

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 414      May 2015

## May

- Wednesday      6      Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
John Dixon - "Beguiling Barbara"
- Monday            11      Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm      Resolution for  
National Meeting + Decorated Eggs + Plant Stall
- Tuesday            12      Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Saturday          16      Art & Craft Club Exhibition - Village Hall 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Tuesday           19      Meeting re. new "Chatterbox" - St. Lawrence Church 10.30am
- Wednesday       20      Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm  
Gordon Ottwell - Laurie Lee
- Wednesday       27      Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm  
Annual Cup competition and Barbecue

## June

- Monday            1      Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
Mr Mason - Motorcycle safety
- Wednesday       3      Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
Brian Draper MBE - "Water over my wellies"
- Tuesday            9      Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Saturday          13      School Summer Fair - 11am - 2.00pm
- Wednesday       17      Swindon Village Society Evening Garden Visit

*(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk). They are also available on request from the Chairman.)*

I mentioned last month that we would be holding one of the meetings where representatives of the County Council, Borough Council and Police would be attending. We notify them of concerns in advance and they come to the meeting (hopefully) with answers. The meeting took place on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Most of our issues seemed to involve the County Council. The state of the roads is still a major concern. We were told that electric cables will have to be renewed under the railway bridge on Hyde Lane. This has delayed the resurfacing of this section of the road. Hopefully this will be completed Autumn/Winter 2015.

The County Council entered into a contract with Amey to undertake our road and footpath maintenance. This does not appear to be going well. Despite the funds available being limited, Amey are currently underspent on the contract, which suggests they do not have the resources they need. Whether this will stabilise with time remains to be seen. Due to financial constraints the County Council are doing little more than address safety issues.

We still have many issues with Manor Road including overgrown and poorly maintained pavements, car transporters blocking the road, blocked drains and speeding traffic. Whilst there is very little progress to report on most of these issues the County Council did undertake to do a traffic speed survey in conjunction with the Police. The survey will last a week and the results will be shared with the Parish Council.

It has been very difficult to establish a relationship between the Parish Council and the Police. They too are suffering from budget cuts and are in the throes of a major reorganisation. Some months ago an officer was going to come to one of our meetings but he became ill and a colleague filled in for him. Our allocated officer was then reassigned so a different officer was due to attend a subsequent meeting. She cried off at the last minute and by the time the next opportunity to meet came around she had also been reassigned. If community policing is the way forward surely we need some continuity. The officer attending our meeting this month was very helpful and, at our request, gave us some Neighbourhood Watch materials. We are trying to establish the state of play as we think there was a scheme in the area but the loss of the organiser meant that it fell into decline. If you know anything about a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme please get in touch. If there isn't a scheme currently and there is an appetite to do it we might establish a new scheme.

Another major issue for residents is the inconsiderate parking of cars. We know that residents in the Glynbridge Gardens area are concerned that employees from the retail parks park their cars in the area during the day while they are at work. In Manor

Road there are cars parked in visibility splays at junctions and on grass verges and outside the school a few parents continue to park in a way that is inconsiderate and dangerous. It appears that the provision of car parking facilities in the area is wholly inadequate (or, to look at it the other way, the area is overdeveloped for the facilities we have for the parking of cars and the management of traffic flows). Of course parking on a highway is legal. Short of trying to implement parking restrictions all we can do is ask for help from the Police in enforcing the law where people park illegally.

Last month I reported the Parish Council's concern about mud on the road as a result of certain farming operations. I received a response from a resident in effect putting the farmer's point of view. I believe that letter appears elsewhere in this issue of the News. I don't want to reopen the debate but it does raise a couple of interesting points.

Firstly, our community is unusual in its diversity. We are at the edge of town and at the edge of rich agricultural land. In many ways we have the best of both worlds (at least for now). Perhaps it is inevitable that there will be conflicts of interest when these two worlds collide! Tolerance and consideration for others are important.

Secondly, the Parish Council pays for the printing of the Village News but we are happy to publish a letter that expresses a different view. This is healthy. It is vital that the Parish Council represents the views of the electorate. The Council is a Local Authority in exactly the same way as the County Council or the Borough Council and it is here to serve the community. There are occasions when it is easy to gauge the public mood. The long standing fight against the building of 4800 houses in our area while brown field sites remain undeveloped is a cause close to the hearts of many parishioners. However, there are other occasions when it is not so clear. If you have a view on a topic let your councillors know or write to the Village News.

