

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 379 November 2011

November

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Wednesday | 2 | Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Jerry Lusada - The Blue Danube |
| Monday | 7 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm AGM |
| Tuesday | 8 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session |
| Friday | 11 | Wine Club - Lloyd & Walker Invitation Challenge Cup |
| Saturday | 12 | Coffee Morning with Christmas Bring & Buy - 5 Manor Road
10.00am to 1.00pm In aid of church restoration appeal |
| Wednesday | 16 | Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.45pm
Caroline Greet - "Cheltenham - The Bygone Age" |
| Wednesday | 23 | Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm
Rosemary Prosser - "Tights to Trousers" |
| Saturday | 26 | Swindon Village School Winter Fair 1.00pm to 3.00pm |

December

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Sat & Sun | 3 & 4 | Christmas Tree Festival
St. Lawrence's Church 11.00am to 5.00pm |
| Monday | 5 | Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 2.30pm Belly dancing |
| Wednesday | 7 | Wednesday Club Christmas Party - Members only |
| Tuesday | 13 | Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm
With Public Session |

Swindon Parish Council

Full minutes of all meetings are displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish website. They are also available on request from the Chairman.

Notes from a meeting of the Council held on 11th October 2011

Public Session

Boy Racers / Cruisers

Mrs. Michelle Roberts, one of the Council's two representatives on the Borough Council's Cruisers Working Group, explained that health problems prevented her from continuing with the role. The Council accepted Mrs. Roberts' decision with some sadness, as her health problems resulted from a collision with a Boy Racer / Cruiser and, despite many complaints and meetings with the responsible authorities, the situation appeared to have largely remained unchanged. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Roberts for her contribution as a Parish Councillor and as one of the Council's representatives on the Cheltenham Cruisers Working Group. In accepting these thanks, Mrs. Roberts encouraged the Council to maintain the pressure for a permanent solution.

Mrs. Roberts informed the Council that Malmesbury Road had been closed by the Police on Sunday 25th September 2011, resulting in no Boy Racer problems. Things had been quieter on the following two Sundays. It was agreed to request the Clerk to write to the Police commending them for taking this effective action and asking that this simple measure be applied regularly.

Mrs. Roberts informed the Council of a recent meeting in Bishop's Cleeve to express opposition to plans for substantial housing development and asked that the Council lend its support across the parish boundary. It was agreed to discuss this later in the Meeting.

Co-option to fill vacancy on the Council

It was noted that one vacancy remained on the Council. Members were requested to promote it to eligible persons.

Planning and licensing

Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

It was noted that Members of the Council had met in a working group meeting held on 6th October 2011 and had made a good start in drafting a response to the draft NPPF. There had been general agreement across all members. After collating the responses, the Clerk would circulate the final draft to all Members for observations prior to submitting the Council's response to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Council noted that there had been widespread opposition to the draft NPPF across the country, because of the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Councillor Allen had seen the same concerns expressed by the other Cheltenham Parish Councils at the recent meeting of the C5 Group.

Planning Applications referred to the Council for observations

Applications Delegated to the Clerk for Comments (Subsequent to Consultation with Members)

11/01263/FUL - Units P3 and P4, Blocks P, Y & Z, Kingsditch Trade Park, Kingsditch Lane - Alterations to external Appearance - OBJECTIONS on grounds of size and lighting of proposed signage. A condition should be attached to the consent restricting the erection of signage to those areas of the building which are the subject of final approval. The application is obviously intended to be limited to the external appearance of the buildings however we have been requesting the removal of the fencing from the frontage at the corner of Kingsditch Lane and Runnings Road for a number of years as well as the removal of the signage from the railings.

11/01201/FUL - Newland View - Single Storey Kitchen Extension. NO OBJECTIONS.

