

South Marston Community News

Ringling in the New Year!

by Diane Whitford, Churchwarden



Many of you will have heard the joyful sound of the bells bringing Christmas cheer to the village and delighting people in the church over the festive season.

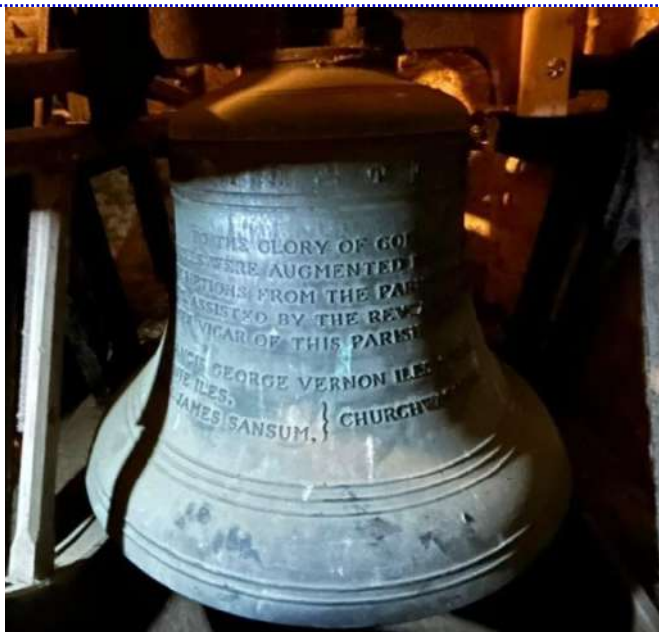
Our new bell ringers are making great progress, and we continue to welcome new members to the group. If you would like to join us, please do get in touch on 07964 460418. In the meantime, we are fortunate that the Swindon Bell Ringers have had no difficulty finding willing ringers for all occasions.

We are very proud now to be able to claim that one of our bells is the oldest in the Swindon Branch, dating back to around 1470. Progress is being made to bring our full set of six church bells up to scratch, and in the process our experts have uncovered more fascinating details about their history.

Continued overleaf

One bell is inscribed with '*The bells were augmented into three in 1616 with the current tenor.*' The second bell was recast in 1886, and the bells were later augmented to six in 1926, being dedicated on the 12th of December 1926, giving us the set we have today.

Interestingly, on the bell pictured right, John James Sansum is listed as one of the Churchwardens at that time. More recently, Richard Sansum served as Churchwarden for thirty years before me. There have always been Sansums in South Marston.



Whenever our experts disappear into the belfry to work on the bells, they re-emerge a couple of hours later covered in years' worth of accumulated dirt. Church belfries are also prone to attracting wildlife, so no one is particularly afraid of spiders!

Throughout 2026, we have some exciting ideas to celebrate '100 years of our six bells'.

We now have a dedicated 'Bell Fund' set up for donations. Please scan the QR code, to the right, then Select Campaign and choose the St Mary Magdalene, South Marston (Bells Fund) at the foot of the list.



Tots & Toddlers

We love welcoming new faces! 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!

Festive Family Cycle Ride

by Lionel Cave-Ayland

It was a crisp and sunny morning filled with Christmas spirit at the village car park, where some riders and bikes adorned festive attire. Barry Thunder led us for a leisurely cycle to the woods at Nightingale Lane. Then a



cycle ride was enjoyed through the woods, where children with less confidence chose a shorter route, whilst the others continued to complete the full circuit.

On returning to the woods' car park, Santa handed out Christmas goodies to all the children who had taken part. Congratulations to Jess Rudnik, who won the prize for the best festive bike. Claire Fleming, Swindon Borough Council's Travel Plan Officer, generously supplied a selection of cycling goodies, which were much appreciated. Alison Thunder



provided complimentary hot chocolate and a selection of tasty bites, which went down well.

I would like to thank the F and E Harris Memorial Trust for sponsoring this event, Claire Fleming for her continued support of events in South Marston and Alison Thunder for organising the delicious refreshments. I would also like to thank Santa and his helper for bringing smiles to the children's faces, all of the children and adults who took part in the ride, and finally to Barry Thunder for leading the ride and ensuring we all had a safe and enjoyable time!

There have already been requests about potential future rides for adults, with maybe a stop for refreshments. This is more than likely something for springtime when the weather is warmer. Until then, have a great New Year and hopefully we will meet again soon. For further information, contact Lionel at caveayland@aol.com.

