

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

Your local newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council and delivered by volunteers.

July / August 2023 Edition No.495

Upcoming Events

JULY

Monday 10th Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19th Swindon Village Society. Talk –

‘The History of Brockhampton’ Village Hall
7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

**Sunday 30th Litter Picking. Meet at the Cross Hands at
10:30am**

AUGUST

Monday 7th Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday 16th Swindon Village Society. The Annual
Garden Party at 3, Swindon Hall.
7.00pm. Members only**

SEPTEMBER

Monday 11th Parish Council Meeting

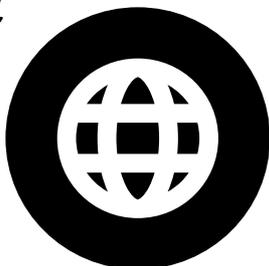
**Wednesday 20th Swindon Village Society. ‘The Gloucester
Regiment at the Battle of Imjin River’. An
important battle in the Korean War. By Dr
Tim Brian Village Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors
welcome.**



A Connected Community!



Using your phone's camera to hover over each QR Code square below for direct link access.



Parish Council Website

For full, detailed information from and about the Parish Council visit www.swindonparish.org.uk



Parish Council Facebook Page

A public page for live information and news updates from the council:
www.facebook.com/swindonparish



Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

A private group for the discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help in the local community.



Anti-Social Behaviour

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



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

NB: Get an INCIDENT REPORT NUMBER and let the parish know about it. If the police are not made aware of the problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM.



A Note From The Editor

This is my last Village News, so Mum has kindly given me the editorial slot to say goodbye.

After 25 years I am leaving the village. I have lived here since I was born, attended the primary school and spent much of my childhood in and around the park and woodlands down Dog Bark Lane. I've written before about how this was a great place to grow up; I didn't realise until recently how lucky I was to have the freedom to roam so much open space as a child and teenager.

But the time has come for me to go. I have already left once before, when I moved up North for university, but after four years away, the pandemic brought me back home- as it did for many people my age. This time I'm moving with a bit more of a plan in mind. I have recently qualified as a teacher and will be starting my first job in September as a chemistry teacher in Bristol.

Although I'll no longer be writing my regular quiz for the parish newsletter, I'll be back with one last "pub" quiz at the village hall some time in the Autumn, and I'm sure I'll send mum the occasional "guest writer" quiz every now and again!

Good luck for my last regular quiz, and hopefully see you at the village hall quiz in a few months.

Goodbye,

Katie



Swindon Parish Council

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

There have been many complaints about the conduct about the company engaged to install fibre optic cable across the town. A degree of disruption is inevitable but what we have seen is intolerable. Another contractor has been brought in to assist. Companies require a licence to close roads. The licence requires a contractor to stick to an agreed timescale. When their work is complete, they should also properly reinstate the pavements and highways after they have filled in their trenches. In the past the “making good” has not been very good at all, resulting in yet more potholes and costs for repairs which are paid by us, the public. The County Council is now working to ensure that utility companies are held accountable. Those that overrun their permitted time or otherwise breach the terms of their licence can expect to be penalised.

I participated in the June litter pick. The people that get involved are a lovely, friendly bunch. Sharon and Ruth lead our efforts. It was very hot so we only put in an hour. Actually there wasn't a huge amount of litter about. There have been many sports teams, both senior and junior, training in the park. It was brilliant to see that they had left virtually no rubbish behind!



Here are this month's crew. After the pick Barry kindly invited us to his for a very welcome soft drink.

The next litter pick will start at the Cross Hands at 10:30am on 30th July starting at the Cross Hands. We hope to see more of our folk from south of the Tewkesbury

Road. Come and meet some nice people!



Swindon Parish Council

In walking round the area it is clear that the burgeoning vegetation is now taking over many of our footpaths. We need to be careful not to disturb nesting birds at this time of year. That aside, we should all do what we can to ensure that people can walk in safety and not be forced into the road.

Building at Manor Farm has been moving rapidly forward.

The Parish Council continues to monitor the planning applications for Swindon Farm and Home Farm and to engage with the planners as appropriate.



The proposed revised electoral arrangements that will see the parish split into two wards also contained population projections. The ward (which is bigger than the parish) is expected to go from 3811 residents to 5196 in 2028, an increase in population of 36%. That is a measure of the effect the coming housing developments will have.

