

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 407

September 2014

September

- Monday 1 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Virginia Adsett & Gillian Morss - The Swinging Sixties
- Wednesday 3 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Dennis Halliday - Discovering a Family Tree
- Tuesday 9 Parish Council Meeting including
Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group
Village Hall 7.00pm Open to all.**
- Wednesday 17 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Eileen Allen - The Tale of Swindon Village's War Dead
- Monday 22 Scouts collecting jumble around inner village area from 5pm
- Wednesday 24 Wine Club - Skittles and meal at Guiting Power

October

- Wednesday 1 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Boots No.7 - Beauty Care and Make-up for the Mature Lady
- Sunday 5 Harvest Festival - see inside for details
- Monday 6 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Dr. Josephine Albert Ph.D., Akc. - From Foster to Doctor
- Tuesday 14 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session**
- Wednesday 15 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall
Alan Pilbeam - Along the Banks of the Severn

(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.)

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) pre-submission consultation rumbles on. This stage has to consider whether the plan is “sound and legal” before it is sent to the Secretary of State for consideration. Due to IT problems the email address advertised for the submission of comments was changed. There is no guarantee that emails sent to the old address will ever surface so anything submitted before 22nd July should be sent again (though by the time you read this it will be too late!). The consultation period was extended by a week as a result. As I write this the JCS web site that details the consultation process is “unavailable”. The process seems to be descending into farce. Aside from whether or not the JCS is valid there are now question marks over the whole consultation process. Hopefully the Secretary of State will look at the big picture when the plan goes before him. The equivalent plan for the Stroud area was rejected.

The next Parish Council meeting will include a Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group Meeting. Whilst this sounds intimidating it simply means that representatives of the County and Borough Councils and the Police will be present to assist the Parish Council and members of the public with any matters they wish to raise. The meeting will start at 7:00pm at Swindon Village Hall. We are hoping interested members of the public will attend. The Parish Council are particularly concerned about traffic management and road safety in the area but please come along and raise any issues you have. You can tell members of three councils and the police what you think of them on the same evening!

The poppies planted in the park in commemoration of the start of World War I have been a hit with people that I have spoken to. The Borough Council are keen to receive feedback so let them (or me) know if you have views one way or the other. On the subject of the park we have had two visits from travellers. The Borough Council and the Police have taken swift and effective action each time. The Borough Council plan to install a height restriction bar at the entrance to the park. Hopefully this will prevent further incursions.

The overgrown hedge along Manor Road was reported by me, a Parish Councillor and at least one member of the public. Perhaps because of this the County Council were stirred to action. However, the good weather seems to have resulted in a fantastic growing season so I am sure it will need cutting back again soon. Hopefully our allotment holders are seeing the benefit of the good weather as well.

Peter, the Chairman of the Parish Council, has asked me to include information in the Village News about the planning applications that we receive and consider. This is a good idea since planning forms a major part of the Parish Council's business. Ironically, it has suddenly gone very quiet on the planning front! I am planning (sorry)

to mention the specific applications received each month but I will also write a separate article to tell you about the planning process. It takes two or three weeks for an article written for the Village News to reach your doormat. Since the consultation period for planning applications is typically three weeks it will not usually be possible for me to let you know of applications in time for you to comment. However, it will give you a flavour of what is happening. If applications are major and/or controversial we do our best to make sure the people affected know about them. Gallagher Retail Park has been undergoing a major facelift with the Parish Council recently consulted on the third phase. Generally we recognise the works as improvements but we are mindful that sometimes the needs of pedestrians and the disabled are not adequately provided for.

The Parish Council's annual audit has been successfully concluded with the auditors giving us a clean bill of health (and taking some of our money!).

The Parish Council was consulted on a licence application from Cheltenham Town Football Club which now operates the "Seasons" site in Quat Goose Lane. The required statutory notices were published but the Parish Council were concerned that this was inadequate and that local residents living in the vicinity of the complex should have been consulted directly. Both the Parish Council and local residents objected to the proposed terms of the licence. Sensibly, Cheltenham Town Football Club made some concessions in terms of the hours of operation and the holding of outdoor events. The Borough Council also imposed some additional conditions. Cheltenham Town Football Club have emphasised their desire to be responsible neighbours. Hopefully a good relationship can be maintained between the Football Club, the Parish Council and the residents living close to "Seasons".

