

Parish Notables of Stratton St. Margaret

Doomsday book of 1086 shows that the parish was held by **Nigel**, physician to William the Conqueror



Adam De Stratton (c.1235 - 1294) administrator and moneylender, was the son of Thomas de Argoges (or Arwillis) of Stratton St Margaret, Wiltshire. Of his early life, nothing is known. The first firm evidence of Adam occurs in 1256, by when he was already a royal clerk attached to the exchequer. Stratton St Margaret was a dependency of Sevenhampton, a manor held by the Redvers earls of Devon as hereditary chamberlains of the exchequer. It seems likely, therefore, that it was to the influence of the Redvers family that Stratton owed his early career at the exchequer. After 1257, when the seventh earl came of age following a long minority, Stratton's association with the Redvers family was almost continuous. Between 1260 and 1262 he acted as the earl's attorney at the royal court, and in the latter year as an executor of his will. Soon afterwards he entered the service of Isabella de Forz, countess of Aumale and sister to the seventh earl of Devon, whom he served in various capacities until 1286.

Throughout his career Stratton's primary sphere of activity lay at the exchequer. In 1262 he became the weigher of the receipt, an office he acquired from its hereditary holder, John of Windsor, and which in 1265 he granted, for life, to his brother William of Stratton, who held it until 1290. In 1266 he also secured grants of 6d. a day for life from the king for his two other brothers, Henry and Thomas, who were clerics. By the mid-1260s Stratton himself had become the chamberlain of the receipt, and thus the deputy of Isabella de Forz, now the hereditary chamberlain of the exchequer in succession to her brother. In 1276, however, Isabella granted him, in fee, her own chamberlainship of the exchequer, along with its appurtenant manor of Sevenhampton, which he held until his fall in 1290. In addition, he also acquired possession, in fee, of half the ushership of the receipt, which he also held until 1290.

In addition to his duties at the exchequer Stratton was involved, from the late 1250s, with the supervision of the king's works at Westminster Abbey and Palace. Between 1264 and 1272 he was officially keeper of the Westminster works, though he may have been acting as keeper for some time before this. More than his work at the exchequer, it was probably his association with Westminster that brought him into contact with Henry III and produced for him the continuing stream of royal gifts and grants of ecclesiastical livings that he enjoyed during the last years of the old king's reign. These gifts continued under Edward I. By 1290 his ecclesiastical income alone was reckoned by Bartholomew Cotton to amount to £1000 per annum.

Stratton's enormous wealth was certainly due in part to his clerical offices, but primarily it was the product of his moneylending, and of his related trafficking in Jewish debts and in the mortgaged estates which guaranteed them. His position and privileges as an exchequer clerk were of considerable advantage to him in this business, which earned him an unsavoury reputation for sharp practice and dishonesty. It is not possible to determine exactly when he began his career as a moneylender, but he was already well established in it by 1260. It was probably as a result of his moneylending, indeed, that Stratton acquired his position as the weigher of the receipt in 1262. By 1271 he had also begun to lend money in partnership with the Riccardi of Lucca, Italian moneylenders and wool merchants with whom he would thereafter be closely involved.

Typical of Stratton's methods as a moneylender were the loans, he made to Bermondsey Priory, which eventually brought about his downfall. The priory's debts to him began in the 1260s, but they mounted dramatically after 1271, when the prior granted him an annuity of £40 to settle the house's existing debts and agreed to a penalty charge of £1 a day for late payment of the annuity. Further loans soon followed, some involving penalty and interest charges of 900 per cent per annum. By 1288, when Bermondsey presented its complaints against him to the king, Stratton held five of the priory's manors, all of its advowsons, and yet was still owed debts of £6000.

Stratton's direct involvement with the management of the countess of Aumale's estates appears to have begun in 1274; it was probably as a reward for reorganizing her financial administration that in 1276 Isabella gave him her chamberlainship of the exchequer in fee. Between 1277 and 1286 Stratton was clearly Isabella's chief financial official, receiving, disbursing, and transferring the revenues of her estates from his London base with the help of the Riccardi. In 1279, while acting in Isabella's service, he was accused before parliament by the abbot of Quarr (Isle of

Wight) of fraudulently removing the seal from an abbey charter. More allegations of dishonest conduct emerged when the king suspended him from his offices at the exchequer and appointed special justices to hear all additional complaints against him. But despite overwhelming evidence of his guilt, Stratton was declared innocent of all charges and restored to his offices at the exchequer. In return he paid a 4000-mark bribe to the king through the Riccardi.

