

Here to Help

Helping Neighbours in Swindon Parish during Corona Virus Pandemic

This is a community information leaflet produced by Swindon Parish Council.

If you are self-isolating now or in the future and you might need help, no matter what your age, this is for you.

If you are under 60 and feel you might be able to help out by:

- Making a friendly phone call
- Collecting shopping
- Being part of a buddy system

then this is also for you.

Join our COVID-19 Response Volunteer Group today!

Contact: **heretohelp@swindonparish.org.uk**

Contact: **07395 906 633**

See the back of the magazine for more details.

You can find out the latest local news and information at our website:

<https://swindonparish.org.uk/>

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 463 April 2020

A note from the editors

All local events and club and society meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future and we do not expect to produce another Village News magazine for some time.

Please detach and keep the wrap-around poster from the cover of this magazine for information about help organised by Swindon Parish Council.

We are living through strange times and none of us know how this is going to develop. We send our best wishes to everyone in the hope of good times ahead.

Stuart Deakin and Karen Evans

(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.)

Since my last article coronavirus has swept (and changed) the world. The Parish Council is actively considering how best to support the vulnerable members of our community. If you know of someone who needs a helping hand let us know. If you are able to offer support to others, however that may be, let us know. This is a special Village News with information about what to do, how to help and how to ask for help. Who knows, perhaps it will become a collectors' item when, in happier times, we are looking back on the events of today. The Parish Council will also put information on our noticeboards (at Wymans Lane/Swindon Lane bus stop, Quat Goose Lane bus stop, the church and outside the Cross Hands) and offer a phone number for people to call. These are unprecedented times. The Parish Council intends to do what it can but it is up to every one of us. Let's show that we are a community that takes care of each other.

The virus is moving faster than the legislators. To conduct their business the law requires that Parish Councils must meet in person and be open to the public. In the present circumstances this goes against government advice. Consideration is being given to empowering local government to continue under the new, restrictive regime.

By the time you read this you will know that the litter pick that I had planned for the 25th has had to be cancelled. Keep Britain Tidy, like many organisations, has postponed its activities for the foreseeable future.

On to happier matters. The bench is now installed in the Amenity Area and, if the weather improves and we are allowed to leave our homes, may be enjoyed by all. There are many activities that are now impossible (or at least not recommended). Walking in the fresh air is something we can all continue to enjoy.

We are all used to complaining about councils and utility companies. I must say I have recently had a very positive experience with Severn Trent. I reported the poor condition of three stopcock covers at the entrance to Morris Hill Close. One was missing altogether. I received a text the following day to say that repairs had been completed.

The horse trough has been looking magnificent and spring-like despite the appalling weather. Back in summer 2018 I was corresponding with Neil

suggesting that, in view of the dry conditions, we could set up a rota of councillors to keep the trough watered. No problems with it drying out so far this year! Thank you and well done to Neil!

I have mentioned again (and again) that we are short of councillors. We should have nine but we only have four. This came to a head when we were scheduled to meet in March. With one councillor ill and another away with work we didn't have the three members required for a quorum. As a result we couldn't conduct any business. If this continues, planning applications will sail through without our input. This might make the developers happy but will not be such good news for the local scene.

As everything closes down for the duration there will probably be less and less to report. Please keep an eye on the website and the noticeboards. Also, keep an eye on your neighbours. Stay safe and well and help to ensure that the vulnerable members of our community do the same.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org.uk>

"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".

Dear Parishioners.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the Church of England has taken radical and rightful measures during this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic to safeguard its people by suspending all acts of public worship aside from Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. It is a move which is in keeping with the rest of society at this time, as we, as a nation, aim to stem the spread of this virus.

If you are reading this before Mothering Sunday, when there will no public services, the Archbishops are encouraging a National Day of Prayer. Please light a Candle at 7pm on Sunday and put it in your window. Please do call somebody who is isolated and vulnerable if you are able and stay in touch with one another. As the Archbishops have highlighted, we are to be “a radically different Church during this time”; perhaps it will be a reminder of our roots as Christians as we take a more bare-bones approach to being the people of God, albeit having to be that with a physical distance between each other.

Please, if you are able, keep abreast of both the Church of England and Diocesan Websites for continuous up-to-date information.

<https://www.churchofengland.org>
<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org>

I will be available for you to email or make contact with during this time of social distancing.

Please note the readings for Mothering Sunday (Fourth of Lent). If you have a Bible handy, please do engage with the scripture readings and meditate on them:

Old Testament 1 Samuel 1: 20-end
New Testament Epistle 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
St Luke's Gospel Ch2:33-35

Keep safe everybody and I will be in touch again. Sending you all a huge e-hug and e-handshake.

