

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 403

April 2014

April

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Wednesday | 2 | Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting
Village Hall Lounge Bar - 7.15pm All welcome |
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Gill Garrett - Ghosts on Severn Way |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Adrian Lyster - Acupuncture and musculoskeletal pain |
| Monday | 7 | Annual Church Meeting - Village Hall 7.00pm |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session. |
| Saturday | 12 | Swindon Village Society Annual bird and nature walk - Coombe
Hill - Meet Village Hall 9.30am Non-members welcome |
| Saturday | 12 | Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall 10.30am |
| Wednesday | 23 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Mr. James Rendell - The history of HH Martyn |

May

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Friday | 2 | Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening in aid of church building
funds - Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 7 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Susan Marshfield - "Oh yes, I remember it well" |
| Saturday | 10 | Swindon Village Society - in St. Lawrence's Church 4.00pm
Barry Simon - The history of church architecture |
| Monday | 12 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm - Resolutions |
| Tuesday | 13 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session. |

(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website www.swindonparish.org.uk. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)

The wet weather seems to have left us, at least for now. However, some of our roads have been left in a very poor condition. Part of Hyde Lane (near the GE factory) was resurfaced but the works left most of the road untouched. The section that comes into Swindon Village and the section of Wymans Lane that it joins are in very poor order. The Parish Council lobbies to get our roads repaired but please remember that the roads are not the responsibility of the Parish Council. The County Council maintain the roads and anyone who wishes to report an issue can do so directly to them. The easiest way (if you have internet access) is to log an issue on the County Council web site, but you can also telephone them. The Parish Council continues to press the County Council on behalf of local residents but the more people that report issues the more likely they are to receive attention.

We note that an electric fence has been erected across one of our footpaths. This is illegal and is inconveniencing a number of regular walkers. It has been reported to the County Council as they are the body tasked with maintaining the footpath network. Sadly the County Council warn that resources are so stretched that some matters reported may never receive attention, a poor state of affairs.

Given that money is in such short supply we are having to do what we can to ensure that we get our fair share. A matter currently being discussed is double taxation, essentially where people are charged twice for the same thing. As a parish council we provide allotments in our area. Where there is no parish council the Borough Council provides allotments. However, the Borough Council charges residents in both areas the same council tax. The parish councils argue that the Borough Council should give some money to the parish councils to recognise that they are providing services that the Borough Council would otherwise have to provide.

The Joint Core Strategy hit the news again recently. The plan to allow developers to build thousands of houses in the area on green belt land has hit a snag. The government have been pushing development forward because of a perceived lack of housing and a desire to create jobs and invigorate the economy. This agenda seems to have been pursued at the expense of green belt land and in the face of local objections. However, the government have now re-emphasised their commitment to the green belt. On the face of it this cuts the ground from beneath the feet of the planners from Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury but they insist that the JCS does not require a major rethink. We will see.

This is an election year for the Parish Council. Elections are usually held in early May but the Parish Council election is on the 22nd May this year. This is followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. This is a normal Parish Council meeting except that the first business will be to elect the Chairman of the Council for the following year.

To give you early warning, we propose to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May (provided I can negotiate use of the school hall). This meeting is intended for all parishioners and we will try to line up a speaker to address us on a topical matter of general interest.

The Parish Council year runs from 1st April to 31st March, so we are approaching the end. I now have to prepare the finance figures for the year. Even though our budget is quite small the books are subject to checking by the councillors, an internal auditor who is a local accountant and an external auditor which is a firm of "big city" accountants. How on earth did the bankers lose all those billions without anybody noticing?

Finally, I am trying to gather humorous quotes from the world of parish councils. In the minutes of Kings Stanley Parish Council in June 2012 appeared the line "Bin lid on hill by school: Clerk to chase". It conjured up a vision of a bin lid blowing before the wind with the Clerk in hot pursuit. Perhaps it's just me.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Village Hall

**The Annual General Meeting
of the Village Hall Management Committee
will be held on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.15pm
in the Lounge Bar of the Village Hall.**

Positions that will be up for re-election at the AGM are:

1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

Committee representatives and co-opted members will be appointed at the committee meeting which will follow the AGM.

