

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 447

September 2018

September

Monday	3	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Barry Simon - The History of Aviation
Wednesday	5	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Taxcare and Toyboys
Thursday	6	Art & Craft Club resumes
Tuesday	11	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Saturday	15	"The History of Swindon Village" & WW1 Exhibition St. Lawrence's Church - 2pm
Wednesday	19	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm John Chandler - The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire
Saturday	29	Churchyard tidy-up 9.30am - 12noon
Saturday	29	Church Quiz & Supper Evening - Village Hall 7.00pm

October

Monday	1	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Andrew North - Cheltenham Group of Voluntary Hospitals WW1
Wednesday	3	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Jemma Fowkes - Birch, Beer and Bibles (Tudor Times)
Thursday	4	Village Hall Committee Meeting - Lounge 7.15pm
Sunday	7	Cheltenham WW1 Soldiers Exhibition Village Hall 11.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday	9	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Wednesday	17	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm Arthur Ball - Garden Birds

(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.)

We will start in the park and work our way round the parish. It was great to see the new play equipment being installed in the park in July. The start of this project had been delayed but the work is now complete and children are enjoying using it. A big thank you is due to the Borough Council for this. In the future, we may be able to use the equipment as an assault course to test prospective councillors. Yvonne and James joined the council just in time to avoid this!

Whilst I am in the park I feel I should acknowledge the sad demise of St. Stephens Cricket Club. Their website informs us that they started playing locally in 1884 (in fact I think I know some of the founder members!). Ironically we have probably had one of the best summers for cricket ever. I understand that Winchcombe Cricket Club make use of the field in Swindon Village for some games.

Straying a little from the park we find ourselves at the Village Hall. Hopefully everyone is aware that the current Village Hall committee have, after many years, decided that they have done their shift and wish to pass the baton on to someone else. As yet no-one has come forward. On 25th September the committee and the Parish Council will host a meeting of hall users to try to establish a way forward. This is an important meeting for anyone who cares about the Village Hall.

Taking a walk outside the Village Hall we come to the horse trough. Neil, our local landscape gardener, took over the planting of the trough and it looks magnificent. When Neil offered to take on the task little did he know that the coldest, wettest Spring would be followed by the hottest, driest Summer. He (and the trough) have survived their ordeal. The trough looks fantastic; I'm not sure what Neil looks like.

Let's walk further afield. The Parish Council is grateful to John Heathcott who keeps an eye on our local footpaths. John has walked all of our paths and performed some maintenance where he can. We have heard that the footpath that goes from the "D" in Hyde Lane towards the railway bridge at the back of Seasons is going to be closed temporarily. I assume this is to enable building work to take place at the site of the old stables. John tells me that this is a very popular path for dog walkers. The closure notice

quotes the period from 5th September 2018 to 5th March 2019, a long time I'm afraid.

I meet lots of people when I am walking about on parish business. I was admiring a garden and introduced myself to the lady busily tending it. She looked at me doubtfully. "You don't look like a parish clerk" said she. "What does a parish clerk look like?" said I. Without hesitation she responded "Tall and thin with a long nose". I had to concede that those were three criteria I failed to meet.

All this walking is quite strenuous. A number of people have questioned the provision of defibrillators within the parish. Modern defibrillators are very smart machines. If someone suffers a "cardiac event" they can be hooked up to the device and it will analyse their heartbeat (or lack thereof) and apply an appropriate electrical stimulus. Getting assistance to the subject quickly is vitally important. James has established that Sainsbury's and Next both have machines available on Gallagher Retail Park. The Council is considering purchasing a machine to be based at the Village Hall.

Whilst I am in Gallagher Retail Park the Council continues to see planning applications that attempt to cram more retail space into the area whilst the car parking and the roads are already at bursting point. New units are squeezed in and mezzanine floors are added to existing units. The latest application we have seen proposes splitting the existing Carpetright unit in two and installing a mezzanine floor into one of the resulting two units. The Council will object.

Let's hit the road. The Council was very disappointed that the cat's eyes and 30mph painted signs were lost from Wymans lane when it was resurfaced. The cat's eyes are probably gone forever as a matter of policy, but we are still trying to get the 30mph signs repainted.