South Marston in Lights 2025

by Hazel Andrews

This year's competition saw residents once again rising to the occasion, with plenty of festive lights brightening up our village streets. A special mention goes to Rawlings Close and Thornhill Road, both of which put on particularly eye-catching displays. Our judges had a tough task choosing the winner, whittling down to a shortlist of 16. The decision was very close, with 2 displays vying for the top spot.

Best in Village 2025

The award went to 1 Pinehurst Cottages

'Lots of different colours and centered around making it fun for the children.'



Highly Commended - The judges also recognised four other excellent displays:

14 Quarrybrook Close

'This is beautiful and it looks like it's ready for Santa to arrive.'





6 St Julian's Close

'The tree looks beautiful and the golden colour match is pretty.'



Priory Farm

'This is lots of fun for the children.'



Ferndale Cottage

'Reminds the judges of the Home Alone film. So pretty.'

Over the years, SMILE has been a great way to enjoy the village in the run up to Christmas and beyond, bringing a bit of festive cheer to the dark winter evenings. I have run the competition for the past 6–7 years, with 2025 marking my final time.

I do hope that SMILE will continue. I am happy to support anyone interested in taking it up, so please get in touch by email to andrewshazel@yahoo.com. Let's hope this tradition goes from strength to strength!

The F and E Harris Memorial Trust

by Nigel Hole

Xmas Pensioners' Hampers

This was the third year the Trust has distributed hampers from The Carriers, and the sociable atmosphere has gone from strength to strength, with many people staying to chat with friends and neighbours while enjoying the free teas, coffees, and biscuits kindly provided by Amanda. Sadly, it is likely to be the last year we enjoy her hospitality, and we wish her every success with her future plans.

Gloucester Quays Xmas Trip

Regular tripper Lionel reported that on arrival, with rain expected, some chose to browse the many high street shops undercover or enjoy a cuppa. In the Quays area, rows of festive stalls delighted the senses with their sights and smells, and we were spoilt for choice with the wide variety of food, drink, and festive gifts on offer. There was a customary ice rink, although I didn't spot any villagers skating.



Many thanks to the Trust for funding this trip, which many view as the start of Xmas.

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South Marston CE Primary School Update

by Marie Hendry, School Head

We're delighted to share news from what has been a busy, exciting and joy-filled term at school. The children have enjoyed a wide range of learning opportunities and memorable experiences. Our Christian value focus this term has been 'trust', and it has been wonderful to see this reflected in the children's attitudes and actions.

We continue to welcome many visitors to the school, and we are grateful for the growing interest in what we offer, so please do keep recommending us to others! Attendance also remains a strong point of pride. As a school, we work closely with the Blue Kite Trust and the Local Authority to monitor attendance, and we are thrilled to be one of the highest attaining schools in both the Trust and Swindon. When compared nationwide with 66 similar schools, our attendance is right at the top, something to be especially proud of!

November saw the school mark Remembrance Day with poetry readings, reflective artwork, a whole-school two-minute silence and a special worship led by Reverend Charlotte. Throughout this past term, pupils also took part in Children in Need, Anti-Bullying Week, an Early Years Stay and Play session, as well as enjoying the PTA disco and annual Winter Fayre. Parents and carers also joined us for our recent parents' evening, where children's achievements were proudly shared.

As Christmas approached, the school was filled with festive cheer. Our children shone in a variety of performances, including the Early Years and KS1 Nativity at the church, the KS2 carols by candlelight service and the Christingle celebration, alongside many other seasonal activities.



Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to focus on strengthening our curriculum, developing teaching and learning principles and look forward to many enriching opportunities for our pupils. Our holistic approach remains at the heart of our school vision. Upcoming visits that we are looking forward to in 2026 include the Young Voices performance in Birmingham in January, a performing arts dance festival at the Wyvern Theatre, the KS1 trip to Pizza Express and the Year 6 residential to Braeside. We welcome all opportunities that encourage our children to flourish and shine in different ways.

We wish all our families and the wider community a happy and prosperous 2026.

