

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

*Your local newsletter sponsored by the Parish
Council and delivered by volunteers.*

February 2023 Edition No.490

Upcoming Events



FEBRUARY

- Monday 13th** **Parish Council Meeting.**
- Wednesday 15th** **Swindon Village Society.** 'The Birds of Gloucestershire' by David Cramp. Village Hall. 7.30. Visitors welcome.
- Sunday 19th** **Litter Picking.** Meet at Cross Hands 10.30.

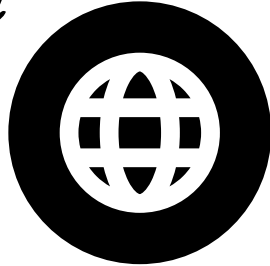
MARCH

- Monday 10th** **Parish Council Meeting.**
- Wednesday 18th** **Swindon Village Society.** Talk – 'H H Martyn' by James Rendell. See the article inside for more details on this important local industrialist. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.
- Sunday 26th** **Litter Picking.** Meet at Swindon Village Hall 10.30.
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A Connected Community!



Using your phone's camera to hover over each QR Code square below for direct link access.



Parish Council Website

For full, detailed information from and about the Parish Council visit www.swindonparish.org.uk



Parish Council Facebook Page

A public page for live information and news updates from the council:
www.facebook.com/swindonparish



Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

A private group for the discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help in the local community.



Anti-Social Behaviour

If you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.



Ring 101 (you may be charged for this phone call) or **email**
101@gloucestershire.police.uk

NB: Get an INCIDENT REPORT NUMBER and let the parish know about it. If the police are not made aware of the problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM.



A Note From The Editor

It's mid January as I'm writing this, so it seems acceptable to wish you all Happy New Year! By the time you read this, the festive season may seem a distant memory, but I hope the sentiment still rings true.

The New Year often means new beginnings and fresh starts. Many people start diets, new exercise regimes or adopt other strategies to streamline their life in some way.

Personally, I'm not a big fan of New Year resolutions. In the past I've felt guilty when I've "failed" and put pressure on myself at a time when as a family we are often exceptionally busy. I also think that if a change is worth doing, it's valid at any time of year, so why wait?

The time has come however for a new look for the Village News. I do hope that you like it. My thanks to the extremely talented Maija for her help in putting this together and in advance for her patience in teaching an old dog new tricks!

The Parish Council kindly fund the publication of this magazine and the adverts in it go a small way to offset the cost.

We are keen to attract new businesses to promote themselves over the coming months. We are offering a unique opportunity:

**Place an advert with us for two months entirely free of charge
and try before you buy! ***

There are no strings attached. Let's promote and support local businesses. Please contact the editors for further information on village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

Karren

* Usual monthly advertising rates:

Whole page £36, Half page £18, quarter page £9



Swindon Parish Council

In mid November I was having to think about what I wanted to say regarding Christmas. Now I'm rounding up some Christmas topics in a piece that you won't see until February!

Back in June (blimey!) we made ex-Chair of the Parish Council, Peter Allen, a Freeman of the Parish. Peter has served the community for many years and is only the second person to receive this accolade. In early December we invited Peter and Eileen to a dinner to round off the year and presented him with his certificate.



The presentation was made by Councillor James Cornish, our new Chair. Well done and thank you to Peter. Peter is an authority on planning matters and we hope he will continue to offer us advice and guidance.



Swindon Parish Council

Every year Karen invites the Parish Council to enter the annual Christmas Tree Festival. We always have the best of intentions but somehow never get round to actually doing it.

This year we were delighted to receive an offer of help from Steph and her son Ethan. They produced a wonderful Christmas tree for us. Thank you so much.

Here is our tree!

