

# Village News

## in Swindon Village

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

No. 425      June 2016

### *June*

- |                |           |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday      | 1         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>David Howe - Laughter, the Best Medicine                                   |
| Monday         | 6         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Elizabeth Reilly - One Woman's Search for the Answer to Chronic Pain |
| Saturday       | 11        | Swindon Village School Summer Fair 11.00am - 2.00pm  |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>                           |
| Wednesday      | 15        | Wednesday Club Coffee Morning - 17 Quat Goose Lane<br>10.30am - 12noon   |
| Wednesday      | 15        | Swindon Village Society – Garden visit<br>Meet in the Village Hall car park at 7.00pm                              |

### *July*

- |                |           |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday       | 2         | Church Fete - Playing Field & Village Hall 1.00pm  |
| Monday         | 4         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Mr Jeremy Field - What goes wrong with hands |
| Wednesday      | 6         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Ray Sturdy - Remember the Swinging 60s             |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>   |
| Wednesday      | 20        | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>John Heathcott - Lineover Wood            |
| Sunday         | 24        | Praise in the Park with Salvation Army band  |

# Swindon Parish Council

*(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.)*

I confused you with talk of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting last month. Both the meetings duly took place.

The former is the meeting that elects the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for a year. At the meeting Councillor Peter Allen was re-elected to the post of Chairman and Councillor Glenn Simpson remains our Vice-Chairman.

The latter (the Annual Parish Meeting) is supposed to be a meeting for the whole of the Parish. Sadly once again the meeting was poorly attended. The meeting only draws a crowd when controversial subjects are on the agenda. We tried to involve other groups within the Parish and we are very grateful to Tony (who represented the Parochial Church Council), Liz (Village Agent) and Eileen (representing the Swindon Village Society) who gave us an insight into their respective organisations. Without any warning (perhaps that's the best way) Helen was asked to talk about progress on the Local Green Space application that the Parish Council and Save the Countryside had jointly prepared. Helen did a fine job, both in helping to prepare the application in the first place and in bringing us up to speed on the progress made.

It is a shame other organisations and the broader public did not support this endeavour. There are few opportunities for the community to come together. Perhaps next year we will advertise free beer and plans to base nuclear missiles in the parish - I am sure we will draw more of a crowd.

Staying with the Local Green Space application, this is one of the most important means by which we continue to resist having housing developments up to our doorsteps. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) hearing is in recess at the moment and the inspector may have released her preliminary conclusions by the time you read this. We continue to be amazed that no Traffic Management Plan will be available until late in the year. It is difficult to see how the JCS can have any credibility while the traffic issue remains the elephant in the room.

In local planning matters, the plans to turn the car park near Topps Tiles into a commercial development continues to cause concern. The Parish Council has received a response from representatives of the developers addressing a number of points. However, one of the thorniest is the matter of pedestrian access from Wymans Lane to Swindon Road. Until recently pedestrians have had to make their way up a muddy bank near the gym and then traverse the car park. The Parish Council have sought to have this route "made good" as it is virtually impassable for the disabled and those with small children. The situation is now even worse as the car park has been fenced off and the prospective developer seems unwilling to incorporate a public footpath into their scheme. Whilst the footpath is not official it has

been used for many years and pedestrian safety is likely to be further compromised if no provision is made.

The other planning application that is exercising the Parish Council at the moment is the plan to convert the stables off Hyde Lane into housing. Revised plans have been submitted but they do not address our concerns (or those of the Structural Engineer).

Both these planning applications and the comments submitted by the Parish Council and others are available publicly on the Borough Council web site.

I came across an interesting report the other day that some councils are now using drones (uninhabited air vehicles or UAVs) to survey properties that are the subject of planning applications. I don't think Cheltenham Borough Council has any such ideas but perhaps you should bear this possibility in mind when you are topping up your tan in your private back garden.

We are in the early stages of considering how we might improve the park (on Wymans Lane). The Parish Council is keen to improve access (especially for parents of young children and the disabled) and incorporate facilities suitable for older children. The park is a wonderful resource that is well used by sporting types, dog walkers and families alike. We feel it could be made even better. It is owned and maintained by Cheltenham Borough Council so any initiative would need to be in partnership with them. Do you have ideas for improvements? Lets us know.

