Stratton Parish NEWS Serving the Community



Winter 2016 Issue 23

Visit the Reindeer in Santa's Grotto. Stalls selling food, gifts and crafts, many of which made by local Swindon

artisans and craftspeople. PLUS Children's Activities!

Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council to take on devolved local services (StreetSmart) from Swindon Borough Council from April 2017

At an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on Tuesday 4 October 2016 Stratton St Margaret Parish Councillors resolved to take on devolved local services from Swindon Borough Council from April 2017.

The majority of residents would not be expected to know which level of authority (Parish or Town Council, District Council or Borough Council) cuts each piece of grass, trims the hedgerows or collects litter, however with the current duel delivery of local services (StreetSmart) means the Parish is left with a mix of standards of service which creates frustration for our residents and inefficient working practices.

Councillors thoroughly debated the motion on Tuesday night and considered the extreme pressure it was facing from the Borough Council to take on the services. Members also expressed their dilemma having conducted a Parish Poll in February. The Poll (of which 7.87% of the residents voted) sent a clear message to Swindon Borough that the vast majority of Stratton St Margaret's residents see this as a double taxation and voted overwhelmingly to reject the proposal.

Since this vote took place Stratton St Margaret is one of the few remaining parishes in Swindon not to take on the devolution of StreetSmart services from the Borough Council. This year the Council has received numerous complaints regarding the overgrown vegetation on land that is not owned or serviced by them.

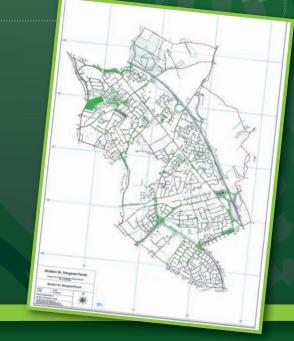
Stratton St Margaret Parish Councillors are incredibly proud of its open spaces and did not wish to see Stratton's green areas and roads get any worse. Swindon Borough Council had made it clear that if the Parish Council did not take on the StreetSmart services they will cease, as they themselves are facing reduced funding from central government and have a need to allocate their budget to Adult Social Care.

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"Following the lively debate on Tuesday our Members voted to take on the local services from the Borough. The motion was carried with reluctance from many of our Members. However, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council also considers that if the delivery of local services are at a local level it will enable our local community to have a much greater say in shape of the local environment and making local choices."

FRIDA 2016

Councillor Joe Tray, Chairman of the Parish Council





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Stratton St Margaret Parish Council to take on devolved local services (StreetSmart) from Swindon Borough Council from April 2017 (continued)...

During the debate, Members were also mindful of a recent draft paper published by the Department for Communities and Local Government that proposes a tax referendum for local parish and town councils. The paper proposes to impose a 2% cap on raising precepts to larger, higher spending local councils which includes Stratton St Margaret. The consultation suggests that there could be flexibility for local councils who have had responsibilities transferred to them from principal councils so that they are not unduly constrained.

The cost to the Parish of taking over the StreetSmart services from Swindon Borough Council is approximately £100,000 per year. Swindon Borough has offered a transitional fund of 50% towards the cost in the first year, 25% in the second and 0% in year 3.

By taking on the local services and receiving these transitional funds, the Parish Council will be managing its budgets carefully to minimise any potential increase in the Parish precept and to ensure it can maintain a sustainable service going forward.

Other local issues that we are investigating on behalf of our local residents include ways to help with the threatened closure of Beechcroft Library and the reduction of local transport which have impacted on our residents in Upper Stratton. The current situation is such that without taking long trips into the Town Centre, residents in this part of Stratton are now isolated from their doctors and the hospital - we appreciate that if you are in Upper Stratton, even just to visit your local Leisure Centre on Grange Drive is difficult without access to a car.

There are very difficult decisions that have to made but we will make these decisions as your elected representatives.

Any resident who would like to talk about any of the above issues or any other concerns are welcome to come along to my public question time surgeries every second Saturday at Grange Leisure Coffee Shop at 10am and from 11am until midday at Beechcroft Library. Alternatively I can also be reached by email j.tray@ntlworld.com or my mobile 0781 317 0202.

For further details of the devolved areas and a map of our current open spaces visit the Stratton St Margaret website.



Community Grants

At a Full Council meeting in September the Parish Council presented over £5,000 of community funding to local groups and charities. Amongst the recipients, Stratton Juniors Football Club received £1,000 toward the purchase of a defibrillator that will be installed at Meadowcroft Recreation grounds and Swindon's 105.5 radio station also received £1,000 for training opportunities for Autism Sufferers.