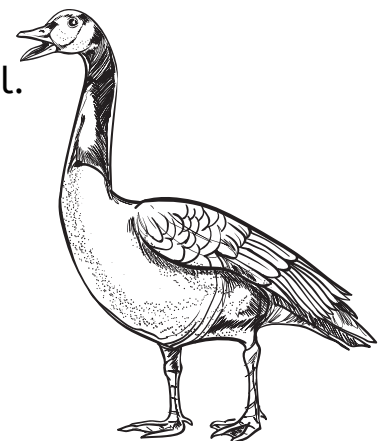


A huge thank you to Ian Brown, our volunteer allotments manager, for collecting the allotment rents and generally looking after the running of the allotments on our behalf. The income is important to the Parish Council and enables us to keep our precept (and your council tax) as low as possible. I'm not sure how the allotment holders (or their crops) are coping with global warming. We seem to have record breaking warm weather followed by record breaking wet weather!

Speaking of the precept, the Parish Council has now set its budget for 2023-2024. We plan to spend £17,677. To keep costs to parishioners as low as we can we plan to collect £12,175 via council tax (33p per week for a household in council tax band D) and make up the remaining £5,501 by drawing on reserves.

In 2021-2022 we slightly reduced our precept; in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 we froze it at the same level.

Setting the precept requires a lot of thought. We want to collect enough money to address local issues and to help local people. However, we recognise that these are hard times for many people.





Swindon Parish Council

We did what we could to help people during the pandemic and now, with the increasing cost of living, we know that food banks are operating locally. There is one operating at the school.

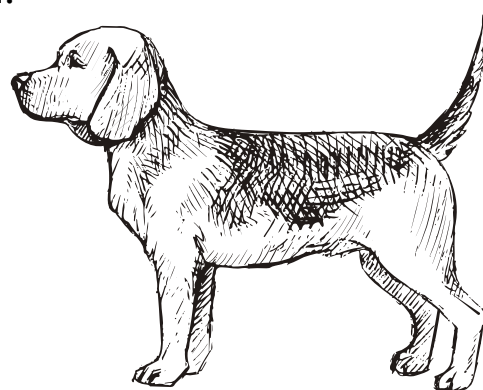
Anyone can use it, not just parents of pupils. Simply buzz at the gate to enter between 3:30 and 4:30pm on school days to take what you need or to donate what you can spare.

We should be proud that we live in a community that looks after its own, and the Parish Council is determined to play a full part in that whilst keeping its costs as low as possible.

I have previously reported that we were investigating the provision of a warm space for local folk to meet during the day for tea or coffee and companionship during the toughest winter months. Sadly we have not been able to identify a suitable venue. The church is very difficult to get warm, the Village Hall is already in use during the day and the Cross Hands has been unresponsive. We have struck out on this one but we did our best. Thank you James for trying.



Back to the Christmas theme- and Alison, our newest councillor, is now our volunteer snow warden. Her friends decided to recognise this with a very appropriate item of Personal Protective Equipment. Alison is also our flood warden. Perhaps we should get her a wetsuit? Most people take a step back when volunteers are being sought- not Alison!





Swindon Parish Council

Thinking further ahead, we are starting to plan for the Annual Parish Meeting. There is an advertisement for it elsewhere in this issue. Please save the date (26th April) and come and meet us! In requesting the date I was told that it would have been a Wine Club night but that the club had folded. Another “institution” going the way of the WI, the Youth Club, the Wednesday Club and others.



There is now a bookcase in the bus shelter in Quat Goose Lane. People can leave books, take books and exchange books. It is all very informal. This was an initiative from Karren, who has been “hosting” a bookcase outside her house. The weather was getting the better of it (and the books). We’ll see how this works. We have Joan to thank for obtaining the bookcase and Karren’s husband Matt for fitting it.

There is another one in the Village Hall, so get reading!

I’ve been giving you lots of positive messages so far but I’m going to have to throw in a negative one sadly. We have had another example of fly tipping.

If you see anyone doing this please report them. Even better, take photographs (without placing yourself at risk). How can these people (and the irresponsible dog owners) look at themselves in the mirror?

Also, we are continuing to see lots of discarded nitrous oxide “laughing gas” capsules that are used recreationally. It is not illegal to possess the gas but it is illegal for it to be sold to persons under the age of 18. At the very least discarding these containers in the street and in the countryside is an offence and anyone doing this should be reported to the police.



Swindon Parish Council



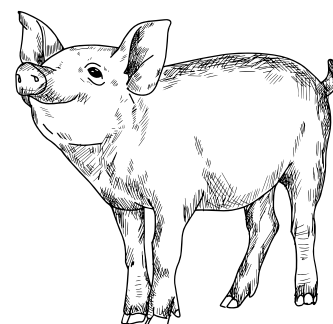
I seem to have drifted away from the Christmas theme so let's get back to it.

In September I told you how tickled I was with the “woolly hat” that had been fitted on the post box in Church Road. On my last visit this had been transformed into a complete nativity scene. We clearly have people with skill and imagination in our midst. I think it is wonderful and uplifting! And by the time you read this there will only be 327 sleeps ‘til Christmas.

Despite it being February I can't resist it...**Happy New Year!**

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council





Annual Parish Meeting

26 April 2023 : 7.30pm : Swindon
Village Hall

Everyone welcome
Refreshments provided



Come and meet your team of councilors and hear what we've been up to lately.

Have your say on our priorities for the coming year and beyond.

Topics to include: Major developments; transport; local green space and parks;
transport; community events; the Coronation; and more!





Community Litter Pickers



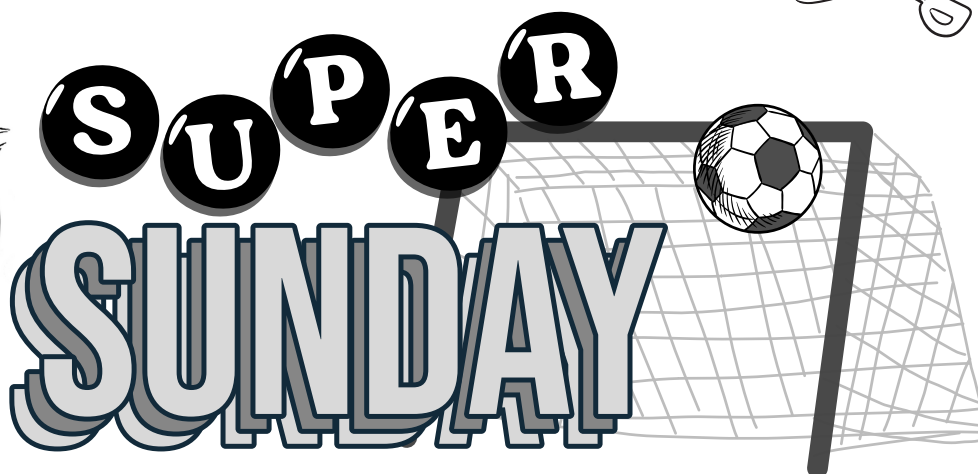
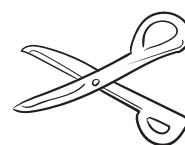
Sundays 10.30-12pm

19th February - starting from Cross Hands pub Tewkesbury Rd

26th March - starting from Swindon Village Hall

30th April - starting from Cross Hands pub on Tewkesbury Rd

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50p off bacon rolls with this voucher.

Please do not photocopy this voucher as only original is valid



Hello one and all!

I hope you haven't missed our newsletter (and this quiz) too much over the new year's break? As it's February, this edition is focused on St Valentine's day and love in general.

Good luck! (Answers on page 25)

1. In what city would you find the "Pont des Arts"? The bridge covered in "love locks"
2. Which gangster orchestrated the St Valentine's day massacre of 1929?
3. Which British singer released the album and subsequent single about amorous dogs in 1985?
4. If you were born on Valentine's day, which star sign would you be?
5. Which confectionery manufacturer invented the first heart-shaped box of chocolates?
6. Which famous spoilsport banned Valentine's day in the 17th Century?
7. Which fruit is sometimes called a love apple?
8. St Valentine is also the patron saint of apiarists- who are they?
9. What is the best-selling love song of all time, according to the UK charts? It spend 15 weeks at number one in the 90s.
10. How many times is Elizabeth Bennet proposed to in "Pride and Prejudice"?

Wombles of the West

Thank you to our January litter pick team!