In 1289 Stratton did not escape so lightly. Bermondsey's complaints reached the king in Gascony in 1288. When Edward returned to England in late 1289, Stratton was deprived of his exchequer offices and put on trial for felony. Lurid tales of sorcery circulated about him, but the charges of which he was actually convicted in 1290 are not known. His secular property was confiscated, including cash found in his house to the value of £12,666 17s. 7d., but he retained his ecclesiastical revenues, and his friends were able to purchase the king's pardon for him by a fine of 500 marks. In early 1291, however, Stratton was again on trial for felony, this time accused of forging charters, and was once again committed to the Tower of London. Convicted near the end of 1292, he was dead by 14 August 1294, whether by execution or natural causes is nowhere recorded.

Sir William Hedges, (21 October 1632 – 6 August 1701) (1632–1701), merchant, was born at Coole, co. Cork, the eldest son of Robert Hedges (1604–70) of Youghal and his wife, Catharine (*d.* 1649), daughter of Edward Wakeman of Mythe, near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Robert Hedges also held land in Stratton, Wiltshire, the county of the family's origin, where their surname was changed from Lacy.

The early career of William Hedges is obscure. He became a Turkey merchant, was sent to Smyrna as a Levant Company factor, and by 1668 had become the company's treasurer at Constantinople. He was succeeded in that position by Dudley North. He returned to England in 1670 and became a member of the London Mercers' Company and purchased £500 of the original share capital of the Royal African Company. In 1677 he resided in Basinghall Street, near Guildhall, in the heart of the city's commercial centre. He was a Levant Company assistant in 1675–9 and 1681–2, and a common councilman for his ward of Bassishaw in 1677–80. A close neighbour in Bassishaw was his merchant brother-in-law Jeremy Sambrooke. Hedges' first wife, Susanna, eldest daughter of Levant merchant Nicholas Vanacker of Erith, Kent, was a sister of Sambrooke's wife. Hedges' marriage to the daughter of a merchant of Dutch extraction associated him with London reformed and dissenting protestants. His brother-in-law Sambrooke would become a leading urban dissenter. Hedges himself subscribed to a public loan to Charles II that was promoted by London dissenters in 1670 in the hope of blunting the Conventicle Act of that year, but he eventually identified with the Church of England.

In April 1681 Hedges joined Sambrooke as a member of the court of committees, or directing board, of the East India Company. In September of that year he was chosen as the company's agent or administrator for its factories in the Bay of Bengal. He arrived there in July 1682, taking up residence in Hooghly. His instructions were to renegotiate the terms of the company's operations in Bengal with the regime of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, to curtail the trade of English interlopers in the company's monopoly, and to better manage the company's Bengal factors. Hedges' fluency in Arabic and Turkish and his familiarity with Islamic conventions earned him the respect of the nawab of Dacca, Shaista Khan. The increasing importance of the English trade to the local economy also provided him with important leverage. The nawab agreed to petition the emperor for a renewal of the company's exemption from Mughal customs, which Hedges reckoned would save some £20,000 in annual expenses.

Hedges was less successful with his more unruly countrymen in Bengal, whose behaviour left the nawab fuming that the English were a 'base, quarrelling people, and foul dealers' (*Diary*, 1.153). The company had ordered Hedges to apprehend Thomas Pitt, the ancestor of two prime ministers, and the most successful interloper in India. But this 'haughty, huffing, daring' entrepreneur eluded him (*ibid.*, 3.x). Hedges was similarly outmanoeuvred by Job Charnock, a thirty-year veteran of India and the chief factor at Cossimbazar, who presided over a trade that profited the company while lining its servants' pockets. When Charnock defied every effort, Hedges made to impose order, he lamented that 'It's absolutely necessary that one of us two be displaced', and Hedges promptly was (*ibid.*, 1.146). Charnock and his cronies had the ear of the sometime East India Company governor Sir Josiah Child, to whom they provided private intelligence. Hedges was sacked by the court of committees when he detained a letter directed to Child. In the meantime, his wife had died in childbirth at Hooghly in July 1683.



