

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 454 May 2019

May

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | 1 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Alan Clarke - Forest of Dean and Wye Valley |
| Monday | 13 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Resolutions and Social Evening |
| Tuesday | 14 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 16 | Annual Parish Assembly - Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 18 | Swindon Village Society visit to Lineover Wood
Meet at the Village Hall car park at 9.30am |
| Sunday | 19 | Save The Countryside Annual Walk
Starting from Stantons Drive at 2.00pm |
| Saturday | 25 | Arts & Crafts Club Annual Exhibition
Village Hall - 2.00pm to 5.00pm |

June

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 3 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
William Redway - A Ride Around England |
| Wednesday | 5 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Dick Shepherd - My Life as a Stuntman |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 19 | Swindon Village Society evening garden visit.
Probably depart from Village Hall car park at 7pm.
See next month for details. |

(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website www.swindonparish.org.uk. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)

The Annual Parish Meeting has been occupying our thoughts recently. By law, we are required to hold an annual meeting and report to the residents on the activities of the parish council. These meetings have rarely drawn large crowds. Clearly you are all happy with what the councillors are doing on your behalf. However, we have set a date of 16th May for this year's extravaganza. We will be meeting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall and hope that at least some of you will join us!

We are still reeling from the decision of the planning inspector to seek justification of our Local Green Space all over again. Several people were involved in collecting a substantial body of evidence to show how local green space was valued by the community. The planning inspector dealing with our old friend the JCS looked at the evidence in depth and concluded that we had a case for an area of Local Green Space that could not be subject to development. We even agreed a Statement of Common Ground with the developer expected to take a prominent role in giving some thousands of new houses. The planning inspector dealing with the Cheltenham Local Plan has not looked at the evidence previously presented. We will be discussing this with Cheltenham Borough Council planners and the other local parish councils who also stand to lose out at the stroke of a pen.

We are inching towards having a noticeboard outside the Cross Hands pub to benefit and inform the folk who live south of the Tewkesbury Road. Sorry if I am making it sound as if you are from the "wrong side of the tracks". It is a fact that the Tewkesbury Road and the railway split the parish into pieces. We recognise that we need to inform and represent everyone regardless of where they live. The delay in the installation of the noticeboard is being blamed on the mayhem resulting from Gloucestershire County Council changing its highways contractor. A new company was appointed from 1st April and the people previously employed by Amey will have been moved into its employ. We will see if our potholes and hedges benefit from the change.

I have been remiss in not giving you little nuggets of knowledge about council procedure lately. I'm surprised no-one has complained. It's a slow month so let's put that right.

Councillors are not allowed to participate in debates in which they have a personal interest in the outcome. If such a matter comes before the council the councillor must declare an interest and withdraw from the discussion of the topic. Recently, a councillor was seeking planning permission for a change to his garden shed. He correctly declared an interest prior to the matter being discussed but his withdrawal left us without a quorum (the minimum number of councillors required to make a decision). In this situation the matter cannot be progressed. The only ways around this are to have more councillors (hint hint) or to grant the councillor a dispensation and allow him to participate. Or to stick with the old shed of course.

The financial year ends on the 31st March for all councils. I am now busy putting together all of the paperwork necessary to close out the year. We have completed the first part of the puzzle. We have passed a resolution to exempt ourselves from external audit. We are able to do this as we are a small council. The thinking is that public scrutiny will be an effective tool to keep us on the straight and narrow. All of our financial information will be published on our website. It will be up to you to take a look at it and spot my deliberate mistakes.

Most of our councillors are in full time employment. Most training courses for councillors are, ironically, run during the day. We are going to try to organise an evening training course and share the places (and cost) with other parishes. Parishes in Tewkesbury Borough have elections this year. Not so the parishes in Cheltenham. We will organise a course once the elections in Tewkesbury Borough have been run and they have shiny new councillors who also need some training.

