Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 482 April 2022

<u>April 2022</u>

Swindon Village Hall meeting 7.30pm TBC	
Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	
Family easter Egg Hunt and Disco	
Swindon Village Society. Talk on 'The Royal Progress through Gloucestershire – 1535'. Village Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome	
Village Hall_AGM 7pm Quiz and Burger 7.30pm	
Parish and Borough Council elections	
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	
Annual Parish Meeting (provisional)	
Swindon Village Society. Nature Walk. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 9.30am. Non members welcome.	
Save the Countryside Walk 2pm	

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: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/</u> <u>swindonparishcommunitygroup</u>
- Swindon Parish Council website. For full information from the Parish Council: <u>https://www.swindonparish.org.uk/</u>

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".

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Elections are held every four years. This year there will be an election for Swindon Parish Council. Actually, the process of election is the putting forward of a candidate. The voting bit (the poll) only takes place if there are more candidates than seats on the Council. We want to encourage people to participate in local democracy; both to stand as candidates and (if necessary) to vote on 5th May. Our Parish Council has nine seats but, at the moment, we have two vacancies on the Council that we have been unable to fill. It is unlikely that we will be inundated with candidates in May. If you are interested in joining the Council please contact any of us. The bigger the team the more we can achieve.

You may have heard the expression that the only certainties in life are "death and taxes". Well, there is another certainty and that is "change". Over the years a number of organisations and institutions in the parish have disappeared. The Youth Club, the WI, the Church fete, etc. It is a great shame that the Wednesday Club is no more. Mary was kind enough to ring me and tell me a little bit about the club. Mary joined in 1977 and it was going a long time before she joined! I understand there is an article about it elsewhere so I'll say no more but I thought it appropriate to mark (and mourn) its passing.

For a bonus point, who came up with the original "death and taxes" quote? Answer next time.

A positive change is the continuing success of the Village Hall. The Hall Committee, together with the Parish Council, continue to negotiate the terms for the rental (or purchase) of the car park, which is owned by the Borough Council. The car park is used by parents of school children and users of the park, not just users of the hall. As such it is an important community asset and we are determined to secure its future.

We organised our second litter pick after lock down for the 26th March as part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. I am writing this prior to the event but it will have taken place by the time you read this. A number of public spirited people have expressed an interest in joining in with events such as these. We are considering having a regular schedule of litter picks. You will then be able to plan your holidays so that you don't miss one! Thank you in anticipation of your support.

There are huge numbers of gulls in the area and the birds can be large, noisy and aggressive. People put food out with the best of intentions, perhaps aiming to feed other species of bird. However, food simply thrown onto open ground will encourage the gulls to move in and displace other birds. Both the RSPB and the Borough Council discourage the feeding of gulls.

Traditionally, the Parish Council has met on the second Tuesday of the month in the bar area of the Village Hall. Lately we have had as neighbours in the main hall a musical theatre group practising for a show. They are very good. They are also very loud so we are moving to the second Monday of the month, when we will compete with the Scouts instead.

Neighbourhood Watch conducts regular cycle security marking sessions. Each cycle marked is also registered on the National Cycle Database so that all recovered cycles can be returned to their owners. The security marking and registration on the National Cycle Database are both free of charge.

More free stuff! The Digibus first visited the parish on 23rd February, parking all day at the Village Hall. Two trainers were available to help people with any technology issues, and several people used their services. Following a late cancellation at another venue the bus was with us again on 2nd March. The weather was horrible, we didn't have the opportunity to advertise the visit and, as a result, there were no takers.



This is a fantastic, free resource. I am talking to the Digibus folk about another visit, hopefully one which we can publicise better. This really is a great opportunity. Typical queries that the trainers address include:

- "How can I share photos I've taken on my phone?"
- "How do I do video calls with my friends and relatives?"
- "How can I view photos of my grandchildren on my tablet?"
- "My son has bought me a smartphone and I don't know where to start".
- "I have to pay a bill online and don't know how".

If you, or someone you know, needs FREE EXPERT HELP with issues like these, the Digibus could be the answer.

