

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 459 November 2019

November

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 4 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Annual Meeting |
| Wednesday | 6 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Matthew Sproston - The Life and Songs of Victoria Wood |
| Sunday | 10 | Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial 10.45am |
| Tuesday | 12 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 20 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Angela Applegate - Gustav Holst |
| Wednesday | 27 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Ken Brightwell - Being Cheltenham Town Crier |
| Saturday | 30 | Scouts' Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am |

December

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 2 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Matthew Gacek - Christmas Reflections |
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Christmas Supper |
| Saturday | 7 | Wine Club - Christmas Party at Cheltenham Wine Club |
| Saturday
& Sunday | 7
& 8 | Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence's Church
11.00am to 5.00pm |
| Tuesday | 10 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |

(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 have received what appears to be some good news on our Local Green Space (LGS) proposal. The Planning Inspector who has been reviewing the Cheltenham Local Plan has been questioning whether the proposed area is justified or whether more land should be released for housing. Councillor Wells (wearing two hats) has been leading the fight for our LGS for longer than she cares to remember. If you see a woman in the village wearing two hats it is probably Councillor Wells. The Planning Inspector has now issued a report. Regarding our LGS, the Inspector concludes, "In view of the scale of new and existing development which it would serve and the buffer which would be provided between the existing and new housing, I consider the area to be justified". This is very positive. The Inspector's full report can be accessed from our website. On 14th October the Borough Council voted for the Cheltenham Local Plan to go out for public consultation. When I have more news on this I will put it on our website.

After a period of relative inactivity we have seen a flood of planning applications. Many are for changes to, or refurbishments of, industrial buildings on Kingsditch Industrial Estate. It can be difficult to get excited about these, except ones like the Vibixa site which is prominent, full of asbestos and being totally demolished. Other applications that are of great local interest are the plans to build houses on the edge of the village along Brockhampton Lane, plans for the corner of Manor Road and Runnings Road, and the housing development behind the church. There are also plans to move The Range to the former Homebase site and Matalan to Gallagher Retail Park. We note with regret that the Homebase closure has seen some locals lose their jobs. There is a list of planning applications on our website. It is easy to view and comment on any that are of interest.

I was regularly giving you snippets of legislation as it affects parish councils. I haven't done that lately and the clamour to resume this feature has become impossible to ignore. Regarding planning applications, once an application is validated by Cheltenham Borough Council it is published and a window of (normally) 21 days opens. During this period comments can be submitted to the Borough Council. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee. The Borough Council must tell us about applications in our area, and we have the right to submit comments. As a member of the public you also have the right to have your say. The Borough Council makes the final decision, hopefully taking into account comments received.

For uncontentious applications the decision can be made (under delegated powers) by a planning officer. Large or contentious applications are dealt with by the Borough Council's planning committee.

Now another nugget we have recently learnt about the law. At the time of our last parish council meeting James, one of our councillors, was working away and tendered his apologies. However, in his typically public spirited way, James agreed to dial in to the meeting so that he could participate via video or telephone conference. In order to make decisions a parish council must have a quorum (i.e. at least a certain number of councillors present). There are nine seats on the council. A quorum requires at least one third of this number to be at the meeting, or three, whichever is the greater. By either calculation three is, for us, the magic number. We had three councillors in the room. Just as well because the legal advice we received subsequently stated that councillors cannot "attend" a meeting remotely using technology, at least not in the role of a councillor. James would not have counted towards a quorum and could not have participated in voting. This is only one example where the law is, perhaps, behind the times. It is only very recently that parish councils have been permitted to use Internet banking. However, as we all know, the Internet will never catch on.

The Parish Council recently resolved to increase the allotment rents from £25 per annum to £27 per annum. Going way back there were some years when rents weren't collected and there were some years when, despite inflation, the rents stayed static. At the price now set we believe the allotment plots represent great value for the allotment holders and an important source of income for the Council. With Ian Brown, our hard working volunteer allotment manager, at the helm the rents have always been delivered promptly to the Council. Ian will shortly be asking plot holders for their 2019-2020 rents.

In this article I have been talking up our website. The website provides a great way to update you between issues of the Village News. We are also in the process of setting up a Facebook page. If you feel that technology has left you behind don't worry. There are free resources and courses available that will help you get up to speed. In particular, Gloucestershire Libraries offer a world of services beyond simply lending books.

