

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 438

October 2017

## October

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday    | 2  | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Nigel Warwick - Severn Freewheelers (Blood bikes)             |
| Wednesday | 4  | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Phil Collins - Cheltenham Through Postcards                         |
| Tuesday   | 10 | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall</b><br><b>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>              |
| Wednesday | 18 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Dr. Tim Brain - The Gloucestershire Regiment 1944 and 1945 |
| Saturday  | 21 | Scouts' Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am<br><br>St. Lawrence's Church Quiz & Supper - Village Hall 7pm    |
| Wednesday | 25 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm<br>Annual Trophy and Fish & Chip Supper                                     |

## November

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| Wednesday | 1  | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Fiona Hall - My Granny was a Stripper and Grinder      |
| Monday    | 6  | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm - Annual Meeting                                    |
| Tuesday   | 14 | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall</b><br><b>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b> |
| Wednesday | 15 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Details in next month's magazine              |

*(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.)*

The Parish Council has successfully passed its external audit. This was the last external audit we will enjoy (or endure!). The scrutiny regime is changing. We will continue to have an internal audit but, as a small council, it is considered adequate that we publish our financial information on our web site, thus making it open to public scrutiny. How times have changed. I was once a Parish Councillor myself. Because I wasn't on the Finance Committee there were lots of financial matters that I simply didn't get to see. By law councils must now be open and transparent and we are (naturally) fully compliant, as our audit results demonstrate.

Planning matters and there has been outcry in the Reddings about the loss of green belt land to various commercial enterprises, the latest being the construction of the huge new BMW dealership next to the Golden Valley. A local Residents Association has been formed to take on the Borough Council and some of its questionable planning decisions. The Reddings area is disadvantaged by not having a Parish Council. Parish Councils must be consulted on planning matters in their area. Their views do not necessarily prevail (as we have seen in Swindon Parish) but at least they must be kept informed and given an opportunity to voice an opinion.

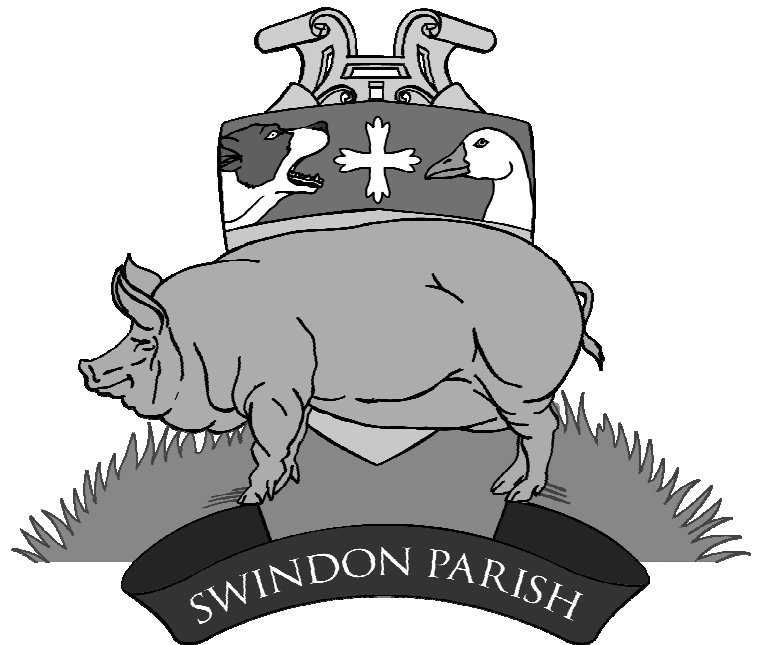
A downside of a Parish Council is that much of its expenditure must go on the administration of the council. I mentioned earlier about our audits and our finances. There are many legal hoops to jump through. I am paid a huge salary and work very hard to keep things in order. Only joking (about working hard!). As we come towards the end of summer we have to start thinking about next year, the goals we want to achieve and the money we will need to do it. We have been repaying a government loan for a number of years. That will be paid off in this financial year which will give us a bit more scope for works of value to the community.

