

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 418 October 2015

October

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 5 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Arthur Ball - A Botswana Safari |
| Wednesday | 7 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Manuel Queiroz - Chasing the Morning Sun |
| Tuesday | 13 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 17 | Scouts' Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am |
| Saturday | 17 | Church Quiz and Supper - Village Hall 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | 21 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Ray Wilson - Gloucestershire's Industrial Heritage |
| Wednesday | 28 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Annual Trophy and Fish & Chips Supper |

November

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 2 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM |
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Janet & Sue - Dame and the Diva |
| Tuesday | 10 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 18 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
John Dixon - Barbara Cartland and Tewkesbury |

(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.)

A bit of a car theme this month as the traffic situation in area continues to be one of the biggest causes of concern. Much of the Council's September meeting was given over to discussion of issues on our roads. Speeding along Manor Road and Church Road, inconsiderate parking at the school, anti-social behaviour by young car drivers using the local car parks and the car transporters blocking Manor Road to traffic and pedestrians alike. On this last point a pedestrian who complained received a volley of abuse. This was reported to the police along with the vehicle registration number but, as usual, no action was taken. We should emphasise that people should not be put off reporting matters to the police by any apparent lack of action. If issues go unreported there is no body of evidence that a problem exists. Please report it and get an incident number. With their seemingly endless reorganisations it has proved difficult to build a relationship with the police but the Parish Council is in a much stronger position if there is formal evidence that issues need to be addressed.

The retail parks and other local businesses generate a huge amount of traffic and also require a lot of parking for their customers. Staff are not permitted to park on site so other surrounding roads (e.g. Hayden Road) become clogged with their parked cars. Parts of Hayden Road may be reserved for residents' parking in the future, though these initiatives tend to simply push the problem elsewhere.

At some time in the future the Borough Council will be relocating from the Promenade to an office building that it has purchased in Bath Road. The move will take many months to complete but should offer cost benefits to the local tax payers. The building in the Promenade will be retained but leased. It is not yet clear to what purpose the building will be put but apparently much interest has been expressed. It would be a lovely place to live but sadly it is not in my price range.

The growing season on the allotments will be drawing to a close. Unfortunately I know some allotment holders have been forced to share their produce with the local badgers. This is not an EU initiative to redistribute wealth; it is a badger-led initiative to supplement their diet. Our allotment manager has looked at the problem and I have also read up on the subject. The bottom line: there is little you can (legally) do to stop a determined badger. The allotment rents will soon be due. Hopefully the badgers will pay their share.

It has gone very quiet on the planning front lately. Perhaps it is the lull before the storm of the JCS enquiry conclusion. The hearings continue and will do so well into 2016. Returning briefly to the car theme, it seems madness that the JCS has been through its public consultation phase without a Traffic Management Plan in place and one will not be available until next year. The planning inspector who is examining the JCS has visited the parish and adjoining areas and hopefully has seen for herself some of the issues.

You may have heard about the Heritage Days initiative and may and even have taken the opportunity to visit one or two local buildings of interest. I had hoped to visit the Masonic hall in Cheltenham (not being a member myself!) but couldn't make it in the end. This may be reported elsewhere but I would like to applaud the efforts of Barry Simon and a team of helpers. Barry gave a talk on the history of Swindon Village and did so in St. Lawrence, our beautiful parish church. Pauline and I have lived here for over 30 years but found out a lot we didn't know. I must admit it was disappointing to discover that the stories behind Maud's elm and the trysts of Anne Boleyn were probably fiction. He'll be telling us Father Christmas doesn't exist next.

I receive a number of queries through the parish web site. Some of them I can answer directly and others I have to pass on. The latest one asked if there was a TV in the Village Hall. I thought perhaps it was the TV licensing authority checking if we had a licence. Despite holding monthly meetings in the bar area I must admit I hadn't noticed the TV (yes, apparently there is one). Anyway, the query turned out to be from someone who had been invited to a birthday party at the hall. They wanted to know if they would be able to watch the World Cup rugby. I can't understand the priorities of some folk. Fancy having a birthday that clashes with an England game!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Jumble Sale

**Saturday 17th October
at 11.00am
in the Village Hall**

Admission 20p

Bargains galore!



