Village News in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

July and Augist 2025 Edition No.515



JUNE

Sunday 29th Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall

JULY

Monday 14th Parish Council meeting. 7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

- Wednesday 16thSwindon Village Society.7.30pm Village HallA talk by Sue Webb on Rural Policing in
Gloucestershire. Village Hall. Non members
welcome £3.
 - **Friday 18th Swindon Village Hall** Live Music See inside for ticket details
 - Sunday 27th Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall

AUGUST

Monday 11th	Parish Council meeting.	
	7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.	
Wednesday 20th	Swindon Village Society. 7pm.	
	Our annual social get together at 3, Swindon H	Iall.
	Members Only.	
Sunday 31st	Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall	1

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. 2

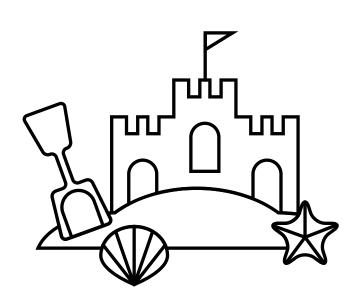


I'm sure that you are aware that there will be no Village News month as we all get to have a break and enjoy the summer holidays. I'm sure that the break will go very quickly and we will be back at (hopefully) the end of August, printers permitting. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the regular contributors for their articles during the year, and especially for getting them to me by the deadlines which makes my job easier. I'm sure you'll all agree that they make for entertaining reading. If you fancy giving this a go, whether a regular or adhoc piece we would love to hear from you.

You will notice that weather plays a bit of a theme in this month's edition and I'm not going to veer away from that!

Currently we are putting the final plans in place for the Village Fair. Ordinarily, we'd be ensuring that we had a wet weather plan and could squeeze everyone into the Village Hall. This year we have the luxury of ONE plan as we are forecast wall-to-wall sunshine for a good few days. Obviously, that presents it's own challenges - making sure that we have huge stocks of cold drinks and ice cream and borrowing as many gazebos as you can shake a stick at.

Have a lovely summer and enjoy!



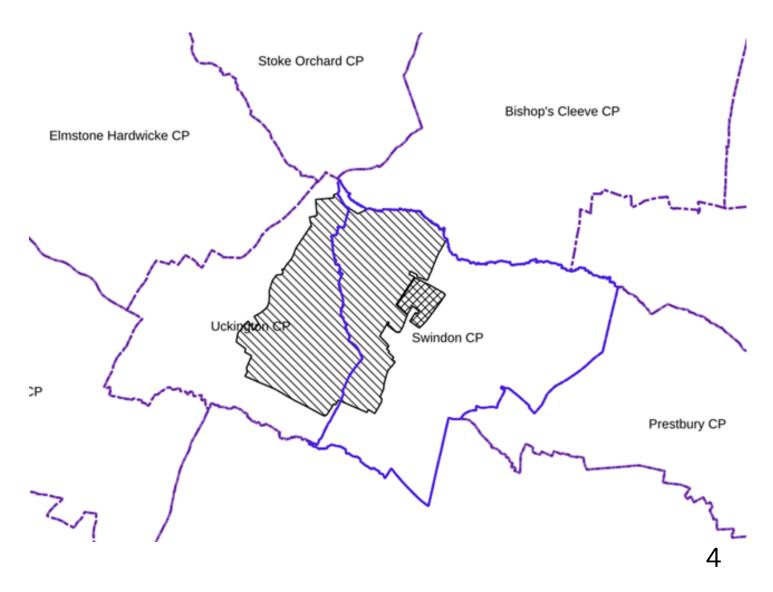
Karren



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

On the 29th May 2025 the Borough Council planning committee reached a momentous decision. The committee unanimously approved the outline planning application for Elms Park, giving the green light to the construction of 4,115 homes together with a senior school, two primary schools, retail and business areas, sports, transport and care facilities.

The map below shows the context of the Elms Park (single cross hatching) and Home Farm (double cross hatching) developments. Elms Park spans Swindon Parish, Cheltenham and Uckington Parish, Tewkesbury. The Home Farm development (if it goes ahead) will be entirely within Swindon Parish.





The graphic shows the Elms Park development that will straddle the boundary of Swindon and Uckington parishes. Also shown is the smaller, prospective Home Farm development.

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) identified key areas for development in the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury areas, including the North West Strategic Allocation that will become Elms Park. The JCS was produced to cover a twenty year period from 2011 to 2031. It was contentious and did not get approved until 2017. Already its successor is under development.