Has anyone lost a wedding ring? One has been found near the level crossing in Swindon Lane. If you think you might be the owner please let me have a description of it and we will see if it matches the one that has been found. I'm tempted to make a Lord of the Rings reference but I'll resist.

I have read that Sainsbury's is closing most of the cafes in its shops, including ours. I thought that would reduce our "drink and a biscuit" opportunities in the Parish, but a planning application has been submitted for a bathroom and kitchen showroom on Chosen View Road that would incorporate a coffee shop!

So how many such establishments would you find in Swindon Parish? The answer might surprise you. Other than those mentioned above, there is, of course, our beautiful church. On Tuesdays between 10:30am and noon you are welcome to drop in, chat and have a cuppa. This venue has the massive advantage that it is free!

What about commercial opportunities? On Gallagher Retail Park we also have the cafes in Next, Subway, Costa and Greggs.

It doesn't end there. On Kingsditch Retail Park we have Marks and Spencer and McDonalds. And on Centrum Retail Park we have KFC, Costa, Dunelm and the cafe in the Range (which is something to do with Costa, Iceland and Compass and nothing to do with the Range).

Finally, we have Starbucks (next to Lidl) and the Cross Hands on the Tewkesbury Road, our only pub.

That's more than enough for you to try two different venues a day for a week. Do we have any volunteers for the role of Village News restaurant/ cafe critic? Like all the most interesting roles it is, of course, unpaid.

Shaun Cullimore Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



FREE PICNIC IN THE PARK!

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022 FROM 12.00 NOON - 5PM @ SWINDON VILLAGE PARK

DOG SHOW - BEST CROWN PARADE - SACK RACING - WELLIE WANGING - SPLAT THE RAT - EGG AND SPOON - 3 LEGGED RACE - CROQUET -PARACHUTE - SKITTLES - CRICKET - BYO PICNIC -KIDS CRAFTS - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - BOUNCY CASTLE - ICE CREAM - CAKE STALL

THEN JOIN US IN THE VILLAGE HALL FOR FOOD, DRINKS & DISCO FROM 6PM UNTIL LATE!

The Editor(s)

Last month, in the piece I wrote for the Village Hall, I told you how good the band had been on 29th March. Little did I know that our fantastic team of volunteers who deliver the Village News would be so efficient and get the edition out before the band performed on the 29th, so I was caught out! Although it goes to prove that shouldn't believe everything you read, on this occasion I am happy to report that <u>after</u> seeing "Spandex Revival" they were in fact superb.

In other future news, the Parish Council have agreed in principle that we can have another branch of our Village Library in the bus shelter in Quat Goose Lane. We still need to sort out the detail, but we hope it will be a better wet weather solution than the one in Dark Lane. Thank you to Shaun for getting the green light for this and also to Joan for suggesting this in the first place.

We have a new feature this month. Our youngest daughter Rebekah has been cajoled to write up her favourite recipes in her own very unique style. These brownies come highly recommended and I urge you to practise them ready for the Church's cake stall later in the year.

If anyone has any ideas for the Village News, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Karren.



The Swindon Village Society

In February, Andy Mellor told us about the Gloucester Regiment's participation in the Battle of Waterloo. This was going to be of great interest to Sarah and me, because her great great great grandfather commanded the 30th Regiment of Foot (the Cambridgeshires) at the battle and I had read up about the fracas extensively. So it really was rather annoying that I contracted Covid a week before the talk and was still testing positive on the day. However, an e-mail to Andy revealed that he was giving the talk again a week later to a Probus group to whom I had myself given a talk, so I wrangled myself an invitation and so can confirm that his talk was fascinating and wonderfully delivered.

The Gloucesters are no more- having been amalgamated with other regiments to form The Rifles. This is a pity, because they had a pretty illustrious history. They were the only regiment to have a cap badge at the back of their headwear as well as at the front. This was because at the battle of Alexandria, while heavily engaged by the enemy, they were attacked from behind. Half the regiment turned about, engaged the second set of attackers and they saw off both. As a regiment they were greatly trusted by the Duke of Wellington having fought against Napoleon many times.

