

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 404      May 2014

## May

- |                 |           |   |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| Friday          | 2         | Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening in aid of church building funds - Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm                 |
| Wednesday       | 7         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Susan Marshfield - "Oh yes, I remember it well"                           |
| Saturday        | 10        | Swindon Village Society - in St. Lawrence's Church 4.00pm<br>Barry Simon - The history of church architecture     |
| Monday          | 12        | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm - Resolutions  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>Annual Parish Meeting - School Hall 7.30pm<br/>(See inside)</b>  |
| Thursday        | 15        | Swindon Village Art & Craft Club - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Display of work and a chance to find out about the club |
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>Election Day</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>27</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm<br/>With Public Session</b>                                       |
| Wednesday       | 28        | Swindon Village Winemakers - Village Hall 7.45pm<br>Annual Cup competition and barbecue                           |

## June

- |                |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Monday         | 2         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Arthur Ball - Birds, Tigers and The Taj |
| Wednesday      | 4         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Jill Ruix - The Lives of Narrowboat Women     |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm<br/>To be confirmed</b>               |

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

Once again the Joint Core Strategy has hit the news. The opponents of the strategy to build thousands of new homes on green belt land (including the Parish Council) have been arguing that the councils of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester have over-estimated the need for housing. The document is supposed to be based on a solid foundation of objective evidence yet very late in the day the JCS team took 800 houses out of the plan (though not from our area). This seems to suggest that the figures used to justify the developments are not entirely reliable. The JCS team are unwilling to wait for the latest population figures from the Office of National Statistics, due shortly. At the time of writing, and following heated debate, the councils of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester have approved the plan to go forward to the final stage of consultation before it is put to the government. Cheltenham Borough Council have at least tried to include a stipulation that the latest population figures and the results of recent traffic surveys are considered when they become available.

In a recent previous issue I mentioned Neighbourhood Co-ordination Groups (NCGs). To briefly recap, the meetings involve representatives from the County Council, the Borough Council, the Police and the public. The meetings are intended to give people more direct access to the organisations that provide our services. In our patch it has been decided that it makes sense to combine the function of the NCG into our own Parish Council meetings. The April Parish Council meeting included this extra element. It was organised in a bit of rush and none of us knew quite what to expect. However, we think it was a success as it allowed us to talk directly to people who can get us answers. Writing emails and letters is all well and good but sometimes it is better to sit across the table and discuss issues directly. We are grateful to the representatives of the bodies who attended. As a result the Council's normal business ran late so we still need to do some fine tuning. We agreed that meetings in this form should take place quarterly. Since the NCG-type business is conducted during the public session of the Parish Council meeting everyone is free to contribute. We will give plenty of notice of the next one and anyone coming along will have an opportunity to raise their issues.

The Annual Parish meeting is scheduled to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> May. We are hoping to use the school hall as in previous years. At the moment we are discussing possible speakers. Please make a note of the date and look out for further announcements via the web site and notice boards.

Every four years an event happens that generates tremendous excitement, and this is one of those special years. There is also a Football World Cup. Yes, I am talking about a Parish Council election. All the current councillors have to put themselves up for re-election if they wish to continue in office and new hats can be thrown into the ring. If anyone is interested in becoming a councillor I would be more than happy to

discuss what is involved. The election will be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. And the World Cup starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.

The allotment growing season is under way and, now that the floods have subsided, the allotments are a hive of activity. Some of our public spirited folk made a new gate for the allotments; it was then spirited away by a “gentleman” in a blue car. If anyone knows the proud owner of a blue car and a new, hand made gate perhaps they could let me (or the police) know. I should, of course, make it clear that there may be honest people in the area with blue cars and new gates that they have paid good money for.

