

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 430

December 2016 / January 2017

December

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| Saturday | 3 | Swindon Village School Winter Fair 1.30pm - 4.00pm |
| Saturday
& Sunday | 3
& 4 | Christmas Tree Festival - St. Lawrence's Church
11.00am - 5.00pm |
| Monday | 5 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
John & Hugh - Sounds of The Sixties |
| Wednesday | 7 | Wednesday Club Christmas Supper - Members only |
| Tuesday | 13 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |

January

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Wednesday | 4 | Wednesday Club lunch for members only |
| Monday | 9 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Naomi Boast & Harry Shenton - The Star Centre |
| Tuesday | 10 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 18 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
AGM and local history photographs |



*Happy
Christmas*

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

The massive issue we are having to face up to at the moment is the proposed “Elms Park” development. We have discussed the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) literally for years. There should be a hierarchy of planning policies in place. The JCS should be the top level planning document for the area and be compliant with national policies. Below it should sit a Cheltenham Local Plan that would have to be compliant with the JCS and would contain more detailed policies specific to our town. Planning applications would be judged against these policies.

However, the JCS remains mired in controversy and may yet be deemed unsound. For instance, the JCS does not contain any up to date information about traffic nor the consequences that a massive development would have on traffic density and, for example, air quality. Despite the shaky status of the JCS the Cheltenham Local Plan is about to go out to public consultation (remember it has to comply with a document that does not yet exist!). In the midst of all this the developers have now submitted their planning application for “up to” 4115 houses, commercial and industrial areas, retail outlets and schools on our doorstep. If this outline planning application gets approval it won't really matter for us what the JCS or the Cheltenham Local Plan eventually say.

This development will affect everyone in Cheltenham. On our web site (swindonparish.org.uk) there is a link to the planning application on the Borough Council web site. The site has the facility for anyone to submit comments. For those uncomfortable with the internet you can comment by other means by contacting the Borough Council. The application reference is **16/02000/OUT**.

The Parish Council have campaigned against the JCS for a number of reasons, principle amongst them being:

- the loss of good agricultural land that is presently Green Belt (“Urban Extension” doesn't really have the same ring to it)
- the complete lack of information about the effects the development will have on our traffic (and the consequential effects on, for example, air pollution), and the Borough Council's apparent reluctance to prioritise the development of Brown Field (previously developed) sites.

Whether you agree with the Parish Council's position or oppose it please have your say. The outcome will affect you and generations to come.

Whilst on a road and traffic theme, I am now told that the Wymans Lane/Hyde Lane road closure will take place from 14th to 16th December. The dates have changed from the ones originally given to me and it wouldn't surprise me if they change again. I can only tell you what they tell me! While these works are in progress these roads will be

closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge. If anything changes I will put the update on our web site.

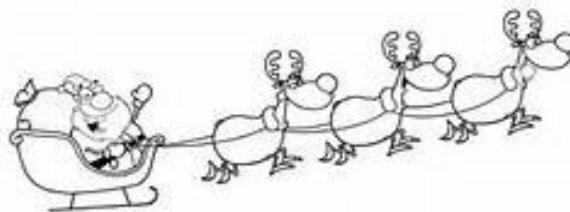
I was in the middle of a discourse on a parish council's powers and duties. Last time I talked about the council's powers. Let's discuss parish council duties. These are things that a council must do. The council must elect a chairman each year. It must maintain accounts and have its finances and processes audited. There have been recent changes in legislation increasing levels of transparency. Our minutes and all our business dealings must be open to public scrutiny. We achieve this through our web site (swindonparish.org.uk). Nothing is hidden or secret. Another duty is that the council must do its best to provide allotments if there is a demand for them. If land is prohibitively expensive in the area it may not be practical to do this. We maintain an allotment garden and plots do become available from time to time. Get in touch if you are interested. We are also now two councillors down. Surely there must be someone out there who wouldn't mind joining us. We aren't that scary!

Speaking of scary, an argument recently broke in another Parish Council because one councillor complained that he was intimidated by another councillor's trousers. The subject of the complaint had taken to wearing camouflage trousers in council meetings. This is already fairly weird but wait until you hear the next bit. The camouflaged councillor said that he had another forty pairs at home and wore nothing else. When I say he wore nothing else I think you know what I mean...!

