

Village News

in Swindon Village

*Your local Newsletter sponsored by the
Parish Council and delivered by volunteers*

No. 398

October 2013

October

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Rosealee Lane - Glorious Gloucestershire |
| Saturday | 5 | Scout Group Jumble Sale Village Hall 11.00am |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Lena Dyche - Swedish Culture |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting with Public Session
Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 12 | Quiz & Supper in aid of church funds
Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 16 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Cyril Smallwood - Bees and beekeeping |

November

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Monday | 4 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM |
| Wednesday | 6 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Nonny James - Circle of Life |
| Tuesday | 12 | Parish Council Meeting with Public Session
Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 20 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Geoff Miller - Occupied Guernsey |
| Saturday | 23 | Swindon Village Primary School Winter Fair 2.00pm |

(Full minutes of all meetings are displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish website. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)

The proposed Elms Park development continues to make major waves. The Draft Joint Core Strategy (JCS) identifies the area to the North West of Cheltenham (including a big swathe of Swindon Parish) as suitable for development. The councils of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury have all now agreed to let the document go forward for public consultation. In the meantime we were told that Bloor and Persimmon, the prospective developers, will be applying for outline planning permission in October. At that point everything becomes real. There will be a period of public consultation and it is vital that everyone has their say. Make no mistake; everyone in the parish will be affected by this development if it goes ahead.

The Parish Council has responded to a Flood Risk Strategy document prepared by the County Council. The area is not seen as an area at risk of major flooding but 2007 showed how the Parish can be affected.

I always thought that the Wingmoor Farm Landfill site was a relatively simple operation run by a single company. In fact there are a number of recycling, composting and disposal businesses operating at the site. Inevitably from time to time nuisance is created for its neighbours, particularly those nearest to the site in Elmstone Hardwicke. From time to time smells from the site reach our patch. Anyone experiencing this is asked to contact the Environment Agency. Details of how to do this feature elsewhere in this edition. The Environment Agency is very effective at making the operators aware of issues and putting them right. Regular meetings are held between the operators, the Environment Agency and neighbouring councils, including Swindon Parish Council.

With the hot weather only recently behind us we are turning our attention to winter planning! The County Council can supply us with road salt in advance of the bad weather but once it hits they are busy dealing with major roads and bus routes. We have to be self sufficient in terms of storing and moving road salt and applying it to our minor roads. This presents the Parish Council with problems as we don't have vehicles, sheds and teams of people to make this happen. We must make the most of what we have.

The Parish Council has been putting a greater focus on the management of the allotments in recent weeks. A working party of councillors has been formed and sought to put the administration in good order. We owe a debt of gratitude to Ian Brown, our volunteer allotments manager, in helping to make this happen and for collecting allotment rents. The long, hot summer has meant that the water bill for the allotments was almost double the usual amount so the money is vital for us. We held a meeting between councillors and allotment holders in the bar area of the Village Hall recently. With the bar open (thanks to Angie) it turned into a pleasant social

evening with a good discussion of where we stand and ideas for the future. We hope to have similar meetings at six monthly intervals as it is such a useful forum.

We notice that some road sweeping has been undertaken by the County Council in recent weeks. With the leaves about to plummet from the trees it is particularly important that drains are kept clear. We have struck a deal with the County Council whereby we will give them and local residents notice that a road needs sweeping. A day will be nominated and we ask residents to move their vehicles off the road while the sweeping takes place. It should maximise the effectiveness of the sweeping if the sweeper is not constantly having to divert around parked cars.

We have a large number of car dealers in the parish (along Manor Road and Kingsditch Lane in particular). Increasingly these businesses are parking cars for sale on land beyond their property boundaries. This is unsightly, unsafe and also illegal. The Parish Council will be doing its best to get this practice stopped.

Residents have complained of hissing noises coming from the Spirax Sarco site adjacent to Manor Road. We have asked the company to reduce or eliminate this nuisance.

A study into boundaries within communities and how they affect the delivery of services is being undertaken by the University of Gloucestershire. The study is being conducted on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. The researchers wish to use this area for their study. The area is of interest because it is diverse. There are natural boundaries like the railway and major roads and the parish includes parts of Wyman's Brook and houses south of the Tewkesbury Road; it is much more than the "rural" Swindon Village area.