I am always reminding you that parish council meetings must by law be open to the public. I was recently reading about a fist fight breaking out between members of the public at a parish council meeting. Was it some thorny planning issue that had caused people to get inflamed? No. Apparently the argument was over allotment waiting lists. As if justifying the behaviour one of the councillors is quoted as saying "The allotments are very sought after".

**Shaun Cullimore**  
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



## News from our Village Agent

As I write this, in the middle of May, I am wearing three layers and hugging a hot water bottle - this is ridiculous! I want some warm weather please. Not too much to ask for, I don't think.  
I like warm weather!

I also like organisation – and I like to plan.

I like everything to be written down and clear, for both my own mind and it might help others should I ever become unwell or unable to look after myself.

It is for this reason that I am a huge fan of the Lifebook from AgeUk. The Lifebook is an easy to use booklet to record the practical details of my life – everything from my name and medical conditions to the names and numbers of my utility suppliers.

There are also pages to record my wishes for funeral arrangements and preferences for things like flowers and hymns etc, so that should stop the inevitable family squabbles that happen at times of grief. My friend told me that her Mum and brother ended up falling out over whether her father should have the RAF flag over his coffin!

While all this may sound a little maudlin, how helpful would it be to your family to have all this information in one convenient place instead of having to trawl through drawers of papers to find “stuff”?

You can request your copy, free of charge, from [www.ageuk.org.uk/lifebook](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/lifebook) or call **0345 685 1061** and quote ALL 721

I'm off to top up my hot water bottle now – and find my gloves!

*Liz*

Village Agent 07810 056770

[lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)

## Services and events in June

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion with the Airborne Forces Association
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	PCC
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 2.00pm 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Ruby Williams Baptism of Isaac Bailey Evensong
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group

## From the registers



### Wedding

*We celebrated the marriage of  
Lucus Koncher & Stephanie Wenham*

May 29th



### Burial of ashes

*We commemorated the life of  
Barbara Corp*

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

## 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](mailto:admin@northchelt.org.uk)

**You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Associate Priest) on 575547,  
[liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk).**

## A life of service

In recent months there have been a number of landmarks in the life of our Queen. On 9th September 2015 Elizabeth became the monarch who has ruled the Commonwealth for the longest period, surpassing her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, and the 21st April 2016 marked her 90th birthday. Then this month there are the official celebrations on the 10th – 12th June.

A book has recently been published about the faith of the Queen. I came across the following when I was looking to buy a copy online  
“A pound coin in the UK bears an image of the Queen’s head, surrounded by the words: ELIZABETH II D.G.REG.F.D.’ It stands for: ‘Elizabeth II Dei Gratia Regina Fidei Defensor.’ These words are in Latin and they mean: ‘Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith.’”

The faith of which the queen is a defender is Christianity.

What does it mean for the Queen to be Defender of the Faith? It has a formal meaning because it indicates that the Queen is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. However, it also has a personal meaning, because her reign has been characterised by acknowledgement of her dependence on Jesus Christ. This has been central to both her public pronouncements and her private devotions.

Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the title Defender of the Faith upon her coronation on 2nd June 1953. However, her personal faith in God was clear before that. On the occasion of her 21st birthday in 1947 she made a radio broadcast in which she said this:

'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

'But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'

In 2015, as part of the television broadcast she made to the nation and the commonwealth, the queen said this: 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.' "

Service has been a mark of the Queens reign – and it is a mark of the Church's commitment to Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve.

In the next two months the churches in the Diocese of Gloucester are seeking to listen to their local communities, to hear their hopes for their community, and what the church might do to help them realise those dreams. So don't be surprised if you get asked for your thoughts and ideas in the next few weeks! The church is here to serve the community – and her majesty has given us a good example of following in the footsteps of Christ in serving Him. Enjoy the celebrations and join in the conversation!

**Revd Liz**

## The Reader's View

Our Bishop has asked us to think and pray about the challenges which St Lawrence Church faces and about the Gloucester Diocese as a whole. In thinking about the future I am using the word 'church' to mean the congregation of people rather than the lovely building.

You will have your own ideas about the future of St Lawrence Church and its people. As Christians we believe that it is the Holy Spirit who inspires and guides us as we try to live as God wants us to. St Lawrence is part of the Church of England which itself is part of the Anglican Communion. This grouping is a worldwide family of churches in more than 160 different countries. On any one Sunday more than a million people attend Church of England services, making it the largest Christian denomination in the country.

