

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 416      July & August 2015

## *July*

- Wednesday 1      Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
Shaun McCormack - Yeomen of the Guard
- Saturday 4      Annual Church Fete - Playing Field & Village Hall 1.00pm
- Monday 6      Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
Alison Hesketh - Wed to the Cloth
- Tuesday 14      Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 15      Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm  
Harry Hopkins - Western Australia
- Sunday 19      Praise in the Park - Playing Field 3.00pm
- Wednesday 22      Wine Club - Village Hall 7.30pm  
Terry O'Shaughnessy - Sailing Tall Ships

## *August*

- Tuesday 13      Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 19      Swindon Village Society Garden Party (Members only) 7.00pm

## *September*

- Wednesday 2      Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
Mike & Patricia Ledbury - Confessions of a Morris Man
- Monday 7      Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
Making carnations from table napkins

*(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.)*

Some local hedges have grown to the point where they are impinging on the pavements and inconveniencing passing pedestrians. The parish council asked me to write to householders requesting that they be cut back. Rather than write to individuals I thought I would make a general plea. Hedges and lawns have had a significant growth spurt lately. Can we politely ask you to take a look at your hedges and make sure they are under control? We don't want passers by forced into the road by your luxuriant leylandii and burgeoning beech.

On the same subject I guess we now have to start badgering the County Council to trim the hedges in Manor Road. This seems to have become an annual battle. The hedges need to be trimmed when they become a problem rather than in accordance with some arbitrary schedule. Still, hopefully the allotments will also have benefited from the spring growth.

On to planning matters. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is undergoing its examination by a planning inspector. This process started in the middle of May and is expected to conclude in the Autumn. There is a pyramid of documents that set out the planning rules in area. At the top is the government's National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out the high level objectives (e.g. "sustainable development"). The JCS must interpret those policies for the Cheltenham/Gloucester/Tewkesbury area. Below that there will be a Cheltenham Local Plan. Again this must be consistent with the document above it (the JCS).

A first draft of the Cheltenham Local Plan will be the subject of a consultation running from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The Cheltenham Local Plan is intended to guide development in Cheltenham up to 2031. It will cover issues such as local housing and employment land within the borough, protection and conservation of the town's built heritage, design, recreation, community facilities etc. The Cheltenham Plan first phase will focus on housing and economic land allocations, it will set out the economic development strategy for the Borough and it will identify areas of important local green space. On this latter point we will be actively trying to get our own Local Green Space proposal incorporated into the Cheltenham Local Plan.

The Cheltenham Local Plan will be available to view in the Borough Council offices and in local libraries. There is also (or course) a web site. There is an article on the Parish web site ([www.swindonparish.org](http://www.swindonparish.org)) that gives you the link.

In other planning news, the "Belmont" site on Hyde Lane has come up again. It seems a long time ago now that a planning application came to us for this site. Recently another application for the site has been received making some changes to the original scheme. The proposed dwelling is a large house that fits into the slope of the ground. It is certainly an interesting idea. You can view the plans on the Borough Council web site (the reference is 15/00646/FUL).

The Parish Council has received complaints about changes to the postal service. Starting with collections, you may have noticed that the time of day when collections are made has changed dramatically for some post boxes. Some local boxes now claim a last collection time of 9:00am. These boxes are now emptied by the postman or postwoman in the course of their delivery round. Apparently these boxes are not very heavily used and Royal Mail have decided to collect from them during their delivery rounds rather than remove them. Apparently there was a consultation on this but I must admit it passed me by. The collection times of all the local post boxes are on the parish web site.

There have also been complaints about the reliability and/or timeliness of postal deliveries. If you experience any problems please make sure you make a note of the day and the nature of the problem. Without this information Royal Mail will not be able to act. You can either voice your concern directly to Royal Mail or let me know.

