

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 455 June 2019

June

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Monday | 3 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
William Reddaway - A Ride Round England |
| Wednesday | 5 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Dick Shepherd - My Life as a Stuntman |
| Saturday | 8 | Swindon Village Primary School Summer Fair
11.00am to 1.00pm

Bellringing competition at St. Lawrence's Church - 4.30pm |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 12 | Wednesday Club Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12noon
at 17 Quat Goose Lane |
| Tuesday | 18 | Litter Pick around the park 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Meet in car park next to the Mary Godwin Pavilion |
| Saturday | 22 | Plant Sale at St. Lawrence's Church 11.00am to 1.00pm |
| Wednesday | 26 | The Swindon Village Society visit to Pear Tree Garden,
Gotherington (see inside for details) |

July

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Monday | 1 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Joanne Lock - Medical Detection Dogs |
| Wednesday | 3 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Pam Slater - Story Behind Tea |
| Tuesday | 9 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | 10 | Wednesday Club outing by coach to The Cotswolds |

(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.)

The Council have now signed off the paperwork for 2018-2019 and everything is available to view on the website. The closure of the year makes this a good time to review our successes and failures for the twelve months.

We installed a defibrillator at the Village Hall. Defibrillators in public areas have had a significant role in ensuring the survival of heart attack victims. A local paramedic gave three of us an introduction to CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and the use of a defibrillator. There is a separate article elsewhere.

The Council also purchased a noticeboard to be sited outside the Cross Hands to serve the southern part of the parish. Installation requires Gloucestershire County Council to conduct a search for services in the grass verge. Sadly GCC have been uncommunicative for many months. I am hopeful that this will be resolved within the next few weeks. As an aside, it should be noted that the noticeboard at the entrance to the allotments has been refurbished at no cost to the Council by the allotment holders.

The Council was delighted to be approached by Spirax Sarco as part of a community engagement initiative. A joint team comprising Spirax Sarco employees and local residents have done some litter picking and another event will take place on 18th June. We are meeting at 2:00pm in the park car park (near the Mary Godwin pavilion). Litter pickers, rubbish bags and encouragement will be available.

The growth in the hedge along Manor Road causes problems to pedestrians every year. A major part of the issue is that ownership of the hedge is disputed between Spirax Sarco and Gloucestershire County Council. I hope to get that resolved soon so that we have a lasting solution but, in the meantime and to their credit, Spirax Sarco have cut the hedge back.

In an attempt to address the issue of the speed and volume of traffic going through Swindon Village some of our councillors met with Gloucestershire Highways. Certain measures were agreed at that meeting but this initiative has also been stalled due to the lack of action from GCC. The Council

recognises that it may need to invest money to address these problems (e.g. electronic speed signs).

In August new play equipment was installed in the park. The Council had budgeted to spend money on this project. In the end it was financed by Cheltenham Borough Council, and we are grateful to them for that.

There were fears for the future of the Village Hall following the resignation of the Village Hall Management Committee after many years of service to the parish. The Parish Council sought support from the community for this important asset and a new Committee has been formed to take the hall forward. The bar and the hall is being opened on Friday nights during May and I know that the first night was a great success. The hall will also have hosted a poll for the European Elections on 23rd May. It was predicted that the biggest winners would be the candidates supporting departure from Europe. Does anybody understand what is going on?

We welcomed two new councillors during the year. Yvonne joined in June 2018 and James in July 2018. Like buses, you wait a long time then two come along at once. They are busy people but have brought their energy and enthusiasm to the Council. However, we still have four vacancies.

In the park the sundial mosaic, owned by the Parish Council, has deteriorated badly. The Council is seeking professional advice to not only restore it but to make it more resilient. This is likely to involve significant expenditure.

The chestnut trees in the Amenity Area also represent another large potential cost. The trees are dying. Work was undertaken to remove some larger boughs but there remains much to be done.

Having invested in the defibrillator and the noticeboard our reserves now stand at £20,761.72. This is a healthy figure but, as I have highlighted, we may have to finance some major works in the future.