I say that the printing of the Village News is paid for by the Parish Council. That is only one part of the puzzle and getting it to your doormat requires a network of dedicated volunteers that are provided by the church. I am sure that delivering in December or February can be quite a chore and we are grateful that these folks make it happen. Hopefully it is more pleasant in May and June!

The Parish Council has just closed its financial year (at the end of March). Since becoming Clerk I have been amazed at the amount of red tape and the endless hoops the Parish Council must jump through. We have to have an internal audit and an external audit and shortly I will be required to publish a notice identifying a period during which electors can view our accounts. Rest assured that in practice you can view the accounts any time you like; in fact all the figures are now on our web site. If computers are not your thing and you want to see them just get in touch. We are responsible for public money and, while the amounts aren't large, it is a responsibility we take seriously.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Services and events in May

Sunday	3rd	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty all age service Baptism of Ethan Brown & Dixie Drew Bayliss Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Sung evensong
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Ascension Day communion service All Saints (team service)
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Ivo Blankley Sung Evensong
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox meeting in church Tuesday Group
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Jack Starkey Sung Evensong
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise at Elmstone Hardwick

### 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 (Associate Priest) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.**

## **New beginnings**

Easter is a time of new beginnings – with the fantastic weather over the Easter holidays all of a sudden the blossom is out (as well as the weeds!) and everywhere seems poised for new things.

Just as you received last month's village news, two pieces of news were announced in our churches.

The first piece of news was that Her Majesty the Queen has appointed the Venerable Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Hackney in the Diocese of London, as the next Bishop of Gloucester.

Rachel will be the first female Diocesan Bishop in the Church of England following legislation passed last year enabling women as Bishops. The bishop designate comes to the diocese having served previously in a number of other ministries. She is the current Archdeacon of Hackney, a role she has held since 2011.

Following the announcement, Rachel said,  
"It is an immense joy and privilege to be appointed as the Bishop of Gloucester. I am surprised and, I have to admit, even a little daunted by the prospect, but my overwhelming feeling is one of excitement to be coming to join with others in sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the people of this diocese.

"I am looking forward to encouraging Christians to speak out with confidence about their faith and the good news that the Gospel brings. It will be my privilege to work with churches as we connect with people, wherever they are and whatever their concerns.

"My calling to the role of bishop has been shaped by human encounter. I believe profoundly that relationship is at the heart of who God is. I have been with people through the joys and pains of their lives and it is these experiences that I will reflect upon as I take up this new role."

We hold Rachel in our prayers as she and our diocese prepare for this new beginning.

The second piece of news was that I am to continue serving in the North Cheltenham Team, and living in Swindon Village. You may not even have been aware that there was a possibility that I might have been 'on the move' but curacy lasts between three and four years, and my four years is up in July. It is customary for the curate to then move on to a new post. However, it seems North Cheltenham is where God wants me to be, and so by the time you read this I will have been licensed as a full time stipendiary associate priest. I suspect for many you won't notice any difference, but it does mark a new beginning with God and his church in this place, and as Canon David settles into his new role as team rector, there will no doubt be lots of new beginnings for all our communities.

I am really looking forward to engaging long term with all that our community is and does, and serving amongst you in all your new beginnings over the years.