We have been doing a review of the assets for which the Parish Council is responsible. Our diverse collection includes three grit bins, the allotments, the mosaic in the park, the Amenity Area (we must think up a better name!) and the war memorial. We also own the horse trough that used to be outside the Cross Hands pub. It was moved to the verge outside the Village Hall around 1976. I was taking photographs for our records and, as usual, there was a magnificent floral display in the horse trough. The Parish Council can claim no credit for this, in fact I don't know who is responsible. Whoever you are it is very public spirited of you to do this and much appreciated.



*(Editors' note – see following article!)*

Writing these articles has got me into trouble a few times, one example being the “mud on the road” saga. We are not anti-farming. Anyway, the mud has gone, as has the pile of manure. Hopefully anyone exercising their rights (and their dog) by walking on the footpath will stick to the path and clear up after their dog so that harmony can be maintained.

Last month I wrote a bit about how pensions legislation was affecting me as a council clerk. I can see that this could have been interpreted as a swipe at the government or pensions policy. That was not my intention; I was simply relating one of the “quirks” of doing this job. I'll finish on something less controversial this month. When I took this job two and a half years ago I was solemnly handed a bunch of keys by my predecessor. To this day I still don't know what they are for. Perhaps I have a company car parked somewhere in a corner of the parish. If you find one please get in touch.

**Shaun Cullimore**  
**Clerk to Swindon Parish Council**

## The village trough

The village trough is looking very attractive in its summer clothes. Thanks are due to the Plant Centre on the Tewkesbury Road who supply the bedding each year and to the daughters of the late Gwen and Fred Hunneman who plant up the trough in memory of their parents. The trough is looked after by the Hunnemans' grandson and his wife, who now live in the family home, opposite the village hall. Congratulations to them on the occasion of their wedding in May.

E.H.



**Local dog mess offender to be prosecuted by the council for not cleaning up after his dog!**

A local resident of Swindon Village, Cheltenham was so incensed with the constant dog fouling of the village roads and footpaths and in particular by his own property, he decided to take matters into his own hands. He set up a CCTV camera and caught a dog owner allowing his dog to foul in a public area without picking up the mess.

This evidence was then presented to the Environmental Health Department of Cheltenham Borough Council who are in the process of issuing a fixed penalty notice to the offender.

There has already been a lot of support from people in the village including responsible dog walkers who are fed up with their dogs, kids and pushchairs getting messed up because of discarded dog mess. Some irresponsible people even hang a full mess bag up on a tree or leave it on the side or throw it over the nearest hedge causing serious risk to livestock in the area.

So please consider all the other users of roads, paths, parks and public footpaths in our area.

Wherever you are with your dog, - clean up the mess and bin the bag. And if you see it done, report the offence to the council.

Thank you.

**Name and address supplied**



## FREE IN TOUCH 2015 PERSONAL SAFETY EVENTS!

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's In Touch project is delighted to be launching its 2015 Personal Safety Events in partnership with Gloucestershire Police, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue, Victim Support and Trading Standards.

- ***Sign up for a free home safety check***
- ***Speak to your local Village and Community Agent***
- ***Get your valuables security marked by the Police***
- ***Find out how to block cold callers and scammers***
- ***Find local activities to meet new people in your area***

### **Meet the team at Cheltenham Town Hall on 2nd September.**

Come and have tea and cake whilst finding out tips and advice on how to stay safe in your own homes and in your community.

Short talks will provide updates and information stands will be there for you to browse. These events are aimed at people over the age of 50, but anyone is welcome to attend.

For more information and to book your place and transport, please contact Katie Lake at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council on 01452 528491 or [katiel@grcc.org.uk](mailto:katiel@grcc.org.uk)



### Services and events in July

Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Church Fete on the playing field
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty with our pets Baptism Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Baptism Sung evensong
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Holy Communion Followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm	Holy Communion Praise in the Park on the playing field
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism Sung evensong
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group

### Church Fete

Details of the annual church fete are elsewhere in this magazine.

