# Village News

### in Swindon Village

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

No. 483 May 2022

#### <u>April 2022</u>

Friday 29th	Village Hall AGM 7pm Quiz and Burger 7.30pm
<u>May 2022</u>	
Thursday 5th	Borough Council election polling day
Sunday 8th	Garage Sale—see advert
Monday 9th	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. 7:30pm in the bar area of the Village Hall
Wednesday 18th	Annual Parish Meeting. 7:30pm in the Village Hall
Saturday 21st	Swindon Village Society. Nature Walk. Meet in the Village Hall car park at 9.30am. Non members welcome.
Sunday 22nd	Save the Countryside Walk 2pm
<u>June 2022</u>	
Saturday 4th	Jubilee celebrations at the Village Hall. See advert

#### 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".



## 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!

#### SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

As I write this article, nominations for the Parish Council have closed. I can reveal that, since only six names were put forward for nine seats, those people are duly elected. A poll on 5th May will not be required for the Parish Council. There will still be a poll for the Borough Council as three candidates have put their names forward for one seat. From 5th May onwards, our Parish Councillors will be: Alison Berry, Natalie Blankley, Sharon Collicutt, James Cornish, Helen Wells and Lisa Whitaker. Alison will be a new councillor and we are delighted to have her join the team.

On the 5th May we will lose Peter Allen and Yolande Booyse. Yolande has recently changed jobs and has decided to take a step back. She has a keen interest in sustainability and is willing to continue to help the Council as it looks to progress issues in that arena.

Peter has served the Council and the community for many years, latterly in the role of Chairman of the Parish Council. Peter's knowledge of planning matters is unparalleled. As members of the community, we don't necessarily see the work that goes on behind the scenes to maintain and improve our patch. Developers with deep pockets and teams of lawyers put forward planning applications that have massive implications for the area. They push out hundreds of documents that we have to review and critique. We can't turn back the tide; new homes are needed and the Government prioritises house building over maintaining Green Belts. We might not be able to stop these developments, but we are able to influence them to the benefit of the people living here now and the people who will be living in these developments in the future. We can shout and protest all we want but we are only listened to if our comments are grounded in material planning considerations. With Peter's knowledge and experience to guide us, we have been able to make a difference.

After the 5th May we will have six Parish Councillors and three vacancies. Please consider whether you could help our efforts by joining the council.

As part of Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean campaign we held a litter pick on 26th March. Our team (including three Parish Councillors) collected over 25 bags of rubbish. Well done!



People have expressed an interest in doing a regular litter sweep, perhaps focusing on different areas each time. We will announce dates in the Village News, on the website and on the noticeboards.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee continue to consider how the future of the Village Hall car park can be secured. We need to reach a mutually acceptable financial arrangement with the Borough Council, the current owners of the car park.

The renovation of the war memorial has now been completed and I hope people are pleased with the result. The good news is that the memorial is generally in good order. Beyond cleaning, some cracks have been repaired by inserting steel dowels to secure the stone.

Now on to the confusion that is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting. It is a legal requirement that we hold these two, different meetings.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is a normal council meeting except that the first business is to elect a chairman of the council. It is the equivalent of an AGM in a company or a club. In addition to electing a chairman we also take the opportunity to consider whether our procedures need to be updated and perform other administrative tasks. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is always the first Parish Council meeting after elections. This year the meeting will be held on 9th May in the bar area of the Village Hall. It is open to the public (the meeting, not the bar!).

The Annual Parish Meeting on the other hand is NOT a Parish Council meeting, though it is presided over by the Chairman of the Parish Council. At this meeting the Chairman gives residents his view of the events of the

the previous year and the Clerk (yours truly) gives a brief overview of where the money went. Perhaps I should say "how money has been used"; I would hate to leave you with the impression that the money has all gone... In law the meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June. This meeting will be held on the 18th May in the Village Hall and all residents are invited. Even Parish Councillors attending do so as members of the public.

Each year the Parish Council undergoes an internal audit conducted by an outside person or agency. They look at how we have complied with the law and with our own procedures. The audit will take place shortly and the results will be made public.

We will also soon be entering a period during which members of the public have the right to inspect the accounts of the Parish Council and all the associated documentation. Questions can be raised if people have concerns. We are an open and transparent organisation. We are proud of the way we conduct ourselves and welcome scrutiny.

More "down to earth" matters. We had been concerned about the rubbish bin in the Quat Goose Lane bus shelter. It was always filled with unpleasantness, rarely emptied and quite unnecessary.

