

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

October 2026 Edition No.527



OCTOBER

Saturday 17th **Church Quiz** Swindon Village Hall

Monday 19th **Parish Council meeting.** 7.30pm
Swindon Village Hall, bar area

Wednesday 21st **Swindon Village Society.** 730 pm Village Hall.
A talk by Robin Hollands on 'Swindon Village's
600 Million Year Journey'. Visitors welcome £3

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

NOVEMBER

Monday 16th **Parish Council meeting.** 7.30pm
Swindon Village Hall, bar area

Wednesday 18th **Swindon Village Society.** 730 pm Village Hall.
A talk by Paul Murphy on Amy Johnson, Britain's most
famous pre-war Aviatix who lived in Stoke Orchard.

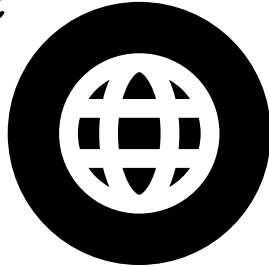
Sunday 25th **Litter Pick.** Start 10.30 Village hall .

Saturday 31st **Family Halloween event.** Swindon Vilage Hall
See posters around Village and on Facebook..

A Connected Community!



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



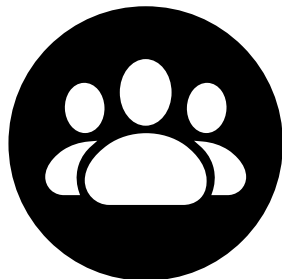
Parish Council Website

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

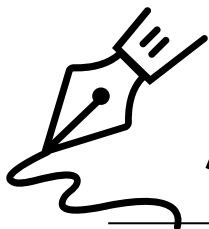
If you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.



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

Currently, there is much talk about titles, pronouns and how people liked to be addressed. I'm not going to get into any political or discussions about it here, but I'm very happy to call someone by whatever name or title thy prefer. If it makes them feel comfortable in their own skin, then I'm all for it.

Whilst confirming the details for our contact page, it turns out that our new Parish Clerk Meg prefers not to use a title. I feel the same way. Mrs Parsons is my Mother-in-Law. I am very happy to be called Katie's Mum, Matt's wife or Mummy Parsons as the children I read with in school like to call me. For everyone else, Karren with or without the Parsons is just fine!

Whilst in school this week, I caught the tail end of a lesson being taught about role models. Each of the children were asked who their role model was. Most of the boys were their footballing heroes and the girls varied between gymnasts, dancers, their teacher and their Mum. I was asked the same question, but I must admit it stumped me. I've often wished I was better at singing or taller(!), but I can't ever remember wanting anyone else's life. I'm very happy being me - Just Karren!

Karren





Mighty Action Starts with a Chat

If there's one theme that's popped up again and again in our recent Parish Council meetings, it's planning for the future – and that future is heading our way from a few different directions. Good planning is always a two-way street: it works best when council efforts and local community voices are both present.

Development is still one of the biggest talking points in the parish. While councillors review plans and work behind the scenes between formal stages to help get the best outcome for our community, direct comments from residents can make a massive difference.

If you want to have your say, here are three top tips:

1. Track applications online so you get notified when updates go live.
2. Comment on every round. Old comments don't carry over when plans are updated, so make sure to submit your feedback again (it's worth saving a copy of your first comment to re-purpose).
3. Stick to 'material' planning points like traffic, safety or local wildlife. You can check planningaid.org.uk to see what counts.

On that note, we'd love a bit of extra help! When massive technical documents come through, like the recent updated Design Code for Elms Park, we have to analyse, digest and write a comprehensive response in a matter of days. So, if you're a keen-eyed volunteer who fancies diving into the detail, please get in touch.

Roads and transport are another area where dialogue matters, and we're pushing hard to ensure any future growth comes with proper funding for local infrastructure. Because traffic studies for new developments are usually paid for by the developers themselves,



Swindon Parish Council

we're exploring options to work with an independent traffic consultant so we can get our own expert advice on the real impact on our local roads.