We thought that winning some Local Green Space in the JCS was one of our triumphs. However, as you have been told, the Planning Inspector reviewing the Cheltenham Local Plan (which should be compliant with the JCS) has decided that she wants to review this. The JCS was subject to multiple reviews and consultations before being signed off by the Secretary of State. It seems strange and undemocratic that a Planning Inspector can potentially make fundamental changes to its provisions when it is beyond consultation. We are grateful to Borough Councillor Flo Clucas for continuing the fight with our support.

Cruiser/boy racer activity has again been reported in the area. We are hopeful that “sleeping policemen” will be installed in Malmesbury Road to discourage this.

The Parish Council was given a presentation by developers who have purchased the old Vibixa site on Wymans Lane/Runnings Road. They are planning to speculatively develop the site as industrial and trade counter units. Councillors were able to comment on a number of issues prior to formal submission of a planning application. Demolition of the old buildings could start in August.

Through the Parish Council website I receive lots of messages offering me everything from noticeboards and playground equipment to Russian brides. It is amazing how attractive I appear to be to stunning women from the Caucasus who have never set eyes on me. Anyway, one of the most bizzare messages I received requested access to our premises to perform paranormal investigations. It wasn't spam; once again we had been mistaken for Swindon, Wiltshire.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

"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**".

Swindon Parish Council

is organising a

LITTER PICK

**on Tuesday 18th June 2019
from 2:00pm until 4:00pm**

Please come along and help us.

**We will be meeting at
the car park at Swindon Village Park,
Wymans Lane
(opposite Swindon Lane)**

A short safety briefing will be given.
All necessary equipment (and insurance) will be provided.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council
07833 089435
parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
<http://swindonparish.org.uk>

Services and Events in June

2	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
4	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
8	Saturday	4.30pm	Bellringing competition
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
22	Saturday	11.00am	Plant sale
23	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
25	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
30	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise

Book Review

'Field Guide to the English Clergy – A Compendium of Diverse Eccentrics, Pirates, Prelates and Adventurers, Some Even Practising'

By The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie (published by Oneworld Publications, 175 pages, £12.99)

Never, in one place, are you likely to come across such a bizarre, unique and funny group of clerics as in this delightful book! Not terribly well known until a rapid re-print after its publication last year, the book began to appear in many clergy Christmas stockings last December.

The Revd Butler-Gallie, a Church of England curate, has painstakingly collected 'brief lives' of some of the oddest individuals ever to have graced England's churches. It is perfectly possible to read the book at one sitting because you begin eagerly to anticipate the next clergy example, usually even more eccentric than the last. I am loathe to dilute the joy by quoting examples. The book is handily divided into sections entitled 'Eccentrics, Nutty Professors, Bon Viveurs, Prodigal Sons and Rogues' with a good glossary for the uninitiated.

My favourite, if forced to name one, would probably be the Revd Ian Graham-Orlebar, Rector of Barton-le-Clay (1926 – 2016). Sporting disdain for clergy who used their motor cars, Graham-Orlebar would travel round his parish on a ride-on lawnmower. When Britain joined the EEC in 1973, he caused disruption by solemnly informing his parishioners at a parish information evening that the day had been shortened to ten hours, producing a specially adapted clock to demonstrate, and that the highway code had been changed making driving on the right compulsory and roundabouts obsolete, 'resulting in a short and very localised spell of chaos on the roads of south Bedfordshire.'

There is much to enjoy here and hopes are high for a second volume.

Fr Nick



From the registers

Interment of ashes

We gave thanks for the life of
Ralph Bennett 1st May

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 the clergy by email:

Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com

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



Plant Sale

and more!

St. Lawrence's Church
Saturday 22nd June
11.00am - 1.00pm

Refreshments will be served
so come and have a chat over a cuppa and
a biscuit or cake.

We are grateful to Mr. Relf, who stocked the plant stall at the fete for many years, for his generous offer of bedding plants to sell to raise funds for the church again this year.

We also hope to sell cakes, and good quality Bring & Buy items, as well as any plants you may have spare. We would be grateful for donations of any of these items and ask you to bring them to the church after 9am that day.

The money raised from this event will go into the church's general fund to help pay the day-to-day expenses of keeping the church open, just as the income from the fete did.