So to the changing of the seasons (two bad puns in one article!). Gloucestershire Rural Community Council are offering training on how to cope with conditions of extreme heat whilst at the same time Gloucestershire County Council want to know the name of our snow warden and how many bags of road salt we think we will need.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

A meeting of
Swindon Parish Council
and the
Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group

Tuesday 9th September
In the Village Hall

Open to all

Services and events in September

Tuesday	2 nd	7.00pm	Tuesday group
SUNDAY	7th	TRINITY 12	
		10.30am	Together@ Ten Thirty – School hall
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – Village Hall
Tuesday	9 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group – Rivelands Road
SUNDAY	14th	HOLY CROSS DAY	
		6.30pm	Evensong with the Airborne Forces – Village Hall
Monday	15 th	7.30pm	Communications Group – St Nicolas Rooms
Tuesday	16 th	7.00pm	Tuesday Group, Rivelands Road
SUNDAY	21st	TRINITY 14	
		3.00pm	Baptism of Bo Bishop – St Nicolas Church
		6.30pm	Evensong – Village Hall
Monday	22 nd	7.00pm	PCC – Village Hall
Tuesday	23 rd	7.00pm	Tuesday Group – Rivelands Road
SUNDAY	28th	TRINITY 15	
		6.30pm	Evensong – Village Hall
Tuesday	30 th	7.00pm	Tuesday Group – Rivelands Road

Services and events in October

SUNDAY	5th	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty – Venue TBD
		6.30pm	Holy Communion – Venue TBD

September is, for many, a time of new starts. There are new terms at schools and universities, and for some they will be starting school or university for the first time. New starts can be exciting, but they can be unsettling too.

Towards the end of September we celebrate the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. Angels are often the heralds of new starts, as they bear messages from God – often to the most unsuspecting people! An elderly woman is told she will have children. A young unmarried woman is told she will give birth to God's son. A group of shepherds are told to leave their sheep and head off to Bethlehem. These are but a few examples - the Bible is full of them.

Often the first thing the angel has to say is 'Do not be afraid!' as the person they are delivering the message to seems petrified! Whether it's the shock of an angel or the knowledge that it's quite likely that God has a plan for them that they can't quite believe, we don't know. I suspect it's a mixture of both.

What we can be sure of, is that God doesn't expect more of us than he knows we are capable of, and that if we turn to God in faith and trust, he will equip us to do more than we can possibly imagine. So if you, or someone you love, is anxious about a new start, pray that you may know God's presence alongside you, and God will enable you to do more than you might think you can.

Revd. Liz Palin

From the registers



Funeral

We give thanks for the life of Joan Skinner

29th July – service at Elmstone Hardwicke, burial at St Lawrence

RIP

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.

A View from the Pew

Some thoughts about how we express ourselves

About 50 years after Jesus' resurrection and the birth of Christianity Jesus' brother wrote an open letter to some new followers of the new faith. Looking at this ancient letter I was struck how, with a bit of constructive modernisation, James' advice can be very useful to us. James wrote: "We all make mistakes in all kinds of ways, but the man who can claim that he never says the wrong thing can consider himself perfect, for if he can control his tongue he can control every other part of his personality!" I certainly have wished I hadn't said something and wished to take it back!

James continues: "Men control the movements of a large animal like a horse with a tiny bit placed in its mouth. The human tongue is physically small, but what tremendous effects it can boast of. It has vast potentialities for evil. It can poison the whole body, it can make the whole life a blazing hell."

I had just been reading about what people had written in their emails and on places like Twitter and had regretted it later. These people had written some awful stuff in emails or tweets which they regretted later. I am still shocked when I learn the sort of thing that teenagers say to each other in emails.

