

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 417

September 2015

September

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Mike Ledbury - Confessions of a Morris Man |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Making Carnations from Napkins |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 10 | Art & Crafts Club new term begins - Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 12 | The History of Swindon Village - a Heritage Open Days event.
St. Lawrence's Church - 2.00pm |
| Wednesday | 16 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Dr. Tim Brain - The Floods of 2007 |
| Saturday | 17 | Scouts' Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am |
| Saturday | 17 | Church Quiz and Supper - Village Hall 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | 23 | Wine Club - Village Hall
Barry Simon - The History of Swindon Village |
| Saturday | 26 | Churchyard Clean-Up 9.30am |
| Monday | 28 | Meeting of church fete organising group - Church 7.30pm |

October

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Monday | .5 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 7 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm |
| Tuesday | 13 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Starting with Public Session at 7.30pm |

(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.)

Despite the installation of a height limitation barrier in the park the travellers again managed to get in on 30th June. The Borough Council and the police were involved in negotiations with them. The travellers are classed as an ethnic minority and the Borough Council has a duty of care for their welfare whilst they are in their area. The situation and the legal position is complex. The travellers often set up camp on a Thursday or Friday as they know it is impossible to progress an eviction order through the courts on a weekend. As luck would have it the annual church fete was taking place on the Saturday. Thankfully disruption was minimal and the caravans moved on during the course of the Saturday afternoon.

The Borough Council officer with responsibility for dealing with travellers came to the July Parish Council meeting. We discussed what had happened and the roles of the different authorities. Sadly it seems that there is not a single point of contact in dealing with such situations; the police and the Borough Council both need to be notified. At the moment it is difficult to know who has been told and what action is being taken. We are hopeful that a written procedure will be made available to the public in the near future and we (or the Borough Council) will be able to give clear information to the public as to the state of play.

On to planning issues and, as ever, the JCS. The review of the JCS by an independent planning inspector has already been in progress for a considerable time and may run into next year. Some of the parish councillors have attended sessions to help make the case against the massive developments that are proposed. The Local Green Space proposal lead by Cllrs. Arran Stibbe and Helen Wells and supported by so many local people and organisations has proved to be a worthwhile initiative. The planning inspector seems to be fair and objective and will be taking time to look at the Swindon/Uckington/Elmstone Hardwicke area for herself.

One of the major topics yet to be considered is traffic management in the area. As all locals are painfully aware the current traffic flows are busy and chaotic. Additional housing and industrial capacity will only compound the problem. The developers themselves only look at what is required to get traffic into and out of their estates; managing the flows beyond their boundary becomes an issue for Gloucestershire County Council. Opponents of the JCS (including the Parish Council) contend that there is no credible strategic plan in place to deal with the increase in traffic that will result from these developments.

There is little else to report on the planning front. The planning applications that we have reviewed recently have tended to be either domestic extensions or changes of use of premises on the industrial estate. The latter point is interesting and divides opinion. Is it better to see an industrial building turned into a dance studio or does that represent a regrettable loss of light industrial capacity? There are rarely easy

answers, and sometimes some unusual questions. At the moment Spirax Sarco is seeking permission for two flagpoles along Runnings Road. Anyone can submit comments on any applications. Even better, you can join these debates by joining the Parish Council!

The proposed night time closure of the Accident and Emergency facility at Cheltenham General Hospital has caused much concern. Swindon, along with many other local Parish Councils, has added its name to the petition seeking to have this decision reversed.

The BBC generated some excitement when “DIY SOS: The Big Build” came to Rivelands Road. A number of locals (including Parish Councillors) got involved. With vehicles and portacabins everywhere, pity the poor parish clerk trying to deliver documents to the three Parish Councillors who actually live in the road!

Problems with non-delivery or mis-direction of items of post continue to be reported to the Parish Councillors. As I stated in the last issue of the Village News these matters need to be reported to Royal Mail with details of what has happened so that the personnel involved can be identified.

