



Stratton Parish News



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Stratton Open Day

As summer settles down to a mixture of heatwaves, torrential rain and cloudy weekends with the odd normal day scattered in between, dark thoughts turn to the inevitability of winter approaching.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council however, is not deterred by a little bit of weather and the changing of the seasons. Instead plans are well under way for the 2nd Annual (now officially an annual event!) Open Day at Stratton Community Leisure Centre which will be held on Saturday 5th September 2009 from 10am throughout the day and into the evening.

There are loads of events going on including the Horticultural and Craft show, bouncy castle and Crazy Crocs, barbeque, boot fair and in the evening a free family disco. There will be "on the day" gym promotions and lots of fun activities for all the family plus the chance to have a look round the leisure centre and see all the activities and facilities available there for the benefit of local residents.

There will also be the chance to see how the Open Spaces Strategy is progressing and feed into the process as well as checking out the architectural feasibility study being undertaken on the Leisure Centre to help improve and increase the number of facilities available. You can meet and chat to local Councillors about the work of the Parish Council as well as many of the members of staff.

So make **Saturday 5th September** a date for your diary and come along and support your local Leisure Centre. You may be surprised at what it has to offer!



SPACES still available for the outside attractions

£5 for private individuals, £10 for businesses, In house craft stalls for £20.00.

For more information call Debbie on **01793 823761**

or email debbie.lawrence@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Eastern Development Area

Draft supplementary planning guidance has been issued by Swindon Borough Council in an effort to control and steer future development of the Eastern Development Area (EDA).

The Guidance deals with matters such as highway and traffic issues, required infrastructure such as schools, shopping provision, play areas, open spaces as well as flood alleviation measures. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has objected to the EDA proposals on the grounds that they are premature to the publication and adoption of the Swindon Transport Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy which has yet to be formally published and adopted. The Parish Council was concerned that the EDA should not be considered for any development until all the other areas within the Borough of Swindon currently being developed have been completed.

This includes land to the north of Swindon and the Front Garden. It was also felt that further development proposals for Swindon should not be considered until a full review of the Regional Spatial Strategy has been undertaken to ensure that the projected requirements actually meet the needs of the area, that the proposed housing requirements are relevant to the current economic climate and that any future proposals are not only viable but can be delivered in full with the required investment being available to significantly improve the existing infrastructure of the Borough in order to reduce the impact of an increase in population on

existing communities. The proposal will have a significant impact on the parish of Stratton St Margaret especially in traffic and highways terms as the current highway infrastructure is already operating over capacity. The proposals will also create a strain on current infrastructure and existing leisure provision and will adversely affect the quality of life of its residents. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has urged Swindon Borough Council to carry out further consultation on the EDA proposals once all the relevant documents relating to this supplementary planning document have formally been adopted and published.

Update - Headlands School/Merton Fields

Swindon Borough Council continues to press ahead with redevelopment proposals for the former Headlands School site.

Swindon Borough Council continues to press ahead with redevelopment proposals for the former Headlands School site. The site is to be developed in phases. Phase One will focus on the development of the Sports Centre and accompanying land and will include the demolition of the existing school building but the retention of the sports building and gymnasium element. It is expected that the pupils will vacate the site in December 2009 with vacant possession of the site and the new lease coming into force by the end of December 2009. Demolition of the old school building

should commence at the beginning of January 2010 at the latest and will take approximately one month to complete. The Esprit Gymnastics Club has been given a 25 year lease for the sports hall complex and accompanying land. Further improvements will take place to the gymnastics facility including a proposed extension of the gymnasium to Olympic standards potentially funded in the main by Sport England. It was the intention of Swindon Borough Council that the site be used to its full potential during the economic downturn which included the use of the existing sports pitches. Swindon Borough Leisure Services are expected to submit a plan for

the sports pitches and will include junior and mini football pitches with teams using the existing changing rooms. With regard to the residential proposals nothing to date has been progressed but the Environment Agency had accepted proposals to address the potential flooding issues and had been involved in designing an attenuation pool to be sited by the existing sub station to help alleviate flooding. Full public consultation on Phase One will be carried out in July 2009 prior to the school holidays so that local residents would be fully informed of the Borough Council's plans regarding demolition and immediate future usage of the site.

