

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 428

October 2016

October

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Saturday | 1 | Churchyard tidy-up 9.30am onwards |
| Monday | 3 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Shaun McCormack - Yeoman of the Guard |
| Wednesday | 5 | Church fete review meeting - in the church 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 5 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Nadine Carr - Votes for Women |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 15 | Scout Group Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am |
| Wednesday | 19 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Amy Woolacott - Sacred Wells and Springs |
| Saturday | 22 | Church Quiz & Supper Evening - Village Hall 7.00pm |

November

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Simon Doble & Margie Bignall - Artisan Bean to Bar Chocolate |
| Friday | 4 | Swindon Village Primary School Open Day |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 16 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Barry Simon - The History of Swindon Hall |

(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.)

After a quiet summer I am suddenly in the midst of a flurry of news and none of it too welcome. When I took on writing these pieces I didn't anticipate getting into hard-hitting journalism. Who would have thought that the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) could be knocked off the "front page"?

Travellers moved onto Swindon Park on Thursday 8th September and left of their own accord on Tuesday 13th. Various individuals and institutions were involved in dealing with them during their stay. I write on behalf of the Parish Council whose interest is the safety and well-being of local residents, so that is my focus. Both Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire Police accepted my invitation to write a piece of their own. These appear elsewhere in this issue. I hope you will read them.

So, did the travellers arrive in the dead of night? On the contrary, they arrived at 6:30pm when the park was full of people enjoying the evening, including footballers and dog walkers. Had the gates been carelessly left open as some rumours suggest? No, three men casually broke the locks (and were photographed doing so). They did this in front of witnesses who were then intimidated. The incursion was reported to the police as it happened but no police arrived. Subsequently the groundsman's shed was broken into and left in a mess, quad bikes were ridden round the park, human waste and needles were casually discarded and petrol and other goods were stolen from Sainsbury's. A total of 26 incidents were reported to the police, 8 of which were crimes. All this in an area that hosts two playgroups.

This year's incursion (the third in as many years) seemed different in character. On previous occasions the travellers have not shied away from confrontation. This time they seemed almost to be provoking it with casual acts of vandalism apparently for the sake of it. They were threatening and abusive to anyone who crossed their path, leaving local residents fearing for themselves and their property. They didn't care what they did nor who saw them doing it.

The Borough Council own the park and it is their responsibility to secure it and to evict trespassers. It is a public space that has to be accessible to the public and to council contractors doing maintenance. CBC must undertake a formal legal process to evict the travellers. The travellers know that the process takes days and that the courts and the council offices are closed at the weekends. There is one full-time employee in the department that deals with such matters. He is a chartered surveyor, not a member of the SAS. He is required to serve notices and in the past travellers have told him they will "Nail that notice to your ***** head". Understandably he will not enter a travellers' site unaccompanied.

The police are responsible for investigating criminal acts and for public order. I accept that they are under-resourced and have to prioritise the incidents that are reported to them, but there were extremely unsavoury events unfolding in the area.

The Parish Council has limited powers (I'll talk about Parish Council powers next month if things are slow!) and no role in this other than to do its best to support its residents. Councillors visited people who were most under threat but could do little more than offer a sympathetic ear. I kept in touch with the police and the Borough Council to make sure that there was communication and co-ordination. Sadly there is no single point of focus directing operations. A similar incident took place recently at Weeley in Essex. There members of the local parish council lay down in front of the travellers' vehicles for 20 minutes to prevent them entering a local park. We are already one councillor down so I cannot recommend this course of action.

The travellers know the law and the difficulties faced by the police and the Borough Council. They know they can destroy, steal and terrorise without fear of a response. People who live in the area feel intimidated, vulnerable and unprotected. We all understand that the police, like all public services, are under pressure. They simply recommend making the park more secure but how do you keep people like these at bay? If we manage to repel them that just makes it someone else's problem. The law treats these people as an oppressed ethnic minority and allows them to get away with behaviour that in other groups would be totally unacceptable. I know that the Borough Council and the police share our frustrations and have to deal face to face with these gangs (and also our angry residents). How can this appalling state of affairs be allowed to continue?

I like to close each topic with a bit of humour when I can. This time it is rather black. A specialist cleaning firm had to be brought in to clean up. I was given an approximate figure for the cost of this. By my calculations we could have saved money by putting the travellers up in the Premier Inn!