Bishop Rachel has asked us to give our impressions of the Church of England in our local community.

For my part I believe, and have always believed, that because we work as a well-led team St Lawrence Church - and its supporters in the village - are carrying on the work of service to the community that has continued over the centuries. In thinking about where our church is now I am convinced that we have a great basis for continuing to pursue our task of ministering to the village and supporting spiritually those who live in the area. This task is not easy for an ageing congregation. For many years now we have benefitted from the inspired leadership of our incumbent ministers, and continue to be helped by the guidance of Revd. Liz Palin and our Church Wardens and PCC and other stalwarts.

Bishop Rachel has asked us to think about and pray about the position of St Lawrence in the local community in the next five years.

We all know that Swindon Village community will go on changing. We know that many more houses will be built around this ancient village. We can see that we must go on serving the community by providing a welcome to newcomers. The improvements to the interior of the building have kept the original character but have provided a much more flexible space. Recently members of the congregation have provided more opportunities for village people to meet together and the changes to the interior of the building has widened the range of uses.

When I was inspecting schools and when I was assessing a primary school assembly I decided that the big question is: "Can worship take place during the time the pupils were gathered?" I hope it doesn't sound strange but when I think about the various services and religious meetings which go on at St Lawrence the answer is that worship definitely 'happens'.

The Spirit is with us.

**Ralph Griffin**

# St. Lawrence's Church

# Annual Fête

Saturday 2nd July

## On the Playing Field and in the Village Hall

Gates open 1.00pm      Admission £1

Entertainment and fun for all the family

Band  
Dog agility displays  
Classic car exhibition  
Best Scarecrow Competition

- Water or Wine ◊ Treasure Map ◊ Coconut Shy
- Football Shoot-Out ◊ Skittles ◊ Bouncy Castle
- Pony rides ◊ Wellie Wanging ◊ Face painting
- Hand massage ◊ Quiz ◊ Tombola

# Grand Raffle

**Stalls selling White Elephant & Toys, Plants, Books, Cakes**

## Refreshments:

Barbecue ◇ Sweet Shop ◇ Ice Cream  
Cold Drinks ◇ Tea/Coffee with Cake

## St. Lawrence's Church Annual Fete

We have an amazing line-up of attractions for this year's fete. In addition to all the usual stalls selling bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, books etc. there will be lots to do and watch. See the advert elsewhere in this magazine.

The **Grand Raffle** will look different this year as we aim to make it stand out from the smaller raffles at other events. Raffle tickets will be £2 each this year and the value of the prizes will reflect that.

As always we will welcome your generosity in donating goods for any of the stalls, including the raffle. Please still give as generously as you always have but let us allocate your donations to the best stall. It would be nice if we were able to make up collections of smaller items into larger prizes for the raffle but the tombola and bric-a-brac stalls also need good quality items. Please call **Mandy Jilbert on 693639** to find out where you can take your donations or to arrange collection.

### A new venture this year is the **Scarecrow Competition.**

We would love to see scarecrows in your front gardens in the week leading up to the fete, giving us a bit of extra publicity. Then bring your creation to the fete for the "Best Scarecrow" competition. Village organisations have already been asked if they will do it but we'd like everyone to take part.

If you can help on the day of the fete, either on a stall or setting up in the morning or clearing away in the evening, please let me know.

We look forward to a successful fete with your help.

**Tony Jilbert**  
Tel. 693639



**If you go down to the church today, you'd better not go alone...  
Picnic time for teddy bears, and all the teddy bears are having  
a wonderful time today...**

Lots of teddy bears and other favourite cuddly toys gathered in St. Lawrence's Church on Pentecost Sunday for a picnic; there were lots of children too! Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Church and the children made paper doves, coloured in wind chimes, made a musical instrument and wrote their names on coloured ribbons representing flames and tied them to a tree in the churchyard, all things related to the story of Pentecost which Revd. Liz read to them.

Picnic food included small sandwiches and teddy bear shaped crisps, cake topped with sweetie teddies and finally a teddy bear birthday cake. The weather was nice and some enjoyed their picnic outside while others ate on a mat indoors. I hope the teddy bears didn't get sticky paws!