Karen Evans tel. 241678 or Mandy Jilbert tel. 693639

Battle of the Bands – Saturday 8th June

St Lawrence's church will be the venue for Cheltenham's Battle of the Bands on Saturday 8th June. "What type of band?", I hear you ask. Heavy metal bands. The ultimate in heavy metal bands: bands of bellringers.

Up to ten bands from across the Cheltenham area will compete on St Lawrence's bells for the coveted Banner Trophy. The aim of the battle? To ring a five minute piece as accurately and evenly as possible. This is no mean feat as St Lawrence's bells are notoriously tricky to ring.

The battle will commence with a draw for ringing order at 4.30pm. The judges will have already taken their seats in a neighbouring house so they will be judging blind. Each band will ascend the wooden steps to the ringing room and be given five minutes to practise their piece. Then a signal to the judges to indicate that they're ready to begin, and they'll be off, focussing their minds and flexing their muscles, hoping to perform well in battle.

Will St Lawrence's tricky bells give the Swindon Village band a home advantage? Will an experienced Leckhampton band storm to victory? Or will Bishop's Cleeve sneak a win by the tiniest margin? Come along at 4.30pm on Saturday 8th June to find out.

(Tea and cake available – it's quaint really!)



This picture is not upside down! English style bellringing requires the bells to swing full-circle from a mouth-up position and back.



Swindon Village Community Hall

BAR OPEN EVERY FRIDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

From 6.30pm - 11.00pm

Family Friendly Community Evening

Happy Hour Between 7pm and 9pm



www.svhall.co.uk

Defibrillator Training

On 16th May two of your councillors and I met with Tim, a locally based paramedic, to get some familiarisation with the use of a defibrillator. Tim brought some training equipment with him. You can see two dummies in the photograph.

Calm down, I'll do the jokes if you don't mind.



Tim works for the South West Ambulance Trust. You will be pleased to know that the Trust is the biggest and best performing in the country.

Tim dispelled a few myths about responding to a cardiac arrest. These are the important facts:

- ◆ Call the emergency services. It helps if you have someone with you; one person can fetch a defibrillator or converse with a call handler whilst one person attends to the patient.
- ◆ Giving a precise location to the emergency services is vital. A landline does this automatically; a mobile can be less precise.
- ◆ If the patient is indoors ensure that the door is unlocked so that the emergency services can gain entry.
- ◆ CPR (strong chest compressions twice a second) is VITAL. This does not restart a stopped heart but keeps the blood, which will still contain some oxygen, circulating.
- ◆ Open the defibrillator package and switch on the machine. It will speak to you and tell you EXACTLY what you should do.

We thought the defibrillator was the whole answer but administering CPR is absolutely vital to obtaining a good outcome.

We are very grateful to Tim for freely giving his time. Tim is prepared to run another familiarisation session. If you are interested in attending one and learning more please let me know.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>



SWINDON VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer FAIR 2019

SATURDAY JUNE 8TH
11AM TO 2PM

BOUNCY CASTLES ★ FACE PAINTING
ARMY ASSAULT COURSE ★
ICE CREAMS ★ REFRESHMENTS ★
TOMBOLA ★ MINI SHOPPING VILLAGE ★
CHILL OUT ZONE ★ BURGERS
CHELTENHAM TOWN HOT SHOTS ★
FUN FAIRGROUND GAMES ★
FIRE ENGINE ★

ADMISSION: £1.00 (UNDER 5s & SVPS PUPILS FREE)

Save the Countryside 12th Annual Walk

Around 50 of us had a lovely afternoon on Sunday, walking the fields at the North West of Cheltenham between Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke. This event has become such a lovely local community event, enjoying our local countryside, meeting our friends and neighbours. The rain held off and the fields were beautiful.

A big thanks to Mike and Anne in Elmstone Hardwicke for refreshing us half way around and to Helen Harris and her kind friend for their help as terrific tea ladies afterwards.

Some of these fields are destined to become new housing development in future years, but the team are delighted that a continuous area all around the village had been agreed to be retained as local green space.