South Marston Friendly Club

Happy New Year to all our Members for 2026

If you are over 50 years of age and live in the local community, we would be delighted to welcome you to our monthly meetings and activities in the village hall on the second Tuesday of every month.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13th Jan at 2pm

Social Afternoon with Bingo, Quiz & Mince Pies

Tuesday 10th Feb at 2pm

Kidson Trigg Auctioneers a Family Business

A talk about their history and how it all works

Tuesday 10th Mar at 2pm

'Swindon Connections' by Graham Carter

A talk about well known and not so well known people

For more information please contact

by email: smfriendlyclub@gmail.com or telephone: 828545.



There is always plenty to do, whatever the weather. Get involved with all of our daily animal activities, Rugrats & Rascals sessions, indoor & outdoor play, and our special events. Enjoy delicious homemade hot & cold food, snacks and drinks from the Café too!

LAMBING TIME
23rd - 28th January



ANIMAL ANTICS
14th - 22nd February



MEET BLUEY
14th - 15th March



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ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS | INDOOR & OUTDOOR PLAY | BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES | SCHOOL VISITS | MEMBERSHIPS

Open Spaces and the Allotments Update

by Barry Thunder

It's been a busy year at the village allotments. Three large plots were made into nine smaller ones, giving new growers a chance to try allotment gardening, with some great results. The site now includes 66 plots, a fenced storage area, and a new service workshop created from a converted steel shipping container. We now have two new allotment plots for rent, so if you are interested in joining us please email barry.thunder@southmarston.org.uk.

New fruit trees were planted across the village as part of the government's 'Trees for Climate Change' initiative. Watering them during the hot summer was a challenge until Thames Water finally connected the site to the mains after two and a half years!

Working with our Lengthsman, Justin, under the Parish Council, maintenance across village open spaces and woodlands is being increased. This includes weed control along roads and footpaths, woodland upkeep, and care of the Village Garden and War Memorial. Road signs will also be cleaned where safe. Support from the South Marston Recreation Association and the Community Service Payback Teams is helping with the increasing costs.

In early December, we were delighted to have hands-on support from staff from the University of Oxford's Bodleian Book Store, and Glencar who are building their extension. We worked together in Oxleaze Wood to coppice mature hazel trees and assist Justin with the safe removal of a large diseased oak. The good weather and shared effort made it an enjoyable and rewarding break from their office desks. Thanks also to Chris Brooks for his informative talk on woodland floor plants. A similar working day is planned for mid-January, and we hope



more contractors working in the village will be inspired to take such a positive and supportive approach to local sustainability.

Bodleian Library Expansion

by Emma James, Assistant Construction Manager, Glencar

Glencar Construction is the principal contractor appointed to build an extension to the existing University of Oxford Bodleian Library Storage Facility, located just outside South Marston village, which is due to be completed in August 2026.

The Bodleian Libraries' mission is to provide an excellent service to support the learning, teaching and research of the University of Oxford, and to develop and maintain access to their unique collections for the benefit of scholarship and society.

The Swindon storage library facility is part of a network of 23, that together hold more than 14 million printed items, over 80,000 e-journals, and outstanding special collections, including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art, and printed ephemera.

Glencar Construction is building a fifth chamber to provide additional secure storage for publications and artefacts in a carefully controlled temperature and humidity regulated environment.

Unusually for a building of this type, the extension is being constructed to meet Passivhaus Classic standards, a tightly controlled and monitored internal environment that achieves high levels of energy efficiency.



This approach will significantly reduce the building's running costs, benefiting both the University and the environment. Along with the current collection of published books, newspapers and maps, the new chamber will allocate space for the materials storage from the History of Science Museum, Museum of Natural History, Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ashmolean Museum, which are also within the University of Oxford.

The project also includes a Spirit Collection Store, designed to house zoological specimens, which is being built with increased ventilation, as the materials it will contain require a specialist environment.

Throughout the project, we aim to minimise any disruption on the local area and community. Construction traffic will continue to be directed to use main roads and avoid passing through South Marston village, reducing the disturbance to residents. The Glencar Construction team on site is keen to engage with and support improvements to the local community and environment.

As part of our commitment to the Considerate Constructors Scheme, we have been volunteering our time, alongside University of Oxford staff, to help with works to support the increase of biodiversity in the nearby Oxleaze Community Woodland, see page 9 for a report.