One of your parish councillors has been attending meetings with Cheltenham Borough Council on transport strategy. The strategy assumes that it is possible to encourage a “modal shift” of car drivers onto public transport or bikes. We are sceptical that this will happen. However, I recently achieved an enforced modal shift of my own. I was going to cycle to the railway station but discovered that my bike had been stolen in the night. The police were kind enough to write me a letter reassuring me that they are committed to investigating the crime. However, the same letter concluded that catching the culprit would be impossible, so they consider the case closed. It takes the police two hours to close a case in Midsomer Murders. My case was closed much quicker than that. I have, however, been offered victim support counselling.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

Swindon Parish Council
invites you to the
Annual Parish Assembly
on Thursday 16th May
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

Services and Events for May

5	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
7	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
12	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
14	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In Holy Communion
19	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ The Table Evensong
21	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
26	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
28	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

Cake & Coffee Morning

We had a very happy and successful day at our Cake Day and Coffee Morning.

A huge thank you to all who made delicious cakes, to all who helped on the day and, of course, to all who came along to enjoy the morning and spend your money!

I am pleased to say that £310.00 was raised for the Church Restoration Fund.

Mary Halliwell

Plant Sale

A date for your diary

We'll be holding a plant sale at St. Lawrence's Church on Saturday 22nd June, starting at 11am. More details next month.

Proceeds from the sale will go into the general funds for running the church.

We are grateful once again to Mr Relf for donating plants to us.

Karen Evans

Easter Sunday Morning

"Church" does not have to be done indoors. A few of the congregation from St. Lawrence's joined 40 others from across the Team for a dawn service on Cleeve Common on Easter Sunday. Arriving at 5am and needing torches to read our service sheets, Father Nick led us through a Celtic style Communion service, culminating in sharing the bread and wine just as the first glorious fire of sunrise crept above the horizon. During a few minutes of silent contemplation during the service the only sound heard was that of a cuckoo.

Karen Evans

Well, the new committee has been in place for a few weeks now and lots has changed behind the scenes (but not in the Hall itself for now). We're all newcomers to running both a village hall and a charity so the learning curve has been steep but lots of work has been done to understand how the place runs and to make plans for the future.

For starters, we've tried to make sense of a thing called the Conveyance which directs how the charity should be run. Two issues with this - it was written in 1950 and none of us are used to reading the legal speak! We think we're getting there and there's a strong case to re-write parts of the document to reflect the modern age but our expertise in this is limited so it might take a while. Speaking of modern times, the website has proved to be very successful and rooms in the Hall can be booked via www.svhall.co.uk and now also outside of normal hours via a mobile (details in the contacts section at the back of the Newsletter). The WiFi has recently been upgraded so you can now FaceTube, Tinder, Youbook, Tweet to your heart's content!

A spring clean was carried out in March and lots of friendly volunteers pitched in to give the place a freshen up - we're advertising for a regular cleaner to keep the Hall spick and span.

Lots of ideas for the future keep being submitted and they are all being considered. The bar selection is being increased and we now have a wider range of gins and two ciders from Dunkerton's Cider - we'll see how popular they are. I get asked a lot about reopening the bar and it is something we'd like to do but we're limited to opening after 9pm to avoid conflicting with regular users of the hall on Friday nights. Volunteers would be needed too so perhaps a monthly opening would be a start - you can follow us on Facebook for updates. A grand plan to segregate the Hall and develop a second entrance would solve the problem of simultaneous use by different groups, enabling more people to use the Hall at the same time - an early plan at the moment but hopefully a direction that we can take the Hall in. If you've got an area of expertise that you may be able to help us with then please get in touch.

I mentioned last month that I'd introduce each of the committee over the following months and I may as well start with myself. I'm a newcomer to the village but a resident of Cheltenham since 2010 when I moved here during my RAF days when I flew VC10 and TriStar jets. I left the service in 2015 and now work in the airline industry. We have two small boys who

I'm looking forward to joining the Beavers and attending the village school when they're old enough.

Ben Williams

Chair, Swindon Village Hall



CHELtenham LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club would like to thank all those who donated books previously. We now require more. If you have any that you do not want please contact us on the number below.

