

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 432 March 2017

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) |

April

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday | 1 | Church Cake & Coffee Morning - Village Hall 10.30am |
| Monday | 3 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Mr Tore Fauske - Growing Up in Norway during the German Occupation |
| Wednesday | 5 | Village Hall AGM 7.45pm |
| Wednesday | 5 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Ken Brightwell - The Experience of Town Crying |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 22 | Swindon Village Society - Annual Birdwalk
Meet in the Village Hall car park at 9.30am. |

(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.)

I mentioned last month that modifications had been made to the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) in light of the planning inspector's findings. At that time we were waiting for the revised document to be voted on by the three councils (Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury). In the event the Tewkesbury rebellion didn't happen and all three councils voted the document through to the next public consultation phase. By the time you read this the consultation will have started; it runs for six weeks from Monday 27th February through to Monday 10th April 2017. All documentation is available to download from the JCS website at **www.gct-jcs.org** by clicking on the "Public Consultation" tab. Hard copies will also be made available in all local libraries and each of the Council's offices. The full list of locations is available to download from the website.

The Borough Council is also consulting on phase 1 of the Cheltenham Local Plan. This is a six week consultation closing at 5pm on 20 March 2017. The Borough Council are holding several public events where planning officers will be available to discuss this consultation further. These are being held at:

- Prestbury Library on Tuesday 7 March between 3pm-7pm
- Regent Arcade on Saturday 11 March between 10am-3pm
- Hesters Way Community Centre on Tuesday 14 March between 3pm-7pm

The last piece of this planning puzzle is the planning application for Elms Park. Normally planning applications are only open for comments for a 21 day period. This is a huge and complex application. Although the 21 day period has expired comments can still be made. At the time of writing 61 public comments had been received and only one supported the application.

For convenience I have put links to the JCS, Cheltenham Local Plan and Elms Park planning application on the front page of the parish web site. These are opportunities to have a say in the most important matters that will shape our the community in the next decade.

In times gone by we have had problems with "boy racers" / "cruisers" in the area. There have been accidents including one which left a local lady seriously injured. After a lull we are now seeing activity again in the Malmesbury Road area and in the KFC car park on Tewkesbury Road. I am told that a recent gathering attracted up to 300 vehicles. The meetings are advertised via social media and people come from far and wide. Many may be law-abiding car enthusiasts but there are others who drive dangerously, create nuisance for local residents and leave behind rubbish that the Borough Council has to clear up at our expense. We are keeping an eye on the

situation and liaising with the police and the County and Borough Councils to protect the local community from anti-social behaviour. Please report any concerns to the police.

The Parish Council recognises that residents in Glynbridge Gardens are being inconvenienced by the parking of cars in their area by non-residents. Local businesses and other organisations insist that their staff do not take up parking spaces where they work. This results in Village Road and Glynbridge Gardens becoming jammed with cars, causing misery for the residents and impairing access for the emergency services. The roads are not the responsibility of the Parish Council but we are doing what we can to resolve this unhappy situation through the County Council.

Two years ago we (through the good offices of the Borough Council) had flowers planted in the Manor Road entrance to the Amenity Area. The Borough Council cut back on their planting programme last year as weeds were a major problem. Apparently the best answer to the problem would be for the weeds to be removed by hand. We need to consider what we want to do with this land. Are there volunteers who would lend a hand at looking after the area? Can we come up with a planting scheme that would enhance the area but require less maintenance? Your views would be appreciated.

The rest of the resurfacing of Wymans Lane (and also Morris Hill Close) should take place soon. We will keep in touch with Amey, the County Council's roads contractor, in an effort to make sure that everyone knows what is happening and when.

Each year the parish must (by law) hold an Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman of the Parish Council reports on the Council's activities during the year and I give a report on the Council's finances. Other than these items the format of the meeting is not fixed. It is a meeting for the benefit of local parishioners. We are considering what topics the meeting should address and what speakers to invite. It would be great if you would come and support the meeting and let us have ideas for topics you would like to see covered. The meeting will take place on Thursday 25th May in the Village Hall. As we get nearer to the date I will provide reminders and more detail of what the meeting will address, but put it in your diary now!

