

# Village News

## in Swindon Village

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

No. 439

November 2017

### November

- |                |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Wednesday      | 1         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Fiona Hall - My Granny was a Stripper and Grinder                                   |
| Monday         | 6         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm - Annual Meeting   |
| Sunday         | 12        | Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.55am   |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>                                    |
| Wednesday      | 15        | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm<br>Rosemary Westgate - The Wildflowers of Gloucestershire                     |
| Wednesday      | 22        | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm<br>William Reddaway - A ride around England; One Man, One Horse, 30 Cathedrals, 2,700 Miles |

### December

- |                |           |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Saturday       | 2         | Christmas Tree Festival - 11.00am to 5.00pm  |
| Sunday         | 3         | St. Lawrence's Church  |
| Monday         | 4         | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm<br>Carole and Malcolm Brown - We sing for your pleasure |
| Wednesday      | 6         | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm<br>Christmas Supper (Members only)                            |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall<br/>Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm</b>           |

*(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.)*

Let's start with planning issues this month. The parish council has submitted numerous objections to the revised proposal for developing houses at Manor Farm. The inadequacy of the access road/path from Church Road has led to a proposal to have the rubbish bins dragged to the side of Church Road for emptying. Given the number of dwellings proposed this would mean a line of them stretching approximately 15m along the road. Aside from the visual impact imagine the effect on pedestrians and vehicles travelling along Church Road. The access road also falls well short of what is required for access by emergency services and delivery vehicles.

On to bigger planning matters and the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The planning inspector has apparently prepared her report (subject to highway matters). It should be released into the public domain in the next few weeks. For better or worse the JCS may soon be behind us. It is then likely that Elms Park, the development proposed under the JCS, will occupy us for the next decade or two.

The council is keen to make improvements to the park on Wymans Lane. We wanted to put another access point to the north west corner (near the Lodge on Church Road) but the Borough Council are not keen. Perhaps a matter for negotiation. The installation of play equipment suitable for older children would also be a positive initiative. We are also planning repairs to the sundial mosaic. The mosaic is popular with both adults and children so it is a shame to see it deteriorating. Whilst some of the donkey work could be undertaken by volunteers the work will require the support of specialists in constructing and maintaining mosaics. We will try to make the mosaic more resilient to minimise future maintenance costs.

The centre manager of Gallagher Retail Park met with us recently. He is keen to work with us and the community. This is a positive development. Very often businesses do not even bother to reply when we wish to raise matters with them. Their web sites always say that their local communities are at the heart of what they do. Sadly the company practices often fall short of the marketing hype. We raised our concern that retail floor space within the park continues to increase (mezzanine floors, additional buildings, coffee/snack "pods") without any increase in car parking space. We were pleased to hear that our concerns are shared and that some actions are planned.

Any residents living within earshot of the railway will have heard screaming chainsaws and strimmers. At the end of last year Network Rail said that they would be cutting back all vegetation within 8 metres of the outside rail. I wondered if they were serious. They were. I have a little more information to offer. GWR will be running bi-mode (or hybrid) locomotives. These are locomotives that can operate using electricity from overhead lines or an internal diesel engine. Even though we don't have overhead lines (the trains will be using diesel power in our area) the concern is that branches could damage the pantographs on the top of the locomotives that are

used to contact the overhead lines. Unless trees are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders Network Rail can fell any on their land. Concern was expressed about the ash trees on the embankment behind Pendil Close/Mandarin Way. The good news is that these trees should be safe. If the trunks of trees are outside the 8m their canopies will be trimmed but they will not be felled.

At our next meeting we will have to have our first look at a budget for 2018-2019. Before the end of January we need to tell Cheltenham Borough Council what our precept will be. As ever we will be looking to make a positive impact whilst offering value for money. I read recently that Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire did not have enough money to undertake essential services like grass cutting. As their money was capped they created four additional parish councils so that they could raise money separately and take on these services. Creative lateral thinking or an abuse of the system?

Since I became clerk to the council I have had to learn a great deal about local government. Some of this I have tried to pass on in a hopefully amusing way. I have come across a fine example of use of the Freedom of Information Act. Under this act members of the public may request information from councils.

