

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 437

September 2017

## September

- |                   |        |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday            | 4      | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Alysia Cameron-Price - The History of Sue Ryder       |
| Wednesday         | 6      | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Susan Marshfield MBE - "My memorable day at Windsor Castle" |
| Saturday & Sunday | 9 & 10 | Church open for Heritage Open Days<br>See inside for details                                        |
| Tuesday           | 12     | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall</b><br><b>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>      |
| Wednesday         | 20     | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Nigel Thompson - Iberia (Non-members welcome - £1) |
| Saturday          | 30     | Churchyard Tidy-Up from 9.30am - All welcome!                                                       |

## October

- |           |    |                                                                                                             |
|-----------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 2  | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Nigel Warwick - Severn Freewheelers (Blood bikes)             |
| Wednesday | 4  | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Phil Collins - Cheltenham Through Postcards                         |
| Tuesday   | 10 | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall</b><br><b>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>              |
| Wednesday | 18 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Dr. Tim Brain - The Gloucestershire Regiment 1944 and 1945 |

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

On the evening of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July the cruisers could be heard racing around the Kingsditch Lane industrial estate yet again. The activity must have started at 7:00pm or before. Squealing tyres and popping exhausts could be heard from all over the area. The police have repeatedly requested that we report such anti-social behaviour and by around 8:00pm a number of people had done that. At 9:01pm (according to a spokesperson) the police were called to support an ambulance attending a serious accident at the scene. An air ambulance was also deployed but apparently not needed.

The police urge us to be proactive in reporting our concerns. However, the police appear to be reactive. And it is not the reports that they react to but the fact that things have escalated to the point where a serious accident has occurred. In what appears to be a knee jerk reaction the police were determined to maintain a vigil over the following weekends, despite it being unlikely that the cruisers would reappear so soon.

With prompt action and an early police presence this could have been defused without the subsequent drama and expense. This is not the first time that these activities have resulted in serious injuries nor the first time that the police have been unresponsive to serious local concerns. The police argue (quite rightly) that their resources are limited but if we sit quietly and accept the status quo things are unlikely to change.

The police have asked to meet the Parish Council. Hopefully this will prove to be a positive initiative for the future.

Another matter fundamental to our relationship with the police. On 21<sup>st</sup> July I received the news that the travellers were again in the area. I asked the Borough Council (again) to make sure the height barrier at the entrance to the park is always closed and locked unless council vehicles are passing through it. Despite an assurance that this would be done local residents have since reported two occasions when the barrier had been left wide open while work is being done in the field. Unless council vehicles are moving through the gates the barriers should be secured. If you see either of the barriers open please let me know the date and time so that the contractors responsible can be identified and reminded of their responsibility.

Every year, whatever kind of summer we have, there are many examples of hedges growing wildly. A number of footpaths have become difficult to negotiate for the able bodied and virtually impassable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Please don't force people into the road. Please take a look at your hedge and take action if needed.

Enough of the doom and gloom. I spend a lot of time moaning about the Borough Council, the police and, well, just about anybody. Not sure whether it is part of my job

or part of my character! These people have difficult jobs in difficult times so let's report some good news.

The Parish Council had reported their concerns regarding the broken roundabout in the playground to the Borough Council. A team emerged from a Land Rover and attempted to breath life into it. Its squealing caused our dog to sprint over from the other side of the park. He clearly expected to find a small mammal in distress and was anxious to put it out of its misery. Anyway, the roundabout, no longer squealing, was loaded onto a trailer and taken off to intensive care. A couple of days later the patient returned in rude health. Many thanks to the Borough Council and the folk that made this happen.

On to planning applications. Someone wrote to disagree with the Parish Council's opposition to the Lidl application. I was delighted! Not that they disagreed but that they were happy to express their opinion. The Parish Council does its best to represent the best interests of everyone in the parish. We can't please everyone but do make your views known to the Parish Council. Of course you also have the right to comment on planning applications as an individual, whether or not you are in accord with the Parish Council.