We require paperbacks only, covering the categories of:

- * Crime
- * Adventure
- * Romance

If you would like to donate your old books please contact (01242) 527534 to arrange collection by us.

Sorry but we do not take hardback books.

Are You Experiencing Noise Pollution Problems?

If any residents living adjacent to the Runnings Trading Estate are experiencing excessive noise levels from any premises during unsociable hours, please contact Frances or Stuart on 07973 387053 or 230009 with details.

Thank you.

Save The Countryside 12th Anniversary Walk

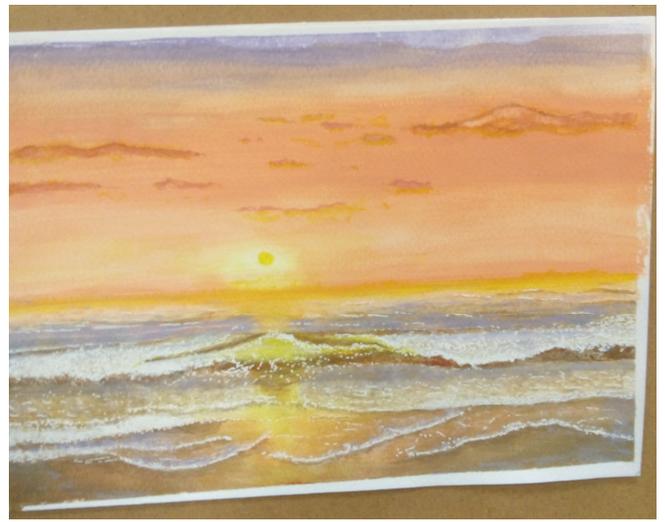
Celebrating our beautiful countryside
Protecting our local green space
Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

Sunday 19th May 2pm

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



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



Swindon Village Arts & Crafts Club Annual Exhibition

Saturday 25th May
2pm ~ 5pm
in the Village Hall

Free admission
Refreshments
Raffle



In March Chris Rowlands of Spirax Sarco came along to give us an insight of just what that firm does. And the answer is they tame steam. Steam is a very useful and efficient way of transmitting power and heat. However, it can be fairly dodgy stuff, particularly when under high pressure. Spirax specialise in keeping it under control with a large range of steam valves, control systems and end use devices. The Swindon Village site is something of a core of the company with a headquarters, research and developments centre and production plant. There are many other plants worldwide but the local plant is central to the company. Now Chris is a salesman so made a good case for the company but he is also very proud of what they do and he certainly convinced me that we have a very significant organisation in the village. They want to be good neighbours and have helped to keep the amenity area in reasonable order.

Personally, I am very pleased that the core material they use is actually water. I would much rather have that as the main substance in use for any firm operating close to the village than many of the alternatives such as hydrocarbons or chemicals. I trust water more and even use it to wash in occasionally.

Note that our May meeting will be on a Saturday morning and will feature a visit to Lineover Wood near Dowdeswell Reservoir to look at the flora and fauna. We will have John Heathcott leading us. John has had a very long connection with this piece of true ancient woodland and is always a great guide. This will be more than our annual birdwalk. Lineover is historic woodland and while we will no doubt nod at a bird or two it will be the trees and flowers that will be centre of attention. Just across the road is Dowdeswell and I have seen several snakes there so we can even keep our eyes open for a reptile; don't worry they are very friendly if not very chatty.

Now, in the knowledge that Lineover is on a reasonable hillside and the members of the village society can be a bit allergic to hills, we are going to start at the top of the hill and walk down with a plan to use cars to get us back up. So do think of coming. Visitors are welcome. We will meet in the Village Hall car park to amalgamate vehicles and proceed to the start line at the TOP of the hill. Timings on the front of this publication.

A few other bits of information have come to my attention. The Jet Age Museum is open every day in May with an exhibition on Women in Aviation. It is free and there is a tea room; open 10am to 4pm. A great place to visit.

