

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 426

July/August 2016

July

Saturday	2	St. Lawrence's Church Annual Fete - Playing field 1.00pm
Monday	4	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Mr Jeremy Field - What goes wrong with hands
Wednesday	6	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Ray Sturdy - Remember the Swinging Sixties
Tuesday	19	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Wednesday	20	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm John Heathcott - Lineover Wood Non-members £1
Sunday	24	Praise in the Park with The Salvation Army Band 3.00pm

August

Monday	1	Marle Hill W.I. - Walking meeting
Wednesday	17	Swindon Village Society Garden Party at 3 Swindon Hall Members only
Tuesday	9	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm

September

Monday	5	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Ken Brightwell - Experience of a Town Cryer
Wednesday	7	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Fiona Warin - Allotments (Plus Bring & Buy stall)

(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.)

If I might start with a personal word, I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Elizabeth Heathcott. I cannot claim to have known Elizabeth well though our paths crossed from time to time. Elizabeth wrote regularly for the Echo. Knowing her situation, Elizabeth was concerned about “letting her editor down”. She was kind enough to say that she enjoyed my Village News articles (and was also a part of our Village News delivery team until recently). Elizabeth asked if I would consider taking on her role as Echo correspondent. I said that I was flattered to be asked but, given the limits on my time, would have to decline. I felt in a way this was letting her down but Elizabeth accepted my decision with good grace and good humour. She said that she was operating on the basis that “if you want to get something done you ask a busy person”; she would simply wait for the deluge of applications to come in. These days communities have to rely more and more on volunteers prepared to do things for the common good. These people are hard to find. Elizabeth was one of them and we are the poorer for her passing. I extend my condolences to John and to the rest of Elizabeth's family.

The planning inspector conducting the planning enquiry into the JCS has published her interim findings. We are delighted that the inspector finds our Local Green Space argument has merit. She wants to see 500 houses removed from the allocation between Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke. This should leave Swindon Village with a green margin that provides it with some protection against losing its identity. However, the news is not all good. The JCS proposes that 31,830 new homes should be built in the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury area. This figure has received much criticism, particularly given the proven inability of the roads to cope with the existing traffic. Astonishingly, the inspector has seen fit to add a further 3,345 houses to this total. Further, it is now suggested that the Green Belt status of the land between Swindon Lane and Hyde Lane be removed making these fields available to accommodate further development.



The JCS has been at least eight years in development and been subject to four major public consultations. At the eleventh hour it appears that it can be reshaped at a stroke. Cheltenham Borough Council has not shown any great interest in protecting the Green Belt and prioritising brown field sites. It seems unlikely they will decline an opportunity to build more houses on more farmland. I urge you to take a look at the inspector's interim report on the JCS web site (www.gct-jcs.org).

Other than the JCS everything has gone quiet on the planning front. Two councillors attended a seminar on planning matters organised by Cheltenham Borough Council. Inevitably there were no planning applications to consider at the following Parish Council meeting!

The Parish Council have received calls from people about local speeding problems and anti-social behaviour. The residents are concerned that they can't get any action from the police. Perhaps I should relate the experience that we have had with the police.

We were asked by Cheltenham Borough Council to host occasional Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group meetings as part of our Parish Council meetings. For our first meeting the police officer allocated to our area was unwell and a substitute came along (who, to be fair, was very helpful). By the time of our next meeting we were told that following an internal reorganisation a new officer was allocated to our area. On the evening of the meeting I received a message from the officer saying that her babysitter had let her down and that she would not be coming. She also said that she too had been redeployed and would no longer be responsible for our area. Another officer attended a subsequent meeting. In response to our concerns about speeding motorists he said that we should be able to borrow equipment for measuring traffic speed and receive appropriate training. He suggested I get in touch with our Police Community Support Officer. I did this. He told me he would get back to me. Having heard nothing after a month I wrote a polite reminder. The PCSO responded saying that he still hadn't heard back from the person responsible for the equipment. That was 7 months ago and I see little point in pursuing the matter. The police have even suggested that residents attempt to video miscreants. That seems irresponsible advice to me. Still, I would urge you to report matters to the police. Only by highlighting the lack of attention that our issues receive can we hope to change things.

