

# Village News

## in Swindon Village

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

No. 421      February 2016

### February

- |                |          |   |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Monday         | 1        | Marle Hill WI - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Stephen Rowley - The Mummings of Gloucestershire              |
| Wednesday      | 3        | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm AGM  |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>                  |
| Wednesday      | 17       | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Carolyn Greet - Charles Hale, Musician and Town Surveyor |
| Wednesday      | 24       | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm<br>Competition and Pudding Evening  |
| Saturday       | 27       | Scouts collecting Jumble around inner village area from<br>9.30am   |

### March

- |                |          |   |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Wednesday      | 2        | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Professor Collywobbles - The history of Punch & Judy          |
| Monday         | 7        | Marle Hill WI - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Francis Benton - Tears of the Dragon (Pearls)             |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>              |
| Saturday       | 12       | Scout Group Jumble Sale - Village Hall 11.00am  |
| Wednesday      | 16       | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Peter Petrie - Gloucester Cathedral Through The Ages |
| Saturday       | 19       | Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall 10.30am   |

*(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.)*

Firstly, if it is not too late, may we wish all in the parish a Happy New Year. With the endless rain we have been enjoying (we are well beyond the “At least it's good for the gardens” stage) I have included some watery references. See how many you can spot.

We came down to earth with a bump (or a splash?) as the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) planning enquiry resumed. The Parish Council has been in a difficult position with the JCS from the start. The Council is opposed to the plans to build thousands of houses around us. However, we would be in an extremely vulnerable position if we simply refused to engage with the process (lovely expression!) as we would have no fall back position. To this end Cllr. Arran Stibbe has, with the assistance of Cllr. Helen Wells, produced a Local Green Space (LGS) application. Land designated as Local Green Space enjoys protection in law from development. We are surrounded by views and tranquil space that many walkers and horse riders enjoy on a daily basis. We are trying to secure the future of some of this land through the Local Green Space process. The developers are happy to offer green space where it is difficult or inappropriate to build houses (e.g. on the flood plane of the River Swilgate) but such land would not be of very great amenity to the local people. The planning inspector has listened to our arguments sympathetically so hopefully the tide will turn in our favour. The fact that the Parish Council is involved in these discussions does not mean that we accept that thousands of houses will be built. We have to fight on all fronts.

Still on planning matters, we have had a flood of planning applications recently that relate to advertising on the Kingsditch and Gallagher retail parks. The shops want illuminated signs and preferably ones that are illuminated well beyond the shop opening hours. If you try to get around the area on a Saturday or a Sunday you would be forgiven for thinking that they don't need to pull in more customers; the roads are at a standstill!

