

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

May 2025 Edition No.513



MAY

Thursday 8th **Swindon Village Hall AGM.** 8PM
Swindon Village Hall, small meeting room

Monday 12th **Parish Council meeting.**
7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Wednesday 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.

Sunday 25th **Litter Pick.** Start 10.30 Village hall

JUNE

Monday 9th **Parish Council meeting.**
7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

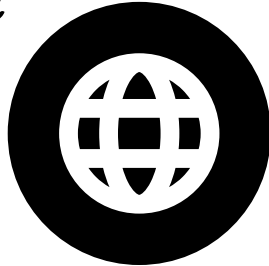
Saturday 14th **Village Fair.** Look out for details later this
month around the village.

Tuesday 17th **Swindon Village Society.** A visit to Brockworth
Court gardens. Depart 6.30pm
Swindon Village Hall car park at 6.30pm.
Lifts should be available including for non
members who book in advance.
Entry fee £6 cash.

A Connected Community!



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



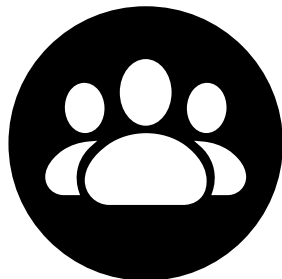
Parish Council Website

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.



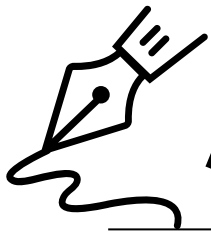
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

A slightly different editorial from me this month as I combine two of my 'hats'!

I may have already said that I can be a bit of a technophobe. I get by (mostly) with the skills I have already learned and adapt as I go along. When I took over as editor, I had to learn how to use some publishing software which took ages. Now, I can make it do what I need to do most of the time, but I am sure that I am not using it to it's full potential. I could go on a course, but there is the time versus effort to consider.

Similarly at the Village Hall, we produce posters and Facebook adverts to promote our events. We muddle by and produce an acceptable version to publish, but we are always trying to fit this in with the other items on the ever-growing list.

So, we wondered if there was a student who maybe studying design, journalism or other associated subject who might like some practical experience that they could add to their cv? It might be articles they'd like to write for the Village News, help with the Village Hall's social media or just an extra pair of hands to save my computer flying through the window when things aren't going well! If you might be interested please email village-news@swindonparish.org.uk, or if you know of someone who might be, please pass on our details.

Karren





Swindon Parish Council

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

I don't normally read what I write; that's your job. However, I did revisit last month's article. A bit moany wasn't it? People dropping litter, parking inappropriately, grumbling at the Parish Council. Of course I know it's not you lot; it's "incomers". We are blessed with a good school so the catchment area probably extends to the fringes of Wolverhampton by now. And I'm sure people drive from Devon to walk their dogs in our beautiful park (or dump their old mattresses). This month I'm going to focus on the positives before I lose all of my readership, but if you are an "incomer" remember that the Village News is available online. Even if you are in Wolverhampton or Devon you can still read what I think of you.