The warm, wet weather seems to be making all the vegetation grow at a tremendous rate. This has resulted in some of the local footpaths becoming difficult to navigate. The path along Manor Road is once again overgrown to the point where pedestrians are forced into the road. In addition to the problem of encroaching vegetation some of the rural paths have broken stiles and are generally in a poor state of repair. Amey are tasked with maintaining footpaths on behalf of the County Council. We will seek a meeting with them to see what can be done. If we don't flag up these problems we can be certain nothing will be done. If you are aware of issues please report them. The web site "fixmystreet.com" lets you do this easily and, if you prefer, anonymously.

I may have mentioned that I get involved in auditing other parish councils. This is a great learning experience as inevitably you find there are clerks who have better ways of doing things. I also turn up some interesting and amusing things. For example, parish councils are able to reclaim VAT. One council was trying to get £10 back. The response of HMRC was to demand all sorts of paperwork and verification. Yet no-one seems to notice when complete pension funds go missing.

Whilst conducting another audit I was reading that council's minutes. I came across the quote that "The Women's Institute had notified the council that they would be yarn bombing the parish". Terrorism in rural England.

There is no Village News in August so expect a bumper issue to thump on to your doormat in September. Hopefully we will be more upbeat by then. The England football team could be champions of Europe (and, ironically, we could be leaving the European Union!). Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Swindon Parish Council

Please note that the July meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 19th July.

This is a change from the normal 2nd Tuesday in the month.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



News from our Village Agent

I was with a lady yesterday discussing her telephone bill and how unexpectedly expensive it was this quarter. On looking at it, it turns out that she had made four calls to a well-advertised number to find out telephone numbers for various places that she was unable to find in her telephone directory. These four calls had cost her £34! And that was before they added the VAT.

When we had both recovered from the shock, I said that I would have a look at my tablet to see if there was an alternative number which would be cheaper in the future for her to use.

She looked bewildered, “a tablet?” she asked.

Of course, many of us are used to the terminology and the devices that are accompanying us along our journey through the 21st Century but, to many others, words like “tablet” or “Apple” are exactly what they should be – medication or a fruit!

The “Modern Age” can be scary and so the older population steer well clear of it, yet with a few clicks of a button the telephone numbers could be found, saving the £34 that the ‘phone company charged. Likewise with devices like ipads and apps like Facetime, families are able to stay in touch even when they may be living in different countries.

Many agencies like Age UK, **0800 169 6565**, offer courses teaching the basics on how to get online and the a,b,c to finding your way around things like Facebook or Messenger so that keeping in touch with grandchildren or family can be that little bit easier – or you can just find those numbers you need instead of dialling expensive services.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) also offer computer courses which can be on a one-to-one basis for carers, or we can even set up computer “clubs” in your village if you think there is a need. On the flip side of that, if you have some computer knowhow and would like to volunteer to pass on your knowledge please contact **Matt on matthewk@grcc.org.uk or ring GRCC on 01452 528491.**

Liz

Village Agent 07810 056770

lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Services and events in July

Saturday	2nd	1.00pm	Church Fete on the playing field
Sunday	3rd	10.30am 3.00pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Farewell Tea for Fr David & Revd Angela at St Mary's, Prestbury Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	5th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	10 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung evensong
Tuesday	12 th	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Holy Communion followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	17 th	9.15am 3.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism
Tuesday	19 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Wednesday	20 th	4.00pm	Wedding rehearsal
Thursday	21 st	12.30pm 7.00 pm	Wedding Licensing of Revd Liz Palin as Team Vicar at St Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke with Uckington
Sunday	24 th	9.15am 3.00pm	Holy Communion Praise in the Park
Tuesday	26 th	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	31 st	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise at St Mary Magdalene

Services and events in August

Tuesday	2 nd	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	7 th	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Baptism Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	9 th	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	14 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Tuesday	16 th	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	21 st	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	23 rd	10.30am	Chatterbox
Sunday	28 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong

From the registers



Baptism

We welcomed in to the Church family
Ruby Williams & Isaac Bailey

26th June



Funeral

We gave thanks for the life of
23rd June - Elizabeth Heathcott

23rd June

Burial of ashes

We commemorated the life of
Patricia Stone 6th June
Jack Raybould 14th June

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.

