

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 399

November 2013

November

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Monday | 4 | Joint Core Strategy exhibition 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Civil Service Club, Tewkesbury Road |
| Monday | 4 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM |
| Wednesday | 6 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Nonny James Circle of Life |
| Sunday | 10 | Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial 10.55am |
| Tuesday | 12 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session |
| Wednesday | 20 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
"Cheltenham and the Cotswolds in the 1920s" plus a display of
"Special Houses". Visitors welcome. |
| Saturday | 23 | Winter Fair - Swindon Village School 2.00pm - 4.00pm |
| Wednesday | 27 | Swindon Village Winemakers - Village Hall Wine tasting |

December

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Monday | 2 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Glenda Ford - Christmas Cookery |
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club Christmas party - Members only |
| Saturday
& Sunday | 7
8 | Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence Church 11am - 5pm |
| Tuesday | 10 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session |

(Full minutes of all meetings are displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish website. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)

In the previous issue of the Village News I mentioned that, despite strong opposition, the councils of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester had approved the draft Joint Core Strategy (JCS) for release and a period of public consultation will end on the 26th November. The document proposes the release of large areas of greenbelt for major housing development. The document is available on line but there are also a number of public presentation events planned. The most convenient for many in this parish will be the one at the Civil Service Club on Tewkesbury Road on 4th November from 6:00pm. Everyone will be affected to some degree by what is being proposed. There will need to be further consultation into the new year as data is still being collected for issues such as traffic management. Whether we are for it or against it we should all take the trouble to stay informed and to express our opinions. Meanwhile, the developers are likely to seek outline planning consent for the thousands of houses that they wish to build within and around our parish. The pace is quickening. Expect to hear more in each issue of Village News.

At its last meeting the Parish Council was addressed by a Community Ranger from Green Space Development. It might sound as if we had a visitor from another planet; in fact the lady in question was from the Borough Council. There are plans to plant a mixture of flowers in the park between the path and Wyman's Lane. Scientifically this is known as increasing biodiversity. To the rest of us it means flowers to enjoy and an environment friendly to butterflies and bees. The bees in particular have had a thin time of it in recent years so I am sure they will welcome this initiative!

Other potential improvements to the park were discussed. It may be possible to do further planting, some of which could be associated with next year's commemoration of the start of World War I. Also, the future of the "lightning tree" needs to be decided and the path through the park by the brook could be improved by thinning the overgrown vegetation. Funding will need to be found from somewhere for these further initiatives and money is hard to find at present. The park is a wonderful local resource and the Parish and Borough Councils will co-operate to ensure it remains as such.

The County Council gave us notice of dates when some of our roads would be closed for highway maintenance. We publicised them in good faith only to see the dates changed. Apologies if you were inconvenienced by this, but it was beyond our control. Apparently it was discovered that drainage work was required before the road surface repairs could be done. The drainage work has now been completed. A new set of dates for the carriageway repairs has been provided (see elsewhere in this issue); let's hope the County Council sticks to them. We need the repairs to Runnings Road and Kingsditch Lane to be made before the bad weather sets in as that would make major repairs impossible and cause further deterioration. We have had some

success in getting repairs done; a hole in the road outside the school and a deep dip outside Evans Cycles have both been attended to. Anyone can report road defects via the County Council web or by telephone.

Finally, getting more involved in local matters has brought it home to me how much goes on behind the scenes in the parish. Some of us recently attended the quiz night at the Village Hall. For a nominal price we were offered wonderful food, a very entertaining quiz and a licensed bar. We all said our “thank you”s on the night but events like these can only take place because a lot of people are happy to put themselves out for their neighbours. Once again a big thank you to all involved.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Temporary road closures

Gloucestershire County Council have notified us of the following planned road closures for resurfacing work to be carried out by Gloucestershire Highways.

This is the best information at the time of publication and is subject to change.

Hyde Lane will be closed from **23rd November to 8th December 2013**.

Runnings Road will be closed between **8pm and 6am from 4th to 8th November**.

Kingsditch Lane / Wymans Lane will be closed between **8pm and 6am from 11th to 15th November** and from **18th to 23rd November**.

If you should require further information please contact Chris Riley at Gloucestershire Highways on **08000 514514**.