The organisers would be grateful for donations of goods for any of the stalls, including books, plants, cakes & bakes, garden produce and white elephant as well as prizes for the tombola and raffle.

If you can give anything or would like to help on the day please contact Tony Jilbert, phone 693639. Thank you.

## Services and events in August

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Together at Ten Thirty Baptism Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Chatterbox
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Wedding: Tyrone Perkins & Rebecca Durrant
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Baptism Sung Evensong
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Chatterbox
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	All day	NADFAS recording the church
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism Songs of Praise

### **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 (Associate Priest) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.**

## From the registers



### **Baptism**

*We welcomed into the church*  
Max Taylor 7<sup>th</sup> June



### **Funeral**

*We gave thanks for the life of*  
Barbara Brooks RIP 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Churchyards are very special places. Often they are one bit of green space in a built up area. Whenever I spend time in our churchyard I am always conscious of how many people pop in, either to tend a grave, or to simply spend time in the peace and quiet they find there.

Churchyards also tell us much about the history of our community, and provide that link between past, present and future. Looking after a churchyard is therefore a responsibility the Church of England takes seriously and there are very clear guidelines about their upkeep and maintenance as well as what is and is not permissible by way of memorials etc.

Responsibility for St Lawrence churchyard rests with the PCC and, in order for everyone to be aware of the regulations, we have posted extracts from the guidelines and placed them on both the entrances to the churchyard. Please take time to read them so that we can ensure that this beautiful space continues to reflect the natural environment, and provide a space where all can remember loved ones in ways appropriate to that environment (and in keeping with church law!).

You may also be aware that, as part of the planning application for the land at Manor Farm, there is a proposed extension to the churchyard. This is dependent on a number of factors, and will incur legal and other costs for the church. Our hope is that by acquiring this land, we will be able to continue serving the community by enabling residents to be buried in the churchyard for as long as possible. We will keep you updated of progress.

Please do feel free to pop in to the churchyard to sit, reflect, remember those we have loved but who are no longer with us. If you are struggling to come to terms with the loss of a loved one, do remember that the church is here for you, so please do get in touch.

**Revd Liz**

# Chatterbox

**Pop into church for  
a cup of coffee and a chat.**

**St Lawrence Church**

**Tuesdays 10.30am**



## **Together @ Ten Thirty with our pets**

**10.30am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**St Lawrence Church Swindon Village**

**A service to celebrate our pets  
and all that they mean to us.**

**Come along with your pet!**





St. Lawrence Church

# Annual Fete

Saturday 4th July

On the Playing Field and in the Village Hall  
Opens 1pm                      Admission £1

Entertainment by  
Swindon Village School Dancers  
Frampton-on-Severn Silver Band

Grand Raffle  
Teas              Barbecue  
Bouncy Castle    Pony Rides    Wellie Wanging  
Hand Massages    Henna Decorations  
Face Painting

Lots of stalls

St. Lawrence Church invites you to

# Praise in the Park

An open air service



Favourite hymns with Frampton-on-Severn Silver Band

On the playing field

**Sunday 19th July at 3.00pm**

Followed by tea in the Village Hall

Gifts of cakes will be gratefully received.  
Enquiries: **Mary Halliwell** 01242 692423

## Dates for your diary

Thanks to the generosity of a large number of people in the last eight years our church building is in good repair and the congregation and visitors alike are benefitting from the wonderful new kitchen and toilet facilities.

Our fundraising group has taken a bit of a holiday recently but we're back in action to help pay the bills that are incurred with running any ancient building and hopefully have some fun doing it.

The **Quiz and Supper** has been popular in the past so we're doing it again but look out for a new-style quiz with a new Quiz Mistress on **Saturday 17th October**.

The summer holidays haven't started yet but we'd like to give you plenty of time to plan your decorations for the **Christmas Tree Festival** which will take place on **5th and 6th December with the theme "Seasons of the Year"**. Remember, we welcome trees from individuals as well as groups.

More details about these events will appear in the September edition of Village News but if you would like information earlier please phone me.