Continuing our road trip, the Parish Council was delighted to hear that the main Kingsditch Lane/Tewkesbury Road roundabout is to be resurfaced (details on our website). Lots of people had reported their concern at its condition. We have no idea why this wasn't done when Tewkesbury Road itself was resurfaced. Surely that would have made the job cheaper? We also hear that the Church Road pavement and the road near the bridge are also to receive attention, but we are not sure when.

The Parish Council has been considering what might be done to reduce traffic speed through the Swindon Village. The roads are narrow, twisty,

busy and often populated by school children; a recipe for disaster. We want to meet with officers of the County Council to discuss the situation and to propose some measures that might make the area safer.

You see buses on roads. Parish Councillors are like buses; you spend ages waiting for one then two come along at once (you're right, these links are getting very tenuous, but we're nearly done!). We have now welcomed James Cornish to the Council. James lives at the southern end of the parish, an area that has been underrepresented for some time. I mentioned James' name earlier in this piece; he is already making a valuable input to the Council's deliberations. We still have vacancies though!

Time to park up until October.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council
www.swindonparish.org

*The splendid display
in the horse trough.*



"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

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**".

***The new play equipment
in the park***



Services and Events for September

2	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
4	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
9	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
11	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In Holy Communion
16	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ The Table Evensong
18	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
20	Thursday	7.00pm	Licensing of Revd. George Davis at St. Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke
23	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
25	Tuesday	9.30am - 5.30pm	Chatterbox outing to Weston-super-Mare
29	Saturday	7pm for 7.30pm	Quiz & Supper in the Village Hall
30	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise

When Lou Reed wrote his hit, 'Perfect Day' in 1972, on a double A-side with his even better known single, 'Walk on the Wild Side', many thought that this elegiac track summed up a day of untroubled bliss spent in Central Park with his wife. On one level, it does paint a lulling picture of a late summer or early autumn day; but on another, darker level the track is said to hint at a state of oblivion induced by a wrong relationship with heroin. A kind of blissful state achieved through disconnectedness.

This is not what God wants for us! But I am more sure than ever, as we hear of a new condition called 'Gaming Addiction' that God *does* want us to be disconnected when we rest from all that ties and burdens us in the digital world and social media.

The evangelist Canon J John provides the following advice for a 'perfect day' in this respect and I offer his advice below.

Basically, he advises:

When you rest – really rest - try to digitally disconnect while you do. Plan to drastically cut your engagement with social media, email and the web.

There are growing concerns about how dependent we are becoming on social media, the use of email and constant web browsing. Whether the deep need some of us have to being connected at almost any cost counts as addiction is a serious question. It's certainly a problem.

There should be no question about cutting ourselves off from work when we are not there. After all, to remain connected to your job means that you are not, in any real sense, resting. My concern is that although we may do this, when we rest or are on holiday we continue to use social media, email and browse (often aimlessly) various websites. In fact, free from workplace constraints, holidays can mean that some of us spend even more time on the web.

The lure of the web is strong. It gives us the sense that we have opportunity and accessibility and, through social media, offers the illusion of belonging to a real community. The consequence is that even a brief separation from such things as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or Instagram can make us feel isolated.

There is no better time than after a holiday to cut down our use of social media and hold on to those 'holiday benefits'.

- *Disconnecting is good for our **body**. We all spend far too long hunched up, staring down at screens. Let's look up and gaze at real people. Don't forget that we can't switch off if we are permanently switched on.*
- *Disconnecting is good for our **mind**. Psychologists suggest that the overload of information we get from Internet use is changing the way the brain works. Memory skills are in decline and we no longer reason in a linear fashion, using sustained arguments but, instead, think only in disconnected fragments. Many frequent users of the Internet confess to struggling to read through a chapter of a book. Disconnect when you can and, in digital silence, let your mind be at peace.*
- *Disconnecting is good for our **relationships**. Weekends for instance are an essential time to connect with those around us, whether a spouse, family or friends. There are many couples in busy lives who need to have issues discussed, bonds built or even wounds healed. Yet, sadly, this may not occur because one or both are too busy staring at their smartphones. To put social media before talking to your partner or family is to make a tragic statement about values and priorities. Go to bed with your spouse, not your phone!*
- *Disconnecting is good for our **spirit**. Some people have such an intense relationship with their smartphone that it can only be described as idolatry: the worship of a little handheld idol that brings them comfort. We are to relate not just to each other but to God, and it's all too easy for digital connectivity to get in the way of both relationships.*

