

Tower & Tap

May 2011



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May 2011

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Dear Friends,

The Great Houdini claimed he could be locked in any jail cell and set himself free within minutes. He made good his claim apparently, except in one instance.

That day, something went wrong. He went into the cell with his ordinary clothes on and as the heavy metal doors closed behind him, he took from his belt a concealed piece of flexible metal. He set to work on the lock but it wasn't long before he realised he wasn't getting anywhere! Half an hour went by, then the hour and he still couldn't pick the lock he just 'stressed out'. Two hours later he felt a total failure and he just flopped against the door—it swung open! What a shock. The door had never been locked.

There are so many times when we are limited by our experience and expectations. Things can look impossible, we don't think we have the skills necessary or we don't think our small contribution can make a difference. This kind of thinking captures us in a jail of our own making. Past errors can teach us what we need for now, and the future, if we are willing to learn—remember if we ignore history we are condemned to repeat it. As we try those things that seem impossible we build the skills we need and small steps can help us make great strides in time. Feeling too insignificant? We only have to look at the changes wrought in our society by the likes of Elizabeth Fry, William Wilberforce, and Mother Teresa and we can be encouraged.

For the Christian, failure is never final. Easter reminded us of that. When Jesus died on the cross his followers were devastated, but the most wonderful victory had been won and the risen Christ brought power to the seemingly insignificant, marginalised, poor and rejected. We will be celebrating that gift of power at Pentecost next month.

God Bless,
Vicky Fleming

Church News

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The next **High Five** service for children up to 5 years will be on Friday 6th May at 10am

‘Craft Company’ we are meeting again at Mary Cooper’s house (Dryden House) 2pm Wednesday 11th May, More details form Mary or Vicky Fleming.



Saturday Scene meets on 14th May in the Village Hall 4-5.15pm. An exciting church event for young families. Stories, songs, crafts, games and food. Contact Donald Page on 825693

The 7.30 Club

for 10 to 16 year olds from Stratton, Stanton & South Marston

Held on alternate Sunday Evenings

7.30pm to 8.45pm at St Margaret’s Centre

Please call the St. Margaret’s Church Office for more information



From the Registers:

19th March Gillian Deason

Burial of Cremated Remains

The Annual Meeting.

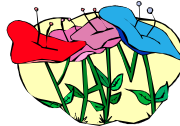
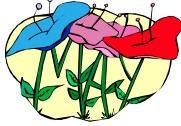
Donald Page and Richard Sansum were elected as Church Wardens once more. William Hiscocks is Treasurer and Tina Hiscocks is PCC Secretary. We are very grateful for their commitment to continue in office. Also elected as PCC members are Diane Gambles and Shirley Wildern. Diane is also our Deanery Synod Representative.

Our vision continues to be helping people to explore faith, serving the community through our links with the school, Meeting Point and sharing the joys and difficulties of life when called upon. We want to repair and renew the guttering and downpipes but raising the money for this necessary maintenance is proving very difficult as you can see from our graph at the side of the page—will you help us?

The Meeting Point

Coffee morning with table top sales

(Please book a table by 3rd May: £2.50 for people who live in the village, £5 for those outside and free to village organisations)



14th May from 9.30 –12 noon

In the Village Hall

Refreshments provided by South Marston Church
Something for every age group!

We look forward to seeing you

Church Services

(at South Marston Church unless otherwise stated)

1st May	11.00am	Family Service
8th May	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Holy Communion
15th May	9.30am	Morning Worship
22nd May	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Holy Communion
29th May	10.00am	TEAM SERVICE Stanton

Church Office

South Marston Church is part of Stratton Team Ministry. The office is located at St. Margaret's Centre, Kenwin Close, Stratton St. Margaret and it is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am to 12 noon.

Email: stmargaretsoffice@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 826505.

If you would like to talk to a priest or book a Christening or Wedding please contact Rev Vicky Fleming on 827021 between 6 and 7pm any evening except Thursdays or Sundays.

Members of the team:

Team Vicar	Rev. Vicky Fleming	827021
Asst. Priest	Rev. George Fleming	827021
Asst. Priest	Rev. Richard Burston	822403
Lay Minister	Mrs Christine Burston	822403
Lay Minister	Mr Dan Read	763016



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South Marston Parish Council News

Swindon Borough Council Core Strategy Presentation in the Village Hall

On 12 April, Swindon Borough Council held their Roadshow on the Core Strategy and gave some indications about their thoughts on the expansion of the village.



The village expansion working party also put on a display of some of their work.

Over 130 villagers attended. Many were kind enough to complete a questionnaire about the proposals and raised several points of their own. Of the 100 questionnaires given out, some 60% have so far been returned.

The village expansion working party are analysing the completed questionnaires and are also trying to obtain from Swindon Borough Planners, the answers to some of the questions and concerns raised by villagers.

