

# Stratton Parish News

Serving the Community



Published by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council



## COME DOWN TO YOUR BEECHCROFT LIBRARY

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council were hugely successful in a bid to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to continue to run Beechcroft Library in Upper Stratton. Tell us what you want to see held at this exciting new community venue.

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# Beechcroft Library – Your Community Hub

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council were successful in a bid to continue to run the Library in Upper Stratton.



Image Credit: Dave Cox

After a few tense months, lots of communication with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) we were delighted when our tender was approved and we were given the keys to the local library in Upper Stratton.

SBC is supporting us over the next 12 months, and are generously contributing £90k to support maintenance, staff, resources and turning the library into a 'Community Hub' for local residents and local business owners.

The Parish Council has been awarded the opportunity to run the library and community hub on an annual service level agreement from 1st September. This will enable the Council to invest in the library and community hub and make it a local community success.

We cannot do this without the support of Friends of Upper Stratton Library who were strongly influential in the continuation of the library provision. They will be taking an integral role in volunteering in the community hub and assisting with the recruitment of volunteers. Contact us if you are interested.

Do you know a local business who may be interested in sponsoring aspects of the community hub? If so, we'd love to hear from them.

## What events and facilities you would like at the community hub?

Are you interested in art, poetry, nursery rhyme times, homework or prep work sessions, book clubs, charity coffee fundraisers, advice workshops and IT facilities? If yes to all or some of the above - then please contact us! See below.

### Beechcroft Library Opening Times

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday	10:00am – 6:00pm
Friday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday	Closed
Bank Holiday	Closed

T: 01793 680030

E: beechcroft.library@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

## Toddler Storytime

Have some fun with stories, music & singing – no need to book.

Thursdays 10:30am  
Beechcroft Library



## Knit & Natter

Meet new people, learn to knit, teach others how to knit. Everyone welcome.

Fridays 11:00am  
Beechcroft Library



# Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our coffee mornings at Grange Leisure and Beechcroft Library together we have raised over £70 for this worthy cause.

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**



## Contact us

Contact the Clerk to the Council with all your ideas  
01793 823761 | clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

# Community Grant – Thank You!

Twice yearly the Parish Council awards grants to community groups across Stratton St Margaret to help with start up and running costs to benefit the wider community.

Here are a handful of THANKS! from recent recipients.

“ The Swindon & District Branch of Parkinson’s UK would like to express our grateful thanks to the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council for their grant of £1,300. This grant will go towards the running costs of our Special Seated Class for people with Parkinson’s who now have difficulty standing due to the progressive nature of the disease. This will include room hire, instructor fees and transport costs for those who have no other means of participating in the class. ”

**Swindon & District Branch of Parkinson’s UK**



Thank you!



“ We would like to thank the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council for all their very important support. The support we have received has helped us start up the group by supplying the room, art supplies and equipment. The Art group has over 27 members in which we have a wide range of ages from a Home Schooled young person to someone of over 80, many of the artists are from the local Stratton area. The artists have found that they have derived a great deal of benefit from being in a safe environment, socialising, making new friends, and furthering their artistic skills. ”

**Stratton Community Art Group**

“ The support received from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has been invaluable to us in the 16 months since Stratton Camera Club was formed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stratton Parish Council, and we hope to evolve and grow, whilst continuing in close partnership with the council, for many years to come. ”

**Stratton Camera Club**

The community also came together when neighbours at, Pickwick Close, Duchess Way and Cairndow Way set up a cake and coffee area on the green to raise money for Macmillan. They were very grateful for the Parish Council cutting the grass a day or so before too!

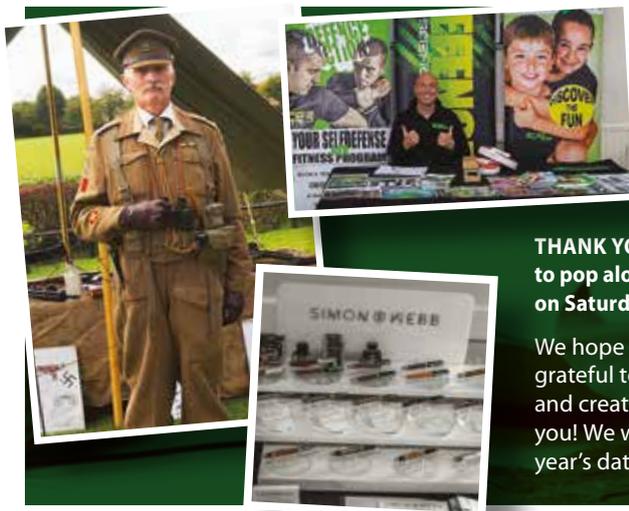
**Special thanks to the organisers:**

Paula & Andy Cooke, Mike & Marylyn Crisp and Niki & Chaz Somerville. Their fantastic efforts raised £250.

