

Stratton Parish NEWS

Serving the Community



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Autumn 2013 Issue 15

STRATTON'S CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!

Thursday 28th November 1.30pm – 7.30pm

Come and join us again this year at Grange Leisure Centre from 1.30pm through to 7.30pm for our annual Christmas Extravaganza celebrations. Santa's reindeer will be stopping off for a rest from their busy schedule and there will be lots of fun and laughter to be had. So kick off Christmas with us.

FANTASTIC SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL STRATTON FESTIVAL

"The day was so enjoyable" was just one of the comments received when over 4,000 people attended this year's inaugural Stratton Festival held at Grange Drive on Saturday 20th July.



"For the first time since the old Stratton Carnival finished in the early 80's there was something for the whole community to come along to" was another comment received following the event.



Attractions included a food and craft marquee, an animal zone organised and provided by Drove Vets, a beer and cider festival, magical shows from Colonel Custard, Punch and Judy and a vintage vehicle rally. Music to entertain everyone could be found in the main Leisure Centre Hall throughout the day and Urban Arts specialists, Fourpence,



were on hand to help provide a special wall to commemorate the festival.

Prior to the Festival the Stratton Stroll was held, supported by Arkells Brewery

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STOP PRESS

Great news! The Stratton Festival is happening again in 2014 on **Saturday 19th July**.

Don't forget to put it in your diary.

If you would like to take part please contact the Parish Council on 823761 or email planning@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



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and organised by Shaun Buswell. Live music events were held in 5 pubs. There was also a woodland trail organised by the Woodland Trust and a family fun day held at Greenbridge and organised by Swindon Rugby Club. On Sunday 21st



July an ecumenical service was held at the Leisure Centre. The Parish Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who helped organise, took part and made the Festival such a great success.



Crowds turned out for the second Stratton Community Festival on Meadowcroft Rec on the 6th July. The event was organised by Upper Stratton Baptist Church as part of the Parish Council's Stratton Festival programme. Around 2,000 people came along for the day – at least twice as many as the year before when people turned out to celebrate the churches 150th birthday. Chris Priddy, one of the team from USBC who put the day together said; "It was a brilliant day, the turn out was phenomenal, I spent a lot of time looking around in amazement at how many people had come along to enjoy a fantastic range of activities."

Throughout a very sunny afternoon people enjoyed a variety of different activities and displays including a performance from fire jugglers, Zumba Swindon and a falconry display from Birds4AllOccasions. There were also

many other static displays such as the Pinkertons Motorcycle Club's bikes and cruisers, a magic show, brass band performance, fairground rides, bouncy castles and the emergency services.

Vicki Hookings brought her whole family out to enjoy the day, and on the day she said "It's good, there is a lot of variety and they've enjoyed watching the fire display. We've only been here half an hour and they've got a lot out of it already."

The festival aimed to be run *by the community for the community* and it certainly achieved that with roaring success. The church would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the day happen and for turning out to celebrate the great community we have here in Stratton. You can find out more about the church at www.usbc.org.uk *Chris Priddy*

Nythe to become separate parish

The Community Governance Review has now been completed by Swindon Borough Council and, despite the recommendations of the Cross Party Working Group, which recommended the retention of Nythe as part of the parish of Stratton St Margaret and the inclusion of 363 houses in the Headlands area into the parish, the community of Nythe will have its own separate Parish Council as from 1st April 2015 and the parish boundary in the Headlands area will not be changed.

Details on the final Nythe Parish Council boundary and the financial implications to the existing parish of Stratton St Margaret have not yet been made clear by the Borough, but the Parish Council is expecting to have its parish precept reduced by £88,000 from 2015/16 onwards.

The Parish Council is working hard to address the financial issues which it will face in the future and part of its forward planning is the current investment at Grange Leisure Centre. A new gym is being developed and will open its doors on 11th November 2013. A new all weather grass pitch is being constructed and a new café area will be added to the existing Foyer.

