

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 413 April 2015

April

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | 1 | Village Hall Annual General Meeting 7.15pm |
| Wednesday | 1 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Fiona Warin - Land Girls |
| Saturday | 11 | Swindon Village Society annual bird and nature walk Meet at the Village Hall 9.30am |
| Sunday | 12 | Save The Countryside Walk 2pm (see inside for details) |
| Monday | 13 | Annual Parochial Church Meeting St. Lawrence Church 7.00pm |
| Monday | 13 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Fiona Eadie - Telling of local stories, tradition and tales |
| Friday | 17 | Friends of Swindon Village Primary School Quiz - 7.30pm |
| Tuesday | 14 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Note start time - 7.00pm |
| Tuesday | 21 | Annual Parish Meeting - School Hall 7.30pm (See inside for details) |
| Wednesday | 22 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm Wine tasting |

May

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | 6 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm John Dixon - Beguiling Barbara |
| Monday | 11 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Resolutions |
| Tuesday | 12 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 20 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm Gordon Ottwell - Laurie Lee |

Swindon Parish Council

(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 next Parish Council meeting (on 14th April) will start at 7:00pm. This is because we will be hosting representatives from Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and the police. We will be raising the matters of most immediate concern locally. Please come along and be part of this. The meeting will be held in the Village Hall as usual and the normal Parish Council meeting will follow this discussion.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the school hall at 7:30pm on 21st April. Councillor Allen, chairman of the Parish Council, presides and I have to provide an update on the Parish Council's finances, but this is a public meeting not a Parish Council meeting. We have invited representatives of the Borough Council and County Council to talk about the financial constraints they face and how this is changing the way they interact with the parish councils and residents in their area. It is a difficult time in local government and things are changing forever. We all need to understand what the changes mean for us, what we can expect from these councils and what they expect from us. This is a perfect opportunity to ask questions about the future of local government and what this means for services that we have taken for granted.

Swindon Parish has a new web site. The web address is the same (www.swindonparish.org.uk) but the site has been redesigned to be more topical and informative. Not just Parish Council agendas and minutes but back issues of the Village News, bin collection dates and bus timetables. You can also quickly report issues to the Borough and County Councils with a few clicks of your mouse. Make sure you scroll to the bottom of the page as there are useful links there. I am hoping to make the site a first port of call with links to take you to the other sites you use. Suggestions for improvements and additions are welcome. There is a contact form on the site. Let me know what you think.

At the moment parish councils are subject to an external audit by a firm of accounts appointed by the government. This is changing from next year. In the future smaller councils (including ourselves) will be required to publish all their financial information on the web. If all the council's financial information is open to public scrutiny it is felt that an external audit process will no longer be required. Our new web site already gives everyone access to this information.

We have now heard that, as we have been hoping, the Joint Core Strategy is to be subject to a public examination by an independent Planning Inspector. The examination will take place in Cheltenham between Tuesday 19th May 2015 and Friday 24th July 2015. I have further information regarding how the examination process will be conducted and how people can participate or observe. If anyone would like this information please let me know.

On Wednesday 18th March a number of residents participated in a litter pick. This was our first volunteer activity and was so successful that I felt it deserved its

own article. You can read about it elsewhere in this issue. Organised activities such as this are very useful to address the litter problems in our public spaces but we can all do our bit by picking up litter in our own areas. If areas look clean and tidy people are less inclined to drop their rubbish there.

The Parish Council received many complaints about mud being deposited on the road as a result of tractors moving muck through Swindon Village. Manor Road, Stantons Drive and Dark Lane were particularly affected. Farmers do an important job and in a rural area it is understandable that from time to time it may be necessary for them to perform activities that have an impact on residential areas. However, as far as possible the impact of these activities should be minimised.



Cllr. Allen investigated the law regarding this. Apparently farmers have a duty to minimise the amount of mud deposited as much as possible (cleaning the vehicles before they go on the highway, driving at low speed to retain as much mud as possible on the vehicle). They must also put out warning signs if they have left mud on the road and they must ensure that they have made adequate provision for clearing the mud when they finish (in terms of equipment, time, etc.).