## **A View from the Pew - Christian Values**

My dictionary defines values as "the moral principles and beliefs or accepted standards of a person or group." We hear the expression 'Christian Values' often these days and there is discussion about whether England is a Christian country any more.

As an indication of a general view of the shared values of British people (and not in a party political way) I give you part of the Prime Minister's statements at Christmas 2014. Prime Minister David Cameron stressed his commitment to "Christian values".

He said "giving, sharing and taking care of others" at home and around the world was something Britain could be proud of, and urged the public to "think about those in need" over the festive period. He praised the work of the military, aid workers and medical volunteers abroad.

"Among the joyous celebrations we will reflect on those very Christian values of giving, sharing and taking care of others". "I think," he said, "we can be very proud as a country at how we honour these values through helping those in need at home and around the world. On Christmas Day thousands of men and women in our armed forces will be far from home protecting people and entire communities from the threat of terrorism and disease. NHS doctors, nurses and other British volunteers will be in Ebola-affected countries, working selflessly to help stop this terrible disease from spreading further. And British aid workers will be helping citizens to rebuild countries and communities afflicted by conflict and poverty."

He added: "Here at home thousands of police and fire officers, paramedics and other emergency service personnel will be working hard to keep the public safe and well. Across the country volunteers and workers from charities and other organisations will drop in on the vulnerable and elderly so they are not isolated this Christmas. And thousands of churches - whether in the smallest village or biggest city - will hold open their doors and welcome people of faith and none to give thanks and celebrate together."

So what are these 'values'? Here's an attempt at a partial definition:

A Christian shows (like Jesus):

- empathy with the needs of others (Jesus has been described as 'the man for others');
- compassion, just like Jesus did, when he felt the suffering of people in need;
- support for the protection of the environment as the product of a deep reverence for God's creation;
- is against making war unless absolutely necessary and only after all diplomatic efforts have failed (some believe to kill is wrong in any circumstances);
- is concerned for the physical welfare of the less well off (throughout the bible there is concern for the poor);
- is concerned and expects the government to be concerned for the physical welfare of the least among us (everyone entitled to a living wage).

I leave you to add others.

**Ralph Griffin**

## Barbara Brooks

With the passing of Barbara Brooks Swindon Village has lost its last direct connection with World War 2. Many will remember her attendance at the War Memorial, wearing her medals. Barbara's life was celebrated at a funeral service in St. Lawrence's Church in June.

Barbara was born in Hyde, Cheshire, daughter of the manager of the sewage works and they moved to Lincolnshire in the 1930s. It was not unknown for her to take a trip down Brockhampton Lane and pause next to the sewage works for a good sniff to bring back childhood memories!

Barbara and Peter's lives became entwined when they first met, on a tennis court in a village outside Louth, 80 years ago. At that time she was also playing the organ in the church with Peter behind the scenes working the bellows for all his worth.

After they were married, and with a baby son, they moved to Cheltenham where Peter started at St Paul's College. They subsequently moved in to Yew Tree Cottage where Barbara brought up three children, cared for her mother and other family; always a competent host, providing a comfortable house and meals from the bounty that came from the garden. Her apple pies were a delight.

As the children grew up Barbara embarked on her own career as a lecturer at the Technical College. Using her knowledge of shorthand and typing, gained from the ATS in the war years, she taught those subjects for students in the hotel and catering trade. With a colleague, she also published a book of typical exercises – never a best seller but a few meagre royalties were paid.

How times have changed with word processors etc. But she kept on top of the technology, still using email and online shopping until her sight would not allow it and making sure she could still Google whatever thing she wanted an answer to.

Barbara led a very active life in the Swindon Village community - arranging flowers (from the garden of course – she especially liked her dahlias) in the church, helping with the church fete, the WI including the market selling home grown produce, the Village Society, Art Club, Wine Club and was even to be found protesting outside the municipal offices about planning matters – where is everyone going to work she often said about all the new houses.