Our allotments are fully let and all of the allotment holders have paid their rents for the year. I am very grateful to them and to Ian, our allotments manager, who makes it happen. Ian also organised a skittles evening for the allotment holders. A number of men left the evening with their tails between their legs, having been beaten by their wives (at skittles that is). Sad to say I was amongst them. I was so bad the scorer started laughing as I approached the alley. Thanks to everyone's generosity in buying raffle tickets the evening raised £48 for the Air Ambulance - a brilliant result.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



News from our Village Agent

Mmm, a tricky one tonight. Shall I have sausages, mash and baked beans – nice comfort food - or shall I be good and go for a made-from-scratch vegetable chilli with rice and perhaps a green salad. Tough decision huh?

Many people though have an even tougher decision. They have to decide whether to use their money to heat their home or buy food. That's an awful position to be in. In the supermarkets there are collection boxes for tins of cat food but unfortunately it's not just animals who are in need of food.

The little shop we have in our village has a collection box for the local food bank and whenever I go in I always pop something in the box for people less fortunate than myself. It's an interesting thought to remember as well that it's not just food that is required – things like toothpaste, soap, washing powder and sanitary items are all gratefully received too.

When people fall on hard times it is often through no fault of their own. A delay in benefits, a redundancy, frozen bank account while an estate is sorted. It could be for any reason at all. Nevertheless, if a person is in a situation that they need to use a food bank they are often embarrassed. And that embarrassment could have stopped them from eating.

This week I have seen the difference that a parcel of food can make to a person and I was humbled. The food itself made a difference but also the kindness of the people donating the items touched the recipient too.

So, if you see a food bank collection box anywhere, please consider donating a tin of beans, a bag of rice or a tube of toothpaste. It really will make all the difference.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/what-we-do/>

And finally: ***“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”*** Ralph Waldo Emerson

Liz

Village Agent 07810 056770

lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

Services and events in March

Wednesday	1st	Ash Wednesday 7.00pm	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
Friday	3rd	12noon – 2.00pm	Lent Lunch at church (just drop in for a bowl of soup and conversation)
Saturday	4th	7.30pm	St Mary Magdalene church Skittles evening (Civil Service Club)
Sunday	5th	Lent 1 10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty all age service Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	7th	10.30 – 12 noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group Bible study
Wednesday	8th	7.30pm	Soul Spark (lent course) at St Nicolas church
Friday	10th	12noon – 2.00pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday	12th	Lent 2 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Evensong
Tuesday	14th	10.30am – 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group Bible study
Wednesday	15th	7.30pm	Soul Spark (lent course) at St Nicolas church
Friday	17th	12noon – 2.00pm	Lent Lunches
Sunday	19th	Lent 3 9.15 am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Monday	20th	7.00pm	PCC

Tuesday	21st	10.30am – 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group bible study
Wednesday	22nd	7.30pm	Soul Spark (Lent course) at St Nicolas church
Friday	24th	12noon – 2.00pm	Lent Lunches
Sunday	26th	Mothering Sunday 9.15am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Together @ Ten Thirty for Mothering Sunday Sung evensong
Tuesday	28th	10.30am – 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox coffee drop in Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group bible study
Wednesday	29th	7.30pm	Soul Spark (Lent course) at St Nicolas church
Friday	31st	12noon – 2.00pm	Lent Lunches

Services and events in April

Saturday	2nd	10.30am - 12noon	Coffee Morning & Cake Sale in the Village Hall
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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.

Dear Friends

With pancake day almost upon us, it means that Lent is about to begin, and that Easter is just around the corner. There is something comforting about the rhythm of the year, but also something a little alarming too – it doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing about Easter last year.

