

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 460 December 2019/January 2020

December

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Monday | 2 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Matthew Gacek - Christmas Reflections |
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Christmas Supper |
| Friday | 6 | School Winter Fair - 3.30 to 5.30pm |
| Saturday | 7 | Wine Club - Christmas Party at Cheltenham Wine Club |
| Saturday
& Sunday | 7
& 8 | Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence's Church
11.00am to 5.00pm |
| Monday | 9 | Scout Group Christmas Evening - Village Hall 6.00pm
All welcome |
| Tuesday | 10 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Friday | 13 | Friends of Swindon Village Primary School Christmas Party
(see page 14 for details) |
| Sunday | 15 | Community Christmas Afternoon Tea
Village Hall 2pm - 4pm Hosted by Re-engage |
| Tuesday | 31 | New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall
Ticket only - Contact details on inside back page |

January

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Thursday | 2 | Wednesday Club Christmas Lunch (Members only) |
| Monday | 6 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Verta Patel - Indian Samosas and Chutneys |
| Tuesday | 14 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 15 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm AGM
8.00pm Eileen Allen - Progress on the Victoria County History |

(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.)

We have bored you to death with tales of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and then the Cheltenham Local Plan. We are on the home straight, honestly. The public consultation on the Cheltenham Local Plan has now opened. If we wish to retain our area of Local Green Space within the Plan then it is important that local residents express their support. The consultation is online at <http://consult.cheltenham.gov.uk/>. The consultation closes at midnight on 16th December. It is possible to contribute by means other than the Internet. The consultation may be accessible in libraries (but not at midnight so plan ahead!).

More improvements have been made to the Village Hall, the most obvious external change being the installation of LED floodlights. Bad news for the Village Hall is that we have experienced a couple of examples of fly tipping in the car park. If you have any knowledge of who is doing this please report them. People are working hard to ensure that the Village Hall survives and thrives. They do not deserve this.

Forget the exciting news that, after three years of getting nowhere, Brexit has been delayed by a few weeks. I have some even better news. Our new noticeboard has been installed! It is close to the Cross Hands pub and is intended to serve our many parishioners who live south of the Tewkesbury Road. It was expected to take about a month and actually took fourteen. See the parallel with Brexit now? Buoyed by our success at procuring a noticeboard we have now ordered a bench. Watch this space.

The November race meeting was to see changes to the local car parking arrangements. The intent was to improve the lot of locals who can find it hard to park in their own roads. Mandarin Way had been brought into the "exclusion zone" and had been coned off to prevent parking without a permit. Unfortunately the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order that would trigger the issuing of passes was not scheduled to start until 1st January, leaving the residents with the worst of all worlds. The Regional Head of Operations for the Jockey Club agreed that the cones should be removed. The next test of the system will be for the Festival in March. Odds of two to one on that it will all work perfectly.

The Parish Council has been made aware of a number of road drains that are blocked. These need to be reported to the County Council, and we have raised the matter as a general problem with our County Councillor.

A few days after the November Parish Council meeting the unrelenting rain caused flooding in Manor Road. We recognise that Church Road (near the school) is always a problem during wet weather and will continue to petition the County Council to do something about it.

In the course of my work I have come across a website that is used by all the agencies that are likely to dig up your road (which seems to be just about everybody). If you type "one.network" into your browser you can zoom in to any part of the country to see what roadworks you are likely to encounter. According to the website I see that (at the time of writing) BT was stuffing Rivelands Road with poly ducting. Practising for the turkey no doubt.

Whilst I am "on the road", the experimental traffic scheme that resulted in the closure of Boots Corner to general traffic is reaching the point where it must be made permanent or abandoned. A meeting of the Traffic Regulation Committee of the County Council will be held on 16th December and must recommend the way forward to Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet. The aims of the scheme (reducing air pollution, improving the area for pedestrians) are very laudable but it has attracted its fair share of criticism.

In planning matters, revised plans were submitted for the corner of land where Manor Road and Runnings Road meet. The revisions have done away with the proposed egress from the site close to Dog Bark Lane but the fact that the site is on such a busy junction remains a concern to the Council. Further comments have been submitted.