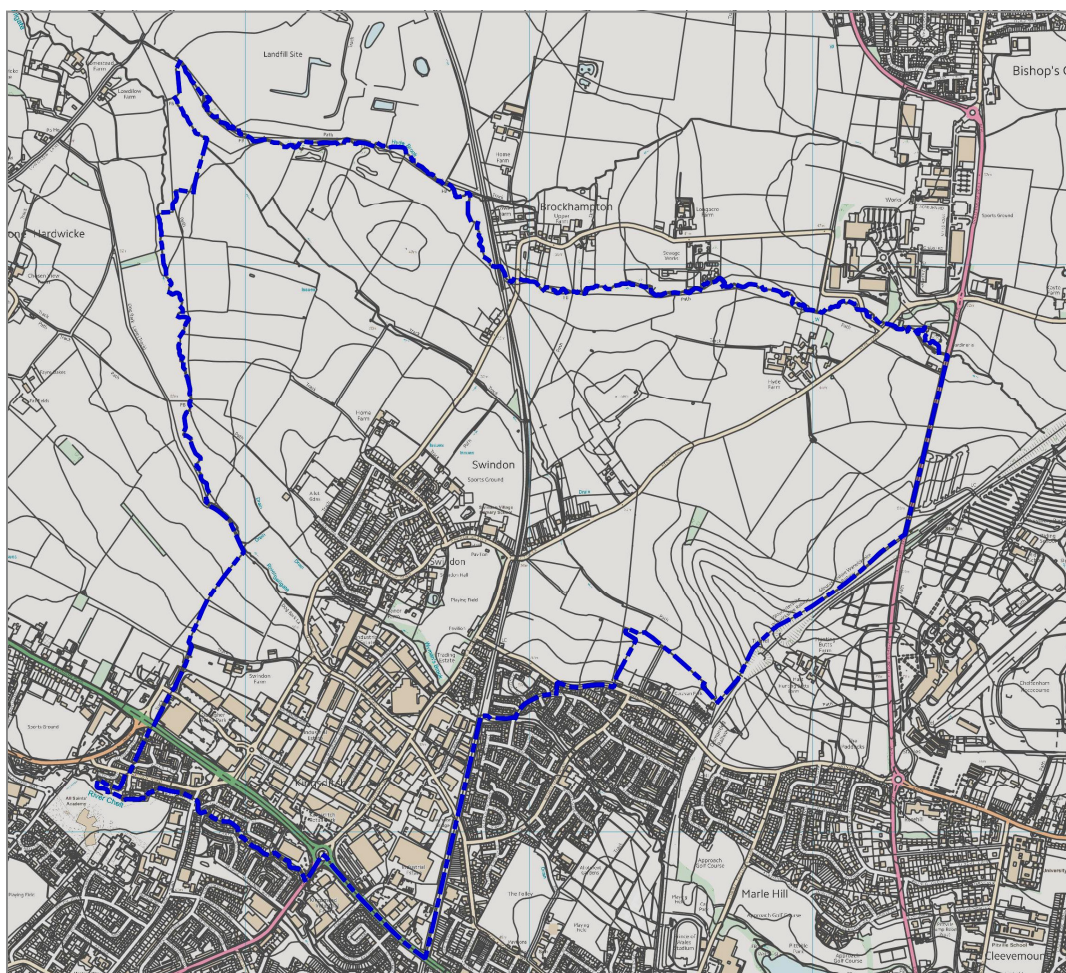
We were delighted to welcome Liz Heckford to the January Parish Council meeting. Liz is the new Village Agent for this area. Village Agents are employed by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (not MI6) to offer a link between people (mainly the over 50s) and the services from which they might benefit. Liz is enthusiastic, friendly and approachable. Please don't hesitate to contact her if you think she can help you or if you have a neighbour who might benefit. *(Liz introduces herself on page 4.)*

As you can imagine we regularly butt heads with the County Council over the state of our roads. We have had a couple of minor victories recently. A box has been painted on the road at the junction of Windyridge Road and Swindon Road which helps

people attempting to turn right out of Windyridge. Also, bollards have been installed along Manor Road to prevent car transporters blocking the pavement. Yes, we know that the pavement is of poor quality. We are told that this will be addressed and we will keep up the good fight until that happens. The same applies to Wymans Lane and the road under the railway bridge. We are optimistic that improvements will be made in the next financial year (sometime after 1<sup>st</sup> April).

As an aside I would like to thank our County and Borough Councillors who have been very supportive with both the Local Green Space initiative and in our dealings with the County Council on our roads.

Now, back to the financial year. I could probably refer you to last year's February issue of the News for this section (surely you keep them?). This is the time of year when the Parish Council sets its precept (the amount of money the Parish Council is paid by the Borough Council out of the Council Tax). In terms of the money supply to the County and Borough Councils the Government is turning off the taps. These councils are hard pressed to maintain services, let alone make improvements. The Parish Council tries to keep its demand on the public purse to a minimum but we want to see improvements to our area. To do that we need some money. We will seek other income where we can; we recently secured a grant of £343 to support the improvements to the web site. We would like to make improvements to the park, perhaps extending the path so that children on bikes and families with pushchairs can better enjoy the amenity. We would also like to put a Parish Council notice board in the Hayden Road/Glynbridge Gardens area to keep people informed in the southern part of the parish. If you are not sure where the parish boundary runs see below.



