

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 400 December 2013

December

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 2 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Glenda Ford - Christmas cookery |
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall. Christmas party. Early start - Arrive by 7.45pm. |
| Saturday Sunday | 7 & 8 | Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence Church 11am to 5pm |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm With Public Session. |
| Monday | 16 | Scout Group Christmas celebration - Village Hall 6 for 6.15pm All welcome. Collection for The Children's Society. |

January

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Monday | 6 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Sam Cairney - Hair and Beauty |
| Tuesday | 7 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm With Public Session |
| Wednesday | 8 | Wednesday Club meal. Civil Service Club. 7pm for 7.30pm Members only. |
| Wednesday | 15 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm AGM (Visitors welcome at 8pm for tea and update on JCS) |
| Wednesday | 22 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.30pm AGM |

(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.)

Many of us will have attended the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) presentation at the Civil Service Club on the 4th November. The councils of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury have extended the period for comments to the 13th December. The JCS is a huge document and there are volumes of supporting material. It has been prepared by people who are paid to do nothing else. Most of the affected parishioners (including the parish councillors) have to review this material in addition to doing their day job, so it is a huge task. It would be a great shame if the scheme went ahead not because it has merit but because people feel overwhelmed by it. The more people that scrutinise the proposals the better. At the presentation evening one eagle eyed observer was concerned that the proposed North West Urban Extension appeared to engulf the Swindon Parish allotments. The Parish Council owns the allotment land and has no intention of selling it. We have pointed out their error to the Borough Council.

Everyone is entitled to have their opinion heard. As a private individual you can make your own comments directly or you can make your views known to one of the Parish Councillors. The Parish Council will be working on a response in the coming weeks and will be looking to co-operate with other affected Parish Councils. It is important that we correctly represent the views and concerns of the parish. All the details can be found at **<http://www.gct-jcs.org/PublicConsultation/Home.aspx>**

At last the long promised major road repairs on our patch are proceeding, initially with Runnings Road and Kingsditch Lane. This is leading to some inconvenience but hopefully it will be worthwhile if we get our roads reinstated to a good standard. By the time this report appears work on Hyde Lane should also be completed. On your behalf we constantly nag the County Council to deal with miscellaneous local issues, from pot holes to flooding, the supply of road salt to road-side advertisements. Hopefully we will be able to give them a pat on the back on this one.

The Parish Council has started the process of setting its budget for next year. We have to have a strong justification for every penny of the money that we raise through the precept. The process is transparent and open to public scrutiny.

The Borough Council is always looking to trim its costs and one way it can do this is to get more hard nosed about passing on costs to the Parish Council. Two examples:- The Borough Council had maintained trees for us in the amenity area behind Manor Close but they decided to stop doing this work since the Parish Council owns the trees with the result that the Parish Council gets additional responsibilities without having time to plan and budget for them. The second example has to do with the local elections that will be held next year; if there are enough candidates to require an election for the Parish Council the Borough Council will charge the parish a proportion of the election costs. The Parish Council had the foresight to accumulate a reserve to