The Parish Council recently received a planning application to put a parking area next to the VW dealer in Manor Road. This was a grassed area with mature trees until, shortly before moving out, Evans Halshaw cut down the trees and turned the grass to mud by constantly moving cars on and off the area. The Council has objected to the application as the area is close to a very busy junction. We have also just received a revised planning application for the Manor Farm site. Permission was previously granted by the Borough Council despite the objections of the Parish Council. The revisions appear to relate to access to the development from Church Road. You can view (and comment on) the application on the Borough Council web site.

In a previous article I told you that we have made David Iliffe our first Freeman of the Parish. When we were commissioning the commemorative scroll we were asked for our crest or coat of arms. Sharp intake of breath. We were not aware that one existed so we would have to come up with something.

If you have enjoyed one of Barry Simon's talks (and everyone who attends does) you will know that Swindon means "Pig on a Hill". We also threw a dog (Dog Bark Lane) and a goose (Quat Goose Lane) into the mix (not literally). Richard Wells was asked to make something of it. Richard is a talented artist and came up with this wonderful result.

We hope David is pleased and amused.



Inspector Gosden and PC Clark of the Gloucestershire Constabulary attended our September meeting to discuss the situation with the cruisers/boy racers. It would be putting a rosy glow on proceedings to suggest that there was a meeting of minds but there was a frank exchange of views. Inspector Gosden pointed out that their resources are limited and must be focussed on serious crime. He also observed that groups of car enthusiasts meeting on the highway is not illegal. The police feel that the folks that want to do this are frustrated by the boy racers who turn up wanting to perform stunts. The police hope to engage with the cruisers and encourage a degree of self policing. They will take action against drivers breaking the law but have to meet a high burden of proof to achieve a conviction.

The cruisers/boy racers have been a problem for years so it is understandable that the Council is sceptical, particularly when its own attempts to engage with the cruisers have been met with indifference. The police have agreed to provide us with a monthly progress report and have promised to meet us again in six months time. We are grateful for their attendance at our meeting and hope that their initiative is successful in reducing the inconvenience suffered by residents. The proof will be in the pudding.

I try to end my articles with a bit of nonsense to keep you entertained. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has helped me out this month. In recent correspondence the office proudly declared: "a dedicated PCSO...was assigned to coordinate intelligence, proactivity and investigations together with good offender management". Can anyone glean any meaning from that? There was also this gem: "It would be a great help if the Parish Council could use its influence to try and reduce offences". Not sure how many criminals read these articles but if you are one of them STOP IT RIGHT NOW.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Services and events in October

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	10.30am 12.30pm 2.30pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Harvest Festival Baptism : Isobel Willetts Baptism : Archie Sharlow Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Holy Communion followed by Tuesday group
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
21 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	9.45am 7.30pm	Visiting ringers Quiz and Supper Evening - Village Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service of commemoration of the faithful departed
31 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group

## November

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty for All Saints day Holy Communion
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## From the registers



### Baptisms

*We welcomed in to the family of the church*

Arthur James White

17<sup>th</sup> September



### Funerals

*We gave thanks for the life of*

Ron Sawyer

14<sup>th</sup> 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 (Team Vicar) on 575547, [liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk).**

## Christmas Tree Festival



It's getting closer...

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The theme will be "Transport".

Everybody, individuals, families or groups, is welcome to take part.

**Karen Evans**

tel. 241678

The Guardian declared earlier this month that:

“The Church of England is facing a catastrophic fall in the proportion of young adults who describe themselves as Anglican as data shows an acceleration towards a secular society.

For the first time, more than half the population say they have no religion, and the generation gap on religious affiliation is widening, according to the British Social Attitudes survey.

Only 3% of adults under 24 describe themselves as Anglican – fewer than the 5% who identify as Catholic. Almost three out of four 18- to 24-year-olds say they have no religion, a rise of nine percentage points since 2015.

More generally, 53% of all adults describe themselves as having no religious affiliation, up from 48% in 2015. The latest figure is the highest since the BSA survey began tracking religious affiliation in 1983, when 31% said they had no religion.”

They make for rather startling reading, and make us sit up and think. Whilst not wishing to belittle the challenge that lies ahead for the church, it is worth bearing in mind that the headlines speak of this in national terms, when the number of people actually surveyed was 3,000.

Here at Swindon & Cheltenham St Peter’s we have been doing some thinking of our own, about what we believe God wants us to do over the next few years. In July we spent a day exploring prayerfully our vision for the future of our church in this community.