# Swindon Village Primary School

## Summer Fair

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June      11am - 2pm

We would like to invite you to our Summer Fair on Saturday 11th June. Entrance is 50p per person and Swindon Village school children are free.

There will be lots of activities including bouncy castles, face painting, nail painting, hand massage, pony rides, Variations Dance Academy, whole foods stand, Cheltenham Town Hot Shot, pocket money toys, second-hand book stall, Go Karts, Tombola, food and drink, ice creams, sweet stall, second-hand uniform, Chi Wai Kung Fu, Explore Learning, Year 6 run activities, pot of gold, police and fire services!

Once again we have had some fantastic prizes donated for our raffle and silent auction!

Have you ever fancied landing an aircraft in Afghanistan all by yourself? Or flying through the Lake District at low level? Bid for a simulator flight in the RAF's newest aircraft, The Atlas A400M. A 2hr flight for up to 4 people at RAF Brize Norton (Children must be 6yrs or older).

Are you a Cheltenham Town FC Fan? If so these prizes are for you! Win a Vanarama match football signed by the whole squad or win a mascot package for 1 adult and 1 child! We are also very lucky to be able to have the championship trophy for the day at the fair - come along and have a photo with it!

We also have cash prizes, Everyman theatre tickets, Cheltenham races tickets, Lido family passes, Simply Gym yearly membership, Super Dry clothing, Subway vouchers, Cattle Country tickets and many more fantastic prizes.

Our Raffle tickets will be on sale on the day and are priced at 20p each. If you would like to bid on our silent auction prizes there will be a box at school to drop your bid into if you cannot attend on the day.

For more details please contact us via our email [chairfosvps@gmail.com](mailto:chairfosvps@gmail.com)

We hope to see you there!

**Nic and Sarah (Joint Chairs of FOSVPS)**

## Wednesday Club

We were entertained once again by Susan Marshfield at our meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May; this time we were laughing about her “Holidays Afloat”.

They began with a narrowboat holiday, progressing to a cabin cruiser along the Thames from Lechlade and then a yachting holiday with a friend of Susan’s husband to the Channel Islands, namely Alderney, where they had a wonderful time. Not such a good voyage back home though, with a terrible storm and very high seas which made it very dangerous for the four small children. They were glad to reach the port but it didn’t stop them from enjoying many more holidays afloat. Susan’s husband then bought a cabin cruiser and they all went on holidays in this country and abroad. Susan is always very entertaining and we will all miss her when she eventually retires from speaking at our meetings.

We will be holding our annual Coffee Morning on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, as usual at 17 Quat Goose Lane. Please do come along; for a pound you can have coffee/tea and a lovely chat, hopefully in the sunshine in the garden. Fingers crossed. There is an advertisement elsewhere in this magazine telling you what time to come along and what else will be there. I look forward to seeing you.

Also in June, we are going to St. Fagan’s National History Museum near Cardiff for a day out. This will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> and if you would like to come along with us please let me know on 693112. We will be leaving the Village Hall at 9.30am and leaving St. Fagan’s at 3.30pm. The cost is £12 per person and refreshments are available there but you are quite welcome to take your own.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> we are having another outing, this time to Waterperry Gardens near Oxford. I still have seats available for this trip if anyone else would like to join us. We will be leaving the Village Hall at 10am and leaving the gardens at 3.30pm. The cost is £5.50 per person and again refreshments will be available. Everyone tells me that this is a great place to visit and so we are looking forward to it.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June and David Howe is coming to tell us how “Laughter is the Best Medicine”. Visitors are always welcome and so I look forward to seeing you all then.

**Pauline Wright**



*A corner shop in St Fagan's*

# *Wednesday Club*



on Wednesday 12th June

from 10.30am until 12noon

at 17 Quat Goose Lane

Admission £1 to include drink and biscuit

Raffle tickets £1

Table-Top Sale of Cakes, Books and Plants etc.

Please come along, all are welcome (bring a friend)

# The Swindon Village Society

Well I can't say that this year's bird walk was an unmitigated success. I think it was the snow falling half an hour before we set off that kept our numbers down. Still, a few of us did brave the elements and we did have fine views of Cleeve Cloud covered in white stuff. Things slowly improved such that we managed the village and half of Dog Bark Lane. So the list this year is quite short but we did see: Chiff Chaff, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldfinch, Jay, Magpie, Chaffinch, Robin, Blackbird, Herring Gull, Crow, Rook, Wood Pigeon and Emperor Penguin. I may have been mistaken about the last one but by the time we got home we felt as though we could have seen an Emperor Penguin.