We are now in the period when we must prepare a budget for the next financial year. A draft was considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in November and agreed (with minor changes). This will be published on the website in due course, as is all our financial information.

Karen recently passed me the files for some older editions of the Village News. I have put them on the website so you can now go back to October 2013, your own personal time machine. The October 2013 edition was number 398, so there were another 397 before that! In fact Karen found a scan of the first ever issue (October 1974), so I've added that for good measure. At that time a timid young man was wearing flares and watching emerging bands called Queen and Genesis at Cheltenham Town Hall. Thirty eight years later he became the Clerk to Swindon Parish Council!

I always forget the lead time involved in producing articles for the Village

News. The last issue (or the one before it) must have been the Halloween edition. Although I am writing this in November this must be the one where I must remember to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

"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. If the police are not made aware of a problem **THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM**".

Used Postage Stamps and Cards for Recycling

The many Christmas, birthday and special occasion cards you passed to me this year have gone to the Cobalt Unit for recycling and I have given all the used postage stamps to the LINC clinic where they are welcomed to boost their funds.

I shall be pleased to receive used Christmas cards up to January 20th 2020, used stamps and special occasion cards all year round.

Do continue to save your cards and stamps to help these very worthy local causes.

Moira Stoneman

Benrines

5 Stantons Drive

Swindon Village

Tel. 529631

What's next with our local green Space and the Cheltenham plan?

Please take 5 mins to respond online.

The new Cheltenham Plan, which is a planning policy document covering our borough until 2031, is reaching its final stages of production.

To ensure that the Council are following the correct procedures, the final main modifications to the Cheltenham plan as requested by the Government Inspector during examination earlier this year, must be open to formal consultation.

Our council planning team did share an exhibition in our village hall on 12th November but, as this was not really advertised by our council planning team, many local residents may not have been aware of it.

The Proposed Main Modifications Consultation runs until 16th December 2019 and the key Main Modifications documents have also been published on the examination library webpage.

You can find this by googling **Cheltenham plan main modifications**.

After a long time re-arguing our case for local green space around Swindon Village, where no building will take place, I can confirm that the final agreed version that you see below, is included.

I would like to ask us all to encourage our neighbours to respond positively to the consultation with our support of this local green space just in case it's thrown up into the air again.

We can respond online before 16th December at **<http://consult.cheltenham.gov.uk/consult.ti/CPMM/consultationHome>**.

You can reference Main modification **MM026** Local Green Space.

Helen Wells

Services and Events in December

1	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
3	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
7	Saturday	11am - 5pm	Christmas Tree Festival
8	Sunday	9.15am 11am - 5pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Christmas Tree Festival Evensong
10	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In Holy Communion
15	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ The Table Evensong
17	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
21	Saturday	4.00pm	Carols at The Rock (St. Peter's church, Tewkesbury Road)
22	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Carol Service

Services and Events in January

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





As we journey through Advent and move towards Christmas and a new year, it can be both challenging and at the same time enriching for us to discover new ways in which to prepare for, and learn from, the Christmas story. Christmas, like Lent and Easter, can also be a time where we focus upon reconciliation of varying kinds. Families tend to come together at Christmas time in a way that may differ from other times

during the year. Some adults who celebrate Christmas but who may not necessarily hold a strong belief, come into contact with the wonder of the Christmas story, even if it may only be through the eyes of their own young children.

During Advent we focus more richly on the prophets. They play their role in pointing to the idea of reconciliation as a uniting of heaven and earth through the birth of an innocent baby as well as towards the eventual death of an innocent man. It may feel as though we get ahead of ourselves if we are to speak also about St Paul during this season, but I believe we can apply much of the meaning of reconciliation, which is very central to Paul's ministry. Through the incarnation, it can be argued that the act of reconciliation first makes its mark in Christ, as a baby, at Christmas time. His bursting in on our lives begins the transformational process of uniting all things under Godhead. It is a beginning that almost requires that we see the act of redemption in a child-like way before we grow to maturity and are better able to deal with the harsh realities of the final outcome.