Consent for Elms Park has been granted subject to over 50 planning conditions. Here are two of the key ones.

l No more than 1,306 homes shall be occupied prior to work commencing on making M5 Junction 10 four way

l No more than 3,327 homes shall be occupied prior to work being completed on making M5 Junction 10 four way



On 4th June 2025 it was announced that consent had been given for the M5 Junction 10 works. However, there is still a shortfall in the finances. At the time of writing the developers are being asked to make up the deficit. The arguments continue.

As part of this overall scheme it is intended to improve the Coombe Hill junction between the A38 and the A4019. Note that it is anticipated that the A4019 will be closed completely for a period of 16 weeks from early 2026. I think I'll buy a helicopter to get about! 5



The Elms Park development has been argued about for over 10 years and will take many years to complete. It is a sobering thought that we were a lot younger when this was first debated and, for many of us, it will not be completed in our lifetimes.

From mega developments to toaster recycling. Last month I told you about my quandary regarding the disposal of our old toaster. A very kind reader pointed out to me this information on the Borough Council website. "Household batteries, small electrical appliances, textiles and shoes should be put in separate tied carrier bags and put inside one of your green recycling boxes with the lid closed". I love to hear from you; writing in a vacuum can be uncomfortable!

A Community Governance Review is underway to consider whether new parishes should be created in Cheltenham and/or existing boundaries adjusted. Should Swindon Parish Council seek to expand to encompass other areas? Should we contract so that we only represent Swindon Village? Should we simply stay as we are? What do you think? It is possible to express your views online or obtain a paper copy of the survey from the Borough Council offices.

Last time I grumbled about electric scooters being left randomly. I came across another fine example of parking. On the scooter is an identifier and a web link via which you can report issues. The web link is wrong. It should be report.voi.com. If you find examples of rubbish parking or inconsiderate riding please report them.



By the way, the police say that E-bikes should not go over 3.7 mph / 5.95km/h unassisted (i.e. without pedalling). Mmm.... 6



In a mindless act of vandalism a fire was lit on a wooden bridge on one of our footpaths. it is unclear whether the damage makes the bridge unsafe. It has been reported via Fix My Street. Any information to the police please.

Our graffiti issues continue. We have spoken with the police who have a pretty



good idea who the culprit is. Let's hope an arrest will be made. Apparently graffiti is now so prolific on the London Underground that trains can no longer be removed from service to deal with it straight away.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 30th May. It was chaired by Vice Chair Natalie as Alison, our new Chair, was away. Next year we will decide on a date earlier so that we can publicise it better and encourage more of you to attend.

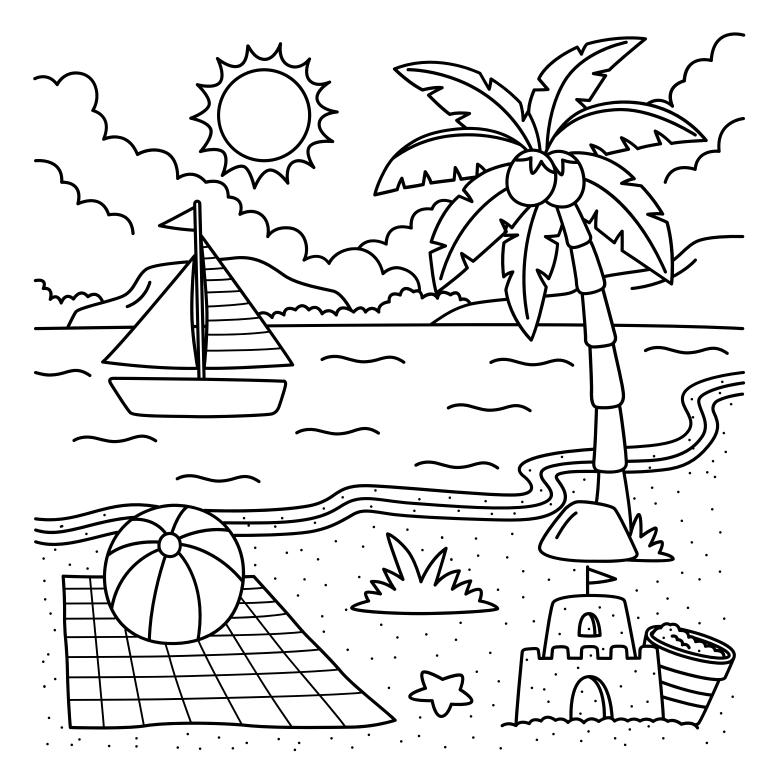
The Parish Council supported the Village Fair. The fair is another example of the hard work Jana puts in for the community. I hope you supported it too and had a great day.

