



Stratton Parish News

Published by, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council



Blooming Stratton

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Spring is nearly upon us and nature will be bursting out in all its glorious technicolour before we know it. Already the daffodils are brightening up our gardens and verges, plants are beginning to bud and new life is making its first eager exploration into the world.

Down on the allotments it is a hive of activity as allotment holders busily prepare the ground, feed it with fertilizer and start planting a diversity of crops from potatoes to artichokes. In the gardens of Stratton, flower beds are being turned over, baskets are coming out of storage, garden sheds are being utilised once more, greenhouses are being warmed up and the excitement of a new planting year descends on all those budding and experienced horticulturalists!

So as you all busily prepare your gardens, why not consider entering "Stratton in Bloom". It is an annual competition run by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and there are prizes to be won!

But we know that most people will not consider their efforts worthy of recognition so if you have a neighbour or friend whom you think should be entered and recognised for brightening up our



Parish, **then why not fill in the form on page 3** and enter them on their behalf (you had better let them know first though!) You can enter them, or yourself, into a maximum of two categories. Entries must be received by 17th July 2009 and should be sent to: **Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX.**

As for all you allotment holders, you are automatically entered into the allotment competition which is judged in July, so get digging and you may even be victorious!

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly

will be held on:

**Tuesday 21st April 2009
at 7.30pm in the Meadowcroft
Community Centre**

This is your opportunity to ask the Parish Council questions and to discuss matters of local interest to the residents of Stratton St Margaret.

Your Council, Working for You

Annual Report 2008/2009. As another financial year draws to a close, it is a good opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements that the Parish Council has accomplished over the past year, as well as the changes and progress made.

The year commenced without a Deputy Clerk following the departure of Mrs Caroline Buckland to pursue a career in the private sector. She served the Parish Council well over the past few years, especially with her input into Stratton Community Leisure Centre and she is missed.

Annual programmes were implemented with continued work being carried out to the footpaths in Merton Fields, upgrading of the play equipment at Meadowcroft, additional dog bins being placed throughout the Parish, the provision of new fencing at the Lower Stratton Cemetery, continued support for the Community Bus and various other local voluntary organisations and the ongoing high quality care and

maintenance of all areas under the management of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council leases a number of pieces of land from Swindon Borough Council. One of these areas was the open section of Merton Fields. However, due to proposals being developed for the former Headlands School site, this lease reverted back to the Borough Council on 11th November 2008.

Sadly in March 2009 the existing Clerk, Bob Blake, who has been with the Council for over ten years and has been Clerk for eight of those, will be retiring. Bob took over as Clerk on 1st June 2001 and has overseen Stratton St Margaret Parish Council become a Best Value Council, implemented the repair and replacement programme for all

equipment and vehicles to spread the cost, ensured that the Council is run leanly and efficiently, was responsible for the provision of the first roundabouts for disabled children in Swindon, was instrumental in providing the multi-use games areas at Meadowcroft and Grange Drive, purchased the new Community Minibus and will be leaving behind him a ship that is in very good order.

A new Deputy Clerk, Paul Russell, was appointed and took up his position in late May 2008. On 1st April 2009 Paul will be taking over as Parish Clerk and his replacement will be Mrs Elizabeth Hawkes, currently Parish Clerk to Great Glen Parish Council in Leicestershire. Elizabeth will be moving to the area with her family in due course and will be taking up her position on 1st June 2009

Update - Headlands School/Merton Fields

As many residents will know, Swindon Borough Council is developing proposals to redevelop this site

As many residents will know, Swindon Borough Council is developing proposals to redevelop this site. Following initial plans which were featured in the previous issue of Stratton Parish News, further work has been carried out by the Borough. One of the main issues to come out of the public consultation was a concern regarding potential flooding of the site if it is developed. The Borough Council

believes that it has found a solution to the problem and has obtained Environment Agency approval. It is expected that, in the long term, the site will be used for residential development but in the short term it is hoped that the majority of the site could be utilised for sports and recreation usage provided that some of the issues regarding the existing school building can be overcome.