We have now settled on a garden visit for 15<sup>th</sup> June. We will be visiting a garden in Prestbury that we have not been to before. So as usual we assemble in the Village Hall car park at 7 o'clock and we should be able to provide lifts for those who need one. Non-members are welcome for a small charge which we will decide when we know how much is wanted by our host. This always goes to a good charity so we try not to skimp. If our host expects anything substantial the Society normally chips in something to keep the cost down for members but, of course, we can't do this for non-members.

In July John Heathcott will tell us about Lineover Wood. John has been a Cotswold Warden for many years and this is his special area. This is very old woodland with some important trees and it is well worth a visit so go with all the facts and a knowledge of just what to look for.

There has been no real progress since my last report with regards to the Joint Core Strategy. So I'm afraid this is only a short input this month.

## Forthcoming events:

**Wednesday 15th June** - Visit to a private garden in Prestbury. Assemble in the Village Hall car park at 7pm. We hope to provide lifts for those who need them. Non-members welcome but there will be calls for a donation to charity.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July** - Our own John Heathcott will tell us about Lineover Wood. Non-members welcome at £1. Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Barry Simon**

## Swindon Village Winemakers

On Friday 15th April a group of us went to the Churchdown Community Centre where we were entertained by the Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra; this indeed was a cracking good night and if anyone has the chance to see them you will not be disappointed.

Our club meeting was a wine tasting evening - well it turned out to be a really entertaining evening by Jim Ruxton. All the wines were from the Italian regions but it was the way Jim gave clues in an Italian accent - even our chairman was going weak at the knees with Jim's sexy voice.

Apart from the interesting wines we did not bank on having a somewhat comical Italian lesson; well done, - Jim perhaps we will try wines from Russia next. During the evening there was a quiz going on and the answers were names of trees.

The winner of guessing the bottles of wine to the correct regions of Italy was Sue Beardsley and the Quiz winners were Eve & Harold Kent.

In June the club are visiting a vineyard in Stourport-on-Severn.

Kind Regards.

**Roy Harper**

### **Alan Studd**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Alan Studd.

Alan and his wife Jean moved into one of the then brand new houses in Stanton's Drive in 1963 when Alan started working at Smiths Industries.

Alan served on the Parish Council and on the Village Hall Committee, he was a leader at the Youth Club and he was one of the founding editors of Village News. Alan was involved with the Scouts all the time he lived in the village and maintained his interest in the Group even after he and Jean moved to a retirement apartment in Bishop's Cleeve.

**The Editors**

## Marle Hill W.I.

As is usual, our May meeting was dedicated to debating and voting on the Resolutions to be presented at the National Annual Meeting in June. Members voted for both the motions, one being on the care of patients with dementia in hospital and the other on the use of food waste in supermarkets.

Hazel Pagel had dug into the archives and gave us a brief history of Marle Hill WI. Hazel is a founder member and remembered being given £5 each and she and her grandmother baking cakes to sell at a profit for the funds. Prestbury WI had closed their membership because of numbers and had a waiting list, so it was decided to start another branch. There were 11 interested people at the first meeting in 1974 but the membership soon increased and Jumble Sales were held to boost the funds. Swindon Lane had been called Marle Hill Court Road; there was originally a large farmhouse but at the time new houses were being built with a large sign saying Marle Hill Estate. Hazel had brought a few of the old scrap books with her which were of great interest.

Our usual activities have continued with walks, book club, craft club, sitting in the sun in Eileen's lovely garden having tea and cakes and a meal at Bella Pasta. Instruction on accessing and using the 'WI Moodle' (an on-line site with useful information and activities), an interesting talk by the Contented Dementia Trust and a Group meeting were also attended. Five members joined others from the County for a holiday in Guernsey and had a very enjoyable time, by all accounts.

We have a skittles evening to practise for our match with Stone WI in the next round of the County Tournament, our trips to Bradford-on-Avon and Friars Court, the National Annual Meeting in Brighton and a visit to Dyffryn Gardens in Wales. A County Picnic is being held in Pittville Park at which we are running a tombola stall in aid of the WI College at Denman.