Open Spaces Master Plan

Presenting initial proposals for the revamping of the play areas in the parish of Stratton St Margaret

Over the past few months David Jarvis Associates has been drafting initial proposals for the revamping of the play areas in the parish of Stratton St Margaret. At a recent Recreation Committee meeting a presentation of some of the ideas being considered was given to the Committee.

As part of the parish council's commitment to identify additional allotment land it has been suggested that part of the Meadowcroft playing field be given over to creating 20 additional allotment plots (Fig 1).

At the Melford Walk Play Area a new path network and additional play surfacing has been put forward for consideration. (Fig 2) Additional paths and equipment are also suggested.

There are various restrictions regarding possible improvements to Merton Fields but one area that seems to be crying out for a little TLC is the large tarmac area. Initial suggestions include a pergola and additional plantings round this area to soften it up a little and the creation of a pond to help address some of the flooding issues in this area (Fig 3).

All the initial sketch proposals can be viewed on the Council's website and residents and users of the play areas are encouraged to comment upon the proposals. What about a bandstand at Merton Fields? Or a skate Park on the Stephen's Road play area? Or a 3G all weather surface at Stratton Community Leisure Centre?

The draft sketch schemes are currently being revised to take on board initial comments received from Councillors and a full public consultation process will be undertaken in September and will be launched at the "Your Stratton" Open Day on Saturday 5th September 2009. So if you want to input into the process please send your views and comments to Stratton St Margaret Parish Council.



(Fig 1)



(Fig 2)



(Fig 3)

Parish Updates

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

Stratton In Bloom

Thank you to all those residents who entered the Stratton in Bloom competition. Judging took place on Tuesday 28th July and the winners will be notified in due course and invited to a presentation ceremony at Stratton Community Leisure Centre on Saturday 5th September 2009. A full report on the winners will appear in the next edition of this newsletter so watch this space!



Stratton in Bloom

The Parish Plan

Sadly this project has stalled for the time being for a variety of reasons. However, it is hoped to be back on track by the end of July and well under way by September! So if you would like to be involved in helping to develop the future of your community why not get in touch with us at the Council offices.

Councillor Vacancies

We still have two Councillor vacancies! This means that instead of 23 Councillors representing the parish residents we only have 21. So if you fancy being directly involved in your community or you know someone who you think would make a smashing Councillor just get in touch with us and request an application form. There is no standing for election and you do not need to be a member of a political party. Vacancies will be filled by co-option following consideration of applications by Full Council.

New MUGA at Greenbridge

The proposals for a new MUGA at the Dorcan Playing Fields, Greenbridge, are close to coming to fruition. The project which is being overseen by Swindon Borough Council, has been delayed slightly due to amended procurement procedures adopted by the Borough but it is hoped that work will commence in the near future to install the eagerly awaited Multi Use Games Area.

Architectural Feasibility

Study for Stratton

Community Leisure Centre

At the meeting of the Community Centre Committee held on 23rd June 2009 it was agreed to appoint S&P Architects to carry out a feasibility study of the Leisure Centre. The study will help identify and direct possible future investments in the centre and suggest improvements in the use of existing space. S&P Architects are the UK's largest sport and leisure specialist architects and have been consulting in the sport and leisure field for 30 years. Working alongside them on this project will be Sports Solutions GB based in South Marston.

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 Regulations 13, 14 & 16

The Council's accounts are subject to external audit by the Audit Commission of Westward House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8SU (ref. Mr. M Robinson). Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From 3 August 2009 to 21 August 2009 between 10 am and 4pm (Monday to Friday) any person may inspect the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2009 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below (Ref Mr P. Russell). They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
2. From 24 August 2009 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. From 24 August 2009 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the Council, or his/her representative, may object to the Council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor at the address given above and copied to the Clerk of the Council.

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 (2009)	Council/Committee	Time	Chair
21st July	Planning	7.30pm	Cllr Mrs Day
28th July	Full Council	7.30pm	Cllr Owen
11th August	Planning	7.30pm	Cllr Mrs Day
18th August	Recreation	7.30pm	Cllr Roberts
25th August	Quality Council	6.30pm	Cllr Owen
25th August	Finance	7.30pm	Cllr Cook
1st September	Planning	7.30pm	Cllr Mrs Day
8th September	Community Centre	7.30pm	Cllr Lawson
15th September	Planning	7.30pm	Cllr Mrs Day
22nd September	Quality Council	7.30pm	Cllr Owen
29th September	Full Council	7.30pm	Cllr Owen

The meetings listed are scheduled to take place during July, August and September.

