

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 467 October 2020



Autumn fruits

(Look closely at the conker shell in the centre - see page 8)

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND GROUP

Please join Swindon Parish Council's Facebook page and group for local information and discussion. If you do not have access to the internet you could ask a friend or relative to join on your behalf and share highlights with you.

- **Swindon Parish Council Facebook Page.** A public page for local information and news from the Council:
<https://www.facebook.com/swindonparish>
- **Swindon Parish Community Group.** A private group for discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swindonparishcommunitygroup>
- **Swindon Parish Council website.** For full information from the Parish Council:
<https://www.swindonparish.org.uk/>

If you receive this newsletter then you are living in Swindon Parish.

"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**".

(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.)

I'll start with planning matters. The government has consulted on proposed changes to what are known as "use classes". The use class, as the name suggests, defines the use to which a building may be put. For example, under the old system use class A1 was for shops and A3 was for restaurants and cafes. Under the new rules many of the old classes have been combined. Where previously a developer might have to apply for permission to change a shop into a cafe this will not be necessary under the new rules. The changes are designed to allow more flexibility in the use of commercial premises and restrict the degree to which the local planning authority (in our case Cheltenham Borough Council) can influence the character of commercial areas.

There are major changes taking place in our retail parks. The new Lidl is now in full swing (well, not so new now I guess). The Range is moving from its current site into the old Homebase building and Matalan is moving from the town centre to Gallagher Retail Park (the unit formerly occupied by Outfit).

Our local housing developments are works in progress (Manor Farm and Brockhampton Lane). A number of people submitted ideas for names for the new streets in the Brockhampton Lane development. I found it disappointing that the suggestions were not accepted, so I dug a little deeper into the reasons.

Let's start at the beginning with the first part of the name. The Borough Council will generally refuse to use the name of a person, living or dead. No "Cullimore Boulevard" then. Names that are similar to existing names in the same area will be rejected (Sumner and Summer). Names that might be found offensive (or have an offensive interpretation) will be rejected. Even though the Borough Council expresses the view that names "should have a local connection, historically, geographically or culturally" they managed to find ways to reject all our suggestions, and we will probably end up with fairly bland, generic names.

Moving on to the suffix, Road, Street and Avenue are acceptable for any type of new street. Other suffixes have specific implications; Crescent would only be used for a crescent shaped street, Drive would only be used where there were a small quantity of dwellings, Close would only be used

for a cul-de-sac and Square would only be used for a, well, square. I think you're getting the idea. Circus would only be used for a roundabout. Seeing what goes on at the Tewkesbury Road roundabout I think calling it a Circus would be entirely appropriate. Now a quick test. What do you think the requirement would be for a road to be called Something Hill? You're not wrong...

There is some sense to this. It is useful for the emergency services to know what kind of access they can expect when they are called to an emergency.

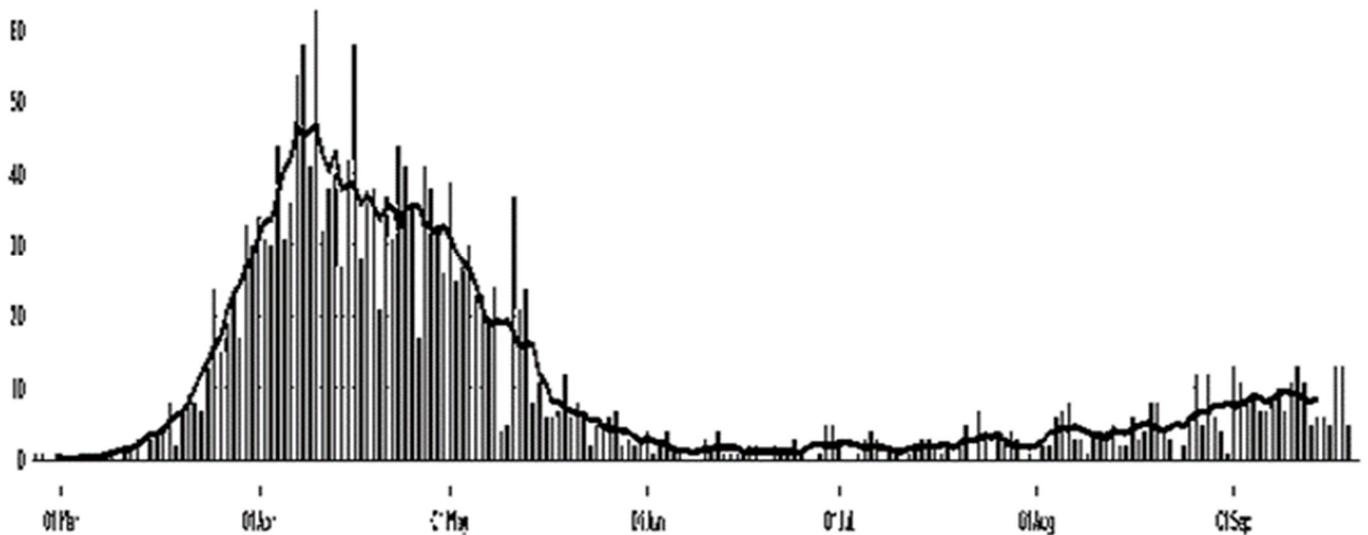
To those of you who submitted suggestions to the Borough Council, thank you for your interest.