Good news! We have just purchased an amplifying system, as some of us are struggling with our hearing! We shall be using it, hopefully, at our next meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm when we have Elizabeth Reilly coming to tell us of 'One Woman's Search for the Answer to Chronic Pain'. If you would like to join us you will be made most welcome at St Nicolas' Hall in Swindon Lane.

### Sara Jefferies

# 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

## St George's Day Celebrations

The annual St George's Day parade and service is our chance to gather together as a District and celebrate what it means to be a Beaver, a Cub, a Scout, an Explorer and a Leader in the movement. Our celebrations this year started with a parade from Whaddon Park to All Saints church, where a short service was held. This year's service was marking both the 100th Anniversary of Cubs and the 30th Birthday of Beaver Scouting. We had a Beaver, a Cub and a Scout from Swindon Village taking an active role during the proceedings, describing what they each enjoyed about belonging to their particular section of the movement. Each section then took it in turns to renew their Promise and the afternoon was rounded off with refreshments and cakes served after the service. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the day and well done to all the youngsters who took part.

## Beaver and Cub Camp

In May we held a joint Beaver and Cub camp up at Cranham County Scout HQ. We were blessed with glorious sunny weather throughout most of the weekend apart from a thunderstorm on Saturday afternoon and some brief drizzle on Sunday morning – but that didn't dampen the youngsters' enthusiasm. The seven Beavers camped for 24 hours from Friday into Saturday whilst the 17 Cubs stayed for the whole weekend. The leaders were assisted by some of our former Scouts who are now Young Leaders within the group – helping to share their love and enthusiasm for the great outdoors. Activities included fire-lighting and then backwoods cooking on the fires, archery, dam building, the challenge course and a good old sing song around the camp fire. All the youngsters slept really well and all seemed to really enjoy the experience. For many it was their first camp and night away from Mum and Dad – so they can all feel rightly proud of their achievements and badges earned. A terrific camp enjoyed by young and old alike!

## Cheltenham District Scouts Fete & Funday

The following weekend saw the Cheltenham District Scouts Fete & Funday held in Montpellier Gardens. Our Beaver Scouts formed a team to take part in the 'It's a Knockout' challenge competition with other Beaver colonies from around Cheltenham and after a lot of fun, they managed a hard fought second place! There were stalls and games as well as a large tea tent with refreshments on what was a warm and sunny day. The draw for the Grand Raffle took place during the afternoon, which was raising funds for "The Cheltenham Animal Shelter" as well as Scouting in Cheltenham. Thank-you to everyone who came along and supported us - we hope you enjoyed the day.

## Bowls

The Scouts were recently invited up to Painswick for a taster evening of Bowling by the Falcon Bowls Club. We were fortunate to pick the perfect summer's evening –

drenched in glorious sunshine and not a breath of wind. The bowling green is located behind the Falcon Hotel in Painswick and has the most wonderful setting. The Scouts were given full instructions on how to play and soon got the hang of things. We then all took part in a game of 10 ends and rounded off the evening in the club-house with prize giving, hot-dogs, chips and lashings of pop. Definitely the most enjoyable Monday evening of the year by far and our thanks go to Jon and Rob Ellis and their wives for inviting us up there and looking after us all so well. And after over 40 years in Scouting I'm still getting to try out new activities!

## Sos

### **Alan Studd**

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Alan Studd. Alan was a massive part of our Scout Group for many years and was both group Chairman and Treasurer. He was good friends with Phil Long and was the quartermaster and camp cook on many summer camps from the late 60s right through until the 90s at Titley.

I was taken under his wing on my first summer camp at Llangynidr (near Brecon) in 1975. Together with Phil Long, he was the calm and steady influence amongst the noise of the Scouts – always keen to share his cooking skills and love of the countryside. He helped me grow as both a Scout and a leader and was a voice of reason and a man of great wisdom. I count myself fortunate to have spent so many years on camp with Alan - or Mr Studd as he will always be to me and many other former Scouts!