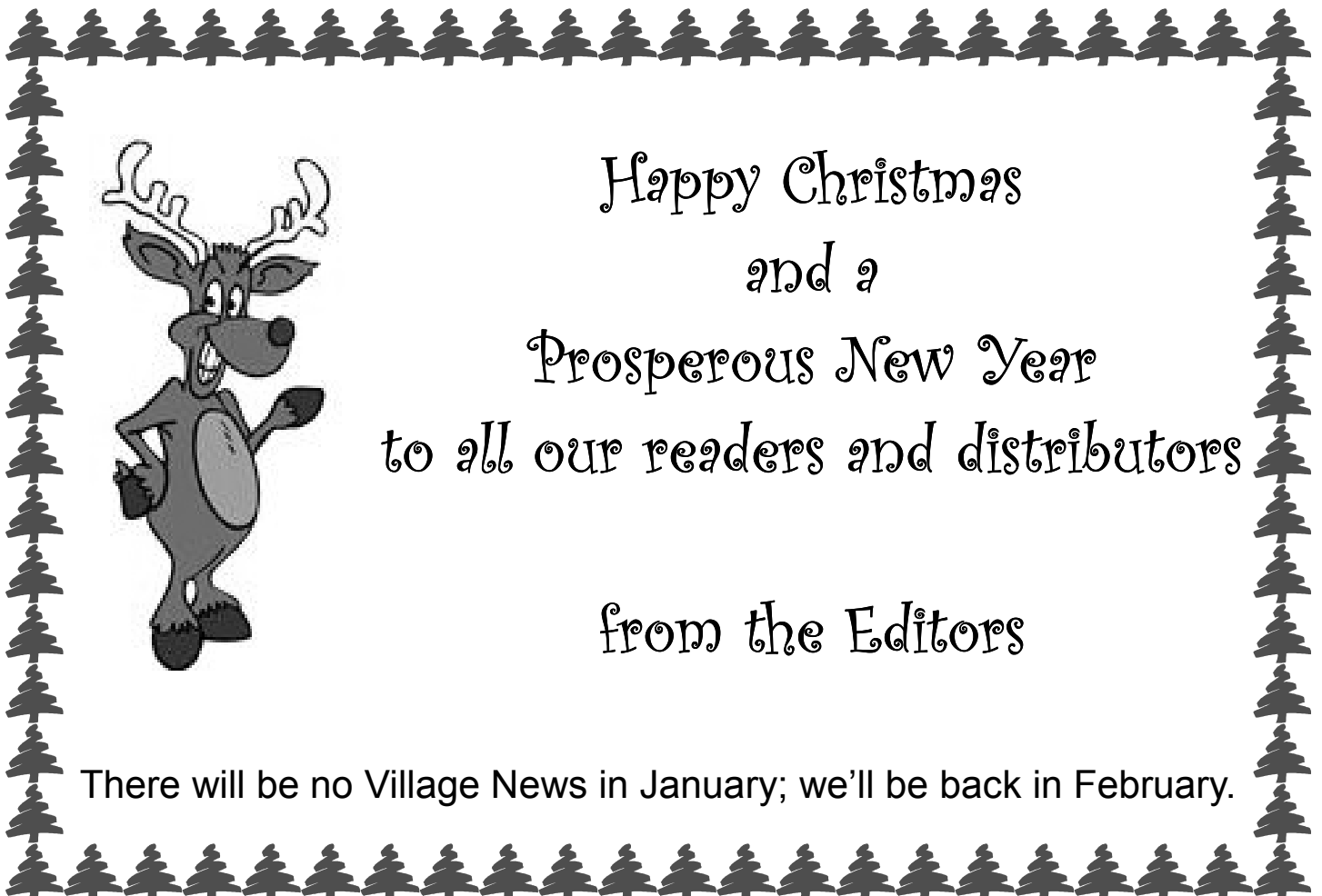
cover this possibility but at the moment other councils, e.g. Cotswold District Council, don't pass on a charge to their parishes.

Helen has been actively trying to get the County Council to do clearance work on Dog Bark Lane so that it can be enjoyed again by walkers. Initially the work was stalled for want of funding. Subsequently the presence of badgers was quoted as a reason work could not proceed, ironic given that Gloucestershire is an area where badger culling has been implemented. However, all impediments have been removed and this work is proceeding.

This issue of the Village News will be the last until Christmas (and the January sales) have come and gone. On behalf of the Parish Council may I wish you a happy and safe holiday.

Finally, if you have read this far you deserve a reward. The Borough Council is consulting on exempting certain entertainment activities from the licensing regime. If approved, one of the changes will be to allow Greco-Roman wrestling to take place within the Borough without any limitation on the audience size provided the contests take place between 8:00am and 11:00pm. You think I make this stuff up?

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Services and events in December

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|--|
| Sunday | 1 st | <i>Advent Sunday</i> 10.30am 6.30pm | Together @Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 3 rd | 7.30pm | Tuesday Group |
| Saturday | 7 th | 11.00am - 5.00pm | Christmas Tree Festival |
| Sunday | 8 th | <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> 9.15am 11.00am - 5.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Communion (BCP) Christmas Tree Festival Evensong |
| Tuesday | 10 th | 7.00pm | Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group |
| Sunday | 15 th | <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9.15am 6.30pm | Holy Communion Evensong |
| Tuesday | 17 th | 7.30pm | Tuesday Group |
| Sunday | 22 nd | <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 9.15am 6.30pm | Holy Communion Carol Service |
| Tuesday | 24 th | <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4pm 11.30pm | Crib Service (children welcome to come dressed as their favourite character from the nativity story) First Communion of Christmas |
| Wednesday | 25 th | <i>Christmas Day</i> 9.15am | Family Communion for Christmas Day |
| Sunday | 29 th | 9.15am | Holy Communion |