Speaking of books, I wonder if there is "A Dummy's Guide to Parish Council Procedures"? Perhaps, as a dummy, I should write one.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

Services and Events for November

3	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	“In Loving Memory” - a remembrance service for All Souls
5	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
10	Remembrance Sunday		
		9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.45am	Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial
		6.30pm	Evensong
12	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
		7.00pm	Holy Communion
17	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ The Table
		6.30pm	Evensong
19	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
24	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
26	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

Services and Events for December

1	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
3	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
7	Saturday	11.00am - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
8	Sunday	9.15am 11.00am - 5.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Christmas Tree Festival Evensong

In Loving Memory

Sunday 3rd November 2019 at 6.30 pm

St Lawrence's Church



A special service to remember our loved ones who have died.

We will also remember all those whose funeral services we have conducted in the past four years for the Parishes of Swindon St Lawrence and Cheltenham St Peter and Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington.

All are welcome.



As we enter once again into our penitential season, we are urged to remember and to offer thanksgiving for past lives. Whether we dwell upon lives which have directly influenced our own or whether we are asked to respect the memories of lives which in one way or another have governed how human life has been given a particular kind of freedom, it is a time where, more generally, life is reflected upon more deeply and significantly.

Sadly, there is no escaping the fact that, in thinking about life in this context, there exists an acknowledgement of our human frailty. We will all die one day, and as factual as this may be, we naturally find it a difficult subject to discuss openly. It remains challenging for many reasons but perhaps at the heart of the challenge is accepting that even when lives are lost, there is meaning to be found. Our Lord confronts this notion head on. Resurrection can only occur as a result of death and this thankfully puts death in a position of not having the last word. Believing this as Christians is very important as it gives us a remarkable sense of hope that actually begins to give a fuller meaning to understanding life.

There is something beautiful about all this being punctuated by the events of Advent and then Christmas. Advent is often thought of as being penitential because of the Christian symbolism of the liturgical colour purple, but Advent's witnessing is actually twofold. While it is a season in which Christ's first coming to us is remembered, it is also a season where remembrance itself directs the heart and mind towards the second coming of Christ at the fullness of time.

With this in mind, as difficult a season as it can be; remembering is actually such a very important part of our Christian lives. It helps us to understand that death is not a threat of a return to an idea of 'nothingness', but that life, yes even eternally, is very much written into the very nature of what is created.

Rev George

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 the clergy by email:

Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com

Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector)

nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk or via the office.

 North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

Together @ Ten Thirty

St. Lawrence's Church

The first Sunday of each month at 10.30am

An informal (and sometimes chaotic!) worship service
for people of all ages

With refreshments afterwards

November 3rd - "Shining for Jesus"

December 1st - Advent Sunday

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival is now only a month away. We are looking forward to this now traditional start to the festive season and we'd love it if you would like to join in. whether you're an individual, a group or club, or a local business. The more, the merrier.

This year's theme is "**Out Of This World**" which can be interpreted in any way you like. "Thinking outside the box" is actively encouraged.

We'll be setting up the trees in the church on Friday 6th December between 4pm and 8pm. You can bring your tree ready-decorated or soak up the excitement and anticipation by decorating it in situ. A 3ft tree is ideal but we can accommodate 4ft as well. It doesn't have to be a traditional tree (we've had a traffic cone and a washing line in the past!) and "thinking outside the box" is actively encouraged. Any lights used must be battery-powered. The trees will be left in place for the Sunday services and we'll arrange a collection time for the Monday.

It's not really a competition but there will be a box of chocolates for the most popular tree as voted for by the visitors.

We would be grateful for gifts of festive food and drink to go into our Christmas Hampers for the raffle. Please phone Mandy Jilbert on 693639.

Profits from the weekend will be given to St. Lawrence's Restoration Appeal - the current major project is to replace the tower roof.

Contact me for more details or to say you want to enter a tree.

Karen Evans

tel. 241678



St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree
Festival

Saturday 7th &
Sunday 8th December
11am to 5pm

“Out Of This World”

- * Decorated Christmas Trees on display
- * Stall selling Christmas-related goods
- * Raffle for three Christmas hampers
- * Make a Christmas decoration
- * Children's competition
- * Refreshments
- * Christmas sing-along with
The Ukuladies (Saturday)
The Christmas Ukies (Sunday)



Free admission but we ask for donations to the church building restoration and maintenance fund.

