

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 411 February 2015

February

- Monday 2 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Diana Humphrey & Fred Ward - A history of Mr Punch
- Wednesday 4 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm A.G.M.
- Tuesday 10 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Monday 16 St. Lawrence Church Fete Meeting - In the church 7.30pm
- Wednesday 18 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Eileen Allen - Village men who served in the First World War
- Wednesday 25 Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Doug Wilkins Trophy Competition & Pudding Evening

March

- Monday 2 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Richard Burton - Life at Barrington Court
- Wednesday 4 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Marion Beagley - My Mother was a Cockney
- Saturday 7 Scouts collecting jumble around inner village area from 10am
- Tuesday 10 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 18 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Geoff North - Cheltenham's Voluntary Auxiliary Hospitals
- Saturday 21 Scout Group Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am
- Saturday 28 St. Lawrence Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall
10.30am - 12noon

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

The Parish Council set its precept for 2015-2016 at its January meeting. The meeting was open to the public as always. You might hear talk about how the County and Borough Councils are implementing huge savings. In practice they are being forced by central government to reduce their expenditure. Whilst they might get some savings through greater efficiency, the bulk of them come through reducing the services they provide, leaving the Parish Councils and volunteer organisations to pick up the slack. Roads are not repaired, hedges are not cut and litter is a major problem. In the future the government may extend the squeeze to Parish Councils. If this were to happen we could be caught with inadequate resources to meet the needs of the parish. In recognition of this the Parish Council has set a precept that is slightly higher than last year. By my calculation the increase is 36p per elector in the parish per year, and our entire annual expenditure is about a third of what the Borough Council will be spending on replacing the lights in the swimming pool hall! We hope you understand and support our action.

I have mentioned that more emphasis generally is being placed on volunteers and that the Parish Council will also be looking to organise groups to get things done. We are now at the point where we need you to stand up and be counted. If you care about the area and would be willing to join in occasional activities please give me your name and a telephone number or (ideally) an email address so that I can get in touch. You will not be committed to anything. We will probably start with unglamorous tasks such as litter picking. We aim to ensure that you are equipped and, where necessary, trained. Your safety will always come first. I am hoping it will be more like a social club than a chain gang!

The plans for a small housing development at Manor Farm were modified following extensive objections from residents and the Parish Council. The deadline for comments was extended while the new plans were considered. The revised plans did not address the Parish Council's concerns and Councillor Peter Allen spent a great deal of time preparing a detailed case against the development. The developers regard the site as "brown field", hardly fair as the site is an ancient farm, never previously developed. The matter is now with the Borough Council.

Many thanks for the contributions that people have made to our Local Green Space application. The application has been submitted to the Borough Council. They will organise a consultation, giving everyone the right to air their views. We are grateful to Arran for all the work he put into this with support from Helen. The document is available to view on our web site (swindonparish.org.uk).

Speaking of our web site (see how this hangs together and looks planned?), we will shortly be giving the site a makeover. We aim to make it more relevant and topical with articles of local interest appearing regularly. You will also be able to access all the council's key documents. I have a prototype of the new site and I copied Barry Simon's excellent article on local history to it. I asked Barry if he wanted to change anything. Thankfully he realised that I was wondering if he wanted to change the article rather than change history!

The Parish Council understandably receives complaints about dog poo bags being thrown into hedges. They are horribly unsightly and hang around forever. Farm animals can eat plastic and come to harm. Picking up is not a joy to do but as dog owners we have a responsibility. If you've done the picking up then you've done the hard part; why throw the bag in a hedge or ditch? Please dispose of bags properly and report anyone who doesn't to the Borough Council.

Hyde Lane has had some resurfacing work done but it appears to be inadequate and certainly less than we thought we were getting. The County Council will probably say it is all they could afford but the matter will be pursued anyway.

Remember that we have eight councillors at the moment rather than the full complement of nine. If you feel you have something to offer please let me know. If you are interested but unsure whether it is for you I can arrange for you to have a chat with one of our councillors about the role.

I receive quite a few emails about local government-related conferences. One such arrived last week, advertising an event. A few days later I received another saying there had been "a slight change of date and venue". Is that all?!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Services and events in February

Sunday	1 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	3 rd	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	8 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung evensong
Tuesday	10 th	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	15 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Monday	16 th	7.30pm	Fête organisers' meeting in the church
Tuesday	17 th	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Wednesday	18 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
Friday	20 th	11.30am - 2.00pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday	22 nd	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Tuesday	24 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Friday	27 th	11.30am - 2.00pm	Lent Lunch

Services and events in March

Sunday	1 st	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Wedding: Craig Owen & Carrie-Anne Lovejoy Baptism: Poppie Owen Sung Holy Communion
--------	-----------------	---------------------------------	--

From the registers



Burial of ashes

Leonora & Claire Banyard

8th December 2014

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.