Finally, this is the last Village News before Christmas (oh dear) and you won't see another until February (hooray!). Merry Christmas.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Road Closure

We have received the following information from Gloucestershire County Council:

Wyman's Lane and Hyde Lane will be closed at their junction with Church Road
(in the vicinity of the railway bridge) from
Wednesday 14th December to Friday 16th December
for resurfacing work to be carried out.

The work is being done by Amey on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.
If you require further information please contact Amey on 08000 514514.

Services and events in December

Saturday	3 rd	11.00am - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday	4 th	10.30am	A short act of worship to open the day's events at the Christmas Tree Festival
		11.00am - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
		6.30pm	Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	6 th	10.30am – 12noon	Chatterbox
Friday	9 th	9.00am	SVPS early years nativity
		2.00pm	SVPS early years nativity
Sunday	11 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		6.30pm	Evensong
Monday	12 th	1.15pm	Swindon Village Early Years visit to church
Tuesday	13 th	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Holy communion followed by Tuesday Group
Thursday	15 th	7.00pm	Licensing of Revd Nick Bromfield as Team Rector at St Mary's Prestbury
Sunday	18 th	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Carol Service
			Followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tuesday	20 th	10.30am – 12noon	Chatterbox with festive refreshments
		7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Saturday	24th	Christmas Eve	
		4.00pm	Crib service
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday	25th	Christmas Day	
		9.15am	Holy Communion

Services and events in January

Sunday	1 st	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty family communion No evening service
Tuesday	3 rd	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox
Sunday	8 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Tuesday	10 th	10.30am – 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	15 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	17 th	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	22 nd	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Monday	23 rd	7.00pm	PCC in church
Tuesday	24 th	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	29 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of praise at Elmstone Hardwicke

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 (Team Vicar) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.

I suspect most of us will have experienced a time in our lives when we have been waiting for something. News of exam results, results of medical tests, a longed for holiday, the birth of a child.

As I write this we are approaching Advent, the time of waiting. A time when we prepare for Christmas celebrations, and a reminder of the waiting which Mary went through during the months after she first received news that she was to bear God's son. That time of waiting had many ups and downs, misunderstandings, and worries. It certainly was not all fairy lights and silent nights!

As we prepare to celebrate once more the birth of Christ, God with us, let's take time to reflect on what that means. This year has been unsettling for many people, and as we absorb the events that have taken place around the world, and deal with the uncertainties that those events have brought, what does it mean 'God with us'?

Jesus and his family knew uncertainty – Mary gave birth far away from her home and family, in a crowded town, where she knew no-one apart from her husband. They knew the uncertainty of needing to flee to another country, Egypt, to escape Herod's violent persecution of children.

They knew the joys of extended family celebrations, such as Passover. They knew the worry of standing against those in authority who were acting unjustly.

They knew the despair of shattered hopes, but knew the greatest joy of all – the resurrection.

Wherever you are on life's journey, whatever it is that you are feeling this Christmas time, I pray that you will know the peace that God's love brings in Jesus Christ, God with us.

Revd Liz

Flowers in church for Christmas

St. Lawrence has a small team of flower arrangers using their skill to enhance the beauty of the church all year round and especially for the big festivals.

However, they can not bear the costs of flowers on their own. If you would like to help by making a contribution to flowers for Christmas please contact me.

Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Joan Howes

Tel. 01242 513573

St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village

Start the festive season with a visit to the

Christmas Tree Festival

"Anniversaries"