 North Cheltenham
Team Ministry



Vision 2016 Conversations

In the last magazine I mentioned the upcoming conversations we would be having as part of our vision process.

These conversations will help form the next stage of our vision both as a Diocese (the group of church of England churches in and around Gloucestershire) and as a Parish. The hope is that the responses of different people in different places will enable us to listen to what God might be saying to us through those amongst whom we live and work who may hold a number of different perspectives from our own.

It would be lovely if you could help us in this process by giving some thought to the following questions – we can't respond to the needs of those we serve unless we know how they feel!

1. What is your impression of the Church of England in your local community?
2. What is your hope or vision for your local community in the next 5 years?
3. How might the Church be a part of this?

Please either email your responses to me at liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk or pop them on the table in church near the prayer tree.

Thank you for taking the time to help us.

Revd. Liz

Reader's Viewpoint

Many of our countrywomen and men say they have lost their faith. Fewer and fewer attend church regularly (but live good lives). Churchgoers have to face up to the fact that we live in an increasingly secular age.

The new St. Lawrence "welcome leaflet" expresses the reason the church keeps going. "Worshipping, serving, growing and sharing the good news" are the main aims of our church.

I have written before about my belief that one of the characteristics of the St. Lawrence community is the way everyone involved in the life of the church does their bit as a member of the team. The regular services of Holy Communion and Evensong enable people to worship God in the company of fellow believers and there are a variety of other activities.

St. Lawrence church holds high the ideal of service to the village community. All people of faith are moved to want to share the goodness of a loving God. Christianity is caught, is not taught.

I know we must not become too congratulatory but it is helpful to keep our overall aims in mind. I believe the St. Lawrence Church exerts a good influence on the whole village and further afield too.

We must recognise that the 21st Century is a secular age. I was encouraged to hear how our Queen – Defender of the Faith – has herself "travelled against the flow by remaining so emphatically loyal to her Christian faith in an increasingly secular age". In a BBC talk the other day the speaker said: "When given an opportunity, such as her (the Queen's) Christmas broadcasts, she has spoken of 'Jesus Christ being an inspiration and an anchor in my life, a role model of reconciliation and forgiveness' ". The Queen has not always followed the trends of her time but remained determinedly consistent. The speaker continued: "dedication to her life work is unwavering and whose steadfastness and faith is a reminder that she is her own person".

Ralph Griffin

Bell Ringing

On Saturday 11th June Swindon Village ringers took part in the Banner Trophy competition, this year held at Dumbleton. Disappointingly, out of 21 local churches with bells, only four teams entered.

The ringing was judged by two up-and-coming teenage ringers from Worcester Cathedral, William Regan and Craig Homewood. The trophy was awarded to Charlton Kings with Swindon Village being placed fourth. My thanks go to our regular supporters for making our entry possible.

Hugh Evans
Tower Captain

Elizabeth Heathcott

We were saddened to hear that Elizabeth Heathcott had died at the beginning of June.

Many people will know of Elizabeth even if they didn't know her personally – she was the Swindon Village correspondent for the Gloucestershire Echo's weekly Village Voice feature and a lot of younger people will remember her as their French teacher, Mrs Northup, at Cleeve School.

Family and friends gathered at St. Lawrence's Church for Elizabeth's funeral service which was followed by burial in the churchyard. During the service Elizabeth's children, Paul and Catherine, paid tribute to her as a mother who had nurtured them with unconditional love, teaching them the values of family life.

Elizabeth was born in Tewkesbury and attended the local primary school and then passed a scholarship to Tewkesbury Girls' High School where she became Head Girl. Here she developed her life-long love of art and culture. Outside school she had piano lessons and was a Girl Guide and, as her social life widened, she went square dancing and joined the Dickens Society (made more attractive because boys from the Grammar School went too!). She went to Manchester University and, although she didn't get on well with her studies, the city, with its theatres, music and cinemas, was a revelation to her. She did her teaching qualification in Cardiff.

