

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 408

October 2014

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
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 15 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall
Alan Pilbeam - Along the Banks of the Severn
- Saturday 18 Scout Group Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am
- Saturday 18 Church Quiz & Supper Evening - Village Hall 7.00pm
- Wednesday 22 Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Annual Trophy Competition and Fish & Chips Supper

November

- Monday 3 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM
- Wednesday 5 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Graham Johnson - In search of Santa
- Tuesday 11 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 19 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall
Angela Panrucker - "Just hanging about" (Inn signs)
- Saturday 22 School Winter Fair - 2.00pm

(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.)

Our last meeting included representatives from the County and Borough Councils. This gave us a chance to raise the profile of a number of issues. Traffic management is a key concern. New developments are likely to add more traffic to roads that are already overcrowded and the many car dealers in the area block roads and footpaths with car transporters and cars for sale. We are trying to get a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and planners from the County and Borough Councils to discuss our concerns. We are also hoping to get a lay by in Manor Road that would enable transporters to load and unload cars without blocking half of the highway.

Another problem is litter. We have a number of fast food outlets within the parish boundary. The Borough Council representative has been asked to look into the obligations of the food outlets in respect of the litter problem. I understand that some are required to do their own litter picks though how often and over what sort of area I have no idea. Once I have that information the Parish Council can consider whether we need to remind them of their duties or even ask that they do more to address the problem.

Both the County Council and Borough Council are emphasising to us the financial constraints that they are facing. They are cutting service levels in anticipation of (or hope that) the slack will be taken up by other organisations or volunteers. The Parish Council does not have the resources to make good the services that are being cut. As an example, the County Council would like to leave bags of road salt with us. It would be up to us to store the bags and to move them around the parish as required. We may have to look to volunteers to fill the gaps in the future, but this is not easy. Aside from the natural concern that we may be taking on services that we already pay for there are the practical considerations of recruiting and organising volunteers and making sure they are insured, trained and suitably equipped. However, with everyone expected to do more with less we may have to find a way to engage volunteers if we want to maintain the quality of life we enjoy in the parish.

Selfish and dangerous parking at the start and end of the school day continues to be a problem. Parents are able to use the "Seasons" car park just round the corner (with the kind permission of Cheltenham Town Football Club). The police have promised to take a look at the situation. With everyone's patience and co-operation this problem and the danger to pedestrians, especially children, will go away.

We have received a report of a dog suffering injury as a result of venturing into the stream through the park. The Council has received such reports in the past and believe that it is due to the stream running through land that was previously used as a rubbish dump. Occasionally chemicals may leech out of the ground and affect the

quality of the stream. Whilst we are not certain that this is the case the Council strongly recommend that children and pets be kept out of contact with the water.

There have been a spate of burglaries in the Wyman's Brook area. We suggest that everyone takes reasonable precautions with regard to home security. Don't be an easy target. Contact the police if you need advice. One of the councillors is going to investigate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. I understand that one used to operate in the area but with the sad loss of its prime mover it became inactive. Another example where volunteers are critical to success.

Prior to the last Council meeting consideration was given to a planning application for a Combined Heat and Power unit at Spirax Sarco. The Council objected on the basis that there was insufficient evidence that the question of noise had been adequately addressed. Residents of Manor Court and Church Road are already disturbed by factory operations from time to time.

At the last meeting of the Council there was only one planning application to address, that of an extension to a house in Dark Lane. No objections were raised. After the meeting we received advanced notification of a plan for a small housing development behind the church on land that was owned by the late Mrs. Davies. The land has been used as a small caravan park. The Parish Council were informed of the plans out of courtesy; a formal application will be made to the Borough Council soon. If anyone would like more information please get in touch. Once the application is made it will be visible to all on the Borough Council planning web site.

On the subject of planning, the government have in place a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Lower level policies have to be consistent with that. The JCS is Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury's next level plan. Below that will sit a revised Cheltenham Local Plan that will have to be consistent with both the NPPF and the JCS (in whatever form it is finally adopted). This Local Plan is already under development and is something the Parish Council will need to engage with.