The Parish Council has succeeded in getting a grant towards the purchase of the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council. This will secure the car park for the foreseeable future. We still have all the legal formalities to complete.

The Sundial Mosaic in the park is receiving some TLC, in particular from Barry and Julia. Careful weeding has been done and the mosaics are being restored. In the longer term we will try to find a way to make the installation more robust.



Swindon Parish Council

Plans are being discussed to include a bus lane along the Tewkesbury Road as part of the M5 Junction 10 changes. No doubt there will be a public consultation on this at some point.

We have had another tree fall in the Amenity Area close to the bridge over the stream on Manor Road. An arborist has taken a look and will be providing advice. I will then complete the planning application to get the required tree works done. By the way, do you know the difference between an arboriculturalist, an arborist and a tree surgeon? I didn't. The first two terms are interchangeable; they are titles for people who are experts in tree management. A tree surgeon is the guy who actually wields the chainsaw, i.e. the dangerous bit!

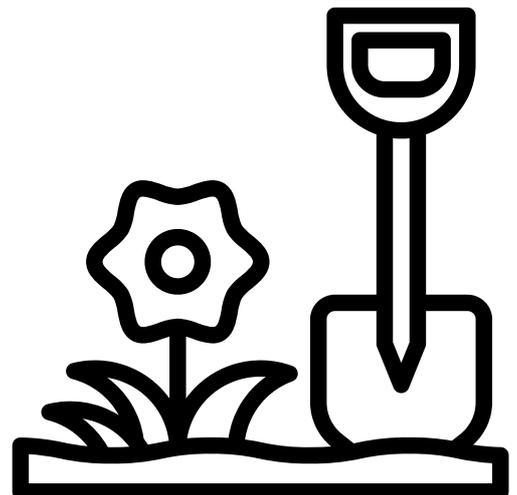
Ian Brown, our long standing volunteer Allotments Manager, is standing down. Ian has done a tremendous job collecting allotment rents and maintaining the allotments. Because of Ian's diligence very little effort and expense has been required of the Parish Council. A massive thank you to you Ian. Chas Pearce will take over the role.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Would anyone be willing / able to start a gardener's diary to publish monthly from September?

Ideally this would include help for novice gardeners eg what to plant in the month and jobs that need doing - pruning compost etc.

If you could spare the time and would like more details, please contact the Editor, details inside back cover.





Community Litter Pickers



Sundays 10.30-12pm

30th July- starting from Cross Hands pub on Tewkesbury Rd



Swindon Village Scouts

Swindon Village Scout Group has always thrived in the village with the support of local families, many of which have sent their siblings to the Beavers, Cub and Scouts groups and have since grown into adults and have then sent their own children.

Unfortunately from September, we will be unable to offer a place at beavers for the 6-8 year olds as our current Beaver Leader has had to step down. As such we are looking for a team of enthusiastic adults to take up this rewarding role and continue Beavers in the village. All support and training will be provided, if you are interested please get in touch. Email is inside the back cover.



St. Lawrence's Church

Do you have a noisy suitcase?

Did you know holidaymakers are being banned from wheeling their suitcases across cobbled streets in parts of Europe because of the noise and environmental damage? A fully packed suitcase might weigh 3-4 stones and you realise how important those castor wheels are.

There is another individual who has been moving something of a very similar weight around the world on just a single castor wheel in his travels for the last few decades. His name is Arthur Blessitt, and he carries a cross over countries and continents and has now done so around the whole earth. It is a fitting surname for a devout Christian who feels he was asked by God to expand his fairly modest trips carrying his cross locally in America, to embrace cross-carrying around the world.

On his website, Arthur writes: “This is the 56th year of me carrying the cross around the world in every nation. 1968-2023. The Guinness World Record for the longest walk/pilgrimage. Over 43,340 miles (69,748 km) in 324 countries, island groups and territories. 86 million steps and over 19 billion pounds of total weight carried. Sharing Jesus, the cross and the gospel message. My wife Denise has driven in front with supplies and has been with me in 294 countries. We are just pilgrims, donkeys lifting up the cross and Jesus. God bless you.”

If, like me, you are someone who struggles to get their shopping trolley to go in the right direction at Sainsbury's, this is astonishing stuff. In his early days, I think Arthur wore out the base of several crosses (one of which weighed 8 ½ stones) before hitting on the bright idea of the castor wheel offering vastly easier transportation and fewer jolts on uneven ground.

