



# Stratton Parish News



Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

## It's Your Call!

### Welcome to the Winter Edition of Stratton Parish News.

Have you ever wanted to be directly involved in how public money is spent? Have you ever wondered why Councils pursue one project and not another? Is there a special project you would like money to be spent on in your area? Is there an event or activity you would like to see supported where you live?

In the past if you wanted to be involved in how money was spent locally you would have had to stand for election on to your local council. Not any more. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is introducing Participatory Budgeting for its 2012/13 budget and is inviting residents of Stratton St Margaret to vote on the projects they would like to see funded from the Parish Precept.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council provides loads of services locally, from dog bins to Tai Chi classes, play areas to the community minibus. Many of the projects are part of the Council's continued investment programme but this year Councillors have agreed to let you, the residents, choose some projects of your choice.

Having already allocated £1,000 a year for the last two years to be spent at the discretion of local residents, you are now being invited to help direct a much larger sum to the projects of your choice. A fund of £25,000 has been allocated by Councillors for a series of local projects and initiatives. They may range from additional dog bins to the provision of solar panels on Council buildings to help reduce its carbon footprint and energy costs.

Of course, not everyone will get what they want. Not every project can be funded and only the popular ones can be supported in the first year.

**So, how can you become involved? Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is holding a Participatory Budgeting event on Saturday 12th November 2011 from 11am to 4pm in the Stratton Suite, Stratton Leisure Centre, Grange Drive.**

The aim of the event is to involve, consult and engage with as many people living within the parish as possible. The Council

wants to give you a real say in how your money is being spent and the opportunity to vote on the projects you would like the parish council to take forward on your behalf.

You must be a Stratton St Margaret Parish Council tax payer to take part in the voting and you can suggest any project you would like to see implemented in your area. All you have to do is come along and make your views known.

We look forward to seeing you there! After all it's your money we'll be spending. ...

### Stratton in Bloom Overall winner, see page 2 for full results



**Join in Stratton's plans for Children in Need 2011 Find Out More on page 8**

# Stratton In Bloom & The Allotment Competition

Following another successful year for the Stratton in Bloom and Allotments Competitions the Parish Council hosted an awards evening on 21st September at the Meadowcroft Community Centre. Over forty people attended the event and prizes were awarded for the various categories and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

We also held a Participatory Budgeting Trial event which returned some very interesting results. These will feed into the final report to be considered by Council when it draws up its annual budget for 2012/13.

Kingsdown Nursery sponsored the event and donated two large shrubs to the overall winners in each category. Mr Coles was overall winner of the allotment competition and Mr Reeves was the overall winner of Stratton In Bloom. The results of the competition were as follows:

## Overall Winner

Nylands Road - Mr Reeves

## Front Garden with Lawn

**1st Place**  
Kenwin Close - Mr Joyce

## 2nd Place

Ashbury Avenue - Mrs Simpkins & Mr Ackrill

## 3rd Place

Ruskin Avenue - Mr Herbert

## Front Garden without Lawn

### 1st Place

Nylands Road - Mr Reeves

### 2nd Place

Colebrook Road - Mr Churches

### 3rd Place

Derwent Drive - Mr Glastonbury

## Hanging Baskets & Troughs

### 1st Place - Hatch Road

Mr Woolford

### 2nd Place - Windbrook Meadow

Mr Gibbs

### 3rd Place - Greenlands Road

Mr Daville

## Allotment Competition 2011

### Overall Winner

St Philips - Mr C Coles

### St Philips Site

1st prize - Mr C Coles

2nd prize - Mr R Worman

3rd prize - Mr D Scott

### White Hart

1st prize - Mr W Vickers

2nd prize - Mrs Edwards

3rd Prize - Mr J Jackson



Allotments Winner Chris Coles with Chair of the Council Teresa Page

# Delamere Drive Play Area

The new play area installed at Delamere Drive earlier this year has proved to be extremely popular. However, it has had a negative effect over the summer period for local residents and the Council has

received a number of complaints. The most recent incident was the destruction of the three seats on the Mirage Roundabout which has cost the Parish Council £700 to replace.

We are working with the police to help address the issues but if anyone does witness anti-social behaviour or vandalism in progress please contact the community police. **(See Contacts Page 8)**

# Boundary Review

The final recommendations for Swindon Borough Council's electoral arrangements from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have been received.

