

# Village News

in Swindon Village

*Your local Newsletter sponsored by the  
Parish Council and delivered by volunteers*

No. 409

November 2014

## *November*

- Monday 3 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM
- Wednesday 5 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
Graham Johnson - In search of Santa
- Tuesday 11 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 19 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall  
Angela Panrucker - "Just hanging about" (Inn signs)
- Saturday 22 School Winter Fair - 2.00pm - 4.00pm
- Wednesday 26 Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm  
Christmas party and wine tasting

## *December*

- Monday 1 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
Roselyn Terry - Demystifying hypnotherapy
- Wednesday 3 Wednesday Club - Christmas Party (Members only)
- Saturday & Sunday 6 & 7 Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence's Church  
11.00am to 5.00pm
- Monday 8 Closure of Hyde Lane starts. To 19th December
- Tuesday 9 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**

*(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk). They are also available on request from the Chairman.)*

It has come to my attention that some parishioners do not read the Village News notes from the Parish Council. Shame on them! Last month I wanted to make people aware that plans were being prepared for a small housing development behind Manor Farm (although no formal application had been made). I said that if anyone wanted to know more they should get in touch with me. One person did and I was able to give them a copy of the information we had been supplied with at that time. The Parish Council does its best to keep people informed and the Village News is an important part of this. Aside from this we have the noticeboards and the web site (which has copies of Parish Council minutes). Councillors (who are unpaid volunteers remember) also try to keep people up to speed personally. If you feel there are other ways we can reach people please let us know. The way we operate is open and transparent; there is nothing hidden behind the scenes. My contact details and those of the councillors are at the back of the News.

Back to the proposed development at Manor Farm. As predicted plans were submitted and, as you read this, the consultation period will probably have closed. All sorts of misinformation has been generated, from the size of the proposed development to, unfortunately, the role of the Parish Council.

At the risk of repeating myself, this is how things work. For our parish Cheltenham Borough Council is the planning authority. They have the power to approve or reject planning applications. All planning applications can be freely viewed on their web site.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee. We have the right to be informed of planning applications within the parish and the right to submit our comments. In considering planning applications the Parish Council must try to represent the best interests of the parish. Regarding the Manor Farm development, the Parish Council are sympathetic to the concerns of the Manor Court residents who will be most affected by this proposal. To that end we will be preparing an objection to the application and submitting it to the Borough Council (and again this will be visible on the Borough Council web site). The Borough Council planners or planning committee will then make their decision taking into account all the comments received. Regarding the latter point, at the last Parish Council meeting Peter, our chairman, emphasised to everyone present how important it is for concerned individuals to also lodge their objections with the Borough Council. The Borough Council are expected to act in the best interests of the Borough as a whole. We may not get the outcome we want locally. There is certainly truth in the saying that you can't please all of the people all of the time.

Planning applications may be decided by planning officers (under "delegated powers")

or, for major or controversial applications, by the Borough Council planning committee. The Parish Council will be pressing for this proposal to go to the planning committee. That will then give objectors (or supporters) the opportunity to state their case in person.

Briefly to other matters. We have two level crossings in the parish. Many people are frustrated at having to wait for long periods at the level crossing gates. Do the gates stay down too long? Are pedestrians given enough time to cross the tracks before the gates come down again? Representatives from the Parish Council will be meeting with Network Rail to gain an understanding of Network Rail's procedures for operating the crossings. Their number one concern has to be public safety and it might be that things stay as they are but it will be good to understand what goes on behind the scenes. Hopefully I will be able to share this insight in the next edition of the News. Whist on the subject of the level crossings, Swindon Lane and Brockhampton Lane will be closed at the level crossings from 11:00pm on Saturday 10th January to 9:15am Sunday 11th January 2015 to allow for track maintenance works. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to maintain pedestrian access.

I now only have two hours before the deadline for this contribution to the News ("High Noon" – Karen's words are ringing in my ears) so I must crack on. On a personal note I would like to congratulate the winners of the quiz at the Village Hall. It was another great evening put on by MC Tony, quizmaster Dave and Karen's army of caterers. On several occasions one of our number would come up with the right answer only to be persuaded to change it by the others. My team crashed to fifth this year so changes will have to be made.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## **Road closure**

Gloucestershire County Council have informed us that **Hyde Lane** will be closed for resurfacing work from **8th to 19th December**.