An application is being considered for an additional retail unit (next to Next) on Gallagher Retail Park. Reading through the sea of documentation designed to inform (or overwhelm) interested parties I came across a "Hazel Dormouse Presence/Likely Absence Interim Report". The black plastic tubes that appeared along Manor Road were, as speculated, dormouse nesting boxes. You would think that dormice would welcome additional affordable housing but none moved in. The dormice experts that wrote the survey are clearly multi-talented as they also contributed a "Bat Emergence & Re-entry Survey Report" and a "Reptile Report". The conclusion: there isn't enough wildlife in the area to halt the march of global consumerism.

In another major planning application the M&S Home store on Kingsditch Retail Park is slated for partial demolition and reconstruction as two separate units.

Our allotments manager tells me that at the moment there is no allotment waiting list so if you have always fancied growing your own food make sure you get to the head of the queue. Our allotments are affordable and in a lovely location. Live the dream.

A change to the law in 2009 extended the right to create Freeman to parish councils. At our August meeting the Parish Council conferred this honour on David Iliffe, who resigned from the council due to a house move after over forty years of selfless service to the community. David is our first Freeman of Swindon Parish. This is the highest award we can make. However, it is purely an honorary title. If you spot David driving sheep through the village he should be reported to the police in the normal way.

Anyway, enough of the good news. Normal, grumpy service will be resumed next month.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

"If you have concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.

**Ring 101 or email [101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk)**

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it.  
If the police are not made aware of a problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM".

### **Poppy wreaths and crosses for Remembrance Day**

Would you like me to order a poppy wreath or a wooden cross from the Royal British Legion for your organisation or for you as an individual?

If so, please phone me during the second half of September. I don't have the details yet but the order has to be sent in at the beginning of October.

I must receive payment with your order, either in cash or by cheque payable to "RBL Poppy Appeal". (I can only get a receipt for you if you pay by cheque.)

Wreaths are supplied on a donation basis but the Legion asks that you at least cover the cost of your chosen wreath and ask you to be generous with an additional donation.

Thank you.

**Karen Evans**

Tel. 241678





## News from our Village Agent

So that was the summer eh?  
Was it a washout of a summer for you?  
Or was it a summer of smiles and happiness?

It has certainly brought with it battles and fights for many of us. As I have moved across my Parishes I have heard different tales of people taking on the “big boys” because increasingly we are no longer prepared to put up with poor service, extortionate prices or being ripped off. I think the worm is finally turning. Very often it is a scary thing to do, stand up for what is right. Even when you are walking down the street and see something happening that you know is wrong, it is scary to confront the person and challenge their behaviour. It is easier to walk past and get on with a nice quiet life. But there comes a point when behaviour must be challenged, otherwise the bullies will continue to get away with it.

So it doesn't matter whether you are challenging energy company prices, your car insurance price or the atrocious service you have received from a holiday company, please remember that you have every right to expect the service you are paying for and deserve. Many home insurance policies nowadays have free legal advice and legal cover included as standard. This gives you access to bona fide legal advice about **anything** at the end of the 'phone, and if you want to sue somebody – it can also cover that too. If you are considering challenging anybody about anything and you need a little support, then please don't hesitate to give me a ring. I won't profess to know all the answers but I'll be happy to help if I can.

On a slightly different note, just to let you know that the Village and Community Agent Service will be changing in October and a new Community Connectors Service will take their place. More details will follow in the coming months but should you have any questions please contact Gloucestershire County Council on 01452 425000 or GRCC on 01452 528491 for more information.

And finally .... **“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win”**. Mahatma Gandhi

**Liz**

Village Agent 07810 056770

[lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)

## Services and events in September

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty blessing the book bags Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.00pm	PCC meeting
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	10.00am 4.00pm	Heritage Open Day
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 12noon - 4.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Heritage Open Day Evensong
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group

## From the registers



### Baptisms

*We welcomed in to the family of the church*

Indi and Lotus Smith

23<sup>rd</sup> July



### Marriages

*We celebrated the marriage of*

Matthew Stillman and Amy Boone

Lee Ormerod and Carly Mustoe

29<sup>th</sup> July

5<sup>th</sup> August

## 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](mailto:liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk).**

## Praise in the Park

The annual outdoor service in Swindon playing fields was well attended. It was lovely to sing along with a band from The Salvation Army and then we enjoyed tea and cakes in the Village Hall. The collection taken at the service amounted to £70 and this was donated to The Salvation Army and will be used for their work in the local community.