I took a look at it with the intention of removing it myself but I fell at the first fence, failing to even work out how it was secured- I'm more of a spreadsheets man. A local resident agreed to take it on, removing bolts that could have secured the Titanic to its slipway then making good and repainting.







The result is fantastic and the cost to the parish was nothing. Once again a bit of public spiritedness saves the day. We can now move on to consider whether it would be practical to house a small sharing library in the bus shelter. In my last article I mentioned the quote that "the only certainties in life are death and taxes". To put you out of your misery, the quote is most often attributed to Benjamin Franklin. He included it in a letter in 1789. However, before that it was used by Daniel Defoe in 1726. The first recorded use was even earlier. Christopher Bullock, an actor, used it in 1716. This just goes to show that there is nothing new under the sun. And the origin of that quote? Answer next month!

Shaun Cullimore

## 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)

#### The Editor(s)

During Covid lockdowns, our focus changed dramatically.

Obviously there were many horrors and few of us were untouched by the restrictions imposed and their resulting effect. Many of us though, made the most of opportunities that we wouldn't ordinarily have time for, but our enforced downtime allowed; a walk around the village using our many footpaths, exercising with Joe Wicks, baking sourdough, virtual tours of museums, and taking advantage of the previously recorded plays and musicals, to name a few. There was much digital content available, and my favourite was by a poet called Tomas Roberts who publishes under the name Tomfoolery.

Now I am no expert in poetry, in fact I know very little (much to my English teacher's despair). I personally don't need the colour of the sky described in sixteen lines, but let a poem tell me a story and I'm hooked.

Tomfoolery released a poem called The Great Realisation. The premise was that an adult, reading to a child, reminisced about his own childhood in lockdown and how wonderful it had been going back to old values and slowing down.

This particular poem resonates to me, as it reflects the views of my own views as well as my friends and neighbours. I am trying to stick to this slower pace of life, but all around me factors are giving me little pushes and trying to corrupt me once again.

If you haven't already listened to The Great Realisation, I urge you to give it a go. If you already have, listen again and maybe it will remind us of the better parts of the last two years before we all forget and get caught up in the runaway train of life.

Karren.





## PICNIC IN THE PARK! SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022 FROM 12 - 5PM @ SWINDON VILLAGE PARK



## DOG SHOW

HAS YOUR POOCH GOT THE WAGGIEST TAIL? LOUDEST BARK? BEST TRICKS? BRING YOUR DOG ALONG ON THE DAY! THERE WILL BE LOTS OF CATAGORIES TO BE ENTERED!

## TOMBOLA PRIZES

WE ARE COLLECTING PRIZES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES AND UNWANTED / UNUSED GIFTS / ITEMS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS. PLEASE DONATE THEM TO THE VILLAGE HALL BAR ON A FRIDAY NIGHT OR CALL US TO COLLECT. EXAMPLES: BUSINESS GIFT VOUCHERS / FREE PASSES / ALCOHOL / FOOD PRODUCTS / BEAUTY PRODUCTS / BOOKS ETC. IN-DATE, UNOPENED ITEMS ONLY PLEASE!

## **VOLUNTEERS!**



TO MAKE THESE COMMUNITY EVENTS HAPPEN WE NEED HELP! PLEASE CAN YOU SPARE ANYTHING FROM ONE TO TWO HOURS ON THE DAY TO HELP? BE A JUDGE? HELP SET UP? RUN A STALL? THERE'S LOTS TO DO! IF YOU CAN LEND A HAND PLEASE TEXT OR CALL KARREN ON 07786 412538 - THANK YOU!!

Morth Cheltenh Team Ministry	am St. Lawrence's Church Swindon Village	
	Services	
	<b>he month:</b> ogether @ Ten Thirty all-age worship oly Communion	
All other Sund	ays:	
9.15am H	oly Communion	
6.30pm E	vening Prayer	
<b>Every Wednesday:</b> 10.00am to 12noon Church open for private prayer		
	vices are subject to change at short notice; t the Churchwardens if you want to check.)	

#### 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.

#### The Swindon Village Society

In March, Chris Witts told us tales from the river. His first job was as a hand on the barges which plied a trade on the River Severn and the Severn Estuary. These are difficult sailing areas. The tidal range in the estuary is one of the largest in the world while the Severn itself is quite a beast. The barges acted as coastal transport between the Welsh coastal harbours, the refineries on the coast near Bristol and up the Severn as far as Worcester- carrying fuel and agricultural supplies such as grain and flour.

