

South Marston Community News

Hidden gems in South Marston

By Richard Jackson



When Katherine and Adam Bowen bought Rowboro House on Old Vicarage Lane in 2015, they were thrilled to be buying not just a family home but also a quaint, somewhat overgrown, old Victorian outbuilding situated in their back garden.

Built of brick with a clay tile roof, the building consists of one main room with a very small external room on each side. At the back are a pair of old pigsties integrated into the main structure of the building.

Inside the walls are whitewashed brick and the floor is bare concrete. Along the back wall are two open fireplaces and a central brick stove with a small cast iron door in the front and a circular recess in the top with a wooden cover. There is no water-supply.

Rowboro House was originally built in 1869 as two semi-detached cottages by Alfred Bell, along with the other four Manor Cottages. The 1918 auction catalogue for the sale of the Bell Estate lists three separate lots, each being 'A Pair of Excellent Modern Cottages.'



By 1939, Nos 5 and 6 had become a single dwelling, as shown in a fascinating document called the 1939 Register. This was the equivalent of a census, compiled shortly after the outbreak of World War II to establish eligibility for conscription. The entries for Manor Cottages show Numbers 1 to 4 plus one other dwelling - Rowboro House.

A map dated 1878-1886 shows the outbuilding between Numbers 1 & 2 was the same shape as at Rowboro House, whilst the outbuilding at Numbers 3 & 4 was smaller and differently shaped. The auction catalogue confirms that the Rowboro House outbuilding was a wash-house, as all three pairs of cottages had 'the right to use....the Two Wash-houses.' The shared nature of the wash-houses may explain why there are two open fireplaces – providing four fireplaces shared between six households. The central stove was probably for heating a copper. Water had to be carried from the shared well, listed under Lot 22 (Numbers 3 & 4).

The two small end rooms have external access only. They may have been storage spaces but it is likely that one or both were used as outdoor toilets. Each has a slot-shaped hole above the door – presumably for ventilation and light.

A plan on the title-deeds of Number 3 shows that all six properties were served jointly by two cess-pools. It was a legal requirement from 1848 for every home to have means for the disposal of sewage. The cesspools were connected by a 9 inch pipe to a stream which then carried liquid waste to the River Cole. However, the solid waste would have been emptied periodically by bucket and shovel, by 'nightmen', so called because they generally did their unpleasant and dangerous work at night.



The outbuilding at No 3, owned by Mandie and Simon Olive, is much smaller, and has now been well-renovated. Although its original use is uncertain there are some clues. The main door, believed to be original, has a ventilation slot. There was once a small, low entrance below the eaves at one end, now filled in with original bricks found on site. The plan on the deeds shows that, as with the wash-houses, it was not connected to the cesspool. It was probably a primitive outdoor toilet, consisting of a wooden board with a hole above a receptacle, which could be removed for emptying via the small

outside door. This enabled the toilet to be boxed in, making it more pleasant to use. Alternatively the building may have been a coal-shed, the small door allowing access for shovelling the coal.

Last summer Catherine and Adam began a full renovation of the wash-house at Rowboro House. Thank you to them and to Mandie and Simon for allowing me to write this article. I must point out that the outbuildings are in private back-gardens and, therefore, not available for viewing.

South Marston Friendly Club

If you live in South Marston and are over the age of 50, then you are welcome to come and join us at our meetings in the Village Hall. We offer a wide range of interesting and fun events for the residents in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Programme for 2019

Tuesday 12 March at 2pm. "Being an Author of Children's Books" - **A talk by Debbie Evans.**

Tuesday 9 April at 2pm. "The History of SS Great Britain - based at Bristol" - **by Philip Unwin**

Wednesday 24 April at 9.15am. **Coach trip to the "Royal Worcester Pottery Museum"** with time to explore the Cathedral & town in the afternoon.

Tuesday 14 May at 2pm. "Sing along Songs" **by Kieran Pocock** on the keyboard.

Tuesday 21 May at 9.15am. **Coach trip to "Hughenden Manor & Gardens"** (National Trust), country home of Benjamin Disraeli near High Wycombe.

