



Stratton Parish News



Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Participatory Budgeting

Do you run or are you a member of a voluntary group within the parish of Stratton St Margaret? If so then read on . . .

As part of its community engagement strategy the Parish Council will be launching the Participatory Budgeting initiative at the Annual Parish Assembly on Tuesday 20th April 2010, aiming to involve local people in helping the Council to set its spending priorities. The first step will be to invite local groups and organisations to bid for a grant of £250 at the Annual Parish Assembly.

So how will it work?

Local groups and organisations are invited to make a 5 minute presentation at the meeting outlining their need for a grant and how the money will be spent. The presentation may include handouts or a flipchart presentation but not powerpoint presentations. Please aim to capture the audience's attention and imagination as it will be down to the audience's vote as to who will receive one of the £250 awards.

A total of £1000 has been put aside for this project and four grants of £250 each available. For further information, or to apply to take part in the process please contact the Parish Office.

Stratton in Bloom is back

After last Year's success, Stratton in bloom is here again

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!
If you are one of those green fingered people get your gardening gloves out and get involved with Stratton in Bloom There are Prizes to be won!



Get involved! See entry form on back page(8)

Quality Council

The first Quality Council in the Borough of Swindon. For more information turn to page 3



Date to Remember

The Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 7.30pm. All are invited. Come along and have your say.

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

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

Date (2010)	Council/Committee	Time
Tuesday 13th April 2010	Recreation & Highways	7.30pm
Tuesday 20th April 2010	Annual Parish Assembly	7.30pm
Tuesday 27th April 2010	Finance	7.30pm
Tuesday 4th May 2010	Planning	6.30pm
Tuesday 11th May 2010	Community Centre	7.30pm
Tuesday 18th May 2010	Annual Council	7.30pm
Tuesday 25th May 2010	***Planning if required	6.30pm
Tuesday 25th May 2010	Quality Council	7.30pm
Tuesday 1st June 2010	Planning	6.30pm
Tuesday 8th June 2010	Recreation & Highways	7.30pm
Tuesday 15th June 2010	***Planning if required	6.30pm
Tuesday 29th June 2010	Finance	7.30pm

The meetings listed opposite are scheduled to take place between April and June 2010.

Please note that sometimes additional meetings are called depending on the level of business requiring Council consideration. Prior to the meetings all agendas are placed on parish notice boards and the website and following each meeting the minutes are uploaded and can be viewed at www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Please note that some items of business have to 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; and
- (d) the early stages of any dispute

Finance

At its meeting on 26th January 2010 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council agreed its budget for 2010/2011. The precept has been reduced by 1.18% although real savings of over £38,000 have been identified for the forthcoming year.

The Council is committed to identifying savings and economic efficiencies. Council will be publishing its Corporate Strategy with its Medium Term Financial Plan at the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Meadowcroft Community Centre.

The table opposite outlines where the money is going in the forthcoming year

	2010 - 2011		
	Gross Expenditure	Direct Income	Net Expenditure
Recreation & Sport (inc Leisure & Community Centres)	£848,334	(£540,150)	£308,184
Open Spaces	£277,118	(£4,370)	£272,748
Cemeteries	£72,568	(£16,000)	£56,568
Planning	£3,048		£3,048
Other	£26,932		£26,932
Corporate Management	£90,514		£90,514
Democratic & Civic	£104,736		£104,736
Interest		(£10,000)	(£10,000)
From Balances		Nil	Nil
Total	£1,423,250	(£570,520)	£852,730
PRECEPT FOR YEAR			£852,730
Equivalent Tax for a Band D Dwelling			£108.78
Equiv Band "D" Properties: 7839.1			

Council Updates

First Quality Council in the Borough of Swindon

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has been awarded Quality Status by the National Association of Local Councils. The concept of Quality Parish Councils was launched by the Government in 2003, and gives confirmation and assurance that those awarded with Quality status are representative, competent, well managed and able to take an enhanced role in the community.