So let's disconnect from social media and the web this autumn and instead connect with God, our spouse, family and friends.

Fr Nick

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed in to the family of the church

Isabella Rose Scott 12th August

Zara Bleu Davis 19th August

Jude Stephen David Thomas 26th August



Marriages

We celebrated the marriage of

Thomas Denmead & Philippa Skinner 21st July



Interment of ashes

We gave thanks for the life of

Mr Anthony Hartley and Mrs Henrietta Hartley 20th July

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 Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector) by email nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk or via the office.

Welcome to Revd. George Davis

We are looking forward to welcoming Revd. George Davis to the North Cheltenham Team Ministry. His appointment brings the Team back up to a full staffing of a Team Rector and two Team Vicars.

Revd. Davis' prime responsibility will be the care of Swindon Village with Cheltenham St. Peter and Uckington with Elmstone Hardwicke although he will be involved throughout the Team.

Revd. Davis and his wife, Jo, are moving here from Worcester and will be making their home in Swindon Rectory.

His Licensing and Installation service will take place in St. Mary Magdalene's Church in Elmstone Hardwicke on 20th September.

We wish George and Jo well in this new phase of their lives and hope they will be very happy among their new community.

Karen Evans
for Swindon PCC

Churchyard Tidy-Up **Saturday 29th September, 9.30am - 12noon**

The annual churchyard tidy-up will take place on Saturday 29th September beginning at 9.30am.

Each year we try to clear away weeds and excess ivy at the end of the growing season to leave the churchyard looking tidy for the winter.

We would welcome any help you can give - the more people, the merrier! Just turn up any time during the morning.

Please bring your own tools but rubbish bags will be provided, as well as tea/coffee and biscuits.

Tony Jilbert

Safety check on gravestones in the churchyard

All churches nationally must undertake an annual safety check of all their graves and gravestones and we have just carried an inspection of all the grave stones in our churchyard.

This has to be done for safety reasons to identify any that are loose or in a dangerous condition, and which may cause injury. Sadly there have been cases around the country of serious injury resulting from toppling headstones affecting children and adults.

After this year`s inspection we have found that some 14 headstones are in need of varying degrees of attention. These stones bear the names of:

Francis Arthur Deakin

John Knox Mead

Bill Williams Whitney

Charles Dan Jones

John Acocks

Thomas William Goodlake

David John Abrams

Dermot James Andrew

Victor Melson Jones

Richard S H Sharam

Surman

Willetts

Gerald William Spray.

We would like to hear from any family members who would like to discuss the future of their family gravestones with us.

If no contact is made the Parochial Church Council may have to arrange for the gravestones to be laid flat on the ground for safety reasons.

Please phone either one of the Churchwardens, Tony Jilbert (693639) or May Shurmer (241033), or the Team Rector, Revd Nick Bromfield (232883).

Tony Jilbert

Churchwarden

Coach Trip to the Seaside at Weston Super Mare with friendly group on 25th September 2018

We would love you to join us on 25th September! Our Marchants Coach (with WC on board) will be leaving at 9.30am (prompt) from Church Road outside St Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village, GL51 9RA. We plan to leave Weston at 4 pm so should be back by 5.30pm. The cost is £20 payable ASAP in advance to secure a place (once coach trip is paid for any profit will go towards St Lawrence's restoration appeal).

