

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 406

July/August 2014

July

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm George Hook - World of Mother of Pearl |
| Saturday | 5 | Church fete - Playing field and Village Hall 1.00pm |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Paul Evans - Humorous Poems, Monologues and Readings |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting - School hall 7.30pm With Public Session |
| Saturday | 12 | Music on a Summer's Evening with Marle Hill WI Village Hall 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | 16 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm Geoff Miller - Guernsey under the German Occupation |
| Sunday | 20 | Praise in the Park - Playing field and Village Hall 3.00pm |
| Wednesday | 23 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm Inter-club competition |

August

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 4 | Marle Hill W.I. - Walking meeting |
| Tuesday | 12 | Parish Council Meeting - School hall 7.30pm With Public Session |
| Wednesday | 13 | Swindon Village Society Garden Party - Members only |
| Wednesday | 27 | Wine Club - Historical walk, Tewkesbury 6.30pm |

September

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Monday | 1 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 3 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm |

(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.)

Following the Annual Parish Meeting reported last month it was time for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. This is a normal Parish Council meeting except that by law the first business conducted must be the election of the Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Councillors are elected once every four years but the Chairman of the council is elected annually. The Council re-elected Peter Allen as Chairman and Glenn Simpson as Vice-Chairman so the council is unchanged in personnel. We still have a vacancy for one more councillor of course.

I have mentioned in the past that we are all able to report things to the Borough Council and County Council. Many of the day-to-day issues that we see are nothing to do with the Parish Council (e.g. rubbish, drains, potholes). There is now a web site called Fix My Street (www.fixmystreet.com) that makes it even easier to do this. You simply choose the location of the issue via an on-line map. You are then offered a list of possible issues (including potholes, flooding, fly tipping, etc.). You select the issue and describe it and the matter is automatically referred to the appropriate authority (Cheltenham Borough Council or Gloucestershire County Council).

Regarding the reporting of issues, some of you will have noticed fly tipping in Manor Road. This was reported promptly but anyone with any information about the culprit should inform the police or the Borough Council. At least three of us have also reported the overgrown hedge along Manor Road.

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) continues to engage (and concern) the Council. Once the strategy has been through its review process and is approved (in whatever form that ends up being) it supersedes other plans that the Borough Council previously had in place. However, this is actually a gradual process; over time the new plan is given increasing weight by planning authorities despite not yet being approved. I notice that an outline planning application has been made for 650 houses in Leckhampton. The application will go before a special meeting of the Borough Council Planning Committee on 31st July. There are 104 documents associated with the application and 667 comments (to date). The planners are seeking to allow development in our area seven times larger than that.

Two of our councillors have established a Green Space Working Group. Initially the aim is to see if the government's Local Green Space designation can be used as a buffer between existing residential and industrial areas and any new development. The fact that this is happening does not mean that the Parish Council concedes that development will take place on the scale proposed. However, we must be prepared for all outcomes. If the JCS (in its present form) is approved we will need to have a strategy in place for the way forward. It would simply be too late to start thinking about it at that stage.

We are starting to plan for our next meeting that will involve the Borough Council, the County Council and the police. It will be one of our regular (second Tuesday of the month) meetings and will give us a chance to get some direct answers rather than entering into lengthy correspondence on a topic. Remember that the public can attend any meeting of the Parish Council to observe proceedings and can participate during the public sessions of the meetings. Hopefully I will be able to give residents good notice of the event and an idea of the topics to be covered.

In accordance with the law I have posted a notice stating that the Parish Council's accounts may be viewed by appointment. I will reiterate that here. Any elector of the parish is entitled to see the accounts and to ask questions. Be warned, though, that I might be tempted to try to persuade anyone taking an interest to become a councillor.

Congratulations to all who organised the school fête (and the weather). It looked to be a very successful event.

Whilst I would still encourage everyone to report issues you see around the area you might be interested in my experience with regard to the blocked drain outside my house. I reported it (as a concerned individual) in January. Since then plants have started to grow in the mud that is blocking the drain. I am thinking of asking our Allotments Manager if he can let it to someone. I am sure a good crop of potatoes might be possible.

I hope that as Clerk you picture me as a model of efficiency. Sorry to disappoint. In the last three months of posting official calling notices for Parish Council meetings I have put up a set of notices without signing them (which is illegal) and two sets with the wrong date. It is always as I post the last notice that I notice (sorry!) the mistake.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Temporary road closure

Swindon Lane, Cheltenham will be closed at the level crossing from **22:45hrs Saturday 2nd August until 09:15hrs Sunday 3rd August 2014** to allow for track renewal work by Network Rail.

If you should require further information please contact this office on **0800 514514**.

Debbie Palmer
Roadspace Coordinator (Gloucester & Cheltenham)
Gloucestershire County Council

Bulky plastic recycling returns to Swindon Road Recycling Centre

Bulky plastic, also known as mixed hard plastics recycling, has returned to the Swindon Road Recycling Centre. This means people wishing to recycle items such as plastic toys, plastic garden furniture and plastic buckets etc, are invited to use the container located on site.

Mixed hard plastics recycling was removed from the site in 2013 as the market for this type of material had become quite volatile, meaning that it would have cost the Council a considerable amount of money to continue recycling it. However, the market for plastic material has now picked up again and so we will now be able to accept mixed hard plastics at the site once more.

