

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 476      September 2021

## **September**

- Wednesday 1st:                      Wednesday club meeting in the Village Hall at 8pm
- Sunday 5th:                              Praise in the Park at 3pm
- Saturday 11th:                          Heritage Open Day event at St. Lawrence's Church from 11am (also Village history talk and walk)
- Tuesday 14th:                          Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday 15th:                      Swindon Village Society- an illustrated talk on peregrine falcons. In particular, those resident in Tewkesbury Abbey. Village Hall 7:30pm, visitors welcome
- Saturday 25th:                          Churchyard tidy-up from 9am

## **October**

- Sunday 3rd:                              Harvest Festival at St. Lawrence's Church at 10:30am
- Thursday 14th:                          Parish Council Meeting
- Saturday 16th:                          Parish Council Community Climate Action Meeting at the Village Hall at 10am
- St. Lawrence's Church Annual Quiz and Supper at the Village Hall at 7pm

## **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**".

The Parish Council invites you to join us for a

## **Community Climate Action Meeting**

An interactive discussion on

**How climate change affects our community?  
What can we as a community do about it?**

**Date:** 16 October 2021

**Time:** 10h00 – 12h00

**Place:** Village Hall

**Everyone's voices, concerns and ideas matter, so please help us develop a viable strategy for a sustainable village.**

**Kids, grown-ups and everyone in between.**

**The meeting will start with a 20-minute introduction to sustainability and climate change by Raechel Kelly, a Cheltenham sustainable communities consultant.**

**Together, let's make Swindon Parish an even greater place to live, for us, our children and future generations.**

For more information or questions please email [ylnlbs@outlook.com](mailto:ylnlbs@outlook.com)

We have wonderful views from our house, and I have shared with you Information about some of the trains that we see trundling past (sorry, I don't have any more trains for you, but please carry on reading anyway). It is not so good when you look out of the bedroom room to see that the height restriction barrier to the park is open and the travellers are again in residence. They entered the park sometime before 7:00am on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Borough Council started the legal process to evict them the same day. The playground was damaged and any children attempting to use it were intimidated. The travellers were also asking questions about local cars and dogs. There were reports of them using drones to look into gardens. The police received 20 separate reports of problems and concerns. Once again the police have adopted a low key approach to the point of invisibility. Once again the local community has been treated with utter contempt.

The Parish Council is looking to hold a meeting with the Borough Council (who own the park), with Ubico (who are responsible for securing the park) and with the Police. We all need to understand why this has happened again, what measures can be taken to prevent the travellers from gaining access and, if they do get into the park, what measures can be taken to protect the community. It is obvious that what has been done to date is inadequate on all fronts.

We all know that, increasingly, dogs are being targeted for theft. It is now possible to have your dog's DNA entered into a database - this provides more security than a chip. For more information, please contact Simon Bailey (Police Neighbourhood Watch Officer) on (01452) 754630 or via email at [simon.bailey@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:simon.bailey@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk).

We have now recruited (or re-recruited) another parish councillor. We are delighted to welcome Stuart Deakin back on to the Council. The Council now consists of five women and three men. There is only one remaining vacancy, so get your application in quickly!

The Parish Council is taking an interest in Climate Change. We will be looking at what we can do directly and also what we can do to encourage and guide others. We are holding a public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October (advertised elsewhere in this issue). This is a topic that concerns everyone. Please come along and join the debate.

On the subject of the environment, complaints are again being received about nuisance bonfires. Please try to dispose of waste by other, greener means if you can - but, if you must have a bonfire, consider your neighbours. Anyone who is inconvenienced can contact the Borough Council's Environmental Health department by email to [envhealth@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@cheltenham.gov.uk) or by ringing (01242)264135.

We are aware of the fallen tree branch in the Amenity Area. I am consulting with the Borough Council Tree Officer and an arborist regarding the best approach to the two chestnut trees. The trees are in the Conservation Area, so planning permission is needed prior to any major work being undertaken. Public safety is the primary concern, but the trees also provide a valuable wildlife habitat.