This is your opportunity to have a say on the future of the hall so please come along. Don't just sit back and leave it to someone else as you may find that someone else will do just the same as you and make no effort to secure its future. A negative response could result in a bleak future for this community asset.

The future is in your hands, not just the current committee, so make the effort, show an interest.

Peter Piff

Services and events in April

Tuesday	1 st	7.00pm	Holy Communion Followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	6 th	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 10.30am 6.30pm	Together at Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Monday	7 th	7.00pm	Annual Par Church Meeting
Tuesday	8 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion Followed by Tuesday group
Saturday	12 th	10.30am 12noon	Coffee Morning at Village Hall Wedding of Lloyd Griffiths & Kate Hill
Sunday	13 th	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Evensong
Tuesday	15 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion Followed by Tuesday group
Thursday	17 th	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7.30pm	Team service at All Saints, Pittville
Friday	18 th	<i>Good Friday</i> 12noon	Reflective service with music and readings
Saturday	19 th	<i>Holy Saturday</i> 9.00pm	Team Easter Vigil Service
Sunday	20 th	<i>Easter Day</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Sunday	27 th	<i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong

The Parish of Swindon Village and Cheltenham St Peter

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
for the election of Churchwardens
will be held on
7th April 2014 at 7.00pm
in the Village Hall Lounge

As I write this the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and there are signs of new life in the garden. It is a good reminder that winter has well and truly gone, spring has arrived and summer is on its way.

Easter this year is on 20th April. Of course the shops have been selling Easter eggs since January it seems, and now the shops are full of all sorts of items to tempt us to celebrate Easter.

I have been particularly struck by the array of items on display in the art and craft shops and departments. Things to decorate Easter bonnets, paint your own egg kits, Easter bunnies, Easter chicks, and of course Easter egg hunt kits.

So far I haven't seen a single item that represents what it is we are really celebrating at Easter - there is not a single cross to be seen anywhere apart, of course, from outside the church. At the beginning of April the large wooden cross will be placed in the churchyard, as we welcome children to the church to 'Experience Easter' and hear and think about the Easter story.

Two years ago, when we ran 'Experience Easter' for the school in our churchyard, we converted the shed into the empty tomb. All the usual items were moved out, and a shroud and candle were placed inside. On the second morning, I arrived in the churchyard, ready to welcome the second group of children, and spotted a note on the door to the shed. It said 'he is not here!' (which is of course what the angels told the women when they arrived early in the morning on that first Easter day), but the following sentence caused me to chuckle 'and neither is the watering can!'

'He is not here' is what we celebrate on Easter day. We celebrate God's love for us, a love so great he was prepared to die for us, a love so great that death could not contain it.

So as you walk past the church in April, take a look at the cross, and remember what we are really celebrating at Easter. And just in case you think it doesn't involve chocolate – come to church on Easter Day, and you might be surprised!

Revd. Liz Palin

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)

“’til death us do part”- A view from the Pew

One of the many answers to the question of what God is like is that God is love. God created us human beings in his image and loves us with an unconditional love. In creating human beings God called us to love himself and to love one other.

Marriage is all about what we used to call ‘togetherness’. Human beings are social creatures and the togetherness of marriage is deeply rooted in our human instincts. Through the experience of marriage a man and woman may learn about love together over the course of their lives. We don’t marry *because* we love, but because we are helped through the experience to learn to love.

Marriage gives us the experience of learning about loving and giving and forgiving - in other words, developing as people. The experience of living closely and lovingly with another person gives us practice and disciplines. Unfortunately, after the wonderful experience of romantic love our passion may gradually fade. We learn, if we hang in there, the meaning of real love.

When we enter into marriage publicly and lawfully we commit ourselves to live and grow together in love.

The couple’s other relationships as part of a larger family group and as part of other social groups grows as they are considered ‘an item’. Their home life together is their contribution to society.

