

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 429

November 2016

## *November*

- Wednesday 2 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm  
Simon Doble & Margie Bignall - Artisan Bean to Chocolate Bar
- 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

## *December*

- Saturday 3 Swindon Village School Winter Fair 1.30pm - 4.00pm
- Saturday 3 Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence's Church  
& Sunday & 4 11.00am - 5.00pm
- Monday 5 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
John & Hugh - Sounds of The Sixties
- Tuesday 6 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 7 Wednesday Club Christmas Supper - Members only

*(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.)*

Last month I threatened to write a brief piece on Parish Council powers, especially for those of you who say "Why doesn't the Parish Council do something about it?". The situation with the travellers (reported last month) highlights an important fact - Parish Councils have limited powers. Often the Parish Council doesn't do something about it because it is not within its power. Legislation enshrines a specific list of Parish Council powers and duties.

Powers cover things that a council may choose to do (i.e. they are discretionary). The council is a statutory consultee on local planning applications. This is one of our most important functions. We must be consulted (though our opinion may be disregarded). The council can employ people. As clerk I am an employee of the Parish Council. I am not a member of the council and don't get a vote in meetings. Other powers are archaic. For example, the council could build public baths and erect public clocks. We have the Mosaic Sundial in the park. Perhaps that counts as a public clock. It is ironic that it has no moving parts yet we must still spend money to maintain it!

In addition to the council's discretionary powers the law imposes certain duties on Parish councils. These are things that a council must do and I'll cover some of those next time.

Following the incursion by travellers into the park the Borough Council have taken steps to try to improve the security of the entrance without compromising access for the public, the guys doing maintenance and the emergency services. I have mentioned previously that the Parish Council would like to see improvements to the park and will work with the Borough Council (as landowner) to see what can be done. A recent report from the Heritage Lottery Fund states that 92% of park managers have had their revenue budget cut in the last three years and 95% are expecting cuts in the next three years. Public parks are fantastic resources and should be cherished.

Another fine local resource is the network of footpaths that give access to our countryside. Councillors are concerned at the state of disrepair into which some of the paths have fallen. With massive housing development now almost certain to take place many of our fields are simply being used to generate income and there is no investment in maintaining stiles and trimming hedges. The County Council (in conjunction with landowners) are responsible for the footpath network. John Heathcott and I met with Ian Soule who works for Amey, the County Council's chosen subcontractor. I had met with Ian before. At that time the Amey contract had recently been let and the future was unclear. The outlook was a little more positive this time. Although Amey only employ four people to look after Gloucestershire's huge and diverse network of paths they work closely with volunteers to get things done. Amey have taken on an employee and equipped him with a van and some tools and sent

him out to make a difference. He won't be working on spreadsheets and planning work that will never happen; he will be out cutting back undergrowth and repairing stiles. I am the opposite; good with spreadsheets but a danger to myself and others with power tools.

At the time of writing, the major planning application for the Cheltenham North West Urban Extension housing development is still being validated prior to publication. When it does appear there should be a longer than normal period of public consultation. Please look out for news of this and take an interest. It will affect you. *(See additional note on following page. Editors.)*

In the past I have bemoaned the difficulty of getting any institution to take enforcement action. Sometimes this is due to a lack of will or resources. I strongly suspect that this was the case with the police keeping their distance from the travellers. On other occasions the law is simply (pardon my French) an ass.

One example I may have quoted previously concerns a local chap who applied for planning permission to demolish and rebuild a garden wall. Consent was given with a condition that the work be started within three years. He duly knocked down the wall thus starting the works, though it appears he had no intention of rebuilding it. Years have gone by. Nothing can be done as reinstatement was not a condition of the consent.

Another example. The Parish Council has campaigned tirelessly against car transporters loading and unloading in Manor Road and Runnings Road. Cllr. Allen found that some car dealers have a clause in their planning consent requiring them to leave room for car transporters to turn within the curtilage of their property (curtilage is a better word than boundary as it can be used to prevent ordinary people from understanding what lawyers are talking about). If they are required to leave this space the dealers do so. However, there is no requirement on them to use it and nothing to prevent them from using the highway to load and unload, thereby blocking traffic and denying safe passage to pedestrians. What is the point!

