

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 431

February 2017

February

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | 1 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm AGM |
| Monday | 6 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Pam Thomas - Joyce Brooks Lingerie |
| Tuesday | 14 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 15 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Robert Skelt - Breaking the Codes (Enigma and Fish) |
| Monday | 20 | Meeting about the church fete - St. Lawrence's Church 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 22 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Dry white wine competition and Pudding Night |
| Saturday | 25 | Wine Club Dance |

March

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | 1 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Manuel Queiroz - Overland from Alaska to Argentina |
| Monday | 6 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Peter Badham - The History of Pharmacy |
| Tuesday | 14 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 15 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm
Mike Wilson - "Time on My Hands" (clocks and watches) |

(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.)

After the mellowness of the Christmas break let's get our blood pumping again and deal with the matter of the road resurfacing on Wymans Lane and Hyde Lane. On 10th October 2016 I received notification from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) that parts of Wymans Lane and Hyde Lane would be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge from 24th – 27th October for resurfacing. Fair enough. It was work we all wanted to happen. The next day a revised map of the diversions was published because it had not been realised that Swindon Lane has a 7.5T weight restriction. Woops but never mind. I duly published the information on the Parish Council web site for the benefit of residents. On 24th October (the day the works were due to start) I received an email stating that the works would be delayed until 14th – 16th December. No reason was given. OK, so this is turning into a bit of a public relations debacle. I had to change the notice on the web site and published the revised information in the December edition of the Village News.

On the 30th November I took the dog out only to find that the roads had been closed. Neither I (nor the dog) could believe it. Some residents had received a letter but the school and neighbouring parishes had seen nothing. I spoke to the man manning the barricade. He conceded that he was having to deal with quite a few angry motorists and residents but he could tell them nothing about how long the works would last.

I think it is generally accepted that operational requirements and priorities mean that schedules have to change from time to time, and this was a “perfect storm” in that regard. However, it is also accepted that this could have been done better and lessons need to be learned.

Now is the time councils set their budgets for the coming year (for us the coming year means 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018). We face an uncertain future with the Elms Park development and the wider JCS still awaiting resolution. The government is still talking about requiring parish councils to submit spending increases to a local referendum which must be paid for by the parish. This sounds like the government giving power to the people, but look more closely. The cost of a referendum would be of the order of £3000 which would probably deter us from going down that road. Central government would have dictated what your local parish council could spend. We debated these matters at our meetings in January and December and settled on a 2% increase. Before “Irate of Glynbridge Gardens” commits pen to paper I believe this is less than 33p per household. Our budget is available for all to see on our web site.

There has been little to report on the JCS in recent months. Changes have been made in light of the planning inspector's findings. The revised document will be voted upon by the three councils (Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury). If it is passed

by all three another round of public consultation will follow. However, there is the real possibility that it may not get passed at the Tewkesbury Borough Council meeting. If that happens it could spell the end of the JCS. That does not mean that the prospect of huge local housing developments would go away. Quite the reverse. The failure of the JCS would leave a planning policy vacuum that could allow developers free reign. To guard against this Cheltenham Borough Council is pushing ahead with its Local Plan. Public consultation on this will commence shortly. This will give Cheltenham some protection against uncontrolled development. Importantly for us, and thanks to the hard work of some of our councillors, it will contain a designated area of Local Green Space around Swindon Village that will be safe from development.

In an ideal world the JCS would be approved first. The Cheltenham Local Plan would follow and be compliant with it. Planning applications would then be judged against them. In practice an outline planning application for the massive Elms Park development has come first. The Cheltenham Local Plan is likely to be rushed into place as soon as possible to guard against uncontrolled development and the JCS, that is supposed to sit above all of this, will come later or not at all.

Sadly a little bit of anti-social behaviour to report. Firstly, boy racers in their hot hatches have again been spotted in the parish. We thought that this problem had gone away and still hope that this may only have been a one off. Let us (and the police) know if we have an ongoing problem.

Secondly, can we plead once again for dog owners to act responsibly (and most do). The park is hugely popular with dog walkers. Please clear up after your beasts. And this doesn't apply just to the park. Many people (including me) walk their dogs across the fields. We should still clear up here. Dog excrement can make farm animals extremely ill and is also unpleasant for other walkers to encounter. We ask the farmer to clean up the roads when his tractor leaves mud on them; it is only fair that we show consideration when venturing onto his land. Of course the other message that goes hand in hand with this is to please keep to the footpaths. Gloucestershire County Council have published a leaflet giving advice to dog owners. It is available on our web site.