If you feel this guidance is not being complied with contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514514.

The County Council is keen to get views of bus users on the bus services that are available in the county. If you wish to take part please go to the web-survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bus_survey_GCC.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Swindon Village Allotments

I would like to thank all the Allotment members who participated in a Skittles Social Evening held at the Civil Service Club on Friday, 13th February. The evening was a great success and raised £77.00p with a raffle and a donation; the money raised was donated to the Gloucestershire Air Ambulance Charity.

Congratulations must go to Mrs T Foster for her award of 2nd place in the Senior Class for the best managed plot in the Cheltenham Area Allotments Competition, and to Chaz Pearce for being presented with the Chris Ryder Vase for his services to the Allotment Holders of Swindon Village.

There are no vacant plots at this time but any person wishing to become an Allotment Holder in the future may contact me.

Ian Brown

Swindon Village Allotment Manager

SWINDON PARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting 2015

will be held in the

School Hall of Swindon Village School

at

7:30pm

on

Tuesday 21st April 2015

Councillor Peter Allen, Chairman of the Parish Council, will present a report on the activities of the Parish Council

Shaun Cullimore, Clerk to the Parish Council, will present the draft accounts for the Parish Council for 2014-2015

We have invited representatives of the Borough Council and County Council to talk about the financial constraints they face and how this is changing the way they interact with the parish councils and residents in their area

This is your meeting and a chance to discuss the issues within the parish that matter to you. Please make the most of this opportunity.

Litter Pick

I organised a litter pick on behalf of the Parish Council for Wednesday 18th March. My first concern was about the numbers attending. I am not sure which would be worse; me on my own or me surrounded by 200 people. The first fear was soon allayed when we became a workable working party of twelve.

My second fear was that Janice, my Borough Council contact, would not show up. Janice is the one with the knowledge, the experience and the equipment. Without Janice we were just twelve people grumbling about the litter problem. Second fear allayed when Janice arrived with litter pickers, bags and fluorescent bibs (any size you like as long as it's "large"). Pretty soon it was becoming clear that Janice had done this before. Difficult questions were answered, risk assessments were completed and we moved out in pairs to various parts of the park and the Village Hall car park. We had promised not to touch anything that looked "dodgy" but simply report it to a higher authority (in this case Janice), and you would be amazed at what we found. Punctured footballs, hub caps, four gallon chemical containers and even a shopping trolley. Actually the latter came in very handy for transporting the bags of rubbish!



It was a nice day (when the fog cleared) and, as we started work at the back of the Village Hall, we were keenly observed by the play group children. They soon twigged that if they dismantled their toys and threw the parts through the fence they could be entertained by watching us pick them up again with our litter pickers. In less than two hours we had assembled a mountain of rubbish.

I am hugely grateful to Janice for her help in making this happen and providing us with the tools we needed to do the job. I am also grateful to the people who took the trouble to contact me to say that they couldn't make it on this occasion but that they were keen to lend a hand in the future. And on the basis of our experience at this event there will be more in the future. We talked about the state of Manor Road (opposite the car dealers and also at the entrance to Dog Bark Lane). Of course the parish is more than just Swindon Village. Please let us know if you think that initiatives like this might be useful in your area, especially if you would be willing to lend a hand!

Finally (of course) the biggest thank you is to the people who turned out and got stuck in. In the end the event was exactly what I had hoped for. It was fun and sociable. We shared ideas about which areas of the parish needed attention and what might be done to improve them. We had a laugh and we made a big difference to the park and to the Village Hall car park. I hope you notice!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting

will take place on
Wednesday 1st April at 7.15pm
in the
Village Hall Lounge

Items to be discussed are:

1. Activities / improvements for 2015
2. Accounts
3. Future of the hall
4. Election of officials
 - a. Chairperson; b. Secretary; c. Treasurer
5. Any other business

Peter Piff
Chairman, Village Hall Committee

Friends of Swindon Village Primary School

Quiz!