Hedges sailed from Bengal for the Persian Gulf in December 1684, with a cargo of Indian cloth. He arrived in Persia in May 1685. He travelled overland to Iskenderun with his goods, and apparently with his wife's remains, frequently negotiating with local officials and customs collectors and visiting English traders and other Europeans in Esfahan, Baghdad, Mosul, and Aleppo. He arrived in England in April 1687 and was interviewed by Lord Chancellor Sir George Jeffreys, who, according to Hedges, was sympathetic about his treatment by Child. Again, taking up residence in Basinghall Street, where he kept at least one 'Black-more servant', Hedges also remarried, his second wife being Anne (d. 1724), daughter of Paul Nicholl and Anne Kendrick of Hendon, Middlesex, and the widow of Colonel John Searle of Finchley. They were married at St Michael Bassishaw in July 1687 by John Tillotson, dean of Canterbury.

Within months of his return Hedges was appointed by James II to the London lieutenancy commission; and in 1688 he was knighted by James and chosen master of the Mercers' Company. He was nevertheless an early subscriber to a January 1689 London loan to the prince of Orange. After the revolution of 1688 he remained on the London lieutenancy commission, also serving as colonel of a trained band regiment and on the Middlesex lieutenancy commission. Hedges re-entered civic politics in 1690. As the tory interest revived in London, he was unsuccessfully promoted by the 'church party' for the shrievalty (Luttrell, 2.47). In 1693 he was chosen for the London shrievalty with dissenting alderman Thomas Abney, apparently with whig support, against a tory candidate. Hedges was also chosen alderman for the ward of Portsoken, remaining in that office until his death. In 1694, when the subscription for the Bank of England was opened, he made an investment of £4000 and was chosen a director, continuing in that capacity until 1700. He had by that time also renewed his investments in the East India Company, from which he seems to have withdrawn after his Bengal experience.

Hedges' trading and investment interests, as well as his personal connections to both dissent and the church, placed him in the ambiguous middle of a whig–tory political divide being transformed by European warfare and the country's 'financial revolution'. As a shareholder in the Bank of England and the 'old' East India Company, he straddled the fence between the aggressive commercial capitalism promoted by William III's wartime whig ministry and the established world of tory investment. As a Bank of England director and as a Levant Company assistant (again in 1688–9 and 1694–9), Hedges rubbed shoulders with investors and traders who took a leading role in the whiggish bank and 'new' East India Company of 1698. Yet his continuing involvement in both the 'old' East India Company and the Royal African Company (of which he was an assistant in 1689–90, 1694, and 1696) kept him in association with merchants and investors who were hostile to whig commercial initiatives. Hedges' cross-grained politics matched those of his kinsman Sir Charles Hedges, a 'moderate tory' who became secretary of state in 1700. When the two East India Companies made early efforts to co-operate in trade in 1699, Hedges was appointed by the 'old' company as one of its representatives for dealing with agents of its new counterpart. In 1700 Hedges was promoted by the whigs, again with the dissenting Abney (a fellow Bank of England director), for the London mayoralty in opposition to two strong church tory candidates, one of whom was also deputy governor of the 'old' East India Company. Abney was chosen. Hedges also served as master of the Mercers' Company for a second time in 1700.

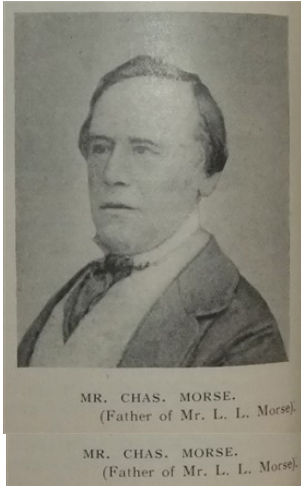
Hedges died at Basinghall Street, London, on 5 August 1701 and was buried ten days later at St Margaret's, Stratton, in Wiltshire, where his first wife had previously been interred. He was survived by his second wife, by two sons from each marriage, and by a daughter from his first marriage. He still owned land in co. Cork at the time of his death. An inventory of his estate recorded his possession of ten family portraits, another eighty-eight paintings and prints, and household furnishings that reflected his Eastern travels. He had previously settled land on the Stratton parish as an augmentation to the vicarage and had directed that an annual charity sermon be preached on the anniversary of his first wife's death.

David Archer, Lieutenant-Colonel, J.P., D.L. for Wiltshire, (1807-10/05/1895) Lived in Kingsdown house, died aged 88. *Swindon Advertiser* 18-05-1895.