One area in life where enforcement is rigorously pursued is Health and Safety. I was delighted to see a lady picking up conkers in the park the other day. Kids don't seem to bother. Whether this is because they have more sophisticated entertainment available to them these days or whether they share the Health and Safety Executive's concern about some poor child being hospitalised by a sharp rap over the knuckles with an errant conker I cannot say. Bonfire season is also upon us. Seriously, please show consideration for others if you are having a bonfire and, whether you are lighting bonfires or playing conkers, do stay safe.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Planning application for Elms Park

The outline planning application for the Elms Park development on land between Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke has been submitted to Cheltenham Borough Council. The reference number is **16/02000/OUT**.

There is a link to the application from the Swindon Village website **[www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)**

If you wish to see paper documents please contact me.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Allotments

On 5<sup>th</sup> November we are inviting members of the allotments to have an 'end of year' bonfire, individually on their own plot or collectively to burn waste materials from their plots. Strictly no fireworks. Fires to start from 5.00p.m.

At the time of writing this note there are no empty plots but if you would like to join the waiting list please get in touch.

**Ian Brown**

Swindon Village Allotments Manager

01242 528683

### **The Friends of Swindon Village School need a special helper!**

Father Christmas is looking for a helper to stand in for him at the school's Winter Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If you can help him please contact his agent Sarah on [chairfosvps@gmail.com](mailto:chairfosvps@gmail.com) or on 07717 474023 (evenings only).



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

**Services and events in November**

|          |                  |                                   |   |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday  | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 10.30am – 12noon<br>7.30pm        | Chatterbox<br>Tuesday group                                     |
| Sunday   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am<br>6.30pm                 | Together @ Ten Thirty for All Saints day<br>Sung Holy Communion |
| Monday   | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.00pm                            | PCC meeting in church   |
| Tuesday  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1030am - 12noon<br>7.00pm         | Chatterbox<br>Communion followed by Tuesday Group               |
| Friday   | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 10.50am                           | Act of remembrance at The Rock @ St Peters                      |
| Sunday   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am<br>10.50am<br>6.30pm       | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Act of Remembrance<br>Evensong          |
| Tuesday  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 1030am – 12noon<br>7.30pm         | Chatterbox<br>Tuesday Group                                     |
| Sunday   | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am<br>6.30pm                  | Holy Communion<br>Evensong                                      |
| Tuesday  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.30am – 12noon<br>7.30pm        | Chatterbox<br>Tuesday Group                                     |
| Saturday | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 4.30pm                            | Vision all age party Francis Close Hall                         |
| Sunday   | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Advent Sunday<br>9.15am<br>6.30pm | Holy Communion<br>Evensong                                      |
| Tuesday  | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am – 12noon<br>7.30pm        | Chatterbox<br>Tuesday Group                                     |

**Services and events in December**

|          |                 |                             |  |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Saturday | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 11.00am - 5.00pm            | Christmas Tree Festival                          |
| Sunday   | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am<br>11.00am - 5.00pm | Together @ Ten Thirty<br>Christmas Tree Festival |

## From the registers



### Renewal of wedding vows

*We rejoiced with*

Mo and Dave Fardon

8th October



### Funeral

*We gave thanks for the life of*

Henrietta 'Betty' Hartley

7th October

### Burial of ashes

*We commemorated the life of*

Phyllis Bennett

3rd October

## 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](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk).**

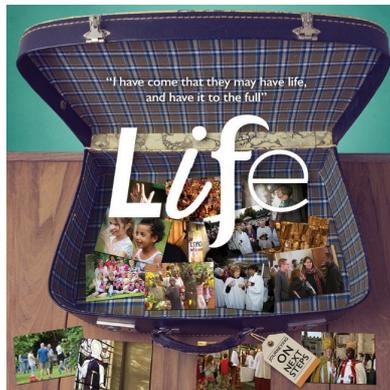
Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November! I often write about the theme of remembering which we mark at this time of year with various special services in our churches.

I hope to see many of you at our Remembrance Day service at 10.50am on 13<sup>th</sup> November, or at the war memorial outside St Peter's church on Tewkesbury Road just before 11.00am on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Our remembrance services offer us the opportunity to reflect on the past and look to the future, hopeful that we can strive to make our world a better place to live.

The church has been at the forefront of community service for hundreds of years, particularly before the welfare state was introduced after the second world war. Now with government funding being cut for many social welfare activities, the church is once again coming to the forefront of engaging with our communities. answering that call to make the world a better place through loving service.

You may recall that over the past few months I have been asking for your thoughts about what the church should be doing in our community as part of the Vision 2016 process in the Diocese (the churches in Gloucestershire). Thank you to those of you who responded. The draft vision document came out on 12<sup>th</sup> September and following further consultation the final vision will be launched with a **FREE party at Francis Close Hall at the University of Gloucestershire from 4.30pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**. There will be hog roast, games, music, lots for all the family, so why not come along, and see what we might be getting up to in this community as a result!