*"We are the Body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
And builds up our common life.
The peace of the Lord be always with you."*

Rev George

fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com
01242 702890

* * * * *



*i'm Dancing 'cause
Your Love has set me Free*



The hit BBC series, REV. charts the ups and downs of being a parish priest. It's a fairly accurate portrayal of ministerial life and it really is very funny. The main character, Rev Adam Smallbone, resides in the London borough of Hackney. He is the priest in charge of St Saviour's. As like any parish, it has its challenges and Rev Adam, for the most part, meets those challenges head-on. There is a constant comedic slant to his encounters with the world, but rather than belittle the roles of both clergy and

parishioner, the programme generally highlights, through the use of comedy, the things that should be obvious to us but are at times obscured from view.

In a section of the novel inspired by the series, it's Holy Saturday and Rev Adam is preparing to begin the Easter Vigil at midnight. He notes that it is the biggest crowd that he can remember gathered outside the church in front of the brazier and he is absolutely elated. Though initially impressed with the number, he is forced to acknowledge that the hundreds contain both "true believer and passing clubber alike" (*as if the two are mutually exclusive tut! tut!*). The passing clubbers, attracted by the controlled fire, lose interest when the rest of the service leads everyone else into the church.

Maybe by the time this is read, Holy Saturday will have come and gone for us. But we understand that, at whatever time this is read, we live in a constant and all encompassing resurrection light that attracts, exists beyond time, does not discriminate and speaks to us on one level or another; and even yet, if we choose to, we can pass the whole experience by.

At the start of the Vigil we symbolically take something of God into those hard to reach corners of the world, and we proclaim that this is for you too; this is for all – 'true believer and clubber alike'. It's an important message and it testifies to the resurrection as a saving act that cannot, of itself, be influenced but relies solely upon God's grace – this is what makes it such an amazing accomplishment; one which draws us all together in perfect union under God, so that on the last day, we, righteous and unrighteous, may rejoice as we rise with him in glory.

A very Happy Easter to you all.....true believer and clubber alike.

Rev George

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.

Dave Peacey

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the death of Dave Peacey from Hulbert close.

He was a great groundskeeper and a wonderful friend to my family and me, and others in the village.

Dave died on 16th February after a short illness. His family were with him.

Dave will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Helen Wells



Wednesday Club

Peter Berry came along to talk to us all at our meeting in March and he brought fabulous slides of his trip to Sub Zero China by Train with him. It was honestly an eye opener as to how other nations live. He flew in to Beijing and stayed there for a couple of days before going to Inner Mongolia.

They have two seasons a year, winter and summer. Winter is 30 – 40 degrees below freezing and summer is 30 – 40 degrees above. His pictures were amazing, the mountains and hills covered in frozen ice and snow but the Mongolian people were just in light jackets but always wearing a hat. Peter and his friends by contrast were wearing thermal underwear, thick shirts and jumpers and usually three coats with scarves, gloves and hats.

Toilet facilities were a huge concern because outside of the cities they were just a hole in the ground. They were all told to take their own plug for the sinks as they did not have them over there. However, when the plugs were pulled out, water cascaded down onto their feet - no plumbing!

It was a really enjoyable evening with supper provided by Elaine and Margaret and it would be lovely to see Peter again sometime soon.

As I mentioned in March Village News, we are organising a trip to Aston Pottery on Thursday 9th July. If anybody would like to come along, please ring me on 693112 and I will let you have more details.

Sadly, all meetings of the Wednesday Club are now suspended until further notice. We look forward to meeting again when we can, meanwhile take care and keep in touch with each other if you can.

Pauline Wright

Wednesday Club

*A typical
Wednesday Club supper*



Top table at the AGM



*Anticipation... listening to the
notices prior to Peter Berry's
talk*

I do believe that this report is going to be a bit thin. Our March meeting has now been cancelled so it will be some time before we find out just what the Gloucester Regiment got up to at Waterloo (the battle, not the station). My talks are all being cancelled at present as part of the great social shut-down. When shall we meet again?

So what can I do to fill up a little space? Well, I will start with a nature note. On Sunday I was in our porch and looked up to see a red legged partridge strolling down the path. It ambled to the back garden and Sarah and I shot to the kitchen windows to see it looking around bemusedly as though it too had no idea how it had got there. Finally it ambled off through next door's garden aiming for the lake. I have never seen a red legged partridge anywhere near the village so I was surprised. Do let me know if they are common in back gardens.

The same day I had a newt in the cellar. Since this is a brick built cellar with double walls all round I would dearly love to know how it got in there. Likewise the frogs that appear from time to time although I always imagine that they arrive as tiny tadpoles through the ground water that runs through in heavy rain. They are put out into the back garden for the heron to eat.