He is best seen in action meeting people with the cross on his shoulder. On YouTube, you might like to have a look at ‘The Cross, The Arthur Blessitt Story, posted by Arthur and Denise Blessitt’. This is an approach to faith-sharing very far from the televangelists of the 1980s and 1990s, at work. You see a humble, modest man coming



St. Lawrence's Church

alongside strangers, sharing what Jesus has done for him and that they are loved beyond measure by a caring God. The genial goodness of the man can leave a lump in the throat!

Arthur goes on to emphasise the impact of cross-carrying. “The physical act of carrying a cross causes a sensation – people remember where and when it was that they saw you, even if they did not speak to you.” He has been arrested 24 times and, ironically, he is most likely to be detained in his own country, the United States, rather than anywhere else. He adds: “At a McDonald’s, at Yellowknife, N.W. Territories, while we ate, the manager ran out front, grabbed my cross and rushed to the garbage container to throw it away as trash! July 3, 2012. No happy meal if you brought your cross”. In Europe, while Holland had the best roads, it was there that hostility was at its height.

If you’re having trouble with a suitcase this summer, spare a thought for Arthur Blessitt, an amazing man who has changed countless lives.

Revd Nick Bromfield
Team Rector

St. Lawrence’s Church

Chatterbox



Every Tuesday
10.30am to 12noon



Pop in any time
Coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about anything and everything.

Everyone’s welcome, old or new.

(It’s free!)



St. Lawrence's Church

Praise in the Park

We were certainly blessed with sunshine for Praise in the Park, with some people feeling it necessary to shelter in the shade of the nearest tree.

Around 70 people from Swindon Village and Prestbury joined in singing a mix of well-known traditional hymns and newer worship songs, accompanied by the wonderful band of the Salvation Army – the true sound of outdoor praise. To give the band a bit of breathing space, Nick, Revd. Bromfield, our Team Rector, gave us a bit of background to some of the hymns; we also had a reading from the Bible and a passage from Winnie-the-Pooh, all against the gentle beat travelling on the breeze from the Wychwood Festival at the racecourse!

Afterwards, tea and cake was served in the Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone who helped that day, especially the band, the bakers and the furniture movers.

Karen Evans

From the registers



Marriages

*We celebrated the marriage of
Ellisa Costigane and Joe Marques*



St. Lawrence's Church

 North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

St. Lawrence's Church
Swindon Village

Regular Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10.30am Together @ Ten Thirty all-age worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

All other Sundays:

9.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday:

10.00am to 12noon Church open for private prayer

(Services are subject to change at short notice;
contact the Churchwardens if you want to check.)

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.

The office is not currently staffed regularly but phone calls and emails are being picked up. Contact the Office on 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact the clergy by email:

Revd. Nick Bromfield, Team Rector nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
or via the office.



The Swindon Village Society

In May, Peter Petrie came to give us a talk on how to build a Medieval Cathedral. However, he didn't really, because the building that is now Gloucester Cathedral was not built as such. What they were building back then, not long after the Normans had turned up, was an Abbey Church. It was built for the Benedictines who were a closed order. It was not until Henry VIII's spat with the Pope in the mid sixteenth century that it became a Cathedral. Henry was then in the process of knocking down or repurposing all the abbeys, but because King Edward II was buried there he wasn't going to knock down the Abbey Church. He thought it would be bad precedent to knock down a church with a king in it. So it was then that the diocese of Gloucester was created and the old abbey became a cathedral. Until then we had all been part of the diocese of Worcester. It always seems strange to think that one of our more useless kings, Edward II, well after his death, still managed to save the fantastic building that is Gloucester. Anyway we did learn much about how to build a magnificent church. One thing that did surprise me was that they did not use scaffolding. The pillars and wall were so thick or broad that they were their own scaffolding. If you were building a pillar you would lay down a large circle of proper faced stone. Then you would fill the middle with rubble and you could stand on the rubble while you built the next few courses of stone before more rubble went in. Steadily the pillar rose to full height. Now, you did need some pretty good ladders and some very good hoists to get the stuff higher and higher but no scaffolding. The walls were built in a similar fashion.

On to July. I'm afraid it is me giving the talk on 'The History of Brockhampton'. That is to say on our Brockhampton, not the one up in the Cotswolds. The talk also includes quite a bit about Southam, Bishops Cleeve and even Elmstone Hardwick. Each year those who do the Village Walk, stroll along Lowdilow Lane in Elmstone Hardwick. If you do take the walk you will have heard the origins of that name but non-walkers can catch up by coming to the talk.