God coming into our lives as a baby is yet another demonstration of the very real fact that he gently shares in our humanity in its fullness and journeys with us. It is a demonstration of love that bares an indomitable imprint upon what it really means to be human and in Christ's case, divine.

Perhaps the lesson is that it is essential we go back to a time when we were children ourselves, so as to innocently fall in love with again, and understand in its completeness, the divine mystery of the Christmas story from the perspective of a child; and so fully enter into the mystery of a world reconciled.

A very peaceful Advent, Christmas and New Year to you all.

Rev George

The Power of Silent Prayer

We enter perhaps the noisiest time of the year! May I offer an antidote? Our brains seem full of juggled priorities. Not for nothing did the famous Russian spiritual writer St Theophan the Recluse advise us to ‘stand with the mind in the heart before God and do so unceasingly’. For years I’ve been trying to do this and master the art of silent prayer. One person told me she felt her head might burst, she could hold no more information – and so St Theophan goes on to advise: ‘the head is a crowded rag market: it is not possible to pray to God there.’ Sometimes my attempts find me staring into space, thinking about the work I need to be doing. Other times are better, when I approach prayer from the silence of the heart rather than the head. Then I can feel my attitude and perspective changing with every minute I keep my eyes closed.

Silence is difficult. It’s confusing, like a vacuum that must be filled. What, exactly, is supposed to happen while sitting for long, potentially awkward periods of time? I can share some of my experiences.

First, every time I enter into silent prayer it takes a while to get going. I’m thinking about the tasks that need to be done. My mind never shuts off, unless I put my foot down and say, *enough is enough*. Entering into silent prayer takes work. It takes discipline and courage to cut off everything that distract our minds and hearts to arrive at a sacred, blessed and productive silence. However, I do know that the more I try, the better I become.

The best silent prayer comes with an overwhelming feeling that I am not in charge. It seems to me that this simple mindset is the remedy to stress, heartache, and anxiety. I get fooled into believing that my daily tasks, obstacles, and struggles are bigger than they are. But my prayer puts things into the proper perspective. I get a profound sense that God is in charge. And no matter what struggles come my way, God has a way to deal with them. I like to think that I trust God, but silence helps me to live that trust.

God is mystery. Silence is one of the most profound ways to dive deeper into the mystery that is God. I’ve grown to appreciate this idea through what is called Ignatian Prayer. This is where we sit in silence for up to say twenty minutes a day while using imagination to contemplate particular episodes from the Bible. Here, we place ourselves actually in the scene, perhaps just behind Jesus or at the arm of a disciple, or merely an onlooker from a nearby doorway – but we are there! Of course, God works through all things, so He certainly works through our imagination.

Ironically, my silent prayer seems incredibly loud, interactive, and engaging. It is also emotional and intimate. The silence allows God to speak to my heart in mysterious ways. We share intimate moments and deepen our relationship. In my Bible contemplations, Jesus treats me as one of his disciples and entrusts me with tasks to further his mission. He trusts me. He embraces me. He sticks up for me. He loves me. The silence is a sacred space for me to be with Jesus. For me, this is the power of silent prayer: it creates a deeper relationship with an infinite and mysterious God. It is a deep friendship.

Fr Nick

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 the clergy by email:

Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com

Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector)

nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk or via the office.

Church flowers for Christmas



We like to make the church look especially pretty at Christmas and would welcome donations towards the cost of flowers.

If you would like to help please contact

Joan Howes on tel. no. 513573.

Thank you.



St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree
Festival

Saturday 7th &
Sunday 8th December
11am to 5pm

“Out Of This World”

- * Decorated Christmas Trees on display
- * Stall selling Christmas-related goods
- * Raffle for three Christmas hampers
- * Make a Christmas decoration
- * Children's competition
- * Refreshments
- * Christmas sing-along with
The Ukuladies (Saturday)
The Christmas Ukies (Sunday)



Free admission but we ask for donations to the church building restoration and maintenance fund.



