

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 481      March 2022

## March 2022

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Monday 7th     | Swindon Village Hall meeting 7.30pm  |
| Tuesday 8th    | Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm  |
| Friday 11th    | Village Hall Darts Night 7.30pm  |
| Wednesday 16th | Swindon Village Society. Talk; 'Working on the Severn'. Chris Witts will tell us about life on the barges. Village Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. |
| Saturday 26th  | Parish Council Litter Pick 10.30   |

## April 2022

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Monday 4th     | Swindon Village Hall meeting 7.30pm TBC  |
| Tuesday 12th   | Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm  |
| Wednesday 20th | Swindon Village Society. Talk on 'The Royal Progress through Gloucestershire – 1535'. Village Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome |
| Friday 29th    | Village Hall AGM 7pm<br>Quiz and Burger 7.30pm   |

## **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 M5 Junction 10 consultation has now closed. This project will see the motorway junction become four way, and will involve major changes to the roads around Coombe Hill. The Parish Council submitted comments which can be viewed on our website.



More on planning. The Swindon Farm development (known to the Borough Council as 20/00759/FUL) will become the first phase of Elms Park if approved. The Parish Council has submitted comments. Despite the consultation date having passed the developer continues to submit new documents. In light of this the Planning Officer is happy to continue to receive comments. Eventually the application will go to the Borough Council planning committee (24th March at the earliest).

There are a number of footpaths through the parish. I have a map that clearly shows most of them but the status of two well used tracks was unclear. The first is the track that runs beside Next. It runs past the West side of the Next store and joins the road to the footpath that goes across the fields to join Dog Bark Lane. I am told this is a Class 5 highway. Apparently this classification is used for “unimportant accommodation roads or cul de sacs serving a few properties”. I assume that the classification system starts off with motorways, then A roads, B roads, etc. so Class 5 is fairly well down the list. In terms of maintenance it will be given quite a low priority but we are aware that the area has been made unpleasant through fly tipping and the presence of rough sleepers. We are trying to get the track cleaned up.

The second track of interest runs behind Seasons and links Brockhampton Lane with the tunnel under the railway. This is a Class 6 highway. A Class 6 is normally a footway that doesn't carry vehicular traffic. This particular track is important to Network Rail as it gives them access to the railway bridge but it is available to pedestrians.

Speaking of railways, the level crossing on Swindon Lane is due to have some major surgery on the night of 12th to 13th March. The crossing will be closed from 11:30pm until 8:45am and the equipment the workforce will use includes a crane and lorry. If this closure is inconvenient you shouldn't be out after bedtime.



A date for your diary: Keep Britain Tidy's Annual Spring Clean campaign takes place between 23rd March and 10th April. We have reserved 26th March for a major effort and would really welcome your support. We will supply litter pickers (the grabbing devices, not the humans; that's where you come in). We will also have rubbish bags and Hi-Viz vests. We will meet at 10:30am at the Mary Godwin Pavilion car park in the park along Wymans Lane.

There was no way some of our brave souls could wait that long to get stuck into the accumulating rubbish so Councillor Helen Wells organised a practice litter pick at short notice. Well done you lot!

You may or may not know that the Village Hall car park is not owned by the hall but is leased from the Borough Council. The Borough Council are looking to implement a huge rent increase or sell the car park to the Village Hall Committee for the maximum amount possible. The Village Hall Committee, with the support of the Parish Council and Flo Clucas, our Borough Councillor, is currently in negotiation. We would like to see a price paid that ensures that the hall continues to be a valuable, and viable, asset to the community.

You may have noticed that the last edition of the Village News had been hand altered in respect of the date of the Digibus visit. We happily went to press with the date we had been told. Subsequently the date was changed. Websites and social media have advantages in being able to accommodate late changes but with paper it is not so easy. I hope you weren't too confused and a massive thank you to Hugh and Karen Evans and to Mrs. Cullimore who spent a lovely evening marking-up nearly a thousand magazines.