Blessings and benefits come from the married state. Traditionally these blessings are the hallowing and the help and comfort which each gives the other in good times and bad times. Through marriage each of the partners grows in maturity and each partner is helped to overcome personal failings and inadequacies. Marriage is a school of patience and forgiveness.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation. It doesn’t matter whether the couple are believers or unbelievers. The words ‘til death us do part’ are not a special religious ideal; they describe the form of a relationship that God has given to human beings as a gift.

Ralph Griffin



St Lawrence Church

Cake & Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th April

10.30am to 12noon

Village Hall

Admission £1

All welcome

Gifts of cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully received

Mary Halliwell - Tel. 01242 692423

Help needed!

Can you spare a little of your precious time to help keep St Lawrence Church looking beautiful?

We would be very grateful if you could help with general church cleaning, cleaning the church brass or arranging flowers in the church. All these tasks are carried out on a rota basis and you would only be called upon three or four times a year.

Please contact one of the following to offer or to ask for more details of what's involved.

Brass cleaning	-	Mary	01242 692423
Flower arranging	-	Val	01242 522245
Church cleaning	-	Joan	01242 233016

Thanking you in anticipation.

Mary Halliwell



Follow me... I'm off to the

Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening

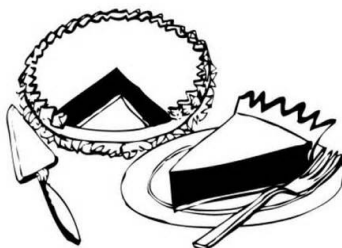
Friday 2nd May
Village Hall

Doors open 7.00pm

Eyes down and shake the dice at 7.30pm

Eat your dinner at home but leave room for
a feast of puddings

Tea, coffee and soft drinks included
Adults £5, children £2.50
Tickets from Karen Evans - tel. 241678



Profits to St. Lawrence Church building funds

At Swindon Village Primary School we have just finished our Special Week. This is an annual occurrence where we take the whole school off timetable for the week and do a large scale project. In the past we have had a range of fantastic events including an Arts Week and an Olympic Week but this year our Special Week was even more special than usual – a whole school production of the Lion King completed and presented all within 5 days!

The plan was that at the end of the week we would go to Pate's Grammar School and put on a performance involving all 410 children singing, dancing and acting. We would also create all the props, costumes and scenery but everything had to be done in the week! Therefore, on Monday morning, we all met together in the hall with nothing except a script and a deadline of two sell-out performances on Friday afternoon!

On that Monday morning the whole idea seemed ridiculously ambitious but what a fantastic week it proved to be. During the course of the next few days we learnt the songs and dances – one for each house and the two Reception classes – as well as a whole school dance involving every single child. We cast the principal parts and built and painted our very own Swindon Village savannah complete with elephants, cheetahs, warthogs and, of course, lions. By Thursday evening everything was ready but, due to space constraints, we had only rehearsed everything in bits – we still didn't have a complete show!

On the Friday morning we bussed the whole school – children, staff and animals – to Pate's Grammar School where we spent the day assembling our show before doing two afternoon performances. The children were fantastic and the show a resounding success. It was a long day at the end of a hard week but it is times like this that remind us all what a privilege it is to work with such wonderful children. They always give so much and seeing them grow in confidence and develop new skills is such a rewarding experience.

The aim of each Swindon Village Special Week is to give the children memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. I think we can all safely say that this was accomplished for children, parents and staff – all that remains now is to decide what we do next year...!

If you would like to see some images from our Special Week as well as information about everything else we have been up to, please visit our website www.swindonvillage.co.uk

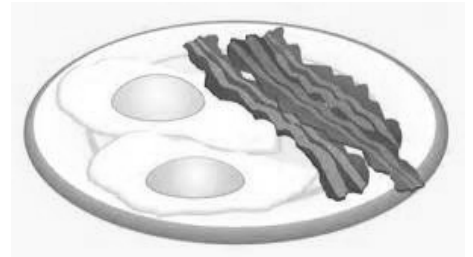
Regards,

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Wednesday Club

We started and ended the evening with a huge laugh at our last meeting on 5th March. The title of the talk given that evening by Rosemary Prosser was “**One egg or two**”.