On the subject of the Brockhampton Lane development, I am told that it will be necessary to close the lane for a time while building development is being done. The latest I have is that the road will be closed from 5th October until 21st November. For the first two weeks it will also be necessary to close the junction with Quat Goose Lane. If you require further information please contact **streetworks@gloucestershire.gov.uk**. The dates have changed a number of times, and I will update the website if they do so again.

One of the topics we are trying to address (or help others to address) is the chaos around the school at the start and end of their day. We have become aware of an experimental scheme that will be trialled outside three Gloucestershire schools.

The plan was to ban motorists from driving up to three primary school gates in Gloucestershire during peak hours. The trial, approved by Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet in July, was to be conducted outside Kingsholm Primary in Gloucester, Warden Hill Primary in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Primary in Tewkesbury. However, the trial has been delayed until after the October half-term as schools have their hands full addressing COVID-19. We will watch the trial with interest to see if it is successful and whether it might be a possible way forward for us.

On the subject of COVID-19, it cannot have escaped your attention that things are getting worse rather than better. Here is a graph of the new cases in Gloucestershire since the pandemic began.



Graphs may not be your thing, but basically the number of COVID-19 cases in the county is on the rise again. The Parish Council continues to do its best to support people through these strange and frightening times.

And speaking of frightening times, there seemed to be a lot of police activity in the area early in the month. This included deployment of the police helicopter 1st September. I asked the police whether we should all be worried and was reassured that there was nothing out of the ordinary going on. Apparently the helicopter was brought in when some lads were spotted on or near the railway at the Hyde Lane bridge. They were ticked off but there were no arrests.

Back to the subject of traffic chaos. I have been made aware of severe traffic congestion on a couple of recent Saturdays outside Seasons and around and outside the park due to football matches. On a subsequent Saturday I went to take a look but there weren't any issues. If you see problems could you let me have photographic evidence?

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to John, our footpaths officer. John is recovering from a knee operation (obviously far too much walking). When he is out and about John keeps an eye on the state of our footpaths and does minor works himself to keep them tidy and navigable. He is also a great source of knowledge and advice on all footpath matters. I'll have to get all my footpath questions answered while he is stuck at home next to the phone.

Stay safe and well.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

Services and events in October

4	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
7	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Private Prayer
11	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
14	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Private Prayer
18	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
21	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Private Prayer
25	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
28	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Private Prayer

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's church, please 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.

From the registers



Marriage

We celebrated the marriage of

Markus von Bergen and Joanne Hastings
7th September

There's someone new in the neighbourhood!

You might see me zipping around on my bike. I am the new curate for the area. If you are not sure what a curate is, I describe it as a vicar with L-plates on. Over the next two years, I will be learning how to take baptisms, weddings, funerals and a whole host of other things.



One of the things I love to do is meet people from the area and listen to their stories. You can regularly spot me in The Ridge in Wyman's Brook. If you see me sitting there in my collar then please do come over and introduce yourself to me.