I know car parking in Cheltenham is an emotive subject. The Borough Council are doing an opinion survey. I have put a link on our web site. Please participate, either via the web or by picking up a survey from the reception at the Municipal Offices in the Promenade.

I mentioned the Parish Council budget and the revenue we get via council tax. We have two other sources of revenue that are very important to us. Firstly, the allotments are rented and we are very grateful to our allotment holders who, to a man (and woman), have again paid up promptly. The growing season will soon be upon us. May your crops be plentiful. Secondly, we sell advertising in the Village News. This is a very cost effective way for small businesses to reach every local home. I am grateful to our long standing advertisers for their continuing support and would encourage other local businesses to get on board!

I was recently contacted by two French ladies. Sadly this is not something that happens to me every day. They were making a documentary about the River Thames and wanted to know if it would be OK to do some filming in St. Lawrence's Church. It seemed an odd request but perhaps Wymans Brook becomes the Thames further downstream. Alas no. It turns out the church they were interested in was not ours but one in Inglesham (and a lot closer to the Thames).

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

A message from the Editors

This month's Village News contains a very high proportion of news from St. Lawrence's church. This is not favouritism in any way - it's simply that so many things have been happening at the church over the Christmas break while other organisations have gone into winter hibernation! Hopefully normality will be restored next month when everyone is active again.

Please remember that the Village News exists to inform and entertain everyone. We'd love news from your groups and societies as well as news about individuals or events that might interest our readers. If you'd like to tell us about something but you're not sure about actually writing it yourself, get in touch with us and we can find someone to help.

Also, the Village News is an effective means of advertising your business, with a monthly circulation of nearly 1,000 copies to every home in the parish which includes Riverleys, Glynbridge Gardens, Wyman's Lane, Hyde Lane and parts of Wyman's Brook, as well as the old village area. We also deliver to Brockhampton.

There is no charge for advertising community and charity events.

Contact David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive
or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road (tel. 241678)
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk



News from our Village Agent

So we're now well into 2017. Have you broken your New Year's resolution yet?

While my work time is spent trying to help people, much of my personal time has been spent recently doing exactly the same thing. A widowed friend with no local family was unwell and admitted to hospital, while another friend fell and broke her ankle and needed help.

I was in touch with my friend's son in Australia (isn't the internet a wonderful thing?) and he felt terribly helpless knowing his Mum was unwell but alone. I was only too pleased that I could help her, both in the hospital and after she came home, with visits, meals, shopping and general things; but not everyone is lucky enough to have a circle of friends around. There are so many people that become unwell and need help or are just alone and isolated and unable to get out to see people.

I'm a great believer that the world needs to be a much kinder place. If each person was just a little bit more caring to their neighbour I think the planet would rub along a little better don't you?

In all the parishes I visit there are coffee mornings, lunch clubs and social groups going on. These social groups provide a network of people that are both friendly faces to chat to (even if you don't know them to begin with) and perhaps the network that would help you if the occasion arose.

While it can be daunting to walk into a new church, room or group, the faces are always smiling and invariably there is a cup of tea waiting too. If you're unable to actually get to a group that you know of there might be someone else that could give you a lift. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to know more or if you'd like to set up a new social group.

And this month I will leave you with this:

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another"

— Charles Dickens.

Liz

Village Agent 07810 056770

lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Services and events in February

Sunday	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	7th	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Tuesday Group Bible Study
Sunday	12th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Tuesday	14th	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Communion followed by Tuesday Group Bible Study
Sunday	19th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	21st	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Tuesday Group Bible Study
Sunday	26th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	28th	10.30am - 12noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Tuesday Group Bible Study

Services and events in March

Wednesday	1st	7.00pm	Communion with Imposition of Ashes
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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.

Revd. Nick Bromfield was welcomed as the Team Rector in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry at a special service in St. Mary's Church, Prestbury in December. He is the lead priest in the Team and will work with Revd. Liz Palin who is a Team Vicar. The Team is currently in the process of selecting another Team Vicar to bring the complement of full-time clergy back up to three, following the recent retirement of Revd. Stephen Eldridge.

We'll let Revd. Bromfield introduce himself...

Who is this new Team Rector chap then?