As I write this the Digibus visit is in the future but when you read this it will be in the past. Sounds like a Red Dwarf script. Anyway, I hope people found the visit useful and I would love to hear of your experiences and whether it has helped you become more confident with things digital. In fact, would someone be willing to write an article about it?



One more “thing digital”. There is an app called Flare endorsed by Gloucestershire Constabulary. It is described as a “safer Gloucestershire” app. It has been created to enable women and girls to anonymously share their experience if they are in a situation where they are made to feel uncomfortable. The app helps local agencies to understand how and where you feel unsafe and to take action. It’s anonymous, quick, free to use and can connect you to support and advice in Gloucestershire. Let’s hope that one day apps like this will be unnecessary but, if you feel it would be helpful, please take a look at it.

There is a waste bin in the bus shelter in Wymans Lane. Everyone I have spoken to agrees that it is pointless as there is a large bin on the pavement nearby. The small bin the bus shelter gets filled with waste and doesn’t get emptied routinely. It can get very unpleasant when the weather is hot (yes, OK, but the sun will come back eventually). I wrote to the Borough Council about it. They referred the matter to Ubico, who said they would refer it to Stagecoach, the bus company. At this point I remembered that the bus shelter belongs to the Parish Council and that Stagecoach would simply refer the matter back to me. I will take a screwdriver to the bin when the weather improves.

A man from Lincolnshire has undertaken to walk in every parish in England. At the time of writing he had visited 332. That is a great effort, but there are 5 in Cheltenham alone, 312 in Gloucestershire and a staggering 10,448 in the country. He thinks it might take him 30 years to complete his task. If I'm still alive I'll let you know when he's in the area.

Shaun Cullimore  
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## SWINDON VILLAGE BAR

FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR SUCCESSFUL HALLOWE'EN PARTY AND PIZZA, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY NIGHTS:

11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 7.30PM

**DARTS AND PIZZA**

29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 7.30PM

**QUIZ AND BURGER**

TICKETS FOR BOTH ARE £5 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES A FREE DRINK AND £3 VOUCHER TOWARDS FOOD.

TO BOOK EMAIL: [SWINDONVILLAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SWINDONVILLAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM)

DON'T FORGET THAT WE ARE OPEN EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM 7PM

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



PLANS ARE AFOOT FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS ON SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE. THIS WILL BE A FAMILY EVENT WITH MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW NEXT MONTH.



## The Editor(s)

As I write, we are forecast a week of rain and cooler temperatures, but in the shops are Easter Eggs and daffodils, so Spring must be around the corner- mustn't it?

Daffodils are one of my favourite flowers. My lovely Mum and I always used to buy them for each other and compete to see who would find them first in February. I have inherited the family "daffodil" vase that I believe belonged to my great grandmother. It's a little chipped, but its shape shows off each bloom perfectly. That vase has seen many hundreds of daffodils. Back in the fifties and sixties (when it was still allowed), Mum and her family would take a day trip to Newent and pick daffodils from the fields.

Traditionally, daffodils symbolise rebirth and the beginning of spring. If you go back to the Victorian times, they were given as a token of regard. Maybe that's not such a grand gesture as a bouquet of red roses, but I would rather have the simple gesture of daffodils any day.

Karren



# Save The Countryside Anniversary Walk

**Celebrating our beautiful countryside  
Protecting our local green space  
Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village**

## **Sunday 22nd May 2pm**

**Everyone welcome including dogs and horses  
Refreshments available mid-way and at the end.**



***For further details contact 07842 163876 (Anne)  
or 07770 986078 (Helen)***



## Walking in Gloucestershire

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Gloucestershire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos> has hundreds of walks to download and print- free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

Paul Martin's unusual view of Swindon Village



 North Cheltenham  
Team Ministry

## **St. Lawrence's Church Swindon Village**

### Services

#### **1st Sunday of the month:**

10.30am Together @ Ten Thirty all-age worship  
6.30pm Holy Communion

#### **All other Sundays:**

9.15am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Prayer

#### **Every Wednesday:**

10.00am to 12noon Church open for private prayer

(Services are subject to change at short notice; contact the Churchwardens if you want to check.)