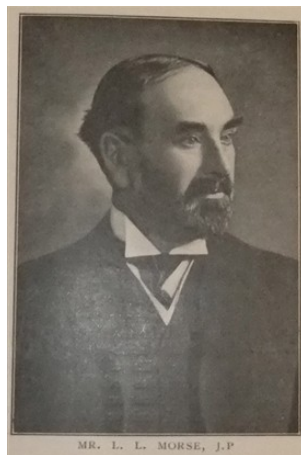
Margaret his wife died on August 20th, 1891, at Fairford. *Swindon Advertiser* 29-08-1891. The will (dated Aug. 20, 1894), with a codicil (dated May 5, 1895), of Mr David ARCHER, J.P., D.L., of Kingsdown House, Stratton, Wilts, who died on May 10, was proved on Aug 1, by Ambrose Dennis Hussey-Freeke, the Rev. Philip MADDOCKS, and Samuel Frank ANDERSON, the executors, the value of the personal estate amounted to £30,034. *The Yorkshire Herald* 06-09-1895.

Thomas Turner set up his brick business in the early 1860s and married Mary Gosling, a farmer's daughter from Coate, in 1866. The couple began married life at the brick works at Cross Roads. He was a director of the Wilts &

Berks Canal Company and a shareholder in Swindon Town Football Club. Turner Street, Swindon is named after him.



Charles Morse came to Stratton from Purton in the early 19th century and became one of the leaders of Primitive Methodism. He is shown in 1861 at Stratton Green & again in 1871 in Stratton Street as a Draper & Grocer with his second wife Rebecca and children.



His son [Levi Lapper Morse](#) (24 May 1853 – 10 September 1913) also a Methodist (Vice President of the Conference), he set up the successful stores chain in Swindon. His first premises were 10-12 Regent Street he set up his first furniture store, eventually adding stores in Brighton, Hastings & Eastbourne. He became an Alderman and Justice of the peace for Wiltshire, a Liberal M.P. for South Wilts for six years from 1904 and was the second Mayor of Swindon. He is in Stratton Street on 1881 Census and shown as a Grocer & Draper employing 6 people. He married Winifred, daughter of Isaac Humphries a farmer of Broad Hinton, they had 2 boys & 4 girls, the papers report a boy born Feb 28, 1880, (*Swindon Advertiser 06-03-1880*). He is buried in Radnor Street Cemetery, Swindon. Family funded Regent St church building in 1849. His Estate was over £124,000. Death reported in *The Gloucester Journal 13-09-1913*.



Charles Marlow (1816 - aft 1881) Jockey of 1849 Derby winner 'Flying Dutchman' is recorded in 1881 census as living in the Highworth & Swindon Workhouse.



William Carpenter (05-04-1863 to 11-09-1930) Born to a Stratton Methodist family, he was apprenticed as a boilermaker in the GWR works. He emigrated to Australia in 1887. He eventually became an Australian politician and held seats in three parliaments: The South Australian Legislative Assembly, the Australian House of Representatives and the Western Australian Legislative



William Hooper (1864-1955) Swindon's famous photographer lived at 'Fairhaven', Upper Stratton. Entrance to 'Fairhaven' approached from Beechcroft Road nearby St. Philips Church. Photography was just a hobby for William Hooper when he lost a leg working at a GWR locomotive repair shop. Setting himself up as a photographer in 1903 in Market Street, then later in Cromwell Street, Hooper spent the next two decades creating images - a century later - are still pored over and admired.

Arthur Joseph Colborne born 1870 Midsomer Norton was son of **Thomas Colborne**, who by 1873 had set up a builder's and timber yard at Cross Roads. Between 1876 and 1940 the family built a staggering number of properties around the Swindon area. A street in Swindon is named after them.

Rev. Frederick Day (1884-1912) - killed by mutinous troops near Pao-ting-fu in China. Born in Stratton and educated at St Boniface, Warminster was working as a S.P.C. Missionary.

Lt Colonel Bevil Langton Birley D.S.O. (19 Sep 1884, Cheadle, Manchester, England to 24 Sep 1943 (aged 59) Stratton St Margaret, Wiltshire), lived in Kingsdown House. He was the grandfather of Carole Birley, (Miss Thamesdown in 1979) Bevil is buried at Stratton St Margaret church. Military service – Commissioned 05/12/1906, 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, Aug 1918 promoted from Captain, finally Royal Lancashire Regiment, retired 1924. He married Eleanor Mary Cordeaux (1895-1951) 29/10/1914, they had 2 boys and 2 girls.