Church Quiz and Supper Evening

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the quiz and supper evening. I hope you enjoyed it. Thanks to a record attendance we raised a record £780 for the church building fund.

This event wouldn't be possible without the hard work from a lot of volunteers in the kitchen and behind the scenes and I am very grateful for their help.

I understand the bar staff were kept busy so I think we were doing our bit to support the village hall as well..

Our fundraising group will meet soon to discuss how it went and we would welcome your feedback.

Karen Evans tel. 241678
On behalf of the Church Fundraising Group

Swindon Village Primary School

The Friends of Swindon Village Primary School are hosting a Christmas Party on Friday 13th December at Seasons. We would love you to come along and join us in eating, drinking and being merry at this festive time of year, whilst raising money for the school - what could be more perfect. There will be a disco by Gloucestershire known DJ Sparky, meat buffet and a great raffle to enjoy.

Tickets are £30pp with all profit going to the school.

Please contact **Sarah** on **07702 969 791**
or email **chairfosvps@gmail.com**



The Friends of Swindon Village
Primary School are hosting a

Christmas PARTY

Friday December 13th
7.30pm 'til Midnight

- * BUFFET MEAL
- * RAFFLE
- * MUSIC BY DJ SPARKY

Venue: Seasons, Quat Goose Lane,
Swindon Village,
Cheltenham, GL51 9RX

Dress Code: Smart

Cost: £30pp

To book: 07702 969791

email: chairfosvps@gmail.com

Raising funds for Swindon Village Primary School

A Letter of Thanks

On the 5th October, my husband was pushing me in my wheelchair up Manor Road. We all know of the terrible condition of the footpath making it very difficult to negotiate and very unsafe at times for pedestrians with wheelchairs and prams. We had just reached the better part of the footpath and were about to cross from one side of Manor Court to the other. Because of the steep slope between pavement and road my wheelchair toppled over into the road with myself and wheelchair on top of my husband. Both of us were unable to move. However the quick appearance of complete strangers was amazing; car drivers, ramblers and neighbouring householders swiftly came to our rescue.

The lady driver first on the scene unstrapped me from the wheelchair and organised a team to lift us up - not an easy task as we can hardly be classed as lightweights. A very kind gentleman, who was staying with friends in the village, pushed me to the top of the incline and then on to our home in Dark Lane to see that we were able to transfer safely into the house. He was extremely helpful and even visited that evening to check that we were both alright, although rather shocked by the incident.

Unfortunately we didn't ask the names of our helpers but Alan and I are very grateful for your assistance and send our heartfelt thanks to you all. You really were good Samaritans and have restored our faith in Human Nature.

Many thanks again for your care and kindness.

Betty Freeman

1st Swindon Village Scout Group



Saturday 30th November at 11am

in the Village Hall

Admission 20p

Bargains Galore - Everything must go!

"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**".

For our September meeting our old friend Arthur Ball returned to tell us about the wildlife of the Dowdeswell Reservoir Nature Reserve. He has been active there for many years putting up bird boxes and encouraging all wildlife. The good news is that the reserve is now owned by Julian Dunkerton, one of the founders of Superdry. He is keen to improve it as a reserve and is having much of the scrub and overgrown bush cut back to make access easier for people and for wildlife and plants. So at present some paths can be difficult but give it a year and the reserve should be much easier to visit. As it is there is a great array of wildlife there or passing through. The great news for me was that a few months ago an Osprey visited the reserve and also toured the local area. This was just at the time that I saw a large bird swoop for a fish in the River Severn outside the sailing club I use. I did not identify it at the time because I had never heard of an Osprey visiting Gloucestershire. Now I know there was one in the vicinity I am ninety percent certain that that is what I saw.

I really should be braver in these matters. A few years ago, when on a reconnaissance of the Coombe Hill Nature Reserve to check out just how muddy it was a day or two before a Village Society visit there, I saw a large white bird that I did not recognise. After a bit of stalking it seemed like a Spoonbill, a bird I had only ever seen pictures of in books on Africa. Back at the car park there was a chap loaded with cameras and binoculars who asked in passing if I had seen anything. I said that I knew it could not be so but there was something odd down there that looked like a Spoonbill. He was off like a shot and I thought no more about it. When the Society visit took place two days later the place was crawling with birders all down to see the African Spoonbill. We all saw it too. I mentioned this to my son who works in London and he mentioned it to his boss, a very keen birder, who pooh-poohed the idea of a Spoonbill in Gloucestershire but nevertheless checked on his computer and came across a report on the Gloucestershire birding website from a very reputable birder who mentioned visiting Coombe Hill where a bloke in the car park had said he thought he had seen a Spoonbill and, amazingly, he was right. So there I was immortalised on the internet as 'a bloke'. The son's boss was duly impressed and I am sure it was this which led to my son's promotion not long after. At least that is what I claim whenever I see him.