February always feels a bit like a pivotal month. We are half way through winter, and we might begin to feel spring is on the way.

At the beginning of February in the church's year, we celebrate Candlemas. At Candlemas we remember the time when Mary and Joseph came to present Jesus at the synagogue according to the Jewish custom. When they were there they met a very elderly gentleman called Simeon who had been waiting a very long time to see the Messiah come. When he held Jesus he realised that his wait was over.

So why do we call it Candlemas? Well, it was also the time when all the church candles were blessed for the year ahead. When Simeon held Jesus he praised God, saying that Jesus was a light for the world. We no longer need candles for our light source – we have electric lights, thank goodness. But we still use candles in church to remind us that Jesus is present, the light of the world.

Simeon also told Mary that a sword would pierce her heart – foretelling Jesus' death on the cross. And so Candlemas also is a pivotal point – we look from the Christmas story, and our Christmas celebrations, and think about Lent and Easter which will only be a few weeks away, when we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us, and celebrate his overcoming death by rising to new life. Darkness turning to light.

As you notice the days getting longer and lighter, remember that Jesus brings light into our lives, even in the darkest moments.

Rev Liz

A view from the pew

Thoughts on 'Christian Values'

Recently at St Lawrence we celebrated Jesus Christ's baptism and we were encouraged to think about our basic beliefs - our values.

We renewed our allegiance to Christ and affirmed our belief in God as our Creator. We promised to continue in the teaching and fellowship and prayers of the New Testament.

We promised to persevere in resisting evil and confirmed our belief that God is always ready to forgive us and give us a new start.

In addition we affirmed that we believe it is our duty to seek and serve Christ in all people and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We acknowledged Jesus Christ's authority over human society by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice.

This set of values is in contrast to the view that because there is so much doubt about why we are here on earth we can form our own principles for living.

Don't misunderstand me please. I personally believe that Christ is the basis of our values. But I also think that a person can live an admirable life - and many people live their lives well - whether they have Christian belief or not. There are many good people in the world who find Christianity or religious belief difficult. In seeking to include those people who have honest doubts I like the prayer which mentions people whose faith is 'known only to God'.

We are not alone. God helps us if we choose difficult paths for ourselves as we try to live for others and not for ourselves.

Ralph Griffin

Lent Lunches

in St Lawrence Church

Every Friday in Lent

Friday 20th February to Friday 27th March

11.30am to 2.00pm

Drop in for a simple bread and soup lunch and a friendly chat. There is no set charge but donations to the St. Lawrence church building fund would be welcome.

St. Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival

It seems a long time ago and Christmas and New Year have since come and gone but memories of the Christmas Tree Festival linger. It was a good one!

Once again we were astounded at the ingenuity and artistry that went in to decorating the record number of trees on display, all on the theme of Nursery Rhymes. Some trees depicted specific rhymes while others went for a more general approach.

The “people’s vote” declared the Art Club’s “Baa Baa Black Sheep” as the winner, closely followed by the Cubs’ “Christmas is Coming” and the Early Years playgroup’s nursery rhymes tree. Matthew’s jam tarts (The Queen of Hearts) raised a few smiles, people admired the intricacy and delicate decoration of Marle Hill WI’s “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary” and the aroma from the cookies on the Friends of the School’s “Pat-a-Cake” tree made us all feel hungry.

The new layout of the church made for a cosy little café and sales area and the kitchen and loo were much appreciated by all the helpers and no doubt some of the visitors.

Visitors were entertained with sing-along Christmas songs led by a bunch of ukulele players.

The Christmas hamper raffle prizes were won by Carol Mainwaring, Janet Parker and Bill Howard.

Can you remember what your guess was for the number of stripes in the teddy bear’s scarf? Guesses ranged from 80 to 502 but the answer was 219 and the bear was won by Mary Halliwell for her first great grandchild.

The event raised £614 for the church building funds for which we are all extremely grateful but, just as importantly, it was lovely to see so many people mingling and having a good time in the church.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event in whatever way you did.

Karen Evans

on behalf of the St. Lawrence Fundraising Group.