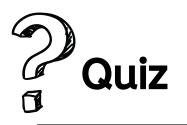
At the moment we have pencilled in litter picks for the last Sunday of each month. If anything changes we will let you know via one of our many communication channels (website, Facebook, chats on street corners!).

I reported the election of Ian Cameron to the County Council. Of course I should have noted that Ian represents the north ward of the parish (north of Tewkesbury Road). Suzanne Williams represents the south ward of the parish (south of Tewkesbury Road). Suzanne was one of the

people who reminded me how to recycle my old toaster, so she is clearly on the ball!

Have a wonderful summer and we'll be back in September with more real (and fake?) news! Shaun Cullimore, Clerk to Swindon Parish Council







- 1. Which American rock band were involved in a plane crash in 1977 which killed several of the band/crew?
- 2. Which mythological creatures are often depicted as young, beautiful women who inhabit natural features like rivers, forests, and caves?
- 3. Aston, Oritse, Marvin and JB are the members of which group?
- 4. What is the surname of the host/narrator of the UK version of The Island?
- 5. What term is used to describe a carved or engraved symbol used in a writing system or artistic expression?
- 6. What internet slang would you use to express that something sent to you was beyond your capability or willingness to engage with?
- 7. Which car company was founded in 1916 in Bavaria?
- 8. What was the hit single by the Crash Test Dummies in 1993?
- 9. What is the current name of the restaurant chain known for the slogan "finger lickin' good"?
- 10. What do the above answers have in common?

It's a tricky one this month!

If you want a hint, you can find the common factor underneath the muffin a few pages on.

The rest of the answers are at the back as usual

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is Gloucestershire's largest community transport charity providing essential pre-booked transport across Gloucestershire and beyond to those who would otherwise struggle to get where they need to go.

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info@communityconnexions.org.uk www.communityconnexions.org.uk





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Every year, we provide thousands of door-to-door journeys helping the vulnerable across Gloucestershire, now more people than ever before need our help.

Transport is critical to get people to health appointments especially for those who are rurally isolated or unable to access public transport.

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RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

After enjoying some beautifully warm weather at the beginning of May, we might be hoping for some more summer weather during the school holidays. I have memories of holidays where I grew up in Devon involving a uniform of waterproof coat, wellies and t-shirts!

When we take a break, our behaviour becomes more relaxed. Weather permitting, people sit in parks picnicking over lunch breaks, and we take coffee outside, sit at pavement cafes instead of huddling indoors. Summer becomes a time for reconnecting with the natural light, the greater opportunities for communal living afforded by being able to sit out of doors for longer, watching children playing and people talking outside instead of sitting in enclosed spaces. There is a sense of a general relaxing into the present, a willingness to linger over meals or encounters, savouring the moment, allowing the time to flow by. Summer takes us into holiday time, when in families the rhythms of work change, children and adults may spend more time together. Breaks can take us into different environments, give opportunities for exploration and expansion of horizons.

Whether we are spending the summer in the UK or travelling abroad, the change of season reminds us to take some time to just 'be', to savour what we have and to pause. We live in a divided and troubled world which can seem a bit bleak and unsettling.





Taking a rest from the routine and busy-ness of life gives us time to reflect on what is working well and what might need to change. A re-charge of our inner batteries can give us a wider and refreshed perspective of what is important.

Even during his ministry, Jesus took time to rest and be with friends. He barbecued on beaches and went to social events.

"He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." (Mark 6. 31)

However we spend the summer, I hope you will feel rejuvenated and relaxed ready to take on new challenges.

Rev. Jacqueline



Hope this lovely photo of St Lawrence's makes you feel a bit cooler!



Services and events in July

1	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
2	Wednesday 10am - 12noon		Church open for private prayer
5	Saturday	10.00am	Cakes and Plants Sale Family
6	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Communion Evensong
8	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
9	9 Wednesday 10am - 12noon		Church open for private prayer
13	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
15	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
16	Wednesday 10am - 12noon		Church open for private prayer
20	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion Evensong
22	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
23	3 Wednesday 10am - 12noon		Church open for private prayer
27	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
29	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
30	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

Services and events in August

3	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Family Communion Evensong
5	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
6	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
10	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
12	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
13	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
17	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion Evensong
19	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
20	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
24	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
26	Tuesday	10.30am	Church open for private prayer
27	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Benefice Holy Communion
31	Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion

Services and events in September

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

Cakes and Plants Sale

St. Lawrence's Church Saturday 5th July 10.00am



Income from the sale will go towards the upkeep of St. Lawrence's Church

Donations of cakes and plants will be gratefully received May 01242 241033, Helen 01242 239239, Liz 01242 692483



St. Lawrence's Church Chatterbook

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

Me North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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.