Services and events in October

Sunday	4 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty for Harvest Sung Holy Communion for Harvest Thanksgiving
Tuesday	6 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Tuesday group
Sunday	11 th	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Baptism of Thomas Allen Evensong
Tuesday	13 th	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Saturday	17 th	7.00pm	Harvest Supper & Quiz in the Village Hall
Sunday	18 th	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Jack Parford Evensong
Tuesday	20 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Sunday	25 th	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Benedict Newman Evensong
Tuesday	27 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	1 st Nov	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty for All Saints Holy Communion for All Souls with Commemoration of the faithful departed

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed into the Church family

Edward Perry

30th August

Fearne and Amelie Ford

20th September



Wedding

We celebrated the marriage of

Brian and Margaret Humphries

5th September



Funeral

We commemorated the life of

Beryl Parker

22nd September

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.

By the time you read this we will have had our annual churchyard tidy up, and there is a real sense of autumn fast approaching.

October is traditionally the month when the church celebrates its Harvest Festival, giving thanks to God for the abundance of creation. I do hope to see you at our service at 10.30am on 4th October when our uniformed organisations will be with us – and also at our Harvest supper on 17th October. Both provide a good opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy all that we have.

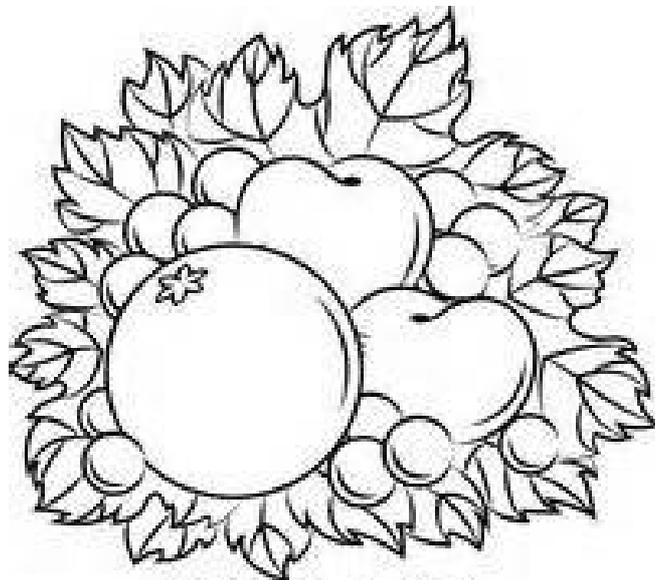
The news recently has been full of reports of those who have very little. This time of year is a good time to reflect on what we are thankful for, and what we can do to help those less fortunate. Food donated at our Harvest Festival always goes to a good cause – but did you know we support our local food bank all year round? If you are shopping and can't resist a "buy one get one free" offer, why not pop the extra item in the green basket in St Lawrence church. When the basket is full we take it off to the Cheltenham Food Bank.

At a time when we are so aware of those whose lives are torn apart by war, several people have also asked what they can do in a practical sense to help those refugees fleeing Syria. You may have read that charities have been inundated with food, blankets and clothes, and are not taking any more for the time being. GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) is the local organisation working with refugees and asylum seekers – visit their website www.garas.org.uk for details of ways in which you **can** help.

So this Harvest time be thankful for all the gifts we are given in creation, and remember those in need, and share all that we can with them.

Thank you.

Revd Liz



A view from the pew

Some thoughts on the refugee tragedy

One picture is worth a thousand words. Pictures of the pitiful dead body of a three year old boy on a beach near Bodrum in Turkey and the picture of a Turkish soldier gracefully and gently carrying that sad body across the sand certainly illustrates this. The images in newspapers and on television affected all who saw them. We were aghast, and continue to be shocked by the refugee crisis. We feel overwhelmed and helpless. But, thank God, many are active in their compassion for these suffering people.