Non Members are very welcome to join us on our day trips. Tea & coffee are served after our meetings, giving you time to get to know everyone. If you are interested or would like to know more then please contact Sheila on 828545.

Well done winners!

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for January & February. £10 each to:

No. 46 Louise Field
No. 85 Marilyn Selwood
No, 92 Mandy Sullivan
No. 66 Alan McElroy
No. 70 Mary Laing
No. 25 John Cumming
No. 72 Jim Sansum
No. 44 Charlie Goodheart



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 Village Hall and Recreation Ground

For more information, or to join, please contact Angela Newton, Chair of SMRA on the contact details on the last page.

Visit by the Police and Crime Commissioner



The first 10 minutes of the January Parish Council Meeting was attended by Angus Macpherson, the Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner. He explained how the new Community Policing Teams were allocated to the North East Swindon area and his difficulty with staffing levels.

The 2019 policing precept will be increased by a small margin that equates approximately to an extra £2 a month on each of our council taxes. This will allow the recruitment of an extra 41 officers and 2 dedicated cyber-crime

staff. Currently, the average Wiltshire household contributes £15.19 per month to local policing, but this will rise to £17.19 per month next April.

Angus said: "*Cyber-crime continues to be a growing risk in modern society and those who use technology to take advantage of the most vulnerable are a very real threat. I will allocate the extra funding to two dedicated cyber teams, one focusing on the despicable crime of child sexual exploitation and the other on fraud. Some of the additional officers will be placed in community policing teams to ensure an enhanced focus on building stronger links with the communities Wiltshire Police serves and protects, and others within the cyber teams. It's always a difficult decision to increase the precept, but it is necessary if we want more police officers. The long distance between our communities puts added pressure on our resources, and I continue to lobby the Government to give Wiltshire a fairer amount of the national funding pot.*"



Spring Into Action

Thanks to Hazel Andrews Acupuncture for some wonderful images of springtime action.

Left to Right: Chaenomele (flowering quince), daffodils and snowdrops.



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A Sunny Day in January



We are often asked by local companies to organise team build days in our woodlands, so last year, when a team from Network Rail asked for a date in January, we were delighted to arrange one. Well, who normally wants to work outdoors in wintery mid-January?

The Project team from Network Rail, Western, Wales & Crossrail, based at their Swindon office, turned up for the morning safety briefing and task allocation and we were immediately impressed by their determination to work hard and make a real difference.

Accompanied by our regular Wiltshire Wildlife Trust volunteer Graham, they broke into three groups to tackle the tasks we gave them.

Although the weather wasn't very good that week, our day was unusually bright sunshine, with no wind; ideal for working in the woods.

The team coppiced two large hazels and used the cut wood to build a woodland wildlife habitat. They removed some more plastic tree guards and helped lower one of the high hedges and cut it back. A lot of brush was produced from this, so the team took that and a large pile of previously cut wood and reinforced one of brookside hedges with it.

This has the dual effect of keeping back unwanted growth and providing an excellent habitat for fungi, insects, small birds and rodents.

A team also dug two deep holes and concreted in two substantial electricity poles that had been donated to us. These are now in place and ready for attaching a wooden cross beam to which we will attach our copper rubbing plaques. These plaques have been idle in our tool shed for some time, as the wood posts they were originally screwed onto have become rotten. When it is finished, we hope children (and adults) will bring paper and crayons to make brass rubbings of the various wildlife and scenes depicted on them.

We had an amazing bonus during our lunch break in the gazebo; a beautiful fox poked its head out of a nearby bush and stared at us for some time before deciding that discretion was the better part of valour and withdrawing back into the undergrowth. All in all, a very good and productive day working outdoors. The weather did us proud, the planned tasks were largely completed, both safely and to a high standard, and the team impressed us with their diverse range of abilities. We hope to welcome them back later in the year.