The other big piece of news is that an outline planning application for the Elms Park development was submitted on Friday 9th September. You are, of course, aware that Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucester City Council have been working on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) for some years. The JCS describes how these areas will meet their housing needs in the coming years. There has been consultation and debate involving the planners, the public and the developers.

Unless a council has in place a housing strategy that shows how its housing needs will be met it is in a weak position when it comes to facing down a determined developer. If the council refuses planning permission the developer can go to appeal and has a very strong chance of winning. Even though the JCS is not signed off it will be given increasing weight as it evolves and matures through the consultation process. The developers now feel that they are in a position to move ahead. It is not what we want but we have won a few concessions. You know that local campaigners, including the Parish Council, have fought long and hard to protect our Green Belt. I am sure they will be amused to hear the developers say that they are "...helping to

preserve vital green spaces for the whole of the community”. Hopefully the JCS is now far enough advanced that the developers will have taken on board, at least to some degree, our concerns about green spaces, transport and the Green Belt. We will see. The planning application runs to hundreds of pages and should be available to the public by the time you read this. I will publish a link on swindonparish.org.uk.

As I mentioned earlier, I might treat you to a piece on Parish Council powers next month (unless I've done it before; I'll check) so don't go away!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Travellers - A Police Perspective

I appreciate that there has been concern raised by local residents and the actions taken by Police in relation to incidents reported to us about an unauthorised encampment in Swindon Village Park. All incidents that were reported to the police over a period of approximately 72 hours were investigated, resulting in 8 crimes being recorded and a variety of agencies being notified of concerns raised by local residents. In the majority of these investigations we have been unable to identify suspects and lack the evidence to prosecute any individual for an offence. The presence of a travelling community is not, by itself, evidence with which we can prosecute because leading a nomadic lifestyle is recognised, lawful and protected under legislation. In accordance with national guidelines, officers attended to speak to members of the encampment to establish if they had permission to reside there, the number of persons present and details of the vehicles involved.

The police have limited powers to evict persons from unauthorised encampments. In this case we did not consider the threshold for invoking our powers was met and the decision was made to provide support to the local council, who were the lead authority for eviction in this case. I have spoken to Cheltenham Borough Council to request that security measures at the park are enhanced to prevent future issues or unauthorised access to the site. We will of course continue to monitor future reports and invoke our powers where we consider it to be proportionate and necessary.

Thank you.

Simon Ellson

Acting Inspector - Cheltenham LPA

Travellers - Cheltenham Borough Council

Unauthorised camping with caravans without the land owner's permission has been part of the way of life for gypsies and travellers for centuries as an expression of their cultural identity. In the age of Human Rights, the issue of unauthorised camping raises many legal and humanitarian complications. The legal protocol seeks to ensure that minimum disruption is caused while ensuring that everyone's rights are respected and that legal processes are adhered to.

The majority of unauthorised camping happens late Friday afternoon or over a weekend when the council offices are known to be closed. As soon as the council receives a report of unauthorised camping, the first task is to establish whether or not the land is under the council's ownership. This can be done in minutes. Once this has been determined, we immediately instruct our solicitors to commence the appropriate legal action. Simultaneously, a council officer will meet with the travellers and undertake a Welfare Questionnaire establishing information such as the number of adults, children, animals, vehicles, health and educational issues etc. on the site. During this visit the officer will attach a notice to each vehicle (recorded by a photograph). The notice informs the travellers that they are on council land, without consent and must leave immediately. The serving of the notice fulfils Section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 forming the legal basis on which we want travellers to be evicted. The officer serving this notice and any consequent notices must be accompanied by another council officer or a Police Officer for their own safety.

Once the hearing date at the Magistrates' Court has been confirmed (which usually takes no more than 48 hours), a summons notice outlining the time and date of the hearing has to be attached and photographed again to each vehicle on the site. The travellers do have the right to have legal representation and to come to court themselves. The serving of the summons is sometimes enough to encourage the travellers to move on.

At the hearing the council's solicitor and officer, under oath, present the supporting documents and photographs to the Justice of the Peace. If satisfied, an Order for the Removal of all vehicles and Other Property and any Person will be granted. This Order will then be attached to each vehicle and photographed as a record that it has been served. If the travellers remain after the Order has been served, they will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested. They are also unable to return within 3 months.