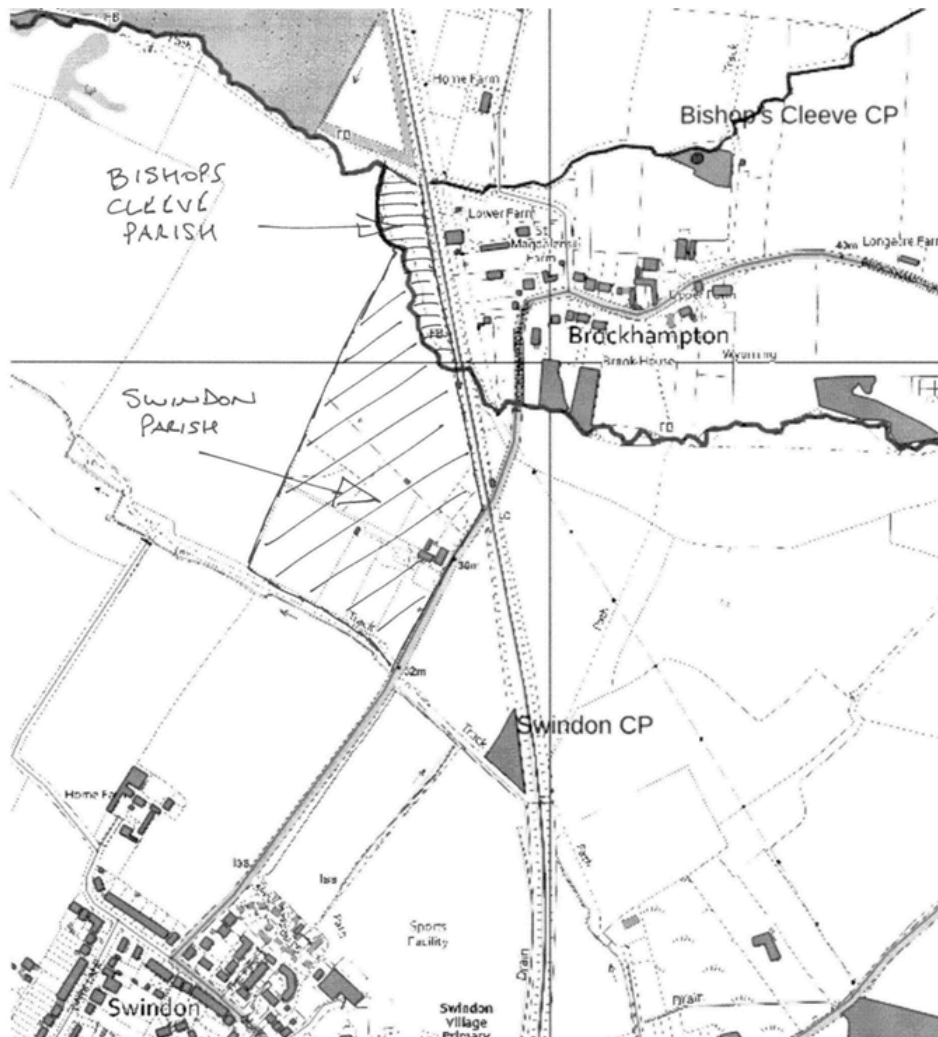
As part of the devolution debate (replacing the County and Borough Councils with a single authority) there was talk of postponing the County Council elections this year. However, the decision was taken to proceed. We have one County Councillor. The list of candidates is on our website. The poll will take place on 1st May (and may be history when you read this). Elections happen on four year cycles. The next parish council elections will take place in 2026. Make a note in your diaries.

The Elms Park outline planning application came up for consultation again. The Swindon Farm development currently in progress is part of Elms Park. It was approved even though the outline application for the full site is still under consideration. A bit odd don't you think?

One of our eagle eyed Parish Councillors has spotted that a company called Terra will be seeking planning consent for a parcel of land to the south east of Brockhampton. The land is mostly in Swindon Parish but with a part in Bishops Cleeve Parish. One to watch.



Swindon Parish Council



The Parish Councillors “enjoyed” an evening course on the Code of Conduct. The deputy monitoring officer of the Borough Council is delivering the same message to each of the five Cheltenham parishes. Apparently some members of the other Councils sat looking glum, constantly checking their social media and periodically mumbling “Why do I have to be here?” Not our lot. They asked questions. They take their responsibilities seriously but manage a cup of tea and a laugh along the way.



Swindon Parish Council

Ah, the closure of Manor Road. It is difficult to keep up with this! I was advised that Manor Road was to be closed for a day on 17th March. Then someone mentioned to me that they had heard the road would be closed until July. “Don’t be ridiculous” said I. “I have the notice; one day only.” I was then shocked to receive a notice saying that it would be closed northbound from 17th March through 8th July. Next it was to be closed northbound from 24th March through 8th July. The latest is that the closure is postponed to a date to be notified. So, as I write it is not closed yet (although the traffic lights have failed again!). More turmoil is coming. Brace for impact!

Swindon Lane hasn’t been closed for a while. That will be put right overnight on 12th May to 13th May for work on the level crossing. Another sleepless night for yours truly.

The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including parish and town councils) for 2025/26 will be £92.22, an increase of £6.32 or 7.4% in 2025/26. Ours will be £18.98, an increase of 5.3%. The total amount that a band D household pays in our parish equates to 5p a day. Take it out of the kids’ pocket money. They won’t even notice.

