



Stratton Parish News

SUMMER 2024 - ISSUE 010

Serving the Community

In This Issue..



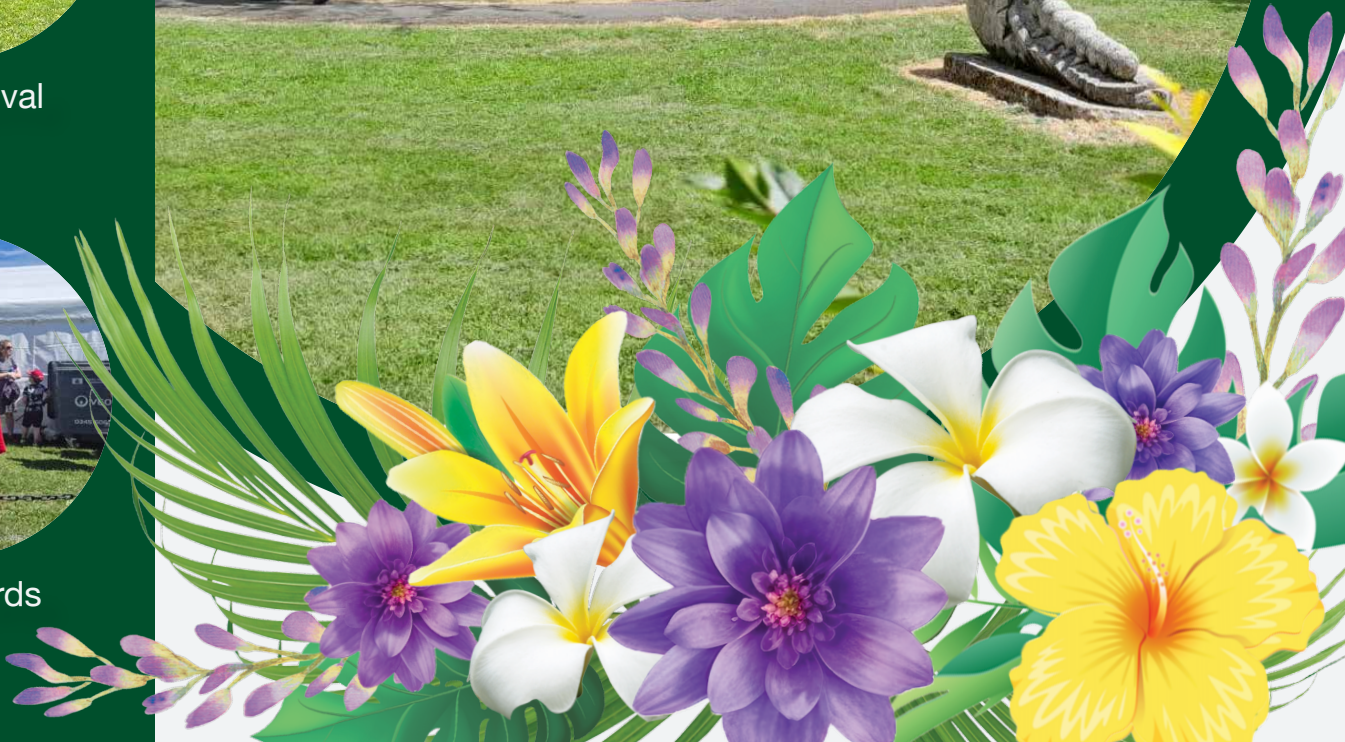
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A message from the Chairman

Cllr Tim Page, Chairman

"I was humbled to be re-elected as Chair of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council at our first Full Council meeting of the electoral year in May 2024. I have served on the Parish Council for approximately ten years firstly as a co-opted member and then as an elected Councillor representing Upper Stratton where I have lived for forty years.

As Councillors we collectively agree on the strategic policies and capital projects that provide the services and infrastructure that our parishioners need and value. The hard work of translating our decisions into fruition is carried out by the paid employees of the Parish who are led by the Clerk Amy Loxton. The commitment, hard work and dedication to the people of the Parish shown by our team in their daily work inspires us as Councillors to do the best we can.

As a Council we are very aware of the need to deliver our services in the most cost effective manner. In recent years we have reduced costs by improving the way we deliver services and streamlining the management structure.

Within the last year we have successfully introduced a community cafe, a community pantry, our very active youth service, and the brand new skate park! Plus a number of groups specifically targeted at our senior residents for example a walking group, knit and natter group and history group among others.

I am proud that all of these additional services for our residents have been achieved without any increase in the Precept (that part of your Council tax which goes to the Parish). We have frozen the precept for five years despite a background of rapidly increasing costs.

I look forward to another year of ever improving Parish services which will be delivered at a cost our residents regard as fair and good value for money.