Councillor Joe Tray, Chairman of the Council said "Community Grants are a great way for the Parish Council to help local groups with their projects. We are encouraging more groups to apply for our grants. We accept grant applications twice a year.

More information is available on the our website (http://strattonstmargaret. gov.uk/grants-donations/). For example, recipients have to meet certain criteria, such as the work of the organisation has to directly benefit a number of residents of Stratton St Margaret.

Libraries Strategy Consultation

The Borough Council's Library consultation ended on 30 September.

During the consultation period there were a number of public meetings and drop in events across the library service.

To view the findings to date please visit the website at:

www.swindon.gov.uk/librariesfuture



Bus Service Review and Strategy



Swindon Borough Council's recent consultation on the Local Bus Strategy, which will affect bus services in the Parish closed on 22 August. The results which were approved at Cabinet on 7 September are now available to view on Borough Council's website.





Councillor Retirement

Rosa Tran has resigned from the Council after 25 years of serving the people of Stratton St Margaret. The Council will miss



her experience and knowledge of all things Stratton. She will be sorely missed by her fellow Councillors.

We wish her a long and well deserved retirement from local politics.

Swindon Foodbank Community helping people in crisis.



All you have to do is download and print off our foodlist, take it with you next time you're shopping, pick up a few things on the list and drop them off at Foodbank.

Drop off your food to Swindon Foodbank by popping into Grange Leisure or one of the many food drop off points.

http://www.swindonfoodbank.co.uk/foodlist

Chit, Chat, Knit & Natter ! Coffee Morning at Grange Coffee Shop

Every Tuesday from 10am – 12noon All are welcome, you don't have to knit – you can just natter!

Parish Council Parks & Open Spaces

David Boase, Senior Parks and Open Spaces Officer

Welcome to the first of regular updates devoted to all things Stratton, particularly in the Parish's Parks and Open spaces.

In this first update I want to highlight the great work our volunteers have been undertaking in recent months across the Parish and to hopefully entice a few new members of our growing (volunteer) team.

Restoration of Green Road Chapel

On the 12 September, a small but plucky group of volunteers set about tackling the jungle of Ivy and Elder, which had begun to cover up and damage Green Road Chapel (The smallest Chapel in Swindon!).

A couple of hours of elbow grease did them proud, and for the first time in years, this little gem of a building could be seen as intended. A brilliant start to what we hope will be a full restoration of a real asset to Parish history.



Brownie Litter Pick

Very well done to the Stratton St Margaret Brownies too, who in September helped to clean up the streets around St Margaret's Church and the shops at Rainer Close. The team were more than happy to tackle the local litter and there were big smiles all round from start to finish. Thank you Brownies for your excellent work!



Claridges Pond

Next on the list is Claridges Park, a much loved place and definitely in need of some attention. A session or two with local volunteers will be organised very soon to give the park and pond some much needed attention.



Our Winter Volunteer Programme has been published on our website http://strattonstmargaret.gov.uk/open-spaces/ or call the Parish Office for further details.

Vacant Allotment Plots

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Stratton St Margaret Parish Council currently has vacant plots at St Philips Allotment Garden, Upper Stratton. For as little as £14 rent per year, you'll get a chance to grow your own fruit, veg and flowers, and get the satisfaction that only comes with eating home grown, fresh food.

Apply now. Give us a call on 01793 823761 or email info@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

B&Q Benefaction

In August, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council were the proud recipients of three brand new benches, very kindly donated by B&Q for the benefit of visitors to the Parish.

The benches are now in use and surely being appreciated by the people of parish with tired legs and a moment to sit. Our thanks to B&Q.

Join us on the 19th November for a Community Tree Planting in Upper Stratton

Over 420 trees will be planted by groups of local people including members of local Girl Guiding units, local Cub Scouts, the Boys Brigade and local residents at Merton Fields on **Saturday 19 November from 10.30am – 12.30pm.**

Councillor Joe Tray, the Chairman of the Council said: "We have invited a range of organisations to get involved in the Stratton area. Planting trees will improve the amenity of the local area and it will encourage local wildlife."

The trees, all native broadleaved species such as oak and beech, will grow into a flourishing young wood in as little as 10 years. They have been provided by the Woodland Trust, as part of its tree pack scheme, where trees are supplied for free to groups that want to improve their neighbourhood and the local environment.