Scott Williams, strategic client officer, joint waste team, said: “Recycling needs to have an end use and re-processors willing to accept it in order for it to be recycled. The market for selling on plastics is not as well developed as the market for paper, for example, but having monitored it over the past year, we can now see that the volatility has reduced and re-processors are much keener to accept all types of plastics.

“We were also pleased to be able to launch a trial of ‘mixed plastic’ recycling at 12 of our most popular recycling sites, including Swindon Road, from 2 June. This refers to items such as **yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, ready-meal trays, plastic fruit punnets and plastic bottles**. The initial trial period is for three months but, if affordable, we hope to be able to offer this permanently as we recognize there is a clear public demand for this service.”

Cllr Chris Coleman, cabinet member for sustainability, added: “The recycling market made it very difficult to have mixed hard plastics recycled. However, every tonne of waste which isn’t landfilled saves the taxpayer £80 so we are delighted the market has picked up and we can recycle this material again.”

For more information on Swindon Road Recycling Centre, including opening times, directions and types of recycling please visit the council’s **www.cheltenham.gov.uk**

Plastics recycling is coming to Cheltenham

Trial starts
Monday 2 June



Remember!

Bring all your plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles to any of the recycling sites in Cheltenham.

- All pots**
(e.g. yogurt pots)
- All tubs**
(e.g. ice cream and margarine tubs)
- All trays**
(e.g. microwave food trays)
- All bottles**
(e.g. drink bottles and detergent bottles)
- All plastic lids**
- Black plastic**
(e.g. any black coloured plastic)
- Films**
(e.g. peel-back lids and cling-film)
- Bags**
(e.g. carrier bags and cereal bags)

For more information on the trial and the locations of the recycling sites – visit www.cheltenham.gov.uk or call 01242 264244



Changes to bus services

Following a review of their commercial network and as a result of customer feedback, Stagecoach is making some service changes to improve both punctuality and reliability. You will notice that some evening and Sunday journeys have been withdrawn and this is as a result of very low patronage.

I have attached a brief summary of the changes to individual bus services in the Cheltenham and Cirencester area. The revised and new timetables will shortly be available both on the Stagecoach and Traveline websites and can be viewed using the following web links:

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/tis-service-updates.aspx>

http://www.travelinesw.com/swe/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2?language=en&timeOffset=15

Where the County Council provides a subsidy for any of the services withdrawn we will continue to maintain access to essential services such as employment, school, non-emergency health appointments and essential shopping.

On a positive note, Stagecoach has introduced a new Sunday 51 service between Cheltenham and Cirencester. First Bus will also shortly be introducing a new direct service from Worcester to Tewkesbury (Monday to Saturday) providing good public transport links with Cheltenham and Gloucester.

We hope that these initiatives will enable us to significantly increase patronage across bus services in Gloucestershire.

If you require more detailed information about a particular service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bill Carr

Public Transport Planner
Integrated Transport Unit Delivery
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG

Tel: 01452 425985

Email: bill.carr@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Summary of Stagecoach Cheltenham Changes affecting Swindon Village

Service C Town centre – Springbank

Minor changes to the timetable throughout the week to improve punctuality.

Timetable changes to evening journeys after 21:30 on Mondays to Saturdays to improve their punctuality.

On Mondays to Fridays and Sundays there are new journeys to provide an earlier first bus into the town centre.

Service D Hatherley – town centre – Bishops Cleeve

Major changes to the timetable throughout the day. Most changes are designed to substantially improve punctuality and reliability which has not been good enough during recent months.

Main daytime frequency remains every 10 minutes. In addition there are changes to certain journeys on Mondays to Saturdays before 09:00 and between 17:00 and 19:00.

The last bus from the town centre to Bishops Cleeve will also depart 10 minutes earlier at 22:59.

On Sundays, the last bus to Bishops Cleeve will now depart at 18:35.

Service H Town centre – Swindon Village – Gallagher Retail Park

Mondays to Fridays, all journeys that start before 09:00 will run 5 minutes earlier.

Changes to the evening peak with most journeys after 16:00 operating between 5 and 10 minutes later. These changes will improve the punctuality and reliability of peak time journeys.

The last bus on Mondays to Fridays will now depart the town centre at 18:45 as a result of low demand,

On Saturdays there are major changes to the timetable and route. Certain early morning journeys are withdrawn as a result of low demand. Throughout the daytime, all journeys will operate between the town centre and Wyman's Brook.

There will now only be an hourly extension to either Swindon Village or Gallagher Retail Park.

The last bus on Saturdays will now depart the town centre at 18:42.

Sundays certain journeys are withdrawn as a result of very low demand.

Service 41 Cheltenham – Tewkesbury – Northway

Monday to Saturday daytime frequency will be improved to provide a bus every 20 minutes. Minor changes to the times of early morning and evening buses to improve punctuality and reliability. Sunday service hourly

Service 42 Cheltenham – Wheatpieces – Tewkesbury – Mitton/Priors Park

Monday to Saturday daytime frequency still every thirty minutes. New Sunday hourly service. New peak morning and late afternoon commuter journeys to Ashchurch Railway Station.

Service 42a will extend journeys to cover Mitton and Priors Park every hour replacing the current 521 service operated by Swanbrook.