The Parish Council will soon be having the internal auditor go through our accounts for 2013-2014. The preliminary figures show a deficit of £68.43 on the year against a budgeted surplus of £205.00. Therefore our financial position is £273.43 adverse to where we had hoped to be. However, various works on the Amenity Area and allotments have been completed so overall we are in good shape. It was recently discovered that one parish council (not in Cheltenham) has been having its internal audit signed off by someone who has been dead for three years! We intend to use a real live accountant.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## **Swindon Parish Council**

invites you to attend the

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

on Tuesday 13th May at 7.30pm  
in the hall of Swindon Village Primary School

Speaker to be announced -  
see Parish website and notice boards for details

*This is an opportunity to come together as a parish  
to discuss matters of common interest.*

## Services and events in May

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty all age service Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am 4.00pm	Visiting Ringers Swindon Village Society talk on Church Architecture
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Sung evensong
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	(No morning service in St Lawrence) 11.00am 6.30pm	Team Confirmation Service, St Mary's Prestbury Sung Evensong
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Tuesday Group
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am 2.00pm	Wedding of Gar-Yun Wong & Bijal Patel Wedding of Ayanda Ndimande & Katie Evans
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism of Hadley Green Sung Evensong
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	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



*We have celebrated the marriage of*  
Lloyd Griffiths and Kate Hill

12<sup>th</sup> April



*We have given thanks for the life of*  
Bryan Merrett

3<sup>rd</sup> April

It's that time of year when lots of groups and organisations have just had their annual general meetings. The church was no exception, and in April our Annual Parish Church Meeting was held, with officers being elected to a variety of posts.

In spring we often reflect on the cycle of life, as new shoots appear on trees and shrubs that seemed so dead during the winter months. In organisations there is health in a similar cycle of new life, and so we hope that in future we might encourage some new people to put themselves forward for election to the PCC and to the Cheltenham Deanery Synod.

Karen Evans has served the PCC for more years than it would be polite to mention here, but she has decided after her long service to stand down. We thank her for all that she has offered and contributed to the life of the PCC over so many years.

It has also been announced that Canon Michael Cozens will be moving on in the summer after serving the North Cheltenham Team Ministry for almost 18 years in various roles. Details about his farewell event will follow in due course.

In the meantime all the PCCs in the team are working together to decide on the gifts needed of the person we feel will lead us in the next part of our journey together. It is good to hear from as many people as possible so if you have any thoughts please do let the churchwardens know.

We have just celebrated Easter, the time when we remember the story of Jesus' betrayal and death, the grief of the disciples and those who loved Jesus, a son, a brother and a friend and that wonderful morning when the disciples met the risen Jesus in a garden bursting with new life. Christians believe that the risen Jesus transforms our lives through his presence with us today.

I know change is unsettling, but the Christian faith is a faith of hope, of life out of death, and so we can look forward in hope to the future, and all that God has planned for us, whether in our PCC, in our team, or in our community.

**Revd Liz**

## **A view from the pew**

### **Change and challenge**

You will be aware that Revd. Canon Michael Cozens will be leaving North Cheltenham to take up the post of Rector designate of Dursley in the south of the Diocese. "Oh dear, oh dear, once again, more change", I think I hear mournfully.

But whether we like it or not we live in a period of rapid change. Personally I'm full of anticipation as our St Lawrence Church enters a new phase under changed leadership. Remember, it's not just the clergy who make up the team, it's all of us who make up the St Lawrence congregation. These days members of the clergy don't spend a lifetime as incumbent in a small area as they did in Jane Austen's time. I think a clergy move with new challenges and opportunities is good for the people they serve and good for them too.

We at St Lawrence will miss Revd. Michael and his leadership of our North Cheltenham Team Ministry. The team ministry has been a great blessing for us at St Lawrence. We have benefited from clear sighted leadership and access to some thought provoking and helpful sermons as part of the ministry of the Word and other encouragements. Thank you so much, Michael. We'll miss you but you leave us well set up to meet the challenges of further house building. We want to continue the development of changes you have encouraged which are designed to enhance our ministry to families.

As Christians, our faith expects us to plan for the future for the ministry of St Lawrence. That's what we shall continue to do under new leadership, remembering, "If God be for us who can be against us?" We know we won't be left alone to do our best to provide a beacon of faith spreading from our ancient church. No, we will have God's Holy Spirit on our side.

**Ralph Griffin**

### **St. Lawrence Church - Annual Fete**

Only two months to go! Put the date in your diary - Saturday 7th July.