If you should require further information please contact Gloucestershire County Council Highways on 08000 514514.

## Food waste recycling just got easier

Recycling food waste is now even easier as caddies can now be lined with surplus plastic carrier bags.

Food waste recycling has become increasingly popular since it was introduced in Cheltenham during 2011. Residents were asked to use newspaper or biodegradable bags to line their caddies but now they can use plastic bags instead.

Due to changes in the way the food waste is recycled, the bags will be separated from the food as part of the treatment process. The plastic is then sent away to be recycled.

Councillor Chris Coleman, cabinet member for clean and green environment, said: "Recycling food waste offers huge environmental benefits and I am pleased that the process has become even simpler. Residents can now use carrier bags, pedal bin liners, sandwich bags or even plastic bread bags in their caddies."

Residents can still line their food caddies with compostable corn-starch bags and newspaper if they wish.

Residents are reminded that they can put the following into their food waste caddies:

- Bread, cakes and pastries
- Meat and fish, both raw and cooked, including bones
- All dairy products such as eggs and cheese
- Fruit and vegetables, both raw and cooked
- Tea leaves and bags
- Coffee grounds and bags
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Uneaten food
- Food past its sell-by date

Residents are asked not to put any food packaging, tins, glass or animal faeces into their food waste recycling. Liquid food waste can go in the caddies in moderate amounts. Large quantities of cooking oil can be recycled at any of the five Gloucestershire County Council Household Recycling Centres, including Cheltenham's Swindon Road site.

Food caddies need to be presented at the kerbside by 7am on collection days. Visit [www.cheltenham.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/recycling) for the recycling and waste collections calendar.

### Process for recycling food waste

The food waste is taken to an Anaerobic Digester where a natural process turns it into electricity and a liquid fertilizer for local farmland. The plastic bags are separated from the food waste by a shredding machine and sent away to be recycled.

Anaerobic Digestion is a natural biological process that happens when bacteria breaks down organic matter in little or no oxygen. It produces a bio-gas which is around 60% methane and 40% carbon dioxide. This can be cleaned and then burnt to generate electricity. As well as bio-gas, AD produces a liquid residue called digestate which will be used to fertilise local farmland.

### **What are the benefits of collecting food waste?**

Collecting food waste for recycling means we can: divert biodegradable waste from landfill reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill; increase recycling rates; reduce the cost of landfilling waste; produce energy; produce liquid fertiliser for local farmers.

### **Katie Sandey**

Communications team leader  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
01242 775050

## **St. Lawrence's Church Quiz and supper evening**

Just a note to say thank you to everyone who came to the recent quiz and supper evening.

The aim of the event was to raise funds for the church's building and restoration work which is continues apace but it was good to see what a pleasant sociable occasion it has become. What you all probably want to know is that we raised £469.78 which is fantastic.

I'd like to publicly thank all those who helped put on the event - the quizmaster's team, the bar staff and Village Hall management, our MC, a veritable army of cooks and bakers and most of all everyone who took part.

The winning team shared 6 bottles of wine and the wooden spoon was accepted by the gallant last-placed team in good humour.

See you again next year?

**Karen Evans**

**Diary for November**

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>All Saints Sunday</b>	
		<b>Church re-opens for worship</b>	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	Holy Communion with commemoration of the faithful departed.
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	PCC meeting (venue to be advised)
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir practice
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.55am	Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by 'Open Church'
		6.30pm	Festival Evensong to celebrate the re-opening of the church
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir practice
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir practice
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.30pm	Baptism
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Christ the King</b>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Choir practice
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Advent Procession of Light at All Saints' Church, Pittville
		<b>(No service at St Lawrence)</b>	

I mentioned last month that November marks the beginning of the season of remembrance.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> we remember and give thanks for All Saints, then in church on Sunday evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we come together in a quiet reflective communion service to remember all those we have loved who have died.

Then on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November we mark Remembrance Sunday around the war memorial. Earlier this year, at the cathedral, all the names of those from this county who died in the first world war were read out. It took a phenomenal amount of time because of the vast number.