If you want to know more about our parish green spaces, feel free to contact:

Chris Brooks 01793 829868, WTTMH@Tiscali.co.uk, or

Barry Thunder 01793 826697, barry.thunder@southmarston.co.uk

KEYPOINT PLANNING ENQUIRY

Parish Council representatives Tony Leathart and Sylvia Brown shared the daily attendance at the two week Keypoint Enquiry at the Steam Museum. They were able to appear and speak most days on matters ranging from the pollution risk and the visual impact to the likelihood of HGV traffic congestion within and outside of the Keypoint estate.

One of the most hotly debated aspects was the benefits claimed by the developers from the planned use of the rail terminal for transporting feedstock to the plant. This proposal was brought forward just before the appeal started and was not in the original application. The Parish Council was able to show that the likelihood of this ever happening was extremely small and no significant weight should be given to the claim. The inspector's report will probably not be produced until late spring.

All told, our two stalwart representatives spent more than 40 hours at the enquiry, which involved accompanying the inspector at the day-long site visit in the pouring rain and the challenge of getting to the enquiry on the Friday morning when the snow was at its worst. The snow also meant no deliveries had reached the Steam museum or any of the food outlets in the vicinity. Attendees had to make do with day-old sandwiches rescued from the bin by the Steam caretaker.

At the end of the day, participants helped dig each other out of the car park as the snow had continued to fall.

Visit from Ex-Pupil Mary Hacker



We were delighted to receive a visit from Mary Hacker who is an ex-pupil of the school. She brought with her some photos including a school photo, taken by Tempest, who are still our school photographers today!

If anyone has any old photos of the school they'd like to share with us, we would be most grateful. It would be wonderful to build up a larger archive. Please scan your photos and send with as much detail as possible to admin2@southmarstonprimary.co.uk Thank you

Villagers may also recognise faces from two other photographs we received that will also be published shortly on the South Marston web site www.southmarston.org.uk.

Alan Smith - Ann Brown - Fisher - - - - Ellen Crebor
 - Roger Cheesley - - Molly Bourton Jean Holcombe - Elizabeth - Marshall(?) Valerie Warren - Ross
 Patrick Hopkins Robert Bourton Bobby Browning - Mary Franklin Mary Hacker - John Wildern Ian Brown Sally Haynes Ann Terry Warren



H. Tempest Ltd

Handwritten text at the bottom right of the photo area, likely a name or address.

Photos received by South Marston C of E Primary School.



Can any readers supply dates for these photos?

Tots and Toddlers

by Francesca Peart

The beginning of 2019 has been a busy time at Tots and Toddlers. We have been very happy to welcome new children and their parents/carers to the group. We have celebrated several children's birthdays with chocolate cake and candles.

We have sung songs and read books (and performed them too - thanks Chris Brooks aka "The Hungry Caterpillar"!).

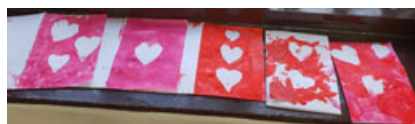


The arts and crafts corner has been busy painting and drawing, cutting and gluing. Amongst other things we made Chinese lanterns & Valentine cards.



Besides being lots of fun, Tots and Toddlers allows children to get to know each other before they possibly move on to pre-school together. It also allows the parents and carers to get to know each other, especially when they are new to the village.

If you'd like to know more, please phone Francesca on 07716 277877 or else just come along on a Wednesday morning in term-time* at 9am-11am. The cost is £2 per family which includes a snack for the children, and a hot drink and biscuit for the adults. * Term-time is with reference to the South Marston CofE Primary School.



Local MP Celebrates Outdoor Gym



The outdoor gym installed on the Recreation Ground last autumn has received a visit from our local MP, Justin Tomlinson and our ward Councillor Russell Holland.

This was arranged by the Big Lottery, now renamed the National Lottery Community Fund, as part of national publicity for their grant recipients and the write-up will appear on their website.

The weather was hardly helpful to the occasion, being wet and windy, but representatives of SMRA and the Parish Council enjoyed seeing our visitors try out the equipment.

F & E HARRIS MEMORIAL TRUST

Forthcoming outings for Senior Citizens.