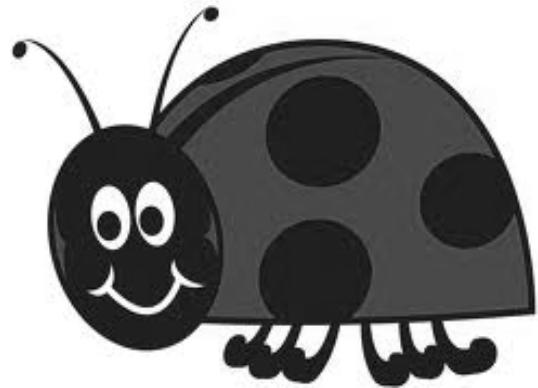
For a dozen or so years Alan was joined on camp by his wife Jean and, between them, they kept us all very well fed and watered and always looked after our welfare. Some of Alan's camp creations were legendary and 'Spotted Dick' is probably the dish that we will all remember him for. His fried breakfasts are not to be forgotten either!

When Alan started to take more of a back seat we acknowledged his support and commitment to the Group by naming one of our awards after him - the Alan Studd Shield is awarded annually to the Best Beaver in the Group.

Alan was also very active within Swindon Village, serving as both a Parish Councillor and as Editor of the Village News for many years, but it is for his time in Scouting that I and many other former Scouts will remember him fondly. May you rest in peace, Mr Studd.

## Sos

# **Swindon Village Early Years**



## **Play Leaders**

Sally Stennett	01242 514650
Debbie Styman	01242 692760
Village Hall	01242 690479
(playgroup hours)	

Sally and Debbie have been running the playgroup for 16 years and have obtained the essential qualifications required to run the successful group.

We have a team of 8 play assistants working with us which ensures the ratio of adult to children is always adhered to. The staff are all trained in First Aid and Child Protection.

The group is registered with Ofsted and our registration number is 101691. Our plans are based on the Foundation Stage Curriculum set out by the Government. This Curriculum starts in the playgroup and finishes at the end of the reception year in school.

We are registered to look after 31 children from 2 years to 5 years. The Group is split into:-

## **Rising 3 Group**

Monday	08.45 – 11.30
Wednesday	08.45 – 11.30
Thursday	13.00 – 15.30
Friday	08.45 – 12.00

## **Pre-School Group**

Monday	12.00 – 15.30
Tuesday	08.30 – 12.30
Wednesday	12.00 – 15.30
Thursday	08.30 – 12.30

The charge for each session is £8.00 (whilst your child is in the rising 3 group). A total of £32.00 per week (if you choose for your child to attend all the sessions). We will notify you when your child is entitled to receive the pre-school education funding (free for 3&4). Please note that if you choose not to take the free funding with us, our charges to you will be £3.50 per hour (subject to possible change in line with GCC). Funding may also be available to families who are on a low income. To find out if your child is entitled to this you may contact the Family Information Service on 01452 427362 or Free phone 0800 542 02 02.

Once your little one joins playgroup with us there are new opportunities opening for them. No longer confined to mummy and me sessions, they can now begin to step away and discover the world on their own terms, for a while.

The real benefits of our playgroup are not confined to the academic training of young minds but rather the chance to mix with other children – to develop their own will and learn to create personal boundaries. Their language skills will grow and communication techniques will develop and personalities will have the chance to flourish.

Social skills are honed in the group setting. Learning to share, to wait, to turn take and to give space to others are not natural skills in infants and for many children they will continue to be a challenge, so practice, in a guided setting with experienced play workers is invaluable,

Free play is a wonderful gift for children and the resources available are priceless. We offer opportunities for craft, painting, growing seeds and cookery which blend seamlessly with the development of gross motor skills, using the climbing frame, ball games and scooters.

We offer educational trips and welcome visitors into the group. A trip to the local farm, the church and the local park, a visit from the Salvation Army and the local dairy farmer etc. can be madly exciting for little ones.

Generally, over 90% of our children go on to attend Swindon Village Primary School. We enjoy very good links with the school and they are very supportive to our group. In our pre-school group, the children have the opportunity to meet the head teacher and the reception teachers in their playgroup surroundings and in a school classroom. This is all preparation for a gentle transition into school life.

We look forward to welcoming your family into the group. If we can offer any further information, please do not hesitate to make contact with us.

Kind regards  
**Sally & Debbie**



**Macmillan Cancer Support**

**UkeNSmile**

**UkeNSmile** is an invited group of ukulele players who perform primarily in aid of **Macmillan Cancer Support**. The group comprises volunteers from Gloucestershire and they will be performing at **The Gloucester Old Spot** on **Tewkesbury Road on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016 between 1pm and 4pm** (with a break midway). Please be aware that this is an outdoor event and, as ever in this country, subject to the weather. There is no entrance fee, but donations will be gratefully accepted on the day.

