

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 473

Date May 2021

Save The Countryside Anniversary Walk

**Celebrating years of strength in our community voice
and a passion for the beautiful place in which we live!**

Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

Sunday 16th May 2pm

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



*For further details contact 07842 163876 (Anne)
or 07770 986078 (Helen)*

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND GROUP

Please join Swindon Parish Council's Facebook page and group for local information and discussion. If you do not have access to the internet you could ask a friend or relative to join on your behalf and share highlights with you.

- **Swindon Parish Council Facebook Page.** A public page for local information and news from the Council:
<https://www.facebook.com/swindonparish>
- **Swindon Parish Community Group.** A private group for discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swindonparishcommunitygroup>
- **Swindon Parish Council website.** For full information from the Parish Council:
<https://www.swindonparish.org.uk/>

If you receive this newsletter then you are living in Swindon Parish.

"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**".

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of **Swindon Parish**, Cheltenham will take place on **Tuesday 4th May 2021** starting at **7:30pm** via Zoom (use meeting id 872 5246 4075, pass code 790413).

The meeting is open to the public and your thoughts and opinions would be welcome. However, in the event of any vote, only electors registered in the Parish of Swindon will be able to participate.

A G E N D A

- Minutes of previous meeting (16th May 2019, no meeting held in 2020 due to the pandemic)
- Matters arising
- Report by Peter Allen, Chairman of Swindon Parish Council, followed by questions
- Report on Swindon Parish Council finances by Shaun Cullimore, Clerk to the Council, followed by questions
- Matters raised by County and Borough Councillors
- Other speakers (to be confirmed, see website nearer the day)
- We are hoping to include Cheltenham planners to discuss the Swindon Farm/Elms Park development)
- We are also hoping to have a representative of the Zwings electric scooter company
- Matters raised by the public

Peter Allen
Chairman of Swindon Parish Council

(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.)

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Having recently recruited another excellent Parish Councillor in Lisa we were saddened to hear that we will be losing Yvonne. We are grateful to Yvonne for her support and thank her for her contribution.

On a number of occasions we have made a plea for more people to come forward and we are now back in bit of a crisis. We should have nine parish councillors, but we only have four. For a meeting to be legal we need at least three councillors present. Also, we have money in the bank and projects that we would like to progress. Our members work full time, so the time they have available for parish council activities is limited. The bottom line: if we had more members, we could spread the workload and get more done. An evening a month is not a huge commitment. The work is interesting and rewarding and you can make a positive difference to the area in which you live. Please let me (or one of the councillors) know without commitment if you feel you might be able to help.

With the easing of restrictions and the successful, ongoing vaccination programme our Coronavirus response is now operating at a very low level. We now only have one active volunteer. We are very proud of the people who rose to the challenge and helped their neighbours. The Borough Council has also actively supported people through its food pantry project and the "No Child Left Behind" programme. Hopefully I will have more on these initiatives next month.

The laws in respect of local government meetings were changed during the pandemic. Local councils cannot normally meet virtually but were allowed to do so at the height of the pandemic. That concession ends on the 6th May so the Parish Council will be returning to face to face meetings from the 11th May meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

The Annual Parish Meeting has to be held between 1st March and 1st June. Again, if we were to hold it after 6th May it would need to be a physical get together. We have taken the decision to schedule the meeting for 4th May and host it virtually using Zoom. The meeting is open to all parish residents and you can attend from your sofa. It is an opportunity to find out what the parish council does. You can simply listen in or you can ask questions and maybe even consider whether becoming a parish councillor is for you.

The planning application for Church Farm is an example of the problems we face as a council with so few members. It is a large, complex application for 260 houses with huge implications for the area. To review it we must divide into different topic areas. Our councillors met virtually on 20th March to come up with a response. The developer was clearly interested in doing the minimum necessary to comply with the law and was submitting an uninspiring scheme with little to recommend it in terms of aesthetics or sustainability or concern for the local area. If we had more councillors we would be able to critically evaluate the plans in greater depth and breadth. Anyway, our views have been submitted and we await developments (literally!).