The internet and everything that goes with it is a marvellous thing but it's also something that we have to be careful about. James warned us about the tongue. I think we should be careful about what we write and the power of the written word. James goes on: "Beasts, birds, reptiles and all kinds of sea creatures can be tamed by man, but no one can tame the human tongue. It is an evil always liable to break out, and the poison it spreads is deadly".

Ralph Griffin

My friend Joan Skinner

Joan worked tirelessly for Cancer Research, raising money in sales and selling raffle tickets. She supported all the usual things as young Mums do like the Cubs and Scouts activities, Jumble Sales, the Church Fete, washing up at various events, supporting football, in fact anything her young family took part in, working at the school and generally being a Super Mum and a great friend.

She loved going on camping holidays with her family, loved warm sunny weather and walking.

I miss her.

Joan Styman

Update on building works at St Lawrence Church

Work on the church is progressing. We had hoped that we would be able to be back in church for September but, unfortunately, due to a delay on the stone for the flooring, and the restoration of the choir vestry screen, this will not be possible.

The date for re-opening for worship will be 2nd November, with an 'official' re-opening later that month.

Revd. Liz Palin

St. Lawrence Church Annual Fete

A BIG thank you to all who helped setting up and clearing up or who attended this year's Church Fete. A great day was had by all, despite the very damp start to the day. Thank you all for your support on this important day for the whole village.

It was once again an opportunity for everyone to get together, have some fun and have a good catch-up. This year you helped raise £2,300 for church funds, which is a fantastic result, so once again thank you all for your support.

A special thank you to Clive Relf for donating nearly all the plants for the plant stall, to Andrew and Sara Hulbert for the transport and other assistance, to Mrs Leslie O'Donnell for the First Aid cover, Andrew Skinner for the sound system and for organising the classic cars, the Scouts for selling the programmes in advance, Frampton on Severn Band and England's Glory Ladies Morris for entertaining us. One final BIG thank you to all the stall holders for your hard work on the day.

Tony Jilbert

Annual Churchyard Clear-Up

Saturday 27th September 9.30am onwards

Many hands make light work

Every year we organise a working group who spend a morning clearing and tidying the churchyard ready for the winter months. This involves mostly pulling up and digging out hardy weeds, removing some of the stubborn ivy and cutting back the long grass around the edges.

If you can spare an hour or so on 27th September please come and join us. No gardening experience necessary!

Please bring any tools you can, and gloves. Rubbish sacks will be provided.

For more details contact **Tony Jilbert** on **01242 693639**.

The Children's Society

Home collecting boxes

It's time once again for The Children's Society home collecting boxes to be emptied and counted.

I would be grateful if box holders could bring them to me at 41 Rivelands Road as soon as possible. If you can't manage that then please phone me and I will arrange to collect the box from you.

Thank you.

Sylvia Hales

41 Rivelands Road

Tel. 235933

Poppy wreaths and crosses for Remembrance Sunday

With the heightened awareness of the World Wars in this special anniversary year perhaps it is timely to emphasise that everyone is welcome to lay a poppy wreath or a cross at the war memorial during the service on Remembrance Sunday.

Poppy wreaths and wooden crosses are available to order from the Royal British Legion and I am again willing to co-ordinate orders from Swindon Village's organisations and individuals.

The RBL lists the production costs of the different types of wreaths available and they ask for a donation which at least covers that cost and they welcome any additional donations. On this basis the wreaths are not subject to VAT.

The range of wreaths can be seen on the RBL website:

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/how-the-nation-remembers/wreaths

I have a paper copy and an example of the wooden crosses at home.

As you can imagine, this is a very busy time for the RBL poppy people and to guarantee delivery for Remembrance Sunday **orders and payment** must be with me by the **end of September**. If paying by cheque (which is the only way you'll receive a formal receipt for your records) please make it payable to **RBL Poppy Appeal**.

Please contact me if you would like further information.