The Parish Council will do all it can to ensure that the remaining parishioners are not hit financially, but the Parish does have a large portfolio of existing responsibilities and an increase in the Council Tax may be unavoidable.

Business

Focus on Honda (HUM) in Swindon

Today Honda is an integral part of Swindon providing employment, underpinning manufacturing locally and nationally and contributing to the community of Stratton St Margaret, South Marston and Swindon in general.

The site Honda now occupies started life in 1938 as a “shadow site” to support and supplement production of aircraft as the war approached in the event that other sites might be attacked and damaged. It was the clear choice of Phillips and Powis, which later became Miles, Aircraft Company and was ideal due to the large skilled workforce employed by Swindon’s GWR factory.

Two 1,000 yard concrete runways were constructed and painted with woodchip dipped in camouflage paint and concealed with pieces of entwined hedge to disguise the facility during the war. The first plane produced was the Miles Master training plane. Production reached 60 per month at its peak and over 1,000 were built prior to it being replaced by the four engines Stirling in 1942.

Production then switched to the Spitfire and although initially meant to modify the planes only, the site ended up producing 121 of the new Mark 21 Spitfires. At the end of the War the airfield was purchased by Vickers.



The last aeroplane completed on the site was the Scimitar Jet in January 1961 when production was shifted to manufacturing components for hovercraft and railway carriages.

In 1970 Honda entered a collaboration with Austin Rover and produced the Triumph Acclaim. In 1980, Honda



purchased the Vickers site and adapted the runway into a test track, demolished the aviation factory and constructed a 1.5 million square foot car plant.

The factory started out life carrying out pre-inspections on models such as Concerto, Ballade, Accord, Legend, Integra and Prelude. Vehicles manufactured at Austin Rover’s Cowley Plant and imported from Japan underwent pre delivery inspections at the Swindon plant. Soon the plant began to manufacture panels for the Ballade and production began in the new Engine Plant producing engines for the Honda Concerto and Rover 200/400s.

At 11am on 8th October 1992 the first car built at HUM was driven off the production line in Car Plant 1 and marked the beginning of car production at the Swindon Plant. In 1994 the first Honda Civic was produced. By 1999 ¼ million Accords and ½ million cars in total had been produced at the site. By 2001 the plant was manufacturing the Honda CR-V and Car Plant 2 had opened and commenced production. This period was an exciting time of growth, change and maturation for a local manufacturing

facility that was making a name for itself around the world.

By 2003 a million vehicles and 1.5 million engines had been manufactured at the Swindon plant. In September 2006 500,000 CR-Vs had been produced and in 2007 the millionth Civic rolled off the production line.

However, in 2009, with the economic downturn, the factory was forced to close for a four month period. When it reopened the Honda Jazz had been added to the production range. But in 2011 natural disasters affected Honda globally and production moved to a 2 day week due to severely limited supplies following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and further production disruptions were experienced in November following the flooding in Thailand.

In September 2012 the European CR-V was launched and an investment of £267 million into the plant for the new model introduction covering the Honda Civic, CR-V and the new 1.6 small diesel developments.

Despite the sad news of redundancies in January 2013 Honda has continued to be an important part of our community and has continued to invest and support the area.

Around the Parish...



Improving local woodland for the people of Swindon to enjoy

The Woodland Trust and Swindon Borough Council are working together on an exciting project to enhance both Stratton Wood and Stanton Park. Work carried out so far has improved existing, and created new, paths and improved the access onto Kingsdown Lane which links the two sites. A volunteers' day was held at the end of March and, even battling with the snow, ten keen volunteers made a real difference to the woodland.

Sarah Stebbing, the Woodland Trust Area Manager for Wiltshire, is delighted with the outcome of the new partnership. "The volunteers worked really hard and did a fantastic job. The combination of hedge laying and scrub clearance by the volunteers will not only result in a



hedge that is better for wildlife but will hopefully go some way to preventing access by horses and motorbikes."