Services and events in January

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 5 th | <i>The Feast of the Epiphany</i> | |
| | | 10.30am | Together @ Ten Thirty 'What can I give him?' |
| | | 6.30pm | Sung Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 7 th | 7.30pm | Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 12 th | <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> | |
| | | 9.15am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| Monday | 13 th | 7.00pm | PCC meeting at the Village Hall |
| Tuesday | 14 th | 7.00pm | Holy Communion followed by Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 19 th | <i>Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> | |
| | | 9.15am | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| Tuesday | 21 st | 7.30pm | Tuesday group |
| Sunday | 25 th | <i>Third Sunday of Epiphany</i> | |
| | | 9.15am | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| Tuesday | 28 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 and Tuesday from 8am until 11am and Wednesday, Thursday and 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

**Christmas
starts with
Christ**

When does your Christmas begin?

Is it when you see the first Christmas ad on the TV – this year it seems John Lewis pipped the rest to the post! Is it when you hear Noddy Holder singing Merry Christmas in the shops? Is it when they turn on the Christmas lights? Or is it the 1st December, when you start to get the first Christmas cards through the door and get the Christmas decorations out of the loft?

In the church, Christmas doesn't begin until midnight on Christmas Eve. It's not surprising that many people don't know that, since some research published recently reported that just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story in any detail and more than one third of children don't know whose birthday we are celebrating.

So this year why not take the opportunity in the run up to Christmas (which in the church is known as Advent) as a time of waiting and preparing? As a church we are here to help you do that – beginning on 1st December with our service at 10.30am when we will send Mary and Joseph off to begin their journey round houses and organisations in our community. Other services are detailed in this magazine and on the Christmas card which you will receive from the church. A warm welcome awaits you at our services.

Let's remember what and who it is we're celebrating at Christmas:- God who loved us so much that he sent his Son to experience the reality of humanity, from a vulnerable baby to a man prepared to lay down his life so that he can walk with each of us every step of our journey through life.

I wish you all the blessings of Christmas, and a peaceful 2014.

Revd Liz

From the registers



Baptism (Christening)

We have recently welcomed into the church family
Harry Kear 17th November

Carolyn Dewdney

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Carolyn Dewdney.

Carolyn played a very active part in the life of the church, not only in Swindon Village, but also in the deanery and diocese. She was a member of the PCC, was on deanery and diocesan synod, and a member of the church fundraising committee. Many of you will have met her serving refreshments during the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

We send our love and prayers to her family at this very sad time.

Revd. Liz Palin

Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December

What better way to ease your way in to the Christmas festivities than a visit to the Swindon Village Christmas Tree Festival?

We are expecting about 20 trees to be displayed in St. Lawrence Church over the weekend, each one decorated by a local group, family or individual on the theme of "Twelve Days of Christmas".

This year the trees will be judged by Father Christmas but you will also be able to vote for "the people's favourite". Father Christmas has kindly agreed to pop back in later to meet the visitors.

There will be a stall selling Christmas goods, a Christmas hamper raffle and a competition to win a cuddly carrot by guessing the weight of the reindeers' carrots. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits will be available.

Admission to the festival is free but we hope that visitors will make generous donations to the church building restoration and maintenance funds, and the new toilet project.

See you there. Bring your family, friends and neighbours.

Karen Evans

A view from the pew

An old carol gives us advice about the season of Advent:

*"People look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way."*

I like the season of Advent - I suppose it's the anticipation and the looking forward to Christmas. I know some of you may not be too keen on the days leading up to Christmas and look at Advent as a time of frantic haste that only calms down on Christmas Eve when Advent ends. But it's all worth it, isn't it?

Advent doesn't just mark a two thousand year old event in history. Advent celebrates a great truth about God. Advent marks the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and the hope that one day all of creation will be reconciled to God. We comprehend more fully what God is like because we have a picture of what Jesus is like in the gospels.

Why did God come into the world he had created? What's the purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us? Jesus lived among us to show us God and to help us understand God's grace. Through Jesus' life and teaching, and also through his suffering, death, and resurrection we learn about our God.