During this incredibly weird time of learning to live with a new danger around us, I believe it is even more important than ever to invest in each other. To be a supportive community which looks out for each other. This is a time when the teaching of *Love thy neighbour* is not just a small polite smile to those you might see in

the Co-Op. Loving our neighbours means that our actions might actually improve the life and health of those we live next to.

Despite the challenges that are ahead of us as a global community we remember that we are a local community as well. It is in the small things that show love to those around us that allow us to thrive during these times. It has always been the case, but is even more true now, that the small things make a big difference to each others' wellbeing. You have the power to bring joy to someone else today! That power is in you, in the words you use and the way you treat others. So be a hero and make someone's life better today.

I want you all to know that we are praying for you all. For your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. If you would like specific prayer or to find out more why I believe that the hope Christianity offers us can help you at this time, then please feel free to get in touch.

With all my thoughts and prayers with you and those you love,

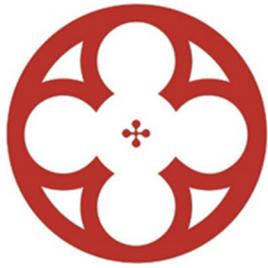
Revd Tom Cook

tom.cook@northchelt.org.uk



From the cover photo...

It's twins!



Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

May and Karen completed their walks for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride event. They raised £1,300, half of which will go directly to St. Lawrence's Church.



" A perfect morning for my Ride and Stride 100 laps around St Lawrence. So much support from my family. I had company on the first 99 laps and left to do the last on my own. The finishing tape was held by my Grand Daughter and Great Grand Daughter. Many thanks to everyone who so generously sponsored Karen and myself."

May

"I really enjoyed my walk between our Team churches on Ride & Stride Day. It wasn't a particularly long walk but it was a notable achievement for me. However, I certainly wasn't expecting the rousing welcome I received at the end - seven members of my family, two having travelled from Lancashire specially, had secretly arranged to be at Elmstone Hardwicke church. I was bowled over! Thank you very much to everyone who supported May and me."

Karen



Save the Countryside

Consultation on M5 Junction 10 is imminent. Please see a brief update from Gloucestershire Highways. Save the Countryside will be working with the Highways team with attention on impact and provision for pedestrians cyclists and horseriders as part of the upgrade.

In March, the Government announced that the county council's bid for £219m to fund the upgrade of Junction 10 of the M5 had been successful. The funding will now be used to improve access to and from the motorway northbound and southbound to a new link road into Cheltenham. This will support growth plans both locally and throughout Gloucestershire, as well as help to solve long standing traffic and travel issues, helping to keep our county moving.

The exact location of the upgraded motorway junction is yet to be decided as work is being carried out to identify the best layout; however, the link road would connect to the north and west of Cheltenham. Funding is also being made available for improvements to the A4019, Coombe Hill junction and the Arle Court Park and Ride where proposals for a Park and Interchange can now begin to be developed to enable easy access to public transport and interchange between public transport services.

We are committed to working with all affected land owners and the public who will get the opportunity to comment on proposals in autumn 2020.

Details of consultation activities will be advertised on the webpage **www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/j10** when arrangements are in place.

We are working with Highways England so that the construction of this much-needed junction upgrade works for all road users. It is currently anticipated that the junction will be open in 2024.

All updates, including plans and timescales for scheme development and public consultation, will be provided online through our **Twitter** and **Facebook** accounts; you can also sign up for **email alerts**. You can also mail **majorprojects@gloucestershire.gov.uk** if you have any questions about the new motorway junction.

Helen Wells

Yet again I am sat here wondering how to put a spin on the fact that nothing has happened. Tricky hey?

However, I do have a snippet for those members who earlier this year read the 'Letters From The Front'. These were 56 letters written from the front line of the First World War by Sarah, my wife's, grandfather. His name was Michael Hanson and the letters went to his mother and his father, Robert Edward Vernon Hanson, who was an army chaplain (with those initials he had to join the church). I put the letters out to members who were on the Society e-mail list at the rate of one a day to show that the world had suffered other times of real hardship a hundred years ago.

A few weeks back we were contacted by Sarah's cousin to say that she had something for us. We went to see her in Winchester and were given a silver salver which had been presented to Robert Hanson by the congregation of the garrison church in Dublin in 1909 for his services to the church. It had been passed on by a family member and it brought back thoughts of those letters written to 'Dear Dad and Mother'.

However, with the salver also came a very tatty old photo album. When we went through it we found a photo of Michael Hanson and his much younger brother David, who was also often mentioned in the letters from the Front. This was a real gift because, although having read the letters we felt we knew David, we had never seen a photo of him before. So if anyone who did read the letters and felt that they too knew something of Michael, David and their father Robert would like to see these small treasures they would be very welcome to give me a call and come round to see them. A cup of tea will be provided.

I will repeat my ending to last month's notes. I do not know when we will all meet again but all the best to you all. I have a feeling that all those with membership for this year will get a free ride next year.

Barry Simon

Life still goes on, in a fashion, in the WI. After many discussions, consultations and 'risk assessment' reports, 27 members of the Marle Hill WI met for a long-awaited monthly meeting in September. The advance party arrived to wipe everything down and set up the hall in readiness. Armed with a 2-metre bamboo cane we measured out the seating positions and marked the floor with sticky dots. The members, who had previously booked their place by phone, arrived with their own chairs that were placed over the dots. The speaker, Caroline Pover, had been scheduled to speak and demonstrate her 'Chutneys and Pickles', but that would have caused some problems. So, instead, she told us of her adventures in Japan.

Caroline was born in Plymouth and trained as a teacher. In the mid 90s she decided to have a year out and went to Japan, where she fell in love with the country and stayed for the next 15 years. She made a living teaching and editing a magazine for foreigners. That led to writing a book and setting up her own publishing office. She went to help with the rescue operation after the huge earthquake and tsunami in 2011 and it was after this that she flew home for 6 weeks to raise aid for the survivors. Caroline now returns to Japan frequently and raises money for further aid (some people still do not have permanent homes) by her business 'Aunty Caroline' pickles and chutneys. We are hoping that, sometime in the future, she will pay us a return visit to give us her original talk and demonstration.

We had planned to set up a Pop-up Fabric Stall outside the Pump Room, with everything having been ok'd by the council, but the weather went against us and so we had to cancel the event. However, we fixed another date and kept our fingers crossed for the weather. It was a glorious day and we made about £800; the proceeds are to go to the County WI funds.

The holiday to the Isle of Wight in October can still go ahead with a few restrictions and we are hoping the invitation to a couple of open evenings at John Lewis before Christmas will not be hampered. Our plans for a meeting in October have had to be cancelled because of the 6-rule.

It was with great sadness and a shock to hear that Denman College was to be closed as it had become a financial liability. Although self-supporting it was no longer viable especially under the present restrictive rules. It is a shame and its unique assets will be greatly missed by many members and their families. The many Zoom talks and on-line courses are no substitute for social atmosphere.

Though our September meeting was a success, and much enjoyed by members, we shall endeavour to keep in touch and be as active and supportive as possible under the new tighter rules. I think all I can say is to Keep Safe and Carry On.

Sara Jefferies

Wednesday Club

The members of the Wednesday Club committee have met to discuss how to proceed with our meetings if at all possible.

We will not meet on 7th October as one or two of us will be away. I am still trying to establish how we as a group can carry on and hope to be able to let you know in the next Village News. I do know that we won't be able to have supper and drinks as before but things change so frequently we will just have to wait and see.

Also I don't think we will be able to have our annual meal in January but, as I said above, we will see.

The committee will meet in October and discuss the situation again and hope there will be better news.

If anyone has anything to say or any questions please ring any one of the committee, their telephone numbers are on the back of the 2020 Programme.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

Things at the Village Hall are starting to open up following a longer hibernation than any of us were expecting - Covid-19 risk assessments and procedures have been put in place following lots of hard work from the committee and our regular groups. Most of the fitness classes have returned with reduced attendees to ensure social distancing can be maintained and a successful trial bar night was held in August. The bar night was only held once and advertising was limited to keep numbers under control (if you want to be informed when the next one is being held then please email us at swindonvillagehall@gmail.com with "Bar Night" as the subject title). Other groups are starting to return too, each with their own risk assessments, but broadly all maintaining their separations and cleaning all equipment before and after use.