A display of small Christmas trees decorated by local people

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December
11.00am to 5.00pm

Join us on Sunday for Together @ Ten Thirty among the trees
All welcome

Live music at 2.30pm

Saturday - Carols by Cheltenham Minster Handbell Ringers

Sunday - Christmas songs with the Ukuleles

* Christmas goods for sale

* Christmas Hampers raffle

* Competition to win a teddy bear

* Make a Christmas decoration

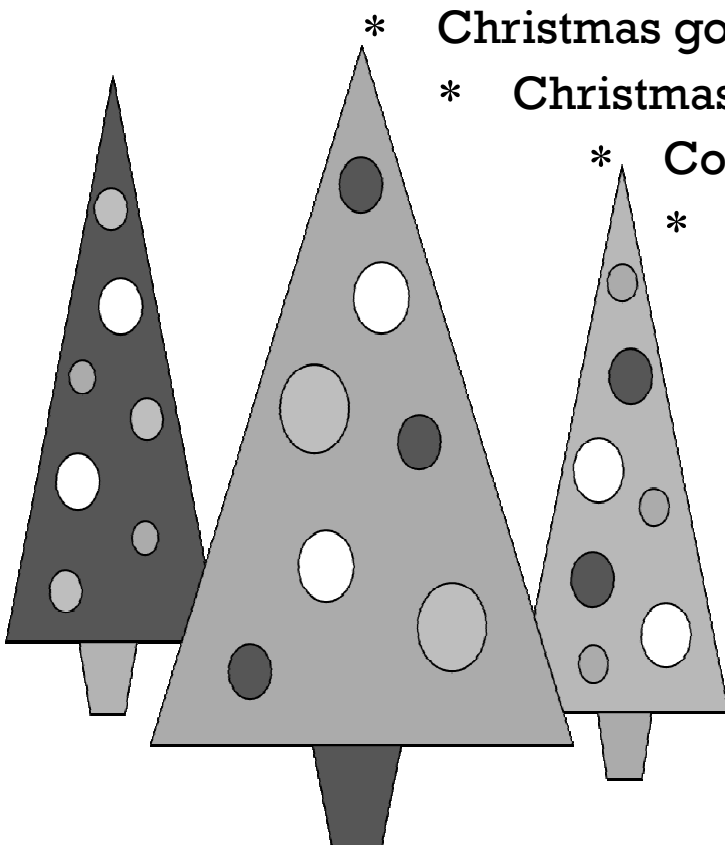
* Vote for your favourite tree

* Free refreshments

* **Free admission**

Donations towards the upkeep
of the church building will be
gratefully received

Karen Evans - 01242 241678



A View from the Pew

My work with primary school head teachers just before I left the Gloucestershire Education Authority was centred on helping school leaders and staffs to produce a Mission Statement. Nowadays all schools, primary and secondary, are expected to have discussed their aims and objectives and written a statement outlining them. Why do this? Because if we're clear about what we're trying to do it will help us in doing it.

Our Bishop Rachel is in the process of sharing with us all a draft vision for the next five years of life in the Diocese of Gloucester.

I looked up a definition of mission statement and I got the following:

A mission statement describes what you want now and how you will achieve your long term aspiration.

It answers the questions of: "What do I do?", "How do I do it?", "Who do I do it for?", "What makes me different?", and "What is the benefit?"

With this particular definition emphasising the role of the individual in the organisation I see I must consider what is my part in the life of my church. The mission statement is a stimulus for action for all of us as individuals. We're reminded that we're all part of the "body of Christ". But we're used to working as a team.

Previously in my pieces in the Village News I have been looking at what makes us what, I think, is a well-led and lively church. So I thought I'd look at how this view of where we are in our 'journeying together' as Bishop Rachel puts it, matches what the vision statement says.

St Lawrence Church (and St Peters) strive to provide "a visible Christian presence". Exploring the ancient and historic village one observes the building with its unusual tower. You can't help but notice it on its high point. But more importantly, as with many of our historic churches in village communities, the St Lawrence building and the activities of the church community provide a noticeable 'Christian presence'.

I think the village community looks upon St Lawrence as our church.

Under the spiritual leadership of Rev Liz and operating as part of the North Cheltenham team, we're able to share the "transforming gospel of Christ" as the draft document puts it.

We continue to consider, and put into effect, the "new ways of worshipping" which the draft document refers to. The improvements to the interior of the church have helped our worship. As we join in times of national thanksgiving and remembrance many people join us. St Lawrence goes on providing a quiet space for prayer and meditation. Although change may frighten many people, we are finding "joy in the unknown and familiar." That's why I claim we are a lively church. God is with us and as a church we are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Ralph Griffin
Reader

Chatterbox



Chatterbox is held on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12noon in St Lawrence's church. The group provides an opportunity for all who live in, work in, or are visiting Swindon Village to get together for a filter coffee, tea and biscuits. The group is for men and women of all ages, our youngest regular visitor is 6 months and oldest 80 years plus. Most people come alone and all are immediately welcomed.