With regard to Merton Fields, the proposal to construct a new access from Cricklade Road was a non-starter. No construction is expected on the fields except for the provision of two junior and two mini football pitches to counteract the loss of facilities at the former school site.

As further information becomes available we shall update you.

Council Offices: Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Tel: 01793 823761 Fax 01793 820188 - More Info at - www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk Email - info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Council Meetings

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and accessible. All meetings are open to the public and press and are held on Tuesdays.

The following meetings will be held during April, May and June.

Prior to the meetings, the agenda can be viewed on notice boards throughout the Parish and on the website. Following each meeting, the minutes are uploaded to the website and can be viewed at www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Please note that some items of business must be discussed in confidence when the public and press are excluded from the meeting. The reasons are:

- (a) Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees;
- (b) Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation of contracts;
- (c) Preparation of cases in legal proceedings
- (d) The early stages of any dispute

| Date (2009) | Council/Committee | Time | Chair |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 31st March | Full Council | 7.30pm | CLlr Owen |
| 7th April | Community Centre | 7.30pm | CLlr Tray |
| 14th April | Planning | 7.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 21st April | Annual Parish Assembly | 7.30pm | CLlr Owen |
| 28th April | Planning | 6.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 28th April | Finance | 7.30pm | CLlr Cook |
| 5th May | Community Centre | 7.30pm | CLlr Tray |
| 12th May | Planning | 6.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 12th May | Recreation | 7.30pm | CLlr Roberts |
| 19th May | Annual Council Meeting | 7.30pm | CLlr Owen |
| 26th May | Planning | 7.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 2nd June | Quality Council | 7.30pm | CLlr Owen |
| 9th June | Planning | 7.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 16th June | Allotments & Cemeteries | 7.30pm | CLlr Mrs Spry |
| 23rd June | Planning | 6.30pm | CLlr Mrs Day |
| 23rd June | Community Centre | 7.30pm | CLlr Tray |
| 30th June | Finance | 7.30pm | CLlr Cook |

Job Opportunity

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council
Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Head Grounds Person
(LC1 Scale 22-25) £19,370 - £21,244
(pay award pending)

This is a managerial role responsible for the maintenance of parks, grounds, allotments, cemeteries and property provided by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. Key duties include day-to-day management of the parks and open spaces, grave digging and overseeing burials. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3 years grounds experience in a supervisory role, possess a relevant professional qualification and hold a full driving licence.

For further information contact the Parish Clerk on 01793 823761 or email clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk. Application deadline is 6th April 2009 with interviews on 23rd April 2009. This job is not exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Stratton in Bloom Entry Form



Please fill in this form and return to the address at the bottom

Name of Entrant:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Category: tick box

Front Garden with lawn

Front Garden without lawn

Hanging baskets &/or troughs

Return To: Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Parish Updates

Updating you on all the recent and less recent parish events, plans and happenings

Parish Plan

Following the snow when a number of meetings were postponed, the Parish Plan Steering Group is raring to go again. A meeting is scheduled for Friday 24th April at 2.00pm to be held at Kingsdown School. At this meeting a 15 strong Steering Group will be appointed so if you would like to be part of the team that is helping to develop a future vision for Stratton then contact Paul Russell at the Parish Council Offices.

Snowhere to Go!

Winter hit Stratton with a vengeance in January, resulting in many local schools being closed following the heaviest snow falls for nearly two decades. In an effort to avoid boredom (and possibly homework) the local youngsters enjoyed the snow making the most of the extra unexpected holiday!

"Your Stratton" Open Day

Plans are well under way for this event which will take place on Saturday 5th September 2009. If you would like to book a craft stall, please get in touch with the Parish Office.

Open Spaces Master Plan Exercise

Following the article in the last issue, the Parish Council has appointed David Jarvis Associates to help develop the Master Plan Study. David Jarvis is a local company based in Old Town and we look forward to working with them.

Fancy being a Councillor?