Karen Evans

5 Manor Road

Tel. 241678

Swindon Village Art and Craft Club

New term starts on

Thursday 11th September
7.30 - 9.30pm in the Village Hall

Membership is £40 for whole year

Meet like-minded artists, both beginners and experienced.
Work on your own or receive some tuition.
At every session we have a short break for tea and biscuits
when we can discuss our work, or anything else!

Phone Adrian on 690928

or find us on Facebook

Christmas Tree Festival

We announced in the summer issue of Village News that the theme for this year's Christmas Tree Festival in St. Lawrence's Church will be **Nursery Rhymes**.

Christmas may still seem a long way off but groups who meet monthly will only have three or four meetings before then so it's time to put your thinking hats on. Please don't make this an onerous task for one member of your group - the fun is in getting everybody involved making decorations.

Trees from individuals are welcome too.

Phone me for more details.

Karen Evans tel. 241678

Wednesday Club

We all really enjoyed the talk given by George Hook at our last meeting on 2nd July. He told us all about the “World of Mother of Pearl”; he produces items made from this material at his factory in Smethwick. He brought along shells from around the world, some huge and very heavy and some smaller. I just could not believe the colours in these shells, they were just amazing. George then passed around some of the items he produces and I thought the mother of pearl buttons were so tiny and delicate I wondered how they could be made without breaking into a thousand pieces. George and his wife brought along some jewellery to show us and the evening ended with everyone crowded around his tables examining the pieces and chatting to George.

We were really lucky with the weather again for our trip to the Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury on the 18th of June. This is, of course, the home of the “Naked Gardeners”, the gardens having been seen on the television quite a few times over the years. The roses were just fabulous; apparently, when they took on the property it was quite bare and he decided to plant a thousand roses, no two the same. We saw the roses at their very best and it was quite breathtaking. About 45 people came along on this trip and it really was a good day out for us all.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 3rd September** and Dennis Halliday is coming along to tell us about “**Discovering a Family Tree**”. We are also having a Bring & Buy Stall that evening so do come along and join us.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

Does anyone know who Steve is?

On the afternoon of Saturday 9th August Steve and his mate, teenage cyclists, were near the top of Brockhampton Lane. One of them threw a stone at our greenhouse, seconds after I had moved away from it. The stone smashed the glass door and made a considerable mess of the inside of the greenhouse. A description has been given to the Police, but if anyone has any idea about the identity of these vandals, please call the Police on 101, quoting incident number 264 10/8. The stone has been carefully preserved for fingerprints.

Name and address supplied

We were joined at our July meeting by some members from the other WIs in the Cleeve Hill Group. Paul Evans entertained us with 'Humorous Poems, Monologues and Readings', which they certainly were. Various readings from Flanders and Swann to Albert and the Lion kept us all amused before everyone tucked into the buffet of delicious eats. Avril Keen from Prestbury WI then presented her very detailed report of the National Meeting in Leeds, as she had been our delegate there. We sent congratulations to Rosemary Bishton (a WI member from Oxenton and a past County Chairman) on her mention in the Birthday Honours list.

Our 'Music on a Summer's Evening' proved to be a great success. The variety of the programme proved popular as did the drinks and canapés! The weather was kind, the tickets sold well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; at least I have not heard any complaints as yet. Many thanks to all those who supported the event or helped in any way. Less successful was our skittles match as we lost to Longhope by 3 pins after a close game. We shall try to do better next year.

On a gloriously sunny July day we joined Rover's coach trip to Stratford-on-Avon. After a day of sightseeing and shopping we met up for a delicious cream tea as we enjoyed a boat trip along the river. The fine weather meant that there were a lot of small boats about too, so there was much entertainment watching attempts at rowing backwards, clashing of oars and colliding with the bank and other boats. One boat hit us and another was a near miss only because our helmsman went into reverse, as the occupants were all looking the other way!

Instead of a meeting in August members met up for a bus trip to Cirencester. The main purpose of the outing was to see the many decorated hares on the Hare Trail around the town, but it was also an opportunity to browse and visit some different shops. The designs on the hares were certainly varied and some were very elaborate. I ticked off 21, not counting the small ones in some of the shops.