Services and events

July

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday | 1 st | 7.00pm | Tuesday Group |
| Saturday | 5 th | 1.00pm | Swindon Village Fete |
| Sunday | 6 th | <i>Trinity 3</i> 10.30am | Together @ Ten Thirty Swindon Primary School Hall |
| Tuesday | 8 th | 6.30pm 7.00pm | Holy Communion – Village Hall Communion followed by Tuesday Group – Rivelands Road |
| Wednesday | 9 th | 7.30pm | Michael Cozens' licensing service - Dursley |
| Sunday | 13 th | <i>Trinity 4</i> 6.30pm | Evensong Village Hall |
| Tuesday | 15 th | 7.00pm | Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 20 th | 3.00pm | Praise in the Park followed by tea in the village hall |
| Tuesday | 22 nd | 7.00pm | Tuesday Group |
| Sunday | 27 th | <i>Trinity 6</i> 6.30pm | Evensong – Village Hall |

August

| | | | |
|--------|------------------|--|--|
| Sunday | 3 rd | <i>Trinity 7</i> 10.30am | Together @ Ten Thirty Swindon Primary School Hall |
| Sunday | 10 th | <i>Trinity 8</i> 6.30pm | Evensong – Village Hall |
| Sunday | 17 th | <i>Trinity 9</i> 6.30pm | Evensong – Village Hall |
| Sunday | 24 th | <i>Bartholomew the Apostle</i> 6.30pm | Evensong – Village Hall |
| Sunday | 31 st | 6.30pm | Songs of Praise at St Mary Magdalene Elmstone Hardwicke |

From the registers



Burial

We give thanks for the life of
Jean Whitney 17th June

You will, by now, be aware of some changes taking place in the church – both locally and across the North Cheltenham Team.

Locally, the church has been closed whilst some building work is carried out to create some modern facilities (a loo and an area where we can make refreshments – not really that modern!), and create a more flexible space in the south aisle.

The latter part of the work has meant removing some pews. Removing pews in churches often causes alarm amongst some people – ‘What are you doing to our wonderful ancient church?’ they cry.

Well, of course, pews would not have been part of the original fabric of the church. They were added by the Victorians. Taking out our pews has actually *revealed* some of the original fabric of the church - a headstone from 1611 and another from the 1700s! Whenever work of the nature of ours is done in a church there are very strict regulations. This means we have had an archaeologist on site, as well as the architect, to make sure that all findings are documented and the implications of any finds are dealt with appropriately.

In our case it has been decided to incorporate them into the church, so that they are there for all to see. So you see, taking out pews can reveal some amazing things.

The second change is, of course, Canon Michael Cozens moving on to pastures new in Dursley. Our prayers go with him, and Gill and Anna and Simon, as they begin their new ministry in that place.

The process of appointing a new team rector has already begun, with the creation of a profile. This outlines what we are looking for in the next team rector, as well as telling prospective applicants about the various communities in which they will serve.

Under-girding both of these changes – to our building and our leadership – is a great deal of prayer.

That prayer is for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to live out the gospel in our community. The gospel that preaches that each and every person is known, loved and valued by God. We hope that all those in our community, whether they come to church or not, will know that reality in their lives.

Revd Liz Palin

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.

Remembering The Fallen of WW1

Gloucester Cathedral

Sunday 3rd August

Monday 4th August

Gloucester Cathedral will be holding a special reflective service on **Sunday 3rd August 2014 at 3pm** to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. As part of the service a representative of each parish in Gloucestershire will take to the altar and present the names of all individuals from the parish that died in the 1914-1918 conflict.

On **Monday 4th August**, the names of all who perished will be read out throughout the day in the Lady Chapel. This act of commemoration will begin at **9am** and continue for as long as it takes. Anyone is welcome to attend and people can come and go as they wish.

This will be the first time that all the names of those who died in WW1 will have been gathered together and it will be a time of special remembrance and commemoration.

Revd Liz Palin

St. Lawrence Church

Annual Fete

Saturday 5th July
Gates open 1.00pm

Admission £1 for adults

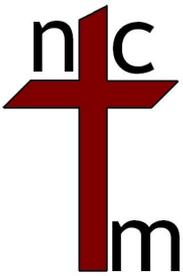
Frampton-on-Severn Silver Band
England's Glory Ladies' Morris
Classic cars
Bouncy Castle
Barbecue, teas and other refreshments

Lots of stalls including
White Elephant, Cakes and Produce,
Plants, Books, Toys, Tombola

St. Lawrence Church Fete

We would welcome donations (in good condition, please) for any of the stalls listed above. Home-made cakes and bakes always sell well. If you need items to be collected please phone **Mandy Jilbert on 693639**.

We are still looking for more help on the day. Could you help to man a stall for a couple of hours or help setting up tables and chairs in the morning or putting them away at the end of the day? The more helpers we have, the more stalls we can run. If you can help in any way please contact **Tony Jilbert by phone - 693639**.



St. Lawrence, Swindon Village
with St. Peter, Cheltenham

Praise in the Park

Sunday 20th July
3.00pm

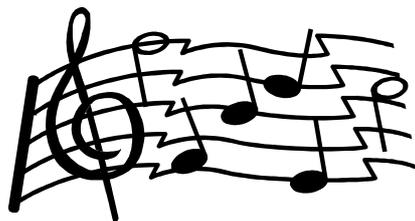
Swindon Village Playing Fields

The Albion Dockyard Silver Band

Conductor Paul Hemmings

Followed by tea in the Village Hall

All welcome
(Bring a friend and a chair!)



