

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

April 2024 Edition No.502


Upcoming Events



APRIL

- Sunday 7th** **Litter Pick.** Meet 10.30am at Cross Hands
- Monday 8th** **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area
- Wednesday 17th** **Swindon Village Society.** Talk – ‘Belas Knapp and Humblebee’ Elizabeth Poraj-Wilczndka will tell us about the archaeology and landscape of that ancient site. Village Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

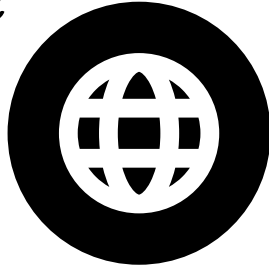
MAY

- Sunday 5th** **Litter Pick.** Meet 10.30am at Village Hall
- Monday 13th** **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area
- Tuesday 14th** **Annual Parish Meeting** 7.30pm Village Hall
- Saturday 18th** **Swindon Village Society.** Walk – John Heathcott will take us for a walk around Northleach. Meet at the Village Hall car park at 9.30. We will amalgamate cars and hopefully be able to offer lifts. Visitors Welcome
- 

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.



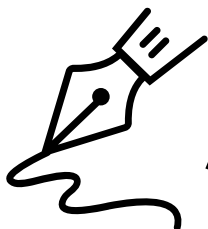
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

We've just returned from the very hectic Easter Egg Hunt at the Village Hall. The weather had kindly turned dry mid-morning, which meant that it could go ahead outside, but oh my goodness the mud! Several children had fallen over in it and a few had splashes all over their clothes. There were a few worried parents, but it didn't spoil the children's fun at all.

It has made me wonder how many times we have put off doing something because the weather, or other factor isn't quite right? What might we have missed out on by not going ahead as planned?

A walk in the rain with small children in wellies, letting them splash away instead of telling them to avoid the puddles is great fun.

A trip to the beach, when the sunshine hasn't arrived, walking against a blustery wind is exhilarating.

As the fabulous Billy Connolly says "There's no such thing as bad weather – only the wrong clothes". So, let's take his advice, embrace the mud – but maybe pack a change of outfit!

Some of you may remember that we have invited our advertisers to write a piece for the Village News giving us a little more information about themselves or the service they provide. I'm delighted to say that three of them have taken us up and you can read more about them later in the edition.

Karren



Swindon Parish Council

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

I generally try to incorporate a bit of humour in these articles, but that is difficult this month. Your parish councillors and I are reeling from the news of the death of our dear Helen. Helen Wells joined the Parish Council in 2011. We will pay a proper and considered tribute to Helen in due course when we have had time to come to terms with the news. For now, suffice to say that Helen was a warm and generous person who, as a parish councillor and local activist, worked tirelessly for the benefit of us all. A very sad and shocking loss, our thoughts are with Helen's loving family.

On to the business of the parish that Helen cared so much about.

The major tree works required in the Amenity Area are scheduled to take place on the 14th May. I raised the issue of potential damage or destruction of birds' nests. The tree surgeons have assured me that they will act with appropriate care.

There are elections for the Borough Council on 2nd May 2024. I mentioned in a previous article (in the September 2023 edition of the Village News, available on our website) that boundary changes were being made. Please refer to that article for the detail, but the headlines are:

If you live south of the Tewkesbury Road (i.e. in River Leys, Hayden Road, Newland View, Glynbridge Gardens and Riverview Way):

- You will now be part of the Springbank Ward of the Borough Council.
- You will NOT vote at Swindon Village Hall; you will have a polling station closer to where you live.



Swindon Parish Council

If you live elsewhere in the parish:

- You will continue to vote for Borough Councillors that represent Swindon Village Ward.
- You will vote at Swindon Village Hall.

For EVERYONE:

- You will need photo ID to be able to vote.
- If you were in Swindon Parish before the boundary changes you STILL live in Swindon Parish, though you might be in a different Borough Council ward.