ADULT ONLY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 17th April 2015
7:30PM in the School Hall

Tickets are available from the school office

£2.50 per person
Maximum 4 in a team
Licensed bar



Services and events in March

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 29th | <i>Palm Sunday</i> | |
| | | 10am | Procession and Holy Communion (meet outside Cheltenham Town FC training ground, Quat Goose Lane at 10.00am.) |
| | | 6.30pm | Songs of Praise |
| Tuesday | 31st | <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i> | |
| | | 7.00pm | Holy Communion |

Services and events in April

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Thursday | 2nd | <i>Maundy Thursday</i> | |
| | | 7.30pm | Holy Communion & Watch (Team service at St Nicolas Church, Swindon Lane) |
| Friday | 3rd | <i>Good Friday</i> | |
| | | 12noon | Good Friday Reflective Service |
| Saturday | 4th | <i>Holy Saturday</i> | |
| | | 12noon | All age event including making the Easter Garden |
| | | 9.00pm | Easter Vigil and first Eucharist of Easter (Team service at All Saints Church, Pittville) |
| Sunday | 5th | <i>Easter Day</i> | |
| | | 10.00am | Family Communion |
| | | 6.30pm | Sung Evensong |
| Sunday | 12th | 9.15am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | | 6.30pm | Sung Evensong |
| Monday | 13th | 7.00pm | Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church |
| Tuesday | 14th | 7.00pm | Holy Communion followed by Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 19th | 9.15am | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30pm | Sung Evensong |
| Tuesday | 21st | 7.30pm | Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 26th | 9.15am | Holy Communion |
| | | 3.30pm | Baptism of Noel Boon |
| | | 6.30pm | Sung Evensong |
| Tuesday | 28th | 7.30pm | Tuesday group |

From the registers



Baptism

We welcomed in to the Church

Poppy Owen

1st March



Wedding

We celebrated the marriage of

Craig Owen and Carrie Anne Lovejoy

1st March

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.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on

Monday 13th April at 7.00pm in St Lawrence Church.

If you are on the church electoral roll (not to be confused with the local council electoral roll!) you are able to attend the annual meeting and to vote. The meeting will review the past year and look forward to the future including the election of officers to serve in the coming year.

If you would like information about how to be added to the electoral roll of the church please contact Mary Halliwell Tel: 692423.

The Easter season is a time when Christians rejoice in the knowledge that their risen Lord has overcome death and in so doing brought forgiveness to the world. But, for many, Easter is simply a holiday period and a time for giving chocolate eggs and enjoying the beginning of Spring (hopefully).

The message of Easter is one that we can all relate to. Life is full of ups and downs. We have moments of great joy, and moments of tragedy. As a priest I have the privilege of journeying with people through some of the most significant moments in life: birth, marriage, and death. As you read this you may well be facing one of these moments in your own life.

You may be finding life hard, this makes the message of Easter even more important. For the celebration of the resurrection comes only after Jesus faced the tensions and trials of Holy Week. After the events of what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus was at his most vulnerable. He was sought out by his enemies. There were few people he could trust. He shared final meals with friends. They were times when Jesus could anticipate what was going to happen over the next few days. In his humanity Jesus must have felt the fear and vulnerability that we all feel at times in our lives.

The church, in reaching out to those who are facing the pressures of modern life within their work and families, can show how the events of Holy Week offer a message of hope. Changes in life are traumatic but it can also be a time to discover that all is not lost. The Easter message is that, even after death, there is resurrection. It is a message of hope and it is one that the church is there to share with our communities. You are very welcome to come to any of the services and events over Easter. I look forward to perhaps seeing you there. I wish all our community a blessed and happy Easter.

Rev Liz.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Rosemary & Colin Smith for organising the Lent Lunches in the church each Friday during Lent. They were a lovely opportunity to chat and meet others, as well as enjoying delicious soup!

We hope to continue offering the opportunity for a coffee and a chat in church during the week – watch this space!