The Parish Council's financial year has come to an end. An audit has been performed and given us a clean bill of health. All of the end of year documentation will shortly be available on our website and, as always, everything is open to public scrutiny.

The Borough Council has a charter in place with the five Cheltenham parishes. The document sets out the commitments that the Borough Council and the Parish Councils make to each other. It has recently received some minor revisions and is available to anyone who wishes to see it.

There are still two radio masts at the corner of Runnings Road and Wymans Lane. The larger mast is part of the upgrade to 5G. The smaller mast should go once the new equipment is operational. Work was being undertaken the other day so we must be getting closer to a “decluttering”.



The two bus shelters in the ownership of the Parish Council have received a lick of paint and look quite smart again. The bus shelter on Quat Goose Lane also required a minor repair following an argument with a bus (ironic really).

Just to remind you, the Village News is financed by the Parish Council. Any advertising revenues we receive partially offset the cost of printing and everything else is done by volunteers. If you have a local business to advertise or even a personal message you wish to convey please consider advertising in the Village News and support its continued publication. How about a full page proposal of marriage? A very cost effective way of embarrassing your intended.

Last month I promised another train-related article and I have delivered in a way I didn't expect. Sandra wrote to me suggesting another train I could feature. Turning the tables, I asked her how she would feel about writing an article. With grace and courage Sandra rose brilliantly to the challenge. My thanks to Sandra, whose article is elsewhere in this issue, and it means that you can anticipate the train article that I had written in June.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org.uk>

Festival Trade Park

This will be the new name for the former Vibixa site on the corner of Wymans Lane/Runnings Road.

The Parish Council met with representatives of Chancerygate, the owners of the site, in May 2019. The team from Chancerygate discussed their plans and we were able to raise questions and concerns with them.

A planning application was then submitted and approved by Cheltenham Borough Council. Chancerygate designated a project manager, Matthew, who got in touch and offered to meet to discuss the project. Sadly, lockdown intervened but Matthew and I kept in touch by email.

Demolition of the existing buildings on the site was undertaken by a specialist firm. The Parish Council sought, and received, reassurance that the asbestos content of the site would be appropriately dealt with.

Now that demolition is complete the project is moving to the construction phase. Barnwood Construction have been appointed by Chancerygate to build out the site. I met with Paul, Barnwood's Construction Manager, and Mark, their Site Manager to discuss the impending works. Paul has been involved in other developments on the Kingsditch Industrial Estate so is familiar with the area. Mark will be Barnwood's man at the sharp end on a day to day basis.

The Parish Council were keen to understand the plans for the development and to ensure that disruption to local will be minimised. Paul and Mark agreed that the loading and unloading of vehicles will be accommodated on site. Vehicles will not be parked on the pavement (on both Runnings Road and Wymans Lane there is only a pavement on one side of the road). The working hours on the site will be 7:30pm to 5:00pm with minimal weekend working (on Saturday mornings). The work is due to be completed at the end of January 2022. Interestingly, the rubble that was the by-product of the demolition process will be ground down to a smaller grade and reused on site as construction material.

We have been assured that noise and disruption will be kept to a minimum. I will meet with Mark, the Site Manager, from time to time if required. If anyone has any concerns or issues it would be helpful if you could get in touch with me so that the Parish Council can be kept aware. I will pass matters raised on to Mark. Alternatively, you can contact Mark directly. His contact details are on the next page.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to the Parish Council



Our Ref: PF/MD/DJP/3130

12th March 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



Barnwood Construction Limited
203 Barnwood Road
Gloucester, GL4 3HS

Telephone: 01452 614124

Fax: 01452 371061

E-mail: enquiries@barnwood.co.uk

Website: www.barnwoodconstruction.com

Dear Resident

Festival Trade Park

Chancerygate have appointed Barnwood Construction Ltd as Principal Contractor to construct 14 new units Wymans Lane (the old Vibixa Site)

Works are due to commence on 19th April 2021 for a period of 41 weeks.