Local Councillors



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Ravi Venkatesh
e: cllrnavenkatash@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward
Cllr Anne Brooker
e: cllrannebrooker@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Laura Butcher
e: cllrlaurabutcher@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Tom Butcher
e: cllrtombutcher@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Zaman Chowdhury
e: cllrzamanchowdhury@strat-
tonstmargaret.gov.uk



Merton Ward
Cllr Claire Crilly
e: cllrclairecrilly@strattonstmar-
garet.gov.uk



Coleview Ward
Cllr Jo Dilley
e: cllrjoedilley@strattonstmar-
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Lower Coleview Ward
Cllr Alison Foley
e: cllralisonfoley@strattonstmar-
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Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Oladapo Ibitoye
e: cllroladapoibitoye@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Ola Ibitoye
e: cllrolaibitoye@strattonstmar-
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Coleview Ward
Cllr Barrie Jennings
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Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Pratap Mane
e: cllrpratapmane@strattonstmar-
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Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Andree Murphy
e: cllrandreemurphy@strattonst
margaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Teresa Page
e: cllrteresapage@strattonstmar-
garet.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Chairman
Chairman Tim Page
e: cllrtimpage@strattonstmar-
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Coleview Ward
Cllr Tate Pullen
e: cllrtatepullen@strattonstmar-
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Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Roger Smith
e: cllrrogersmith@strattonstmar-
garet.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Zoe Smith
e: cllrzosmith@strattonstmar-
garet.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward
Cllr Tom Smith
e: cllrtomsmith@strattonstmar-
garet.gov.uk



PROPERTY

The property management committee have been busy the last couple of months developing and improving our services throughout the parish.

Did you know the Council maintain two defibs at Beechcroft library and Meadowcroft Pavilion? These have been used ten times in the 12 months. They are very import asset to the community and the Council will continue to maintain these weekly.

The Council also maintain three bleed kits throughout the Parish, these are located at Meadowcroft, Beechcroft library and Grange playing field. The emergency services can tell you the code to enter these units while on the phone to them. We hope you never need to use them but are there if you do.

Meadowcroft

Council installed a new flooring in Meadowcroft's Community hall. The old floor was originally tiled and put down around 1985. The new floor is hard wearing, easy to clean and will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Now that Meadowcroft has had a three phase cable installed in February 2024, the property is having its distribution boards updated. This is due to happen over the summer months.

Beechcroft Library

New book end shelves have installed at Beechcroft library increasing the amount of books we can hold while tidying up the area.

Since the opening of Brew Book in March we seen an increase in foot flow at Beechcroft Library. The Council is planning on reinstating a second toilet in the lobby area. A new doorway will be knocked through to access a new toilet area soon.

We have installed new stands/locks at Beechcroft Library and the skate park.



Community Grant Aid

Interested in launching a community project, group, or club? Twice a year, in June and October, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council allocates grants to local charities, organizations, and activities benefiting residents. With an annual budget of £25,000, we aim to foster community growth. Details on grant applications are available on the Parish Council website.



FINANCE

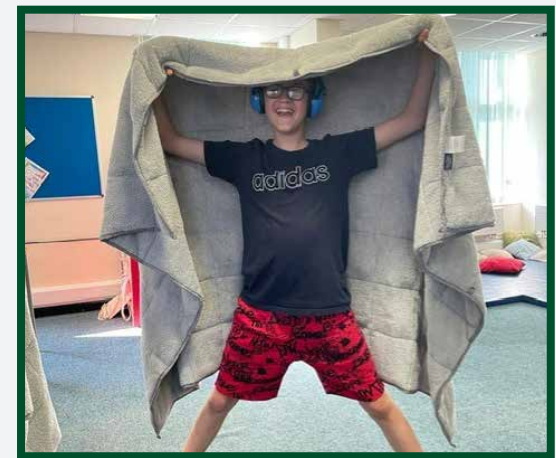
Over the last year the following grants have been awarded:

Friends of Farrell Dance School were awarded £800 towards travel costs for dancers to compete in the World Irish Dancing Championships in Liege, Belgium in April'24. "It was a very successful event, as a result of all their hard work they came home with many medals and trophies including 2 world champions and a runner up."

Stratton Juniors FC were awarded £2,000 towards the refurbishment of toilet facilities at their clubhouse. The space is now updated and refreshed - "Loving the purple ceiling has gone!"

STEP (Swindon) were awarded £2,940 towards the Therapeutic Intervention programme - from A to C (Anxiety to Confidence). "With this incredibly generous grant we have purchased specialist distraction tools and sensory resources to support children and young people who are neurodiverse. This enables them to access groups, make friends and get much needed support with mental health, well-being and associated behaviours."

Stratton Churchways Bowls Club were awarded £500 towards enhancing the outside space at the club. "We have purchased 3 benches and umbrellas. They were well used at the Stratton Festival and also for all our matches by both players and spectators."



PLANNING & HIGHWAYS

Although not a decision-making body, this committee meets regularly, once a month, to look at planning applications within Stratton Parish and comment on developments in our neighbouring parishes.

Parishioners are always welcome to attend and air their views and to observe our workings. The committee can 'call-in' to the Borough Council those plans it believes to be contentious. Committee members are kept informed concerning road works as it affects, or might affect, our local roads.

In 2019 the planning committee introduced a neighbourhood plan under

the Localism Act 2011.

The aim of this plan is to give communities the right to shape and develop their areas. The Stratton St Margaret neighbourhood plan has been prepared by residents and led by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and shaped by various surveys and public consultations to accurately reflect the needs and wants of the community.