This trip is being organised by 'Chatterbox', the community drop in group, held on Tuesday Mornings 10.30am -12 at St Lawrence's Church. Many people arrive alone and are always warmly welcomed and included. Ages range from 0 to 90s and we have a lot of regular male members, so it is most definitely a mixed group. Chatterbox is a great place to meet new friends (and maybe catch up with old friends and acquaintances that you may have seen around the village or Cheltenham over the years). Complimentary coffee, tea and biscuits are provided every week and occasionally members bring cakes.

If you would like to join us on the coach trip on 25th September please contact Rachel by email on rachelandjustinhunter@gmail.com ASAP or bring cash, in an envelope, with your name and contact telephone number, along to Chatterbox at St Lawrence's on any Tuesday morning between 10.30am and 12 midday.

Looking forward to meeting you at Chatterbox soon and/or we would love you to join us on our trip to Weston on 25th September!

Very best wishes,
Rachel.

PS. For those less able to walk long distances we will arrange for you to be dropped off in Weston by the coach as close as possible to somewhere nice to sit! You do not have to have ever been to Chatterbox (or intend to) in order to join us on the trip. Everyone is welcome, whoever you are and wherever you live.

Praise in the Park



Praise in the Park was attended by more than 90 people from Swindon Village and other churches in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry. Music was provided by a band from the Salvation Army to whom we are grateful. The service was followed by tea and cakes in the Village Hall; thank you to everyone who donated cakes. It was a wonderful afternoon of music and fellowship.

Mary Halliwell

Catherine (Kate) Dryburgh

Many thanks to all who donated to our chosen charity, "Hospice at Home" run by Sue Ryder. A substantial amount was collected at the church and by other donations and has been passed to Sue Ryder.

Catherine took a great interest in the School, the Church, especially Sunday School and also helped to organise the School Fete. We also helped at the Village Fete.

Thanks also to the team which rang a Quarter Peal, half-muffled, on the bells on the 10th of July which would have been our 57th Wedding Anniversary.

Ron

St. Lawrence's Church

Annual Quiz and Supper

Saturday 29th September
Village Hall
Doors open at 7.00pm

We're early this year - don't miss the date!

Hot Potato Supper
(at 7.30pm)
Jacket potatoes with choice of hot toppings and salad
Apple Pie with cream

Pub-style Quiz
Six bottles of wine for the winning team

Bar open

Raffle

Book as a team (max. 6 people per team)
or make up a team on the night.

£8 per person

Booking essential - phone Karen Evans on 241678

Profits to St. Lawrence's Church Restoration Appeal

Wednesday Club

At our very hot meeting on 4th July, Peter Berry entertained us with "Around the World in 80 Images". We started off in the Caribbean and then travelled north, south, east and west. Peter and his wife Sarah were more interested in "people watching" than white beaches and palm trees and his pictures were fabulous. I am so glad I am not Sarah as some of the places she had to stand for a picture were certainly not for me but a great photo all the same. Sarah loves birds and wildlife in general and the pictures taken in the Galapagos Islands were terrific, as were all of them. A lovely evening despite the heat.

Our coffee morning in June was a great success, weather perfect for the occasion. About 26 people came and we raised £109 for which we are extremely grateful. A big thanks to Pauline Cullimore for her Raffle contributions of hand massages and to the committee and Stuart for all their help in making this a success once again.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th September when we will be taking a "Light hearted look at things we should be talking about, Tax Care and Toyboys". Hmm. As always, visitors are always welcome.

Look forward to seeing you in September.

Pauline Wright

Art & Crafts Club

What a summer, soooo hot we just didn't want to do anything!!! Getting back into the swing of things our session starts on Thursday 6th September so if you feel like joining us just give me a ring.

Helen

07817581223

Our annual garden visit this year was to Woodland Farm which is very close to Winchcombe. About twenty years ago the current owners took over the house and nearby fields and decided that they would build a garden pretty much from scratch and this is what they did. The results are truly amazing with half a dozen very different 'rooms'. As one who mows a very small garden (occasionally) the scale of grass cutting alone makes my mind boggle. Then there is the matter of edging the beds. My wife reminds me that there are quite a few plants there but I know little of these things. It is the pure mechanics of maintaining a garden such as that which makes my mind boggle. In fact I can confirm that there were indeed many plants there and a water feature and a very nice pergola with cake and tea and several local ladies to serve it. Our financial contribution was happily going to hospice care so I can strongly recommend finding the Gloucestershire open gardens brochure and finding when you can visit Woodland Farm for yourself.