SWINDON VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Winter FAIR

2019

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER
3.30-5.30 PM

ADULTS 50p ❄️ CHILDREN FREE

- ❄️ Gifts handmade by the children – available to buy
- ❄️ Christmas games
- ❄️ Santa's grotto ❄️ Chocolate tombola
- ❄️ Christmas craft room ❄️ Barrel of Booze
- ❄️ Wrapping room ❄️ Refreshments



The Friends of Swindon Village
Primary School are hosting a

Christmas PARTY

Friday December 13th
7.30pm 'til Midnight

- * BUFFET MEAL
- * RAFFLE
- * MUSIC BY DJ SPARKY

Venue: Seasons, Quat Goose Lane,
Swindon Village,
Cheltenham, GL51 9RX

Dress Code: Smart

Cost: £30pp

To book: 07702 969791

email: chairfosvps@gmail.com

Raising funds for Swindon Village Primary School

Wednesday Club

We welcomed Matthew Sproston again and this time he told us about the "Songs and Life of Victoria Wood". We had a lovely evening with Matthew singing quite a few songs that Victoria made famous, accompanied on his Ukulele. Victoria was the youngest of four children by quite a few years and always said that her mother thought three was enough. After Drama school in Birmingham Victoria went on to do many things including stand-up comedy, TV series and films. Victoria also wrote the scripts for all of these and struck up friendships with a team of actors that she worked with on them all. Julie Walters is probably the most famous, along with Duncan Preston, Celia Imrie and Anne Reid. Matthew stayed for a lovely supper which was provided by Jean and Gwyn this month.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th December and it will be our Christmas Party. This year will be a bit different with a theme of a Christmas Fayre. There will be a few items for sale along with the usual books and, of course, supper, which is provided by the committee. Please do not come along until nearly 8pm as we have to get the Hall ready. Raffle tickets will be £1 and we hope to raise some funds for our club as our annual coffee morning in the summer had to be cancelled due to bad weather. If any non-member wishes to come along please let me know (for catering purposes). The usual visitor fee of £3 will apply.

On Thursday January 2nd we will be going to the Gupshill Manor for our Christmas Lunch. We will meet there at 12 noon ready to sit down at 12.30.

There will not be a meeting in the Village Hall in January and so we meet again in February for the AGM.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Pauline Wright

I do find myself with a slight problem in reviewing our October speaker – it was me. Modesty rather precludes my saying just how good it was but nobody left during the talk but then again I had locked the door. The subject was The History of Aviation Quite Close to Swindon Village. There is more than you would think. Probably of closest interest is the crash of the Wellington bomber in the area which is now the allotments. It is still unclear as to exactly what brought the aircraft down and the memories of those who remember the event vary considerably. What is pleasing is that, at our own Remembrance Service at St Lawrence's this year, once again the names of the eight men from three counties who died in the crash were read out. They died on our patch; it is good that they are remembered. Some time ago the area was investigated with a metal detector and a few bits found. As a result I still have two small pieces of the aircraft and half a Royal Canadian Air Force cap badge which were given to me because of my RAF background.

I am also still amazed that the first automatic blind land system for BEA's Trident aircraft was developed in Swindon Village by Ultra Electronics, an offshoot of Smiths. Their place was just behind what is now Halfords and the buildings are no more. And even now just across the road in Arle, Douglas's are still making tugs for airliners. And let us not forget Stoke Orchard airfield where many of the Army glider pilots who took part in Arnhem and The Crossing of The Rhine received their basic glider training.

And once we start on local ballooning in the 1800s, the first successful British parachute descent into Montpellier Gardens, Brockworth, Staverton and Morton Valence airfields I could go on forever. But fortunately I didn't – the yawns were getting too obvious.

There is no meeting in December so the next event will be the AGM in January. As ever we will try to keep the AGM to a minimum and then have a cup of tea. This will be followed by Eileen Allen giving us some updates on Swindon's history which have come to light as a result of her work on The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire. Visitors will be welcome but should come along at 8 o'clock in time for the tea.

We do have some ideas for next year's programme but if anyone is able to point us towards good speakers that they have heard we would be happy to hear from them. Remember the subject matter should be related in some way to our role as a small civic society or our side interests of local history or conservation.