Finally, a reminder that Parish Council meetings are open to all and you can put your questions and opinions to the Council during the public session of each meeting. A resident recently asked me "When is the public session? I don't want to sit through a whole meeting". Just occasionally the Councillors (and the Clerk) feel the same way!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Cheltenham Borough Council

Mixed plastic recycling could be here to stay

Plastic recycling has proven to be a big hit with local residents and now the service looks set to stay. Following an overwhelming response to its recent trial, Cheltenham Borough Council may offer permanent facilities to recycle mixed plastics at their most popular recycling sites; cabinet members were due to discuss this in their meeting on 16 September.

A pilot project began three months ago and it meant that residents could go along to 12 of the borough's most popular 'bring bank' sites to recycle a range of mixed plastics. This included items such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, ready-meal trays and plastic fruit punnets. Officers soon realised how well the trial had been received as the banks were being emptied once and sometimes twice a week.

Scott Williams, strategic client officer said: "Before the trial was launched, residents could recycle plastic bottles but no other type of plastic at these banks. Almost as soon as we promoted the scheme, the bring banks were being filled with a mixture of different plastics. There is an increasing demand for this service as people become more aware of the action they can take to reduce their carbon footprint."

Councillor Chris Coleman, cabinet member for clean and green environment added: "These positive results speak for themselves and I am delighted that we are in a position to consider permanently increasing the recycling provisions available to residents. Prior to the trial, we were aware of the number of residents who said they wanted to recycle mixed plastics. We acted on that feedback and it's because of the great response to the recent trial that we feel it's only right to permanently enhance our services in this way."

If approved, residents will be able to continue to recycle their mixed plastics at twelve sites. In Swindon Village mixed plastic can be taken to Sainsbury's car park and the Swindon Road Recycling Centre.

Other materials which can be collected at the bring bank sites include cardboard, paper, glass, cans, textiles and shoes.

Bulky plastic recycling, also known as mixed hard plastics, can be recycled at the Swindon Road Recycling Centre. This means people wishing to recycle items such as plastic toys, plastic garden furniture and plastic buckets can do so at the container located on site at the recycling centre.

'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' says John Keates in his 'Ode to Autumn'. Perhaps like me, you had to study the poem for your English Literature exam, and isn't it strange how those things stick with you.

As I walk our two dogs in the fields around the village, with the hint of autumn in the atmosphere, apples and leaves falling from the trees, the colours of the trees beginning to turn, those words come to mind.

Mellow fruitfulness, slow ripening. In many ways that phrase could be used to describe a journey of faith. Not everyone has a sudden conversion experience where they hear a heavenly voice speak to them. For some people faith is something that develops slowly, almost unseen and unrecognised, until we somehow notice that something has happened, whilst the rhythm of life goes on.

Autumn is a time in the church's year when we pay attention to the rhythm of life as we look back and take stock. It is the season of remembrance. On 2nd November we invite all who wish to remember a loved one to come to our evening service where, as part of the service, you are welcome to light a candle in their memory. November 9th is, of course, Remembrance Sunday, where we call to mind those who gave their lives in the service of their country. This year is particularly special with it being the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1. It is also special because it is when we will be inviting all who live in our parish to join us for the service at the war memorial in the churchyard at 10.55am and then to come into church for refreshments and an opportunity to view the church following the re-ordering work.

However, before all that, October is the time when we gather together to give thanks to God for all the abundant gifts given to us in creation. Our harvest festival will be celebrated in the school hall at our Together @ Ten Thirty service on 5th October, then at our evening service in the village hall at 6.30pm.

On the 18th October there will be the annual Harvest Supper and Quiz in the village hall.

So, a time to give thanks, look back, and to look to the future with hope. I do hope you will join us.