The electoral review has aimed to try to ensure "electoral equality" which means that all Borough Councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. This has resulted in recommended changes to existing Borough Ward boundaries.

The Borough Wards within the parish of Stratton St Margaret have all been affected and the total number of Borough Councillors has been reduced from 59 to 57 Councillors.

The recommendations related to Stratton St Margaret are as follows:

## **Penhill and Upper Stratton Ward**

A new Ward has been drawn up which will cover Penhill and Upper Stratton, currently two separate wards. The area affected in Stratton St Margaret will be the existing St Philips Ward.

## **St Margaret and South Marston Ward**

A new Ward has been drawn up which will cover the existing St Margaret Ward and South Marston, thus creating a single ward to cover both communities.

## **Covingham and Dorcan**

This Ward will cover the Nythe, Lower Coleview and Coleview areas currently in the parish of Stratton St Margaret.

## **Stratton St Margaret Parish Council**

The Commission did not have the power to make changes to the existing parish boundaries but did have the power to make changes to the parish electoral arrangements.

The final recommendation for Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is as follows:

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council should comprise 23 councillors, as at present, representing five wards: Coleview,

represented by three members; Lower Coleview and Nythe, represented by five members; St Margaret, represented by seven members; St Philip, represented by seven members; and Merton, represented by one member.

This includes a new one member ward that covers the Headlands area and a reduction of one member representative in the St Philip Ward, an increase of one member in the Lower Coleview and Nythe Ward and a reduction of one member in the Coleview Ward. It should be noted that these parish ward changes will not take place until the next parish election due in 2015.

The next stage will be for a draft order to be laid before Parliament. This will bring into force the recommendations which will be implemented at the next Borough elections in May 2012.

Full details of the recommendations and associated maps can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/wiltshire/swindon-electoral-review>

## Urban Art Project

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is at the early stages of developing an urban arts project in partnership with the local police, local schools, local youth groups and the community.

Our initial thinking is that professionally run workshops at different locations around the Parish would create urban art works mounted on large ply boards which would then become a temporary outdoor gallery next Spring/Summer.

We would like to focus on the themes of the Queen's Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics. Although the artworks would have a finite life, the project would be recorded for posterity.

As the boards would be re-useable the project, if successful, could develop with different themes, materials and age groups being involved in future activities.

If you would like to take part or want more information please contact the Council to register your interest.

## Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Games Celebration Event

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is really going to push the boat out next year to celebrate both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games in one large community orientated event.

Planning has already begun to hold an 'It's a Knockout' style fun day at Stratton Leisure Centre, Grange Drive on 26th or

27th June 2012. This date is currently provisional and will be confirmed once we have ensured that the local schools would like to take part in the event.

If you would like your junior or infant school to take part please encourage them to contact the council.

# Festive Lights Switch On Event

Following on from last year's successful but rather chaotic event, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is once again organising a Festive Lights Switch On and Nativity celebration at Stratton Leisure Centre, Grange Drive on Thursday 1st December starting at 5pm. This year we are going to hold a Christmas Fayre so that those attending can begin their Christmas shopping early.

Local schools have been invited to take part

and we are hoping that there will be school choirs, a lantern parade and other entertainment. Revd David Gray and David Blandford will be leading the festivities.

The draft programme of events will include:

- **Doors open at 5pm**
- **Lantern Parade at 5.15 sung in by the Grange Infant School Choir**
- **Nativity Service Celebration begins at 5.30**
- **Lights Switched on 6.15**

There will be free mulled wine and mince pies, craft stalls, free Santa's Grotto, School Choirs, a parade of lanterns, fair rides and lots more.

If you would like to book a stall for the Christmas Fayre please contact the Parish Office on 823761. Priority will go to local community organisations. Tables are free but if you wish to give a donation at the end of the evening that would be very nice.



## Stratton St Margaret Parish Council Festive Lights Switch On

**Starting at 5pm**  
*at Stratton Leisure Centre,  
Grange Drive, Swindon*

### **Attractions will include:**

*Free Santa's Grotto, Fun Fair Rides  
Christmas Craft Fayre, Nativity Service,  
Entertainment  
Festive Light Switch On Ceremony  
Refreshments including free mulled  
wine and mince pies*

**If you would like to  
book a craft stall please contact  
01793 823761  
There will be no charge for a stall**

# Contact With The Elderly

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Teresa Page and the Deputy Clerk Liz Hawkes were invited to Ruskin Junior School to join in with the School Council initiative Contact with the Elderly. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent talking to the children whilst they served up cups of tea and cakes to all.