Gloucester Heritage Hub (was Gloucestershire Records Office) is having a Local History Month. Events include Sat 4 May 2pm to 4pm – Gloucestershire Maps - and more talks and walks on Friday 10, 17 and 24. Get the details from archives@gloucester.gov.uk

Barry Simon

Wednesday Club

It was a lovely evening on 3rd April when Mr Mike Bottomley came along and told us about the Life, Love and Times of Katherine Parr. The nice thing was just concentrating on one of Henry VIII wives and her family.

Katherine was of middle class but very well educated, speaking several languages. Her father was keen for women to be educated as well as men. Katherine was widowed very young and eventually married King Henry.

Katherine became a good Queen and was much respected in the Court. She was a strong Protestant and nearly came to grief when King Henry started to think again about Catholicism. Katherine knew if she ended up in the tower she would lose her life and so pleaded with the King who saved her. Henry died about a year later and Katherine eventually married again and lived at Sudeley Castle until her death. Katherine is buried at Sudeley.

We are having a trip around the Cotswolds on 12th July and if anybody from the village would like to come along, please let me know. The coach seats 30 and we will be stopping to buy tea (and cake) at some stage.

Our Speaker on Wednesday 1st May will be Alan Clarke and he will be telling us about the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley. Please do come along and join us; £3 as a visitor will include supper. Look forward to seeing you then.

Pauline Wright

As we move into the Spring and Summer months, the programmes for all of the sections get really busy with lots of opportunities to try new and different activities. During the weekends in March and over the Easter holidays, we have had several of our Scouts taking advantage of the fabulous opportunities on offer from the County team.

Four of our Scouts took part in the County Badge weekend held up at the County Scout HQ in Cranham. There were three different courses on offer over the weekend and we had Scouts on each of them. The two Bens tackled the Electronics Activity Badge course. Part of the requirements involved some soldering and the construction of three circuits, one of which was based mainly on digital electronics. Meanwhile Tom spent the weekend Geocaching. This involved locating two local geocaches from geocaching.com, finding and solving the clues found in a night-time “glow stick” multi-cache, completing a hike using a Map and GPS as well as showing that he understood the required theory. Finally, Bernie undertook the Naturalist Badge which involved discussing man's impact on the environment and what we could do to lessen that impact. They then chose a woodlands area close to the Scout HQ to survey and spent the rest of the day discovering as much as they could about this area. During the day those on the electronics badge had put together a bat detector, so in the evening they all went out to see if they could pick up on the bats, which they could. On the Sunday the Scouts continued identifying the trees and plants in their chosen area and investigated how the river is being used as a water resource in the area and how it is being used to prevent flooding. All in all - an excellent weekend and the badges were well deserved at the end of it.

Tom and Bernie also joined others from around Gloucestershire to take on the Expedition Challenge. This involved two weekends in March and April planning, training and then carrying out an overnight expedition to gain the award. They set off in patrols from Cheltenham and carrying their equipment, hiked to Cranham Scout HQ where they set up camp for the night, cooking their own meals before packing away and hiking to Cowley the following day. And all of this was undertaken without adult leaders calling the shots. A great experience and a great achievement at such a young age - well done lads.

Then during the Easter holidays, Ben completed a two-day climbing and bouldering course at the Warehouse indoor climbing centre in Gloucester. Using the extensive facilities with fully qualified instructors, he managed to gain the Scout Climbing badge. Congratulations, Ben.

As always at this time of year, we have plenty to look forward to with several camps and challenges ahead. Several of our Scouts are taking part in the County organised Survival Skills weekend at the end of May – a real challenge and not one for the faint hearted. Then in June we have a camp up at Cranham for the Cubs and Scouts together with a Water Activity Day for the Beavers and Cubs at Fairford. The Haarlem Jamborette takes place at the end of July in Holland and we have a few of our Scouts and leaders representing the troop once again at this terrific Scouting event. Then in August the leaders and several hangers-on will make the annual pilgrimage to that field in Titley once again for another week's R & R.