Rosemary was a farmer's daughter and went on to marry a farmer, taking over her father's farm when he became too ill to manage any more. Eventually Rosemary opened her home to Bed and Breakfast customers and her stories were peppered with humour. At one stage in her life, Rosemary was in the police force for ten years and this was to come in handy from time to time.



What with stories of her Charolais Bull ‘Charlie’ and an errant moped rider (aged 50) my sides were nearly splitting by the time Rosemary had finished speaking. Rosemary ended her talk by reminding us of the perils of ticks and just how serious Lyme Disease can be. She was talking from experience as her own daughter has this disease and, in Rosemary's own words, they have been to hell and back because of it.

On a lighter note, a list is out should anyone like to come along to **Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury** (home of the naked gardeners) on Wednesday 18th June. This will cost £12.60 per person and we will be leaving the Village Hall at about 10.30 am. Confirmation of time will be at a later date. My phone number is in the Village News should anyone be interested in coming along.

We are also planning a trip to the **Black Country Museum** on the 10th of September. This will cost £17.25 per person and again, time of leaving the Village Hall later in the year. Please do get in touch with me or any other person on our committee if you would like to join us.

We will again be holding a **Coffee Morning** at 17 Quat Goose Lane on Wednesday 11th June. All are welcome to come along from about 10 am until 12 ish (we have never had to throw anyone out – yet). Admission is £1 and that will buy a coffee or tea and we always have a raffle and a few things for sale as well. We have always been lucky with the weather and so fingers crossed for this year as well.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 2nd April, Gill Garrett will be coming along to tell us about the “**Ghosts on the Severn Way**”. Sounds interesting!

Please do come along and join us; if nothing else, we have a lovely supper. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

Does anyone out there fancy the job of Chairman, Swindon Village Society? Many rewards but pay rotten. I ask because a major nightmare occurred in February when, on the day before I was due off on a week's holiday, the speaker called up to say he couldn't make it. This prompted instant dusting off of old talk on the history of Gloucester Cathedral to act as stand-in. However, I do have to thank Eileen Allen and John Heathcott who both leapt forward to offer stand-in talks at short notice. We kept with mine because it was nearer in content to the missing talk on Anglo Saxon Gloucestershire but it does mean that I now have a couple of talks available if there is another crisis. Indeed I hope we will hear Eileen's on the Swindon Village men who went to war sometime later this year which would be most appropriate given that it is the centenary of the start of World War One. John is now doomed to be in next year's programme.

Anyway, in the end I was delighted to talk about Gloucester Cathedral because I had forgotten much of my own talk and it was a useful reminder before I took some visitors there recently. It really is a remarkable building with a considerable history and architecture of all periods. It also reminded me of the talk we had a few years back which put forward the theory that Edward II is not actually in his tomb in the Cathedral and that his death was all a put up job to allow him, after the killing of his toy boy, Piers Gaviston, to go to Italy and become a monk and have his son take over. Edward III actually relished being king while his dad had found it rather a chore – a bit like being Chairman, Swindon Village Society, I imagine.

The Cathedral also does good coffee, though that was not actually part of the talk.

As I write there is much uproar on the JCS front. The MPs have come out for protecting the green belt, it is being discussed in Parliament, some local councillors are talking of impeaching the chief exec, the three councils are turning on each other. And it is all unnecessary. If they would just do an honest re-assessment of the housing need using Office of National Statistics latest figures they would find they don't have to touch the green belt. There's none so blind as them that will not see.

In April we will take our usual walk to annoy the latest avifauna. Anyone is welcome including children who can manage a mile of slightly muddy pathway. The plan is still to go to the Coombe Hill nature reserve and see if the new Grundon Hide has survived the floods. We will meet in the Village Hall car park first to amalgamate cars. If wet, go home.

Annual family membership is £10 while individual membership is £5. Payment can be made at any meeting or by post or hand to 3, Swindon Hall, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, GL51 9QR. For more information call Barry Simon on 01242 521723.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

The February meeting was introduced by our chairman, Mandy Jilbert, who welcomed everyone and handed over to her husband Tony for a special presentation.