The day before Waterloo, the regiment was engaged in the Battle of Quatre Bras where they suffered notable casualties. Nevertheless, at Waterloo they were in the front of the battle, forming a square where they held one end of the line and fought throughout with the greatest bravery until Napoleon's best troops were finally routed. The casualty figures were pretty horrific. In such battles, a loss rate of over fifty percent killed or wounded was not unusual. If you want to know more then go to 'The Soldiers of Gloucestershire' Museum at Gloucester docks.

In April, Alan Pilbeam will tell us about Henry VIII's Royal Progress through Gloucestershire in 1535. It will be interesting to see just how close he got to Swindon Village, because when I arrived here, I was told by several people that he and Anne Boleyn had their honeymoon in Swindon Hall. This seems unlikely since I don't think even the oldest part of the Hall was built until a hundred years after the marriage (maybe they rented a caravan on the site?). However I think I know one window in Tewkesbury that Henry looked out of when he was visiting, and this alone is an interesting thing to mention when passing by with visitors. In May, we are going to go on our annual nature walk led by John Heathcott. We will probably go down Dog Bark Lane, which itself has some historic significance since the future King Edward IV and his army passed along on their way to the Battle of Tewkesbury. We will log birds and wildflowers. Join us and maybe learn a little more of our local wildlife or maybe you can add some knowledge yourself.

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 trial. Visitors at any meeting except the Summer Garden party are welcome for just £2. There is no charge for joining the nature walk

Barry Simon



Please note there is **no** Chatterbox on 5th April. Sorry.

BEHOLD THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday in Churches across the world, a Crucifix is carried in procession, acclaimed by the words "Behold the wood of the Cross.....O come let us worship". People are invited to gaze upon, and kiss, the image of the crucified Jesus. I often wonder about what went through the minds of the crowd who witnessed the execution of the preacher from Nazareth. Who is this forsaken figure hanging from the Cross, cut down in his prime, in the most horrific way possible? - A heretic? A lunatic? A criminal? A fool? The Saviour of the world?

Really, only God can answer such a question. Crucifixion was such a vile and humiliating end, that to see it as anything other than a horror, you either would have to be completely mad, or else something amazing must have happened to make you see it like that – nothing less than a miracle in fact. For the early Christians, that miracle has happened. God has answered the question by raising Jesus from the dead – it is only because they personally encountered him, alive, victorious over death, that they could come to speak of the cross as God's decisive victory over death.

The instrument of death has become the means of life and, in its light, we see a judgement. If this is how humanity treats its own, then there is something deeply wrong with humanity. Violence, domination and greed are shown not to be the true way to live. So we as a human race stand judged and convicted, but not written off.

As we behold the Cross, we see a love more powerful than all the hatred and violence of this world. Throughout his life, Jesus showed love for the excluded. When he was nailed to the cross, he prayed *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The love he showed in his life shone through to the end. He dies, not in a crumpled heap on the ground, but lifted up above the crowds, with his arms outstretched in loving embrace. Just before he died, he said 'It is finished' – I have loved till the very end. All would agree that this is beautiful and noble. But only on the basis of resurrection faith can we say that such love is not only beautiful, but it is in fact the most powerful thing in the universe.*

We celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter this year in the context of war, and fears of its escalation, so we must trust more deeply in Christ's victory of love over power, and pray for the conversion of those whose lives and ambitions are given over to the destructive and futile power of violence and domination. **Fr. Robert Wright**

Morth Cheltenham Team Ministry	St. Lawrence's Church Swindon Village	
	Services	
1st Sunday of the mon	th:	
e e	(a) Ten Thirty all-age worship	
6.30pm Holy Cor		
All other Sundays: 9.15am Holy Cor 6.30pm Evening Every Wednesday: 10.00am to 12noon	Prayer Church open for private prayer	
(Services are subject to change at short notice; contact the Churchwardens if you want to check.)		
Please note the church will not be open for Private Prayer on 6th April.		
	Revd. George Davis	

Revd. George Davis

Revd. George Davis has started a four-month placement with the Cheltenham and Gloucester hospitals' Chaplaincy Team and will not be available for parish work during this time.