(In the Village Hall if wet)

Farewell to Revd. Michael Cozens and Family

On Sunday 15th June, the congregations of the five churches in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry gathered together at St. Nicolas' Church for a special service to give Thanks and bid Farewell to Michael, Gill, Anna and Simon Cozens.

The Celebrate Band (St. Mary's, Prestbury) played and sung songs as everyone arrived, so many people, that some had to stand all around the sides of the church, in the foyer, and even outside. There were several Bible Readings, hymns and prayers. Father Michael ceremoniously returned his keys of all the Churches to the Churchwardens. The leave-taking was marked with prayers said by the whole community and responses by those leaving. The service ended with Fr Michael giving a blessing to the community and Fr Stephen and Revd Liz praying a blessing for the family.

After representatives of each parish and the whole Team had given gifts to Michael and Gill, everyone moved outside and the party began! There was a pig roast, bar, bring and share salads and a wonderful selection of puddings. There was music and entertainment from each parish, lots of laughter and chat. I think Michael must have managed personal farewells to everyone there.

So, a day for gratitude, memories, joy, sadness, encouragement, hope and, above all, love.

“Go now, and do God's will. As you have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others.”

Thank you and goodbye!

Completely overwhelmed! It is almost impossible to find words that can adequately express our thanks for the wonderful array of leaving gifts, cards and messages and also of course for the unforgettable farewell service and celebration at St Nicolas.

We're not sure that we've ever tried to squeeze that many people into the church before and we certainly have not experienced a social event like that, with so many friends from across North Cheltenham and beyond! Many, many thanks to everyone who was involved in any way in the organisation of our farewell celebrations and to all those who attended.

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity which means that we will be taking with us to Dursley so many wonderful gifts which will remind us of all of you. We will also take with us some amazing memories of our time in Cheltenham, stretching back over almost 18 years and we know (especially after Sunday!) that we take with us your love and prayers. We want you to know how grateful we are to you all for your generosity to us and to know that you will be very much in our thoughts and prayers.

With much love,

Michael, Gill, Anna and Simon Cozens.

A view from the pew - what now?

As I write this I am conscious of the changes in store for us at St Lawrence. By the time you read this we will have said goodbye to Rev. Canon Michael Cozens and will be wondering who will be appointed as our new team Rector. Our Bishop, too, will have retired or be in the process of retiring. Possibly the Church of England will have voted on whether to have women bishops. Probably we shall be able to see the 'reordering' (putting in improvements) to the interior of our church building to help in our ministry to young families especially.

I was reading some prayers which recognized our part in the continuing work of the congregation that we call St Lawrence Church. We know that all those who follow the pilgrimage of being a Christian are charged with the great task of spreading the good news of the gospel of love that is Christianity. One of the basics of this faith is caring for others in the way our parent God cares for all his 'children'.

I thought I'd share some prayers with you.

This prayer was used at Michael and family's farewell service:

We praise and bless you, God of the journey, for Michael, Gill, Anna and Simon as they leave us, to your loving care, knowing that you are always the faithful traveller and companion of the Way. Shelter and protect them from all harm and anxiety. Grant them the courage to meet the future and grace as they go into their new life; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Another prayer for all of us goes something like this:

"Visionary God, we thank you for those whose imagining and planning have inspired our St Lawrence community down through the years. In this new chapter of our history we thank you for those faithful people whose hope and longing has led us to where we are today."

Other prayers thank God with words:

"Builder God, we thank you for those whose practical loving helps humanity to be human and the Church to be Christlike. For those whose quality of caring relationships within and beyond the Church, and whose praying supports us.

Also

"We thank you for those whose creativity and craftsmanship have helped to furnish this sanctuary."

I love the thought that we worship in a holy place where so many ordinary parishioners like us over the years have been able to commune with and worship our God.

Ralph Griffin

The 'caring community' of Gloucestershire needs help

The following letter was received by Rev. Liz Palin (hence the references to the Christian Community in particular) but it may be of interest to people beyond the Church.

1-in-10 of the adult population in the County has some sort of caring responsibility, looking after a loved-one, other family member, neighbour or friend who can't manage without this help. Many such Carers find emotional and practical support by meeting together in 'Carers Support Groups' to share their stories, receive helpful information and have a regular monthly break from caring.

The need is such that most Parishes in the County probably require a Group. However, Carers themselves are often too physically and/or emotionally taken-up with their caring to plan and host such a Group – although many do!

I'm aware that the Christian Community is well-used to meeting in small groups for various purposes and I'm writing to ask whether there are any who'd like to use this group 'expertise' to help Carers living in their area form a Support Group. Such a role would not involve them having to *be* a Carer, knowing anything about Carer 'issues' or 'driving' the Group, but would be about making it 'happen', involving some of the following;

- helping the Group find a place to meet
- making sure the venue is ready on the day of the meeting.
- 'facilitating' any discussion times
- encouraging Group members to take responsibilities in running the Group
- ensuring any comments from the Group about information needs, speaker requests or activity ideas are 'captured' and followed up.
- ensuring any new members are made welcome

It could be that a drop-in event for Carers is a good starting point for exploring whether there's demand for an ongoing Group.