I grew up in Bristol in the shadows of what is now IKEA and was then Bristol Rovers FC's Eastville ground. My father took me to see a game when I was about aged 7 – they lost 2-3 to Peterborough United, so Dad said he'd take me to watch a 'proper' team next Saturday, namely Bristol City (who promptly lost 1-2 to Millwall) but I was converted!

My first school was St Werburgh's Nursery School in the inner city, followed by Glenfrome Primary, then Bristol Grammar, all of which were formative places for me, and where I learned the virtues of compassion and curiosity which have sustained me since. I managed somehow to get to St John's College, Cambridge where I studied English (the only subject I was any good at) and was taught by some brilliant and some eccentric people including Hugh Sykes Davies who was best friends with Anthony Blunt who had just been exposed for his activities, so it was an interesting time. The actress Emma Thompson would be in lectures and was a couple of years ahead of me and I was good friends with Paul Dempsey who was anchor on Sky Sports for many years (you'll know him if you're a football fan). I almost did a PhD but a friend was spending three years on a doctorate in Anglo-Saxon nursery rhymes so I quietly decided against....

Regarding vocation, I almost went forward at 21 but a wise man at Bristol Cathedral saw how dangerous I would be as a cleric at that age(!) and advised me to get some life experience first. So nothing happened until my late 30s when the call returned and before I knew it I was studying at WEMTC. This coincided with a demanding job as a management consultant and the birth of our youngest son, Louis, so I would often be finishing essays on train platforms an hour or so ahead of their due time! Louis is now studying in his first year of a Politics degree at Swansea University. Our middle child, Ellie, is in her second year studying Japanese at the University of Kent at Canterbury and should be going to Kyoto University for her third year in September. Our eldest, Zach, is studying for an MA in Religious Studies at Bristol University, having done his first degree here at Cheltenham.

That's probably enough for now and I'll tell you more and what life is like as a vicar in the Forest of Dean next time!

Nick

‘I have called you friends’

Jesus says: ‘Apart from me you can do nothing’. I remember seeing these words at the entrance of the ancient ancestral home of the Vaughan family at Courtfield near Ross on Wye. They tend to stop you in your tracks. Suppose the worst has happened and you are totally paralysed and you can do nothing. All you can do is talk. What if a strong and powerful friend promised to live with you and do whatever you needed done? The veteran evangelist John Piper expands on what Jesus says and puts it in the following way.

How could you glorify this friend if a stranger came to see you? Would you glorify his generosity and strength by trying to get out of bed and carry him? No, you would say, “friend please come and lift me up and put a pillow behind me and prop me up so I can look at my guest and would you please put on my glasses for me?” And so your visitor would learn from your requests that you were helpless and that your friend is strong and kind. You glorify your friend by needing him and asking him for help and counting on him.

However, in John 15. 5, Jesus says, ‘apart from me you can do nothing’. So we really are paralysed. Without Christ we are capable of no Christ-exalting good. This is quite a shock, especially if we are educated, capable and confident people! As Paul says (Romans 7,18) ‘I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature’. But John 15, 5 also says that God does intend for us to do much Christ-exalting good – in me you will bear much fruit, he says. So as our strong and reliable friend, ‘I have called you friends’ (John 15,15), he promises to do for us and through us, what we cannot do for ourselves. How then do we glorify him? Jesus gives the answer in John 15,7: ‘if you remain in me... ask whatever you wish and it will be given you’. We pray, we ask God to do for us, through Christ, what we cannot do for ourselves. Bear fruit. Verse 8 gives the result, by this my Father is glorified, ‘that you bear much fruit’.

So how is God glorified by prayer? Prayer is the admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that he will provide the help we need. Perhaps thinking of Jesus as a friend is a new way of thinking about Him and your faith. As the year gets underway, thinking of this friend we have in Jesus might provide the hope and reassurance we crave in an uncertain world and troubled times.

Revd. Nick Bromfield

Reader's view

Looking back at my association with St Lawrence I work out that I have been privileged to be Reader at St Lawrence for around twenty years. I hope that not living in the village has enabled me to take a wider view of the development of St Lawrence Church in Swindon Village. And I've certainly seen changes. I think these changes have been for the better but there are those who disagree.

St Lawrence has been in the forefront of some of the changes in the Church of England. We were one of the first churches in the area to welcome a woman priest. The diocese, in Rachel, has now a highly respected woman bishop. The grouping of five north Cheltenham churches has brought advantages and we welcome Reverend Nick Bromfield as our new Team Rector.

