

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 433

April 2017

April

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday | 1 | Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall 10.30am |
| Monday | 3 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Mr Tore Fauske - Growing Up in Norway during the German Occupation |
| Wednesday | 5 | Village Hall AGM 7.45pm |
| Wednesday | 5 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Ken Brightwell - The Experience of Town Crying |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 22 | Swindon Village Society - Annual Birdwalk
Meet in the Village Hall car park at 9.30am. |

May

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday | 3 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Rosemary Prosser - "Hot Wheels and Cold Meals" |
| Monday | 8 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Resolutions |
| Tuesday | 9 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 17 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Rosemary Westgate - The Wild Flowers of Gloucestershire |
| Sunday | 21 | Save The Countryside Walk - starting Stanton's Drive at 2pm |

(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.)

We are continuing to investigate what can be done about the parking problems in the Glynbridge Gardens areas. One possibility is to put double yellow lines in place though this may not solve the problem (or may push it elsewhere) and the idea is not universally supported amongst local residents. This is a matter for the County Council but we are keen to ensure that any actions taken meet the needs of local residents.

In the February issue of the Village News I noted an impassioned plea from Peter Piff regarding the Village Hall. Peter is the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. Whilst the building is owned by the Parish Council the operation of the facility is entirely down to the Committee. Peter and his committee members have been running the hall for the benefit of the community for a considerable time. Not surprisingly they would like to see some new people coming forward. The Parish Council itself is in a similar position. We are short of two parish councillors at the moment. I know people lead busy lives but most of us like to see a thriving village hall and to have a Parish Council that is committed to looking after the area and its people. So how about putting something back and making a contribution (in terms of time) yourself?

At the time of writing it is the intention of Network Rail to close Brockhampton Lane at the level crossing from 11pm on Saturday 8th April until 9:00am Sunday 9th April 2017 to allow for track maintenance works. Unfortunately due to the nature of the works it will not be possible to maintain pedestrian access. Anyone requiring further information should ring 08000 514514.

Also at the time of writing it is the intention of GCC (via Amey) to resurface Morris Hill Close and the remaining section of Wymans Lane in the week commencing 3rd April. When the Wymans Lane/Hyde Lane works were done late last year there was much confusion about dates and many people were surprised and angry when the road was closed. We will be meeting with the County Council and Amey prior to these works to help us give correct and timely information to residents. Remember that if the schedule changes after we go to press I will publish information on our web site. We (the Parish Council) are in the hands of the County Council and Amey. We are doing our best to let you know what is happening so please don't shoot the messenger!

We are getting problems with cruisers in the area again. It is natural for young car owners to take pride in their vehicles and to want to show them off to their peers but the scale of the meetings and the things that go on give cause for concern. Cars are driven at speed, creating noise and danger and rubbish is left behind when the event is over. If you see or hear something that causes you concern please report the matter to the police. Unless it is a genuine emergency it is inappropriate to dial 999. Please use telephone number 101 or email **101@gloucestershire.police.uk**. This advice applies generally and not just to the cruiser problem. The police will not respond unless there are clear concerns being reported by the community.

One of the key complaints about the Joint Core Strategy is the lack of up-to-date information regarding local traffic. Apparently the long awaited updated traffic model is now expected to appear in May. This should mean that the JCS planning enquiry can resume in June/July and consider transport issues. The current consultation on the main modifications to the JCS ends on 10th April 2017. The consultation can be accessed from the home page of the parish web site. The Parish Council is pleased to see that both the JCS and the Cheltenham Local Plan have incorporated the Local Green Space negotiated by local groups including the Parish Council.

Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 25th May 2017 in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm. The meeting is hosted by the Chairman of the Parish Council and gives residents the opportunity to hear about the Parish Council's year and to raise any matters of interest or concern.

By the time you read this the Cheltenham Gold Cup will have been won and the roads will be back to normal (i.e. choked with traffic!). I hope you picked a winner or two. If you had a bit of luck, why not put something back. Join the Village Hall Committee and/or the Parish Council.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

The Village Hall Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to all the following at the AGM on Wednesday 5th April at 7.45pm in the Lounge:

1. Trustees
2. All organisations affiliated to the Hall
3. Residents of the parish.

This is the most important meeting in the Hall calendar as the positions up for election are:

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer.