The Swindon Village Society

August will be our usual garden party; a glass of cheap lukewarm fizzy or a cup of tea while staring apprehensively at the gathering rain clouds from our garden. If necessary we can move indoors. Just suspend belief and turn up but you have to be a member. So if you find the above scenario just too tempting to ignore- join now. Then on to September and Dr Tim Brain will tell us about the battle of Imjin River and when many of the Gloucester Regiment were captured fighting a heroic rearguard action.

New members are always welcome and visitors are welcome at any meeting for £2. We will be glad to see you.

Barry Simon

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show

Locally Grown Plants for Sale from several nurseries.
Many stalls: Garden Sundries, Cakes, Greetings Cards, Books,
Locally Produced Jams and Pickles. Refreshments available.

WHERE: Pittville Pump Room

WHEN: Sunday 20th August 2023 12.30pm to 3.30pm

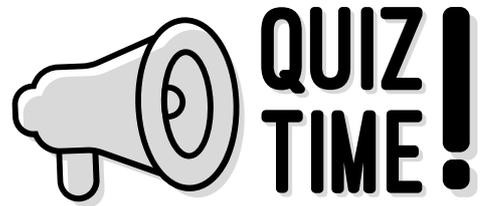
ADMISSION: Adults £2.50, Children under 16 – Free

cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





Quiz #26



The Last Quiz - After two and a half years living back in the village, the time has come for me to leave. And as I go, so must the quiz! To celebrate (?) here is a quiz focussed on a series of “lasts”.

And for those who don't know what they'll do without my monthly questions, fear not! I shall be organising a “proper” pub quiz at the village hall sometime in the Autumn...

For the last time, good luck!

1. What was the name of the last studio album released by the Beatles in 1970?
2. Which Irish writer's famous last words were supposedly “either the wallpaper goes, or I do” in 1900?
3. What is the last surviving of the original seven wonders of the world?
4. Which team won the final season of the old first division in the 1991-1992 season?
5. What was the last Horcrux destroyed in the final Harry Potter book?
6. When listed alphabetically, which country comes last?
7. Which Australian comedian presents “The Last Leg”?
8. What was special about Derek Redmond's final place finish in the 400m at the 1992 summer olympics?
9. Which band sang about “Our Last Summer” in 1980?
10. “Sleepless in Peckham” is the final episode of which long-running British sitcom, released in 2003? It was released as a Christmas special 12 years after the series proper ended.

HOLIDAY TIME!

As is traditional, we break for the summer and have a month off, so the Village News returns in September.

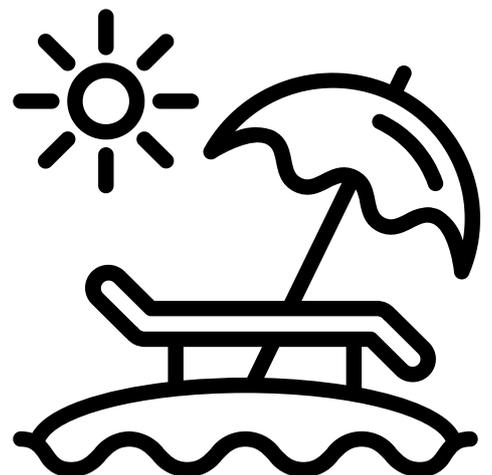
One of my memories of going back to school in September was the inevitable "What I did in the holidays" essay. Nowadays, you will see posts on Facebook adorned with photos of glamorous holidays, but I'm much more old school.

Why not share your tales of holidays past and present? It doesn't have to be about this year's break, or about exotic destinations. If you have a memory of a special holiday or place you've visited please let us know. If you'd rather not write it yourself, we can have someone "interview" you.

If we have enough interest, we will spread them over a few issues to keep us feeling warm well into Winter. Unless it's a ski-ing holiday of course!

Karren

Travel





Swindon Village Arts & Craft Club

Well we had another successful Art Exhibition with a steady flow of people enjoying some really good work by our members; tea and lovely cakes, and a raffle raised much needed funds. One of our newer members - Julie - got the most votes for the picture of her dog - well done Julie and an afternoon we enjoyed by all.

We're having a break now to enjoy some lovely sunny weather hopefully until 7th September when we meet again. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to join the club,

Happy summer,

Helen Dicks 07817581223





Swindon Village Hall

Summer holidays are almost here and we are looking forward to have a little bit of break.