The Summer seaside outing this year will be on **19th June 2019**. The venue has not been finalised but will be put on the village notice board asap. The Christmas Market outing this year will be to Stratford-Upon-Avon on **Friday 6th December**

Donations Needed

Dear All We are looking for some donations to help resource our outdoor area and are hoping some of you might have extra of these items floating around at home which you would be more than happy to donate to us.

Music wall/mud kitchen items Old saucepans, cooling racks, toy instruments, cupcake baking tray, wooden spoons, whisks

Gardening supplies Plastic and ceramic pots, children's forks/trowels, seeds, watering cans, soil, plants

Sand/water play items Plastic tubing/pipes, funnels, sieves, measuring jugs, buckets

Den building Pop-up tents, tent poles, tarpaulin sheets, blankets

Other bits and bobs Nuts, bolts and washers, ribbons, pegs

Thank-you, The Early Years Team, South Marston School



Honda and the Hotel

Where to begin? The plan to close Honda in 2022 is a significant blow to the economy of the area. We are fortunate in having excellent road links and a mix of employment opportunities and as well as a pro-active Borough Council that should see us through. Whether the news will have any effect on the delivery of the planned expansion of the village and the wider New Eastern Villages is hard to tell. Our major developer, HHT, has assured me that it will not alter their plans.

We are finally within sight of signing the four-way agreement that will permit the expansion of the school site onto the Recreation Ground as shown in the Neighbourhood Plan. We will be receiving the 10 acre field behind Bell Gardens in exchange and over £1.5 million is earmarked for a new village hall within what will be an attractive village centre.

The hotel site has now been acquired by Bellway Homes and they are looking to press on with their development for 69 houses. The access to the car park for the village hall and school will be through this site and there will be additional footpath and cycle routes from the new development areas. It is hoped that the noise from the Steris building will be remedied over the Easter break.

New Faces, Village Centre Design & Managing Open Spaces

Our new Clerk, Gary Vickery, has rapidly grasped what the job entails and is proving adept at identifying where procedures may be usefully stripped down. New councillor Ray Hurley has accepted the role of highway man and has already got a number of potholes repaired and cycle ways cleared of leaves.

In the coming period we anticipate receiving the final report on the layout of the village centre from consultants DLA. I am pleased to say that the Borough has responded to our pressure and dropped the requirement for a second full-sized football pitch. Meetings with the NEV team, HHT and Bellway are anticipated as we seek to influence how the 'S.106' developer contributions are allocated.

We continue the discussion as to whether the owners of the new houses should have to pay a fee to a management company to maintain their 'green' facilities in addition to our Parish Council precept. The alternative is that the Parish Council takes this on, as it currently does for the existing village. This is much fairer, but the scope and complexity of the NEV is such that I am pressing the Borough to develop and cost a management scheme so that the PC can understand precisely what is involved before making a decision.

Colin McEwen

SOUTH MARSTON SPRING CLEAN UP

Join us on Sunday 24th March



The **Big**
Spring Clean

This will be our third village clean up event. We would like to see as many residents, including families, getting involved. It's very rewarding seeing your village all clean & tidy, working in small teams & meeting fellow residents. Any time you can give will be much appreciated.

Please meet at the Village Hall at 11am for refreshments, safety briefing and supply of equipment.

Let's all work together to keep South Marston a clean & safe place to live, at the same time helping the environment. If you are unable to join us, can you spend a few minutes tidying outside your property. It all helps.

For further information please contact Mandie Olive on 07794076015 or mamamandieolive@yahoo.co.uk



Look out for news of an
Easter event happening in
St Julian's Wood



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SOUTH MARSTON GARDENING CLUB

Monday 1st April 2019

7:30pm to 9:30pm

South Marston Village Hall

Speaker: Claire Hart from Illminster

Talk Title: Square Metre Gardening

Agriculturalist and PR Expert, Claire Hart combines her love of growing with a passion for countryside topics, from poultry keeping, all about eggs, equine issues and grow-your-own, to how to grow giant veg!

£3 entry fee on the door or £12 full membership.