This year, as last, we will include the names from the parish of St Peter (which is now part of Swindon Village) in our service book. There are over one hundred of them. A stark reminder of the cost of war.

That Sunday is also the time when we are inviting our local community and organisations to visit the church after the Remembrance service and see the completed work that has been done. As we will be welcoming members of the Airborne Services from around our county to that service, we are sure the new facilities will get plenty of use, and be much appreciated! It will be a time to look forward to exploring ways in which our church can be used to help the wider community – and we would appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

Also looking forward – you will be aware that Michael Cozens, our team rector, left us in June. We are delighted to announce that, following interviews in October, we have appointed a new team rector. – David Smith.

The Archdeacon writes:

*David is currently Parish priest of St George Tuffley and the Area Dean of Gloucester. He will be made a Non-Residentiary Canon of Gloucester, next Sunday. David will bring to this ministry strong leadership and priestly gifts.*

*Before his present ministry David served a curacy in Matson and prior to that he served as an engineering officer in the RAF. David is married to Angela who is also a priest and they have adult children. David is a keen dinghy sailor.*

*As yet a date has not been agreed for Father David's induction but we expect it to be sometime either just before or after the new year'.*

We look forward to welcoming David and Angela into North Cheltenham and working together with David to bring God's love to the world.

**Rev Liz**

## From the registers



### Baptisms

*We welcomed in to the Church:*

4<sup>th</sup> October                      Daisy Thomas      (at St Nicolas)  
26<sup>th</sup> October                     Archie Jacca Smith



### Burial of Ashes

11<sup>th</sup> October                      Derek Hayter

## Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence church, please visit the Team Surgery at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane on any Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.00am. (Enter through the main door and turn right.)

If this is not possible contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

**You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Assistant Curate) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.**

## A view from the pew

Don't forget to say thank you.

As I write this piece I'm very aware of the many things I should be thankful for. We gave thanks recently at our harvest Thanksgivings. I love the celebrations like harvest and Christmas which have a long history. I'm so glad to give thanks with others for the goodness of God as we have always done and sing:

*"We thank thee then O Father, for all things bright and good,  
the seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food"*

because we believe:

*"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love."*

We thank God for our ancient church because:

*"We love the house of prayer,  
wherein thy servants meet;"*

and by the time you read this the 'reordering' (improvements) will be completed and our village church will be open again for our prayers and praise and worship.

Sometimes I think that I don't appreciate enough all the blessings I have. The Old Testament writers remind us of how everything we have is a gift from God, a gift which we have worked at, a gift perhaps even enhanced by our own strength, but a gift nonetheless, for God gives us the hands we need, and God gives us the strength we have.

Some time ago famous people all over the world were polled by a magazine which asked them the question: "If you could be granted one wish that will come true right now, what would that be?"

There were some very interesting responses - but one response impressed the magazine's editors so much that they commented on it. That response was this - 'I wish that I could be given an even greater ability to appreciate all I already have.'

Wouldn't it be great if each one of us suddenly became a more thankful person?  
If all of us suddenly became more appreciative people?

It's a great thing to teach our children to say please and thank you; it helps them out in this world and it's a great thing to be appreciated, to be thanked. But as we teach youngsters it leads us ourselves to think: "Where is our sense of thankfulness? How complete is it? How deep does it run in our lives?"

Saint Paul said in one of his letters: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." In his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul, in telling new Christians how they should live, writes: "Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Give thanks in all circumstances.

Give thanks for everything.

Give thanks at all times.

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

**Ralph Griffin**

**nc** North Cheltenham  
**m** Team Ministry

The Churchwardens & PCC  
of Swindon St Lawrence & Cheltenham St Peter  
invite you to



A Service of Remembrance  
10.55am  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November

The service will be followed by refreshments in the newly re-ordered church to celebrate its re-opening for worship and service in the community.

A Festival Evensong  
6.30pm  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November



To celebrate its re-opening for worship and service in the community following the recent re-ordering work

St. Lawrence Church  
Church Road, Swindon Village

**St Lawrence Swindon Village & Cheltenham St Peter**

## **Host Mary and Joseph and 'keep a sheep' for Advent**



This year we are again inviting homes, families and organisations to host Mary and Joseph (lovingly knitted by Mary Halliwell) for a night. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night?