Following years of collaborative work on the local green space matter, we thought we had reached a good reasonable conclusion at the end of the Joint Core Strategy In 2017. The Government inspector confirmed that we would retain an agreed area around Swindon Village as local green space, to retain its village identity. This is less than 7% of the land removed from the green belt for housing in the JCS. The exact details were to be finalised in the Cheltenham plan. However, a new government inspector assigned to verify the soundness of the Cheltenham plan, now actually wants to retroactively revise the local green spaces assigned by the JCS Inspector. She would like us only to have a small corner of the area that we had been granted.

Of course her recommendation has not been accepted by Swindon Parish Council and Save the Countryside. We reminded her and Cheltenham Borough Council planning team of the thorough detail that the teams have gone through to ensure that the Local green space is in line with National planning policy framework.

We wait with baited breath to ensure that the fair and robust (all be it lengthy) process of the JCS to enable the local green space has not been discarded by one swift move by another inspector. Again we are pleased to have the support of our councillors on this matter.

As soon as I hear any more from Cheltenham planning team or the government inspector I will share an update. In the meantime we continue to enjoy our precious green spaces.

Helen Wells



Our May meeting was a time to debate and vote on the resolutions for the National Annual Meeting, being held in Bournemouth this year. The subjects were on Bus Services and Cervical Smear testing. Eileen gave her report on the Annual Council Meeting. We had, on display, some of our old WI scrapbooks to browse through before they are taken to WI House for archiving.

A watercolour workshop was much enjoyed and there is talk of a follow-on course. A beautiful bee and a dragonfly were the products of a day learning to do goldwork. The meals-out were return visits to the Giggling Squid and Gianni's. A County holiday break to Kent with interesting visits was organised by Wendy, and Sue and I went to Denman College for a weekend course 'Let's Beer and Gin it!' This included a trip to the East End of London to visit the sights of some of the many breweries and distilleries, and some gin tasting. We learnt of the marriages between the big banking, brewing and industrial families of London and the money they accrued. With the many ale houses and gin palaces and unhealthy living much of the money was used charitably to relieve the situation – alcoholism, poverty and death being rife. Today the big breweries have moved out of town but there are still small independent distilleries creating trendy flavoured gins. A very tasty, interesting and educational trip! Meanwhile, Wendy and Chris went to the West Country on the County Walking Weekend.

A very interesting lecture on Richard III attracted a large audience. Having been to Leicester and seen his tomb and the site where his body was found, this talk added to the overall history. It is quite surprising that, despite the many stories and research being done, we still do not know exactly what happened during his era, or who did what. There seems to be a lot of speculation and assumptions being made.

As result of our talk about the SS Great Britain, we are organising a coach visit to Bristol in August to see the ship. We are also looking into the opportunity of a visit to the Houses of Parliament. Quite a few members are going to the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth that entails an overnight stay. We have tea afternoons at Eileen's and Annette's to look forward to and the usual Craft and Book Club meetings. We have an open evening at the John Lewis store, that they have organised for us, to celebrate our Gloucestershire Centenary.

A day at Wendy's has been arranged when we shall be wrapping bottles in

newspaper! These are for our tombola stall at the special 'Centenary Village Fayre and Picnic' being held in the gardens of Bathurst Mansion, Cirencester, in July. Just the other side of the huge yew hedge.

Our speaker at our meeting on June 3rd is William Reddaway. He was in the news a few years ago when he rode his horse around England. I don't think he is planning to bring it with him, just pictures! If you would like to join us for the evening we meet at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane, at 7.30pm and you would be made most welcome.

Sara Jefferies

William Reddaway and his horse, Strider, travelled around England in 2013, covering 2,500 miles and visiting 30 cathedral cities.

They raised more than £86,000 for charity.

Mr Reddaway will be speaking to Marle Hill W.I. about that epic journey.

Visitors are welcome.

Monday 3rd June at 7.30pm
in St. Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane

In April we had our spy, Robert Skelt, back again to tell us the tale of Kim Philby. Now Mr Philby never lived in Swindon Village so it was stretching things a little to include him under the 'local history' talk heading. But the fact is that Robert is a very good speaker and it sort of followed on from the Bletchely Park theme that he took us through over the previous two years so we stretched the point. And sure enough it was a first rate talk on a subject that most of us remember as the scandal of 'The Third Man' from our youth but the details in our minds were sketchy. Philby was the last of the three spies in our midst, after Burgess and McClean, and the last to be unveiled. Of course there was a fourth in the shape of Anthony Blunt but he probably did less damage. Philby certainly lived a strange life and was a firm traitor to his country while becoming a hero to the Soviet Union. He was guilty of causing many deaths and it was pleasing to find that, on the whole, once he had fled to the East his life was not a happy one. Indeed his life must have been one of constant stress being on the brink of discovery a number of times.