Ray Hales had been chairman of the club for twenty plus years and found it was time to stand down. Tony gave a short speech thanking Ray for his valued time given to the club. He was then presented with a bottle of whiskey and an inscribed glass made by a local artist. Sylvia, Ray's wife, was also given a bouquet of flowers. Ray responded by thanking his wife for her support over the years and the club for putting up with him; they intend to carry on and give their support to the club where possible.

We carried on with the **Doug Wilkins Kit Wine Memorial Trophy** competition; this year it was for a Sweet Red. While the judging was going on members indulged in a variety of home made puddings and everyone tasted each one. There were crumbles, tarts, cheesecakes, chocolate cakes, brownies, gateaux, and an Eton Mess.

The result of the wine competition was as follows; **1st, Mark Smith; 2nd, Mike Attwood; 3rd, Tony Jilbert.** The winner of the pudding competition was Mandy Jilbert for her Eton Mess.

The April meeting will be most interesting. It will be a talk given by Mr James Rendell on the History of H.H.Martyn. This factory equipped the interiors of many of the world's great ocean liners and made the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons, amongst many other things.

On Friday 21st February twenty members spent a long weekend in Weston-super-Mare with other wine clubs. It was organised by Caroline and John Blackwell of Charlton Kings and it was a great weekend with entertainment every night.

On the 1st March we had our annual Spring dance which was a great success, dancing to TANDEM. Thanks go to Claire Smith for doing the raffle and to everyone who helped set up in the afternoon and of course cleared away at night.

Regards,
Roy Harper
(Secretary)

We were focused to our gardens at our March meeting when Allan Wells made us think of the bees when planning the plants to grow. With the aid of some beautiful pictures he inspired us to grow single varieties for easy insect access and in drifts, not single plants. On the subject of chemicals it was pointed out that they kill the innocent as well as the guilty and that the bees, even with the smallest traces, can take it back to the hive, where it will accumulate in the wax and eventually kill the colony. What an awful thought! Did you know that wasps are very beneficial in the early part of the year when, as they are carnivores, they feed on the bad guys? It is only later that they become a nuisance. The very best plants to grow are cotoneasters; the insects love them. Fruit trees are great nectar providers and also we can enjoy the fruits. Other ideas were that we should persuade our councils to plant areas of wild flowers instead of bedding plants and we can leave the weeds, at least a few, especially the dandelions! Don't be too tidy as insects have a different view of borders! It is true that we cannot live without the bees and their friends, so we should do all we can to help them. The sale of some very delicious cakes helped to boost our funds, and also our waistlines!

The Afternoon Tea at the Daffodil proved very popular and was much enjoyed. Unfortunately the planned outing to the Rococo Gardens was called off due to adverse weather conditions; we will try again later in the year. The Skittles evening was cancelled for the same reason but another was arranged. I understand that we have a bye in the first round of the Tournament this year. A Craft afternoon at Wendy's with pancakes (bring your own toppings) proved popular. A party at Prestbury was attended by two members. On a more serious note the talk on Forensic Science was most interesting.

Sue and I had a great time dressing up and going to Ladies' Day at the Races, where we joined other WI members in our own marquee. We came away a little poorer but we did win a few bob between us. Sue also hosted a 'gossipy' tea afternoon at her house.

Future events include the Annual Council Meeting in the Town Hall, a Birthday Party at Gotherington, a Social Skittles Evening, a Craft Afternoon at Pat's, the launch of a Members Book Club to be chaired by Mo at Elaine's (we look forward to hearing how they get on) and a County Holiday Break in Derbyshire. In May there is a Group Meeting to look forward to as well as some members attending a Clay Pigeon Shoot and possibly a visit to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories at Harwell.