**Mary Halliwell**

## **The start of a new school year**

I haven't been in education for a number of years – and yet it seems to me the rhythm of the school year is a big influence on everyone, even those of us who don't work in schools or have school age children ourselves.

You can't mistake the 'back to school' displays in the shops – which seem to arrive earlier each year! When I was at school my heart used to sink when I saw them – a reminder that the long summer holiday was nearly over.

But whatever our circumstances September is a time when things seem to start up again – evening groups, exercise classes, etc. It's certainly true in the church where several groups have a break over summer.

On the 3rd September we will be having a special service to mark this time of new beginnings and a new season. At our service at 10.30am you are all invited to bring your school bag, your briefcase, your lap top bag, your knitting bag or your tool bag – any bag that represents how you will be spending your time this autumn, and ask God's blessing on our lives.

I hope to see you there!

## **Thank you!**

We are very grateful to three very generous donors who have got our fundraising to reroof the tower off to a flying start. We now have donations totally £5,000 to add to our restoration fund. This will be very helpful when we submit our applications to various grant making trusts.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Tony Jilbert, Karen Evans or myself. And remember, if you gift aid it we can get even more from HMRC to add to the donation!

**Rev. Liz**

## Christmas Tree Festival



Only three months to go so start planning...

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The theme will be "Transport".

Everybody, individuals, families or groups, is welcome to take part.

**Karen Evans**  
tel. 241678

## Churchyard Tidy-Up

**Saturday 30th September**

The annual churchyard tidy-up has been arranged for Saturday 30th September.

If you can help clearing weeds, cutting back ivy and generally tidying up before the cold weather sets in please just come along. Bring your own tools - secateurs, spades, tree loppers, gloves etc. Rubbish bags will be provided as will tea/coffee and biscuits.

We'll be there from 9.30am.

Please contact either May Shurmer or Tony Jilbert for more information.



## The Children's Society Home collection boxes

It's time for the home collection boxes to be gathered in and counted again.

Please will all box holders bring your boxes to me after 8<sup>th</sup> September. Alternatively the boxes can be given to a sidesman at a church service but do not leave boxes unattended in the church. If you can't do either of these, please phone me and I will arrange to collect it from you.

Thank you.

**Sylvia Hales**  
41 Rivelands Road  
Tel. 235933



## **Together @ Ten Thirty Back to school blessing 3<sup>rd</sup> September 10.30am**

**Start the school year as you mean to go on!!**



www.alamy.com - DH2A2Y

**We would like to invite all school children & those who work in schools to bring your school bags to church with you to have them blessed**

**Come and join us!!  
St Lawrence Church, Church Road, Swindon Village  
GL51 9RA**



Find us on Facebook: <http://fb.me/stlawrencesev>



Follow us on Twitter: [@stlawrencesev](https://twitter.com/stlawrencesev)



St Lawrence Church will be open to visitors  
**As part of the Heritage Open Days weekend**  
on 9<sup>th</sup> September between 10.00am & 4.00pm  
and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September between 12noon & 4.00pm.


Come along and see the registers of births, marriages and deaths, some dating back as far as 1785!

Learn about the history of the church and our unique six-sided tower and what we need to do to preserve it for the future.

Find out about the men whose names are on our war memorial – where they lived, what they did, and how they died.

Refreshments will be on sale. We look forward to welcoming you!

St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village



# **Annual Quiz & Supper**

Saturday 21st October  
in the Village Hall

Doors open at 7.00pm  
Supper at 7.30pm followed by quiz

## **Supper**

Jacket potatoes with a choice of Hot Fillings and Salad  
Apple Pie or Fruit Salad

## **Pub style quiz**

6 bottles of wine for the winning team

## **Bar**

## **Raffle**

Tickets £8 each

Book as a team (up to 6 people)  
or come on your own and make up a team on the night