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

“ The Parish have supported us now with two grants towards a community hub at the allotment plot. The recent grant being to help fund turning the shipping containers on site into an attractive hall for our use. All the actual work towards this is by volunteers, the grant being for assistance with materials. ”

**White Hart Allotment Society**



**THANK YOU to everyone who managed to pop along to our first Autumn Fayre on Saturday 16 September.**

We hope you enjoyed it. We’re so grateful too for all the stall holders and creatives who came along – thank you! We will be announcing next year’s date soon.

# Introducing the Stratton Open Spaces Team

By Oliver Saunders, Open Spaces Manager



Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is responsible for around 160 acres of land within its boundary.

About a third of this is owned by the Parish and the rest is owned by Swindon Borough Council and managed by us on its behalf.

I am extremely proud of the team and I have a great deal of trust in their ability to do their jobs. I know we might not always get things right and when you are working in public areas any mistakes are immediately evident but I have great faith in their ability and work ethic.

The Head Groundsman Lee Plank has been with the Parish Council for around 16 years, originally starting out as a general labourer and now with a great deal of responsibility on his broad shoulders. He is a good leader with a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience and has a very broad skill base enabling him to tackle any job that comes under our remit, from building walls to driving tractors. The rest of the members of the team each have their specialist skills and they all enjoy their work, year-round in all weathers!

Our remit is broad. We are a burial authority and on average we prepare a full grave every 10 days and an ashes burial every 7 days. We take great pride in ensuring that this is a smooth operation because we understand it needs to be. We also continue to look for an additional burial site.

We also have 9 play areas with a range of play equipment available that is open for use 365 days a year. This needs checking and maintaining regularly, again a job we take very seriously. We provide several football pitches to local teams, which again require regular maintenance, not least to mark the white lines every 2 weeks! We are currently trying to expand our pitch maintenance operation by investing in a

new tractor mounted machine, capable of aerating the ground. We also have an all weather pitch located at Grange Leisure, made of astro-turf. This is an extremely popular resource and again requires regular and specialist maintenance.

The largest areas of our work are undoubtedly grass cutting and management of bins and litter. We have 3 tractor mowers and they are busy for 8 months of the year. Spring and autumn are our busiest periods for grass cutting and no sooner have we cut all of our grass but the boys start the whole process again!

We have 123 bins to maintain and about half of them are emptied 2-3 times per week. This in itself is a huge task and as an estimate costs the council around £30,000 per year. The biggest problem we face is people dropping litter on the ground. This costs us an inordinate amount of time and money to deal with. We also have problems with bins being filled almost instantly when people clear out their cars or garages. I would urge people to put litter into their own bins for either collection or take it to the refuse tip.

We are responsible for literally thousands of trees and a couple of miles of hedges in total. We have guys with big muscles and a tractor mounted flail for the hedges that are too big even for them to manage but even still the task of maintaining our hedges to the standards that we set ourselves is a difficult one.

**We are people of the land and take great pride in working with plants and people, aiming to keep Stratton green and tidy.**

## Family Tree Planting

**Meet at St Margaret's Green in Lower Stratton**

Wear wellies and a warm coat. Bring forks and spades if you have them.

Warm up with a hot drink and cake in the Grange Coffee Shop for all the volunteers afterwards.

Saturday 25th November 2017  
10:00am – 1:00pm

## Contact

### Stratton Open Spaces (SOS) Team

The SOS team and local community work hard to keep Stratton a great place to live and work, but sometimes things do need extra attention. If you find anything amiss do contact us with the accurate location information:

**T:** 01793 833432  
(Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm,  
Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm)

**W:** [strattonstmargaret.gov.uk/sos/](http://strattonstmargaret.gov.uk/sos/)

**E:** [SOSquery@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk](mailto:SOSquery@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk)

# Grange Leisure going from **STRENGTH TO STRENGTH**



This September Grange Leisure took part in a national campaign, delivered by Public Health England.

