

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 440

December 2017 / January 2018

December

Saturday	2	Christmas Tree Festival - 11.00am to 5.00pm
Sunday	3	St. Lawrence's Church
Monday	4	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Carole and Malcolm Brown - We sing for your pleasure
Wednesday	6	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Christmas Supper (Members only)
Tuesday	12	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Chatterbox Christmas Special - St. Lawrence's Church 10.30am - 12noon Everyone welcome.

January

Monday	8	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Peter Berry - "And the Wife Came Too"
Tuesday	9	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Wednesday	17	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm AGM

(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.)

The Planning Inspector responsible for reviewing the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) has issued her final report. I have put a link on the parish council's web site (swindonparish.org.uk) if you wish to take a look. What do her conclusions mean for us? She believes that the allocation of over 4000 houses to our area is sound. One crumb of comfort is that she concedes that a green buffer should remain around Swindon Village. Some or all of this area may be designated as Local Green Space in the forthcoming Cheltenham Local Plan. This is something that the Parish Council and others have been promoting.

We have just become aware of a planning application for land just off Old Gloucester Road. It is for outline permission for up to 90 homes, so it is a significant development but not part of the JCS. It is on our doorstep but because it is in an unparished area no-one gets to hear about it.

The Parish Council is now considering its precept for the coming year. As a matter of interest the highest local council precept per household in the country is South Kirkby and Moorthorpe at £306.38 per household. The highest total precept is Dunstable in Bedfordshire at £2,178,736. Our charge per household in 2017-2018 was £16.50 (against an average of £61.03) and the total we receive is £11,181.46. We are looking at budget that is approximately in line with inflation so hopefully no big surprises.

Western Power Distribution is supporting a new campaign that urges people to be prepared for bad weather this winter and know what to do if they have a power cut or gas emergency. The Be Winter Ready campaign has been launched by the UK's gas and electricity networks. Since 1990, the networks have invested over £80bn to make the UK's gas and electricity supply more reliable than ever before. However, storms, floods and other extreme conditions can sometimes cause significant damage and disruption.

To Be Winter Ready, the public are being urged to:

- Know your free emergency numbers:

 - In a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.

- Prepare your home:

 - Keep a torch handy

 - Get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. Contact your gas or electricity network to find out more.

Visit www.energynetworks.org to find out who your network operator is.

Keep your eyes open:

Keep an eye on the weather forecast.

If you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

Following the accident at the cruiser meeting in Malmesbury Road in July the police have been actively monitoring the area at weekends. Not surprisingly there has been no cruiser activity. We understand that the group that had been organising meetings in the area have decided it would be inappropriate to continue. Their focus will move towards more formal car events. We welcome this and hope that the peace lasts.

It is always good to highlight selfless acts within the community. The Parish Council owns the horse trough outside the Village Hall. For many years we have all enjoyed the excellent year round floral displays in the trough. The plants were supplied by the Plant Centre on Tewkesbury Road and the planting was done by sisters Sarah and Kate, formerly of this parish. They continued to maintain the display despite no longer living in the parish. Time moves on. The Plant Centre has closed due to the retirement of the proprietors and Sarah and Kate have decided it is time to hand over this task. A massive thank you to them for all they have done for the community. We are looking for an individual or group to take on this task. See my article later in this issue.

Speaking of volunteers, we have the Evans family to thank for another excellent quiz. It took place just after the November issue of the Village News was put to bed so it was sometime ago now. An army of helpers were on kitchen duty providing an excellent range of food and washing up afterwards. I would also like to recognise the generosity of Rev Liz. Nearly every one of her raffle tickets seemed to be a winner (friends in high places?). To her eternal credit Liz would only take one prize and insisted that the others be redrawn. The quiz itself was just for fun but some people can't help getting horribly competitive. On behalf of my team I apologise to all those present!

Cheltenham Borough Council is conducting a consultation on the use of 20mph speed limit zones. The consultation closes on Monday 4 December so speed is of the essence (sorry!). I have put a link on our web site.

