

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 420 December 2015

December

- Wednesday 2 Wednesday Club Christmas Party (Members only)
- Friday 4 Rainbows & Rangers Table Top Sale - Village Hall 5.45pm
- Saturday & 5 & Christmas Tree Festival - St Lawrence's Church
Sunday 6 11.00am to 5.00pm
- Monday 7 Marle Hill W.I. - St Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Jemma Fowkes - Birch, Beer, Bibles Education in the 16th C.
- Tuesday 8 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Monday 14 Scout Group Christmas Celebration - Village Hall 6.00pm

January

- Monday 4 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Bob Skelton - People of Bletchley Park
- Wednesday 6 Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm AGM (Members only)
- Tuesday 12 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday 20 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall
7.30pm AGM - members only
8.00pm Exhibition of local interest pictures - all welcome
- Wednesday 27 Wine Club - Village Hall 7.45pm AGM

(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.)

There are a number of consultations going on at the moment or about to start. The County Council will start a major consultation exercise on its Local Transport Plan on 20th November so it should be in full swing by the time you read this. The main method of responding will be via the Internet but the documents will also be available in the library and the Borough Council offices. There is also a Funded Public Transport consultation running at the moment. Again they are geared up to receive your comments primarily via the Internet but a number of evening events have been organised. The County Council wants to know how best to spend its money. For example, should it support rural bus routes that lose money or provide bus passes for pensioners? If you have views make them known!

Enough of the dreaded Internet for now (but more later).

A man extremely resistant to the lure of the Internet is Ian Brown, our volunteer allotment manager. I set up a meeting with Ian (by phone, not by email) and spent a very informative hour with him discussing allotment issues. Ian and our plot holders are a resourceful bunch. Many of the little problems that come up are quietly fixed by Ian and his fellow growers without any fuss and without depleting the Parish Council's funds. I have to say the plots looked tidy and productive and a credit to their tillers. Sadly I am unable to identify many vegetables in their natural state (i.e. before they reach my plate, and some not even then!).

The allotment holders' annual social should have taken place by the time this is in print. I was not able to go this year but I hope it was well attended and enjoyed. One last pat on the back for the allotments crew. I would like to thank Ian for collecting the rents and the plot holders who have paid Ian promptly on request. Before this turns into an Oscars acceptance speech I'll move on.

Staying on a financial theme, now is the time we start considering the Council's budget for next year. The year runs from 1st April 2016 (no significance there!) to 31st March 2017. A first draft of the budget will be presented to the Council meeting on 8th December and it will be finalised at the meeting on 12th January. Setting the budget means that we also set the precept for the year. The precept is the money we demand of the Borough Council. It is a demand rather than a request as in law the Borough Council must give us what we ask for. We need to notify the Borough Council of our precept demand by the end of January. The Borough Council sets its own budget and receives the precept demands of the five Parish Councils and this total sets the Council Tax we are all asked to pay. When I say "asked to pay" this is also more of a demand; I don't recommend refusing to part with the money! As with all of our meetings you are welcome to attend and view the Council's deliberations. I can assure you that a key driver for the Council is to minimise the burden it places on local residents.

We have talked quite a bit about the park in our recent meetings. The council would like to make it more accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users (perhaps by extending the path and adding access points) and also provide recreational facilities for older children. These plans may be ambitious but some funding is available from the County Council for projects such as this. We can but try.

Back to one of our biggest gripes; transport issues. Bollards have been installed on Manor Road in an effort to give pedestrians some refuge from the car transporters that plague the village. The Parish Council have been campaigning for a long time to get something done. Whether this is the best solution could be debated but at least we have the attention of the County Council on the matter. Let me or one of your councillors know what you think.