The researchers wish to interview a small number of people as part of this study. The Parish Council has been asked to nominate people but if you would like to participate please let me know and I will pass your details to the study team. The Parish Council will see the study report. It should be interesting.

A quick plug; the Parish Council still has one vacancy.

Last but not least, the Parish Council would like to convey their best wishes to Councillor Helen Wells. Helen is always very active in local matters but has been unwell recently. We look forward to having her fighting fit and back in our ranks!

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Services and events in October

Tuesday	1 st	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	6 th	<i>Harvest Festival</i>	
		10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		6.30pm	Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	8 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Saturday	12 th	7.30pm	Quiz and Hot Supper Village Hall
Sunday	13 th	<i>Trinity 20</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	15 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	20 th	<i>Trinity 21</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion with baptism of Poppie Ashton
		3.30pm	Baptism of Dolcie Ashton
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	17 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday	27 th	<i>Trinity 22</i>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday	29 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group

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 church, please contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The Office is based in St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Assistant Curate) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk, or the Revd Canon Michael Cozens (Team Rector) on 523177 or michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk.

From the registers



Baptism (Christening)

We have recently welcomed into the church family

Scarlet Owen

25th August



Marriage

We have recently celebrated the marriage of

Vikki Tarling & Luke Daynes

24th August

Together @ Ten Thirty

It is hard to believe that it is a year since we launched our new service in St Lawrence Church aimed at all ages. It has been encouraging to welcome some new faces to this service aged from six days to 80 years and over! It would be lovely to see you as we celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October.

North Cheltenham Team News

In October one of our full time team vicars, The Revd Daniel Papworth, will be leaving us. There will be an opportunity to say farewell to Daniel, Sarah and Joel on 20th October at St Mary's Prestbury at 12.15pm. When the team ministry was formed it was agreed that when the first team vicar left they would not be replaced, and so this naturally leads to the question...

...What happens next?

Responsibility for each of our 5 churches will be taken by one of our 3 full-time priests (the 'lead priest'). This person will have overall responsibility for pastoral matters, worship at all of the services, liaising with relevant committees and working with Churchwardens and other local ministers who are connected with that church.

St Lawrence Swindon Village & Cheltenham St Peter

Revd Liz Palin is the 'lead priest'.

St Mary Prestbury & St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke

Canon Michael Cozens is the 'lead priest'.

St Nicolas Prestbury & All Saints Pittville

Revd Stephen Eldridge is the 'lead priest'.

The 'lead priest' will not be able to be present for every service that takes place and we will continue to rely on the help of our retired clergy and lay ministers who will take services for us.

Revd Liz Palin

A view from the pew

Love your enemies?

Jesus told us to love our enemies. How on earth can we do that?

Jesus tells us a bit of what it means to love your enemy, about what we must decide to do if we are to love him or her, or in fact anyone - whether they are our enemy, or our friend.

He tells us to wish the best for others rather than the worst. He tells us to be merciful as God is merciful; to forgive and to give as God gives, without any expectation or hope of reward from that person, but simply for the sake of the other person just because that is God's will for us.

Jesus tells us, in the greatest piece of advice that there is about how to love others: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." These words are what has been called the golden rule. Every faith, every great religious belief, has a version of it for people to follow.

Judaism says it this way: "What is hateful to you, do not to others".

The Hindu faith says it this way: "Do naught to others which would cause you pain if done to you".

Confucianism tells us: "Do not to others what you would not have them do unto you."

Islam says: "No one is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself".

"Do to others as you would have them do to you".

This is the great rule of love - the great rule by which you can tell if you are loving someone even when you do not feel very loving towards them.

The marvellous thing about this rule of love, this test of whether or not you are acting with love, is that it's not only a rule or guideline, it is also intimately linked to a great spiritual law that cannot be broken - for that law is descriptive rather than prescriptive. It illustrates rather than orders.

What I mean by 'the other law' is this: "the judgement you give is the judgement you will receive; or what you sow is what you will reap."

Do not judge and you will not be judged.

Do not condemn and you will not be condemned.

Give and it will be given to you - "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over," will be given to you.

If I meet someone whose behaviour I disapprove of I try to keep this in mind.