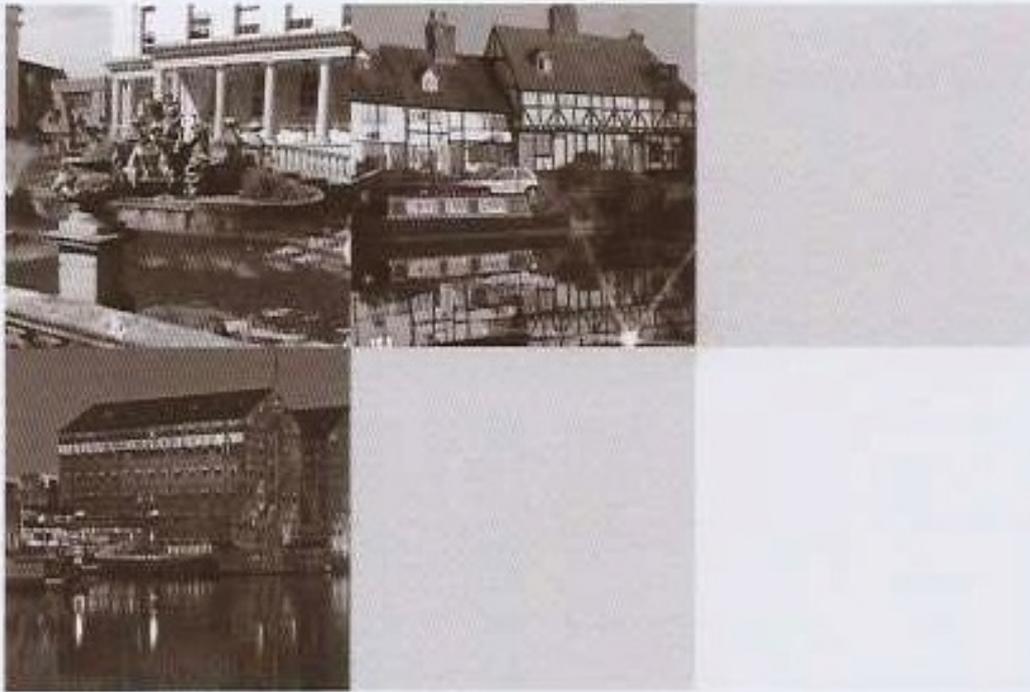
Swindon Village Allotments

A meeting was held on Monday 9th September in the bar of the Village Hall which was attended by a large gathering of both Parish Councillors and Allotment Holders. Many good issues were raised by both parties and it was agreed that it should become an annual event.

There are no vacant plots at the moment but any person wishing to become an allotment holder could contact me by phone on **528683**.

Ian Brown

Allotments Manager



HAVE YOUR SAY

The Joint Core Strategy sets out the amount, location and guiding principles for new development in the area until 2031. The Strategy is at a draft stage so now is the time to comment. Consultation starts on **Tuesday 15 October** and finishes on **Tuesday 26 November 2013**.

HOW CAN YOU COMMENT?

The full version of the Draft JCS is available on our website at www.gct-jcs.org

You can submit your comments online via the JCS website or fill in a response form available at the exhibition events of from the three council offices.

Please drop into one of our exhibition events to find out more:

Place & Venue	Date	Time
Ashchurch Village Hall	Thurs 17 Oct	6 - 8:30pm
Leckhampton Village Hall	Sat 19 Oct	2:30 - 5pm
Bishop's Cleeve Primary School	Mon 21 Oct	6 - 8:30pm
Innsworth Community Hall	Tues 22 Oct	6 - 8:30pm
Shurdington Social Centre	Thurs 24 Oct	6 - 8:30pm
Cheltenham Regent Arcade	Fri 25 Oct	12:30 - 3pm
Winchcombe Abbey Fields Community Centre	Wed 30 Oct	6 - 8:30pm
Cheltenham Civil Service Club Uckington	Mon 4 Nov	6 - 8:30pm
Brockworth Community Centre	Thurs 7 Nov	5:30 - 8pm
Gloucester Eastgate Shopping Centre	Fri 8 Nov	12:30 - 3pm
Churchdown GL3 Community Hub	Sat 9 Nov	12:30 - 3pm
Tewkesbury Town Hall	Tues 12 Nov	12:30 - 3pm
Apperley Village Hall	Wed 13 Nov	6 - 8:30pm
Alderton Parish Hall	Thurs 14 Nov	6 - 8:30pm

Over the same time period the Tewkesbury Borough Plan is beginning to be prepared and comments are invited on what it should contain. There will be officers at all of the events within Tewkesbury Borough to answer any queries.

Officers from the Joint Core Strategy team will be available at each of the exhibition events to help explain the plan's proposals and help you with any queries.

A scary future for Swindon Village?



Dear Neighbours,

We are at our final hurdle to protect our greenbelt land around Cheltenham.

So it's now more than ever that we need everyone to be reminded of what is going on and how to let your voice be heard... We should have a fair say – after all don't we live in a democracy?

Save the Countryside have worked closely with the Joint Core Strategy team (JCS) at the Council to encourage them to follow the promises of our government and protect greenbelt land.

So far, despite being given valid arguments, the team and Councillors voted to push forward a 20 year housing development strategy to final consultation.

It includes:

- A largely over estimated calculation of population and housing needed
- A push to develop protected greenbelt and greenfield land, or move the greenbelt for convenience
- No assurance that derelict vacant or previously developed land will be developed or regenerated before greenbelt is built on.

It is the opinion of Save the Countryside and many others that the plan has been heavily influenced by developers who of course want to maximize profits and will always prefer the cheaper option to build on a green field.