Upon vacating the site, the council officer will instruct specialist cleaning firms to clean the site and local contractors to repair any damages. The cleaning of the site cannot start while the site is occupied as the travellers' 'possessions' cannot be moved. The council could be liable to a theft claim. The council will also review how best to restrict access to a site to stop further unauthorised camping.

Simon Hodges

Property Department, Cheltenham Borough Council



News from our Village Agent

Lying in the bath I was trying to work out how to write this month's article. I kind of know what I want to write about but figuring out how to string the words into something that resembles an article worth reading is a task and a half. I mean it's been a few years since I was at school (well, let's be honest – decades) and most of my English lessons were spent trying to avoid the flying chalk that the teacher sent towards my friends and me at the back of the class.

Did you ever find yourself in the classroom confused by the lesson, bewildered by the teacher and not really knowing what to do? But you kept quiet for fear of looking silly only to find that at least three of your friends felt exactly the same.

The same can happen when you move house into a new area where you may feel lonely and isolated and not know of places to visit or clubs to join, but it may well be that only a few doors away somebody else is feeling exactly the same. What a difference would it make if we all just knocked on our neighbours' doors and smiled?

By doing something like volunteering, you can help others who might be less fortunate than yourself at the same time as making new friends and perhaps learning a new skill. Volunteering possibilities are endless – driving (i.e: collecting those without a car to take them to hospital appointments), befriending (visiting a person just for a chat and a cup of tea once a week), helping at the hospital and the list continues.

If you could spare just a couple of hours a week to help other people, it really would be so much appreciated. I have discovered the benefits for myself. Whichever organisation you volunteer for would provide training and expenses are usually provided too. And if you're lonely or perhaps have too much time what better answer could there be?

I can point you in the direction of volunteering opportunities so please don't hesitate to contact me.

I'll leave you with a quote:

“Shall we make a new rule of life from tonight: always to try to be a little kinder than is necessary” - J.M Barrie

Liz Heckford

Village Agent 07810 056770
lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Services and events in October

Saturday	1 st	9.30am	Churchyard tidy-up
Sunday	2 nd	10.30am 6.30m	Together @ Ten Thirty for Harvest Sung Holy Communion Harvest Thanksgiving
Tuesday	4 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Tuesday group
Wednesday	5 th	7.30pm	Church fete review meeting in the church
Saturday	8 th	3.00pm	Renewal of wedding vows
Sunday	9 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Evensong
Tuesday	11 th	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Sunday	16 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	18 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Saturday	22 nd	7.00pm	Harvest Supper and Quiz in the Village Hall
Sunday	23 rd	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	25 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	30 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service of commemoration of the faithful departed

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed in to the Church

Nelly Kearns

11th September

Leia-Rae Sykes

25th September

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 (Team Vicar) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.

One of my favourite harvest hymns is 'Come ye thankful people come' which has the line "raise the song of Harvest home".

A friend of mine was holidaying in Somerset this year and when they got home they told me they had seen a number of posters advertising the activities of the Harvest Home in several villages and small towns. They asked me what it was all about, as we traditionally celebrate Harvest in October. So with Google as my friend I set to finding out.

It is a tradition that long precedes the Church's Harvest Festival. Whilst Christian worship was always closely related to the agricultural year with Ember seasons in June, September and December and Lammas (loaf mass) on 1st August, harvest home was a secular, weekday observance. George Herbert (1593-1633) strongly recommended the taking of communion, then only an occasional service in the year, 'afore and after harvest'. It was the Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, Revd Stephen Hawker, who set out to redeem the secular character of harvest home and who introduced the Harvest Festival as a special church service to be held near the beginning of October. He used bread made from the first ripe corn for the communion for that occasion.

Our Harvest is on 2nd October this year with our Together @ Ten Thirty service in the morning and our service of Holy Communion in the evening. October marks the beginning of the season of remembering; our service to remember those we have loved but who have died will be in the evening on 30th October. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory, and give thanks for all that they meant to us.

My mother-in-law died 18 years ago this October, and her favourite harvest hymn reflects our belief that those who have died have reaped the harvest of their life on earth, and are now rejoicing in heaven.

Do come along if you can to mark both the thanksgiving for the fruits of creation, and the fruits of those who are no longer with us.