We will endeavour to avoid any disruption to the surrounding area, but there will be times when there may be a few deliveries and operations that have elevated noise levels, i.e. large vehicles take a while to exit the carriageways, etc. however these are minimal.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of

Barnwood Construction Ltd

Mark Dickson

Site Manager

Tel: 07966 567630

The Editor(s)

It's really great to see others submit an article for inclusion in the Village News and we are hopeful that this is a trend that will continue for many months. If you have a story to tell, please share it. You never know how many people out there will also be interested. We can help you put something together if you are not confident doing so.

We have been contacted by a couple of villagers who have memories of the Gymkhanas, but Katie nor I have managed to chat to them yet. We're very sorry if this is you and we will get to you very soon, but we also have a plan B. See below.....

ROVING REPORTER WANTED!

Do you have a couple of hours spare a month and like chatting to people and writing? We would love someone to help with "interviewing" some villagers who would like to share their memories with us for the Village News.

It might make a good project for school, retirement or something in the middle.

Please contact the Editors for more information.

We received the following comment regarding litter-picking in the village:

"One sunny Sunday in March I came across a young family picking litter from among the bushes in Manor Road, by Spirax Sarco. I would like to express my gratitude to them publicly and I hope that other residents also appreciate their efforts and those of other, unseen, litter-pickers."

Not only do we want to say thank you (both to the anonymous family and our source), but we thought some people may want to get involved in litter picking too!

A group has been set up on Facebook, named "Swindon Village Litter Pickers" by Carol Beasmore. Although I'm sure large events will be organised within the village at some point in the future, this group is for those who wanted to go out on informal litter-picking-adventure in the meantime!

If you do not have access to Facebook but would like to be involved, please contact the editors and we'll point you in the right direction of the events or Carol.

The "MAY DAY" quiz

Another month, another quiz.

As May is littered with bank holidays, all of the answers to this quiz contain the words "MAY" or "DAY".

1. Which large county is located in the province of Connacht, on the west coast of Ireland?
2. Which book, considered to be the first census in the UK, was commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1085?
3. Which UK politician stated in an interview that the "naughtiest" thing they had ever done was to run through fields of wheat as a child?
4. What species of insect are known for their incredibly short lifespans?
5. Which Beatles' song is considered to be one of the most covered songs of all time? It first appeared on the "Help!" album in 1965?
6. Which ancient civilization's famous calendar falsely predicted the end of the world in 2012?
7. Which famous rock guitarist holds a PhD in astrophysics and is also an outspoken animal rights activist?
8. What is the surname of the father-son duo, famous as a poet and an actor known for playing Abraham Lincoln (respectively)?
9. What is the name of the ship that carried some of the first pilgrims from England to "The new World" in 1620?
10. Which American actress and singer is best known for her appearances in the films "Calamity Jane" (1953) and "Pillow Talk" (1959)?

Answers on page 20

St. Lawrence



On the 13th May, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven. It is the crowning event of the Gospels of both St Mark and St Luke, and they help steer us towards our celebration of Pentecost (the celebration of the Holy Spirit) on the 23rd May. The two gospels go on to describe the ‘the mission’ of the disciples, “to go and make disciples of all nations”. The disciples didn’t see themselves particularly worthy of this task, and yet Jesus had great faith in them. The end dialogue in both made me think about our potential to achieve amazing things. I suppose we can view this in all areas of life but perhaps we are most accustomed and exposed to talent and drive in those who are famous.

I have several sporting heroes whose talent I admire, but I have an even higher appreciation of their achievements when I’ve learnt more about their backgrounds. Two of my favourite heroes are ‘Iron’ Mike Tyson, the once undisputed heavyweight-boxing champion of the world, who still holds the record for unifying the WBC, WBA and IBF heavyweight titles at the age of 20. My other sporting hero is snooker’s six times World Champion, seven times Master’s Champion and seven times UK Champion, ‘The Rocket’, Ronnie O’ Sullivan. Both of them have achieved momentous feats in their chosen sports and remain formidable. I’ve come to realise that as well as been gifted they have been spurred on by their private lives too. Both have faced challenges inside and outside their sports and although both are both far from being clean cut individuals, they testify to the ability of the human spirit.