Although held in our church, all faiths and those with no belief are very welcome.

This group just involves coffee and a chat (and laughter too)!

We have a Christmas special with mulled wine and mince pies (as well as our regular hot drinks) coming up on Tuesday 20th December, as usual from 10.30am to 12o'clock and we would love to meet you then!

We will have a short break between Christmas and New Year but will be back with the biscuits and coffee ready to welcome the New Year in on 3rd January 2017.

The Big Sleep Out 2017

The Big Sleep Out will be happening again at St Mary Magdalene's church in Elmstone Hardwicke.

I will be sleeping out in the stable that is being constructed outside St Mary Magdalene. I will be doing this from Friday evening 30th December to Sunday 1st January 2017. I hope to get around all of the churches in the team during Advent so all the congregations know me before the event. This sleep out will be raising funds for The Children's Society and Church Urban Fund. I am Ian Richings who regularly attends St Mary Magdalene.



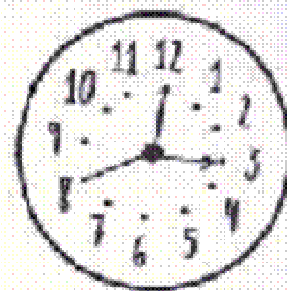
Ian Richings

• Home-made gifts • Sweets STALLS Christmas trees & wreathes •

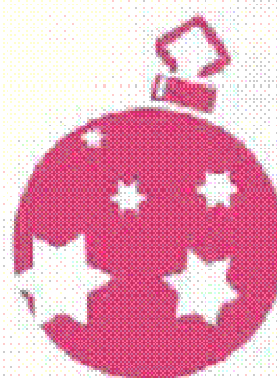
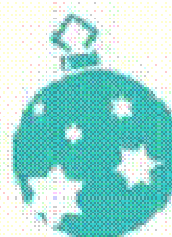
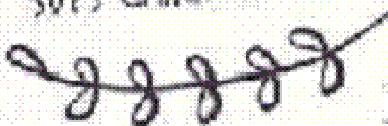
SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WINTER FAIR

Adults £1
Children 50p
SVPS Children FREE



1.30pm - 4pm



come

and



join



Jewellery • Cards • Sweets • Candles

Pocket-money bags • Biscuits and

Pocket-money bags • Biscuits and

Jewellery • Cards • Sweets • Candles

• Christmas trees & wreathes STALLS Sweets • Home-made gifts •



News from our Village Agent

As the clocks have now been changed – and I am still finding ones in the house that I have forgotten to put back which completely confuses me – my thoughts have moved to that of my heating bills. Eugh! I live in an old house, with no cavity in the walls to help keep it warm, so much of my time is spent in lots of layers trying not to look like the Michelin man.

I received notification from my energy supplier that my contract with them was coming to an end and that when it did I would be switched to another tariff. When I looked into the prices of this new tariff and compared it to others on the market I realised that if I stayed with my current (excuse the pun) supplier I would be paying much more than I needed to be.

Gas and electricity are supplied by many companies these days and at very competitive prices – why would you pay more than you have to?

I know that it seems like a complicated thing to do, to change, but your pipes, meter and absolutely everything stays the same – except the price.

Warm and Well <http://www.warmandwell.co.uk/warm-and-well.html> can give you advice on keeping your home energy-efficient during the winter months. You can call them on **0800 500 30 76** or you can contact me and I can make a direct referral to them for you. The team there are great and they'll come and visit you to discuss all aspects of energy advice, including switching your energy supplier. That extra money you could save could make all the difference.

And I'll leave you with this "If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it".

Liz

Village Agent 07810 056770
lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk



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Allotments

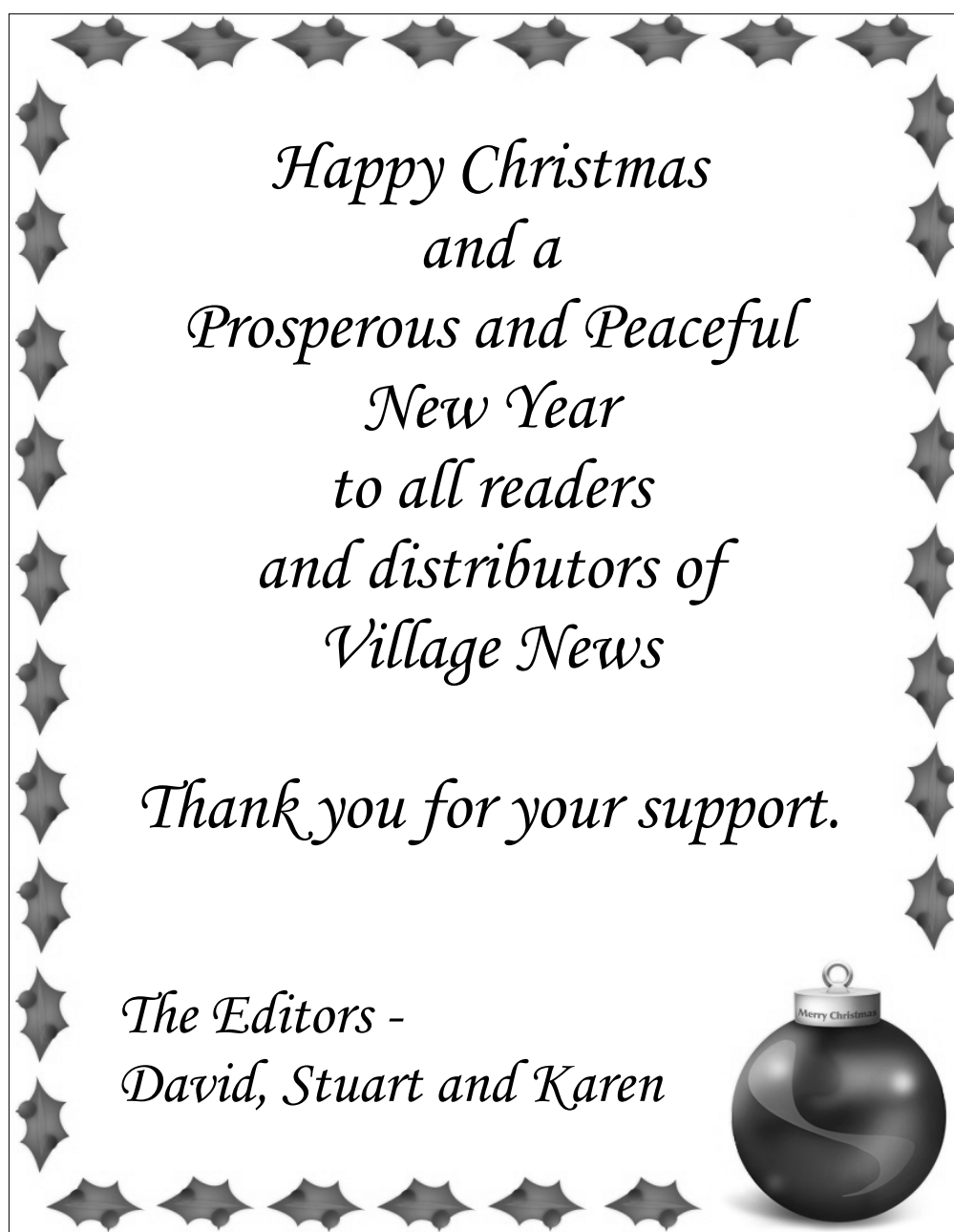
On Saturday 5th November we held a clean-up day on the allotments and many plot-holders got involved by having bonfires on their plots. Two old wooden sheds, numerous pallets and general garden waste materials were burnt on a very large bonfire on one plot while a barbecue was enjoyed by all concerned.

My thanks to Pat Greengrow for his skills in bonfire making, Chaz Pearce for organising the barbecue which was also a great success and to Steve Hobbs for the use of his plot.

The allotments now look a little tidier.

Ian Brown

Allotments Manager



Wednesday Club

You could have heard a pin drop during our last meeting. Our guest was Fiona Eadie, a trained story teller. Fiona told us three stories from different regions of our country including the Channel Islands and the Northumberland/Borders areas. These stories are not written down but passed down through the generations by word of mouth. We were listening intently with time passing very quickly and Fiona answered lots of questions afterwards put to her by our members.

Our meeting on 7th December will be our Christmas Party and supper. Shane will be coming along to entertain us once again and so with our Christmas Raffle and a lovely supper a good evening should be had by all.