We shall be bringing all our aches and pains with us to our meeting on 7th April as the speaker is Adrian Lyster on the subject of 'Acupuncture and Musculoskeletal Pain'. On 12th May we have the annual debate on the Resolution for the National Annual Meeting being held in Leeds this year. We always give a warm welcome to anyone who would be interested in joining us at St Nicolas' Church Hall in Swindon Lane.

Sara Jefferies

District Scout Cooking Competition - Shurdington

Eight of our Scouts formed two teams to take part in the District Scout Cooking Competition, held at Shurdington Scout HQ. The challenge this year was to cook and serve a three course meal for four people and the complete meal had to be either gluten-free or dairy-free with a budget of just £17. All eight teams from around the district cooked meals that the judges would have been happy to eat and the standard was incredibly high. Our teams both prepared delicious meals and while they didn't win, they still got to sit down and enjoy their hard work and had a lot of fun in the process! Several of them also had their photos in the Echo the following day. Congratulations to all of you, and a big thank-you to the parents for all your support.

Cub "Dusk Hike"

The Cubs recently enjoyed an evening "dusk hike" starting at the village hall. They hiked around the village as the day turned to night and ended up at McDonald's at Kingsditch, where they all took it in turns to order their own food and drinks. Out in the dark and a McDonald's to finish – needless to say this was popular with all the Cubs!

Troop Cooking Competition – Swindon Village

Such was the popularity of the District Scout Cooking Competition in Shurdington, we decided to hold our own troop competition a few weeks later. With the Cubs off on their dusk hike, the Scouts had the village hall to themselves for 2½ hours to prepare, cook, eat and clear away a two-course meal for four people. We had 24 Scouts that formed six very enthusiastic teams. Having planned their menus the week before, each team was presented with the food items from the shopping lists that they had written out themselves. In order to replicate camp conditions, each team had just a twin burner camp stove to cook on. The hall was a vibrant mix of noise and smells and it was great to see all the Scouts working really well together as teams and then enjoying the meals that they had cooked together. Liz and John Attwell were our guest judges for the evening and they were very impressed with the high standard of the meals produced. All in all, a really great evening of Scouting at its best!

Mountain Activities in the Brecon Beacons

Five of our Scouts took part in the County organised Mountain Activities day in the Brecon Beacons with a dozen other Scouts from around Gloucestershire. We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed a dry, sunny and windy day as we climbed up and around the Bloreng Mountain near Abergavenny. After an enjoyable day's hiking, we all piled into a chippie in Monmouth for tea before heading home to rest those aching feet! This was the first of five mountain hikes needed to gain the Scout Hillwalker Badge and at least two of our Scouts are booked onto the next county trip up to the Lake District in May.

Joshua Williams – The Chosen One!

I'm delighted to announce that Joshua Williams from Swindon Village has applied and been selected to take part in the World Scout Jamboree in 2015. He will be one of a contingent of 27 Scouts and Explorers from Gloucestershire and will spend the next 18 months training, preparing and fundraising for the Jamboree which takes place in Japan. Having got over the thrill of being chosen, Joshua now has to set about the task of trying to raise the £3,000 camp fees for what will undoubtedly be the trip of a lifetime and an experience that he will never forget. This is the third consecutive World Scout Jamboree that a Swindon Village Scout has managed to gain a place on and we look forward to learning of his experiences.

Sos

Swindon Village Rainbows

At the end of last term we took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Lawrence's Church and the girls did a wonderful job of creating cow decorations for our "maids a-milking" tree. Thank you to everyone involved.

This term we have been working on our "Olivia's Favourites" badge which saw the girls enjoying activities such as learning about elephants, making and playing musical instruments and decorating cakes. We were joined by other Guiding units from the district for a disco to raise money for Sue Ryder. We are looking forward to more events like this in the future although nothing is currently planned. Thank you to Revd. Liz Palin for inviting us to join in the Mothering Sunday service at St Lawrence's Church in March.

Looking forward to next term, we are hoping that the weather will improve so that we can go outside more for activities such as bug hunting and bubble blowing.

We currently have a few places available in the unit so if your daughter is between five and seven years old and you think she'd like to join Rainbows please contact me for more information.