Soon we will have a planning application for an enormous development called Elms Park that will engulf our village and the greenbelt land around it.

The Council and their Joint Core Strategy team (JCS) invite us to see their plans at the times below for the whole town including this development which will be 5 times the size of our village.

We urge you to attend and make your feelings known.

Our closest venue is below, but please visit www.gct-jcs.org/ for other dates.

(Details are also elsewhere in this magazine.)

Monday 4th November 18:00 - 20:30 at Cheltenham Civil Service Club, Uckington.

Below are a few key concerns from our team and shared by many.

- This is the UK's biggest ever greenbelt incursion – this will set a precedent nationwide if allowed.
- According to accurate population projections from the office of national statistics - the team who manage the census information - we don't need the volume of housing proposed. But the JCS team are using their own data.
- The JCS Team don't have the sense of urgency to regenerate derelict land first. This is not fair for our town and countryside – some good development has taken place (e.g. Midwinter Allotment site) but many other sites are ignored e.g. Folly Lane where there has been a 5 year delay.
- According to our politicians it is the law that we must develop brownfield sites first. But the JCS team don't seem to want to do this.
- Such a massive development will cripple the existing infrastructure
- Road, flood protection, sewerage, health care.
- This land is currently used for food production – it is good quality farmland and should not be wasted for developers' profits.
- Do we even need to mention there is a toxic waste site right next door!

We could go on and on... but we just ask you to please let your views be heard by the team for this consultation and on the anticipated planning application.

The Consultation runs until 26th November; please do respond with your comments – all details on how to do this, and all the documents are on www.gct-jcs.org/

Please also sign our online petition – we want to take this issue right to the top as we did before, but need thousands of signatures again.

Simply search for ***Save Cheltenham Greenbelt petition*** and you'll find it!

Many thanks for your support.

Helen Wells and the Save the Countryside team.

Winter opening times for Cheltenham's recycling centre and public toilets

As the nights begin to draw in and the clocks go back, the opening hours for the Swindon Road Recycling Centre and council run public toilets will also change. The winter opening times come into play from Sunday 27 October for the recycling centre and Monday 28 October for the public conveniences.

The recycling centre on Swindon Road is a popular facility which handles nearly 7,500 thousand tonnes of the borough's waste each year. Almost 75 per cent of the tonnage of waste brought through the centre is recycled and this makes up 28 per cent of Cheltenham's total annual recycling tonnage.

The winter opening hours for Swindon Road Recycling Centre are:

Mondays to Fridays	7.30am to 6.30pm
Saturdays	7.30am to 4pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays	9am to 1pm.

The opening hours for public toilets in the town centre and town centre parks change from Monday 28 October. The toilets will be unlocked a little later in the morning and locked earlier each afternoon during the winter months. Each public convenience around the borough varies so please visit our website for times.

Scott Williams, strategic client officer at Cheltenham Borough Council, says: "We would like to remind our customers of the new opening times for both the Swindon Road Recycling Centre and our public toilet facilities. We make these changes every year for the winter season to reflect the shortened daylight hours."

Find out more about what can be recycled at the recycling centre and about opening times for public conveniences on the council's website (www.cheltenham.gov.uk).

Services and events in November

Sunday	3 rd	<i>All Saints Sunday</i>	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	Sung Holy Communion with commemoration of the faithful departed
Tuesday	5 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	10 th	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.55am	Act of Remembrance
		6.30pm	Evensong
Monday	11 th	7.00pm	PCC meeting
Tuesday	12 th	7.00pm	Holy communion followed by Tuesday Group
Sunday	17 th	<i>Second Sunday before Advent</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		3.00pm	Baptism of Harry Kear
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	19 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	24 th	<i>Christ the King</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	26 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Saturday	30 th	11.00am	Baptism of Scarlett Jackson
		2.00pm	Wedding of John Lewis & Sharon Nunn
		2.00pm	'Prepare For Christmas' at The Rock, St Peter's Church, Tewkesbury Road

From the registers



Baptism (Christening)

We have recently welcomed into the church family

Summer Ferguson	29 th September
Poppie Ashton-Bailey	20 th October
Dolcie Ashton	20 th October



Marriage

We have recently celebrated the marriage of

Thomas Hodgson & Helen Mitchell	21 st September
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Funerals

We have recently given thanks for the lives of

Reginald Owen	3 rd September
Derek Hayter	20 th September

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence church, please contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The Office is based in St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Assistant Curate) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk, or the Revd Canon Michael Cozens (Team Rector) on 523177 or michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk.

Remembering

As the clocks change and the nights get longer, we enter a season in the Church's year of remembering. On the 3rd of November we celebrate All Saints – and have an opportunity to remember those we have loved but who are no longer with us. All are invited to a service on the evening of the 3rd November when you will be able to light a candle in memory of loved ones as part of the service. If you have a name of someone you would like to be remembered please add it to the list in the back of the church. The church is open on Tuesdays and Fridays or you can email it to me – details as above.