In May we were visited by Nicola Potter who runs a local metal detecting group. She has been metal detecting for four years but has amassed a remarkable range of finds over that time. We were treated to pictures of many of them ranging from pre Roman items to Victorian bits and bobs. Nicola has a pretty sophisticated detector which cost in the region of two thousand pounds. It can tell, within limits, what sort of metal it is looking at and in general if the machine believes it is looking at iron it is left in place. It is all the other metals that merit digging. And just about all the finds are from the first few inches of top soil; rarely more than a foot deep.

We saw pictures of coins well over two thousand years old, of farming bits and pieces, of costume ware and bits of weaponry. One of my favourites was a couple of coins bent into a wave shape which were apparently love tokens. Both were found close to each other just a few inches below the surface of a field. What did that signify; a lovers tiff or merely carelessness?

It was also interesting to hear how careful the group were to record finds, declare them to the appropriate authorities if they might have real historic significance. Also how they made sure that a proper contract was drawn up between themselves and the landowner before they started detecting work. Indeed we had three visitors at the meeting who I know well from the Norton area. One, is a farmer who has had his land surveyed by Nicola, and the others a couple who I are just about to embark on a similar survey. I wait with interest to see what turns up.

So on to the next three months. Well, in July we have Sue Webb, who works with the police. She is going to tell us about 'Policing in Rural Gloucestershire'. We may even get a mention because I know that for many years in the 1800s the Chief Constable of Cheltenham lived in the village.



Then in August it is the infamous garden party. Luke warm wine and a rain shower. Not to be missed. This is a member's only event so join now.

On to September and our own John Heathcott is going to give us a talk on 'The History of the Cotswolds'. John has been a long time Cotswold Warden and has devoted much time and energy to maintain the region from dry stone walling to guiding around the area. Our last few town and village visits led by John have all been both pleasing and informative. I can strongly recommend this talk and, of course, visitors will be very welcome for £3.

Barry Simon



We have finished now for the summer so hope for a nice warm break. Membership is declining due to various different reasons, and we hope to see new faces when we start again in September. It is a very relaxed evening, doing our own thing while enjoying a very sociable time - you know 'putting the world to rights'. We would love to see more joining in and to this end you can contact me on 07817581223. Its on a Thursday evening 7.30 to 9.30.Look forward to hearing from you.

Au revoir....

Helen.



Beaver Section - A New Start

We are delighted to confirm that our Beaver section is now back up and running after successfully finding some new leaders. Ashley and Sami have settled in really quickly and have done an amazing job of welcoming the Beavers back to the group.

We are now looking to rebuild our waiting list with enthusiastic young people. The Beavers start at 6 years old and you can fill in an enquiry form via the Contact Us page of <u>Your paragraph text</u>.

Please feel free to email <u>info@1sv-scouts.co.uk</u> or <u>beavers@1sv-</u> <u>scouts.co.uk</u> if you have any queries.

Scout Section – Looking for Volunteers

In the Scout section (that's 10 ½ to 14 ½ year olds) we are still looking for a regular volunteer to come along on a Monday evening, 7.15pm to 8.30pm in the Village Hall to help run the sessions.

The role includes some basic online training and a really useful first aid course. There is no need to have a knowledge of scouting. Full support is available and we can arrange for you to come along to a session and learn about the role and what may be involved. Our admissions criteria gives priority to young people with parents or guardians who are a regular volunteer in the Group.

Please contact Shane Gough, the Group Scout Leader at <u>gsl@1sv-</u> <u>scouts.co.uk</u> if you, or someone you know, might be interested in helping this local community group.



Marle Hill Wi met on Monday 2 June at St Nicholas Church Hall and had a talk all about Fraud and Scams on how to avoid them.

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 July with a talk about the History of Fashion. It is also the month we celebrate our Birthday and to that end we invite two guests from our neighbouring WI's to join us.

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

Many sales stalls to include Locally grown plants, Home made Cakes, Books, Handicrafts, Jewellery, Jams, Honey & Pickles. Refreshments available

WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JDWHEN: Sunday 10th August 2025 12.30 to 4pmADMISSION: Adults £2.50 Under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





Fruit and Vegetables in season ...

And the list is huge... there is so much produce coming into season during July and August... too much to choose from 😌... we are so lucky..