Ralph Griffin

The Children's Society

House boxes

It's time for the home savings boxes for The Children's Society to be emptied again. If you are a box holder please take it to **Sylvia Hales** at **41 Rivelands Road** or phone her on **235933** to arrange collection. Alternatively you can hand your box to one of the Churchwardens after a church service but please do not leave it unattended in the church. Thank you.

It's getting closer!

St. Lawrence Church Christmas Tree Festival

The theme for this year's **Christmas Tree Festival** is **Twelve Days of Christmas**. As always, the theme can be interpreted as widely as you wish! This is not a competition but a community celebration bringing together religious and secular aspects of Christmas and we invite everyone, groups and individuals, to take part. More details nearer the time.

Karen Evans 01242 241678

Wingmoor Farm: reporting odours and dust

Swindon Village is located approximately 2 miles away from Wingmoor farm, which disposes of hazardous waste such as the dust from Municipal incinerators, contaminated soils, and asbestos as well as domestic waste and green waste (which is composted on site).

Some residents in Swindon Village noticed strong odours over the summer which may have emanated from the disposal site. If you notice any particularly bad smells or dust which you think may have come from the site, then the Environment Agency has a special number to call to report it: **0800 80 70 60**.

The agency is particularly good at following up reports so any information we can provide would be very helpful. See <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/waste/121847.aspx> for more information about Wingmoor Farm.

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride and Stride

The Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust have a fund-raising day each year on the second Saturday in September. Members of the choir at St Lawrence Church have always visited as many churches as possible in the time allowed (10 am until 6 pm) and raised money, half for the Trust and half for their own church. They always used to cycle but this year two Joans, Pauline and Christine used a car to get around an impressive total of 32 churches. At the time of writing their sponsors have pledged £100 to which Gift Aid can be added. Hopefully, more donations will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, John and I set out on foot to visit the churches of the North Cheltenham group. We began in Swindon Village and strode up Swindon Lane to St Nicolas' Church, open to us and to anyone who wanted information on weddings and baptisms. From St Nicolas' we cut through Tommy Taylor's Lane to Pittville Park. The park was being enjoyed by a variety of people. Fishermen had set up their fishing rods by the lake but were sheltering in small tents. Cyclists, children with scooters and runners were enjoying the open spaces. Going under the Evesham Road to the other side we saw preparations being made for the Cheltenham Half Marathon to be held next day.

Our next church was All Saints, open and welcoming for the Heritage weekend. Old church records were on display and of course the church itself is a treasure trove. St Mary's, Prestbury was to be our next call and we walked to it through Whaddon, near the Robins' Football Ground. It was good to see that history of a different sort was preserved, as the name of the former Cat and Fiddle pub was given to the nearest bus stop. St Mary's church was also open for Heritage weekend with more records and old photos on display.

We had to cut short the tour without going to Elmstone Hardwicke, visited last year. We'd seen four very different churches, met some old friends and seen parts of Cheltenham we rarely see. I'm hoping that members of the Swindon Village Society will be as generous as usual in their sponsorship.

PS I think that those of us who Rode and Strode this year all thought of Violet Clark, no longer with us. Violet was always a keen participant until she became too frail to ride her bike.

Elizabeth Heathcott

St. Lawrence's Church



Quiz and Hot Potato Supper

**Saturday 12th October
Village Hall**

What?

Who?

Doors open 7.00pm
Supper 7.30pm followed by Quiz

When?

Bar

Raffle

Where?

Supper menu

Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings/toppings
(Chilli, Chicken in white sauce, Sausage & onion, Ratatouille, Cheese)
Salad
Home-made apple pie

Book as a team (max. 6 people) or make up a team on the night
£7 per person

Booking essential - phone Karen Evans on 241678 - NOW!

Profits to St. Lawrence's Restoration Fund

Well, here we go again! We are back after the glorious sunshine of the summer and, at Swindon Village Primary School, it's definitely business as usual. As I write this, we are into our third week of term and already in full swing with lessons, visits, enrichment days and extra-curricular activities all up and running. Add to this 60 brand new, smiling Reception children and you get an idea of just how busy things are in school.

Talking of our Reception children, this year we have tried a new induction process and have had all of our new children in since the beginning of September. This week, they have stayed for lunch and, next week, will be with us full-time. This more streamlined arrangement appears to have worked well. We have received positive comments from both parents and staff but, most importantly, the children seem to have benefitted from a smoother transition and it is now hard to imagine that they have only been with us for a couple of weeks.