Rev Liz

Services and events in October

Sunday	5th	Harvest Festival	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty - School Hall
		6.30pm	Sung Holy Communion – Village Hall
Tuesday	7 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	12th	Trinity 17	
		6.30pm	Evensong – Village Hall
Tuesday	14 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Saturday	18 th	7.00pm	Harvest Supper and Quiz – Village Hall
Sunday	19th	Trinity 18	
		6.30pm	Evensong – Village Hall
Tuesday	21 st	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	26th	Last Sunday After Trinity	
		3.30pm	Baptism of Archie Smith
		6.30pm	Evensong – Village Hall
Tuesday	28 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group

Sunday 2nd November

All Saints Sunday

Church re-opens for regular worship

10.30am

Together @ Ten Thirty

6.30pm

Holy Communion with

Commemoration of the faithful departed

From the registers



Baptism

We welcome into the Church
Bo Daisy Bishop 21st September

(service held at St. Nicolas' Church)

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 visit the **Team Surgery at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane on any Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.00am.** (Enter through the main door and turn right.)

If this is not possible contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Assistant Curate) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.

Swindon Village Art & Craft Club

We meet every Thursday from 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Great to see some new faces who watched demonstrations in pastels and acrylic, to give a taste of different mediums, and some advice in the craft section. A relaxed and pleasant evening... come and join us.

Helen - 01242 582366

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!)

Happy New Year!! Can you believe that it is October already? As I write this, the rain clouds have descended upon us and summer seems a distant memory.

We have now been back in school for three weeks and are enjoying a number of changes. As you may be aware from the media, all primary schools in England started this academic year with a new curriculum. Whilst at first this seemed a daunting prospect, the opportunity to redesign our curriculum has proved both refreshing and exciting. The National Curriculum as prescribed by the DfE is much more streamlined and this has enabled us to create a Swindon Village curriculum that ticks all the boxes whilst at the same time is tailored to what our children need to learn and, more importantly, want to learn.

We are only a few weeks in but already the message from the children is that they are really enthused about their learning and staff are enjoying the freedoms presented to them in taking learning in new directions and following the children's curiosity.

At the beginning of term we welcomed 60 new Reception children into school and, as in past years, I am impressed by how quickly they have settled into school life. We try as much as possible to get the children into school as quickly as they can manage and, by the time you read this, all 60 of them will be in school full-time.

Despite these children having only just joined us, we are already looking ahead to our September 2015 intake. We have a series of events planned and, if you have a child due to start school next year, we would invite you to let us have your details. This in no way commits you to applying for a place at Swindon Village (and you will still need to complete the Local Authority application process) but it means that we can get in touch about our Open Days and Parent Information Sessions.

We would also like to hear from any member of the local community who would be interested in joining the school's Governing Body. This strategic group is made up of parents, staff and representatives of the Local Authority but we would like to emphasise the role we play in our community by having more representation from local people. Being a school Governor is not a huge commitment in terms of time but it is a key role within the leadership of the school. If you are interested, or would like to discuss the role further, please contact either myself or our Chair of Governors, Richard Lee, through the school office.

This year's Open Day will be on Friday 7th November. More details will be in next month's Bulletin but please put the date in your diary – everyone is welcome. In the meantime, please visit our website www.swindonvillage.co.uk to see what we have been getting up to!

Best wishes from everyone at SVPS,

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Wednesday Club

At our last meeting, on the 3rd of September, Mr Dennis Halliday came along to tell us how to "Discover our Family Tree". When asked, quite a few of our members put their hands up to say that they were already working on a family tree. Mr Halliday explained that you used to have to go to the Gloucester Archive office and search through their files but now most of it is on the computer websites. Mr Halliday showed us parts of his family tree and spoke about his more recent family back to the 18th century. It was an interesting topic and the evening sped by.

