Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

Your local newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council and delivered by volunteers.

June 2025 Edition No.514



Friday 30th Annual Parish Meeting 7.30 Village Hall

JUNE

Monday 9th Parish Council meeting.

7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Saturday 14th Village Fair. Look out for details later this month

around the village.

Tuesday 17th Swindon Village Society. A visit to Brockworth

Court gardens. Depart 6.30pm

Swindon Village Hall car park at 6.30pm.

Lifts should be available including for non

members who book in advance.

Entry fee £6 cash.

Sunday 29th Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall

JULY

Wednesday 16th Swindon Village Society. 7.30pm Village Hall

A talk by Sue Webb on Rural Policing in

Gloucestershire. Village Hall. Non members

welcome £3.

A Connected Community!



Using your phone's camera to hover over each QR Code square below for direct link access.





Parish Council Website

For full, detailed information from and about the Parish Council visit www.swindonparish.org.uk





Parish Council Facebook Page

A public page for live information and news updates from the council: www.facebook.com/swindonparish





Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

A private group for the discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help in the local community.



Anti-Social Behaviour

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



Ring 101 (you may be charged for this phone call) or **email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk**

NB: Get an INCIDENT REPORT NUMBER and let the parish know about it. If the police are not made aware of the problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM.

A Note From The Editor

We've just come back from a lovely warm long weekend in Pembrokeshire. We were very grateful and made the most by having fish and chips on the beach and a cider in the sunshine. It's not often we can say that about Wales. I can remember many childhood holidays in rainy Wales, being dragged round craft shops. It didn't matter if they were pottery or woollen mills – ten year old me didn't appreciate them at all!

It's amazing the difference that the weather makes. I'm fairly sure that the wet holidays outnumbered the sunny ones, but it's the beach days that I remember most.

This year's Village Fair will be held on 14th June and we have ordered good weather so I'm sure that the sun will shine!

There will be the usual array of stalls and refreshments and as usual we need a little bit of help. If you can spare an hour to help we'd be most grateful. For more details of how to help see later in the newsletter.





Swindon Parish and Community Website: https://swindonparish.org.uk I followed up my April moany piece with a (hopefully) more upbeat article in May. I will try to strike a balance in future but always end on something uplifting or amusing. If you're feeling down you might want to cut straight to the last paragraphs!

We have a new County Councillor following the election poll on 1st May. Ian Cameron, the Green Party candidate, was elected by 23 votes. Our previous representative, Bernard Fisher, had decided to stand down. Bernard has been a good friend to Swindon Parish Council over the years. Ian attended our Parish Council meeting on 12th May to introduce himself and to start to get a handle on our local issues and priorities. A good start.

Ian's majority was 23 votes. The Runcorn by-election was even closer with just 6 votes separating the winner from the nearest competitor. Every vote is significant!

Once again we have been suffering from a mindless, attention seeking graffiti tagger. The bench in Old Mill Way has again been the target. Thank you to Sharon who has worked hard to remove it. If anyone has information about this person (who is also "busy" in town) please let us know.

The decrepit gates at the Village Hall have been replaced. I am hopeful that we will recoup the investment through a grant sponsored by outgoing County Councillor Bernard Fisher. If not, we will be able to use Community Infrastructure Levy funding (CIL).

A few words about CIL. When major developments take place, the local authorities can impose a charge on the developer (CIL) which raises money to support local infrastructure needs. By virtue of the



housing developments that are taking place the character of both the area and, of course, the Parish Council, is changing. The size of the parish (in terms of electorate) may double. Areas of the parish that were farmland will become housing estates. A small Parish Council with yours truly as the single, part time employee may become a larger council with multiple employees. These changes will bring both opportunities and challenges.

There is a Community Governance Review underway at the moment. Ahead of a potential move to a unitary authority (replacing the County and Borough Councils) the review is seeking opinions about how the local government landscape should evolve. Swindon Parish Council needs to consider what its future should look like. Should we seek to embrace a bigger area? Should we look to reduce in size and focus purely on Swindon Village? Should we merge with other parishes? At the moment there are five parishes in Cheltenham. Large areas of the borough are unparished (notably the town centre and areas to the west like Hesters Way and Benhall).