Henry Lawson J.P. - served with 11th Wiltshire Volunteer Force from 1872-1908. He became Mayor of Swindon in 1909.

John Herring - Local landowner and Baptist. Set up Trust in 1725 to educate 6 Stratton. Street off Grange Drive named after him.

John M Warfield – became one of the youngest ever Flight Lieutenants in 1938 and youngest ever Squadron Leader in 1940. Youngest son of Mrs A M Darling, of 'Merchiston', Stratton St Margaret. He was based in Malta.



Rev. Dr. Frederick Walter Thomas Fuller (born 1917, Ermin Street, Stratton – 16/12/2007)

Writer and Historian, Lecturer in History at Exeter University, Minister of the Church of England and rose to rank of Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force. Second of seven children of Leslie Tom Fuller and Eliza Annie Goddard. Went to Commonweal Grammar School.



Jean English (nee. Latham) (1921-2013) – Writer, Historian & Poet lived in Stratton in late 1930's before joining the A.T.S. in WWII.

Sir Noel Arkell Thomas was born on Christmas day 1893 the fourth child of James and Laura Arkell. Educated at Bradfield College, Berkshire he joined the army in 1912 in 4th Battalion Wilts Regiment in India, Palestine and Mesopotamia, being injured 3 times he left as a captain in 1919. He joined the company business as a joint director with his brothers James and John. He marries Olive Quick in 1919, they had six children. He was chairman of the Conservative Association from 1927 to 1947 when he was made president. He was chairman of Swindon and District National Savings Committee, Commissioner of Income Tax. For his works he was knighted in 1937 by King George VI. He died on June 22 1981.

Peter Arkell was born in 1923, the second son of Sir Noel Arkell. Peter was at Oxford when war broke out in 1939 and joined the RAF and flew photo sorties over France with 26 squadron. In 1944 he joined 161 Squadron supporting Special Operation Executive agents. In 1945 he transferred to Burma to support covert operations, leaving at end of war after a crash. He married Anne in 1949 and became a director in family company in 1954. He died in 2016.

Henry Edward Daghish (1926-1951) - At one time was world's tallest man. Measured at 7ft 7" on his death was believed to actually have been 2 inches taller. He worked for Arkell's brewery as a drayman.

Alun Rees (1928-1997) – Born in Rhondda came to Stratton in 50's, President of National Union of Railwaymen 1978-1981.

Colin Bailey was born on July 9th, 1934 – Jazz Drummer. Colin is reputed to have the best drum foot and his book '*Bass Drum Technique*' is a best seller and has played on approximately 100 jazz albums. The son of James E Bailey and Eveline Jinks grew up at his father's butchers shop in Oxford Road located at the entrance to their Farm (where 'The Lady Margaret' pub was located). In the 1950's Colin and his wife Janet decided to emigrate to Australia. (info thanks to 'Swindon Music Scene'). In 1961 he moved to States and played with many top bands including Benny Goodman and George Shearing. Full biography here - <http://www.colinbailey.com/bio.htm>



Eric Smith – 1937-2003 – local councillor for 30 years and mayor of Swindon 1981/2. Lived in Church Street. Originally a Railway fireman he changed to Pressed Steel.

Brenda Murphy (nee.Gill) born 16/05/1941. Local athlete and member of Swindon A.C. who competed in the English pentathlon team in 1960's alongside Dame Mary Peters. Moved to Winchester in 1975.

Charles Maslin – was another tall Stratton man, measuring 6ft 11in. He was postmaster at St Phillip's Road post office.

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Roger Smart (25 March 1943) - Attended Beechcroft School. Football Player moved up through the ranks of junior football to play for Swindon Town F.C. making 411 appearances from 1960-1973. Most famously scored the first and laid on other two goals against Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup Final win. After retiring he was landlord of 'The Plough Inn' in Old Town Swindon for a while.



Dudley Tyler - (21/09/1944-) born in Salisbury, went to school in Pinehurst and at Headlands Grammar School.