And here are the words of that hymn:

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise in hymns of adoration,
to thee bring sacrifice of praise with shouts of exultation:
bright robes of gold the fields adorn, the hills with joy are ringing,
the valleys stand so thick with corn that even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day, thy bounteous hand confessing,
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay the first-fruits of thy blessing:
by thee the hungry soul is fed with gifts of grace supernal;
thou who dost give us earthly bread, give us the bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day, and often toil seems dreary;
but labour ends with sunset ray, and rest comes for the weary:
may we, the angel-reaping o'er, stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore to garners bright elected.

O blessèd is that land of God, where saints abide for ever;
where golden fields spread far and broad, where flows the crystal river:
the strains of all its holy throng with ours today are blending;
thrice blessèd is that harvest-song which never hath an ending.

Revd Liz Palin
Team Vicar

A View from the Pew

St. Lawrence Church

*We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells;
We love the house of prayer, wherein thy servants meet
We love to sing below for mercies freely given.*

So wrote the 17th century hymn writer William Bullock when he wanted to express how he felt about the church he attended. These days some may feel the hymn is a bit over the top. But of course people's habits and beliefs were very different in those days. But we love our St Lawrence Church.

Our church stands on raised ground and you can see for miles from the tower. It's got some history behind it. I like to think of how it has stood for thousands of years and seen the village around it change. It's one of many parish churches up and down our country.

Parish churches are run by the priest. Rev. Liz Palin and the North Cheltenham team and the PCC (the Parochial Church Council) do the day-to-day running of St Lawrence. This group is made up of people from the congregation but it's open to anyone on the electoral roll. The PCC, along with the Bishop, helps to appoint the priest. With Revd Liz the PCC decides on the style of services and maintains the church buildings.

It's important to understand that this parish set-up means that the church is there for everyone. Ideally, everyone in England has a parish priest who they can turn to. Everyone lives in a parish. This means the parish is an organisation for everyone, not just believers.

September 19th is the feast day of Saint Theodore of Tarsus. "Who?", I hear you mutter - I'd not heard of him either. He was born in 602 and died in 690 in present day Turkey. Like so many unfortunates today he had to flee from an approaching army and ended up in England. Like so many he came to England as an immigrant. As Archbishop of Canterbury Theodore showed himself to be a skilled administrator. Theodore worked against the many less far-seeing and quarrelsome church leaders as Archbishop and can be said to have invented the parish system. Lately Giles Fraser wrote about Theodore's work. He said that, in his opinion, this new way of organising churches "became not just the basic unit of ecclesiastical government but also, for centuries, our basic unit of social togetherness. The whole idea of a priest in a parish was the very infrastructure of local community. With the shop and the pub, it came to define what was meant by local. It was perhaps", says Canon Fraser, "the single most important moral contribution of the church to British society."

The Church of England is part of the Anglican Communion. This is a worldwide family of churches in more than 160 different countries. On any one Sunday more than a million people attend Church of England services, making it the largest Christian denomination in the country.

The Church of England traces its roots back to the early church, but its Anglican identity and its links to the State date back to the Reformation.

The Church of England is a broad church, and there are many differences in what people believe. But most Anglicans agree on important things. We agree about the importance of the Bible. There is a loyalty to a way of worship and life that was first set out in the Book of Common Prayer in the 17th century. Churchgoers agree about what are called the sacraments like Baptism and Holy Communion or Eucharist. We believe that what the church as a whole does is a ministry of everybody - the whole people of God. Ordinary lay people and ordained people minister to others together.

Ralph Griffin
Lay Reader

Churchyard Tidy-Up

The annual churchyard tidy-up will take place on **Saturday 1st October**, starting at **9.30am**.

Could you spare an hour or two to help remove ivy from the walls or pull up some of the persistent weeds and make the churchyard look tidy for the winter months? No gardening experience is required.

Please bring your own tools and gardening gloves; rubbish bags will be provided. Coffee and biscuits will also be supplied to keep you going!

If you want to find out more please contact Tony Jilbert or May Shurmer.

Just turn up on the day - the more people we have, the better the churchyard will look.

Thank you.

Church Fete Review

A meeting to review this year's church fete and to start planning for next year will be held on **Wednesday 5th October in the church, starting at 7.30pm**.