We came up with the following mission statement and key priorities:

We are a church seeking to grow and live out our faith through:

1. Welcoming people of all ages whilst reaching out particularly to families and young people
2. Engaging with the local community through events and social action
3. Nurturing and equipping people in and for their journey of faith

Within each of these priorities, we will create action plans to enable us make a real impact in the community we serve, with each church member playing their part in living out their faith.


I came across this story in another parish magazine recently –

*Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marvelled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece. But then someone said, ‘Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lit?’ The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. ‘Each time you are here,’ the nobleman said, ‘the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.’*

It is a poignant story and it makes a very significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church. What part might you play?

**Rev Liz**

St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village



# **Annual Quiz & Supper**

Saturday 21st October  
in the Village Hall

Doors open at 7.00pm  
Supper at 7.30pm followed by quiz

## **Supper**

Jacket potatoes with a choice of Hot Fillings and Salad  
Apple Pie or Fruit Salad

## **Pub style quiz**

6 bottles of wine for the winning team

## **Bar**

## **Raffle**

Tickets £8 each

Book as a team (up to 6 people)  
or come on your own and make up a team on the night

Booking essential  
Phone Karen Evans on 241678

Profits to the church tower roof repairs

Put the date in your diary now...

The school's

## **Winter Fair**

will take place on

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

More details next month

### **News of events from Elmstone Hardwick church**

**Everyone is welcome!**

#### **Jumble Sale, St Mary Magdalene fund raising**

**Saturday 28th Oct, 2:00PM, Village Hall. Uckington GL51 9SR.**

Please donate and please come along. Donations gladly accepted from Saturday 10:00AM onwards, or as agreed. Contact **Verina Morgan** on **01242 234480** for further details.

#### **Skittles, St Mary Magdalene fund raising**

**Friday 10th Nov, 7:00PM for 7:30PM, Civil Service Club, GL51 9SL**

A match with individual teams, Killer and/or Six-ball Westbury – dependent on numbers. Bar and Food available. Raffle for cash prize(s). Entry – £5 on night, food extra. Contact **Shelagh Holder**, **01242 680952** for details (please let me know by 24-Oct if you would like food).

#### **Burns Night Celebration, North Cheltenham Team Ministry**

**Saturday 20th Jan 2018, evening. Village Hall, Uckington GL51 9SR**

Make a note in your diaries for this great Team Event. More details to follow!



## Wednesday Club

Susan Marshfield MBE came to talk to us at our last meeting in September for the final time. Susan is to retire from giving her extremely funny talks at the end of this year and she will be hugely missed by us all.

This time Susan was telling us about her visit to Windsor Castle to receive her MBE. It started with the receipt of the letter from the Prime Minister's Office telling her of her nomination to leaving the Castle with her family.

Susan was allowed to take three people with her and she took her two sons and one grandson. Her medal was presented to her by Prince William and Susan took us through the ceremony bit by bit. She is extremely proud to have received the MBE for services to the community in South Gloucestershire but does not know who nominated her for this award. The medals were brought to the meeting as was all correspondence from various offices including the Queen and Prince Philip.

At the end of the meeting we presented Susan with a bouquet of flowers for giving us so many wonderful talks over the years.

It was decided that we will go to the Farmers Arms in Apperley again on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 and anyone wishing to go please let me know at the next meeting and your name can be added to the list.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and Phil Collins will be coming along to tell us about "Cheltenham Through Postcards".

I look forward to seeing you all then and please remember visitors are always welcome.

**Pauline Wright**

"If you have concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.

**Ring 101** (you may be charged for this call) **or email**  
**101@gloucestershire.police.uk**

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it.

## The Swindon Village Society

As I write there haven't been any Society events to report since our last input so this will not be a very long missive.

For our October meeting we will be welcoming back Dr Tim Brain, ex Chief Constable for Gloucestershire. His last talk was on the Great Water Crisis of 2007 in which he was heavily involved. This time he will be donning his historian's hat and will tell us about the Gloucester Regiment's action in the period 1944 and 1945. I know that Tim's degree was in history and that he is very much a Gloucester man. I will certainly be interested in this talk because it is on a subject about which I know nothing. I think most of us know something about the Gloucester's valiant but very difficult participation in the Korean War but that is it. I am guessing that this will be their actions from D-Day to the war's end.