Any person interested in any of the above positions please come along and make yourself known.

Have a say in the future of this hall. Any ideas welcome. It is your village hall and will only survive with support from you.

Peter Piff

Chairman



News from our Village Agent

I like helping people! It is a fact. It is part of my nature. Recently, on a trip to London with some friends, we were making our way up the stairs on the underground. A lady was struggling up the stairs, on her own with a handbag, a small suitcase and what can only be described as a suitcase large enough to fit ALL of my clothes in. It was HUGE!!!

As is the way in London, actually in most places these days, people hurried past her. We were on our way to a venue ourselves but I stopped and asked if she would like some help with her cases. She was so grateful and gave me a tired smile as she handed me the smaller suitcase to carry up the steps. I would gladly have taken the larger one. Nevertheless I carried it for a few steps before she called after me. Another couple of men (!) had offered their help too with the larger case and she now was able to take the smaller bag.

The lady thanked me, and my friends and I went on our way to the South Bank. My friend looked at me and said “Has somebody hit you with the kind stick?” I like to think that I am a kind person, and that I can help people by doing my job as a Village Agent. By helping one person, they will tell another person and then I can help them too and so the word will spread. And if I can't help directly then I will find somebody who can help.

I have helped people switch energy suppliers, helped people get benefit checks to ensure they are getting all the benefits they are entitled to and helped people access courses and groups in their local communities.

I have also recently found out that it is possible to get reductions on your council tax bill if a person in the household has a condition such as Alzheimer's Disease or Parkinsons Disease.

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/download/downloads/id/1821/factsheet_council_tax.pdf

It's my job to be kind and help people – how wonderful is that? So if you'd like some help with any of the things I have mentioned above please don't hesitate to contact me. Do leave me a message and I will get back to you. You never know, you might start a trend.

In the meantime“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you”. - Diana Princess of Wales.

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

Services and events in April

1 st	Saturday	10.00am	Coffee morning in aid of church funds
2 nd	Sunday	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		3.00pm	Baptism
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
3 rd	Monday	All day	Experience Easter
4 th	Tuesday	All day	Experience Easter (NB no chatterbox)
		7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
5 th	Wednesday	1.30pm	Swindon Village Early Years visit to church
7 th	Friday	4.00pm	Wedding
9 th	Sunday	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
		10.00am	Palm Sunday procession from CTFC
		10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
11 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
		7.30pm	'Journeying with Jesus' Holy week reflection at St Mary Magdalene church Elmstone Hardwicke
13 th	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		
		7.00pm	Seder Style Meal Gas Green Baptist Church
14 th	<i>Good Friday</i>		
		12noon	Good Friday reflective service
15 th	<i>Holy Saturday</i>		
		9.00pm	Easter Vigil service St Mary's, Prestbury
16 th	Sunday	<i>Easter Day</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong

18 th	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
23 rd	Sunday	<i>Easter 2</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
24 th	Monday	7.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
26 th	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
30 th	Sunday	<i>Easter 3</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise



**The Parish of St. Lawrence, Swindon Village
and Cheltenham St. Peter**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00pm
in St. Lawrence's Church**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports and financial accounts for 2016 and to elect Churchwardens and representatives to the Parochial Church Council and Cheltenham Deanery Synod.

All parishioners are invited to attend for the election of Churchwardens and everyone on the church's electoral roll is entitled to attend the whole meeting.

Drinks and nibbles will be served after the meeting.

Palm Sunday Procession, 9th April

On April 9th members of the congregation will be processing to church from outside the Cheltenham Football Club training ground. 'Why?' I hear you ask! Well, we will be marking the beginning of Holy Week when we commemorate the final week of Jesus' earthly life which began with him riding into Jerusalem on a donkey with people waving palm leaves and branches to welcome him into the city. Known in the church as Palm Sunday.

Sadly we haven't got a donkey to lead us (though if you happen to have a donkey or pony and would like to join us that would be fantastic – just contact me!) but we shall be processing and waving branches as well as singing at various points along the way. We leave from the training ground gates in Quat Goose Lane at 10.00am and the service in church will start at approximately 10.30am.

Do come along and join us along the route which takes us along Quat Goose Lane and up Rivelands Road.