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council still has two vacancies on the Council. If you want to be involved in helping to manage local amenities, improve the quality of life and service delivery, then why not become a Parish Councillor? Get in touch with the Parish Office for further information and watch this space for future open evenings to explain the work and role of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council in the local community.

Local Organisations

The Parish Council is endeavouring to compile a list of Stratton-based local voluntary and charitable organisations, so if you would like your organisation to feature on the Council's website and in

Competition

Design a logo for the new "Stratton Parish Plan".

The Stratton Parish Plan Steering group is launching a competition to design a logo for the new "Stratton Parish Plan".

Can you design a logo that will stand out and identify Stratton St Margaret.

We would like something that reflects the history of the four main areas of Stratton St Margaret, that gives Stratton a heart and promotes "Together for Stratton"

Closing date 30th April 2009

The winner will receive a family cinema ticket for their local cinema (wherever that is!)

All entries to be e-mailed or posted to: deputyclerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Paul Russell, Deputy Clerk
Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Please include your name, address and age

this newsletter, send in your organisation's contact details and a short description of your purpose.

Consultation

The Parish Council faces a major challenge – how best should we consult with you and on what issues? What do you want us to ask you about? How can we encourage you to become involved? If you have any views on the way the Parish Council consults with its residents and if you have a great idea on how we can do it better please let us know!

Did you know...?

That there is a Skittle Alley at Stratton Community Leisure Centre.

The Leisure Centre Committee is keen to gauge local interest in using the alley, especially on Sunday evenings. So if you would like to know more and discuss organising a skittles evening, why not give the Leisure Centre a call on 01793 825525.



Snow school today - Children enjoying the unexpected day off school

The Parish Precept

Each year Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has to set a budget for the forthcoming financial year.

The budget for 2009/2010 was considered at the full Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2009 when it was agreed to set a precept of £861,000, equivalent to £110.08 per Band D property, an increase of 2.5% on 2008/2009.

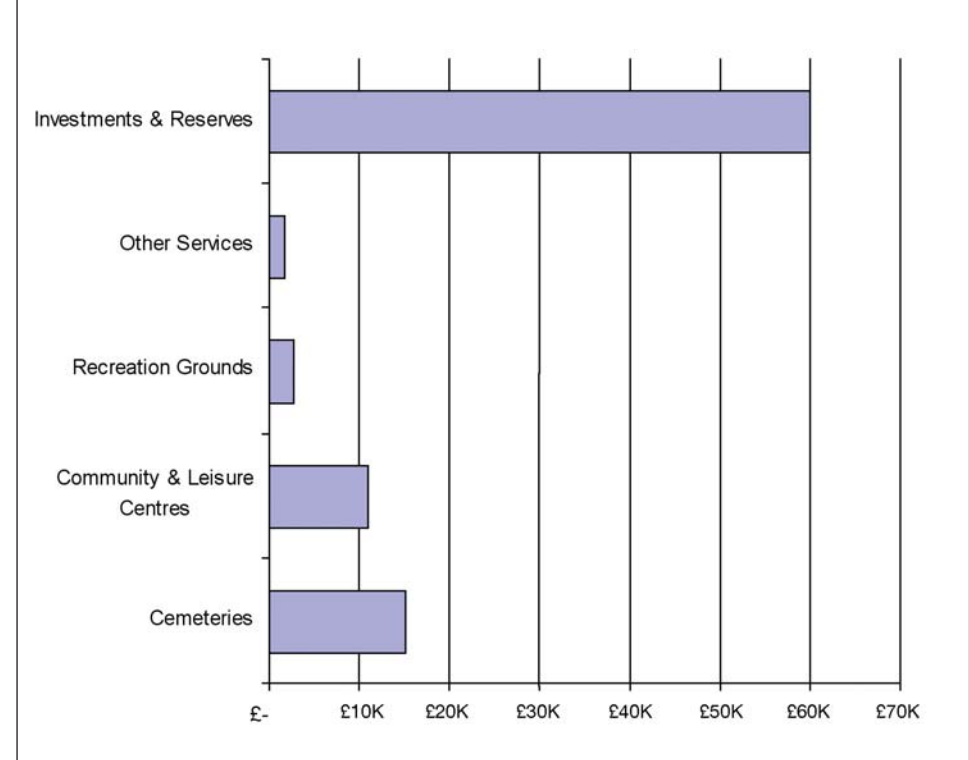
The Council has a number of projects planned for 2009/2010 including its continued investment programme into the play areas, the annual tree maintenance programme, a Master Planning study of play provision within the Parish, an architectural feasibility study for Stratton Community Leisure Centre, the development of a "Stratton Parish Plan", the quarterly publication of "Stratton Parish News" and an application to become a Quality Council.