Elizabeth's world expanded even further; she taught English in Nimes, for a year, exploring the south of France and even making a trip to Monte Carlo on a little "mobylette". From there she moved to Barbados where she taught English and French in a girls' school. She married in Barbados and had her two children but sadly Elizabeth returned to England with the children and moved in with her parents who by then had retired to Charlton Kings. As the children grew and needed more space Elizabeth moved with them into a house of her own.

Elizabeth met John, another single parent, at a school parents' evening. Their courtship was discreet and they waited until all of their children had left home before they married and moved to a new home in Swindon Village. The location may have changed but Elizabeth's and John's home was still the family hub where the children and grandchildren were always welcome.

Elizabeth gradually immersed herself in village life – at various times a school governor, on the Village Hall committee, a member of the Swindon Village Society, the Swindon Village Echo correspondent and editor of Village News.

Elizabeth converted from her family background of Welsh Baptist to Anglican and became a stalwart member of St. Lawrence's church community, lately serving as secretary to the Parochial Church Council.

At every stage in her life Elizabeth made new friends and these were constant friendships that stayed with her for life. Those of us who knew her can count ourselves blessed to have had her as a friend.

My thanks to Paul for allowing me to use his eulogy to his mother. – Karen Evans.



St Lawrence Church with St Peters' Swindon Village



Saturday 2nd July 2016

Gates open at 1pm at Swindon Village Playing Fields
and hall

Admission: £1.00 Admission by programme or on the gate



St. Lawrence Church



Praise in the Park

“Singing through the Reign”

Hymns connected with events in the life of the Queen.

An open-air celebration accompanied by

The Salvation Army Band

Sunday 24th July at 3.00.pm

in Swindon Village Park

Followed by tea and cake in the Village Hall.

A collection taken at the service will be given to Gloucestershire Aid for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Everyone welcome.

Some seating will be provided but bring a chair if you can.

Donations of cakes for the tea would be appreciated.
If you can help please phone Mary Halliwell on 01242 692423.

Save The Countryside

On 22nd May we had our 9th annual Save the Countryside walk.

Thanks so much to all the loyal supporters who turned up again. We had a lovely day, the weather almost behaved itself, so that celebrations were enjoyed afterwards.

As ever we had great coverage in the local press and we hope that the TV crew who were with us all day and evening do manage to show us as a strong community with a good cause in the BBC2 TV series they plan to air in the autumn.

I promised an update on the Joint Core Strategy. Last week we received an interim findings update from the Government Inspector. On one hand it is good news; she formally supports our local green space application for a green swathe around the village and a reduction of 500 houses from the calculations. So immediately following that Arran, myself and our Councillors Bernie and Flo met with the Planning Officer to ensure this good progress was made official and included in all formal plans.

However, the fight is far from over, as for now she has supported removal of greenbelt protection for the rest of the land between Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke plus now, with no prior consultation, another area of greenbelt between Hyde lane and Swindon Lane could be removed from greenbelt. This is despite all the controversy regarding transport infrastructure. So we will follow up on this directly.

So the challenge continues, but with a major battle won and a sense of pride that if we had not stepped in nine years ago, this village might look totally different.

Helen Wells Save the Countryside



I have to start with the sad matter of Elizabeth Heathcott's death. She has been a long time member of the Society and our minutes secretary for several years now. She was a lady who could best be summed up by the word 'gentlewoman'. She will be greatly missed by all in the Society as much as by her many pupils of yesteryear and all those in the village who knew her.

Our talk in May was by Dave Walton who told us about the lives of the group of Arts and Crafts artisans who based themselves in the village of Sapperton. In fact the whole village was based around their ideals of well designed artefacts made mostly by hand. The main players were Earnest and Sidney Barnsley and Earnest Grimson who designed several of the houses in the village and then worked there. If you visit Sapperton the whole village shows signs of what I would call 'reasonableness', a desire to do things properly and well.