Other activities have included a day at Denman College for three members, a Craft afternoon at Wendy's, lunch at the 'House in the Tree', a silk marbling day-course and a tea afternoon at Eileen's.

Wendy will be having her big social evening (everyone brings a plate of goodies!). Also to look forward to is an afternoon of Croquet with Tea at the Croquet Club in Cheltenham. An evening at Neal's Yard in September has been arranged and also that month the Autumn Council Meeting is being held at Kingsholm in Gloucester. Several members are going to try their hand at a session of archery, look out Robin Hood!

Virginia Adsett and Gillian Morss are coming to our meeting on 1st September to get us in the mood for 'The Swinging Sixties'. I think this will be a nostalgic evening for many members. So, if anyone would like to join in they will be made most welcome at St Nicolas Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Sara Jefferies

Swindon Village Winemakers

Instead of the normal monthly meeting in June fifteen members embarked on a boat trip along the canal from Gloucester Docks to Sharpness and back, seven hours' cruising in total aboard the King Arthur.

The weather was kind to us. We passed under fourteen bridges and were rewarded with stunning views of the Severn Estuary. Electricity pylons along the canal are taller than normal so that the tall ships sailing into Gloucester can pass under the overhead cables. At Sharpness we left the boat for a short walk along the towpath then boarded the boat for the return journey and enjoyed a picnic lunch and drinks on board. This was a most enjoyable day which some of us finished off with an evening meal at the House in the Tree public house.

Some of our members helped at the church fete in July by manning the wine tasting tent and the White Elephant stall.

On Wednesday 23rd July it was our turn to host the Interclub wine competition and Quiz; the clubs taking part were Cheltenham, The Reddings, Twyning and Swindon Village. Our chairman Mandy Jilbert welcomed the visiting clubs and before the proceedings got under way she presented a certificate to Jim Taylor for coming first in our wine competition in May - Jim had been away on holiday at the time.

Each club nominated a wine judge and they judged the wines, Dry Red, Sweet Red, Dry White, Sweet White, while the quiz was going on.

The quiz was organised by Ian and Sue Watkins and teams of three members faced fourteen rounds of questions, each on a different subject. Half way through we took a break for supper - a Ploughmans followed by ice cream with a Cadbury's Milk Flake (that melts in the mouth - do you remember that advert?).

During the break the chairman of Twyning Club announced that unfortunately this would be the last time they would be taking part as sadly the club is disbanding. They have been going for many years and will be missed.

Now back to the wine competition - the results are in! First place – Cheltenham, 98.5 points; second - The Reddings, 90 points; third - Swindon Village, 89 points; and finally Twyning, 83.5 points.

The quiz was a much tighter affair with Twyning, The Reddings, and Swindon Village ending up in a three-way tiebreaker which went on for some time, but in the end Swindon Village was knocked out, leaving Twyning and Cheltenham to battle it out with another tiebreaker! In the end, Alan Dean from Cheltenham said he was quite happy for Twyning to win the cup as it was their last competition.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a guided evening walk around Tewkesbury and a pub meal.

We have another meal booked for September, this time with a friendly skittles match, at the Farmers Arms in Guiting Power.

Kind regards,
Roy Harper

The Swindon Village Society

In July Geoff Millar told us about the German occupation of Guernsey. He was not there himself but he was told all about it by his aunt and uncle who were. I had not realised that all those who lived on the islands but who were not actually from the islands were deported to Germany and spent many years in an internment camp. Fortunately this was in Bavaria and so they were at least out of the way of the worst of the bombing but it was not a happy time. In Britain we did something similar by interning those of German background on the Isle of Man. On the Channel Islands there was a mix of resistance and collaboration but it must have been very difficult to know what was for the best in a small island community where there was no opportunity to take to the hills or flee. One of the most surprising facts to me was that one of the most senior German officers went back to the island after the war and ran a successful boarding house there for many years. This was a fascinating, almost firsthand, account of a part of the war that most of us have not thought about.