Then on 10th November we remember all those who have given their lives during the wars. This year, included as part of the service sheet will be the names of the 134 who are named on the memorial in St Peter's churchyard, as they are now part of our parish. Our service starts at 10.55am and will include two minutes silence at 11.00am. You are most welcome to join us.

Looking Ahead

After our time of remembering we begin to look ahead – to (dare I say it?!) Christmas. This time of waiting and looking forward is called Advent, and is more than just an opportunity to eat the chocolate from an advent calendar! It is an opportunity to remind ourselves what it is we are about to celebrate.

Host Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem

This year we are inviting homes, families and organisations to host Mary and Joseph (lovingly knitted by Mary Halliwell) for a night. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night?

What is involved?

All you need to do is *add your name to the Journey Rota which you will find in church, or email me indicating a night that will suit you* to 'host' Mary & Joseph. You then take them to the next person on the list the following day at a time to suit both of you.

For the evening you 'host' Mary & Joseph you can choose to do whatever you like. You might want to invite some friends round and write Christmas cards. You may want to invite grandchildren over and invite them to write in Mary and Joseph's travel journal. It's entirely up to you.

The next day you need to take Mary & Joseph to the next host on the Journey Rota.

It's as simple as that.

Once you have hosted Mary and Joseph you are invited to 'keep a sheep' for Advent (of the knitted variety!) and then bring it with you to join Mary and Joseph at the crib service on Christmas Eve.

Please make sure you have added your details on the Journey Rota by November 26th.

Please consider your involvement.
We hope you will enjoy taking part.

Rev Liz

575547

liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk



A view from the pew

Thanks be to God

“Come let us raise a joyful song to the Lord”. We certainly did at our latest Songs of Praise service. The final psalm, numbered 150, in the collection we have in our Old Testament urges us (and remember the words were written years before Jesus Christ came to earth):

“Praise him with fanfares on the trumpet,
praise him on harp and lyre;
praise him with tambourines and dancing,
praise him with harp and strings;
praise him with the clash of cymbals;
with triumphant cymbals praise him.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

At times like Harvest Festival time we are filled with the spirit of thankfulness, at times of celebration like a wedding or a birth we are filled with a desire to thank God for his goodness to us and at times when we feel our prayers for ourselves or someone we care for have been answered we want to say thank you. We show our gratitude by praising God whom we think of as a heavenly parent concerned with us - just ordinary, awkward, ‘us’.

Recognizing God’s goodness and blessings are often the cause of praise. Psalm 150 has been called ‘one of the finest songs of praise ever written’ as it summons every musical instrument to sound the praise of the God of Israel.

So we are in a great tradition of giving thanks with music and singing.

The psalmist who wrote psalm 149 tells us to “sing to the Lord a new song”. In my youth the Anglican churches seemed to have a tradition of reserve and singing with any enthusiasm frowned on. As a teenager brought up as Methodist I was very conscious of the difference in singing style. As the Methodist hymn book of the time put it: “Methodism was born in song.”

Thankfully these days we have been able to chose from whole new songs and hymns which are musically attractive and have worthy words. Our worship is the richer for this. The hymns which people chose for our ‘Songs of Praise’ services are a fine mix of older and newer hymns which enable us to render praise and thanksgiving. Thank God.

Ralph Griffin

Swindon Village Primary School

Winter Fair

Sat 23rd November 2013
2.00pm - 4.00pm



Entry:
1£ per adult
children free

refreshments, cakes, books, toys, children's wrapping room,
craft room, SVPS choir, children's craft stall, raffle,
tombola, candles, cards, jewellery, sweets etc.

Wednesday Club

On Tuesday 17th of September we had an afternoon out at Aunt Martha's Tea Room in Steam Mills just outside Cinderford. Our driver, Rowan, took us on a circular route there and back which would have been spectacular but for the weather. We were in a lot of very low cloud and so our visibility was very limited. Our tea, however, was just lovely. We each had two scones and a pot of tea was put at the end of each table, only to be poured after it had stood for five minutes. Aunt Martha told us she would know if it had not been standing for the required time by the amount of tea leaves in the strainer. So that left 26 of us sitting looking at our watches in the dim candle light waiting for the moment to arrive, but I have to say, it was worth it. Lovely cuppa! The jam and cream for the scones was all homemade and I think quite a few of us bought some from the shop to bring home. Many members asked where we would be going next year and so we are putting our thinking caps on to find somewhere that little bit different.

Our Speaker on the 2nd of October was Rosealeen Lane who came along with her husband Ron. She had very kindly stepped in at the last minute and showed us slides of "Glorious Gloucestershire". She started with the hills and valleys, then to houses and gardens in the county. It was an entertaining evening with their little anecdotes about various places and, believe it or not, there were a few I hadn't heard of or ever been to. Just goes to show, you don't have to go miles away for a pleasant day out.