Booking essential  
Phone Karen Evans on 241678

Profits to the church tower roof repairs



Our speaker in July was Arthur Ball who told us about the birds of Cleeve Common. Arthur is a first rate speaker and obviously devoted to his subject. For twenty years he has taken a long walk on the common every month to count bird numbers. It is only this sort of dedication that gives a true picture of which species are thriving and which are in trouble. For me the revelation was just how many birds there are so close to Swindon Village which I have never seen. He even pointed out an entire car park I have never seen so maybe a trip to the opticians is called for. Anyway Arthur is an obvious shoe in for another talk and, since I see that he also does a talk on Garden Birds, I think that there is every chance he will be back next year. If he does come, no matter how much you think you know about the small brown jobs hopping round your back garden you will learn at least ten new things.

And so on to August and the garden party at The Manor. Well it rained all day but just managed to stop for the evening so even if we spent much of it inside it was possible to take a look at the outside of the Manor House as well. The most interesting thing is seeing the old timbers of the original Tudor style house inside what is externally a classic Georgian building. I must say it was nice to have it somewhere other than my front garden and it was good to see some new members there. Many thanks to Julia, Jacqueline, Ross and Harry for looking after us so well.

In fact we have quite a few new members and so I have been trying to put on a few village history walks on pleasant evenings. However, there has been a distinct absence of pleasant evenings in August so I will persevere into the autumn. These are just an easy hour's stroll around the village so even if you are not a member and would like to join us just send me an e-mail message to **barry\_simon@hotmail.com** and I will let you know when I am putting one on. You are unlikely to get more than a day or so of notice because of the meteorological aspects. I did one last week and two ladies from Bishop's Cleeve who were just out for a quiet stroll were roped in to their surprise.

Our September meeting is a talk on Iberia. I am not sure exactly how that came about because it's not the sort of subject we normally cover. Must have a word with the bookings member – me. Nevertheless, if you have an interest in Spain and Portugal do come along; non-members are always welcome for £1. I don't suppose our speaker will bring along samples from the vineyards but we can always dream.

**Barry Simon**

Mr Tore Fauske came along to our meeting in July and told us about his life under the German Occupation in Norway.

He was only eight years old when Norway was invaded and so as a child he found it all very exciting. Tore and his friends loved to see the tanks and ships of war in and around his town and it was a while before the realities of their situation sank in.

He told us of allied bombing raids and submarine activity and of how the Resistance movement had to tell the allies to stop the bombing as too many civilian areas of the town were being decimated. He had pictures of before and after the bombs and it was extremely sad to realise the devastation and loss of many hundreds of lives.

It was a very interesting evening and unusual to see the war through the eyes of a child.

The trip to Bowood House went very well and the weather was kind that day. I have been told that the gardens were lovely and everyone enjoyed their day out.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and Susan Marshfield MBE is coming along to tell us about her Memorable Day at Windsor Castle.

Please do come along and join us, visitors are welcome for £3 to include supper. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

**Pauline Wright**

### **Farewell to David and Marlene Iliffe**

It came as a surprise to hear back in the Spring that David and Marlene Iliffe were planning to move away; I thought they were a permanent fixture in the parish. They decided that as they approach their old age it would be mutually beneficial to them and their family if they lived closer to each other and so David and Marlene have moved to Stroud.

We don't have any reporters on the Village News team and David has obligingly written a potted history of his and Marlene's time in Swindon Village.

**In recognition of his service to the community, David has been appointed a Freeman of Swindon Parish, an honorary title bestowed on him by the Parish Council. He is the first person to receive this title.**

I'm sure many people will join me in thanking David and Marlene for their life-long devotion to Swindon Village and in sending them our best wishes for their future.

**Karen Evans**

## **Farewell to Swindon and the Parish Council**

Marlene and I say a fond farewell to Swindon Village. We came here from Prestbury in 1966 with our two children, Caryn four and Jonathan two years old. We all enjoyed our time together here in this quiet rural village. As one expects, the children flew the nest, married and raised their own families. It is now our turn to move with much sadness from our friends here in Swindon Village.

Marlene and I entered into village life with Marlene starting the Swindon Village Guide Unit as soon as our the children started school. She went on to become the Bishop's Cleeve District Commissioner, then Tewkesbury Division Commissioner and County Arts Adviser. She then produced the Guides' County Show for some twenty years, covering over forty years in Guiding in total.