We would love to hear from you if you can help us in any way. On the day of the fete we need help setting up tables and gazebos and taking them down again at the end. In between we need help setting up and running stalls - the more help we have with this, the more stalls we can run.

If you're a gardener perhaps you could plant a bit extra and donate it to the produce stall; home-grown and home-made produce always sells well.

There will be a meeting of the fete planning group on Monday 12th May at 7.30pm to which everyone is invited.

**Tony Jilbert**  
**Tel. 693639**

## Wednesday Club

At our last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April Gill Garrett came and told us all about her walk along the length of the Severn Way. She was accompanied on the walk by her husband and two dogs. The title of her talk was "Ghosts on the Severn Way", the ghosts being the people that had walked along the Severn Way over the centuries.

Gill certainly knew her history; they had obviously researched every little bit before they walked it. They started at the estuary near Bristol and over a period of time walked to the source at Plynlimon in the mountains of Wales. I thought it was amazing to see such a small spring no bigger than a puddle becoming this huge river along its way. I have lived in Gloucestershire all my life and have never been along the river to Sharpness, I will really have to go and explore it sometime. It was a really interesting talk and we will have to ask her back sometime in the future as she is now walking the coastal path of Wales!

Our next meeting is on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and Susan Marshfield will be coming to see us again and the title of her talk is "Oh Yes I Remember It Well".

We have a busy month in June; on the 4<sup>th</sup> is our monthly meeting, on the 11<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Coffee Morning and on the 18<sup>th</sup> is our trip to Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury. I still have a few seats left for this trip; should anyone be interested please telephone me on 693112.

Our Coffee Morning is at 17 Quat Goose Lane and entry will be £1 which will include a cup of coffee/tea/juice and biscuit, and we will be open from about 10.30 until 12 noon. There will be a raffle (£1 per ticket) and a sale of books. It is always nice to see everyone chatting over coffee and so please do come along and join us.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May and just to remind you that visitors are always welcome.

**Pauline Wright**

### Thank you

Thank you to all of you who supported the **cake and coffee morning** which raised £311 for St. Lawrence church funds.

Whether you baked, helped on the day or bought from the super array of produce on sale, your support is much appreciated.

**Mary Halliwell**

For the second time this year our speaker let us down. Having checked all was well two nights before the talk I received a call the night before saying she had gone ill. So this time it is a huge thanks to John Heathcott who did us proud at just a day's notice with his talk on the Cotswold area of outstanding natural beauty. The only problem with this is that I am sure we would have had even more takers had we been able to advertise it in advance. In addition it has now used up both our standby talks. So next time our speaker falls down you will have to put up with my tap dancing for an hour.

At least there is a fighting chance that our next speaker will turn up because it is our noble chairman (me) giving it. The talk is on the history of church architecture and it will be in St Lawrence's Church on a Saturday afternoon – see cover for details. It is really a spotter's guide to churches. How do you tell a bit of Norman stonework from Early English from a slice of Perpendicular. The talk will be illustrated with slides but our own church actually has all of these styles so you can see them for real and the talk will double up as history of our own church.

If we are lucky we may get a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards and any money made will go to the church. If you want to know more call Barry Simon on 01242 521723.

Our bird walk went very well. We visited Coombe Hill reserve and the weather was kind though we could not visit either hide because one had been destroyed during the winter storms and the approach to the other was still very soggy. Nevertheless we had a bit of a coup as the start of the list shows: AFRICAN SPOONBILL, Coot, Mallard, Wood Pidgeon, Lapwing, Robin, Chiff Chaff, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Shelduck, Tufted Duck, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Canada Goose, Crow, Rook, Herring Gull, Skylark, Magpie, Buzzard, Goldfinch and a pair of Farmyard Ducks having a cuddle in a tussock. We know it actually was a Spoonbill because there were many groups of serious birders with their telephoto lenses just to see it. And then we even made the church coffee morning in time for a bit of cake. Perfect.