A warm welcome awaits you along with tea and cake as well as an optional raffle.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Mike on 827807, Angela on 07789068340 or visit the website:

<https://southmarston.org.uk/clubs-activities/gardening-club/>

The
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Arms



We are busy planning new special offers and ideas for the colder months including a shared savoury pie! This will need to be pre-ordered so we can prep it and we will make it for the amount of guests you have!

Remember, we also serve breakfasts between 8:30am and 12 midday, Monday to Saturday, so if you fancy a full English without the work then just come and visit us.

Please check the advertising boards at the pub for updates, see our facebook page @thecarpentersarms1 or call us Tel; 01793 822997

Clare, Claire & the team look forward to seeing you soon

South Marston Church News

Seeking, sharing and serving God together



Dear friends,



This Lent, we are using the film 'The Greatest Showman' as the basis for our reflections. Have you seen it? Like all films, it has themes that can touch us at different levels. This one is full of dance, song and colour but it has story lines that alert us to how we treat others—the effects of being rejected or accepted, purpose and value, forgiveness and redemption. I'm sure there are others you can think of and we will discover more as we follow the studies.

Watching it reminded me how much events very early in our childhood can lay the foundations for the future. The people and situations in our childhood make a lasting impact. The patterns of behaviour and our reactions are formed within us so that they almost become part of our DNA and very hard to change. Think about your own childhood—does it make you happy, sad, angry? Why? What situations in your life now make you react with the same emotions.

The film shows that we can grow, learn, and change course if we are willing to have our eyes opened. Events and people can lead us through a path of forgiveness and redemption in order to build a new life and flourish.

Preparing for Easter offers us the path to a wonderful new life where the burden of our shortcomings can be lifted and we are set free from those things that stop us living life to the full by having a deep relationship with God and others. Lent, as we call this journey, is our opportunity to reflect and then make the decision to turn away from the old ways to the new (religious jargon calls this repentance). We are given the way to new life through Jesus. Easter Sunday is the celebration that, yes, we are accepted, loved and free to be the people God made us to be. More about that next month!

Why not join a group this Lent? Don't just give up chocolate - do something positive for yourself. I will be holding Lent groups in my house in Stratton at 7.30pm on Monday nights and 10am for six weeks starting on 11th and 12th March. Please telephone me if you are intending to come Tel:827021

With prayers for every blessing,

Vicky Fleming, Priest in charge

Join Us at Our Services

At South Marston Church unless otherwise stated

Date	Time	Event	Location
9th March	10:00am	Meeting Point	South Marston Village Hall
9th March	4:00pm	Saturday Scene	St Margaret's Centre
10th March	9.30am	Holy Communion	
17th March	10:00am	Team Service	
24th March	9:00am	Holy Communion BCP	
31st March	10:00am	Team Holy Communion	St Margaret's Church

Have You Seen Our New Website?

We have a new website! Please visit www.southmarstonchurch.wordpress.com



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Around The Village

Tony Leathart

You may remember in the last edition the photo of the Jefferies-Williams memorial plaque fitted in November 1938 on the Trig point pillar at the top of Liddington Hill.

Nobody responded to the deliberate mismatch with the photo that showed the date on the plaque of the year 2000. To explain this, I can now publish here a photo of the original plaque that shows the dents of bullet impacts.

The US Army stationed at Chiseldon Barracks as part of D-Day preparations used the plaque for target practice. Many years later, as a Parish Council Millennium project, a sarsen stone bearing the replacement plaque was erected alongside the Trig point. The original plaque is now in the Richard Jeffries museum at Coate Water.

Also in the last article, I challenged readers to say of where the originally planned Jefferies-Williams sarsen-stone memorial was finally erected; no one gave the correct answer.

The photo shows this memorial at Barbury Castle some 4 miles further along the Ridgeway from Liddington Hill.

To visit it, just before you reach the Barbury Castle car park, there is a stile on the left to enter the field where the sarsen-stone memorial is located less than 100yds along the footpath. You will need welly boots!



Still on the theme of Alfred Williams, you may be interested in a discovery made recently by my neighbour who lives next door to Cambria Cottage where Alfred was born and lived as a boy.