Marlene has also served as a Volunteer at Cheltenham General Hospital for 27 years.

Over 40 years ago I joined the Swindon Parish Council and, having survived a few elections, remained on the council since the early 1970s to to my retirement this summer with periods as Chairman. During this time we helped to prevent the development of the fields behind Manor Road and Stanton's Drive at appeal, and later supplied the Parish comments on the Regional Spatial Strategy (the forerunner of the infamous Joint Core Strategy.)

I have been an Editor of the Village News since its inception. In its early days most of the articles for inclusion were sent in as manuscripts and we had to count the words to determine whether the layout would be OK. For many years the Editors were Rev. Michael Bennett, Alan Studd and myself. Today the main editor is Karen Evans who receives the input by email and then juggles it into a good layout.

I also served on the Swindon Village School Parent-Teacher Association including a period as Honorary Treasurer, as a Primary School Manager from 1984 to 1987 and as a Bishop's Cleeve Secondary School Governor from 1972 to 1987 (with a 2 year break).

I was a Gloucestershire Magistrate 1983 to 2004 (retired from the Bench at 70 years of age) having served on the Adult Criminal Court and the Family bench. I was the Magistrates representative on both the Cheltenham Road Safety Group and the Cheltenham Branch of Stonham Housing Association (including a period as Honorary Treasurer).

Our life in the village has been a full and happy one. Our thanks to all the folk in the village who have helped to make our lives so happy and fulfilled. Swindon Village will always be 'home'.

**David Iliffe**

The Ifakara Bakery Project was the subject of our July meeting. Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg started the charity when the nuns in Ifakara, Tanzania wanted to build a bakery to supply the local people with free daily bread. They needed a source of water so boreholes were created and then a container full of all the necessary equipment was sent out there. They personally made sure no middlemen were involved and today everything they need is still supplied directly. The bakery provides free bread for the children, the local orphanage, Leprosy Centre and hospital; even the old container has been converted by an ingenious local into a bakery shop. The project has been a great success and has also provided local employment. The Bishop wanted more bakeries in other areas. Because of the African weather the crops are sparse and unreliable so the flour is still provided by the charity causing the area to survive, nourished by the fresh daily bread. We had invited members from the rest of the Cleeve Hill Group with whom we enjoyed a buffet supper.

During the month we had a meal at Côte's, a pamper evening at Neal's Yard, Croquet and Bowls Taster Days, an interesting talk on 'Prehistoric Astronomy and Ritual' and Craft and Book Club meetings. Also a day out to Webb's of Wychbold and a fascinating visit to Harvington Hall, a house with many hidden 'priest holes'. Unfortunately we lost our Skittles match with Bisley WI; it was a good game and we did not disgrace ourselves.

A guided walk around Northleach took the place of our August meeting. Most members took the bus there and were met at the Prison by John Heathcott who proved to be a very interesting and well-informed guide. After lunch at the Sherborne Arms several members visited the local church before catching the bus home. Three of us went to Denman College for a preview of a film called 'Let Me Go'; very moving and thought provoking and well worth going to see when it is on general release. An evening party at Wendy's (who had fallen whilst playing badminton and broken her wrist) was much enjoyed, even though the inclement weather prevented us from being in the garden.

In September we are looking forward to our trip to the Royal Mint and Cardiff, a visit to the Friends' Meeting House in Cirencester, a crochet workshop and the Autumn Council Meeting where Heather Jacks, winner of the Great British Sewing Bee, will be the main speaker. Also this month a number of members are venturing abroad and looking forward to a holiday to the Austrian Lakes.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September Alysia Cameron-Price will be telling us about the 'History of Sue Ryder'. We are meeting at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane, and a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us for the evening.