Committee

Open Spaces



The unpredictable weather this season, marked by heavy rains followed by intermittent hot spells, has significantly accelerated the growth of grass and hedges throughout our parish. In response, our dedicated grounds team has been working tirelessly to keep up with the increased demands for hedge cutting and mowing. Their hard work ensures that our public spaces remain well-maintained and accessible for all residents to enjoy.

We are approximately halfway through trimming the 8 miles of hedges, most of which are meticulously cut by hand. Despite the challenges posed by the rapid growth, all areas across the parish have already seen at least one grass cut this season, ensuring that our parks, pathways, and public spaces remain neat and welcoming.



In addition to maintaining the greenery, we are excited to announce the installation of a new hotel/bug house at the St. Philips Allotments on Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton. This new addition provides a safe haven for our wonderful bees and other beneficial insects, supporting the local ecosystem and promoting biodiversity. These small yet significant efforts contribute to the health and beauty of our parish, ensuring that both residents and wildlife thrive in our shared green spaces.

The open spaces team remains committed to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of our parish, working diligently to manage the effects of the fluctuating weather conditions. As we continue our efforts, we appreciate the community's patience and support. Together, we can ensure that our local environment remains a vibrant and enjoyable space for everyone.

Allotments



As the growing season unfolds, the local allotments are bustling with activity. We continue to rent vacant plots to eager gardeners and conduct site surveys to ensure our community garden flourishes. This year, we're excited to introduce pantry donation boxes at the allotment site, allowing plot holders to donate surplus fruits and vegetables to the Stratton Community Pantry. This initiative supports those facing food insecurity while reducing waste.

We encourage anyone interested in gardening to join our vibrant community, whether you're an experienced gardener or a novice. The allotments provide a space for exchanging tips, sharing tools, and forming friendships. The pantry donation boxes add another layer of connectivity and mutual support, making a meaningful difference in our local area. As the season progresses, we look forward to seeing the positive impact of our collective efforts.

Full Plot Our largest plot available	3/4 Plot Suitable for experts	Half Plot Half of a full plot	Quarter Plot Our most popular size	1/6 Plot Perfect for beginners	1/8 Plot The smallest plot we currently offer
£ 88 /per year	£ 66 /per year	£ 44 /per year	£ 22 /per year	£ 16.50 /per year	£ 11 /per year
• 12 metres x 45 metres	• 12 metres x 45 metres	• 12 metres x 22 metres	• 6 metres x 22 metres	• 6 metres x 11 metres	• 6 metres x 11 metres

Community Litter Picking

We recently provided the local Squirrels group with litter picking equipment.

They went around the parish helping tidy and make our community look amazing! We are looking to team up with the Squirrels more often for litter picking events like this in the future.

If you would like to improve our community and lead your own litter picking event, get in touch!

Email - info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Phone - 01793 823 761

Instagram @ssmpcswindon



Youth



Meet your Youth Workers...

Cherry has served as a youth and community worker over the last 10 years in Wiltshire and Swindon. Cherry has ran youth centres, clubs and trips in the community and enjoys working with a diverse set of young people! Stacey recently joined us as our dedicated community worker.



What have we been up to?

We've invested in two electric bikes to help our youth workers reach broader areas of Stratton, including Coleview. Look out for us on weekday evenings and during afternoons over the summer holidays. This street-based approach allows us to engage with young people in public spaces like parks and shopping areas, reaching those who may not seek help on their own. Say hello when you see us out and about!

In addition, we now have five tablets available for young people to use during youth sessions and homework club. These tablets have been a great resource for checking school work and completing homework.

Over the last month, we have offered a variety of enriching activities for all young people to enjoy, including charm bracelet making, a Lego competition, "make your own ice-cream" sessions, painting sessions, outdoor field activities, a mini spa session, and a hygiene awareness talk.



Things to look forward to...

Trips for young people are more than just recreational; they are vital for their positive and effective development. These excursions offer diverse learning opportunities, enhance personal and social skills, promote physical and mental well-being, and create lasting memories that might otherwise be out of reach. We look forward to seeing our young members grow and thrive through these enriching experiences.

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming trips booked for this summer holiday:



- **Natural History Museum**
- **PGL Adventure Camp**
- **Cadbury World**
- **Cotswold Wildlife Park**
- **Avon Valley Country Park**



Breakfast Club

Our weekly breakfast club continues to provide a delicious and nutritious selection, including fresh fruit, croissants, dried fruits, cereals, and cereal bars. Join us at Meadowcroft every Monday from 7-8:30am; it's free for parents and children of all ages.

We've recently upgraded our breakfast bar with extra storage and seating to better accommodate our attendees. The new area has become a favorite spot for young people to sit, charge their phones or laptops, and relax after school. We look forward to welcoming you!



We are excited to announce the launch of our Youth Café Evening, held every Friday from 3:30-5pm at the brand new Brew Book Café inside Beechcraft Library. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to unwind and socialize in a welcoming environment. To celebrate our launch, the first 10 attendees each week will receive a free snack or drink.

Our youth café has already become a lively hub where young people engage in thoughtful discussions, play board games, and enjoy quality time with friends. Whether you're looking to relax with a good book, challenge someone to a game, or simply hang out with peers, our Youth Café Evening offers something for everyone. Join us this Friday and be part of the fun!

Youth Cafe

We have launched a new support group for bereaved children and those experiencing care at Beechcroft Library every Tuesday. So far, four young people have attended each week, participating in various group activities.

The attendees have been open about their experiences, sharing that the group provides a valuable opportunity for them to be heard in a quiet and supportive environment. One of the highlights has been building Lego while discussing their lives, which they have found particularly enjoyable. We are grateful for their feedback and committed to providing a safe space for these important conversations.



At Meadowcroft, we are dedicated to providing a supportive environment for our neurodiverse youth, and those who need additional support by utilising both the youth room and hall to create a calm and enjoyable space for activities.

We have some exciting events planned for this group, including a visit from miniature ponies and opportunities to interact with exotic small animals, scheduled for June and October respectively.



STRATTON YOUTH!



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



MONDAY



8am - 8.30am
breakfast Club
@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

free for children & parents



YOUTH CLUB

3.30pm - 5.30pm
For ages 9 - 14
@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

SAFE SPACE

6pm - 7pm
For ages 7 - 14
experiencing
bereavement or in care
@ Beechcroft Library

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

LGBTQ+ CLUB

3.30pm - 5.30pm
For ages 9 - 14
@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

ADDITIONAL NEEDS & NEURODIVERISTY

6pm - 7pm
For ages 10 - 25
@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

THURSDAY

YOUTH CLUB

3.30pm - 5.30pm
For ages 9 - 14
@ Meadowcroft
Community Centre

HOMEWORK CLUB

6pm - 7pm
For ages 7 - 14
@ Beechcroft Library



Safe Space SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAY 6-7PM
AT BEEHCROFT LIBRARY
SN2 7QQ

FOR CHILDREN
AGED 7-14

Our free Safe Space Support Group is for bereaved children and children in care, who are looking for a welcoming environment in a supportive and relaxed location, inside Beechcroft Library.

We will give our support and listen to all attendees, as well as organising uplifting games and activities for all to get involved in. There'll be snacks and refreshments on offer too!

Could parents please book their child's space by emailing Cherry at:
cherry.riley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Youth Café!

MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY FOR
Stratton
Youth

INSIDE BREW BOOK
FOR AGES 14-17 ONLY!

Every Friday
3:30 - 5pm
Free Entry!

Don't Miss Out!
First 10 to attend
each week will get a
free drink or snack!

BREW BOOK

Brew Book Café, Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7QQ

FRIDAY

YOUTH CAFE

3.30pm - 5pm
For ages 14 - 17
@ Brew Book Cafe
Beechcroft Library



@SSMPCSWINDON



@SSMPCSWINDON

cherry.riley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Beechcroft Library

The Beechcroft Library and Community Hub welcomes everyone! We've got a wide selection of books and audio books available in the library and we also run a great selection of different activities each week, including an Art Group every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm, a Bereavement Group every Thursday at 1.30pm where you can meet, talk and come together with others for support and companionship and Toddler Story Time every Thursday morning at 10.30am with stories and songs for little ones!

There's sure to be something here for you to enjoy! For more details on any of the library activities, please contact us on 01793 680 030.

Did you know?

Library members can access free e-reads via the BorrowBox and Libby apps (visit www.borrowbox.com or www.overdrive.com for details).

For keen readers, we offer two Reserver subscriptions:

Super Reserver: £32/year for unlimited reservations.
Mini Reserver: £8 for 90 days, ideal for short breaks.

Sign up at any of the five core libraries: Central, North Swindon, West Swindon,

Librarians Sheila & Vicky



Beechcroft Library is open for longer! Our hours are now:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10am - 7pm and Friday and Saturday: 10am - 5pm. Come and see what we have to offer.

Did you know?

Have you always wanted to find out more about your Family Tree?

Beechcroft Library are holding free half-hour sessions every Thursday to get you started!

Time slots available are: 4.15pm, 5.15pm and 6.15pm.

To book your slot, please contact Beechcroft Library

Did you know?

We offer a Free Confidential Welfare Benefits Advice Point every Thursday between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

For more details, or to book an appointment, please visit www.strattonadvicepoint.co.uk or call 07413 454045.

Beechcroft Library has exciting events coming up:

- Local craft market, Saturday 10th August from 10am - 3pm.
- Summer Reading Challenge: "Marvellous Makers" launches on Saturday 6 July, focusing on creativity and play. Free for children ages 4-11 who are library members. Join at any Swindon library with ID or online here. More details here.
- Book Bingo for ages 12-19 with a book voucher prize.
- Lego Club on Saturday 24 August at 10:30am.

Events



Summer Reading Challenge 2024
Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers

THE READING AGENCY Celebrating creativity CREATE!

Illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024.



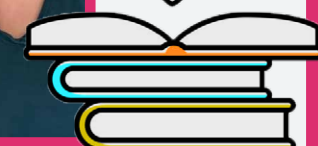
Volunteering

This is a great opportunity to develop your skills, work within a small team and get to know and support your local community!

Available hours include:
Friday 10am - 12pm
Saturday 1pm - 5pm

If you would like to volunteer then please get in touch with Beechcroft Library by email at: beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk or call us on 01793 680030

What's On?