As you know, the word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

Advent has a double focus on the past and the future.

Advent symbolizes our individual spiritual journey. Advent symbolizes the spiritual journey of us all. So, while some church traditions focus on penitence during Advent, we're right to foster a joyous sense of expectancy in this season.

Rather than a time of mourning and fasting, we celebrate Advent as a time of joy and happiness as we await the coming of the King. So, over the time up to Christmas Eve, we begin celebrate with gladness the great promise in the Advent. Advent prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers of submission, prayers for deliverance, prayers from those walking in darkness who are awaiting a great light!

Ralph Griffin



St.
Lawrence
Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Twelve Days of Christmas

**Saturday & Sunday
7th & 8th December
11.00am to 5.00pm**

**An exhibition of trees decorated by local people
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Christmas goods for sale
Refreshments**

Admission is free but we hope visitors will give generously to the church restoration, maintenance and toilet funds.

**It's not a 999 emergency.
But you need medical help fast.
There's now 
number to call.**



The NHS 111 Service is now available in Gloucestershire.

This three-digit number gives patients access to advice and local NHS healthcare services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls from landlines and mobiles are free.

NHS 111 gets you through to a team of fully trained call advisers, who are supported by experienced clinicians.

They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms and give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you to the right local service. If they think you need an ambulance, they will send one immediately.

You should call NHS 111 if:

You need medical help fast, but it is not a 999 life threatening emergency
You don't know who to call for medical help; or
You don't think it can wait for an appointment with your GP
(or if you don't have a GP).

For more information on your healthcare options, including services provided by your pharmacy, GP surgery and community minor injury unit, visit:
www.choosewellglos.nhs.uk

Another busy couple of months at Swindon Village Primary School have seen, amongst many, many things, the start of this year's sporting fixtures, our Harvest Festival, Parents' Evenings, our Year 4 Residential to the Forest of Dean and, most excitedly for the children and staff, the reopening of our field!

Following two years of building works, the Field is the final part of the project to be signed off and we are delighted with the finished result. Over the next few months we will be working with the children to design and develop our outdoor environment so that it provides the children with rich, exciting and engaging opportunities for outdoor learning. Initial plans include the reinstatement of the Forest School area, adventure play equipment and the enhancement of our pond and wildlife areas. Hopefully, this will all be ready for late spring/summer and will allow us to extend our broad and enriching curriculum still further.

Earlier in November we held our annual Open Day and it was great to see so many new and familiar faces in school. We were especially thrilled to see so many members of the local community as well as prospective children and their parents. If you have a child due to start school in September 2014 and were unable to make our Open Day, then we would be delighted to give you a tour at your convenience. Please contact the office (**690016** or **admin@swindonvilage.gloucs.sch.uk**) to arrange an appointment.

Also, on **Wednesday 4th December**, we will be having an informal meeting for all parents with **children due to start Reception next year**. At this meeting we will be giving information about the school and our Reception classes, as well as guidance on the Local Authority's admissions procedures. If you are interested in attending this event, please let us know – a crèche will be available.

If you are interested in finding out more about the school and what we get up to, then I would encourage you to visit our website **www.swindonvillage.co.uk**. You can also follow us on Twitter where we are **@SwindonVillage**

Finally, with apologies if you are reading this in November, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas from everyone at Swindon Village Primary School.

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Wednesday Club

We almost had a full house on Wednesday 6th November when Nonny James came to entertain us with her version of the "Circle of Life". We started and ended the evening with a huge laugh and many more laughs in between. Her talk was interspersed with her songs, some written by Nonny herself and others "borrowed". Nonny would usually sing with her guitar but unfortunately had a touch of laryngitis and so played her pre-recorded songs. Nonny describes herself in one of her books as an old hippie and I think we had all realised that. She lives in Bromyard in Herefordshire with her husband and dog Ralph (Ralph has written a little book about the importance of being Ralph which is quite amusing) and Nonny has written a book as well but I am afraid I haven't got round to reading it yet. The evening was finished off as usual with a lovely supper and I would like to thank our members who all take it in turns to provide it.

On Wednesday 4th of December it will be our Christmas Party. We are having an entertainer for that evening and so would all members please arrive before 7.45 so that we can be seated by that time ready to be entertained.