This Group Facilitation could be done individually or in pairs, for example, and even be shared around the Group once it has been established.

I would, of course, provide training and support, initial and on-going, for any who would like to serve their neighbours in this way. I can also provide 6 'ready-made' sessions, with Facilitator, as part of any Group starting. If you know anyone who would like to explore this further I'd be happy to tell them more.

Roger Hare

Support Groups Coordinator

Carers Gloucestershire

2nd Floor Messenger House, 35 St Michaels Square, Gloucester GL1 1HX

T: 01452 872241

E: rhare@carersgloucestershire.org.uk

W: www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk



Christmas Tree Festival

On these lovely long summer days what could be further from your mind than Christmas? However, as groups may soon be planning their autumn programmes I am taking this opportunity to announce the theme for this year's Christmas Tree Festival which will be...

Nursery Rhymes

As usual, the theme can be interpreted as widely as you like - the main element is fun!

Some groups have been having difficulty in finding a volunteer to "do" their tree. The Festival was never meant to become an onerous task for one person; we hoped that all members of a group would each do just a little bit.

Marle Hill WI's tree last year was a good example of group co-operation - they chose "Five Gold Rings" as the title for their tree and each member of the WI made a decoration consisting of five gold rings. The person who brought it to church added lights and some tinsel and the result was a lovely tree with just a small amount of effort from lots of people. That's the way to do it!

Of course, trees decorated by individuals are welcome too!

We look forward to seeing how you combine Christmas and nursery rhymes - you never cease to amaze us!

Karen Evans

on behalf of St. Lawrence Church fundraising group.

The Village Trough

The village trough looked attractive all through the (mild) winter and the spring rain kept it fresh and colourful. In May it was cleared and replanted by the daughters of the late Gwen and Fred Hunneman in memory of their parents.

Many thanks to The Plant Centre on Tewkesbury Road who generously supply the plants and thanks to Bill who faithfully does the watering.

Wednesday Club

At our last meeting on the 4th June, Jill Ruix came along with three friends, Cynthia, Pat and Jill, to tell us about the lives of the Narrowboat Women. Jill and her friends are all volunteers at the Waterways Museum in Gloucester and have all taken a particular interest in the lives of these women. They all dressed in the costume that the women would have worn and brought along various crafts that these ladies would have made while steering the narrowboats, including rag rugs and crochet work and Jill and her friends took it in turns to tell us about the history and also the very hard lives that these families lived. It was a really good evening and the ladies stayed for supper and were pleased that the members of Wednesday Club took such an interest in their (now) ever increasing hobby.

The weather was kind to us again on the 11th June for our Coffee Morning. We did a quick head count and forty people attended which was fabulous. Thank you all for supporting us and a big "Thank you" to the committee for their help and, of course, to Stuart for his hard work on the garden. We took £118 which will hopefully pay for at least two speakers next year. Again, many thanks to all of you.

As I write I'm hoping for fine weather again for our trip to Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury. I am sure it will be fine!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd July starting at 8pm and George Hook will be coming along to tell us about the "**World of Mother of Pearl**".

As usual, there won't be a meeting in August but on Wednesday 3rd September Dennis Halliday will be telling us about "**Discovering a Family Tree**". On that evening we will also be having a Bring & Buy stall to hopefully raise more funds for our group.

Unfortunately the proposed trip to the Black Country Museum in September has been cancelled because of the high cost.

We all look forward to seeing you at any of our meetings so please do come along and join us.

Pauline Wright

First I must recommend our September meeting to everybody. Eileen and Hazel have undertaken much investigation into the Village's war dead. In our September meeting Eileen will present the results of these investigations. It is just 100 years since the start of World War One and so we could not have a more appropriate talk. Non-members will be very welcome.

The last time I wrote there was much on church architecture. Well the church is having its architecture changed as I write. A call from our churchwardens had me heading down to the church where the pews in the south aisle have been taken up and the floor uncovered. I doubt that this has been done since the major revamp of the church in about 1850. There are a number of memorial slabs beneath the pews, several of them being to members of the Surman family from what became Swindon Hall, although it was a much more modest dwelling when they lived there.

In particular there is a stone commemorating John Surman and his wife. John is the first person we have traced to The Hall. He moved here from Tredington, the second son of a yeoman farmer. He married in Tredington in 1698, had his first child christened there in 1699 and his second child christened in St Lawrence's in 1701 and for that reason we can date the family's arrival fairly accurately. In addition, since origins were reasonably humble we can be fairly sure that the place he lived in would have been modest. It took a further 150 years before it became 'The Hall'. We even have a copy of his will from 1729.

We already knew of his and other memorials from 'Bigland'. Ralph Bigland undertook a survey of all the memorials in Gloucestershire in about 1780 and published the information in a book. From this we knew who was under the pews. However, the current work has come up with two surprises. The first is a rough cut stone memorial to a name best read as Robart Dessed dated 1611. This stone is not mentioned in Bigland. The county archaeologist's office has declared it to be of interest and so it will not be re covered. The second is a brick and stone vault under the north-west corner of the south aisle. Who owned it we cannot tell and we will probably never know because it is not going to be disturbed. If I had to guess I would say that it was for an offshoot of the Clifford family. The Cliffords were a major Gloucestershire family who held the lordship of the manor of Swindon from the dissolution in about 1540 to about 1627. The main branch of the family lived at Frampton but a lesser branch probably built the manor house in the late 1500s and certainly lived in it. A James Clifford was baptised in St Lawrence's in 1617 and another James Clifford became Rector in 1627. There were no other dynasties who could really justify a crypt and so unless more information comes to light they must remain the prime suspects.