You may be aware that a booking system has been introduced at the Swindon Road recycling centre. The Parish Council expressed concern that it was not possible to book a “same day” slot. This makes it necessary to plan ahead. We are told that this is being fixed, and it should be so by the time you read this.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Village Hall on 14th May. More details to follow. We would love to see you there.

On to planning matters. Anyone travelling along Manor Road will see work has started on the 260 house Swindon Farm development fronting Manor Road. We have pointed out that the pavements are becoming very muddy and asked that this be addressed.

Regarding the proposed Home Farm housing development, both National Highways and Gloucestershire Highways have expressed concern at the proposed traffic arrangements. We are delighted that they are supportive of the position adopted by the Parish Council and local residents.



Swindon Parish Council

Permission for the Selco builders' merchant at the junction of Runnings Road and Wymans Lane was granted with the stipulation that lorries loading and unloading should do so within the curtilage of the premises. On a fairly regular basis this stipulation is being ignored, causing traffic chaos.

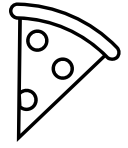


It has been reported to the Planning Enforcement team.

We cannot stem the tide of developments but we will continue to do all that we can to ensure that developments are sympathetic and sustainable and to see that the interests of local residents are respected. Helen would be pleased.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

FREE SLICE OF PIZZA!



Annual Parish Meeting

14th May 2024: 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; and more!



**for any official business, only 18+ residents may vote*

Dear Business Owner,

As you may be aware, in April 2023 we secured planning permission to deliver 266 new homes for Cheltenham.

Known as Regents Village, the development will consist of a range of house types and apartments in accordance with the housing needs of local residents.

The development will be a non-gas community, with air source heat pumps and solar panels being provided instead adding to the sustainability credentials of the development.

To progress this project, it is necessary for us to create an access road to the site to enable us to commence construction work. As part of these works, we will also be introducing new cycle routes which will improve the journey for cyclists around the area.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to advise you that from 29th April until the 23rd August, we will be closing a small section of Manor Road. During this time, a diversion will be in place. Please see attached copy of the traffic management plan for more details.

In order for us to provide regular updates on how the works are progressing, we have created a dedicated website: <https://resident-portal.co.uk/swindonfarm/>

Here you will find all the information you need about these works and will be able to read about the progress being made.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you, but we intend to keep the disruption to a minimum and I thank you for your patience during this time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on the following email where a member of the project team will respond to you swindonfarm@persimmonhomes.com

Kind regards

Russ Griffin
Managing Director
Persimmon Homes – South Midlands

This was received from Persimmon Homes. It includes the website link for you to look up more information and also has a map showing the details of the closure of Manor Road. Unfortunately, the detail is too small to replicate in the Village News.
Karren - Editor



Meet the advertisers...

Cheltenham Horticultural Society meet on the second Thursday of the month at Century Hall, Bishop Rd Shurdington, GL51 4TB starting at 7.30

At each meeting we have an interesting speaker on various garden related topics usually with colour slides. We finish the meeting with free tea/coffee and biscuits and always have a table of plants for sale. We have 2 day trips a year to interesting gardens plus an annual garden related holiday. Annual membership is £18 per person or £3 per visit More information can be found at:

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk

or phone 01242 691135 Maggie Membership Secretary / Publicity

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show

Many stalls including: Locally grown plants for sale,
Homemade Cakes, Handicrafts, Books,
Refreshments available.

WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JD ****new venue**

WHEN: Sunday 7th April 2023 12.30 to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults £2.50 accompanied under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





The Swindon Village Society

I can't start with any other subject than the very sad recent death of Helen Wells. Helen and her family, Richard and Emma, were the only life members of the Village Society. This reflected the fact that Helen did more than anyone else to meet the aims of our society – to keep the Village a pleasant place to live. She worked tirelessly to mitigate the effects of the plan to build around us in the green belt and was working on this to the end as a member of the Parish Council. Rich and Emma are very much in our thoughts and will remain life members. The Save The Countryside walk this year will be in Helen's memory.