I am told there used to be a notice board near the Cross Hands but I can find no sign of it. Perhaps I should call in Tony Robinson and Time Team to investigate. We are debating the precept as I write and will ensure that not a penny is wasted.

The Parish Council is preparing to respond to a consultation on the County Council's Local Transport Plan. This document sets out the County Council's policies and priorities for all modes of transport in the area including the roads, the rail and bus networks and provision for cyclists. The roads (and these other modes of transport) are such a dominant aspect of local life that this consultation has been given a high priority. There have been rumours of changes to bus service H. I have not found any information on this. If you know anything please get in touch.

Finally, there is a national initiative "Clean for the Queen" organised by Keep Britain Tidy. A major tidy up is planned for Saturday 19 – Monday 21 March as part of the celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. After our success last time perhaps we can organise another litter sweep. Both monarchists and republicans would be welcome!

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Meet our new Village Agent...

Hello! My name is **Liz Heckford** and I am the new Village Agent for Swindon Village.

My job is to provide older or disadvantaged people with easier access to information and services. This service is free. If you are over 50 years of age, or you know someone who is, I can help with many issues. These include putting you in touch with people who can offer advice about pensions and benefits, come and do a free home safety check, and be able to offer you advice about adaptations to your home to help you cope better with a disability or after surgery.

With the weather getting noticeably colder recently I can help you to keep your home warm or perhaps you would like to meet people in the neighbourhood?

If you would like any information about any of the issues listed above, or any other matters, please do not hesitate to contact me on the telephone number **07810 056770**. You can also email me on **[lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)**. Alternatively, you can contact the Gloucestershire County Council Adult Helpdesk on telephone 01452 426868.

I am very happy to visit you at home or to talk with you on the telephone. I would also be more than happy to come along to one of your local groups to meet with you and give you more information about what the Village Agent service can offer you. I am very friendly and would love to get the chance to meet you all over a cup of tea.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Liz Heckford**



## Services and events for February

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am—12noon 7.30pm	'Chatterbox' coffee drop in Tuesday Group
4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday		Y6 visit to church
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30 am – 12 noon 7.30pm	'Chatterbox' coffee drop in Tuesday Group Bible Study
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am – 12 noon 7.30pm	'Chatterbox' coffee drop in Tuesday group Lent Bible Study
21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am – 12 noon 7.30pm	'Chatterbox' coffee drop in Tuesday Group Lent Bible Study
28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>	9.15am 2.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism Evensong

## 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 visit the Team Surgery at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane on any Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.00am. (Enter through the main door and turn right.)

If this is not possible contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

**You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Associate Priest) on 575547, [liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk).**

## From the registers



### Baptisms

*We welcomed in to the Church*

Shawn Wheatley	20 <sup>th</sup> December
Chanté Wheatley	20 <sup>th</sup> December
Lola-Rose Scott	20 <sup>th</sup> December



### Burial of ashes

*We commemorated the life of*

Joan Hayter      9<sup>th</sup> January

February is the shortest month of the year and before we know it we are in March with thoughts turning to spring. February also marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday being on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Lent is a good time to do a bit of 'spring cleaning' in our lives – to reassess our priorities and perhaps make a bit more space for thinking about faith. There will be opportunities to do this, particularly in Swindon Village on a Tuesday evening. If you would like further information then do email me.

We will also be holding Lent lunches in church – we are not settled on which day of the week this will be so please keep an eye out for posters advertising when it will be, and do come along and join us for a simple soup lunch and pleasant company.

There are more and more people needing to use local foodbanks, and here in Swindon Village we support the Cheltenham foodbank run by Trussell Trust. If you have a spring clean of your food cupboard please think about donating any unwanted (in date!) items, and pop them in our collecting basket in church.

Finally it was lovely to see so many of you at our various Christmas events and I look forward to continuing to welcome you to various events over Lent and Easter – details of which will follow next month.