Once this work has been completed, it is the intention of the village expansion working party to invite villagers to another meeting to hear the results of the questionnaires and to discuss the implications of these and some of the other points raised in greater detail. It is hoped that this can be arranged during May 2011.

Because it is not always convenient for villagers to attend on an evening, it is hoped to run the feed back meetings at different times of the day and on different days of the week in order to allow as great a participation of villagers as possible. When these meetings have been finalised, we will deliver a leaflet through your door giving you the detailed arrangements. We hope you will all continue to attend these meeting, as your views are important.

South Marston Parish Council News cont'd

Flooding Photographs



The Parish Council would be grateful if anyone with photographs of flooding in the proposed building area could get in touch. Either email your pictures to the Parish Clerk at clerksmpc@aol.com or drop pictures in to any Parish Councillor. Thank you.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. An agenda will be published prior to the meeting on the village website and on village noticeboards.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The woodland at the back of St. Julian's Close is currently being managed by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust as a village facility. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have been working with the local Primary School to design a bench and seating around a woodland theme. A local artist has been commissioned to make the bench. The artwork will be unveiled on July 14th. For further information, please contact Neil Pullen, Swindon Wildlife Officer on neilp@wiltshirewildlife.org

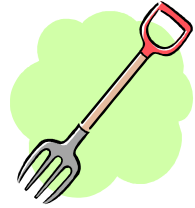


on neilp@wiltshirewildlife.org

To keep informed of all the latest Parish Council news, including minutes of Parish Council meetings, please go to www.southmarston.org.uk and visit the 'Parish Council' section.

Conservation Site News

On 16th April we completed the majority of the hedgerow planting. There are a few metres still to plant once the ground is cleared of the snowberry growth and roots.



The path foundations and access to the two bridges has been laid and planning is in hand to mark the outdoor teaching and seating area. Many thanks to Hanson and Sansums for the donation and safe delivery of the aggregate .

The pond liner is also on site and we have almost completed the digging work for its new home in the bottom of the ditch. Some native plants have been donated and these have been temporarily planted pending clearance of the areas surrounding the new path.



We are now considering what to plant and looking into the cost for the two bridges. If any one who has native plants that they would like to donate, please call Brian on 826243 or Barry 826697.



The next working dates are Saturday May 21st and June 18th. Please come along and see what is going on, between 2pm and 5pm on both dates.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



YOUR VILLAGE YOU!

NEEDS

SOUTH MARSTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE

TUG OF WAR



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO
WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE PART IN THE
SOUTH MARSTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE
TUG OF WAR ON SATURDAY 9TH OF JULY.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT
RACHEL ON: (01793) 832719

TOTS 'n' TODDLERS

We are a Parent & Toddler group that meets up for
a play session, craft table, coffee and chat.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS (term time only)

9.00am - 11.00am

0 - 4 years

South Marston Village Hall

For further details feel free to call in
and see us at the group or contact us:

Rachel Case on 01793 832719

or Mary Case on 01793 826038

or email: totsntoddlers@sky.com





**SOUTH MARSTON
VILLAGE**

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 9TH JULY 2.00PM - 5.00PM

SOUTH MARSTON RECREATION FIELD

**CAR BOOT - CRAFT STALLS - FANCY DRESS
COMPETITION - REFRESHMENT'S - BEER TENT -
HIGHWORTH SILVERBAND - DANCING - BOUNCY
CASTLE & LOTS MORE!!..**

PARTY IN THE PARK!!.. 7.00PM TILL LATE!!

BBQ & BEER TENT

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE FUN
GATES OPEN AT 1PM FOR SET UP
FOR MORE DETAILS CALL
RACHEL ON: (01793) 832719**



ILL WIND Update

Honda/ECOTRICITY Wind Turbine Application

There is no definite date for the application to return to the Planning Committee, but we will of course let you know as soon as we hear (the earliest possible date is 7th June).

In the meantime, we are facing a serious new threat:

- Swindon Borough Council's proposed Core Strategy which will dictate planning policy for the next 15 years removes the specific protection in its existing policy (CF12) which prevents wind turbines from being built where they will cause adverse harm, including visual or noise intrusion.
- If we do not oppose this it will open the door to turbines in very close proximity to homes. The planning committee will have limited grounds on which to refuse wind farm applications even if the councillors want to. For details of the policy changes please visit www.illwind.co.uk and go to the "Changes to the Local Plan" tab.
- It is Illwind's view that Swindon Borough Council should adopt a minimum setback distance of at least 2km for wind turbine from homes. This would protect residents from inappropriate siting of windfarms with their associated visual intrusion, shadow flicker, noise, impact on house sales etc.

LET THE COUNCIL KNOW YOUR VIEWS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

View the proposed Core Strategy documents at Swindon Borough Council offices, all libraries, or at www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy.