The fight against development goes on. The Cheltenham Alliance, of which Save The Countryside and The Village Society are a part, are writing to the three councils to say that the newly published numbers from The Office of National Statistics do not justify the current plan and will represent a real challenge when the JCS goes before the inspectorate.

However, there are none so deaf as those that will not hear, so for now we can only keep shouting loudly.

Our July talk is by Geoff Miller who gave us a great talk on being a bank manager on Cunard's major liners but this time he will give us the truth about the German occupation of Guernsey. In August it is the Village Society Garden Party - members only. Start building an ark now.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

At the club meeting held on Wednesday 28th May we had our annual BBQ evening and we also had a wine competition, this one being Blackberry. We had visiting members from Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, West Glevum and Stroud, 53 members in total. It was supposed to have been a summer BBQ; well, the cooking was done outside but as it was like an autumn evening the rest of us sat inside. Mandy Jilbert, our chairman, welcomed everyone and apologized that the weather could have been a lot kinder to us. The cooking was done by Tony Jilbert and John Beardsley aka Fanny Craddock and Philip Harben; that shows my age - the younger readers will have to Google them.* It was done under two gazebos - beefburgers, sausages and onions followed by cheesecake, uncooked.

The wine competition was judged by Bridget and Stewart Wilsden from Cheltenham Winemakers; there were seven entries in all. Stewart said that it was a very difficult and close-fought competition.

The result was: Third place - Tony Jilbert; Second place - Ray Hales; First place - Jim Taylor.

Earlier in the month some of the members had a short break in Newquay (Cornwall). This trip was organised by Ann Harper. It was a Monday to Friday, 5th to the 9th May. We visited the Eden project and also Padstow. The weather was quite kind to us.

Every year there are four clubs that enter an interclub Quiz and Wine competition - Cheltenham, The Reddings, Twyning and Swindon Village - and they take turns to host the event. This year it is Swindon Village so that is what the July meeting is all about.

Regards.

Roy Harper

** Editor's note: I'm too young! I "Googled" Philp Harben. He was recognised as the first celebrity TV chef in 1946.*

Arthur Ball, one of our favourite speakers, paid us a return visit in June. This time we were taken, via his beautiful pictures, to India to seek out 'Birds, Tigers and the Taj'. We saw the contrasting views of Delhi street life and that of New Delhi. The many modes of transport were shown, including the railways that they used to reach the foothills of the Himalayas and the Corbett National Park. There they encountered many colourful birds, fish, crocodiles, Indian Red Jungle Fowl (from which our own domestic fowl originate), deer, and monkeys. A ride on an elephant resulted in seeing tigers. From there to Agra and the famous Taj Mahal and Barakpur where pythons, sloth bears and mongooses were seen. A visit to the Amber Fort and from thence back to New Delhi and home. It was certainly an eventful trip that we enjoyed sharing with Arthur and we look forward to his next visit with more of his adventures.

I was once again invited to be a steward at the National Annual Meeting, held this year at the First Direct Arena in Leeds. The main speakers were Sir Andrew Motion, Dr George McGavin and Bill Turnbull who were all very good. The plans for the WI Centenary Celebrations, to be held next year, were announced. There is a Baton travelling around Wales and England at the moment arriving in Gloucestershire next March for a week of activities. It started in LanfairPG on Anglesey, where the first WI was formed, and will end up at next years Annual Meeting to be held in the Royal Albert Hall. The event that day will be broadcast live and watched all over the country, allowing members to have contact back to the main event. This sounds very technical so let us hope it works! I am keeping my fingers crossed that I will be invited to steward again, as it has long been an ambition of mine to sing Jerusalem with the WI at the Royal Albert Hall.

We had to change the date our meal at the Café Rouge as it clashed with the skittles match with Sheepscombe. A day of Clay Pigeon Shooting, a Craft Afternoon at Sue's, a tea afternoon at Gloria's and assisting with the catering and making cakes for the Royal Three Counties Show were amongst the other activities.

Future events include an afternoon of croquet, a visit to Denman College, our visit to Stratford-on-Avon with a boat trip and cream tea and a bus trip to Cirencester to seek out the many decorated Hares placed around the town.

Our major event is the '**Music on a Summer's Evening**' at Swindon Village Hall on 12th July. The performers are The Lauda Singers (a choral group from London), Jennifer Statham (a violinist and winner of the Gloucestershire Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition) and The Ukuladies (a group of local ukulele players and singers). This should prove to be a varied and enjoyable evening starting at 7pm and to include a glass of sparkling wine (or an alternative) with canapés in the interval. Tickets are available from Wendy (01242- 233883) or myself (01242-692500).

We have invited members from the other WIs in our Group to join us at our meeting on 7th July. Paul Evans is coming to entertain with 'Humorous Poems, Monologues and Readings'.