Meanwhile, we're making progress on the park and have just selected a consultant to work on a proper masterplan for its future, and we'll be inviting residents to share their views as plans take shape. One request we've heard a lot is for more benches, so we're aiming to get new seating added in phase one.

We've responded to the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue consultation to raise several points and to ask for more detailed local information. With thousands of new homes planned nearby and big changes coming to M5 Junction 10, we want to be sure the future plans fully account for how our local area is growing.

It's clear how much residents care about the parish. That ongoing dialogue between residents and councillors leads to much better decisions all round. You're always welcome to come along to our meetings – the next one is on Monday 19 October at 7.30 pm at Swindon Village Hall.

Whatever comes next, one thing's for sure: we won't be short of interesting things to talk about!

Meg Humphries
Parish Clerk





St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

As the leaves turn gold and the weather cools, the rhythm of the church calendar picks up after the hot summer. We have been celebrating Creationtide in our services at St. Lawrence and reflecting on how God's creation is interwoven in our daily lives.

Autumn brings us to the season of Harvest – a time to pause, look around, and reflect on the concept of abundance. We live in a society where success is measured through the amount of stuff we have in our possession, the holidays we take and the types of cars we drive. We celebrate Harvest within the Church every year because it gives us opportunity to express our gratitude for what we have. We also collect donations for the Fresh Hope Pantry at St. Peter's Church on Tewkesbury Road. More information can be found at [The Pantry Homepage - Fresh Hope](#)

In the Christian tradition, true abundance is not defined by material wealth or freedom from scarcity. Rather, it is found in recognising God's boundless grace, love and presence in our lives. We are invited to view our lives through the lens of gratitude and spiritual richness. God's harvest is here among us. What can we do to take up the responsibility that our wealth brings and give to our neighbours in need? We can keep ourselves to ourselves, enjoy our own lives, follow our own interests and leave others to look after themselves. Or we can take up the responsibility of being truly our God-given selves. We can give some of our time, our attention and our gifts, something of ourselves to our neighbours in need and in our own parish.



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

As we celebrate this Harvest season, may our gratitude become action. Let us receive God's gifts with thankful hearts, care faithfully for creation, and share our time, attention and resources generously with those around us. In doing so, we become part of God's abundant harvest—a community in which grace is recognised, blessings are shared and every neighbour is valued.

*“the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

*Each of you must give as you have made up
your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

(2 Corinthians 9. 6-7)

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.

Services at St Lawrence October 2026

Sunday 4th October	9:30am	Family Harvest Communion
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 11 th October	9:30am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer
Sunday 18 th October	9:30am	Holy Communion
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 25 th October	9:30am	Holy Communion



Services at St. Lawrence - November 2026

Sunday 1st
November

9:30am

Family Holy Communion

3pm

All Souls Service of
Thanksgiving

Sunday 8th
November –
Remembrance
Sunday

9:30am

Holy Communion

10:45am

Act of Remembrance at
the War Memorial

Sunday 15th
November

9:30am

Holy Communion

5pm

Evensong

Sunday 22nd
November

9:30am

Holy Communion

Sunday 29th
November

10am

Benefice Service at St.
Mary Magdalene,
Elmstone Hardwicke



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



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!)

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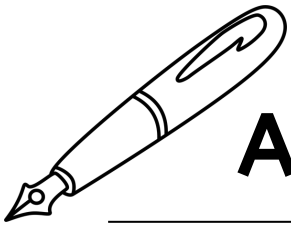


@the.beauty.hut.Cheltenham

Which London tube station is named after:

1. An inn that existed on the site since 1638, originally taking land that belonged to Clerkenwell Priory.
2. A battle in which a coalition of British and Prussian forces defeated Napoleon and ended the Napoleonic wars
3. The walled vegetable garden of monks from Westminster Abbey who sold their excess produce nearby
4. An area which takes its name from a medieval military order who built their English headquarters there in the 12th century.
5. An old title for the chief forester of nearby Enfield Chase.
6. A pub built in 1840 beside a tollgate and designed in the style of an Alpine chalet.
7. A priory where Dominican monks wore black cloaks
8. An area in Woolwich which had a munitions factory in the 19th century
9. Seven elm trees planted in a circle around a walnut tree in Haringey
10. A memorial to the Great Fire of London in 1666





A few words from.....

When we have a new advertiser, we like to offer them the chance of letting us know a bit more about them.

I'm Henry, and my partner Tiia and I founded Yo Dips.

The idea came from our love of adding Greek yoghurt to flatbreads and wraps. We didn't really like the greasy, oily consistency of many mayonnaise- or sour cream-based dips and sauces, so one day we decided to experiment by adding our own herbs and spices to yoghurt to create something that worked better with the food we enjoyed.

That's when we came up with the idea for yoghurt seasoning sachets – simply mix the seasoning with yoghurt, and you have a delicious, creamy dip or sauce in seconds.

Since launching, Yo Dips has grown from a small idea into a growing British brand, with our products now enjoyed by customers across the UK. Our dips have become particularly popular within the Slimming World community, as they offer a simple way to enjoy great-tasting dips while reducing the fat and calories compared with many traditional alternatives.

We're passionate about making healthier food choices easy, convenient, and, most importantly, tasty. We also love that our sachets can help reduce food waste, as you only make the amount of dip or sauce you actually need.

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

Fresh, tasty dips in seconds!

Great for every occasion!



GREAT WITH MEALS



PERFECT FOR BBQs



IDEAL FOR SNACKING



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♥	♥	♥	£7



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



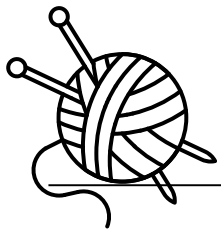
We'll arrange a collection from **Dark Lane, Swindon Village.**



Collect locally and avoid postage charges!



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



Marle Hill WI

We met on Monday 7 September 2026

We celebrated our birthday with a bring a plate of food party and invited two members from nearby WI's.

Our speaker was Daiziel Ellis whose talk was entitled "Poetry, but not as you know it". She was very entertaining with poems she had written and finished with limericks.

Our monthly lunch and book club dates were given out to the members.

Do come and join us and have some ME time and enjoy the company of like-minded ladies.

Our next meeting is on Monday 5 October 2026 and our speaker will be Helen Plumb whose talk is about Glorious Gemstones.

We will have the usual Bring and Buy table with items left over going to the charity shop.

If you want any more information, please contact Sara Jefferies.

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI





The Swindon Village Society

July could have gone better. We had a talk scheduled for the 15th. Unfortunately, we had neglected to notify our national football team who were off in America in some sort of competition. Rather than doing the decent thing and getting knocked out in the first round or two they were still going strong on the 15th and apparently there was some interest in watching the match on the screen in the village hall while holding a pint of beer. So, we decided that retreat might be the best option and cancelled. With a bit of luck the Village Hall is now rolling in the profits made that night. And since we rely on them for our main venue we can only wish them well and thank them for all they do for us.

The talk that was to have taken place that night has been rescheduled and John Roach will tell us about The Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway in March next year. I believe that the International Tiddlywinks Champions takes place that month so let us hope that the England team are out in round two. I must remember to send them our worst wishes.

But we did manage the August Garden Party and the twenty five or so who attended survived the evening. The weather was pretty well custom built and it was good to see you all on a lawn which closely resembled the southern-most reach of the Sahara Desert.



The Swindon Village Society

Now we will pass on to the rest of this year's programme.

In October we have a talk on 'Swindon Village's 600 million Year Journey' by our own Robin Hollands. I am given to understand that we started off somewhere down by the South Pole which makes it a fairly arduous trek. We will probably find the weather was better then.