Please contact Revd Nick Bromfield, Team Rector, for any assistance on 01242 232883 – Nick will be pleased to help and will respond very quickly to any enquiries.

May Shurmer and Hugh Evans

Churchwardens

From the registers

Funeral We commemorated the life of James (Jim) Conway Hooper

7th March



Interment of ashes *We gave thanks for the life of* Caroline Anne Tordjman

26th February

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. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector) nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk or via the office. St. Lawrence's Church

Bring your pets to church for a celebration of God's animal kingdom

Sunday 1st May at 10.30am



All pets are welcome.

Please ensure your pets are either on a lead or in a secure cage or travelling box, for their own safety as well as for the safety of others! If your pet can't come, bring a photograph of him/her.

Village Hall

Spring has arrived and we're now seeing a bit of much-needed sun and longer days.

We had a very successful Darts and Pizza night last week. Thank you to all volunteers who helped make the night so enjoyable. James Hannan was our Darts Master and did a great job... Fabionis Pizza kept us all well fed. We are very busy planning our next social events for you all.

Here's what we have planned for the near future:

- 15th April: Easter Egg Hunt with Disco for children followed by a disco for adults. Tickets for the Easter Egg Hunt are £2 which will include squash and Easter chocolate for the children. We are trying to organise a food option, so keep an eye on Facebook for updates. Please register your interest by email.

- 29th April: Quiz and Burger night. You can enter a table of up to six for the quiz or we can match you with another smaller group if you prefer. Tickets are available by email at our usual £5 per person which gives you a free drink and £3 food voucher towards your burger.

- 4th June: New date for our Jubilee Day so we can make a full day and evening of the celebrations. This will commence with a family picnic, followed by games, stalls, displays and a tea and cake stall. We will have a disco in the evening and again hopefully a food option. More details to follow next month.

This will be the biggest event we have planned. The more volunteers we have, the more we can offer on the day. We are looking for help setting up on the day, cake makers, bunting experts, stall holders, and so much more! If you would like to help or know someone who might like to advertise their local group by way of a display, please either email us or give Karren Parsons a call on 07786 412538.

Your bar remains open every Friday night, please come and see us and have a drink and chat with your fellow villagers.

Jana swindonvillagehall@gmail.com

What's on at the Village Hall

Sunday	9.30 - 10.30am	Clubbercise	
Monday	5 - 6pm 6 - 7.15pm 7.15 - 8.30pm	Beavers Cubs Scouts	
Tuesday	4 - 7.30pm 7.30 - 9.30pm	Gymnastics Promenade Proc	luctions
Wednesday	6 - 7pm	Chi Chi Fitness	
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Swindon Village Society	(3rd week of month)
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Wine Club	(4th week of month in bar)
Thursday	4 -6pm 6.15 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.30 7.30 - 9.30	Gymnastics Zumba Art Club Medals Club	(2nd week of month in bar)
Friday	1.30 - 4.40pm 5 - 6pm 6.15 - 8.30pm 7pm - 11pm	Little Kickers Rainbows Rangers Bar open	

SUNDAY 8TH MAY COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

Have you got a spring clear out planned? Set up your garage / yard sale table on

> Sunday 8th May 11am - 3 pm



Give, swap, sell, or raise money for charity

And a chance to walk down some local streets and meet your neighbours - maybe pick up a bargain

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)

Quiz #13

Hello All,

This month's quiz is all about Aprils Fool's day- with questions about fools, pranks and everything in between. Questions 8-10 feature some of the Parsons family's favourite jokes. I'll give you the first part, and you'll have to guess the punchline. (Fair warning - these are not necessarily good jokes, I apologise in advance)

Good luck!

1. What band, fronted by Frankie Lymon, released the song "Why do fools fall in love?" in 1956?

2. In Lord of the Rings, who does Gandalf often refer to as a "fool of a Took"?

3. In a famous April Fool's prank from 1957, the BBC released a hoaxdocumentary showing what foodstuff being harvested from trees in southern Switzerland?