If you think you can contribute to the meeting in any way please come. We'll welcome constructive criticism of past fetes and thoughts for the future, possibly under new leadership. The church fete is an important event on the village calendar, for its financial and social aspects. Please help maintain this tradition.

For more information contact Tony Jilbert or just come to the meeting.

St. Lawrence's Church

Pub Quiz & Supper

**Saturday 22nd October
in the Village Hall
Doors open at 7.00pm**

Supper at 7.30pm followed by the Quiz

Supper menu

Jacket potatoes with a selection of hot toppings
(including a vegetarian option)

Cheese Salad

Apple Pie or Fruit Salad

Bar open

Raffle

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

£7.00 per person

Book now - phone Karen Evans on 241678

St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Mince pies are in the shops so here's a reminder that the Christmas Tree Festival will take place on

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December.

The Festival makes a wonderful start to the festive season.

This will be our tenth Christmas Tree Festival and the theme chosen to mark this milestone is

"Anniversaries".

As always the theme can be interpreted as widely as you wish; indeed in the past we have seen many examples of people thing "outside the box".

We welcome trees from individuals, families and groups of friends as well as local clubs and societies. Just let me know that you wish to take part then all you have to do is decorate a tree on the Anniversaries theme and bring it to the church on the Friday evening. (Alternatively bring your tree bare and decorate it at the church on the Friday evening.) The trees will be on display to the public over the weekend and you'll be asked to collect it on the Monday.

If you would like more details or to say you are entering a tree please phone me.

Karen Evans
01242 241678

The Children's Society Home Box Collection

Thank you to all the box holders in Swindon Village!. This year we have collected a record **£677** for The Children's Society. This includes a generous donation from Chatterbox, the Tuesday coffee mornings at the church.

Box holders just keep a small collecting box at home and fill them in a variety of ways. One lady puts a small amount in every time she gets a free ride on a bus using her bus pass; some people just put their loose change in it when their purse gets too heavy. All those small contributions add up over the course of a year. The contents of the box can be gift-aided by individual tax-payers, increasing the value of their box by 25%. All you have to do is tick a square on the box's label.

This really is a simple but effective way to raise money to help vulnerable children in this country.

If you would like to have a box in your home please call me on **01242 235933**.

Sylvia Hales

Update from Save the Countryside

As you have probably seen from the Echo, Bloor and Persimmon have submitted their long-expected application for outline planning approval for 4115 houses in the area from Swindon Village to Elmstone Hardwicke. This represents a huge loss of greenbelt, and would put enormous pressure on the local roads and infrastructure, so Save the Countryside is insisting that it be rejected by the planning authorities.