We had a great turnout today and a huge collection of all sorts of rubbish, from crisp packets in the hedgerows to footballs in muddy ditches. Thank you so much to our great team who climbed into brambles, got very muddy and did a good workout lifting heavy bags.

It's so lovely that we care for the beautiful area that we live in. It was fantastic to see our regular Wombles and some new neighbours too.

Thank you all!





Local Food Pantry

Swindon Village Primary School is operating a food pantry. It is available to all, not just to parents of pupils. To access the pantry please buzz at the school gate between 3:30 and 4:30pm on school days. Take what you need, donate what you can spare. Donations can be left in reception.

At the moment the pantry has plenty of pasta and tinned soup, tomatoes and beans. **The pantry cannot accept fresh produce apart from eggs.**

The following items would be particularly welcome:

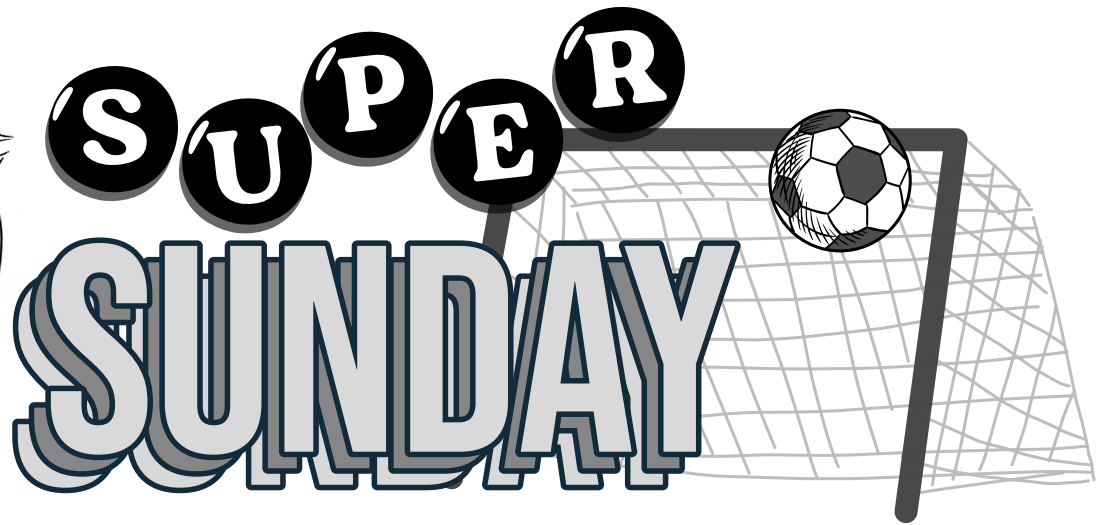
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Hair and bath items
- Teabags
- Instant Coffee
- Boxes of cereals
- Biscuits
- Tinned peas, carrots, fruit
- Cereal bars
- Cleaning products
- Washing powder and liquid
- Toilet rolls
- Squash
- Tinned meats
- Pasta sauces

THANK YOU!





Swindon Village Hall



**KEEPING YOU WARM EVERY SUNDAY DURING THE
PARK FOOTBALL SEASON 10AM-1PM!**

Serving fresh bacon baps, hot and cold drinks
and snacks from the Village Hall bar.

Everyone welcome! Come and say hello!



Join Us!

Our joint vision as the new Village Hall Committee was to bring the
community together, young and old.

The **day to day operation** of our village hall and it's **community events** are
run by a committee of volunteers. We are looking for more committee
members to join and help us make decisions about the village hall and its
future. However, **you don't have to be a committee member to help!**

We also rely on support from our lovely locals to help run the bar, plan
and set up events, offer maintenance support and lots more!

Think you could help? Please get in touch!



St. Lawrence Church

God's Magic Kingdom

As a child, I always enjoyed “The Magic of Disney”, a programme that used to show clips from a variety of Disney films; it always seemed to be shown on a bank holiday Monday. As an adult, I have been fortunate to holiday in the Sunshine State and experience the Magic Kingdom with the family. Even now, in my 60s, I have subscribed to the television channel Disney + in order to get my fix!

One of the many highlights of Disney is the parades that take place on a daily basis. Each night in the Magic Kingdom sees the spectacle of the Electric Parade, when huge floats make their way through the park carrying all the well-loved Disney characters illuminated by many thousands of lights. It really is a sight to see. The evening concludes with a giant firework extravaganza- topped off with Tinkerbell flying through the well-lit sky. Now I may well be 60+ plus but it really is still magical!

Our first visit was one that will always be special. Standing on Main Street and looking up towards the Castle conjured up many emotions – something of a Eureka moment. The Magic Kingdom, illuminated against the summer night, reminded me of the Kingdom of God illuminated by his son.

We are all called to be disciples, to follow Jesus and live the Christian life; and by doing so we will gain entry into the Kingdom. St Paul, in his letter to the Romans, talks of gifts that should characterise every Christian – ‘let love be genuine, hating evil, holding fast to the good’.

Just as the Magic Kingdom of Disney is open to all those who wish to revisit their childhood, and immerse themselves in a fantasy world of make believe, so too is the Kingdom of God open to all who wish to accept the call of Jesus to become disciples and follow and share in Christ's work.

Linda Biggs – Reader in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry



St. Lawrence Church

nc North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

St. Lawrence's Church
Swindon Village

Regular 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.)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 22nd February at 7.00pm

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

to commemorate the beginning of Lent



St. Lawrence Church

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.

The office is not currently staffed regularly but phone calls and emails are being picked up. Contact the Office on 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact the clergy by email:

Rev. Nick Bromfield, Team Rector nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
or via the office.

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed in to the family of the church

Cayden Joe Goodwin 27th November



Memorial Service and Interment of Ashes

We commemorated the life of

Penelope Jane Manford 17th December



St. Lawrence Church

Christmas Tree Festival

There was a splendid array of trees at the Christmas Tree Festival, with designs varying from traditional to “outside the box”, e.g. Mo Farah standing in a dusting of dried thyme! Have a look at the photos on the parish website.

The most popular tree, as voted for by the visiting public, was the Mary Godwin Under 5s’ baby tree, displaying the time of day that each child had been born, certainly a memorable “Moment In Time” for any parent. Chatterbox and their colourful butterflies were close runners-up.

The hamper raffle prizes were won by Sue Davies, Harry Kear and Mary Halliwell.

The weekend event raised just over £500 for church funds. The surprise snowfall on the Sunday added a touch of sparkle but unfortunately was probably responsible for the low attendance that day; but I take my hat off to the three groups of people who crunched up the church path in the last half hour before closing time.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and run the event, and a big thank you to our generous visitors.

Karen Evans

St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox



Every Tuesday
10.30am to 12noon

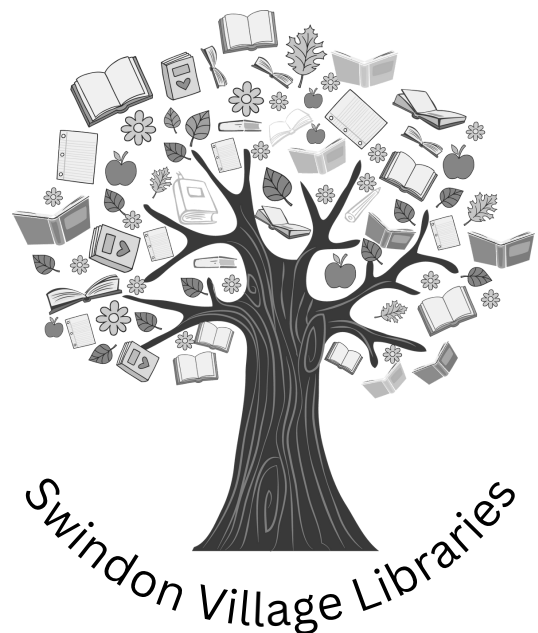


Pop in any time
Coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about anything and everything.
Everyone's welcome, old or new.
(It's free!)

DARK LANE LIBRARY

The Eagle eyed among you may have noticed an absence of books at the Dark Lane Library recently.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to make it weatherproof and the books were suffering as a result.