As a young lad at the end of the Second World War I was aware of the great problems of displaced men, women and children. I was made aware of the plight of millions who were homeless and desperate and on the move. Their suffering was hard to comprehend.

I feel proud of so many people's reactions to the after effects of the war. Compassionate people on the winning side had pity on the suffering of people who had lost everything. "Bless those who hate you and pray for those who despitefully use you" instructs Jesus. It's very difficult in the face of barrel bombs and gas attacks.

I recall that Field Marshall Montgomery, the great British General who made such a contribution to the defeat of the Germans, refused to take part in victory celebrations. The attitude we had to our one-time enemies had to be positive; we had to put the past behind us. Thank God for the many peace makers who worked to help the many in need.

Church leaders in those difficult times emphasized the need for human compassion. The people of the Old Testament believed that it is God's will that we are responsible for the welfare of strangers. The Hebrews were, for a long time, a nomadic community with a tradition of welcome for strangers. There is a story of Abraham who was visited by three strangers. He gave a warm welcome to them although he didn't know why they were visiting him (they came from God to give him good news). Many years later a writer in New Testament times wrote 'let love for others continue for thereby some have entertained angels unawares'.

It's marvellous that we have proved that we are a nation with a conscience. Remember all the offers from individuals for a refuge to those from Syria and other places where there is danger and death for ordinary people.

Think of all the examples of parental love. There are fathers who have brought their families through dangers of the sea and on land. There have been examples of mothers and brothers and sisters who have travelled miles in great danger. We pray 'Our Father who art in heaven' thus acknowledging God as our 'heavenly' Father.

The dangers have been man-made. The inhumanity is the result of man's selfishness and greed. The awfulness and destruction are not God's will - but God has given his people free will. God is working through his people and in the end goodness will win through. This is what Christians believe.

Ralph Griffin

St. Lawrence's Church

Quiz and Hot Supper

**on Saturday 17th October
in the Village Hall**

**Doors and Bar open at 7.00pm Supper at 7.30pm
New style Pub Quiz at approx. 8.30pm**

Menu

**Jacket Potatoes with a selection of hot fillings,
cheese and salad
Apple Pie or Fruit Salad**

Raffle

Tickets £7.00

Booking essential - Phone Karen on 241678

**Book as a team (max. 6 people)
or make up a team on the night.**

Happy New Year!! Can you believe that it is October already? As I write this, the rain clouds have descended upon us and summer seems a distant memory.

We have now been back in school for three weeks and are all fully settled and enjoying being in our new classes and learning new things. This is our second year working with our new Swindon Village curriculum which, over the past 12 months, has been tailored to what our children need to learn and, more importantly, want to learn. Feedback from children and parents is that they are really enthused about their learning and staff are enjoying the freedoms presented to them in taking learning in new directions and following the children's curiosity.

One of our main focuses this term has been on developing a growth mindset and the idea that ability isn't fixed. The message we have been giving to the children is that, through hard work and perseverance, they can achieve anything they want. We have also been encouraging the children not to say 'I can't do that' but rather 'I can't do that yet'. To reinforce this message and remind the children, school has now been invaded by growth mindset yetis as designed by the children.

At the beginning of term we welcomed 60 new Reception children into school and, as in past years, I am impressed by how quickly they have settled into school life. We try as much as possible to get all the children into school as quickly as they can manage and, by the time you read this, all 60 of them will have already been in school full-time for nearly two weeks!

Despite these children having only just joined us, we are already looking ahead to our September 2016 intake. We have a series of events planned and, if you have a child due to start school next year, we would invite you to let us have your details. This in no way commits you to applying for a place at Swindon Village (and you will still need to complete the Local Authority application process) but it means that we can get in touch about our Open Days and Parent Information Sessions.