The visit did remind me of Exbury Gardens we visited down on the south coast, established many years ago by two of the Rothschild brothers. Apparently they considered themselves professional gardeners but only amateur bankers.

A week later we had our combined meeting with Save The Countryside – a talk by Building With Nature. They are a joint venture between The University of The West of England and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Unfortunately only one of their speakers could make it but she managed an interesting talk about how they were advising the developers on ways of making the Elms Park development as green as possible. There was a lot of discussion afterwards about the advisability of engaging with developers in this way, thereby giving them at least a veneer of respectability and, as usual on these occasions, I could see both sides of the argument. To my mind the most useful thing to come out of it was the contact with this organisation and the hope that we can get them involved with the Open Green Space aspect of the development. Better to have them onside if possible.

Then in July we had a talk by Fiona Mead on what school log books can tell us about social conditions at the time. The time was the later Victorian period and what we do find is that we are privileged to live now. Although schools then were supported most families had to make a contribution and

for the poorest this was very hard. At times the number of pupils attending was half the numbers enrolled because the children were needed for other tasks such as harvest or other farm work. One girl of just thirteen was employed as a servant and although her employers would release her for the mornings the school would not take her though she was desperate to attend. Never get the idea that life in those days was a bucolic heaven – I promise we are much better off now.

In September we will be told by the Victoria County History just what they are doing to establish the definitive history of Cheltenham and, indeed, Swindon Village. When the results are finally published I, and other amateurs in local history field, will be very interested to find out how close we got.

Finally we have Heritage Open Days. These are days when many buildings which are otherwise shut open up to the public. This year they are over two weekends 6-9 September and 13-16 September. You can get brochures at the tourist office in the Museum. We are opening up Swindon Village. At 2pm on Saturday 15th September at St Lawrence's Church there will be a talk on 'The History of Swindon Village' followed by a guided walk around the village. Hopefully there will be tea and buns afterwards. Come to either bit or both. Free except for the tea and biscuits but there will be a hat out for donations to the church.

Barry Simon



Heritage Open Days events are taking place over two weekends this year - 6th to 9th and 13th to 16th September. Admission to all events is free.

To find out more about the scheme and what is open locally that you could visit take a look at their website:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/about>

Heritage Open Days

Saturday 15th September
St. Lawrence's Church

The History of Swindon Village

A talk by Barry Simon, starting at 2pm
followed by

A guided walk around Swindon Village

also

Swindon Village Men of World War 1

An exhibition about the men of Swindon Village
who fought in World War 1

Swindon Village War Memorial lists the men who served in World War 1 as well as those who died; others are mentioned in vestry minutes and listed on the 1918 Electoral Register. Some men are commemorated on their parents' graves and one man who is buried in the churchyard is named on the war memorial at St. Peter's Church. Only recently a Commonwealth War Graves Commission stone was erected to honour a soldier who is now known to be buried somewhere in the churchyard.

Admission is free

Refreshments available all afternoon

Cheltenham Remembers WW1

Cheltenham WW1 Soldiers Exhibition Who served in your street?

The houses linked to thousands of soldiers who served or died in the Great War have been plotted into maps of Cheltenham. Come and see who signed up in your street.

Sunday 7th October
11am - 4pm
In the Village Hall



St. Lawrence's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas has arrived in the shops
so I make no apologies for mentioning the
Christmas Tree Festival!

It's time to get your thinking hats on and conspire with your club members, relatives or friends on how best to decorate a Christmas Tree on the theme of

“Hobbies and Pastimes”.

This year's Festival will take place on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December, with setting up on the Friday evening.

If you've never been to one of our festivals talk to someone who has or look at the photos on the village website. If you're thinking of entering a tree, as an individual or from a group, please contact me for full details.