When Karen (with one "r") retired from editing the Village News, she provided me with edition number 1 from October 1974. It was described as "Swindon and Brockhampton Village News" and it is on the website. Now, a lady has kindly given me a bundle of "Swindon and Elmstone Hardwicke" magazines, the earliest of which dates from 1942! I haven't looked at them in detail yet, but I hope to either scan them or to offer you extracts in due course. It will be interesting to see if we are still struggling with the same problems!

The M5 junction 10 has moved a step closer to becoming a four way junction. A number of options had been considered. The selected option will see a roundabout above the motorway at the site of the existing junction. Following a bid to Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) in March 2019, the county council has successfully secured £249 million for the proposed scheme. More information about the M5 Junction 10 Improvement Scheme, including the Consultation Report and the Preferred Route Announcement can be found online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/J10](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/J10).

We all know that the roads are incredibly busy these days. Older drivers, particularly ones who have not been driving during the periods of lock down, may find that their confidence is at a low ebb. There are occasional events aimed at drivers who are no longer in the first flush of youth and for their concerned family members. The events take the form of webinars. If, like me, you are a confused older driver then trying to access a webinar (or even knowing what one is) may be a bit of an ask.

However, even in this, help will soon be at hand in the form of the Digibus. This is a double decker bus equipped with all manner of technology. It will be visiting the area (in January I think) and offering the technically challenged some free tuition. Don't sit with your head in your hands wondering what the modern world is coming to. Take a deep breath and get on board.

The police used to attend our Parish Council meetings on a regular basis. That hasn't happened for a long time. However, thanks to the Village Hall playgroup there was a police presence at our last meeting.



Shaun Cullimore

### **Thank you for your Generosity**

Last month I was delighted to receive so many kind donations of household items. I was able to deliver these to a local young family who were previously homeless and had just moved into a completely empty council flat.

They were overjoyed to receive so many items to help them get their new life started, when they had been struggling for a long time.

I was so touched by the generous donations from mugs to micro-waves, teaspoons to towels. It really helped them. What a lovely community of caring, friendly people we have.

Thank you.

**Helen Wells**

Being one of the editors is a bit like the magic porridge pot: You just think you are up-to-date, and lo and behold the pot (inbox) is full again!

There is lots going on this month and (happily) people are wanting to get involved. Our newest recruit and "Roving Reporter" is Sandra Edgington. Sandra will be interviewing people who have stories of days-gone-by in Swindon Village. Her first "victim" is Sue Annetts. You can read the first article in "A Trip Down Memory Lane" later in this edition.

We would love to make this more of a regular feature, so if you have a story to share then please get in contact. Go on - I dare you!

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December

This year's theme is

# Hopes and Dreams

Everyone, as individuals, families or groups, is welcome to take part in our Christmas Tree Festival, by decorating a tree on the theme and letting us display it in the church for the weekend. If you've been to a Festival before, you'll know that you can be as imaginative as you like with your decorations; "thinking outside the box" is actively encouraged!

It's good to be back for our 14th Festival, having missed last year. The Christmas Tree Festival makes a lovely start to the Christmas season and there's always a bit of magic in the air.

There will be more details in next month's magazine but, for now, I just need to announce the theme so that you can get your thinking caps on.

Please contact me if you'd like to know more about it.

**Karen Evans**

karen.j.evans@outlook.com / 01242 241678

## Services and Events in September

1	Wednesday	10.00am -12noon	Church open for private prayer
5	Sunday	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Prayer Praise in the Park (No evening service in church)
7	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
8	Wednesday	10.00am -12noon	Church open for private prayer
12	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
14	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
15	Wednesday	10.00am -12noon	Church open for private prayer
19	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
21	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
22	Wednesday	10.00am -12noon	Church open for private prayer
26	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
28	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
29	Wednesday	10.00am -12noon	Church open for private prayer

## What's going on at St. Lawrence's?...

It's good to have our regular services and activities, as well as special events, back on the calendar now that the Coronavirus restrictions are easing. We are still being cautious and taking heed of official guidelines; whilst there are no strict rules to abide by, we are still encouraging people coming to services to wear masks and to give their contact details for track and trace purposes. At Communion services we are still not offering wine from the shared chalice and there is no physical contact when sharing the Peace.