Our financial year ended on 31st March and I am now busy preparing accounts and enduring audits. I hope your thoughts are with me at this difficult time!

I had a meeting with JR (not her real name but close!) regarding the Quat Goose Lane bus shelter. JR (who is lovely) extended our conversation to everything she wanted fixed in Swindon Village and mistakenly thought that I could achieve this. As a result I reported (via Fix My Street) a problem manhole cover. Well, it has been fixed! I nearly fell off my chair when I heard.



Swindon Parish Council

I was also able to confirm that the bus timetables displayed are current (though sadly the times at which the buses arrive seem to bear no correlation). However, I note that Stagecoach is cutting huge numbers of routes in the county. Luckily the H service is only listed as having “minor changes” from 27th November. Perhaps it will change to running on time?

Your paper copy of the Village News may have been late last month. It is important that people take personal responsibility, so I will name and shame. It was down to me. Hero status was fleeting. Sorry team.

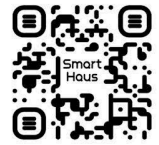
Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



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St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

On Thursday 8th May, there will be celebrations all across Europe to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe – the day the Second World War ended in Europe. Events are planned all over the country as people from all walks of life celebrate the freedom gained after Nazi Germany formally surrendered to Allied forces. VE Day gradually brought an end to nearly six years of suffering, rationing and deprivation. Feelings of joy and relief were tempered by memories of the hundreds of thousands who had died, or were still missing, and concern for those still at war. WW2 did not end until August 1945 when Japan surrendered.

More than 250,000 Allied Prisoners of War were liberated in Europe, and as the Allies swept through Europe, they uncovered the full horror of the network of concentration and forced labour camps and other locations. Six million Jewish people and hundreds of thousands of others had been murdered.

Yet after years of uncertainty and sacrifice, the people of Europe could face the new challenges of reconstruction and peace. The Second World War generation changed the course of history and commenced the rebuilding of an exhausted country in the post war years.

In the Church this month, we celebrate Ascension, forty days after Easter Sunday. Christians believe that Jesus spent time with his disciples and told them that God would send the Holy Spirit to them, once he had returned to heaven. In those forty days after Easter, the horror of the crucifixion and the joy of Christ's resurrection, the disciples wanted some stability. They were exhausted from fear of the Roman authorities and the events of Easter.



St. Lawrence's Church

Jesus assured them that they would be empowered to go out and build the Church and prepared them for the next phase of their journey. They were being set off to re-build a new thing.

In our world, in all its fragility and brokenness, the greed and selfishness, we might reflect on the can-do attitude of the post-war generation. However, as we commemorate VE80, we give thanks to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice that we might live full lives. At 9:30pm on 8th May, there will be beacons lit all over the UK to spread the light of peace. Perhaps we too can light a candle and shine it in our windows to pass on the message of peace and courage in gratitude to those who gave up so much.





St. Lawrence's Church

New service times at St. Lawrence

We have moved in to our new pattern of Sunday services at St. Lawrence's Church.

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.

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.

Karen Evans
(Secretary to the Parochial Church Council)

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
13	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
14	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
18	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion Evensong
20	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
21	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
25	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
27	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
28	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

Services and events in June

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



St. Lawrence's Church

Easter flowers in church

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed towards the cost of the flowers which made the church look so lovely this Easter.

Thank you also to our flower-arranging team for their time and talents.

These beautiful photos are available in colour in the online Village News on the Parish Council website.





St. Lawrence's Church

St. Lawrence's Church

Cakes and Plants Sale

Saturday 5th July

Details next month but put the date in your diary now!

Donations of home-made cakes and plant cuttings
will be gratefully received

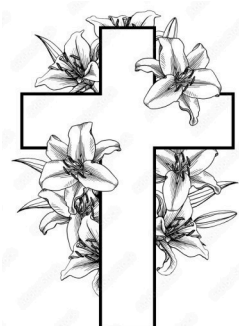
From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed into the family of the church

Louis James Wilkins 23rd March



Interment of ashes

We commemorated the lives of

Betty Pamela Finch 27th March

Thomas Joseph Hawker 4th April



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**

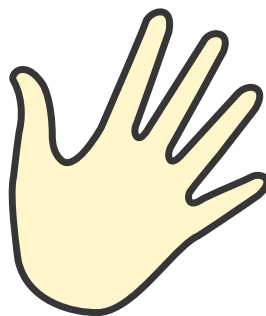
You can contact the Team Vicar, **Rev. Jacqueline Henson**, by email: **revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com** or by phone: **01242 220053** or via the office as above.