This parish is the first in the Borough of Swindon to be awarded the title and is delighted with the award, looking forward to the opportunities that it will bring and hoping that other local parish councils will also work towards Quality Status to give parish councils a higher profile locally.

Councillor Mrs Carol Day

It is with great sadness that we wish to inform residents of the death of Mrs Carol Day at the beginning of March. Carol was an energetic councillor who chaired both the Parish Council and the Planning Committee for a number of years and was keen to see the Parish Council develop and grow stronger. All the members and staff of the Parish Council would like to offer their sincere condolences to Carol's family. She will be sadly missed.

Councillor Vacancies

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council currently has four Councillor vacancies in St Margaret's Ward (2), Lower Coleview & Nythe (1) and Coleview Ward (1). If you would like to be directly involved in your community or you know someone who you think would make a good Councillor please get in touch with the Clerk to the Council and request an application form. The positions will be filled by co-option and you do not need to be a member of a political party.

Sports Relief

As part of the National Sports Relief Challenge staff at the Stratton Community Leisure Centre organised a number of events to help raise money. Wayne Proberts, the Health and Fitness Personal Trainer, took on an eight hour bike challenge which he completed successfully raising £112 in the process. Despite some painful moments Wayne achieved the full eight hours thanks to lots of support especially from Matthew Colsell who stayed on his bike for 2 hours to help keep Wayne going!

On Friday 19th March our Gym Instructor, Anne Harris, led the Walk a Mile event which was really well attended despite the inclement weather.

Karen Wooster won the Hula Hoop Challenge and in total the Centre raised £417.15 so a very big thank you to all who took part and supported us.



Sports Relief Mile, walkers brave the weather

Gateway Project

A new team of specialist advisers for voluntary and community organisations in Swindon

Are you an established charity or community group, or thinking of starting one, and based in Swindon?
Do you work with volunteers?
Do you need help finding funding?
Do you need help with training and development?

The Gateway project can help you!

The Gateway project has brought together a team of four specialist advisers from Voluntary Action Swindon, Volunteer Centre Swindon, Charities Information Bureau South & West, and Community First. These organisations will provide free support to voluntary and community groups.

The Gateway Project offers information, advice and guidance in the key areas of finance and fundraising; volunteering, developing volunteers and volunteer management for community and voluntary organisations in Swindon.

Any voluntary, community or not-for-profit organisation in Swindon could benefit from this support, from very small informal support groups or those just setting up to larger and/or more established organisations.

If you would like some help with:

Advice on funding,

contact Jane Butler at the charities Information Bureau on Tel: 01380 729279

Email: jane@cibwiltsh.org.uk

Running your group,

contact John Phipps at Voluntary Action Swindon on Tel: 01793 538398

Email: john@vas-swindon.org

Youth Activities,

contact Simon Hughes at Community First on Tel: 01380 729813.

Email: simon@youthactionwiltshire.org

Volunteering,

contact Louise Hallett at Volunteer Centre Swindon on Tel: 01793 420557

Email: lou@swindonvolunteers.

Parish Updates

Letting you know whats going on in and around the Parish

“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 21st May 2010

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Why not hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21st May 2010 to help raise awareness of spinal cord injury and the work of the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA). SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you could raise at least £35.00 from your supper.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals and their families from the moment a spinal injury occurs and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email: fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit: www.spinal.co.uk

Marathon Man

As many of you will remember from the last issue Lee Plank, one of our grounds team members, is going to take part in the 2010 London Marathon to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

He said “The reason I'm doing this is because my Dad (Robin Plank) passed away last year from Leukaemia even though there was a bone marrow transplant in place. Unfortunately my dad was never well enough for this to happen.”

The Anthony Nolan Trust takes back lives from Leukaemia by providing life saving bone marrow donors to thousands of men, woman and children who would other wise not survive.

For more information please go to

www.anthonynolan.org.uk.