But... we are singing again, albeit from behind our masks, and it feels so good! We're also enjoying a bit of social time with a cup of tea or coffee after the morning services.

The building remains open on Wednesday mornings from 10o'clock to 12noon for anyone who wants the peace and quiet to pray or just sit.

A lot of you have been asking about Chatterbox and the good news is that it's starting again on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. This is our weekly Tuesday morning "café" when everyone is welcome to drop in for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. There's usually quite a hubbub with so many conversations going on at once, talking about anything from the weather to broken-down washing machines. Drop in any time between 10.30am and 12noon - it's free!

We're also looking forward to some of the annual events that we missed last year. Everyone is welcome at our Harvest Festival services on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and later in the month we'll see the return of the quiz and supper evening at the Village Hall. Details of the Christmas Tree Festival are also in this magazine.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Karen Evans**

## Lifelong Learning and Jesus

It seems to go against the grain slightly to be sitting here at home during the middle of the school holidays thinking about education! I seem to have spent my whole life governed by the academic year. My own years at school were happy times and perhaps that's why in the fullness of time I returned to school as a teacher myself, enabling young people to unpack for themselves the wonder of learning and self-discovery.

Our life journey is one of learning and education. Wherever we look there are new horizons to explore and learn about. But perhaps one of the most important lessons in life can be found in the Gospels. The teaching found within the Gospels and New Testament can perhaps be best described as a blueprint for life and offer guidance to each one of us on how to lead our daily life.

Jesus was a teacher, not necessarily in a school as such; he would teach in a variety of places, in a synagogue or someone's house. At other times he taught in the open air, or in the middle of a town, in the country, or on the shores of Lake Galilee. His teaching ranged from how to live and how to pray.

He frequently used parables in his teaching. Children are often taught that a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. A parable is a simple story with a single, simple meaning. It has one central point of teaching and the details of the story make that point both clear and vivid. The meaning is not explained but is left for the listener to work out for themselves. Jesus used parables because the Jews were used to this method of teaching; when learning was by word of mouth, the short story was easily remembered.

Christians see in the parable of the Good Samaritan the command to treat every individual human being as a neighbour. There can be no room for prejudice in dealing with people. History records frequent occasions when this has been forgotten and prejudice has shown itself in religious, racial and class distinctions. The claims of the kingdom of God dictate that all people must be treated the same and held in the same esteem.

So, returning to the theme of education. Do we ever cease to learn? As Christians we are always on a journey of learning but perhaps the key principle to live our life by is summed up quite simply in the teaching of Jesus *'that we love one another as we would wish to be loved'*.

**Linda Biggs**, Reader, North Cheltenham Team Ministry

# Praise in the Park



Outdoor worship with some favourite hymns  
accompanied by a band from the Salvation Army

Followed by tea and cake in the Village Hall

**Sunday 5th September at 3pm  
in Swindon Village Park**

Some outdoor seating will be provided but please bring your own  
chair if you can. In the Village Hall if wet.

## Cake and Plant Sale

Thank you to all of you who supported the cakes and plants sale in July and made it such a great success. We raised more than £1,100 for church funds.

We are extremely lucky and grateful for the support from Colin Relf who donated all the plants. We thought he'd retired!

Many thanks to Rosemary and Colin for manning the plant stall, and Martin and Fiona who erected a gazebo to keep them dry, although, in the end, it didn't rain. Better safe than sorry!

Thank you to everyone who baked for the sale and, of course, our customers.

We couldn't have done it without you all.