We have arranged for members of Wednesday Club to go to the Civil Service Club on Tewkesbury Road for our annual meal on January 8th. This will cost members £13 and if you have not put your name down already let us know at the next meeting or contact me at home or by telephone on 693112.

On Wednesday the 6th of November Nonny James will be talking to us about the "Circle of Life". Please do come along; any visitors will be made very welcome. Look forward to seeing you then.

Pauline Wright

September gave us a masterful talk by John Dixon. This was not surprising since he is chairman of Tewkesbury Local History Society and an ex teacher. The subject was the large depot set up by the Americans in the Second World War where the Army camp at Ashchurch is now. Here were built vehicles for the American forces from components supplied from The States and it had a vast output of fighting machines and trucks. However, John's main topic was the influence the camp had on Tewkesbury and that Tewkesbury had on the Yanks.

Of course there was plenty of romance involved. Several Tewkesbury girls became G.I. brides and not all the youngsters in Tewkesbury after the war had the normal pallid English complexion. Some in the audience remembered those days and Elizabeth, in particular, having been born in Tewkesbury, could remember the VE day party put on by the Americans at the end of the war.

It was a very evocative talk by a very engaging speaker.

Our November meeting is now back to Plan A as advertised in the Society programme – a film of Cheltenham and The Cotswolds in the 1920s. We have now found a way of screening it and there should also be a more recent short documentary allowing a contrast and compare. In addition Eileen and Hazel will mount their display of 'Special Houses' that they put together for the recent Local History exhibition. The talk on Guernsey in the War will now take place next year. So this would be a very good evening for non-members to come along either just for the night for a very small fee or to check us out with a thought of joining.

Helen Wells has written elsewhere about the JCS position. All I can do is to echo her call to get involved although I have to say that I believe that the Borough Council has made up its mind and most of the Borough Councillors have for one reason or another gone along with it all. However, the whole matter of building on the green belt is being debated at national level with our two MPs both coming out against the plan. Our best bet may be to disprove the need before the housing inspectorate.

Don't forget the petition at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/> but you can find it quite easily by googling 'Cheltenham Green Belt petition'.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

Our first meeting back after a break in August was on Wednesday 25th September. Our guest speaker was Julie Sargent, who came to talk to us about 'The History of the Lido' Everybody found the evening very interesting, as most people in the room had fond memories of happy times spent at the Lido over the past years. Julie has a great passion and commitment for the Lido, and this was evident in the way she spoke about it, and the slides and information she provided us with. It made us all long for the summer again.

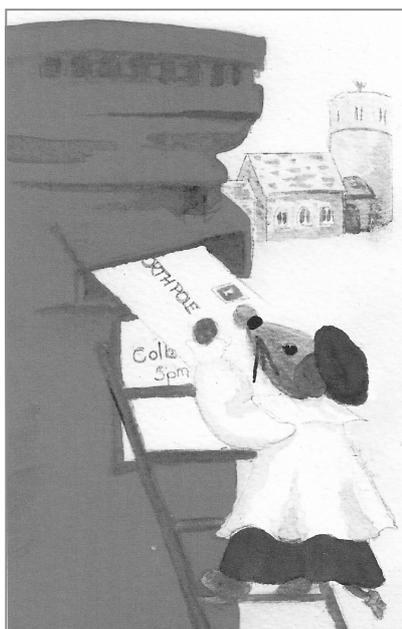
The social calendar starts to increase at this time of the year, and we have had several invitations to join other wine clubs around the area for dances, get togethers etc.

Fourteen of our members attended a 'Jazz Evening' at Churchdown Wine Club on Saturday 12th October and, I'm told, had a wonderful evening. We also have Gloucester & Charlton Kings wine clubs' dances to look forward too, as well as the Lloyd & Walker Challenge Cup to enter in November.

Our November meeting, on Wednesday 27th November, will be a wine tasting evening, organised by Tony and Ray.

Mandy Jilbert

Secretary, Swindon Village Wine Club



Church Christmas Cards for sale

The latest in the series of Christmas cards featuring the Church Choir Mouse is now available.

It is a full-colour print of a watercolour by Carolyn showing the mouse posting her letter to Father Christmas with St. Lawrence's Church in the background.

Profits from sales will be given to the church building funds.

These very special cards come with envelopes and cost **50p each**. They are available in the church or to order from Karen Evans on **241678**.

Sweden was the subject of our October talk. Lena Dyche is married to an Englishman but keeps alive her Swedish national culture despite living in this country. Sweden is roughly twice the size of Britain but with a population the equivalent of London (9million). It is a country of lakes, forests and wooden houses, no old properties as they burn down too often. There are 2 months of snow in the north and temperatures of -20°C, though more tolerable than our damp cold. Every year an ice-hotel is built where everything is made of ice, even the drinking glasses, but it all melts away after a couple of months. Stockholm, with its milder climate, is a marine city, being set amidst many islands and water of the area. The houses are triple glazed and heated geo-thermally or by oil or hydro-electricity, no gas. We were regaled with tales of festive customs, traditional food recipes, wildlife and, with the aid of slides, certainly felt the atmosphere of the country.