Now that our Reception children have settled into school, we have already started thinking about next year's intake! We have a series of events planned and, if you have a child due to start school in September 2014, we would invite you to let us have your details. This in no way commits you to applying for a place at Swindon Village (and you will still need to complete the Local Authority application process) but it means that we can get in touch about our Open Days and Parent Information Sessions.

Regular readers of The Village News will know that, in school, we feel it is really important to give children a wide range of experiences and staff work hard to include exciting, practical activities to enrich the children's topic work. An example of this took place this week when, as part of their study of World War 2, our Year 6s were all evacuated and visited the GWR Railway in Winchcombe. The children and staff left school dressed in their 1940s outfits, complete with gas masks, ready for a ride on the steam train. The volunteers at the railway did a fantastic job in giving the children both an informative and memorable day and the children's topic work will definitely be richer for the experience. In the next few weeks, up and coming activities include Y2's Great Fire of London Day and Y5's visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester.

By the time you read this, our sports teams will all have started their seasons with competitive matches planned in football, netball and cross country. Our Junior Choir will also be busily preparing for the Young Voices Concert which takes place at the NEC in Birmingham later in the term.

We are really proud of everything that is going on in school and would like to share it with our local community. In order to do this, we will be having an Open Day on Friday 8th November. More details will be in next month's Bulletin but please put the date in your diary – everyone is welcome.

We only have our garden party to report this month. Well it did not rain. Indeed the evening was warm and balmy and about twenty of us sat out and drank wine and beer until it was too dark to see the glasses. In the course of it all several important policy decisions about the future of the society, the village, the country and, indeed, the world were made. If anyone can remember just what they were I would be very grateful if you could send me an e-mail so I can put them into action.

Those who read The Echo will be aware of progress on the JCS. It will be out for consultation soon and we will be trying all we can to get it changed. There are two lines of attack. The first is to prove their estimation of local population growth to be way out. The second is to show that we, the voters and the people who live here, are against it. I mentioned our petition last time but am encountering a problem. I have now written four letters to The Echo trying to get them to mention the petition. The letters have been variously long and complex, medium and emotional, short and to the point and very short. No result. I can only assume that The Echo, while happy to voice both sides of the argument, does not want to publish anything that might actually make a difference. So if anyone else would like to write and try to get the petition a mention I would be very grateful.

The petition is at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/52608> but you can find it quite easily by googling 'Cheltenham Green Belt petition'. If you are able to send this on to any friends who may share your viewpoint, please do so.

Half the government is against development in the green belt while the other half is for any house built anywhere. The local MPs are on our side as are CPRE so we have everything to play for. Let's show them what the voters think. Sign now and pass it on.

This month Cyril Smallwood will tell us about bees and beekeeping. You may even be able to buy some honey produced in the village. As usual, visitors welcome for £1.

Finally, we had planned to try and show a TV programme about the Cotswolds for our November meeting but the logistics have proven too difficult. So instead Geoff Miller, who a while back told us of his life as a branch bank manager on the Cunard liners, will return to tell us the true, surprising and sometimes shocking history of Guernsey during its wartime occupation.

Barry Simon

P.S. Delete the comments re The Echo - they finally published letter number four on Saturday 21 Sep. Letter writers can stand down. Barry.

**Gloucestershire
Local History Association**

www.gloshistory.org.uk



Local History Day
Saturday 12 October 2013
**'Gloucestershire's Special
Houses'**

The Association's first Local History Day will be held at

Pate's Grammar School,

Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham,

10.30am - 4.30pm

Local History Society Displays

and

the Bryan Jerrard Award

Morning talks

Stephen Hague, 'The sealing wax, the stone mason and the Chinese painter: building status in 18th-century Gloucestershire'.

Chris Hobson, 'Fairford Park – a lost treasure: the rise and fall of the Raymond Barker family home at Fairford'.

Afternoon talks

Steve Hill, 'Stratford House and Park, Stroud

Averil Kear, 'Lost and Found: two Forest of Dean houses'.