Our annual meal will be on Wednesday 8th January at the Civil Service Club on Tewkesbury Road. Again, would members please arrive between 7 and 7.30 so that we can sit down for our meal at 7.30. If anyone needs a lift there or back home, please let me know so that it can be arranged.

Our Programme for next year looks really good again thanks to Shirley and June and we would be really pleased to see even more members next year. We are a quite relaxed and friendly group and hopefully welcoming to new members so please do come along. We will also try to arrange a couple of outings as well but we will think about that in the New Year.

We would like to wish all readers of the Village News a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Pauline Wright

Flowers in the horse trough

The village trough looked beautiful all through the summer and was replanted with winter bedding by the daughters of the late Fred and Gwen Hunneman in memory of their parents who lived opposite the village hall. We are all grateful to them and to the Plant Centre at Uckington for their generous donation of plants. (Thanks also to Bill for watering the plants when necessary.)

Our October talk was a grand exposition on bees and beekeeping by Cyril Smallwood with the help of his lovely assistant Barbara. I knew that I did not know a lot about bees but I didn't know just how much I didn't know about bees until Cyril had finished speaking. For a start I had not realised how much physical effort is involved in humping hives around the country or, indeed, that a keeper would consider moving hives up to Yorkshire to give his bees some honest employment and provide a different tasting honey. Do be nice to your local bees. They provide an essential service but also remember that your friendly neighbourhood wasp pollinates as well so give him a pat on the head and usher him out of your jam with a smile rather than a rolled up newspaper. We also had the chance to buy some of Swindon Village's very own honey and honeycomb. If you haven't tried it do be aware that you only have to travel to Dark Lane to buy. Just follow the bees.

There is no meeting in December and so we are on to the AGM in January. Once again we will plan to follow the AGM with an update on the JCS. By that time we will have made our input to the JCS consultation. As I write there is much activity putting together a case against the JCS's proposed level of house building and particularly on bending the ears of both local and national politicians. The subject has certainly been debated in Parliament with our own Laurence Robertson involved on our side of the debate. The AGM is, of course, for members only. We will then have a tea break at about 8 pm and this and the JCS update will be open to anyone to join us.

Helen Wells of Save The Countryside will lead the update.

The other main job at this time of year is putting together next year's programme. I will certainly book the talk on Guernsey in the War. I also hope to give again my talk on The History of Church Architecture and am hoping that I will be able to give it in St. Lawrence's where I can point out at least four of the classical styles. It will also give the church a chance to pressure test their new tea making arrangements which should have been completed by then. Elizabeth is looking at gardens in Prestbury for our garden visit and the April birdwalk will be to the newly restored Grundon hide at the Coombe Hill reserve. We saw 24 different brands of bird last time we went there.

Don't forget the petition at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/52608> but you can find it quite easily by googling 'Cheltenham Green Belt petition'. There are in fact two petitions since LEGLAG have set up a similar one which includes their own green fields in addition to our green belt. Please sign either or both.

Finally, I have the very sad task of announcing the death of Margaret Plester, a lovely lady who has been a member of the society for many years even though she did not live in the village. Talking to Margaret always gave me a lift because she was intelligent and upbeat about everything. She will be greatly missed.

Barry Simon

The end of another year and our Annual Meeting heralds the start of a new one. This is the occasion when the Committee is announced and the new President is nominated and, if necessary, elected. After three years in the post Chris Oates was standing down and in her place we see Wendy Custerson returning for a second stint in the position. We all enjoyed Chris's leadership and appreciated all her hard work and are looking forward to Wendy's term in the chair. The retiring Committee met at O'Neill's to enjoy a traditional final lunch party.

Four of our members joined a Gloucestershire Federation holiday in Chester. They regaled us with stories of their eventful visit that included a boat trip across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal, a train ride on the railway there and a visit to the National Trust property at Erddig. Apparently our members added to the evening entertainments! Wendy had a slight mishap that meant missing the coach from Cheltenham and so had to make her own way by train to Chester.

After a very close game we finally lost to Frampton-on-Severn in the semi-finals of the Skittles Tournament. This is the second time we have been beaten at this stage, perhaps it will be third time lucky and we shall get through next year! Wendy hosted a craft afternoon at her house and, on another day, a tea and social get-together.

Our Supper Club are planning to meet for a meal at Dine India and then at The Apple Tree for a final meal before Christmas. In January we have arranged to meet up for a Fish and Chip Lunch. Wendy's Solo Club is still going strong and have organised a party between themselves for Christmas.