This year's Open Day will be on Friday 6th November. More details will be in next month's News but please put the date in your diary – everyone is welcome. In the meantime, please visit our website www.swindonvillage.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @swindonvillage to see what we are getting up to!

Best wishes from everyone at SVPS,

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Wednesday Club

What a treat we had in store for us at our meeting in September! Mike Ledbury and his wife Pat came along with a few "Confessions of a Morris Man". During the course of the evening he added to his uniform with various items including his famous hat and leather pieces with bells on, all handmade I hasten to add.

Mike taught us all some steps of a Morris Dance and a chorus of steps as well. We danced around the Village Hall, with Mike accompanying us on his melodeon (similar to an accordion). Mike then produced two sticks from his bag and his wife Pat helped him to show us how they use them in their dance. (Looked a bit dangerous to me).

Mike belongs to the White Hart troupe from Redditch but each troupe varies their dance steps so no two troupes' are the same. There was a lot of laughter that night and lots of music, just hoping we were not too noisy for the neighbours.

We are now in the throes of arranging our annual meal in January 2016. We have decided to go the Rising Sun Hotel again next year as we had such a lovely time this year with most of our members coming along. We on the committee hope we have such good numbers again this time around.

We meet again on **Wednesday 7th October** and **Manuel Queiroz** will be coming along to tell us about "**Chasing the Morning Sun**". Please do come along and join us for £2.50 as a visitor which includes a lovely supper.

Looking forward to seeing you in October.

Pauline Wright



For our September meeting Dr Tim Brain gave us his overview of the Water Crisis of 2007. He called it that because it was more than just a flood. Once the flood itself was over, the crisis continued because of a lack of water. Since the Mythe water works had been disabled it was necessary to import sufficient water to the county to meet the emergency needs of 350,000 people. The Army achieved this in good fashion. What could have been even worse was if we had lost the electricity sub-station on the Ham at Gloucester. Plans were made for such an eventuality but sterling work by the Navy ensured a barrier was built in just enough time to save the plant. Even then the crisis was not over because when tap water could start to flow again it would be contaminated and people had to be warned by post not to use it for a day or two. A postage strike had been scheduled but words in the right place ensured it was called off and the warnings could get through.

Dr Brain said that one of the most important factors that allowed the county to come through was the fact that all three emergency services had collocated their headquarters at Waterwells a couple of years before, making command and control that much easier. Another great factor was that the good folk of Gloucestershire pulled together, volunteered for such tasks as water distribution and came through together.

This was a terrific talk by the man who was effectively the boss throughout the crisis. We were all there but he was really there. He also admits that the only way he managed to get through it all in good order was that his wife took his shirts out of the county to be laundered, ensuring that he had a white one every day.

Our talk and walk in September, scheduled as part of the national Heritage Open Days, was a great success. We were hoping for ten to twenty visitors and about fifty turned up. For their troubles they received the illustrated talk about the Village's History and then a walk around the Manor and Hall grounds and the core of the village. It was pleasing to meet both some newly arrived villagers and some who had left years ago but had come back to find out more about the place which was once their home. Particular thanks to Eileen Allen who led one of the groups on the walkabout and to Joan Styman and Joan Howes who stood in at the last minute to provide tea. We will probably do it again in ten years time so if you missed it book now.

Earlier in the month the planning lawyer who is conducting the Examination-in-Public was shown around the village and, of course, the area of greenbelt which is threatened. The EiP will now continue on into next year because of the several areas of planning which have been shown to be deficient.

In October our talk will be on **Gloucestershire's Industrial Heritage** and it will be given by **Dr. Ray Wilson who is Hon Secretary of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology**. So if he doesn't know what he is talking about nobody does. Visitors very welcome.

Barry Simon

BBC DIY SOS The Big Build

On 3rd August 'The Big Build' came to Rivelands Road and the road had never seen so many vans and contractors at any one time in its history. Nick Knowles and his famous team of presenters arrived to inspire everyone to do what was necessary to make the transformation happen in nine days.