When the wind is in the right direction (or is it the wrong direction?) we are on the receiving end of odours from the Stoke Orchard landfill site and also (possibly) from the sewage treatment plant at Brockhampton. It is important that these occurrences are reported, otherwise there is no evidence that a problem exists and (surprise, surprise) nothing gets done. This is probably more of a problem in the summer but I promised I would remind you that the Environment Agency would be delighted to hear from you on 0800 807060. I hope the number is right; I don't want a little old lady in Arbroath receiving lots of calls about odours in Swindon Parish! The number is also on the parish web site.

Speaking of the web site (another smooth transition between topics!), I know the Internet is not everyone's cup of tea but the parish web site is geared towards giving you the information you need in a simple way. It has links to everything from last posting times to planning applications, bus timetables to reporting fly tipping. The address is:

www.swindonparish.org.uk

I will probably write a bit more about it in future articles. Please take a look. You'll be glad you did! And of course I would love to receive your feedback (whether you like it, whether there are things you want added or if you have found something that doesn't work). In fact there is a simple form on the web site that you can fill in to get in touch. I am delighted that a number of residents have already done so.

Finally, I am exhausted from writing these articles so Karen has said I can take a break until mid January. Whether you will be contributing to Cheltenham's night time economy (that's what the Borough Council calls folks getting tipsy in the High Street) or curled up in front of "Strictly" with an eggnog, I hope you have an enjoyable festive season. If you struggle to fill the lull after Christmas remember the parish web site.

On behalf of the Parish Council, very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Services and events in December

Tuesday	1 st	10.30am - 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Saturday	5 th	11.00am to 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday	6 th	10.30am 11.00am to 5.00pm 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty -A short act of worship to open the day's events at the Christmas Tree Festival Christmas Tree Festival Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	8 th	10.30am – 12.00noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	13 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Tuesday	15 th	10.30am – 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Sunday	20 th	9.15am 2.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion Baptism Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tuesday	22 nd	10.30am – 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
Thursday	24th	Christmas Eve 4.00pm 11.30pm	Crib service Midnight Mass
Friday	25th	Christmas Day 9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday	27 th	9.15am	Holy Communion No evening service

Services and events in January 2016

Sunday	3 rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Sung Holy Communion
Tuesday	5 th	10.30am - 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	10 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
Tuesday	12 th	10.30am – 12.00noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Communion followed by Tuesday group
Sunday	17 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Monday	18 th	7.00pm	PCC meeting in church
Tuesday	19 th	10.30am - 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	24 th	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
Tuesday	26 th	10.30am - 12.00noon 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group
Sunday	31 st	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of praise

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 me, the Revd Liz Palin (Associate Priest) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.

From the registers



Baptism

We welcomed in to the Church

Frankie Homer 22nd November



Wedding

We celebrated the marriage of

Euan Wilkinson & Genna Howells 7th November



Funeral

We gave thanks for the life of

Joan Case 11th November

It seems the Christmas adverts get earlier each year. In the age of social media they are often released via the web before the TV. One of the ones that has been doing the rounds is the Mulberry advert. The advert is based on the nativity story, only instead of Jesus being the centre of the attention it isa handbag. A handbag that costs £995.

The 'Christmas starts with Christ' campaign reposted the advert with the tag line 'who are you worshipping this Christmas?' It's a good question!

What was rather encouraging about the advert was that the makers clearly assumed that everyone would know the story they were alluding to. Research shows that many children are growing up without understanding why we celebrate Christmas.

This year why not remind yourself of the real meaning of Christmas. Come and hear the story of hope retold in our carol service on 20th December, or bring your children and grandchildren to take part in telling the story at our crib service at 4pm on Christmas eve (they are welcome to come dressed as a character from the nativity story). Join us for the first service of Christmas at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day at 9.15am. A warm welcome awaits you along with a message of hope for the world.

I look forward to seeing you, and wish you a very happy Christmas and a 2016 filled with hope and peace.

Revd Liz

A view from the pew

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat

I was thinking the other day in November about Christmas 2015 and I wondered why Christmas for me has such overtones to do with the way I feel about it. I look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, Son of God, as a helpless baby in the poorest of circumstances in a cattle shed (or cave) - what we call the Nativity. Many things go to make up Christmas for me and there are many items that make it a worthwhile experience every year.