But, now, on to our February meeting. The subject was cider. When much younger I did occasionally partake of a glass or two but almost everything that Andy Meller told us about the history of the drink in Gloucestershire came as news to me. There were facts such as that there are over a thousand varieties of apple that can be used; that apples first arrived here from the apple forests of Kazakhstan; that once upon a time even posh people drank it from goblets that looked like a champagne glass to me; that in the eighteenth century, when a small tax was put onto cider makers, there were over six thousand makers in Gloucester alone. So, cider has been in Gloucestershire for a long, long time. However, with the rise of wine drinking for the masses and the resurgence of real ales, cider lost its place and consumption tailed off. Major local cider makers closed down and for a while it looked as though the drink might be forgotten. However, there has been some resurgence recently with the arrival of craft ciders. There are now nineteen artisan cider makers in Gloucestershire.

So in the summing up afterwards I did say that my aim would be to try some artisan cider within the week. And I proudly have to say that I did just that. A trip to Stroud Saturday market found a stall, an artisan and a bottle of cider that really did live up to the hype. So, why not give it a go yourself? It certainly worked for me.



The Swindon Village Society

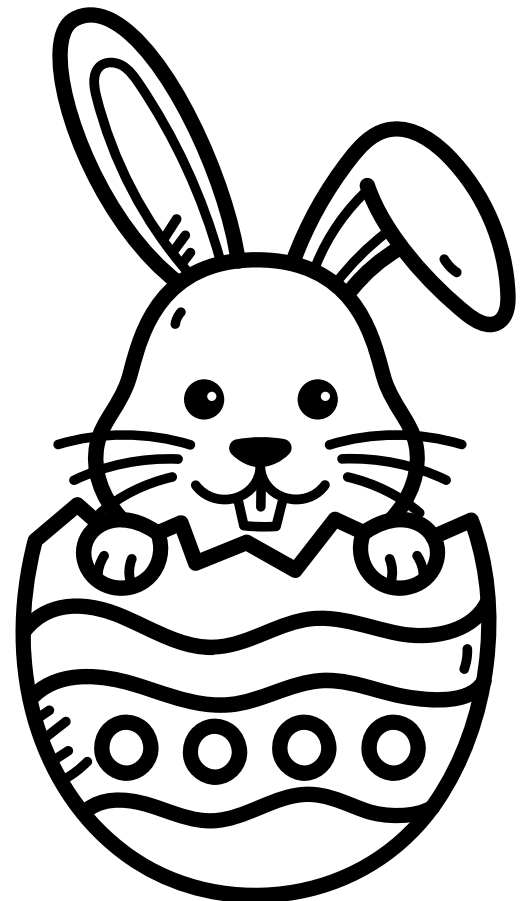
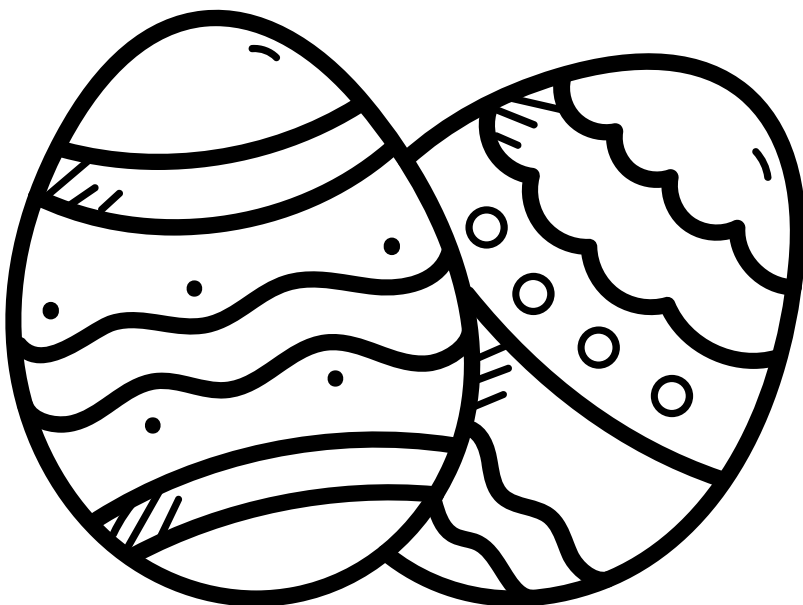
And if you want a reminder of the old days there is a cider press in the grounds of Upper Farm, Brockhampton less than a mile away.