**Revd Liz Palin**

**Parish of Swindon St Lawrence & Cheltenham St Peter**

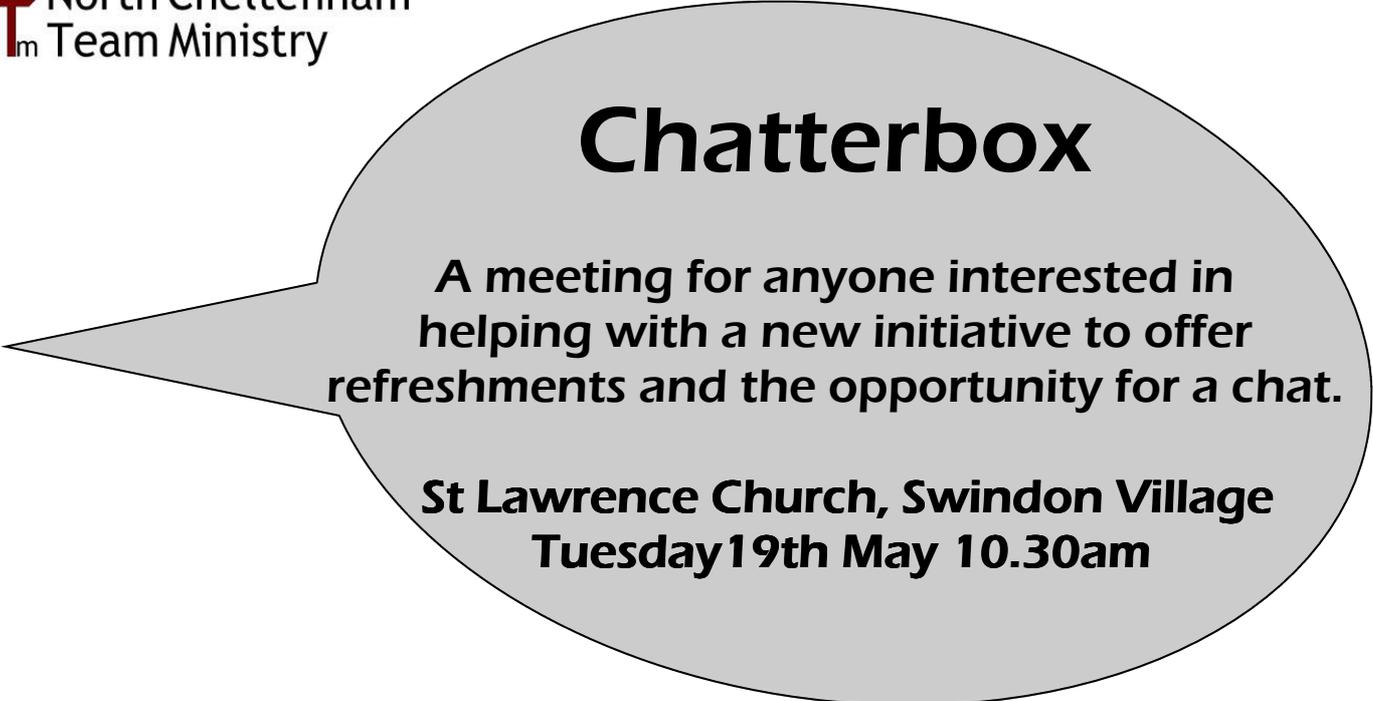
The following elections were made at the APCM on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015:

**Elected to the PCC for three years:** Mary Halliwell & Claire Bateman

**Deanery Synod Representative:** Tony Jilbert

At a meeting of parishioners held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the following people were **elected as churchwarden:** Tony Jilbert & Val Smith

**Revd Liz Palin**



## **Chatterbox**

**A meeting for anyone interested in helping with a new initiative to offer refreshments and the opportunity for a chat.**

**St Lawrence Church, Swindon Village  
Tuesday 19th May 10.30am**

### **St. Lawrence Church Annual Fête**

Time is flying by...

It's only two months to the church fête. Remember the date -  
**Saturday 4th July.**

If you would like to be involved in organising the fete please come to our next meeting which will be held in the church on **Monday 11th May**, starting at 7.30pm.

**Tony Jilbert**

## **A view from the pew**

I'm sorry to say that second only from working out what's wrong with me is working out what's wrong with other people or society as a whole. I hope I don't bore other people - although I may sometimes bore myself.

An exceptional interest in, or admiration for oneself, is called 'narcissism' after the Greek youth who fell in love with his own reflection in still water.

Have you taken any pictures of yourself recently? The new cameras and phones have given us all a chance to take as many pictures of ourselves as we'd like. A writer defined the craze for taking these 'selfie' pictures of yourself as an example of self-aggrandisement - making too much of yourself. It's old fashioned self-centredness or vanity.

The ancients had a word for this self indulgence - pride. Pride is one of the seven deadly sins (the chief one). 'Pride' is at the bottom of all other sins. Making yourself the centre of everything creeps into all parts of our lives. People used to call that the 'works of the devil' although we're a bit shy of such imagery today. We want desperately to feel that someone, somewhere, cares about us and our little lives and we forget that the way to contentment is putting others first, not ourselves. Loving others not our marvellous selves.