Visitors are always welcomed to our meetings held at St. Nicolas Church Hall, Swindon Lane at 7.30pm. We do not have a meeting as such in August, hence the visit to Cirencester instead but, on 1st September, Virginia Adsett and Gillian Morss will be with us to remember 'The Swinging Sixties'. Do they mean the decade or sexagenarians? Just a thought!

Sara Jefferies

Smiles from Jack, a 90 year-old from Roundhay, Leeds.

I'm fine, thank you

The moral of this, as my tale I unfold,
That for you and me, who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let folk know what shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get-up-and-go has got up and went.
But I don't really mind when I think, with a grin,
Of all the places my "get-up" has been.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And I pick up the paper and read the "Obits".
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead,
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed!

I love the summer months – long days, short nights and, occasionally, some decent weather! And lots of camps to escape to...

Survival Skills

Three Scouts from Swindon Village (**Jakub Kubinak, Daniel Mitchell and Joshua Williams**) and two of our former Scouts (**William Lancaster and Oliver Smith**) took part in the County organised Survival Skills weekend held up in woods near Duntisbourne Abbots over the last bank holiday weekend. They joined over 100 Scouts and Explorers from across Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Greater London who came to take part in one of the most challenging weekends that they can have as a Scout. This course took them through a real “Bear Grylls” style survival challenge and after several hours of training and instruction, with a knife as their only tool, they set about their survival exercise. This included building a shelter out of natural materials, foraging for wild food (including eating nettles) and preparing and then cooking rabbits over a camp fire without utensils. William and Oliver were back for their third year on Survival Skills and were taking part in the “Advanced Survival” course – which involves even less equipment and no sleeping bag for the weekend! Needless to say, they all came home very tired and in need of a good bath but happy and wiser for the experience and thrilled with their achievements!

Group 50th Birthday Camp at Cranham Scout HQ

The first full weekend in June saw us all celebrating the Group’s 50th Birthday with a group camp up at Cranham. The Cubs and the Scouts camped together over the weekend and the Beavers came up to join us for the Saturday afternoon. The weather forecast was for heavy thundery showers throughout Friday night and Saturday but somehow we managed to miss most of it; we were woken by thunder on the Saturday morning but only had a couple of hours of light rain towards lunch time. All quite amazing when we heard how much rain fell on both Cheltenham and Gloucester! Activities on the camp included air rifles, wide games, crafts, a string trail, an obstacle challenge course and archery for the Cubs and Scouts on Sunday morning. The Scouts also planned and ran bases for the Beavers during Saturday and the day was rounded off with a barbecue and camp fire together with a huge 50th birthday cake. On camp we had 11 Cubs and 16 Scouts together with a dozen leaders and helpers, who were joined by 15 very excited Beavers on the Saturday. All in all, a lovely weekend enjoyed by everyone. Here’s to the next 50 years!

More camps...

As I write, four of our Scouts are off to the Activate camp at Kidderminster this weekend, followed by 21 Scouts off to the Malvern Challenge camp the weekend after and the Explorers are off to the Sun Run camp the weekend after that – both up on Cleeve Hill. This is followed by our Scout Summer camp at Titley in July. All we need is some weather – I’m sure we’ll get some!

Sos



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with their Leaders at the 50th Anniversary Camp at Cranham

Cheltenham Half Marathon - progress report from Kim and Alex

Wow! We have been totally overwhelmed with support over the last few weeks since sharing our story. We have featured in the Gloucestershire Echo, on the Cheltenham Half Marathon website and have set up a Facebook page where supporters can follow our journey – blisters, cramp and all! In the 6 weeks since we decided to sign up for this challenge we have reached 95% of our fundraising target thanks to your generosity. Because of this, we have been inspired to not only reach our target, but to double it! We now have ambitions to raise £1,000 for Gloucestershire Deaf Association.

We have had generous donations from local businesses for a raffle that we will be holding later in the summer. Tickets can be bought at GDA classes and socials, and prizes include tickets to any Cheltenham Town Hall event, a ski or snowboarding class at Gloucester dry slopes, £35 voucher for KUBOI sushi restaurant, £20 off a meal at the Spice Lodge and many more!

We also have some exciting projects in the pipeline to raise awareness of deafness within our local community. We are currently working with Leisure@ Cheltenham to organise a deaf friendly gym environment and are hoping to trial some BSL group exercise classes within the next couple of months! If you are interested in this, please get in contact with us to discuss ways you can get involved.

Thank you to Nicholas White Hairdressing Salon in Cheltenham for their generous donation of £100, and to AVM Storage in Cheltenham for their generous donation of £50. And, of course, thank you to each of you who has already donated. If you haven't yet donated but would like to, please visit

www.justgiving.com/KimLexMarathon or text GDAS50 and the amount to 70070.

To keep updated with our progress, to offer support or to get involved with our projects, visit www.facebook.com/KimLexMarathon and like our page.

Kimberley Robinson & Alex Tomlinson

Let us know if you are taking part in the Cheltenham Half Marathon and, if you are raising funds for charity, how people can support you. We'll publish a list in the September issue of Village News.

Another “runner” in the Cheltenham Half Marathon

We heard that Philippa Skinner is taking part in the Cheltenham Half Marathon and we asked her to tell us how and why. We wish her luck.

Hi!

In August last year I spent three weeks at the Bath Centre for Pain Services, based in the Bath Rheumatic Diseases Hospital, on a pain management course, due to having Psoriatic Arthritis, Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis and Chronic Pain Syndrome in both my shoulders and hip.