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

Focus On...The Community Centre Committee

The Community Centre Committee meets once a month at present to review the daily running and performance of both the Stratton Community Leisure Centre in Grange Drive and the Meadowcroft Community Rooms.

The Stratton Community Leisure Centre is more commonly known as The Grange and provides a range of activities including a Health and Fitness Suite, which has recently been upgraded quite significantly and offers great value for money. There are two squash courts and a four badminton court sized sports hall where a range of activities take place including 5-a-side football, badminton, aerobic classes and musical events. Then there is the Stratton Suite which is frequently used for wedding receptions, birthday parties and conferences. Finally there is the Members' Bar which serves good quality well priced food and drink.

The Centre organises holiday clubs for children. These provide a variety of activities to suit a range of ages that have proved very popular.

However, the Centre does require an

annual subsidy and the Committee is working extremely hard to try to reduce this burden on both the Council and local Tax Payers. The Committee is chaired by Cllr Gerry Lawson and the Vice Chair is Cllr Philip Steele. Every meeting is open to the public and there is an opportunity to address the committee if you would like to ask them about any matters relating to

the Community Centre.

The Meadowcroft Community Rooms play host to a number of local organisations including the Beechcroft Thursday Club and the Luncheon Club as well as providing a useful venue for local bands to practice and organisations to meet. It is also where the Parish Council holds its weekly meetings.



Stratton Suite ready to party

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

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



Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Back to School

Dress up in your old school ties and gym slips and come along to our "Back to School" Disco being held on **Friday 2nd October 2009.**

A prize for the best school outfit...

Doors open at 7.30pm and dance the night away **until 12 midnight**
Bar open until 11.30pm

Snack bar available

Members FREE ENTRY

(valid membership card required)

Non members £2.00 per ticket -

Maximum 6 tickets per transaction

Due to demand it is advisory to purchase your tickets in advance of the night

Fitness Studio



Stratton Fitness Suite

Our recently refurbished gym is now open with a fresh new look and state of the art equipment. Come along and see for yourself.

There are various gym membership options available. To find out more why not ring the **Leisure Centre on 825525** for a tour of the facilities and an informal friendly chat with one of our Health and Fitness Team.

New Fitness Classes

Members £4.20 Non Members £5.20

Class	Day	Time
Body Tone	Monday	6.00-7.00pm
Fitness Yoga	Monday	7.40-8.20pm
Pilates	Thursday	8.30-9.30pm

(Please check availability with reception)

Squash

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

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

Badminton

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

Walking Club

This is a great way to meet new friends, get active and see the area you live in. The walking group meets every **Wednesday for a 12 noon start.** A brisk but non strenuous walk for all ages and abilities
£2.70 for members
£3.70 for non members

"Your a Winner..."

During our first two editions we ran a competition to win 5 x Gold Annual Gym Memberships.

The lucky five are...

Mrs Blackwell - Grange Drive

Mrs Close – Godwin Road

Mr Johnson – Darwin Close

Mrs Belcher – Griffiths Close

Mrs Bright – Stratton Road

Toddler Bounce

An unsupervised fun activity for parents and pre school children. Activities include bouncy castle, soft play and trikes plus a cold drink for the children. Restarts after the summer holidays from

Monday October 5th

from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

£2.70 for members

£3.70 for non members



Christmas Party Nights

If you can answer YES to the following then our Party Nights are the option for you ...

- Do you need a venue for the Office Christmas Party or just for a get together during festive period?
- Do you want somewhere that has easy access, plenty of parking and good quality food and drink?
- Capacity for up to 100 revellers?
- Tables decked with festive bunting and the obligatory party hats?
- A disco to set the mood?

DATES AVAILABLE: 12th, 18th & 19th December 2009

Call us on **01793 825525** or email for a brochure to

debbie.lawrence@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Grange Bar

Thursday Specials Menu

Come and enjoy a scrumptious two course meal. Cost is only £3.50 for senior citizens or £5 for everyone else.