The recent "Rule of 6" doesn't apply to organised groups in a Covid-safe location so hopefully we can start to open up more whilst we still can. Until a vaccine is in widespread use, this is the way of the world and, unless we want to hibernate for months on end, then we must find ways to mitigate the risks as best we can, when we can (ie when there is no lockdown in force). Speaking of vaccines, the Oxford trials are showing promising results and in the final stages of testing (there's an episode with the lead professor on The Life Scientific on BBC Sounds for those interested in the science [just me?!]). In a nutshell, whilst developing a malaria vaccine and once the Chinese scientists had sequenced the Covid-19 RNA, the clever folks at Oxford inserted the genes that produce the Covid-19 protein spikes into the vaccine virus which should trigger our immune system to be primed and ready to swiftly deal with a proper Covid-19 infection. The virus doesn't appear to mutate very quickly so a large uptake of vaccinations should bring a swift end to this pandemic.

Whilst things have been quiet, the team at the hall have been coming up with ideas for the future so we'll be canvassing your opinion on what you'd like our hall to offer and if you'd like to be involved then we're grateful for any help you can give. We do have a project in hand for the outside of the hall that should be revealed soon but otherwise nothing is planned imminently as our income has taken a hit lately. That hopefully won't be the case for ever and there is always light on the horizon (however faint it may appear).

Speaking of which, there are many of us going through stresses and strains that nobody could have predicted a year ago and having someone to confide in is essential for everyone at some point.

Sometimes it's good to talk to someone outside of your friends and family and for those that need it now:

Samaritan's, <https://www.samaritans.org/branches/cheltenham> (116123 from any phone).

Step Change offer debt management advice, [StepChange.org](https://www.stepchange.org) (0800 138 1111).

Citizens Advice can let you know your rights and options, <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> (03444 111 444)

I hope everyone's taking time to look after themselves and check in on any neighbours that you've not seen for a while. It's a worrying time for most of us but together we will get through this.

Stay safe,

Ben

Swindon Village Winemakers

As with other organisations and clubs, there's not much to report from Wine Club, I'm afraid, as we are still not able to meet up due to Covid19.

We had arranged to hold an Afternoon Tea Party at Ray & Sylvia Hales' on Sunday 20th September, to celebrate our President, Bett Taylor's 90th Birthday. But of course the government brought in the new rule of a maximum of 6 people meeting, so that put the tin lid on that!

I think we have all accepted that it will probably be 2021 before we are all able to meet up again, and we just have to hope that we all keep safe and well in the coming months.

Take care of yourselves, and stay safe.

Mandy Jilbert

Walk to Remember 2020

Walk 5k or 10k this October, in memory of a loved one to raise funds and support people through the most difficult times of their lives.

Get together with family and friends and choose your own walking route, which might include a place that is special to you.

You can take part on any day this October or on our official walk day 17 October.



Sign up now:
call: **0808 164 4572**
email: walktoremember@sueryder.org
visit: www.sueryder.org/walktoremember



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- Software issues
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- Slow broadband connection or network
- WiFi coverage/signal issues
- Hardware repairs (eg laptop / phone screen)
- Lost or deleted data? Don't panic - it can be retrieved!

VERY REASONABLE RATES

**COVID-19 PROTECTION
PROCEDURES IN PLACE**

I CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH THE PROCUREMENT AND SET UP OF...

- Desktops, laptops (PC, Mac), tablets and smart phones (iOS and Android)
- Software / hardware installation
- Printer / scanner set up and networking
- Network configuration - routers, switches, WiFi, Quality of Service
- Help transferring data/settings to a new device
- Support with data backups and cloud storage
- Smart Home Devices
- Bespoke email accounts, domains and web hosting

WORKING FROM HOME?

- Assistance with any home working setup - monitors, docking stations, audio/video setup for Zoom/Skype/MS Teams etc, VPNs and more...

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01684 276200

Get Active Fitness

Mellow Moves

Currently suspended

Fran Nichols 01242 523363

www.getactivefitness.co.uk

[www.facebook.com/
GetActiveCheltenham](http://www.facebook.com/GetActiveCheltenham)

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

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader		
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
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Cllr. Arran Stibbe	(preferred) astibbe@glos.ac.uk 07796 248658
	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: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

ST. LAWRENCE'S 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
Churchwardens		
	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