A number of members attended the Autumn Council Meeting at the Racecourse and caught up with all the latest developments in the county. We were invited to produce a display of handicrafts for the Harvest Festival at St Nicolas Church. A very enjoyable morning was spent at the Synagogue in Cheltenham. This is one of Cheltenham's hidden gems and has a very interesting history; we came away very much the wiser about the Jewish community in the area. Another great evening was held at the Suffolk Arms with skittles, drinks and eats. This time the choice was curry and rice or chicken and chips – here is to the next time! A few members got their needles out and spent a crafty afternoon at Wendy's.

News of the Skittles Tournament! We are to play Frampton-on-Severn in the semi-finals. They are renowned as a strong team whom we have played in the past.

A lunch for the retiring committee has been arranged and also we have the Group Lunch of a selection of soups and baked apples to look forward to. The big event in November is our Birthday Party when we shall all meet-up at the Muffin Man for a meal. We always have a lucky-dip of wrapped presents brought by members on this occasion to add to the celebrations. Yet more food will be on the menu when we meet at the new Dine India Restaurant in town. I am beginning to think that maybe we should start a slimming club for members as we seem to spend a lot of our time eating!

Another year has flashed by and our November meeting brings the AGM and voting for a new President. Chris has worked hard over the past three years to make our WI a success, and so we are hoping someone will be willing to serve as president in her stead. We were saddened to hear at the Council Meeting that, though there have been several new WIs opened in the county, some have been suspended because they could not find anyone willing to be officers. Let us hope we are not faced with any such decisions to make. By the way, if you join the WI in October you can have 15 months membership for the price of 12!

Sara Jefferies

Operation Chilli II

March 23rd was just an ordinary day.
The trees showed that Spring was not far away.
I got up and dressed and went down to the mess.
Had my usual breakfast, then read the paper even the stop press.
Spent the morning reading, writing, doing nothing in particular.
Time for lunch, good but nothing spectacular.
The afternoon passed slowly.
Had a frame of snooker with Ron.
As usual he won.

Then just before time for a cup of tea and a bunfight
We heard there was something on that night.
Briefing at 1600 for all available crews.
So, in we trooped to hear the latest news.
Instead of solitary patrols.
Past the Orkneys, Shetland and up to Faroes
There was to be a two squadron sweep into the Baltic.
Not this time past Aberdeen and Buchan Ness.
Duncansby Head, Pentland Firth and Dunnet Head.
Leaving well clear of Scapa Flow.
The Naval lads there can't tell friend from foe.

Briefing over we had a meal and out to the kite.
Started engines, did all the checks, then taxied out.
To runway 26 to wait for the green light.
Checked boost, pitch, flaps cooling gills, opened throttles.
Off we go.
First mark, Bell Rock.
A wave to the keepers and so the long trip starts.
Auto pilot on, course 080 at 300 feet, guns tested, radar checked.
There's an hour of daylight left as we cruised, gray empty North Sea.

As darkness falls we're into Skagerrak.
All eyes alert but there's nothing to see in the failing light.
There's a bright light ahead, it's the coast of Sweden.
We climb to 10,000 feet and then
There's a burst of fire from below, a friendly warning,
To tell us we should not be there, but we are not harming
Neutral Sweden's towns and lakes and forests.
Ahead a dark mass looms, we cross the Baltic coast.
The sweep begins.

**"There's a blip" calls Paddy, "30 degrees to port."
A gentle turn and it should be dead ahead, we thought.
Bomb doors open, and everyone ready and keen to see.
Then Paddy calls "it's not one blip, it's three."
On with the Leigh Light and there's three E boats.
A few tracers whizz by, depth charges gone and then we were past.**

**For two more hours we cruise in the Baltic, round Bornholm Island.
But no further sightings.
It is time for home and rest.
No sign of life in Denmark's farms and fields.
Then across the sea again to land at home.
De-briefing - a tot of rum - another meal and off to bed.**

Postscript

**At Cosford Museum in a far corner,
Its engines cold and silent, sits a lonely Liberator.
Amongst the relics of a bygone age.
Last year we went there, my wife, son and grandson.
Did I sit in those seats for 12 hours or more ?
Over 50 years ago.
Did we crawl through the bomb bay or through the tunnel to the nose ?
And stare at the waves for countless hours.
Those days are gone and the next Millennium belongs to the young.**

***Written by the late Peter Brooks at the turn of the Millennium.
Peter served with Coastal Command, flying Liberator aircraft,
in the Second World War. He died this year.***

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

It's been another busy month for everyone connected with the Scout Group.