The area continues to be plagued by dog mess left by inconsiderate, selfish dog owners who are happy for it to become someone else's problem. The alley between Quat Goose Lane and Rivelands Road has been highlighted to us as a problem. Let us know if you are aware who is letting this happen. The Parish Council will be obtaining more anti-fouling signs. However, are these people acting out of ignorance or just a complete lack of consideration? People who do this should be made to feel uncomfortable. Imagine being a teacher and having to deal with kids whose shoes are contaminated. No-one likes the idea of reporting their neighbours but they like this practice even less. If we have enough evidence the Parish Council will actively support prosecuting those responsible. Dog fouling can also be reported via the Fix My Street web site that many of us have used successfully. This will highlight to Cheltenham Borough Council that we have had enough of this. They have successfully prosecuted in the past.

Bonfire night is now behind us but people are still lighting bonfires to dispose of waste. Please make maximum use of recycling facilities and avoid sullyng your neighbour's washing!

As this is the last News of the year it is a good time to recognise the contributions made by some of our local stars. I've mentioned some of them above but I should also mention Ian, our Allotment Manager, and our wonderful allotment holders and Karen (again!) and Stuart for their editing. A big thank you. Thank you also to our Borough and County Councillors who have regularly attended our council meetings and supported us in our efforts. Thank you to those who advertise in the Village News. Your support is important to us.

To the fly tippers and people who don't clear up after their dogs I hope you get the Christmas you deserve.

To everyone else, Merry Christmas!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

"If you have concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.

Ring 101 (you may be charged for this call)
or email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it. If the police are not made aware of a problem **THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM**".

The Horse Trough

The horse trough that sits outside the Village Hall belongs to the Parish Council.



For many years we have enjoyed year round floral displays in the trough courtesy of Sarah and Kate, sisters who originally lived in Church Road. They have decided it is time to hand over this task. A massive thank you to them for all they have done for the community.

We are now looking for volunteers to take on this rewarding task. The trough needs planting twice per year and occasional watering. It will next need planting in May. Sarah and Kate can advise and I am sure the Parish Council could fund the purchase of plants. I know we have keen gardeners and allotment holders in the parish and the trough is also opposite the school.

Would anyone be interested in taking this on?

The displays have long been a tradition in the Village. Don't let it become part of history.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Services and events in December

2 nd	Saturday	11.00am	Christmas Tree Festival
3 rd	Sunday	10.30am	Together@ Ten Thirty
		11.00am	Christmas Tree Festival
5 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Advent Prayer
8 th	Friday		Nativity Play
10 th	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
12 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Advent Prayer
17 th	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
19 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Advent Prayer
24 th	Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Candlelit Holy Communion
25 th	Christmas Day	9.15am	Family Communion
31 st	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion

Services and events in January

2 nd	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
7 th	Sunday	10.30am	Together@ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
9 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Holy Communion
14 th	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
15 th	Monday	7.00pm	PCC
16 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
21 st	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ The Table (all age holy communion)
		6.30pm	Evensong
23 rd	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
28 th	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
30 th	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox

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.

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed in to the family of the church

Jacob McAuley

Ryan Sheerin

Mela-Rose Kearns

5th November

5th November

12th November

Advent calendars seem to get more elaborate each year. Growing up, my advent calendar was simply pictures behind numbers on a glitter festooned nativity scene.

Then chocolate became the treat of choice behind the doors. Now it seems you can get pretty much anything as an advent calendar – candles, gin, beer, beauty products. And they don't come cheap – anything up to £100 each! Surely we are getting a bit ahead of ourselves – and pre-empting the gifts that should be for Christmas?

In turbulent times, we like to sooth ourselves with treats, and take comfort in possessions.

Sitting on my desk the other year during advent was a gold wrapped Ferrero Rocher chocolate in the form of a shooting star. It's a reminder of all the glitter and bling of Christmas – the tinsel, the fairy lights, the advent candles, the candlelit carols – but not only that. It's a reminder of the sparkle of that first Christmas night. Angels that filled the skies where shepherds guarded their sheep and the star that shone, marking the spot where the infant lay and setting some travellers from the east on a journey to see what had occurred, and to kneel in awe and worship.

But yet, there wasn't any bling, despite what the Christmas adverts might try to tell us. There was no luxury. There were just the basic necessities of some straw on the floor, and a manger as a makeshift crib. A child born in turbulent times in the lowliest of places. How far this humble beginning was from the seats of power, from Herod's gleaming palace, and from today's seats of power.