If you would like to sponsor Lee just go to **www.justgiving.com/lee-plank.**



Community Radio

To highlight the work of Parish Councils in the Borough of Swindon, John Taylor MBE organised a slot on the Community Radio show 105.5 to interview the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. The interview summarised the varied work of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council.

The interview was intended to raise the profile of Parish Councils within the Borough of Swindon and John is hopeful that other Parish Councils will take up the challenge and become involved in this series.

John Rendell

The retirement of the Council's Grounds Manager, John Rendell, was marked with a goodbye celebration on Tuesday 26th January in the Council Chamber. John worked in the grounds department for 35 years and his wealth of knowledge has helped to shape all the open areas in Stratton St Margaret. The Councillors and staff wish John a well deserved long and happy retirement and hope that he manages to fulfil his desires to travel and enjoy life in the slow lane.



Allotments: Garden too large to manage?

The demand for allotments is at an all time high as people begin to have a heightened awareness of the foods they eat, combined with the credit crunch. The result is that more and more people want to grow their own vegetables.

The Parish Council runs two allotment sites at St Philips and White Hart, both of which are fully occupied. This has resulted in a long and slowly reducing waiting list. This has created some level of frustration with residents.

To try to help alleviate the problem the parish council has come up with an idea. Would residents who have a garden they are unable to manage or maintain be willing to lend some of it to someone who would like to cultivate an area but has no land? If you are interested in either sharing your garden or sharing someone else's garden why not get in touch with the Parish Council and we can put you in touch with each other.



Charging for the try line. Rugby at Greenbridge road playing fields (photo Libby Toogood)

Swindon Rugby Club

As part of Swindon Rugby Football Club's (SRFC) commitment to its junior rugby section, the Club approached Stratton St Margaret Parish Council (SSMPC) proposing a joint venture to expand the training facilities for the growing number of members in the junior section. For the expansion to succeed, the rugby club needs to increase the number of rugby pitches available and suitable for junior training. The proposal involves the Club leasing part of Greenbridge Road Recreation Ground to develop a junior training area. The pitches had been rented to Stratton Juniors Football Club but due to organisational issues they relinquished their agreement leaving the pitch open for casual use only. The land and pavilion will be leased to SRFC and the pitches will be used for junior girls' and boys' rugby only. The intention will be to upgrade the pavilion to enable the development of the first girls' (under 18s) rugby team in Wiltshire. SRFC draws its junior members from local schools and colleges, while senior members are drawn from the Swindon community as a whole.

Leasing additional land will not only allow SRFC to expand its junior section but also enable it to apply to the RFU for grant funding to improve facilities. So, in real terms this will be a win-win situation for the Club, the Juniors and Stratton as a whole. The limited consultation carried out with local residents so far has indicated general approval. Further consultation is planned and the Parish Council would welcome any comment.

Swindon Rugby Football Club was founded in 1895 but its roots go back to Swindon Rangers Rugby Football Club which was formed in 1870. This continuity, going back over 140 years, makes SRFC one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world; quite an achievement in itself, and something that the Parish Council believes is worthy of support.

Grange Infants School Visit

In December last year, Councillors Mike & Pat Spry were delighted to be invited by Mrs Thomas, Headmistress at Grange Infant School, to visit the school to see a performance of a Christmas concert and also to have a tour of the school.

The performance that they saw was a nativity play, performed by the Reception Class, which they enjoyed enormously. The children were so entertaining and had learned their songs and movements so well that it was difficult to remember that most of them were just four years old. Of course, there were the usual type of things that make these occasions extra memorable, such as the little boy who stood up when everyone else sat down and vice versa, and a little "donkey" whose ears wouldn't stay in place. After the performance, Mike & Pat were shown around the school by Mrs Thomas and were very impressed with what they saw. Mike was particularly interested in the technology available - there were more computers in the infant school than had been available in his place of employment in the 1970s! Pat noticed particularly that all of the classrooms were adorned with bright, colourful works of art and that every child they saw seemed to be cheerful & purposeful. It was a really special and enjoyable day and Mike & Pat were very appreciative of their invitation.