Now for a geology note. The reason my cellar floods is that underneath the main part of the village there is a saucer of impermeable clay that was scooped out as the waters flooded south at the end of the last ice age. On top of this is a mound of sand. The Church stands on the highest point. Swindon Hall is very close to the eastern rim of the clay saucer. The cellar below extends into the sand. When it rains a lot the rain drains through the sand but can't easily get out of the clay saucer so builds up. Some of it comes into my cellar, flows through as a small stream and disappears into a small drain hole and sets off down a drain made about two hundred and fifty years ago that passes through the edge of the clay towards the playing field. Sometimes the drain gets overwhelmed and the cellar floods. This is why three Christmases ago I had to put wellington boots on every time we needed a bottle of wine. In 2007 there was two foot of water in the cellar and some very surprised frogs who had to learn to swim very quickly. Oddly enough it has not flooded this year through the downpours. I thought you would all be very interested in that exposition – stop yawning at the back.

It is because of this mount of sand or small hill that we are known as Swindon. It comes from the Saxon - Suindone. Suin – swine – pigs. Done

– hill. So we are the hill where the pigs are kept. So we should be called Pigshill. And the Village bit comes from the time that we had a railway halt of our own, for a few years around 1850 and they called us Swindon Village on the time table to distinguish us from Swindon Town down south. Now if this comes up in a quiz don't put money on it but I am pretty sure it is true. So there we are, all none the wiser but possibly slightly better informed and I have filled up the space.

Barry Simon

Art & Crafts Club

Sorry about last month's issue - I completely forgot! Just look at our Liz - is she showing our demonstrator how to do it?!

Very successful demonstration by Alan Williams, enjoyed by members, just one of the interesting aspects of being in our club.

Helen



We were greatly entertained at our March meeting by Mary Jones. Her talk was called 'Five Dogs, Two Cats and a Couple of Mugs'. She and her husband, an artist and journalist, down-sized to a smaller property in this country and another house on the Greek island of Zante, where they spend six months of the year. It was whilst in Greece that they were landed with a litter of five stray puppies. They eventually, with much effort and many adventures, found homes for them. Mary, herself a journalist, had a career in TV starting out on 'Top Gear' with Angela Rippon and then appeared on 'BBC Holiday' and 'Perfect Holiday'. She has also written a book, illustrated by her artist husband, of their adventures in Greece.

We met up for an excellent lunch at the new restaurant 'GL50'. Members represented our WI at the parties at Prestbury and Southam WIs. Both the Book Club and Craft Club have met and there was a very interesting event held at the Museum in the Park in Stroud. There we experimented with the effects of various dyes on various fabrics. The Stroud area is famous for the dying and producing of the green baize covering for pool and billiard tables, the yellow fabric covering tennis balls and the renowned Scarlet Cloth.

Since then, all our activities have gradually been cancelled! The Annual County Meeting in the Town Hall, The National Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, Walking Netball, all walks, classes, parties and meetings have been the victims of The Virus, I am afraid. Our proposed holiday on the Isle of White has been postponed until next year, hopefully. I seem to be crossing out events in my diary daily, my social life has come to a halt!

Thank goodness for the Modern Age, however. At least today most of us can keep in touch by phone, text, e-mail or any of the other means of communication. Let us hope that the systems don't crash under the strain! 'Isolation' is not as bad as it was in the past.

I am afraid we have cancelled the meeting and all the activities we were to have had in April, and probably until further notice. Watch this space! In the meantime, I hope you all keep safe and well.

Sara Jefferies



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Contact the Editors

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

Save The Countryside Anniversary Walk

Celebrating our beautiful countryside
Protecting our local green space
Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village

Sunday 17th May 2pm

Everyone welcome including dogs and horses
Refreshments available mid way and at the end.



*For further details contact 01242 680602 (Anne)
or 07770 986078 (Helen)*

At the time of publication this walk is going ahead.
Please check with the organisers nearer the date.

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	Caroline Williams Sarah Martin	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
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
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	Vacancy	
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>

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

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
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373 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

Here to Help

Helping Neighbours in Swindon Parish during Corona Virus Isolation

Tell us about yourself via phone or email:

Name _____

Age _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I need some help: YES / NO

Privacy Statement

By contacting us you are consenting to Swindon Parish Council holding your personal information. This will enable the Parish Council coronavirus response team to communicate with you in connection with the current pandemic. If you are a volunteer your data may also be shared with people we are helping to enable you to perform your role. Your data will not be used for any other purpose or shared with others without your explicit consent.

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL