

Stratton Parish News

AUTUMN 2024 - ISSUE 011

Serving the Community

In This Issue..



Stratton Youth Update
Page 8



Upcoming Events
Page 14



Parish Developments
Page 20





A message from your Clerk...

Corporate & Strategic Plan

In September 2021, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council introduced our Corporate and Strategic Plan for 2021-2026. This plan outlines our mission, values, and key objectives, all designed to align with the needs and aspirations of our community. It serves as a roadmap for what we aim to achieve and by when.

We are thrilled to share that, two years ahead of schedule, we have successfully met nearly all of our objectives – missing just one! This reflects our commitment to providing top-quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

Here's a quick look at what we've accomplished over the past three years:

- Launched a successful youth service
- Renovated Beechcroft Library and partnered with Brewbook to create a community café
- Hosted a variety of community and civic events
- Maintained and improved our green spaces
- Installed a new skate park
- Revamped multiple play parks
- Acquired a road sweeper, set to begin service this autumn/winter
- Enhanced our parish newsletter, now with four editions per year
- Installed solar panels on council buildings to support sustainable energy

Most importantly, we've achieved all of this while keeping the Council Tax (precept) at a 0% increase for the fifth consecutive year! This means that we've been able to manage our budget effectively and avoid passing on any additional costs to our residents. It's a point of pride for us that we can continue to provide high-quality services and enhancements to the community without increasing the financial burden on you.

Looking to the future, we're already hard at work developing our next Corporate and Strategic Plan, which will now come into effect two years earlier than initially planned—in 2025. We're eager to continue building on the progress we've made and are keen to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see included in this new plan.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk.

Local Councillors



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Ravi Venkatesh
e: cllrnavenkatesh@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



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



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



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



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Zaman Chowdhury
e: cllrzamanchowdhury@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Merton Ward
Cllr Claire Crilly
e: cllrclairecrilly@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward
Cllr Jo Dilley
e: cllrjoedilley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward
Cllr Alison Foley
e: cllralisonfoley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Oladapo Ibitoye
e: cillroladapoibitoye@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Ola Ibitoye
e: cillrolaibitoye@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward
Cllr Barrie Jennings
e: cillrbarriejennings@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Pratap Mane
e: cillrpratapmane@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Andree Murphy
e: cillrandreemurphy@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Ward
Cllr Teresa Page
e: cillteresapage@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Upper Stratton Chairman
Chairman Tim Page
e: cillrtimpage@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Coleview Ward
Cllr Tate Pullen
e: cillrtatepullen@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Roger Smith
e: cillrrogersmith@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Stratton Ward
Cllr Zoe Smith
e: cillrzosmith@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Lower Coleview Ward
Cllr Tom Smith
e: cillrtomsmith@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



PROPERTY

The Property Management Committee has been actively working over the past couple of months to enhance our services throughout the parish.

Did you know that the Council maintains two defibrillators at Beechcroft Library and Meadowcroft Pavilion? These vital assets have been used ten times in the past year, and the Council is committed to maintaining them on a weekly basis.

Meadowcroft

At Meadowcroft Community Centre, we've made significant investments to upgrade the flooring and furnishings throughout the building. Our community hall is a popular space, frequently utilised by residents, community groups, and our youth club. A fresh coat of paint and new flooring were just what the space needed to enhance its longevity.

In exciting news, SSMPC is pleased to announce the installation of solar panels at Meadowcroft. This marks the second building to adopt solar energy in the past year, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and reducing our environmental impact. The new solar energy system is expected to generate enough power to make the centre largely self-sufficient for most of the year, with the project due for completion by early November. We are taking important steps towards a greener future for our community!

Meadowcroft Pavilion

The Property Committee is currently exploring potential ideas for renovating Meadowcroft Pavilion.

Although these are not defined plans yet, the discussions focus on necessary upgrades to address the building's outdated features.

By enhancing the Pavilion, we aim to maximise its potential as a community space, making it more accessible for residents and groups alike.



Key Dates:

October – Officers prepare the draft budget.

December – The draft budget is reviewed at the F&GP (Finance & General Purposes) meeting.

January – The final budget is approved by Full Council, and the precept demand is submitted to Swindon Borough Council by their deadline.

The budget is carefully monitored each month throughout the year to ensure financial stability and transparency.

AGAR 2023-2024 Update

We've successfully passed our External Audit for 2023-2024. The review of our Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) confirmed that all information is in line with Proper Practices, and there are no concerns regarding our compliance with legislation or regulations. This assures taxpayers that their money is being managed responsibly and spent wisely.

The Budgeting Process

As we approach the end of the year, we are starting to plan next year's budget. The Parish Council takes this process seriously, beginning in October and reviewing all expenditure, income, and potential future needs. The budget helps us monitor the council's financial health and prepare for any potential issues like overspending or cashflow concerns.

A key part of the budget is calculating the precept, but we also factor in income from venues, allotments, and burial sites. After drafting the budget, it is discussed in December's Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, then finalised and approved by Full Council in January, before being submitted to Swindon Borough Council.

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.

FINANCE

CALCULATION OF PRECEPT 2024/2025		
Band D Equivalent Calculation		
2020/2021	Total Requirement	£1,369,964.00
	Precept Per Band D Property	£187.98
	Total Band D Properties	7287.90
2021/2022	Total Requirement	£1,369,964.00
	Precept Per Band D Property	£190.04
	Total Band D Properties	7208.90
2022/2023	Total Requirement	£1,369,964.00
	Precept Per Band D Property	£187.85
	Total Band D Properties	7292.70
2023/2024	Total Requirement	£1,369,964.00
	Precept Per Band D Property	£187.10
	Total Band D Properties	7321.90
2024/2025	Total Requirement	£1,369,964.00
	Precept Per Band D Property	£185.66
	Total Band D Properties	7378.70

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Community Grant Funding Round Two: 31st October

Are you a community or group looking for funding?

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council supports local groups through its schemes. The council annually sets a grants budget in order to provide financial assistance to a range of organisations, projects and activities which provide services to local residents.

This year's grant budget is £25,000. Any applicants for funding must meet the criteria set out in the policy.

For the eligibility criteria and further information, use:

Applications need to be sent to finance@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk by 31st October



Open Spaces



As the grass cutting season draws to a close, the parish can expect one final cut before winter, weather permitting. After this, the grounds team will turn their attention to maintaining the 8 miles of hedges throughout the parish. Much of this work is done by hand – a meticulous and time-consuming task, but essential for preserving the beauty and health of our green spaces.

In addition to hedge cutting, the team will soon be fitting the flail to the tractor to manage the larger open spaces, ensuring these areas remain tidy and accessible for everyone to enjoy.



Our comprehensive parish-wide tree survey is nearly finished. This detailed assessment has evaluated the health and condition of every tree under the parish's care, marking the most thorough review of our tree stock to date. The data collected will guide future tree maintenance across the parish, ensuring our trees remain safe, healthy, and well-managed for years to come.

Looking ahead, the team has also taken steps towards a more sustainable approach to gardening by investing in a small greenhouse. This will enable us to grow more plants from bulbs, ensuring fuller and more vibrant flower beds next year. The greenhouse will also help protect and nurture perennial plants, so they are ready for replanting, contributing to a greener and more beautiful parish in the future.



Allotments

As autumn arrives, it's a great time to reflect on the allotment season and prepare for the next.

SSMPC manages 2 allotment sites: White Hart in Lower Stratton, and St Philips in Upper Stratton, offering 151 plots of various sizes from just £11 per year. Autumn is perfect for clearing spent crops, planting winter vegetables, and preparing your plot for spring.

We're excited to share we have introduced pantry donation boxes, allowing plot holders to donate surplus produce to the Stratton Community Pantry, helping reduce waste and support those in need.

For those interested in getting involved, whether by renting a plot or volunteering, get in touch to join our vibrant allotment community. **Tip:** Autumn is a great time to plant garlic and onions—they'll be ready to harvest by early summer!

Full Plot <small>Our largest plot available</small>	3/4 Plot <small>Suitable for experts</small>	Half Plot <small>Half of a full plot</small>	Quarter Plot <small>Our most popular size</small>	1/6 Plot <small>Perfect for beginners</small>	1/8 Plot <small>The smallest plot we currently offer</small>
£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



Burials

We want to extend our heartfelt wishes to our burials administrator, Jasmin, as she begins her maternity leave!

Over the past three years, Jasmin's dedication and hard work have been invaluable to the burial department, and her absence will certainly be felt by the entire SSMPC team.

We hope she enjoys this special time with her family, and we look forward to welcoming her back when she returns!

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?

Over the summer, our youth sessions thrived, with six successful trips and strong participation. Some young people were selected for the PGL trip, while others earned spots through volunteering. Fridays were busy with the popular ATB skate park session, now extended to October half-term, with photos shared on social media.

Despite a new school schedule creating a 30-minute gap, attendance remained strong as young people used the time to change out of their uniforms. We also distributed hygiene packs, with donations from All Yours.

At Brew Book, our 14+ sessions attracted 10 attendees, with younger members redirected to Meadowcroft. We've built a great relationship with Brew Book, who provided treats and joined in board games.

Safe Space sessions at Beechcroft Library supported young people dealing with bereavement, with calming farm visits to care for horses and chickens.



Avon Valley Park Trip

As the summer holidays came to a close, we wrapped up with a trip to Avon Valley Park. The day was filled with excitement as we explored the animal enclosures and raced each other on the rides. We were fortunate to spend the day under clear skies, enjoying lunch together and wandering through the Dinosaur Valley.

Back at the youth club, our focus shifted towards setting goals for the new school year. As a group, we designed notebooks, which sparked discussions about returning to school and adjusting to new educational settings. It was a wonderful way to close out the summer and prepare for the new academic year ahead.



PGL Summer Trip

Our 3 day PGL residential trip was an exciting and rewarding experience for both the children and staff. With 15 children and 5 staff members, the group enjoyed a wide range of activities that brought not only fun but also important developmental benefits for the young people.

A highlight was the trapeze and giant swing, where many children faced and conquered their fear of heights, with lots of encouragement and teamwork as they cheered each other on. The zip wire was another favourite, giving the children a thrilling ride through the air, while boosting their confidence and teaching them how to safely use the equipment. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone!

We enjoyed a sunny pool party during the PGL trip, providing a relaxing break from the high-energy activities. The children played as a team, creating a great atmosphere. Rifle shooting and aero ball helped build patience and precision, with many proud of hitting targets or scoring points.

The small group size allowed for personalised support, helping children gain confidence, improve teamwork, and grow emotionally. Staying in their own cabins also fostered independence. We've received positive feedback from parents about their child's new friendships and increased confidence.



Things to look forward to...

As we head into the colder months, we're excited to see our youth community continue to grow and thrive. Plans are underway for trips during the October half term, and we've lined up a fantastic range of Halloween and Christmas activities to keep the fun going. A silent disco and a Christmas magician are already confirmed, with additional activities led by our youth workers. From spooky surprises to festive fun, there's something for everyone, and we can't wait to share these special moments with our young people.

There's plenty to look forward to as we close out the year. We are thrilled to announce the upcoming activities booked over the next few months for the autumn/winter season:

- Halloween Party
- Pumpkin Carving
 - Silent Disco
 - Movie Night
- Christmas Activities
- Youth Christmas Lunch



FREE

EVERGREEN CLUB

For senior citizens



MONTHLY BINGO

£1 PER ENTRY FOR A CASH PRIZE

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
Grange Leisure & Community Centre Café SN3 4JY

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Coleview Community Centre SN3 4AS

1PM - 2PM




HALLOWEEN SILENT DISCO

COSTUME COMPETITION
FOOD, GAMES & SNACKS
AGES 9 - 14
3.30 PM | 31ST OCTOBER
MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE



STRATTON YOUTH!



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

MEADOWCROFT TODDLER GROUP

1PM - 2.30PM EVERY TUESDAY

For parents and toddlers up to age 3 @ Meadowcroft Community Centre.

CONTACT 01793 823761



INFO@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK




YOUTH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

17th December 4pm - 6pm

Come and enjoy a Christmas meal with all the trimmings, pudding and a gift. Free for ages 9 - 15.

Only 40 tickets available. Book via email: cherry.riley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk




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




FRIDAY

YOUTH CAFE

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



[@SSMPCSWINDON](https://www.instagram.com/SSMPCSWINDON)




[@SSMPCSWINDON](https://www.instagram.com/SSMPCSWINDON)



cherry.riley@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Beechcroft Library

Beechcroft Library and Community Hub warmly welcomes everyone! In addition to a wide range of books, audiobooks, and board games for you to enjoy, we also host a variety of weekly activities, including a Friendship Group, Chess Club, Bereavement Group, and much more. Whether you're looking to connect with others or simply relax with a good book, there's something here for everyone.

For more info about our activities, feel free to call us at 01793 680030 or email beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk.

Did you know?

Beechcroft Library has a chess club every Saturday between 10.30am and 1.30pm?

Our friendly, informal club welcomes complete beginners, occasional players and chess champions of all ages and experience.

We are very lucky to have the services of a fantastic teacher, Peter Richmond, a Welsh Master and nine times Wiltshire champion.

Did you know?

SSMPC now has a Community Pantry at Beechcroft Library to help combat food deprivation.

Residents can visit Tues 10am-12pm & Fri 1pm-3pm to take items.

Donations are welcome at Beechcroft Library, Meadowcroft Community Centre, and Grange Leisure Centre.

Librarians Sheila & Vicky



Beechcroft Library now has extended hours! We're open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-7pm, and Friday to Saturday, 10am-5pm. We're closed on Mondays and Sundays. Stop by and see what we have to offer!

Did you know?

SSMPC is holding a Public Engagement Session at Beechcroft Library on Tuesday, 5 November, 6pm-7pm.

Meet your local Council representative to discuss any changes or concerns.

For more info, call 01793 823761 or email info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk.

Exciting events are coming up at Beechcroft Library! Join us for our regular Lego Club on Saturday, 26 October and Saturday, 23 November, along with fun Halloween children's activities during the week of 26 October.

Plus, don't miss the Christmas Market hosted by Brew Book Café on Saturday, 30 November from 10am, where local businesses will be selling gifts and more. We'll also have Christmas activities during the week of 16 December. No need to book—just come along!

Lego Club

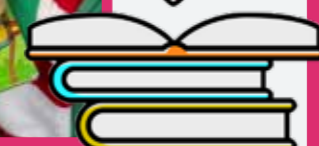


Volunteering

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

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

What's On?



Recently, several classes from Ruskin Junior School paid a visit to Beechcroft Library. The students enjoyed an engaging talk from one of our librarians, learning about all the services the library offers. They had the chance to explore the children's section and, best of all, each student got to pick out a book to take home and enjoy.

We hope to welcome even more classes for similar visits in the near future!



What's on

Upcoming Events

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council organises and collaborates on a wide range of public events throughout the year, from lively festivals to meaningful commemorations.

In the coming months, we're excited to host our annual remembrance service, a tree planting event, and a festive Christmas market!

Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Service

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council invites residents to attend our annual Remembrance Service on Sunday, 10th November, at the Peace Memorial, located at the corner of Grange Drive and Ermin Street. Following the service, refreshments will be served at Grange Leisure Centre for those who wish to join us.

Saturday 30th November - Christmas Market

Join us at Beechcroft Library for a festive shopping event in partnership with Brew Book and SSMPC. Explore a wide range of stalls offering unique gifts, take part in a tombola, raffle, and other exciting activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to support your local businesses this Christmas and enjoy a cosy, community atmosphere.

Saturday 7th December - Tree Planting Event

We warmly invite residents to take part in our family tree planting event on Saturday, 7th December, at Merton Fields. Join us at 10am at the Millennium Garden, near the Merton Avenue entrance. Be sure to wrap up warm, bring along your spade, and pop on your wellies for a fun-filled morning. Let's plant a greener future together!

Thursday 12th December - Carol Service

Get into the Christmas spirit by joining us on Thursday, 12th December, at Meadowcroft Community Centre from 6pm. Enjoy an evening of festive cheer with carol singing, mulled wine, mince pies, and plenty of other seasonal activities. It's the perfect opportunity to gather with friends, family, and neighbours to celebrate the Christmas season together!

Meet Derrek the Dragon!



REMEMBRANCE DAY

10TH NOVEMBER 2024 3PM

Lest we forget

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council invites residents to join our Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 10th November at the Peace Memorial on the corner of Grange Drive and Ermin Street. Afterwards, we will supply refreshments at the Grange Leisure Community Centre, SN3 4JY.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL'S MERTON FIELDS FAMILY TREE PLANTING EVENT

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 10AM - 1PM

LET'S PLANT THE FUTURE TOGETHER

MEET US AT THE MILLENNIUM GARDEN (MERTON AVENUE ENTRANCE)

JOIN IN, WRAP UP WARM AND BRING A SPADE, GLOVES, BOOTS OR WELLIES

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COUNCIL

Brew Book's CHRISTMAS MARKET

BEECHCROFT LIBRARY

Saturday 30th November 10:00am - 3:00pm

COME JOIN US TO CELEBRATE & SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS CHRISTMAS!!