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

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



Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Health & Fitness – Become a member of our Gym

Annual membership

£222.00 (Month 13 Free)

Committed fitness membership

£18.50 per month (paid via direct debit) with a minimum 6 months commitment. The direct debit will roll on after the initial six month period unless one month's written notice is given

Non committed fitness membership

£25.00 per month (paid via direct debit). Cancellation is possible with one calendar month's written notice—as a comparison the 3 month gold pass was £72.00 or £24.00 per month

The annual and committed fitness membership provides members with a FREE fitness assessment, induction, reassessments and gym pack (towel, water bottle and gym bag). Any new member who decides to take out a non committed option will be required to pay an assessment/induction fee (including programme) of £13.00 and a fee for any reassessment and gym pack. All committed and non committed memberships also receive FREE aerobic classes.

Your four steps to a Healthier lifestyle:

Step One—Day One

Introduction—A one to one tour to introduce you to the gym equipment and some tips for starting your exercise regime. Plus, you will also receive a free health assessment and personalised programme.

The Health Assessment will take place in the "Fitness Testing Room" and includes :

- Health questionnaire
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Weight and body % fat analysis

Step Two—Week Three

Nutritional and Lifestyle consultation. Our qualified instructor will discuss the best ways to help achieve your goals outside the gym. This will include advice on diet and healthy living, and tips on how to keep a home food diary and to encourage you and your whole family to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

Step Three—Week 6, 12 And 18

Programme Review— After 6 weeks your instructor will invite you back for a review. This will include a repeat health check and fitness test. You will discuss how close you are to achieving your goals and your programme will be adjusted accordingly.

Step Four—Month Six

Looking Good ! At the end of your first 6 months with us we want to congratulate and reward you for your hard work. All members completing their 3 reviews will receive a FREE personal training session with one of our instructors

Crazy Crocs Club

2010 Holiday Dates

April Half Term: 6th - 16th

June Half Term: 1st - 4th

Summer Holiday

Jul 26th - 31st Aug (ex 30th Aug)

Shop & Drop

Available During School Term Times

Members: £2.80 Non-Members:£3.80

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

Ask at reception for more details.

Little Nippers Crèche 0-4yrs

Available During School Term Times

Members: £2.00 Non-Members:£3.00

Majestic Dance Night

Saturday 16th October 2010

The George Thorby Big Band & Nitelife 7pm with 7.30 start non stop music & dancing. All proceeds to be donated to the Prospect Hospice

Tickets available mid April **£15.00** each First come first serve as this will be a very popular night

info on **01793 825525**

or email: Mark Beazley on

opsman.bar@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Table Top Sales

8am to 11am in the Sports Hall on the following dates:

Saturday 24th April, Saturday 22nd May
Saturday 26th June

Hall space for hire.

If you are a club looking for indoor hall space please contact reception on **01793 825525**.

Become a member of **Stratton Community Leisure Centre** for some great deals. For more information contact the Centre on **01793 825525**.

Weddings at Stratton Community Leisure Centre

When choosing your wedding venue why not consider the Stratton Suite? The team at Stratton Community Leisure Centre are committed to ensuring that your wedding plans are in safe hands and that all your needs and budgetary requirements are taken care of.

The Stratton Suite is an ideal venue for your wedding and has its own bar. The room can be furnished with round or oblong tables with table linen coordinated to your chosen wedding colours.

- Suitable for 120 guests (seated)
- Excellent catering and menu options (tailored to your needs)

Please call us on (01793) 825525, to view the Suite and discuss your plans.

The Holistic Therapy Room at SCLC

Local, Affordable, Professional

Are you feeling stressed out? Suffering from aches and pains, or need a little 'me' time? Are you struggling with the pressures of modern life? Why not find out if one of our holistic therapies can help you? At The Holistic Therapy Room, you're more than just a number. We take the time to listen to you. With our range of therapies, including Aromatherapy, Sports and Remedial Massage, Relaxing Facial Treatments, Reiki, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage, we can tailor our treatments to suit your needs.