Applications Considered by the Council

11/01380/FUL - Unit A Gallagher Retail Park Tewkesbury Road (Next premises) - External alterations to the front and flank elevations including the provision of anti-ram bollards. NO OBJECTION, subject to the retention of sufficient distance between the new bollards and the front of the building to allow for the passage of wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Other Planning Matters

Planning Application at Wingmoor Farm

The Chairman had received a request from SWARD (Safety in Waste and Rubbish Disposal, a pressure group based in Bishops Cleeve) asking that the Council support SWARD's request that a recent planning application granted in respect of the Wingmoor Farm Waste Transfer Site be 'called in' by the Secretary of State for a decision to be made after a Public Inquiry. SWARD had felt that the meeting of Gloucestershire County Council's Planning Committee had been badly run and it was not appropriate that approval be granted on a casting vote. It was agreed to support this request.

Green Belt Review

The Council agreed with the Vice-Chairman's view that the Borough Council's review of the Green Belt had increased the likelihood of development thereon, in order to create an extension to urban Cheltenham. Irrespective of the Council's opposition to the principle of development in the Green Belt, the local planning authorities should refuse to consider any development in the area unless Junction 10 of the M5 was made two-way.

Major Housing Development in Bishops Cleeve

The Council considered the implications of the proposals large-scale development in Bishops Cleeve, referred to in the Public Session. (Note: The developer Comparo wanted to build 450 houses on Homelands Farm between Gotherington and the village and Welbeck had proposed 550 homes to the north west of Bishop's Cleeve.) The Council agreed that it should be concerned; the proposals were for further residential development, without any corresponding improvement to local infrastructure nor the development of shops and employment to serve the new residents. It was therefore certain that these residents would have to travel to adjoining shopping and employment centres. As Cheltenham was the nearest large town this would result in increased traffic through Swindon parish.

Traffic and Highways

Gloucestershire Highways' Parish Liaison Meeting

Councillors Hunter and Simpson reported on their attendance at this event. They had had the opportunity to speak to a number of County Councillors and Highway Officers. They had learned that the County Council had managed to save over £100,000 by switching to part-night lighting. In some areas of the County, between 30% and 50% of street lights were now switched off. Also, the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways had stated his intention to get more potholes filled and to improve the quality of repairs.

Improvement to the Junction of Village Road and Hayden Lane

The Council agreed that it had no objection to the installation of a mini-roundabout at this junction. Gloucestershire Highways intended that it improve highway safety by reducing traffic speed. However, the Clerk was requested to suggest that traffic speeds would be further reduced by having the roundabout installed in a plateau junction with a domed roundabout.

Extension to temporary footpath closure

The Council noted that Gloucestershire County Council had made an order to temporarily close part of Public Footpath CHS/14 from its junction with Runnings Road in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approximately 230 metres.

The closure was in the interests of public safety while flood alleviation works were carried out. The footpath was originally closed on 4th April 2011 for 22 weeks; however, it had not been possible to complete the works within this time and therefore the County Council had made an application to the Secretary of State for an extension of time. The footpath will now remain closed until 4th April 2012 or until the works are complete (whichever is the sooner).

Allotments

Arrangements had been put in place for the Allotments Working Group and the Clerk to meet the Council's Allotment Tenants in the Village Hall. (Note: the date for this event was subsequently arranged for Tuesday 1st November 2011).

Finance

Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2011

The Council received the report of the External Auditor, Moore Stephens Accountants. The report stated that, with two exceptions, the Council's accounts had been completed in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The exceptions were that the Council had not approved the Annual Return by 30th June, as required and that Internal Auditor took a more involved role in the preparation of the year end accounts, through preparation of the income and expenditure figures, which may have affected his independence.

It was resolved that the External Auditor's report be noted and that the Clerk be requested to make alternative arrangements for the preparation of Income and Expenditure figures.

Vacancy on Swindon Parish Council

There continues to be one vacancy on Swindon Parish Council.

This can be filled by co-option.

If you are interested in serving on the Council please contact the Clerk, Mr. Stephen Holley by phone (01452 543914) or e-mail parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

This event will be celebrated over the first weekend in June of 2012. The Parish Council would like to hear from residents what they would like to do to mark this event.