Now, JCS. As I write I have just spent a really interesting four hours (yawn) in the Cheltenham Council Meeting which discussed it. When Tewkesbury discussed this matter a few days ago the Conservatives were all for the JCS and the Lib Dems all against it. However, in Cheltenham the Conservatives were against it and the Lib Dems were for it excepting our local councillors. When a secondary vote was put asking for a deferment until the new figures from the Office of National Statistics become available the voting was Cons for, Lib Dems against. This may provide an interesting topic for discussion should putative councillors appear on your doorsteps before the forthcoming elections – which do they put first, representing the wishes of their constituents or toeing the party line. As I understand it, Paul Massey's seat will be up for election with Paul not standing.

**Barry Simon**



## Swindon Village Winemakers

At the meeting on Wednesday 26th March Mandy Jilbert, our new chairman, welcomed everyone. As Mandy and Tony had missed our dance (they got lost somewhere on a beach in the Maldives) Mandy wanted to thank Claire Smith for making £182 00 on the raffle. Claire then thanked June Whitty, Louise and Derek Waite for helping her sell the tickets.

The evening was a European Wine tasting organised by Tony Jilbert and Ray Hales. We had wines from France, Germany Spain and Australia. The fun of it was the labels on the bottles were covered up and the members had to guess the country each one came from and the price; by the way, they were all from Tesco. While that was going on Roy Harper gave out a picture quiz and a written paper quiz regarding old money terms.

Roy also handed boards round for forthcoming dances in May, names were needed for Stroud dancing to SHOOTING STARS and Cheltenham Winemakers dancing to AINT MISBEHAVIN, a new act on the circuit where we are concerned. Roy also gave out a list of boat trips for the month of June for the members' interest, with a choice of starting at Gloucester or Upton-on-Severn.

Fourteen of us went to Charlton Kings spring dance, dancing to SHOOTING STARS; again an excellent time was had by all. Would you believe it guessing the wines was won by Sylvia and Ray Hales (something fishy there) and to top it all Mandy and Tony won the quiz and Mandy was sitting next to me, but I did not give her any answers, honest.

The next meeting, in May, is the Annual Cup wine competition; this year it is Blackberry. We also are having a BBQ; some other wine clubs are invited to join us. The met office are hinting on the summer being a scorcher this year; let's hope so.

**Roy Harper**

## 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

A huge thank you to everyone - parents, friends, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - who helped at our recent jumble sale; your help was vital in making the sale a success and most appreciated. Thank you too to everyone who supported us by snapping up some good bargains. A grand total of £518.32 was raised on the day.

It was great to see the Group so well represented at the Mothering Sunday service in St. Lawrence's Church. Some of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had an active role in the service and it was nice to see the flags paraded again.

**Sos**

Our May meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Rosa Robertson, who had been a loyal member for many years. She had died on her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday and a number of her friends from the WI had attended her funeral. We had also provided and served tea after the funeral of our member Ros Eynon's husband Colin.

The speaker that month was Adrian Lyster who had worked at the Pain Management Clinic. The subject of 'Acupuncture and Musculoskeletal Pain' proved to be very interesting and stimulated some great discussions. With acupuncture having originated in China, the NHS, in cases of chronic and neuropathic pain and palliative care, was now using it. Everything from migraine to sciatica was discussed. Members came away much better informed and knowledgeable on the subject and might consider using some of the treatments if necessity arose.

The County Annual Council Meeting was held at the Town Hall and attended by several of our members. Apart from the business of the day it is a great opportunity to meet friends, browse amongst the many stands and be tempted to partake in some retail therapy! The main guest speaker was Simeon Courtie, radio broadcaster, children's TV presenter (with Otis the Aardvark!) and a contributor to 'Have I Got News for You'. He was very entertaining and told how he came, with his family, to form a Beatles tribute band called the Beatnik Beatles who then busked their way around the world in aid of charity. In a VW Campavan called 'Penny' they took a family gap year travelling from Strawberry Fields in Liverpool via Europe, India, Australia and America to the memorial in New York. A great adventure and a great speaker!

Other activities have included tea afternoons at Elaine's and Sue's, an inaugural meeting of the Book Club, Craft Club meetings at Pat's and Wendy's, a meal at Brasserie Blanc, a theatre visit to see The Mousetrap and Wendy attended an event to celebrate International Women's Day.