Meet point is Merton Avenue entrance to the field.









And finally...

If you would like to get involved volunteering in Stratton, please do get in touch. There's information on our website http://strattonstmargaret.gov.uk/ or you can call the office on 01793 823761. We have a winter programme of tasks to attend, but ideas are also welcome if you can't make the sessions.



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council would like to give a BIG thanks to all sponsors, partners, volunteers, local pubs and the community from across the Parish for helping to make the 2016 Stratton Festival and Stratton Stroll events in July such a fantastic success. Our events this year have raised nearly £1,000 for CALM, our Chairman's chosen Charity.



Parish Council Office, Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY

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Grange Gym





Ask our team for further details.

GIFT VOUCHERS

Why not give the gift of health and fitness this Christmas with a Grange Leisure gift voucher!

FROM £70.00 3 Months membership with

classes for £70 (Parish) or £72 (Non Parish) This offer is only available when purchased as a gift via the gift vouchers. Available for purchase until 31 December 2016.

Football Fun for GRANGE LEISURE The Centre of your Community



Football Fun at Grange Leisure



For Ages 7 – 11 years All abilities welcome FOOTBALL PARTY PACKAGE

PLUS ALL WEATHER ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES FOR HIRE

Image Content and State State

us on Facebook www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



Back to Netball comes to Grange from Jan '17

Try free taster session on 6 November and 13 November from 10 - 11am in our Main Hall. Back to Netball is a sessional programme of netball providing a gentle reintroduction to the sport.

Sessions will take place for 8 weeks from Sunday 8 January 10 -11am, £3 per session.

Grange Leisure & Gym Christmas Opening Times

23 December - Closed at midday (except Grange Bar) Christmas Eve - Closed (except Grange Bar) Christmas Day - Closed Boxing Day - Closed (except Grange Bar)

Then usual opening times until New Year's Day - Closed 2 January - Closed 3 January Open as usual



The Community Gets Fitter at Grange

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council provides health and wellbeing spaces, equipment and professionals for all sectors of our community. We have evolved Grange Leisure into a vibrant and welcoming hub for health and wellbeing and is accessible for all.

We welcome groups to the Centre including Young at Heart, rehab classes with our Steps to Health, Walking Football for the local Parkinson's Group, a weekly Walking Netball and our Junior Gym sessions aimed specifically for 10-15 years.

Our Gym offers functional training equipment, a mixed free weights area and general fitness equipment regardless of your age and fitness capability. We have a team available to personalise programmes to suit individual needs and to offer advice. Gary Turland, our Senior Fitness Officer, can also help customers with personal training sessions.

Our popular fitness programme has recently been boosted by the introduction of Fitness Pilates; a functional approach to traditional Pilates that will improve all over body muscular strength, joint mobility and core strength. This class complements other classes such as Yoga, Body Box, Ladies Kick Fit. The introduction the Les Mills Series last year continues to go from strength to strength. These sessions have introduced a new audience to fitness classes, with Body Attack[™], Body Balance[™]. GRIT[™] sessions in particular, for men and women with heavier weights than usual classes. These high intensity sessions are designed to get you to your peak athletic performance and are not for the faint hearted.

If low impact is more your thing then our Wednesday Walking group is an excellent opportunity too for any age to walk around our beautiful Parish, lead by Anne Harris our Senior Fitness Officer, participants get fit and socialise afterwards with a cuppa in our Coffee Shop.

The Ben Nevis tour will commence next year on 17 June 2017, with thanks to a Parish Council Community Grant, we will be transported by coach overnight to take on the ultimate summit. Fifty intrepid explorers will be challenging themselves physically and mentally to raise money for CALM and Swindon MIND.



















sky SPORTS

What's on at Grange Bar

BT Sport

Open Mic Nights • "Race Nights • Quiz Nights • "Discos

Tuesdays & Thursdays

2 course Senior lunch specials £4.50, 12.00 – 2.00pm

Sample menu - Roast Dinner and Spotted Dick and Custard. Toad in the Hole and Fruit Crumble and Custard.