In addition it is working with Swindon Borough Council to identify areas where cost savings can be made and a number of options have already been identified. Table (a) indicates where the money will be spent in the forthcoming year. Graphs (b) and (c) show income and expenditure respectively

Table (a)

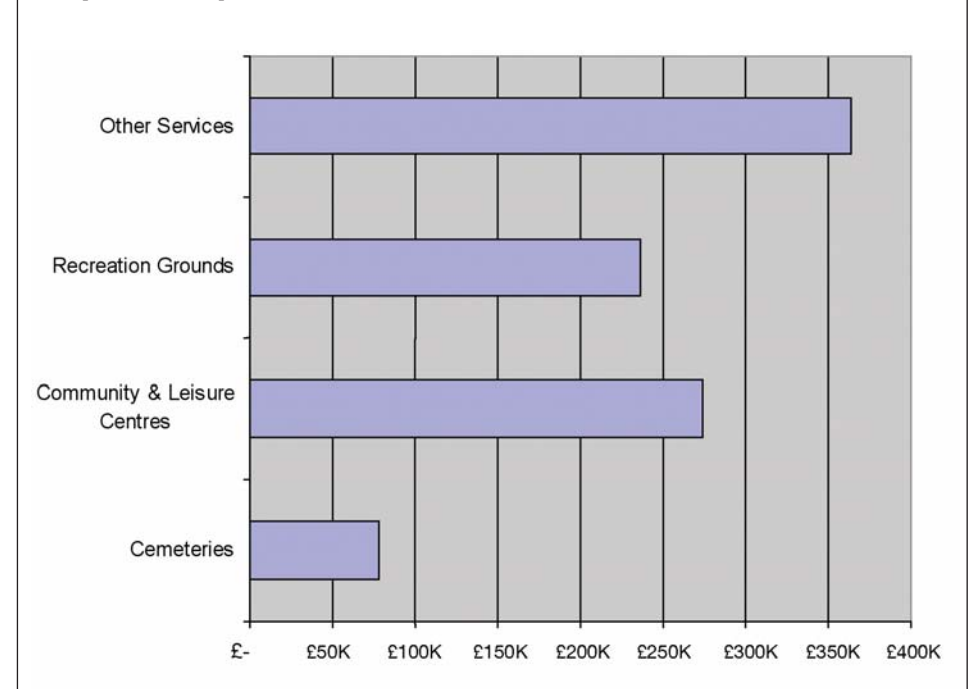
| Expenditure | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Cemeteries | £78,200.00 |
| Community & Leisure Centres | £273,750.00 |
| Recreation Grounds | £236,500.00 |
| Other Services | £363,100.00 |
| Total Expenditure | £951,550.00 |
| Income | |
| Cemeteries | £15,000.00 |
| Community & Leisure Centres | £11,000.00 |
| Recreation Grounds | £2,800.00 |
| Other Services | £1,700.00 |
| Investments & Reserves | £60,050.00 |
| Total Income | £90,550.00 |
| Precept Requirement | £861,000.00 |
| Band D Equivalent | £110.08 |

Graph (b) - Income



Other Services includes staff salaries and wages, administration and civic costs including members' allowances, managing and maintaining the Council Offices and equipment, insurance, legal fees and advertising.

Graph (c) - Expenditure



Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Planning a party or gathering? why not consider the function facilities at Stratton Community Leisure Centre.