Rock, Paper, Scissors

1. What type of rock is formed from the cooling and solidifying of magma or lava?
2. Which country is credited with inventing paper in approx. 105CE?
3. Which ancient civilization is credited with the earliest known use of scissors?
4. Who wrote the musical "We Will Rock You" along with Queen?
5. How many years of marriage are celebrated by the paper wedding anniversary?
6. Who played the role of Edward Scissorhands in the film?
7. Which actor is known as "the rock"?
8. Which newspaper was brought down by the phone hacking scandal in 2011?
9. Who is the lead singer of the Scissor Sisters?
10. In which TV series does Sheldon uses Rock Paper Scissors to decide everything from who gets the last slice of pizza to who has to take out the trash?



ROCK



PAPER



SCISSORS



The Swindon Village Society

Our March talk was by John Parker, CEO of the Arboricultural Association. If anyone does not know, arboriculture is planting and maintenance of trees. So, not unsurprisingly, John's talk was on – Trees – and also not unsurprisingly it was first rate. First, I must thank our bookings secretary for his great prescience in booking such a talk to take place just two days before the announcement of a new national forest to be located in the West of England including Gloucestershire. How do I do it? In fact the area of new planting will mostly be between Gloucester and Bristol and will take in land that has limited agricultural use and even include planting in built up area.

The talk covered many things. First was the fact that if you have trees nearby it generates an increase in house prices. And if you plant them in a town it is very good for businesses such as cafes and restaurants.

Next great fact – Britain has more ancient trees than the whole of the rest of Europe combined. In many local churchyards there is a yew tree that can be a thousand years old. In fact I had read somewhere that the ancient yew may well have been the church before anyone got around to building an edifice with a roof because people would congregate for their worship in the shelter of an old(ish) yew to keep the rain off.

But John also had a number of warnings. We all know of Dutch elm disease, ash dieback and the problems besetting oaks. These were all caused by the importation of cheap trees without sufficient care being taken to make sure that they were disease free. Indeed, many problems have been caused even by people bringing samples and cuttings back from their holidays in their luggage. Such random pieces of greenery can cause problems that rapidly escalate. So, the message is – don't.



The Swindon Village Society

Finally, if you are thinking of planting a tree, do bear in mind climate change and plant something that is doing well in Barcelona right now. When your new tree is forty and thriving, our climate will be more like that of the Mediterranean and your tree will be flourishing.

Anyway, a great talk and I know he has other more specific talks up his sleeve so we may well get him back again.

In May, Nicola Potter, who is very local will tell us about metal detecting and will bring some artefacts found locally.

In June our garden visit will be to Brockworth Court which features in the Gloucestershire Open Gardens List. It will be on the evening of Tuesday 17th June with an entry fee of £6 in cash. We will arrange lifts where possible and may be able to take some non-members. So let me know early if you are interested.

Barry Simon

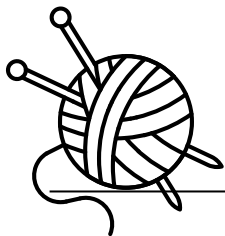
PLEASE

DON'T DISPOSE OF FOOD WASTE BY THROWING IT
ONTO PUBLIC GREEN AREAS.



The food waste attracts gulls (which can be very aggressive) and rats. Also, dogs find it irresistible and can be sick as a result.

The Borough Council collects food waste and puts it to good use, producing energy and fertiliser.



Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI met on Monday 7 April 2025 with a very interesting speaker talking about his life as a Trugger. Whilst he talked about his life, he sat and made a lovely trugger for the garden and had several of his examples on show.

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

Our next meeting is on Monday 12 May 2025 at St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30pm. This month's meeting will be a discussion on our National Resolution going forward to the National Annual Meeting in June.. The resolution is "Bystanders can be Lifesavers".