We are experienced therapists, fully trained, and members of the Federation of Holistic Therapists, so you'll be in safe hands.

Please contact us for more information – you'll be under no obligation to book an appointment.

Julia Jenkins – 07786 132319 –

julia@holistictherapyroom.com

Linda People – 079 139 21352 –

linda@holistictherapyroom.com

Or take a look at our website

www.holistictherapyroom.com

Special Offer: for all new gym members at Stratton Community Leisure Centre **At the Holistic Therapy Room, we're pleased to offer all new gym members £5.00 off your first treatment!**

Why not try a massage after your workout, or treat yourself to one of our relaxing treatments?

Adventure Service Awards

Silver Award Ceremony for Adventure Service Challenge Meadowcroft took place at the Stratton St Margaret Parish Chambers on the 28th January 2010

Max Morrell-Neal (age13yrs), Chris Wilkins (age13yrs), Connor Mountford, (age13yrs), Jordan Page (age13yrs) all from Stratton St Margaret, and Clare Morris (age 14yrs) from West Swindon, received silver awards, the highest award available under the Adventure Service Challenge scheme. Owen Gullier was also presented with his Senior Stage One Certificate.

The Awards were presented to the young people by Peter Owen, Chair of the Council, Paul Russell, Clerk to the Council, and Peter Robinson, Integrated Service Manager.

The scheme has enabled the young people to gain skills in first aid, camping, health and safety, cooking and road safety over a two year period. Activities included fundraising for their residential: they held a table top sale, a sponsored walk around Coat Water and few small in-house fundraisers, and litter picking as part of their community section which was achieved with the help of Neighbourhood

Wardens Nick Brock and David Prestana.

The Adventure Service Challenge is run by the Swindon Borough Council's Youth/Play service in partnership with Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, and is held every Thursday at the Meadowcroft Community Rooms. The group is self-funding. We are grateful to Stratton St Margaret Parish Council for the support it has given us over the last three years, allowing us the use of the Hall, and for the grant to to enable youth service staff to run the project. Swindon Borough Council also run the scheme at the underground youth centre in North Swindon on Fridays and Highworth youth centre on Mondays.

The scheme is open to children aged between 10-13 with the aim of building self-belief, confidence and reinforcing a sense of responsibility and an ability to learn from others in the community. It also promotes volunteering for young people and adults.

Cllr Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for

Children Services, said: "The type of skills young people can achieve on this scheme will help them in their everyday lives and as they develop into young men and women. It provides an alternative way of completing goals without sitting a test, helping to raise their confidence and self-esteem while having a bit of fun."



Children with their awards

Stratton in Bloom

Fill in the entry form and get involved

Please fill in this form and return to:

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

Entry Category: Please tick box

Front Garden without lawn Hanging baskets &/or troughs Front Garden with lawn

Name of Entrant:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Stratton St Margaret in Pictures

Why not bring along your old photographs and postcards of Stratton St Margaret to the Library. With your permission we will copy them for our archive and put them on our Local Collection Flickr page to build up our photographic collection of your area for future generations.

**Upper Stratton Library, Beechcroft Rd, Upper Stratton, Swindon
Tel 01793 464495**

Friday 30th April 2010
10.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm
Additional contact details

Roger Trayhurn 01793 463797
rtrayhur@swindon.gov.uk

Ali Swann 01793 463238
aswann@swindon.gov.uk

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 Ennis

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

C - Mr W Young-Powell

59 Nythe Road, Coleview, SWINDON, SN3 4AW
825703

Clerk of The Council

Mr P Russell, Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN2 7JX
clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

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

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

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 613189 Covingham & Nythe

Phil Young 729732 Covingham & Nythe

Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips Ward