The Parish Council have had the bus shelters and notice board repainted. They were starting to look a bit tired and now look much tidier. The flowers in the area have also contributed to a cheery look this summer. A more extensive area of the park was planted this time and the Borough Council were also asked to include the entrance splay to the Amenity Area off Manor Road. As always, your opinions on these initiatives would be appreciated. What else should we be doing and where?

The Parish Council's external audit for 2014-2015 has been successfully concluded. All of the relevant documents, including financial statements, can be found on the web site. And the money can be found in the bank, which is the important thing!

On the topic of council finances, this will make you laugh or cry. Penzance Town Council has spent over £56,000 trying to break the world record for the largest gathering of pirates. Most worryingly the town mayor doesn't know who authorised the expenditure or why. Spending money on getting the bus shelters painted doesn't seem so extravagant. In case you're interested (I know you are) Penzance fell 77 pirates short of the 14,232 they needed to beat Hastings.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Services and events in September

Tuesday	1 st	10.30am	Chatterbox coffee drop in
Thursday	3 rd	10.00am 6.30pm	Open the Book planning meeting Wedding rehearsal
Friday	4 th	All day	NADFAS
Saturday	5 th	1.30pm	Wedding Margaret & Brian Humphries
Sunday	6 th	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	8 th	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Saturday	12 th	2.00pm	Heritage Weekend Talk and Walk
Sunday	13 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Monday	14 th	7.00pm	PCC meeting in church
Tuesday	15 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Saturday	19 th	4.30pm	Bishop Rachel's inauguration service in Gloucester Cathedral
Sunday	20 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	22 nd	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	27 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Confirmation service at All Saints NB - No evensong at St Lawrence
Monday	28 th	7.30pm	Meeting of the fete committee in the church
Tuesday	29 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group

From the registers

Baptisms



We welcomed into the Church

Theo Davis	5th July
Ariel Slater	12th July
Joshua Febery	2nd August
Matthew Oldham	2nd August
Maisie-Grace Savage	2nd August
Cruz Chislett	9th August



Weddings

We celebrated the marriage of

Tyrone Perkins & Becky Durrant 7th August



Funerals

We remembered the lives of

Linda Ingles	31st July
Alfred Lewis	6th August
Joan Hayter	6th August

Burial of ashes

We commemorated the life of

Barbara Brookes 29th July

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.

A New Term?

Even if you aren't involved in education in any way shape or form there is something about September that feels like a new start. The holiday period is over and there is a sense of everything getting back to 'normal'.

Of course September is for many people a time of change – perhaps children are leaving home for university, or starting school for the first time. Perhaps they are moving onto secondary school, or beginning their AS studies. Perhaps they have left school and are starting work or an apprenticeship. Times of change and transition can be unsettling, but they are also filled with hope.

Here in this part of the Church of England we are looking forward to a new chapter as we welcome our new Bishop to the diocese. Bishop Rachel was consecrated in Canterbury Cathedral on 22nd July, and I was fortunate to travel down to witness history in the making as Bishop Rachel is the most senior female Bishop in the church of England and the first female Bishop to sit in the House of Lords.

There will be a service to welcome her to 'her' Diocese later this month, and we look forward to working with her over the years to come. The church in Swindon Village & Elmstone Hardwicke was one of the first parishes to welcome a woman to serve as their vicar, when Betty Humphrey was appointed and so I know Rachel will be assured of a warm welcome here anytime.

Whatever transition is going on in your life at the moment, I hope that you will know the peace of God in all that you do.

Revd Liz

Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday from The Royal British Legion

I am willing to take orders from groups or individuals who would like to lay a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The order has to be sent to the British Legion at the beginning of October so I need your **orders and payment by 28th September** please. Cheques should be made payable to **"RBL Poppy Appeal"**.

The range and costs of wreaths is online at
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/how-we-remember/wreaths>

The prices given are only the production costs and the British Legion asks for your generosity by adding a donation to this cost.

Thank you.

Karen Evans tel. 241678

Thank you

A very BIG thank you to all those who helped in any way at this year's Church Fete. It was a tremendous success and raised £2535.57 towards Church Funds, which was our second highest total ever. More importantly it was a great day for the whole community to meet and have some fun!