If you are interested to learn more of opportunities to join the volunteers, as well as other planned activities, please visit www.swindon.gov.uk and search for Volunteer Rangers, or call 01793 490 150.

Stratton Woods update: pathworks, ponds and planting all underway



First we upgraded and improved the well worn paths and access routes into Stratton Wood and now we have just created four small ponds. Within a couple of days of being dug, wildlife had moved in – with sightings of broad bodied chaser dragonflies, peacock butterflies and large white butterflies. Over the coming months the largest pond will be planted with water plants with some wildflowers planted around the edges of all the ponds. These ponds will be seasonal so the amount in them will depend on how much rain we get during each season.

A number of fruit trees will be planted this autumn to create a small orchard. This will provide a source of food for a number of species – but this will also provide fruit for local people to use in future years. If you are interested in finding out more about this, and possible training in caring for these trees, then please contact the Site manager, Sarah Stebbing on 0845 293 5764 or sarahstebbing@woodlandtrust.org.uk



White Hart Allotments: Party on the Plot August 10th 2013

"And the winner is..." With copied television hype, our successful first Party on the Plot drew to a close. The weather was a delightful summer's balmy offering with pleasant temperatures, good company and old world tea time refreshments.

The society was rounding off a short season of social offerings with several well supported, fun competitions, delightful confection and relaxing conversation. This was the White Hart Allotment Society's first celebration of the National Allotment Week event held every year.

Parish Councillors Mr and Mrs Spry were very generous with their time and serious in their judging of the best scarecrow (not mine) the biggest single sunflower head (not mine) and the best multi headed sunflower (not mine). The curliest bean, longest carrot, heaviest beetroot and most "suggestive" vegetable were our fun offerings for this year, attracting nearly 40 entries. Our open invitation saw passers by and folk from Wemyss Lodge mingling with a large number of allotmenters, admiring the allotments, and taking advantage of a perusal of our photographs and competition entries. With a cup of tea and a piece of cake a delightful relaxing time was had by all.

Thanks are extended to the Society committee members, especially our secretary Sue, for this excellent event.

Stuart Leach, Chair of the White Hart Allotment Society

Coming Soon:

While wiling away those wild winter months, impatiently waiting for the new season, join in our fun Quiz evening in February 2014. Date and venue to be confirmed

Our next Open Forum will take place on Thursday 13th March 2014 prior to the meeting of the Parish Allotments and Cemeteries Committee meeting.

Upper Stratton Library – Friends Needed

We are looking to establish a Friends group at Upper Stratton library and are appealing to local residents who would like to support their library. A Friends group would help promote and enhance the library service, build vital links with the local community and work alongside

the library staff. We would need board members with various skills in planning, organising, finance/accounts, fundraising or just a general keenness to get involved – no previous board experience is necessary.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Ellen Carter – Library Community Development Officer on telephone: 07884 264541 or email: ecarter@swindon.gov.uk or alternatively leave your contact details with a member of staff at Stratton Library.

Swindon 105.5

SWINDON 105.5 is the town's Community Radio service, totally local and broadcasting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and based in Stratton.

As a non-commercial service, the Station relies on fundraising, grants, donations and Friends to enable the delivery of its service to the community, which invariably sees almost 120 volunteers, aged 10-78 involved. In the past year it has seen a Ministerial visit, regular visits from the town's MPs, Police and Crime Commissioner, Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff. In July, members were invited to a Westminster celebration of adult learning which included an audience with HRH Princess Anne.

A diverse range of opportunities are provided both on and off air. Current projects include working with local individuals, schools and communities, capturing local history and heritage. Over 20 hours of Heritage programming is currently being produced focussing on the town's buildings. These will be broadcast on air and on the website where they will stay for posterity.