Here is a snippet of the draft document:



**“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”  
(John 10:10)**

**We commit to go out and share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people may know life in all its fullness.**

**We will do this with:**

**Leadership:** Committed to transformation

**Imagination:** Opening new paths to faith

**Faith:** Growing adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

**Engagement:** Living out Christ’s love and hope



**Rev. Liz**

## **A View from the Pew**

St Lawrence Church is a church that remains open in times of sorrow and of joy.

While on holiday I visited a large building where local artists sell their work. The building had once been a Methodist church. When I read the brass plaques commemorating the building of the church at the beginning of last century I thought sadly of the great hopes of people for the worshipping life of the building in the future. Nowadays, instead of being used for worship in the Methodist tradition, it is a secular building next to the town hall, having completely changed its purpose. We are living through a time in England when so many people have lost their particular religious faith.

I've recently been stimulated by letters to the Guardian newspaper on the subject of the demise of isolated historic churches in England, so I thought again about our St Lawrence church building, its place in the village and its worshipping community.

The first thing to say is that it seems to me that there is no threat of closure for St Lawrence for the foreseeable future. The numbers of regular worshippers keep up and there are many special occasions, like Harvest Thanksgiving, when people, young and old come to join in the worship. The church is lively and doing God's work. St Lawrence is a central part of the life of the community.

The question arises: what are churches for? Why keep buildings open for worship, with high running costs.? Why maintain church buildings that seem to have out-lived their usefulness? Among the letters in the correspondence section of the newspaper is one that struck me. The Bishop of Worcester warned against judging churches by 'square footage' when deciding whether they are worth keeping open.

He writes: "the Church of England is right to hold on to as many of its buildings as possible." Every day "they are open for all as a place of prayer." The atmosphere of a church "is what people crave in their darkest hours and in their times of joy." Churches "provide a place for people to refresh their soul. People value churches as churches."

Another correspondent reminds us of the poet Philip Larkin's view that there remains a hunger for "serious places" that can never be obsolete".

Long live St Lawrence Church.

**Ralph Griffin**  
Reader

## The Journey of The Holy Family



Once again, Mary and Joseph will be making their journey around the village during Advent (beginning on 27<sup>th</sup> November and ending on Christmas Eve).

Would you like to offer them a night in your home? They bring with them a diary in which you can write about what you do while they are with you. They are accompanied by a flock of sheep and you are welcome to keep one of the sheep until Christmas Eve when you can return it at the Crib Service.

If you would like to host our knitted Mary and Joseph (and their sheep) please email Revd Liz [liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk)

It's approaching very quickly now but there's still time to enter a tree in this year's

## Christmas Tree Festival

**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 thinking “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.) 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 **Karen Evans** on 01242 241678



## News from our Village Agent

My time since last writing to you has been spent sorting out some unpleasant business. A difficult situation arose that posed a dilemma. I became aware of some information that I knew I should act upon but I also knew that by acting, the potential repercussions may be huge.

Sometimes it is difficult to know where to turn in situations like these and our moral compasses are sent into overdrive. I knew what I wanted to do was right but it felt a bit like “telling” on someone to the teacher at school.

I clung on to the fact that doing the right thing is never wrong, but sometimes it is harder. We all have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable, the sick, the weak and those unable to speak for themselves and if we see something that is wrong we must report it.

Did you know that you can contact Healthwatch on 01452 504989 to give your feedback on all aspects of health related care or to report a concern? The web site <http://www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk> also has a wealth of information on it so do have a look if you need to find a service or you need advice.

In the meantime if you’re struggling with a dilemma and don’t know what to do and need to talk it over with somebody you can always give me a ring. I only work part-time but I will always return your call if you leave your name and a telephone number. (It may not be the day you leave the message though!)

And finally –“It’s never wrong to do the right thing” – Mark Twain.

### **Liz**

Village Agent 07810 056770

[lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)

## Art & Crafts Club

We are doing well. Early days yet but good progress - all trying new and different things. All welcome to come along and enjoy a very friendly and relaxed evening.

Helen  
582366

• Home-made gifts • Sweets STALLS Christmas trees & wreathes

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Jewellery • Cards • Soaps • Candles

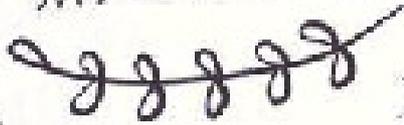
Pocket-money toys • Bespoke art

# WINTER FAIR

Adults £1  
Children 50p  
SVPS Children FREE



1.30pm - 4pm



Pocket-money toys • Bespoke art

Jewellery • Cards • Soaps • Candles



Come

and

join

US!