Jesus Christ's teaching is all about putting others first in our lives and not ourselves first. Of course it's part of being human to look after yourself. We wouldn't be here if our ancestors hadn't survived in the battle for existence. "Love your enemies (even) do good to them that despitefully use you", Jesus told us. How difficult it is to love the people who are nasty or cruel to us. It's almost impossible, sometimes, to forgive others but a willingness to forgive is best for us and, in the long run, for humanity as a whole.

At Easter we celebrate Christ's selflessness in giving up his life and suffering the worst other human beings could do. The Man who went about doing good and living for others was killed for it. He was called 'the man for others'. "Greater love has no man than this; that a man (or woman) lays down his life for other people".

As some of us learnt at Sunday School the word **JOY** has it all:

**Jesus first - Others next - Yourself last.**

**Ralph Griffin**

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> of JUNE 2015  
Swindon Village Primary School

# SUMMER FAIR

11am - 2pm



Entry:  
50 pence  
SVPS children free!

Go-karts  
Ice-cream  
Tombola  
Bouncy Castle  
Games  
BBQ  
Tea & Cakes  
Toys  
Pony ride  
Auction

## Wednesday Club

Well, I am not 100% sure about this but I think we were all conscripted to be Land Girls at our last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The ladies in the front row definitely were; not sure about the rest of us. It was a fabulous and very enlightening talk given by Fiona Warin on this subject and a lot of it was hilarious.

Fiona explained how ladies would be put into different groups, i.e. agriculture, animal husbandry, lumber jills and pest control. Some sounded much better than others but at the end of the day, they each had their down side to the work. Fiona said that some of the ladies were in farmhouse accommodation with other land girls, some in hostels and some were on their own, possibly not fed as their ration books had been sold on the black market. However, it was very rare for anyone to complain as they all felt it was their duty and their part of the war effort. It really was a good evening and enjoyed by all of us.

A reminder to everyone of our Coffee Morning on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 17 Quat Goose Lane. Please see advertisement elsewhere in the magazine. All are welcome so do please come along.

I still have a few seats left for our trip to **Hampton Court Castle and Gardens** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We will be leaving the Village Hall at 10 am and leaving the Castle at 3.30 pm. Tickets are £15 per person to include entry into the Castle. Please ring 693112 if you wish to come along. If you have not yet paid for this trip please bring your money to the May meeting.

Our Speaker on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May will be John Dixon and he will be telling us about "Beguiling Barbara". Do come and join us; you will be made very welcome. Look forward to seeing you in May.

**Pauline Wright**

## Art & Crafts Club

Sorry I missed last month's magazine.

Some very noticeable improvements have been made recently and we are working hard to get as many pictures and crafts items finished for our Exhibition. This will be a rewarding event for all our members, so please book the date and come and see for yourselves; it may give you the inspiration to have a go!!!.

The date for your diary is **SATURDAY 16th MAY**. 10 am to 4pm at **SWINDON VILLAGE HALL.....** Hope to see you there.

**Helen**

In March Geoff North told us about the significant contribution Cheltenham made to the care of injured troops during the First World War. Schools and houses were requisitioned or loaned; there were hundreds of volunteers for jobs from nursing to porters and many thousands of troops passed through the system. Cheltenham was particularly suitable for such work because there were good railway connections from the town to several ports. One of the most abiding images from the talk was a video of troops being loaded on freight lifts into the narrow holds of freighters. It must have seemed much like an early burial to those involved. However, what did surprise me was the relatively low death rate once the injured had arrived. There were obviously very high standards of care since antibiotics had not yet been discovered. Well done, Cheltenham.

Only a very select few gathered on a cool, blustery but sunny morning in April for our annual bird walk. This may be because Save The Countryside had brought forward their annual walk to the following day to coincide with a countrywide programme.

Nevertheless we few made our way from the Village Hall, through the grounds of Swindon Hall, along Church Road to turn off to pass Manor Farm and then through the amenity area before crossing Manor Road to Dog Bark Lane. We followed Dog Bark for half a mile to the crossing before turning right to cross the Swilgate before returning across the fields to join Stantons Drive and thence back to Swindon Hall for a coffee. The log came to 19 different birds though if we throw in one of the hens in the grounds of the Hall we can just make it to twenty.

The list was: Blue Tit, Starling, Rook, Magpie, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Common Gull, Wood Pigeon, House Sparrow, Jay, Mistle Thrush, Hedge Sparrow (Dunnock), Chiff Chaff, Buzzard, Willow Warbler, Great Tit, Skylark, Goldfinch and Robin.

