

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

September 2026 Edition No.526



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 12th Bar-Steward Sons of Val Doonican.

Join us for a fun filled evening of parody songs. music you thought you know, but it's not quite the same!

Wednesday 15th Swindon Village Society. 730 pm Village Hall.

A talk by Ken Wilford on Snowhill Manor
Village Hall. Visitors welcome - £3

Monday 21st Parish Council meeting. 7.30pm

Swindon Village Hall, bar area

Saturday 26th Sing-a-long at the Village Hall.

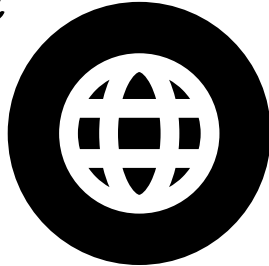
See Facebook for details

Sunday 27th Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall .

A Connected Community!



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



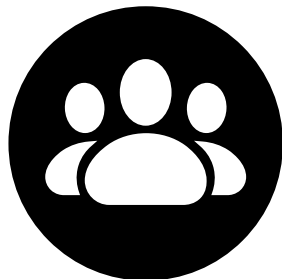
Parish Council Website

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

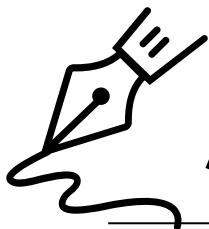
If you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.



Ring 101 (you may be charged for this phone call)

email101@gloucestershire.police.uk
<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/>

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

I hope you've all managed to enjoy at least part of this very hot summer. In a weird way it has reminded me of when our girls were little. Every outing was an exercise in forward planning:

Do we have a change of clothes, wet wipes, nappies, something to occupy them, their drink and / or snack, hat, coat or wellies? Do we need the pushchair? Shall we take the pushchair anyway then we can load up with the paraphernalia that we may or not use? (I miss the pushchair!)

The last few months have felt like we have reverted back to that:

Do we need sunhats? Have you got the suncream? Are the windows all closed? We tour round the whole house to make sure all the windows are closed in case we missed one. Where is the cat? Shall we leave a window open so she can come in if it's too hot? Do we need to take water? Will we need a sun cover up? Do we need to water the greenhouse before we leave?

We finally get into the car, pull off the drive to see the bedroom window wide open!

The Village News is changing slightly and you will now receive it a week later. We will try to run the front page diary into the following month (not this time as holidays have made this difficult), so should you have any events for us to include, please let us have plenty of notice. The deadline of 16th of the month remains to keep things easy.

Karren

P.S It's just started raining. Add umbrella to the list...



Swindon Parish Council

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

Making the Connection

Our former Clerk Shaun introduced me to you in the last edition of Village News, and now my time has come to fill his (considerable) shoes.

It's no mean feat taking over from someone who's been such a longstanding and effective part of the council, and the parish in general. Fortunately for me, Shaun has been extremely generous with his time and knowledge during the handover. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him a happy and peaceful retirement.

Now, let's get something out of the way. Don't hold it against me, but I'm technically an outsider. I live in the Forest of Dean, where I also grew up, although I have longstanding connections with Cheltenham. In fact, there's an interesting historical connection between the Forest and Cheltenham. The Forest's coal and iron ore were important to the growth of Cheltenham, with coal in particular helping to fuel the town's gasworks during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We're also literally connected by the Gloucestershire Way, although it's probably not the most efficient way for me to travel to council meetings!

My connection with parish councils isn't new either. I've previously worked for two parish councils in the Forest and currently also work for Gotherington Parish Council. It's quite common for Clerks of smaller councils to work across more than one parish, and it's useful to see how different councils operate and put that insight to good use. Of course, there's plenty I have to learn about Swindon itself. Local knowledge is invaluable, and fortunately there's a wealth of it around the council and in the community.



Swindon Parish Council

One of the first things I've learned is that residents readily approach the council, and councillors are welcoming, keen to listen and act where they can. For me, that connection between residents and their parish council is a very good sign indeed.

Summer's a quiet time for many organisations, but not so for this parish council. Submitting robust planning comments, responding to the Community Governance Review consultation, removing graffiti, reviewing finance and website arrangements and following up on highways issues have all kept us busy.