THERE WILL BE LOCAL BUSINESS STALLS, A TOMBOLA, RAFFLE & LOTS MORE!!

CAROL SERVICE

Join in with the Christmas spirit by gathering and celebrating with us at the Meadowcroft Community Centre. There will be carols, mulled wine, mince pies and many other festive activities to enjoy!

THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6 PM

Meadowcroft Community Centre

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Community Events & Groups

In August, the SSMP Council proudly participated in the "Run the Rainbow" event at Lydiard Park, raising over £300 for Prospect Hospice, our Chairman's charity. The event brought together over 400 participants for a vibrant 5K run, where we navigated through colour stations, each adding a splash of paint to our clothes. By the end, we looked like human kaleidoscopes!

"Run the Rainbow" is one of Prospect Hospice's key events, helping raise essential funds to support their work providing compassionate care to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Whether at home or in the hospice at Wroughton, the care they offer is vital. SSMP Council is proud to contribute to this cause, helping ensure Prospect Hospice can continue their invaluable services through the support of community events like this one.



Join us at Meadowcroft Community Centre for our new Baby and Toddler Group, where fun and adventure await! Each week, little ones can enjoy inflatables and engaging activities, while parents relax with a selection of hot and cold food. It's a great chance to socialise, play, and make lasting memories in a friendly, welcoming space. Come join the fun!



Toddler Time



Over 60's Lunch

In September, we had a delightful lunch at the Over 60's group here at Meadowcroft. The catering team from Prospect Hospice treated us to a spread of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, and more. We also raised donations in support of the Prospect Hospice. It was a wonderful afternoon of music, conversation, and sharing ideas for future community activities. Keep an eye out for updates on what's coming next!

Want to join a community club?

MEADOWCROFT
toddlers
GROUP
 1PM - 2.30PM
 EVERY TUESDAY

For parents and toddlers up to age 3 @ Meadowcroft Community Centre.

CONTACT 01793 823761

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

EVERGREEN CLUB
 For senior citizens

MONTHLY BINGO
 £1 PER ENTRY FOR A CASH PRIZE

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
 Grange Leisure & Community Centre Café SN3 4JY

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
 Coleview Community Centre SN3 4AS
 1PM - 2PM

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

BEECHCROFT CHESS CLUB
 SATURDAY 10:30-1:30

All chess abilities are welcome to our friendly and informal club. Attended and coached by a nine times Wiltshire champion, former professional coach - Peter Richmond.

It teaches clarity of thought and calculation.



ATB Skate Park Event

In September, we hosted skating workshops and lessons with ATB Shop at Meadowcroft skatepark. Residents had the chance to learn tips and tricks from the experts, with free scooter and skateboard hire available on the day! It was a fantastic opportunity to show off skills and take part in friendly competitions.

Following the huge success of the summer skateboarding sessions, ATB Shop will be returning on **31st October** for a special Halloween skateboarding event!

The Chairman's Charity



£15,559.79 RAISED

We are pleased to announce that Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and the residents of Stratton have raised over £11,959 thousand pounds for three important and beneficent institutions across the UK, including: Prospect Hospice (£4,789.09), the Swindon Careers Centre (£5076.76), and the British Liver Trust (£2,113.94). We have already raised £3,600 thousand pounds for Prospect Hospice since April this year and still have 6 months left to go.

With the raised money, we have supplied essential resources for these organisations to aid countless people across the parish, town and country, and furthered our mission to continue to improve the lives of others and make a positive impact. Our fundraising successes are a testament to the spirit of our community and we extend our gratitude to all who have contributed.

Looking to the future, we are excited to continue our community fundraising events and invite the people of Stratton to join us. Together, we can build on this momentum and support the causes that matter to us the most.

For more information about upcoming events and how to get involved, please see the "News & Events" section of the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council website.

Thank you.

STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL



Stratton Star Awards

SSMPC invites you to submit nominations for this year's Stratton Star Awards! Help us recognise the outstanding individuals and groups in our community.