Revd Liz

Maundy Thursday April 13th 2017

7.00pm, Gas Green Baptist Church - £5.00 per person

'When supper was ended'

This year the churches of St Lawrence & St Mary Magdalene are joining with our sisters and brothers at Gas Green Baptist church (in the St Peter's area of our parish) to participate in a Christian Seder Style Meal to commemorate Jesus' last supper. Our Christian Seder Meal is presented as a way to express the Christian faith in the context of a gathered community by participating symbolically in the story of salvation. It is a Christian service, yet there has also been a deliberate attempt to preserve the spirit of the Jewish tradition and to respect the faith journey of Israelites and Jews across the centuries.

If you would like to come please sign the sheet in church or contact Rev Liz. You are welcome to bring your own drinks!

Revd. Liz

As I write this the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and there are signs of new life in the garden. It is a good reminder that winter has well and truly gone, spring has arrived and summer is on its way.

Easter this year is on 16th April. Of course the shops have been selling Easter eggs since January, it seems, and now the shops are full of all sorts of items to tempt us to celebrate Easter.

I have been particularly struck by the array of items on display in the art and craft shops and departments. Things to decorate Easter bonnets, paint your own egg kits, Easter bunnies, Easter chicks, and of course Easter egg hunt kits.

So far I haven't seen a single item that represents what it is we are really celebrating at Easter - there is not a single cross to be seen anywhere - apart of course from outside the church. At the beginning of April the large wooden cross will be placed in the churchyard, as we welcome children to the church to 'Experience Easter' and hear and think about the Easter story.

The story of a love so great that Jesus was prepared to die for each one of us, to restore our relationship with God and give us new life – a life in all its fullness as John's gospel puts it.

Life in all its fullness means of course, good times and bad times, times of plenty and times of struggle – I'm sure all your lives reflect that. The life of the church is also like that. In St Lawrence church our coffee drop in is thriving, but Sunday numbers are static. We have marvellous facilities which we worked hard to achieve, but now we face the challenge of raising funds to repair our unique tower roof. But Easter reminds us that God is with us in all of it, the good and the bad, with a love so great that death could not contain it.

So as you walk past the church in April, take a look at the cross, and remember what we are really celebrating at Easter. And just in case you think it doesn't involve chocolate – come to church on Easter day, and you might be surprised!

Revd Liz

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.



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH



CAKE DAY
&
COFFEE MORNING

on

SATURDAY 1st APRIL

10.30 am-12 noon

at

Swindon Village Hall

Admission £2.00

(includes tea/coffee & biscuits)

ALL WELCOME

A View from the Pew

A century and a half ago the first Lay Reader in the Anglican Communion was licensed in Standish in the Diocese of Gloucester. The Church of England's first Reader was Mr J D T Niblett, who was the squire of Haresfield Court in the next village to Standish. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians, with a keen interest in local history and his speciality was researching monuments in village churches. He supported the refurbishment of the parish church.

There are now over two hundred Readers in the Diocese of Gloucester and more than 10,000 across the Church of England. I became a Reader (now called just 'Reader' instead of 'lay' reader) in 1995 when I lived in the Forest of Dean. After a couple of years my wife and I moved to Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, and they accepted me as their reader here at St Lawrence.

In 19 years during my Readership here I have seen many changes connected with my work and with my church worship and I have seen physical improvements to our ancient church. I have seen forms of worship change at St Lawrence and am privileged to lead Evensong services. In the larger picture I have seen changes in the good old Church of England and we now are blessed with a woman bishop.

Over the years I have come to love the ancient church building of St Lawrence with its unusual irregular tower and I have been fortunate to have made many friends who live in Swindon Village and further afield. Rev Betty Humphrey, who served us and the village so well. We have many good memories of her incumbency. She was in post as priest when I began to worship at St Lawrence. She was one of the first women priests in the Church of England.

I remember, I got very emotional, even though I am male, on the day that the first group of women were ordained. I was very much in favour of women priests and still am. There's no difference in God's eyes between male and female. Every human being should be treated equally.

The Anglican Church has seen many changes during the time I have called myself "C of E". I was brought up as a Methodist with its style of churches and services emphasising the spoken word. In Cheltenham church services vary between what used to be called 'low' church and 'high' church (Anglo Catholic). (Please excuse my shorthand descriptions if you have read this far.)