Church fete 2015

A meeting to start making the arrangements for this year’s church fete will be held on **Monday 16th February in the church, at 7.30pm.**

Everybody is welcome. If you have any ideas or comments or would like to help in any way please just come along to the meeting.

Tony Jilbert
Tel. 693639

Patricia Bigg

In December 2012 Patricia Bigg wrote about her Christmas memories for the Village News. This was a fascinating account of a childhood spent in Nuneaton where Patricia's father was a doctor between the two World Wars.

We were sorry to hear of Patricia's death just before Christmas. She had become very frail but was able to stay in her own home and died peacefully, at the age of 95, with her daughter at her side.

Patricia enjoyed 38 happy years in Swindon Village. She was a regular churchgoer and a governor of the local school. Her friends remember her as a gifted pianist and an artistic gardener.

Her funeral was dignified with no personal tributes, at her own request. Three generations of her family travelled down from Lancashire on a frosty day to pay their last respects. They were joined by a group of friends and the neighbours who had supported Patricia in her last years.

Cards and stamps

This year's response to my request for Christmas cards, special occasion cards and used postage stamps has been marvellous. Thank you all. The cards have all gone to the Cobalt Unit and the stamps to the Linc Clinic at Cheltenham General Hospital.

Someone's Christmas card address book with Christmas list was in with the cards; would the owner please contact me as I would like to return it.

Moira Stoneman
Tel. 529631

Art & Crafts Club

Happy New Year to all.

We ended the year with a Christmas Party; all brought a little something to eat and wine was provided. We did a quiz which occupied us for some time, chatted, ate, drank and generally had a really good evening. A raffle raised about £70, which goes towards having a demonstration should our members want one. We started the year as we ended the last, all as enthusiastic as ever.

Helen

Those with long memories may be able to think back to November when Angela Panrucker gave us the second part of her history of pub signs. An awful lot of our history as a nation has been recorded on these signs which commemorate Kings, Queens, heroes and villains, local events and the seriously trivial.

However, that was history – what of the future. Well by the time you read this we should have had our AGM and at a guess not a lot will have changed. I always dream of a popular rising that sees the Chairman deposed and the committee taken over by a thrusting group of young revolutionaries who intend to take the society forward to the shining uplands. More likely is that the committee will have been re-elected, we will have had a cup of tea and then discussed the Joint Core Strategy.

However, we will have announced the programme for this year and in the way of all such things I think that it is best if this closely guarded secret be leaked in advance to gain maximum publicity. Sadly the The Echo and The Standard did not seize the opportunity when I offered to slip them a copy under the door so it will have to be The Village News.

- **February** – Eileen Allen will complete her talk on those of the village who died or took part in World War 1.
- **March** – Still with WW1 and we will have a talk on the Voluntary Aid (VAD) Hospitals which were formed in Cheltenham to look after the wounded.
- **April** – our annual bird and nature walk will stay local to the village and cover what we can of the fields under threat.
- **May** – The talk will be on Laurie Lee – perhaps our best known local poet and author with reading from his works.
- **June** – Garden visit if we can find one we have not yet visited.
- **July** - Member Harry Hopkins will give us a talk on Western Australia, a land he knows well.
- **August** – souwesters on for the Garden Party
- **September** – Dr Tim Brain will tell us about the 2007 floods. Since he was Chief Constable at the time he had a unique viewpoint.
- **October** – Something will turn up.
- **November** – John Dixon, Chairman of the Tewkesbury LHS will tell us of the very interesting tale of Barbara Cartland and Tewkesbury.

Thence back to next year's AGM which will be followed up with a cup of tea and, like as not, an update on the Joint Core Strategy.

Barry Simon

It seems a long time since our December meeting when Rosalyn Terry came to 'De-Mystify Hypnotherapy'. She explained that what she did was not connected to 'Stage Hypnosis', but could be used to help people with many fears, stress and other problems. Self-hypnosis, such as transcendental meditation, was a useful therapy, the subconscious mind being stronger than the conscious mind. She then let us all try a practical demonstration. An interesting and enlightening evening.

The sun shone for us on the County organized trip to Blenheim Palace that had been decorated for Christmas. Another fine but cold day was spent in Stratford where presents were bought at the Christmas Market and we discovered some recommended 'eateries'. Aled Jones' performance at the Carol Concert in the Town Hall with the WI Choir made a very enjoyable afternoon. At St Nicolas' Bazaar we provided the teas served with an array of delicious cakes. At St Lawrence in Swindon Village we had an entry in the Christmas Tree Festival depicting 'Mary, Mary Quite Contrary'. Father Christmas liked our tree and we came fourth in the public vote! The Solo Club had a party, with plenty of sustenance, I understand, and the retiring committee went to Harry Cook's (alias O'Neill's) for a meal.