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

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI



Swindon Village Hall - What's on

8th May

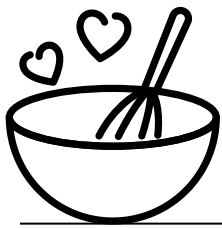
AGM - 8pm. Come and see what's been happening and future plans.

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.



Cook with Dawn

Fruit and vegetables in season during May are...

Fruit: Rhubarb, Strawberries

Vegetables: Artichoke, Asparagus, Aubergine, Beetroot, Chicory, Chillies, Elderflowers, Lettuce, Marrow, New Potatoes, Peas, Peppers, Radishes, Rocket, Samphire, Sorrel, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Watercress

So folks, we have enjoyed soup, main meal and now for the dessert...

Rhubarb cake..

9x9 Square baking tin , or round tin, lined

Oven temp... 180°c , 350f , gas 4

Ingredients

1tsp lemon juice

60ml milk

70g yogurt

250g plain flour

2tsp baking powder

1tsp salt

250g rhubarb thinly sliced

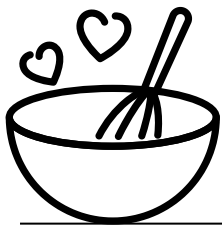
60g butter

200g sugar

1 large egg

1/2 tsp Vanilla extract





Cook with Dawn

Method

1. In a small bowl, stir lemon juice, milk and yogurt together, set aside
2. In a bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, set aside
3. Place rhubarb in a small bowl and sprinkle over 1tbs of the flour. set aside
4. In another bowl, cream the butter and sugar together
5. Add the egg and vanilla extract to the butter and sugar, beat together
6. Add half the flour to the egg mixture and beat again
7. Now pour in the milk, yogurt and lemon juice and stir
8. Then add the rest of the flour and mix lightly, don't over mix
9. Gently fold in the rhubarb
10. Pour the mixture into the baking tin
11. Sprinkle a little sugar over the top
12. Bake for 40-45 mins

Cake is cooked when tested, insert a skewer into the cake - if it comes out clean, the cake is ready.

This lovely cake can be enjoyed hot with your favourite topping, custard or ice-cream or eaten cold just as an afternoon tea cake... enjoy...

Answers to quiz:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Igneous | 5. One | 8. News of the World |
| 2. China | 6. Johnny Depp | 9. Jake Shears |
| 3. Mesopotamia | 7. Dwayne Johnson | 10. The Big Bang Theory |
| 4. Ben Elton | | |



Hello Gardeners, it's Mid Spring already and there's been lots of garden changes and unexpected heat for this time of year!

This month, I wanted to talk about self seeders, an idea prompted by the abundance of forget me nots in our garden, which are a beautiful spring staple that are not just in our flowerbeds purposely, but in the cracks between our road and driveway. Much nicer to look at than weeds! Obviously this means they're quite prolific, but they can be kept under control if you prune them when their seed pods start to appear in late Spring/early Summer.

Another really popular self seeder is *Verbena bonariensis*, which is tall and purple and loved by all pollinators. We picked ours up last year from Stoke Orchard Farm Shop, of all places, we're yet to see where they've self seeded to, but they're generally known for doing it in close proximity to the parent plants.

Our second most prolific self seeder is *alchemilla mollis* (aka Lady's Mantle) which is a great ground cover plant, that looks beautiful after some rain as its leaves don't absorb any water and give a beading effect. Like *Verbena* though, they're fairly easy to control as they generally seed very close by.

Lastly, almost surprisingly, is *Stipa tenuissima* (aka Mexican feather Grass/Ponytail). I didn't even know until a year after buying this grass, that it self propagates. It grows to around 60cm tall, which makes it great for borders and really makes our Purple Echinacea's in the border next to it, pop even more.

Hopefully some of the above plants are of use to you and can help you grow an even more populated garden for very little money.

Thanks for reading.
Dale.



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

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BEARD TRIM	£5

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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 May 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
Cllr. Ruth Hudson	07850 185871
Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	07833 089435
	parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

There is currently a vacancy. Please get in touch if you would be interested.

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

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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

Churchwarden: Hugh Evans,241678

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

Organist: John Collins.....511950

North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 244373 admin@northchelt.org.uk

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.