### **What is involved**

All you need to do is **add your name to the Journey Rota which you will find in church, or email me** indicating a night that will suit you to 'host' Mary & Joseph. You then take them to the next person on the list the following day at a time to suit both of you.

For the evening you 'host' Mary & Joseph you can choose to do whatever you like. You might want to invite some friends round and write Christmas cards. You may want to invite grandchildren over and invite them to write in Mary and Joseph's travel journal. It's entirely up to you.

The next day you take Mary & Joseph to the next host on the Journey Rota.

It's as simple as that.

Once you have hosted Mary and Joseph you are invited to 'keep a sheep' for Advent (of the knitted variety!) and then bring it with you to join Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and angels, at the crib service on Christmas Eve.

Please make sure you have added your details on the Journey Rota by November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please consider your involvement. We hope you will enjoy taking part.

**Rev Liz Palin    Tel: 575547    [liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk)**

# The Children's Society

## Home boxes

The Children's Society home boxes were collected and emptied last month and it's very pleasing to be able to report that, although we have sadly lost a few box holders recently, the total amount collected was £506.30 which is tremendous. Thank you to all the box holders who gave so generously for this worthy charity.

The latest supporters' magazine from the Society contains a few photos from the 1940s, 50s and 60s, including one of The Beatles pop group painting Easter eggs with children in one of the charity's homes.

Things are very different now. Children's homes were consigned to the history books long ago, to be replaced by active support in the community, helping children and their families through difficult times.

Sadly children do still run away from home for various reasons and they can become victims of sexual exploitation; ironically this danger intensifies during the Christmas and new year party season. The Children's Society's Street Safe scheme workers try to prepare young people for what could be a very difficult time emotionally; this might mean helping them look for accommodation in hostels or with extended family members. The workers are on hand all over the holidays when other care agencies may be closed down.

One reason young people leave home is that family life has broken down due to the consequences of debt. The Debt Trap report found that around 2.5 million children in the UK live in families with debt problems. The Children's Society runs children's centres from where families can receive help from debt advice experts and on a more tangible level The Essentials Project in the north of England can supply families with basic items such as soap and washing powder.

These are just two of the many ways in which The Children's Society helps families in this country.

Most box holders just drop their loose change into their boxes, some put a regular amount in them and others put in money that they may have saved if they've used a special offer when shopping. Whatever reason, all that change adds up over a year and when you put it all together it's a sizeable donation to the work of The Children's Society. If you would like to have a box in your home please phone **Sylvia Hales on 01242 235933**.

If you would like to know more about The Children's Society or how you can help them ask Sylvia or visit the Society's website **[www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)**

A big thank you goes to Sylvia for her work in looking after the box scheme in Swindon Village.

**Karen Evans**



St. Lawrence's Church

# Christmas Tree



# Festival



## Nursery Rhymes

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December  
11.00am to 5.00pm

Decorated trees on display  
Christmas Shop selling cards, decorations and other Christmas goods  
Competition to win a teddy bear  
Raffle for 3 Quality Christmas Hampers  
Live music including sing-along songs  
Refreshments

Vote for your favourite tree.  
Will you choose the same one as Father Christmas?

**It all takes place in the newly-refurbished St. Lawrence's Church.**

**Free admission.**

Donations to church building and restoration funds welcome.

**It's not too late to enter a tree. Phone Karen Evans on 241678.**

## **St. Lawrence's Church Christmas Tree Festival Hamper Raffle**

Details of the Christmas Tree Festival are in the full-page advert elsewhere in this magazine.

Once again we will be holding a raffle for Christmas Hampers but this year we would like to make up quality hampers with special Christmas treats.

To this end Mandy and Tony Jilbert have offered to make up a list of suggested contents and if you would like to donate to the raffle we would ask you to choose an item from that list. Alternatively we would welcome cash donations and we will send Mandy shopping.