With prayers  
**Revd Liz**



## St Lawrence Swindon Village

Invite you to

**‘Make a mother’s day’**  
by joining with us to celebrate  
**Mothering Sunday**  
on 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am

An informal service for the whole family  
where we can say thank you  
to all those who ‘mother’ us.

There’ll even be a gift for all who  
mother us, so don’t miss out,  
make sure to come along  
(and bring someone special!)

St. Lawrence invites you to

## Chatterbox

Chatterbox, the drop-in coffee morning, is held **every Tuesday from 10.30am until 12noon in the church.**

We just sit and chat about whatever takes our fancy, with a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit.

That’s all there is to it. It’s free and no strings attached.

Just pop in and see who’s there.



## **A View from the Pew**

It takes all sorts to make a world. It takes all sorts to make a living church. We've got all sorts making up St Lawrence church but we're a team.

The people who go to the services don't all agree on all religious matters but they try to follow the message of love that Jesus Christ preached. In that sense they're all 'singing off the same hymn sheet' as they work together to make the church

Many centuries ago one of the founders of the Christian Church wrote letters to the first Christian churches. He wrote that people trying to follow the Christian 'Way' possessed a variety of gifts and worked for their Lord Jesus in a variety of services and of activities and that each person is gifted with some assortment of these gifts - and that these gifts are a manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is working in all of us. This demonstrates one purpose - and that is for the common good.

Some gifts are showy in appearance and dramatic in their effect. These are quite easy to identify and easy to praise. Other gifts are more subtle, more ordinary in appearance, and have their impact over the long term rather than in the instant and often they fail to receive the recognition they deserve. In St Lawrence church we have many quieter people, less visible people, who have different gifts.

Of course there are many local people who aren't church going at St Lawrence. These gifted people have the gift of praying for others; or the gift of caring; or the gift of service. In our church we have many quieter people, less visible people, who have a variety of gifts:

- Some work at administration and the care of money.
- Some organise and run social events which help contacts between the church and the village.
- Some sing in the choir; others sing lustily to enliven our services and one gifted person regularly plays the organ and leads the choir.
- Some take part in services by reading from the Bible.
- Some visit the elderly and those who are shut-in.
- Some keep an eye on people who are absent from services or they hear are not well.
- Some turn on the lights and welcome those coming into church.
- Some help seniors along the aisle or up the steps.
- Some bake and cook whenever there is a need, others make tea and coffee regularly or make sure the church looks cared for with sweeping or flower arrangements.
- Some build and paint and repair and keep the lights and electronics working.
- Some pray quietly every day for the priests and ministers and the PCC and all the people of the church.

I know that without all the gifts which are offered quietly to our church the ministry of Christ in our community would never touch as many lives I'm sure it does.

**Ralph Griffin**



## **Ralph is signing off...**

This is the last of Ralph's "Views from the Pew".

We looked back through old magazines to find Ralph's first article and amazingly it was eleven years ago - how time flies!

In this, his last article, we have just read how a group of individuals with varying talents can work effectively as a team. Ralph is one of the quieter members of the team at St. Lawrence, working stoically behind the scenes. In his preaching and through his articles for this magazine he has shared with honesty his views on life and indeed his Christian faith, encouraging us all to take a closer look at our lives.

On behalf of all of our readers we would like to thank Ralph for his dedication. Hopefully he'll now have a bit more time to use another of his talents, working on his allotment.

### **The Editors**

Put the date on your calendar for next month...

***St. Lawrence Church***  
***Annual Cake and Coffee Morning***  
***Saturday 19th March***  
***10.30am to 12noon***

Donations of cakes and raffle prizes would be gratefully received.

Contact Mary Halliwell tel. 692423

### **The Children's Society**

Sylvia Hales would like to thank everyone who gave to the collection totalling £152 in support of The Children's Society at the Crib Service in St. Lawrence's Church on Christmas Eve.

# How did you bring in the New Year?

During Advent a 'stable' was erected outside St Mary Magdalene church in Elmstone Hardwicke.

The panels were very kindly donated by Cheltenham Fencing.