Of course if you want to see Arts and Crafts objects you don't have to go so far as Sapperton. The Wilson Museum and Art Gallery in Cheltenham has a national level display and there is also a splendid museum at Chipping Camden.

Unfortunately on the day of the talk David's laptop declined to talk to his projector and so we reverted to this earlier talk of his based on slides rather than the one on Arts and Crafts chairs that was scheduled. This has merely convinced me of my own wisdom in sticking to ye olde fashioned slides. I long time ago decided that I would keep using them until my slide projector packed up at which point we would both go to the recycling area and the projector would go in the skip marked small electrical items and I would go in the one alongside marked compostables. Which is not to say that I won't be jolly glad to have use of Peter and Eileen's projector later in the year when I give a talk on the History of Swindon Hall.

So - the Joint Core Strategy. Well the Inspector has come out with her interim findings and they are going to build on the green belt and surround Swindon Village. The good points are that the number of houses will be reduced by 500 to allow an area of local green space between village and the new buildings. Well done the Parish Council and Save the Countryside for gaining this concession after much hard work. Gloucester and Tewkesbury have been told that they can't dump all their building needs on us but that they must take more. We will not know the final details for some time because the JCS now has to be rewritten and there still isn't a transport plan so all findings are interim.

Our July meeting is due to feature John Heathcott telling us about Lineover Wood, a strand of ancient woodland in which, as a Cotswold Warden, he has always taken a particular interest. It lies close to Dowdeswell and the reservoir. Lineover can be visited so come and hear the talk and then make the visit being so much better informed.

In August we will have our annual garden party in the grounds of Swindon Hall. When the torrential downpour of last Sunday arrived I really thought we had got the dates mixed up and started looking for the corkscrew. The garden party is for members only so that is a jolly good reason to join the society now.

Barry Simon

Wednesday Club

David Howe came along to talk on "Laughter, the Best Medicine" at our meeting on the 1st June. David seemed to know the comedians and comediennes very well and I was not sure whether he knew them personally or just by studying them. He mentioned how sometimes in a double act one of the comedians would be very stressed (Eric) and the other partner quite laid back (Ernie). David told a few jokes during the evening and these were some of the celebrities' favourite ones. It was a good evening and a few laughs thrown in.

I am writing this having just cleared up from our Coffee Morning. The black clouds went to the left of us and to the right of us but we were fine. We managed to hold the event outside as usual and 47 people attended. Note to self, get more garden chairs! As usual, our visitors were very generous and we made a grand total of £200. Many thanks once again to the committee, June, Margaret, Rose and Shirley and, of course, to Stuart for all his hard work in the garden and his help in setting it all up. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

Our trip to Waterperry Gardens is on **Tuesday 6th September** and there are still a few seats available should anyone like to come along. My telephone number is in the Village News. Tickets are **£15.50** per person and we will leave the Village Hall at 10am. Looking forward to this trip; a treat awaits us I have been told.

Wednesday Club meets again on Wednesday 6th July when Ray Sturdy will be helping us to remember the Swinging 60s.

As usual there is no meeting in August but we meet again on Wednesday 7th September when Fiona Warin will be telling us about Allotments. We will also be having a Bring & Buy Table that evening as well as the books we have for sale each month (good value at 25p each).

I look forward to seeing you all on 6th July and any visitors will be made very welcome.

Pauline Wright

Elizabeth Reilly had for many years suffered with chronic pain after an accident and, in desperation, had tried just about every type of cure. From Physio through Chiropractor, Pain Clinic, Pain Management, Relaxation and Mindfulness amongst others until she went to a Sports Physio Clinic. There they gave her the answers and, with prolonged therapy, re-educating her core muscles followed by some gentle yoga. The injury she had sustained to her pelvis responded well and she wished the Sports Clinic had been her first port of call. She admitted she had spent a small fortune in her quest for a cure, but her persistence paid off in the end.