Chris was working close by when the great Severn Railway Bridge disaster took place. On a very foggy day, two barges operating together hit one of the bridge's pylons while the river was in full flow. There was a resulting fire and explosion, the two barges were lost and several crew died. The bridge was effectively destroyed which cut the direct railway link between England and Wales until the tunnel was constructed several years later. It also cut the gas connection, which left many people without their primary source of heating; and the children on the English side who used to commute to school in Lydney were left high and dry. The bridge was dismantled, but if you walk the river bank the tower from which the railway bridge set off is still there. This was a very interesting talk about some fairly recent local history.

Now, on to the future. Because we were a bit unsure as to how the world was going to develop when we started on this year's programme, we only booked for the first half of the year. We are now filling the gaps. First June – I was supposed to give a talk on walking the Gloucestershire way. This is now moved to September to make way for a talk on Photographing Historical Costumes on Location. This ranges from the Medieval to the 1960s. I know this is a bit outside our normal subject matter but it follows a request and we will put it down as local history. Indeed I may well be needed as a model and I won't have to change from what I am wearing right now. I also hear that beards are on their way out so by June I could be right back in fashion. Do remember to bring a lady friend and chaps, this is a great opportunity to get in touch with your feminine side. The talk may include doublets and hose and just which sword to wear when meeting royalty.

We are currently working on finding a garden to visit in July. There are a couple of good possibilities in the Gretton area and negotiations are underway.

August is our garden party – members only so join now to book your

glass of lukewarm cava.

So in September it is me and the Gloucestershire way – sixty miles without even having to put your boots on.

In October, our own John Heathcott is putting together a talk on Gloucestershire's poets. This suits well because they were mostly very much concerned with the landscape of the county. Lately I have been walking Poets Path One out of Redmarley in large part to show people the daffodils in the area which have been magnificent this year. There are several Poets Paths in the area which was favoured by a distinct group of poets in the period after the First World War. Then there are several well noted poets from that war.

Finally in November, we will have a talk on the history of Stoke Orchard airfield which made a significant contribution in the Second World War.

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** 



#### Village Hall

It's all go at the Village Hall!

Hopefully you have been able to come to one of our community events that we are trying to hold once (ish) a month.

The latest was our fantastic Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday. The Children completed a succession of quizzes to gain their Easter Egg prize before joining the rest of the family for burgers, hot dogs and a disco. The weather was particularly kind to us and a lot of fun was had by all.

We are currently preparing for our AGM (the first in three years). Please come along to support this, especially if you would like to be involved in what goes on at the hall. You may not want the commitment of a trustee role, but we always welcome extra pairs of hands at our events, either on the day or planning them.

Straight after the AGM is our quiz. This will start around 7.30pm, with food available beforehand and between rounds. The fantastic The Dogs Event Catering will be with us again. Tickets can be booked by emailing <u>swindonvillagehall@gmail.com</u> and will be the usual £5 which gives you £3 towards your food and a drink from the bar.

Looking further afield, we are hoping the sun is shining down on us on June 4<sup>th</sup> for our Jubilee Celebrations. More detail will follow next month, but outline plans are that we will start at midday with a parade of crowns. You will be able to download a template from Facebook nearer the time, or just be creative and do your own thing.

We will then have a family picnic on the field followed by games and displays in the afternoon. The WI have kindly offered to help serve afternoon tea, coffee and cake.

In the evening, we will have a family disco with food from 6pm. You will be able to buy tickets nearer the time for this for the usual £5 event, food and drink package.

We are hoping that this will be a parish-wide event and give everyone a long-awaited opportunity to celebrate together. As with all of these events, any help on the day would be appreciated. Even if you can only spare an hour, these are some of the ways in which you can help:

- Setting up tables in the morning
- Decorating the hall and field
- Baking cakes for the afternoon tea

- Manning the bar for an hour during the day or evening
- Clearing away in the afternoon
- Moving tables into the hall for the disco between afternoon and evening
- Clearing up after the disco
- Donating new items for the tombola (these can be dropped off at 29 Dark Lane, box by front door, or 5 Manor Road in the porch. Call Karren to arrange collection 07786 412538)

#### 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 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

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

> Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Quiz #14

Hello all,

Unless the printing fairies work at lightning speeds, by the time you read this, the "Pub Quiz" written by yours truly at the Village Hall will have been and gone.