Everyone, not just councils and councillors, is encouraged to submit their views. The web link below will describe the review and how you can participate.

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-governance-review

If you are not comfortable with an online survey you can obtain a paper copy at the Borough Council offices. It may also be available through libraries, but not the one in Quat Goose Lane bus shelter!



We have been plagued by the continuing road closures in our area and the knock on effects of others outside our boundary. Alison and Lynne of the Parish Council attended a meeting with Montel Civil Engineering. Montel has been appointed by Gloucestershire County Council as the main contractor for the delivery of Section 2 Phase 2 of the A435 Cheltenham to Bishop's Cleeve Cycleway. The works (on the cycleway and on the GWR bridge) will see this section of the A435 closed completely from 2nd June to 8th September 2025, followed by a northbound only closure from 8th September to 31st October 2025.

Alison and Lynne raised the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents. It is worth repeating their points in full.

- 1. The road and speed signs on Hyde lane need the vegetation cleared to ensure drivers are aware of the speeds on the road.
- 2. The road sign from Hyde Lane to Brockhampton Lane needs to be cleared to highlight this road is for the village only.
- 3. Brockhampton Lane is effectively a single track road and is used extensively by farm traffic and horse riders. It will be very dangerous if extra traffic uses this road. The Parish Council would like to request that additional road signage be put on the entrance to Brockhampton Lane to state that it must only be used for residents of Brockhampton Village.
- 4. The Swindon Village sign which is located on Hyde Lane on the right hand side near the 30 sign is completely hidden by the overgrown hedge. With the expected increased traffic it is critical that these signs are visible to make drivers aware they are coming onto a residential area.

The Parish Council has no direct influence on these matters but lobbies on behalf of us all.



There appears to be a breeding programme for rentable scooters. One was left outside our house. The next day there were two and recently we were up to seven.





What really gets my goat (he's moaning again) is the inconsiderate way in which these machines are abandoned. Normally it is in the middle of the pavement. Perhaps pushchairs should be fitted with bull bars to barge their way through.

Unfortunately the Annual Parish Meeting fell awkwardly this year in terms of advertising it in the Village News. It will take pace in Swindon Village Community Hall at 7:30pm on Friday 30th May. By the time I had confirmed the hall it was too late to mention it in the May Village News and by the time you read this it may have happened. If that is the case you will have missed free pizza.

The book library in Quat Goose Lane has become a treasured resource but it is being compromised by random dumping of boxes of books, DVDs and jigsaws by possibly well meaning individuals. Please make any donations through the organiser, details in the bus shelter.



We bought a new toaster recently. Why am I telling you this? Two reasons. Firstly, what do we do with the old one now that the recycling centre has closed? Do I drive all the way to Stoke Orchard to dispose of it there? Do I put it in the green wheelie? Neither of these options is very green and I am not a fly tipper. Secondly, it has a "lift and look" feature which is life-changing. Thought you'd like to know.

Speaking of fly tipping, a man will have to pay more than £1,000 and do 120 hours of community service after he dumped an old shed and timber at Pope's Hill in the Forest of Dean. It's worth reporting these things!

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Morth Cheltenham Team Ministry



Service of Compline

St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village

Monday 2nd June 2025 - 7pm



RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

This month we celebrate Pentecost – or Whit Sunday. This festival comes fifty days after Easter Day (derived from the Greek work for fiftieth) where Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus had ascended to heaven. Jesus had promised his followers after Easter that although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would be empowered through the Holy Spirit to guide and encourage them to continue spreading the good news of the Gospel all over the world.

Pentecost is seen as the birthday of the Church, when we give thanks for those first disciples and celebrate the crowds who were gathered in Jerusalem who were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own languages. Initially, they thought the disciples were all drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning! In our own churches across the North Cheltenham Team, we will celebrate Pentecost on 8th June, although I'm optimistic we won't be accused of drunkenness!

In our modern society, we feel a bit embarrassed to talk about the Holy Spirit, as if it is something to be ashamed of. But if we look closely, the Spirit is everywhere. It is in the kindness towards others who are less fortunate; I see it in the supermarket where people help strangers without being asked, I see the Spirit in those amongst us who work so hard to make our community a safe, clean and lovely place to live.