We learnt that all our efforts at our Pudding Evening had been great fun and well received, resulting in a welcome boost to our funds. The Bunny Girls had been a great hit! We have put away our ears and tails for another occasion!

The trip to Bradford-on-Avon, a cruise on the canal and visit to Court Gardens were much enjoyed, as was the day at Aston Pottery with lunch at Friars Court. Four members attended the National Annual Meeting at Brighton where the weather was kind to us. We spent the afternoon exploring the Lanes and had an excellent meal at a restaurant which had been recommended. We spent an interesting day at Dyffryn, a National Trust property, dodging a couple of thundery showers and exploring the beautiful gardens and house. A tea afternoon at Sue's, an excellent meal at the newly restored Gianni's and a craft club meeting at Wendy's have kept us active.

As I write we have not yet had our skittles match with Stone WI in the next round of the tournament. We have the Picnic in the Park (Pittville) and the WI Racing Club Lunch in the Panoramic Restaurant, followed by a tour of the new stand, to look forward to.

At our July meeting we have Mr Jeremy Field (a local surgeon) speaking on 'What Goes Wrong with Hands'. We are entertaining the other WIs in our Group on this occasion and so there will be some delicious 'eats' as well. In August we are meeting up in town for a conducted tour of the Minster (St Mary's) and lunch afterwards.

I was very saddened to hear of the death of Elizabeth Heathcott. For many years in her write-up in the Village Voice she gave our WI activities a mention, for which we were always very grateful. Our thoughts are with her husband John (who has led us on several excellent and interesting walks) and their family.

Sara Jefferies

Crickley Hill

The Cubs and Scouts have both spent some time up on Crickley Hill on recent Monday evenings. The Scouts spent an evening up there planning some compass exercises and map reading challenges. Then the following week, they returned and took small groups of Cubs and put them through their paces explaining and sharing their knowledge. The lovely summer's evening was rounded off with a barbecue expertly cooked by Liz and John Attwell.

Strategy Camp at Cirencester Park

A team of Scouts from Swindon Village took part in the second Strategy weekend camp for Scouts and Guides held at Cirencester Park on the Earl of Bathurst's Estate. It is an incredibly beautiful part of Gloucestershire and we were given access to 3000 acres for the main event. Saturday dawned and the Scouts were split into teams of 4 - 6 and given a map of the area showing 30 checkpoints with challenges and activities to tackle over an 8 hour period. They didn't know what any of the activities were until they got to them – but were aware of the points value attached to each. It was almost impossible to visit them all, so the Strategy was - do you try and get to more of the easy challenges or head for the tougher activities that are located at the furthest points and take longer to reach? It was only when you started walking around the forests of Cirencester Park that you realised just how big an area 3000 acres is. There are loads of walkways and paths; a lot of them are very straight and there were Scouts and Guides everywhere! Challenges ranged from huge inflatables, mazes, puzzles and string trails to a (messy) custard challenge, first aid, air rifles, and tent pitching whilst blindfolded! The 30 checkpoints were split across 3 hubs and there were prizes for the most successful team to complete each hub as well as the overall event. At the presentations we were thrilled when our Scouts were announced as the winners of Hub B and went up to collect their medals in front of 1800 Scouts, Guides and leaders. Out of 235 teams, they finished 14th overall – a terrific achievement. On Saturday evening, there was music, dancers and a Talent Show competition to keep everyone entertained as well as the cafe – open all hours for those in need of refreshment (or chips)! On the Sunday, everyone took part in the fayre, with loads of inflatables, archery and climbing walls as well as a large craft area for those feeling a little more creative! There were also sports competitions including 5-a-side football, volleyball and a tug-of-war. This event is now really finding its feet and is an excellent replacement for the Malvern Challenge. We all had an excellent weekend and I'm already looking forward to next year's camp!

More camps...

We still have plenty to look forward to this summer including our big international summer camp for this year – The Essex International Jamboree held just outside Chelmsford. Just a few more weeks to go...

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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
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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

There will be no Village News in August. Deadline for the September issue is 16th August.

Please send contributions to the editors:

David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
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Swindon Parish and Community Website: 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
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Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950

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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