

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

April 2025 Edition No.512

Upcoming Events



APRIL

Saturday 5th Family Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 14th Parish Council Meeting

7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

Saturday 26th Swindon Village Society.

Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park.

Walk around the village of Stanton. Meet

Non members welcome £3. Let Barry Simon know if you need a lift

(barry_simon@hotmail.com). Non members welcome.

Sunday 27th Litter Pick. Meet 10.30am at Swindon Village Hall

MAY

Wednesdy 19th Swindon Village Society. 7.30PM Village Hall

Nicola Potter will tell us about metal

detecting and will bring some local finds for

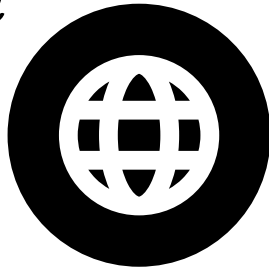
us to admire. Non members welcome £3.



A Connected Community!



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



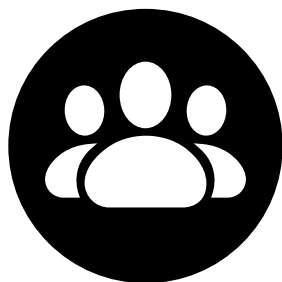
Parish Council Website

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.



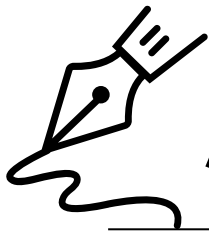
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

As a family, we are quite competitive. Games nights are a regular occurrence in our house and visitors are always welcome as long as they join in.

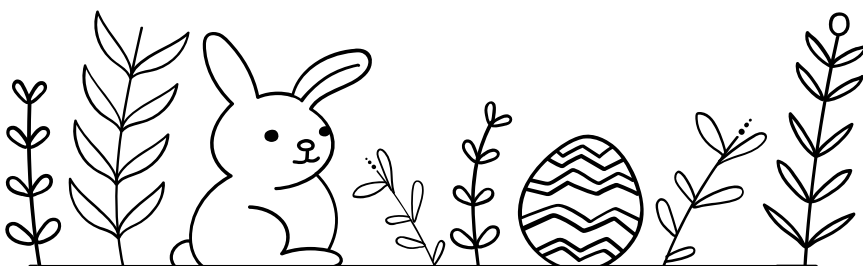
New friends are encouraged to come along to see if they pass the games night test. I'm fairly sure that prospective boyfriends have fallen by the wayside when they realise that collectively we are a LOT!

Today, competitiveness isn't necessarily encouraged. Primary school sports days are more inclusive and team events. I'm sure there are many good reasons for this (I can remember a very enthusiastic grandma shouting at their granddaughter, pushing parents out of the way as she ran beside her which possibly wasn't very PC), but I have fond memories of my primary school sports day and in six years I only got one certificate - third in the egg and spoon race which didn't diminish my enthusiasm for a little competition.

These days, with the girls having left home our games nights happen less often so I have developed a little sedate competition... I aim to get the Village News delivered before the Local Answer each month. Since monitoring three months ago, we have 100% success rate, albeit last month there was only an hour between them! Fingers crossed for this month....

Talking of competitions, don't forget to check out the photography winners later in this edition.

Karren





Swindon Parish Council

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

With the shock announcement that the Cheltenham Recycling Centre was to close with virtually no notice we were very concerned that fly tipping and irresponsible dumping would increase. It is early days but it seems our concerns are well founded. As I write the Parish Council and local residents are preparing for our latest litter pick. We have encouraged the Jockey Club and the Borough Council to help as the Races generate significantly more litter.

On the 22nd of February we held a ceremony to plant two cherry trees in recognition of the contribution that David Iliffe and Helen Wells made to the Parish Council over many years. I became Clerk to the Parish Council in 2012. Helen had joined the council a year earlier. The paper records that I inherited did not go back far enough to tell me when David joined! I can remember how kind and patient David was as I was learning my role as Clark. He never said “This is the way we do things” but was always helpful and knowledgeable. A real gentleman.