Jesus seems to have used the disciples’ experiences to achieve arguably greater things than they themselves had imagined. Upon Jesus’ departing he asked something great of them because he has faith in them. He asks them to go out and proclaim the Gospel based upon what he knew they could be as well as because of who they had been.

There is a hero that lies in all of us somewhere, but perhaps more importantly, we are known by God to be his heroes. He admires our talents, abilities and tenacity just as much as we admire our own adopted heroes.

Just as we are hoping that the Sun shines upon us during another sporting summer, we too should continue to shine like lights in the world, to the glory of God the Father...

Rev George.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



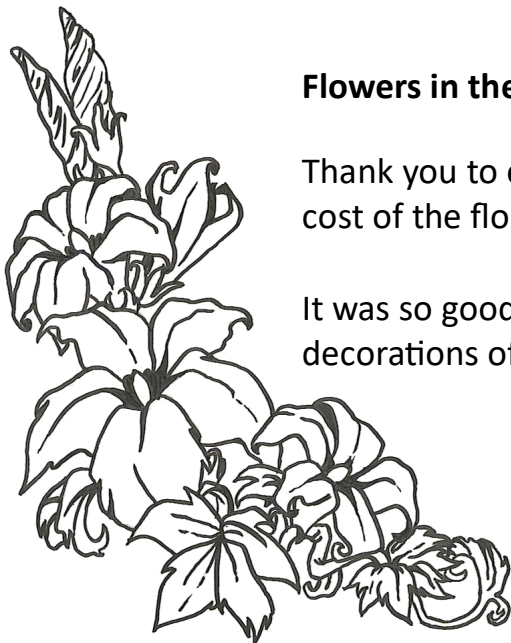
An invitation to join us for a 'socially distanced' short time of reflection for the past year's losses whilst embracing new beginnings.

12:00pm

Sunday 23rd May 2021

St Lawrence Churchyard

ALL ARE WELCOME



Flowers in the church at Easter

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of the flowers in the church at Easter.

It was so good to be able to have our traditional decorations of Easter lilies.

Joan Howes.

Services and Events in May

2	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
5	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
9	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer
12	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
16	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
19	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
23	Sunday	9.15am 12noon 6.30pm	Holy Communion Commemoration and New Beginnings (outdoor service in the church- yard) Evening Prayer
26	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
30	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer

From the registers



Interment of ashes

We gave thanks for the life of

Anthony Jefferies	30th March
Doreen Jones	14th April

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's church, please 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.

Frances Mabel Franklin

It is with great sadness that the family of Frances Franklin announce her sad passing peacefully in her sleep early in the morning of Easter Sunday.

Frances together with her husband George and three children settled in the village in 1964, knowing little about the area or village life coming from the London suburbs. She soon embraced village life whilst living in the heart of Rivelands road, taking on the roll of Head Cook at the old village school at the top of the road whilst supporting George who was instrumental in the revamp of the village hall from the old timber shack that was, to the brick structure in its original form that exists today. She had many a happy evening at the hall, attending the Whist and Beetle drives; helping with jumble sales and charity events; taking her turn serving behind the bar and being involved with the Wine Club and Christmas pantos.

Frances continued to live the village life - sadly without George who passed away in 1980 - until 2016 when unable to safely care for herself went to live out her final years at Bredon View care home in Cheltenham.

She was very happy there and thought of very fondly by the staff.
Frances was 99, four months short of her 'telegram' - en vogue to the end.

She will be missed.



Open Day
30th May 2021

We are a sociable group, new members are always welcome and all ages, from young to senior can enjoy bowls. Why not come and see us on our Open Day, 30th May 2021, or call one of our members on our website? You will find a warm welcome. You can find us behind the cricket ground in Main Street, Overbury, GL20 7NT.

www.overburybowling.net

Wednesday Club

Hello everyone and hope you are all keeping well. The Wednesday Club committee met together for the first time on Friday 9th April to discuss the future of our club.