Senior citizens spent their time teaching the children games that they had played when they were young including cat's cradle and finger knitting. Karen Agambar, family co-ordinator, said that the partnership with Contact the Elderly is to keep the school involved with the community and improve relationships between older and younger generations.

## QEII Field Status

The Parish Council has nominated, Meadowcroft Recreation Ground, Grange Playing Field and Greenbridge Road playing field to be considered for Queen Elizabeth II Field Status. QEII status will bring benefit for land protection and increased recreation use for the sites chosen. To cast your vote we urge you to visit the following website [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com) you are then able to select a postcode or local authority. Once this selection has been made it will be possible to view the sites that have been nominated. Only one vote is allowed per IP address (per computer) although a single computer may be used to vote for up to three sites.

## Constructionline

The Parish Council has recently been developing an approved suppliers list and as part of this process has been working with Swindon Borough Council, Swindon Commercial Services and Constructionline to help develop that list.

Constructionline was set up to reduce duplication and improve efficiency. It provides a national online database and is the UK's largest register for pre-qualified contractors and consultants. Belonging to Constructionline eradicates the need for companies to repeatedly fill in standard pre-qualification forms for every tender. What's more, with 8,000 buyers already using the Constructionline database to source contractors and consultants, Constructionline is a great tool to market your organisation.

Constructionline pre-qualifies all its suppliers to government standards, and maintains relationships with a range of partners to ensure that it remains relevant to procurement professionals within the construction industry.

As part of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council's work with Constructionline it is hosting an Approved Suppliers Day on Thursday 17th November 2011 from 10am to 3pm at the Meadowcroft Community Centre. If you or your company is based in the SN2 and SN3 postcode area and you would like to book an appointment to meet a member of Constructionline to register your business on the national database please **contact Amanda Reynolds, Business Development Manager, at [amanda.reynolds@capita.co.uk](mailto:amanda.reynolds@capita.co.uk)**

## From Patch To Plate

Green fingered pupils and parents got together to create Ruskin Junior Schools' very own allotment on Thursday 6th October. Around 20 pupils and 20 parents dug, raked and planted the clay soil at the schools community allotment.

The morning started with a delivery of 8 tonnes of topsoil, which had to be dropped off in the school car park. After a desperate call to the Parish Council, who were already planning to join the children later that afternoon, Dan the Head Grounds Man arrived with a mini dumper and moved the soil to the correct location.

The children and parents are hoping to grow their own produce to use in the school kitchen. If they are lucky enough to produce a good crop, they would love to hold a farmers' market in the early Spring/Summer along with other schools in the community.

The children have a whole host of vegetables to plant including cabbages, carrots, lettuce, parsnips and pak choi.

The school would also love to ask the wider community for help. If anyone would like to volunteer any ideas or help in anyway **please contact the school on 01793 332107**

## Apology

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council would like to apologise for any misunderstanding it may have caused by the article it printed on the Core Strategy in the last newsletter regarding it comments to protect land at Catsbrain Farm.

# Stratton Leisure Centre



Committed to the community

01793 825525

**12 MONTH GYM MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRICE OF 10**  
**£195.00 for the year**  
**That's £3.75 per week**  
**And £0.53p per day**  
 membership can be paid via Direct Debit

**So What  
 Are You  
 Waiting For?**

*What's going on at the Leisure Centre over the next few weeks?*

## November 2011

### Tea Dance

17th November

### Children in Need

Friday 18th November

## December 2011

### Festive light switch on

Thursday 1st December

### Crazy Crocs Sessions

19th - 23rd December

### Jubilee Dance Night

17th December with live music

### Christmas Party Nights:

**£19.95 per head - 3 course meal**

9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd

Book early to avoid disappointment!

### New Years Eve Party

We have kept last year's prices:

### Members of the Centre:

Adult - £9.55

Child, Senior £5.45

### Non members of the Centre:

Adult £10.55

Child, Senior £6.45

### Little Snappers Crèche 0-5yrs

#### Available During School Term Times

Members: £2.50 Non-Members: 3.50

Free to Gym Members (one child only)

### Creche Drop & Shop

#### Available During School Term Times

Members & Pass Holders: £3.50

Non-Members: £4.50

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am-11.30am

Ask at reception for more details.