Rev Liz

Mike Phelan

Just before going to print we heard of the death of Mike Phelan. Mike was one of the founders of the village art club and continued as a stalwart member until his failing health prevented him from attending. The Editors.

A view from the pew

What is St Lawrence Church for?

I think that St Lawrence church people have a lot to be encouraged about. I didn't say self-satisfied and I don't think you should judge success as a church by the number of people who are regular worshippers, but I think there are distinct signs of continuing life in the ancient set up. We were led by Rev. Michael Cozens to clarify what we thought we should be aiming for. I reckon we've made progress towards becoming a church that's alive and continues a good servant to the village community and beyond.

Somebody has said that one aim of all Anglican Churches is to be 'a community of people where all need each other and where everyone is of infinite worth in the sight of God'. We shouldn't forget that priests and other ministers in Church of England parishes consider they have responsibility for everyone in the parish, not just those who come to church. St Lawrence is firmly based as an English Parish Church within its community. It has fulfilled this role for a couple of centuries from the time when many local inhabitants worked on the land keeping pigs (Swin+dun) to today when many villagers work outside the village.

St Lawrence Church has stood for over a thousand years telling everyone that there is a group of Christians who worship there. Although it is thought that the earliest building consisted solely of our unique tower and some kind of a wooden structure to provide more space for worshippers, we are still updating and 'reordering' with the aim of providing for the needs of the families and children and older people who come to worship. The church building itself says much today about what the Christian faith means to us and what that faith has stood for down the years. We hope that St Lawrence Church is seen today as a group of people committed to the local neighbourhood of Swindon Village.

We hope that people coming into contact with St Lawrence see us as a friendly worshipping community. We hope that anyone who joins in worship with us feels part of a warm and friendly community where children are welcome.

Ralph Griffin

St. Lawrence Church Annual Fête

Arrangements are under way for this year's church fête which will take place on **Saturday 4th July**. We would be grateful for donations to all the usual stalls - raffle and tombola prizes and white elephant. If you're a gardener please consider planting a bit extra for our produce stall.

The next meeting of the fête organising group will be on **Monday 11th May** in the church, starting at 7pm and anyone who can offer help in any way will be most welcome.

Tony Jilbert Tel. 693639

In January Eileen Allen finished off her report on those villagers who took part in the First World War. It became evident that no one in the village could have been left untouched by those events. There are just a handful of places in Britain which did not lose anyone in that conflict, the Lucky Villages, but Swindon Village was certainly not one of them. What also became apparent was the degree of interrelationship within the village. They were closer times when everyone would have known everyone and so any loss reverberated throughout the community. It also became obvious that war memorials often have a degree of inaccuracy in their record of just who took part; many have the occasional combatant missing. Eileen has done terrific work tracking those from the village but there are still holes in her record. In particular there are four names on the memorial that she has not tracked. They are Charles Chaloner, W Harmer, J J Stuart and C Webb (this is not Charles Frederick Webb who has been traced). So if anyone knows anything of these gentlemen please let us know. Let us also hope that we manage to get this record published at some time so that it is there for future generations.

As I write this we are about to receive a talk about the Voluntary Hospitals which operated in Cheltenham at that time.

Our April event will be a bird walk around the local area. We are happy to have anyone along, including children. As a group we are so-so on bird recognition, except for John Heathcott, so experts are very welcome but so are those who have very little idea. I remember that my mother thought there were only about six sorts of bird, seagulls (we lived in Blackpool), pigeons, sparrows, starlings, ducks and eagles. We were a bit short of the latter in Blackpool. Once I showed her a goldfinch through the window and she was amazed and thought that it must be foreign. Another time when I took her out in the car I saw a kestrel stoop and I managed to stop in time to see it lift off with a mouse in its talons and she thought this was one of the most amazing sights she had seen.