Providing training opportunities is at the core of the Station's ethos. Pictured,



ex GWR Railway worker, Les, talks with Station Manager Shirley Ludford

is the latest group to complete their "Media Savvy" sessions, getting to grips with feeling confident about using the media to promote themselves effectively. Three members of Stratton Parish Council took part in the course



alongside reps of DASH, West Swindon Family Association, training in English and the Salvation Army. The Station obtained funding, enabling free delivery to participants.

Call the Station on Swindon 611555 or check out www.swindon1055.com for more details

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council on the radio



Cllrs Anne and Nigel Chalk are hosting a monthly show on 105.5 about Stratton St Margaret. They are currently looking for people who would be prepared to chat about their memories of growing up in Stratton. They would also like to develop a "What's On" section.

Please contact Anne or Nigel on 01793 346165 if you would like to be involved or email info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk with details of your events or organisation's activities.



Northern Lights are looking good on the pitch

The Northern Lights team was formed in 2008 as an under 12s team and we continue to keep fees low to make football affordable for all.

Our boys, who are now in the last year of Youth Football, will join an adult's league next season and we have also started a variety of other age teams. We're looking for anyone with a Level 1 coaching badge to help run one of them. Although our medal cabinet isn't bursting at the seams (our 11s team did finish runners up last year) we do look great on the pitch all made possible by the Parish Council's generous grant to kit us out!

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mark Reynolds on 07738 502352.

Grange Leisure Centre is having a make-over!

The investment programme is progressing well and the new Health & Fitness suite will be opening its doors on Monday 11th November. Special membership offers are available.

Work is progressing on the All Weather Grass Pitch and work will commence on 11th November revamping the foyer and reception area.

A new café will be opening its doors and the Parish Council offices will be relocating to the Centre in January 2014. Watch this space!



Stratton Methodist Church, Ermin Street, Community Coffee Morning. Held every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Come along and join us and your friends for a chat and a cuppa.



NEW NAME NEW CENTRE
NEW YOU?

**NEW GYM OPENS
NOVEMBER 2013**

PRE OPENING OFFERS
Open to the first 200 new joiners

Call now on
01793 825525

to get your membership started



**3 months
FREE**
on an annual
membership

OR
Your first
Direct Debit
for just **£10**

Fitness Class Timetable

Monday

Low impact circuits GOLD	9.00am – 10.00am
Aerobics	10.00am – 11.00am
Circuits	1.45pm – 2.30pm
Junior Gym	4.00pm – 5.00pm
Body Tone	6.00pm – 7.00pm

Tuesday

Total Body Impact	9.30am – 10.30am
Young @ Heart Badminton	9.30am – 12.00pm
Young @ Heart Aerobics	11.00am – 12.00pm
Body Conditioning	6.00pm – 6.45pm

Wednesday

Zumba	9.30am – 10.30am
Zumba	7.30pm – 8.15pm
Pilates	8.30pm – 9.15pm

Thursday

Young @ Heart Badminton	9.30am – 12.00pm
Young @ Heart Aerobics	11.00am – 12.00pm
Legs, Tums & Bums	6.15pm – 7.00pm
Ladies Kick Fit	7.30pm – 8.15pm

Friday

Total Body Stretch	9.30am – 10.30am
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Saturday

Powerhoop	9.00am – 9.45am
Zumba	10.00am – 11.00am

Sunday

Ladies Kick Fit	9.30am – 10.30am
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GYM OPENING TIMES

Monday – Friday: 7.30am – 11.00pm
Saturday: 8.30am – 11pm
Sunday: 8.30am – 10.30pm

Forthcoming events

November

Saturday 9th	Rock "n" Roll Bonanza	8pm–11.45pm	£12.50*
Thursday 21st	Grange Social Club	2pm-4pm, Stratton Suite	Pay on the door
Saturday 23rd	Quiz	8pm start, Grange Bar	Open to all
Thursday 28th	Christmas Extravaganza	1.30pm to 7.30pm throughout Grange Leisure Centre. Come and visit Santa's Reindeer	Open to all
Saturday 30th	An evening with Frank Bruno	Frank Bruno will be interviewed by 5 Live's Garry Richardson. Also includes Chris Singh, Magician of the Year	Table of 10 - £600. Individual tickets - £65