### Class Timetable - Note that all classes are free to Gym Members unless otherwise stated:

Day	Class	Time	Member	Non-Member
Monday	Aerobics	10.00am - 11.00am	£3.60	£4.60
Monday	Circuits	1.45pm - 2.30pm	£2.80	£3.30
Monday	Junior Gym	5.00pm - 6.00pm	£2.90	£3.90
Monday	Body Tone	6.00pm - 7.00pm	£4.30	£5.30
Monday	Spinning	6.00pm - 7.00pm	£4.30	£5.30
Monday	Spinning	7.00pm - 8.00pm	£4.30	£5.30
Tuesday	Body Conditioning	6.00pm - 6.45pm	£3.60	£4.60
Tuesday	Young at Heart	9.30am - 12.00pm	£2.90	£3.90
Wednesday	Zumba	9.30am - 10.30am	£4.30	£5.30
Wednesday	Walking Club	11.45am - 1.30pm	£2.90	£3.90
Wednesday	Junior Gym	5.00pm - 6.00pm	£2.90	£3.90
Wednesday	Spinning	10:30am - 11:30am	£4.30	£5.30
Wednesday	Spinning	6.00pm - 7.00pm	£4.30	£5.30
Wednesday	Step Aerobics	6.00pm - 6.45pm	£3.50	£4.50
Wednesday	Zumba	7.30pm - 8.15pm	£4.30	£5.30
Wednesday	Pilates	8.30pm - 9.15pm	£4.30	£5.30
Thursday	Young at Heart	9.30am - 12.00pm	£2.90	£3.90
Thursday	Legs, Tums & Bums	6.15pm - 7.00pm	£4.30	£5.30
Friday	Tai Chi	9.30am - 10.30am	£5.00	£6.00
Friday	Spinning	10.00am - 11.00am	£4.30	£5.30
Saturday	Zumba	9.30am - 10.30am	£4.30	£5.30
Saturday	Spinning (10+)	9.30am - 10.30am	£4.30	£5.30
Saturday	Junior Gym	10:30am - 11:30am	£2.90	£3.90

Become a member of **Stratton Community Leisure Centre**: Prices from £9 a year.  
 Ring **01793 825525** - or email **leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk**

## Council Meeting Dates

All Parish Council meetings will commence at 7.00pm and are held on a Tuesday unless otherwise stated:

	November	December	January
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>29th</b>		<b>31st</b>
<b>Finance</b>		<b>20th</b>	
<b>Community Centre</b>	<b>22nd</b>		<b>24th</b>
<b>Recreation</b>		<b>13th</b>	
<b>Planning - 6.30pm start</b>	<b>1st &amp; 15th</b>	<b>6th &amp; 20th</b>	<b>10th &amp; 24th</b>
<b>Allotments &amp; Cemeteries</b>	<b>8th</b>		

## Tree Planting

A community tree planting event will be taking place on the land at the back of the Stratton Leisure Centre on November 11th in partnership with Grange Junior and Infant School. 420 Sapling trees have been donated to the Parish Council.

All are welcome but please wear suitable footwear and bring a spade if you would like to come along to this event. Refreshments will be served at the end of the event at the Leisure Centre.

## Contact information

**Parish Councillors** Ward Key: **C** Coleview, **SM** Stratton St Margaret, **SP** St Philips, **LCN** Lower Coleview & Nythe

### SM - Mrs B Archer

15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4LY  
822263

### LCN - Miss A Bridges

94B Berkley, Bruce Street, Rodbourne, SWINDON, SN2 2EN  
Contact via office

### SM - Mr N P Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4PQ  
346165

### SM - Mrs A M Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4PQ  
346165

### SM - Mrs C Ennis

Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village, SWINDON, SN3 4XH,  
831335