The One Christians place their hope in during these current turbulent times isn't to be found in ornate palaces, such as that of Herod, or exotic luring shopping centres, but the simplicity of the Prince of Peace born in a manger, who invites each one of us to find hope, love and peace in his presence.

Rev. Liz

Church recorders

The Church Recorders attended Together @ Ten Thirty at St Lawrence on Sunday 5th November to present their completed book.

Church Recorders promote recognition and preservation of the rich artistic heritage by recording the contents of places of worship of all denominations and religions. Participating churches are presented with an illustrated book detailing each item and its history. Copies are also sent to national institutions.



Some of the team who spent more than two years researching the history and contents of our church.



Rev Liz and Churchwarden May Shurmer with the book, in two volumes.

Chatterbox Christmas Special

Chatterbox are holding a Christmas, free event, in the Swindon Village Church of St Lawrence on Tuesday 19th December from 10.30am to 12 midday. We will be serving filter coffee, tea, mulled wine and mince pies for our friends and neighbours! All faiths or no faith very welcome! Pop in for 10 minutes or stay the whole time.

Every week we have men, women and little ones of all ages attending; most people arrive alone but are warmly welcomed. We would love to see you if you are new or if we have met you before! See you there!

(Chatterbox is a weekly coffee and catch up event held in the church every Tuesday 10.30am - 12noon except Boxing Day when we will be having a short break!)

Mary, Joan and Rachel

Remembrance Service at St. Peter's

St. Peter's church, now home to The Rock youth project, is part of the Swindon Village church parish.



Members of St Lawrence's and St Peter's joined Rev Liz, Rev Iain Hoskins (Gas Green Baptist Church), local community representatives and local schools for the Annual Act of Remembrance at The Rock.

The newly restored war memorial looks fabulous and will be officially re-dedicated next year as part of the centenary commemorations of the end of WW1.



Chatterbox Christmas Special

Coffee, tea, mulled wine, mince pies and lots of chat!

**Tuesday 19th December
St. Lawrence's Church
10.30am to 12noon**

Everybody welcome



Advent Prayer

Spend some time in peace and stillness in the run up to Christmas

St Lawrence Church, Church Road, Swindon Village, GL51 9RA

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday

December

5th

12th

19th

#deepening prayer

www.northchelt.org.uk

 North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

Burns Night Celebration, North Cheltenham Team Ministry Saturday 20-Jan 2018, 6:30pm for 7.00pm. Village Hall, Uckington GL51 9SR

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps washed down with whiskey or wine. Also ... music, plenty of dancing, tartan - for those that have tartan, no matter otherwise - and a piper (from Four Weddings and a Funeral!) to pipe in the Haggis. How does that sound?

Please do join us to celebrate Scotland's National Poet in the way he would have wanted. If you would like to recite a Burns poem or lead a song then please get in touch.

Veggie option available on prior request.

Entry Price inc. food is £15. Ticket only, payment in advance please. All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid.

Contact Ian Richings 07771792865 or ianrichings8591@hotmail.co.uk



St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

"Transport"

Saturday 2nd December
Sunday 3rd December
11.00am to 5.00pm

On Sunday join us for a special
Together @ Ten Thirty service among the trees

Trees decorated by local groups and individuals
on a theme of Transport.

Vote for your favourite tree
Christmas goods for sale
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Make a decoration to take home
Live music with Cheltenham Ukulele Group
A visit from Father Christmas
Refreshments

Free admission but we ask you to be generous with
donations to St. Lawrence's Restoration Appeal



Together @ The Table

**An all age service of
Holy Communion**

**10.30am
Third Sunday of the month
Launching on
21st January**

**All welcome to this informal service
suitable for all ages.**

**www.northchelt.org.uk
liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk**

Carol Singers

Following on from last year's success, a group of Carol Singers will be out in the village again during the early evening of Saturday 23rd December, raising money in aid of Mindsong, a Gloucestershire based charity providing a range of music therapy and training in care homes for people with dementia.

Please open your doors, enjoy the music (join in if you like), and give generously!

Thank you.

The Rectory Lane Gang

Used Postage Stamps and Cards for Recycling

The many Christmas, birthday and special occasion cards you passed to me this year have gone to the Cobalt Unit for recycling and I have given all the used postage stamps to the LINC Clinic where they are welcomed to boost their funds.