Elms Park was the hot topic at the time. In hindsight it was probably unrealistic for us to think that we could stop the development but Helen was instrumental in ensuring that significant local green space would be preserved from development.



Swindon Parish Council



Both Helen and David served the community tirelessly and selflessly over a period of many years. We were delighted to welcome Marlene Iliffe and her family and Rich and Emma Wells to the ceremony. I think everyone present was moved by the occasion.

Devolution is now a hot topic, the principle being that responsibilities (and budgets) will be devolved from Central Government to Local Government. As part of this process it is likely that Gloucestershire County Council and Cheltenham Borough Council will disappear into one or more Unitary authorities. There are various opinions regarding how this should be done. Should there be a single unitary authority covering the whole of the county? Should the county be split in two?

Should parts of Gloucestershire be combined with parts of Wiltshire or Oxfordshire? Your Parish Councillors are taking the time to attend briefings and training so that they are informed and can best represent your interests.

Which brings me to another point that I have made before. Some people are not aware that the parish councillors are unpaid volunteers. Whilst I'm sure many people appreciate what they do, increasingly they seem to face criticism for things that are completely outside their control. "Why isn't the parish council doing something about roadworks, potholes, rubbish collection...?" The answer is that they have no power to deal with any of these issues.



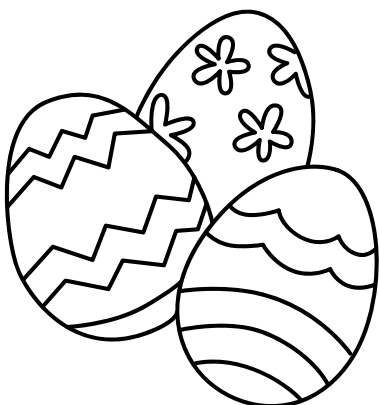
Swindon Parish Council

Responsibility rests elsewhere, though the Parish Council does its best to lobby on your behalf. We are absolutely delighted to welcome Ruth onto the council, but we still have one vacancy. Don't stand on the sidelines and criticise. Join the team and work to make a difference. I'm proud of what these people do. I hope you are too.

Parking outside the school is another hot topic. Selfish parents are putting children at risk through irresponsible parking. The car parks at Seasons and the Village Hall are available for dropping off and picking up. We have campaigned for something to be done on this issue for years. The school staff and governors have politely suggested to these parents that they avoid parking dangerously and have received abuse for their trouble.

There is now a draft Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposing double yellow lines outside the school. The Parish Council supports this and, if it is implemented, the Council will encourage active enforcement. It's a shame it has to come to this. Common sense doesn't always prevail.

I will shortly be changing the way the website is implemented (go to <http://swindonparish.org.uk>). I'm happy to accept suggestions for things you would like to see. Ruth, our newest councillor, has offered to help. In fact, at the moment she is volunteering for everything. We must take advantage of this enthusiasm before it wears off!



Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
Easter Services 2025

Sunday 6th April, Passion Sunday.

10.30am All Age Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 13th April, Palm Sunday.

9am Palm Procession
From the Football Ground to St. Lawrence Church
9.15am Holy Communion
With the blessing of the Palms
6.30pm Evensong

Friday 18th April, Good Friday.

2pm Final Hour Meditation

Sunday 20th April, Easter Sunday.

9.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th April

9.30am Holy Communion


n/c North Cheltenham
m Team Ministry

Must Printables



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

Spring is here! The weather has improved, buds are bursting on branches and the flowers are nodding their heads in the gentle breeze. I love this time of year when it seems there is hope of possibilities and optimism after a cold dark winter. There is something quite spiritually reassuring in the constancy of the seasons; the fact that we can be certain they will roll around each year. It is easy to be confident of God's creation and the stability that brings.

But at this time, in the current state of the world, we face the brutal truth that security and reassurance have disappeared from so many people's lives. The Russian invasion of Ukraine only 1600 miles away, has been ongoing for 3 years. The war in the Middle East and the humanitarian crises present us with the biggest threat to our faiths, and the scariest affront to our belief in Christ, staring us right in the face: hopelessness. As we look around, we see destruction and violence, conflict and pain, nation against nation as refugees flee and missiles are fired. In this time of war, in this time of our heavy hearts, the biggest risk is that we become tempted to just give up, to lose all hope in Christ, to cease seeing the good in each other. We are faced with the temptation to lose faith in God altogether, amongst all this chaos.