We had five members take part in the county organised Canoeing and Kayaking weekend camp on the River Avon near Defford. The weather for the weekend was gloriously warm and sunny and everyone present (around 50 in total) got to spend all day Saturday and Sunday morning paddling both canoes and kayaks on the river. Tuition was provided to improve all levels of paddling from complete novices to those attaining coaching qualifications. The aim for some of the Explorer Scouts is to tackle their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition using canoes to travel down and camp along the River Avon next year – quite an adventure!

The following weekend saw a minibus full of Scouts travel to Alton Towers on the Saturday. Dry and warm weather ensured a good time was had by all and I think most of us got around all the big rides including “The Smiler” - the new ride for 2013. Sunday offered Scouts the chance of a day's Dragonboat Racing at the Cotswold Water Park near South Cerney. This was another county organised event and Joshua Williams from Swindon Village enjoyed a day on the water, competed in several races and gained the Dragonboat Activity Badge.

The next weekend offered another camping opportunity to all Explorer Scouts in the county at “The Good, The Bad and The BEAST” camp held up at Cranham. Plenty of activities were on offer including archery, rifle shooting, canoeing, bouncy fun, various games and challenges and a Wild West Ho Down on the Saturday night. As usual those that took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came home shattered!

We had a really good turn-out at the Harvest Festival Family service held in St Lawrence's Church in October. Around 20 Beavers were joined by Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and the Guides to fill the church for a lively and fun-filled service. For the first time in many years, the Beaver, Cub and Scout flags were paraded into the church, which was nice for all to see. Our thanks go to Liz Palin and the team for making these services both fun and enjoyable for all.

Jumble Sale

A huge thank-you to all those parents, friends, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who came to help us at the jumble sale - your help was vital in making the sale a success and most appreciated. Also thanks to everybody from around the village who came to support us and buy all the bargains! A grand total of £553 was raised on the day.

Open Evening and Awards

Our final meeting in October was the group's Open Evening and AGM held in the village hall. All the leaders gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months. The highlights of these were the entertaining reports given by the Cubs and Scouts themselves who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people. Pat Hopes, our District Commissioner, then

presented several Beavers with their Chief Scout's Bronze Award – the highest award you can achieve as a Beaver Scout. It's also the night when we celebrate 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:	Euan Cardew
Cubs – The Phil Long Award	Ethan Drake
Best Cub Camper – The Di Dimond Award	Imogen Tomkins
Scouts - The Phil Long Award	George Wood

Congratulations and very well done to all of them.

Sos

St. Lawrence Church Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December

Only a few more weeks now till the seventh annual Christmas Tree Festival - see the poster for it elsewhere in this magazine and put the date on your calendar now.

Everyone is invited to take part in the Festival by decorating and displaying a tree, whether as an individual, a family, a club or a group of friends - the more, the merrier. If you run a small business locally this could be an opportunity for a bit of advertising!

All you have to do is decorate a small tree (most are 3 - 4ft) and let us display it in the church for the weekend. The church will be open for a few hours on the Friday evening for setting-up and you can bring your tree ready-decorated or decorate it in the church. The Sunday services will be held among the trees and we ask that you collect your tree on the Monday evening.

The theme for this year's festival is "Twelve Days of Christmas" but this can be interpreted as widely as you like - "thinking outside the box" is encouraged. (Last year the Scouts put theirs **inside** a box - it was swimming in a pool!) Any lights you use must be battery-operated as we cannot get electricity to the trees; somebody will switch them on and off for you.

The Festival will be open to the public from 11am to 5pm on both days. Admission will be FREE but we hope that visitors will donate generously to the church's funds for maintenance and restoration of the building and in particular, this year, the toilet and the associated re-ordering.

If you would like to enter a tree please contact me as soon as possible.

Karen Evans
Tel. 241678

The Children's Society

Thanks to the commitment of all those who hold home savings boxes for The Children's Society, this year's count-up realised a parish record of £500.50.

The Children's Society (formerly called The Church of England Children's Society) was established in 1881 and has always worked with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. Probably best known for its work with young runaways, the Society also helps young carers, children at risk on the streets, children using drugs or living with drug users, children with physical or mental issues, young refugees, children in trouble with the law and those in care for whatever reason.

All this is happening right under our noses, here in England.

There are many ways you can help The Children's Society to help vulnerable children but the easiest, surely, is the home box scheme. I supply you with a money box and you put money in it. Some people just pop their spare change in to the box, others put in a regular set amount or money that they have saved by buying special offers in the supermarket. Whatever the reason, it couldn't be simpler. Every year, in October, I collect the boxes, count up all the money and send it to The Children's Society. At this point your donation can be gift-aided, increasing the amount received by the Society by 25%.

If you would like to become a box holder or would like to know more about the scheme please contact me.

More information about The Children's Society can be found on their website - www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Sylvia Hales

**41 Rivelands Road
Tel. 235933**



St.
Lawrence
Church

*Christmas
Tree Festival*

Twelve Days of Christmas

**Saturday & Sunday
7th & 8th December
11.00am to 5.00pm**

**An exhibition of trees decorated by local people
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Christmas goods for sale
Refreshments**

Admission is free but we hope visitors will give generously to the church restoration, maintenance and toilet funds.