Ask at reception for the set monthly menu. This is a chance to enjoy an excellent value for money nutritious meal and provides an opportunity to meet new people and socialise in a friendly welcoming environment

Thursdays from 12 noon – last orders taken at 1.45pm

Quiz Nights

Why not come along and take part in our fortnightly Quiz Nights held in the Grange Bar. For the price of a small entrance fee you get the chance of winning spot prizes and a prize for the winning team.

Non members are very welcome but must be signed in by a member. There is a non-member entrance fee of £1.00.

Quiz Night dates are 15th, 29th

August and 12th, 26th

September 2009.

Win!

A Child's Bouncy Castle Party held within the Stratton Suite
A chance for your child to bring their friends along (max of 30)
and enjoy two hours of bouncing fun...

Simply enter your details below and return this form to the address at the bottom to have a chance of being our lucky winner

Name: Tel:

Address:

Return To: Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX
All entries must be in by 30th August 2009

Crazy Crocs Holiday Club

The Centre runs an OFSTED regulated children's holiday club

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

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

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

Summer Holidays - July 27th until August 31st
£13.00 per day members
£14.00 per day non members



Meadowcroft Community Rooms

Situated in Addison Crescent off Meadowcroft Road the Community Rooms provide an ideal base for organisations to meet and hold fundraising events. There is a fully equipped kitchen, a main hall and a meeting room. The Centre is fully accessible with ample parking. To check our competitive room hire rates and for further information please call **(01793) 825525** or email **leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk** Meadowcroft Community Rooms, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Mothers and Toddlers

The Mother and Toddler Sessions are run by the Parish Council on Thursdays from

9.15am to 11.15am at the Meadowcroft Community Rooms. Activities include crafts, reading books, dressing up and so much more. Please note that this is an unsupervised activity so parents/carers

must stay with their children. Coffee and squash is included in the cost. For more information call **01793 825525** or email **leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk**



Stratton Community Leisure Centre: Grange Drive, Swindon

Tel: 07193 825525. More Info at - www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk Email - leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

On the Beat

News From The Stratton Community Beat Manager



My name is WPC Lisa Draper 1861 and I am the Community Beat Manager for Stratton St Margaret. During recent months I have

noticed an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour at the Stratton Community Leisure Centre and surrounding areas.

The neighbourhood team does patrol these areas regularly and details of the main offenders are taken. However we are asking for your help as this issue affects us all.

If you have children and you know that they socialise in the evenings with their friends please take 5 minutes to remind them of the right way to behave and the consequences of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Damaging property, leaving litter, drinking alcohol, shouting and swearing at any time especially late at night are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We can issue Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to repeat offenders and these can stipulate where they may go, with whom and at what times. Breaking these contracts can lead to an Anti Social Behavioural Order which I am sure you have heard of.

We do not want to issue these to any children and youths in the area but we will do so if their behaviour deems it necessary.

Contact information

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

SM - Mrs B Archer

15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4LY
822263

SP - Mr M R Cook

26 St Philips Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QH
825535

SM - Mrs C A Day

125 Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4JY
823943

SM - Mrs C Ennis

Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village, SWINDON, SN3 4XH
Contact via office

LCN - Mr P J B Eyre

40 Trajan Road, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4BS
Contact via office

SP - Mrs E A Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

SP - Mr J Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

LCN - Mr D K Holmes

89 Wheeler Avenue, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7HL
520017

SP - Mr G Lawson

24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QB
704063

SP - Mrs A L Murphy

2 Orchard Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QR
337144

SP - Mr P Owen BEM

192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LH
822164

SP - Mrs T Page

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QN
825481

C - Mr D R Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivensham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mrs P M Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivensham, 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 - Mrs 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

Local Member of Parliament

Michael Wills, MP - 01793 481016

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

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

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

David Sammels, 337477 St Philips Ward
Paul Findlow, 879959 St Philips Ward

Russell Holland, 07999566623 St Margaret Ward

Mark Edwards 709834 St Margaret Ward

Ray Fisher 07791500164 St Margaret Ward

Glenn Smith 725649 Covingham & Nythe

Dale Heenan 480099 Covingham & Nythe

Phil Young 729732 Covingham & Nythe

Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips Ward