A resident of Guildford Borough was concerned at what appeared to him to be a misuse of public money. He asked the council how much the councillors' allowances were and what they spent the money on. The council sent him this information. Sensing blood our enquirer homed in on the Mayor Making Lunch and asked if the mayor had spent money from the public purse and, if so, how much and on how many guests. The council provided the total cost and the guest list. The mayor had paid for his guests out of his mayoral allowance which is perfectly legal. Undeterred the resident then requested the details of the menu. His request was made four years after the lunch in question. The council supplied the information ("sage and apricot stuffed pork loin with fondant potato"). Unable to unearth any wrong doing the irate resident then requested the same information but for 2014. The council duly replied (ending with "chicken with a creamy cider sauce and mash" if you are still reading). I think the moral of this story (if it has one) is that local government in this country is more open than ever and keeping good records is very important!

A Freedom of Information request can be considered vexatious for a number of reasons (e.g. it is a relatively trivial request, it is a request that puts a strain on time and resources, unreasonable persistence is shown when the issue has been dealt with, the request is 'fishing' for information without any idea of what might be revealed or the requester is abusing access rights to vent anger at a decision). The above example probably ticked all of those boxes. The council should be congratulated both on its patience and on its record keeping.

Hopefully I would be able to answer any reasonable questions about the council's business without anyone having to raise a Freedom of Information request.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

## Services and events in November

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty with the Church Recorders
		2.30pm	Baptism
		3.30pm	Baptism
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.00pm	PCC
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
10 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	10.50am	Act of Remembrance @ the Rock, St Peter's
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.55am	Act of remembrance
		6.30pm	Evensong
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Tuesday group
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.30pm	Tuesday Group
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evensong
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox

## Services and events in December

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Saturday	11.00am	Christmas Tree Festival
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty Christmas Tree Festival
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox
		7.00pm	Advent Prayer



## From the registers



### Baptisms

*We welcomed in to the family of the church*

Isobel Willetts  
Archie Shardlow  
William Mitten

1st October  
1st October  
8th October

## 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).**

## Remembering

I mentioned last month that it's that time of year when the church enters a season of remembering. By the time you read this we will have held our service 'in loving memory' where people were invited to a reflective service in which we gave thanks for those whom we loved but see no longer. Then on 12th November we remember all those who have given their lives during the wars. This service has become increasingly well attended, and a good opportunity to both remember and to pray for peace.

As well as reading the names on the church memorial, included as part of the service sheet will be the names of the 134 who are named on the memorial in St Peter's churchyard, as they are now part of our parish. Their names will be read out during a service at the war memorial at St Peter's on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Our service on the 12<sup>th</sup> starts at 10.55am and will include two minutes silence at 11.00am. Once again the Airborne Services Association will be with us. You are most welcome to join us, and stay afterwards for refreshments

## Looking Ahead

After our time of remembering we begin to look ahead – to Christmas. This time of waiting and looking forward is called Advent, and is an opportunity to remind ourselves what it is we are about to celebrate. During December we will be offering the opportunity for you to find some quietness and peace amidst the busy-ness, by having a time of Advent Prayer on Tuesday evenings in the church. 7.00pm – 8.00pm on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## Host Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem

Once again this year we are inviting homes, families and organisations to host Mary and Joseph for a night. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Will you be a host to Mary and Joseph for a night?

### What is involved?

All you need to do is *add your name to the Journey Rota which you will find in church, or email me indicating a night that will suit you* to 'host' Mary & Joseph. You then take them to the next person on the list the following day at a time to suit both of you.

For the evening you 'host' Mary & Joseph you can choose to do whatever you like. You might want to invite some friends round and write Christmas cards. You may want to invite grandchildren over and invite them to write in Mary and Joseph's travel journal. It's entirely up to you.

The next day you need to take Mary & Joseph to the next host on the Journey Rota.

It's as simple as that.

Once you have hosted Mary and Joseph you are invited to 'keep a sheep' for Advent (of the knitted variety!) and then bring it with you to join Mary and Joseph at the crib service on Christmas Eve.

Please make sure you have added your details on the Journey Rota by November 26<sup>th</sup>. Please consider your involvement. We hope you will enjoy taking part.

**Rev Liz**

**575547**

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

## **A Book about St Lawrence Church**

For the past couple of years a team of volunteers from the Arts Society Cheltenham has been researching all the contents of our church. This work is part of a nationwide effort to make available for expert researchers the wealth of arts and crafts in churches across the land.