We do now have a garden visit arranged after quite a bit of effort by Eileen. Our first few efforts were either too expensive or not really suitable. However, as a result, we have had to change the date of the visit to a week later than the date in our membership card programme. We will now be visiting Pear Tree Garden in Gotherington on the evening of Wednesday, 26th June.

Now we did go to Pear Tree some years ago but my memories of it are faint and I know that for many members it will be all new. It also has the great advantage that it is local, inexpensive and puts on tea and a bun afterwards. So please note the change of date and tell any friends who might be interested. I think the prices are £4 for entry and £1.50 for tea. The society will subsidise members a little but non-members will have to cough up in total. Non-members are welcome but numbers are limited so please book if you want to join us. Members should book after 15th June. I will put out an e-mail to remind you. Non-members please wait until after 19th June by when I should know if we have spare places. To book call **Barry Simon on 01242 521723** or e-mail **barry_simon@hotmail.com** As ever we will meet up at 7pm in the Village Hall car park to amalgamate cars.

In July Dr Tim Brain will be back to tell us about Gloucestershire Battles. Even though Dr Brain was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire I don't think he will be dwelling on Saturday nights in Cheltenham. I believe his

Doctorate was in History so if he doesn't know about all the best fights that took place on what was to become his patch, nobody does.

For some reason I am reminded of when I worked in the Ministry of Defence when occasionally a glass of wine was taken on Friday lunchtime. Should the phone ring in the office on a Friday afternoon a regular response was 'War Office here – want a fight?'

Barry Simon

Contact Barry Simon after 15th June
if you would like to visit Pear Tree Garden,
Gotherington on 26th June
with The Swindon Village Society.

The Swindon Village Society
invites you to

“Gloucestershire Battles”
A talk by Dr. Tim Brain

Wednesday 17th July
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

Everybody is welcome
£1 charge for non-members

*WEDNESDAY CLUB
COFFEE MORNING*

*on WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 2019
from 10.30 am until 12 noon
at 17 QUAT GOOSE LANE*

*ADMISSION £1.00 to include drink and biscuit
Raffle tickets £1.00*

*Table top Sale of Cakes, Books & Plants
Please come along, all are welcome
(bring a friend)*

Wednesday Club

Our Speaker, Mr Alan Clarke, gave us a slightly different talk at our May meeting than we were expecting. He focused more on flora and fauna rather than a picture tour of the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley. However, there were beautiful pictures of various wild flowers and a wonderful view of bluebells as far as the eye could see near Soudley. The Daffodil fields near Dymock were spectacular as well and the church there is definitely worth a visit to see the historical frescoes that were revealed when the church was restored. Another place to visit is Brockweir about a mile away from the village of Tintern. The residents have bought and built a shop with a Cafe on the first floor and a community space for everyone. It looked really nice and I think a visit shortly is on the cards. It was a very pleasant evening followed by a lovely supper provided by Lyn and Jackie.

Our annual Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 12th June at the usual address, 17 Quat Goose Lane. Entry will be £1.00 to include coffee/tea and biscuits. There will be a raffle and a small table sale including books. We will be open from 10 am until 12 noon and so please do come along and support us. We ran out of chairs last year for the first time so if arriving by car, perhaps you could bring a chair just in case.

On Wednesday 10th July we will be having a trip by coach around the Cotswolds. We will be stopping off for refreshments somewhere along the way and as this trip is open to everyone please contact me on 693112 if you would like to join us. If you have already put your name down for this trip please bring your money to the next meeting on June 5th. We will be leaving the Village Hall at 11.30 am and will return at about 5 pm.

Our speaker next month will be Dick Shepherd who will be telling us about his life as a stuntman. Visitors are always welcome for £3 to include supper.

Look forward to seeing you in June.