So thank you all again for your continued support and hard work. We will be holding a Fete Meeting on Monday 28th September 7.30pm at the Church to discuss this year's event and to begin to plan for next year. So if you are available to help please do come along.

St Lawrence Church would like to thank all those who attended our Praise in the Park service this year on Sunday 19th July. We had in excess of 70 people enjoying favourite hymns and an afternoon tea afterwards. Thanks to all those who supplied cakes and helped with the event in any way. A retiring collection was taken and the proceeds, £105.06, went to The Rock.

Tony Jilbert

Churchyard Clean-Up

This year's churchyard clean-up, when we will clear away some of the persistent weeds and tidy the edges of the grass, so that the churchyard looks tidy over the winter, will be held on Saturday 26th September, starting at 9.30am. If you are able to come and help we will be delighted to see you.

Please bring your own gardening tools but rubbish bags will be provided along with refreshments and friendly banter. If you need any further information contact Tony or Val, your Churchwardens.

The Children's Society Home collecting boxes

It's time for the Children's Society home collecting boxes to be emptied.

Sylvia Hales asks that box holders please take their boxes to her at **41 Rivelands Road** or phone her on **235933** to arrange for collection. Alternatively the boxes can be given to the sidesmen at any church service but please do not leave boxes in the church unattended.

Thank you.

Wednesday Club

A great day was had by all on our trip to Hampton Court Castle and Gardens in Herefordshire in June. The weather was perfect and the gardens were beautiful. We arrived just after 11am and left at 3.30 pm and we were kept busy all the time we were there. If you have not been there, it really is worth a visit, just about an hour away.

Our speaker in July was Shaun McCormack who is a member of the Queen's Bodyguard, a Yeoman of the Guard. These are the people that you see in red coats behind the Queen at State occasions. He brought along a uniform and this was handed around us all. The heavily embroidered coat weighs 24lb and the hat weighs 7lb. Should it rain they wear a cagoule - not the sort we wear, I add hastily; theirs is a cape-like coat made of cloth and is also very heavy.

Shaun told us how these Yeomen of the Guard were made up from the Forces; they used to be just Army but now they are from all the Forces. It really was a most fascinating talk and he had us "oohing" and "aahing" all evening with stories about his duties.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 2nd September** and **Mike Ledbury** is coming along to tell us about the "**Confessions of a Morris Man**". There will also be a Bring & Buy stall that evening so please do come and join us.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in September.

Pauline Wright

The Swindon Village Society presents

"The Floods of 2007"

A talk by Dr. Tim Brain

**Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall**

Dr. Brain was the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire at the time of the 2007 floods. He often appears on television commenting on policing matters.

Non-members (£1) will be especially welcome.

In June we visited Barn House garden which is just off the A40 near Withington. The gardens are over two acres and are a splendid collection of 'rooms' of different styles and plantings. The really remarkable thing is that they have been created by just two people over thirty years and maintained by them as well. Now I whinge when I have to mow our pitiful patch, so what dear Shirley's husband says when he has to do two acres of fiddly bits I dread to think. The gardens are open regularly for charity purposes and we strongly recommend them for those who are interested in plantings or, indeed, cake.

Then in July our own Harry Hopkins took us to Western Australia. It confirmed the fact that I, along with most others, don't know much about that side of Australia. It did seem to show just what we suspect of Aussie life style, sun, sea, swimming, picnics, restaurants and a bit more sun. I don't think we, in Swindon Village, would enjoy it at all – just not what we are used to.

In September we have a couple of events. Our usual meeting will feature the ex-Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, Dr Tim Brain, who will give us his view of the Floods of 2007. I would appreciate a good turnout for this meeting, and particularly invite non-members to come along because most of us were affected to some degree by the deluge. The whole County came very close to going down the plug hole over those three weeks – it must have been a time of infinite stress for those trying to maintain control. Come and listen to a first hand account and bring your memories with you.