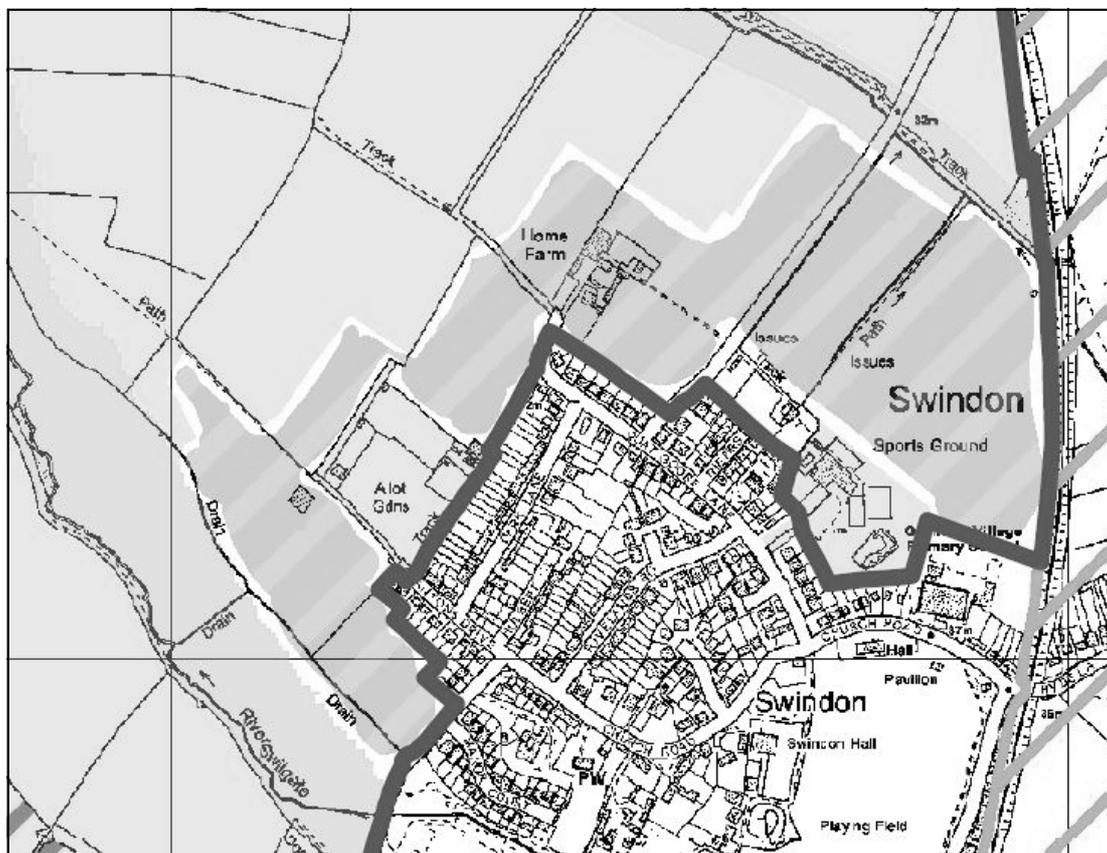
Not everything is bad news, however. Firstly, Save the Countryside met the developers before they submitted this plan to come up with a 'statement of common ground'. It's not easy to come up with a statement of common ground between developers who want to build thousands of houses and a community organisation which is demanding a huge reduction in the scale of development to protect the green belt. All that we achieved was to agree a small area that would remain green running behind Stanton's Drive, connected by a 10 meter strip to another area of green space running behind Dark Lane. To their credit, the developers have incorporated these areas into their planning application. However, they have not reduced the number of houses they are planning to build, so it still represents a huge incursion into the green belt.

The best news is that, following lengthy discussions between our team, the developers, the Council and the JCS Inspector within the formal hearings over many months, the inspector in her interim report, has agreed with our ask for a much larger green space all around Swindon Village, in fact so large that it displaces 500 houses. Originally the JCS allocated 4,785 houses for the area around the village, consisting of 4,115 houses to be built by Bloor and Persimmon and 670 by other developers. Now that has been reduced in the modified JCS to 4,285. The Inspector's recommendation has been taken up by Cheltenham Borough Council who are incorporating the new green space area into the JCS and the Cheltenham Local Plan. The area can be seen in the diagram opposite.

Very soon there will be a chance to comment on the planning application by Bloor and Persimmon. Save the Countryside will be objecting to the plan, on the grounds of the loss of greenbelt, the effect on housing, air quality, the proximity to the toxic landfill site and general quality of life in the area. However, we will also be commending the developers for talking with us beforehand and agreeing to keep some areas around the village green. They will need to change their plans, however, to reflect the larger area that the Inspector decided and to take their share of the reduction of 500 houses.

Anyone can comment on the proposals and we would encourage everyone to have a say. We would encourage followers of Save the Countryside to oppose the plan as a loss of greenbelt that sets a precedent nationwide, but also to mention how valued, welcome and important the area of green space around the village is for health, recreation and maintaining the identity of the village as a village. As soon as the application is open for comment we will let everyone know.

Helen and the Save the Countryside team



1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Following on from our Summer Camp at the Essex International Jamboree at the end of July, our summer was rounded off by the annual trip to Titley at the end of August. In recent years we have been running this camp as a 'Leaders and Helpers' camp and it has become a firm favourite with all of those attending. It is so nice to arrive in the field, set up camp and just relax for 5 days! All the food is still cooked on camp fires by Mike and Baz and is up to their usual high standard. The weather was mixed this year with some fine and sunny days... and some very wet ones – but it didn't seem to spoil the fun. The site is as beautiful as ever, but it is the people that come together each year that make the camp and the time spent together so memorable.

There were 36 of us at Titley this year and, while we were all sitting around the camp fire on the Friday night, we paused to remember Alan Studd with tributes, funny stories and a toast to his legacy at Swindon Village Scouts. – we have a lot to thank him for!