There is not much to report on behalf of village hall. We have managed to sort out repointing of the back of the building and a few other maintenance jobs over the summer months. Hopefully we will manage to resolve the installation of the new heating system in preparation for this winter too. After this we can look to get the hall being repainted and give it a fresh look.

The bar nights continue to be busy, but please remember that we can only run those enjoyable evenings with your support and we are always on look out for volunteers to help. No experience is needed. There is absolutely no pressure and you will have support from us to get your confidence behind the bar. Recently, we have been splitting the bar shifts to 3 hour sessions which leaves everyone free enjoy some socialising themselves.

We have purchased a pool table and football table for your enjoyment and will put it out for all to play as soon as we sort out the storage. We also have some shelves with board games. It has been lovely to see some families enjoying them. If you have any spare games lurking in a corner at home, we'd be happy to rehome them.

Have a great summer and we will hopefully see you on a Friday night.

Jana.





Bekah's Bites

Jerk Marinade

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp ground allspice
- 1 tbsp black pepper
- ½ tbsp muscovado sugar
- 2 tbsp runny honey
- ½ - 1 tbsp Olive oil
- 2 finely chopped spring onions
- ½ tbsp parsley dried or fresh (chopped)
- ½ tbsp coriander dried or fresh (chopped)
- Lime juice
- 1 tbsp chili flakes – I normally add 1 ½ for extra spice
- 1 garlic clove – I try to use the biggest I can find
- 3cm ginger or dried equivalent (¾ tbsp?)



This makes enough to cover 4 chicken thighs or equivalent
I'm sure not a traditional recipe but it tastes good and is easy to adjust the spice levels.

I normally add it to chicken or mushrooms, but I imagine would be nice on tofu or maybe even halloumi – will definitely be trying this.

I like to serve with oily, garlic, chili and salt spaghetti but would work with anything, rice and peas, chips or even as a salad topping.

Enjoy

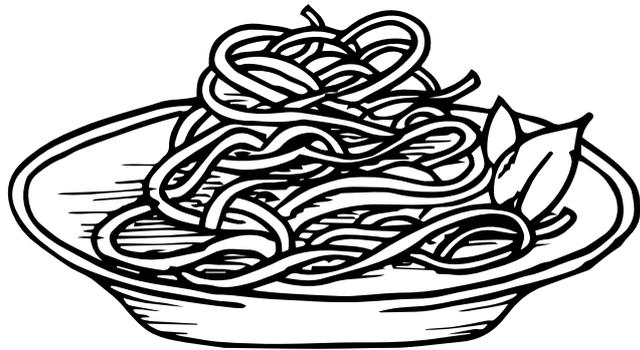
Method

1. Mix all the ingredients together in an oven proof dish except the lime juice together,

start with less olive oil and see how dry the mixture is.

2. Mix your chosen food into the mixture and cook. My chicken is normally cooked in 25-30 minutes.

3. Once on your plate drizzle with some lime juice and enjoy!



Kerry Nailed It!

Qualified & insured nail technician located in a home-based studio in Swindon Village.

Offering gel manicures, pedicures and specialising in nail-art.
Gift vouchers are available.

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@kerrynailedit



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Contact Pushpa for any further information on

07873575560

01242 250691

Email: pushpa@pwfootcare.co.uk

Website: pwfootcare.co.uk



Answers

1. Let it be
2. Oscar Wilde
3. Great Pyramid of Giza
4. Leeds United
5. Nagini (the snake)
6. Zimbabwe
7. Adam Hills
8. His father helped him
across the line
9. ABBA
10. Only Fools and Horses