We will be having a meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7th July when Mr and Mrs Adsett will be coming along to speak to us all. We are unable to provide supper that evening and so will have tea/coffee and biscuits. I will check with the Village Hall Committee to see if there is a limit on numbers and will let you know in the June edition of Village News.

Shirley and I will be leaving the committee at the end of the year. We were supposed to be leaving in December of last year but with lockdown it couldn't happen. At least two new committee members are needed, and if no one comes forward, the club will close at the end of this year. The Wednesday Club can carry on for a couple of years yet as we have money in the kitty. Numbers of members have dropped substantially and despite advertising for new members, no one has joined us.

Some of our members live outside the village and so if you know the telephone number of any of these ladies, please can you let them know about the meeting in July. It is important that as many as possible come along as there is a lot to discuss regarding the future of the Club.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

If anyone would like to speak to a committee member, here are our telephone numbers:

Gill Groves 07712 761557

Margaret Pointing 07837 246352

Rose Morris 07527 095336

Shirley Ruxton 07741 493582

Dark Lane Library has had an upgrade!

We now have a proper bookcase with a wet weather cover so we can leave it out all of the time.

Please do come and visit. The shelves are already full, with more in reserve.

We have heard from the Village Hall that they will be able to accommodate Society meetings from July. We will therefore start working on a programme. I am certainly looking forward to seeing everyone again.

I would think that most members are aware of the building that has taken place on the Manor Farm area behind the church. I think the results are quite pleasing. There has also been an application put in to build more houses between Manor Farm and the brook. This means demolition of the barn and the other outbuildings there but they are in poor condition and it would be difficult to make a case to save them. However, Manor Farm House is a different matter. It does have a fair degree of protection being in the conservation area. However, it seems worthwhile to look for additional safeguards and to this end the society has made an application to the Borough Council to have it added to the list of local buildings worthy of protection. This is because it is a core building in the centre of the historic heart of the village. Only a limited amount is known of its history since it has just been a farm house operating on behalf of the Manor, so not inhabited by the great and the good. However one most useful development is that Stuart Deacon has a photograph of a wooden beam in the attic of the house with the date 1776 carved, or one might say rough hewn, into it. This is presumably the date of construction. An adjacent beam has initials carved into it, presumably those of the builder. This allows a strong case to be made for local listing and conservation.

Certainly when I appeared in the village, the farm was a going concern as a mixed farm, normally with calves in the shed by the side of the footpath and a tractor in front of the house. And then there was the weekly trip to buy eggs from Mrs Davis in her front room. It is still an attractive building and very much a part of the village's history as a farming community for over a thousand years.

Now I must return briefly to parks. Last month I recommended Fiddlers Green Park as worthy of a visit. Error, I meant Hester's Way Park which has The Listening Stones. How do these mistakes happen? Could it be old age creeping on? If only I could remember how old I am it might explain it. One thing I have noticed is that over lockdown, coffee bars have sprung up in four or five parks which did not have them before. There is even a van serving coffee most days up at the three aerials on Cleeve Hill. Welcome entrepreneurship, long may it continue.

We have also pencilled in opening up the village for Heritage Open Days this year. This would entail opening the village to visitors, giving the village history presentation in a suitable location and then conducting walks around the core of the village. The likely date is Saturday 18th September. Heritage Open Days are a national event when many buildings or places of interest which are not normally open to the public are opened. The dates this year are, I think, 12 to 19 September. We have opened Swindon Village before a couple of times and look forward to showing it off again.

Barry Simon

Is the great reopening upon us? And how long a year has it been? With a continued reduction in Covid-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths, things are looking good for a recovery towards some semblance of normality. Whilst vaccination rates have dropped a tad lately due to supply issues, these upsets were inevitable but the road back to our old life seems to be well laid despite the odd pothole. The roadmap to easing lockdown appears to be on track so hopefully we continue to suppress this virus as more of us are vaccinated. Vaccine passports of some kind are a possible feature of international travel but hopefully not here at the Hall!