<u>July</u>

Fruit: Blackberries, Blackcurrants, Blueberries, Cherries, Gooseberries, Greengages, Loganberries, Raspberries, Redcurrants, Rhubarb, Strawberries

Vegetables: Aubergine, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Chicory, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Kohlrabi, New Potatoes, Onions, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Samphire, Sorrel, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Summer Squash, Swish Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress

<u>August</u>

All of the above... plus... Damsons. Plums, Leeks, Lettuce, mangetout, Marrow, mushrooms. Parsnips, Peppers. Pumpkin. Sweetcorn

Here is a fun Blueberry Muffin recipe for the children to have a bash at...

Ingredients150g/5.5oz blueberries, washed and dried carefully250g/8oz self raising flour140g/5oz caster sugar1 tsp bicarbonate of soda85ml vegetable oil2 eggs200ml semi-skimmed milk12 hole muffin tin1tsp vanilla extract12 paper muffin cases



Cook with Dawn

Method

- 1. Preheat the oven to 200°c/180°c fan/gas 6.
- 2. Place paper cases into the muffin tin
- 3. In a bowl, mix the dry ingredients together, flour, sugar and bicarbonate of soda. Set aside.
- 4. Pour the oil into a measuring jug.
- 5. In a separate small bowl, beat the eggs then add them to the oil, along with the milk and vanilla extract, stir together.
- 6. Pour the wet ingredients onto the bowl of dry ingredients and stir until combined.
- 7. Gently fold in the blueberries.
- 8. Spoon the mixture, evenly, into the paper muffin cases.
- 9. Bake for 15-18 minutes until risen and golden.

Cool on a wire rack...

Serve warm and eat straight away, or.. Store in an airtight container for 2-3 days. Can be frozen for one month. Defrost fully before eating...

Blueberry Muffins... a tasty treat on a summers afternoon.

You can adapt this recipe to make them sweet or savoryenjoy



Clue to quiz:

There are no vowels in any answer

Go grow with Dale

Hello Gardeners, it's now July and this time of year is bountiful.

We've harvested some of our 'grow your own' vegetables, with second early potatoes. As briefly mentioned before, this was my first year of doing potatoes in bags, rather than our raised bed. We got a good harvest but it was hindered by using up some of our heavy clay soil. These potatoes needed mounding up, and there was an obvious increase in the number at the top of the bags where I used free draining fresh compost to mound up. So for my main crop planting, this week, I will be sure to use loose, free draining soil throughout, in the hopes of a bumper crop.

We also had our first successes from our greenhouse with "come again" salad leaves, a mixed salad grown from seed, and pea shoots. These made for some tasty and fresh home made salads. Both of these can be harvested 2/3 times but do require succession sewing for salad all through the summer. We can't wait to add our own tomatoes and cucumbers later on in the summer.

Summer isn't all about vegetables though, my wife has also been loving her cut flowers. Our fragrant sweet peas have done particularly well in this weather. We have had a fresh posy in the house every week and given away many more on our sharing wall. Cutting really helps these flowers to keep flowering and once they go to seed they are easy to collect ready for next year. The dahlias have also started blooming, but remember they are a favourite slug food, so be sure to use beer traps near them to protect your blooms.

Thanks for reading, happy gardening! Dale.



Swindon Village Hall - What's on

18th July

Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican - Ticketed event This fantastic band are squeezing in a visit to Swindon Village in between festival appearances. Expect parodies of songs you will recognise, great music and laughter galore. Tickets available at https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thebarstewardsons

October

11th Bootlacers - We welcome back the Bootlacers playing hits from the sixties and seventies.

18th Harvest Festival Quiz

25th Family Halloween event

Dates to be confirmed:

November - Craft Fair

December - Wreath making Carols in the bar / in the hall depending on numbers Santa's Grotto

Answers to Quiz

1. Lynyrd Skynyrd	6. TL;DR
2.Nymphs	7. BMW
3.JLS	8. Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm
4.Grylls	9. KFC
5.Glyph	10. There are no vowels in any answer



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SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths Joh	n Heathcott	527753
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers		info@ 1sv-scouts.co.uk
Rainbow Guider Har	nnah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair Jan	a Bridger	07913 911930 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Bookings Jan	a Bridger	swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Villge News Distribution Hug	gh Evans	241678
Play Group (Pla		690479
	Sept 24 nission	07949 352507
School Headteacher Ger	aint Mills	690016
Friends of the School		chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club Lyn	ne Mumford	07515 461876
Swindon Village Society Bar	ry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s (Pla	aygroup hours)	mgu5@hotmail.co.uk
Marle Hill W.I. Sar	a 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 August 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
County Cllr. Suzanne Williams	01242 230648

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272
County Cllr. Ian Cameron	ian.Cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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: Organist:	Hugh Evans, John Collins		
organist.		211220	

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.