**The list will be available in church on Sundays or you can phone Mandy or Tony on 01242 693639.**

Please will you give your donation (goods or cash) to Mandy or Tony by Sunday 30th November so that they can make up the hampers in time for the Festival.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.[]

**Karen Evans**

### **Wednesday Club**

I'm sure everyone joins me in wishing Pauline our chairlady a speedy recovery following her recent surgery. We all look forward to seeing her very soon.

At our October meeting we all enjoyed a make-up demonstration by Lisa and Jackie, two well known faces from the No 7 counter in Boots. They showed us how to cleanse and moisturise prior to applying make-up for a natural looking finish. Our thanks also to Ann who was the perfect model. After the demonstration Lisa and Jackie were available to give any individual advice and answer any questions. We all left with a much appreciated goody bag and I'm sure the No 7 counter will see quite a few Swindon Village ladies over the next few weeks.

At our next meeting, on 5th November, Graham Johnson will be taking us on a journey "In Search Of Santa" - so, Guy Fawkes and Santa on the same night!. Visitors are always welcome.

Just a reminder that if you haven't yet paid your £10 deposit for the January meal at the Rising Sun (members only) this needs to be paid and the final payment by December please

**Margaret Pointing**

September saw us going very topical with Eileen Allen's splendid talk on those Swindon Villagers who took part in the First World War. These were very ordinary men who stood where we have stood, walked where we have walked and prayed in our village church. We even had in the audience some who were related to them. Each year we promise at our Remembrance Day ceremony that 'we will remember them' and, thanks to Eileen's talk, we have done just that. However the job is not yet completed and this will be done next year when Eileen will tell us what she knows about those who did not get a mention this year and possibly include those on the memorial from the Second World War.

I will stay with that theme for a while. My wife was adopted but recently, after the death of her adoptive parents, I traced her birth parents. As a result we were sent a collection of about sixty letters from her great grandfather written from the trenches to his 'Dad and Mother'. He was 19 years old in 1916 when he first went out as a subaltern with the Machine Gun Corps. The letters are a fascinating mix of high drama with the banal and with the surreal but I do not think that I would have written them to my mother. I am not convinced that she was best off knowing the reason that I needed more socks is because the rats in my dug-out had eaten the last lot. Neither about how they had to lift the badly wounded off me when a shell hit the bunker. However, I may well have included the bit about how well my pony did in the sports day held five miles behind the lines because of the new bit Dad had sent me.

I do note, however, that he does not mention his court marshal. This was for being found playing cards with his NCO and some other ranks in the front lines. Result, a severe reprimand. These days you would get a pat on the back for being a good officer, as long as you did not win. It is amazing that they would convene a full Court Marshal for such a crime in the middle of major fighting.

His father possibly knew about the court marshal anyway because he was an Army Chaplain and annotated the letter with his own knowledge as to where they may have been written and what events they covered. His son survived and fought again in the next war.

As a matter of interest (to me anyway) his uncle was Rector of Cranham, about seven miles south of here, and the place gets several mentions in his letters. I have been along there and found the old chap's grave, greatly overgrown but now tidied. He was recently remembered at a memorial ceremony in Cranham because he had to cope with the after effects of all their young men going away and often not coming back. That, in turn, made me remember Bill Richings, himself a combatant in the Second World War, who always said a few very heartfelt words against war whenever he led our Remembrance Day Service.

The JCS saga goes on. The councils are doing the best they can to hide our protests and arguments from the Inspectorate so we are working on methods of ensuring that this is not successful. It is unlikely that the JCS will actually be looked at by the

Inspectorate until after the next election. In the meantime the developers are pressing and we will do what we can to hold them off. If they eat my socks I will write to my mother.

This month we welcome back Angela Panrucker with the second in her series 'Just Hanging About', excellent talks about Inn Signs. Visitors will be welcome.

Finally, I am very sorry to have to report the death of Meena Desai. Meena has only been a member of the Society for a few years and was a lovely lady who died unexpectedly and who we will miss. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

**Barry Simon**

## Swindon Village Winemakers

There's not a lot to report this month, I'm afraid.

We decided to venture out to Guiting Power for our September meeting; the pub we visited was the Farmers Arms. When we arrived we chose our meal and, yes, let the skittles knock-about commence. There were 22 members taking part and we had three hands - I know we only have two hands to play with ourselves but we played three!