Anyway I don't suppose this year's walk will have the success of last year when we saw an African Spoonbill at the Coombe Hill reserve (and a couple of dozen enthusiasts staring at it). I was down there a couple of weeks ago. They have rebuilt the hide for the third time and have cornered the market in mud and lapwings. There must have been over a thousand in the four fields I looked at – 'Oop North' we always called them Peewits after their call.

There is no real update on the JCS plans. Both local MPs have spoken against the plans in Parliament but oddly seem unable to actually affect the plans. Is there an election coming up?

Barry Simon

Wednesday Club

At the last meeting, on 4th March, Marion Beagley came along and told us about her mother, born a cockney within the sound of Bow Bells. I was actually surprised how large an area this covered, several districts of London. Marion explained about cockney rhyming slang and even made up a story which we had to translate. Spoken at speed, it is virtually impossible to understand what is being said. Marion brought along some Pearly outfits she had made and photographs of last year's Harvest service in St Martin's Church. The Pearly Kings and Queens had even made a pearly stole for the Vicar; you could see in the photo that he was really pleased with it and it looked good too. The outfits were passed around the members and we were all surprised how heavy each item was. Apparently the Kings and Queens stand around all day collecting for charity in these outfits. They must be very tired at the end of the day, carrying all that weight!

We are arranging a trip to Hampton Court Castle and Gardens on Tuesday 23rd June. This will cost £15 per person and we will be leaving the Village Hall at 10 am and will be leaving Hampton Court at 3.30pm. The price includes entry to the Castle as well as the gardens and, of course, the coach fare. If you are interested in coming along, I still have a few seats left so please let me know. My phone number is on the inside back cover of this magazine.

We are also having a coffee morning on Wednesday 17th June at the usual place, 17 Quat Goose Lane. I will advertise it further nearer the time.

The next meeting of Wednesday Club will be on Wednesday 1st April and we start at 8pm. Fiona Warin will be coming along to tell us about "Land Girls". Please do come along and join us.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

In Loving Memory

James (Jim) Taylor 1938 – 2015

Jim came to live in Swindon Village in 1964 and was always actively involved in village life, including Village School PTA, Swindon Village Wine Makers and the local history club.

He will be dearly missed by his family - Claire, Fiona, Mehdi, Sara and Yasmine - as well as by many members of the local community.

Fiona Taylor

Marle Hill W.I.

There could have been a bit of confusion at our March meeting as Richard Burton was the speaker. He was not a reincarnation but told us some amusing stories of his experiences having a famous name; his friend's name is Robin Hood! His illustrated talk was about being brought up as the son of the Head Gardener at Barrington Court in Somerset. The original house was built between 1540 and 1560 and was acquired by the National Trust in 1907, being one of their first properties. Despite being very neglected and a near ruin, the Trust was nearly bankrupted raising the funds to buy it. In 1918 Colonel Lyle, of Golden Syrup fame, renovated and extended the property. During the War it was occupied by an evacuated school so, by the time Richard Burton's father arrived in 1947, the property and especially the gardens were badly in need of a little tlc. The gardens now are restored and the house, though void of furniture, is also fully renovated again.

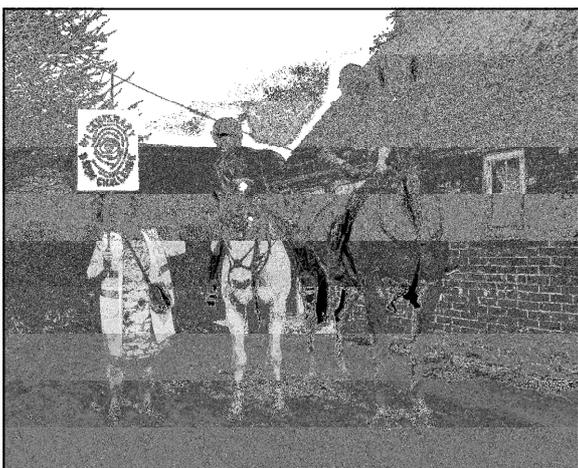
We were sorry to hear of the deaths of past member Carol Powell and also Margaret Morgan's husband Ray who had given us talks in the past and been MC at one of our Pudding Evenings. We met up for lunch at Flynn's and next month are off to try out a monthly Lunch Club that is held at Dumbleton Hall. We made up a team at St Nicolas' Church Quiz Night – and came away with a wooden spoon each! An enjoyable evening was had but we did not excel at the quiz part! We were equally unlucky in the County Quiz where neither of our teams got through to the next round.