This is why, as we approach the Cross of Easter and the promises of the resurrection, we do need to lament and grieve the loss of the civilians caught up in the violence. We may also need to adjust our perspective on what Easter means to us. It seems contradictory to the good news of salvation to still be faced with the violence and cruelty of war. Extreme suffering remains unjust but God must create a world where there is challenge. This creates a space for virtue to be

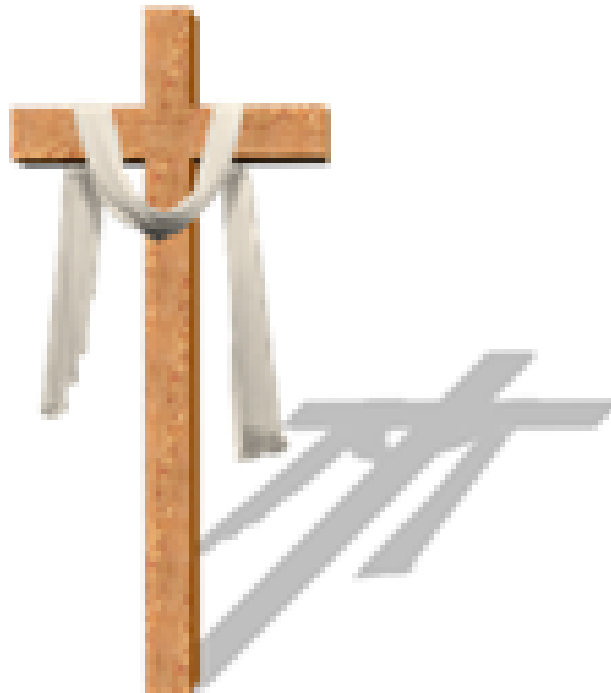


St. Lawrence's Church

hard-won rather than being ready-made. Quick-fix decisions made by leaders in positions of power must be for the advantage of the greater good. But unjust or extreme suffering can produce empathy, compassion and genuine self-sacrifice and we have seen evidence of these through the media coverage of responses to those who are victims of bad moral choices. The bringing together of communities and neighbours in refuge, supplies and help presents opportunities for people to find God's love and show empathy for others.

This is what the resurrection is all about. The sacrifice Christ made on the cross was for the benefit of everyone. If we learn to forgive and love one another, then we are all given the chance of redemption. We can be as confident of that as we can be of the constancy of Spring.

With Easter blessings,





St. Lawrence's Church

New service times at St. Lawrence

We are introducing a new pattern of Sunday services at St. Lawrence's Church, starting immediately after Easter.

A Eucharistic service (Holy Communion) will take place every Sunday morning at the new time of 9.30am. On the first Sunday of the month this will be a more informal and relaxed style, suitable for those little people who don't always sit still and quiet!

Evensong will only be held on the first and third Sundays of each month, at the earlier time of 5pm.

When there is a 5th Sunday in a month, Holy Communion will be held at 10am and will alternate between St. Lawrence's and St. Mary Magdalene's in Elmstone Hardwicke where Revd. Jacqueline is also the Vicar.

Revd. Jacqueline has compiled a table of the new pattern and I will continue to provide a monthly listing in Village News.

Everyone is welcome at all services; if you don't want to take Communion you will still be welcome at the altar to receive a blessing. We have tea/coffee/squash and biscuits after the morning services.

See you soon?

Karen Evans
(Secretary to the Parochial Church Council)



St. Lawrence's Church

Sunday Worship

	St. Lawrence		St. Mary Magdalene
1st Sunday	9:30am- Family Communion	5pm - Evensong	11am BCP Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	9:30am - BCP Holy Communion		11am Family Worship (No Communion)
3rd Sunday	9:30am - Holy Communion	5pm - Evensong	11am – Holy Communion
4th Sunday	9:30am – Holy Communion		11am – Holy Communion
5th Sunday	10am Benefice Communion Service alternating between St. Lawrence and St. Mary Magdalene.		