Join the "Make a Marvellous Monster" competition for a chance to meet Steve Antony and win his book. Antony, an award-winning author and illustrator, is known for the Mr. Panda series.

This summer, enjoy creative activities, games, and crafts at Beechcroft Library. Follow "Friends of Beechcroft Library" on Facebook for details.



Free confidential Welfare Benefits advice





Stratton Festival 2024



What's on

Upcoming Events



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council hosts and partners with a variety of public events throughout the year ranging from festivals, to commemoration events.

Over the coming months we have our annual remembrance service and a Christmas Carol celebration to look forward to!

Every Wednesday - Women's Support Group

Find strength and connection at our Women's Support Group, organized by MIND Charity! Join us every Wednesday from 10:30am to 12pm at Beechcroft Library. Share experiences, gain support, and build lasting friendships in a welcoming environment. Empower yourself and others—see you there!

Every Monday - Stratton Walking Club

Get moving and meet new friends! Join our new Walking Club every Monday at 1pm, starting at Coleview Community Centre. All ages are welcome to enjoy fresh air, great company, and healthy activity. Lace up your shoes and walk with us!

Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Service

We would like to cordially invite you to a Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 10th of November at 3pm, to be held at the Peace Memorial on the corner of Grange Drive and Ermin Street in Lower Stratton.

The Council would be pleased if you would join us for refreshments after the service in the Stratton Suite at Grange Leisure. It is anticipated the ceremony will be no longer than 30 minutes in length. Parking will be available at Grange Leisure.

Thursday 12th December - Carol Service

Join in with the Christmas spirit by coming along on Thursday 12th December at Meadowcroft Community Centre from 6pm. There will be carols, mulled wine, mine pies and many other festive activities to enjoy!



Meet Derrek the Dragon!

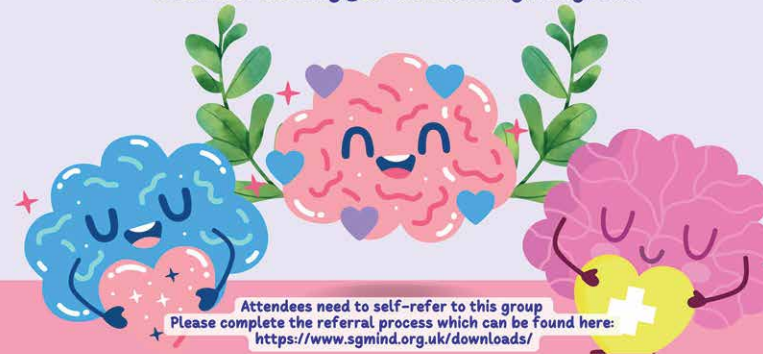
Stratton Woman's Support Group by MIND!

10:30AM - 12PM

MIND
Swindon and Gloucestershire

Every Wednesday at
Beechcroft Library
Starting on 17th Jan.

Beechcroft Library, Upper Stratton, SN2 7QQ
For more info contact:
01793 680030
beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Attendees need to self-refer to this group
Please complete the referral process which can be found here:
<https://www.sgmind.org.uk/downloads/>

Stratton's Walking Club!

Starting Monday 13th May!

Every Monday at 1pm,
starting from
Coleview Community Centre!

This walking group is open to
everyone, of all ages, who
would like to get outside
and do some walking.

Moving more promotes healthy ageing
and quality of life, so there's never
been a better time to get started!



For More Info,
Please Contact Us At:
01793 823761

info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lest we forget.



Local News

The Chairman's Charity

Each year, our Chairman selects a local charity to support. Last year, we raised £4,789.09 for Prospect Hospice through a sponsored skydive and events like the Stratton Festival and the Christmas Carol service.

Prospect Hospice provides personalised, compassionate care for those with life-limiting illnesses, offering free services through a dedicated team of nurses, doctors, and therapists. They support patients at the hospice in Wroughton, in their homes, and in care homes, while also offering free support services to carers and families. Additionally, they raise community awareness about life-limiting illnesses and end-of-life care.

This year, our Chairman has again chosen Prospect Hospice. We've already raised £2,605.83 from the Stratton Festival through stall hire fees and activity income.

Our team and Councillors will be participating in Prospect's "Run the Rainbow" event at Lydiard Park in August. We aim to surpass last year's total! To contribute, please visit our GoFundMe page:

gofund.me/475c6c89



Stratton Awards 2024

This year the parish introduced Stratton Awards to acknowledge individuals around the parish that we feel go above and beyond. This years winners are...



Young Person of the Year

Lucas Hillier

Lucas, a happy and busy 14-year-old, has been a constant familiar face at Stratton Youth Club for the past two years. He is a dedicated young person with a passion for helping others and the community. Lucas has become an integral part of the club's vibrant community. Whether he's participating in workshops, activities, lending a helping hand during group projects, or simply brightening everyone's day, Lucas is an asset to the young people of Stratton St Margaret.



Lesley Hemingway

Lesley has been nominated due to her hard work and commitment. She is an asset to the local community as she runs Stratton advice point to help local residents. Not only this but she is part of the Friends of Beechcroft Library, who help to organise multiple community groups.

Volunteer of the Year



Stratton Local Hero

Hannah Fruen

Brew Book is a lovely place to chill out with great drinks and cakes. Hannah opened Brew Book which has become a real lifeline for our community especially the elderly customers, Hannah has also donated food to people in need and volunteers for Swindon street friends.



Susan Cannons

Susan is an asset to the White Hart Allotment society. Not only does she organise and run allotment events at the site, she helps the parish by meeting new tenants to show them vacant plots.

Allotmenteer of the year

Stratton Community Pantry

Helping our local community fight food poverty, the Stratton Community Pantry is open to all residents of Stratton. Each visit, you can select up to 5 items to help support your household.

Pantry items needed:

Tinned food, pasta, milk, shower gel, shampoo & conditioner, soup, rice, noodles, flour, sugar, cereal and household cleaning products.

If you would like to donate, your contributions are greatly appreciated and will make a difference. Thank you for supporting our community!

STRATTON'S COMMUNITY PANTRY
Available at Beechcroft Library!
There'll be a great selection of produce and pantry items available. I'm sure you'll find everything you need here!
TUESDAY 10AM - 12PM
FRIDAY 1PM - 3PM

Parish Developments

We are thrilled to announce that Stephens Road Playpark is the next project on our renovation list. Currently at the tender stage, we are receiving numerous innovative and exciting design proposals for this lesser-known gem in our parish. The renovation will include a new entrance onto Oxford Road, colorful pavement paintings, state-of-the-art playground equipment, improved pathways, and new planters. We are also exploring the possibility of adding a dog agility space within the existing dog park.

These enhancements aim to transform the playpark into a vibrant and welcoming space for all community members. The project reflects our commitment to providing well-maintained, accessible, and enjoyable public spaces that enhance the quality of life in our parish. We eagerly anticipate the transformation and look forward to sharing these improvements with everyone. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward with this exciting project!



We are thrilled to report that our annual Car Boot Sale at Meadowcroft was a huge success! With fantastic weather and a lively atmosphere, the event saw a great turnout and a wide array of items on offer, from vintage finds to household essentials. This beloved tradition brings our community together each summer for a day of fun and treasure hunting.

A heartfelt thank you to all participants and organizers for your enthusiasm and support. Stay tuned for announcements about next year's sale, and join us for more fun, bargains, and camaraderie. Let's keep making this a summer highlight!



“Little Bow Sweep”

SSMPC has listened to your feedback and is excited to announce a new initiative in response to the many requests from residents over the years. Recognising the need for regular road sweeping—a service currently lacking from the Borough Council—we are proud to introduce a dedicated road sweeping program for our community.

Starting in Autumn 2024, we will welcome the Scarab M25 Dual Sweep road sweeper, affectionately nicknamed “Little Bow Sweep,” to our inventory. This will enable us to maintain the cleanliness and safety of our residential roads. Our goal is to sweep all residential roads at least once per year during the winter period, ensuring our streets are free from debris and looking their best. This new service reflects our commitment to listening to the needs and requests of our residents. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare for the launch of this valuable new service!



Merton Pond Landscaping Project

We are delighted to announce that the landscaping of Merton Pond is now complete. The new pond, although smaller in footprint, has been designed to be deeper than the original to better manage runoff from Merton Field and maintain a consistent water level year-round. To encourage wildlife, native aquatic plants have been introduced to the pond, and the surrounding area has been planted with a mix of hardy wildflowers to create a natural meadow ambiance.

Matthew and the team at Aquatic Management Services completed the project ahead of schedule at the end of June, demonstrating their dedication and hard work.

We are excited about the transformation and look forward to seeing the positive impact this enhanced natural space will have on our community.



Local News

Wiltshire Police

GOING ON HOLIDAY?



Don't be caught out!



Here are some precautions you can take to improve the security around your home:

- Use a timer to set lights to mimic your usual activity when you are not at home
- Consider installing a burglar alarm, and only use a company that is registered or certified with the NSI or the SSIAB
- Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries for the period you are away
- Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your house and they could even park their car on your driveway
- Make sure all doors and windows are shut and locked
- Avoid discussing holiday plans on all forms of social media. Burglars can use this information to their advantage

If you have any information about offenders or see something suspicious, please call Wiltshire Police on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. In an EMERGENCY dial 999.

Stratton Police

Over the last few months Stratton Police team have been working on enhancing focus on drug and weapon related crime. We have been conducting weapon sweeps, and holding regular community engagement sessions to raise awareness on drug & knife crime.

We have also seen some changes to our team! Our team and their roles are: APS Deller, PC Plaister, PCSO Xu, PCSO Clews.

Be sure to say hello if you spot us in Stratton!