Our other event is opening the village for Heritage Open Days. For many years now cities and towns across England have opened the doors of their historic buildings, once a year, for the benefit of the public. This year it is on the second weekend of September and we have been asked by the Civic Society if we would host an event here. We did this once before about ten years ago and so we have decided to give it another go. So on Saturday 12th September at 2pm, we will give the illustrated talk 'The History of Swindon Village' in St Lawrence's Church. This will be followed by a 40 minute walk around the centre of the village including the Hall and Manor grounds and this will be followed by tea back in the church. There will be no charge except for tea but any money made will go to church funds. If you haven't heard this talk before (there must be someone) then come and hear about the history of your patch.

Over that same weekend many other buildings in Cheltenham and Gloucester that you cannot normally get into will be open. If you want to know more then use the internet or you can get a brochure of the Cheltenham openings and events from the Library or Museum.

On the Joint Core Strategy front the Examination in Public (EiP) is underway as I write. A senior planner is looking at all the evidence. The JCS has been shown to have plenty of holes but how it will all pan out, no one knows. The EiP has now been extended into next year because of the absence of viable transport and other plans.

Barry Simon

St. Lawrence's Church

Quiz and Hot Supper

**on Saturday 17th October
in the Village Hall**

**Doors and Bar open at 7.00pm Supper at 7.30pm
New style Pub Quiz at approx. 8.30pm**

Menu

**Jacket Potatoes with a selection of hot fillings,
cheese and salad
Apple Pie or Fruit Salad**

Raffle

Tickets £7.00

Booking essential - Phone Karen on 241678

**Book as a team (max. 6 people)
or make up a team on the night.**

St Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Too early to think about Christmas? No!

Clubs and groups who meet monthly only have three meetings to plan their Christmas tree! The Festival will take place over the weekend of **5th and 6th December**.

This year's theme is "**Seasons of the Year**" which, as always, can be interpreted as widely as you like.

Make it a true group activity with all members contributing decorations for your tree. Trees from individuals will be welcome too. The more, the merrier!

The best size tree to use is about 3ft to 4ft, artificial or real, if indeed you use a traditional tree at all. Think "outside the box"! The only condition is that any lights must be battery-powered as we can't run electricity to the trees.

For more information, or encouragement to take part, please phone me.

Karen Evans Tel. 241678

Swindon Village Winemakers

On Wednesday 24th June we congregated at the village hall at 5.50pm to board the minibus and Tony & Mandy's band wagon to set forth for Welland, just outside Upton on Severn. There were 26 of us altogether, two more people went with Ray & Sylvia in their car.

The vineyard is called Lovalls vineyard, they also own another vineyard a short distance away. We were met by Cathie who owns the vineyard with her husband.

It was a lovely evening and Cathie had arranged chairs and tables outside in the vineyard for us to sample the wines. The wines we tasted were a Sparkling wine, a Red, a Rose and a White. Cathie told us that they were protected by the Malvern Hills behind and as they face south are in an excellent position for the growing of grapes. She explained how and when they prune the grapes and the harvesting starts in September and finishes at the end of October because the different varieties of grapes ripen at different times.

Everyone enjoyed the visit, particularly the sampling, and many bottles of wine were purchased. We then made our way a short distance down the road to the Marlbank Inn for a very enjoyable meal. All in all, an excellent evening.

Roy Harper

Our annual guest meeting was held in July with Alison Hesketh as the speaker. Her talk, 'Wed to the Cloth', was very entertaining. The tenth of eleven children, with an atheist father and the vicar as a godfather, she met John at the local Youth Club and married when she was twenty. They struggled to make ends meet when John decided to change jobs and spend three years training for the Church. With her librarian pay and selling jams and pickles and produce from the garden to support the family they were eventually allocated a small house. The reality of running an open house, never knowing who would knock on the door, how many for meals, strangers in the bathroom and providing them with clean clothes became apparent. With stories of a 13-bedroom vicarage with no heating, helping to run 8 organisations and baling out a flooded grave, we are looking forward to inviting Alison back to hear her other talk about what happened next. We then entertained our visitors with a tempting array of food to have with their tea or coffee.