The wonderful staff there helped me hugely in managing the pain, and taught me to not give up on things I have always wanted to do. In addition to helping me deal with pain, it was great to meet and mix with other people who are in the same situation as I am in.

I would like to give something back to the Centre, which is one of only two pain management centres in the country specialising in Chronic Pain Syndrome and to this end I have decided to take part in the Cheltenham Half Marathon.

I won't be running so much as hopping and swinging along on my crutches which I have been using for the last two years. It's going to be a team effort with my mum and sister running along with me for support. This will be incredibly challenging for all three of us, but it's for such a great cause which is close to my heart.

All the money I raise will go to the Bath Centre for Pain Services.

Thank you very much in anticipation for any donations you give; we really appreciate it!

Philippa

You can sponsor Philippa through her Virgin Money Giving website page:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=PhilippaJoSam&isTeam=true>

Alternatively, cash donations may be left with the Village News editors at 16 Stantons Drive or 5 Manor Road.



Village People

John Bick

Why is Dark Lane called Dark Lane? It was once a very dirty lane because local people, in the days of coal fires, scattered ashes on it, using the ashes to fill the potholes.

John Bick has lived in Swindon Village all his life and remembers what the village was like before the war.

How long have you lived in Swindon Village and what brought you here?

I was born here in 1931 and have lived at Home Farm ever since. The farmhouse dates from 1845. When I married Margaret in 1957 we moved into the bungalow behind the farmhouse. It used to be one of the farm buildings which we had extended and we have lived here ever since.

The village must have changed a lot in your lifetime.

There have been enormous changes in recent years especially since the retail parks were built on the Tewkesbury Road. That has generated a huge increase in traffic on this side of the town. On the other hand we don't need to go into Cheltenham any more as it's all come out to us. When I was a boy there were no houses in the middle of the village, just fields and an orchard halfway along Dark Lane with a Guest House at the end of the lane. There was a bungalow at the bottom of Quat Goose Lane and my father's farm beyond that. We used to plough the fields where the houses on Rivelands Road are now. A lot of trees have gone too, especially the elms. During the war our stable was commandeered to store food which was kept on the first floor. One day the floor collapsed but fortunately the horses were out at the time. My father used to take me to school in Cheltenham in the pony and trap. He delivered milk around the town so I had to stand between the milk churns, no Health & Safety then! I also used to collect pigswill from the POW camp in the village.

Do you read your Village News?

Yes, I read it all and find the church news very interesting.

Do you have a family?

We have two daughters, both in their fifties. They went to the village school, then to Cleeve School and finally to Exeter University where they both studied Russian. Rachel has four children (all in their twenties) and lives in the farmhouse. Since graduating, Megan has lived and worked in Russia. She began by teaching English, then taught teachers and now she works for various charities like Oxfam. She was recently involved with the elections in the Ukraine.

Are you involved in any village activities?

Not any more but I used to help with the Whist Drives that were held at the old school. We used to have the village Gymkhanas on our field every year. That was a good day out for the village. I also remember driving the tractor and trailer in the Queen's Silver Jubilee procession.

How do you spend your leisure time now that you're retired?

I still drive the tractor and help out a bit on the farm. I enjoy doing the garden with Margaret but, now that I have time, I play bowls at Suffolk Square four or five times a week.

What sort of holidays do you enjoy?

We do local holidays now, usually at our lodge in North Devon. In the past we had some enjoyable trips to Russia. Megan showed us round so we didn't need a guide or an interpreter. We visited Moscow and St Petersburg and even went to Murmansk in the Arctic Circle and saw submarines and warships rusting away in the ice. It was interesting to meet Megan's friends and to see how they live. Apart from that, our favourite holiday was in Iceland where we had a very good local guide.

We feel very fortunate to be living here at the edge of the village, surrounded by green fields. We're very quiet but we can be involved in village life when we want to. It's perfect.

Thank you, John, for talking to us.

From the first edition of Village News in October 1974.

The Swindon Village WI was advertising "The Rainbow Evening" to raise funds for their own coffers and St. Vincent's School. There was to be a slide show and talk entitled "In and around Cheltenham", bargains for sale and a Ploughman's Supper at 25p per head. (The bread roll alone would cost that now!)

The WI's first meeting since the summer break had been well attended and members were introduced to a former national chairman who gave an interesting and informative talk on her recent visit to Denmark.

Winners of the competition for the tallest sunflower grown from seed were 1st - Mrs Selfe; 2nd - Mrs A Seabright; 3rd - Mrs Downie.

Marle Hill WI

presents



*Music on
a Summer's Evening*

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Jennifer Statham (Violin)
The Ukuladies



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| Cub Scout Leader | Rachel Smith (Chil) | 693107 |
| Beaver Leader | Charlotte Mitchell (Mole) | 701854 |
| Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts | Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis | 514825/244708 |
| Rainbow Guider | Jackie Bailey | 07871 169308 |
| 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 | Roy Harper | 662861 |
| School Headteacher | Jonathan Dyer | 690016 |
| Friends of the School | Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris | 701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com |
| Art Club | Adrian Skilling | 690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com |
| 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 |

There is no Village News in August as the editors take a summer break.

The deadline for the September issue of the Village News is the 16th of August.

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

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