The food and selection of drinks look very appetising and booking is highly recommended (please quote "Macmillan" when booking).

## Annual Exhibition

Another successful exhibition, hopefully enjoyed by all who came. Two members, Matt Osborne and Lynne Mumford, sold their pictures - well done to them; it just shows you the quality of our skills at the club!!! We raised £75 on the raffle. This year's winner as voted by all who came was ME!!! Wow!!! Thanks to all who helped and a special thanks to Karl for a lovely lunch. All finished now until September - have a good summer.

### Helen Dicks



Lynne Mumford, artist, with Mrs Carole Coates, the new owner of "Bright Hare".

*Helen being presented with the winner's cup by Adrian.*





WE BELIEVE  
EVERYONE SHOULD  
HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
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## A great walk. A great cause.

What could be nicer than walking on Minchinhampton common on one of the longest days of the year, with stunning views of the Stroud valley below? And what could be better than raising money to support people near the end of their lives, when they need it most? If that sounds like a very attractive combination, then the Solstice Walk is just the thing for you (and for your family, friends and dog!).

The walk starts from Longfield's building in Burleigh Lane from 6pm on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> and you can choose a 5km or 10km route. In addition to the joy of walking, there'll also be music, children's entertainment, a barbecue and a licensed bar, so you can make a real night of it. If you choose to walk in memory of a loved one, you will also be able to tie your Solstice Walk ribbon on the memory arch in Longfield's beautiful gardens.

Any money you raise will fund the amazing support that Longfield provides to people living in Gloucestershire with life-limiting illness. They support people with a wide range of illnesses, from diagnosis onwards, and provide much-needed help to their families and carers too. The entry fee is £18 for an adult and £7.50 for each child, but if you can raise £150 or more, your entry fee will be returned, so you walk for free.

So sign up for this delightful occasion today, at [www.longfield.org.uk/solstice2016](http://www.longfield.org.uk/solstice2016) or, if you want to know more, call 01453 886868 or e-mail [events@longfield.org.uk](mailto:events@longfield.org.uk)



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## **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

### **Walk4Wildlife Saturday 2nd July**

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust are walking for wildlife again! We are returning with our much loved, family (and dog) friendly annual walk which celebrates the best of Gloucestershire's Countryside.

This year we are delighted to present to our supporters our new Crickley Hill reserve and the chance to enjoy everything the site has to offer. Situated between Cheltenham and Gloucester, this historic site has some great features.

Our 3.5 mile circular route will follow in the footsteps of naturalist and explorer Edward Wilson, who was the chief of the scientific staff on Scott's final expedition to the South Pole and who loved the area. Scott acknowledged that it was Wilson who 'opened his eyes to nature' and Peter, Captain Scott's son, fittingly went on to found Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in 1961.

Our walk will take in some spectacular views, ancient SSSI woodland which hosts rare plants such as the Birds Nest orchid, birds including the Great Spotted Woodpecker and nearly 500 species of fungi!

This really will be a celebration of our new site, an opportunity to showcase just how much there is on offer and to hear from expert reserve managers about the fascinating history and ecology of the reserve. The afternoon will be rounded off with a chance to enjoy refreshments and family fun. We hope you can all join us!

**Book your tickets now by visiting our website or calling 01452 383333**

**[www.gloswildlifetrust.co.uk/walk4wildlife](http://www.gloswildlifetrust.co.uk/walk4wildlife)**

**Lucy England**

**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park,  
Reservoir Road, Gloucester, GL4 6SX

**Advertise your business in the Village News**

**Monthly rates**

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

**Contact the Editors**

# **WORLD WIDE ELECTRICAL LTD**



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World Wide Electrical Ltd is a highly skilled firm of electrical contractors based here in Swindon Village, Cheltenham, with over 30 years of experience in the electrical industry.

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01684 276200

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Liz Heckford	lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk 07810 056770
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Hugh Stanford	svbeavers@gmail.com 706020
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	Sarah Vallender Nic Jackson	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

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

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 Stanton's Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road  
 or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Shannon Kerr	07954 128151
	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](http://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
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373
		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