Luckily, we had a plan B and C (!). We have installed a small library in the entrance hall at the village hall. Obviously, we can't provide general access during the week, but the hall should be open on a Friday evening and Sunday morning when the bar room is open. There aren't many libraries where you can pop along and have a coffee, pastry or even a bacon roll, so why not take advantage?

After discussions with the council, we were also allowed to put a library in the bus shelter on Quat Goose Lane. Our new volunteer librarian will be Joan Rayner and donated books can be left with her at 17 Rivelands Road.



The Swindon Village Society

By the time you read this, we will have held our AGM, but as I write this we have not. However, I am prepared to make some predictions. The committee will be re-elected unopposed including the poor, long suffering Chairman. With luck, no one will have raised the matter of his title and whether he should now be referred to the Chairperson, the Chair or, indeed, the Chairthingy; but you never know.

The big thing is that we are still going- which given the demise of several local societies or other forums since the lockdown is good news.

We have a full programme for the year including talks on: 'The Birds of Gloucestershire'; 'H H Martyn' the very important local industrialist; 'Building a Medieval Cathedral' which may come in handy given the size of the proposed new local developments; 'The Severn Bore', the one on the river – not me; 'The Gloucestershire Regiment at the Imjin River' a very important battle in the Korean War and 'Pilgrims and Pilgrimages in Gloucestershire' which may explain the ancient carving on the entrance to St Lawrence's Church. There will also be a guided walk around Painswick; a visit to a local garden and the (in)famous August Garden Party.

In fact it is worth expanding a bit on the H H Martyn talk in March. Martyn's and Co was once the largest employer in this area. They made many fittings for the great ocean liners of the time such as The Queens Mary and Elizabeth, decorations and fittings in Parliament including the Speaker's chair and ending



The Swindon Village Society

up being joint founders of the Dowty Company and the Gloster Aviation Company which made many great aircraft including Britain's first jet aircraft which was built where the Regent's Arcade now stands. It should make for a fascinating talk.

Since this is the first article of 2023, I will now repeat a paragraph for my last input just in case you were not paying attention. For those of you who do not really know what the Society is about, our main interest is in keeping Swindon Village a reasonable place to live. We are not against development; we just want it to take place without adversely impinging on the lives of those of us who already live here. To that end, knowledge of local history and local wildlife can be very useful in ameliorating some of the dafter ideas put forward by developers. So do think of coming to join us. The lockdowns have taken a toll on the number of members we have, speakers seem to be increasing their costs in line with inflation rates in Turkey and no doubt the Village Hall will need to make some increases to cover heating costs. New members are always welcome; you don't have to turn up to anything except the Garden Party where we are considering a three line whip but it is great if you do come. The price is worth it for the post-talk tea and chat alone.

Family membership is £20, single membership is £10.
And visitors are welcome at any meeting for £2.
We will be glad to see you .

Barry Simon





Bekah's Bites

Chicken, Salami and Mozzarella Bake

(Serves 4)



Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 ball of Mozzarella (or equivalent in grated)
- ☐ 4 Boneless Chicken Thighs
- ☐ Thin sliced Salami (about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a packet)
- ☐ Veg of your choosing – I like courgettes, carrots, mushrooms, peppers, onions, celery and olives
- ☐ 1 carton of Passata
- ☐ Tomato puree
- ☐ Crushed Garlic
- ☐ Chilli (optional)
- ☐ Herbs – I like oregano, basil, thyme and rosemary but mixed herbs does the same job

This can be served with rice, pasta or gnocchi (I like gnocchi best)

Method:

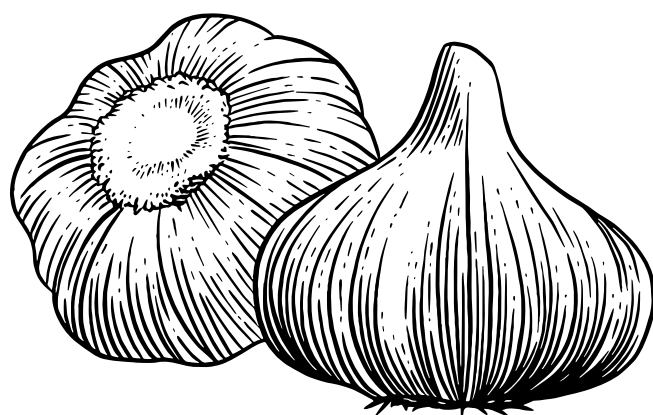
1. Cut up the hard veggies you have, onions, celery and carrots with the garlic and chilli and add them to a frying pan with oil and cook for a couple of minutes.
2. Cut up the chicken into bite sized pieces and add to the pan until mostly cooked through.
3. Add the rest of your cut vegetables and cook for a further five minutes.



4. Add the passata and about a tablespoon for tomato puree to the pan, rinse out the passata carton with a little water and add this too.
5. Add all your desired herbs and salt and pepper to taste.
6. Cut your salami into quarters but save four slices to the side.
7. Add the quarters of salami to the sauce and leave to simmer for about 10 minutes.
8. If using pasta or gnocchi, cook it mostly and add it to an oven proof dish with the sauce and mix together. If serving with rice just add the sauce to the dish and cook the rice separately.
9. On top layer the remaining salami chopped in half and break up the ball of mozzarella over the top.
10. Cook in the oven at 180 degrees for around 30 minutes, or more depending how crispy you'd like the top.

11.

Enjoy!



Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about 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 loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. 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.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England website) 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

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



SPECIAL OFFER !

Have a local business or can offer local services?

Book four months of advertising and only pay for two. Months do not have to run consecutively. We print and distribute this monthly Village News publication to the whole of Swindon Village Parish direct to people homes. That's over a 1,000 homes!
Contact the editors for more details.

Quiz Answers

1. Paris 2. Al Capone 3. Kate Bush (Hounds of love) 4. Aquarius 5. Cadbury 6. Oliver Cromwell 7. Tomato 8. Beekeepers 9. Three (Mr Collins and Mr Darcy x2) 10. Love is All Around- Wet Wet Wet

Massage FOR Hands

Hands are usually so active that they seldom have the chance simply to receive touch. This is why hand massage can feel so surprisingly enjoyable and calming!

Massaging the hand can:

- Increase dexterity & stimulate the nervous system
- Alleviate pain
- Relax muscles
- Remove tension in joints & tendons
- Stimulate circulation



*Gift Vouchers
Available!*

**Pauline Cullimore t. 01242 517991 m. 07910 539263
e. pauline.cullimore@blueyonder.co.uk**

PW Footcare

Foot Health Practitioner

P. White.Dip SAC FHP, RGN, BSc (Hons)



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Contact Pushpa for any further information on

07873575560

01242 250691

Email: pushpa@pwfootcare.co.uk

Website: pwfootcare.co.uk

SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths John Heathcott 527753
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers info@1sv-scouts.co.uk

Rainbow Guider Hannah Butler 07464 784155

Village Hall Chair Jana Bridger 07913 911930
 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
 www.svhall.co.uk

Village Hall Booking Secretary Jana Bridger 07514 594351

Play Group (Playgroup hours) 690479

Winemakers' Secretary Roy Harper 662861

School Headteacher Geraint Mills 690016

Friends of the School Caroline Williams chairfosvps@gmail.com
 Sarah Martin

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.L. 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. We have had a request to provide contact details for the classes held at the hall. We are currently compiling this and hope to include it next month.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th February 2023

Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons
 at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. James Cornish (Chairman)	07950 196709
Clr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
Clr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
Clr. Alison Berry	07754 006634

Vacancy 1 *(please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)*

Vacancy 2 *(please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)*

Vacancy 3 *(please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)*

Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council) 07833 089435
parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

Cheltenham Borough Councillors

Clr. Flo Clucas	255844
Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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Allotments Manager

Ian Brown	528683
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Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Revd. Nick Bromfield, Team Rector	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Hugh Evans, Churchwardens	241678
May Shurmer, Churchwardens	241033
Hugh Evans, Tower Captain	241678
John Collins, Organist	511950

North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office

St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA	244373 admin@northchelt.org.uk
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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.