July activities included a great day out on the bus to Witney on a beautiful sunny day, a meal at the new Carluccio's restaurant in town, a tea afternoon at Sue C's and a few members tried their hand at Croquet. The skittles match against Highnam WI was called off, as they could not raise enough members to make up a team. This means that we go on to the next round by default.

I have heard many favourable comments about Lucy Worsley's excellent television programme on the history of the WI. She revealed the more serious side of the organisation and the nationally important and influential work they do. It is certainly not all fun and games or jam and Jerusalem! The excellent exhibition at the Folk Museum continues until the end of October and is well worth a visit if you are in Gloucester.

We do not have a normal meeting in August but we did meet up for a guided walk around Charlton Kings. We were taken down many of the hidden alleyways and discovered much about the history of the area. There are sites of the 'drying fields' used by the local people and businesses that took in laundry from the hotels and guesthouses in the developing town of Cheltenham. Afterwards we returned to the Royal Oak for refreshment and lunch. Wendy held her usual American Supper Evening that was well attended and much enjoyed.



In September there is a County arranged trip to Harrogate to visit the special WI Centenary event. On the 16th, WI Day, we are meeting up in Pittville Park to celebrate with a Centenary Picnic in the Park, and keeping our fingers crossed for favourable

weather! We are spending the legacy from our late member Rosa Robinson on a coach to Friar's Court in Oxfordshire. It is an old moated house with beautiful gardens and grounds beyond. We have invited some ex-members and Rosa's friends to join us for lunch there. The Annual Autumn Council meeting is being held in Pittville Pump Room this year. The main speaker is Julie Summers, the author of 'Jambusters', the story of the WI in the Second World War, that was adapted for TV as the series 'Homefires'.

At our meeting on 7th September we shall be 'Making Carnations from Napkins'. If anyone would like to join in they will be made most welcome at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Church Hall in Swindon Lane.

Sara Jefferies

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Jumble Sale

Saturday 17th October at 11.00am
in the Village Hall

Admission 20p

Bargains galore!

The Scouts will be collecting jumble around the inner village area on **Monday 21st September** from 5.00pm onwards.

Please leave your jumble in a clearly labelled bag or box at the front of your house so that we don't have to disturb you.

We will be grateful for anything we can sell to raise funds towards our Group's running costs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Our summer this year was all about the Haarlem Jamborette in Holland. Before the main event, we held a weekend “practice camp” up at Cranham...

Haarlem Practice Camp

This took place over the first weekend in July up at Cranham Scout Centre and was an opportunity for all the participants from Gloucestershire to meet together and get to know one another and all the leaders. There were four Scout patrols and seven Explorer Scout patrols - so the first task was to get to know the patrol members while setting up camp together for the weekend. Each patrol would camp independently at Haarlem, working as a team, looking after their own equipment and camping area and cooking their own meals, plus feeding at least one leader for each meal. So getting on together and testing out all the equipment that we would be taking was all important. The weather was fine and sunny for most of the camp with a heavy downpour on the Friday night after the Scouts had gone to bed. This was just what we wanted to test out the tents and look for leaks. The second downpour on Sunday afternoon was less welcome as it meant we had a lot of wet tents to dry out!

During the weekend, we also had a lot of fun with some great activities that included archery, rifle shooting, orienteering, a challenge course, hikes and pioneering as well as some bases on food hygiene and speaking Dutch. They even got to sew their contingent badge onto their uniform. Saturday night was rounded off with a terrific campfire with the usual silly songs and stunts – great fun!

All in all, it was a great weekend where we all made new friends and got us all looking forward to the real thing in Holland three weeks later.

The Haarlem Jamborette - Holland

What an amazing twelve days we all enjoyed in Holland. Nine Scouts, two Explorer Scouts and five leaders from Swindon Village joined others from across Gloucestershire and a few from Hampshire to form the 94 strong Gloucestershire Contingent, led by Chris Brewster and Paddy Langham. The Jamborette was held in Spaarnwoude Recreational Area, a beautiful nature reserve located between Amsterdam, Haarlem and Velsen.