Jackie Bailey

Tel. 07871 169308

Village News 40th Anniversary

Last December we published the 400th edition of Village News and this year is the 40th anniversary of the newsletter, the first one having been produced in October 1974.

We've been taking a look at the first edition.

In a short piece presumably written by Revd. Michael Bennett, Rector of St. Lawrence's Church and one of the founding editors of Village News, the church warmly welcomed the newsletter and would be sending in its monthly articles. He continued, "Since the newsletter will repeat factual information which appears in the Church Magazine, this may have certain implications for the magazine! But in so far as the newsletter serves and informs the village, awakens and strengthens the community, and even entertains, it is widely to be welcomed."

In addition to listing the regular services the newsletter published the full rotas for the month for the Servers, Sidesmen, Cleaners and Flower arrangers.

The Harvest Thanksgiving was to be held on the first Sunday in October and people attending the Family Service and Children's Gift Service, at which the Junior Choir would be singing, were encouraged to "bring a token vegetable marrow or something similar for delivery to a Children's Home".

The Church Magazine did disappear and Village News became a joint venture for the Church and the Parish Council with at least one editor coming from each of the two bodies and while the Parish Council took on the financial responsibility, the Church took on the delivery of the magazine to every home in the parish, a situation which is largely still true today.

We hope the magazine is still doing its job of informing, awakening, strengthening and entertaining.

The Editors

Suitably designed driveways help the fight against floods

With the persistent heavy rainfall recently the council wants to remind residents of the planning measures in place to ensure driveways are suitably designed to combat the risk of flooding.

Planning measures have been in place since October 2008 to encourage permeable solutions for new or replacement paving around existing buildings as part of the fight against flooding. Before the changes, paving anywhere in a garden related to a house or bungalow with any materials was considered to be 'permitted development'. Effectively there was an automatic planning permission without needing a planning application.

However, permitted development rights have been taken away from new or replacement drives or other hard surfaces, unless permeable paving is used or water drains onto a permeable area within the property. Otherwise, planning permission will be required and this is resisted on policy grounds.

It's not just domestic drives that are affected. Similar measures have applied to industrial, warehouse, office and shop premises since April 2010.

Senior Enforcement and Compliance Officer, Martin Levick, says: "We need to make sure surfaces are permeable to reduce the risk of flooding. Of course, a small area of paving in isolation is not going to cause major flooding, but it is the cumulative impact of lots of areas around homes and commercial properties being sealed up that creates real problems."

"An example of this would be The Greater London Authority who estimated that paving over front gardens for car parking in the city is equivalent to an area around 16 times the size of the new Olympic Park. Clearly this is on a much larger scale than Cheltenham, but we still need to take advantage of any opportunity to make the town flood proof."

Cabinet member for Built Environment, Councillor Andrew McKinlay, said: "Planning laws are in place, which affect new or resurfaced front drives, in order to reduce the risk of flooding. It's important to comply with all these rules to avoid action by local authorities and complications when selling your home.

The 'guide on permeable paving' can be found on the Department of Communities and Local Government's website.

Hannah Wright

*Strategy and Engagement Assistant~Neighbourhoods
Cheltenham Borough Council*

Tel: 01242 775156 Email: hannah.wright@cheltenham.gov.uk

Volunteer flood wardens needed

A network of flood wardens has helped Cheltenham Borough Council during the severe winter storms. Now, the council would like to extend the network.

The role of a flood warden is to keep an eye on watercourses and use their own local knowledge to recognise and report flood risks. They could also relay messages about potential flooding to others in the area they cover, and provide emergency services with important information in the event of a flood.

Those who volunteer for their area will be invited to a briefing which will take place later this spring. The briefing will give further details of the role and lines of communication. The network of flood wardens means that the council can also relay warnings, alerts and information back out to the wardens.

Geoff Beer, Principal Engineer at Cheltenham Borough Council, says: “Flood wardens provide us with valuable information for flood risk areas. During severe storm events, flooding can occur at numerous locations simultaneously and monitoring every potential flood risk area is extremely difficult. This is why the wardens are so essential to us, because they are contacting us with the most up to date information which would otherwise go unrecorded.”