The lady with the highest score was June Whitty and the man with the highest was Roy Harper (that's me!).

After about an hour we sat down to an evening meal. It was a wonderful selection of food on the board - if you are out that way I would highly recommend a visit. We then rounded the evening off with a game of killer which was won by Mark Smith.

The November meeting will be a Christmas party and a wine tasting evening; the food will be an American supper.

**Roy Harper**  
Secretary

Advertise your business in the Village News

### Monthly rates

Whole page £30    Half page £15    Quarter page £7.50  
One sixth of a page (square) £5

Contact the Editors

Josie Gilbert certainly had an eventful life. She entertained us with her personal story of 'From Foster to Doctor' at our October meeting. Born in an RAF helicopter over Dundee, roamed the country in a caravan, taken into care, fostered, sent to a Catholic girls' school, chased around by Social Services until, when she wanted to go to college, was told she must live in a hostel and find herself a job. She got involved in the pub and catering business before joining London Transport as an Underground train driver. She married and came to live in Gloucestershire where, with the compensation and pension after an injury, she and her husband both fulfilled a lifetime's ambition and went to college. After A Levels, a degree and then a doctorate Josie managed to achieve what she knew she was capable of. What a lady!

After the business at the County Autumn Council Meeting we were entertained by 'Two Blokes and a Piano, Flanders and Swann Recaptured'. I personally remember seeing the original 'At the Drop of a Hat' and so knew the words when we all joined in the singing.

We heard that June had had a fall and Viv was recovering from having a new hip. Our other invalids, Sue and Mo, are recovering well and were able to fulfill their duties. Jayne was now going to take up the bursary to Denman College; we look forward to hearing which course she has chosen to do.

An interesting day was had at the V&A to see the Wedding Dress exhibition; unfortunately our arrival was delayed by long queues on the motorway due to a severe accident. Our visit to Oxford was a little less eventful, but a good lunch at the Ashmolean Museum and an afternoon at the needlework exhibition of exquisite 17<sup>th</sup> century handiwork provided a memorable day out. We seem to have had a number of trips out in October as the next event was a visit to London and a trip on the river to see the Poppies at the Tower of London.

A meal at the Ballroom Restaurant, a day with Saga at Denman College, a Group Meeting when we shall enjoy afternoon tea and a chocolate making demonstration and a visit to see Blenheim Palace decorated for Christmas are all on the list for the next month. We are once again looking forward to our Birthday Party at the Muffin Man.

Our AGM takes place at our November meeting when we adopt the new Committee and elect our President. The monthly competition is to be 6 homemade cookies. So we shall be tucking in to vote for the winner and entertaining ourselves!

**Sara Jefferies**

# 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

The start to the autumn term is always a busy time, trying to squeeze the most out of the remaining decent weather and light evenings. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all had busy programmes and have been getting outdoors at every opportunity.

The Cubs recently spent an evening picking blackberries around the local area and on the following Monday at the Village hall, turned them into blackberry & apple pies!

The Scouts have had several opportunities to get away with the County organised programme of camps and activities. We had one member take part in the county organised Canoeing and Kayaking weekend camp on the River Avon near Defford. There was the chance to paddle both canoes and kayaks on the river and tuition was provided to improve all levels of paddling from complete novices to those attaining coaching qualifications. I'm pleased to report that Ash has now gained his BCU 2star qualification in both kayaks and canoes and is also qualified to supervise Scouts in kayaks on lakes and rivers.

## **Mountain Activities Weekend**

Two Swindon Village Scouts took part in the County Mountain Activities weekend. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, the group of Scouts and Explorers set off from Shurdington towards the Brecon Beacons. Following a Fish and Chip stop in Monmouth and a couple of laps of Brecon they arrived at Llewelin Scout hut. On the Saturday they split into 2 groups and headed out into the hills for a walk across some of the highest mountains in southern Britain. It was a warm day with plenty of good views across south Wales and everyone managed to reach the top of Pen-y-fan. The groups were then re-fuelled with Shepherd's Pie followed by cake and custard, after which they were ready for the evening's film, then off to bed. With Sunday came the start of a new day and time for more adventures. This time the group was split up into one team of youngsters and an adult team remotely supervising. They all managed to get to the top of Sugar Loaf for an early lunch and yet more stunning views, after which the adults sat back and watched as the youngsters took a planned longer route back to the minibus, for home. And here ended yet another successful Mountain Activities Weekend! For one of our Scouts, Jakub Kubinak, this was his third weekend of the year away with the County Mountain Activities team and he has become the first Swindon Village Scout to gain his Scout Hillwalker Badge.