NOVEMBER 2016

1 November 3 November 4 November	Open Mic at 8pm Rock N Roll Bingo at 8pm Karaoke & Disco at 8pm	12 November 25 November	Young Rosie at 8pm Karaoke & Disco at 8pm	
DECEMBER 2	016	9 December	Christmas Party £19.95	
1 December	Rock N Roll Bingo at 8pm		Tickets available from Reception	
3 December			Christmas Party £19.95	
	6 December Christmas Senior Lunch in the Stratton Suite Tickets £9.95 available from Reception		Tickets available from Reception	
o December		31 December	New Year's Eve Party	
6 December			£7 for children and £12 for adults Tickets available from Reception	

Stratton St Margaret Christmas Day Lunch 2016

25 December 12.00 noon – 3.00pm at Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Swindon

With the generosity and support from our team at the Parish Council, the local community and businesses we are able to run a complimentary Christmas Day Lunch this year at Grange Leisure, for isolated people in the community. A traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings (vegetarian option available) will be served from 12.00 noon.

Please reserve your place by calling 01793 825525 and speak to Emily Harris.

Volunteers Welcomed

Everything is done by a team of dedicated volunteers who organise and put on the event on Christmas Day. We are always looking for more people to help. If you would like to lend a hand please call Emily Harris on 01793 825525.



Rosette awarded Chef joins Grange

Richard Reid recently joined the Grange Leisure kitchen team in July 2016.

With his vast knowledge and culinary expertise, he has over ten years experience of working as a chef from five star hotels with two rosettes to tasty American themed diners.

He has worked in France and Switzerland honing his skills in both pastry and main courses. He should prove to be a great addition to the Grange Leisure Team and is looking forward to a new challenge.

Grange Bar Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve – 12 noon – 11pm Christmas Day – Closed Boxing Day – 12 noon – 6pm (last orders 5.30pm) Tuesday 27 December 12 noon – 11pm Wednesday 28 December 12 noon – 11pm Thursday 29 December – 12 noon – 11pm Friday 30 December – 12 noon – 11.30pm New Year's Eve – 12 noon – 1.00am (no breakfasts) (last orders 12.45am) New Year's Day – Closed Mon 2 January – Open as usual

Council Meetings

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and accessible. All of our meetings are open to the public and press and are held in the Stratton Suite, Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY. Before every meeting the Agenda can be viewed on noticeboards throughout the Parish and on our website. All minutes are uploaded on the website. Here is the current calendar until the beginning of May 2017.

Date	Council/Committee	Start	Date	Council/Committee	Start
November 2016			February 2017		
1 November	Planning & Highways	7pm	7 February	Planning & Highways	7pm
8 November	Property Management	7pm	21 February	Planning & Highways	7pm
15 November	Planning & Highways	7pm	28 February	Council	7pm
22 November	Finance & General Purpose	7pm	March 2017		
29 November	Planning & Highways	-	7 March	Planning & Highways	7pm
	Planning & Fighways	7pm	14 March	Property Management	7pm
December 2016		21 March	Planning & Highways	7pm	
6 December	Council	7pm	28 March	Council	7pm
13 December	Planning & Highways	7pm	April 2017		
January 2017			4 April	Planning & Highways	7pm
10 January	Planning & Highways	7pm	11 April	Open Spaces	7pm
17 January	Open Spaces	7pm	18 April	Planning & Highways	7pm
24 January	Planning & Highways	7pm	25 April	Annual Parish Assesembly	7pm
31 January	Finance & General Purpose	7pm	May 2017		
			2 May	Annual Council Meeting	7pm

Borough Councillors' Ward Surgeries

Swindon Borough Ward Councillors conduct Surgeries to keep in touch with the electorate. See below to find your nearest one.

Date	Location	Time				
Gorsehill & Pinehurst						
Clirs John Ballman, Ray Ballman & Carol Shelley						
Contact Councillors for further details - contact details overleaf.						
Stratton St Margaret and South Marston						
Clirs John Haines, Colin Lovell, Russell Holland						
Last Saturday of each month (apart from December)	Grange Leisure	10.00am - 11.00am				
Penhill & Upper Stratton						
Cllrs Teresa Page & Joe Tray						
2nd Saturday of each month	Upper Stratton Library	11.00am - 12.00pm				
Covingham & Dorcan						
Cllr Richard Hurley, Kevin Parry, Dale Heenan						
First Saturday of each month	Liden	11.00am - 12.00pm				
First Saturday of each month	Coleview	11.00am - 11.45am				
First Saturday of each month	Messenger Pub	12.00pm - 12.45pm				

Chat to the Chairman Meet Chairman Cllr Joe Tray every other Saturday at Grange Coffee Shop 10am - 11am to discuss your Parish Council concerns.