I would belatedly like to pass on our thanks to Pete & Sally Piff and their team who have recently stood down after more than 18 years managing and looking after the Village Hall. It is often a thankless task and I know that they have dedicated many hours each year to provide the village and the Scouts with a place to meet and socialise. Thank you from us all and may you enjoy your retirement from it all. It is exciting to see that a new management team has been formed and we would like to wish them every success as they get to grips with running the village hall and learning just what they have let themselves in for.

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers who give their time and energy to make the group such a success and offer so many different and exciting challenges and opportunities to all our young people.

Sos

OPEN AFTERNOONS AT

SOUTHAM CHURCH

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF OUR 12TH CENTURY CHURCH, WITH ITS
LINKS TO THE ELLENBOROUGH AND
DE LA BERE FAMILIES

SATURDAY 18TH AND SUNDAY 19TH MAY
1 - 5PM

Come and enjoy a cream tea, cakes, tea and coffee.
All proceeds will go to the Cyclone Idai Appeal,
as part of Christian Aid Week.

Free admission to the Church.

GL52 3NY, just off Southam Lane. Parking available.

At our April meeting Judith Humphries gave a very interesting talk on reflexology. Although reflexology is normally done on the feet, it can also be done on the hands and even the face. Judith explained, with the aid of a chart of feet, where the points related to parts of the body and showed us how to massage our hands. She also passed around several jars of creams and informed us of their uses. It was a very informative talk and members asked a lot of questions.

The Annual Council Meeting in the Town Hall was well attended. One of the main speakers was Ann Jones from the National Board of Trustees. She reminded us of the many campaigns the WI have fought in the past and the lasting results and influences they have had in our daily lives. Did you know that the national 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign was one of many instigated by the WI? The other speaker was Helen Pankhurst, a descendent of the famous Pankhurst sisters. There were plenty of information stalls to browse and others providing a little retail therapy. One stall selling soaps was from Eastwood Park Women's Prison. There has been a branch of the WI running there for a few years now and is proving very popular. The soap making industry they have covers researching recipes, producing the soaps, designing the wrappers and printing them.

A watercolour workshop was much enjoyed and there is talk of a follow-on course. The meal-out was a return visit to the Giggling Squid.

As result of our talk about the SS Great Britain the previous month, we are organising a coach visit to Bristol in August to see the ship. We are also looking into the opportunity of a visit to the Houses of Parliament.

In May several members are attending a special County weekend at Denman College. There are a number of courses to choose from ending with a celebratory Centenary Dinner. A talk on Richard III and our usual book and craft clubs are also on offer.

We have a debate and vote at our May meeting. The resolutions to be debated at the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth will be discussed and the results taken by our delegate to the event in June.

Sara Jefferies



Women in aviation



We will be celebrating the huge contribution that women have made to the world of aviation and aerospace from the days of the pioneers to present day space exploration

A special selection of women speakers including:
Commandant Air Cadets • Flying With Swans Pilot
Blade 3, The Blades Aerobatic Team (ex Red Arrow)
Air Commodore Retired • Fly2Help Representative
RAFA representative • Air Traffic Control Officer
Typhoon Pilot • Paraglider • Wildcat Helicopter pilot

There will be a permanent display around the museum every weekend for the whole month of May 2019

Open 10am - 4pm

**with Special Events Sat 4th/Sun 5th/Mon 6th,
Sat 11th/Sun 12th, Sat 18th/Sun 19th
Sat 25th/Sun 26th/ Mon 27th**

**Meteor Business Park,
Cheltenham Road East,
Gloucester GL2 9QL**

**Plus all the normal
attractions of
Jet Age Museum**

For details visit website - <https://jetagemuseum.org/>



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Monthly rates

Whole page £36
Half page £18
Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

Village News is delivered to
900 homes in Swindon Village

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 Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Jodie Courts	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne	07515 461876
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
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

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas Cllr. Bernard Fisher	255844 07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://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. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
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 views of the Editors or the Parish Council