We have decided to have our annual meal at the Rising Sun Hotel on Wednesday 7th January 2015. This is for members only and we will need any names as soon as possible as well as a deposit of £10. The cost will be 2 Courses £13 and 3 Courses £15 and, as usual, each meal will be subsidised from our funds. We will need the final payment at the latest at the December meeting.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st October and the ladies from Boots No 7 are coming along with some beauty care and makeup for the mature lady. Please do come along and join us - the more the merrier.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Pauline Wright

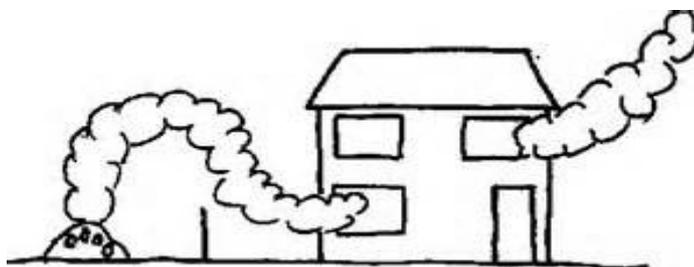
Bonfires

It's that time of year when we're trying to tidy our gardens ready for the winter.

When you're considering having a bonfire to burn the rubbish please think of your neighbours who might have their house windows open and washing on the line. If possible, please delay starting fires until the evening when they are less likely to affect other people.

Thank you.

Name and address supplied.



I am afraid that this is going to be a rather short article as we have had no new events since the last input.

Even the JCS has gone a little quiet before it goes to the next stage. This does not mean that we have stopped making ourselves heard because there are several sets of developers putting in their bids to build on the green belt and green fields around Cheltenham and Gloucester even though the JCS has not yet been considered at higher levels. Save The Countryside has made inputs trying to help similar areas under threat such as the Brockworth green belt. However, we can't take up every cause and must remember that, though our many alliances are beneficial we are really fighting for our own corner.

Personally it rankles that there are two large car parks to the north of the town centre that are ideal for housing. They have been scruffy unkempt areas ever since I arrived in Cheltenham and although there have been at least three schemes put forward to develop them in that time they are still scruffy unkempt areas. I hear that Morrison's no longer want to go ahead with their supermarket (does the town really need another?) and the group that was going to build housing seem to have hit a snag and prefer to run the areas as a particularly grabbing sort of car park.

It is a perfect location for high density housing for the young and old who want minimum garden and easy access to town. It is ideal for sustainable development. Wonderful word, 'sustainable', but no one knows what it means. The developers think it means sustainable profits for developers. I think it means development with a minimum use of resources in the construction and then the minimum use of resources over many years to keep it operating. Well-planned building close to the town centre should be able to achieve this since many services are nearby already and transport costs to work, shopping, entertainment and education should be less than living on the edge of town.

Unfortunately I have to praise developers here – and Bloor Homes at that, who are threatening our own patch. Their development near the leisure centre is good. It looks fine, has good insulation, solar panels and is close to the town centre. Pity they can't start on North Place and keep our green belt for growing flowers rather than importing them from Zimbabwe and for small farms which will allow future generations to get into agriculture and feed us when the newly upcoming economies want six times as much food as they do now and imports get pricey.

Well, that's good; filled up more space than I intended and got that off my chest. I can now potter off muttering to myself and look for something else to grumble about.

But not the wild flowers on the sports field which are simply splendid. I have thanked CBC for them on behalf of the Society.

Barry Simon

Virginia Adsett and Gillian Morss paid us a return visit for our September meeting; this time they arrived with boxes of 1960s' memorabilia. Recollections of the Kennedy assassination, Churchill's state funeral, winning the World Cup, Beeching axing the railways and putting a man on the Moon amongst others. Barbie and Sindy dolls, Thunderbirds and Sooty and Sweep, bubble cars, Tupperware and the fashions of the day put everyone in a very nostalgic mood.

Back to 2014! Sue and Mo were each given a pot plant at the meeting as Sue had broken her thumb and had had an operation to pin it and Mo had tripped in the garden, smashed her elbow and had to have a replacement joint. Both were making a good recovery. Sue, as our Secretary, managed to use a keyboard for her notes but was unable to sign any cheques! We were sorry to hear that Sandra's husband had died.