I shall be pleased to receive used Christmas cards up to January 15th 2018, used stamps and special occasion cards all year round.

Do continue to save your cards and stamps to help these very worthy local causes.

Moira Stoneman, Benrinnas, 5 Stantons Drive, Swindon Village. Tel. 529631.

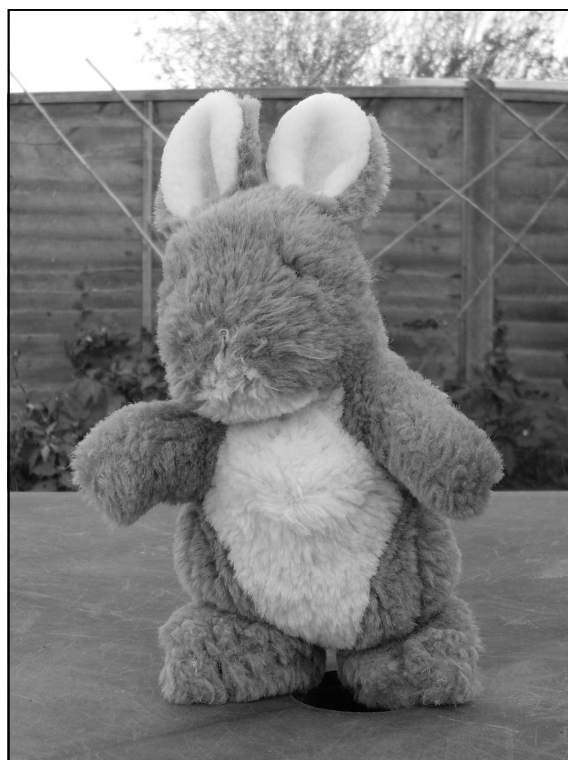
Lost bunny

Have you lost this cute cuddly bunny?

He (or she) was found at the entrance to the amenity area in Manor Road in October and has been cared for since then at 5 Manor Road. Please call and collect him (or her). I'm sure somebody out there is pining for their lost friend.

The photo doesn't show his (or her) colour - brown and white.

Karen Evans



Wednesday Club

Fiona Hall was our guest speaker at our November meeting and her talk was "My Granny was a Stripper and a Grinder". Fiona explained that stripper and grinder were names of jobs and she had quite a few more to tell us about. Lots of them were from the mills in the north of England and some from coal mines and other industries. You will be surprised to hear that sitting in the front row that evening we had a stripper from Vibixa which caused much amusement. It was an interesting evening and good to hear from where some of our everyday sayings come.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th December and it will be our Christmas Party. Please arrive by 7.30pm on that evening as we have Matthew Sproston coming along to entertain us with his ukulele.

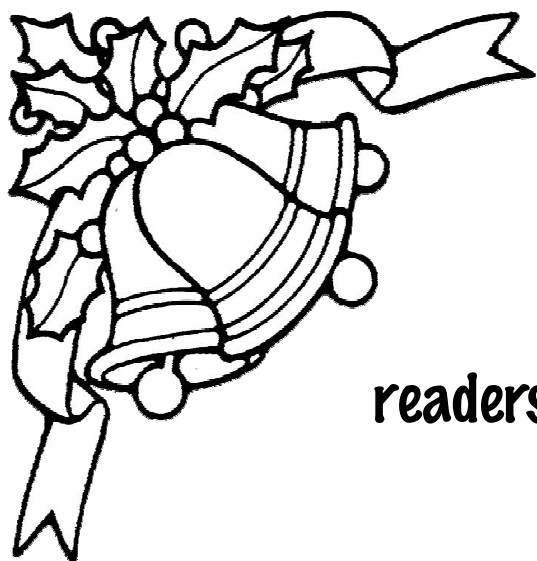
Our annual meal is on Wednesday 3rd January at the Farmers Arms, Apperley. Just a reminder, please, to be there for around 12 noon so that we can be ready to eat at 12.30. If a lift is required, let me or any other committee member know beforehand.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday 7th February and it will be our AGM.

Look forward to seeing you all then.

Best wishes.