The Holy Spirit is one who helps us, fortifies us and empowers us when life is difficult. We are not here to serve ourselves through inward-looking lives. We are designed to live in community, to look out for one another and to bring our own individual and unique gifts to share.

So I wonder what gifts you will share with your neighbours this month as we mark the half-way point of 2025? Be brave and encouraged, as the first disciples were 2000 years ago. Their legacy is still being talked about – what will people be saying about us?

From the registers



Baptisms
We welcomed into the family of the church
Albie George Warren
4th May



Services and events in June

1	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Family Communion Evensong
2	Monday	7.00pm	Compline
3	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
4	Wednesday 10am - 12noon		Church open for private prayer
8	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
10	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
11	Wednesday 1	L0am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
15	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
		5.00pm	Evensong
17	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
18	Wednesday 1	L0am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
22	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
24	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
25	Wednesday 1	L0am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
29	Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion at St. Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke



Services and events in July

1	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
2	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
5	Saturday	10.00am	Cakes and Plants Sale
6	Sunday	9.30am 5.00pm	Family Communion Evensong



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Using elements of The Lord's Prayer, the service of Compline will explore how God's Kingdom is at work within the North Cheltenham Team Ministry. If you are new to faith, exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, or whether you pray regularly, we will focus on the prayer that Jesus taught us. We use this time between Ascension and Pentecost to explore our relationship with God and how we are individually called to become children of this kingdom. For further information, contact Rev Jacqueline Henson via email –



Cakes and Plants Sale

St. Lawrence's Church
Saturday 5th July
10.00am



Income from the sale will go towards the upkeep of St. Lawrence's Church

Donations of cakes and plants will be gratefully received May 01242 241033, Helen 01242 239239, Liz 01242 692483



St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox

Every Tuesday 10.30am to 12noon

Pop in for coffee/tea and biscuits and a good old chat about anything and everything.

Everyone's welcome, old or new. (It's free!)

St. Lawrence's Church is part of the

Morth Cheltenham Team Ministry

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's church, please contact Karen in the Team Office on **01242 244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

You can contact the Team Vicar, **Revd. Jacqueline Henson**, by email: **revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com** or by phone: **01242 220053** or via the office as above.

SWINDON VILLAGE

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

- Stalls
 Tea and coffee
- Games Burgers
- Cakes
 Bar Open
- Ice Creams

The Swindon Village Society

Once a year the Society has on outing; sometimes a nature walk and sometimes a visit. This year we visited Stanton under the guidance of John Heathcott. Now I have known Stanton for many years as a pretty Cotswold village with an interesting church and a good pub. Well, seventeen of us made the visit and we are now much better informed. Stanton had been for many years just another of the string of villages at the base of the Cotswolds all owned by various abbeys. King Kenulf of Mercia had given Stanton to Winchcombe Abbey in the late 700s AD. It had then spent over a thousand years as a farming centre with a particular interest in sheep until it was bought whole and entire by Sir Phillip Stott in 1906. Sir Phillip was actually from Oldham. He was an architect who had designed most of the Cotton Mills in Oldham and many mills elsewhere In Lancashire, Yorkshire and across the world. In doing so he had become more than a little rich. So when he visited Stanton and found it a most delightful place he had no hesitation in buying it. He then brought it rather more up to date with the provision of electricity and a better water supply. Indeed, as you wander round you can see several of the light fitting of that time either standing alone or attached to buildings. As result the place became rather more posh and an adjunct of Broadway.

Much later a lady called Mary Osborn established a charitable foundation there which concentrated on teaching youngsters various crafts such as woodworking and weaving. Her charity was supported by such as John Betjeman, J B Priestly and Enid Blyton. A large building has been constructed up past the pub to accommodate this activity. I had walked past this place several times and just thought it a large farm. Instead it is an educational charity of some note.

The Swindon Village Society

St Michaels Church is very fine and is the resting place of several of those who lived in the village and devoted themselves to charity. But also in one corner of an extra burial ground, a little distant from the church, is the grave of Sir Alexander Glen, KBE, DSC, Polar Medal who can be said to be the model for James Bond. He was an arctic explorer, pre war intelligence gatherer and undertook diplomatic work in the Balkans during the war. And he worked with Ian Fleming.