Nothing startling there – we were missing last year's African Spoonbill. We might have done better had we had our rather more knowledgeable members with us but John and Elizabeth had gone off to the Isles of Scilly – no doubt looking for that elusive Spoonbill.

Of course we trod where kings trod before us. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1471 the Yorkist Army passed along Dog Bark Lane on their way to Tewkesbury where they fought with the Lancastrians next day, an important battle in the Wars of the Roses. The Yorkists were led by King Edward IV and with him was his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, who later became Richard III, the monarch recently reinterred in Leicester Cathedral. There is no record of the birds they saw on the way.

Last month I mentioned that Eileen is still seeking information on a few names which feature on the village war memorial. Well there are yet more names in the Parish Minutes which seem to identify further villagers who took part World War One. So if anyone has information on the following we would love to hear from you: Richard Bailey, William Charles Burnett (or Burnell), Earnest Dowdeswell, Arthur William Holder.

Finally we do have a garden to go to in June. I know that it is near Dowdeswell but am not sure of the name. We will be paying an entrance fee but hopefully the Society will be able to subsidise this for members. Non-members will be welcome but will have to pay the entrance fee. We should be able to provide lifts. There will be refreshments. More details next month.

**Barry Simon**

## 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

### **Cub Pioneering Day at Prestbury**

Eleven of our Cubs together with three leaders and one Explorer Scout Young Leader took part in the county organised Cub Pioneering Day held at Prestbury Scout HQ. They started the day learning a few basic knots including the reef knot and the clove hitch and then they had a go at a square lashing. One of the basic pioneering structures is the 'A frame' which forms the basis of many constructions and projects. So using the knots learnt, they split into teams and constructed several 'A frames'. Once complete, they had ropes attached to enable "A frame" races to be held. The Cubs also got the chance to make their own ropes from scratch which they were all quite proud of. The day finished with presentations to the cubs of their Cub Pioneer Badge. A very successful day enjoyed by everyone present - Well done to you all.

### **Scout Pioneering Weekend**

Ethan Drake and Joshua Williams, took part in a similar event for Scouts, learning more advanced knots and lashings and putting them to good use in various pioneering projects. It's amazing what can be built and how much fun can be had with a few ropes and poles! They also got another couple of nights camping in – the first night on the floor of the Scout HQ and the second night in tents outside, as well as some fun around the camp fire. Again both lads completed the course and were awarded their Scout Pioneer Badge - Well done to you both.

### **Joshua Williams – Japan Preparations**

Joshua Williams from Swindon Village has been selected to take part in the World Scout Jamboree in Japan this summer. He is one of a contingent of 27 Scouts and Explorers from Gloucestershire together with another 9 from Cornwall that will be heading off to the Jamboree in July. (Each UK unit comprises of 36 Scouts and 4 leaders). Joshua has attended several meetings and been involved in all sorts of fundraising projects in preparation for this fantastic trip, some with the Cornwall Scouts. This recently included a weekend up in London with his Jamboree Unit undertaking a scavenger hunt in teams across the city. A great time was had and Joshua can't wait for the big adventure now in the summer.

Joshua has always been one of our most active and enthusiastic Scouts. He spent the Easter weekend on a narrowboat on the Grand Union Canal with a group of Explorers from Gloucestershire and Hampshire. In May he is heading up to the Lake District for the County Mountain Activities weekend and, later in the month, the Survival Skills weekend up in Miserden Woods. I wonder if his parents can remember what he looks like!

## **Expedition Challenge Weekends**

Another two of our Scouts, Kubko Kubinak and David Jackson, took part in the county organised Expedition Challenge weekends. The first weekend is a training weekend that was held up at Eastcombe Scout HQ just before Easter. As well as camping out (in lousy weather), the Scouts undertook several hikes and learnt about route planning, navigation, first aid, food safety & hygiene and many other aspects of self sufficiency. A couple of weeks later (and in much better weather), they got to put everything into practice. They met again at Eastcombe Scout HQ on the Friday night and then set off on the Saturday morning as a patrol of six Scouts and hiked to Cranham following their own route and without any adult supervision. On arrival at Cranham Scout HQ, they set up camp for the night and cooked their own meals on portable camping stoves. Following breakfast on the Sunday morning, they packed up their tents and continued the hike onto their final destination at Cowley. To complete the challenge, they then had to give a short report of the weekend and explain how they had got on over the last two days. All of this was undertaken without adult leaders calling the shots. A great experience and a great achievement at such a young age – congratulations to you both.