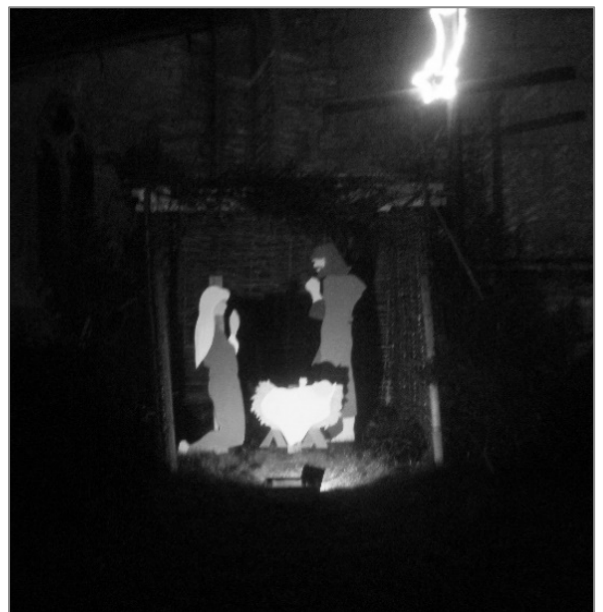
It drew attention from lots of passers by and reminded us of the humble beginnings of the Christian faith.



But then on New Year's Eve another resident made their bed there.

Ian Richings had been inspired to sleep rough in the stable on New Year's Eve, to raise awareness for those who have no bed to sleep on. He survived the ordeal even though rain at about 3 a.m. gave him a wet foot and after that he found it hard to fall asleep again.

Ian is still collecting for the Church Urban Fund and the Children's Society, so if you would like to donate, please give him a call on 01242 574830.



## Swindon Village Winemakers

In November we had our annual Christmas party in the hall and enjoyed an American supper. In October everyone was asked to bring a photograph of themselves as a baby and one taken when they were a lot older then during the evening everyone tried their best to match them up. As you can imagine, it was quite a laugh.

In December we all had our Christmas meal at the Swan Inn at Coombe Hill; everyone went away full and happy.

In early January some of us went to the pantomime at the Everyman (oh yes we did!) where we enjoyed the traditional pantomime Cinderella.

The meeting in February is a Sweet wine competition and a Pudding Evening.

**Roy Harper**

## Christmas Tree Festival 2015

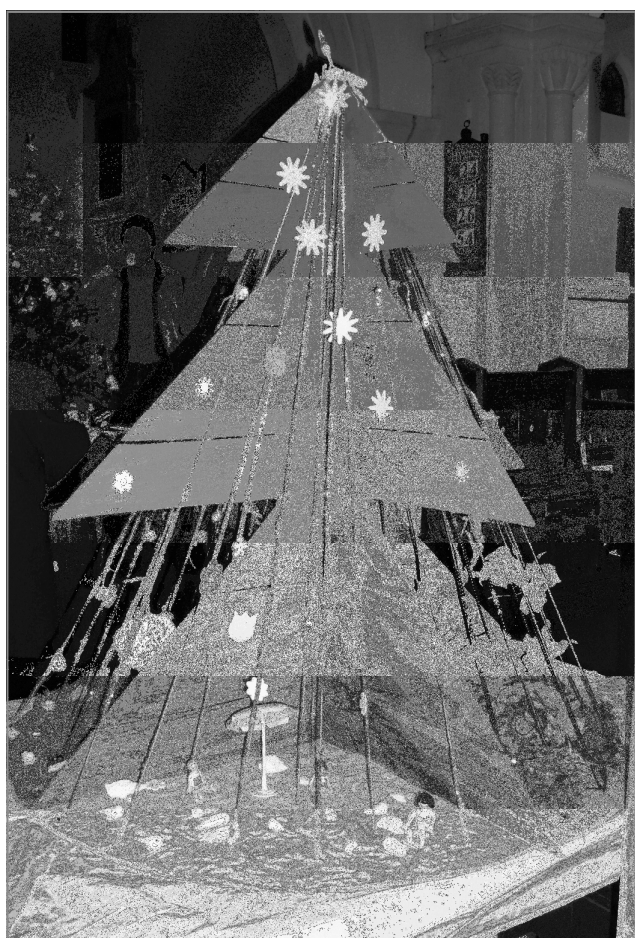
Twenty-two Christmas trees and not a bauble in sight! Such was the ingenuity and originality of the tree decorators. The trees twinkled and you could feel the Christmas magic in the air. Several visitors commented that the trees were some of the best they'd seen.