Barbara's son David described his mother as having been quite a girly girl, having played a bit hard to get in the war years before they were married but to the end, she still enjoyed some retail therapy – she was particularly pleased with an owl jumper she bought after moving to Derby - and she had had her nails and hair done in the last few weeks before her passing.

Despite her frailty, Barbara maintained a strong character and a razor sharp mind, a dry sense of humour and a care and respect for people, Truly bright and interested until the end.

*Thank you to David Brooks for allowing us to use extracts from the family tribute to Barbara.*

Mr Brian Draper MBE came along to our last meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and what an entertaining evening we had. He told us about his life of work on the River Severn, starting as a young lad and working his way up through the ranks to being Superintendent. He had many stories to tell, from falling asleep while at work in a pigsty to his rather stressful but comical journey to collect his MBE from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace. Brian was a born "chatterbox" and could have kept going for many hours but supper was beckoning. He joined us for supper before setting off back home to Bromyard in Herefordshire.

We were blessed with beautiful weather again for our annual Coffee Morning on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. Over forty people attended and it was lovely to see them all sitting in the garden chatting over coffee. We took a grand total of £145 and I would like to thank all that came along and particularly those that baked lovely cakes for us to sell and also those that brought along raffle prizes and goods to sell. I would also like to thank the committee members, June, Margaret, Rose and Shirley for all their help; it would not be possible without them. Also, a big thank you to Stuart for his "gardening skills" and being such a great help on the day itself.

I am now keeping fingers crossed for good weather again on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for our trip to Hampton Court Castle and Gardens in Herefordshire. News from this in the next issue.

Our Speaker on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July is Shaun McCormack and he is going to tell us about The Queen's Bodyguard, Yeoman of the Guard. Please do come along and join us for 8 pm in the Village Hall, visitors £2.50 to include supper. Looking forward to seeing you all in July.

**Pauline Wright**

Our May meeting featured a talk on Laurie Lee, the well known poet and writer from Slad near Stroud. Gordon Ottwell has a great enthusiasm for Laurie and told the audience of his poet's life with readings from both his poetry and prose. Unfortunately I wasn't able to make the talk myself so I am relying on the reports of those who did for this report. I had always thought that Laurie went to Spain to fight in the Spanish Civil War but I am told that he actually went there in pursuit of a woman. I would say 'cherche la femme' but unfortunately I can't translate that into Spanish

There are two bits of Laurie's life that stick in my mind. Firstly in 'As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning' he writes of setting forth to see the world with a pack on his back and his fiddle in his hand waving farewell to his mother who is standing there waving farewell to her son. That is an eternal; sons have always done that and mothers have always waved farewell. The other is in 'Cider With Rosie', his picture of the bucolic world of his youth. Although it is always remembered as full of lovely times he does say towards the end that the reader should not think that the picture he paints is the only truth. There was murder, child abuse, rape in those days; it is just that that is not what he is writing about. It was only on my third reading of the book that I noticed that beguiling piece of honesty and felt better about the slightly too sweet a picture he painted.

Our July talk will be given by our own Harry Hopkins. I did say it was about Eastern Australia but I am wrong – it will be about Western Australia. Indeed I am informed that Eastern Australia does not exist. But if that is the case Australia must be very lopsided and in grave danger of slipping into the Tasman Sea. OK, I know, there is no territory actually called Eastern Australia, the Aussies invented Queensland and New South Wales to keep the balance. Anyway, Harry's talk is about Western Australia which is the bit that most of us know much less about - no Sidney Harbour and Opera House, rather Perth and Feemantle and maybe The Great Sandy Desert.

Then we are on to August and the great Garden Party at No 3, Swindon Hall. It hasn't rained for a few years now so surely we are due a downpour this year. This event is members only so join now.