The New Year started with one of the most enjoyable talks we have had. Lennet Isko brought her 'Fascination of Hats' and, after relating a brief history of hats, hairstyles and head decorations, showed us how she made the many hats and fascinators she had brought with her.



She then proceeded to find one to fit each member and we sat there admiring everyone and feeling very elegant. Lennet set out to prove that she could find something to suit everyone and she certainly succeeded! Several members are going to Ladies' Day at the Festival and came away inspired to find a hat for the occasion.



A member, Rosa Robinson, died earlier last year and has left us a small legacy. We are going to have to decide how to spend it in her memory. We have entered the Skittles Tournament again this year and also the County Quiz. We shall have to stir ourselves and get some practice in! The Craft and Book Clubs are both thriving and we shall have to start having tea/coffee mornings/afternoons again to socialize and raise much needed funds. In February we are planning a trip to the Rococo Gardens to see the snowdrops. Unfortunately the planned trip last year had to be cancelled due to the weather; hopefully we will be luckier this year. There is also a visit to the Guide Dogs for the Blind breeding centre in Leamington Spa.

On **Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm** we have '**A Lavishly Illustrated History of Mr. Punch**' by **Diana Humphrey and Fred Ward**. If you would like to join us for the evening at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Swindon Lane, visitors are always made most welcome. May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sara Jefferies

Wednesday Club

We were entertained again at our December meeting by Shane Driscoll. We invited him back as he was so popular last year and he didn't disappoint us. He sang many songs, including some Christmas Carols, and a fabulous guitar solo. I am not sure if I mentioned it last year, but he does play guitar with many famous groups, including the Searchers, Joe Brown and Mike Sarne amongst others. We all had a lovely evening which put us in the Christmas spirit once again.

On behalf of all our members I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The holidays are finished and we are busy planning our Wednesday Club year. We are putting our heads together to find suitable places to visit; a few have been mentioned but no firm agreement just yet. We will also hold a coffee morning, probably in June, and although it seems a long way off at the moment, these things take time to organise.

Our February meeting will be our AGM and we will have a quiz and a game after our reports. We are managing to keep our membership fee the same again this year but, as always, may have to rethink for 2016.

The Speaker for our meeting on the **4th March** will be **Marion Beagley** and her talk is called "**My Mother was a Cockney**".

Looking forward to seeing you all very soon, please do come along, you will be made very welcome.

Pauline Wright

Looking back briefly to the end of 2014...

Beaver Sleepover

Over the last weekend in November, Mandy and Charlotte took eleven of our Beavers (aged just 6 and 7) up to Cranham to take part in the County Beaver Sleepover. The theme for this year was Superheroes and many were dressed accordingly in glow-in-the-dark costumes. Activities included a session of archery and an opportunity to tackle the climbing wall. They even got the chance to try washing up! Mandy and Charlotte were delighted to report that they were all fast asleep by 10:15 at night and some needed waking at 8:30am in order not to miss out on breakfast! All in all it was a great weekend and for many it was their first night away from home, so well done to all of you that took part!

St. Lawrence's Christmas Tree Festival

All four sections decorated a tree for the Tree Festival held at St Lawrence's Church in December and had a great deal of fun in doing so!

Christmas Carols and Sketches

On our final Monday meeting of 2014 we held our group Christmas show in a packed village hall. The Beavers started the evening; then followed sketches and musical items from the Cubs and Scouts intermingled with Christmas carols for all. I think the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all did tremendously well, performing in front of a large audience, and we have received several very complimentary e-mails and comments from people who were in the audience. There was no admission charge but our collection for "The Children's Society" raised £69-09 on the night. So very well done to all that took part – and if you missed it, we hope to see you at this year's show!

And on to 2015...

Winter Camp – Gilwell Park, Epping Forest

Yes, once again, we really did go camping in tents in January! The Scout Association's annual weekend "Winter Camp" was held at Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting, set in a stunning 110-acre site in north-east London on the edge of the beautiful Epping Forest. The three Scouts and four Explorers making up our group came from different units in Gloucestershire and they and the leaders (Colette from Minchinhampton, Shane, Ashley, Mike and myself) had never met as a group before setting off; it was a great pleasure to see how well they all got on over the weekend – working together and enjoying each others' company. They made our job as leaders very easy and were a credit to all their Scout groups / Explorer Units.