Pauline Wright



**Happy Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year
to all our
readers, advertisers and distributors.**

From The Editors

At October's meeting we had a superb talk by Tim Brain (ex Chief Constable of Gloucestershire – nothing but the best for us) on the Gloucestershire Regiment's actions in the last two years of World War 2. What made it particularly interesting was that the talk was based around the actions of Tim's uncle who was with them throughout that time. And so the talk came down to following a real person through his war which made it so much easier to identify with the time and the hardship. The Regiment was not really supposed to be involved in D-Day but when Montgomery took over he decided that more force was needed and so they were involved relatively late. This meant that they did go in at D-Day and then fought through the very difficult Normandy countryside and then up towards Holland in regular action. Then they pursued the German armies towards Germany. The Gloucestershire Regiment were mechanised infantry at this time and going to war in a very lightly armoured Bren gun carrier would not be my personal recommendation. I do have a memory as an Army cadet many years ago of firing a Bren gun and being warned not to let off more than half a dozen rounds at a time or the barrel would melt. An excellent talk – we must get Tim back again soon.

It was all rather different in November with Rosemary Westgate telling us about the wildflowers we can see in the Cotswolds. Rosemary is a real enthusiast for wildflowers, having run the wildflower group at Westonbirt for many years. Two things about her talk come to my mind. One is the wonderful common names for many of our plants and how rather than just being a fairly random name they actually rise from old meanings of words or beliefs. The other is just how many are poisonous. One imagines an interest in wildflowers to be rather an innocuous pursuit but it is life-threatening out there. I suppose that one can take precautions such as not eating too many of them. Nevertheless, look out for our wildflowers: many of them are out to get us. The real answer is to abide by one other thing that Rosemary had to say – don't pick them!

We do not have a meeting in December and so our AGM in January comes next. After the AGM Helen Wells of Save The Countryside will give us an update on The Joint Core Strategy progress and where the Elm's Park development is going. Right at this minute the answer seems to be – nowhere fast. The AGM will be members only but the JCS update will be open to all. If you do want to come to this update I suggest that you come to the village hall at 8pm by which time the AGM should be over and you should also get a cup of tea.

We are looking at next year's programme. So far we have only booked our 'spy' from last year who will come back in March to tell us about the people of Bletchley Park during the war. We are hoping to have a talk on our neighbours at Spirax Sarco and find out exactly what they do. There will certainly be a wildlife talk, probably something on the history of Prestbury, certainly a garden visit of some sort and our annual garden party. Oh dear – better start doing something about it all.

We are always happy to have new members. It is still only £5 for a single and £10 for a family and the more names we have on the list the more sway we have when we wish to change unreasonable development plans.

Remember – non-members are always welcome to our events for £1. We would be even happier if you wanted to join us.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

At the October meeting we had a speaker, Derek Thorpe, who is blind and the talk was “My Life with Guide Dogs”. He was accompanied by Jasper, his fourth dog, who is a very laid back black Labrador Retriever cross. He explained to us that the Labrador is a very friendly and docile breed and the retriever is a very intelligent breed so the combination works well. Thanks to Jasper, Derek leads a very full and interesting life; he enjoys very long walks with Jasper as his companion, and enjoys pottery.

The evening began with Fish & Chips organised by Ray Hales; we also had our annual wine competition for Carrot wine. The result was third place John Beardsley, second place Mike Attwood, and first place Mark Smith.

In December we are having our Christmas Meal at the Beckford Inn which reminds me to say from Swindon Village Wine club may I wish all our readers A Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy Peaceful 2018.

Kind Regards.

Roy Harper

Not having a speaker at our November meeting we started the evening with the business. We were pleased to hear that Hazel P and Elaine were recovering well from their ops. We appeared to have had a very busy month with a visit to Fergal O'Brian's stables and gallops on a beautiful bright autumn morning, drinks and nibbles in the Director's Lounge before watching Alan Ayckbourn's 'How the Other Half Loves' at the Everyman Theatre, a trip to the Christmas and Craft Show at the NEC (where we staggered back to the coach with lighter purses and lots of goodies), we joined other members of the Cleeve Hill Group for a very entertaining and inspiring evening to hear of 'A Fashion Designer's Journey' by Karen van Hoff and Sue D laid our poppy wreath at the Memorial in St Lawrence churchyard. We celebrated our Birthday with a meal and fun evening at DoubleTrees and the retiring committee had a meal at Cotés.