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.
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For more information call me on

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Parish Council News

by Colin McEwen

Rain

The 14th of November brought 40mm of rain and flooded Thornhill Road at Hoddinott's Corner and Highworth Road by the substation. Despite considerable alarm, no reports of water inside properties were reported. However, the water level upstream was above the top of the Greenfields culvert. This calls into question the prediction of significant improvements being delivered by the extensive groundworks carried out on the Panattoni site. We have already posed questions to them and have been promised a meeting with their engineers.

The good news is that Old Vicarage Lane remained dry. It has also remained dry during the subsequent significant rain events. Less reassuring was how the field opposite The Carpenter's Arms flooded and has been very slow to drain.



The Developers explained that they blocked the exit from the main storage lagoon to enable the 3 additional holding ponds east of OVL to be constructed. This caused the December rains to overflow into the flood plain. Once these are completed the 'plug' in the main lagoon will be removed and the permanent system completed, with the field only flooding in extreme circumstances.

Housing Development

The first show homes are now open for business. The stream of 'Reserve Matters' planning applications continues as the Developers seek to keep permissions ahead of build. We continue to work for safe and attractive routes on foot/cycle routes to key destinations such as Carpenter's Walk and to Keypoint.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has a policy that requires the Developers to offer existing dwellings the opportunity to connect into mains sewage and other utilities. This has finally been acknowledged by the Developers, and a proposal promised by the end of January.

Old Vicarage Lane Closures

As feared, the initial closure for engineering works did not go well for residents. The contractors building the houses on both sides of OVL were cavalier in their approach and much mud on the road resulted, despite our efforts.

Residents living south of the road closure point had to put up with huge inconvenience in simply getting out of their homes. Their daily lives were unacceptably affected. Several of our Parish Councillors and our Borough Councillor, Matthew Vallender, were active on a daily basis trying to find solutions to their problems.

With three rather splendid show homes now open, we don't expect a repetition of the appalling mud that covered areas of OVL. The programme of rolling closures continues into 2027, but most of the construction traffic movements should now be entering the site at the new Thornhill Rd roundabout and using the made up roads internal to the sites.



Roads and speed limits

If you've driven north from the village to Sevenhampton, you will have noted that you pass out of our 30mph area into a 60mph national speed limit stretch, with various limits before we're back to 30mph in Sevenhampton.

It has been decided to simplify matters with a consistent 40mph limit throughout between the two villages. This will mirror speed reductions on Thornhill Road and Old Vicarage Lane and compliment the 20mph zone planned for the village centre.

Village Centre

After further delay on the part of the Developers, planning this £3million project is again urgent. They have proposed a village drop-in event for mid-February, and the designers have produced an amended location design that places the Hall more centrally within the field. This has several advantages, and the working group has been asked for further input.

The building itself is planned to be much more than just a Hall. The Developer funding is greatly enhanced by the Sport England requirement for upgraded changing rooms. Additional to this will be the main hall, which can be divided, together with a parish office and 2 rooms for hire for meetings, activities or services required by local residents, together with kitchen, coffee and bar facilities.

The cost of the project is becoming a concern for the Developers and there may be interesting discussions ahead. In general terms, retrofitting is considerably more expensive and to be avoided. The Developers' contribution does not cover the cost of any movable items, such as tables and chairs and this will be substantial.

In anticipation of the unpredictable expansion-related costs, the Parish Council had built up a contingency fund and may also be able to borrow now in the expectation of higher Precept income once the additional houses are occupied. The sale of the current Village Hall for conversion into a dwelling - whilst retaining the appearance - is a possibility once the new Hall is in operation.

Borough Relations

Matthew Vallender is an active Borough Councillor and, at our invitation, has become a Parish Councillor. This is new for us as, unlike many Parishes, we are non-party political. We have agreed that he will be clear in which capacity he is acting on any matter and it will better enable us to coordinate our approach on any given matter to better represent the community.

The Parish Councils remain frustrated with the Borough's failure to provide a cohesive service in some areas or to enable us to initiate and carry out projects. I have been their lead negotiator with the Borough on this for 3 years of frustration. However, a new raft of Directors are now in post and we recently held what felt like a breakthrough meeting. The Chief Executives and senior Councillors of the massive North and South Swindon PCs are now active with me and a new agreement has been agreed in principle.

Here's hoping for a change in the Borough's approach that will enable all its Parish Councils to have a greater impact on their communities!

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Harry's Ride

by Harry Hudswell

On the 15th of November, a group of us from South Marston, supported by Let's Ride Swindon leaders, met for a ride to the Moredon Sporting Hub. After a briefing and bike checks, we set off from the school car park for the 6-mile journey. Once there, several laps of exploring the new pump track were enjoyed.