Some trees displayed just one season while others carried the changes from one season to another. The Scout group, combined Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, decorated a set of four trees with reasons why they liked each season.

Trees from the church choir and Together at Ten Thirty showed the church seasons and Rev Liz included a paper model priest showing the different colour vestments worn at the different seasons.

The Art & Craft Club tree came top in "the people's vote". It was a wooden construction, two flat tree shapes slotted together at right-angles to make it 3-dimensional, giving it four sections, each of which was decorated with seasonal landscapes; the springtime sheep were particular favourites.

Of course, there's always one joker in the pack. This time it was a young man who decorated his tree with herbs and spices jars from his mum's kitchen and called it "Seasoned Greetings"!



All the trees were wonderful and it wouldn't be fair to try to pick any out for special mention. Look for photos on the Swindon Village website but even they don't do justice to the scene. If you haven't been to one of our Christmas Tree Festivals just don't miss the next one!

The three Christmas hampers in the raffle were won by Tim Courtney, Barbara Blackall and Sarah Wood. The event raised £612 for the church building fund but, more importantly, it was a great weekend and a fantastic start to the Christmas season.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way.

**Karen Evans**

*The "winning" tree showing Summer on the beach with a little bit of Spring on the left and Autumn leaves on the right.*

This is being written before the AGM. The committee lives in hope that there will be a popular uprising and we will be thrown out en masse and the Society will be taken over by a young and vibrant Popular Front for the Liberation of The Village Society. A bit like the Labour Party. But then we can all dream, can we not. That nice Mr Corbyn did.

One thing that is sure is that we have a good programme for the year coming. It runs more or less as follows:

- February – Carolyn Greet will tell us about Charles Hale – Musician and Town Surveyor (think Hales Road).
- March – Gloucester Cathedral Through the Ages – a talk by Peter Petrie, a cathedral guide.
- April – Our annual bird and nature walk. The venue is undecided but probably local to the village.
- May – The Arts and Crafts Movement - a talk by David Walton which illustrates this movement by concentrating on its chair manufacturers.
- June – Garden visit. There are rumours of an interesting garden in Prestbury that we have not yet visited. We always find something.
- July - Our own John Heathcott, a Cotswold Warden, will tell us about Lineover Wood.
- August – Sou'westers on for the Garden Party. Members only (so join now).
- September – The talk this month has not been confirmed but will possibly be about the Mills on the River Chelt.
- October – Sacred Wells and Springs by Amy Woolacott.
- November – The History of Swindon Hall by Barry Simon including an update on Project Carbuncle (?).

For actual dates and times keep an eye on the front page of this august journal or Elizabeth Heathcott's weekly summary of village news in The Echo or call Barry Simon (see below).

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us. Even if you have no interest in attending the functions your support is needed to ensure that we have a strong voice and can continue to support the village against the effects of unwanted development.

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. As like as not he will be happy to come around and sign you up as member or invite you round to No 3, The Hall, for a cup of tea and a one hour lecture on village history. Indeed, if you are new to the village and interested in its history there are Society members who are happy to take you for a stroll around the village and give you an overview, particularly on a balmy spring evening. Something must have happened here over the last thousand years other than the AGM.

**Barry Simon**

It was panic stations on the morning of our December meeting as the intended speaker phoned to say she was ill. However, the problem was solved when Matthew Sproston said he was free to come. He arrived with his banjo-ukulele and we had a very entertaining evening hearing of the life story of George Formby interspersed with many of his renowned songs. Matthew deserved a medal for saving the day!