Lent and Easter of course are movable feasts - last year Lent was well underway in February, whereas this year it begins in March. So although the rhythm is comforting it also changes slightly each year.

Change is something we don't always welcome – especially when things have been done in a certain way (usually the way **we** like to do them!) – and we can resist it with a passion. But change is also an opportunity for growth. When we removed some of the pews from church there were a couple of people (only a couple) who were not overly keen on the idea – after all the church has always had pews. In fact, removing those pews enabled us to uncover older parts of the church that the Victorians had covered up when they put the pews in!!

The removal of those pews has enabled us to offer our coffee drop-in on a Tuesday morning, where people from the local area meet up, have a chat, a laugh, free filter coffee and biscuits. We usually get about 25 people coming, men and women, young and old. We sometimes have a theme (Christmas and St Valentine recently), sometimes people bring something they have made (silver cutlery, watch cases, Fabergé-style eggs) and sometimes we just meet other people like us. It is quickly becoming a central community activity. A church event for the community. Change for good – who can argue with that?!

As I write this the future of the church fete is in the balance. I often hear people tell me what it was like in the past – when the 'whole village' took part in floats, dances etc. It must have been an amazing event for the community, which raised much needed funds for the church. But times change, and people's taste's change – what worked 10 or 20 years ago doesn't always work now; people who were young and fit 10 or 20 years ago are less so now. Younger people come along with new ideas - the event may need to change. The church may need to look at new ways of raising the same amount of money. But one thing is for sure. The Church is here to serve the community, to bring the community together both inside church and outside the church building. That will never change.

Revd. Liz Palin

From the registers



Baptism

We welcomed into the church family
Evie Hart 12th February



Funeral

We gave thanks for the life of
Irene Scarrott 23rd February

St Lawrence Swindon Village
invite you to
‘Make a mother’s day’
by joining with us to celebrate
Mothering Sunday
on 26th March at 10.30am

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

**There’ll even be a gift for all mums,
so don’t miss out, make sure to come along
(and bring mum/grandma/aunty!)**

The Travelling Church

We think of the Church existing statically in buildings and they are of course often beautiful testimonies to faith and the love of God. In Gloucestershire there are around 400 churches which are all part of the living histories of our county's distinctive communities. With this in mind it can be hard to remember that Jesus' ministry and that of his first followers was not building-dependent. It was perhaps, 'ministry by walking about' and our Lord travelled enormous distances. Here in Gloucestershire, the first ministers and clergy would preach frequently in the open air under tree canopies and by the side of rivers and streams. John Wesley covered 5,000 miles a year on horseback, more than many people travel in their car today! The Forest of Dean for example really was missionary country until the early 1800s, certainly for the Church of England! It's also said that men such as the Methodist Charles Wesley, brother of John, experienced such a hard time in parts of our county that he symbolically wiped the dust from the soles of his boots when leaving some more unwelcoming villages! In remoter parts of the county, the Church of England did not fare much better with my predecessors often greeted by vegetables well past their 'best before' date.

Despite this there was a spurt of church and chapel building in the nineteenth century and much of it remains today. Generally we are fortunate with church buildings in our Diocese. However, the sad reality is that nationally many of our religious buildings are proving very expensive to run and maintain. There have been national newspaper reports of plans to convert some places of worship to 'festival churches', open at the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas for example but otherwise closed. That is a great shame but is perhaps inevitable as the costs escape beyond the congregations' ability to pay. It is indeed sad – and salutary – to see magnificent chapels in places like Pembroke and Haverfordwest with boarded up windows and entrances and similar chapels in the former hotbed of Methodism, Bristol, now operating as premises for tyre and exhaust retailers.

One solution originating in California that I have tried is to call it the 'Church in the Forest', where we take the service out from inside the church building to beautiful countryside locations, places in wooded glades, hilltops or at lakesides rather like the original missionaries and preachers in Victorian times. There is nothing quite like a service of Holy Communion next to a lake with the swans gliding across the still water on a late summer evening behind a temporary altar. Sometimes using traditional liturgy, sometimes using Celtic services, you feel very much in touch with the landscape and close to the earth in ways our forefathers understood so well. It's as though our prayers mingle with the rising mist and the beauty of it all on a warm summer evening and everything seems full of the love of God.