So, what do we have for the future? Well in April our talk will be about the five thousand year old burial site at Belas Knapp and the nearby woodland. Find out about it and then make it the destination for a family walk and you can show off your knowledge to the kids.

Then in May John Heathcott will take us on a walk around Northleach, a town with a long history and a fantastic church. Also an old prison if you are bad!

Annual membership is £10 or £20 for two or a family. And for those who actually read my piece last month we did get our 88th member.

Barry Simon





St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS

This month, football fans around the world will be, I am sure, watching the F.A. Cup semi-final. The teams will be making last-minute adjustments to their strategies and line ups and the preparations have been underway for months. So I wondered what it was that makes a good team? Not just in football, but generally. We live in a society built up of teams, whether they are schools, workplaces, our homes and families or our communities. We live in a diverse world where the pace of life can feel a bit stressful and busy. We are all different; we each have skills which are unique to us and make us the people we are.

In our Swindon Village community, we have many hard-working people who go the extra mile to make sure the Village is a safe, clean, welcoming place to live. As we come to terms with the unexpected loss of Cllr. Helen Wells, perhaps this is a time when we can think about what contribution we might be able to make to our neighbourhood. When a group of individuals work together as a team, for the common good, it can have transformative results.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says: "Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house."



Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

I wonder what gifts you may have to bring to the local community team?

Help needed at St. Lawrence's Church!

We are looking for a team of volunteers (ideally 8) to help maintain the churchyard on a monthly basis. It will involve mowing and strimming once a month at your own convenience.

If we find enough volunteers we can divide the churchyard into sections and each person would be responsible for their patch.

If you feel you can help us please contact one of the churchwardens.

May Shurmer, 01242 241033

Hugh Evans, 01242 241678





St. Lawrence's Church

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

St. Lawrence's Church is part of the



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 Karen in the Team Office on 01242 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact the Team Vicar, Revd. Jacqueline Henson, by email: revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com or by phone: 01242 220053 or via the office as above.

Easter Services at St. Lawrence

Good Friday - 29th March

2.00pm Good Friday Meditation

Easter Sunday - 31st March

9.15am Holy Communion

Please note there will be no evening service today

St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox

Every Tuesday

10.30am to 12noon

Pop in for coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about
anything and everything.



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

Meet the advertisers...

We are Moosh at The Site! We are an independent coffee shop located on Chosen View Road within Kingsditch trading estate.

Moosh is a Cheltenham-based business with another branch in Charlton Kings.

We are highly passionate about quality coffee and source our beans from Clifton Coffee. As well as serving delicious cakes and fresh, homemade sandwiches, toasties, bagels and breakfast baps, we are proud to stock The Artisan Baker pastries and bread.

Whether you fancy a hearty Moosh Big Breakfast Bap or something lighter like porridge or granola, there is something for everyone at Moosh at The Site. There is both indoor and outdoor seating available, we welcome dogs, and our friendly baristas will make you feel at home, 7 days a week. Monday through Friday we are open 7:30-14:30, and weekends are 9:00-14:00.



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24 Chosen View Road, Kingsditch
Trading Estate, Cheltenham, GL51 9LT



Hello Gardeners!

Spring's here and willing you to grow more this year. If I could suggest a new growing season resolution this year, it'd be grow more from seed, it's so rewarding!

In this article I wanted to share with you how you can grow cut flowers in the coming months. I have to say last year it was very satisfying to be able to cut a bunch of Sweet Pea and Cosmos flowers every so often, to bring inside for the Wife to enjoy. I even had my Son Cayden picking them to give to his Mum.