It relates to Alfred being lucky to survive an accident when he was 2 years old. In 1879, he wandered outside in his nightclothes and fell into a disused well. Rescue wasn't easy and he escaped suffocation from the sewage by the narrowest of margins. Recently, the shared car parking area was resurfaced and the existing broken concrete lifted to reveal the very well underneath only yards away from the back door of Cambria Cottage.



The photo shows the top of this well, now covered over again.

Any comments or ideas for future content please to:

tony.leathart@btinternet.com or 01793 82774 or 07765703228 (text).

The first correct responder will be published in the next edition.



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South Marston Recreation Association (SMRA)

Are you aware of the SMRA and what we are about?

The SMRA is a registered charity, and was formed in 1978 to manage the Village Hall and Recreation Field on behalf of the Parish Council. The SMRA Management Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (except August).

Our biggest fundraiser event is the Summer Fete and we would love offers of help or ideas of any kind.

If you are interested in becoming a SMRA Committee Member or a Volunteer please contact Angela Newton, SMRA Chair on 07789068340 for more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SMRA AGM on Wednesday 13 March 2019

The AGM is being held at 7pm in the Village Hall and is open to all villagers.

South Marston Fete on Saturday 29 June 2019

South Marston Summer Fete

Saturday 29 June 2019

2pm to 5pm

We warmly welcome anyone who would like to help, either by joining the fete committee, making some bunting, cakes for refreshments, helping to put up the marquees and straw bales, etc.

Please contact Angie Newton on 832034 or Jenny McEwen on 825312 if you would like to know more.



Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in South Marston



Source: <https://bit.ly/2H41PZ>

The aim of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW) is to improve the liaison between the Police and the local community by providing effective communications through NHW messaging systems that warn the village Coordinator of local crime trends. Then the local Street Coordinators can disseminate these messages to their scheme members. They also can receive information from the members themselves and inform the police of incidents and suspicious behaviours when they occur.

Email is the prime method of communication but those members without email can receive verbal messages from neighbours. There is no doubt from experience that there is an enhancement of community spirit within the street resulting from the undemanding work of the Coordinator who transmits the messages

to, and sometimes receives them from, the members. The frequency of these messages is less than one a fortnight on average.

Currently, the village Coordinators cover most of Thornhill and Highworth Roads and their side roads but the Old Village Lane area is currently not covered at all. The people who live outside the NHW areas miss the extra safety and community spirit that NHW brings. This can be particularly important in emergencies such as flood, fire and freeze.

We are looking for volunteer Coordinators for the following streets: Rawlings Close, Bell Gardens and Yew Tree Gardens, the Orchard, Quarrybrook Close, Greenfields, Highworth Road (No 19 onwards), Old Vicarage Lane, Chapel Lane, Church Farm Lane, Church Ground, Nightingale Lane and Rowborough Lane.

Please volunteer to be an NHW Street Coordinator to:

tony.leathart@btinternet.com.

Your little effort will improve the safety and community cohesion of our village. Potential members will want this but cannot get it without coordinators.

Are you up to it?



STERLING WORK IN SOUTH MARSTON

By Tony Leathart

The Short Brothers Ltd Stirling, named after the Scottish city, was the RAF's first operational four-engine bomber and was, in its day, a very advanced and formidable aeroplane. It went into production alongside the Sunderland Seaplane at the Rochester factory on the Medway in Kent.

The Stirling weighed over 20 tons, had a wingspan of over 87 feet and the fuselage was 99 feet long; four three-bladed aluminium propellers were over 13 feet in diameter. Out of a total of 2,383 aircraft manufactured, not a single one has survived to this day.

In August 1940, when the Rochester factory was bombed and the Belfast factory was also attacked and badly damaged, MAP, the Ministry of Aircraft Production, switched much of the Stirling production to a new factory in South Marston. Building work on the factory started in January 1940, but a hasty change of plan was ordered by MAP officials when they saw the size of the building that was taking shape. They felt that it presented too large a target from the air, so it was replaced by two pairs of final assembly hangars supported by other sub-assembly factories dispersed around the Swindon area. The South Marston assembly works, named FS2, employed nearly 500 people producing around twelve aircraft a month. It survives today in the Thornhill Industrial Estate; one pair of hangars occupied by Crocodile Packaging and Young European and the other pair by Nissin UK.