Our talk in November will be by Angela Applegate and will be about Gustav Holst, our local musical hero.

Still looking for inspiration for next year's talks. If anyone has ideas for talks on local history, conservation or how to be a Nimby please let me know.

Barry Simon

Wednesday Club

Mr Richard Burton was our guest at the October meeting and he came to tell us about being a Travelling Cook. He was, in fact, a salesman who did cookery and cooking equipment demonstrations in various stores around the country. Mr Burton was first employed to sell Pyrex and was then head hunted to sell Fondue sets. These demonstrations were usually quite amusing as the wine was usually provided free to the audience. Little did they know but some were "volunteered" to stand up at the end and cook the dessert. Mr Burton travelled extensively around the U.K. including a rather disastrous trip to Jersey. Another of his sales trips was to sell very expensive German kitchen knives and on one occasion he was asked to "show" how to sharpen these knives to a local radio audience. He somehow managed it! A nice evening with a lovely supper to follow provided by Mary and Sue.

It was also lovely to see some visitors, Sylvia, Lyn, Linda and Elaine. Hope to see you all again.

We are having our annual meal at Gupshill Manor on January 2nd 2020. Menus are available and if I haven't received your choice yet, please get it to me as soon as possible. All monies and menu choices have to be given to the Gupshill in December. Please be at the Gupshill for 12 noon for a 12.30 start for lunch.

Our speaker in November will be Matthew Sproston and he will be telling us about the Life and Songs of Victoria Wood. Please do come along and join us.

Look forward to seeing you in November.

Pauline Wright

It was with great shock and sadness that we heard of the death of one of our members. Maureen Brookes, or 'Mo' as she was always known, had been a member for many years and, even when she moved to live near her daughter in Churchdown, continued to be a member of our WI. She had been a very active and supportive member, serving on the committee and holding several posts there in the past. A large contingent of members attended her funeral. A friend to all who will be greatly missed.

The speakers at our October meeting were Mike and Jenny Beacon who spoke about the founder of the Abbeyfield homes, Richard Carr-Gomm. He had been an officer in the Coldstream Guards and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. On his return from Egypt he travelled across Europe disguised as a tramp experiencing a profound personal change through events on the way. He bought a house in Bermondsey where he invited four poor pensioners to live with him. The first of three homes in Cheltenham was opened in 1961. With a motto of Care, Independence and Companionship there are now 200 'managed' houses plus 250 Abbeyfield homes and 60 care homes, some being abroad, and have supported some 300,000 people. Richard Carr-Gomm appeared on 'This is you Life' with Eamon Andrews. Jenny spoke of the effect of loneliness on our lives and how Abbeyfield aim to resolve this by providing a supportive life to the older generation.

The Centenary Exhibition and Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral was a great success. We managed to fill the whole building, including the Cloisters, with events and displays. Our WI had a table displaying our activities amongst the many others in the Cloisters, including a memorable one by the Butterflies WI, that was formed inside Eastwood Park Women's Prison. An early morning visit to Ben Pauling's Racing Stables by members of the Racing Club proved very interesting, with a walk to the gallops and a tour of the stables to meet some of the many horses and hearing of their successes and hopes for the new season. Ben was certainly very knowledgeable and informative about each horse and his methods of training and running them.

Socially, we met at Wendy S's for a coffee morning and enjoyed a Chinese meal at the Mayflower Restaurant. A crafty day was spent making silk decorations for Christmas.

The month of November looks very busy. We have our Birthday meal and celebrations at Doubletrees and a retiring committee meal at L'Artisan, a

theatre visit to see Shane Richie, a crafty Festive Fun Day, an evening at John Lewis and a visit to Waddesden Manor to see the festive decorations there. We shall be placing a poppy wreath at the memorial in Swindon Village churchyard and there is a day when we will be discussing the resolutions that have been put forward for next year's National Meeting.

Our November meeting will, as usual, be reserved for our Annual Meeting. A new committee is being formed and a new President will be voted for. Hopefully, there will be plenty of time left over to end the evening with some Social Time!