December

Thursday 5th	Christmas Tea Dance	2pm-4pm, Stratton Suite	£2.75*
Saturday 7th	Christmas Quiz	8pm start, Grange Bar	Open to all
Friday 13th	Christmas Meat Draw	Evening, Grange Bar	Open to all
Thursday 19th	Grange Social Club	2pm-4pm in the Stratton Suite	Open to all
Tuesday 31st	New Year's Eve Family Disco	Main Hall	£5 children £10 adults

January

Thursday 23rd	Tea Dance	2pm-4pm, Stratton Suite	£2.75*
Thursday 30th	Grange Social Club	2pm-4pm, Stratton Suite	Open to all

*Tickets available from reception

Contact us
For all enquiries

Grange Leisure Centre
Grange Drive, Swindon - SN3 4JY
t: 01793 825525
e: reception@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

**Want to hire our new AGP pitch? Contact Ian Green on 01793 825525
or email centremanager@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk**

Council meetings

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and accessible.

All of our meetings are open to the public and press and are held at the Council Offices.

Before every meeting the Agenda can be viewed on notice board throughout the Parish and on our website. All minutes are uploaded on the website following every meeting. Here is current calendar until the end of March 2014.

Date	Council/Committee	Start
November		
Tuesday 5th November	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Thursday 14th November	Recreation	7.00pm
Tuesday 19th November	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Tuesday 19th November	Community Centre	7.00pm
Tuesday 26th November	Full Council	7.00pm
December		
Tuesday 3rd December	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Thursday 12th December	Finance	7.00pm
Tuesday 17th December	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
January 2014		
Tuesday 7th January	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Tuesday 21st January	Planning & Highways	7.00pm
Tuesday 28th January	Full Council	7.00pm
February 2014		
Tuesday 4th February	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Thursday 13th February	Recreation	7.00pm
Tuesday 18th February	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Tuesday 18th February	Community Centre	7.00pm
Tuesday 25th February	Finance	7.00pm
March 2014		
Tuesday 4th March	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Thursday 13th March	Allotments & Cemeteries	7.00pm
Tuesday 18th March	Planning & Highways	6.30pm
Tuesday 25th March	Full Council	7.00pm

Community Governor Vacancy

A Community Governor vacancy has arisen at Ruskin Junior School, Wordsworth Drive, Swindon. Applications are being invited from members of the Stratton community to apply for this position. The Ruskin Governing Body is a friendly and welcoming group who would love to work with a new member of the community.

If you would like to apply for this position, email admin@ruskin-jun.swindon.sch.uk or telephone 01793 332107.



John Foley meets Don Rogers

Update on John Foley, Chair of Council

On Thursday 12th September 2013 Cllr John Foley, Chairman of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, was taken to hospital where it was discovered that he had a burst aneurism which had bled into his stomach. John was transferred to the Gloucester Royal Infirmary where he was operated on. John's condition was extremely serious.

However, John began to slowly recover and he was finally transferred to the Great Western Hospital on Sunday 27th September. Since then John has been making excellent progress, despite having a chest infection, and he is feeling much better.

His wife, Eileen Foley, also a Councillor on Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, said; "The staff at Gloucester Royal Infirmary saved John's life. We owe them such a lot. Although John is still on a ventilator he is getting up and the staff at the Great Western have been absolutely marvellous. The family would like to express its sincere thanks to all the NHS staff at both the Gloucester Royal Infirmary and the Great Western Hospital for their care, kindness and support. Words cannot express our gratitude."