Here's to next year!

### From the registers



#### **Baptism**

*We welcomed in to the family of the church*

Arthur Nick Quinn

11<sup>th</sup> July

### **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](mailto:fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com)**

**Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector)**

**[nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk)**

St. Lawrence's Church

# Chatterbox

is back!

Starting on 7th September  
Every Tuesday  
10.30am to 12noon

Coffee/tea and biscuits  
and a good old chat about anything and everything.

We've got a lot to catch up on!

We're looking forward to seeing you, old or new.

Everyone's welcome!

(It's free)



The summer is starting to ebb and it looks like some semblance of normality is returning, following nearly 18 months of restrictions and changes to our lives. Since I last wrote here, Covid-19 cases increased dramatically nationwide but now appear to be on the decline and thankfully the connection between case numbers and deaths is still much weaker than it was last year. Vaccines have undoubtedly played their part along with the social distancing and other hygiene measures that would've seemed alien to most of us in 2019. The good news is that new treatments are also being developed as our scientists focus their efforts on managing this virus and 85.7% of adults in Cheltenham have received their first dose with 77.5% being fully vaccinated (the UK rate as a whole is 87.4% and 76% respectively so we're doing well - data from [coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk) accessed 20/9/21).

The recent UN report on climate change (2021) has laid out in stark detail how much the environment is being adversely affected by human activities - and that these effects are intensifying. We're trying our best at the Village Hall to minimise our impact, and lots of our investments aim to reduce the running costs of the building, with the added benefit of being kinder to the environment. We can all do our part and lots of little steps can add up to a big result.

Closer to home, the oft mentioned destratification fans have finally been installed here at the Village Hall and we've taken delivery of our insulation rolls (they were late arriving which meant that they couldn't be fitted as planned - supply issues from the continent seem to be a recurring issue lately). With any luck, the Superfoil SF60 blankets will be fitted to the underside of the roof by the time you read this and, as winter beckons, we can benefit from having a fully insulated roof paired with the fans to keep the air mixed. We've been very fortunate to be awarded some eco grants to help with these projects from both Severn Wye Target 2030 (see previous grants for the solar panels, LED lights, smart thermostats, ambient cellar cooling) and the new CheltenhamZero fund which is administered by the Borough Council.

We've been opening up more and more as restrictions have eased and most of our groups have now returned or will do very shortly - if you fancy joining any of the groups then please see our website for details ([svhall.co.uk](http://svhall.co.uk)). As our income is increasing, we're looking to invest again in the facilities of the Village Hall and a small group are working on making the bar area a nicer place to work (volunteer actually, our

numbers of willing bar staff seems to be growing by the week but there's always room for anyone that fancies a go at pulling a pint and channelling their inner Peggy Mitchell, Bet Lynch, Woody Boyd or Brian Flanagan (if you got all those references then very well done!!)).

Our weekly **Friday night bar** is gathering momentum and other parties and celebrations (often much delayed) are making the hall a much livelier place to be. Other projects in the pipeline include replacing the tired old shed, getting a second entrance (although the council are applying the brakes on that one) and maybe even getting a sound system and projector (the Euro showings were well received by those that came down). There are funds available but the limiting factor is generally time and people - we're a small committee who all have other commitments so to anyone that reads this and fancies lending a hand, you will be made very welcome.

Again, if anything I've mentioned has piqued your interest and you'd like to lend a hand at the hall then we're always happy to see new faces - our Village Hall is a great hub of our community but it could be so much better with just a little effort.

Stay safe and be excellent to each other.

Ben

## Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club will resume on 1<sup>st</sup> September at 8pm.