In the Anglican church as a whole and in the people who make up the North Cheltenham Team Ministry there are a number of sincere Christians who cannot accept Holy Communion if presided over by a woman nor can they accept a woman bishop. I believe that women bring many gifts to the job of being a priest. At St Lawrence we continue to benefit from the inspired and effective leadership of Revd. Liz Palin. We now look also to Bishop Rachel. We are all grateful for God's providence in all these changes over the years.

Ralph Griffin, your Reader

Save The Countryside

10th Anniversary Walk

**Celebrating 10 years of strength in our community voice
And a passion for the beautiful place in which we live!**

Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

Sunday 21st May

2pm

**Everyone welcome including dogs and horses.
Refreshments available mid-way and at the end.**



For further details contact 01242 680602 (Anne)

or 07770 986078 (Helen)

Save The Countryside

The Save the Countryside team is reaching its 10 year anniversary. Some say that time flies when you are having fun... well some of it has been really tough but we certainly have had some fun times.

We do hope that we get a great turnout for our 10th Annual walk on Sunday 21st May and that the sun shines on us during the walk and the celebration afterwards. If you have anything green to wear please do!

So the Challenge for Swindon Village is reaching its conclusion. I'm delighted to tell you that we have secured our Local Green Space as a mini greenbelt around Swindon Village. This means that we will be able to retain our village identity and keep many of the walk areas that we enjoy today. The Local Green Space has been accepted by the Joint Core Strategy Government Inspector as part of the Joint Core Strategy main modifications and is included in the Cheltenham Plan.

Both the Joint Core Strategy main modifications and the Cheltenham plan are in the final stage of public consultation. If you are minded to make a positive comment on the Local Green Space which is one of the main modifications then please do add your response to the public consultation by 10th April on

<http://consult.gct-jcs.org/consult.ti/mainmods/consultationHome>

We do not expect anything to change regarding the Local Green Space but until everything is finalised we still hold our breath. Then it will be up to all of us to determine what we and the landowners want from the Local Green Space so that it can be enjoyed by everyone (it could be arable fields, grazing, other food production land / walkways / community orchards / playing fields).

The less delightful news is that, despite all our proven arguments regarding the use of brownfield land before agricultural land for food production, the lack of up-to-date transport analysis and many other clear points, the JCS has been accepted. It includes the reduced number of 4,115 houses, plus retail and industrial development in the greenbelt land beyond the Local Green Space. The planning application for the largest part known as the Elm's Park development is so complex and has so many areas of contention (such as transport issues, flooding, a huge gas pipeline running through it) that we do not expect it to be approved in the near future. We have asked for support from our politicians and national groups, but our government seems determined for local councils to work closely with developers on large scale housing plans despite the costs to existing residents. I will keep you updated on the work our small team continues to do to ensure whatever development we are forced to have comes at the lowest social and environmental cost for the whole town. Our website has the latest news posted **www.savethecountryside.org.uk**. So until then we can continue to enjoy the green fields that we have.

Helen and the Save the Countryside team

Wednesday Club

Our speaker on 1st March was Manuel Queiroz who gave a very interesting and informative talk called "Overland from Alaska to Argentina". This was a trip he did with his wife over a 7 month period – with hindsight he said they should have allowed a longer time. Firstly they bought a camper and equipment in this country and then transported it to the USA then they drove north to Alaska to start the trip.

This was the first time they had tried camping and luckily they found they enjoyed it!

The presentation of the photographs and descriptions of their travels, the views, the roads, the animals and lastly the people who they found to be very friendly, despite the notoriety of some South American countries, gave a fascinating insight of life in many of the countries they passed through and was greatly appreciated by all who were present.

Our next speaker, on 5th April, is Ken Brightwell – "The Experience of Town Crying".

On 19th April we are visiting "Aunt Martha's Victorian Tearoom" and there are still a few seats available at £13 which includes transport. To book please ring Shirley on 529115 or June on 698383; money will need to be paid at the next meeting!

Shirley Ruxton

Art & Crafts Club

Our member/tutor has painted the most amazing picture of the Queen, as you can see, which Her Majesty has accepted.

Our congratulations to Pam - what an artist!!!

Next time you visit Buck House you may well see it hanging in the halls.

We are honoured to have Pam as our tutor - this is what you could achieve as a member of the club.