On the Joint Core Strategy front the Examination in Public (EiP) is underway as I write. A senior planner is looking at all the evidence. The JCS has been shown to have plenty of holes but how it will all pan out, no one knows. The EiP has now been extended into September to give the JCS Team the chance to fill some of the holes.

**Barry Simon**

The meeting on Wednesday 27th May was the Annual BBQ and a Sweet Prune Wine Competition. We had as our wine judges Bridget and Stewart Wilsden from Cheltenham Wine Club. The result of the competition was as follows: First place - Derek Donovan; Second place - Tony Jilbert; and in Third Place - Mark Smith.

The evening was not a very warm one, - it even started to drizzle at one point but did not stop the cricket match going on outside. We had visiting clubs joining us from Cheltenham, Stroud, The Reddings, Charlton Kings and Newent; this took the numbers up to about 64. We were also joined by Revd Liz Palin and her husband Simon.

The evening was enjoyed by all as it was a good old chin-wag get together. The cooking was supplied by John Beardsley, Jim Ruxton and Tony Jilbert - many thanks, chappies.

We have a speaker for our July meeting; it is Mr Terry O'Shaughnessy speaking on "Sailing Tall Ships".

**Roy Harper**

### **The golden cockerel**

I noticed that during a recent inspection of the tower of St Lawrence Church, a repair had to be made to one of the arms of the weathervane. This reminded me that I've promised to check on the origins of weathercocks.

I've always assumed that cockerels were used on church towers to remind us of St Peter's betrayal of Jesus or rather of Jesus' prophecy that Peter would deny (knowing) him three times "before the cock crows" in the early hours of Good Friday.

I asked several people about this but no-one seemed to know. It was a relief to find that Pope Gregory 1 decreed that the most suitable emblem of Christianity for church towers was the rooster. St Peter, after all, was the rock on which the church was founded.

There is another theory: the weathercock was also an emblem of the vigil of the clergy, calling people to prayer. As you may know, cockerels start to crow rather early in the morning!

**E.H.**

Steve Mason arrived at our June meeting dressed in his motorcycling gear. He is a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and specialises in motorbikes. We learnt that the first motorcycle was built by the Daimler company in 1884. He then brought us up to date by showing us the latest helmet, complete with Bluetooth!

Jayne had been to Denman College on our Bursary to do a course on making silver jewellery. She very much enjoyed the experience and brought the results to show us.

A talk by a criminal barrister proved very interesting – she arrived in wig and gown. In July there is a talk 'Exploring the Minds of Criminals' and also a trip to 'Legal London' in October. There have been outings to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Centre in Leamington Spa, the Synagogue and the Theatre. There have been regular meetings of the Craft and Book Clubs, Eileen hosted a tea party, the Racing Club had their Annual Lunch, we had a meal at the new Côte restaurant and a demonstration with lunch after at the Chapter. A day learning the art of Bead Embroidery proved very productive. We have played our next round in the County Skittles Plate when we beat Tibberton and Taynton WI and so go into the next round. An evening at the theatre to see Shaw's 'Mrs Warren's Profession' was much enjoyed.

Sue and Linda dressed up in their best frock and hat to attend the Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace with 8,000 other WI members. They shook hands with the Duchess of Cornwall who, when hearing that they came from Cheltenham, remarked that they were all neighbours.

Sue stayed on in London to attend the National Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall. One of the speakers was Lucy Worsley who has done a lot of research on the history of the WI and made a programme to be aired on TV. The resolution on caring in the community was voted, after a lot of debating and discussion, 'not to be voted on', and the meeting carried on to the next item on the agenda. I watched the proceedings at home

on my iPad as it was being relayed live, very interesting! The Queen, Honorary President of Sandringham WI, made a speech and cut the Centenary Cake. Princess Anne (an Associate Member of Gloucestershire WIs) and the Countess of Wessex (a member of her local WI) were also there. It was mentioned that the Duchess of Cambridge had been invited to join her local branch. All the best people join the WI. On a beautifully sunny afternoon a number of us joined other members of the County at Highnam Court for our Centenary Picnic. More dressing up, cake and champagne!



