

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 448 October 2018

October

- Monday 1 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Andrew North - Cheltenham Group of Voluntary Hospitals WW1
- Wednesday 3 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Jemma Fowkes - Birch, Beer and Bibles (Tudor Times)
- Thursday 4 Village Hall Committee Meeting - Lounge 7.15pm
- Sunday 7 Cheltenham WW1 Soldiers Exhibition
Village Hall 11.00am - 4.00pm
- Tuesday 9 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 17 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Arthur Ball - Garden Birds

November

- Monday 5 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm - Annual Meeting
- Wednesday 7 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Derek Thorpe - Guide Dogs (Jasper)
- Tuesday 13 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 21 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Norman Baker - Some Prestbury History

(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 Council has been discussing the provision (or lack of provision) of defibrillators in the parish. The consensus is that, even though we hope they will never be used, it would be good to have better coverage in the area. We know of one in Sainsbury's and one in Next but haven't been able to locate any others. We are thinking of getting one for the outside of the Village Hall that could provide aid to users of the Hall and also users of the playing fields. The way our dog chases a ball in the park I keep thinking he might require one at any moment. If a defibrillator is never used it is a waste of money but if it saves a life it is priceless. Anyway, I will get some quotes. We would be interested to hear your views. I just hope there is a defibrillator nearby if I am ever offered a pay rise.

You will all (hopefully) be aware that the Village Hall needs new members for its committee. By the time you read this a meeting will have taken place between hall users, the members of the current committee and the parish councillors. If you are interested in stepping forward to take a role in the continuing story of this important resource (or know someone who might be) please get in touch.



We continue to discuss maintenance of the sundial mosaic in the park. We have identified a local company that can help specifically with the mosaics themselves but the problems appear to run much deeper than aesthetics.

The foundation of the mosaic appears to have been inadequate with a large crack having appeared across the surface. This leaves us in a bit of a quandary. We want the mosaic to be robust so that we don't face the same problems again in a few months time. If anyone knows of any specialist firms active in this field we would love to hear from you.

I know we have quite a few people in the parish who are happy to volunteer their time. We conducted a litter pick in June (so long ago!), a useful and sociable activity. I was going to plan one for September but, due to unforeseen circumstances, I will have to delay it until November. I am trying to co-ordinate with the Borough Council's litter picking activities so that we don't follow each other round the streets! We have also talked about tackling some overgrown vegetation issues. It would be good to set regular dates so that people can plan ahead and make sure they are not on holiday when there is rubbish to pick up! There is a town that is training pigeons to pick up cigarette butts and put them into a machine that then gives them a reward. How many pigeons would it take to get a shopping trolley out of the brook?

We have in the past highlighted the problem of football teams leaving plastic bottles at the side of the pitches in the park. I recently received information on a survey done along a 100 metre section of the Severn. Over 800 items of rubbish were collected, 87% of which were plastic.

On the plastic theme, as with all of us, councils can strive to "do the right thing" and end up getting bitten in the posterior. Chepstow Town Council became the first council in South Wales to achieve a "plastic free" certification and, in a move described as beyond irony, celebrated by unveiling a large plastic banner.

There have been relatively few planning matters to address in recent meetings. The Council continue to see planning applications where the quality of the information supplied is so poor that it is very difficult to form an opinion. In the interests of cost saving the Borough Council no longer supplies the Parish Council with paper copies of applications. We'll need to get one of these 60 inch plasma TVs to view them. It would also be good for Match of the Day.

I have caught on to how Karen makes it look as if I am rambling at great length. I give her an article that fits on one page, and she increases the font size to stretch it out. I go for quality rather than quantity though I am sure I generally miss both targets.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

www.swindonparish.org

Services and Events for October

7	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty For Harvest Festival
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
9	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
		7.00pm	Holy Communion
14	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		6.30pm	Evensong
16	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
21	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ The Table
		6.30pm	Evensong
23	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
28	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
30	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

Services and Events for November

4	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	Holy Communion

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed in to the family of the church

Jude Stephen David Thomas 26th August

Jack Steven James Williams 9th September



Interment of ashes

We gave thanks for the life of

Martin Cater 4th September

Pauline Szarko 9th September

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence church, please visit the Team Surgery at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane on any Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.00am. (Enter through the main door and turn right.)