So, what's on our radar for autumn? The Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service consultation includes proposals to change the operating hours at Hester's Way; the parish council will consider its response in September (the consultation is also open to residents in general). We'll also be progressing park improvements and looking at specialist consultants to help with this. Needless to say, we'll also be keeping a keen eye on development matters

The next parish council meeting is on Monday 21 September at 7.30 pm at Swindon Village Hall, and residents are very welcome to attend, as always.

Thanks for reading. There's a lot still for me to learn about Swindon, but I'm getting stuck in and enjoying making the connections.

Meg Humphries
Parish Clerk

A different idea this time... For each letter of the alphabet, identify the sovereign country with the largest population whose name begins with that letter. Two letters have no sovereign country.

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W No sovereign country begins with W
K	X No sovereign country begins with X
L	Y
M	Z

If you need a clue, the population of each sovereign county is on page 14 and the answers are on page 22





1st Swindon Village Scout Group

1st Swindon Village Scout Group - <https://1sv-scouts.co.uk>

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our young people to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in September. Lots of them had an exciting time at the annual camp over the Summer.

New Volunteers Needed - gsl@1sv-scouts.co.uk

The Group is thriving and we are now looking for new volunteers to help with the Scout section on a Monday evening, 7.15pm to 8.30pm in the Village Hall.

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 regular volunteers in the Group.

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

All information about the group can be found at <https://1sv-scouts.co.uk>



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

I love September with the shift in pace from a more relaxed summer, where we have at times, struggled with the heat and the lack of rain. As a Church, we have enjoyed both the coolness of St. Lawrence's, and the fresh air of Swindon Village park as we gathered for Praise in the Park. Over 100 people supported by the Cheltenham Salvation Army band came to sing favourite hymns before being refreshed with tea and cake in the Village Hall. As a family, we have appreciated our annual camping trip to Brittany, where the pace of life slowed down significantly and we could enjoy the stunning scenery, the coastal breeze and the French cuisine!

September signals the beginning of the new academic year and a transition into a different season. New school uniforms have been bought, pencil cases replenished and new routines are under way. For those heading off in another direction, September marks a fresh start and the anticipation of new possibilities. The pace of life in the Church certainly increases as we look towards Harvest and the celebration of the things we have. By acknowledging and appreciating the blessings in our lives, we open ourselves up to even more abundance and joy.

From September, we enter Creation Season, where we acknowledge and give thanks for our world and our own environments. The Church of England's Five Marks of Mission, adopted by the General Synod in 1996, includes the challenge of caring better for God's earth; "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

We will be celebrating Creation through our worship, sacrament and preaching to raise awareness of how fragile our world is and to understand how we may become better stewards of the gifts we have been given.



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

We live in a truly spectacular world and as we come to the end of the summer and look towards the autumn, I invite you to make some time to stop and look at your surroundings. We need to restore our relationships with God, creation and each other. We might need to make space for appreciating what is on our doorstep, so be encouraged to explore and discover God's gifts to you.

*"Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43. 18-19*



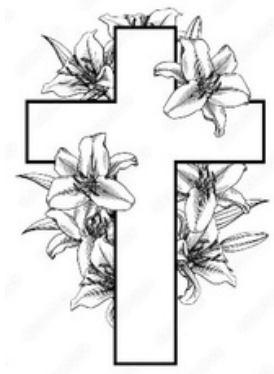
Praise in the Park





St. Lawrence's Church

From the registers



Funerals

We commemorated the lives of

Sylvia Fitchett

17th June

Robert (Clive) Corke

3rd July

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

St. Lawrence's Church presents its annual

Quiz & Supper

Saturday 17th October

Doors open 7.00pm

Village Hall

Gather your team (max. 6 people) or make up a team on the evening for an exciting night filled with fun questions and amazing prizes!

Hot potato supper

Bar open

Raffle

£15 per person

Booking essential, via Karen Evans

cuckoosnest5@yahoo.co.uk / 01242 241678

Raising funds for St. Lawrence's Church

Services at St. Lawrence

September 2026

Sunday 6th September	9:30am	Family Communion
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 13 th September	9:30am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer
Sunday 20th September	9:30am	Holy Communion
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 27 th September	9:30am	Holy Communion



St. Lawrence's Church





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!)



QUIZ HINTS....

A 46-47 million

B 210+ million

C 1.4+ billion

D 110+ million

E 130+ million

F 68+ million

G 84+ million

H 11-12 million

I 1.4+ billion

J 123+ million

K 55+ million

L 7-8 million

M 130+ million

N 230+ million

O 5+ million

P 250+ million

Q 3 million

R 140+ million

S 63+ million

T 66+ million

U 340+ million

V 100+ million

Y 40+ million

Z 21+ million

The 20th Anniversary Tour
**THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF
VAL DOONICAN**



An anarchic evening of live music and laughter with
the UK's hardest working comedy folk band

SAT 12TH SEP
Swindon Village Hall
Cheltenham GL51 9QP

Tickets from:
www.thebarstewardsons.com/tour



The Swindon Village Society

Well, our May meeting became interesting. First, our booked speaker who was going to tell us about Amy Johnson had to cry off because of illness. However, a replacement was found who was going to tell us about education in the 17th Century. However, her disabled husband became ill on the day she was due to talk so a phone call was received at 4pm saying she had to cry off too. Fortunately a hero strode forth to save the evening. Well, it was me actually. Up to the attic to collect five local history talks and five boxes of slides and off to the meeting. A vote was held as to which talk everyone wanted to fall asleep to and 'The History of Aviation in Gloucestershire' won by a goodly margin. This was sort of good news because the talk does feature a few sentences on Amy Johnson which takes us back to what was supposed to happen that evening.

Fortunately, even those who had heard the talk before had forgotten it all and so the talk was fairly well received. It even had a good effect on the accounts because rather than paying for a speaker I did it for free except for the gift of a bottle of wine. And guess who brought that? It wasn't even a particularly good bottle. However, as I write this a much better bottle has just arrived. Thanks all.

So on to a very different matter. I have long had an interest in paintings. When I first arrived in Cheltenham I was very pleased to visit the Wilson Museum and see some very fine paintings from the Baron de Ferriere's collection. I certainly thought the quality was well up with several of the galleries I used to visit in London and other cities. Sadly, when the redevelopment of The Wilson started, the



The Swindon Village Society

painting all disappeared into the cellars and that must have been ten years ago. So I am delighted to announce that a good selection of still life painting from the de Ferriere's together with some very interesting modern painting and sculptures have reappeared for an exhibition that will last for the rest of this year. So if this is your thing you have a destination.

Now on to future plans.

Our July talk will be on the Gloucester/Warwickshire Steam Railway. In August we have our Annual Garden Party which will be at 3, Swindon Hall. This is a members only event and so if you hanker after a glass of lukewarm fizz while looking at a dahlia join now. In September we will hear about Snowhill Manor which has just appeared on the television as one of the National Trusts more interesting properties. In October our own member, Robin Holland is going to tell us about the last 600 million years of Swindon Village history. I am hoping he is talking geology or this talk could go on for rather a long time. Then in November we hope to finally have the Amy Johnson talk. Fingers very much crossed that our speaker is back to good health or else it will be up to the attic looking for slides again.

Visitors or new members are always welcome - if you can take the tension.

Barry Simon

Hello Gardeners, it's been a difficult summer for most gardens! Drought is becoming increasingly common in the UK and I've certainly noticed a lot of changes this summer because of it.

As someone who loves to grow my own, I think it's important to share what's done well this year and what hasn't so much.

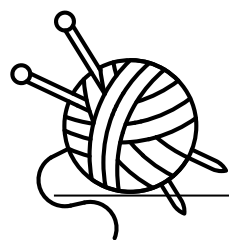
My Onions and Carrots this year have done terribly, Carrots worse than Onions! Both are crops that don't like much above 25 degrees, my carrots died as seedlings even in a shaded cloche and my onions this year are the smallest I've ever had, looking more like Jumbo spring onions! I think in future, keeping the shaded cloche on as long as possible is likely to help, I removed it around early May just before a heatwave when I presumed all the seedlings were strong enough.