Gwen was to have her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Christmas Eve and so we sang 'Happy Birthday' with a ukulele accompaniment and she cut the beautiful cake that Eileen had made and decorated. It was agreed that the Group Fashion Show had been a great success, with members purchasing some of the outfits. The Carol Concert was much enjoyed. I understand that the guest artiste, Laura Wright, may be asked back for the concert next December. The demonstration and lunch at the Montpellier Chapter was a success as was the Christmas Lunch at the Farmers Arms. Members were thanked for their contributions towards decorating the tree for the Festival at St Lawrence Church.

At our first meeting of 2016 Bob Skelt gave a very interesting talk on the People of Bletchley Park and the history of the house. Churchill called the workers there 'the geese that lay the golden egg but never cackle'. It seems amazing that so much activity, so many people of all walks working there and so much was going on but they were still able to keep the purpose of it secret.

We heard news that Betty was still in hospital and that several members had been to visit her. Carolyn, the administrator at the County Office, is retiring at Easter. She will be much missed as she knows everyone and everything going on in the County and is a great one for sorting out problems. Members enjoyed celebration parties at Bishops Cleeve, Woomancote and the newly formed WI called 'Making, Baking and Shaking'. They communicate a lot via Facebook and have a membership of over 100 of all ages but primarily young mums. They certainly reflect the modern age WI.

Looking to the future, Angela is to join in the County Pancake Race to be held in Gloucester (several people say they will go and support her); we have a lunch at the Star Centre at Ullenwood; we have entered the County Skittles Tournament again and plan some social skittles evenings; we'll be serving refreshments at St Nicolas Social Evening raising money for the improvements to the Hall; we have the Book Club and the Craft Club; we'll have coffee mornings and afternoon teas to boost our funds; and several outings and theatre visits are being arranged. This year's programme is filling up fast!

We have been warned that the extension and alterations to the Community Hall will start soon but, hopefully, will not cause us too much inconvenience. We look forward to the new entrance and better access for the disabled users.

At our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February Stephen Rowley is to tell us of The Mummers of Gloucestershire. We meet at 7.30pm at St Nicolas Community Hall in Swindon Lane and are always pleased to welcome visitors.

Looking back briefly to the end of 2015...

## **Christmas Carols and Sketches**

On our last Monday meeting of the year we held our group Christmas show at a packed out village hall. The evening started with the Beavers and was followed by sketches and musical items from the Cubs and Scouts intermingled with Christmas carols. We also had a couple of surprise items as a thank you to Mouse & Mole and also Pat Hopes our District Commissioner. I think the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all did tremendously well standing up in front of a large audience to perform on the night and we have had several comments from people who were in the audience saying it was the best show the youngsters have put on to date! There was no admission charge, but we were collecting donations for "The Children's Society" and this year raised a fantastic £91.60. So congratulations to all that took part – and if you missed it – we will hope to see you at this year's show!

And onto 2016...

## **Winter Camp – Gilwell Park, Epping Forest**

Yes, once again we really did go camping in tents in the rain and mud in January! The Scout Association's annual weekend "Winter Camp" was held at Gilwell Park, which is the home of Scouting, set in a stunning 110-acre site situated in north-east London on the edge of the beautiful Epping Forest. Seven Scouts and five Explorers together with Colette and James (from Minchinhampton), Shane, Ashley, Becky, Mike and myself enjoyed (?) an extremely wet and muddy weekend with around 3,500 other Scouts and Explorers at this year's Gilwell Winter Camp. We had a good mix of Scouts and former Scouts from Swindon Village, a couple of Explorers from around Cheltenham and another five Scouts from Minchinhampton. All the youngsters coped admirably with the testing conditions, working well together and enjoying each others' company. They made our job as leaders very easy and were a credit to their Scout Groups / Explorer Units.