The resulting book is nearly 300 pages long, half of which show photos, and it gives a detailed account of each object with a lot of background information. Copies go to the Victoria & Albert Museum, the central Church of England library and Historic England as well as to Gloucestershire Archives.

The team has been in close touch with many people from the parish, and has researched relevant local history, so that much of the gleaning of information has been an enjoyable joint effort. It has also contributed to our new church guide.

The Arts Society team is presenting the finished book to the parish at the 10.30am service on Sunday 5th November.

**Paul Foster**

## **Church flowers at Christmas**

A talented group of flower arrangers use their skills to decorate the church all year round and they like to make the church look especially beautiful for the big festivals like Christmas.

If you would like to donate to the cost of flowers for Christmas please contact **Joan Howes** on **513573**.

## **Church Quiz and Supper Evening**

Thank you to everyone who came to the church's quiz and supper evening. I hope you all enjoyed it. It's great to get so many people together but of course it was arranged as a fundraising event for the church restoration appeal and it gives me great pleasure to tell you that we raised £450 towards the tower roof work. So, thank you all for your support and thank you too to the people who helped make the evening a success.

**Karen Evans**

## Remembrance - a young person's perspective

We will remember them. But who are we remembering?

On Remembrance Sunday each year people gather at war memorials across the country and across the world to take part in an act of remembrance for those who gave their lives in two world wars and many more recent conflicts. The size of these services varies from the masses at the Cenotaph in London to the small gatherings at village memorials like the one in Swindon Village. However, they all share common elements including a period of silence followed by words from the "Ode of Remembrance" with the traditional echo of the final line "We will remember them".

But as we stand outside on that November morning just who are we remembering?

We stand together to remember the millions that have died as a result of war but who are these millions? Just how many do we truly know? A million is a number not a person that gave their life, a million is incomprehensible, a quantity far too large for each of us to remember. So how many individuals can we name? After all, there are plenty to choose from.

For me personally when the two minutes' silence begins, I think of my own relatives that served in the world wars. Many others also think of their relatives and, with more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, for some the loss from war will still be all too fresh in their minds.

Since the death of my grandfather nine years ago I've viewed my role at Remembrance Sunday differently. Not only am I standing there to remember, I stand there to represent. My grandfather served in the RAF in World War 2 and made many good friends, but lost a great many as well, amongst them the friend who had been the best man at his wedding. Grandpa is no longer here to stand and remember his friends but I will go and remember them for him.

But I also spare a thought for him and the many others that fought and survived. My grandfather was lucky to survive the war and live a long life, but it was a life in which he never forgot, a life tinged with guilt for what he had done. This group of young men didn't want to go to war, but it was part of their duty, to protect their country, their homes, and their loved ones. But the men who left for war weren't the same ones who returned home; no man can watch a city burn and not be burned himself.

This is of course true of all those who return from war, who have seen unspeakable things, from the older veterans to the younger ones of more recent campaigns.

The death of Harry Patch in 2009 consigned the trench warfare of the First World War to the history books. Soon the Second World War will follow as each year fewer veterans return to the commemorations.

Some say Remembrance Sunday is too militarised, that we shouldn't have intervened in those countries and that certain decisions during war time are questionable - should America have dropped the atom bomb that ended the second world war, should we be intervening in Syria? But remember, even if we don't intervene, a war still rages, there are still victims. There are times and places to discuss and debate these issues but Remembrance Sunday is not it. Remembrance Sunday is a time to remember.

So as we gather together on Remembrance Sunday please take a moment to think about exactly who you are remembering. Whether you have names to read from a war memorial or not, please remember, these were real people with real families.

**Matthew Evans**

## Act of Remembrance for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12th November  
at the War Memorial  
in the churchyard  
commencing at 10.55am



## *The Swindon Village Society*

invites you to

The Wildflowers of Gloucestershire

An illustrated talk by Rosemary Westgate

Wednesday 15th November

7.30pm

in the Village Hall

Non-members welcome for £1

## **The Children's Society Home Boxes**

Every child should have a happy childhood where they can laugh , smile and be themselves, and The Children's Society's work makes sure that thousands of children across the country receive the support and protection they deserve.