Our Garden Party took place. What is more, most of it took place in the garden which, given that the last remnants of Hurricane Bertha were wafting around, shows the resilience of those members who came along. The cat which owns our garden greatly appreciated the company and has applied to become a Society member but this will need further discussion at the AGM.

JCS goes on (and on, and on). The Village Society has made a representation which it hopes will influence the inspectorate when it comes around to that stage. The only real game is the numbers – the JCS backers will flannel their way through any other issues. As such the Cheltenham Alliance, of which the Village Society and Save The Countryside are very much a part, have put in a twenty six page submission with a detailed analysis of what we believe the Office of National Statistics numbers say. As the proud owner of three 'O' Level Maths certificates (I failed 'A' Level twice and got given another 'O' Level each time) I can only commend it.

Finally I must recommend once again our September meeting. Eileen Allen will present the results of her investigations into the village's war dead from World War One and, if there is time, from World War 2 as well. Non-members will be very welcome.

Barry Simon

Our Scout Group has enjoyed another busy summer of camps with a huge variety of activities again this year...

Scout Activate Camp - Kidderminster

Our first weekend camp of the summer was the Activate camp at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site – right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. This is a beautiful woodland campsite with small grass clearings for camping and we were blessed with gorgeous weather throughout the weekend. On site the Scouts tackled: climbing, abseiling, air rifles and archery. Off site, two had a flight in a light aircraft right over the camp site and the safari park, one went caving in the Forest of Dean while others went off mountain biking around the local area. Water activities included kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and power boating. This was an excellent weekend, with quality activities and instructors, that we hope to repeat again next year.

Malvern Challenge – Cleeve Hill

As this year was the final time that the Malvern Challenge and Sun Run camps were to be held, the organisers promised to go out on a high with the biggest and best events ever – and they didn't disappoint! Rachel, Sos and Shane were all present at the very first Malvern Challenge weekend way back in 1987 (at Malvern!) - and it has been a joy to see how the camps have evolved and developed into the incredible events that they are today.

This year we took our largest ever party to the Malvern Challenge: 21 Scouts and 7 leaders, as well as a couple of Explorer Scouts who were helping the site team. We were joined by around 4000 Scouts and Guides from across the UK. This was the weekend when the summer weather started so, apart from some light rain on the Friday evening and a lovely thundery shower on Saturday afternoon, the weekend was fine and sunny.

It was action packed from start to finish with many guest performers and star acts at the Friday night party including "Mr Methane" and X-Factor finalists "Kingsland Road". On Saturday our Scouts split into five teams and tackled the Malvern Challenge and Cotswold Challenge activity hikes. Our most successful team was made up of Jessica & Bethan Avery, Jessica Dermody, Jakub Kubinak and Ben Rodrigues: Out of 264 teams on the Cotswold Challenge, they managed to win Check Point 1, the Laser Clay Shooting, with the highest average team score and were duly presented with medals and a trophy on the Sunday morning. It's only the second time in 27 years that we've had a winning team, so huge congratulations to them all.

On Saturday evening there was music, entertainment, competitions and sports to keep everyone busy. Down in the barn we had the Talent Show finals followed by African Acrobats, 'freak-act' Garry Stretch and the star act Stavros Flatley from Britain's Got Talent (who was excellent entertainment)! Finally, to round off another great evening we were entertained by fire act "Flame Oz" on the field stage.

On the Sunday everyone took part in the Malvern Challenge Fayre, with over 100 different activities including craft fair, simulators, quad bikes, fairground rides, shooting, archery, zorbing and lots of inflatables and an opportunity to handle wild and exotic birds and animals. The arena events included a falconry display, acrobats, a display from stunt driver Jez Avery, and live music from Dale Williams - only at the Malvern Challenge!

An absolutely terrific weekend that will live long in the memory of all those who were present. And an almost impossible task to “follow that” for the team involved in setting up the new event called “Strategy” that will take place at Cirencester Park next June.