**Sos**

## **A letter to the Editors**

My wife and I were appalled to read in April's Village News that the Parish Council had received "many complaints" – what is the actual number? – about mud/muck on our roads.

I was brought up in a small Worcestershire town bordering on far more intensively farmed land than that which abuts Swindon Village. On my father's side, I come from smallholding stock. To use Helen Wells' phrase from later in the News, our "wonderful countryside" is not, if farmed, an idyllic film-set backdrop to semi-urban life. Farming is perforce muddy, mucky and sometimes smelly. Even cleaner activities such as hedge and verge cutting leave temporary clutter.

I suspect all of the vehicles apparently scattering mud and muck around the village passed our house; we were not in the least put out. Such activities are part of life in a semi-agricultural environment. If so-called villagers object, I suggest they move nearer the centre of town and swap the occasional muck for regular traffic fumes.

As to Cllr Allen's legal enquiries, I wonder if the infrequency of the mud's occurrence justifies signs. Given the appalling state of our roads, I somehow doubt that Glos CC would give too much priority to a complaint.

**Name and address supplied.**

Professional storyteller Fiona Eadie came to entertain us at our April meeting. There is a great difference between story telling and story reading. Fiona told us how she had always enjoyed telling stories and we heard about a fisherman and a mermaid in the Channel Islands, a ploughman who found a mirror and a king and a poorman. In between the stories she challenged us with some riddles. Because she does not use any notes, telling the stories from memory and tailoring them to her audience, she will always relate them slightly differently on each occasion.

We went to Haresfield to play Frocester WI in the first round of the Skittles Tournament. After an enjoyable and tense evening we were beaten by 6 pins. However, we live to fight another day as we are still in the running for the Plate, but not the Cup. We have arranged to have another practice evening before the next match! A Skittles and Supper evening at the Suffolk Arms was much enjoyed with family and friends with over 40 people attending.

We presented Sue with a bouquet of flowers to say thank you for all her hard work organising our sector of the Baton programme, which ran like clockwork despite all the nightmares leading up to the event. Linda's name was drawn out of the hat to go to the Centenary Garden Party to be held at Buckingham Palace in June, hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall (a member of Tetbury WI). One member from each WI in the country is invited plus the County officials and other dignitaries. Sue is also going as a reward for her involvement in coordinating the Baton relay. We are looking forward to seeing them in their posh frocks and hats.

The Craft and Book Clubs are still thriving. I understand the latest book is quite saucy! Sue and I went to the races again (I was more successful this time). The Gloucestershire WI Racing Club presented a hamper to the most successful local trainer who was Kim Bailey this year. A coffee morning at Sue's and a WI party at Gotherington were amongst other activities in April. Several members are joining the County organised holiday to Scotland.

In May we are looking forward to a Group Meeting in Swindon Village Hall with a Flower Demonstration, a meal out at the Tarragon Restaurant and a talk by a Criminal Barrister. The highlight of the month is our member Jenny's Wedding. We have arranged a Hen Party for her with plenty of surprises, which I cannot reveal now as she might read this. I will let you know after the event!

At the May meeting we shall be discussing and voting on the Resolution to be debated at the National Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall in June. Afterwards Eunice will be bringing some of her Decorated Eggs to show us. We shall also have our annual Plant Stall to boost our funds and encourage us to sort our gardens out. If anyone is interested and would like to join us for the evening on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm, they will be made most welcome.

**Sara Jefferies**

## **In Memory of Michael Phelan**

(a founder member of Swindon Village Art and Craft Club)

Michael was born in Lower Swell on 20th September 1927 to parents Martin and Annie. He spent the early years of his life moving up and down the country following his father's job in the racing industry. Eventually the family, including sisters Ann and Lyn, settled on the slopes of Cleeve Hill near Cheltenham where he went to school and then attended art college.

Art became a passion for him which stayed throughout his life. There was nothing he enjoyed more than time relaxing with sketch book, pencils and brushes.

From art school he joined George Dowty's engineering business where he remained for most of his working career, rising as the organisation grew to join the board of directors and forming a long attachment to 2322 (Dowty) Squadron of the Air Training Corps where he served as Chair of the Civilian Committee.