The Vice Chair of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, Cllr David Roberts, said; "All the members and staff of the Parish Council have been very concerned and wish John a very speedy recovery. We look forward to welcoming him back when he is fully recovered."



Remembrance Sunday

Each year a number of Remembrance Services are held throughout the Parish of Stratton St Margaret and the Borough of Swindon. This year the Stratton St Margaret Civic Service is being hosted by St Philip's Church, Beechcroft Road.

You are warmly invited to join the parish to commemorate the fallen at the Remembrance Sunday commemoration service being held at St Philip the Deacon Church on Sunday 10th November 2013. The service will commence at 11.00am with the Parish Communion and Act of Remembrance. The service will be followed at 12.30pm by a parade along Beechcroft Road and St Philips Road to the Royal British Legion when a further short Act of Remembrance will be held and wreaths laid at the War Memorial.

This service will be followed by a small reception hosted by the Royal British Legion in its Clubhouse.

Contact information

Parish Councillors

Ward Key: Coleview:C Stratton St Margaret:SM St Philips:SP Lower Coleview & Nythe:LCN

SM Mrs B Archer
15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4LY
t: 01793 822263

LCN Miss A Bridges
94B Berkley, Bruce Street, Rodbourne,
Swindon, SN2 2EN - Contact via office

SM Mr N P Chalk
5 Day's Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4PQ
t: 01793 346165

SM Mrs A M Chalk
5 Day's Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4PQ
t: 01793 346165

LCN Mr B V Cockbill
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SP Mrs T Cook
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SM Mrs C Ennis
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Swindon, SN3 4XH
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SP Mrs E A Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LQ
t: 01793 822110

SP Mr J Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LQ
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C Mr J C Foley
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LCN Mrs J Harper
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LCN Mr P Mane
8 Lansbury Drive, Upper Stratton, Swindon,
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SP Mrs A L Murphy
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Swindon, SN2 7QR
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SP Mr P Owen BEM
192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7LH
t: 01793 822164

SP Mrs T Page
13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton,
Swindon, SN2 7QN
t: 01793 825481

SP Mr T Page
13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2
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C Mr D R Roberts
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LCN Mrs P M Roberts
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SM Mr M Spry
1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
Swindon, SN3 3NH
t: 01793 485528

C Mrs R Tran
44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, SN3 4HE
t: 01793 826283

SP Mr J Tray
3 Cairndow Way, Stratton
St Margaret, Swindon
t: 0781317020

Parish Council Contacts

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Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 7JX
t: 01793 823761
e: clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

From 10th January 2014:
Stratton Leisure Centre, Grange Drive,
Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 4JY
t: 01793 825525
e: reception@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Local Member of Parliament

Justin Tomlinson, MP t: 01793 533393
e: justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Gorsehill & Pinehurst

Cllr John Ballman
t: 01793 694584
e: jbswin@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Ray Ballman
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e: jbswin@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Rochelle Russell
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St Margaret & South Marston

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Penhill & Upper Stratton

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Cllr Joe Tray
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Covingham & Dorcan

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Cllr Richard Hurley
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e: rhurley@swindon.gov.uk

Cllr Julian Price
t: 01793 834321
e: jcp490806@hotmail.co.uk

Police Contacts for North East Swindon

Area Sergeant
Sgt Donna West 1201

Stratton (Upper, Lower and Coleview)
PC Jack NEWMAN 1966
PCSO Mandi COLES 6020

Highworth
PC Sandra HIGGINS-HUGHES 2514
PCSO Steve WELLS 6230

Rural North
PC Marc JACKSON 1945
PCSO Juliet EVANS 6236

Email:
swindonnortheastnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
Tel: 101 - non emergency contact and 999
emergency contact

Upper Stratton Community Surgery
Swindon Garden Centre, Hyde Road
First Saturday of each month from
11.30am until 12.30pm



North East Team:
swindonnortheastnpt-stratton
Highworth:
swindonnortheastnpt-highworth&villages