If this is not possible contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

You can contact Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) by email fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com, phone 702890 or via the office.

Licensing of Revd. George Davis



Revd. George Davis was licensed to the North Cheltenham Team Ministry in a lively service in Elmstone Hardwicke church attended by people from all the Team churches.

George's arrival brings the Team staffing back to its full quota of three stipendiary clergy for the first time in nearly two years - and that prompted a cheer from the congregation.

Representatives from George's previous parish in Worcester were there to "hand him over" to the Bishop of Tewkesbury who then proceeded to lead George through a series of declarations and oaths before licensing him. George was then installed by the Archdeacon of Cheltenham - he was led to the Vicar's seat in the church.

In the next stage of the service representatives from various organisations in the community surrounded George and his wife, Jo, to welcome them. This was followed by a general welcome from the whole congregation.

George chimed one of the church bells to indicate to the community that he had begun his new ministry.

We enjoyed a buffet supper after the service in a marquee which was standing up well to the ravages of Storm Bronagh.

George will work in all the Team churches but his main duties will be with us in Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke; we are looking forward to working with him in this new phase of our church's life.

Karen Evans

A Vicar's Welcome

A warm hello to you all from another new Team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry, Rev George. I come to you directly from the Worcester diocese and am very excited to be with you all. Prior to ordination to the diaconate in 2010 in the Diocese of Lichfield, I worked in Enfield, North London in a Secondary School. I trained for ordained ministry at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield in Yorkshire where I spent the best part of two years. My training parish was in All Saints Church with St Mary Magdalene, West Bromwich as assistant Curate where I spent four years before heading off to the Worcester diocese for another four spent at Holy Trinity and St Matthew's Church, in Ronkswood as their team Vicar.

I'm excited to be here in Cheltenham in the Gloucester Diocese, as are my family, in this a new phase and chapter in my ministry and life. As is always the case when moving, feeling settled takes some time. Already I have been blown away by the hospitality, care and love that has been shown to my family and me; and it has already gone a long way in helping with transitioning. It has been very encouraging. As Team Vicar I look forward to sharing in that same hospitality, care and love with you all in the name of God who calls us all to be these very things and more. I look forward to sharing my thoughts and feelings with you in future editions of the 'Village News', but for now I leave you with a poem that has been a recent reminder to me that ministry is always God's in the first instance. It's called, 'God's Dream', by Charles Peguy. (*see next page*)

Revd. George Davis

God's Dream

The Lord God said: I myself will dream a dream within you,
Good dreaming comes from me, you know.
My dreams seem impossible,
not too practical nor for the cautious man or woman;
a little risky sometimes,
a trifle brash perhaps.
Some of my friends prefer to rest more comfortably
in sounder sleep with visionless eyes.
But from those who share my dreams
I ask a little patience,
a little humour,
some small courage,
and a listening heart – I will do the rest.
Then they will risk and wonder at their daring;
run, and marvel at their speed;
build, and stand in awe
at the beauty of their building.
You will meet me often
as you work in your companions who share the risk,
in your friends who believe in you
enough to lend their own dreams,
their own hands,
their own hearts,
to your building.
In the people who will stand in your doorway,
stay awhile
And walk away knowing that they too can find a dream.
There will be sun-filled days
And sometimes a little rain –
a little variety both come from me.
So come now, be content.
It is my dream you dream,
my house you build,
my caring you witness;
my love you share
And this is the heart of the matter.

Charles Peguy

OPEN DAYS



Swindon Village Primary School

Starting School in September 2019?