Grange Leisure took part in a national campaign, delivered by Public Health England. The aim is to inspire and support adults to get **EVEN MORE** active!

Just by making simple changes to your lifestyle can have a huge influence on your health. And exercise is a great way to get the heart pumping, improve your mood and reduce the risk of long term health conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

Throughout September we offered the Wednesday Walking Club for FREE to all who wish to attend. This popular walking group takes place every week from 11.45am. Walkers meet at Grange Leisure and walk their way to fitness around some

of the parish hot spots with our fitness instructor, Anne Harris.

We are also offering a new 3-month Fitness Pass of £60 Parish and £62 Non-Parish, including fitness classes. This special offer will last until 31st December.

### Gym & Centre Opening Hours

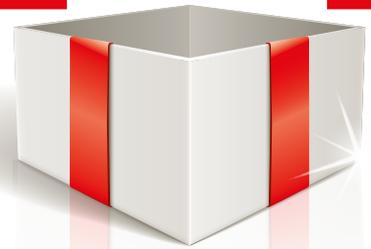
Christmas Eve	Closed from 6:00pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	9:00am – 5:00pm
New Year's Eve	Closed from 6:00pm
New Year's Day	Closed

The last fitness class for 2017 will take place on Friday 22 December and will return on Tuesday 2 January 2018.



### Grange Leisure Gift Vouchers

On sale from reception and can be exchanged for football coaching, fitness classes, gym sessions or event bookings.



**October Camp!**  
 Tuesday 24th October - Thursday 26th October  
**DRAYCOTT SPORTS CAMP**  
 Location: Grange Leisure Centre  
 Time: 9:00am-3:00pm  
 Price: £14.00 a day  
 Ages: 5-13 years  
 Email: info@draycottsportscomp.com

**KID'S HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS PARTY**  
**Monday 30th October 6.00pm**  
 For children aged between 5 and 11 years with games, sweets and food.  
 £5 per child  
 (no alcohol will be served or permitted in the room)  
 Competition for the best fancy dress

**POST OFFICE**  
 Stratton St Margaret Post Office is **OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**  
 Inside CostCutter on Rainer Close lies Stratton's little local Post Office. A much needed addition to the community.  
**Here are the opening times:**

Monday	9:00am – 8:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am – 5:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am – 8:00pm
Thursday	9:00am – 5:30pm
Friday	9:00am – 8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am – 12:30pm
Sunday	Closed



# WHAT'S ON

OCT

**14th** Quiz night – 8pm

**27th** Smileys People Band  
– 8:45pm

NOV

**10th** Darren Hunt – 9pm

**25th** Quiz night – 8pm

DEC

**7th** Senior Christmas Lunch  
12:30pm (two-courses for £9.95)

**16th** Xmas Quiz Night – 8pm

**31st** Disco – 7:30pm

## Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve	10.00am – 9.00pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	11.00am – 6.00pm
Wednesday 27 December	4.00pm – 10.30pm
Thursday 28 December	4.00pm – 10.30pm
Friday 29 December	1.00pm – 11.30pm
Saturday 30 December	1.00pm – 11.30pm
New Year's Eve	10.00am – 12.30am
New Year's Day	Closed
Tuesday 2 January	Open as usual at 4.00pm

# Christmas EXTRAVAGANZA

**Friday 1st December 1.00pm - 7.00pm**

**GRANGE LEISURE, GRANGE DRIVE, STRATTON, SN3 4JY**

- CHRISTMAS CAROLS • REINDEER
- FAIRGROUND • CRAFT STALLS • SANTA'S GROTTO
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • FOOD & DRINK
- ...AND MORE!

Book your table  
before 31st October  
and receive a bottle  
of prosecco for every  
10 guests - now  
how's that for festive  
sparkle!



## Grange Leisure Christmas PARTY NIGHTS 2017

**ONLY £21.95**

**Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December**



**GRANGE  
LEISURE**  
The Centre of your Community

# New Year's Eve Party Night

Tickets now  
on sale!