Helen



Apologies for not being able to reproduce these pictures in the full colours which they deserve. - The Editors.

I can happily say that the year has started well for the Village Society. The first talk was about how Bletchley Park broke the German codes in World War Two. Bob Skelt is an ex GCHQ man and a very professional speaker. This talk was on the technicalities of how they broke the codes which could have been a bit of a challenge for us but Bob was able to put it over so that I, for one, very nearly understood. It was great to see many new faces in attendance including a couple of real youngsters who said that they had really enjoyed the talk. I will certainly try to get Bob back next year to cover the other half of the Bletchley Park story – the people. One reason why we were so good at code breaking was that we were happy to employ those who were a bit off the normal path, the loners, homosexuals, intellectuals. The Nazis did not trust such people and were more likely to put them into a concentration camp than to employ their very unusual talents on such a project.

Then in March we had our own in-house speaker. Mike Wilson has loved things mechanical all his life. That is why he has one of the most beautiful vintage Alvis cars you can imagine. However, you need a lot of space and money to build up a collection of top end cars so he moved to the other end of the size scale and started working on clocks. Even they took up room so he headed even further into the miniature and has for years restored pocket watches. He is a very skilled case maker, starting from a flat sheet of silver and coaxing it into becoming a near spherical case. Into this he will fit an old escapement which he has repaired, adding a dial and hands if necessary. The results are things of absolute beauty. Mike talked us through the whole process and showed us several of the results both of his watch restoration and his work as a silversmith. Again we had several new members and I know they all enjoyed an absolutely fascinating talk.

On more prosaic details we have been active in commenting on the Cheltenham Local Plan. This is the next level down from the Joint Core Strategy which continues on its weary way lost in time and space. The Local Plan looks at things in more detail and is of particular interest to us as it deals with the provision of Local Green Space to the North and West of the village. Several of us have made inputs strongly supporting this provision.

Next up is our bird walk in April. Come and join us if you would like a gentle stroll. We will only walk in the local area, this year starting from the Village Hall car park, maybe along Dog Bark Lane or Brockhampton Lane, so you can leave any time you wish. Non-members and children welcome for no charge. Well-behaved dogs OK as long as they can tell a blue tit from a thrush. Timings on the front cover.

If anyone out there would like to join us we would be delighted to have you along. The more names on our membership list the better 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. Come to a meeting or if you come to the door of 3, Swindon Hall with money in hand there is every chance of a cup of tea.

Barry Simon

Local pharmacist Peter Badham gave a history of his family business at our March meeting. His father opened his first pharmacy in Whaddon in 1940. This was followed by a shop in Bishop's Cleeve and they now have 17 outlets, mainly in Gloucestershire, with an 18th opening in May this year. The shop in Pittville has been a pharmacy since the building was built in 1833 as part of Pitt's original plan. From pre-NHS, with prescriptions written in Latin and made up from scratch, to the modern day with electronic service, smart cards and medications delivered to your door, much has changed over the intervening years.

Our President Sue was away on a course at Denman College, leaving myself in charge for the evening that was well attended and busy. At a Craft afternoon at Eileen's a few of us made book covers, the book club met at Annette's, Sue D. had a coffee morning, a lunch at the Tivoli, a skittles practice at Charlton Kings in readiness for the County Tournament and an outing to the Races for the Gold Cup Day were amongst our activities for the month. Hazel showed us the Bug House she had made at a workshop day. At the Annual Council Meeting in the Town Hall we heard Lady Bathurst speak of the new WI that has been formed at Eastpark Prison; the other main speaker was historian Dr Lucy Worsley. The coach trip to the WI Fair at Alexandra Palace was much enjoyed by all.

In April we have the first round of the County Quiz in which we have entered two teams. A Skittles and Supper Evening at the Suffolk Arms and a coach trip to the BBC at Bristol with shopping at Cabot Circus are on the calendar. A campaign and Debate Day, a coffee morning, County walks and a Shibori Bead Embroidery workshop are amongst other activities. At the end of the month a number of us are joining a short break in Lincolnshire organised by the County Federation.

The speaker at our meeting on Monday 3rd April is Tore Fauske who will tell us of his experiences 'Growing up in Norway during the German Occupation'. Anyone who would like to join us for the evening, 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall, will be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies

The Swindon Village Society

invites you to join them for...