4. Which super-villain first appeared in a Batman comic in 1940?

5. Who released the song "Lovefool" that famously appeared on the 1996 "Romeo+Juliet" film soundtrack?

6. In the Harry Potter universe, what are the names of the twin brothers known for their love of pranks and tricks?

7. Which British astronomer attempted to persuade the public on April 1st 1976 that an unusual planetary effect would cause people to feel inexplicably lighter at 9:47 AM that day?

8. How do you make an artichoke?

9. What's red and sits in the corner?

10. What cheese would you use to hide a small horse?

Answers on page

Be a Befriender

Can you offer company & empathy to someone experiencing a long-term condition like stroke, aphasia or dementia?

1-2 hours per week in-person, telephone or help at a group

Get in touch to volunteer

amy@cscic.org 07935 810 160 cscic.org/reconnect





Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

The Best Ever Chocolate Brownies

Ingredients:

185g unsalted butter85g plain flour75g white chocolate3 large eggs

185g best dark chocolate40g cocoa powder75g milk chocolate275g golden caster sugar

Method:

- 1. First cut up the butter and break the chocolate into pieces small enough to melt. Either add them to a bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and stir occasionally until everything is melted or put them in a bowl in the microwave for 30 second intervals mixing in between.
- 2. As chocolate normally comes in 50g increments, step 2 is naturally to eat the remaining 15g grams of dark chocolate!
- While the chocolate and butter mixture is cooling down preheat your oven to 180 degrees (fan oven) or equivalent and line a 20cm² (or around that size) baking tray with greaseproof paper.
- 4. Next cut up the white and milk chocolate into pieces roughly ¼ of the size of an average square, this can be quite tedious so I have factored in extra chocolate that may find its way to baker's stomachs to help ease the process.
- 5. Add the eggs and sugar to the bowl and use an electric whisk for around 5 minutes until the mixture has paled and nearly doubled in volume. This can be done by a hand whisk but that seems very unnecessary to me.
- 6. Pour the mostly cooled chocolate mixture into the eggs and sugar and, preferably using a spatula but most implements will do, use a figure of 8 motion to combine the two. After a couple of minutes the mixture should be a deep brown colour.
- 7. If you're feeling fancy, sieve the flour and cocoa powder into the eggy mousse mixture, otherwise forgo the sieve and hope for the best and fold this in as well.
- 8. Lastly add the chocolate chunks and gently mix in.
- 9. Pour the mixture into the baking tray and pop it in the oven for 25 minutes, allowing lots of time to eat any leftover chocolate. It may need slightly longer, depending on your oven. The perfect time to take out your brownies is when it is still a little bit jiggly in the middle, as it will continue to cook once out of the oven.
- 10. After about 15 minutes it will be ready to be demolished!



SWINDON VILLAGE BAR

15TH APRIL 5PM

EASTER EGG HUNT AND FAMILY DISCO

TICKETS ARE £2 PER CHILD WHICH INCLUDES A FREE DRINK AND EASTER CHOCOLATE.



SWINDON VILLAGE BAR

 29^{TH} April 7.30pm

QUIZ AND BURGER

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

FOR TICKETS FOR EITHER EVENT OR MORE DETAILS,

PLEASE EMAIL:

SWINDONVILAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM

Answers to quiz:

- 1. The Teenagers
- 2. Peregrin (Pippin) Took
- 3. Spaghetti
- 4. The Joker
- 5. The Cardigans
- 6. Fred and George Weasley
- 7. Sir Patrick Moore
- 8. You strangle it
- 9. A naughty strawberry
- 10. Mascarpone

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

	VILLAGE ONGANISAT	10115
Footpaths Scouts, Cubs, Beavers	John Heathcott	527753 info@1sv-scouts.co.uk
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair	Jana Bridger	07913 911930
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	swindonvillagehall@gmail.com www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
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)	mgu5@hotmail.co.uk
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	07477894639 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 April 2022 Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail 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 Cllr. Bernard Fisher	255844 07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: https://swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE'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 24437 St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, admin@northchelt.org.u Cheltenham GL50 4PA			
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