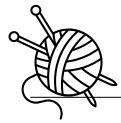
However, the thing that I find most touching about the church, are the several pews at the back. They were reserved for the shepherds who would come down from the hills on Sunday and were allowed to bring their dogs into the church. The dogs would have their leashes tied to the wooden end plates of the pews but since there were several dogs they would be pulling on their leashes and as a result they created deep wear marks in the wood. To my mind, you can't get much closer to real local history than to touch those grooves.

In late Victorian times something of an artistic colony established itself in Broadway. This included several American authors and writers. Included in the group was John Singer Sergeant, an artist. I have seen several of his portraits in London galleries such as The National Gallery and The Tate. He also painted some of the residents of Stanton including Eliza Wedgewood. Her portrait is in the Metropolitan, New York. Right now there is an exhibition of his work and of that of other members of the Broadway group on at the Museum and Art Gallery in Broadway. I can recommend it. It is on until 19th July.

John Wesley was a regular visitor to Stanton. He preached in the church. He also courted the vicar's daughter, Sally Kirkham, but she turned him down.

Our June meeting is an evening outing to Brockworth Court gardens. If you are not a member but would like to join us, send me an e-mail at barry_simon@hotmail.com and I will see if we can fit you in. It takes place on the evening of Tuesday 17th June with an entry fee of £6 in cash. We will arrange lifts where possible. So let me know early if you are interested.

Barry Simon



Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill Wi met on Monday 12 May at St Nicholdas Church Hall and had a demonstration on how to use a Defilbulator and deliver CPR. It was a very helpful demonstration as we voted for the National Resolution of Bystanders can be lifesavers

Members were reminded of the dates for the monthly meal out, knit and natter and the book club.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2 June 2025 at St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30pm. This month's meeting will be about a Fraud Project.

Visitors are very welcome to attend. Come and see what we have to offer and have some ME time.

Sue Davies Marle Hill WI

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

SWINDON VILLAGE
SUMMER FAIR
SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

PLEASE COULD YOU HELP WITH?

✓ PRIZES FOR TOMBOLA AND RAFFLE

- **✓ CAKE DONATION**
- **✓HELP TO SET UP**
- **✓HELP TO TIDY UP**
- **✓ RUNNING A STALL**

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFI AT HALL ON FRIDAY EVENINGS OR 29 DARK LANE

PLEASE CONTACT US ON:

swindonvillagehall@gmail.com





Cook with Dawn

Fruit and vegetables in season during June are...

Fruit: Blackcurrants, Cherries, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Redcurrants, Rhubarb, Strawberries, Tayberries

Vegetables: Asparagus, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Chicory, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Elderflowers, Lettuce, Marrow, New Potatoes, Peas, Peppers, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Samphire, Sorrel, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Summer Squash, Swiss Chard, Turnips, Watercress

<u>Easy Vegetable Frittata.</u>. Serves 4

Light and refreshing frittata accompanied by a green salad..

Ingredients ...

Cooking oil spray..

1 courgette, thinly sliced...

8 spring onions, thinly sliced ..

2 garlic cloves, crushed..

1 red chilli (optional) deseeded and finely chopped..

6 tbsp, drained and finely chopped, roasted red peppers in brine, from a jar..

Tin new potatoes, sliced..

6 eggs, beaten..

Seasoning, salt and pepper..

100g cherry tomatoes, halved..

Green Salad

Watercress, Lettuce, or rocket..

Fat Free vinaigrette.. (or your choice of dressing)



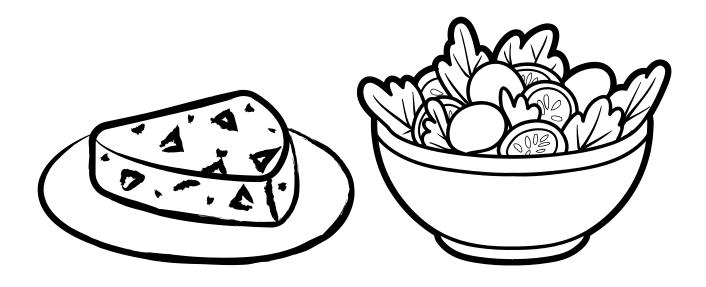
Cook with Dawn

Method

- 1. Preheat the oven , 180°c/fan 160°c/gas 4....
- 2. Spray a medium flan or pie dish with cooking spray...
- 3. In a frying pan, gently fry the Courgettes in a little cooking spray until soft. Leave to cool slightly...
- 4. Now put all the ingredients into a large bowl and mix to combine, season lightly, and pour into the dish...
- 5. Scatter the cherry toms over the frittata, cut side up...
- 6. Bake for 25-40 minutes or until the eggs have set and are golden brown...
- 7. Slice the frittata and serve hot or cold with a crisp green salad drizzled in fat free vinaigrette..