I don't need to remind you that we are living through times of change. There is change in our country and there is change on the international scene. I read somewhere that Leadership has been defined as being a matter of "motivating people, inspiring and generating enthusiasm to action". The people of St Lawrence have been fortunate in those in leadership roles. We have been fortunate over the years and have all benefited from good leadership in the past and this is continuing.

The North Cheltenham team ministry set-up and the valuable contribution of Rev Liz Palin has been the framework which has fostered development of a Christian presence in the village and the surrounding area.

The changes recently made to the interior of the church have given much more flexibility (and some really comfortable seating) and so have increased the range of uses to which the ancient church can be put.

None of us think that the pace of change will lessen but with Julian of Norwich we believe all will be well and all manner of things will be well.

Ralph Griffin



These camels were made by one of the Open The Book team for helping tell the story of Epiphany in our schools.

We think they are rather fab and deserve to be seen!

Christmas Tree Festival 2016

Did you come to the Christmas Tree Festival? Those who did were amazed at the beauty and ingenuity on display. Twenty trees had been decorated on the theme of anniversaries, each one unique in its subject and style. Most trees portrayed wedding anniversaries, some taking a single anniversary and others displaying items or materials relating to the whole list of anniversary gifts – paper, wood, tin, lace, leather, silver, gold etc. Some trees were decorated to mark the anniversaries of other events including the Battle of Hastings and 100 years since Gustav Holst wrote his Planets Suite. Swindon Village Early Years chose to portray the annual Remembrance Day while the timing came just right for the Cub Scouts who were celebrating the Centenary of their organisation last year.

The tree that came top in the popular vote was the wedding anniversaries from Chatterbox which was decorated with clear heart-shaped baubles each containing an item relating to a wedding anniversary which had been supplied by everyone who goes to the group. (Chatterbox meets in St. Lawrence's Church every Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12 noon for a chat about anything with a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit – everyone is welcome.)

We were entertained with Christmas songs by Cheltenham Minster Handbell Ringers on the Saturday and a Ukulele Group on the Sunday. The Christmas stall was well-stocked, the three raffle hampers were fantastic and a little girl called Ezri-May won a teddy bear by guessing the number of buttons sewn to his hat. Children were able to make a decoration to take home and refreshments were served all day.

Once again it was lovely to be able to bring so many people together and the weekend made a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities. Thank you to everyone who helped, took part or visited. The event raised nearly £700 for the church building funds.

Here's to next Christmas! We'll announce the theme for 2017 in July.

Karen Evans

Christmas flowers in church

Thank you to everyone who donated to the cost of Christmas flowers for the church. The decorations were much enhanced by the extra flowers that the arrangers were able to buy and appreciated by everyone who came in to the church over Christmas.

Joan Howes

St. Lawrence's church toilet twinned

We take clean water and proper sanitation for granted. We were even lucky enough to be able to install a toilet and small kitchen in our church and these facilities have meant that the church can be used for so many different activities e.g. coffee after services, Chatterbox and the Christmas Tree Festival without the men "popping round the back of the church" or the women having to ask for the use of a neighbour's loo.

Imagine, then, life without these basic services. More than 2 billion people around the world still don't have these basic facilities. Death and disease are the well-known results of dirty water and poor sanitation but the problems are far greater than just those. Children miss out on education either because they are too ill to attend school or, girls especially, because they are needed at home to fetch water for the family, sometimes from several miles away. Women and girls are often victims of sexual assaults as they crouch in the bushes to go to the toilet.

Toilet Twinning is an arm of the charity Tearfund and runs projects to supply clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education to people in poor countries. It was brought to our notice by the late Carolyn Dewdney who was a faithful, hard-working, down-to-earth member of St. Lawrence's congregation. She twinned her home toilet and showed us her certificate and the fundraising group agreed that making a donation to Toilet Twinning would be an appropriate way for the congregation to mark the completion of our toilet project. Sadly Carolyn died suddenly before the building work started.

Members of the fundraising group wanted to fulfil Carolyn's wish and, at their request, the Parochial Church Council has made a donation to Toilet Twinning as part of its annual giving to Christian mission and humanitarian charities i.e. the money has been given by regular churchgoers and not taken from the restoration appeal.

So next time you use the church loo take a look at our framed certificate bearing a photograph of our twinned toilet which is a school block in Sana in the Port Loko District of Sierra Leone. You can look it up on Google Earth:

Latitude 9° 7' 58.004" North, Longitude 12° 13' 29.028" West.