Local News

GRANGE LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

TRY US TODAY 3 DAY PASS

FREE ACCESS TO:
ALL FITNESS CLASSES
GYM

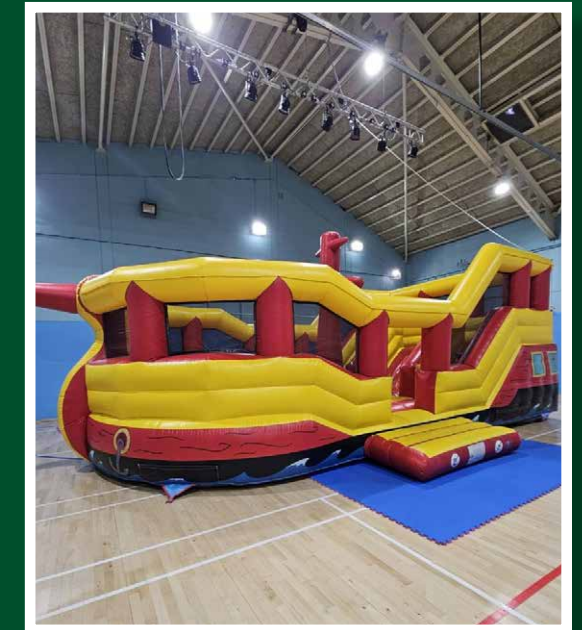


LeisureCentre.com

Did you know Grange Leisure offers children's bouncy castle parties?

Hire this huge bouncy castle filled with obstacles for hours of fun!

Enquire on our website at leisurecentre.com or contact us on 01793 825525 to get booked in!



Party Hire

BODYBALANCE

New release of Les Mills BODYBALANCE has now launched!

We're proud to offer Les Mills group exercise classes and BODYBALANCE is an integral part of our timetable.

BODYBALANCE is a new generation of yoga class. You can expect to bend and stretch through a series of simple yoga moves, with elements of Tai Chi and Pilates while an inspiring soundtrack plays in the background. Instructors will always provide options for those just getting started, it really is ideal for anyone and everyone.

Book your class now on the LeisureCentre mobile app.



Knife and Weapon Amnesty Bin

Did you know Stratton St Margaret Parish installed a knife disposal bin?

You can find this at the back of the Pavilion at Meadowcroft Community Centre SN2 7JX.

The Police have a key to this bin and have been visiting regularly to dispose of any knives and weapon that get anonymously deposited.



Summer Activities

N N Y L H T H Y W A V E S H X
 K E Y H Y I C L L N T O X S M
 F U O T R E A L E U D K X H N
 Z L K M T K E T N K M W Q E M
 E A I I Q R B O B C R A O L A
 N K T P B K C X P V H O T L E
 L B J M F O N R G F M U N Q R
 H N U S C L S U E M Z Y Y S C
 O W A O X W O R S M P V T T E
 M N L A Q I W P B G M O A L C
 D N Y S G Q N A S J W U X A I
 H G E R P N D O J E B N S R G
 S A K Q Z G H O L I D A Y O E
 I B I O S W I M S U I T F C M
 F Z E U C E B R A B Y T O H O

1. shell
2. hot
3. towel
4. coral
5. waves
6. icecream
7. flipflops
8. sea
9. fish
10. snorkel
11. beach
12. sand
13. summer
14. swimsuit
15. coconut
16. sun
17. holiday
18. barbecue
19. umbrella



FAQ's



Can you fix damaged path surfaces and pot holes?
SSMPC are only responsible for keeping paths clear from debris, issues with path and road surfaces should be reported to SBC highways.

When can you trim down the hedges?
We have around 2 miles of hedges that are trimmed 1-3 times a year depending on priority and working around the bird nesting season.



How often do you mow the grass?
We mow our grass every 3 weeks starting end of March until November. Some priority areas such as children's play areas and cemeterys are done fortnightly.

How can I apply for a community grant?
Applications open twice a year, May and September. Head to our website for an application form and t&c's (strattonstmargaret.gov.uk/community-grants)



Can I rent an allotment in Stratton?
To rent one of our allotments you must be a resident of the Parish. To enquire about renting please email us with your full name, address & preferred site.

Can I buy a burial plot in Stratton?
SSMPC owns 2 cemetery sites, Green Road and St Margarets. You must live within the parish to purchase a plot as grave spaces are limited and residents take priority.



Did you know?

Stratton Parish News

Advertising Rates 2024

Have you considered featuring your business or organisation in your parish newsletter?

2024 Rates:

- 1/4 Page - £35
- 1/2 Page - £60
- Full Page - £100
- Inside Cover - £120

Tel: 01793 823 761 Email: info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
[@ssmpcswindon](https://www.facebook.com/ssmpcswindon)
[@ssmpcswindon](https://www.instagram.com/ssmpcswindon)

Did you know?
You can now feature your business or organization in the parish newsletter! Whether you want to shout about your next event, raise awareness, or promote a special offer, we've got affordable rates to help you reach the local community. Contact us today to learn more!