Barry Simon

Village Hall

Things are looking bright at Swindon Village Hall and, as the Good Book didn't say, "let there be light and there was light in the form of Light Emitting Diodes and they were good!" LEDs are semiconductors that emit photons (light) when a current flows through them and the first red LEDs were invented in the 1960s. They have developed over the years so that they can now be used for general lighting in industry and around the home. Our modern, super bright LEDs were a recent breakthrough developed by several Japanese, Korean and Chinese companies in the 1990s; first blue and then white ones appeared on the market and now they are the light source of choice in many scenarios. Their prime benefits are low energy consumption combined with a bright output and their cost has reduced drastically in recent years. In the Village Hall, we've replaced the older fluorescent bulbs with LED strips and the fluorescent tubes in the ceiling panels with LED panels and the outside lights with IR-triggered LED floodlights. Not only do they give more light than before but the energy consumption is drastically reduced. As an example, the stage was previously lit with 8 incandescent spotlights which used 60W each; the six new ones not only give out more light but consume a total of just 42W which is less than one of the old bulbs and saving a whopping 438W - such is the dramatic effect that LEDs can have on energy consumption and why they became eligible for an energy saving grant. Regular readers may remember that the summer solar panel installation was partly paid for with an EU energy saving grant administered by Severn Wye for community organisations. Well, the scheme was extended and we capitalised on this by successfully applying for another grant to help pay towards the Nest thermostats and ambient cooling system that I mentioned last month as well as the LED lighting upgrade. They have all come just in time for the darker, colder nights and should mean the Hall is being run more efficiently than ever.

In October we were fortunate enough to be selected by a website design organisation called "do action" who offered their services to four local charities to improve their web presence. Our website was originally created by Maija and has been instrumental in improving our bookings - all of our bookings requests come from there and get emailed to Jana for her to liaise with the users. The second "do action day" to be held in Europe was run from a Cheltenham hotel and we were given a team of five web design professionals who volunteered their time to give us a new and hopefully improved website. The day would have cost a typical client approximately £2500 so we were very fortunate to get this for free. Please take a look over the next few weeks as it goes live at svhall.co.uk - there's scope to tweak it with more photos, blogs, discussions etc. so we might be

adding more features as we go along - some of you may have met Gemma during the Friday night bar nights and she's a whizz at these things.

As the nights are drawing in, you can get a warm and friendly welcome at the Village Hall bar every Friday night from 6.30pm. Bookings at the Hall are still going strong thanks to Jana and Karren's expert admin skills and the Friday bar nights continue to be well supported with lots of happy customers and volunteers. Keep your eyes peeled for updates on the New Year's Eve party too - this year will be an informal ticketed event (but not expensive) and we'll keep you updated via our Facebook page (search and follow "Swindon Village Hall" for more).

Finally, the forthcoming General Election on 12th December is using the Hall as a Polling Station - you can register online to vote at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Ben Williams



We would like to thank all of our distributors, contributors and advertisers for their continuing support of Village News.

We wish them and all of you, our readers,
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year.

Karren and Stuart (The Editors)

We did not have a speaker at our November meeting as this is the time of the year when we have our Annual Meeting. With various reports and revelations of our financial situation to be discussed, the new committee formed and a President for the coming year elected, we only had time left for social-time with a chat and refreshments. On this occasion our bank balance looked pretty healthy and Wendy Custerson was elected as the new President. We thanked Sue for her three-year stint at the helm and welcomed several new members on to the committee. Looking forward to 2020 there seem to be quite a few events in the offing. With holidays on the Isle of Wight and the Italian Lakes, a walking weekend, the National Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall and a marquee to run at the Royal Three Counties Show the calendar is filling up.

Amongst the many activities during the month the retiring Committee met for a meal at L'Artisan Restaurant, we enjoyed our Birthday Party evening at Doubletree's, attended an evening at John Lewis where WI members modelled for the fashion show, and a theatre visit to see Shane Richie. Five coachloads of members from the County went to Waddesdon Manor to see the house decorated for Christmas, a spectacular light show and a Christmas Market. We laid a poppy wreath at Swindon Village War Memorial and attended a day at WI House learning to make various Christmas decorations.