But fear not! There's always your monthly dose of quiz-action in the Village News. This edition focuses on events that have happened in May throughout history. You'll notice I have been very (very) restrained and only included one question about the most important event that happens this time each year... Eurovision!

Good luck.

**1.** In 2012, what object arrived in Cornwall on a flight from Athens, where it was picked up and carried by Ben Ainslie?

**2.** What subatomic particle was discovered by James Chadwick in 1932? It is named for its lack of charge.

**3.** In 1972, Edward, Duke of Windsor died, in which year did he both ascend to the throne and abdicate?

**4.** Voted as the best song to come out of the competition, what was the name of ABBA's Eurovision hit from 1974?

5. To what position was Boris Johnson re-elected in 2012?

**6.** After its destruction in World War 2, which rebuilt cathedral was consecrated in 1962?

**7.** Which pioneering horror novel published in 1897 begins with the following line: "3 May. Bistritz.—Left Munich at 8:35 P. M., on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning"?

**8.** What engineering marvel was opened in central Scotland, next to the Union Canal, in 2002?

**9.** Which hero of the Crimean War was born in northern Italy on the 12th of May 1820?

**10.** Which optimistic song released in 1996 repeatedly told us that "It's coming home"? (Note- "It" has yet to come home)

At last - Swindon Village Hall is pleased to present

### SWINDON VILLAGE ART AND CRAFT CLUB

#### ANNUAL EXHIBITION



#### SATURDAY 28TH MAY AT 2-4.30 PM

Come along and see our display of Club member's works of art and have a go at the raffle.

Entry is free and delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee are available.

Everybody is welcome. Please come along and support us.

## family crossword



my aunt 7. I call her " mom "

10. I call him " dad "

#### Down

 She is my sister, I am her ... 2. She is the mother of my mother

parents of my mother 8. I am the boy of my

9. She is the girl of my

11. He is with his wife 13. She is with her husband

Answers on page 22

Garlic Cheese stuffed Chicken

Ingredients:

- Boneless chicken thighs
- Bacon rashers
- Garlic cream cheese
- Spinach
- A variety of vegetables of your choosing; I recommend:
- Onions
- Peppers
- Courgettes
- Aubergines
- Celery
- Tomatoes
- Mushrooms

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees

2. First wilt the spinach, the quickest way to do this is to add it to some boiling water for around 20 seconds then immediately take it out and add it to cold water to cool it down and stop it from cooking.

3. While the spinach cools down, chop up your vegetables into around 1cm thickness, depending on the vegetable.

4. Add the veg to a large casserole dish with a small amount of olive oil, season with salt, pepper, and mixed herbs and mix it all together.

5. By now the spinach should be cooled, so you can drain it and mix in about 3 heaped tablespoons of the cream cheese. It's very important that the spinach is cooled otherwise the cheese will melt and make the next couple of steps very difficult... We learned this the hard way.

6. On a flat, clean surface, unfold the chicken thighs and place them opening up.

7. Spoon a heaped teaspoon of the cheese/spinach mixture into the middle of the chicken and fold the chicken back together

8. Lay the thickest part of the bacon over the opening of the chicken and wrap the rest of the bacon around. This may be easier with one person holding the chicken together and a second person wrapping the bacon around.

9. Put the bacon wrapped chicken on top of the veg. If you have any left over cream cheese and bacon you can make mini bacon-cheese parcels and/or dot some cream cheese amongst the vegetables.

10. Put in the dish uncovered in the oven for 40 minutes until the chicken is cooked through.

11. Best served with cous cous but rice or any other grain works as well!



#### Answers to crossword

#### <u>Across</u>

- 3. Grandfather
- 6. Cousins
- 10. Father
- 14. Sister
- 4. Aunt 7. Mother
- 12. Parents
- 15. Uncle

#### <u>Down</u>

- 1. Brother
- 5. Grandparents
- 9. Daughter
- 13. Wife
- 2. Grandmother
  8. Son
- 11.Husband

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#### Answers to quiz:

- 1. The Olympic Flame
- 2. The Neutron
- 3. 1936
- 4. Waterloo
- 5. Mayor of London
- 6. Coventry
- 7. Dracula by Bram Stoker
- 8. The Falkirk Wheel
- 9. Florence Nightingale

10. Three Lions- by David Baddiel, Frank Skinner and The Lightning Seeds 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 May 2022 Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

	SWINDON PARISH CO	UNCIL
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 2443 St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, admin@northchelt.org. 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