John Charles signed Tyler for Hereford United in 1969 from amateur football in Swindon;[2][3] he had previously been rejected by several clubs due to him having a hole in his heart. He was part of the team that famously knocked Newcastle United out of the FA Cup,[4] and gained election to the Football League in 1972. Tyler subsequently signed for West Ham United for a then non-league record fee of £25,000.[5] He made just 29 league appearances in one-and-a-half seasons,[1] his only league goal for the club scored against Peter Shilton. He returned to Hereford in November 1973, eventually reaching a total of 329 competitive appearances for the club with 69 goals scored.

After retiring from professional football, he joined non-league Malvern Town, eventually becoming player-manager, followed by stints at Westfields and Pegasus Juniors in Hereford, both playing and managing. He worked as a salesman for a plastics company.[4] As of 2016, Tyler still lived in Hereford.[6]

[Baron John Leonard Eatwell](#) (02/02/1945 -) John Eatwell went to Lower Stratton Junior School in Swindon before moving on to the old Headlands Grammar School in 1956. He was awarded the Kennedy Scholarship to Harvard in 1967. He taught economics at Cambridge University from 1970, where he remains a Professor and was chief economic adviser to Neil Kinnock, the then-Leader of the Labour Party, from 1985 to 1992. In 1992 he became Labour member of the House of Lords as Baron Eatwell, of Stratton St. Margaret in the County of Wiltshire. In 2010, he was appointed a Labour Opposition Spokesman for the Treasury in the House of Lords by the Ed Milliband.



[Robert Charles "Bob" Anderson](#) (Born 7th November 1947). World darts Champion. Although born in Winchester, Bob grew up in Stratton and had a Saturday delivery job for local butcher. His successes included World Professional Champion 1988, World Masters Champion 1986, 87 & 88, World Pairs Champion 1986 & 95, World Matchplay Champion 1988, World Champions Champion 1990, British Open Champion 1988, Pacific Master 1987, 88 & 89. His father Harry was one of the instigators of Kingsdown Youth Centre.

Kenneth Allan Stroud (1/12/1953)

Footballer - Born Fulham, London, went to Headlands school, played for England Juniors then made 373 appearances Swindon Town.



Geoff Chaloner, (1963-2009), of Sywell Road in Coleview. At his funeral, the crowd included legendary stunt performers Eddie Kidd, 50, and Matt Coulter, aka "The Kangaroo Kid", who were close pals of dad-of-two Geoff. Geoff, "The Wheelie King", who was known for performing breathtaking wheelies at stunt shows up and down the country, died following an early morning incident in on the railway line at Stratton on 15-08-2009.

Michael C Willis (born 1971)

Professor of Chemistry, originally at Bath University joined Oxford University in 2007. In 2014 was awarded Royal Society of Chemistry Award for work Catalysis in Organic Chemistry.



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Zoe Ball, (born 1971)

Television and radio presenter grandparents are Irene and Vyner Hicks who live in Grange Drive, Lower Stratton.

Stephen Nipress, (born 1980, of Oxford Road & Kingsdown School, played 1995 NABC National Table Tennis Finals.

Zeno Colaco, St. Josephs School. 1991-1992 Uni of Bristol Business & Management, first worked for EMI then became Vice President Sony Computer Entertainment, Europe. (Dec 1993 – Dec 2016) then Director, Stolic Beach Ltd (2017 to date)

Mark Eteson of Kingsdown School, who is a successful international DJ and electronic music producer.

David Myers, Songwriter, formerly of Orchard Grove, Stratton St Margaret, with John Worsley composed Jack in the Box, their joint composition, sung by Northern Irish performer Clodagh Rodgers, reached fourth place in the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin. Mr. Myers' parents used to live in Stratton, but now live in London. He went to Upper Stratton Junior School and his father worked at the Plessey factory in Kembrey Street, Swindon

Deborah Battaglia, Artist, of 21 Kingsdown Road had her first taste of success when she was a pupil at Lethbridge Road Infant School in 1963 when the school was visited by an Adver photographer and Deborah was one of the young artists featured. She works mainly in oils and watercolours, and my subjects range from natural objects, landscapes, fish and flowers to swimmers and dancers.

John Krelli, 20, of Tilleys Lane, Stratton St Margaret, after collecting his redundancy pay at the British Leyland car body plant in Stratton St Margaret July 1975 had his debut single issued by BUK records. Called Jig-a-Jig Jig, the song was written by Swindon singer Gordon Bennett (real name Brian Mallon), who also produced the record.