This year we have raised the magnificent sum of £943-59 from the home boxes; this included £425-00 donations made at Chatterbox. Thank you, all box holders, so much for your generosity.

Here is an extract from the letter I received from The Children's Society:

### **Thank you for helping to improve children's lives**

Thank you to you and the boxholders of St. Lawrence's Church for your contributions towards your very kind gift of £943.39. As you know, funds raised from Children's Society's collection boxes are vital in helping towards our mission of supporting disadvantaged children and young people.

Last year, thanks to our supporters, we worked with over 18,000 vulnerable children and young people, bringing life changing support. This includes helping families trapped in poverty and debt, providing support to young carers and combating child sexual exploitation.

The kindness and compassion shown by your box holders in donating enables us to make it possible for these children to escape from potentially harmful surroundings and lead the happier lives that they deserve.

Once again, thank you for all your continued hard work and support in helping thousands of children and young people look forward to a brighter future.

Yours sincerely  
Jonathan Gocher  
Director of National Support

If you would like a box in your home to collect up your spare change to donate to The Children's Society please contact me. Taxpayers can Gift Aid their donations simply by filling in the label on the bottom of the box.

**Sylvia Hales**  
**Tel.235933**

# Advent Prayer

Spend some time in peace and stillness in the run up to Christmas

St Lawrence Church, Church Road, Swindon Village, GL51 9RA

7.00pm - 8.00pm  
Tuesday  
December  
5th  
12th  
19th

#deepening prayer  
[www.northchelt.org.uk](http://www.northchelt.org.uk)

 North Cheltenham  
Team Ministry

## News of events from Elmstone Hardwick church

**Everyone is welcome!**

### **Skittles, St Mary Magdalene fund raising**

**Friday 10th Nov, 7:00PM for 7:30PM, Civil Service Club, GL51 9SL**

A match with individual teams, Killer and/or Six-ball Westbury – dependent on numbers. Bar and Food available. Raffle for cash prize(s). Entry – £5 on night, food extra. Contact **Shelagh Holder, 01242 680952** for details.

### **Burns Night Celebration, North Cheltenham Team Ministry**

**Saturday 20th Jan 2018, evening. Village Hall, Uckington GL51 9SR**

Make a note in your diaries for this great Team event. More details to follow!



St. Lawrence's Church

# Christmas Tree Festival

"Transport"

Saturday 2nd December  
Sunday 3rd December  
11.00am to 5.00pm

On Sunday join us for a special  
Together @ Ten Thirty service among the trees

Trees decorated by local groups and individuals  
on a theme of Transport.

Vote for your favourite tree  
Christmas goods for sale  
Christmas Hamper Raffle  
Make a decoration to take home  
Live music with Cheltenham Ukulele Group  
A visit from Father Christmas  
Refreshments

Free admission but we ask you to be generous with  
donations to St. Lawrence's Restoration Appeal



# Christmas Tree Festival

Details of this year's Christmas Tree Festival are opposite.

There's still time to enter a tree - just contact me for details. There are no rules and thinking outside the box is actively encouraged.

Photos from last year's event are on the parish website [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

We would be grateful for donations for the raffle and for the sales table, especially home-made cakes and other produce.

This is an occasion not to be missed; it makes a wonderful start to the festive season, combining religious and non-religious aspects of Christmas.

**Karen Evans**  
**Tel. 241678**

Swindon Village Primary School

The school's  
**Winter Fair**  
will take place on  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

## Wednesday Club

Mr Phil Collins was our guest speaker at our October meeting and he showed us "Cheltenham through Postcards". It was a very interesting talk and I didn't realise that when postcards first came out the messages were written on the front of the card as The Post Office would not allow anything other than the address to go on the back.

This slide show took all of us well down memory lane and it was lovely to be reminded of how Cheltenham used to look before traffic took over. Phil has been to us before telling us all about Punch and Judy and it would be nice to see him again with one more of his many talks.

We will be going to the Farmers Arms at Apperley for our annual meal on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 and if any members have not put their names down please do so as soon as possible. Two courses will cost you £14 and three courses £19 and we will meet at 12 noon ready to start our meal at 12.30 pm. If a lift is required please let me know or any other member of the committee and we will arrange it. Please bring your money to our next meeting in November, failing that the December meeting at the very latest.