Events arranged for the future include a meal at Zizzi's, a Group Meeting, clay pigeon shooting, a social skittle evening (we have not heard yet who we will be playing in the County Tournament). Money and names are being collected for our outing to Stratford with a river trip and cream tea and plans are afoot for another musical evening (keep Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July free, more news later!).

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> May when we have to debate the Resolution to be presented at the National AGM. Also, Jill Malin, a member, is to tell us of her experiences being a magician's wife, running a B&B and the many cuddly friends she has in her home. Visitors are always made welcome.

**Sara Jefferies**

# Save The Countryside Walk 7

Thanks everyone - we are still going strong after more than 7 years!  
Please come along to show your support for our lovely community event.  
Walking through the fields under threat of development of a new town of  
4800 houses between Swindon Village and Uckington.

Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm**

Enjoy a peaceful afternoon walk in our wonderful Gloucestershire countryside.  
Everyone welcome, including dogs and horses.  
Refreshments available mid way and at the end.

*For further details contact 01242 680602 (Anne) or 07770 986078 (Helen)*



*Now part of Cheltenham Alliance,  
working to protect Cheltenham's countryside.*



## Swindon Village Art & Craft Club

We are a friendly bunch that meets on Thursdays, 7.30pm-9.30pm in the Village Hall between September and May.

The range of abilities is very wide; everyone is learning and improving. Art members work in pastel, watercolour, pencil, acrylic and oils. You choose your medium and subject matter. The craft section of the club works on various projects such as cross stitch, paper crafts and sewing.

The club doesn't offer formal tuition (keeps our costs extremely low), but we provide each other with help, motivation and inspiration.

Over the last 40+ years(!) membership has dwindled and we are very keen to encourage new members. We are holding a club event on **Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm** (last meeting of the season) where we will display our work to each other over some snacks, drinks and music. This is to replace the annual exhibition. If you're interested in finding out more about the club, why not come along to see our work and meet us. We hope to see you there.

*Personally I find the ability to set aside 2 hours a week outside of a busy family life very rewarding and my art has benefited enormously from the club.*

### Adrian Skilling

tel: **690928** or email: **adrian.skilling@gmail.com** for more details

### From Village News No. 1, October 1974

#### Swindon Village School P.T.A.

The P.T.A. has been active recently, mainly in finishing the School swimming pool which has been built at a cost of approx. £1,500 by parents, teachers and friends. It was officially opened at the Family Night Out on Saturday 7th September and will be in use during the autumn.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped in many ways with the building of the swimming pool.

# Village News

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

## **Village News Distributors Wanted**

We are looking for volunteers to join our network of distributors delivering Village News to homes in your neighbourhood.

At the moment we are looking for help in the Riverleys and Hayden Road area to take over from two of our most long-serving helpers who have recently “retired”.

We would also like to compile a list of reserve distributors who would be prepared to help in any part of the parish to cover occasional holiday absences.

Village News is published 10 times a year, not in January or August, and we aim to deliver them to all homes by the 1st of each month.

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Please **phone Hugh or Karen Evans on 241678** to find out more.

### *The Swindon Village Society*

cordially invites you to  
an illustrated talk by

*Barry Simon*

on

### *The History of Church Architecture*

to be held in St Lawrence's Church  
on Saturday 10th May at 4.00pm.

Everyone is welcome for a small (optional) donation to the Church.  
Hopefully teas will be available.



### **Walk – celebrate – remember**

Last year's Solstice Walk was such a brilliant success that Cotswold Care Hospice are doing the same again this year, giving you the chance to support your local hospice and enjoy the rolling hills and open spaces above the Stroud Valley.

**Where:** The walk sets off from Cotswold Care Hospice, Burleigh Lane.

**When:** Friday 20th June at 6pm, 6.30pm and 7pm, depending on the distance you want to walk; 5km or 10km, it's up to you!

**How much:** Registration is £15 for adults or £7.50 for children. Under 5s go free.

Entry includes a Solstice Walk T-shirt, ribbon to remember a loved one, bottle of water, walk number, a welcome pack and a complimentary glass of fizz on your return.