The evening at Wendy's was well attended and members enjoyed the variety of eats brought. The entertainment was provided by Linda trying on a dress to see if it would fit, unfortunately it didn't! A fine afternoon at the Croquet Club, where we had excellent tuition and a delicious tea served in the interval, proved very popular. We met for an evening at Neal's Yard where we had talks and samples and a beneficial hand massage. A craft afternoon at Wendy's to discuss decorations for our entry in the Christmas Tree Festival, a couple of members joined Southam WI for a visit to the SS Great Britain in Bristol, a day of Archery, a coffee morning at Annette's, a meal at No 7 and the Autumn Council Meeting have been on the agenda.

October activities include a bus trip to Oxford to visit the needlework exhibition in the Ashmolean Museum, a coach trip to London to see the poppies at the Tower of London, a Group Meeting and a talk on the History of Signals.

At our meeting on Monday 6th October Josie Albert PhD will tell us of her story of 'From Foster to Doctor'. We shall also be collecting some reading matter for the long winter evenings as there will be a bring-and-buy book stall, so turn out your bookshelves and make room for some more books! If you would like to join us for the evening you would be made most welcome at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Swindon Lane at 7.30pm.

Sara Jefferies

Letters to the editors

From time to time the editors receive letters from readers who are concerned and wish to express dissatisfaction about things that happen in the parish. In some cases the writers wish to remain anonymous.

The editors' policy on this is that we will withhold names and addresses from publication if requested but we will not publish correspondence whose author is unknown to us.

Before putting pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, consider who is going to read your letter and if it will really have the effect you hope for. If you hope to gather support from other members of the community then remaining anonymous will not help.

The Editors.

Cheltenham's Half Marathon

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Cheltenham's Half Marathon last month. It wasn't about being first across the finish line but more about setting yourself a challenge, whether that was achieving a "personal best" time or getting round the course at all.

We featured the preparations of three local young people in Village News.

Kimberley Robinson and Alexandra Tomlinson who, by their own admission, had thought walking to KFC and back was a challenge, completed the 13-mile course in 3 hours and 3 minutes.

Kimmy and Alex are very much aware of the problems that deaf people face in everyday life - Kimberley's mother has hearing problems - and they asked for sponsorship to support the work of the Gloucester Deaf Association for whom they raised £1,485.



Kimberley and Alexandra with Kimberley's mum



Philippa's team near the finishing line

Philippa Skinner, who has arthritis and cannot walk without crutches, exceeded her own expectations and completed the course in 3 hours and 32 minutes, accompanied by her mum, sister and aunty. They were escorted to the finish line by motorcycle outriders.

The team raised £1,205 for the Bath Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases where Philippa was treated last year. Whilst many runners no doubt had blisters on their feet, Philippa finished with a spectacular blister, the size of a hen's egg, on the palm of each hand.

Well done to all of them.

Karen Evans

Swindon Village Winemakers

Like most clubs we did not meet in August but some bright spark came up with the idea of a walk. We then enlarged on the idea and came up with an historical walk around Tewkesbury ending up with a meal afterwards to round off the evening.

Our guide was Peter Jones who lives in Tewkesbury and nineteen of us met outside the Abbey gates at 6.15pm to start the tour at 6.30pm. As we walked along he pointed out many aspects of the old medieval buildings and showed us an example of wattle-and-daub building. We went down several of the famous alleys which were named long ago after the people who lived in them and by old laws these names were not allowed to be changed.

It was all very interesting and we ended the evening at the Nottingham Arms in the High Street with an excellent meal.

The meeting in October is the Annual Trophy Peach wine competition with a Fish & Chips Supper.

Kind Regards.

Roy Harper

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Jumble Sale

Saturday 18th October
Doors open 11.00am
Village Hall

Bargains galore!

We look forward to your continuing support.

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Est. 1989



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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 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