Services and events in April

6	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
8	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
9	Wednesday	10am-12noon	Church open for private prayer
13	Palm Sunday		See separate poster
15	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
16	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
18	Good Friday		See separate poster
20	Easter Sunday		See separate poster
22	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
23	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
27	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>No Evensong today</i>
29	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
30	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

Services and events in May

4	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Family Communion Evensong
6	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
7	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
11	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion



St. Lawrence's Church

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!)

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.



St. Lawrence's Church

The parish of St Lawrence, Swindon Village with St Peter, Cheltenham

Every 6 years the Church of England does an updated count of how many members it has. Currently St Lawrence, Swindon Village with St Peter, Cheltenham has 36 on the Church Electoral Roll (not to be confused with the Parliamentary Electoral Register).

Joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting and stand for election to the PCC. Being on the Church Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the Church, not just locally, but nationally.

This year we have to ask everyone to register afresh. We cannot carry over any existing names, so even if you have previously registered you will need to register again.

Deadline for applications for inclusion on the new roll 9th April 2025

The new roll comes into operation on 23rd April 2025

Applications forms can be obtained from:

Eileen Allen

23 Drayton Close

e-mail: emallen@blueyonder.co.uk

I will be contacting everyone on the existing Church Electoral Roll in the hope that they will re-register.

EASTER



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL @ SWINDON VILLAGE HALL
1 PM - 5 PM**

**EGG HUNT
CHALLENGE!**



£3.50/CHILD

**INCLUDES:
EGG & ACTIVITIES
GOODY BAG**



**Easter
Activities**



DISCO



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SVHALL.SUMUPSTORE.COM**

Photography Competition

The photography competition was very popular this time, with twenty four entries. A small group of non villagers was presented with the photos with names removed to keep it as fair as possible. I'm delighted to announce that our winner was Betty Harrison with a view of Brockhampton Lane. Second place was tied between Anne Emery and Nina Dyke, both choosing trees as the focal point.

Congratulations to our winners!

We will be showcasing the other entries over the next few months, however all entries will be on the Parish Council website for you to see in colour.



First Prize. Betty Harrison



Joint runner up. Nina Dyke



Joint runner up. Anne Emery



The Swindon Village Society

Our meeting in February took us back to our origins as a village. Simon Draper told us about Anglo Saxon Gloucestershire. I think that most readers will know that the name Swindon comes from the Anglo Saxon: Suin – swine or pigs, and Done – hill. We were ‘The Hill where the Pigs are kept’. I guess that if we had been translated properly into later English we would now be called Pigshill, so be grateful. What was interesting was how little some aspects of Gloucestershire have changed over the thousand or so years since the Normans took over. Even then there were parishes, most with names we would recognise and Swindon was one of them. Chiltenham was there too albeit rather smaller than today but we are noted as being in their ‘hundred’ or area. In fact Simon confirmed one fact that I have often quoted and which I have long hoped was actually true. In the Domesday book of 1086 Suindone actually has a greater taxable value than Birmingham. It was not that Suindone was big, rather that Birmingham was small. So do feel free to keep your nose in the air when you visit that rather insignificant village up North.

In fact in Domesday, Suindone had a taxable value of four pounds and ten shillings, up from three pounds. It had seven villains – minor landholders, two bordars – really farmers who did not own land, and four servii or slaves. Like most I have always had a poor opinion of the Normans but at least they did away with the concept of slaves. So, in Saxon times, given that there were thirteen heads of families, there were probably no more than sixty people in Suindone. And between them there was probably no more than a square mile under cultivation. The lordship of the manor lay in the hands of St.Oswald’s Priory in Gloucester and had probably done so for over a hundred years. So, if you go to Gloucester and park in Tesco’s car park and then head across the dual carriageway before passing through the Cathedral grounds, as I often do, remember to doff your



The Swindon Village Society

hat and touch your forelock as you pass the ruins of St. Oswald's Priory. They were our bosses once. But then again they are long gone, while we are still here.