Last year's winners included Allotmenteer of the Year, Local Hero, Young Person of the Year, Community Group of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. These categories remain the same, so send in your nominations for those who deserve special recognition.

To nominate, email the person or group's name and why they deserve the award to info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk. Nominations close in February!

Lily Alice Iles

The Parish Council is planning to install a blue plaque in honour of Lily Iles, who became Stratton St Margaret's first female councillor in March 1925. As we approach the 100th anniversary of this historic moment, we want to recognise her contributions to the community.

Lily Alice Iles (née Harvey) was born on 7th April 1885 in Croscombe, Somerset, to George and Emma Ann Harvey. She married Albert Iles in 1907, and together they ran a newsagents on

Station Road until their divorce in 1928. Lily went on to live at various addresses in Stratton, including Swindon Road, Ermin Street, and St Philip's Road, before passing away in July 1960 at the age of 75. She is buried in Lower Stratton Cemetery, plot 715.

As part of our plans, we are asking any of Lily's descendants to get in touch with the Parish Council to assist in making these arrangements and ensuring her legacy is properly honoured.



A Civility & Respect Pledge Council

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has joined the national Civility and Respect Pledge, promoting politeness and courtesy in behavior, speech, and writing.

This initiative encourages listening, kindness, and following protocols, while opposing bullying, harassment, and intimidation in local government. By signing the pledge, SSMPC commits to fostering a respectful and positive environment for all.



In September, SSMPC applied for the prestigious Quality Gold level in the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS), which celebrates top councils and provides a framework for improvement and excellence.

With 3 levels—Foundation, Quality, and Quality Gold—Stratton St Margaret has already achieved the first two and is now aiming for the highest. The Quality Gold Award recognises councils that excel in governance, community leadership, and development, while ensuring value for money and seeking innovation.

We'll keep you updated on our progress and are confident **19** in achieving this top award.

Parish Developments



Dog Agility Park

In addition to the play park, we are excited to introduce a dedicated dog agility area, offering a fantastic new facility for dog owners. This specially designed section will provide a safe and stimulating space for dogs to exercise and train, making the park even more appealing to pet owners in the community. The renovations will also include new agility equipment and a small shelter for dog walkers, ensuring both dogs and their owners can enjoy the park in comfort.

These updates reflect our commitment to revitalising Greenbridge Park and enhancing our local green spaces, making them safe, enjoyable, and welcoming to all. We look forward to seeing more of the community making use of these improvements in the years to come!

While highways fall outside the parish's responsibility, they remain a top priority on residents' wish lists for the grounds team to address. To help meet these concerns, "Little Bo Sweep" has begun her rounds throughout the parish, focusing on keeping our streets cleaner and safer.

Street-sweeping began in Stratton (Kingsdown) and is progressing toward Coleview, with plans to finish around New Year. Early results are promising, with cleaner streets and gutters free from debris.

This initiative has already improved the parish's cleanliness. The grounds team thanks the community for their support and patience as Little Bo Sweep continues her work across the parish.



Stephens Road Park

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is excited to announce that Stephens Road Park, soon to be renamed 'Greenbridge Park,' will undergo major renovations this year. These improvements are aimed at making the park a more welcoming and safer space for local residents, as it has been underused in recent years and has become a hotspot for antisocial behaviour due to its somewhat secluded location.

As part of the upgrades, new inclusive play equipment designed for children of all ages will be installed, transforming the park into an exciting destination for families. We also plan to move the existing fence 10 metres inward and remove some shrubbery to improve visibility from the road, enhancing safety for visitors.

To encourage more footfall, colourful pavement art with footprints and signage will guide families to the park's new features, including a brand-new entrance on Oxford Road. This entrance will have a pathway lined with flower beds, art sculptures, and a charming wishing well, creating a vibrant and inviting space for everyone to enjoy.



Merton Pond Landscaping Project

The restoration work at Merton Pond is now complete, bringing exciting improvements to the area. The size of the pond has been slightly reduced, but in its place, a deeper section has been created to hold water year-round. This enhancement is expected to attract new wildlife and boost biodiversity, making the pond an even more vibrant habitat for local species and a cherished spot for residents to enjoy.