Fr Nick Bromfield

Team Rector

Maundy Thursday, April 13th 2017

‘When supper was ended’

This year the churches of St Lawrence & St Mary Magdalene are joining with our sisters and brothers at Gas Green Baptist church (in the St Peter’s area of our parish) to participate in a Christian Seder Meal to commemorate Jesus’ last supper.

The Seder Meal Passover is the oldest and most important religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God’s deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. The focal point is a communal meal called the Seder – a time of rejoicing and celebration. With increasing interest among Christians in this ancient festival there is

- increasing sensitivity to culture and a desire to learn about other cultures
- renewed awareness of the importance of the Old Testament Scriptures as a Christian scripture
- a desire or a need in our modern world to recover a sense of the sacred through liturgy and sacrament.
-

Our Christian Seder Meal is presented as a way to express the Christian faith in the context of a gathered community by participating symbolically in the story of salvation. It is a Christian service, yet there has also been a deliberate attempt to preserve the spirit of the Jewish tradition and to respect the faith journey of Israelites and Jews across the centuries.

We will tell the story of salvation through word and symbol and share a meal together. It promises to be a very special way of starting our journey towards Good Friday and Easter Day. The meal will be at Gas Green Baptist Church at 7.00pm and should finish about 9.00pm (when those who wish can then take part in the watch at the altar of repose in St Nicolas, All Saints or St Mary’s). There will be a nominal charge of £5 per person to cover the cost of the meal. Please let Neil Jones or Revd Liz know if you are interested in coming. They can be contacted via the office: **admin@northchelt.otg.uk or 01242 244373.**

Revd. Liz

Easter lilies

Traditionally we decorate the church at Easter with lilies and other white flowers and we always ask if anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of the lilies, perhaps in memory of a loved one.

If you would like to do so, please place your donation in an envelope, and include the name of the person you’re remembering, and give it to Joan Howes or to any of the churchwardens or sidespeople who will forward it to her.

Thank you.

A View from the Pew

‘A time for everything’

This phrase is from one of the so-called Wisdom books in the Bible. The fact that we quote it thousands of years after these words were first written shows that they contain something of a common human experience. The ancient writer wrote “There is a time for everything and a season for everything under heaven.”

My daughter-in-law is an Australian and when she’s in England she has to get used to the idea of seasons. We love our changing seasons - winter, spring, autumn and summer. We enjoy poetry about these seasons - ‘O to be in England now that April’s there’. Autumn is the ‘season of mellow fruitfulness’ - and many more.

Traditionally English people comment on the weather - I suppose because our weather is so changeable and there’s always something to say. As for me, I find myself saying: “I’ve lived in this country long enough to have experienced changes in the weather. Nothing in the way of weather surprises me. I’ve been up to the Lake District many times and am used to ‘four seasons in one day’!

All this about seasons is an introduction to the Lectionary which lays down the passages of scripture to be read in Anglican and other churches through the year. It lists when saints days (festivals) and other commemorations happen. You’ll know how the words Holy Day became our ‘holiday.’

For anyone arranging a service - a Sunday Eucharist or Evensong - the fact that each Sunday has a theme is a great help. The sermon and hymns can be chosen to fit in with the theme and thus the passages from the Bible that will be read out as part of the proceedings.

The whole way the Christian Year is celebrated is unchanging and becomes part of coming to church. For many people the celebration of Christmas is accompanied with memories and emotions and church congregations swell at this time of year. The Lectionary plots out the church year. Readings are chosen to provide a sequence. Advent is a time of preparation for the Nativity. The season of Epiphany is a preparation for the time when we remember Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness and leads into Lent which is the time for preparation for Easter with its commemoration of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Then there is a long series of ‘after Trinity’ Sundays leading into the season of Advent.