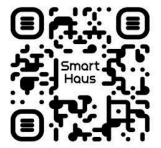
In April John Heathcott will take us for a tour of the charming village of Stanton which is just this side of Broadway. Details on the front cover. If you need a lift please send me an e-mail but try to do it early because I am away for the week leading up to the walk. Then in May, Nicola Potter, who is very local will tell us about metal detecting and bring some artefacts found locally.

Barry Simon



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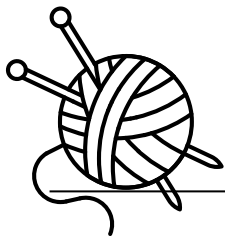


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Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI met on Monday 3rd March 2025. This month they had a quiz night which went down very well.

Members were reminded of the dates for the monthly meal out, knit and natter and the book club.

Our next meeting is on Monday 7 April 2025 at St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30pm. and our speaker will be talking about her life as a Trugger.

Visitors are very welcome to attend. Come and see what we have to offer and have some ME time.

Sue Davies, Marle Hill WI

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Flower Show

Beautiful displays of Spring Flowers. Plant sales from local nurseries, home made cakes, locally produced jams chutneys and pickles, greetings cards, jewellery, books, garden sundries
Refreshments available and free parking

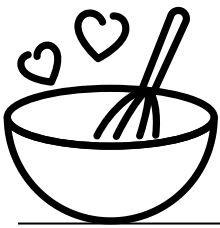
WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JD

WHEN: Sunday 13th April 2025 12.30 to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults £2.50 Under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





Cook with Dawn

Vegetables that are in season during April are...

Artichoke, Beetroot, Cabbage, Carrots, Chicory, New Potatoes, Kale, Morel Mushrooms, Parsnips, Radishes, Rocket, Sorrel, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Watercress

Another favourite of ours is Spaghetti Bolognese.. throwing in as much veg as we can.. serves 4 (We have lots of favourites..lol..)

Ingredients

400g Spaghetti

Onion

Carrots

Celery

Splash of balsamic vinegar

500g mince beef (5% fat or less if you can)

Fresh Spinach.. as much as you like, (or a couple of frozen blocks)

Mushrooms

Tbsp tomato puree

300g beef stock

2 tsp dried oregano

Salt and pepper

Method

- Chop onion, carrots and celery into small chunks and soften in a large frying pan
- Add mince beef to pan and brown off
- Slice mushrooms, add to pan, cook until soft
- Add tin toms, tomato puree, beef stock, oregano, balsamic vinegar
- Season with salt and pepper
- Add frozen spinach now or fresh spinach just before time is up to wilt it
- Simmer for 10-15 mins
- Add more water if sauce is too thick
- Meanwhile Cook Spaghetti according to pack instructions
- Drain Spaghetti and tip into bolognese sauce, gently stir to combine
- Divide between serving bowls

This is so delicious... although there's only the two of us at home now, we try to make extra portions and pop them into the freezer for another day... enjoy...

TV Detectives

1. In which TV show are the main detectives called Alec Hardy and Ellie Miller?
2. Who played Columbo?
3. Which detective lives in St Mary Mead?
4. Who plays the lead role in Luther?
5. What were the first names of Cagney and Lacey?
6. Who wrote the books that Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour are based on?
7. What is the full first name of Detective Bosch?
8. Who is head of AC12 in Line of Duty?
9. In which county is Happy Valley set?
10. Who plays Vera in the programme of the same name?



The Narcissus Fairy

Brown bulbs were buried deep;
Now, from the kind old earth,
Out of the winter's sleep,
Comes a new birth!

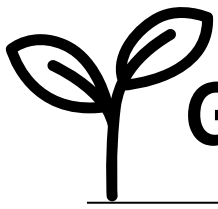
Flowers on stems that sway;
Flowers of snowy white;
Flowers as sweet as day,
After the night.

So does Narcissus bring
Tidings most glad and plain:
“Winter's gone; here is Spring—
Easter again!”

For little ones to colour!



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AyeletKesket.com



Go grow with Dale

Hello Gardeners, it's Spring time! A time of new beginnings for the garden. As of time of writing, I've now completed my concrete base for my new 6x4 Greenhouse, with help from my Dad, and will be building it soon after it gets delivered in April. I can't wait to utilise it for growing more variety.