The next meeting of the Wednesday Club will be on Wednesday 1st November and Fiona Hall will be coming along to tell us about her Granny who was a Stripper and Grinder. Hmm, sounds interesting!

Please do come along and join us and visitors are always welcome.

**Pauline Wright**

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

**Ring 101** (you may be charged for this call)  
**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**".

Our September meeting featured Nigel Thompson telling us about Iberia, in fact specifically about the top left hand corner of Spain and Portugal. As a whole we Brits tend to aim for the hot and sunny bit down at the bottom for sun, sea and sangria. However if you have slightly more eclectic tastes then Nigel's bit looks much more interesting. There is fine architecture and good walking and I'm sure that you can get sangria there somewhere. The pilgrim trail to Santiago de Compostela runs through that corner of Iberia. St James, one of the twelve apostles, is buried in Santiago. Many pilgrims from England walked there through France but you can take the short cut and catch a ferry from the south coast of England direct to Santander or Bilbao. In fact pilgrims from the midlands on their way to France or Spain would pass by close to here. The church at Stoke Orchard is dedicated to St James and once the walls were covered with paintings depicting his life story. There are still traces of these paintings to be seen. This made it an obvious place to include on any pilgrim's route and then they might well have included our own St Lawrence's as their next port of call heading south. The doorway to St Lawrence's has several pilgrim crosses inscribed in the middle ages and perhaps some of these were made by folk on their way to St James's grave in Santiago. Certainly Nigel's talk made me want to go and explore that region though I would opt for a comfy ferry and car and just do the last few miles on foot.

We have one final talk this year. Rosemary Westgate was due to talk to us in May about the Wildflowers of Gloucestershire but had to pull out at the last minute because her husband was taken ill. She has now been rebooked for November. Come and become an expert.

We are looking at next year's programme. So far we have only booked our 'spy' from last year who will come back in March to tell us about the people of Bletchley Park during the war. I am fairly confident that we will have Arthur Ball back to talk to us about the birds in our garden. There will be the usual bird walk and some sort of garden visit. Other than that the programme is up for grabs so suggestions please.

Remember – non-members are always welcome to our events for £1. We would be even happier if you wanted to join us.

**Barry Simon**

## 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

As we head into the autumn months our Scouts have been making the most of the decent weather before the frosts of November lead us into another winter. It's been a busy few weeks as you can see...

Two Swindon Village Scouts, Tom and Luc, took part in the County Mountain Activities weekend in the Brecon Beacons at the end of September. They both enjoyed a weekend walking across some of the highest mountains in southern Britain and making friends with the other Scouts from around the county.

At the beginning of October we had a good attendance of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the Harvest Festival Service held in St Lawrence's Church. It's lovely to get all the sections together and see them taking an active part in the service.

The following weekend saw our Scouts heading in two separate directions. Five of our older Scouts and one former Scout headed up to Cranham Scout HQ for a weekend selection camp, for a chance to go to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA in the summer of 2019. There were over 80 Scouts and Explorer Scouts from around Gloucestershire competing for just 45 places on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The weekend involved getting to know as many different Scouts as possible while working together in different teams to solve puzzles and practical tasks together. Each Scout's skills were observed as to how well they were able to listen, contribute to and lead each team as they tackled the various challenges that they were faced with. All of our Scouts really enjoyed the camp and we are just waiting to see if any of them have been offered a place to be a part of the Gloucestershire Jamboree contingent in 2019.

Meanwhile seven of our younger Scouts joined Paddy, Sos & co on the County Canal weekend on narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal just west of London. Once on board, we travelled north from Hillingdon in Middlesex up around Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back again on the Sunday. The countryside along the canals there is beautiful and with a lock every half a mile or so, there is plenty to keep everyone occupied. The Scouts had to plan their own menu and, on the Saturday morning, moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco to go and buy all the food. The weather was dull and a little drizzly on the Saturday morning but the Sunday was one of those gloriously bright, sunny and warm autumn days that was just perfect for "messing about on the water"! The Scouts got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They also got to help prepare all the meals and take it in turns to do the washing up. They all returned home full of their adventures and I'm happy to report that no-one fell in !