Sara Jefferies

Art & Crafts Club

Our season started last month and already we have seen some fine and interesting work by both artists and crafters. Some of us started as complete novices with an interest in trying out our skills and it is amazing what can be achieved with practice and encouragement from the other members. If you have any desire to learn or improve your efforts at any art or craft then why not come along to see what we do. There is a very modest fee for the year (nothing for a first visit) and you will receive a warm welcome from a friendly bunch. Just turn up at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings to see work in progress.

One of our members, Pam Stone, is a professional artist who gives us lots of advice as to how to achieve better results. Check out Pam's pictures on the internet but don't be put off by her brilliant paintings – the rest of us have more modest expectations!!

Feel free to contact Helen on 07817 581223 or me, Ian, on 07746 637654. Looking forward to seeing you.

Ian Bazely

As we head into the autumn months, our Scouts have been making the most of the mild weather before the frosts of November lead us into another winter. It's been a busy few weeks as you can see...

In September, the annual Canoeing and Kayaking County weekend camp was held on the River Avon at Croft Farm, Bredon's Hardwick. This event is organised by Shelley Wright from Cheltenham and has become a regular fixture on the calendar for everyone interested in Canoeing and Kayaking – youngsters and leaders alike. Over 60 people were in attendance this year and had an excellent weekend of fun and games with plenty of time spent on the water.

The last weekend of September saw two of our Scouts join Mike, Ash and Sos on the County Canal weekend on Narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal just west of London. Once on board, we travelled north from Hillingdon in Middlesex up around Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back again on the Sunday. The countryside along the canals there is beautiful and with a lock every half a mile or so, there is plenty to keep everyone occupied. The Scouts had to plan their own menu and, on the Saturday morning, moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco's, while they went and bought all the food. The weather was dull and a little drizzly on the Saturday. Then on Sunday - the forecast heavy showers held off until lunchtime, so we just about got away with it. However, the dodgy weather didn't spoil the fun and the Scouts got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They also got to help prepare and cook all the meals (Sunday breakfast was a 4-hour pancake festival!) and take it in turns to do the washing up. They all returned home full of their adventures and I'm happy to report that we all managed to stay out of the water this year!

At the beginning of October, several of our young Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended the Harvest Festival Service held in St Lawrence's Church. It's lovely to see the youngsters taking an active part in the service.

On the following weekend, eight of our Scouts and four leaders took part in this year's Operation Bald Eagle camp – our final Scout camp of the year. The camp was held at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site - right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. Here we joined together with around 500 Scouts from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. Despite a forecast of rain all weekend, Friday

evening and Saturday daytime were mainly dry apart from a little drizzle. We arrived at around 7:30pm on the Friday evening and the Scouts set about pitching their tents in the dark before tackling the Friday evening challenge - this year trying to identify 20 different sounds at various locations around the site! On Saturday, after a cooked breakfast and flag break, our Scouts started to tackle some of the 30-day bases around the campsite, solving puzzles and completing tasks, challenges and games. Then on Saturday night they joined more than 60 teams and set off on a 7-mile incident hike around the local area with 16 activities to complete at the various checkpoints around the route. There was great team work in evidence throughout the weekend and both of our teams did very well in the damp and showery conditions - one team not arriving back on site until 1am! So, a very tired bunch of Scouts awoke on the Sunday morning to find it pouring with rain from first light until 10am when it eased to light drizzle. After another cooked breakfast, we had a 10-minute break where young Dylan was invested into the troop, before we all had to pack up everything and take down all the tents - soaking wet for the second consecutive year. The camp finished with everyone getting together for flag-down, a moment of reflection and the results and presentations. All of our Scouts did tremendously well in what was a very long night! As a leadership team, we were really proud of all of them. Congratulations are due to everyone who took part – another terrific weekend.

HELP WANTED

Have you ever wanted to get involved in Scouting? We are always on the lookout for willing adult volunteers to help run and/or support the sections and we are really in need of some help with the Cub section at the moment. Cubs are aged from 8 - 10½ years of age and meet on Monday evenings during term-time from 6pm - 7:15pm. No experience is necessary and there is a free training programme to support all adults in the Scout movement. If you would like to get involved or are interested in finding out more, please contact **Sos or Rachel on 693107** or Email us at: **svscouts@blueyonder.co.uk**

Just a quick mention that we will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 30th November starting at 11am. We look forward to seeing plenty of our old friends and welcome anybody keen to hunt out a few pre-Christmas bargains!