We arrived on the day of the worst summer storm in Amsterdam since records began! Thankfully we didn't get to the campsite until 7pm, when the worst of the storm had passed. However there were trees, branches and leaves littering all the roads and pathways wherever we looked. We soon had the tents up and were enjoying our first meal together after what had been a mammoth 15 hour coach journey from Shurdington.

The Scouts and Explorers formed into 11 patrols and were totally responsible for feeding themselves for the entire camp. They also had to invite a different leader or two to dinner each evening, giving a great opportunity for all the Scouts, Explorers and leaders to get to know each other better. After a good night's sleep, we had a

look around the huge site and started meeting Scouts and leaders from other groups from around Europe and beyond as we prepared for the opening ceremony together.

Throughout the camp, as we took part in the varied and numerous activities on offer, we were always mixing with youngsters from different groups and countries. Each day, we had a new set of activities on offer, some on site and some further afield, including trips to Amsterdam, Haarlem and a terrific day out at the “Walibi World” theme park. Other activities included: a canal cruise, sailing, water games, wide games, loads of fun team challenges and games and also the chance to broadcast on the camp’s “Jambo Radio” station. There were also loads of different Arts & Crafts including electronics, soldering, geocaching, graffiti art, dance and drum workshops and many more. One day involved a choice of 4 different hikes with puzzles and challenges along the way. The toughest of these was “The Punisher” - a 47 kilometre hike which took groups around 12 to 15 hours to complete – a real challenge. One of our Explorers, Scott Jones, took on “The Punisher” in his wheelchair and completed the hike unaided in just over 12 hours, wearing out 3 pairs of gloves in the process – what an inspiration he is!

On the second Sunday of the camp, the Jamborette opens its doors to the public for the afternoon to show everyone what we’ve all been up to and what goes on at a huge camp like this. Each group puts on entertainment and games and many offer food and drinks that are local to their country of origin. We had a terrific afternoon meeting many Scouts from all over the world as we ate and drank our way around the Jamborette. In just a few hours we met Scouts from: Austria, Holland, Belgium, Israel, Germany, Jordan, Canada, Malta, Ireland, Egypt, Finland, Russia and Denmark as well as Scotland, Wales and England and enjoyed many different foods and plenty of IrnBru from the Scottish groups!

It’s fair to say everybody had a great time and many new friendships were formed. There are a huge amount of photos on-line and official videos of the camp on YouTube. If you want to see more just follow the links from our website or search for “Haarlem Jamborette 2015” on YouTube. All that remains is to give a massive thank-you to Chris, Paddy and all the team for all their hard work in organising it all. We can’t wait to return in 2019!

Sos

*Swindon Village Scouts
Dan, Sam and George
with Scouts from the
42nd St. Sebastian
Scout Group from
Vienna, Austria*



Swindon Village Art & Crafts Club

Our Autumn term starts on **Thursday 10th September**. We meet every Thursday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Village Hall.

Newcomers, including beginners, will be very welcome.

Phone **Adrian on 690928** for details.

Here are a few photos from our Annual Exhibition to whet your appetite.



Our tutor, Pam Stone



The winning painting by Gill Groves



Cheltenham Heritage Open Days

10th - 13th September

Heritage Open Days is a national scheme giving visitors the opportunity to explore buildings which are not normally open to the public.

Cheltenham Heritage Open Days celebrates the **buildings** and the **architecture** along with the **people** that make Cheltenham such a wonderful place to live, work and visit with a rich cultural and sporting life. There are over **50 events** including over **30 open buildings** and a **series of walks and talks** all led by experts in their field, and an outdoor exhibition of **Cheltenham in Photographs** by Cheltenham Camera Club celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. This is a unique opportunity to explore Cheltenham's fascinating heritage from its early medieval times through to its heyday as a **Regency 'Pleasure Town'** for the wealthy to the vibrant garden town that it is today. Please do get out and enjoy!