You can comment online at www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy.

Or email forwardplanning@swindon.gov.uk. (Remember to include your name and address)

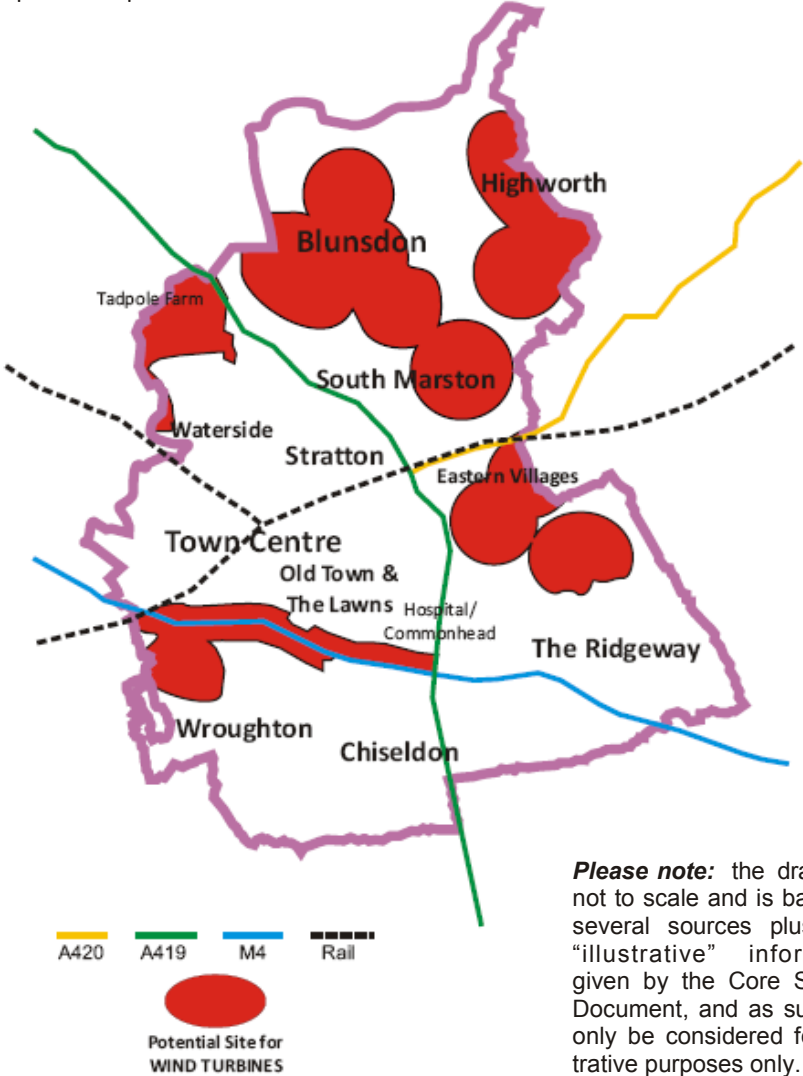
Or write to:

Planning Services
Swindon Borough Council
4th Floor, Wat Tyler House,
Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH

Please object to the new policies DMP1 & DMP2, with regard to wind turbines, which will replace and remove the protection of CF12, and request a minimum setback distance of 2 km for wind turbines from homes.

Comments must be received by 6 pm on 16 June 2011

The drawing shows the vast “Areas of Search” for Wind Turbine sites . This relates to the “Large scale wind energy” which will be “encouraged and supported” by Swindon Borough Council, as referred to in the proposed Core Strategy documents. Please visit <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/corestrategy> for the full details the Council’s plans and policies.



Please note: the drawing is not to scale and is based on several sources plus the “illustrative” information given by the Core Strategy Document, and as such can only be considered for illustrative purposes only.

Friendly Club

Recent Events

On Tuesday 12th April a talk was given by **Linda Warren** on the subject “**The Wartime Kitchen**”. She told us some interesting stories. Humorous and serious events were covered. After the talk we had the pork belly which we had cured as a collective group. This was cooked during our meeting and enjoyed by those who sampled it.

Future Events

Tuesday 10th May. – Village Hall, 2.00 pm.

A talk will be given by **Jean Campbell** on **India**



Tuesday 17th May

We will be going to London to visit **Madame Tussauds** wax works.

We will be joining a **Barnes Coaches** organised trip. Pick up time outside the school is 9.40 am and our return to South Marston will be approximately 7.00 pm.

Gardening Club



Recent Events



On 4th April we all had an opportunity to meet two beautiful barn owls with their owners. Roger gave us an insight into owls and other native birds of prey. Although most are on the decline there are still plenty to be seen if you are observant.

Future Events

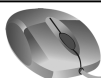
On **Monday 16th May** at 7.30 pm Pamela Clement is coming along to give a talk entitled “**Victorian Garden Tools**”.