Sun Run – Cleeve Hill

Five days later Sos, Shane and Ashley were back on site with Cheltenham District's Explorer Scouts for more fun and games at the Sun Run weekend. Friday night was party night with two live bands, entertainment and dancers into the early hours. Saturday was a day to chill out with a much more laid back version of the Malvern Challenge Fayre with plenty of activities, sports, challenges, entertainers and more live music, before 360 Sun Runners set off on the final Sun Run at 3pm. It was a challenging 23 mile undulating route and I'm rather chuffed to say that both Ash and myself made it round in just under 7 hours. Meanwhile 39 Explorers from Cheltenham split into teams and tackled the 13 mile Moon Run and all 39 of them completed the full distance with over 1000 competitors in total taking part. This year's earlier start time meant that we were all back on site in time for another party to mark the “End of an Era”. I think some partied till dawn but most of those who completed the Sun Run were in bed much earlier! Yet another terrific weekend that we won't forget in a hurry.

Summer Camp – Titley 2014

After a three year absence, we returned to Oatcroft Farm at Titley for our annual week long Summer Camp. On camp we had 11 Scouts and 3 Explorer Scouts together with around 23 Leaders and adult helpers – that's the sort of adult/child ratio that most groups can only dream of! And together we all enjoyed a tremendous camp and were spoiled this year with gorgeous weather for most of the week (until the Friday anyway).

We stuck to the tried and tested formula of all the Scouts cooking their own breakfasts on their own patrol fires, as well as some of their evening meals too. On the Thursday the Scouts split into three teams and competed in the Summer Camp Masterchef competition and between them they cooked up some wonderful meals for themselves and the judges to enjoy!

For the first time in more than a decade we were able to use kayaks on the lake once again, as three of the leadership team now have the required qualifications to take the Scouts on the water. We had borrowed a dozen kayaks from Shelley (of Bob's Dinosaurs Explorer Scouts in Cheltenham) and this gave everyone plenty of time on (and sometimes in) the water! It was one of our main activities at camp and the Scouts certainly enjoyed themselves.

As well as several wide games and hikes we had some new activities again this year thanks to the additional helpers and former Scouts returning to camp with fresh ideas. A challenge ran throughout the week – “The Cube” (based loosely on ideas from the TV show) - and craft activities were always available for those that just wanted to chill out for a while. Richard ran a mini “Commonwealth Games” evening and the Leaders vs Scouts rounders match carried on well into the night until it was too dark to see!

The Scouts and Explorers all worked tremendously hard and all gelled together making the work-load much easier for everyone. The setting up of camp was both quick and relatively easy compared to many camps in the past – everyone really pulled their weight!

Two lads who deserve a special mention are: Ethan Drake who won the “First-Time camper” shield and William Lancaster who had travelled from his home in Devon to join us and won the “Best camper” shield. Congratulations to both of them and all who took part this year – you really did yourselves proud.

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers who gave their time and energy to make camp such a success again this year – we couldn’t have done it without you all!

Sos

Thank you

Wow, a long report from the Scouts. That’s what happens when the Village News summer break coincides with the Scouts’ busiest time of the year!

Sos and Rachel, their family and all the Scouts’ leaders and helpers are a well-practised and dedicated team who commit a lot of time and effort to providing our children with some of the best experiences of their young lives, giving them a good base from which to approach adulthood.

I hope Village News readers will want to join me in saying thank you to all of them.

Mother of a “grown-up” Scout.

St. Lawrence Church, Swindon Village

By popular demand it's the return of the

**“Pub Quiz”
& Hot Potato Supper**

**Saturday 18th October
Village Hall**

Extra “Spot Prizes” between rounds

Book as a team of 6 people or make up a team on the night

Supper menu

Jacket potato with a range of toppings (including vegetarian)
Apple Pie or Fruit Salad

Bar open

Raffle

Doors open at 7.00pm

Supper served at 7.30pm

£7 per person

Please book ahead so that we know how many to cook for!

**Tickets from Karen Evans
5 Manor Road Tel. 241678**

Profits to St. Lawrence Church Building Maintenance and Restoration
(including the new loo!)