Our speaker for this meeting will be "The Bard of Barnwood". Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

Following the speaker, we will be having a vital discussion regarding the future of the club, so please do come along.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Pauline Wright

Well, we are off! In June, we had a great morning on Crickley Hill with John Heathcott. Crickley is one of the most excavated sites in the country, because it has over three thousand years of history. There have been settlements, enclosures and battles there since before history started being written and many have left their imprint in (and under) the ground. John took us round much of it. We even saw (in a field or two away) the remains of buildings used by the forces in the Second World War. But then it was time for nature which has also left its imprint. There were a fine selection of wild plants and the orchids were starting to come through, late this year, but there by June. Finally we located the cafe for a deserved coffee. Much thanks to John for a most informative morning.

And then in July, we had our first indoor meeting in three thousand years. Actually it may have been less than that; it just seemed like three thousand. I can't praise the speaker highly enough - in fact I really can't praise him at all, because it was me. Anyway, I was really interested to hear my talk on St Kenelm and the walk named after him, because I hadn't heard it for so long. Kenelm is a saint from Winchcombe. A Kenelm really did exist in Anglo-Saxon times but he was a prince, son of King Kenulph, who, at the start of the ninth century, was effectively King of Mercia. He had his royal palace in Winchcombe. It would seem that a legend grew up around Kenelm and he was made a saint some three hundred years after his death. The walk is based on the route over which his body was supposedly carried; from where he was foully done to death in the Clent Hills up near Bromsgrove and then, back to Winchcombe. It is a good walk with much to see, many springs en route (because each time Kenelm's body was put on the ground a spring arose) and plenty of historic buildings.

On to the rest of this year's programme. In September, David Bagley will give us a talk about peregrine falcons and in particular those which have based themselves in the tower of Tewkesbury Abbey. In October, Julie Hodsdon will tell us about Pittville Park and the Friends of Pittville. In November Peter Gill will tell us about Cheltenham in the War. Whether this includes Swindon Village's contribution as a transit camp, prisoner of war camp and occasional target I don't know.

If you would like to join us just come to one of our meetings, or come see me at 3 Swindon Hall where you will probably get a cup of tea and a one hour talk on The History of Swindon Hall. Or if this sounds ominous, just phone.

Finally I will repeat the message about Heritage Open Days. Heritage Open Days are a national event when many buildings or places of interest which are not normally open to the public can be visited. The dates this year are 12 to 19 September. It is now confirmed that on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September, St Lawrence's Church will open for much of the day for visits. At 2pm there will be an illustrated talk in the church on 'The History of Swindon Village' (guess who is giving it). Then at 3pm there will be an easy walk around the core of the village. Tea and buns available.

Barry Simon

St. Lawrence's Church

# **Annual Quiz and Supper**

Saturday 16th October  
Village Hall

Doors and Bar open at 7pm  
Hot Potato Supper at 7.30pm  
followed by the quiz  
Teams of up to 6 people  
Raffle

Tickets £10 - booking essential

**Karen Evans      01242 241678**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**7:30 pm start**

**Swindon Village Hall**



**HEART UK**  
THE CHOLESTEROL CHARITY

In memory of Hugh Stanford



**Tables of 4**

**£10 a table**

**Please contact:**

**[clairestamf3791@gmail.com](mailto:clairestamf3791@gmail.com)**

**to book a table**

**Cash  
only.**

**Raffle!**

**Bar open  
from  
7 pm**

## Quiz #7

The return of the Village News can only mean one thing... The return of the quiz!

As we are now approaching/in September (depending on when this reaches you), the theme of this month's quiz is all about the return to school. All of the questions are general knowledge and all of the answers have something to do with school, education, or the classroom.

If this scholastic offering fails to quench your thirst for knowledge, there's a few real-life, in-person quizzes advertised throughout this edition as well!

(Answers on page 25)

1. What is the name of the part of the eye that is surrounded by the iris?
2. What is the twenty-first letter of the NATO phonetic alphabet?
3. What sort of "error" can be described as a silly, clumsy, or easily avoided mistake?
4. If at your university graduation you received a "Desmond", what grade would this equate to?
5. Which 2004 romantic film, starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams, tells of the love story of Noah and Allie?
6. What word is used to refer to the lead dancers in a ballet company- it can also mean the most important individual within a group?
7. The birdsong of the great tit is often compared to the repetition of which seven-letter word?
8. What word can mean both a break in the school day, as well as an indentation or alcove in a cliff?
9. According to Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall", what do we not need?
10. In the wizarding world of Harry Potter, along with Hogwarts, what are Beauxbatons and Durmstrang examples of?