If your child was born between

1st September 2014 and August 31st 2015

then please bring them along to one of our

New Reception 2019 Open Days

Monday 8 th October	9:30am - 10:30am
Tuesday 9 th October	2:00pm - 3:00pm
Wednesday 10 th October	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Thursday 11 th October	9:30am - 10:30am

This will be an opportunity to look at our wonderful and exciting school, see the children in lessons and ask any questions you may have.

To book a slot please contact the school on [01242 690016](tel:01242690016) or email the school: admin@swindonvillage.gloucs.sch.uk

More information is available on the school website

www.swindonvillage.co.uk



Wednesday Club

At our meeting on 5th September our speaker was Ben Ashenden who was speaking about "Tax Care and Toyboys" Although light hearted this was a very serious and somewhat complex talk on making a will and the importance of using a good solicitor to ensure your final wishes are carried out.

So, where does the Toyboy (or an old Boy) come into this? Well, if you are left a comfortably off widow and in time meet a toyboy whom you marry, if you were to die before him he could walk away with everything intended for the children of the first marriage, hence the importance again of a solicitor's advice when re-writing your will.

There was much laughter during this very serious talk but I think we all went home wondering if we'd done the right thing and in need of a stiff drink.

Our next meeting, on 3rd October, will be Jemma Fowkes telling us about "Birch, Beer and Bibles" in Tudor Times

Visitors always welcome to our meetings

Margaret Pointing

Art & Crafts Club

Where did the summer go? We've started another term with a change of Chairperson - Lynne Mumford has taken the job - well done Lynne. Our thanks go to Adrian for his services. Thanks to Gill who manages all the money and will continue; thanks to Angela who is our Secretary; thanks to Pam who will continue to tutor us where necessary, and I will continue to write in the news each month so you are aware of what's going on and maybe spark your interest in joining us.

Helen

Tel. 07817581223

The garden party worked out well this year. The galoshes were not called for and a pleasant evening was had. It was very nice to have some new members along and even some potential new members. The party was held in our new garden and kitchen at No 3, Swindon Hall.

It was interesting to be able to show those who had not been here before a view of the Hall not normally seen. The south west corner suffered a fire in 1940. It was reported in the papers but because of war time restrictions there was no mention of the probable cause, an incendiary bomb. Now at the time Swindon Hall was being used as an Army transit camp. However it is most unlikely that the bomb was actually aimed at the camp. It was much more likely that it was one of the many hundreds of bombs scattered liberally over the county, either jettisoned by enemy aircraft that thought they were under attack or had a technical problem or merely because they saw a light below. Many were on their way to bomb towns in the Midlands but were glad of any excuse to not visit the more heavily defended towns.

The result at Swindon Hall was that at war's end one corner was in a bad state with the roof missing and considerable fire damage. When the Hall was later sold for conversion into five separate dwellings the developers decided to merely do the best they could with this corner and made what had been a two storey structure built in about 1750 into a single storey cottage. The rubble was all put into the cellar which was sealed off, the damaged walls were stuccoed and painted white, Crittall windows were installed and a single slope tile roof put on top. This gave the rather incongruous effect of a rural cottage attached to a Georgian Mansion. In our small rear garden there is a flight of fine stone steps that once led up to the tennis courts that now go nowhere, but from the top step one can see the results of the Luftwaffe's efforts by way of missing walls, hanging doorways, isolated chimneys and a blanked off house end. Indeed in our attic there is one area where the old charred lath and plaster work can be seen, along with the names of L/Cpl Hubbard and Sapper Scanlon chalked on the beams in memory of their wartime stay here.

The single storey cottage was designated 4, Swindon Hall but over twenty years ago it was bought by No 2 and converted to student accommodation. When the last owners of No 2 moved on we bought half of what had been the old No 4 and it was made into a large new kitchen. In the roof area we found the base of two fireplaces that would have heated bedrooms before

the Luftwaffe's modification process and signs that one part of the kitchen would once have housed the master's coach. My wife would like to send belated thanks to the Luftwaffe without whose efforts she would never have got her new kitchen.