Our annual meal will be held on Wednesday 4th January 2017 and will be at the Farmers Arms, Apperley. Please be there for 12 noon for a 12.30 start. Anyone needing a lift please get in touch; there are plenty of spare seats to be had.

February will be our Annual General Meeting and our Programmes for 2017 will be available at that meeting. June and Shirley have arranged a lovely variety of speakers for next year and so please do come along and join us. We always have a nice supper and a good raffle and you will be made very welcome.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year from all of us at Wednesday Club.

Pauline Wright



Used Postage Stamps and Cards for Recycling

The many Christmas, Birthday and special Occasion cards you passed to me this year have gone to the Cobalt Unit for recycling and I have given all the used postage stamps to the LINC Clinic where they were welcomed to boost their funds.

I shall be pleased to receive used Christmas cards up to 15th January 2017, used stamps and special occasion cards all year round.

Do continue to save your cards and stamps to help these very worthy causes.

Moir Stoneman

Benrines, 5 Stantons Drive, Swindon Village. Tel 529631

Water has always had magic properties to some and has often been a part of religion, both mainstream and arcane. In October Amy Woolacott told us of the history of sacred springs and wells.

There are many in the area. My own favourites are those associated with St Kenelm, a saint from Winchcombe. When his body was brought back from the Clent Hills, wherever it was put down to rest a spring arose. There is a walk that can be taken which visits several of these with the final one rising in a small building a mile or so east of Sudeley Castle, supposedly the last resting place on his journey home. It is a touching place to visit and should you find it open there are plaques inside including a very expressive little poem.

Our next task is to provide a tree for the church Christmas Tree Festival. This year we are determined to excel and surpass all our previous targets and garner at least two votes.

Then it is on to the AGM in January. As ever the committee are hoping for a popular rising when we will all be thrown out of our posts and a new and vibrant committee will take the Society forward into the broad uplands. And the chances of that happening are about the same as hoping for two votes in the Christmas tree competition.

After the AGM Eileen Allen will show us more of the many village history photographs she has collected over the years. If you are not a member but want to see these, please do come along at about 8pm and join us for a post AGM cup of tea. We won't start the photo presentation until at least 8.15 and there is no charge.

Now is the time for a little head scratching with regards to next year's programme. If any members know of a good speaker please let us know.

The Joint Core Strategy is now on hold because Tewkesbury has thrown a spanner in the works. Laurence Robertson has come out in favour of maintaining the green belt but when asked if he could ensure that the Minister is aware that Cheltenham is about to lose its green belt he has had to come back and say the Government cannot (for which read – will not) do anything because it is a local issue. So, all those fine words from the last Prime Minister and Chancellor and indeed from the current Minister for Communities and Local Government in support of the green belt amount to nothing. Well, six years ago when it was Labour's Regional Spatial Strategy that threatened us the Swindon Village Society had the then Government overturned. The next election may not be for four years but at the current rate of progress on the JCS we should have plenty of time to have another go.

Finally, if anyone out there would like to join us we would be delighted to have you along. It is always useful to have a good few names on our membership list when we put pen to paper to try and keep the village as a reasonable and civilised place to live.

Single membership is £5 for the year and family membership is £10. Come to a meeting or if you come to the door of 3, Swindon Hall with money in hand there is every chance of a cup of tea.

Barry Simon

Art & Crafts Club

We had a great demonstration recently at the club giving us new ideas to keep our interests alive, and we have plans to arrange another in the new year. I will let you know as these are open to non-members for a very small charge and are well worth a visit.

Christmas is round the corner and we are entering our tree for the church so look out for it. We'll be having our usual party where we eat, drink and quiz. All good fun.

Happy Xmas to one and all, and a peaceful new year.

Helen Dicks



Swindon Village Winemakers

In August the club had a meal at the Rising Sun on Cleeve Hill. We did not have a meeting in September.

At the October meeting we had our annual Fish & Chip supper and the annual Wine Competition which, this year, was for a Sloe wine. In third place was Derek Donovan, in second place was Jim Ruxton and in first place was Mike Attwood.

In December we are having our Christmas meal at The Beckford Inn.

From all the wine club I would like to wish all the readers A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2017.