## A trip down Memory Lane

An email from Karren suggesting that some Swindon Village folk, both past and present, may like to reminisce about their early life here and days gone by, definitely had me interested. I assured her I was "standing by" for any such interviews/informal chats.

And it wasn't long before she had found her first willing "victim" - Sue Annetts- whom it was such a pleasure to phone and hear of her years growing up here in the Village. She now lives in Cornwall, but was born in Brockhampton and moved with her parents, Chris and Bryan, and brother David to 50, Rivelands Road in about 1971.

Sue can not only remember the "Old School" when it was still the Village Junior School, but also the major excitement when, in a long crocodile of children, all the pupils transported books and equipment to the new Junior School that was built next to the existing Primary School.

The Old School was bought by a potter and converted into the house it is today. A popular man with a sense of humour, he made unique mugs for locals to use at the bar in the Village Hall. Michael Bennett, vicar at that time, was presented with his own mug sporting a line around it showing a very generous "Vicar's Half".

Sue enjoyed her school days in the village and recalls a particular teacher, Kate Dryburgh, who lived, until quite recently, in Dark Lane. A Scottish lady, she taught Reception and would have her pupils collect conkers to send up to Scotland where, apparently, there was a dearth! It was at the Primary School that Sue met Daphne, who is still a good friend 50 years on.

In those days, the 11+ divided friendship groups, as your Secondary School was dependent on whether your road was in Tewkesbury Borough or Cheltenham. Although she passed the 11+ exam, Sue had no choice but to attend Cleve Comprehensive, taking the Marchant school coach there and back each day. Sue again recalls happy days there, playing hockey and taking part in school plays.

From the age of eleven, young Sue had an evening paper round delivering the Gloucestershire Echo, moving to a much more demanding morning round once she was thirteen. These papers were collected from the Village Shop in Quat Goose Lane, an establishment owned and run until the late 70s by the much-appreciated Mr and Mrs Honeybone. Mr Honeybone made twice-daily grocery deliveries in his Morris Minor Traveller to Brockhampton. Orders placed in the morning would be delivered that afternoon! Sue's labrador Sally eagerly awaited these deliveries as there

was always a treat on board for her too!

And, big nostalgia rush incoming, there was also a Post Office next to the Old School with Audrey Peacey as Postmistress-in-charge.

Many readers may not have known, or heard of the Annetts family, but there is an enduring legacy of them; notably of Sue's dad Bryan who, after apprenticeship at the Austin factory in Birmingham, became a mechanical design engineer. His "eye" for design and artistic flair served the Village and wider community very well. He, and his wife Christine, were members of C.O.D.S (Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society), where Bryan painted sets and backdrops while Christine assisted backstage. They were kept busy as there were two productions a year - a musical at The Everyman plus a play at The Playhouse.

When the community here in Swindon Village got together to upgrade from a wooden hut to the handsome Village Hall in use now, it was decided to put on a show for three or four nights every Christmas in aid of charity: sometimes a Variety-style show (Sue recalls the beautiful soprano singing voice of Ruth Packer) or sometimes a Panto. Over the years, Bryan painted at least six backdrops for these shows.

His final mural, and legacy to the Village, is still in situ today, portraying the Village as it was hundreds of years ago. The Hall Committee have decided to keep it on the stage permanently. Over the years it has suffered a few knocks but, funded by Sue in memory of her dad, the Art Club is due to restore it to its former glory.