Meanwhile, we're preparing to reopen the doors as our regular clubs and groups restart and we're being inundated with requests for social bookings. If you're interested in joining our regular groups then please visit our website (svhall.co.uk/groups-clubs) where they are all listed or get in touch with any of us on the committee and we can forward your details to the club. Things have changed a little here since lockdown with the new front door, fire doors and outside sign being the most obvious differences. We have an application in for more grants for further improvements to the facilities which I'll report upon if they come to fruition - I'm quietly hopeful that they will come about but more on that later.

The late May Bank Holiday is our first opportunity to open the bar again for only the second time since lockdown was announced last March. A brief reopening last August enabled us to test a socially distanced table layout, one way system, single toilet access and counter service - with a few minor changes, we hope to be able to repeat the opening and have regular bar nights once more. The day(s) of the opening is still to be decided and we might be having more than just the bar opening. The best way to keep an eye on what we're doing is to follow our Facebook page (search for Swindon Village Hall and give us a follow), we'll post all the details there along with letting our volunteers know via the WhatsApp groups we have - between them all, we should be able to get the word out to you and you could always email us too (swindonvillagehall@gmail.com).

We have a small and eager team of volunteers to help run the bar but we're always keen to add to our numbers - no experience is necessary as you'll be shown everything you need and there'll be an experienced hand to help you along the way.

Do we dare to dream that this nightmare is coming to an end? There may well be localised outbreaks, new variants and unnerving virus news but if we maintain our hygiene standards, have regular testing, support those that need to isolate and continue to fund and develop Covid-19 treatments and vaccines then this virus can be managed. There's always light somewhere no matter how dark it feels.

Ben Williams

Village History

Here are some more details about the old village sign taken from Swindon Village Collection 1, published in 1996.

The original idea came from the late Ken Griffiths, who died in 2006. He and his wife, Brenda, lived in a bungalow in Rivelands Road. I am still in touch with their daughter, Pene.

There was a competition for the design of the sign and this was won by Amy Seabright who lived at Larkfield in Wymans Lane. She died in 1983 and there is a plaque in the Village Hall in her memory.

The sign was made by Mr Richard James Ashman, a retired local government officer and craftsman, who served his apprenticeship at H H Martyn (a well-known local company). He and his wife, June, lived at Fortune Cottage in Church Road. Mr Ashman died in 1989. The cost of the sign was met by public subscription.

The sign was unveiled outside the Village Hall on 29th July 1981 (the wedding day of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer).

The carvings on the sign depicted the Church of St Lawrence as a centrepiece, surrounded by: (in the four quadrants) the Tudor Rose, representing the visit of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to the Village (this never actually happened but it is a local myth as commemorated in Boleyn Cottages); a bow and arrow used in the love story of Maude Bowen, who supposedly lived in the village (not really sure that this is true either, but it is a well-known local legend); a cross, the symbol of pilgrims going to Gloucester Cathedral via the Village (this is definitely true as shown by the pilgrim crosses carved in the doorway of the church) and a pig representing Swindon, originally Swineton noted for its wild pigs (Swindon actually translates as Swine = pig and don = hill, so "pig hill"). The shield immediately below the sign, engraved with the initials CD and the Prince of Wales' feathers commemorates the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. All that is left now is the small shield on the supporting post that carries the initials of the sign's maker, R J Ashman.

The sign, carved in relief, was originally in plain varnished oak. This was at the request of Mr Ashman, who liked the plain oak finish, and it stood unpainted until 1990. There were problems, however, in maintaining the appearance of the varnished surface that weathered badly, leading to the outlines of the carvings rapidly becoming indistinct. Because of this, the Parish Council eventually decided to have the sign painted. The painting was carried out by Mrs Betty Harrison.

Sadly the decision to paint the sign turned out to not solve the problem, as good as it did look after Betty painted it. The sign rotted so badly that it had to be removed for safety reasons. It then stayed for many years in the garage of Hugh and Karen Evans, but eventually had to be disposed of. There have been moves over the years to replace it in a different material but these have so far come to nothing. Incidentally, the Brockhampton village sign, which was made out of metal, has met the same fate and there is no nothing to show that it was ever there.