A great time was had at Cheltenham Festival on Ladies' Day. Sue had a big win and made a profit on the day, the rest of us came away a little poorer. We certainly saw some sights with all the ladies' various outfits and hats, some a little chilly for March and more suited for Ascot I think.

Best Mates



The Annual Council meeting in the Town Hall saw Celia Hargrave arrive with the Centenary Baton, having run from WI House in Gloucester; that was passed amongst the members present before travelling by bus, bicycle, horse and car and passed on to the next sector of the county. Sue did a great job organising the event, the highlights being Eileen and Gloria cycling from Uckington to Pittville Gates and the Holst Museum to hand over the baton to Linda's nephew and his daughter on horseback. From there they rode through the park to Prestbury WI Hall where a large welcoming party greeted them and the baton was handed back to Sue and a well earned tea was served.



Sue Davies receiving the Centenary Baton at the end of its day in Cheltenham

Early the next morning Sue drove to Northleach to hand the baton over to the next sector of the county. It will eventually arrive at the Royal Albert Hall in June at the National Annual General meeting, having started its journey in LlanfairPG in Anglesea, the site of the first WI meeting in 1915.

April plans include a social skittles evening in Charlton Kings, Supper and Skittles at the Suffolk Arms and the first round of the County Skittles Tournament. Anyone would think we were keen on the game; let us hope we do better than we did in the Quiz! We have the usual Book and Craft Club meetings and coffee mornings to boost the funds. Several members are off to Scotland to enjoy a week's holiday organised by the County. I hope they get some good weather.

At our meeting on 13th April Fiona Eadie's talk is entitled 'Telling of Local Stories, Tradition and Tales'. Should anyone like to join us for the evening at St Nicolas' Church Hall they will be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies

Swindon Village Winemakers

The February meeting started on a sad note, with our chairman, Mandy Jilbert, reporting the death of our fellow Wine Club member, Jim Taylor.

Jim, along with his late wife; Mary, had been a member for a number of years and indeed had served on the committee, where he could always be relied upon to lighten the meetings with his wit and humour. He was ready to contribute ideas and suggestions and would happily volunteer when needed, and thoroughly enjoyed arranging wine tasting evenings, with his good friends Jim Ruxton and John Beardsley. Jim's wonderful sense of humour and friendship will be sorely missed by all his fellow club members, but especially by those of us who worked with him on the committee. Club members stood and drank a toast in memory of Jim.

The club evening itself was a Doug Wilkins (Sweet Wine) competition plus a pudding night. There were puddings consisting of Pavlova, Bread & Butter, Eton Mess, Trifle, Colony Chews, Chocolate Brownies and more. The winners of the wine competition were 3rd place Tony Jilbert, 2nd place Mark Smith, 1st place Mike Attwood and the winning pudding was Sue Beardsley's Bread & Butter pudding.

Several of the members spent a winemakers weekend down at Weston Super Mare; it is well worth taking a trip there, they have improved the seafront a great deal.

The meeting in April will be a Wine tasting evening.

Roy Harper

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Spring is that wonderful time of year when we can all look forward to lighter evenings with hikes, trips and camps all on the agenda for us in the coming months. As usual, all the sections in the group have been busy over recent weeks.

Our team of four Scouts who were runners-up in the District Cooking Competition took on board the judges' remarks and came 3rd out of eight teams in the County competition,

Several of our Scouts have taken advantage of the fabulous opportunities on offer from the County team. Three tried out Scuba Diving in the safety of Sir Thomas Rich's School's swimming pool, wearing all the apparatus and gaining the Scout Water Activity Sports Badge in the process.