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Yoga & Relaxation

UCKINGTON VILLAGE HALL Wed 7.00-8.15pm

PRESTBURY WI HALL Thur 9.30-10.45am

Book a Taster session & experience the benefits

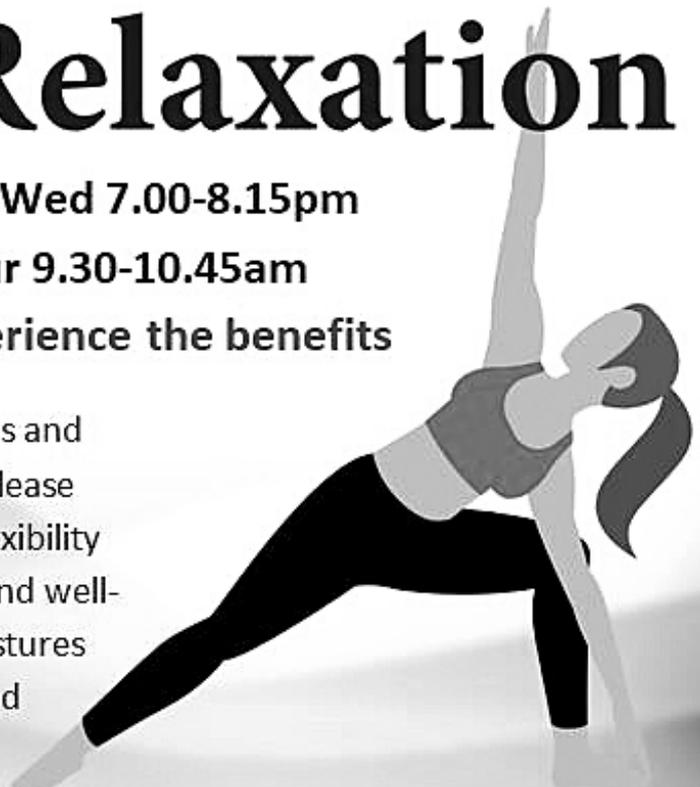
Yoga is a great antidote to the demands and pressures of modern life. It helps to release physical and mental tension, develop flexibility and stamina, and promote calm, clarity and well-being, through the practice of yoga postures (asana), breathing (pranayama) and relaxation techniques.

Plus classes in Winchcombe & Tewkesbury

Contact Sandra 01242 572068 Email info@sandralewisyyoga.co.uk

British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

www.sandralewisyyoga.co.uk





Revised waste collection dates for Spring and Summer bank holiday 2023

Normal Collection Day Revised Collection Day

Monday 29 May 2023 Tuesday 30 May 2023

Tuesday 30 May 2023 Wednesday 31 May 2023

Wednesday 31 May 2023 Thursday 1 June 2023

Thursday 1 June 2023 Friday 2 June 2023

Friday 2 June 2023 Saturday 3 June 2023

Normal collections resume Monday 5 June 2023

Monday 28 August 2023

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Wednesday 30 August 2023

Wednesday 30 August 2023

Thursday 31 August 2023

Thursday 31 August 2023

Friday 1 September 2023

Friday 1 September 2023

Saturday 2 September 2023

Normal collections resume Monday 4 September 2023

SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths John Heathcott 527753
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers info@1sv-scouts.co.uk

Rainbow Guider Hannah Butler 07464 784155

Village Hall Chair Jana Bridger 07913 911930
swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
www.svhall.co.uk

Village Hall Booking Secretary Jana Bridger 07514 594351

Play Group (Playgroup hours) 690479

Winemakers' Secretary Roy Harper 662861

School Headteacher Geraint Mills 690016

Friends of the School Caroline Williams chairfosvps@gmail.com
Sarah Martin

Art & Crafts Club Lynne 07515 461876

Swindon Village Society Barry Simon 521723

Mary Godwin Under 5s (Playgroup hours) mgu5@hotmail.co.uk

Marle Hill W.L. Sara Jefferies 07477894639 / 692500

Save The Countryside Helen Wells 07770 986078

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations. We have had a request to provide contact details for the classes held at the hall. We are currently compiling this and hope to include it next month.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th August 2023

Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons
at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. James Cornish (Chairman) | 07950 196709 |
| Clr. Helen Wells | 220875 or 07770 986078 |
| Cllr. Lisa Whitaker | 07715 470842 |
| Clr. Sharon Collicutt | 07884 184423 |
| Cilr. Natalie Blankley | 07725 948935 |
| Clr. Alison Berry | 07754 006634 |
| Clr. Lynne Allen | 07979 890134 |

Vacancy 1 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)

Vacancy 2 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)

Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council) 07833 089435
parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

Cheltenham Borough Councillors

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Clr. Flo Clucas | 255844 |
| Cllr. Bernard Fisher | 07523 421012 |

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher 07523 421012

Allotments Manager

Ian Brown 528683

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

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector: Revd. Nick Bromfield,.....nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk

Churchwardens: Hugh Evans,241678

May Shurmer..... 241033

Tower Captain: Hugh Evans,.....241678

Organist: John Collins.....511950

North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office

St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, 244373
Cheltenham GL50 4PA admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or the Parish Council.