Please note we still have spaces on our **Stourhead** visit on Saturday **25th June**. Anyone interested please contact Mike on 827807. Open to non-members.

Tower & Tap

Please email items for the Tower & Tap to kaylong@btinternet.com or drop any article in to The Maples, South Marston (next to the Vicarage).

The deadline for June 2011 issue is 15 May



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YOUR GARDEN COULD RAISE FUNDS FOR PROSPECT HOSPICE

Green-fingered enthusiasts are being asked to open their gardens to the public to raise funds for Prospect Hospice.

Taking place throughout the spring, summer and autumn of 2011, Prospect Hospice's Open Gardens programme offers the public a rare opportunity to discover the secrets of hidden and private gardens in our community not usually open to the public. Visitors will be able to explore some beautiful grounds and quiz the creators on the techniques used in bringing these unique spaces to life, in return for a donation to Prospect.



Daniel McNally, community fundraiser at Prospect Hospice, said: "It's a really simple but effective idea, and from the feedback we've received, the public really seem to enjoy themselves."

"In the past we've featured a variety of beautiful gardens, from amateur gardeners who've joined up with their neighbours to create a day out for visitors, through to a Chelsea Flower Show Gold medal winner, and an expert on the art of Bonsai. Some people also lay on refreshments, raffles and garden games to raise more money.

"It is really about putting on an event that showcases your garden, creates a unique day out for visitors, and helps raise some money for Prospect. It's also a great opportunity to share your love of gardening with others."

Prospect will release the programme of open days later this year. In the meantime, why not consider opening your garden to the public? If you would like to host an Open Garden, then please get in contact through www.prospect-hospice.net/opengardens or call the fundraising team on 01793 816161, to see how Prospect can help you make the most from your Open Day.



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South Marston C of E School News

We have again had a very busy term.



We are very pleased to celebrate the fact that pre-school became part of the school on 1st April. We celebrated in real style with a children's disco night organised by the PTA, which was enjoyed by all. The older children were even able to tuck in to some pizza prepared by our school cook before the event. Thanks to all those who helped organise and supervise the event. It was a huge success!

On 30th March the school had an inter-house cookery competition where a chef came in to support the children in making carrot and orange muffins! They were judged on many elements, including team work and of course the taste of their yummy muffins! All the children who took part, who were chosen at random, enjoyed the event thoroughly and all the children enjoyed being able to take a muffin home.



Our school celebration of talents evening on 6th April was a massive success again this year with all year groups being represented and showcasing a hugely impressive range of talents, ranging from drumming to poetry recitals. This year we introduced an art exhibition which enabled many children to show their talent in this area in the main school hall whilst sipping on something



South Marston Youth Club



For more details please contact Julie or Steve Hatherall,
e-mail: hatherall24@yahoo.co.uk tel: 07923 441 296

May dates:

DAY	DATE	VENUE
Mon	9 & 23 May	Village Hall
Fri	6 & 20 May	Village Hall
Sat	21 May	"Stagestruck" at Wyvern Theatre

Youth club **AGM** is **Friday 13 May at 7.30** in the Village Hall.

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Useful Contacts: South Marston

<http://southmarston.org.uk>

Parish Council Chair	Colin McEwen	T 825312
Parish Council Vice Chair	Stuart Young	T 828775
Clerk to the Parish Council	Gemma Cheal	T 820529
Parish Council Project Co-ord'r	TBA	
SMRA Chair	Mary Case	T 826038
SMRA Secretary	Julie Hatherall	T 826028
Village Hall Bookings	Julie Hatherall	T 07857 310624
Football Field Bookings	Chris Maull	T 824505
Tots & Toddlers	Rachel Case	T 832719
Youth Club	Julie & Steve	T 07923 441296
Gardening Club	Mike New	T 827807
Friendly Club	Brian McGlone	T 826243
History Society	Darren Cook	T 832999
Marston Minstrels	Maureen Withers	T 825660
SM Football Club	Nigel Franklin	T 766590
Spitfires Football Club	Bev Maull	T 824505
South Marston School	Alison Lowe	T 823379
Pre-School	Pre-School Staff	T 07847 590601
Saplings Children's Centre (All Sorts)		T 829996
Swindon Borough Councillor	Doreen Dart	T 762033
Member of Parliament	Justin Tomlinson	T 522123
Team Rector	<i>to be appointed</i>	
Team Vicar	Vicky Fleming	T 827021
Church Wardens	Richard Sansum	T 831473
	Donald Page	T 825693

Useful Contacts Stanton Fitzwarren

Some useful contact numbers for Stanton Fitzwarren are shown below, which our readers may find useful:

Clerk to the Parish Council	Zena May	T 702869
WI President	Margaret Parker	T 762065
Village Hall Bookings	Alison Charnock	T 762093
St Leonards Church Wardens	Liz Hillman	T 762935