At County HQ in Cranham **Max Bailey** and **Joshua Perks** took on the Electronics Activity Badge course which included practical work including soldering and the construction of three circuits, one of which was based mainly on digital electronics. Meanwhile, Imogen Tomkins was using her hiking, map reading and navigation skills on the new Geocaching Activity Badge. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device to seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches". I'm glad to say all three Scouts achieved the required standard and were all presented with their badges at the end of the weekend.

Ellie Swift joined another County run trip to the Brecon Beacons for a day in the hills. Having started their walk from Capel Y Finn in bright sunshine, they endured windy gusts of 50 - 60mph as they climbed the hill to their planned destination of Twmpa (Lord Hereford's Knob). The route then dropped down into the shelter of the valley as they walked back to the bus. Energy levels were boosted by a fish & chip stop at Monmouth en route back to Gloucestershire.

Our Monday evening meetings have been busy too, with a 4¼ mile night hike along some fairly muddy footpaths to Brockhampton and the north of the village, a Pioneering evening to improve knot tying skills and an evening looking at Japan – the host country of this year's World Scout Jamboree which **Joshua Williams** will be attending.

We took part in the Mothering Sunday all age church service at St Lawrence church; youngsters from all the sections were present and received flowers for their Mums and Grans - always a lovely occasion.

As I write we are getting ready for our first Jumble Sale of the year; its success is vital in keeping the group's finances healthy.

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again and we hope to obtain some new equipment at the end of this scheme. If you could please hand your vouchers to any of the leaders, we would be grateful. Thank you.

Sos

Save The Countryside 8th Walk

Lets Celebrate over 8 years of strength in our community voice!

Please come along to show your support for our lovely community event.

Groups all over the country are all taking part on our national day of action
LISTEN TO THE PEOPLES VOICE ON PLANNING

Walking through the fields under threat of development of a new town of 4800 houses between Swindon Village and Uckington. Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

Sunday 12th April 2pm

Enjoy a peaceful afternoon walk in our wonderful Gloucestershire countryside.

Everyone welcome including dogs and horses
Refreshments available mid way and at the end.

For further details contact 01242 680602 (Anne) or 07770 986078 (Helen)



We have strength as members of Cheltenham Alliance & as part of the thousands represented by our nationwide campaign Community Voice on Planning



Save the Countryside has gone National!

This year's walk will be part of a national day of action along with our local partners in the Cheltenham Alliance and many groups all over the country, as part of our Community Voice on Planning (www.covop.org).

We really do have a recognised presence nationwide, which is great.

We continue to celebrate our wonderful countryside and at the same time voice our persistent protest at the way our government and local planning teams seem to be considering and planning unnecessary building of housing on green belt and green fields at the behest of developers and inaccurate housing need calculations.

We are now planning for the inspectors enquiry into the Joint Core Strategy and its plans which we know have overestimated the need for housing hugely. I'll give more details on the 12th, but we continue to defend our position that there is absolutely no proven need to build on our beautiful and important green belt in this area.

I'm really hoping for a great turnout like last year, for this lovely community event.
See you there! **Helen Wells**

SAFE & SECURE INDOOR STORAGE FOR CARAVANS, MOTOR HOMES, SMALL BOATS etc.

Annual rates from £1.30 / day inc VAT, and to include:

- Flexible access times
- CCTV 24 hr surveillance with 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.homefarmcaravanstoragecentre.co.uk
Home Farm Caravan Storage Centre, Brockhampton Lane, Nr Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 9RS

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



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



Victoria Turner-Webb

Mobile Hairdresser

Hair styled in the comfort of your own home

01242 678 933

07412 261 578



Logs cut from a fallen tree - should be usable
in a wood burner.

Come and help yourself.

Call Helen 07770 986078

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 |

Advertise your business in the Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50

Contact the Editors

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

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Team Rector | Revd. David Smith | david.smith@northchelt.org.uk |
| 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 |
| St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA | | admin@northchelt.org.uk |

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