Here are just a few of the places you will be able to visit: Cheltenham College, Cheltenham Ladies College, the Everyman Theatre, the Town Hall, the Masonic Hall and behind the scenes at Cheltenham Lido.

On Saturday 12th September, as part of the special weekend, Barry Simon will be giving his illustrated talk on The History of Swindon Village. This will take place in St. Lawrence's Church at 2pm and will be followed by a guided walk around the village centre, returning to the church for refreshments. As with all the weekend's events there is no admission charge but any donations will be given to church funds.

A booklet listing all the open venues and events is available in various locations including **Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre in The Wilson Art Gallery & Museum**. Their phone number is **01242 237431**.

See the Heritage Open Days website at **www.heritageopendays.org.uk** for a list of events nationwide.

5th Cheltenham OpenHomes+ OpenGardens Weekend

FREE EVENT



Visit local sustainable
OpenHomes+ OpenGardens
to gain inspiration & ideas
for your own property

Saturday 12th Sunday 13th September

Barnet heating
Cavity wall insulation
Drought proofing
Heat pump
LED lighting
Mechanical ventilation & heat recovery
Micro combined heat & power
Solar PV (photovoltaics)
Solar thermal
Solid wall insulation
Sustainable and energy gardens
Taps & double glazing
Whole house heating

**Cheltenham
green doors**
Sharing Knowledge about sustainable living

For up-to-date information on opening times and access please visit

www.cheltenhamgreendoors.org.uk

Supported by





We all want to reduce our footprint on the precious earth, but it's sometimes hard to know where to start. The good news is that it can be quite easy to make a difference to the way we live and some of the people across Cheltenham and the surrounding area who have already made a start are ready to open their homes and gardens to show us all how.

Cheltenham Green Doors has organised a fifth open homes and gardens event. sixteen homes, gardens and community properties will be opened to the public over the weekend of 12th and 13th September 2015. They will all give lots of ideas about how to make positive changes, both big and small, in the the way we live so that we can all do our part in combatting what has been described as the biggest threat to our civilisation.

Technologies on view will include solar PV and thermal panels with battery back up, both external and internal solid wall insulation, draught-proofing, LED lighting, biomass/wood pellet boiler, and lots more. Sustainable garden features will include rainwater harvesting, planting for pollinators, organic vegetable growing and keeping bees and hens.

The great advantage of the event is that you can get friendly, impartial advice from people who've tried and tested the different systems and can discuss them with you at leisure without trying to make a sale. You'll be able to check out the visual impact of a range of features on many different types of buildings, including several period houses.

An added attraction is that several of the properties will be offering delicious home-made refreshments.

For more information visit www.cheltenhamgreendoors.org.uk



Your local police service is changing

Gloucestershire Constabulary puts the public at the heart of everything we do.

To make sure you get the best possible service from us, we have reviewed how we work, where we work and when we work.

Following this review we have made some changes that we will start to bring in over the second half of 2015.

We believe these changes will allow us to provide a quality service to everyone in Gloucestershire even though we receive less money to fund our service than before.

There will still be six policing areas in the county based around the city of Gloucester; the towns of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Stroud; the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds.

Constables and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will continue to work in each area but a key change will be that we will now police the county as 'one team'. This means we will deploy our officers and PCSOs at the times, and in the places, where they are needed most. We will make this assessment not just by responding to daily demand but also by assessing on a regular basis up-to-date intelligence to pinpoint where harm and vulnerability are greatest.

We have changed as well how we work so no matter where they are based our personnel will work in the same way and at the same times in all parts of the county.

These changes will make us more flexible and resilient, giving you a better service when your community needs us most.

Good Luck

We send our best wishes to all young people moving on to a new stage of their lives whether it's starting a new school, college, university or going in to an apprenticeship and the world of work or off to see the world!

Tell us about your experiences and don't forget, if you're moving away, you can read Village News online at www.swindonparish.org.uk

The Editors.

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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

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

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Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. David Smith	512348 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 St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373 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