Current suggestions are for:

- a street party (to be organised by a Village Committee, the Parish Council will arrange for road closures and lend other support)
- a street bench (possibly similar to the Millennium Bench at the Church Road end of Rivelands Road)

Offers to assist and any other suggestions or comments should be submitted via your Parish Councillors or through the Parish Clerk, Stephen Holley on 01452-543914 or email parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

St. Lawrence

Services and events in November

Tuesday 1 st	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday 6 th	<i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>	
	9.15am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Baptism
	6.30pm	All Souls service
Tuesday 8 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion Followed by Tuesday Group
Friday 11 th	1.00pm	Wedding
Sunday 13 th	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	
	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.45am	Act of Remembrance
	6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday 15 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday 20 th	<i>Christ the King</i>	
	9.15am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong
Monday 21 st	7.00pm	PCC meeting
Tuesday 22 nd	7.30pm	Tuesday Group
Sunday 27 th	<i>Advent Sunday</i>	
	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday 29 th	7.30pm	Tuesday Group

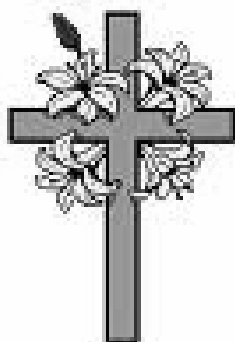
If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence church, please contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The Office is based in St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact me, the Revd Canon Michael Cozens (Team Rector) on 523177 or michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk

From the registers

Christenings (Holy Baptism)

We have recently welcomed into the Church family
Ella Rose Parford 25th September



Funerals

We have recently celebrated the life of
Patricia Ann Wilson 20th September

Memorial Service

We celebrated the life of
Gwen Tebbs 26th September

Burial of ashes

Gwen Tebbs 26th September

Remembering those who have died

On **Sunday 6th November at 6.30pm** we will be holding a special All Souls Service. During this service we will remember before God our own friends and relatives who have died. Their names will be read out during the service and there will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. You are very welcome to join us for this service and we invite you to give us the names of any loved ones you would like to remember. Names will be collected as people arrive for the service.

Sunday 13th November is Remembrance Sunday and **at 10.45am** you are invited to join us in the churchyard for the Act of Remembrance. We will unite with people across the country and beyond who will be remembering all those who have given their lives in times of war.

Advent

Advent begins this year on Sunday 27th November and is the season which marks the beginning of the Church's new year. We move into 'the year of Mark', reading through St Mark's gospel during our main Sunday services. Traditionally the colour we see in church is purple, reminding us of the penitential emphasis to this season. Advent prepares us for our celebrations of Christmas, but also is a time for us to prepare ourselves spiritually, not only for celebrating Jesus' birth, but also for the time when he will come again in all his power and glory. Advent is a good time for personal reflection on our own lives and a time to resolve ourselves to re-focus and renew our relationship with God.

Revd Canon Michael Cozens

Thoughts from the pew

The religious people of Jesus' time were waiting for a sign that God was going to break into history and save them. 'Give us a sign', they kept requesting.

There are doubting people today who are also waiting for a 'sign' that there is a God. "If this God would only send us solid proof that he is there then we'd believe".

On radio and on television and in books and newspapers we have these public arguments about whether there's a God or not. Books written by atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Grayling sell well and convince many that only childish people hang on to the idea that there must be a god because they must have something like a cuddly teddy to hang on to.

We've had a campaign which urges us: 'Give up believing in this figment of imagination and stop worrying and enjoy life'. I knew someone who told friends that one day she had said to herself sternly: 'There is no God' - and found it a huge relief.

You'd think, wouldn't you, that people who say they believe in the Christian God would show themselves living better lives than the rest of us. Yet we can think of many who are better Christians than those who make a fuss about their faith and go to church.

It's all bewildering - so why bother wasting time thinking about whether there really is 'pie in the sky when you die' - or oblivion.