Certificates were presented ahead of our return ride to South Marston, feeling tired but happy!

Thank you to Lew and the Let's Ride Swindon team, Anne Featherstone for her organisation, and everyone who took part, making it a great day.

If you'd like to learn more about pump track riding, or you're aged 14 or over and interested in becoming a cycling coach, please send an email to Anne at southmarstonviews@gmail.com.

Funding support for training may be available through Becky Cox, Community Developer, Swindon.



South Marston Recreation Association

by Jenny McEwen

With the summer drought now long behind us, I am pleased to report that most of the newly planted trees and flower borders at the Rec have survived, thanks to the combined efforts of volunteers and contractors who kept them watered. The drought did, however, cause significant and costly cracking. More recently, it seems to have rained almost daily for months, but so far the drainage works and recent topping up of drainage channels have prevented the field from turning into a boggy mess.

A lovely Christmas tree was again kindly donated by Rupert Burr from Roves Farm, and put up outside the Village Hall with help from our trusty team of tree fellers, transporters, erectors, and lighting installers. Nearly all are regulars and from the Case family - Rachel, Steve, Gareth, Ben, Will, Mary, and Alfie, assisted by Dave Williams and Brian Comes.



Steve and Gareth also helped Lionel with an early spring clear-out of the garage on the Rec, removing decades of accumulated items, including old line markers, drums of diesel, a broken lawnmower, and other things that might once have been useful but hadn't been needed. We are very grateful to Steve and Gareth for disposing of the rubbish, which has made a huge difference to the usable space.

Lionel Cave-Ayland's name often comes up as a volunteer, so we were delighted to surprise him with a presentation at the recent joint SMRA and Parish Council meeting. Moving to the village 40 years ago, he quickly became involved with SMRA and had a spell as a Parish Councillor. Lionel is happiest outdoors, having been brought up on a farm. He has been an indispensable volunteer, on the Rec, with the changing rooms, at the allotments, with footpaths, and many other aspects of village life. He has also been a driving force behind many village events including, several Parties in the Park, the late Queen's Jubilee, and King Charles' Coronation.



Update from Your Local Borough Councillor

by Matthew Vallender

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year!



Update from November's Full Council Meeting: At the meeting, I spoke on motions including improving Swindon Borough Council's support for terminally ill residents, opposing digital ID, and highways maintenance - where I highlighted the long list of action not yet taken by SBC. I was also pleased to support motions on Akers Way safety (after the tragic death of Harry Parker in 2022), and improving tree coverage in urban areas. Finally, I tabled questions to Cabinet Members on pavement parking bans and dog wardens.

Flooding: Following the heavy rainfall we saw in mid-November which led to Highworth Road flooding, I have been working with the Parish Council, the Flooding Team at SBC, the Environment Agency, Panattoni, the developers, and local residents to pull together the list of actions that need to be resolved. There are a number of questions and concerns that have been raised and there is detailed information from the EA available on the events we saw within the village. I'll be able to share further updates in the coming months as we work through everything.

Developer Meetings: I arranged meetings with the developers in December to discuss the Old Vicarage Lane closures in 2026 (and other local issues). The developers have agreed to maintain pedestrian and cycle access for Manor Cottage residents throughout the 2026 closures, as well as agreeing to pay the additional costs that result from the C6 Cirencester College bus diversion, to avoid the students in the village having to walk a mile each way to get to/from the alternative bus stop. We are working with them on other issues, and I am pleased with the progress/concessions we have secured.

Panattoni Meeting: In November, along with Colin, Nigel, Barry, and local residents, we had another of our regular meetings with Panattoni to discuss progress onsite, plans for next year, the flooding events in November, and additional landscape planting along the new footpath, to provide better screening for some of the properties along Thornhill Road.

Village Events: It was an honour to join you at the South Marston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday to pay my respects to all of the fallen, all of the wounded, and all who served and continue to serve in conflicts.

I was pleased to join South Marston residents at the church bulb planting session, getting the church grounds ready for the spring bloom!

I want to thank everyone who helped organise the South Marston Gardening Club Christmas Quiz event, it was a fantastic evening (and I was pleased to be on the winning team after a tiebreaker!). Big thank you to my quiz team, who knew a lot more about gardening than I do!