Admission: £5 Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) during the day will be included in the admission price

See www.gloshistory.org.uk for further information

Wednesday Club

The Speaker at our meeting on the 4th of September was Mr Fitt who told us many stories of his twenty years of being a professional house sitter. He looked after properties that ranged from almost stately homes with many acres of grounds to a tiny bungalow. What I had not realised about this profession was that he was also required to take care of the animals which, in his case, ranged from llamas to rabbits and just about everything in-between. When he arrived for his post, the lady left four A4 pages of instructions on how to look after the dogs etc. Just as she was leaving she turned and said "oh, by the way, they will be coming to fit an Aga on Wednesday and the decorators will be in as well to decorate the bedrooms". Mr Fitt did wonder where he was to sleep and how he was going to cook but did not worry unduly. However, they put a concrete base down on the Wednesday, kitchen was stripped bare, and was left like that for 48 hours. They did put the Aga in after that time but it still could not be used for several hours. Mr Fitt was very pleased with it when he could use it although he didn't use the ovens for fear of making a mess. The decorators arrived and proceeded to rag paint the walls of the bedrooms which was very time consuming. He quite liked the effect but then they re-appeared to varnish over the painted walls. The fumes were just dreadful and he had to have every window and door open to try and alleviate the smell. He had to sleep on the sofa downstairs (with the dogs) until he was able to go upstairs again after a few days. This experience did not put him off and Mr Fitt continued to house sit for about twenty years.

It was a lovely evening and enjoyed by us all.

We had a 'Bring and Buy' table at this meeting and we raised £11.30 towards our funds. Thank you all for supporting us once again.

As I write this, 25 of us are off tomorrow to Aunt Martha's Tea Room in the Forest of Dean for a Cream Tea (oh dear, there goes the diet again). Rowan from Marchants Coaches will be taking us as usual. I will let you know next month how it went.

We have decided to go to the Civil Service Club for our annual meal on the 8th January. The menu will be available at the next meeting and so if you have not put your name down yet, you can do so then.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd October. The advertised speaker Glenda Ford was going to do a Cookery Demonstration but we have now heard that she is unable to come on that night. Shirley has spoken to Rosealee Lane and she is able to come and talk to us instead. You might remember Rosealee came last year with her husband and showed us slides of Australia and bought a pink hat from our table sale (just what she was looking for apparently). In October, Rosealee will be showing slides on Glorious Gloucestershire. Thanks again to Shirley for her quick thinking. As usual, visitors will be made very welcome so do please come along and join us.

Look forward to seeing you in October.

Pauline Wright

The Yellow Hat Company arrived at our September meeting laden with pictures, cards and many items all decorated with Irene Tyack's amusing artistic creations. She said she knew at the age of two that she wanted to be an artist. Only after a very eventful life struggling to make ends meet and bringing up a family did she manage to fulfil that ambition. She had a great variety of jobs to get by but also did some drawing and painting, especially botanical illustrations. After meeting her present husband Vince, an ostrich farmer, she was persuaded to make a living out of it. She now works from a converted barn producing and selling her creations all depicting little people with yellow hats.

We were informed that the County Chairman, Glenda Ford, had resigned for personal reasons and that Anne Turner was taking over. Anne is well known and much respected in the county, having held many offices on the committee over the years. We wish her well.

A large group of members met at O'Neill's in Montpellier one evening for a meal and are keen to repeat the experience. In the meantime a Curry Evening with Skittles has been arranged at the Suffolk Arms, with an alternative of chicken and chips for the non-curry fan. We are planning to go to the Muffin Man for our Birthday Party in November. In October a visit to the Synagogue, one of Cheltenham's hidden treasures, has been arranged. Also this month we have been invited to have a display of members' handiwork at St Nicolas' Church on Sunday 6th as part of their Harvest celebrations.

Great news! After a nail-biting skittles match against Upton St Leonards WI the result was a draw. Consequently we had a 'shoot out' of one ball each. Their top scorer, having spent the evening demolishing the skittles, only knocked two. Our top scorer, Jenny, saved the day by scoring four skittles – thus putting us in the semi-finals. What a nerve-racking occasion. It was in the semi-finals last year that we lost to the eventual winners. Watch this space!

At our meeting on October 7th we have Lena Dyche coming to tell us about Swedish Culture. If any visitors would like to join us they will be made most welcome at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Swindon Lane at 7.30pm.