**Sara Jefferies**

## Cricket Club honours retiring groundsman

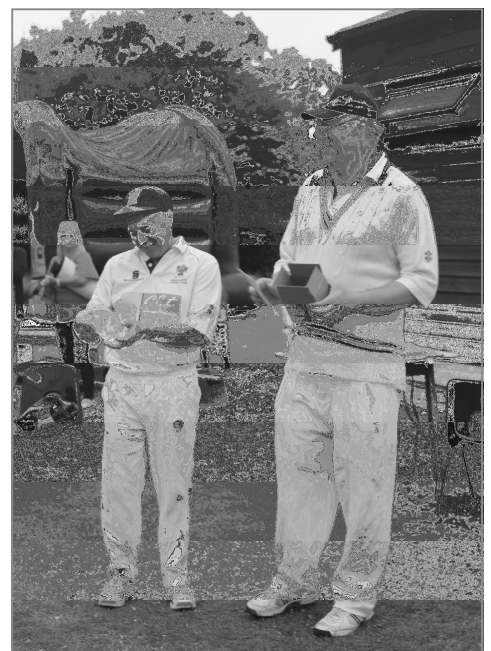
St Stephens Cricket Club, which is based on the playing field here in Swindon Village, held a 20x20 cricket match in order to say thank you to Tony Jilbert who retired as groundsman after 18 years.

Tony finished playing cricket several years ago but continued to act as groundsman, a job he took great pride and enjoyment from, until the end of last season.

Past and present players came together on Sunday 16th July, along with their families and others who have known Tony, for a very good natured match, a bouncy castle for the children, and a barbecue which went on until the evening.

Ken Panter, presented Tony with an engraved glass tankard and a voucher for golf lessons, which is now Tony's new hobby!

Tony as usual had a speech ready! He thanked everyone for coming from near and far, and how great it was to be back playing with so many friends, especially Ben, his son. He thanked them all for the sport he has enjoyed, and their friendship over the years, and reminded them of the great times they had enjoyed going away on tour, especially the ones to Cornwall!



## The Poacher International Jamboree

The highlight of every Scouting year is the eagerly awaited Summer Camp and this year we headed north to the Lincolnshire showground to take part in the Poacher International Jamboree.

Our party this year consisted of 8 girls, 5 boys and 5 leaders and it was the first time that we have ever had more girls than boys on camp! On the jamboree, there were over 5,400 Scouts and Guides taking part. Add in the organisers, the jamboree staff and all the leaders and there were well over 9,000 of us in total! We were fortunate to be allocated a spot right in the middle of the site to set up camp and we were only 20 meters from the main arena where the opening and closing ceremonies took place as well as the daily lunchtime displays and shows.

On arrival, we set up camp on lovely flat and well mown grass – a luxury that we're not used to! We knew that rain was forecast so had to get everything undercover and pitched securely. Following tea we all gathered for the opening ceremony, full of anticipation and excitement for the week ahead. The rain duly arrived after 10pm and fell for most of the night. Sunday dawned bright and sunny and, after a mighty cooked breakfast, it was time to tackle the activities.

What makes this camp different to any other that we have done is that the Scouts get to choose what they do each day via a system of 'fast-track' tickets – rather than queuing all the time. There were over 70 different activities on the jamboree site, plus over 30 different craft tents, plus several off-site activities, plus several off-site tours and visits that could be undertaken. As you might imagine, this created a huge logistical puzzle to solve and yet in true Scouting style it worked. And after a couple of days when all the Scouts got the hang of things, it worked even better! Each evening the Scouts attended the sub-camp 'Swap Shop' where they could choose their activities and book their trips for the following day. It gave them all the opportunity to try new activities that interested them and the chance to repeat their favourite ones.

There were far too many to list here, but some of the favourite activities included Tomahawk Throwing, Water Wars, Off Road Buggies, Water Zorbing, Drone Racing, Trapeze, Scuba Diving, Archery, Power Turns, Go Karts, Segways, Bungee Trampolines, Climbing/Abseiling and Crate Stacking. Then there were all the different craft activities for when you fancied something a little less action packed. These ranged from glass engraving to balloon modelling and from turning wood on a lathe to making your own stress ball as well as loads of others. If you fancied chilling out, you could always visit the onsite cafe or bistro or relax in the cinema, showing different films each day. For those with a burning ambition to show off their skills, you could take part in the "Poacher's Got Talent" auditions, culminating in the grand final on Thursday evening. Then you could meet people from around the world in the

International Marquee and learn some simple customs and games or investigate the world we live in by dropping into the Global Development Village. There was also a drop-in First Aid tent where you could learn how to save a life with CPR (and gain a badge at the same time), as well as the Police, Fire Brigade and First Response units keen to show you round their vehicles and answer all your questions. Off site activities included swimming, canoeing, sailing, fishing, caving and 10 Pin Bowling and there were also trips to Lincoln Castle, Lincoln Cathedral, a local golf centre and a Ghost walk. If that sounds like a lot – believe me, I’ve barely scratched the surface of what was on offer!