Whether a Wedding, Christening, Birthday Party, paying your last respects at a Wake or just an excuse to have a party, why not consider the function facilities at Stratton Community Leisure Centre.

The Stratton Suite is tastefully decorated in creams to co-ordinate with any event. It has its own bar facilities and can cater for up to 100 seated guests. In house catering facilities for those who wish to arrive on the day with no hassles or you can take the option of bringing in food. (Please see reception for pricing and availability).

Why not come along and visit the centre and ask to view the facilities on offer. Our Operations Managers will be only too pleased to show you around and give you advice and options to make your day extra special.

If you need more space then the main hall can be transformed into the perfect party venue with decorated tables and ambient lighting. If you want to go that extra mile we can recommend specialised companies to tent and marquee the main hall. We offer a full range of hot and cold food options, catering for all needs. If you



cannot find what you are looking for then I'm sure we can work to accommodate your every need.



Tables laid ready to party

Stratton Health and Fitness Studio

News and information from the Stratton Community Leisure Centre Health and Fitness studio



Great News... during the last two weeks of March the gym will undergo redecoration with new flooring, painted walls and the removal of the central partitioning wall to create a brighter, cleaner modern gym. PLUS the addition of new equipment...

- A chin and dip machine
- Abductor/adductor machine
- Abdominal crunch

Equipment will be "Lifefitness" specified to the highest standards. The new brighter modern gym will reopen on Saturday 4th April 2009 at 8.30am where an instructor will be on hand to give one-to-one demonstrations on the new equipment.

Gym Promotions

During **April** bring a buddy to 3 FREE sessions, then when they convert to a gym membership, you will receive a months free pass. (subject to an gym induction)

April only - £60 for a three month unlimited gym membership including all aerobics classes usual price £72

Squash

Two squash courts available for hire. Special Saturday and Sunday rate Only £2.60 members £4.60 non member per 40 min booking.

After a taster session in our courts why not book to learn the fundamentals of the game with our resident Squash Coach, Martin Cooper – Mondays from 5.40pm—7.00pm

Badminton

Four badminton courts for hire. Hire of rackets and shuttlecocks also available. Prices available from our reception.

Classes

If you hold a Gold Gym Pass you can attend the following classes as part of your pass membership. If you hold a silver pass you can still attend the classes that fall within your time limits for free and pay an additional small fee to attend outside those hours. *Casual users can attend all classes as a pay as you go option.*

| Class | Day | Time |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Aerobics | Monday | 10.00-11.00 |
| Body Conditioning | Tuesday | 18.00-19.00 |
| Young @ Heart | Tuesday | 09.00-12.00 |
| Stretch and Flex | Wednesday | 18.30-19.30 |
| Dancercise | Wednesday | 10.00-11.00 |
| Legs, Bums and Tums | Thursday | 18.15-19.15 |
| Young @ Heart | Thursday | 09.00-12.00 |
| Tai Chi* | Friday | 09.30-10.30 |

**This is set as a reduced fee for pass holders but not included in the free sessions*

Crèche

We have a crèche facility open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 09.30am to 11.30am. If you are using the centre you can bring your child along knowing they are in safe hands with qualified caring staff onsite. If you want to use the crèche to catch up on that shopping trip or hairdressers you can also use the crèche and pay an enhanced rate for not staying on site. *Full details are available from our reception.*

Grange Bar

Why not come along and sample the Grange Bar menu. A selection of light and main meals available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 12 noon to 3pm and Thursday from 12 noon to 2pm. **Wednesday** – Curry Night – a choice of curry with a pint of beer or soft drink (selected lines only) £4.50 **Thursday's Special** – enjoy a two course meal for just £3.20 seniors, £3.60 adult plus 90p for dessert

Tea Dance

Come along and enjoy a leisurely dance down memory lane to the sounds of live keyboard and vocals by Ritchie Brooks on *Thursday 16th April 2009* **2.00pm until 4.30pm, Members £2.75, Non members £3.75, (Includes a cup of tea or coffee biscuits and a raffle available)**

Win! 1 year's Free GOLD PASS to our Fitness Suite with associated aerobics classes with our free prize draw
Simply enter your details below and return this form to the address at the bottom to have a chance of being 1 of 5 lucky winners

Name:.....Tel:

Address:

Return To: Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX
Due to distribution problems we are running this promotion again and anyone who entered in December will be included in this draw. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.