## **County Canal Weekend**

The following weekend, three Swindon Village Scouts took part in the County Canal weekend on narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal just west of London. Once on board they travelled from Hillingdon in Middlesex up through Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back again on the Sunday. The weather on Saturday was miserable and they had to endure rain for most of the day and then woke up to a frost on the Sunday morning. However, they all got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They also had to plan their own menu and on the Saturday morning, moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco, while they went and bought all the food. They all returned home full of their adventures and I'm glad to report that no-one fell in!

## **Operation Bald Eagle**

In October, twelve of our Scouts and four leaders took part in this year's Operation Bald Eagle camp. After the event was cancelled last year, this camp was held for the first time at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site - right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire (where we had camped earlier in the year for the Activate camp). Here we joined together with around 300 Scouts from Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Despite a poor weather forecast, we had just 10 minutes' rain over the entire weekend and no frost to contend with either! We arrived at around 7pm on the Friday evening and the Scouts set about pitching their tents in the dark before tackling the Friday evening challenge and enjoying a fish-finger burger and a hot drink. On Saturday, after a cooked breakfast and flag break, our Scouts split into three teams and started to tackle some of the 30 day bases around the campsite, solving puzzles and completing tasks, challenges and games. On Saturday night they joined more than 50 teams and set off on a 5 mile incident hike around the local area with 14 activities to complete at the various checkpoints around the route. These involved all sorts of challenges including a quite brilliant laser maze, shooting crossbows, a challenge assault course and a terrific caving system to name just a few. Their great team-work enabled most of them to complete the entire hike at around midnight – a fantastic achievement. A very tired bunch of Scouts awoke on Sunday morning and after another cooked breakfast had to pack up their gear before taking down their tents. The camp finished with everyone getting together for flag, a moment of reflection and the results and presentations. All of our Scouts did tremendously well in what were testing conditions and we had four girls on this camp for the first time who rose to the challenge superbly. We had great leadership from the Patrol leaders and the older Scouts really looked after the youngsters who were on their first Scout camp. As a leadership team we were really proud of all twelve of them. And to top the weekend off, one of our teams won Checkpoint 5 and were presented with a framed certificate much to their delight. They were the Wagon Wheels team led by Joshua Williams together with Sam Burge, Ethan Drake and Sam Iliffe. So congratulations are due to them and to everyone who took part – a terrific weekend.

## **Jumble Sale**

A **huge** thank-you to all those parents, friends, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who came to help us at the jumble sale - your help was vital in making the sale a success and most appreciated. Also thanks to everybody from around the village who came to support us and buy all the bargains!

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers who give their time and energy to make the group such a success and offer so many different and exciting challenges and opportunities to all our young people. I know it's really hard at times – but it's worth the effort!

## **Sos**

## Swindon Village Rainbows and Bishops Cleeve District Rangers

We plan to have a **table-top sale** in the Village Hall on the evening of **5<sup>th</sup> December** to raise money for our Guiding units. As a result we are inviting local people to hire a table to sell their own goods or local homemade crafts.

Tables will cost £10 each.

The hall will open at 5pm for stall-holders.

Everyone will be welcome to come and browse at the sale which will be open from 5.45pm until 7.15pm and perhaps buy some Christmas presents!

We will also be serving tea and coffee.

Hope to see you there.

If you would like a table please call **Karen on 01242 673403**.