Pauline Wright



Making way for hedgehogs in Swindon Village

Hedgehogs are surviving better in urban areas than in rural. Overall threats to hedgehogs include habitat fragmentation, fewer invertebrates, increased road traffic and litter, and climate change; hedgehogs face different specific dangers in urban areas than rural areas but urban hedgehogs are thought to be declining less rapidly than rural.

Ensuring that our urban gardens and green spaces are managed for wildlife is a good way to support hedgehogs: leaving wilder areas good for nesting, not using slug pellets, checking before lighting bonfires and strimming, and ensuring that there's a step out of ponds. You can check your own garden or local green space 'score' by taking the garden assessment 'How hedgehog friendly is your garden?' <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2W3ZBRL>

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is working with a committed team of hedgehog champions to identify areas of Swindon Village where wildlife friendly gardens and green spaces can be linked to create 'hedgehog ways', gifting hedgehogs safe spaces and an opportunity to thrive in the area. If you would like to be part of this, please do email georgia.spooner@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk who is co-ordinating the project.

Hedgehog Way is supported by the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Hedgehog numbers have fallen significantly in the last few decades. It is estimated that there are 1.5 million hedgehogs in the UK, down from 36 million in the 1950s. According to the People's Trust for Endangered Species, losses in towns and cities appear to have slowed, and the number of hedgehogs found in urban gardens at night may be increasing.

To find out more about Hedgehog Way, visit gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk or email georgia.spooner@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is a charity which manages 60 nature reserves around the county, runs events and courses to help people get closer to local wildlife, and is involved with a number of projects which support communities and individuals to enjoy being outside.

The committee and volunteers are continuing to get to grips with the running of the hall and lots of little victories are being made whilst learning of things that we didn't know - as Mr Rumsfeld once said we have known knowns and unknown knowns!

The main events this month have been our inaugural big bookings for a christening and wedding reception - our first efforts at running the bar and these gave us the confidence to open the bar to the village on Friday 10th May. There was a tremendous turn-out and that's inspired us to open weekly for the rest of May from 6.30pm onwards; lots of volunteers have signed up to help run the bar and, with a growing pool of talent, we should be able to open regularly throughout the summer. Of course, if attendances decrease markedly then we might reassess and reduce to opening fortnightly or monthly but let's see what happens - if the village wants the bar open then we'll do everything we can to make it so.

The environment is becoming a concern to a growing number of people and we invited an energy saving advisor to visit and advise us on how the hall can be run more efficiently by producing an energy management report - simple measures can save money but also reduce our cost to the planet. We've already swapped the bulbs over the bar to LEDs and installed some smart plugs to control the bar fridges and stop them running 24/7. Other suggestions we could take involve insulating the cellar to prevent warmth entering the room - a project for somebody perhaps! There are grants available for other energy saving projects which is something that we are exploring so watch this space. The report was compiled and presented to some of the committee but, as I write this, that was only a few days ago and we've not fully digested it but we'll seek to implement as much of it as possible.

The black banquet chairs have had a bit of TLC applied and are looking much better thanks to Maija and Carol's sterling efforts and a mini-committee has been formed to look at renovating the hall and updating some of the fixtures and fittings - they're a small group and keen for volunteers to help them out, if you've got any ideas about how the hall should look or operate then this is a great opportunity for you to make your influence count.

The website, social media accounts, email address and mobile phone have all been a tremendous success and Jana, our bookings secretary, has done an amazing job co-ordinating bookings and liaising with different

groups - we already have more bookings planned this year than the whole of 2018 but not quite at the level in 2017 but we're not even half way through the year yet so the signs are promising.

To end, I'd like to continue to introduce the committee members each month and this month is our treasurer, Karren Parsons. Karren is married to Matt and they have two daughters who both went to Swindon Village Primary: Katie is at university in York and Bekah goes to Chichester in September. Karren runs a bookkeeping company based in the village so becoming treasurer seems the obvious way to fill her time. When she's not counting the pennies and shouting at the Chair for buying too much gin, she can also be found working behind the bar!

Ben Williams, Chair.

The Window Surgeons

Problems with your Double Glazing?

We can...