As we head into Autumn, we start another Scouting year and all the sections have had their first few meetings. We have plenty of fun and adventure planned over the coming weeks and months, including a sleepover for the Beavers and the Operation Bald Eagle camp for the Scouts. We also have our autumn **Jumble Sale on Saturday 15th October starting at 11am** and we look forward to seeing many old friends and supporters of the group once again.

Sos

1st Swindon Village Scout Group



Saturday 15th October
11.00am
in the Village Hall
Admission 20p

Clothing Household Goods Books
Toys & Games Bric-a-Brac
Bargains Galore!

Please note - the date in last month's Village News was wrong.

Art & Crafts Club

Into a new term with enthusiasm - great that we have two new members and we have a demonstration booked for the 20th October. If you are not doing anything why not pop in to see us? - 7.30pm every Thursday at the village hall - all welcome.

Helen

01242 582366

Well, here we go again! We are back after the summer and, at Swindon Village Primary School, it's definitely business as usual. As I write this, we are into our third week of term and already in full swing with lessons, visits, enrichment days and extra-curricular activities all up and running. Add to this 60 brand new, smiling Reception children and you get an idea of just how busy things are in school.

Now that our Reception children have settled into school, we have already started thinking about next year's intake! We have a series of events planned and, if you have a child due to start school in September 2017, 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 keep you up-to-date with news about our induction events. Details of our Open Day are below and we will also be holding an **Information Evening at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 30th November**. More details will follow but please put the date in your diary.

Regular readers of The Village News will know that, in school, we feel it is really important to give children a wide range of experiences and staff work hard to include exciting, practical activities to enrich the children's topic work. We already have some fantastic visits lined up including for Y2 who are visiting 'All Things Wild' in Evesham next week and then, as part of their study of World War 2, our Year 6s will become evacuees when they visit the GWR Railway in Winchcombe. The children and staff will all depart school dressed in their 1940s outfits, complete with gas masks, ready for a ride on the steam train. The volunteers at the railway always do a fantastic job in giving the children both an informative and memorable day and the children's topic work will definitely be richer for the experience.

We are really proud of everything that is going on in school and would like to share it with our local community. In order to do this, we will be having an **Open Day on Friday 4th November**. More details will be in next month's News but please put the date in your diary. Everyone is welcome – whether you are currently a parent of a child in the school, considering becoming one of our parents, used to have a child here or are just curious about what we get up to – we would love to see you.

In the meantime, please visit our website, www.swindonvillage.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @swindonvillage

Best wishes from everyone at SVPS,

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Well, we had our summer garden party and it was a warm, rainless evening and the only problem was in getting people to go home. We had to seriously consider what we were going to provide for breakfast. From my own point of view it was very pleasant to have our new neighbours at No 2, The Hall, along with their lovely little boy, Richard, who quite took to the concept of crisps with hummus. The other non-member who really enjoyed the party was the semi-feral cat who haunts the Hall gardens and who greatly enjoyed the company. Her opinions on building in the greenbelt more or less coincide with our own but I have had to decline her offer to join the Society on the grounds that a joining fee of one dead rat would probably not please Julia, our Treasurer.

Don't forget that our November meeting will feature The History of Swindon Hall by a prominent local historian. Details are on the front of the News if you don't know who I mean.

At our October meeting we will have **Amy Woolacott** along to tell us about '**Sacred Wells and Springs**'. I will find this particularly interesting because one of my own talks is about the Kenelm Way which follows the path taken by Saint Kenelm's body as it was brought from the Clent Hills to Winchcombe. Each time the body on its litter was put on the ground a spring arose, finishing with one above Winchcombe which is still marked by a small chapel.

The Joint Core Strategy has appeared in the unwelcome form of an outline planning application for 4,200 houses between Uckington and Swindon Village. Some of you may have seen my letters in the Echo which point out the gap in the Government's approach whereby Ministers say they support the greenbelt but do nothing to stop their Inspectorate approving its effective demolition. Locally, Laurence Robertson has come out against building while Alex Chalk is for it and hence for the loss of the green belt.

Finally, if anyone out there would like to join us we would be delighted to have you along. We are a very amiable bunch and it is always useful to have a good few names on our membership list when we put pen to paper to try and keep the village as a reasonable and civilised place to live. Single membership is £5 for the year and family membership is £10 – no need to actually turn up to meetings but we would be doubly delighted if you did.