2024 Meetings

Date	Event	Start
August		
21st	Planning	7pm
September		
4th	Full Council	7pm
11th	Finance	7pm
18th	Planning	7pm
25th	Personnel	

Date	Event	Start
October		
2nd	Youth	7pm
9th	Planning	7pm
16th	Property	7pm
November		
6th	Open Spaces	7pm
13th	Full Council	7pm
20th	Planning	7pm

Useful Numbers



Beechcroft Library	01793 680030
BEST Trust	01793 200124
Community Centre	01793 823761
Drove Vets	01793 821821
Grange Leisure	01793 825525
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020
Merchiston Surgery	01793 823307
Open Spaces	01793 823761
SSM Womens Institute	01793 829900
St Margarets Church	01793 826505
Stratton Parish Council	01793 823761
Swindon Carers	01793 531133
Swindon Mind	01793 432031
Swindon Sexual Health	01793 604038
The Pest Controller	07557 023940

Co-op Funeral Service	01793 539432
Hillier Funeral Service	01793 522797
Pearce Funeral Service	01793 832072
G&L Evans Funerals	01793 237852
Franklin Memorials	01793 766715
AE Smith Funerals	01793 237885
Kingsdown Crematorium	01793 822259

Community Rooms



ROOM TO HIRE AT - MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Private Booking= £15 per hour
Community Bookings= £12 per hour

- 01793 823761
- info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
- Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7JX



ROOM TO HIRE AT - BEECHCROFT LIBRARY

Private Booking= £10 per hour
Community Bookings= £10 per hour

- 01793 680030
- beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk
- Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7QQ

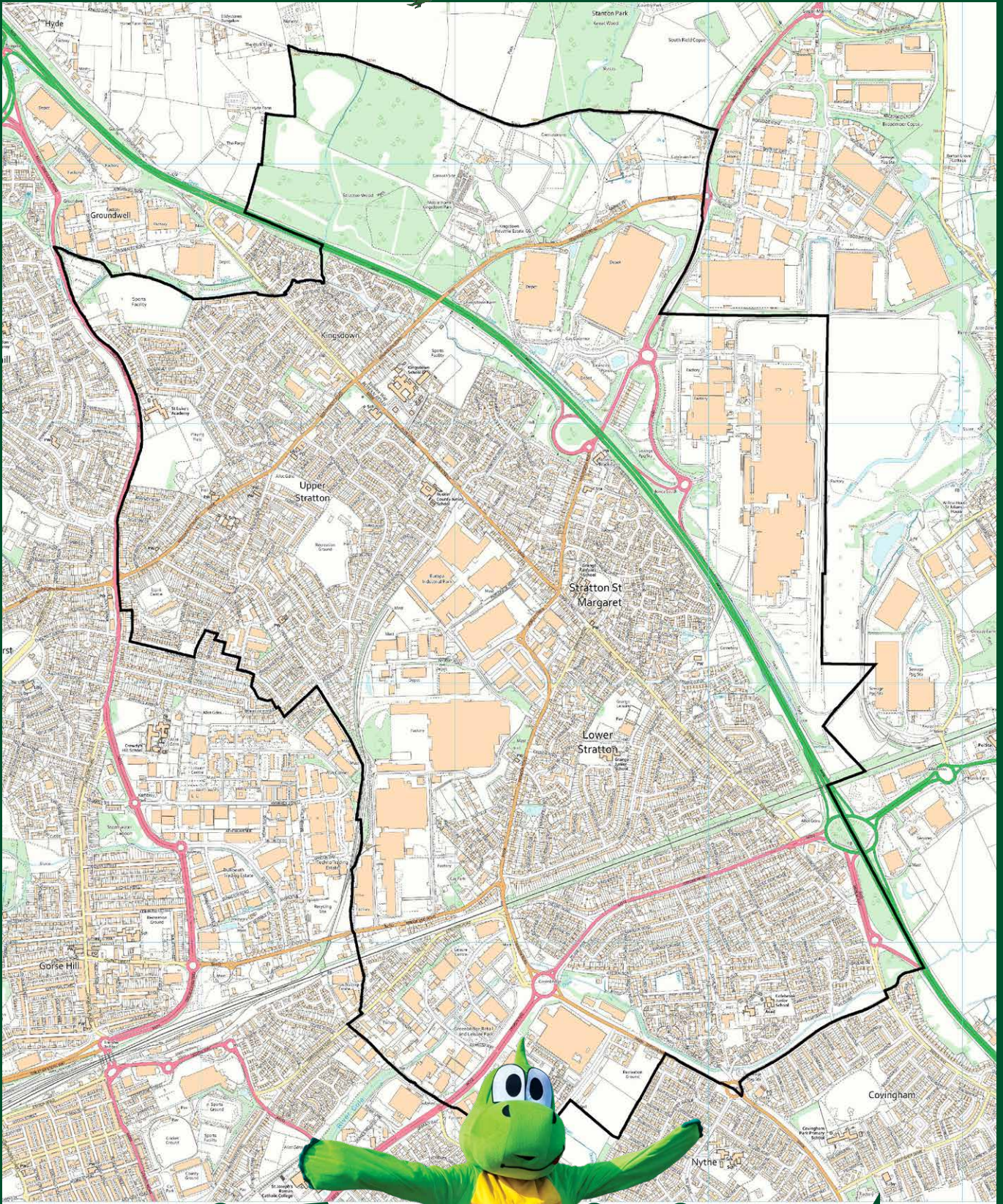
Beechcroft Infants	01793 823278
Colebrook Infants	01793 331960
Colebrook Junior	01793 823057
Grange Infants	01793 823278
Grange Junior	01793 823278
Kingsdown	01793 822284
Ruskin Junior	01793 332107
St Catherines Primary	01793 822699
St Lukes Academy	01793 705566
St Phillips Pre School	01793 705769



Local Contacts



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council



Serving the Community since 1894

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