Sweet Peas were definitely the favourite; easy to grow, smell amazing, bees love them and they self seed, so once you've bought one packet you will never have to buy them again. Sweet Pea seeds can either be sown direct outdoors now or in late autumn as they're hardy to -5. They can grow in pretty much any soil type, they even grew in my 50/50 clay mix raised vegetable beds. One thing to note is that they are climbers that can reach up to 2m in height. Space them at least 20cm apart if planting multiples. As such, they will either need a trellis or bamboo canes, to hold onto with their tendrils. To give you an idea how many you might need, 6 Sweet Pea plants for me last year was enough to make a small bunch up every week for around two months last summer.

As I mentioned, Sweet Peas self seed, in the form of pods. Cut the pods off when they're fully brown then carefully pry open the pods with your fingers into a tray. Store seeds in a dark, dry place. I just used a mix of old Tupperware and cheap blank seed packets from eBay to store them til the following year. You probably get 10x the seeds in your first year over the original seed packet from the shop!

The aforementioned are all hardy annuals and can grow huge if you let them!

Next month's article will be on some unique, lesser known plants that even I didn't know existed until recently. Until then, thanks for reading.

Dale.

LOCAL DISCOUNT

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Fully Integrated Energy Products

Puredrive's Smart APP integrates energy products and dynamic time-of-use tariffs seamlessly, and manages your energy so you don't have to.

Automate and maximise your savings - hassle free!

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Our battery storage is smarter, faster and longer-lasting, meaning you will get the best return on investment and fastest payback on the market in less than 5 years!* Supported by over 100 technical staff based locally in Toddington!

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01386571544

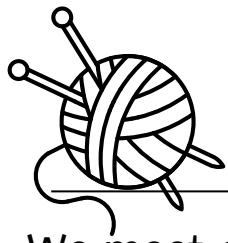
30% Off

*75% savings are made possible in conjunction with a time-of-use energy tariff

March 2024: the good, the bad and the ugly

1. Whose birth name was Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu when she was born in Albania?
2. Who played Hannibal Lecter in "Silence of the Lambs"?
3. Who said, in 1963, that Sonny Liston was "too ugly to be world champ. The world champ should be pretty like me!"
4. Goodluck Jonathan was president of which country from 2010 to 2015?
5. What is the English translation of the German word "bad"?
6. America Ferrera played the lead in which TV show (2006-2010)?
7. What is the superlative of the word "good"?
8. Which Roman emperor fiddled (ie played the lyre) while Rome burned?
9. Which 2019 film is based in a hidden universe within a toy factory where imperfect dolls are dropped into a tunnel leading to a secluded town. Among these dolls is Moxy, who dreams of the 'Big World' and being loved by a child.
10. Who plays "the good" in the film "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"?