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders, parents and helpers who give their time and energy to make the group such a success and offer so many different and exciting challenges and opportunities to all our young people. I know it's really hard at times – but it's worth the effort!

Sos

The winter nights are beckoning and it won't be long until the frosts return but here in the hall we're toasty warm thanks to a new pair of clever thermostats. Our Nest thermostats can be controlled remotely, run to a schedule (that we're still tweaking) and should ensure that we're not wasting energy by heating an empty hall or bar; they can both be adjusted manually too but are limited to stop it becoming a sauna!

Further energy savings should also be achieved from our new ambient cooling system for the cellar. This system draws in cold outside air to cool the cellar rather than using the air conditioning unit - large savings of CO2 and money can be made during the colder months so we've got this installed just in time for chillier nights. Speaking of CO2 savings, our solar panels have started to reduce their production now that the autumnal equinox has passed and we're into the darker half of the year; that said, in four months we've produced almost 2MWh of electricity, saving almost 5000kg of CO2 and just over £300 from our bills.

Meanwhile, the bar has had an upgrade with the addition of a large screen and speaker which can be used for watching TV, listening to music or simply enjoying Terry's latest holiday photos by screen mirroring from a phone.

Our bookings continue to be busy (svhall.co.uk) and lots of parties, functions and celebrations have been successfully held throughout the year, all ably assisted by our growing team of volunteers - several new bar helpers have been shown the ropes lately and the more the merrier ensures that it's not the same faces every night! If you're at all interested in helping the team in any capacity then please get in touch via the website or Facebook page. The Friday night bar is still being well supported and we're looking good to continue it throughout the winter - again none of this could continue without our volunteers so a big thank you to all!

Finally, there's an embryonic plan to hold an informal, family friendly New Year's Eve party for the village along the lines of a bit of music, some bubbly, a bite to eat (everyone could bring a dish) and the obligatory countdown to midnight. There's a small team of volunteers who would love some extra help; the plan is to keep the costs to a minimum and make it a village and family-centred night for everyone.

Next year we'll continue the theme and plan some more social functions for the village - such as a film night, quiz night, tapas evening, Eurovision

night, Summer Ball... this is our hall so whatever is wanted we can make it happen. If any of this sounds like your cup of tea and you fancy organising a night for the village then get in touch and we'll help you in every way we can. The hall takes a lot of running behind the scenes so the committee are more than happy for people to step in and take charge for a night - we'll give you every bit of support so you won't be on your own!

Ben Williams
Chair

The Children's Society

Home Box Collection

This year's total from the home box collections was an amazing £932. Thank you to all box holders, not just for this year's collection but for all the support you've given over the years that I've been organising the boxes.

You'll see a new face next year - I'm grateful to Helen and Derek Harris for offering to take over from me.

I hope you will all continue to support The Children's Society in the valuable work they do with vulnerable young people.

Sylvia Hales

Advertise your business in
Village News

Monthly rates

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

Contact the Editors

Village News is delivered to
900 homes in Swindon Village



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*FOR 23 HOURS A DAY YOU RUN THE WORLD. BUT FOR ONE FULL HOUR...
YOU'RE FREE.*

THURSDAYS @ 6:15 – 7:15pm

£5 per class (£4.50 for NUS & 50+)

BUY A 10 CLASS PASS (PAYABLE IN ADVANCE) AND GET 2 CLASSES FREE!

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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR

Sales Launch and Information Event



Monday 11th November

10am – 7pm

at Manor by the Lake, Hatherley Lane,
Cheltenham GL51 6PN

Please join us for the Sales Launch of Richmond Cheltenham
Retirement Village and Care Home.

View our property floor plans and speak to the village advisers
about life in a Richmond Village.

Reservations taken on the day.

Refreshments available.

**Call to register your interest on 01242 806255
or email cheltenham@richmond-villages.com**

FIND US IN REGENT ARCADE, CHELTENHAM

www.richmond-villages.com/cheltenham

Treorchy Male Choir

7.30pm Saturday 16th November 2019

CHELTENHAM TOWN HALL

Guest Soprano Susan Black



Tickets £25 Seniors £23

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[www.facebook.com/
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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 Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Caroline Williams Sarah Martin	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne	07515 461876
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. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas Cllr. Bernard Fisher	255844 07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://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. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
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 St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373 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 views of the Editors or the Parish Council