Kind Regards,
Roy Harper

1st Swindon Village Scout Group

It has been another busy few weeks for all of the youngsters at Swindon Village. On Remembrance Sunday we were well represented by many Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers at the Service of Remembrance held at St Lawrence Church. There is no better opportunity for all of the youngsters and leaders to demonstrate the 'Doing their Duty' part of the Scout promise and a warm and dry autumn morning made the occasion all the more enjoyable. It was great to join so many other people from around the village and remember those soldiers that gave their lives for our freedom.

During November the Scouts spent two Monday evenings planning and then carrying out a night hike from Swindon Village to Bishops Cleeve – all along footpaths. Our timing turned out to be excellent as the hike coincided with the 'Super Moon' (a pure fluke). We enjoyed a really warm and dry hike (warm enough to hike without coats) and the ground was still dry from several months without much rain. Our timing was even more remarkable with the huge amount of rain that fell during the week that followed! As always the Scouts loved the opportunity to get outside in the dark and an enjoyable time was had by all.

At this time of year going camping is much less appealing, but with the courses organised by Paddy Langham, our Scouts and Explorers still have several opportunities for adventure. Jed Skilling has recently completed a two-day climbing and bouldering course at the Warehouse indoor climbing centre in Gloucester. Using the extensive facilities with fully qualified instructors, Jed managed to gain his Scout Climbing badge.

Several of our Scouts have had their first taste of Scuba Diving in the safety of the swimming pool at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester. The session started with a short safety briefing and once all the equipment was correctly fitted, the Scouts had one hour in the pool with fully qualified diving instructors.

And we've just returned from the County Canal weekend on three 70 foot narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal just west of London. Once on board, we travelled from Harefield in Middlesex up through Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back again on the Sunday. The Scouts all got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They also had to plan their own menu and, on the Saturday morning, moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco's, while they went and bought all the food. One of our former Scouts, Josh Williams who is now an Explorer Scout with Black Sheep Explorers, was on his fourth county canal weekend and completed his Instructors badge by leading and instructing one of the Scout boats for the weekend – and a terrific job he did too!

For our final meeting of the year on Monday 12th December, we will again be holding an evening of Christmas Carols together with various sketches and routines performed by the Beavers, the Cubs and the Scouts in the Village Hall. There will be refreshments and a few mince pies available for those who arrive early enough!

The doors open at 6pm with a prompt start at 6:15 and everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun. There is no charge on the door, but we will be collecting donations towards the charity we support each Christmas - "The Children's Society". We hope you are able to come and join us all.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in Swindon Village for all your support and encouragement throughout 2016 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sos

The Swindon Village Society

The Annual General Meeting
will be held on
Wednesday 18th January
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall.

Non-members -
please join us at 8.00pm
for refreshments and a showing of
local history photographs
collected by Eileen Allen.

Free admission

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

Another November and another Annual Meeting. The year seems to have flown by since the last one. The evening started with the usual monthly business meeting before a coffee break with a chat, and a browse at the book stall and then, having sung 'Jerusalem', we proceeded with the Annual Meeting.

We have had a busy month. The Group Meeting was a Soup and Pudding Lunch with a choice of four soups and then a table of delicious puddings to choose from - forget the diets for one day! A few members enjoyed a crafty day with a Christmas theme at WI House. On Remembrance Sunday we laid a wreath at the Memorial in Swindon Village. I hope some people noticed the knitted poppies in the Promenade; there were also some in Gloucester Cathedral and outside around the trees near the memorial. There were over 6,000 poppies made by WI's from the county. Our Birthday Party meal was at the Everyman this year. A trip to Aston Pottery to see, and spend, at the Christmas Shop with lunch laid on by Little Compton WI afterwards, was much enjoyed. The retiring Committee had their customary lunch at Cotes, more food! The Craft Club have been busy collecting ideas and items to decorate our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Lawrence Church. A day at the Races and some County walks have also been on the programme.

We are looking forward to a Christmas Lunch at the Farmers Arms again this year and the County organised outing to Tyntesfield to see the house 'Dressed for Christmas'. I must not forget to mention the Annual Christmas Concert in the Town Hall where the return visit by Laura Wright as guest artiste is by popular demand. Wendy is again hosting a Christmas Lunch for the Solo Club.