Feel free to use your own favourite veggies in this dish...

This delicious frittata and salad is light and refreshing for those warm summer days, lunchtime or evening meal time, sitting on the patio, perfect.... enjoy..









You feel you are really helping people and making their lives just a little bit less stressful, knowing we are there to assist."

Nigel , Volunteer

Every year, we provide thousands of door-to-door journeys helping the vulnerable across Gloucestershire, now more people than ever before need our help.

Transport is critical to get people to health appointments especially for those who are rurally isolated or unable to access public transport.

Can you help your community by becoming a volunteer driver, using your own car?

Our volunteers enjoy helping their local communities & find it truly rewarding. We pay expenses so you're never out of pocket whilst helping the most vulnerable people living near you.

CALL NOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEER DRIVING WITH COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

0345 680 5029



Hello Gardeners, Summer has come already! This month, I'm writing about something different, an event review, Gardening related of course, from RHS Malvern Spring Festival.

We attended on Friday 9th May, with this being our 4th Year in a row. Malvern showground is a fantastic location for this event, only a 30 minute drive from home and has excellent facilities for all ages. Of course, the main attractions are garden related, with hundreds of small nurseries selling both outdoor and houseplants. Every year we see something we've never seen before and usually come home with something we didn't expect to buy. This year we went with my Dad who was very pleased to get some new & unique Canna's and a Yucca I've never seen before.

The show gardens are always beautiful too, usually giving us some ideas to come home with and implement. This year, they even had Indoor show gardens for the first time ever, which had some stunning houseplant arrangements.. which was rather dangerous for my Wife, who seems to always find space for one more houseplant!

If you missed out, I'd highly recommend watching the BBC Gardeners World feature from the show from Friday 9th May broadcast. Overall and as you've probably guessed, I'd highly recommend this event to anyone and if next year is too long a wait, they also do an Autumn show at Malvern showground with a very similar layout.

Thanks for reading. Dale.



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SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths John Heathcott 527753

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers info@ 1sv-scouts.co.uk

Rainbow Guider Hannah Butler 07464 784155

Village Hall Chair Jana Bridger 07913 911930

swindonvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall Bookings Jana Bridger swindonvillagehall@gmail.com

Villge News Distribution Hugh Evans 241678

Play Group (Playgroup hours) 690479

For Sept 24

admission 07949 352507

School Headteacher Geraint Mills 690016

Friends of the School chairfosvps@gmail.com

Art & Crafts Club Lynne Mumford 07515 461876

Swindon Village Society Barry Simon 521723

Mary Godwin Under 5s (Playgroup hours) mgu5@hotmail.co.uk

Marle Hill W.l. Sara Jefferies 07477894639 / 692500

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 June 2025

Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Lisa Whitaker (Chair)	07715	470842
Cllr. James Cornish	.07950	196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884	184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725	948935
Cllr. Alison Berry	07754	006634
Cllr. Lynne Allen	07979	890134
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07963	581371
Cllr. Ruth Hudson	07850	185871
Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	07833	089435

parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

There is currently a vacancy. Please get in touch if you would be interested.

Cheltenham Borough Councillors

Springbank Ward (south of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Peter Jeffries	07717 493686
Cllr. Suzanne Williams	01242 230648

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272

County Councillor - Cllr. Bernard Fisher 07523 421012

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Revd. Jacqueline Henson revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com Team Vicar:

220053

Churchwarden: Hugh Evans,241678

Hugh Evans,.....241678 Tower Captain: John Collins......511950 Organist:

244373 admin@northchelt.org.uk North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office

The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 1.30pm, and on Friday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

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.