I know it's only a made-up story but I was helped when I came across this old story, or fable, about a far-off land ruled by a tyrant. This tyrant had an iron grip over all parts of his kingdom - except for one frustrating area. He was unable to destroy the people's belief in God.

He summoned his counsellors and put the question to them: "Where can I hide God so that the people will end up forgetting him?" One counsellor suggested that God be hidden on the dark side of the moon. This proposal was debated for some time but voted down because it was believed that one day scientists would discover a means of space travel and God would end up being found again. Another adviser to the tyrant came up with idea of burying God underneath the depths of the ocean floor. This was voted down for basically the same reason - it was felt that scientific advancement would lead to the discovery of God even beneath the depths of the ocean floor. Finally the oldest and wisest of the counsellors had a flash of insight. "I know", he said, "why don't we hide God where no one will ever think of finding him?" He explained, "If we hide God in the ordinary events of people's everyday lives they'll never find him."

And so it was done - and they say that people are still looking for God - even today.

I'll leave it at that.

Ralph Griffin



The Children's Society

Home boxes

The Children's Society home collecting/savings boxes were collected in and emptied last month and a total of £445 was sent to the charity. Thank you very much to all the box holders for your generosity.

Originally known as The Church of England Children's Society, the charity was set up 120 years ago to take in waifs and strays off the streets. They no longer run children's homes but instead work with children and families in their own homes and through schools and drop-in centres. It is startling to realise that thousands of children every year, in our country, are helped by The Children's Society. Children still run away from home for many reasons; the dangers here are all too well known but the Society also works with children who are sexually exploited, young carers, refugee children, children in trouble with the law, disabled children who face exclusion from their own community, traveller children and children who are affected by their parents' drug or alcohol abuse.

In Swindon Village we have about thirty home box holders. These boxes are used in different ways to save money; some people put in a set amount regularly, others put money in to "pay" for a certain treat they have enjoyed; one lady who has a bus pass puts the bus fare she saves into the box; others simply put their loose change in. Sylvia Hales, the local box organiser. Collects and empties the boxes once a year and the contents can be gift-aided.

If you feel you could help vulnerable children in this country by supporting The Children's Society, especially by taking a box, please contact Sylvia Hales (tel. **235933**).

Gwendolen Miriam Tebbs
1920 - 2011

On September 26th a service of thanksgiving was held at St Lawrence church to celebrate the long life of Gwen Tebbs. Gwen left the village a year ago when she went to live near her daughter but had requested that her ashes be interred in the churchyard of St Lawrence where she attended morning service for many years. It was good to know that Gwen had realised her ambition of reaching the age of ninety and of celebrating 70 years of married life, with a telegram from the Queen. At the service we learned more about her early life. She had spent her childhood in Belgium and returned to England as a teenager, speaking only French. Her son and daughter told the story of her life during the service and later shared memories in the village hall. Gwen had loved her garden and won the small garden section of the Cheltenham in Bloom competition and, although she herself had been a Parish Councillor, she was most proud of the fact that she was married to Harry, a former mayor of Tewkesbury Borough. She made that role her own and there was more than a touch of the Queen Mum about her. She was also very proud of her family and we were invited to the village hall to meet them all, including her first great granddaughter, born nine weeks ago.

I discovered during her last year in the village that Gwen had a little network of friends on whom she relied for help and support. I'm sure they gave it gladly as they would have been rewarded with the affection of a very gracious lady.

Gwen lived in the village for over 30 years; this makes her a true Swindonian, I believe! Now she's here for keeps!

Elizabeth Heathcott

Pat Barnard

We are sorry to report the sudden and untimely death of Pat Barnard. Pat died in Portugal while on holiday.

Pat worked at the school for some time and was a member of the Wednesday Club and the Wine Club but she is probably best remembered by most people for her work at playgroup alongside Pat Donovan and Pauline Boote where she must have looked after hundreds of our children.

We send our sincere condolences to Pat's husband, Denis, and their family.

The Editors.