Karen Evans
01242 241678

We entertained guest members from the other WIs in our Group at our July meeting. Chris Evans of Dundry Nurseries was the speaker and told us the history of the Butterfly Garden that he founded and runs. It all started when a visit to the nursery was arranged for 6 autistic students and a request was made asking if they could come once a week to do some gardening. From there the project has grown considerably in the 15 years it has been running, from just gardening to recycling, art and craft, music, drama, cookery and anything else that the many attendees wish to do. Chris says that every day is an adventure, never knowing what will happen next but accepting whatever turns up. A man open to ideas and who can never say 'no'! The latest development is the building of a larger kitchen so more people can enjoy learning to cook and bake. Being a charity the project is totally self-funding with money coming from the recycling, donations, sales, legacies and any other sources. The Butterfly Garden has certainly spread its wings from small beginnings and developed into a very active and worthwhile project. I can strongly recommend a visit to see what they are up to.

In the past couple of months we seem to have been quite active. A talk on 'Peepower' proved very interesting; still being developed in the labs, it has a way to go before the idea can be used on a large scale. A very hot but enjoyable day was spent at Laycock Village and Abbey. We ventured to Gloucester on the bus to view the RAFA Panels displayed in the Cathedral cloisters. Several members are being very energetic and playing Walking Netball (no running or jumping) first thing on a Monday morning and also there have been croquet and bowls taster days. Silk Batik and Makume Gane (decorative clay jewellery) craft days proved enjoyable and productive. Jenny hosted a tea afternoon on a lovely sunny day in her garden and Wendy provided delicious eats at a party in her garden. Sue D. and I were invited to demonstrate lacemaking in the WI marquee at the Countryfile Live show at Blenheim Park and spent a very hot and exhausting day there. As we do not have a meeting in August we booked a coach and went to the Three Choirs Vineyard where we had a conducted tour and sampled a number of wines, and purchased some more. From there we went to the Three Shires Garden Centre for lunch and retail therapy. A Great Day Out!

For the month of September we shall continue keeping fit with the Walking Netball and there are Indoor Bowls, Archery and Drumming activities as well. Eileen is hosting an afternoon of garden games plus a cream tea

afterwards. We shall be having another cream tea when we go on a trip on the GWR steam train! 'An Autumn Serenade' Concert in the Pump Room with the male voice choirs of Dursley and the Mendips should provide an enjoyable evening.

Barry Simon is the speaker at our meeting on Monday September 3rd when his subject is the History of Aviation. If you would like to join us for the evening at 7.30 at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane you will be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies



*Sara and Sue
with their lace-making exhibits
at the Countryfile Live show*



*Wine-tasting at the
Three Choirs Vineyard*

Village Hall

Due to last minute holiday arrangements of several committee members it has been necessary to cancel the September meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 4th October at 7.15pm in the Lounge.

May I remind you that it is still not too late to put yourself forward for any of the vacancies that will occur following the AGM. The Hall's future is up to you.

Peter Piff

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

What a wonderful summer of fine camping weather we have had this year. In fact, it has been a joy to go camping to escape the hot and humid conditions that we've had at home.

We held our Group Camp up at Cranham Scout HQ in early July, with over 40 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders enjoying the dry and sunny conditions. Activities on the camp included the obstacle challenge course, a chance to splash around in the stream and an opportunity to tackle the new artificial caving activity that has been installed over the last 12 months which was great fun. The youngsters all got a turn in lighting fires and then cooking a backwards meal in foil on the embers which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. All in all - a lovely weekend enjoyed by everybody. Why can't the weather always be so nice?

The highlight of every Scouting year is the eagerly awaited Summer Camp and this year we headed north up the M6 to the Cheshire County Showground to take part in the Chamboree International Jamboree. Our party this year consisted of 5 girls, 6 boys and 5 leaders and it was the final camp for our two Patrol Leaders, Ellie and Imogen! On the Jamboree, there were over 3000 Scouts and Guides taking part. Add in the organisers, the jamboree staff and all the leaders and there were well over 5,000 of us in total!