Finally, to our small contribution to Heritage Open Days. We had about 30 people attending, split about half and half between villagers and those from further afield. It is particularly pleasing to have those who live here taking an interest in our history. The weather was fine and I think all those who came on the walk enjoyed it. Thanks to Eileen who provided a really good display about all those villagers who took part in the First World War including a few who are not included on our war memorial. And, of course, many thanks to Karen and the team who provided teas and buns. I doubt the proceeds bought more than half a church roof tile but I was certainly glad of my cuppa after a couple of hours of talking.

Barry Simon

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Following on from our Summer Camp at the Chamboree International Jamboree in Cheshire at the end of July, our summer was rounded off by the annual trip to Titley at the end of August. In recent years we have been running this as a 'Leaders and Helpers' camp and it has become a firm favourite with all of those attending. It is so nice to arrive in the field, set up camp and just relax for six days! All the food is still cooked on camp fires by Mike and Baz and is up to their usual high standard. The weather was mixed this year with some fine and sunny days... and some very wet ones – but it didn't seem to spoil the fun. The site is as beautiful as ever, but it is the people that come together each year that make the camp and the time spent together so memorable. The "Titley family" continues to grow each year and we had 44 of us camping there this summer – Happy Days!

The first weekend camp of the autumn gave six of our Scouts the opportunity to camp on an airfield, with Scouts from five other troops in Gloucestershire. This County organised Air Activities weekend is always oversubscribed and there is a three-year waiting list to get onto this course. We arrived at Croft Farm Airfield (near Defford in Worcestershire) on the

Friday evening and set up our tents. Saturday dawned with low cloud and light intermittent showers – no good for flying! After a hearty cooked breakfast, the Scouts spent the day learning all about meteorology and how this affects aircraft in flight, how to navigate when you're up in the air and all about the instruments that a pilot needs to use and understand. In the afternoon, they got to marshal a plane on the runway and have a thorough look around one as well. While the weather and visibility improved on the Sunday, the wind also strengthened and so another no-flying day was declared – safety always the priority. So, at the end of the camp, the Scouts had earned three badges: the Aeronautics Activity badge, Meteorologist badge and Navigator badge, but they will have to wait a while longer for their flights – which we hope will take place over one of the coming weekends.

As a footnote to the Air Camp it is worth mentioning that after several years of training, one of our leaders, Shane, managed to complete his PPL (Private Pilot's Licence) at the end of August this year – Congratulations, Biggles (as he's now known)!

As we head into Autumn, we start another Scouting year and all the sections have had their first few meetings. We have plenty of fun and adventure planned over the coming weeks and months including Harvest Festival, a sleepover for the Beavers and a canal weekend and the Operation Bald Eagle camp for the Scouts.

Sos

The Children's Society Home collecting boxes

It's time for the annual emptying of the home collecting boxes for the contents to be counted and sent off to The Children's Society.

Boxes can be brought to my house or left at the church for me (but please do not leave them unattended); alternatively if you want me to collect your box please phone me.

Thank you.

Sylvia Hales
Tel. 235933

Barry Simon gave a very interesting and informative talk on the history of aviation in Gloucestershire at our September meeting. A couple of things that were mentioned being that the first hot air balloon landing was near Birdlip, thus the pub there being called the Air Balloon, and that it was so named by Dr Jenner, who we know had several other connections with Gloucestershire.

On a lovely sunny day we met with some of the members of Benhall WI at Cheltenham Racecourse Station for a ride on the steam train to the newly opened Broadway Station. We enjoyed being served with a cream tea on the way and, after a few minutes on the newly restored station, returned to Cheltenham. Great memories of childhood train journeys! The Walking Netball continues to be enjoyable, though we are moving to a new venue at the YMCA Sports Hall in Arle Road. It is still on a Monday but at a new time of 12.30–1.30. Do come and join us if you feel would benefit from an hour of fun and exercise, you do not need to be a WI member.