This camp is held every January and presents about 3,500 Scouts and Explorer Scouts, aged 10 to 17, from across the country with the challenge of camping in mid-winter. We arrived at Gilwell at 9:15pm on Friday and soon had our camp pitched (by midnight)! After a cracking cooked breakfast on Saturday the youngsters headed off around Gilwell to tackle some of the 70 adventurous activities on offer, the more

unusual of which included: mini tank driving, Segways, axe throwing, Digger Driving, Argocats, Quad Bikes and a 4x4 off-road adventure. The old favourites, Prussiking, Shooting and Archery, were also available along with many more physically demanding activities. More relaxing activities included craft sessions, computer games, skittles and Gilwell Radio. A snack bar and Gilwell Scout Shop were open. At night there were Wide Games and Camp Fires outside or a Disco, and Cinema inside where you could escape the mud for a while. On Sunday morning, after another cooked breakfast, the Scouts all made a packed lunch and then packed up their tents before another three hours of activities. Meanwhile, in between several cups of tea and coffee, the leaders managed to load all the kit into the trailer and we were one of the first groups to leave the site, by 1:30pm, escaping the traffic chaos that no-doubt followed! All in all a cracking weekend – with a terrific bunch of Scouts and Explorers.

County Monopoly Run

This fun challenge was held in Cirencester one Saturday in January for mixed Scout and Explorer Scout teams. We took four Scouts from Swindon Village together with one from Prestbury and three from Warden Hill to represent Cheltenham District. The day started with a briefing at 1st Cirencester HQ, giving the teams a chance to meet up and plan their strategy for the day. They then had to visit 21 places around Cirencester and complete a challenge or take a photo to prove they had been there. There were also 4 leaders walking around the town who were the “Go”, “Chance”, “Community Chest” and “Go to Jail” squares on the Monopoly board – but until the teams challenged the leader they didn’t know what they were in for! The weather was very cold and sunny with a dusting of snow on the ground which made for a lovely day and kept everyone moving in order to stay warm. Once back at the finish, we all had copious amounts of Hot Chocolate & Coffee together with Hot Dogs and Burgers. Another very enjoyable day out and one which the County team will look to run again next year – but in a different Gloucestershire town!

Herb – (Dave Herbert)

Dave Herbert, or “Herb” as he is affectionately known to most of us, has been active in the Scout movement for over 41 years – first as a Scout and then as both a Scout Leader and an Explorer Scout Leader. He has been involved with St Peter’s Scouts for longer than I can remember and when the Explorer Scout Section was introduced in 2002 he set up and has since run Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts which have been based here in Swindon Village since 2006. Being involved in two sections of the movement has meant a commitment of two evenings a week for the last ten years or so as well as all the weekend events and activities he has regularly supported. So it is hardly a surprise after all this time that Herb now feels that a break is long overdue. While this is a sad loss to Scouting in Cheltenham, we must pass on our grateful thanks to him for all he has done over 41 years for the young people who have grown and matured under his watchful eye. I have read many heartfelt tributes from former Scouts and Explorers to Herb and it’s clear that he has made a huge impact in the lives of many young people over the years.

Thank you, Herb, for all you have done and enjoy having Monday and Tuesday evenings to yourself once more.

Sos

The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed Grandma; yes, honestly it's true.
She pressed Control and Enter, and disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely, the thought just made me squirm;
She must have caught a Virus, or been eaten by a Worm.
I've searched through the Recycle Bin, and Files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet, but nothing could I find.
In desperation I asked Jeeves my Searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found online.
So, if inside your Inbox my Grandma you should see,
Please Scan, Copy and Paste her in an E-mail back to me.

by Mrs Valerie Waite, Derbyshire

St.Lawrence Church

Annual Cake & Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th March 10.30am to 12noon
in the Village Hall

Please put the date in your diary for next month.
Come and enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee and a biscuit or two
then buy some goodies to take home.

Cakes, other bakes and preserves on sale.

Donations of goods to sell and raffle prizes will be most welcome.

Please contact Mary Halliwell, tel. 692423.



Victoria Turner-Webb

Mobile Hairdresser

Hair styled in the comfort of your own home

01242 678 933

07412 261 578

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

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Jumble Sale

Saturday 21st March at 11.00am

in the Village Hall

Admission 20p



Scouts will be collecting jumble
around the inner village area on
Saturday 7th March from 10.00am onwards.