Swindon Village Art & Craft Club

As you will see from our advert elsewhere in this issue, our autumn term starts on September 11th. We have a new Chairman, Adrian Skilling, and a Resident Tutor, the well-known local artist, Pamela Stone.

Norman Scott has retired after 20 years' chairmanship. Forty people gathered for a special event in May. It was a fitting way to thank Norman and say goodbye, combined with a display of our work and a lively party to celebrate our year's achievements before the summer break.

By means of posters and leaflets we are publicising our Club and encouraging visitors to come along to a free taster session on September 11th and see a wide variety of art and craft work in progress: painting in pastels, watercolours, oils and acrylics and craftwork including tapestry, cross-stitch, lace-making, tatting and patchwork.

You can pick up a leaflet in the village hall. This is your opportunity to learn a new skill or polish up an old one!

Angela Phillips

Rekha Tanna Hirani -

your local **Parkinsons information support worker**

It is my job to provide confidential one-to-one support to people with Parkinson's, their carers and families.

It could be that you need help linking to your local support group, advice on benefits, completing housing forms, referrals to other agencies, emotional support regarding an issue affecting your situation or information and advice around general issues with Parkinson's.

I work closely with the local Parkinson's Nurse Specialist and the Parkinson's UK branch. Together we provide a holistic and consistent support so that you are not coping alone. The Branch and its volunteers work very hard and are very successful organising various activities for members and fund raising locally. This helps to fund the work I do and why my services are free to all.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you would like any information or advice. I look forward to speaking with you.

I can be contacted on **08442259821** or email **rtannahirani@parkinsons.org.uk**

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

will be holding a

Jumble Sale

soon but we haven't got a date yet!
Look out for details in next month's Village News.

However...
sort out your unwanted bits and bobs now because

Scouts and helpers will be collecting jumble
from the inner village area
on **Monday 22nd September from 5.00pm** onwards.

They will pick up jumble from your doorstep without disturbing you
provided it is clearly labelled!

If you have any large items that need collecting by car please phone
Heather on 692364 or Margaret on 690048 to make arrangements.

We look forward to your continuing support.

Thank you.

Plastics recycling

We hear from Cheltenham Borough Council that the mixed plastics recycling scheme has been going well. We have not yet heard whether the scheme will be extended beyond the initial three months' trial period but as long as the "banks" remain in place at Sainsburys and the Recycling Centre please keep using them. These banks are for items such as yogurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, ready-meal trays and fruit punnets but **no black plastic or any kind of film**.

Please remember also that hard plastic items such as toys, garden furniture and buckets can be recycled at the Recycling Centre only.

We await further news on the scheme.

The Editors



GRANTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS FOR CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL RESIDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Warm & Well is managed by the Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council and the 6 other Local Authorities in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. There is now funding for insulation and heating measures to make Cheltenham Borough Council residents' homes warmer and save money on their energy bills!

For more information, please call or email the Warm and Well team using the details below:

Telephone: **0800 500 30 76** (Warm and Well advice line)

Email: warm&well@severnwyenergy.org.uk

Kind regards,
Warm and Well

Severn Wye Energy Agency
Unit 15 Highnam Business Centre
Highnam
Gloucester GL2 8DN
Tel: 01452 835060

Working for a future powered by local energy and free from fuel poverty.

Registered charity no 1083812.

For free, impartial and local energy saving advice, call the Warm and Well advice line on 0800 500 30 76 or 01452 833 605



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Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £30
Half page £15
Quarter page £7.50

Contact the Editors

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Gentle Beginners' Yoga with Katie

Fridays at 10.00am

Seasons, Quat Goose Lane

Classes begin again
Friday 5th September

£7 for a 75 minute class
Classes run during term time only

**FREE CLASS on
Friday 5th September with this advert**

07581 861 906
**www.facebook.com/
yogakatiemaughfling**



Helping Hands
The Home Care Specialists

Est. 1989



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Cheltenham care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



**To find out how we can help you,
call: 01454 643 701 or
visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk**

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Vacant	
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
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 & Craft 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

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

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
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
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07890 205767
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

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

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

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