Barry Simon

Wednesday Club

A visit to Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire was greatly enjoyed at the beginning of September.

The speaker at the September meeting was Fiona Warin who spoke to us about "Allotments". She made the subject very entertaining and informative.

A Devon girl, she moved to Bristol and needed somewhere to live and wanted an allotment. She applied to the Council and within three days she had been allocated one. It had not been worked for years and had an Andersen Shelter at one end. Realising that help would be needed, she advertised in a newspaper saying "Blonde girl looking for tall, handsome man who likes the outdoors". This was how she met Roger from Leonard Stanley (now her husband) who had a ROTOVATOR.

After a lot of hard work and advising and helping others, she was asked to become the allotment officer. A few years later she was told about a job advertised by Cheltenham Borough Council to manage nine allotment sites. She applied and was appointed.

Allotments first began after 1066 with the allocation of strips of land. They fluctuated in popularity over the years and by the end of the 2nd World War there were 1¾ million allotments. Now it's a multi-generational activity and there are now 400,000 allotments.

A very enjoyable talk.

Our speaker in October will be **Nadine Carr** talking about "**Votes for Women**". As usual she will be authentically dressed in character. Visitors welcome.

Shirley Ruxton

The Swindon Village Society

presents

Sacred Wells and Springs

an illustrated talk by Amy Woolacott

Wednesday 19th October

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Non-members are welcome for £1

The sound of a bell heralded the entry of Ken Brightwell dressed in his full regalia as the Town Crier of Cheltenham. He gave us a brief history of the tradition of Town Criers, or heralds and messengers bringing news. We learnt that the call 'Oyez' was Flemish for 'Hear this' from the days of William the Conqueror, and the message always ended with 'God save the King'. The Town Council or the Lord of the Manor can officially appoint the Town Crier, the first of whom was in Marlborough in 1685. The Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers was formed in 1978 and Ken himself was appointed to the position of Town Crier of Cheltenham, after seven years of writing and offering to do the job, in 1991. His duties include leading the Christmas Parade, Mace Bearer, attending weddings, birthdays and other special occasions, and can often be found in the High Street or Prom advertising events. Ken also competes in competitions nationally and internationally.

Theatre outings and the Book and Craft Clubs are still proving popular. Wendy S. has a Coffee Morning followed by Fish and Chips at Simpson's! The Autumn Council Meeting is at the Pump Room. Names are being put on the lists for another trip to Aston Pottery to see it 'Dressed for Christmas' with a lunch at Little Compton on the way home, holidays in Lincolnshire and Austria, and visits to Bristol Hindu Temple and Tyntesfield for Christmas. Members are getting their knitting needles out to knit poppies to decorate the trees near the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Shaun McCormack is coming to our meeting on **Monday 3rd October** to tell us about the **Yeomen of the Guard**. We welcome visitors to join us for the evening at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall in Swindon Lane.

Sara Jefferies

Advertise your business in the Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50
One sixth of a page (square) £5

Contact the Editors

Free courses to help with stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, sleep problems and other similar issues are all available through the NHS.

The courses are being provided by the county's Let's Talk service and are based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

Alex Burrage, of Let's Talk, said: "One in four of us will be experiencing a mental health condition at any given time. Our courses are all held in community venues; some are held during the day time while others are held in the evenings, so there is usually a course to suit everyone's needs.



"They are educational in nature and there's no need to share personal information or even speak in front of other people on the course, unless you want to.

"We've helped thousands of people overcome the most common mental health problems we can all experience from time to time, and the feedback we get from people who complete our courses is fantastic. Many people say they have changed their lives."

Let's Talk is an Improving Access to Psychological Therapies service provided by 2gether NHS Foundation Trust.

As well as courses, Let's Talk also provides therapy over the phone as well as face-to-face. There are also guided self-help books you can access.

To find out more about courses in your area, ring 0800 073 2200 or visit www.talk2gether.nhs.uk

Wenna Tudor

Communications Officer
2gether NHS Foundation Trust
Tel: 01452 894393
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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Liz Heckford	lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk 07810 056770
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Hugh Stanford	svbeavers@gmail.com 706020
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	Sarah Vallender Nic Jackson	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
Swindon Village Society	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		
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

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. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Shannon Kerr	07954 128151
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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

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Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
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	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
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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