Child: £29*



Isle of Wight Cruise inc. cream tea
Fri 30th May 2025
Adult: £80* | Child: £66*



Warner Bros. Studio Tour The Making of Harry Potter
Sat 31st May 2025
Adult: £102* | Child: £75*

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South Marston Gardening Club

If you have any unwanted plants, we would love to take them off your hands and find a new home for them. Have you been busy digging up or dividing plants? We are more than happy to pop along and collect them and pot them up.

If you've had a sort out or thinking of having a sort out and have any Garden tools, Gardening books, Garden ornaments etc. we would be happy to take these too.

Meetings May-July

Monday 12th of May - 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Talk and presentation - All about Herbs

Speakers Pete and Bob Biggs will be bringing along herbs of the usual varieties as well as some unusual ones, all of which will be on sale at the end of the evening.

Monday 2nd of June - 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Plant Sale (free entry)

Plants for your house, garden or allotment. All at a reasonable price. Don't forget to bring bags, boxes or even a wheelbarrow!

Enjoy the refreshments and homemade cakes available whilst getting advice from Gardening Club members.

Please note this is a cash only event. Thank you.

Annuals	Fruit plants	Herbs	House plants
Perennials	Potted flowerpots	Shrubs	Vegetable plants



Monday 7th of July - 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Talk - Scented Plants & The Scented Garden

Geoff Hodge has been a regular speaker at the Gardening Club, delivering insightful talks on a wide range of topics. He has a knack for engaging the audience and always brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise, having been a writer and broadcaster for 23 years and in the horticultural/gardening industry for 29 years.

Saturday 16th of August - Annual Flower and Produce Show

Section C Classes 49 to 50 – Photographs: 'Autumn' and 'Playful Pets'. Photography paper must be used. Maximum photograph size 7" x 5". Use a border to mount your photograph as this gives impact. You can get photographs printed in any of the large supermarkets

Children's Section 'G' – Age 0 to 16 years. Choose one of the following: Decorated stone, Flowers in a jam jar or a Piece of artwork.

All our events take place at South Marston Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, unless otherwise noted. Refreshments are provided and there's an optional raffle. New members are welcome to come and join us. For more information on any of the above or a copy of the Annual Flower and Produce Show Schedule, please contact Angela on 07789068340 or email angelanewton01@gmail.com.

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South Marston School Visit

by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)

We're carrying out archaeological excavations in South Marston, Wiltshire, on behalf of Orion Heritage and Taylor Wimpey. This is the fourth in our series of blogs following the dig's progress and sharing updates from the field. Thanks to South Marston School for sharing the photographs used in this blog. You can see more photos of our school visits [on our website](#).



Over the past few months, we've been going back to school! We've really enjoyed sharing our discoveries with the children of South Marston School, talking about our excavations, and explaining exactly what archaeologists do. The children also tried their hand at making brooches, inspired by some of the finds from our excavations.

Excitingly (both for us and the children) we also invited the school to visit our site and see archaeology in action. This was a great opportunity for them to experience different parts of archaeology – from the moment of discovery in the ground, to the trickiness of identifying what has been found.

The children walked the short distance from the school and had an important safety briefing which they all listened to very carefully. We then handed out specially designed 'Archaeology Hunt' sheets which encouraged them to look for different archaeological items they might find on site. This was very popular, with pupils excitedly counting the number of archaeologists and crowding around the finds table for their first glimpse of a piece of pottery.

The children showed off what they had learnt in our previous visits to their classes, including identifying some of the artefacts we had taken along, and talking about how we tell when pottery was made based on how it looks (such as patterns, clay type, colours, shape). They also learnt how archaeologists tell pottery from animal bone and wood (it's not as easy as it sounds!), and which bone comes from what animal. Then they used their new knowledge to categorise some of our recent finds.



Some feedback from the children:

What have you enjoyed?

'Sorting out the finds'.

'I liked the artefacts!'.

What have you learned?

'The dark bits are the best bits to dig'.

'The greyer the soil the more archaeology'.

This was also a great opportunity for our team on site to share their expert knowledge and excitement for archaeology with the children.

It was great to show so many enthusiastic kids from the local school the areas we are excavating at South Marston. The excitement was palpable as one of the groups witnessed the discovery and excavation of artefacts within one of the enclosure ditches.

I was really impressed with the level of interest they showed, not only in the discovery of 'old stuff', but also the story of what people were doing on this exact spot 2000 years ago.

Simon Markus – Senior Project Manager

Talking with the school children was very interesting, we were showing them artefacts recovered from the site itself, and they seemed to really enjoy it. They were engaged in the items we've found and were asking such good questions about the site and archaeology as a whole.

Charlotte – Project Supervisor

The school visit went extremely well. The pupils loved being able to come down to the site to get a firsthand look at what an archaeologist actually does, as well as learning about the local Roman history so close to their school.

A standout moment was the children watching our discovery and excavation of a large animal bone. As more and more of the bone was uncovered, their jaws dropped, with many of them pointing to that as their favourite part of the site visit.

Adam – Archaeologist

Dear friends,

I love this time of year, with the days lengthening, and all the sounds and scents of spring. I read recently that some people now view Easter as similar to Christmas – without the stress. They may put up a decorated Easter tree or twig, buy presents, and even pull crackers.

Eggs have for centuries been associated with Easter, symbolising new life, with the first chocolate eggs in the UK being produced in the 1870s by Fry's and then Cadbury's. Christians celebrate the return to life of Jesus Christ after his torture and execution, not only on Easter Day but throughout the season of Easter which lasts for 50 days.

The hopelessness of Jesus' followers after his dead body is placed in a tomb gives way to joy when they find that the tomb is empty – although the graveclothes his body had been wrapped in are still there. (Who would steal a body and leave the graveclothes behind?). Many people see Jesus alive in the following 40 days before he is taken up into heaven.

Death comes to us all – but even death is not a match for God's power. Sadly, many people in our world are familiar with death, through living in conflict zones or wherever they live, through personal experience. And there are no easy answers to why such suffering takes place.

But the message of Easter is that out of despair and darkness, new life can and will come. Often not how or when we expect it – but it will. Every night comes to an end – with dawn and sunrise to follow.

Rev Charlotte

Curate, Stratton Team Ministry

St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston

Community Coffee Morning



10-12

Every third Saturday
in the month

Next dates:

17th of May

21st of June

**Enquiries or for table
to sell from please call**

01793 824339

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

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).

11th of May 9:30am Holy Communion

18th of May 10am Team Service at St Margaret's Church

1st of June 10am All Age Worship

8th of June 9:30am Holy Communion

15th of June 10am Team Service at St Leonard's Church

Getting in touch

We are very happy to hear from you with any questions about the church, our timetable of services and events, or if you are need of support. St Mary Magdalene's, welcomes you for private prayer, open daily from early morning till early evening.

Church Office:

☎ 01793 826505

📧 stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com, www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

South Marston Churchwarden:

Diane Whitford ☎ 01793 824339

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



**ABL Complete
landscaping service**

**Contact
07810317333**

SAVE THE DATE

SOUTH MARSTON PARTY IN THE PARK

26th July 2025

2.30pm till late on the Rec

Special Guests Bluey & Bingo!

Party in the Park

Fun Fair

Live Music

Dog Show

Car Boot

Hot Food & Licensed Bar & lots more!

**For further information please contact Rachel
Case on 07545 923021**

Useful Contacts

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

Local Borough Councillors:

Matt Vallender 01793 295171, MVallender@swindon.gov.uk,

Tom Butcher 07795 070254, TButcher@swindon.gov.uk,

Simon Shelley, 07584 042161, SShelley@swindon.gov.uk

Wiltshire Police Community Support: PCSO Victoria Townsend, 101,
swindonnortheastruralnpt@wiltshire.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

South Marston Church of England Primary School: 823379

SMRA: Julie Hatherall smrateam@gmail.com, Jenny McEwen 07770633362

Village Hall hire: Rachel Case on village.hall@smrateam.org.uk, 07741549393

Tots and Toddlers: bethfairchildmartin@rocketmail.com

F&E Harris Memorial Trust: Robbie Taylor 823757

Gardening Club: Angela 07789068340, angelanewton01@gmail.com, Mike 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**





YOU CAN NOW WhatsApp or TEXT US!

Book appointments,
order pet food and repeat
prescriptions or check when
your appointment is



SCAN HERE
to WhatsApp us
or text us on
07700 160175



Dig enough to cope, small enough to care



Wroughton • Abbey Meads • Stratton • Ridgeway Farm • Royal Wootton Bassett • Marlborough

Family fun at Roves Farm!



Mini Farmers

24 May -
1 June



Help out on
the farm to
earn your
Gold stars!

Plus:

Meet & Feed the Animals | Rugrats & Rascals Baby & Toddler sessions*
Indoor & Outdoor Play | Activity Trail | Walk-in Animal Paddocks
Tractor Rides** | Animal Racing^ | Café | Farm Shop & Butchery



rovesfarm.co.uk



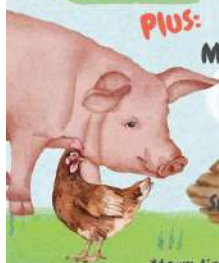
Family Camps

June
July &
Aug.



- Weekend farm access
- BBQ
- Mini Disco
- Animal Activities

Check our website for dates & details.



*term time week days only, see website for days/times. **£2pp, under 3's free. ^2pm weekends & school holidays.