### SP - Mrs E A Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ  
822110

### SP - Mr J Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ  
822110

### C - Mr J C Foley

94B Berkley, Bruce Street, Rodbourne, Swindon, SN2 2EN  
Contact via office

### SP - Mr G Lawson

24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QB  
Contact via office

### LCN - Mr P Mane

8 Lansbury Drive, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7LF  
Contact via office

### SP - Mrs A L Murphy

2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QR  
337144

### SP - Mr P J O Murphy

2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QR  
337144

### SP - Mr P Owen BEM

192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LH  
822164

### SP - Mrs T Cook

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QN  
825481

### SP - Miss T Page

82 Cloche Way, SWINDON, SN2 7JN  
826378

### C - Mr D R Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ  
782144

### SM - Mrs P M Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ  
782144

### SM - Mr R A Smith

39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON,  
SN3 4WE  
Contact via office

### LCN - Mrs P Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH  
485528

### SM - Mr M Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH  
485528

### C - Mrs R Tran

44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret,  
SWINDON, SN3 4HE  
826283

### SP - Mr J Tray

3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON  
07813170202

### LCN - Mr P Watts

19 Chalford Avenue, Nythe, SN3 3NT  
529163

### Clerk to the Council

Mr P Russell, Council Offices, Addison  
Crescent, Upper Stratton, SWINDON,  
Wiltshire, SN2 7JX  
Tel: 01793 823761

clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

### Local Member of Parliament

Justin Tomlinson, MP - 01793 533393  
justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

### Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,  
Wiltshire SN3 4JY

Tel : 01793 825525 Fax : 01793 832201

E: leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

### Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Joe Tray  
j.tray@ntlworld.com SP  
07813170202

Sinead Darker:  
sdarker@swindon.gov.uk SP  
01793 337591

Janet Heenan:  
jheenan@swindon.gov.uk SP  
01793 705244

Russell Holland  
russell@strattonstmargaretintouch.com SM  
07999566623

Mark Edwards  
markaedwards@yahoo.co.uk SM  
01793 709834

Ray Fisher  
rfisher@swindon.gov.uk SM  
07791500164

Emma Faramarzi CN  
efaramarzi@swindon.gov.uk

Dale Heenan  
dale@covinghamandnytheintouch.com CN

Richard Hurley  
rhurley@swindon.gov.uk CN  
07966533997

# Children In Need Event

Fancy supporting a good cause? Stratton Leisure Centre is hosting a Children in Need Charity event on Friday 18th November starting at 7pm.

Attractions will include a number of professional wrestlers who will be available for autographs, Swindon Town players in attendance in the evening, the opportunity to be photographed with Jamie Cox, Commonwealth Boxing Champion as well as the usual attractions of a Bouncy Castle, a penalty shoot out, disco, Children in Need quiz, a fancy dress

competition, smiley cats face painters and a photographer.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to Lush, Boots, Sheffield Wednesday FC, Everton FC, Wickes, Honda, Whitehart Pub, The Crown Inn, Rat Trap, Spotted Cow and Swindon Town FC for providing support and prizes.



# Love Your Street

Swindon Borough Council would like to carry out essential road maintenance in parts of your area during the week commencing 21st November 2011

Our plan is to sweep the streets and pavements, empty the gullies, repair potholes, re-paint bollards and replace white lines, yellow lines and replace signs as needed.

Before the event we will be knocking on doors and delivering information to the

areas that will be affected and be asking for your cooperation with regard to the parking of vehicles and placing of other obstacles in the street. If you have a vehicle or obstacle in these particular streets could you please help our maintenance teams by finding an alternative location rather than in the street during the maintenance period.

**If you require any further information please ring Colin Dodson on 01793 466224.**

## Police Contacts:

### Area Sergeant:

Sgt Ed Strange 2234

### Community Police:

#### Upper Stratton

Beat Manager: PC Frank Key 1847  
PCSO Mandi Coles 6020

#### Lower Stratton, Covingham and Nythe

Beat Manager: PC Jack Newman 1966  
PCSO Maria Giles 6059  
PCSO Jason Wines 6315

### Highworth:

Beat Manager: Ben Huggins 2405  
PCSO Rob Dentry 6186

### Email:

swindonnortheastmpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk  
Highworth, Upper Stratton, Lower Stratton, Covingham and nythe

### Telephone:

101 for non emergencies  
999 for emergency calls

# Macmillan Coffee Morning

Macmillan coffee mornings were held right across the Parish and the Borough of Swindon on Friday 30th September including one

at Stratton Leisure Centre. Over £100 was raised through donations and a tombola. Thank you for your support.