Just as our parish church is well established so what goes on in the services it offers is thriving.

Ralph Griffin
Lay Reader



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH



CAKE DAY
&
COFFEE MORNING

on

SATURDAY 1st APRIL

10.30 am-12 noon

at

Swindon Village Hall

Admission £2.00

(includes tea/coffee & biscuits)

ALL WELCOME

Wednesday Club

Our February meeting was our AGM followed by a member of the Severn Freewheelers telling us about this charity.

The business part of the evening was over and done with quite quickly; at present we are running at a small profit and as long as we maintain our number of members all should be well.

Karen Marsh came along from Ledbury to tell us about the Severn Freewheelers. They are now quite a large group of volunteers that cover NHS deliveries between 7pm and 7am and 24/7 at weekends. They have been going for about 9 years and have quickly developed the organisation practically countrywide. Karen is a co-ordinator and volunteers three nights a week; although she does ride a motor bike she doesn't do deliveries.

The area covered by this group is Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and North Wiltshire with some visits to Birmingham, Coventry and Bristol hospitals. All the bikes are ex-police and are serviced by the police garage but there is a local man, Derek of Twigworth, who helps maintain them as well. It was a most informative talk and Karen stayed for supper and was able to chat with many of our members as well.

The committee are still discussing day trips and the coffee morning so watch this space for more details and dates.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March when Manuel Queiroz will be telling us all about his journey overland from Alaska to Argentina. Sounds like fun. There will be a Plant Stall as well that evening, and please remember that visitors are always welcome for a fee of £3 to include supper so do come along and join us.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

Pauline Wright

Art & Crafts Club

I went to a really good demonstration (water colours) recently and for those who have never done it before - that's me - it was so informative. I have spoken to Martin and he will let me have a date when he can come to our club. More information to follow. Anyone interested can telephone me on Cheltenham 582366 as non-members will be welcome for a small fee.

Helen

The Swindon Village Society

If there are any new readers out there who wonder what the Swindon Village Society is I can tell you. We act as a small civic society. Our main purpose is to try to curb over enthusiastic development in the village. To this end it was the SVS that were the main drivers towards making the core of the village a conservation area. When I arrived here some twenty years ago developers were proposing housing at the southern end of the playing field. Since then we have made input to all of the conservation area reviews.

We are not against any changes in the village. People live in their houses and the houses cannot be embalmed. I live in a bit of Swindon Hall that was split up into several dwellings after the war and there have been many changes since. However, the centre of the village has space and some interesting old houses. We prefer to keep it that way rather than have them knocked down for more modern housing. We are rarely against reasonable changes to the places which people call home. We were against a modern Swedish style glass and metal house immediately behind the church. We are not against your loft conversion.

Over the past few years we have joined Save The Countryside in trying to ameliorate the impact that the building of a major estate to the North West will have on our own lives.

However, being NIMBYs is a little tedious so many years ago we started working on the village's history which is much more interesting and so we have become the village local history society. We also have some interest in conservation.

We meet monthly and have talks, normally related to one of the above topics. We also try to organise a wildlife walk, a garden visit and have a garden party in the summer. You will normally see us running the bookstall at the church fete and from time to time we open the village up for heritage open days.

I have to say that this year's programme looks pretty interesting. We have already started. In February we had a first rate talk by a spy (well ex-GCHQ) on how the team at Bletchley Park broke the Enigma and other codes and shortened the war by some years. It dwelt on the work done by some extraordinary people and on some strokes of good luck. The talk was dedicated to Mary Body who worked at Bletchley and who later lived and died in Swindon Village. It was Mary who made the donation which first set up our history project.

In March our own horologist will tell us about clocks and watches and about working with precious metals. The May talk is about the wild flowers of Gloucestershire. In July we hear about the birds of Cleeve Common. October and our ex-Chief Constable will tell us about the Gloucester Regiment during the closing stages of the Second World War. The April bird walk will stay close to the village, probably along Dog Bark Lane.