As I said in my introduction, it has been so interesting taking this trip down memory lane with Sue. And, if it has triggered any memories of your own, dear reader, then why not put pen to paper, text to email or let Karren know you too would like to be "interviewed" either over a cuppa or on the phone.

Sandra Edgington

### **In loving memory of Bryan Charles Annetts.**

Born January 30, 1933, died October 29, 2020.

Bryan lived in Brockhampton and Swindon Village for nearly 40 years before he and his wife Christine moved to Cornwall in 1998.

As was his wish, on Saturday, 11th September at 12.30 pm his ashes will be laid to rest at St. Lawrence Church, Swindon Village. This will be followed by a gathering at the Village Hall to celebrate Bryan's life and share some memories. A buffet lunch will be available.

If you would like to attend please R.S.V.P. by noon on September 5th to Sue at 07874 232527.

## ***Introducing Jon Ellwood.***

John has been a regular advertiser in the Village News, so we invited him to tell us more about himself and the service he offers.

*“A Cheltenham based computer installation, setup and support company. If you are having problems, need repairs, solutions, or upgrades.*

*Today’s ever-changing computer technology is a daunting prospect for a lot of us, however Jon can provide advice and solutions to make it as easy as possible for you.*

*He’s been in the information technology installation & support industry for 23 years and can fix most problems at your premises or provide a collect and return service.”*

I setup Elwood Computer Services last year during the COVID pandemic, I had recently been made redundant from my role as an IT support engineer for a large building contractor, and so I thought I would put all my knowledge and skills from over the years to good use and offer my services to individual clients and to small businesses. Since then I’m very grateful to have built up a good client base and many positive reviews!

In amongst replacing broken laptop screens and fixing intermittent issues with customers Wi-Fi connectivity, I’ve been carrying out a lot of computer upgrades recently. An old slow laptop can be revitalised by the addition of some extra RAM or swapping out the internal hard drive for a solid-state drive which can be up to 10 times faster - resulting in huge speed increases in boot up times and accessing files and programs.

Please feel free to give me a call on **01242 906587** or **07525 691311** or email **jon@elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk** if you have any computer-related problems and I’ll be happy to help you out!

### **Churchyard tidy up**

We’ll be doing our annual tidying-up in the churchyard on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, starting at 9am, and would welcome help from anybody.

This is when we try to remove the more stubborn weeds and generally spruce up the churchyard to leave it tidy for the winter. Please pop along at any time during the morning to do what you can. Please bring your own tools, but rubbish bags will be provided, as will refreshments.

Thank you, **May Shurmer**

Well done to everyone who arranged the amazing cake and plant sale at St Lawrence. I couldn't believe the quantity or quality of the wonderful things on sale. The organisers did a great job of keeping everyone safe - with a one way system, all doors open and even a gel concierge at the door!

Someone donated a plate of little cheesy balls of gorgeousness (see picture below) and they were absolutely wonderful; I just wondered if anyone knew who'd made them as I'd love the recipe. You'll notice there's only one left on the plate ... it disappeared within seconds of this photo being taken!!

Congratulations to whoever made these and all the other superb cakes and jams etc on sale. There was clearly such a lot of work and effort involved in making and donating all these things and arranging the event - it's heart warming that so many people wanted to support St Lawrence. Even if not everyone can attend services, it's lovely that so many people appreciate their local Church and made it the heart of the village this weekend.



The plants too were superb— I believe they came from a Mr Relf - what a very kind man; they were absolutely beautiful and it was so kind of him to donate them.

Well done to everyone involved - I'm already looking forward to next year's sale - and if anyone can identify the maker of the attached little cheesy delights, do please let me know!

R. Hudson

If anyone can provide the recipe please contact the Editors and we will happily pass it on

There are no laws against having a bonfire at home, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.

If you're bothered by smoke from a neighbour's bonfire, try speaking to them in the first instance, as they may be unaware that they're causing a nuisance.

If this doesn't help, then Cheltenham Borough Council can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance.