In January there is an afternoon for 'The Archers' fans when scriptwriter and producer Joanna Toye will be at the Pump Room. On a different note, there is a Hand Embroidery Workshop at WI House in Gloucester.

The Annual Meeting went well with various reports for the year and "thank-you"s. Sue Davies was elected as the President and we wish her well in her new post.

John and Hugh are coming to our meeting on 5th December with their 'Sounds of the Sixties'. This sounds like a rather nostalgic evening. On 9th January Naomi Boast and Harry Shenton will be telling us about The Star Centre. If you would like to join us on either occasion at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall you will be made most welcome.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

Sara Jefferies

Peter Warwick

1924 - 2016



Long-time Swindon Village resident Peter Warwick died in October just a few days after his 92nd birthday.

Peter was born in India but his parents returned to England when he was a toddler and the family settled in Kent.

From a very early age Peter was interested in wireless (radio) and electricity and built his own crystal sets, valve radios and even a television (with a screen so small that he needed a magnifying glass to see the picture clearly).

On leaving school (the 2nd World War prevented him from taking his school leaving exams) he went to work in an electrical shop in Sevenoaks, repairing radio sets, TVs and household electrical equipment, until he was called up for his National Service and joined the RAF. He was turned down for flying duties due to 'colour blindness' but he was very pleased to be put in to the wireless technician stream and sent to a college in Warrington for training as a radar technician. He always said he got better tuition there than he could ever have afforded on his own. He was posted to Ceylon to service airborne radar on aircraft flying supplies to the army in the Burmese jungle. After the RAF he worked for the Government Wireless station at Knockholt - this was the start of his long career with GCHQ.

While at Knockholt he met Daphne and they were married at St John's Church in Sevenoaks. They travelled extensively, including a two-year placement in Hong Kong. Peter also travelled a lot on his own and had a fund of stories about his experiences. They finally settled in Swindon Village, in Manor Road. Peter loved gardening. There was an evergreen tree at the bottom of the garden and when Midge the family rabbit died, Peter buried him under that tree; as the tree grew it developed a rabbit-like head and long ears which Peter said were due to poor little Midge underneath. His children and grandchildren believed him but now suspect that Peter's shears might have been involved! Peter was also very good at woodwork and built toys for the grandchildren including a ride-on car powered by the motor from an electric lawnmower.

As Daphne's health started to fail they downsized into a bungalow, just over the road in Manor Court. For the last three years, as his own health failed, Peter was looked after by a live-in carer and companion.

Peter's funeral was held in St. Lawrence's church and he was buried in the churchyard along with Daphne. Family and friends paid tribute to him, describing him variously as "a true gentleman with a twinkle in his eye", "a lovely, kind and considerate person" who "had a sense of humour and was cherished".

With thanks to Peter's brother for allowing us to use extracts from his funeral eulogy.

DRAWING REALISTIC WILDLIFE ART

with
Wildlife Artist Frances Whitman

**A series of Three, 1 Day Drawing Workshops
with a choice of animal references**



Saturday 4th February 2017

Saturday 4th March 2017

Saturday 25th March 2017

10.00am - 4.30pm

at

Highbury Church Hall, Oxford Street, Cheltenham, GL52 6DT



Frances will be teaching you the coloured pencil techniques she uses to create highly realistic animal drawings.

Over the 3 workshops you will be learning how to layer and blend with the pencils, creating texture and depth, bringing your drawing to life.

- £175.00 per person to include all 3 days workshops
- Pre-drawn templates and reference images are provided
- Drawing paper and boards to work on are provided
- Suitable for beginners and for those who are more experienced
- Places are limited to 12 people
- Kitchen facilities are available, please bring your own lunch
- Disabled access
- A full list of pencils to bring with you will be supplied

Frances Whitman is a self taught, accomplished artist, well known for the realistic animals she draws and paints, she has won several awards for her artwork and is a regular Artist in Residence at Nature in Art

A deposit of £50.00 is required to secure your place

For further information, please contact Frances on 07866 500679

Email: franceswhitmanart@blueyonder.co.uk

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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	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		
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 January. Deadline for the February issue of the Village News is the 16th of January.

Please send contributions to the editors:

David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
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	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

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
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North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, admin@northchelt.org.uk
Cheltenham GL50 4PA

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