It was at work that he first met Pearl, the love of his life. They were married in 1952, Coronation year. Their whole married life was spent in the Cheltenham area, Moorend Crescent, Langdale Road and then finally moving to Swindon Village where they remained for more than 50 years. They became members of the village community, supporting local organisations like the local school, Scouts and the Art and Craft Club and helping to create a new village hall.

They raised a family (2 sons, Andrew and David) and enjoyed family holidays in the caravan touring the English countryside.

Michael retired from the full time work in 1982, leaving him free to spend more time with Pearl, pursuing his hobbies and taking more frequent holidays in the camper van, enjoying the English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish countryside and enjoying the family as it grew through the years as four grandchildren (Rebecca, Christopher, Tabitha and Lewis) came along. He also continued to work part time, consulting on industrial projects.

Michael spent his final months at Badgeworth Court where his friendly, cheeky manner quickly earned him friends, the staff never quite knowing whether he was serious or just kidding them along with his mischievous grin. He was rewarded with an outstanding level of care and compassion and I know that he would like me to thank all there on his behalf.

He was a lovely man, a real traditional English Gentleman. A man of great patience, he never got angry, never spoke ill of others and people had only good to say about him. He will be missed.

*(Taken from the tribute at Michael's funeral service.)*

The Cotswold Savoyards present

Gilbert and Sullivan's

**H.M.S. PINAFORE**

AND

**COX & BOX**

F. C. Burnand & Arthur Sullivan

**9-13 JUNE 2015**

Evenings at 7:30pm, Saturday Matinee 2pm

**EVERYMAN**  
THEATRE - CHELTENHAM

01242 572573  
[www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)

The Cotswold Savoyards present a double bill of 'HMS Pinafore' and 'Cox & Box' at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham from 9th to 13th June.

Most people are familiar with the 'HMSP' but possibly not 'Cox & Box'. It was a collaboration between F.C. Burnand, editor of 'Punch' magazine, and Arthur Sullivan. It's a fast moving one act story about two men renting the same room from the rascally landlord Bouncer. Cox works by day and Box by night, doubling Bouncer's rent! When Cox has a day off he discovers Box and mayhem ensues!

Performances are 7.30 pm with Saturday matinee at 2 pm.  
Box office: 01242 572573 or [www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)

## SWINDON VILLAGE ART & CRAFT CLUB

### ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2015

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**10.30 AM TO 4 PM**

**ALL WELCOME**

**REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE**



**FREE ENTRY**

**RAFFLE**

## Save The Countryside

A HUGE thank you to those of you that that joined us on our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Save the Countryside walk. Around 60 people, dogs and a pony, braved the winds to walk the 3 miles around the greenbelt area that has been identified for 4850 houses ( the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest greenbelt incursion ever in the UK). It really means a lot when so many people show their commitment year after year in our long battle.

We certainly enjoyed ourselves and it was a lovely opportunity to catch up as a community during and after the walk over a glass of wine even if that did mean that we missed seeing ourselves on the ITV news that evening!

The team are now preparing for the government inspectors enquiry which starts on 19<sup>th</sup> May until the end July with hopes that our solid analysis and legal support will prove that the greenbelt land in Cheltenham need not be built on at all, if correct housing figures are used and the available brownfield sites are built on first.

Thanks a lot for the donations received towards raising the funds for our legal costs; if anyone else does have a few pounds to spare it would be greatly appreciated (cash or cheque to Save the Countryside) - you can drop them off at Trails End where the walk finished.

If anyone took photos please email them to us and we will publish those on the website [www.savethecountryside.org.uk](http://www.savethecountryside.org.uk) where you will also find the information about the upcoming inspectors enquiry in case you wish to attend the NW area event (Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 9.30am).

Many thanks. We hope to see you next year!

**Helen and the Save the Countryside Team.**





# *Wednesday Club Coffee Morning*

**WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2015**  
**From 10.30 am until 12 noon**

**17 QUAT GOOSE LANE**

*ADMISSION £1.00 to include drink and biscuit*  
*Raffle tickets £1.00*  
*Table top sale of Cakes, Books & Plants*

*Please come along, all are welcome (bring a friend)*

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## 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
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	701854
	Mandy Harris	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts 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](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
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	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
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	Cllr. Arran Stibbe	07796 248658
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

## ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. David Smith	david.smith@northchelt.org.uk
Associate Priest	Revd. Liz Palin	575547
		liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open 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