• Christmas trees & wreathes STALLS Sweets • Home-made gifts •

# St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village

Start the festive season with a visit to the

## Christmas Tree Festival

### “Anniversaries”

A display of small Christmas trees decorated by local people

**Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December  
11.00am to 5.00pm**

Join us on Sunday for Together @ Ten Thirty among the trees  
All welcome

### Live music at 2.30pm

Saturday - Carols by Cheltenham Minster Handbell Ringers

Sunday - Christmas songs with the Ukuleles

\* Christmas goods for sale

\* Christmas Hampers raffle

\* Competition to win a teddy bear

\* Make a Christmas decoration

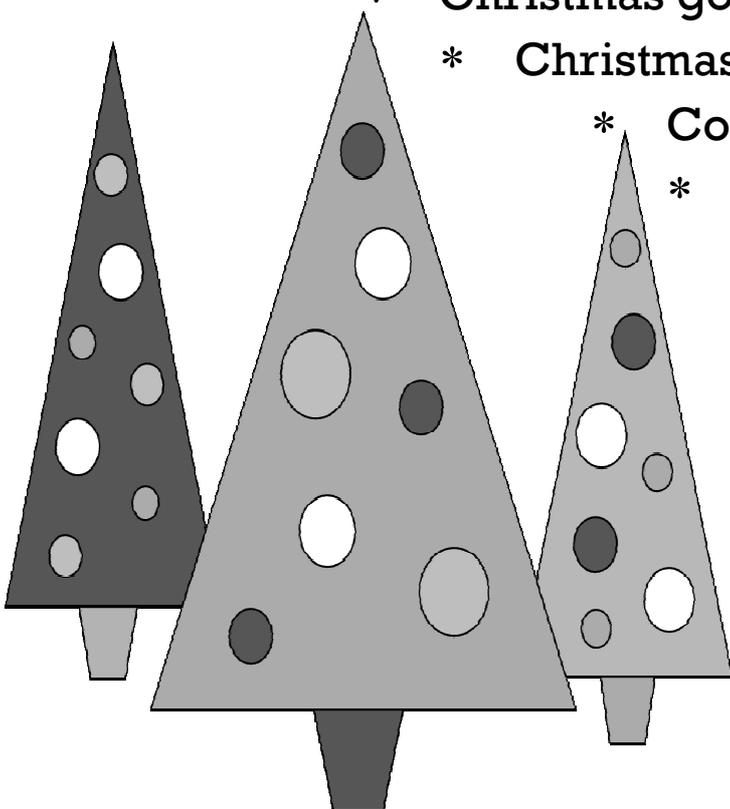
\* Vote for your favourite tree

\* Free refreshments

\* **Free admission**

Donations towards the upkeep  
of the church building will be  
gratefully received

Karen Evans - 01242 241678



## Wednesday Club

The speaker at the October meeting was Nadine Carr who for this visit took on the character and dress of Beatrice de Brassy.

She was a close friend of Mrs Pankhurst, a very strong-minded and active member of the Suffragette Movement. She visited our club to talk about the "cause" and how our group could help obtain votes for women.

Nadine painted a vivid picture of the fight and ordeal these ladies went through. Success came finally in 1928 when equal votes were given to men and women.

There has been a change to the programme. The speaker at the November meeting will be Fiona Eadie with her local stories, traditions and tales. Visitors welcome.

### Shirley Ruxton

## The Swindon Village Society

Meetings in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

### **Wednesday 16th November**

The History of Swindon Hall

An illustrated talk by Barry Simon

Non-members are welcome at £1 each

*The Swindon Village Society does not meet in December but please visit the Christmas Tree Festival in the church to see our tree.*

### **Wednesday 18th January**

The Annual General Meeting for members only at 7.30pm,

Visitors are welcome to join us at 8pm when Eileen Allen will show the second part of her collection of local history photographs. There will be no charge for this.