### **From the registers**



#### **Interment of ashes**

*We gave thanks for the life of  
Joyce Evelyn Scolding and  
Steven Mark Scolding*

2nd February

St. Lawrence's Church

# Chatterbox



Every Tuesday  
10.30am to 12noon



Pop in any time  
Coffee/tea and biscuits  
and a good old chat about anything and everything.

Everyone's welcome, old or new.  
(It's free!)

Hosted by St. Lawrence's Church but with no religious content

## **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)  
or via the office.

## **The Swindon Village Society**

In January we held our AGM. As ever there were few rioters and no great number of protestors waving banners saying 'The Chairman must go' or 'Out with the Committee'. So, to our surprise, the committee was re-elected as before. The only problem we have is a slight lack of cash, having run three quarters of a year's programme last year without levying dues. However, there were an encouraging number of members present so we garnered enough by way of subs to continue. We were even blessed with some new members, so thank you to them.

Eileen Allen did say that although she is tied up with family problems at present, she hopes to get the Village History project underway again later this year. Volume Eight of the Collection is pretty well complete but there are problems with getting it printed at a reasonable price after our old printer retired. One new member did offer some hope in this direction so fingers crossed.

Then it was time for tea, biscuits and a catch up. And of course it was nice to see people again.

Then on to the highlight of the evening. It is always good to have one of our own members give a talk and this time it was Ann Carter who stepped up. For those who don't know she comes from a family that fled East Germany before the wall went up. I think she was five at the time. In England she became a nurse and a translator. She married a doctor and lived many years in Dunstable. She then became a magistrate in Luton; at the time the youngest they had ever had. Ann then served as a magistrate for many years until she and her husband moved here to be near their daughter and her family.

So her talk was on being a magistrate. It is, of course, a service that anyone can aspire to. However, having heard the tales of many miscreants that stood before Ann, I am not sure that many in the audience felt the need to dash out and apply for the honour themselves. What is very obvious is that there is quite a difference between Swindon Village and central Luton. A lot of the problems there stem from the various communities not getting on. While most members of any community were decent and law abiding there was obviously a lot of friction around the edges. Of course a major driver was drugs and with a very busy major airport nearby to provide a drug transit centre problems arose. However, it has to be said that when Ann did finally leave the area and her post, some of her regular customers

did bid her farewell, perhaps not with a tear in their eye, but at least with a not unhumorous nod to the change she had made in their lives.

Thanks for the talk Ann; I hope I got most of the details correct. I was so overwhelmed at being made Chairman again I forgot to take notes. I hope that Germany regrets their loss. England was certainly the beneficiary.

Our March talk will be by Chris Witts who will tell us about his life working on the River Severn.

In April Alan Pilbeam will tell us about Henry VIII's Royal Progress through Gloucestershire in 1535.

Do come and join us. Just turn up at a meeting. Annual membership is: Single £10, Double or Family £20. Or come and give us a trail. Visitors at any meeting except the Summer Garden party are welcome for just £2.

Barry Simon

## **Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show**

Pittville Pump Room

Sunday 20th March 2022 12.30pm to 3.30pm

Locally Grown Plants for Sale from several nurseries.

Many stalls: Garden Sundries, Cakes, Greetings Cards,  
Ladies Accessories, Books ,  
Locally Produced Jams and Pickles

Refreshments available

Admission: Adults £2.00, Children under 16 – Free

[www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk)



## Litter Pick Lovelies

Thanks so very much for our fantastic team of litter pickers!

We filled so many bags with other people's rubbish from the roads, river, paths and park - what great community spirit.

Helen Wells



Make the   
all  & ,  
 your  or  
use a .



## Quiz #12

Thursday 3rd of March is the 25th World Book Day!

So here is a “book” themed quiz for you. I’ve tried to make it not completely literary-based, see how you do...