It's nearer to Maghandani than Sana, near the junction of the Port Loko-Bombali Road and the Kamakwie Bombali Highway.

If you'd like to consider twinning your toilet just visit www.toilettwinning.org

Karen Evans



The Big Sleep Out

The nativity figures in the stable in the churchyard at St. Mary Magdalene in Uckington had an extra guest for the New Year. Ian Richings, a member of the congregation there, slept in the stable for the two nights of 30th and 31st December to raise awareness of homelessness and to raise money for The Church Urban Fund and The Children's Society, both of whom are involved with homeless people. On Sunday morning, New Year's Day, Ian walked to Swindon Village to attend the morning service in St. Lawrence's church.



The crib scene is set up



A view of the whole stable



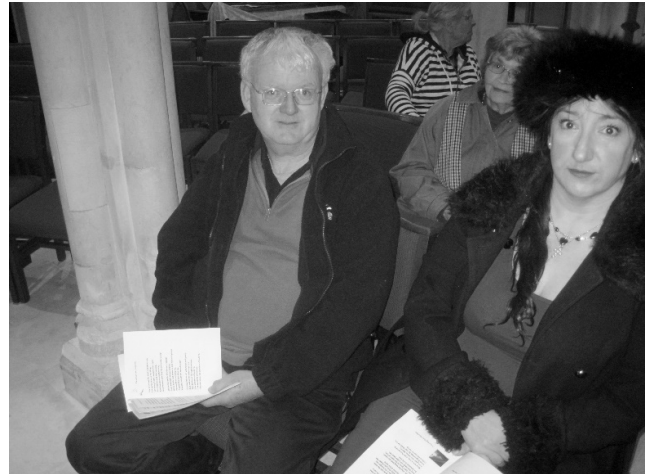
Visitors at 8pm on New Year's Eve



Can you spot Ian behind the shepherd?



Full illuminations on



Ian at St. Lawrence's Church on Sunday morning

The stable was built by Ian and Neil Jones with scaffolding generously supplied by L & D Scaffolding and fence panels generously loaned by Cheltenham Fencing.

St. Lawrence's Church Fête

The future of the church fête really is in doubt. Tony Jilbert announced last summer that it would be his last fete as the chief organiser and several regular helpers have expressed thoughts about retiring. Sadly we're all getting older and we have lost quite a few people in recent years.

The fête is always well-attended and is generally considered to be a good afternoon out with a bit of entertainment and all the stalls. Without it the Parochial Church Council would be in financial difficulties as the income from it (usually more than £2,000) goes a long way to covering the everyday running costs of the church – heating, insurance etc.

We have always been able to rely on help from the village as a whole to run the fête, people who, although not regular churchgoers, treasure the church and all it stands for, knowing that it's there for them when they want it. We are appealing to a new generation who feel the same.

Tony has written a short "job description" of his role in organising the event, should anyone be interested in taking that on its entirety. This includes chairing several meetings with helpers, liaising with Cheltenham Borough Council and the Village Hall Committee over the use of the land and premises, booking entertainment and outside suppliers, publicity, appealing for help and donations, planning the layout of the stalls and transport of the big tables. The list goes on and this is where we realise just how hard Tony has worked and why he wants a break! A replacement may be very hard to find. If you want to know more about **Tony's** role please phone him on **01242 693639**.

Perhaps it's time to think of other ways of running the fête or even changing the format of the event. Whichever route we choose we'll be glad of all the help we can get. Please consider seriously how you might be able to help. There will be a meeting on **Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in St. Lawrence's Church** and we hope as many of you as possible will come with ideas and/or offers of help.

If you have ideas to share but can't make it to the meeting please phone or email me.

Karen Evans

01242 241678

cuckoosnest5@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday Club

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone.

Shane Driscoll came along to entertain us once again with his guitar and backing tracks for our meeting in December. Shane is always very good and sings and plays guitar to mostly music and songs from the 50s and 60s. It does worry me that I can't remember what I had for dinner last night but can remember the words for every song he sings, as do most of our members. We all seem to enjoy singing along with Shane, all trying to outdo each other.

I cannot believe that was the last meeting of yet another year. However, it was a great evening and hopefully, many more to come.

Our annual meal on January 4th was this year at the Farmer's Arms, Apperley. There were 30 of us and we all had a lovely time. The food was lovely and it was a nice change to go at lunchtime this year instead of an evening outing.