We will soon be starting to put next year's programme together and so if anyone has anything suitable for us to offer or new suggestions to make I would be pleased to hear them.

I am still open to taking anyone for a stroll around the village of an evening and giving them some idea of our history, particularly new arrivals in the village. I am free most days except Sundays. For that matter I can do quite a stroll around Gloucester if you buy the coffee. I did go back there for Heritage Open Day Saturday this year and had an absolutely fascinating visit to the Court, possibly the oldest court building in England. We were shown round the cells and underground area before sitting in Court One where the recorder for Gloucester, a senior barrister, the administrator and two ex-customers told us about how the court and justice system operated and, in the case of the customers, just what it was like to hear you were about to be banged up for a lengthy stretch. Enormously brave of them to volunteer for this I thought.

Remember – non-members are always welcome to our events for £1. We would be even happier if you wanted to join us.

**Barry Simon**

## Art & Crafts Club

Where has the time gone? Here we are back again for another term at the club. Most people have returned plus a couple of new faces to produce as usual some excellent work. Obviously early stages but will keep you up to date with progress. As before, you can contact me (**Helen 07817581223**) if you would like to join our happy band.

**Helen**

Leckhampton Court and Sue Ryder were the subjects of our September talk. The building dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, making it one of the oldest manor houses in the country, and has had many owners. Rumour has it that Edward VII visited with the actress Lily Langtry. During WWI the British Red Cross occupied the building and then in WWII the Durham Light Infantry were in residence before the US army took it over as a German POW camp. For a short while it was a school before being acquired as an Hospice. Sue Ryder herself was a volunteer during WWI and married Leonard Cheshire. Her first Home, in Suffolk in 1952, was for victims of the German concentration camps. In 1974 she opened the first hospice for cancer patients of which there are now seven. They provide medical, emotional and practical support for patients and their families through their Day Care, In-patient and Hospice-at-Home services and are at the forefront for research into palliative care. At Leckhampton Court there are only 16 beds and hence the development of the home care service. Of the £3m a year it costs to run they claim £1m from the government, but the rest they have to raise themselves as they do not charge the patients.

We enjoyed a very interesting visit to the Royal Mint at Llantrisant watching the millions of coins being churned out every second. Not only our coinage but also foreign currencies. No free samples unfortunately but we did get a chance to press a button and make our own £1 coin. The afternoon was spent in Cardiff (shopping!) and Cardiff Bay. This month's meal out was at Ask in Montpellier. Several members enjoyed a holiday in the Austrian Lakes, quite an adventure! The Autumn Council Meeting was held in Pittville Pump Room where Heather Jacks, winner of the Great British Sewing Bee, was the main speaker.

October events include a day of Clay Pigeon Shooting, a coffee morning at Julie's, an afternoon tea at Janet's and a meal out at Wagamama's. Sue D is holding a Coffee Morning in aid of the Macmillan Nurses. The Book Club and Craft Club, where we are busy with ideas for our entry in this year's Christmas Tree Festival, are still thriving.

The speaker at our meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October is Nigel Warwick from the Severn Freewheelers – the 'Blood Bikers'. If you would like to join us for the evening at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane at 7.30pm you will be made most welcome.

**Sara Jefferies**

**Gloucester Choral Society will perform Mendelssohn's Elijah  
on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in Gloucester Cathedral.**

Gloucester Cathedral is the perfect venue for this dramatic work.  
What a way to open our new season!

Prices: £25, £21, £18, £10

For tickets, please visit <http://www.3choirs.org/event/mendelssohn-elijah>

# **1st Swindon Village Scout Group**



**Saturday 21st October**

**Village Hall**

Doors open at 11am

Admission 20p

Bargains galore!

Come and seek out some treasures and  
support your local Scout Group

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Gloucestershire County Council

4-6 Commercial Road

Gloucester

GL1 2EA

Email us at [learn@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:learn@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

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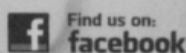
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11 North Street  
01242 604888

Tewkesbury  
23-24 High Street  
01684 276200

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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	Geraint Mills	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	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		
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 via  
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. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
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. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	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		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