Enjoy live music, home-cooked food and a bar. See some surprises along the way. Remember loved ones with our special Memory Arch at the Hospice.

By taking part and asking friends to sponsor you on your walk, you'll be raising vital funds that will make a huge difference in your community. Every year Cotswold Care Hospice supports more than 600 patients with life-limiting illnesses, along with their families.

Young, old, families, companies, lots of people will be taking part in the Solstice Walk to raise vital funds for the Hospice. If you'd like to join them and get sponsored for the walk please call the Hospice for an entry form on **01453 886868**, email.

**events@cotswoldcare.org.uk** or go to their website at **www.cotswoldcare.org.uk**



# **VILLAGE & COMMUNITY** **Agents**

***Providing older people in Gloucestershire with easier access to information and services***

## ***Healthwatch Gloucestershire***

From 1st April 2013 Healthwatch Gloucestershire became responsible for providing the public with local information to help them make informed choices about their health and social care needs. This service builds on the legacy of the GUIDe Information Service, providing a single point of access for information and advice. From our Healthwatch Gloucestershire Database of over 4000 records we can signpost you to local and national organisations offering support and guidance in the areas of health, social care and disability. You can also look for information yourself using our 'Find a Service' search tool on the website or call us on **0800 652 5193** or email **info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk** and one of the Healthwatch team will help you.

Since April 1st we have received over 1,000 calls and put people in touch with services that can help. Visit our website or follow us on Facebook or Twitter—links on our website: **www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk**

Calling all families, children and young people...

Healthwatch Gloucestershire needs to hear more from you! Take a look at our website to find out how you can make a difference!

## ***Goodbye!***

Sadly it is time to hang up my Village Agent badge and retire, but rest assured Gloucestershire Rural Community Council will be finding a replacement for me.

Until they do, if you need any help or guidance, please contact **GRCC** on **01452 528491** or the **Adult Help Desk** on **01452 426868**

**Lesley Wall**



**Katie Lake**  
**In Touch Adviser**  
**katiel@grcc.org.uk**  
**01452 528491**



## **What is In Touch?**

In Touch has been running for 12 years. It is a countywide project that is funded by Gloucestershire County Council and managed and delivered by GRCC. It has a vast history of intergenerational work and specialist projects that support older people across the county.

In Touch is a project that supports any **health** or **social** related activity for older people in Gloucestershire. This consists of:

- Maintaining a database of all the clubs in the county
- Keeping clubs informed about news regarding funding, health, social, welfare issues.
- Helping clubs to be sustainable and providing them with advice and support when they need it.
- Setting up new, self-sustainable clubs where there is a need.
- Supporting clubs on the verge of closing to try and keep them open. If they need to close, we will support them in doing this legally.
- Ensuring clubs have all of their governance in place. e.g. Constitution, funding, committee, insurance, finance.
- Hold annual information events across the county relating to issues for older people, their families and carers.
- Working at a strategic level to ensure that voices on the ground are considered in countywide decision making.
- Working in partnership with other organisations to ensure a joined up approach of working and to tackle social isolation and increase wellbeing as much as possible.

## **How do Village and Community Agents work with In Touch?**

- To let In Touch know about any clubs in the county that need some advice and support because they are struggling.
- To help at your local information event.
- To let In Touch know of any new clubs that have emerged.
- To identify gaps where new clubs can be set up and pass on to Katie.
- To promote the project in your day to day work.
- To let In Touch know of any clubs that do not know about In Touch but that could benefit from some information.
- To refer a person who is looking for a club to In Touch.

We currently support 232 clubs across the county but we know there are many more. A club can be anything from a lunch club, to an informal coffee morning, to a scrabble club, to a Tai Chi class.

If you have any questions, please speak to Katie.



**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](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)



## 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

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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
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](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
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	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](http://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	<a href="mailto:michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk">michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk</a>
Assistant Curate	Revd. Liz Palin	575547
		<a href="mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk">liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk</a>
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		<a href="mailto:admin@northchelt.org.uk">admin@northchelt.org.uk</a>

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