What A Centre Membership Provides

- Reduced admission rates to fitness classes
- Full use of our Grange Bar to enjoy the variety of foods and drinks available
- Enjoy our Saturday Quiz Nights within the Grange Bar
- The ability to book 6 days in advance for fitness activities on the phone
- Cheaper ticket prices for our Tribute/Dance nights
- As a member you can sign in a guest for just £1 entry to our Grange Bar
- Ability to hire and enjoy our function facilities

Crazy Crocs Holiday Club

The centre runs a fully OFSTED regulated child's holiday club for 4 (school age) to 11 year olds.

Children are supervised by fully qualified caring staff offering a wide range of activities including:

- Trampolining
- Bouncy Castle
- Football/ badminton/team building games
- Cookery
- Arts and Crafts
- Storytime/dvd
- Supervised gym activities for the older children
- Use of outside playground equipment in good weather

This club runs during school holidays and the next available sessions are:

EASTER TERM - April 6th -17th

MAY HALF TERM

May 25th-29th

£13.50 members

£14.00 non members



Fun Outside

Focus On...The Planning Committee

The Planning Committee meets, on average, twice monthly to review planning applications relating to land in Stratton St Margaret and submitted to the Planning Authority, Swindon Borough Council.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is a statutory consultee and as such has no planning powers, but its views must be taken into consideration by the Planning Authority.

Most applications are normally for low impact developments such as

extensions and conservatories but larger developments, proposals for new dwellings and advertising are also received on a regular basis. The Committee considers the impact of each application on the local environment and tries to provide a local perspective

when responding. It is chaired by Cllr Mrs Carol Day and the Vice Chair is Cllr Mrs Teresa Page. Every meeting is open to the public and there is an opportunity to address the committee if you wish to raise any planning or highway matters.

Contact information

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

SM - Mrs B Archer
15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4LY
822263

SP - Mr M R Cook
26 St Philips Road, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QH
825535

SM - Mrs C A Day
125 Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4JY
823943

SM - Mrs C Ennis
Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village,
SWINDON, SN3 4XH
Contact via office

LCN - Mr P J B Eyre
40 Trajan Road, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4BS
Contact via office

SP - Mrs E A Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

SP - Mr J Foley
7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

LCN - Mr D K Holmes
89 Wheeler Avenue, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7HL
520017

SP - Mr G Lawson
24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QB
704063

SP - Mrs A L Murphy
2 Orchard Close, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QR
337144

SP - Mr P Owen BEM
192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LH
822164

SP - Mrs T Page
13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QN
825481

C - Mr D R Roberts
27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham,
Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mrs P M Roberts
27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham,
Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mr R A Smith
39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4WE
831190

LCN - Mrs P Spry
1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SM - Mr M Spry
1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SP - Mr P A Steele
25 Okus Grove, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QA
723744

C - Mrs R Tran
44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4HE
826283

LCN - Mr J Tray
3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON
07813170202

Clerk of The Council
Mr R J Blake, Council Offices, Addison
Crescent, Upper Stratton
SWINDON, Wiltshire,
SN2 7JX
clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Member of Parliament
Michael Wills, MP - 01793 481016

Stratton Community Leisure Centre
Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,
Wiltshire SN3 4JY
Tel : 01793 825525 Fax : 01793 832201
E: leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members
David Sammels, 337477 St Philips Ward
Paul Findlow, 879959 St Philips Ward

Russell Holland, 07999566623 St Margaret Ward
Mark Edwards 709834 St Margaret Ward
Ray Fisher 07791500164 St Margaret Ward
Glenn Smith 725649 Covingham & Nythe
Dale Heenan 480099 Covingham & Nythe
Phil Young 729732 Covingham & Nythe
Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips Ward