On the following weekend, eight of our Scouts and four leaders took part in this year's Operation Bald Eagle camp – our final Scout camp of the year. The camp was held at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site - right next door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. Here we joined together with around 500 Scouts from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. We were blessed with good

weather and enjoyed a dry weekend. We arrived at around 7pm on the Friday evening and the Scouts set about pitching their tents in the dark before tackling the Friday evening challenge and enjoying a hot dog and a hot drink. On Saturday, after a cooked breakfast and flag break, our Scouts started to tackle some of the 30 day bases around the campsite, solving puzzles and completing tasks, challenges and games. Then on Saturday night they joined more than 60 teams and set off on a 6 mile incident hike around the local area with 15 activities to complete at the various checkpoints around the route. There was great teamwork in evidence throughout the weekend and one of our teams managed to complete the entire hike at around midnight – a fantastic achievement. A very tired bunch of Scouts awoke on Sunday morning and, after another cooked breakfast, had to pack up their gear before taking down their tents. The camp finished with everyone getting together for flag-down, a moment of reflection and the results and presentations. All of our Scouts did tremendously well in what was a very long night! As a leadership team, we were really proud of all of them. And to top the weekend off, one of our teams won checkpoint 10 and were presented with a framed certificate, much to their delight. Congratulations are due to everyone who took part – another terrific weekend.

The following weekend, just before half term, saw our autumn Jumble Sale held at the village hall. I would like to say a huge thank-you to all those parents, friends, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who came to help us this year - your help was vital in making the sale a success and most appreciated. Also, thanks to everybody from around the village who came to support us once again and buy all the bargains!

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers who give their time and energy to make the group such a success and offer so many different and exciting challenges and opportunities to all our young people. I know it's really hard at times – but it's worth the effort!

**Sos**

Nigel Warwick's subject at our October meeting was the Severn Freewheelers, or Blood Bikers as they are sometimes called, of which he is a member. They are the out-of-hours courier service for the NHS and cover the hours when the NHS vans are not working, usually 7pm-7am, weekends and bank holidays.



The charity has been active since 1969, being one of 30 groups across the UK and Eire, with 100 members and 4 motorbikes (plus a spare) none of whom are paid, most having a 'day job' or are retired.

The only occasions they are kept off the road is during severe weather, rider fatigue or bike breakdown. They carry blood, drugs, samples, diagnostic CDs, patient notes, small medical equipment and breast milk (this usually during the daytime) amongst other things. Though the bikes are equipped with blue lights they do not use these very often and longer distances are usually relayed across the country in cooperation with other groups. Amongst Nigel's more unusual items have been a medical skeleton and false teeth. The Severn Freewheelers are voluntarily providing a vital but little known service.

Amongst our other activities have been a coffee morning (with toasted crumpets and homemade jam!), a tea afternoon at Janet's and Sue D. held a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Nurses. For our monthly meal-out we enjoyed a lunchtime get-together at Wagamama's. Jayne had been to a day-course at Denman College and showed us the pearl bracelet and earrings she had made there. A morning making unusual Christmas Cards at WI House was very productive.

November looks like another busy month. There is a County trip to the NEC for the Craft Shows there, a theatre visit to the Everyman with drinks and nibbles in the Directors Lounge before a performance of 'How the Other Half Loves', our Birthday Party at the DoubleTree (Hilton), the autumn Group Meeting and laying a poppy wreath at the memorial.

Yet another year has passed and November is here again, the occasion for our Annual Meeting. We shall be revealing the names of those on the new committee and voting in a President. Afterwards we will reward ourselves with some refreshments and social time!

**Sara Jefferies**

# Art & Crafts Club

Some of the ongoing work at our club to show how we are progressing..

We welcomed three new members last month which was lovely and I am sure they will enjoy their time with us.

## Helen





More work in progress at the Art & Craft club



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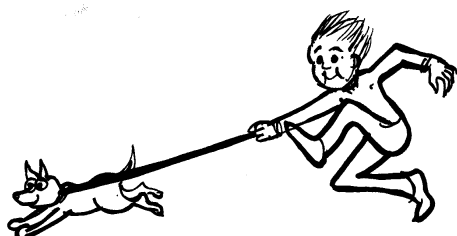
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## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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	Geraint Mills	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
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

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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

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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