The Annual Bird Walk
Saturday 22nd April
9.30am

Meet at the Village Hall car park.
Non-members welcome - no charge.

**"The Wild Flowers
of Gloucestershire"**
Wednesday 17th May
7.30pm

In the Village Hall
Non-members welcome for £1.

It has been a slightly quieter start to 2017 for our Scouts than usual as we have taken a year off both the Winter Camp at Gilwell Park in January and the Cotswold Marathon in February. As I am now undeniably middle aged, I appreciate my home comforts that bit more and the thought of camping in mud in January is less appealing than it once was! However, this has not stopped our Scouts getting out and about and taking part in adventurous and challenging activities.

Nine of our Scouts formed two teams to take part in the District Scout Cooking Competition, held at Shurdington Scout HQ. The challenge was to cook and serve a three course meal for four or five people with a budget of just £17. The theme for this year was "Past, Present or Future Scout Badges" which gave the teams plenty of opportunity to use their imagination! All six teams from around the district cooked meals that the judges would have been happy to sit down and eat and the standard was once again very good this year. Our teams prepared two delicious meals and one of them produced the judge's favourite pudding of the day scooping the "Best Dessert" award. Having cooked all morning, they then got to sit down and enjoy the fruits of their hard work and had a lot of fun in the process! Congratulations to all of you, and a big thank-you to your parents for all their help and support.

We have had several of our Scouts taking advantage of the fabulous opportunities on offer from the County team. Both **Ellie Swift** and **Toby Perks** took part in the County-organised IT weekend, held this year at Shurdington Scout HQ. During the weekend they got to learn a great deal about computers, computer programs, web browsers, email, chat programs, microphones, scanners and digital cameras. The Scouts also completed the Communicator, Digital Citizen and Digital Maker Badges as well as having plenty of other fun and games throughout the weekend.

Over the first weekend in March, two more of our Scouts joined others from around Gloucestershire at the County Scout HQ in Cranham. **Victoria Emery** tackled the Electronics Activity Badge course inside the centre at Cranham. Part of the requirements involved some soldering and the construction of three circuits, one of which was based mainly on digital electronics. Victoria was the only girl on the course, but this didn't stop her making new friends and having loads of fun throughout the weekend. Meanwhile, **Ethan Drake** tried his hand at the Mechanics Activity Badge. Over the course of the weekend he was part of a team that built a working engine and looked at various skills and tasks required to maintain a road-worthy car. I'm glad to say both Scouts achieved the required standard and were presented with their badges at the end of the weekend.

The Cubs and Scouts recently had a fascinating evening together gaining an insight into life as a blind person when we were joined by Peter for the evening. Peter has been completely blind since 18 months of age and he ran a fun and informative evening with games and talks and he showed us all the equipment that he uses to cope with the everyday life that we all take for granted. The Cubs and Scouts took such an interest and asked so many questions that we ran out of time and could have

done with longer. However, Peter was thrilled with the response from all the youngsters and is even willing to come back in the future and run another evening!

Finally, we are collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers** again and we hope to obtain some new equipment at the end of this scheme. If you could please hand your vouchers to any of the leaders, we would be grateful. Thank you.

Sos

Swindon Village Winemakers

At the February meeting it was the annual Doug Wilkins wine competition. This year it was for a dry white wine. The wines were judged by the members themselves and the results were as follows: in third place was Mike Attwood, in second place was Cyril Smallwood, and in first place was Roy Harper (me!).

We also had a pudding evening with a variety of puddings including Bread Pudding, Bannoffee Pie, various cakes, Redcurrant Crumble, Cherry and Custard Tart, Bread & Butter Pudding and Lemon Cheesecake with Honey. The winner was Barbara Smallwood with her (yes you've guessed it if you know Barbara - the honey was the give away) Lemon Cheesecake with Honey.

On Saturday the 25th February we had our Spring dance with 70 people from all different wine clubs attending. The entertainer was no other than "BRIAN BLACK" singing a variety of songs for which the floor was never empty with members dancing.

The April meeting will be a Wine Tasting evening given by Tony Jilbert and Jim Ruxton.

Roy Harper

Advertise your business in the Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £36 Half page £18 Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

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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. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
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

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 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, 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