This camp is held in January every year and gives Scouts and Explorer Scouts, aged 10 to 17 years of age, from across the country, the challenge to camp in mid-winter and the adventure of tackling up to 70 different activities over the weekend. We arrived at Gilwell at 9:15pm on Friday and soon had our camp pitched (by midnight)! After a cracking cooked breakfast on Saturday the youngsters headed off around Gilwell to tackle some of the adventurous activities on offer. Some of the more unusual activities included: mini tank driving, Segways, axe throwing, Digger Driving, Argocats, Quad Bikes and new for this year – Curling! Other activities available - Outdoor Laser Quest, loads of climbing and abseiling towers/walls, two Simulator rides, Dodgems, Waltzers, Laser Clay Shooting, a 3G swing and old favourites including Prussiking, Shooting and Archery. There were also craft areas, computer games, skittles, Gilwell Radio and many other more relaxing activities on offer as well as the snack bar and Gilwell Scout Shop. At night there were Wide Games and Camp Fires outside or a Disco and Cinema inside where you could escape the mud for a while.



On Sunday morning after another cooked breakfast, the Scouts all packed up their tents before a further 3 hours of activities. Two of our lads chose to go White Water rafting at the nearby Lee Valley White Water Centre (the venue used in the 2012 Olympics) and spent a couple of hours getting in and out of freezing cold water (they were wearing wet-suits). The verdict – great fun! Meanwhile in between several cups of tea and coffee the leaders managed to drop the tents and load all the kit into the trailer. After a great camp, we left the site at 2pm, but only a couple of miles away from Gilwell Park, the minibus unfortunately broke down. The AA was summoned and took nearly 6 hours to rectify what turned out to be nothing more than a blown fuse that had shut down the engine management system! So the Scouts got to enjoy time in a Marriott Hotel and then had tea at a KFC before eventually arriving back at Swindon Village just before 11pm. All in all, a memorable weekend – with a terrific bunch of Scouts and Explorers.

**Sos**

## **1st Swindon Village Scout Group**

### **Jumble Collecting**

Have you de-cluttered your home for the new year?  
Do you have unwanted items that you don't know what to do with?

**Give them to the Scouts!**

Scouts will be collecting jumble around the inner village area on

**Saturday 27th February from 9.30am**

Donations can be left outside your house, clearly marked for the Scouts, by 9.30am. However, if you would like the Scouts to call on you please put a notice to that effect near your front door.

**(The Spring Jumble Sale will take place on Saturday 12th March.)**

## Wednesday Club

I hope you all had a nice Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. It all seemed to come and go very quickly this year, it wouldn't be my age, would it?

We all enjoyed our Christmas Party on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Shane Driscoll came along again and sang and played his guitar for us. This is the third year he has joined us for our party and I think this year was my favourite. It was a lovely evening and my thanks to June, Margaret, Rose and Shirley for helping to set it all up and all their work during this past year.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> January we went to the Rising Sun Hotel for our Annual meal. There were 29 of us and it all went very well. It was a clear evening and so the lights in the valley below were a treat to see.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. This will be our AGM and we usually have a quiz or play a game after the business side is over.

We have managed to keep our annual fee the same now for a few years but this year I am afraid we will have to put it up to £18.50 per person per year. Speakers are ever more expensive and this will help to keep us in the black, so to say.

We have a good programme of speakers for this year and are at this moment thinking about arranging trips out and about.

Please do come along and join us; we are a friendly lot and you will be made most welcome.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

**Pauline Wright**

**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**

# Art & Crafts Club

Happy New Year to all - hope it's going well. We ended the year with a Christmas Party - lots of food, a quiz to test the best of us, a competition for the best Christmas Card, and the usual raffle. A great evening was had by all.

**Helen Dicks**



Members and their guests enjoying the Art & Crafts Club Christmas party



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## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Liz Heckford	lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk 07810 056770
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Hugh Stanford	svbeavers@gmail.com 706020
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	Sarah Vallender Nic Jackson	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
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

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 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
	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 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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

Team Rector	Revd. David Smith	512348 david.smith@northchelt.org.uk
Associate Priest	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