1. In which religion is the Bhagavad-Gita, containing the teachings of Krishna, the most holy book?
2. “The Book of Boba Fett” is a spin-off series of which famous sci-fi film series?
3. Which famous sportsman’s autobiography is titled “1966 And All That”?
4. Which musical tells the story of two missionaries visiting Uganda?
5. “The Winds of Winter” is the sixth book of which fantasy series? It was originally due to be published in 2017, but has been delayed several times...
6. What are the names of the only two books in The Bible named after women?
7. A television series due to arrive later this year is to be based on a prequel of which famous fantasy trilogy?
8. Which book inspired Kate Bush’s first single? It led to her becoming the first woman to earn a UK number 1 single with a self-written song.
9. Which comedian’s autobiography is titled “My Booky Wook”?
10. Often considered the first non-fiction novel, who wrote the true crime book “In Cold Blood”?

Answers on page 18

It's been a good month at the Hall.

After the uncertainties of the last two years, we are finally able to make plans. We have three new committee members (we only had to coerce them a little!) and we are busy thinking about future changes we might make to the hall itself. More about that next time.

For now, it's all about the fun!

A few people have asked in the past if we could have some food options at the hall. We are a little restricted as most catering options are only allowed at a ticketed event. Last year we had a childrens' Hallowe'en party with a pizza wagon which was sold out. We also had an impromptu darts evening with games for couples.

Hopefully some of you will have enjoyed the live music and gourmet burgers last Friday. This was the first of monthly Friday events that we are aiming to have. For the next we are repeating the darts evening on 11<sup>th</sup> March with the addition of pizza and on 29<sup>th</sup> April we will have a quiz with gourmet burgers. Tickets for these are £5, which includes a free drink and £3 food voucher. In the school holidays we will include some family-centred options.

Possible future events include rounders, karaoke and cocktails and a treasure hunt. Looking further afield, we plan to have a family day on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Jubilee.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, our quiz will be preceded by the Village Hall AGM. If you're interested in joining the committee or would like to see what's been going on, come along. If you'd like to know more beforehand, have ideas for Friday evenings or like to be involved in Jubilee planning please get in touch.

Karren Parsons, Treasurer



# Blank Canvas Cakes

Natasha Hawkins

## DELICIOUS DESIGN

My aim is to make your day special with a unique cake and so I offer two design services. A freshly baked cake, fully iced and then painted with your unique design idea or alternatively if you wish to provide a ready baked cake I am also happy to apply the wonderful finishing touches of icing and painting the design.

## DISTINCTLY YOURS

Get in touch to get a quote for a cake created especially for you, as such all cakes will be priced after an initial consultation to discuss your requirements. Prices start from **£25** for design services or **£49** for a full cake.

Email: [natasha-hawkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:natasha-hawkins@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone: 07980916927

FB: BlankCanvasCakes Instagram: blankcanvascakes



“Colin” by Shaun Cullimore







An experience sharing app



- Flare is a safe space to share the everyday experiences of women and girls
- The app helps local agencies understand how and where you feel unsafe and take action
- It's anonymous, quick, free to use and can connect you to support and advice in Gloucestershire

Download today  
by scanning the  
QR code or visiting  
[flarereport.co.uk](http://flarereport.co.uk)



Experiences may include:

Drink spiking, verbal abuse, feeling unsafe in public spaces, being sent inappropriate images, sexual comments in public, inappropriate touching without consent, indecent exposure, stalking, harassment, staring, upskirting...

### Answers to quiz:

1. Hinduism
2. Star Wars
3. Geoff Hurst
4. Book of Mormon
5. Game of Thrones
6. Ruth and Esther
7. Lord of the Rings
8. Wuthering Heights
9. Russell Brand
10. Truman Capote

### 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	Jana Bridger	07913 911930
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)	<a href="mailto:mgu5@hotmail.co.uk">mgu5@hotmail.co.uk</a> 07477894639
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 March 2022  
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
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	07973 387053
	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