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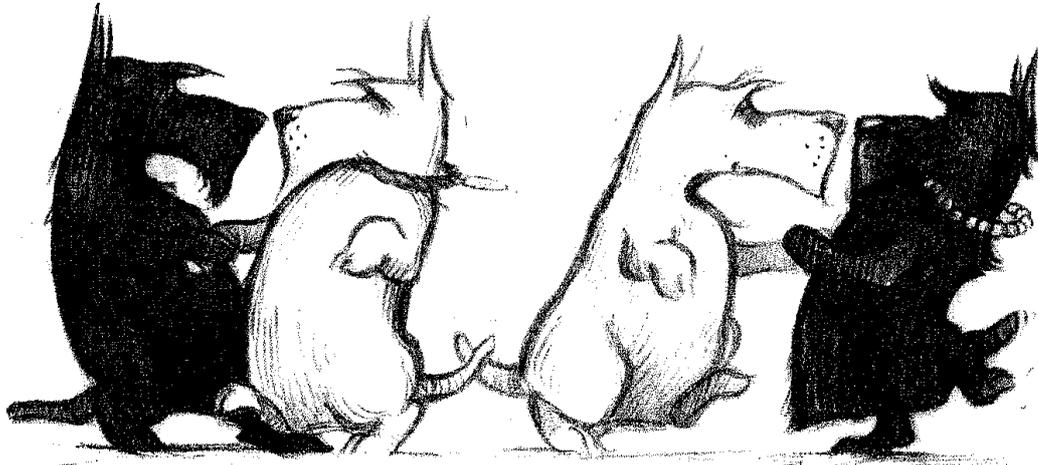
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SCOTTIES DANCING

## SCOTTISH DANCING

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Joan/John 01242 237385

### Art & Crafts Club

We meet every Thursday from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. In the Village Hall.

Our new members have thrived during their first few weeks - so it goes to show, you can do anything if you try! One member said to me 'is it time to pack up already?' Time flies when you are having a good time, and we all do.

**Helen Dicks**

----- FREE -----  
Bike Loan Scheme

thinktravel  
More ways of thinking



# Thinking about taking up cycling?

Why not give cycling a try  
for eight weeks, for FREE?

Maybe you would like to  
take the kids to school by  
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If you are looking to improve  
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always thought about giving  
cycling a go; trying cycling  
has never been easier.

If you are over 18 years  
old and you live or work  
in Gloucestershire, you  
can sign up to the scheme.

## HOW IT WORKS

Register for this scheme by:

Phone 01452 690979

Email [info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk)  
[enquiries@thinktravel.info](mailto:enquiries@thinktravel.info)

Or via [www.gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk)  
In Person. Sign up at one of the planned events,  
or by appointment with GBP.

You will need to visit Gloucestershire Bikes Project (GBP) to choose your bike and complete the loan agreement. Bike sizing and collections happen fortnightly on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 8pm. Upon collection of your tailored bike, a refundable deposit of £100 will be required, and GBP will provide you with everything else you might need at no additional cost. These include:

- Lights
- A lock
- Helmet.

The bikes is then yours to use as often as you want, for up to 8 weeks. GBP staff will be available to offer advice on how to use the bike and accessories. If you decide you want to buy the bike during, or after your loan period, it can be offered at a discounted price.

If you are a bit unsure and feel you could benefit from some cycle training, then you can come to our FREE cycle confidence training sessions. Additional details of the confidence training sessions will be given to you when you sign up.

Enjoy the wonderful benefits of cycling!

## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick here if you would like a FREE cycle training session

What is the best time for you?

- morning  afternoon  evening  
 weekends

How would you describe your cycling ability?

- absolute beginner  
 returning to cycling  
 intermediate  
 confident



To register your interest, discuss the scheme or to book, please contact GBP on 01452 690979 or email [info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can visit [www.thinktravel.info/bike-loanscheme](http://www.thinktravel.info/bike-loanscheme)

01452 690979

[info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirebikesproject.co.uk)

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visit: [www.helpinghands.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)



## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Vacant	
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts	Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis	514825/244708
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D’Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris	701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.  
 Please send contributions to the editors:  
 David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road  
 or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Shannon Kerr	07954 128151
	Cllr. Arran Stibbe	07796 248658
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

## ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

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Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373 <a href="mailto:admin@northchelt.org.uk">admin@northchelt.org.uk</a>
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		

The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

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