December events include the annual Carol Concert in the Town Hall with the guest artiste being Elin Malahan Thomas, who sang at Harry and Megan's wedding. This year we are organising the raffles at both the afternoon and evening performances with some great prizes. We are busy collecting decorations for our tree at the Swindon Village Christmas Tree Festival. The Langton is the venue for our Christmas lunch this year and we have invitations to Woodmancote, Bishops Cleeve and Shaking, Making and Baking WIs' parties.

On Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm Matthew Gacek's talk is 'Christmas Reflections' and we shall be having mince pies and savoury snacks with our cup of tea! On Monday 6th January Verta Patel is showing us how to make 'Indian Samosas and Chutneys'. If you would like to join us for the evening at St Nicolas Hall, Swindon Lane, you will be most welcome.

May I take this opportunity to send all our readers our Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sara Jefferies

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Invites you to share their Christmas Evening
Carols Sketches Pantomime
Refreshments (including mince pies for early arrivals!)

Monday 9th December at 6.00pm
In the Village Hall

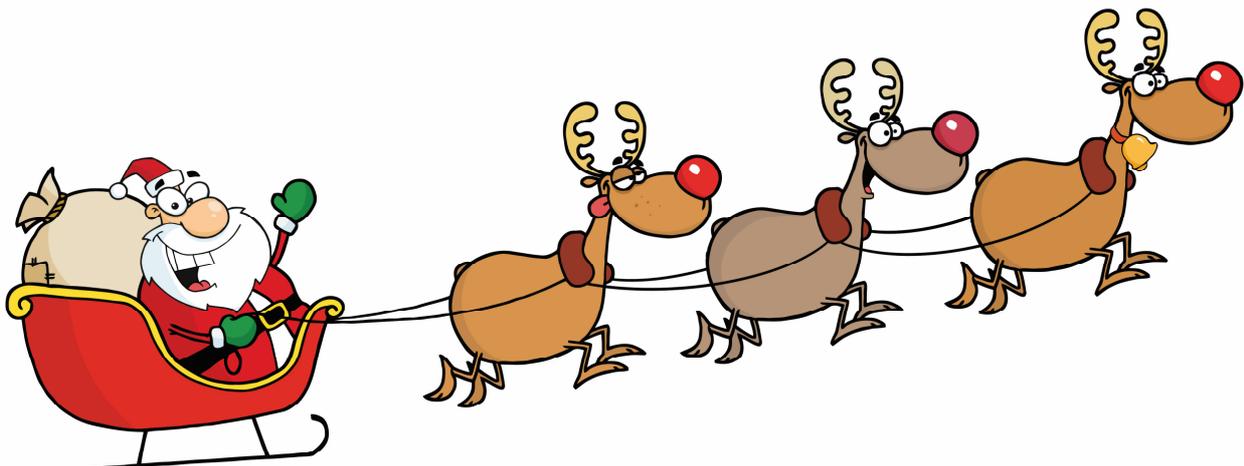
Everyone welcome

Free admission.
Retiring collection for
The Children's Society and Toilet Twinning

Art & Crafts Club

What can I say after Ian's comprehensive report last month, except agree with all he said. We are still soldiering on enjoying our work and especially the company. It's a very sociable evening. We are having our Xmas party on the 6th December, then finishing until the beginning of January. So it leaves me to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Helen



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 15 December 2019
from 2pm til 4pm

at Swindon Village Hall, Church Road, Swindon
Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9QP

We are holding a Community Christmas afternoon tea through Re-engage, formerly Contact the Elderly. The whole idea behind Community Christmas is to make sure that older people have a place to go to celebrate the festive season. The afternoon will include entertainment and a free raffle.

If you are, or know of, an older person who would like to join us, please call Ali on 07449 019830.