After a break with tea, biscuits and a longer than usual social time, the evening continued with our Annual Meeting. The new Committee was introduced, with some new blood, we learnt that our finances were very healthy and Sue Davies was re-elected as President for the next year.

In December we have the Christmas Concert in the Town Hall, with the guest artiste being opera singer Wynne Evans ('Go Compare' but without the wig and moustache) who I understand is very entertaining. We are again entering a decorated tree in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Lawrence Church, our Christmas meal is at the Farmers Arms and we have been invited to parties at both Bishops Cleeve and Woodmancote WIs. We are off again to the Town Hall to hear a talk by Michael Portillo called 'All Stops for Westminster' in January.

Next year's programme of events includes a Musical Evening we are arranging for June, a day at the Races on Gold Cup Day, a weekend at Denman College, a holiday week in Bournemouth and maybe Malta and a trip to Richmond and the Poppy Factory. Watch this space, or come and join us!

Carole and Malcolm Brown are entertaining us with 'We Sing for Your Pleasure' at our meeting on Monday December 4th and Peter Berry's talk on January 8th is titled 'And the Wife Came Too'. We meet at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane and visitors are always given a warm welcome.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sara Jefferies

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

It has been another busy few weeks for all of the youngsters at Swindon Village.

On Remembrance Sunday we were well represented by many Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the Service of Remembrance held at St Lawrence's Church. There is no better opportunity for all of the youngsters and leaders to demonstrate the 'Doing their Duty' part of the Scout promise and a cold and dry autumn morning made the occasion all the more poignant. It was great to join so many other people from around the village and remember all those that gave their lives for our freedom.

At this time of year going camping is much less appealing but, with the District courses organised by Paddy Langham, our Scouts still have opportunities for adventure. Both Rosie Wood and Luc Upton completed a 2 day climbing and bouldering course at the Warehouse indoor climbing centre in Gloucester over the half term break. Using the extensive facilities with fully qualified instructors, they both managed to gain their Scout Climbing badge.

In November we held our group's Open Evening and AGM in the village hall. The leaders and youngsters gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months. The most entertaining reports were those given by the Cubs and Scouts themselves who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people.

After many years of service to the group, both Margaret Bick and Heather Tibbotts officially retired from their roles as Secretary and Chair, although we hope very much that they will still be as involved as ever with the various events that they have always supported over the years. They were warmly thanked and were each presented with flowers and a card, although this hardly does justice to the enormous amount of time and effort that they have both put in over many years. As a group we are truly grateful for their tireless support and dedication to the cause and hope that we can find some willing volunteers to step into their shoes.

As always, the evening concluded with the presentation of awards as 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	Joshua McIlveen
Cubs	The Phil Long Award	Bernie Scourfield
Best Cub Camper	The Di Dimond Award	Alfie Clarke and Dylan Martin
Scouts	The Phil Long Award	Imogen Tomkins
Congratulations and very well done to you all.		

Coming up we have a night hike planned for the Scouts on a Monday evening to test out their navigation skills in the dark! The Scouts love the opportunity to get outside at night, so fingers crossed for a dry evening.

For our final meeting of the year, on Monday 11th December, we will again be holding an evening of Christmas Carols together with various sketches and routines performed by the Beavers, the Cubs and the Scouts in the Village Hall. There will be refreshments and a few mince pies available for those who arrive early enough! The doors open at 6pm with a prompt start at 6:15 and everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun. There is no charge on the door but we will be collecting donations towards the charity we support each Christmas, "The Children's Society". We hope you are able to come and join us all.

Can I finally thank everyone in Swindon Village for all your support and encouragement throughout 2017 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sos

Art & Crafts Club

All are progressing well and Pam our 'Professional' artist is helping and encouraging our new members as well as the old ones!!! It is great to see Jackie back amongst us.

Keeeeeep painting and crafting.....

Any enquires to - **Helen 07817581223**

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Cheltenham
436 High Street
01242 245350

Winchcombe
11 North Street
01242 604888

Tewkesbury
23-24 High Street
01684 276200

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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	Geraint Mills	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
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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

There will be no Village News in January.
 Deadline for the February issue of the Village News is the 16th of January.
 Please send contributions to the editors via
 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. 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