SEE IN THE NEW YEAR AT GRANGE LEISURE

Join us for a Sparkling Party this New Year's Eve  
7.00pm – 1.00am

Live music from 'Kova Me Badd', Disco & Entertainment  
for all ages. Food available for purchase on the night.  
Ticket are available from Grange Leisure Reception  
£7.00 for children and £12.00 for adults

# 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 the noticeboards at Grange Leisure and on our website. All minutes are uploaded on the website. Here is the current calendar until the end of April 2018.

Date	Civic Events	Start
<b>October 2017</b>		
24 October	Planning & Highways	7pm
31 October	Finance & General Purpose	7pm
<b>November 2017</b>		
7 November	Planning & Highways	7pm
14 November	Finance & General Purpose	7pm
28 November	Full Council	7pm
28 November	Planning & Highways	7pm
<b>December 2017</b>		
5 December	Open Spaces	7pm
12 December	Planning & Highways	7pm
<b>January 2018</b>		
9 January	Planning & Highways	7pm
16 January	Full Council	7pm
23 January	Planning & Highways	7pm
30 January	Property Management	7pm

Date	Civic Events	Start
<b>February 2018</b>		
6 February	Planning & Highways	7pm
20 February	Planning & Highways	7pm
27 February	Finance & General Purpose	7pm
<b>March 2018</b>		
6 March	Planning & Highways	7pm
13 March	Property Management	7pm
20 March	Planning & Highways	7pm
27 March	Full Council	7pm
<b>April 2018</b>		
10 April	Planning & Highways	7pm
17 April	Open Spaces	7pm
24 April	Annual Parish Assembly	7pm



## REMEMBRANCE SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Sunday 12 November 2017

Remembrance Service – St Margaret’s Church at 10.30am

Remembrance Service – Stratton Methodist Church at 10.30am

Remembrance Service – St Philips Church, Upper Stratton at 11.00am

Act of Remembrance – Stratton Royal British Legion War Memorial at 12.30pm

Act of Remembrance, with Prayers for Peace  
Stratton Peace Memorial, Ermin Street at 3.00pm  
Followed by refreshments in Grange Bar



Stratton St Margaret  
**COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROLS**

Come and join us in  
singing carols and getting  
ready for Christmas!

Thursday 15 December, 7.30pm,  
At The Peace Memorial,  
Ermin Street.  
Followed by refreshments in Grange Bar

# 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 932059  
**E:** pagetmemail@yahoo.com

### Lower Coleview

#### Cllr Steve Benson

18 Juniper Close, Stratton St Margaret, SN3 4DZ  
**T:** 01793 825530  
**E:** bensoncoleview@gmail.com

#### Cllr Barrie Jennings

113 Oxford Road, Stratton St Margaret  
**T:** 01793 826339  
**E:** 1strattonjennings@gmail.com

### Lower Stratton

#### Cllr Roger Smith

39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret N3 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 7Q  
**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

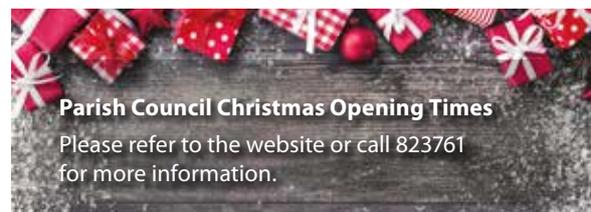
#### Cllr Mrs Teresa Page

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7QN  
**T:** 01793 932059  
**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 Christmas Opening Times

Please refer to the website or call 823761 for more information.

## Parish Council Contacts

### Clerk to the Council

#### Mrs Tracy Predeth, MPA, BA (Hons)

Parish Council Office, Grange Leisure, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY  
**T:** 01793 823761  
**E:** clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk



### Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

## Local Member of Parliament

#### Justin Tomlinson, MP

**T:** 01793 533393  
**E:** justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

## 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

#### Cllr 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

#### Cllr 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 932059  
**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

**T:** 07914 309291  
**E:** cllrkevin.parry@ntlworld.com

## Police Contacts for North East Swindon

### Area Inspector:

Insp Andy Bridge

### Area Sergeant:

PS Ben Huggins

### Community Co-ordinator

PC Phillippa Sharpley

### Community Police:

Stratton Neighbourhood Police Team

PCSO Ross Clark

PCSO Dom Tonge

**E:** swindonnortheastnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

**T:** 101 for non emergencies

999 for emergency calls