After endless weeks of hot and sunny weather, we set up camp in rather windy conditions having driven through squally showers on our way to camp – what timing! We were allocated a spot right on the edge of the camp site with beautiful views overlooking open fields and countryside. And then we awoke on the Sunday morning to heavy rain – the first proper rain in over 2 months. It was during this downpour that we were visited by the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls who, in true Scouting fashion, carried on regardless, meeting as many Scouts as possible and trying out some of the activities at the Jamboree before heading off in a helicopter to visit another Scouting Summer Camp. Thankfully, as his helicopter disappeared into the clouds, the rain eased and the return to normal hot and sunny weather was restored for the remainder of the camp!

During the week, our Scouts visited the nine programme zones with activities that were both adventurous and creative. The programme was organised to allow the youngsters to challenge themselves, try new things

and make new friends. On the Monday, we all had a day out together in the form of a scavenger hunt in the city of Liverpool. We started with a look around the two cathedrals in the city centre. They are both beautiful buildings and a complete contrast to one another. We were given a short but interesting guided tour of the Metropolitan Catholic cathedral before the short walk along Hope Street to the Anglican cathedral which we explored by ourselves, before being escorted up around 100 steps to 'the bridge' with a fine view of the whole church. I think both the Scouts and leaders all found these visits far more interesting than they had imagined! We then continued our tour of the city centre, taking as many group photos as we could with the various landmarks and sites that were on the scavenger hunt list. One of the highlights was a visit to the Cavern Club, where we descended several flights of stairs to find the tiny stage that had launched The Beatles' career back in the 1960s. There was a musician playing Beatles songs (what else?) and a lovely chance to sit and enjoy the atmosphere of this historic club, before the obligatory group photo! All in all – a fascinating day out.



The rest of the week was spent on site at the Jamboree tackling the many and varied activities on offer. At each Activity Zone were a multitude of activities that the youngsters could take part in. These ranged from the adventurous: Climbing, Abseiling, Crate Stacking, Caving, Scuba Diving, Quad Bikes, Clay Pigeon Shooting and Archery (just to mention a few) to Fun & Games: Laser tag, lots of inflatables, a dunk tank and an Escape Room full of puzzles to solve in order to... escape(!) and also creative opportunities: art, craft and Survival Skills. If you fancied chilling out, you could always visit the onsite cafe or relax in the cinema, showing different films each day.

After the evening meal each night 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 head to the main arena to watch a band or take part in the disco.

The week seemed to fly by and I think it's fair to say our lot had a great

time. On the Friday evening, the camp was rounded off with the closing ceremony followed by a massive party in front of the stage. And before we knew it, Saturday morning had arrived and it was time to break camp and pack away for another year. Yet another wonderful week - 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



'Bubble Rush' Hits Gloucestershire

Bubble Rush is the unique experience that is sweeping the nation and this year there's only one place in Gloucestershire where you and your family can join the fun. Whether you're 5 or 85, you'll love walking, jogging or running through a sea of coloured bubbles, because there's no place like foam!

You'll be raising funds for Longfield, the local charity which enables people who are living with life-limiting illness to live well and supporting their family and carers, and those who have been bereaved. Bring the whole family to join the fun on Sunday October 7th at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester. To sign up or for more information, go to longfield.org.uk or ring 01453 886868.

The Three Raindrops



There were three raindrops, which all came from the same cloud, who were in deep discussion as they hurtled towards the Earth.

Said the first, 'I am the best of us all as I am the biggest raindrop'.

Said the second, 'No, I am the best as I have the most perfect teardrop shape'.

The third said, 'I am better than both of you, because I am made out of the purest water'.

Just as they were about to launch into a heated discussion about size, purity and shape, they all dropped, with a big splash, into a very muddy puddle!

Aesop

The Swindon Village Society

invites you to

The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire

A talk by John Chandler

Wednesday 19th September

Garden Birds

A talk by Arthur Ball

Wednesday 17th October

Both talks will be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Non-members are welcome for a fee of £1 per person.

Refreshments afterwards



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**Village News is delivered to
900 homes in Swindon Village**

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
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

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
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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

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Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	Vacant	Contact one of the Churchwardens (below)
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