## Flowers in St. Lawrence's Church

Lovely flower arrangements help to make St. Lawrence's church homely and inviting all year round and even more so at the big festivals like Easter, Harvest and Christmas. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers please contact **Joan Howes on 01242 513573.**

September's meeting featured a talk by Ray Wilson of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology who told us all about Gloucester's docks. The current docks are primarily an 18<sup>th</sup> century development. However there have been other docks in Gloucester over the centuries. The first docks were close to St Mary Le Lode church and were on an old branch of the Severn, long since dried up, which followed the route of the inner ring road near Tesco's. Later the docks relocated to the stretch of river just north of the current docks opposite the prison where you can still walk along the old wharf which is now a path. The Old Customs House can be seen across the road.

Finally the Sharpness to Gloucester Canal was dug to allow shipping to avoid the very difficult stretch of tidal river. The port became very busy and thrived for many years but finally the trade dried up and the docks fell into disuse. I remember visiting Gloucester some thirty or more years ago and nothing was active in the docks area. Now they are thriving with many of the old warehouses brought back into use as offices or public buildings and several blocks of flats and restaurants built. Recently The Quays area has blossomed with shopping, gyms and more restaurants. I was very pleased to visit a few weeks ago and note only one empty shop against the twenty or so just three years ago.

For me it is always a treat to see tall ships in the docks, particularly if they are being worked on in the dry docks by skilled ship repairers and apprentices learning age old trades.

Our November Meeting will feature The History of Swindon Hall. The place does have a history and there is a very interesting tale that relates to the place in Victorian times. The eastern end of the Hall was built using Scrooge's money. If you want to know more, do come along. Details are on the front of this news.

It seems that The Joint Core Strategy plan to build in the green belt has the support of Alex Chalk, Cheltenham's MP. However, Laurence Robertson has come out in favour of maintaining the green belt. This sums up Government and Conservative policy. They desperately want to build houses but don't want to be seen to act against the green belt which is dear to the heart of many of their voters. The Society has therefore written to Laurence Robertson asking if he can find out from the Department of Communities and Local Government just what their position is. Indeed, he has been asked to confirm that the Minister, Sajid Javid, is aware that Cheltenham's green belt can be lost. The clue is in the word belt. A belt surrounds something. A belt with a vast area missing is no longer a 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.

**Barry Simon**

Shaun McCormack had been a regular in the army for 24 years before enlisting as a member of the Yeoman of the Guard. They are the oldest of the Queen's bodyguards, having been founded by Henry VII in 1485. Their uniforms and many customs originate from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and their nickname of 'Beefeater' comes from the fact that they were paid in 'Beef and Beer'. The Queen officially inspects them every four years but they can be seen on duty at the Royal Garden Parties, investitures, lying in state and many other royal occasions. They also search the basements of the Houses of Parliament before the State Opening in case anyone is wishing to emulate Guy Fawkes. The Warders of the Tower are an offshoot but have no Royal duties, as they are officially prison warders. They now accept ex-servicemen from the RAF, but ex-naval personnel can only be Warders. Two ladies have applied and will be the first to join the Yeomen, but not until 2018. Shaun illustrated his talk with pictures and some items of interest and his uniform; unfortunately his tunic was away being cleaned and so he could not bring that.

We seem to have been quite active lately with a session of Line Dancing to celebrate WI Sports Week; at the Autumn Council Meeting we were entertained by two ex-members of 'Only Men Aloud' who now perform as 'Cantare'. We have had two trips to the theatre to see 'The Dresser' and 'The Glen Miller Story' starring Tommy Steele (who will be 80 in December!). I had to educate my grandchildren as to whom Tommy Steele is and as they had never heard of him!

A very interesting trip to Bristol to visit a Hindu Temple and a Sikh Gurdwara was enjoyed by some of our members. The very ornate Temple was in a converted Methodist Chapel and the Gurdwara in a building that had been a school and left derelict. At both venues we experienced great warmth and friendliness and had very informative talks on the aspects of the religions. The partaking of food and drink is a great part of their hospitality!

A tasty Chinese meal at the Mayflower Restaurant, the Book and Craft Clubs, walks and a tea afternoon at Janet's were amongst our other activities.

In November we have our Autumn Group Meeting which is a Soup and Pudding Lunch, a Discovery Day to make things for Christmas, our Birthday Party meal at the Everyman, a visit to Tyntesfield to see it 'Dressed for Christmas', a day at the races, a Christmas trip to Aston Pottery with lunch in Little Compton afterwards and Remembrance Sunday, when the poppies we have knitted will be amongst those in the Promenade.

Our November meeting is our Annual Meeting when we form our new Committee and elect the new President. We hope that all will go smoothly and with no problems as with no committee and no president we would have no WI.

**Sara Jefferies**

# 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

The nights may be drawing in, but that hasn't stopped our youngsters getting out and about. It's been a busy few weeks as you can see

!