*Sue and Linda dressed up for Buckingham Palace*

The Folk Museum in Gloucester is hosting an exhibition '100 Years of the WI' that is open until 1<sup>st</sup> November. There are craft demonstrations and the samples of the silks and patterns used for the famous Tailor of Gloucester's waistcoat, which was made by WI members.

On a fine day we joined Rover's coach trip to Shrewsbury. After an enjoyable trip on the river, with commentary, there was time to wander around the town before rejoining the coach for a cream tea and 'spending' time at a farm shop on the way back.

In July we have arranged to meet up and take the bus to Witney on Market Day (more spending and eating!). In August we have a guided walk around Charlton Kings organised with lunch at the pub afterwards.

At our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July the talk by Alison Hesketh is 'Wed to the Cloth'. This is the annual meeting when we invite members from the other WIs in our Group, so there will be a party atmosphere and lots of 'eats'. If anyone would like to join in they will be made most welcome. We have had quite a number of people recently who have come to see what we are all about and then decided to join. We meet at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Church Hall on Swindon Lane.

**Sara Jefferies**

Summer is finally here – time to dust off the tents and put all of that theory into practice...

## **Survival Skills**

Five Scouts from Swindon Village (**David Jackson, Jakub Kubinak, Ben Rodrigues, Branon Tomkins and Joshua Williams**) took part in the County organised Survival Skills weekend held up in woods near Duntisbourne Abbots over the last bank holiday weekend. They joined over 80 Scouts and Explorers from across Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Greater London who came to take part in one of the most challenging weekends that they can have as a Scout. This course took them through a real “Bear Grylls” style survival challenge and after several hours of training and instruction, with a knife as their only tool, they set about their survival exercise. This included building a shelter out of natural materials, foraging for wild food (including eating nettles) and preparing and then cooking rabbits over a camp fire without utensils. David and Joshua were back for their third year on Survival Skills and were taking part in the “Advanced Survival” course – which involves even less equipment and no sleeping bag for the weekend! Needless to say - they all came home very tired and in need of a good bath – but happy and wiser for the experience and thrilled with their achievements! Well done to you all.

## **Strategy Camp at Cirencester Park**

Strategy is the new weekend camp for Scouts and Guides and is the replacement event for the hugely popular Malvern Challenge weekend. It was organised by a completely new team and has the wonderful new location of Cirencester Park - the Earl of Bathurst’s Estate. I’d not been to Cirencester Park before – it is an incredibly beautiful part of Gloucestershire and we were given access to 3000 acres for the main event. Saturday dawned and the Scouts were split into teams of four to six and given a map of the area showing 30 checkpoints with challenges and activities to tackle over an 8 hour period. They didn’t know what any of the activities were until they got to them – but were aware of the points value attached to each. It was impossible to visit them all, so the Strategy was - do you try and get to more of the easy challenges or head for the tougher activities that are located at the furthest points and take longer to reach? It was only when you started walking around the forests of Cirencester Park that you start to realise just how big an area 3000 acres is. There are loads of walkways and paths, a lot of them are very straight and there were Scouts and Guides everywhere! Challenges ranged from huge inflatables, mazes, puzzles and string trails to first aid, air rifles, and tent pitching whilst blindfolded! On Saturday evening there was music, dancers and a Talent Show competition to keep everyone entertained as well as the cafe – open all hours for those in need of refreshment (or chips)! On the Sunday everyone took part in the fayre, with loads of inflatables, archery and climbing walls as well as a large craft area for those feeling a little more creative! There were also sports competitions including 5-a-side football, volleyball and a tug-of-war. Following on from the Malvern Challenge was almost an impossible task, but this new team of young leaders have put together a terrific weekend camp that I’m sure will grow and develop as it is held each year.