Derby
18th October, 2011

I would like to thank all the villagers of Swindon Village who came to my Mother, Gwendolen Tebbs' Thanksgiving Service on 26th September. It was a beautiful Autumn day and her ashes were interred under the tree in St. Lawrence's churchyard almost in view of the house in which she and Dad lived for so many happy years. Our appreciation goes to The Rev. Michael Cozens for his kind words at the service, and Liz Attwell for the lovely reading. Our thanks also go to Elizabeth Heathcott who helped me to contact various people including Sandy Thornton to book the village hall and Angie Harmson who arranged the excellent catering for the gathering afterwards.

Sadly there were some people, including my Father and Mum's brothers and sister, along with local friends, who were unable to attend due to illness and other commitments. My brother Colin and I would like to thank all those who sent cards and expressions of sympathy.

Mum missed village life whilst she was in Castle Donington, and she will be sadly missed by all of us.

Sandra Moores & Colin Tebbs

Swindon Village Primary School

Another busy month at Swindon Village Primary School has seen, amongst many, many things, the start of this year's sporting fixtures, our Harvest Festival, Parents' Evenings, an OfSTED Inspection and trips to the National Space Centre in Leicester and Imperial War Museum in London.

As you may have seen, the building work is continuing apace. The roof is now on the hall and it won't be long before work is started on the inside of the building. We are really pleased with the progress being made and a large number of the children have had the opportunity to visit the site. If you wish to see what is going on please visit the blog at www.swindonvillageprimaryschool.blogspot.com

During November we have lots of things planned and many of them are open to our friends and neighbours in the community.

Firstly, on Friday 4th November we are having our annual Open Day and everyone is invited to join us – whether you already have children/grandchildren at the school, are thinking about sending your children to us or are just interested in seeing what we get up to! We will be open both in the morning (9.30am – 11.30am) and afternoon (1.30pm – 3.00pm) and would love to welcome you into our school. We look forward to seeing you.

A few weeks later, the Friends' Winter Fair will be taking place on Saturday 26th November between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. As in past years, we will have a large number of stalls selling a wide variety of items and we have even been promised a visit from a certain red-suited gentleman!

Finally, to finish the month off, at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 29th November, we will be having an informal meeting for all parents with children due to start Reception in September 2012. At this meeting we will be giving information about the school and our Reception classes, as well as guidance on the Local Authority's admissions procedures. If you are interested in attending this event, please let us know on 690016 – a crèche will be available.

We hope to see you at one (or all) of our events.

Best wishes from everyone at Swindon Village Primary School.

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher

Swindon Village Primary School

Winter Fair

Sat 26th November 2011
1.00pm - 3.00pm



Entry:
1£ per adult
children free

refreshments, cakes, books, toys, children's wrapping room,
craft room, SVPS choir, children's craft stall, raffle,
tombola, candles, cards, jewellery, sweets etc.

Friends of Swindon Village Primary School

Hello from the new Chair

We moved to the village seven years ago and as the family grew the children were fortunate enough to attend Swindon Village Early Years and have now moved to Swindon Village Primary School.

The girls are now in year one and year two.

In my spare time I am teaching French, starting a small photography business and enjoying walks with our dog in the countryside.

A new opportunity has come my way as the new chair of "The Friends" of Swindon Village Primary School and I would like to welcome as many of you as possible to help with organising events and raising funds for OUR village school. Should you wish to help us please contact me on 07836 311 859. We are always happy to welcome new faces and new ideas.

It remains for me to thank Emma Elliott for creating this opportunity and for her considerable work over the past two years.

I look forward to welcoming you and your family to the school Winter Fair taking place on Saturday 26th November, 1 - 3pm.

Anne Emery

St. Lawrence's Church Restoration Appeal

Coffee Morning Christmas Bring & Buy

Saturday 12th November
10.00am to 1.00pm
at 5 Manor Road

Admission £1, includes drinks and biscuits

St. Lawrence's Church Fundraising News

Quiz and Supper

The harvest-time quiz and supper evening was a sell-out with the village hall filled to capacity. The guest quizmaster kept everyone riveted with wide-ranging general knowledge questions with a common theme of country and place names running through them. There were spot questions along the way for sweetie prizes and the overall winning team was rewarded with six bottles of wine and the gallant good-humoured losers went home with a giant wooden spoon.