The AGM in January passed without controversy and we went on to be shown more photos of old Swindon Village by Eileen Allen who has built up a considerable collection over the years.

So 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

Swindon Village Winemakers

The January meeting was the A.G.M. When the time came for the chairman (Mandy Jilbert) to give her report she told the members that she had been on the committee for 14 years and felt it was time to stand down. Mike Attwood thanked her for all her hard work over that time. In her report Mandy thanked Roy Harper for all he had done being secretary and social secretary; this had taken a lot of pressure off her shoulders. In reply Roy said that he could not have done this job without her support and guidance and keeping him on his toes. Mandy, you will be missed. At this point Mandy left the top table.

We of course needed another chairman; Mike Attwood nominated, and Roy Harper seconded, Derek Waite who agreed and came to chair the rest of the meeting. The committee agreed to stand again this year and the chairman asked if anyone else was willing to come on the committee and Mark Smith said he would like to; he was then proposed by Mike Attwood and seconded by Cyril Smallwood.

At the March meeting we have a speaker, Mr Peter Berry, giving us a talk on India.

Roy Harper

Pam Thomas, from the lingerie shop Joyce Brooks, arrived at our February meeting with her friend Wendy and a large selection of stock from her shop. We were given a brief history of the business that was first opened by Joyce Brooks after she was made redundant from Shires and Lances when they closed in the 1970s. At the age of 89 Joyce decided to retire and sold the business to Pam. Now Pam wishes to retire and is closing the business down at the end of March, unless she has a good offer to sell it on. Pam then asked members to name a letter of the alphabet and challenge her to find an item to match it. From bras, corsets, knickers, nightwear, swimsuits, tights and a whole array of clothing she came up trumps. We even had some members modelling! A very entertaining evening was had and I understand some members have been to the shop since to purchase goods at the closing down sale.

A busy shift at the Colesbourne Snowdrop Weekend, serving tea and cakes, helped to raise £1,300 for the Denman College Appeal. This was followed by a day at Denman with a cookery demonstration, lunch and a cream tea. We met at Monty's for our monthly meal out. A few members went on a workshop to build a 'Bug House' and a day-trip to Bristol to see 'Evita' at the Hippodrome was much enjoyed.

The month of March sees our Annual Council Meeting in the Town Hall, where the guest speakers include Dr Lucy Worsley and Lady Bathurst. Preparations are being made for the Three Counties Show in June where Gloucestershire are hosting the WI marquee this year. The Skittles Tournament is again on the horizon and so we are starting to warm up with a few practice evenings. Wendy is organising a Skittles and Supper Evening at the Suffolk Arms. There is talk of a 'Walking Netball' Tournament which members showed interest in - recollections of their school days, I think, but at a slower pace! We are hoping to join a trip to Cardiff with a visit to the Royal Mint. Members of the Racing Club have a marquee at the Festival, but on Gold Cup day this year instead of Ladies' Day.

Peter Badham is our speaker on Monday 6th March, his subject being 'The History of Pharmacy'. If anyone would like to join us for the evening, 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall, they will be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies

Annual General Meeting

The Village Hall Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to all the following at the AGM on Wednesday 5th April at 7.45pm in the Lounge:

1. Trustees
2. All organisations affiliated to the Hall
3. Residents of the parish.

This is the most important meeting in the Hall calendar as the positions up for election are:

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer.

Any person interested in any of the above positions please come along and make yourself known.

Have a say in the future of this hall. Any ideas welcome. It is your village hall and will only survive with support from you.

Peter Piff
Chairman

Allotments

I would like to thank all the Allotment members who participated in a Skittles Evening held at the Cheltenham Civil Service Club on Friday 3rd February.

The evening was a great success and raised £50 with a raffle and a donation; the money raised was donated to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

There are no vacant plots at this time but anybody wishing to become an Allotment holder in the future may contact me.

Ian Brown
SV Allotments Manager

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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.

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