I have attached photos of the sign at the original unveiling given to me by Marlene Iliffe, and one that was taken by either me or my husband (it was such a long time ago we can't remember which of us took it). I believe that the 3 people by the sign at the unveiling are (left to right) Ken Griffiths, Mr Ashman and Amy Seabright.



Just as a matter of interest, the thing in the village that commemorates the day of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana's son, Prince William, to Kate Middleton is the tree on the playing field that was hit by lightning on the night of the wedding! It now stands as a stark reminder of what lightning can do. The explosion was heard by many people in the area and it caused a lot of damage.

Eileen Allen

Save the Countryside

Spring is upon us and we are really enjoying walks in our beautiful countryside. We are so lucky to have such great walks right on our doorstep as an escape from the house during lockdown.

We are looking forward to our annual walk on Sunday 16th May at 2pm, where we can start off together and meet up mid-way and afterwards. We will easily adjust the event to be Covid-friendly. It will be lovely to see our friends, neighbours and supporters out together again.

Despite an official challenge to our local green space around the village by developers, we have confirmation that it still stands and cannot be contested again. So we are confident that we can work practically with plans to ensure development that occurs in the future complies with this, and that it will be done in a sympathetic manner to our surroundings.

Elms Park phase 1 revised planning application was submitted. This is for the land between Sainsburys and Dog Bark Lane, with access from Manor Road. The demolition of Swindon Farm buildings has already taken place. The revised plans still gave our team some concerns regarding traffic, school, other facilities and building placements. So we raised our formal objection to this, and wait to see if the developer can come up with a more reasonable and manageable detailed plan.

We have not heard any more regarding other phases and wait with anticipation for news which we can share with our community.

Helen Wells

Answers to Quiz #4

1. Mayo
2. (The) Domesday Book
3. Theresa May
4. Mayfly
5. Yesterday
6. (The) Maya(n) civilisation
7. Brian May
8. Day-Lewis (Cecil and Daniel)
9. (The) Mayflower
10. Doris Day

The Flying Banana!

If, like me, you were both intrigued and interested enough by Shaun Cullimore's piece on the Tesco Train (in the march edition of the Village News) to start to look up from the garden as other trains occasionally speed by then may I offer another train of possible interest...the Flying Banana! Because it is bright yellow this is the affectionate nickname of the NMT or New Measurement Train, and it just happens to be the most technically advanced train of its type in the world.



It came into being as a result of the 2000 Hatfield train crash, caused by undetected metal fatigue-induced derailment, tragically killing 4 passengers and injuring more than 70.

The NMT (a converted Intercity High Speed Train) covers 115,000 miles a year at speeds of up to 125mph, pinpointing faults on the line faster, and more accurately, than ever before. Early detection and remedial action helps to prevent serious incidents such as derailments.

Its bottle-nose holds a high-definition camera. Seven other cameras plus lasers and a radio survey system record, in fine detail, the track beneath (to a depth of 6 ft.) as well as overhead power lines. Thanks to this 'flying banana', any problems which would eventually lead to an unscheduled line closure are very rare, as issues can be detected and dealt with in a controlled way.

It's said that if the NMT ran over an old newspaper you'd be able to read the headline if you were watching the onboard camera screen...even at more than 100mph!

Following any line problems detected by the NMT, human track patrols carry out further inspections according to the very specific location data provided...not only life-saving but money-saving too.

A train with similar purpose and similar bright yellow livery operates in Japan under the name of 'Doctor Yellow'. The schedule for this train is not made public so it is believed to bring good luck to anyone fortunate enough to catch a glimpse. Our own NMT criss-crosses all the main lines every 4 weeks (last seen flying through Swindon Village on Good Friday) not only covering those 115,000 miles a year but also recording so much image data that it could fill 35 CDs per mile.

If you fancy climbing aboard this (virtually at least), and joining the crew as they analyse the information delivered to their screens, then the Network Rail website has a very informative video of this very special train.

Sandra Edgington



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Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers		info@1sv-scouts.co.uk
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	swindonvillagehall@gmail.com 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.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
Please send contributions to the editors via
Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

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	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
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Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

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Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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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