In November we hope to have the delayed talk on Amy Johnson, Britain's most famous pre-war aviatrix who lived in Stoke Orchard. Our speaker had to cancel in May because he was on a course of treatment. Fingers crossed that he is well now. Dates and timing are on the front cover. Here is hoping that I got them correct for once. There is no meeting in December so the January AGM then looms

Visitors or new members are always welcome. If you join now you may well get your membership extended through next year but I do not have the Treasurer's assurance on this yet.

Barry Simon



Hello Gardeners, it's now Autumn, a welcome relief after a drought ridden summer. I myself have been looking forward to this period for planting new trees and perennials.

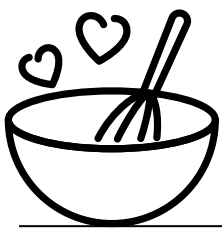
With the last few years being really hot from early spring onwards, if you planted new plants in spring, there's a good chance they won't survive drought due to lack of time to establish. Following this, a lot of gardeners are choosing to plant new plants in Autumn, giving them time to establish their roots during wetter months.

Our biggest plant we lost to drought this year was an old Creeping Hydrangea, given to us by my Dad when we first moved into the Village, it was sad to lose it, but now the space it used to live in is free for something else. The purpose of the Creeping Hydrangea was to add height to our garden, something we don't have much of, so we're planting a decorative tree in its place this Autumn. From my research, this is the best time to plant a tree, one that is ideally between 3-4 years old so that it's relatively quick to establish. The choice is currently between a UK hardy Acacia Tree variety (Mimosa) & a larger variety Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon). Hopefully the choice will be revealed next issue!

Also this month, as mentioned in a previous issue, I'm starting to dig up my front garden, with the eventual plan being to build a stone wall border and create a gravel garden within. I've also decided to gravel around the entirety of my Greenhouse, to allow more space for pots. My potatoes hated the heat this summer and moving forward, I think a shady position for the potatoes come summer would be preferable! It might also mean an irrigation system from my Greenhouse water butt is possible.

Lots of projects to keep me busy, hopefully you have some Autumn ideas too!

Thanks for reading, Dale.



Cook with Dawn

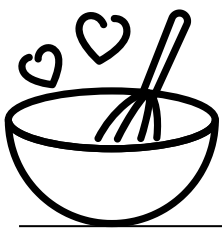
I really do love the Autumn, when the leaves start to turn from green to gold, red, and orange... and the pumpkins are ready to harvest... so when you've finished carving your 'Jack-o'-Lantern' , try this warming pumpkin soup instead of throwing it on the compost...

Pumpkin soup....

Ingredients



- 1 medium pumpkin (approx 800g), peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks
- 2 small sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- Oil spray
- 1 onion diced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed (or 2tsp from a jar)
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 900ml hot vegetable stock
- Salt & pepper
- Yogurt
- Your choice of crusty bread



Cook with Dawn

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 200°C/fan 180°C /gas 6 .
 2. Put the pumpkin and sweet potato on a non stick baking tray, spray with oil and bake for 30 minutes.
 3. At the same time spray a large non stick saucepan with oil, put it over a medium heat, add the onion and cook for 5-6 minutes until just soft.
 4. Add the garlic and paprika to the pan, cook for a further minute then pour in the stock. Bring to a boil then turn down and simmer while the veg are cooking.
 5. Remove the veg from the oven when ready, add to the pan. Take the pan off the heat and blitz with a stick blender, (or use a food processor and return to the pan)
 6. Season to taste, divide between 4 bowls.
- Serve with a swirl of yogurt and some nice chunks of bread.

As always.... enjoy 😊





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Answers to quiz

1. Angel
2. Waterloo
3. Covent Garden
4. Temple
5. Cockfosters
6. Swiss Cottage
7. Blackfriars
8. Arsenal
9. Seven Sisters
10. Monument

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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 23rd October 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
Meg Humphries (Clerk to the Council)	07539 803246
	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.