Surprisingly my potatoes have done ok, just with a lot of watering required (need to increase my water butt size though!). What's done best this year has definitely been my Courgettes and Tomatoes, although not without nuances. With the increased heat, I've had to water my Tomatoes in the greenhouse every 2-3 days and if I forgot, which I did upon occasion, visible splits appeared on my Beef Tomatoes. Greenhouse doors have been pretty much permanently open since early May too to not allow them to get too much over 35 degrees. My best crop though was definitely Courgettes, growing in my raised beds outside, they've gotten huge this year, spreading at least 1m wide and almost the same in height, with lots of fruit, of which lots got given away to my friends, family and veg box at the edge of my road.

As for the rest of the garden in summer, the Alstroemerias have definitely been the stars of the show. We bought a few more varieties of them, so we have them in yellow, pink & orange now and they've brought us months of constant beautiful flowers, alongside the usual Dahlias. If you're wondering "What's an Alstroemeria?" my dad planted a few in the village trough outside Swindon Village Hall. They're very drought tolerant and divide easily every couple of years.

Thanks for reading, lets hope we have a rainy Autumn, so all our plants can recover!

Dale.



Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI did not meet in August we just went on a trip to the Amazon Warehouse in Swindon, It was a very interesting experience seeing how it all went from the beginning of when an order was placed to the packing and distribution. I would recommend anyone going on this tour. We then went for a bit of retail shopping at the Swindon Outlet centre and after a spot of lunch we hit the shops. All in all a wonderful day.

Our next meeting is on Monday 7 September at St Nicholas Church Hall. We have invited two members from surrounding WI's to attend and celebrate our Birthday. Our speaker is Daiziel Ellis a very talented poet.

Do come along and see what we are all about.

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI

Yo Dips

YOGHURT DIP SEASONINGS

DELICIOUS DIPS IN SECONDS!

JUST ADD YOGHURT, STIR, DIP & ENJOY



HEALTHIER CHOICE

Just 0.5 SWIPs per 50g portion* and around a **third of the calories** compared to mayo or sour cream fresh dips.



MADE WITH QUALITY INGREDIENTS

Blended with real herbs and spices for amazing flavour.



JUST MIX & ENJOY

Simply mix with any kind of yoghurt – natural, Greek, full fat or low fat.



QUICK, EASY & VERSATILE

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♥	♥	♥	£7



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(see number below).



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ORDER LOCALLY & SAVE ON POSTAGE!

To order, check out our website www.yoghurtdips.com or text us on WhatsApp ☎ 07307 197580 with your order details.



We'll arrange a collection from **Dark Lane, Swindon Village.**



Collect locally and avoid postage charges!



*Based on a 50g portion of dip made with full fat natural yoghurt.
SWIPs = Slimming World Individual Points*.



Cook with Dawn

Hello everyone, hope you all enjoyed your summer break and are staying safe with the extreme heat we are having.
Let's quench our thirst with a lovely refreshing drink.

ICED TEA. Serves 4

Ingredients

4 tea bags

1 level tbsp honey

2 lemons sliced

Plus juice of one more lemon

1 orange sliced

Handful of fresh mint

Ice cubes

Drinking straws

Method

1. Brew the tea bags in 1 litre of hot water, adding the honey too.
2. Allow to stand for 1 minute then take out the tea bags and leave to cool completely.
3. Pour the tea into a jug, add plenty of ice, the lemon juice and fruit slices.
4. Stir then pop in the fresh mint.
5. Divide the iced tea between 4 glasses allowing slices of fruit, mint, and ice to gently fall into each glass.

Pop a drinking straw into each glass. As the temperature outside cools down, take some time to sit back and sip away.... Enjoy... ;)

Answers to quiz

Argentina

Brazil

China

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ethiopia

France

Germany

Haiti

India

Japan

Kenya

Laos

Mexico

Nigeria

Oman

Pakistan

Qatar

Russia

South Africa

Thailand

United States

Vietnam

Yemen

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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)	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	07787 485221 / 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 September 2026

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. Alison Berry (Chair)	07754 006634
Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07963 581371
Cllr. Andy Carvell	07919 178555
Cllr. Katy Kendry	07595 452662
Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	07833 089435
	parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

There are currently two vacancies. 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	07713 532041

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Richard Lawler	07584 424729
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:	Hugh Evans	241678

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.