**Replace Misty Sealed Units
Replace Broken Handles/Hinges
Fix Conservatory Roofs**

Call Martin on 07879 696289

30 years experience in the window industry

We also install new windows, doors and conservatories



**CHELTENHAM
STUDIOS**

8 - 16th JUNE 2019

**FREE ENTRY
TO 79 VENUES**

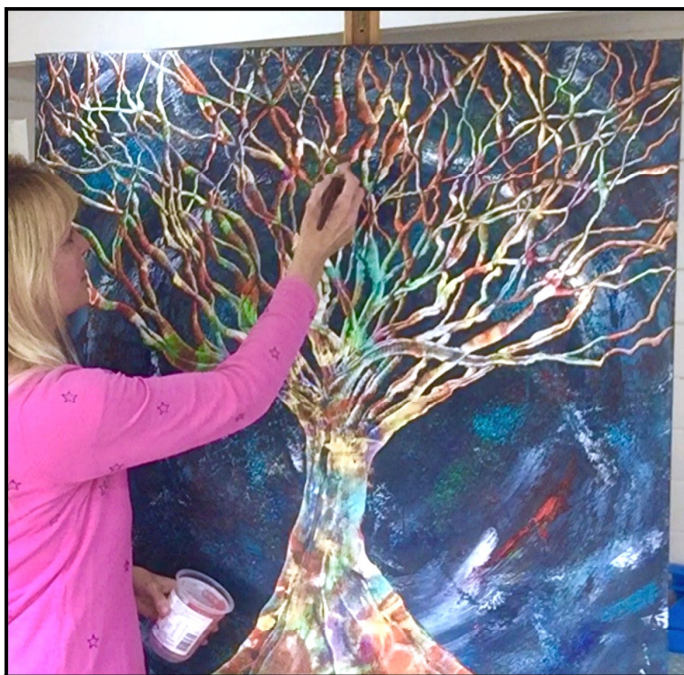
At: Bath Road Market, 252 Bath Rd, Cheltenham

8th - 16th June Open Daily 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-4pm

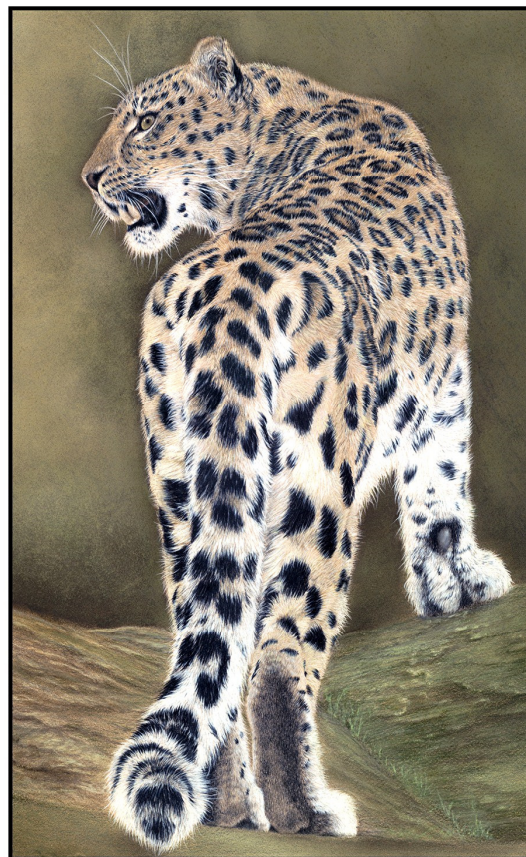
Artist Frances Whitman of Swindon Village

will be exhibiting her impressive artworks alongside Jan Thompson, Gillian Bateman, Ann Sohn-Rethel, Kath Cooper and Chris Elmer. Ceramics, pottery, jewellery, sculpture, paintings & drawings in a wide range of styles and subjects, will be on show and for sale by the artists.

View Frances' art in colour at www.franceswhitman.com



Frances adding the finishing touches to one of her colourful tree paintings



Every 2 years at the beginning of June, Cheltenham Open Studios put on a major event where 200 artists open their homes & studios to the public. View artists at www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk



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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 Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Jodie Courts	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne	07515 461876
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. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
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Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas Cllr. Bernard Fisher	255844 07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://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	Revd. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
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 views of the Editors or the Parish Council