Marle Hill WI

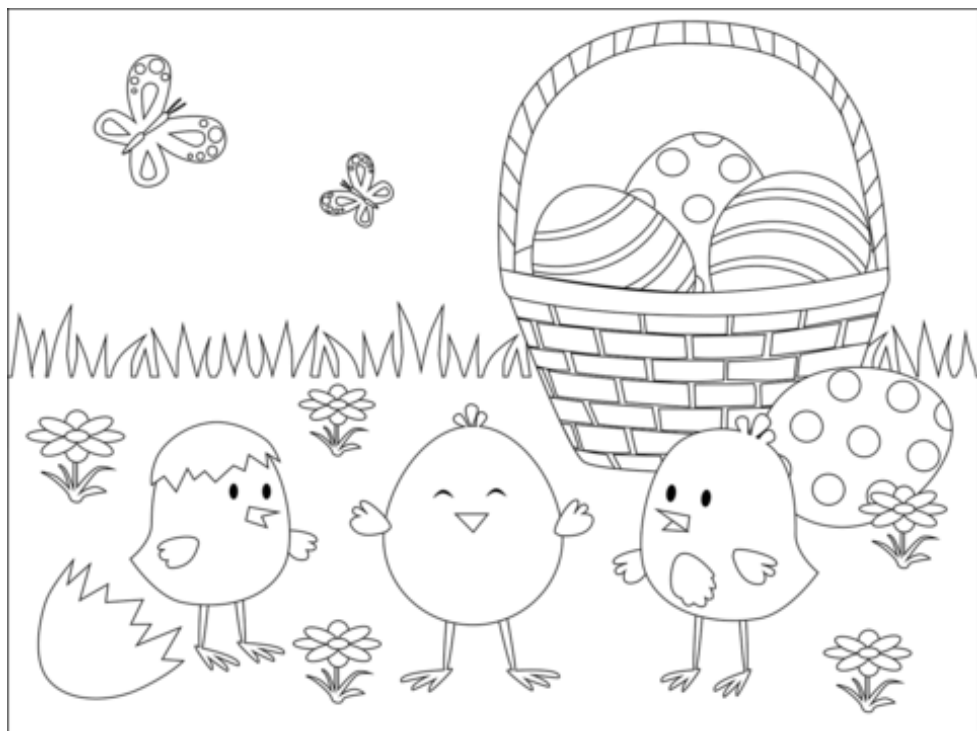
We meet on Monday 4 March (which just happened to be my Birthday) to hear our speaker Paul Murphy who gave a very interesting history of the Early Years of Charlie Chaplin.

This month instead of the usual bring and by stall we had a cake stall which made a very substantial amount towards our funds. After refreshments (lemon drizzle and carrot cake on offer provided by myself) we had the business side of the meeting. We were informed of the dates for the book club, knit and natter, monthly lunch club and the details of the County's Quiz.

We usually meet on the first Monday of the month but in April we will be meeting on Monday 8 April due to the first Monday being a Bank Holiday. Do come along to our next meeting where our speaker will be talking about the History of Johnson Coaches. Refreshments will be available.

Visitors are always welcome

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI



Meet the advertisers...

My name is Pushpa. I am a Foot Health Practitioner (FHP) and I own a mobile Foot Health clinic.

My service is particularly popular for people. They may have limited mobility or may prefer the convenience of a home treatment rather than travelling to a clinic. Clients value having the treatments in their own home as I carry all the equipment I need and I take particular care with their environment by keeping it clean as I work. All they need is a comfortable chair, which is usually an armchair to sit in. An essential part of my work is the safety aspect of healthcare, so I use medical grade tools which are pre-packed and sterilised in an autoclave for each client.

Foot conditions that I treat include cutting and filing of toenails and thickened toenails, removal of corns and hard skin, reducing ingrown nails, treating verruca and athletes' foot. I also provide footcare for diabetics.

All initial appointments include a foot assessment and a medical/medication history as part of my decision-making for safe treatment.

I keep my knowledge up to date through researching, plus contact with other FHPs, and chiropodists.

07873575560 or 01242 250691

www.pwfootcare.co.uk



Answers to Quiz

1. Mother Theresa
2. Anthony Hopkins
3. Muhammad Ali
4. Nigeria
5. Bath
6. Ugly Betty
7. Best
8. Nero
9. UglyDolls
10. Clint Eastwood

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Contact Pushpa for any further information on

07873575560

01242 250691

Email: pushpa@pwfootcare.co.uk

Website: pwfootcare.co.uk

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Jackie on 07990 503067

jackiemcdonough60@gmail.com

to book your initial free consultation

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

Village Hall Booking Secretary Jana Bridger 07514 594351

Village News Distribution Hugh Evans 241678

Play Group (Playgroup hours) 690479

Winemakers' Secretary Roy Harper 662861

School Headteacher Geraint Mills 690016

Friends of the School chairfosvps@gmail.com

Art & Crafts Club Lynne Mumford 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

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 12th April 2024

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
Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
Clr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
Clr. Alison Berry	07754 006634
Clr. Lynne Allen	07979 890134

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

Chaz Pearce..... Please contact via Shaun Cullimore

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

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Vicar: Revd. Jacqueline Henson revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com
220053

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, 244373
Cheltenham GL50 4PA 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.