Additionally, the pond is now draining more effectively, which will be especially beneficial during the wetter months. By improving drainage, the upgrades will help keep the lower end of Merton Field drier and more accessible through autumn and winter. This means that the field will remain a usable, welcoming space for the community to explore and enjoy, no matter the season. These changes not only preserve the beauty of the area but also contribute to its long-term sustainability.



Local News



Stratton Police

Recently, the Stratton Neighbourhood Policing Team have been actively conducting knife sweeps in the local area. These efforts are part of the team's ongoing initiative to remove knives from the streets and improve safety in public spaces for the Stratton community. Knife sweeps will continue in areas where concerns have been raised.

Residents are reminded that knives can be safely surrendered at Gablecross police station, and there are also knife amnesty bins located throughout Swindon for anonymous disposal.

Local News

GRANGE LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

LEISURE CENTRE

JUNIOR GYM

For ages 10-16

Tuesday & Thursdays
16.30-17.30

Saturdays
12.00-13.00

JUNIOR FITNESS

Enquire now

*induction required for all ages

Did you know?

The Badass class combines combat conditioning with kicks, punches, squats, and upbeat music for a fun, medium-intensity workout. Led by Ann-Marie, it's perfect for those who want a challenging but not too intense session.

Classes run every Monday from 18:10 to 18:55!

Why not book in and join the fun?



Badass Class



RESIDENTS OF STRATTON

We would like your feedback! Please could you fill out a quick survey to tell us what you want us to focus on in your area. What concerns you may have to help us set our priorities.

You can follow the link or scan the QR code, which provides you with easy access to the survey.

Your Voice, Our Duty.
Stratton Police Survey

WELCOME TO GRANGE LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Colebrook – Lower Stratton – Kingsdown – Queensfield – Stratton village – Upper Stratton

<https://forms.office.com/e/rXhhJZfGbg?origin=lprLink>

WILTSHIRE POLICE
Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Knife and Weapon Amnesty Bin

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

This bin is located behind the Pavilion, next to Meadowcroft Community Centre (SN2 7JX).

The police hold the key to the bin and make regular visits to safely collect and dispose of any knives or weapons that are anonymously deposited.



BODY PUMP & BODY BALANCE

Fantastic turnout for the launch of our new BodyPump 130 and BodyBalance 105 classes last Saturday! A huge thank you to everyone who joined us.

If you haven't had the chance to experience our BodyPump or BodyBalance classes yet, now's the time! Check out our class schedule below and make sure to book your spot:

- Monday:** BodyBalance 10:10-11:10 & 17:00-17:45
- Wednesday:** BodyBalance 09:10-09:55
- Thursday:** BodyPump 09:10-09:55 & 18:00-18:45
- Friday:** BodyBalance 08:45-09:45, BodyPump 17:30-18:15
- Saturday:** BodyPump 09:00-10:00, BodyBalance 10:15-11:00

Autumn Activities



- HARVEST
- HEDGEHOG
- BRAMBLE
- MUSHROOM
- APPLES
- AUTUMN
- PUMPKIN
- FOGGY
- SCARECROW
- PINECONE
- ACORN
- SQUIRREL
- HALLOWEEN
- WINDY
- LEAVES
- CONKER
- BONFIRE

Riddle me this...

I fall without a sound, fluttering to the ground. My colours change, but I am not a chameleon. What am I?

Answer: A leaf.

I'm round and orange, with a smile or a frown. Carve me out and light me up to celebrate autumn in town. What am I?

Answer: A pumpkin.



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 8 miles of hedges that are trimmed 1-3 times a year depending on priority and working around the bird nesting season.



Why are trees not pruned more regularly?
Substantial and frequent pruning of trees can weaken their structure, and should be avoided for reasons other than reducing risk of harm to people or buildings.

How can I apply for a community grant?
Applications open twice a year in 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

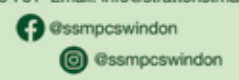
Advertising Rates 2024

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



Did you know?
You can now feature your business or organisation 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
November		
6th	Open Spaces	7pm
13th	Full Council	7pm
20th	Planning	7pm
December		
4th	Personnel	7pm
11th	Finance	7pm
18th	Planning	7pm

Date	Event	Start
January		
8th	Full Council	7pm
15th	Planning	7pm
22nd	Property	7pm
29th	Youth	7pm
February		
5th	Open Spaces	7pm
12th	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

Serving the Community since 1894