### **Evolution Camp at Cirencester Park**

Five days later Sos and Shane were back on site with Cheltenham District's Explorer Scouts for more fun and games. Evolution is the new weekend camp for Explorer Scouts, Ranger Guides and Scout Network and is the replacement event for the Sun Run weekend – and is also held at Cirencester Park. It was good to see several former Swindon Village Scouts there enjoying themselves and there was a great atmosphere throughout the weekend. The main event was an 18 mile hike that criss-crossed the 3000 acre estate with various challenges along the way. Effectively it was a race, but the real challenge was to arrive at all the checkpoints in the correct order and successfully navigate your team around the course. Then on Saturday evening, there were loads of inflatables and also sports competitions for those with any energy left and a party in the main marquee with a terrific live band "Tommy and the Fuse". Yet another terrific weekend that I'm sure will "Evolve" each year it takes place!

### **Cub Activity Day Trip**

Meanwhile, over the same weekend, eight of our Cubs together with Chil and Helen joined a coach load of Cubs from Cheltenham District to take part in the Activity Day held at Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre near Bristol. This is a well organised event aimed specifically at the Cubs and there was plenty for them to do. Our Cubs tackled Laser Tag, a Spider Tower, a Bouncy Castle, Quad Bikes, a Fun House, the Helter Skelter, a Science Experiment, Rocket Blasting, Climbing, Abseiling, Crate Stacking and their favourite activity, Go Karts! Needless to say a good time was had by all!

### **More camps...**

We still have plenty to look forward to this summer including a weekend camp up at Cranham and then our big international summer camp for this year – The Haarlem Jamborette in Holland. Meanwhile, Joshua Williams, together with 26 other lucky Scouts from Gloucestershire, will be heading over to Japan at the end of July to take part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree – what an adventure!

**Sos**

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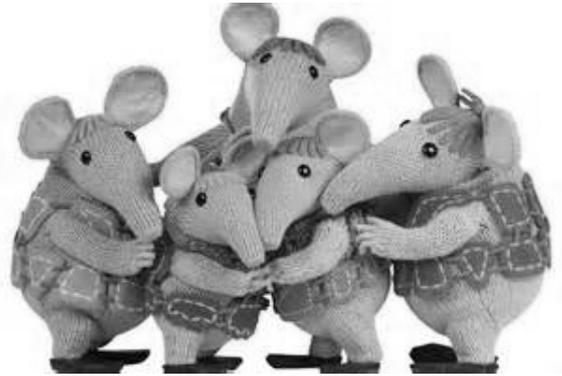
## The old ones are the best

Amid the plethora of ugly, frightening, violent, mechanical monsters on our television and electronic games screens today, it's good to see that some of the cute friendly characters from the past can still transport us to imaginary lands where happiness and good moral values reign supreme.

I am thinking especially of Clangers who recently returned to children's BBC. It's forty years since they first appeared on television and such has been their enduring popularity it's hard to believe that only about two dozen programmes were made then. This time a series of 52 stories has been produced and my television set has been programmed to record them all in case I'm out of the house when they are shown.

Some old favourites have been spoilt by modern film-making techniques (Thunderbirds without puppet strings!) but the makers of Clangers have stuck mainly to the old stop-go filming process, moving the figures across scenery a little at a time, with just a few new special effects. It's painfully time-consuming and expensive but the results are true to the original characters and the way they moved.

And who could mistake the sound of Clangers? Each family member has his or her own unique tone, in that each is voiced on a different style of slide whistle but, with a little help from Michael Palin now, we understand every word, don't we? Rumour had it that sometimes a few swear words popped in to the dialogue but I don't think so - how could such cute naïve creatures possibly behave like that?



No doubt shop shelves will soon be full of Clangers merchandise but the beauty of these little mouse-like aliens is that they are hand-knitted so home-made Clangers will be the real thing.

Now, where are my knitting needles?

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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
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Winemakers Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
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Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
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St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

There is no Village News in August.

The deadline for the September issue of the Village News is the 16th of August.

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)

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

## ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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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