As always, if there is ever anything I can help out with locally, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the details below. I also hold my ward surgery on the third Saturday of the month, 10am-12pm at the Community Coffee Morning in South Marston Village Hall. There are also bacon butties, cakes, and tea and coffee available for purchase to help raise money for the church!

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

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

Cllr Simon Shelley (Labour), 07584 042161, SShelley@swindon.gov.uk



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Dear friends,

Happy New Year to you all, from myself, Rev Charlotte, and all from St Mary Magdalene Church! The festivities are over, and decorations have been put away and suddenly there is more space in our homes. The tree (they take up a lot of room, don't they?) is gone, relatives have returned to their homes and the pressure of hosting or being a good guest is over. However, the space is not always welcome, we may be breathing a sigh of relief, and we may be mourning that our lives are now feeling empty.



I want to remind you that Jesus did not remain a baby, he grew up to be a man, the saviour of the world, and he is not just for Christmas, nor is our church. We are here for you, a great community and belonging can be found in church. The gap or loneliness doesn't have to remain in your lives and hearts. It can be filled, and we can show you how.

There will always be a warm welcome for you in our churches, and you are welcome just as you are. If that is a step too far for you at the moment, then know you are loved. Jesus came to save us all because God loves every one of us.

Blessings from

Rev. Eileen

***S*tratton Team Ministry**

***S*eeking, 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 January	9.30am Holy Communion
18th January	10.30am Team Service at <i>Stratton Methodist Church</i>
1st February	10am All Age Worship
8th February	9.30am Holy Communion
15th February	11am Team Service at <i>St Margaret's Church</i>

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 is open daily and we welcome you to visit our pretty church.

St Mary Magdalene Church South Marston

Community Coffee Morning



10-12

Every third Saturday in the month

Next date:

17th January 2026

**Enquiries or for table
reservations please call
01793 824339**

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

Well Done Winners!

Congratulations to our NOVEMBER and DECEMBER winners from South Marston Recreation Association.

NOVEMBER

£10 No. 23 Diane Whitford
£10 No. 75 Melanie Becket
£10 No. 116 Ian Clark
£10 No. 15 Rosemary New

DECEMBER

£100 No. 38 Terry Sansum
£10 No. 92 Adam Rudnik
£10 No. 102 Gavin Naisby
£10 No. 10 Terry Sansum
£10 No. 12 Ian Addison

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.



South Marston Gardening Club

by Angela Newton

We're always looking for new members to help grow our group and bring people together, and a warm welcome awaits you! We have a full and varied programme for 2026. If there is an event of interest, you can attend as a visitor for just £3 on the night, or take up an annual membership for only £15. All our meetings are at the Village Hall, Old Vicarage Lane, SN3 4SN. Refreshments provided, optional raffle.

2026 GARDENING CLUB MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd of March 7.30pm to 9.30pm. AGM, followed by members only workshop 'Potting up a Small Tub'. If you're planning to join the Gardening Club and attend the workshop, please email me at angelanewton01@gmail.com in advance to help us ensure we have enough pots, plants, bulbs, and compost for all.

Monday 13th of April 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Rachel Golding Barrett 'A Flower Farmer's Year', with rooted Dahlia cuttings available to purchase

Monday 11th of May 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Ros Ford 'National Garden Scheme'

Monday 1st of June. Annual Plant Sale

Monday 6th of July 7.30pm to 9.30pm. William Case 'Lawn Care'

Friday 21st of August 6pm to 7.30pm. Annual Flower and Produce Show set up and registration

Saturday 22nd of August. Annual Flower and Produce Show

Monday 7th of September 7.30pm to 9.30pm. David Usher 'The Inspiring Life of Gertrude Jekyll'

Monday 5th of October 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Timothy Walker 'In the Not so Bleak Midwinter – Making Your Garden Interesting in the Winter'

Monday 2nd of November 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Members only Christmas Wreath Workshop. Last year this marked the start of Christmas for our members, who all had a wonderful night and made some amazing Christmas wreaths

Monday 7th of December 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Social Evening (with Food and a Quiz).

Last year it was so nice to see some new faces joining us for the evening. Everyone brought a dish of food to share, creating a lovely spread.



Useful Contacts

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

Local Borough Councillors:

Matthew 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, 07545 923021

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.



**South Marston
Parish Council**

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