Contact information

Parish Councillors

Coleview

Cllr Matthew Davis 97 Sandgate, Stratton St Margaret SN3 4HJ t: Contact via office e: Matthew4Stratton@gmail.com

Cllr Tim Page 13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7QN T: 01793 825481 e: pagetmemail@yahoo.com

Lower Coleview

Cllr Steve Benson 18 Juniper Close, Stratton St Margaret, SN3 4DZ t: 01793 825530 e: bensoncoleview@gmail.com

Lower Stratton

Cllr Roger Smith 39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret SN3 4WE t: Contact via office e: roger@stratone.demon.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Brenda Archer 15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St. Margaret SN3 4LY t: 01793 822263

Cllr Miss Alison Bridges 59 Winton Road, Lower Stratton SN3 4XL t: Contact via office

Cllr Mrs Anne Brooker

73 Swindon Road, Stratton St Margaret SN3 4PU t: 01793 825343 e: anne38@btinternet.com

Cllr Mrs Carol Ennis Seagulls, 6 Crispin Close, Stratone Village SN3 4XH t: 01793 831335 e: carolennis2@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr John C Foley 59 Winton Road, Lower Stratton SN3 4XL t: Contact via office

Cllr Stuart Leach 24 Ermin Street, Swindon SN3 4RQ t: 01793 828038 e: stuartleach24@hotmail.com

Upper Stratton

Chairman: Cllr Joe Tray 3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret SN2 7TQ t: 0781 317 0202 e: j.tray@ntlworld.com

Cllr Mrs Eileen Foley 7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton SN2 7LQ t: 01793 822110 e: cllrjohn@ntlworld.com

Cllr John Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton SN2 7LQ t: 01793 822110 e: cllrjohn@ntlworld.com **Cllr Brett Jouny** 21 Hyde Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7RT t: 01793 977959 e: brettjouny@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Andree Murphy 2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton SN2 7QR t: 01793 337144 e: andreemurphy57@hotmail.com

Cllr Miss Tara Page 9 Hatch Road, Stratton, Swindon SN3 4XY t: Contact via office e: tarpaguk@yahoo.co.uk

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Teresa Page 13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7QN t: 01793 825481 e: teresapageswindon@yahoo.co.uk

Merton

Cllr Mrs Claire Crilly 8 Wise Close, Upper Stratton SN2 7LT t: 01793 820284 e: claire_hollyberry@msn.com

Parish Council Contacts

Clerk to the Council Mrs Tracy Predeth BA (Hons) MPA, Parish Council Office, Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY t: 01793 823761 e: clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook @StrattonPC

Local Member of Parliament

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

Parish Council Christmas Opening Times

The Parish Council Office will be closed from midday on 23 December until 8.30am on Tuesday 3 January 2017

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Gorse Hill and Pinehurst

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

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

Clir Carol Shelley t: 07794 594040 e: cshelleyswindon@gmail.com

Stratton St Margaret & South Marston

Cllr John Haines t: 07901 534640 e: jcthaines@hotmail.com

Cllr Colin Lovell t: 01793 321634 e: colinplovell@gmail.com

Clir Russell Holland t: 07999 566623 e: rholland@swindon.gov.uk Penhill and Upper Stratton Cllr Mark Dempsey

t: 07890 411638 e: mark@markdempsey.org.uk

Cllr Mrs Teresa Page t: 01793 825481 e: teresapageswindon@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Joe Tray t: 07813 170202 e: j.tray@ntlworld.com

Covingham and Dorcan

Cllr Dale Heenan t: 01793 613189 e: dale.heenan@googlemail.com

Cllr Barbara Parry t: 07986 486198 e: barbara.parry@gmail.com

Cllr Kevin Parry m: 07914 309291 e: cllrkevin.parry@ntlworld.com

Police Contacts for North East Swindon

Area Inspector Insp Charlie DUCKER 1009 Area Sergeant PS 1989 COPELAND Community Police: Stratton Neighbourhood Polic PC lack NEWMAN 1966 – Bas

Stratton Neighbourhood Police Team PC Jack NEWMAN 1966 – Beat manager PCSO Stuart BIRD 6100 PCSO CLARK 3977 Email: swindonnortheastmpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk Telephone: 101 for non emergencies 999 for emergency calls



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

Wiltshire Police (Swindon) call 101 (non emergency). If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired you can text phone on 18001 101