On one of the days there were approximately 100 trades people and helpers and the average number of people throughout the build was about 70 per day with some people traveling from as far as Birmingham and Reading and others from as far as the same street. For my own part, I was able to work every day until the finish, doing whatever was required, working with whichever trade required help. This was cement making, concrete mixing, a lot of heavy gardening and even replacing the track back onto the mini-digger.

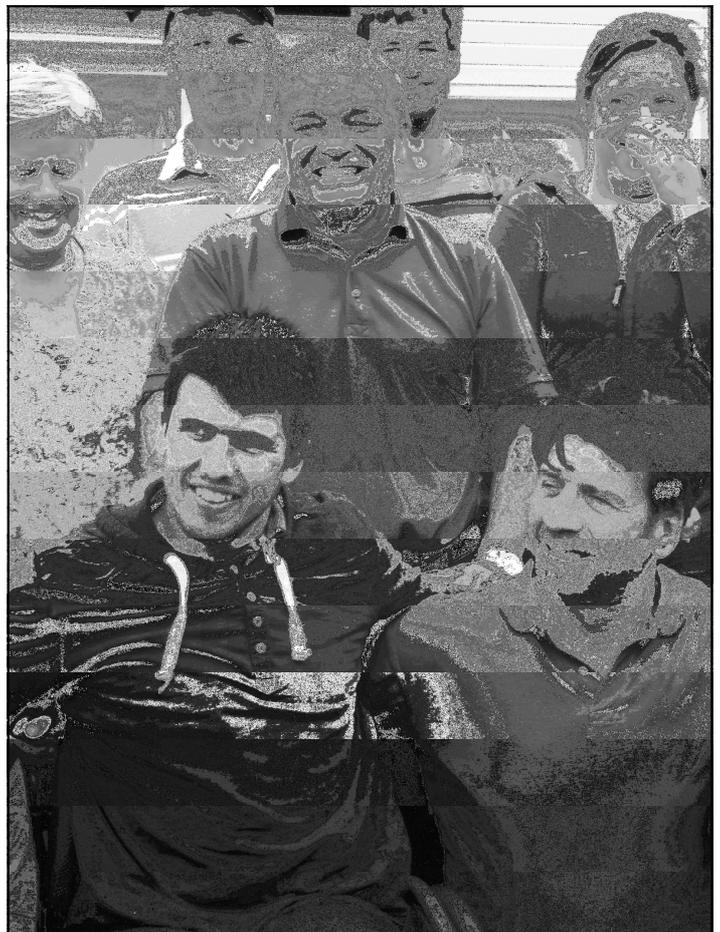
The atmosphere was infectious with people trying their hardest to achieve the end result of nine weeks' work in nine days and not letting go of that target, to transform Scott's home into a place that would give him independence.

Along the way there were many potential disasters that were averted by quick thinking, hard graft and downright stubbornness of not being defeated. The tenacity of the workforce pushed things to the limits with no thoughts of money or reward as we all gave for free along with the generous donations from many suppliers and companies who gave without payment. My hat's off to all of those people because without them the TEAM would not function as one. Along the way we were reminded by the presenters that they are not the ones that do the work but they said that if it was not for us, the teams of volunteers, there would be no programme.

On the final evening before the day of the handover to Scott and his parents Liz and Gary, there were people still papering, painting, cleaning, putting in the furniture and making sure it was truly presentable to a high standard with the final person leaving the house at around 2:30 a.m.!!

There are many things that I would like to say about this but we do not want to spoil it before the TV show so if people did not see things happen at the time they happened then the programme will fill in the gaps when it comes out.

Glenn Simpson



*Scott and some of his family with
DIY SOS' Billy Byrne and Nick Knowles*

Swindon Village Rainbows and Bishop's Cleeve District Rangers

The Rainbows and Rangers will be holding a table-top sale on **Friday 4th December** in the Village Hall to raise funds for their Units.

If you would like to hire a table to sell your own goods please phone **Jackie on 07871 169308**.