A small army of cooks had prepared a tasty hot supper with the traditional apple pie (or fruit salad) for dessert.

Thanks to the generosity and support of a lot of people £450 was raised for the church restoration appeal.

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale

See the notice elsewhere in this magazine for details of a coffee morning this month. We would be glad of donations of your unwanted or surplus gifts and Christmas related goods that we can sell. Perhaps you updated your Christmas decorations last year and would like to give us the old ones, as long as they are still in good condition. We hope to have the latest in the series of church mouse Christmas cards for sale.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our fifth Christmas Tree Festival is fast approaching. Remember, this is open to everyone, individuals, groups of friends, families and organisations. This year's theme is "Around the World at Christmas" which can be interpreted as widely as you like - there are no rules! (It doesn't have to be about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries.) Please contact me if you would like more information or if you are thinking of entering a tree - the more, the merrier.

Again we would welcome Christmas goods to sell, also donations of food and drink items for the Christmas hamper raffle.

The Festival combines religious and secular aspects of Christmas and makes a lovely start to the festivities.

Karen Evans
Tel. 241678



Christmas Tree Festival

“Around the world at Christmas”

**St. Lawrence's Church
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December
11.00am to 5.00pm**

Trees decorated by local groups and individuals

Christmas Hamper raffle
Christmas goods for sale
Vote for your favourite tree
Refreshments

Admission £2; accompanied children free

Proceeds in aid of St. Lawrence's Church Restoration Appeal

Wednesday Club

We all enjoyed a fascinating evening at our October meeting. Frances Taylor came with all her equipment and wools and de-stressed all of us at the same time as she was spinning her wool. Frances had various wools and silks including a whole sheep's fleece. She took pieces of this fleece and spun it in different thicknesses, the thickness being controlled by her fingers as the wool passes through them. Frances also brought with her some made-up garments that she herself had put through the entire manufacturing process, from spinning the wool or silk to knitting or weaving the items.

Frances started spinning over thirty years ago when on a visit to her sister in New Zealand. On a busy washday Frances was given a basket of fleece to spin and it became a hobby of hers and, when she came back to England, Frances bought a spinning wheel and has never looked back. We were all amazed at the quality of her work; all of her garments were of a very high quality. I would have loved to have owned one of them.

Our December meeting is for members only when we have our Christmas Party. Don't forget to look for a photograph of yourself when a baby or toddler for our competition to guess which picture belongs to which member.

If you haven't put your name down for our meal at Seasons on January 4th, please remember to do so at our meeting in November or telephone me.

Our speaker in November is Jerry Lusada and he will be telling us all about sailing along the Blue Danube in his boat. Look forward to seeing you all then and any visitors will be most welcome.

Pauline Wright

Cheltenham Film Festival

Following the success of last year's inaugural Cheltenham Film Festival, the founders Martin Pilkington and Adam Clarke are bringing movie magic back to town this month. This year's festival will bring Cheltenham three days of unforgettable special screening events and almost every screening event is complemented by an exclusive supporting introduction or post screening panel discussion with a range of special guests. Visitors to the event will have the opportunity to exclusively hear some truly celebrated film industry professionals speak, and discuss their work.

You can view festival events on the Cheltenham Film Festival website (<http://cheltenhamfilmfestival.co.uk/events.php>) and tickets are available via the box office on 01242 707 338. In addition to the live events, two photographic exhibitions presented by BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) continue until the 10th and 25th November.