Two other identical shadow factory sites, each over 85,000 square feet, were also built in 1940. Fuselage front centre sections and nose sections were manufactured at the F Factory behind what is now the Speedway Stadium on Lady Lane at Blunsdon St Andrew. The workforce totalled around 1,000 people. More recently, the factory was demolished to build a housing estate.

The fuselage sub-assemblies were delivered to the identical W Factory at Friars Hill just beyond Sevenhampton, now occupied by Ellipsis Farms.

Some 700 people were working here to assemble and equip the fuselage (less rear section).



The fuselage was then towed by a farmer's tractor on village roads to the assembly works at FS2 South Marston.



Short Brothers also leased four bays on the north side of Great Western Railway's sheds in North Star Avenue near where the Oasis is today. This large shadow factory of 321,000 square feet produced around eight sets of wings and twenty-six rear fuselage sections a month, which

were delivered to FS2. Clare's Retail Equipment Ltd later used these buildings to manufacture shop fitments until they were finally demolished in 2008. Some wings were also produced at FS2 and smaller parts were machined at a workshop on the site next to the present fire station which is now occupied by Aldi.

At FS2, when the complete aircraft was ready for engine runs and flight testing, it was towed out of the hangars as seen in this photo which shows, in the background, the old Manor House, now demolished to build Manor Park.



This apron in front of the hangars was levelled to produce a large bund opposite Gordon Cottage. The aircraft were towed, or in some cases taxied under their own power, across the road to the FS1 flight shed for pre-flight

adjustments, before taxiing for flight testing to the airfield where two 1,000 yard concrete runways had been constructed. These were painted with woodchips dipped in camouflaged paint while sections of hedges were also spread across them when not in use to complete the deception.

FS1, of course, became the Crown Timber site and the airfield was bought by Honda about 30 years ago. The first Stirling took off from here for delivery to the RAF at the beginning of 1942, but by the spring of 1943, the production of the Stirling bombers was wound down with the intention of producing Lancaster bombers in South Marston. However, the Spitfire took precedence.

Senior villagers will look back on those war days with pride. Terry Sansum remembers, as an excited boy, seeing the Stirling taxiing across the road to FS1 with its engines roaring.

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Useful Contacts

South Marston Parish Council 686150 clerksmpc@Southmarston.org.uk

Wiltshire Police Community Support, PCSO's Kelly & Lishman 0845 4087000

Neighbourhood Watch: Jill Quadri on jillquadri@btinternet.com

South Marston Church: Priest-in-charge, Vicky Fleming 827021. Church Warden Richard Sansum 831473. PCC: William Hiscocks, Diane Gambles, Mary Crichton and Dorinda Balchin. MeetingPoint: Richard 831473, Saturday Scene: Donald 825693.

South Marston CofE Primary School: 823379

SMRA: Angela Newton 832034, Julie Hatherall 07749211867

Village Hall hire: Rachel Case on smra@sky.com 07741549393

Youth Club: Julie Hatherall 07749211867, hatherall24@yahoo.co.uk

Tots and Toddlers: francesca_peart@hotmail.co.uk 07716 277877

F&E Harris Memorial Trust: Robbie Taylor 823757

Gardening Club: Mike New on 827807 **Friendly Club:** Sheila Jinks on 828545

Swindon Dial a Ride: 521123 **Swindon Streetsmart** 445501 or streetsmart@swindon.gov.uk

First Issue

I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue, my first as Communications Officer, as much as I've enjoyed putting it together alongside the Communications Working Group. It's been a real pleasure to speak to people and learn more about what is happening in South Marston— the answer is, a lot!

I joined the Parish Council as Communications Officer in February 2019 and I shall be helping out with the next few issues of the Community News, as well as the South Marston Facebook page and website. I can be contact via editor@southmarston.org.uk. *Best wishes, Tanya Gray*



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 which is of interest to all residents.

Community News is produced in partnership with our printers, Orchard



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