They say that Charles Dickens, the author of A Christmas Carol, 'invented' Christmas - perhaps it's true - but history tells us that the Christ- Mass has been celebrated for thousands of years. I found a description of a Christmas celebration in the 19th century which sounds as though it wasn't particularly religious:

The Old English Christmas

"Of the 'high days of the Calendar' Christmas was always the one which held the chief place in England..... As soon as the Christmas holidays had arrived work and care were universally thrown aside and, instead of devotional practices by which other countries commemorated the sacred occasion, England rang from one end to the other with mirth and joviality. Christmas carols were trolled in every street, masquerades and plays took possession of houses and churches indifferently. A Lord of Misrule, whose reign lasted from All-Hallows Eve till the day after the Feast of Pentecost, was elected in every noble household to preside over the sports and fooleries of the inmates, while each member prepared himself either to enact some strange character or to devise some new stroke of mirth." (Illustrated London News December 20, 1845)

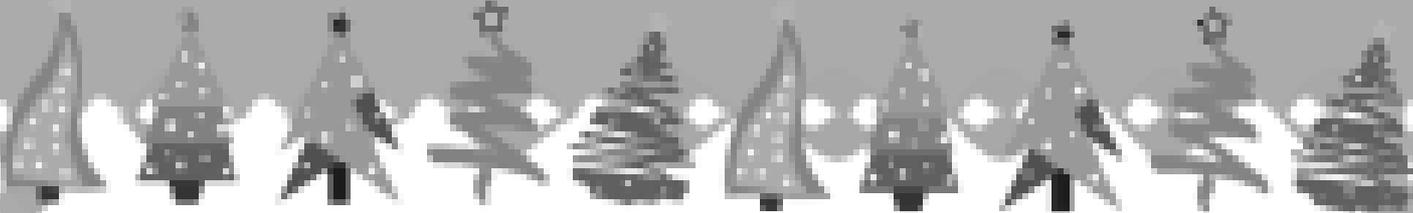
Talk about Merrie England! There's no reason why celebration shouldn't be part of celebrating the birth of the special baby - so let's celebrate the birth in 2015!

When I think back I find I have memories I treasure of Christmases past. I remember when the my children were young, on a cold and snowy evening, we trudged with our dog to the top of Tickenham hill. I felt while we were up there, on the night before Christmas, an overwhelming sense of serenity and peace. Anyway the experience was so absorbing that it has stayed with me. I can remember similar feelings as I came out of St Lawrence Church in the early hours after the first Holy Communion (Midnight Mass). (And thank Goodness for being able to see glorious starlight at night at Swindon Village). These were feelings of peacefulness and thankfulness for God's goodness.

I, for one, would find it difficult to do without church bells, candles big and small and other Christmas lights like those on Christmas trees. As with other ancient churches in the Cheltenham area we're fortunate to have our bells and bell ringers, and organists and choirs, aren't we?

A happy Christmas, one and all. As Tiny Tim says in A Christmas Carol: "God bless us, everyone."

Ralph Griffin



St Lawrence Church, Swindon Village

Christmas Tree Festival

"Seasons of the Year"

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December
11am to 5pm

Come early on Sunday for Together @ Ten Thirty among the trees
and hear the story of The Three Trees.

Christmas goods for sale

Look out for a special visitor!

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Free Refreshments

Make a Christmas decoration to take home

Vote for your favourite tree - will you choose the same as Father Christmas?