Hannah Dudek

The Swindon Village Society

In September Dr Nicholas Herbert explained to us how many of the towns and villages in the Cotswolds grew to look as they do. A major factor was often whether the location was wholly owned by a prosperous estate or whether at some time the estate had failed such that bits of the land had been sold off. The difference between a centrally planned estate and one that had grown organically is immense. Likewise some of the early industrial sprawl in areas such as Stroud occurred because of people building their own homes on common land without any permission. There was little planning in those days, particularly for ordinary housing. The result was a hodgepodge with narrow lanes and difficult access which pleases some people and is anathema to others.

One thing is sure. Going on a walk, and realising why things are as they are, adds interest and pleasure. Maybe I should settle down and go for that 'O' Level history that I never did get 50 years ago. It may give added lustre when I give one of my local history talks in future. On this matter, I hope to give the talk on 'The History of Swindon Village' at some time next year. It must be nearly ten years since it was last given in the village and some of our newer residents or those older ones with imperfect memories may be interested.

I am afraid that once again we have to report the passing of an ex member. As I write this I am preparing to attend the memorial service for Gwen Tebbs. I understand that she and Harry were pretty well founder members of the Society though they moved from the area a little while ago. If I am right, they helped to found a small organisation which I believe has done quite a bit to keep Swindon Village as a good place to live with a bit of space and a bit of history.

Finally, a reminder that our November speaker, Caroline Greet will be following on from her talk of last year and showing us pictures of Cheltenham over the past 130 years and telling us something of the history of the town and people during that period. It was an excellent talk last year so do come and join us for another slice of nostalgia this year. As ever, visitors welcome for a meagre £1.

There is no meeting in December; AGM in January – here we go again.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

The main news this month is the sad death of Pat Barnard who passed away while on holiday with Denis in Portugal. Denis and Pat have been members of Swindon Village Wine Club for many, many years and have held officers' positions in the past. We all have very happy memories of Pat at various wine club events and will all miss her cheerful presence in the club. We send all our love and prayers to Denis and the family.

On another sad note, we were also deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Barbara Dean. Alan and Barbara have been stalwarts of Cheltenham Wine Club for many, many years, Alan being Chair, with Barbara always loyally by his side beavering away at the many social events they organised. She will be deeply missed both by the club itself, and all those of us who socialise with them. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan and his family.

On a happier note, it was back to business as usual in September for the monthly meeting. Tony and Ray organised a New World Wine Tasting evening (although Ray was sunning himself in Spain on the night!). Members were given 3 white and 3 red wines to blind taste (some better than others I'm told!) and after various clues being given they had to decide which country the wine was made in, the grape variety and its price. The winner was Ann Harper who was presented with a bottle of wine. Bread and cheese were also provided to cleanse the palate between tastings!

Fairly quiet on the social scene still; a few club dances coming up over the next few weeks at The Reddings, Gloucester and Charlton Kings, finishing the year off with a Christmas Party at Cheltenham Wine Club. We will be joining Stroud Wine Club for the annual Lloyd & Walker Invitation challenge Cup this month, where we pit our wines against other clubs from around the area.

The November meeting is a talk by Rosemary Prosser, "Tights to Trousers".

Mandy Jilbert

Marle Hill W.I.

Jill Fraser paid us a return visit for our October meeting, this time with the theme being Christmas – giving us plenty of time to put her suggestions into action. One bright idea she tried out was to start writing her cards for next year in January, after taking down the decorations on Twelfth Night and also to buy some presents in the sales. Her one and only attempt at a Christmas cake proved to be a disaster. Another tip she gave was to have two sets of stockings, one empty to hang up and the other filled, and then to just swap them over at the appropriate time – a handy idea! She once saw a deer in the garden. It spent all day there and she was worried as it was so motionless that she called the RSPCA in case it was ill. However, they eventually realised that it had spent all day grazing on the fallen apples and it eventually ‘staggered’ off feeling rather the worse for wear. We had stories of the Nativity plays she does with the children in Church, weather permitting! Did you realise that King David was also born in Bethlehem, hence the carol ‘Once in royal David’s City’? Jill then told us about the charity that she and her friend have started, called Kissing it Better, where suggestions and helpful hints are shared and put on line for Carers. I know the members very much enjoyed yet another entertaining evening with Jill.