Taster sessions of Indoor Bowls, Archery and Drumming were also enjoyed, Eileen hosted an afternoon of Garden Games followed by a cream tea, our meal out was at the Clarence Social restaurant and we listened to an evening of male-voice singing at the Pittville Pump Room.

Sue and I spent an afternoon and evening at Denman College to celebrate the colleges 70th Anniversary. With picnic hampers, Pimms, barbecue, raffle, crafty things to make and garden games to play we were entertained with several musical acts. The Anywhere Opera singing Gilbert and Sullivan, the Isis Chamber Orchestra, the Temple Funk Collective who 'brought the house down' (except we were outside) and Lola Lamour who entertained us with popular songs from the past. It was a great event to mark the occasion.

October activities include workshops for Staging and Displaying, Kumihimo and Glass Engraving. There are walks and clay pigeon shooting taking place outdoors. We are going on a coach trip to Richmond-on-Thames to include a tour of the Poppy Factory. The monthly Book and Craft clubs continue to be popular, as does our Meal-out.

Andrew North is to tell us of the 'Cheltenham Group of Hospitals in WW1' at our meeting on October 1st at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane. Please feel free to join us for the evening.

Sara Jefferies



St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Hobbies and Pastimes

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd
December

11.00am to 5.00pm

We invite everybody to decorate a tree on the theme of "Hobbies and Pastimes" and display it to the public. The theme can be interpreted in any way you wish; we've had some quite wacky entries in the past. It's not a competition - the only honour is to be voted the favourite tree by the visitors.

The Festival makes a lovely start to the festive season, bringing together religious and secular aspects of Christmas.

If you would like to take part in this annual extravaganza or find out more about it please contact me.

Karen Evans, tel. 241678



Urban hedgehog project launches in Swindon Village

Hedgehogs are the UK's favourite mammal according to a recent poll but many people may be surprised to learn that gardens in towns and cities such as Cheltenham and Gloucester are vital for these endangered animals.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has launched a project to improve urban green spaces for hedgehogs and urgently needs the help of residents in Swindon Village. These volunteers will create Hedgehog Ways, neighbourhoods where hedgehogs can move safely between gardens. Volunteers will receive training from specialists at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and ongoing support.

“Thanks to information from local people, we know that a number of hedgehogs are already living in this area. Hedgehogs have the potential to be safe and supported in these places, with the help of local people. Gardens can easily provide food and shelter for hedgehogs, and help them to move to other areas of safety,” says Georgia Spooner, Urban Wildlife Project Officer at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Hedgehog Way is supported by the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Volunteers can spend as little or as much time as they can spare and will assess gardens and other green spaces to see how hedgehog friendly they are; start to make these places better for hedgehogs, and report sightings of hedgehogs.

Once a familiar and well-loved visitor to our gardens, hedgehog numbers have fallen significantly in the last few decades. It is estimated that there are 1.5 million hedgehogs in the UK, down from 36 million in the 1950s. According to the People's Trust for Endangered Species, losses in towns and cities appear to have slowed, and the number of hedgehogs found in urban gardens at night may be increasing.

To find out more about Hedgehog Way, visit

gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk

or email **georgia.spooner@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk**

people's
trust for
endangered
species



British Hedgehog Preservation Society



What is it?

- Scam mail is illegal mail
- Scam mail targets the most vulnerable
- Scam mail is not normal advertising mail.

What to look out for

- Is someone you know receiving a large amount of mail?
- Are they sending money in response to this mail?
- If so, they could be a target of scammers.

Contact: Royal Mail scam mail team on 0800 0113 466
scam.mail@royalmail.com FREEPOST SCAM MAIL



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Monthly rates

Whole page £36

Half page £18

Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

Village News is delivered to
900 homes in Swindon Village

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
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 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. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
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 Vicar	Revd. George Davis	702890 fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com
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