The hall will be open for setting-up from 5pm. The sale will be open to the public from 5.45pm until 7.15pm when everyone will have a chance to browse the stalls and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents. Tea and coffee will be served.

We hope to see you there.

The Children's Society Home Collecting Boxes

Home collecting boxes for The Children's Society have just been gathered in and the contents counted. Sylvia Hales wishes to thank all box holders for their generosity in raising a total of £566.

Currently 41 of Sylvia's neighbours and friends keep a box at home; some just drop in their spare change, others make a point of putting some money in when they have made a saving of some sort. Whatever the reason, the little bits of cash mount up over a year and it all goes to helping disadvantaged young people in this country, those often labelled by society as difficult or troublesome, or who suffer abuse, neglect or exploitation.

The home boxes are covered by the government's Gift Aid scheme meaning that The Children's Society can benefit from an extra 25% on top of the contents of the box.

To find out about the work of The Children's Society visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk or talk to Sylvia.

If you would like to support the charity by becoming a box holder please contact **Sylvia Hales**. Her phone number is **235933**.

Sylvia would also like to thank the Chatterbox people, who meet in the church, for their contribution.

Our September meeting was an activity evening. Helen Barry arrived with packets of coloured paper napkins and showed us how to turn them into carnations with the aid of a pair of pinking shears and some floral wire. So, armed with the necessary equipment, we all had a go and the results appeared very colourful and realistic. We continued with some napkin folding and made a fan and a boat.

Two members joined a coach load of County members for a three day trip to Harrogate to see the WI Centenary Exhibition. It was an excellent event with lots to do, see and spend our money on! We also visited Harlow Carr Gardens and York, where there was an interesting exhibition in the Quilt Museum. A group of us enjoyed a very informative visit to the Masonic Hall in Cheltenham.

The skittles match against Berkeley WI developed into a nail biting evening. The score kept yo-yoing between us and was level at half time. The last round was equally nerve wracking, but we managed to eventually win by one pin! The other team were great sports and friendly and we parted very amicably at the end of the evening. We are now drawn against Avening WI in the semi-finals. Watch this space!

Our celebrations on the actual 100th anniversary of the first WI meeting were a great success. Despite the weathermen forecasting dire weather we met in Pittville Park for our planned Picnic-in-the-Park. Basking in glorious sunshine, even though we were behind the pillars of the Pump Room, we shared our special cake and drink with a number of curious passers-by. As we dispersed we felt the first drops of the promised rain, so someone must have been watching over us!

We are looking forward to the Autumn Council meeting in the Pittville Pump Room, a theatre visit to see Guys and Dolls, a silk craft day in Chipping Campden, a cookery demonstration of sponge puddings and lunch after at the Montpellier Chapter, a wine tasting afternoon, a meal at Strada and a coffee morning hosted by Marilyn. There are also our usual Craft and Book Club meetings and the Racing Club members are visiting Kim Bailey's Stables near Andoversford. Our diaries are filling up fast after the summer break!

We have our excellent regular speaker, Arthur Ball, at our meeting on Monday 5th October. This time he is bringing the pictures of his visit to Botswana. If you would like to join us for the evening we meet at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Swindon Lane. Visitors are always made very welcome.