Pause to remember

The war memorial in Cheltenham's Long Gardens will once again be the centrepiece for the town's Service of Remembrance and civic parade on Sunday 10th November. The service will begin at 10.55am.

A lone trumpeter will play 'The last post' before two minutes of silence at 11am. After the Reveille, the service continues with prayers, hymns and the national anthem, played by Gloucestershire Police Band.

The mayor will lay the first wreath at the war memorial followed by other civic dignitaries, including borough and county councillors, and representatives from local organisations. After the wreaths have been laid, the civic party will watch from the steps of the Municipal Offices as Cheltenham Silver Band leads the march past.

In the evening, the mayor will attend the Festival of Remembrance which is organised by the Royal British Legion and held at the town hall.

On Remembrance Day (Monday 11 November) the borough council is again supporting The Royal British Legion in encouraging businesses, shops, offices and individuals to observe a two minute silence at 11am. The mayor, Cllr Wendy Flynn, will observe a two minute silence at the war memorial, with the beginning and end signalled by the firing of maroons.

Cllr Wendy Flynn said that as first citizen she counted it a privilege to be able to lead the town in this act of remembrance and would like to invite all members of the community to join her at both of the services.

Look out for your voter registration form

Every household in Cheltenham should have received a voter registration form from the Electoral Registration Office. This is the start of the annual canvass which the law says must be carried out every year. The information is used to compile a new register of electors which will be published by 17th February 2014.

Registering to vote is very simple. All you have to do is update the annual canvass form with the details of everyone aged 16 and over living in your household who is eligible to vote, and return it to us in the prepaid envelope provided as soon as possible. If your details haven't changed you can reply by text, Freephone or internet.

For more information or for help or advice, contact the electoral registration officer on 01242 264132.

KJP FENCING

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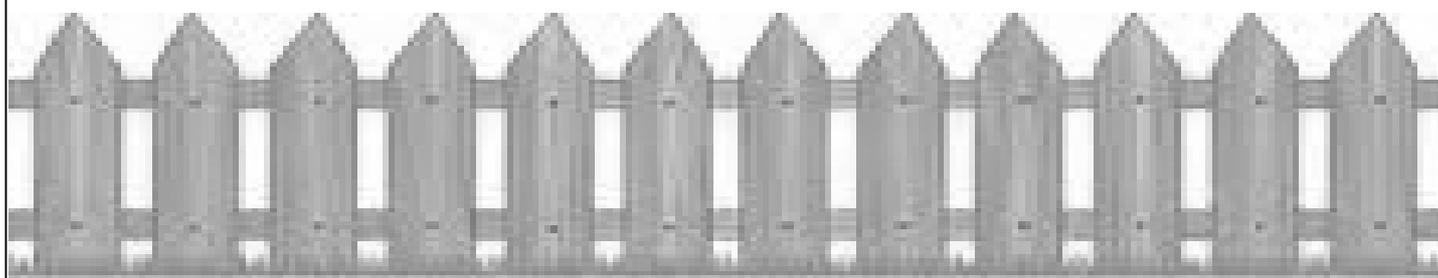
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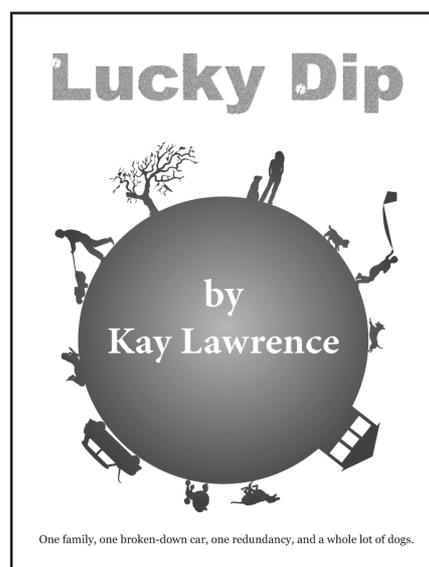
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Contact the Editors

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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Lesley Wall	07810 630 064 lesleyw@villageagent.grcc.org.uk
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts	Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis	514825/244708
Guide Guider	Jayne Ellis	244708
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Guide District Commissioner	Pauline Szarko	570469
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D’Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers Secretary	Mandy Jilbert	693639
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris	701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art Club	Norman Scott	692394
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
 Please send contributions to the editors:
 David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
 or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Shannon Kerr	07954 128151
	Cllr. Arran Stibbe	07796 248658
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 / 07770 986078
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Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
	Cllr. Paul Massey	07967 123221
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: www.swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Rector	Revd. Canon Michael Cozens	523177
	The Rectory, 66 All Saints' Road	michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Revd. Liz Palin	575547
		liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk

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

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