Each day there was a 1½ hour break for lunch, when you were encouraged to bring your sandwiches, wraps and fruit to the main arena for the lunchtime entertainment. Most of these were excellent and over the 6 days we watched a Jousting tournament (with some Hollywood stuntmen), a Bird of Prey display, a stunt air show by a Spitfire, the Red Imps motorcycle display team, an Emergency Services Rescue scenario and some bikers performing huge jumps on motorbikes.

After the evening meal each day, which the Scouts took turns in helping to cook, there was chance to relax and meet up with new friends made during the day, visit the tuck shop and grab an ice cream, watch a film at the cinema, or if you needed more excitement, there was the Poacher Funfair from 7:30 – 9:30 each night with the usual Dodgems, Helter Skelter, Big Wheel and something that spun you round far too fast!

The week seemed to fly by and I think it’s fair to say our lot had an absolute ball. And so on Friday evening it was time for the closing ceremony. Dress code was to dress as a “Minion” and as we gathered as a sub-camp, there seemed to be well over 1000 Minions parading into the main arena for the final time. The ceremony was kept short and was really well done – we had a video of some of the week’s activities and highlights, then the winner of “Poacher’s Got Talent” belted out a fabulous rendition of George Ezra’s Budapest to rapturous applause. This was followed by the lowering of all the flags before the party started. To warm us up we had a “Little Mix” tribute act, followed by “Britain’s Got Talent” winners Diversity, who performed for nearly an hour in front of a delighted audience. The evening was rounded off by a fabulous firework display and then all too soon it was time to return to our tents.

I have to say that in over 40 years of Scouting, it’s one of the best summer camps that we’ve ever done. Yes – the activities and the organisation were great and the site was lovely, but what made this camp so good was the 13 Scouts that we took with us for the week. Everyone got on so well together and helped each other out and they kept all the leaders entertained for the entire camp. A Scout Jamboree is about so much more than just the activities. It’s a celebration of life, of what can be achieved if we all work together, of how much fun we can all have through sharing our own lives, cultures and experiences with others - a giant, colourful, noisy, happy, musical party lasting seven wonderful days and nights. I’m sure it will live long in the memories of all who were there and took part!

**Sos**

## Swindon Village Winemakers

At the July meeting we had Marion Beagley who gave us a talk entitled "My Mum was a Cockney". The talk was most interesting as firstly she explained the cockney alphabet and then recited it and asked us to try to interpret it as it was all in cockney slang which caused a great deal of amusement.

Over many years she has collected thousands of pearl buttons and made herself a Pearly Queen outfit including a beautiful hat adorned with pearl buttons and feathers which she brought to show us and the weight of the costume was considerable.

We have no meeting in September but the October meeting is the wine competition (Carrot) and the fish & chip evening.

**Roy Harper**

## Art & Crafts Club

We've had our summer break and the club starts again on the 7th September. Anyone wishing to join will be very welcome. Phone me if you want to know more about the club.

**Helen**

01242 582366



**Don't let ageing get you down.  
It's too hard to get back up!**





# Bubble Rush Hits Gloucestershire

## Fundraising event for Longfield Hospice

There's only one chance for families to enjoy the unique experience of Bubble Rush in Gloucestershire this year. Walk, run or toddle through a sea of coloured bubbles, because 'there's no place like foam'! This unique event takes place on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester and all monies raised will go to Longfield, supporting people to live well with life-limiting illness. So sign up today at [longfield.org.uk](http://longfield.org.uk) or call 01453 886868 for more details.



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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 via  
Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road  
or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

### SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	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](http://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
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The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editors or the Parish Council