## **Do**

- Do let your nearest neighbours know before you light your bonfire
- Do burn material in small amounts
- Do consider using an incinerator rather than an open bonfire
- Do choose the location of your bonfire carefully and have a spade, fork or hose pipe ready in case you need to extinguish the bonfire quickly
- Do be aware that other residents may also have regular bonfires. Although you may only have one a month, if each resident did this it could result in a bonfire nearly every day which could be unreasonable. Therefore it's important to communicate with your neighbours
- Do use alternative methods: recycle items, use the local household waste recycling centres
- Do consider shredding instead of burning as a suitable safeguard against identity fraud
- Do only have bonfires as a last resort after recycling and re-using have been considered

## **Don't**

- Do not burn damp grass cuttings or other damp garden waste as this will produce thick smoke
- Do not burn oily rags, rubber, plastics, foam, car tyres and so on as these will give rise to black toxic smoke
- Do not light a bonfire when neighbours have hung their washing out or are enjoying their gardens. Be considerate

- Do not leave a bonfire unattended. Never leave a bonfire once it is alight
- Do not light a bonfire if the wind is blowing in the direction of your nearest neighbour. Only light a bonfire if the wind is blowing away from your neighbours
- Do not allow your bonfire to smoulder for long periods of time, especially overnight. Ensure that you rake over ashes to ensure the bonfire is extinguished
- Do not light a bonfire if the smoke could drift across a street or highway so as to cause danger to traffic (enforced by the police)

To report a nuisance fire, please email [enquiries@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cheltenham.gov.uk)  
Or call Cheltenham Borough Council on 01242 264135

## Cllr. Helen Wells



**ELWOOD COMPUTER SERVICES LTD**  
Your Local IT Support Specialist

Support of Desktops, Laptops (PC, Mac), Tablets & Smartphones (iOS, Android) • Repair/Upgrades • Software & Hardware Installation • WiFi & Network Setup & Support • Working From Home Support • And more!

### Jon Elwood

01242 906587 | 07525 691311  
jon@elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk  
www.elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk

Or look me up on social media:



On-site visits or remote support  
Collect & Return available  
Small Business IT Support packages available  
Microsoft / Cisco / Dell / Lenovo certified engineer  
Over 2 decades of experience in the IT industry

## Quiz Answers:

1. Pupil
2. Uniform
3. Schoolboy
4. 2:2
5. (The) Notebook
6. Principal
7. Teacher
8. Recess
9. Education
10. Schools



# ALEXANDER BURN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**Alexander Burn is an independent family business with four offices covering the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury area.**

**COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT AND RESPECTFUL**

**24 hour personal service | Private chapels of rest**

**HM Coroner and NHS Funeral Director for Gloucestershire**

[www.alexanderburn.com](http://www.alexanderburn.com)

Bishops Cleeve  
22 Church Road  
01242 673300

Cheltenham  
436 High Street  
01242 245350

Winchcombe  
11 North Street  
01242 604888

Tewkesbury  
23-24 High Street  
01684 276200

## **MATHS AND SCIENCE TUTORING**

Local, experienced tutor available  
for sessions covering:

- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science
- AS/A-Level Chemistry

Individual tutoring or groups

Fully DBS checked

Please contact Katie (your  
friendly village news editor/quiz  
writer) for more information on:

Email:  
[katiefpasons24@gmail.com](mailto:katiefpasons24@gmail.com)  
Phone: 07927313461

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
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers		<a href="mailto:info@1sv-scouts.co.uk">info@1sv-scouts.co.uk</a>
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	<a href="mailto:swindonvillagehall@gmail.com">swindonvillagehall@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.svhall.co.uk">www.svhall.co.uk</a> 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	<a href="mailto:chairfosvps@gmail.com">chairfosvps@gmail.com</a>
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 August.  
Please send contributions to the editors via  
Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane  
or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
	Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
	Cllr. Yolande Booyse	07969 103957
	Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
	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: <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	Hugh Evans	241678
	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