Several members are planning to go to Bath for the Christmas Market and also to Slimbridge to partake in the Swan Supper there. The annual Carol Concert in the Town Hall is a treat to look forward to. Names are being taken for Ladies' Day at the Races in March and a holiday in Derbyshire later in the year.

We are looking forward to Glenda Ford showing us some Christmas Cookery at our meeting on December 2nd, and Sam Cairney is coming on January 6th to give us some more of her tips on Hair and Beauty.

We meet at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Swindon Lane, and always make visitors welcome. We are not known as 'The Friendly WI' for nothing!

Sara Jefferies

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

The nights may be drawing in but that hasn't stopped our Scouts getting out and about.

Dan Mitchell and **Branon Tomkins** took part in the County-organised Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) weekend held up at Cranham Scout Centre. This is an International Scout event on the Internet which takes place every October. During the weekend thousands of Scouts from all over the world meet and communicate with each other over the Internet, using any technologies locally available, from web browsers to e-mail, chat programs, microphones, scanners and digital cameras. As well as the Jamboree, the Scouts also completed the Communicator Badge, tackled stages 2 to 5 of the IT Badge and enjoyed lots more fun and games.

Four of our Scouts took part in another County-organised event - a weekend on narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal. They travelled from Hillingdon in Middlesex up through Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back on the Sunday. They all got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They had to plan their own menu and on Saturday morning moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco to go and buy all the food. They all returned home full of their adventures and I'm glad to report that no-one fell in!

In November we went to Shurdington for a joint meeting with their Scouts. An Air Rifle Range was running in one hall and games and challenges in the other. Outside we had a campfire where we cooked up Hot Dogs and toasted Marshmallows. We finished the evening with a look at some pictures of Shurdington's "Polar Camp" which they run in January each year and they invited us to join them for their 2014 camp. Air Rifles, a Camp Fire, toasting Marshmallows and Hot Dogs ... needless to say everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Christmas Carols and Sketches Our final meeting of the year, on 16th December, will again be an evening of Christmas Carols together with various sketches and routines performed by the Beavers, the Cubs and the Scouts in the Village Hall. Refreshments will be served, including a few mince pies for those who arrive early enough! The doors open at 6pm with a prompt start at 6:15 and everyone is welcome. There is no charge on the door but we will be collecting donations for The Children's Society which we support each Christmas. We hope you will join us.

2014... Our Scout Group was first registered at Gilwell Park on 20th January 1964, which makes 2014 our **50th Anniversary**. We have plans in place to mark the occasion including a special commemorative badge and a group camp in June up at Cranham. With all the camps and activities we've enjoyed in 2013, trying to make next year even more exciting will be quite a challenge – but I'm sure we will give it a good go !

Can I finally thank everyone in Swindon Village for your support and encouragement throughout 2013 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sos

Swindon Village Winemakers

The October club meeting was The Annual Trophy Competition, which this year was for Gooseberry Wine. 1st place went to Jim Taylor, with Barbara Brooks 2nd and Roy Harper in 3rd place. The wines were judged by Tony Jilbert. This was followed by our usual Fish & Chip Supper, organised so well for us by Ray Hales.

The social calendar is much busier this time of the year, and several of our members enjoyed a good evening at Gloucester Wine Club's Dance on Saturday 19th October, and again at Charlton Kings' Autumn Dance on Saturday 9th November.

On Friday 15th November Ray and Sylvia Hales. Tony and myself represented the Wine Club at the annual Lloyd & Walker Challenge Cup, hosted by last year's winners, Gloucester Wine Club at Maisemore Village Hall. We enjoyed a very pleasant evening and, while the wines were being judged, took part in a picture quiz (which Tony & I won!!) and a Bingo Quiz, which got a lot of people who had never done one before, very confused. The winners this year were Stroud Wine Club, many congratulations to them.

Leading up to Christmas, we will be attending the annual Christmas Dance at Cheltenham Wine Club, always a good night, a Carol Concert at Churchdown School, hosted by Gloucester Wine Club, and finally a Christmas Party hosted by Charlton Kings Wine Club. We finish off this social whirl with our own club's Christmas meal, which this year will be at The House-in-the-Tree.