Sara Jefferies

Air Activities Camp

The first weekend camp of the autumn gave five of our Scouts the opportunity to camp on an airfield, with Scouts from five other troops in Gloucestershire. This County organised Air Activities weekend is always oversubscribed and there is a two year waiting list to get onto this course. We arrived at Croft Farm Airfield (near Defford in Worcestershire) on the Friday evening and set up our tents just before the rain started – which then continued all night! Saturday dawned with improving weather and by 10:30 the rain had cleared away. After a hearty cooked breakfast, the Scouts spent the morning learning all about meteorology and how this affects aircraft in flight, how to navigate when you're up in the air and all about the instruments that a pilot needs to use and understand. While all this was going on, nine light aircraft had landed on the airstrip behind the tents. Then one by one - armed with their maps and route plans - the Scouts took to the skies and navigated the pilots around the course they had planned:- over the Malverns to Ledbury and then north to Bransford Bridge (West of Worcester) before heading back south to Defford again. They even got to take the controls and fly the plane for part of their flight. The smiles on the Scouts faces as they climbed out of the cockpits were huge and there was no doubting how much everyone had enjoyed their flight. By mid afternoon all the Scouts had flown, which gave an opportunity for some of the leaders to take to the air - I didn't need asking twice! Needless to say, we all enjoyed this weekend and can't wait for another opportunity to fly again. At the end of the camp the Scouts were presented with three badges: the Aeronautics Activity badge, Meteorologist badge and Navigator badge as well as a certificate with details of which plane they had flown in.

DESC Awards

Two former Swindon Village Scouts were honoured recently for their time as Explorer Scouts at the District AGM. Both Scott Jones and Oliver Smith were presented with the "DESC Award". This award is made by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC) for outstanding commitment and service as an Explorer Scout over the past twelve months or so. Both lads have been excellent role models to the Cubs and Scouts in their roles as young leaders and both were present on the summer trip to the Haarlem Jamborette in Holland. They are a credit to Scouting and both fully deserve this recognition – well done lads.

Sos



Community Connexions announces Volunteer Recruitment and Open Day

Community Connexions is looking to help more socially isolated members of the community by increasing the numbers of volunteers who give practical help in getting people out and about, enabling them to maintain or regain their independence.

The charity is holding a volunteer recruitment and open day in Cheltenham on:

Thursday 8th October 2015 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Community Connexions, Sandford Park Offices, College Road, Cheltenham GL53 7HX.

People will be able to chat to staff and volunteers to discover the difference they can make as a volunteer to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. This will give potential volunteers an idea of the roles available to them, our expectations, the commitment required by our volunteers, and the ongoing training that is on offer. Community Connexions pays expenses related to volunteering so no one will be out of pocket by freely donating their time and skills.

As well as finding out about the volunteering opportunities on offer, there will also be the chance to talk to volunteers and staff about Community Connexions' comprehensive transport solutions for groups and individuals.

Current user Valerie Haworth commented "What a wonderful difference Community Connexions has made to my life. Before joining I struggled to visit my husband who is in a care home or even to get basic shopping. Now, thanks to the friendly, dedicated team of staff and drivers this is no longer a problem. I am even able to book longer journeys and go on excursions. My happiness is complete!"

Paul Riddick, Chief Executive of Community Connexions commented "For over thirty years our professionally trained volunteers have been making a huge difference to their local communities. The volunteer recruitment and open day will be a fantastic opportunity for people to find out more about Community Connexions and how they can be someone who makes a real difference to their local community."

For further details about the event and volunteering opportunities please contact **Bev Hemming, Business Development Manager 0845 680 5029**
bev@communityconnexions.org.uk

Strictly
Come Sequence Dancing

4 Week Taster Course
£24.00

October 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd
Swindon Village Hall
6.00pm until 7.00pm

Teaching :
Rumba One, Cindy Swing
and many more.
No partner needed.
Everyone welcome.