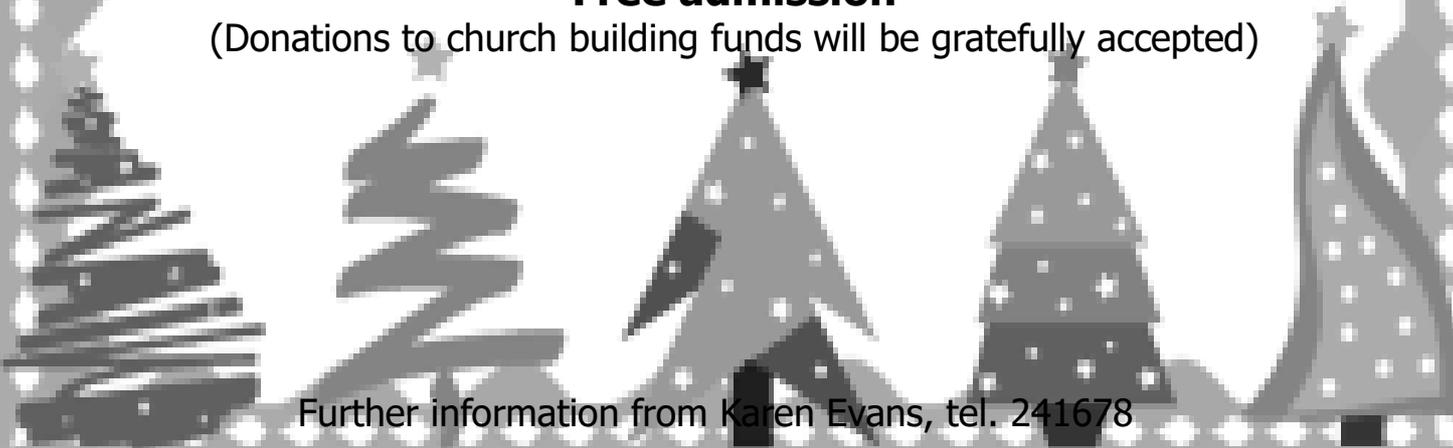
Live music at 2.30pm

Saturday: Sing along with the Ukuleles

Sunday: Cheltenham Minster Hand Bell Ringers

Free admission

(Donations to church building funds will be gratefully accepted)



Further information from Karen Evans, tel. 241678

Swindon Village Primary School

Another busy couple of months at Swindon Village Primary School have seen, amongst many, many things, the start of this year's sporting fixtures, our Harvest Festival, Parents' Evenings, our Year 4 Residential to the Forest of Dean as well as other curriculum activities and trips. As you can imagine, there is never a dull moment in school and we are now gearing up for Christmas with rehearsals already started for our three separate productions and concerts. These are always a highlight of our year and, this year, we are delighted that our Reception children will, for the first time, be presenting their Nativity in St. Lawrence's Church.

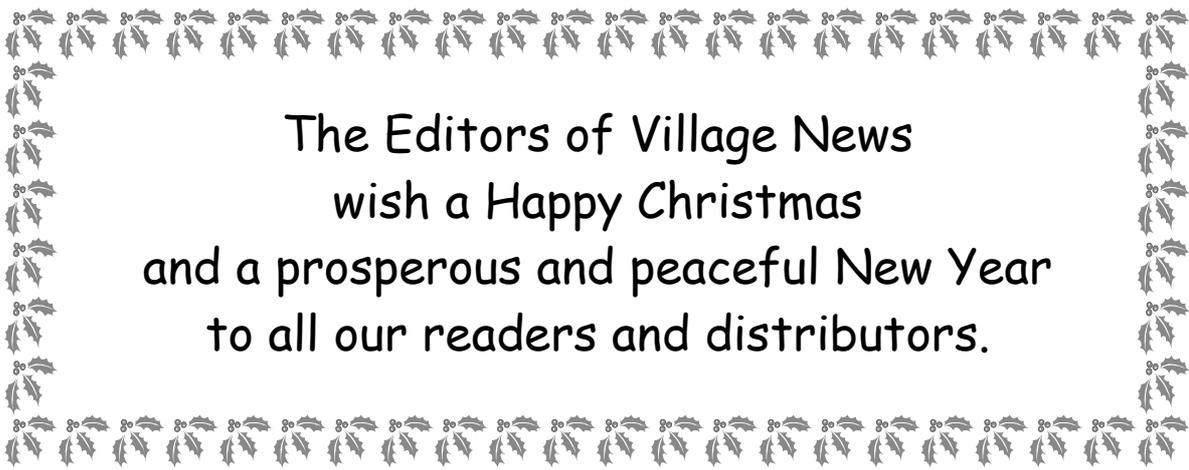
Earlier in November we held our annual Open Day and it was great to see so many new and familiar faces in school. We were especially thrilled to see so many members of the local community as well as prospective children and their parents. If you have a child due to start school in September 2016 and were unable to make our Open Day, then we would be delighted to give you a tour at your convenience. Please contact the office (690016 or admin@swindonvillage.gloucs.sch.uk) to arrange an appointment.