This month I wanted to talk about one of the subjects that's really helped me in the last couple of years, companion vegetable planting. Used most commonly for two vegetables I grow myself as a staple crop, Onions & Carrots, the idea is to grow plants near other plants that have protective qualities to the pests that usually bother the other. In Onions & Carrot's case, that's the fact that Carrot root fly hates the smell of Onions and Onion pests hate the smell of Carrots.

This year I'll be trying out some other companion planting, in the form of growing basil near my Tomatoes in my new greenhouse, in the hope that the basil deters aphids and whiteflies, that not only attack Tomatoes but food groups such as brassicas too.

Some other combinations I know about but have not yet tried are:

- Squash & Beans (Squash shades the ground helping with moisture retention, whilst beans fix nitrogen in the soil to help squash growth)
- Peas & Herbs (More one sided but Herbs like Chives & Mint can deter pests that harm peas)
- Beetroot & Lettuce (Again one sided but Beets deter slugs from going after your Lettuce)

I'm sure there's other combinations out there that I'm yet to discover, but I'm always surprised how few gardeners know about the concept of companion growing, even if it's not for vegetables/fruit.

Happy Gardening and hope you enjoyed reading, Dale.



Swindon Village Hall - What's on

29th March

The Bootlacers - another chance to see this brilliant band. Tickets £10 available from: swindonvillagehall@gmail.com. Over 18s only.

5th April

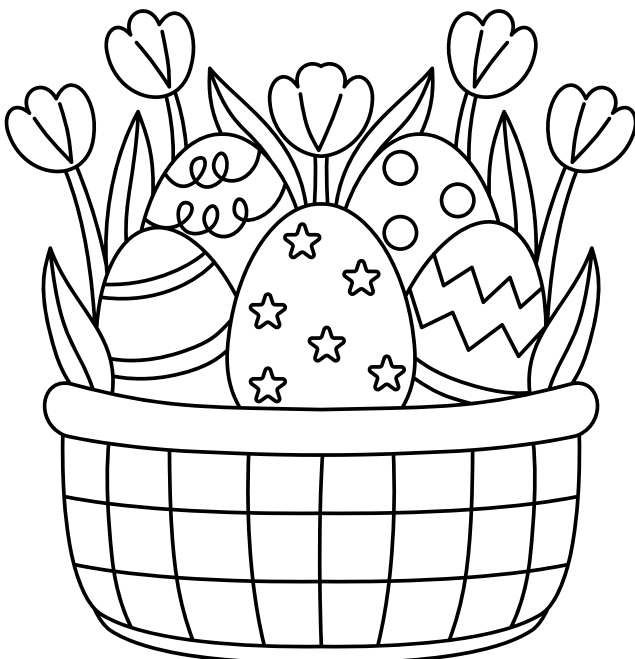
Family Easter event. Look out for posters around Village and Facebook soon.

17th May

Retro night - The excellent Lighter Thieves are back with music from the last four decades

14th June

Summer Fair on the park. Stalls, games and refreshments from the bar.



Answers to Quiz:

1. Broadchurch
2. Peter Falk
3. Idris Elba
4. Miss Marple
5. Christine and Mary Beth
6. Colin Dexter
7. Hieronymus
8. Ted Hastings
9. West Yorkshire
10. Brenda Blethyn



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

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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 Bookings	Jana Bridger	swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village News Distribution	Hugh Evans	241678
Play Group	(Playgroup hours) For Sept 24 admission	690479 07949 352507
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

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 2025

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. Lisa Whitaker (Chair)	07715 470842
Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
Cllr. Alison Berry	07754 006634
Cllr. Lynne Allen	07979 890134
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07963 581371

There are currently **TWO** vacancies. *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

Springbank Ward (south of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Peter Jeffries	07717 493686
Cllr. Suzanne Williams	01242 230648

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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Churchwarden: Hugh Evans,241678

Tower Captain: Hugh Evans,.....241678

Organist: John Collins.....511950

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The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 1.30pm, and on Friday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

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.