Quite a few of our members had been ill over Christmas and I hope they are now feeling a lot better.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st February and it will be our AGM. The Programme for 2017 will be available at that meeting so do come along and join us. It is also the time of year for annual fees and they will be staying the same as last year, £18.50 per person. Visitors are also very welcome for a charge of £3 per meeting and this fee will include supper each time.

Pauline Wright

Art & Crafts Club

Too much festive indulgence and bad weather has led to a poor start to the new year but those of us who did turn up had really cosy evenings!!!

Feel free to come along and join us and do something different to start off the year. Give me a call on 01242 582366.

Helen Dicks

Swindon Village Winemakers

At the November meeting we were given a most interesting talk by Mr Tony Conder on The Canal People how they lived and worked all those years ago. On Friday 9th December the club had our annual Christmas Meal at the Beckford Inn, We had booked a room to ourselves which was brilliant and the evening was a great success.

Then on January 6th it was panto time (oh yes it was). Nineteen of us, not all members but friends and families as well, went to the Everyman to see Jack in the Beanstalk which was enjoyed by all.

We are now looking forward to 2017 to see what that brings. Our dance is on Saturday February 25th dancing to BRIAN BLACK. The meeting on Wednesday 22nd is our dry white wine competition and Pudding Night.

Roy Harper

The Swindon Village Society

presents

“Breaking the Codes”

A talk by Robert Skelt
on how the Enigma and Fish codes were broken

This talk is being given in memory of the late Mary Body
who worked at Bletchley Park

Non-members are welcome for just £1

Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm
Swindon Village Hall

Our Christmas celebrations at the December meeting were led by 'John and Hugh'. An evening of 50s and 60s recollections and music included Cliff, Elvis, Lonnie Donegan, Doris Day, The Drifters, The Spinners and The Beatles amongst many others of the era. A very nostalgic evening for many of us.

We started the new year in January with a visit by Holly from The National Star Centre. 2017 is the 50th Anniversary of the locally supported charity providing opportunities for disabled young people, so there are many celebratory events arranged throughout the year. The 120 residential and 50 day students at the Ullenwood Centre are supported by the 810 employees to gain confidence and achieve many skills which help in overcoming their disabilities. They now support outreach points in surrounding counties and South Wales.

The Carol Concert in the Town Hall included a performance by a 17-year-old pianist, Adam Heron, who had an audition for the Royal College of Music the next day. We have since heard that he has been offered a scholarship there, so congratulations to him! Our visit to Tyntesfield House was much enjoyed and included partaking in the carol singing session and Annette joined in the dancing with instructions. We returned to the Farmer's Arms for our Christmas Lunch and Sue D. celebrated the New Year at Denman College. Archers fans enjoyed an afternoon with Joanna Toye and heard of her involvement in the programme over the years. An embroidery workshop and County Walks are amongst the other recent activities.

In the first weekend in February the WI are providing and serving teas at the Snowdrop event at Colesbourne in aid of the Denman College fund. We have again entered the County Quiz and the Skittles Tournament; Phyllis is our new Skittles Captain. A day at Denman College and a theatre visit to Bristol to see 'Evita' are also in our diaries.

Pam Thomas is coming to our meeting on 6th February to talk about 'Joyce Brooks Lingerie'; I understand that the shop is closing later this year. If you would like to join us for the evening at 7.30 at St Nicolas Hall in Swindon Lane you will be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies

A recent article appeared in one of the national newspapers regarding village halls across Britain. The opening headline read:
“Village halls could become a thing of the past as youngsters say they are too busy to volunteer.”

It carried on to say the crunch has finally come. People want to use them but they don't want to commit to running them.

Well, most of the current committee are reaching the age of calling it a day as we are well past retirement age and would like to see a younger element from within the village take over the reins.

If there is anyone that feels they would like to help then now is your chance. It would be a pity to see our village hall disappear into history which could well happen should no-one be prepared to come forward and assist in its running.

A monthly committee meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm in the lounge. This is open to anyone who would like to attend and have their say or offer assistance.

The AGM is to be held on April 5th at 7.15pm in the lounge and this is when a new committee is appointed so please do come along; after all, it is your village hall and its future is in your hands.

Peter Piff

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

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Monthly rates

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

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01684 276200

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		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.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
Please send contributions to the editors:
David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
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

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
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
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