At the beginning of October we had a good attendance of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the Harvest Festival Service held in St Lawrence's Church. It's lovely to get all the sections together and see them taking an active part in the service.

The following weekend saw our Beavers take part in a Beaver Sleepover with other Beavers from around Cheltenham. This was held at Seasons in the village and a terrific 24 hours of fun and games (but not a lot of sleep) based around a Paralympic theme took place. The Beavers were joined by Scott Jones who was able to explain to the youngsters how being disabled doesn't mean that you can't take part in, enjoy and be competitive at sport. They were all excited to see his medals and even presented him with a medal of their own! Our thanks to Wolf (Hugh) and Rabbit (Sylvia) for giving our youngsters the opportunity to take part and enjoy this fun weekend adventure.

Meanwhile, over the same weekend, eleven of our Scouts and five leaders took part in this year's Operation Bald Eagle camp – our final Scout camp of the year. The camp was held at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site - right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. Here we joined around 300 Scouts from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. We were blessed with good weather and enjoyed a dry weekend. We arrived at around 7pm on the Friday evening and the Scouts set about pitching their tents in the dark before tackling the Friday evening challenge and enjoying a hot dog and a hot drink. On Saturday, after a cooked breakfast and flag break, our Scouts started to tackle some of the 30 day bases around the campsite, solving puzzles and completing tasks, challenges and games. Then on Saturday night they joined more than 60 teams and set off on a 6 mile incident hike around the local area with 14 activities to complete at the various checkpoints along the route. These involved all sorts of challenges including 'defusing a bomb', radio-controlled cars and rescuing a casualty and getting them over an 8 foot wall to name just a few. Their great team work enabled all of them to complete the entire hike at around midnight – a fantastic achievement. A very tired bunch of Scouts awoke on Sunday morning and, after another cooked breakfast, had to pack up their gear before taking down their tents. The camp finished with everyone getting together for flag-down, a moment of reflection and the results and presentations. All of our Scouts did tremendously well in what was a very long night! As a leadership team, we were really proud of all of them. And to top the weekend off, one of our teams won checkpoint 13, "Crazy Golf", and were presented with a framed certificate, much to their delight. Congratulations are due to everyone who took part – another terrific weekend.

The following weekend saw our autumn Jumble Sale at the village hall. I would like to say a huge thank-you to all those parents, friends, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who came to help us this year - your help was vital in making the sale a

success and most appreciated. Also, thanks to everybody from around the village who came to support us once again and buy all the bargains

!

Finally – just before half term, our group’s Open Evening and AGM was held in the village hall. All the leaders gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months. One of the highlights of the evening were the entertaining reports given by the Cubs and Scouts themselves who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people. The evening concluded with the presentation of awards and special badges by Godfrey Tarling, our new District Commissioner. Four youngsters, Jess Tomkins, Jessica Lea, Lily Pirso and Archie Matthews, were presented with their Chief Scout’s Silver Award – the highest award you can achieve as a Cub Scout. It is also the night that we celebrate the achievements and the efforts of the youngsters from each section of the Group. The award winners this year were:

|                  |                       |   |                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Beavers:         | The Alan Studd Award: | - | Rafe Newman     |
| Cubs:            | The Phil Long Award:  | - | Jake Rudden     |
| Best Cub Camper: | The Di Dimond Award   | - | Archie Matthews |
| Scouts:          | The Phil Long Award:  | - | D.J. Lea        |

Congratulations and very well done to you all.

## Sos



Adam Carter  
as  
ELVIS PRESLEY!

Saturday 28th January 2017

Swindon Village Hall

Doors open 7.00pm

Host/Compère - James Locke

Disco & Raffle      Complimentary Buffet

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23-24 High Street  
01684 276200

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

|                                |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Village & Community Agent      | Liz Heckford                   | lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk<br>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<br>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<br>Nic Jackson | chairfosvps@gmail.com                              |
| Art & Crafts Club              | Adrian Skilling                | 690928<br>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](mailto: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           |
|                                | 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   | Vacant          |                                       |
| Team Vicar  | Revd. Liz Palin | 575547<br>liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk |
| Reader  | Ralph Griffin   | 510533                                |
| Churchwardens   | Tony Jilbert    | 693639                                |
|   | May Shurmer     | 241033                                |
| Tower Captain   | Hugh Evans      | 241678                                |
| Organist  | John Collins    | 511950                                |
| North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office                     |                 | 244373                                |
| St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane,<br>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