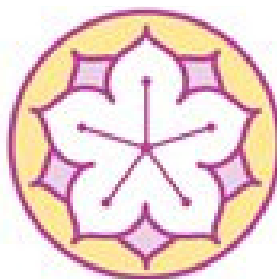
Councillor Peter Jeffries, cabinet member for housing, safety and communities, adds: “The wardens offer a valuable resource to the council and local communities in the fight against flooding, which is why more volunteers are needed to extend this great network. Even if it’s just a phone call to us saying that a river level has got higher, we can use that information to see what areas are under threat and take the necessary action.”

Flood wardens should not place themselves in any danger; take responsibility for moving or protecting anyone’s property, or clear ditches or culverts. Their role is primarily to observe and report.

If you would like to sign up to be a warden in your neighbourhood, please email Hannah Wight, strategy and engagement assistant on:
Hannah.Wright@cheltenham.gov.uk or call 01242 775156.

Hannah Wright

*Strategy and Engagement Assistant~Neighbourhoods
Cheltenham Borough Council*



YOUNG AT HEART MEMORY CLUBS

Friendly social clubs for people with memory difficulties,
people with dementia, with their Carers, Families and Friends.

Venues and dates:

Cheltenham: **Lynworth Court, Lynworth Place, GL52 5DZ**
The 4th Monday of every month 10.30am - 2.30pm
LUNCH & Carer Respite available - please call for details

Winchcombe: **Day Centre: Langley Close, Winchcombe, GL54 5QN**
The 1st Tuesday of every month 10.30am - 12.30pm
Carer Respite available - please call for details

Young At Heart Memory Clubs are provided by Memory Clubs UK C.I.C.

Call Val: 07717 374 484 or Kelly 07717 787 580
or Email: enquiries@memoryclubs.co.uk

**Memory Clubs UK C.I.C. is a Community Interest Company
and a member of Social Enterprise UK**



Do you look after someone ?

Free local sessions can help you to help them.

The weekly sessions give you the opportunity to meet with other unpaid carers to gain information and support.

Mon 14.4	Being a Carer	Mon 28.4	Day-to-Day Caring
Mon 12.5	Looking After Yourself	Mon 19.5	Caring in Partnership
Mon 2.6	Caring and Resources	Mon 9.6	Next Steps

**at: Church House, Church of St Philips & St James
60 Painswick Rd., Cheltenham GL50 2ER**

From 10.30—1.00 pm

Help is available with replacement care and transport if necessary



**Please call 01452 500885 / 426254
to find out more or book a place, or email
positivecaring@gloucestershire.gov.uk**

Helping Hands
The Home Care Specialists

Est. 1989



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Cheltenham care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,
call: 01454 643 701 or
visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk



Victoria Turner-Webb

Mobile Hairdresser

*Hair styled in the comfort of
our own home*

01242 678 933

07412 261 578

Brite Interiors

Quality Interior Painting
General maintenance
Fencing

All work considered

Local & Trustworthy
References and Photo Portfolio

Competitive daily rates
DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS

Sole Trader

Martin Gautrey

Mobile:- 07980 032 034

Home:- 01242 232570

Advertise your business in the Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50
One sixth of a page (square) £5

Contact the Editors



Beginners' Yoga Classes Fridays at 9.45am

Seasons, Quat Goose Lane, GL51 9RX
£7 for a 75 minute class.

Classes run during term time only.

07581 861 906

www.facebook.com/yogakatiemaughfling

ALEXANDER BURN LTD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT AND RESPECTFUL



Independent family business

24 hour personal service

Private chapels of rest



Winchcombe Office:

11 North Street
Winchcombe
Cheltenham
GL54 5LH

Tel: 01242 604 888

Bishops Cleeve Office:

22 Church Road
Bishops Cleeve
Cheltenham
GL52 8LR

Tel: 01242 673 300

www.alexanderburn.com

Now also at 436 High Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3JA Tel. 01242

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
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
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	Roy Harper	662861
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

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

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 on 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