A group of members spent an evening at Staverton Airport. After tea and biscuits we watched the plane from the Isle of Man arrive and the passengers disembark. It was then refuelled and the captain (a young blonde lady) checked the next passengers on with their luggage before climbing in herself and taking off on the return flight. The plane only carries 19 passengers and two crew, no loos or services on board; I don’t know what you do if you are caught short! A private plane also arrived; their car was brought round and parked next to the plane, the luggage transferred and they then drove off – what a life! After a short talk and presentation and a visit to one of the hangars we departed with ideas of holidays and trips from our local airport – who needs Heathrow when we have Staverton on our doorstep! By the way, the extensions to the airport are for safety reasons and not for larger planes – so we will not be seeing any jumbo jets flying in.

This year’s Autumn County Meeting was held at Cheltenham Racecourse where the guest speaker, Sue Limb, the author and columnist, gave an entertaining talk and we heard about the plans for a Gloucestershire weekend arranged at Denman College.

In November we are looking forward to celebrating our 40th Birthday Party with a meal at the Cheltenham Dandy restaurant. The Group Meeting is called ‘Tea at the Ritz’ when we shall treat ourselves to a luxurious afternoon tea in Prestbury. At the end of the month a group of members are joining a County coach trip to see Waddesdon Manor decorated for Christmas. We hold our own Annual Meeting in November when the new committee is elected and also the President. Afterwards we are planning some ‘Fun and Games’ and looking forward to some Belly Dancing at our December meeting!

Sara Jefferies

Golden Wedding celebration

On July 10th, Ron and Kate Dryburgh celebrated their Golden Wedding.

In honour of this the Swindon Village bellringers attempted to ring a quarter peal but abandoned the attempt about halfway through as it was beyond our capabilities.

At Ron's request another attempt was made on Monday October 10th. This time we enlisted the help of two Cirencester ringers. Simon Webb of Cirencester was invited to conduct and was able to use Ron's original choice of composition.

The performance was as follows:

The Church of St. Lawrence

Monday 10 October 2011 in 43 mins (10-1-4)

1260 Doubles (5m)

240 each St Martin's, St Simon's, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury and 300 Plain Bob

1	Elizabeth A Evans	4	Hugh N Evans
2	Simon D G Webb (Conductor)	5	Ron Dryburgh
3	Stephanie L Clive	6	Geoff Hill

A Golden Wedding compliment to
Ronald and Catherine Dryburgh.



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Mandy on:

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Village News Distributors

We are pleased to announce that we have a new volunteer distributor for the Glynbridge Gardens estate.

Our distributors are so dedicated that sometimes we think they arrange their holidays around the Village News deliveries!

However, we would still like to hear from anyone willing to cover for holidays or illness.

Please phone Hugh or Karen Evans on 241678 or e-mail the address at the bottom of the next page.

Thank you.

The Editors

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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (ChiI)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Hanging Tree Explorer Scouts	Dave Herbert / Rob Ellis	514825/244708
Guide Guider	Jayne Ellis	244708
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Guide District Commissioner	Pauline Szarko	570469
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	Mandy Jilbert	693639
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Anne Emery	07836 311 859
Art Club	Norman Scott	692394
Swindon Village Society Secretary	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen's Cricket Club		
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Advertise your business in the Village News

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Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50

Contact the Editors

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
Please send contributions to the editors:
David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Allotments Manager	Mike Hopkins	263205

Swindon Parish and Community Website: www.swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Rector	Revd. Canon Michael Cozens The Rectory, 66 All Saints' Road	michael.cozens@northchelt.org.uk	523177
Reader	Ralph Griffin		510533
Churchwardens	Mary Halliwell		692423
	Tony Jilbert		693639
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans		241678
Organist	John Collins		511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk	244373
The office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.			

See inside back cover for details of contacts for village clubs and societies.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view
of the Editors or the Parish Council