Sara Jefferies



*Come on, ladies.
Keep practising.
The whole village is behind you!
- The Editors.*

Air Activities Camp

The first weekend camp of the autumn gave five of our Scouts the opportunity to camp on an airfield with Scouts from five other troops in Gloucestershire. This County organised Air Activities weekend is always oversubscribed and there is a two year waiting list to get onto this course. We arrived at Croft Farm Airfield (near Defford in Worcestershire) on the Friday evening and set up our tents in pouring rain - which sadly lasted all night. Saturday dawned with dry weather and low clouds which thankfully lifted as the morning progressed. After a hearty cooked breakfast, the Scouts spent the morning learning all about meteorology and how this affects aircraft in flight, how to navigate when you're up in the air and all about the instruments that a pilot needs to use and understand. While all this was going on, seven light aircraft had landed on the airstrip behind the tents. Then one by one - armed with their maps and route plans - the Scouts took to the skies and navigated the pilots around the course they had planned:- over the Malverns to Ledbury and then north to Bransford Bridge (West of Worcester) before heading back south to Defford again. They even got to take the controls and fly the plane for part of their flight. The smiles on the Scouts' faces as they climbed out of the cockpits were huge and there was no doubting how much everyone had enjoyed their flight. By mid afternoon all the Scouts had flown, which gave an opportunity for some of the leaders to take to the air - I didn't need asking twice! Needless to say, we all enjoyed this weekend and can't wait for another opportunity to fly again. At the end of the camp the Scouts were presented with three badges: the Aeronautics Activity badge, Meteorologist badge and Navigator badge as well as a certificate and a Pilot's goody bag. As for me - I'm asking Father Christmas for some flying lessons!

Cubs' Woodland Walk

One Monday evening in September saw the Cubs out for a lovely walk around Lineover Woods (south-east of Charlton Kings). We were met there by John Heathcott who led the Cubs along a circular route explaining how the woodland is managed and enlightening us all with various facts about the trees and plants that we saw along the way. The weather was dry and bright which made the evening very enjoyable for everyone. The Cubs were full of energy and really enjoyed being out in the woods and walking along the steep and narrow footpaths. This helped the Cubs complete one of the requirements for their Naturalist Activity Badge which several of them have now achieved. Our grateful thanks to John for a most interesting evening - and for managing to cope with 18 lively Cubs!

Upcoming Events

There are plenty more activities planned for the weeks ahead. These include a canoeing and kayaking weekend camp on the River Avon, a trip up to Alton Towers, a day's Dragonboat Racing at the Cotswold Water Park, a Mountain Activities weekend in North Wales, "The Good, The Bad and the BEAST" camp near Shurdington for Explorer Scouts, the Jamboree on the Internet, Communicator & I.T. badge weekend

up at Cranham, a Climbing course over in Gloucester and a weekend on Narrowboats on the Grand Union canal - all of which take place in the next two months!

We also have our Jumble Sale on the morning of Saturday 5th October starting at 11am in the Village Hall. We hope that we can count on your support once again and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Sos

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

JUMBLE SALE

**Saturday 5th October
Swindon Village Hall
Doors open 11.00am**

Admission 20p

**Bargains galore!
You never know what you might find.**



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Worried about rising energy costs?

Join the

big community switch

and you could save ££££s on
your energy bills.



Register online at:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bigcommunityswitch

Or phone:

01452 42 57 57

Please note line open Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm
from 3rd September until 15th October.

Registration closes on Tuesday 15th October.

Could you make the switch and save?

Worried about rising energy costs? With continuing concern about the prospect of future energy price rises, and temperatures set to drop over the coming weeks, Gloucestershire County Council wants to support people to get a better deal.

The Council is concerned about the impact that rises in energy prices have on Gloucestershire residents, particularly older people and those living in fuel poverty. That's why it has launched the Big Community Switch to help people get cheaper gas and electricity by working together.

The Big Community Switch is bulk buying – if a large number of people want to change supplier together they are likely to get a better deal than just one person shopping around and switching on their own.

And the more households that register their interest in switching, the more attractive it becomes for an energy supplier to offer a competitive price and the more likely consumers are to achieve significant savings.