1st Swindon Village Scout Group

It has been another busy few weeks for all of the youngsters at Swindon Village. On Remembrance Sunday, we were represented by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the Service of Remembrance held at St Lawrence's Church. There is no better opportunity for all of the youngsters and leaders to demonstrate the 'Doing their Duty' part of the Scout promise and a cold November morning made the occasion all the more poignant. It was great to join so many other people from around the village and remember all those that gave their lives for our freedom.

We recently held our group's Open evening and AGM in the village hall. The leaders and youngsters gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months, the highlights of which were the entertaining reports given by some of the Cubs who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people. After many years of service to the group, it was formally announced that both our treasurer, Jane Evans, and several of the leaders will be standing down at the end of this year, including Rabbit (Sylvia) - Assistant Beaver Leader, Chil (Rachel) - Cub Scout Leader and Sos - Group Scout Leader. As always, the evening concluded with the presentation of awards as we celebrated the achievements and the efforts of the youngsters from each section of the Group. The award winners this year were:

Beavers: The Alan Studd Award:	Jenson B.
Cubs: The Phil Long Award:	Alfie C. & Luci C.
Best Cub Camper: The Di Dimond Award:	Eliot P-J. & Caleb G.
Scouts: The Phil Long Award:	Thomas B.

Congratulations and very well done to you all.

Coming up before Christmas, the Scouts are off to Gloucester for an energetic evening of Laser Tag. We then have our Group Jumble Sale, followed by a day hiking over Cleeve Hill and also trees to prepare for the Christmas Tree festival in St Lawrence's Church. And for our meeting on Monday 9th December at the Village Hall, we will again be holding an evening of Christmas Carols together with various sketches and routines performed by the Beavers and Scouts, while the Cubs will treat us to their Christmas Pantomime. There will be refreshments and a few mince pies available for those who arrive early enough! The doors open at 6pm with a prompt start at 6:15 and everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun. There is no charge on the door, but we will be collecting donations towards

the charities we support at Christmas - "The Children's Society" and "Toilet Twinning". We hope you are able to come and join us all.

Can I finally thank everyone in Swindon Village for all your support and encouragement throughout 2019 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sos

URGENT - HELP WANTED

There is a real danger of our Cub Pack closing after Christmas.

We have plenty of Cubs, several helpers and parents prepared to help and support the pack, but no-one to actually lead the Pack.

No experience is necessary and there is a free training programme to support all adults in the Scout movement. We will also provide plenty of support to anyone willing to take on this important role.

Cubs are aged from 8 - 10½ years and meet in the Village Hall on Monday evenings during term-time from 6pm - 7.15pm.

If you would like to get involved or are interested in finding out more, please contact **Sos or Rachel on 693107 or Email us at: svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk**

The logo for the Cub Scouts, featuring the word "cubs" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The letters are lowercase and have a slightly rounded, friendly appearance.



Christmas Word Search

O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V
N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U
X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z
D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G
Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M
S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q
P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S
G R E H N X R L B P Y N N N H R S O I L
B N Z C S T B H J O M D P I M O A B V M
Y M I S T L E T O E Y R D E E S M C I U
G O C N O R L D K C O Q O N R T T W N B
W K Y Q C Z E J A G O V T D R Y S D G Q
L O R T K L C N I C G P N R Y L I N X S
J N X J I R E F B A V A P J E H R D C Z
X L W O N H T A E R W V I I L E H A Y E
W L R D G Z G Y L D J C G N X E C M B O
M Y A D I L O H L S U H J A W N Z A M J
I X P D B T V H S K M W S E L D N A C U

Look for the following words in the grid above.