We start 2014 with our AGM on Wednesday 22nd January in the Village Hall; new members always welcome.

With very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year

Mandy Jilbert

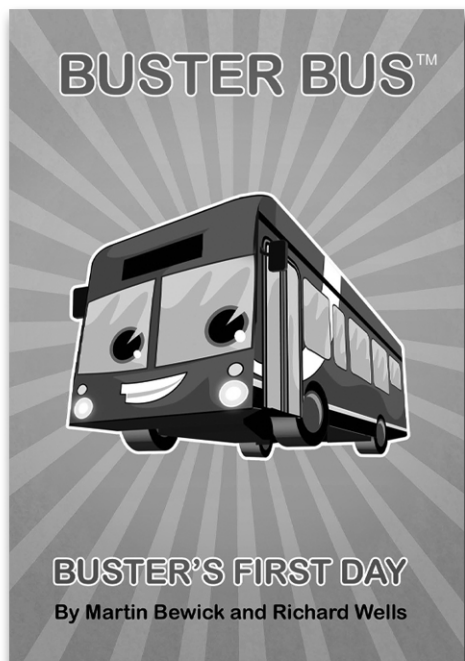
Used postage stamps and cards for recycling

This year used postage stamps have benefited Guide Dogs for the Blind and Action for Blind People. Cards have gone for recycling to raise funds for the Cobalt Unit, Action for M.E., the Red Cross and Woodland Trust. Please continue to save cards and stamps which can be left at **5 Stantons Drive**, Swindon Village. Birthday and special occasion cards and used postage stamps can be accepted all year. However, Christmas cards can only be accepted up till the 12th of January.

Thank you.

Moir Stoneman 01242 529631

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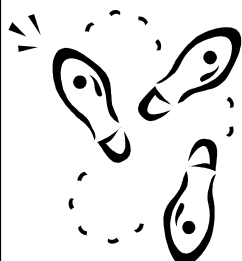


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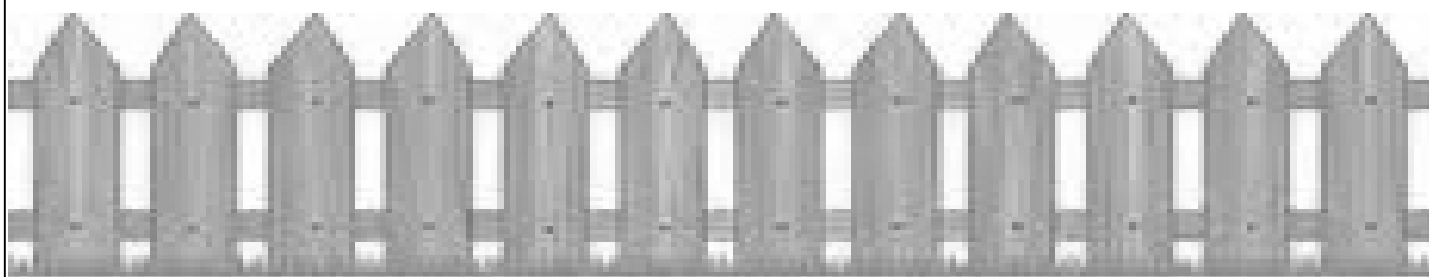
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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 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 | Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris | 701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com |
| 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 |

There will be no Village News in January.
 Deadline for the February issue is the 16th of January.
 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

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chairman | Cllr. Peter Allen | 692933 |
| Vice Chairman | Cllr. Glenn Simpson | 692845 |
| | Cllr. John Conmee | 572060 |
| | Cllr. Frances Hunter | 692845 |
| | Cllr. David Iliffe JP | 526323 |
| | Cllr. Shannon Kerr | 07954 128151 |
| | Cllr. Arran Stibbe | 07796 248658 |
| | Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells | 220875 / 07770 986078 |
| Clerk to the Council | Mr Shaun Cullimore | 07833 089435 |
| Cheltenham Borough Councillors | Cllr. Bernard Fisher | 07890 205767 |
| | Cllr. Paul Massey | 07967 123221 |
| County Councillor | Cllr. Bernard Fisher | 07890 205767 |
| Allotments Manager | Ian Brown | 528683 |

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

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Rector | Revd. Canon Michael Cozens | 523177 |
| | The Rectory, 66 All Saints' Road | 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. | | |

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editors or the Parish Council