Residents need to register their interest with the Big Community Switch in the next few weeks. You can do this either online at **www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bigcommunityswitch** or by phoning the Council on **01452 42 57 57** between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday (until 15th October). By doing this, you are under no obligation to switch supplier.

People only need to provide basic information at this stage: name, address, contact details, an indication of their energy consumption and whether they wish to consider switching for both gas and electricity or electricity only. It's a good idea to have a recent bill to hand as it makes registering easier and more accurate registration means a more accurate offer.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader, Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Switching energy supplier is often the best way to save money on your bills, but the process of switching can often put people off. That's why we are supporting this scheme and we hope as many people as possible will take part. All you need is a recent energy bill and the Big Community Switch will do the rest of the work and hopefully get you a better deal."

Residents who have registered their interest will receive a personalised energy offer during late October or early November. Although this is likely to be lower than their current bills, there is no guarantee of this, but there is also no obligation to accept the offer and switch supplier. People only need to sign up to the scheme and make the switch if it works for them.

To take part in the scheme, you must register by 23:59 on Tuesday 15th October.

Gloucestershire **Village & Community** Agents



Cheltenham Chinese Information Point of Contact

Qing has been working with Anna Gibbins at Gloucestershire Care Services to set up a regular information point for the Chinese community in Cheltenham. Starting with a launch on 24th September and held at The Real China in The Brewery complex, each week there will be an all you can eat buffet lunch for £5 including soft drink (available on a voucher system – vouchers from Qing and Anna), a chance to socialise, and maybe have a game of Mah Jong. On the first Tuesday each month Qing will be available for information and advice between 12.30 and 1.30, whilst on the 3rd Tuesday there will be a health related talk. The launch event will be from 11.45am to 2pm, and after that the weekly sessions will be between 11.30am and 3.30pm

Insight Gloucestershire Information Event

Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau (GCAB) has rebranded as Insight Gloucestershire, and they are holding an information stand at the Pittville Pump Room in Cheltenham on Tuesday 24th September.

The Village & Community Agents will also be in attendance from 10 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.

In Touch Events

This year's round of In Touch events will focus on dementia issues. The Cheltenham one will take place on **Wednesday 20th November**, Cheltenham - venue to be advised.

These events are free and open to everyone – it may not be you who needs them, so please pass the message on.

Lesley Wall

Village & Community Agent for Swindon Village

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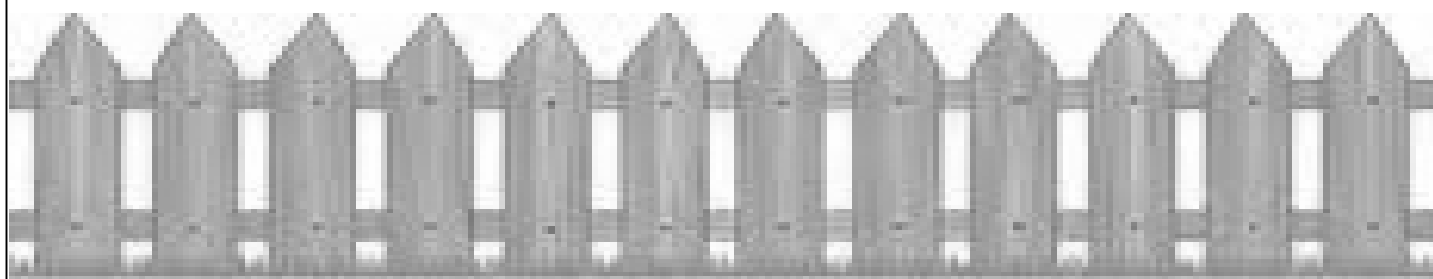
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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Lesley Wall	07810 630 064 lesleyw@villageagent.grcc.org.uk
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts	Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis	514825/244708
Guide Guider	Jayne Ellis	244708
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Guide District Commissioner	Pauline Szarko	570469
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D’Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers Secretary	Mandy Jilbert	693639
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Anne Emery	07836 311 859
Art Club	Norman Scott	692394
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen’s Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50
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Contact the Editors

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
Please send contributions to the editors:
David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Swindon Parish and Community Website: www.swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Rector	Revd. Canon Michael Cozens The Rectory, 66 All Saints' Road	523177 michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk
The office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.		

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