BELLS
CANDLES
CANDY CANE
CARDS
CELEBRATE
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH
SANTA
SEASON
SLEIGH
STOCKING
TREE
WREATH

ELVES
FROSTY
GIFT
GIVING
GREETINGS
HOLIDAY
JOLLY

JOY
MERRY
MISTLETOE
NOEL
NORTH POLE
REINDEER

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Email

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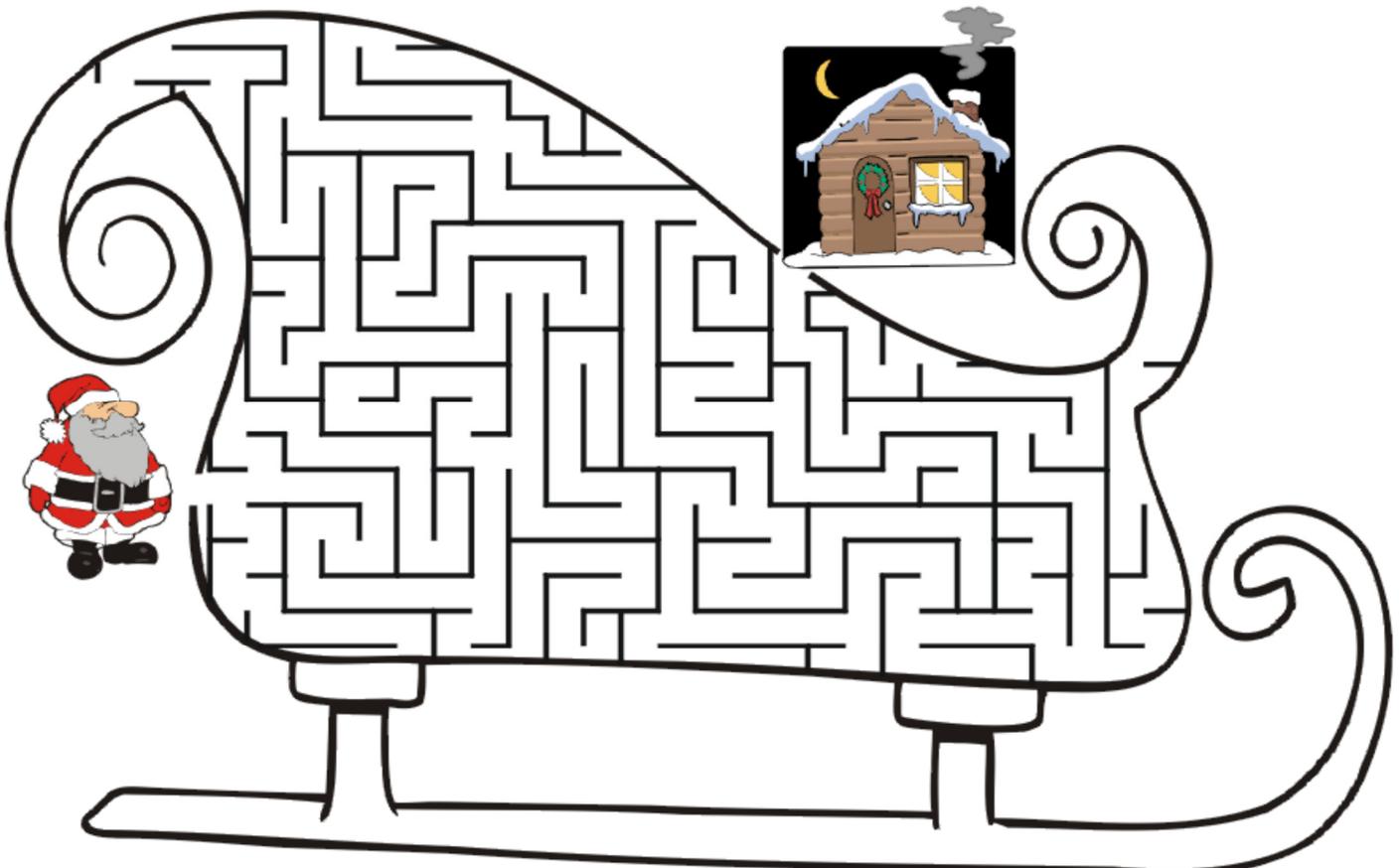
*Gentle exercise to music
to improve balance,
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Fran Nichols 01242 523363

www.getactivefitness.co.uk

[www.facebook.com/
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Help Santa through the Sleigh maze to find the next house to go to.





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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	Caroline Williams Sarah Martin	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.

There will be no Village News in January.

The deadline for the February issue of the Village News is the 16th January.

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
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County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

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Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	Revd. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
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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