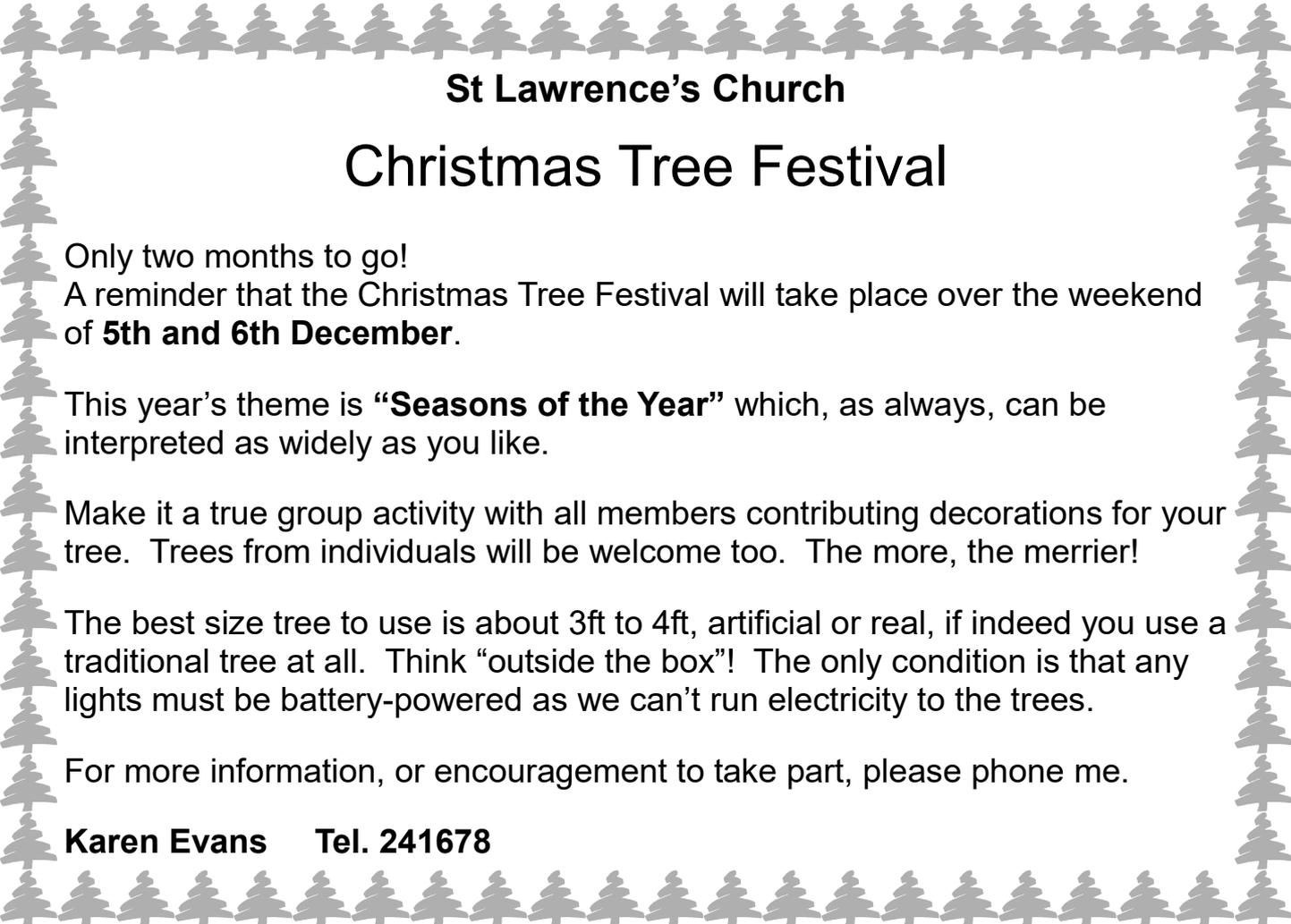
For information please contact
Linda Cook on 07724774838 or
Margaret1948uk@yahoo.co.uk

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Village News

Monthly rates

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

Contact the Editors



St Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Only two months to go!

A reminder that the Christmas Tree Festival will take place over the weekend of **5th and 6th December**.

This year's theme is "**Seasons of the Year**" which, as always, can be interpreted as widely as you like.

Make it a true group activity with all members contributing decorations for your tree. Trees from individuals will be welcome too. The more, the merrier!

The best size tree to use is about 3ft to 4ft, artificial or real, if indeed you use a traditional tree at all. Think "outside the box"! The only condition is that any lights must be battery-powered as we can't run electricity to the trees.

For more information, or encouragement to take part, please phone me.

Karen Evans Tel. 241678

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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 Mandy Harris	701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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

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	07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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	512348 david.smith@northchelt.org.uk
Associate Priest	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