If you're having an early Spring-time clearout please remember
the Scouts' Jumble Sale. We will collect from your doorstep
without disturbing you if donations are clearly labelled.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Variations Academy

**NOW AT
NEW
SWINDON
VILLAGE
STUDIOS**

Dance Classes from 2 years

- ★ Ballet
- ★ Modern
- ★ Tap
- ★ Street
- ★ Hip hop
- ★ Breaking
- ★ Contemporary
- ★ Conditioning
- ★ Singing

**NEW large studios with sprung wooden floor
Fully insured and CRB checked staff.
Free parking and easily accessible for surrounding areas**



**“Excellent quality technique &
foundation skills taught in all styles”**



**Teaching Staff includes
TEE from NEMISIS CREW
- BGT Finalist 2008**



variations@hotmail.com



Variations Academy of Dance



Twitter@dance_va

**Variations Academy,
VA Studios,
Swindon Village,
Cheltenham
01242
462777**

Helping Hands

The Home Care Specialists

Est. 1989



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Cheltenham care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,
call: 01454 643 701 or
visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk

ALEXANDER BURN LTD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT AND RESPECTFUL



Independent family business

24 hour personal service

Private chapels of rest



Winchcombe Office:

11 North Street
Winchcombe
Cheltenham
GL54 5LH

Tel: 01242 604 888

www.alexanderburn.com

Bishops Cleeve Office:

22 Church Road
Bishops Cleeve
Cheltenham
GL52 8LR

Tel: 01242 673 300

Now also at 436 High Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3JA Tel. 01242 245350

HOME FARM CARAVAN STORAGE CENTRE

BROCKHAMPTON LANE, NR SWINDON VILLAGE, CHELTENHAM, GLOS. GL51 9RS

NEW INDOOR STORAGE AVAILABLE FROM 1ST MARCH 2015

Storage facility available for caravans, motor homes and small boats etc.

Annual rates from £1.30 / day and to include:

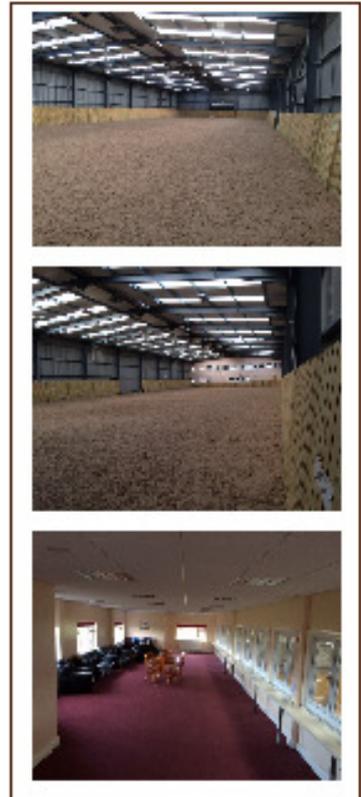
- Flexible access times
- CCTV 24 hr surveillance and external door access control
- CaSSOA registration ongoing
- Building owners on site
- Modern fire and emergency lighting Systems
- Good vehicle access to building
- Vehicle wash area

31 initial storage spaces will be available with a generous bay size of 8m x 3.5m.

We also provide a room hire service for private or business functions. The use of a well-fitted kitchen is included when booking both floors. Car parking is available for approximately 80 vehicles.

Room hire starts from £16/hr (inc VAT) with a max £50/hr for two storey accommodation and evening events.

For pre-booking and further details please contact Gary or Jill on 01242 248164 / 07771 346512 / 07887400239 or visit www.homefarmquestriancentre.co.uk



SJB Carpentry & Joinery

All Aspects of Carpentry and Home Maintenance

Handmade Furniture
Bespoke Storage Solutions
Stairs & Bannisters
Doors & Windows
Flooring, Skirtings & Architraves
Floor & Wall Tiling
Gates, Decking & Pergolas

Contact Stu for a free quotation on

Tel: 07729912530

Email: sjb_carpentry@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.sjbcarpentryjoinery.co.uk

Brite Interiors

Quality Interior Painting
General maintenance
Fencing

All work considered

Local & Trustworthy
References and Photo Portfolio

Competitive daily rates
DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS

Sole Trader

Martin Gautrey

Mobile:- 07980 032 034

Home:- 01242 232570

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
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	701854
	Mandy Harris	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

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

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Assistant Curate	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
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 admin@northchelt.org.uk
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.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editors or the Parish Council