Also, on Wednesday 2nd December, we will be having an informal meeting for all parents with children due to start Reception next year. 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 – a crèche will be available.

If you are interested in finding out more about the school and what we get up to, then I would encourage you to visit our website www.swindonvillage.co.uk. You can also follow us on Twitter where we are @SwindonVillage.

Finally, with apologies if you are reading this in November, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas from everyone at Swindon Village Primary School.

Jonathan Dyer
Head Teacher



The Editors of Village News
wish a Happy Christmas
and a prosperous and peaceful New Year
to all our readers and distributors.

The subject of our October talk was Industrial Archaeology in the County. And what a lot there is to cover. One tends to think of Gloucestershire as a gentle rural place without much industry but that is far from the truth. The county has plenty of hills and from them run streams. And that means an easy source of power and power means industry. That led to the many mills around Stroud and the valleys that were particularly famed for their red cloth which clothed the British Army in battle. Indeed Bedlam Mill in Swindon Village (across the Tewkesbury Road off Hayden Lane – it is still there), while originally a grinding mill had become a fulling mill by 1800. That is, it dealt with cloth and, on a fine day, the land around it would have had fulling cloth drying in the wind.

Gloucester too had the canal from Sharpness which brought trade and hence manufacturing. Alongside the canal were the wood yards and from this Morelands made their famous England's Glory matches which many of us will remember from our youth. In fact Gloucester was quite a manufacturing centre and the Folk Gallery still has pin making machinery to view.

The several other canals in the county made sure that Gloucestershire had plenty of industry and the means to import and export material and goods. Locally the Coombe Hill canal was used to bring coal and materials to Cheltenham before we had the benefit of the railways.

So, many thanks to Ray Wilson for a fascinating talk that brought back many memories to those who have lived in the county much longer than I have.

Now we are round to that time of the year when the committee are scratching their heads over next year's programme. It should all end up similar to this year's with seven or eight talks, mostly on local history or nature because they are the ones that are available, a nature walk, a garden visit and the usual garden party in August. We do try to have a talk on planning matters but they are less easy to come by and so if anyone has any ideas we would be glad to hear them.

If you are not actually a member yet please do think of joining. Even if you never manage to make the meetings we would be very glad to have your moral support for when we have to protest about inappropriate development. It is not just the Joint Core Strategy. In the past we have fought to save Bedlam Mill (see above), not to have a modern glass and metal house right behind the church, not to infill the Manor grounds. We have even fought for the Homestead to be allowed to expand and for some other developments which the local planners were not going to allow – so we are not just Nimbys – though I wear that title with pride. Membership is £5 for singles and £10 for a family.

And even if the formal programme is of limited interest to you there are one or two members who would be happy to take you on an evening or afternoon stroll around the village and tell you what they know of its history and maybe even provide an

historic picture of your house. New arrivals to the village should be aware that we still have for sale copies of the seven editions of the The Swindon Village Collection that covers much of the recent and ancient history of the village.

So on to the AGM. This will take place in the Village Hall on the evening of 20th January 2016 at 7.30pm and should take no more than 30 minutes. Then there will be a tea break followed by the screening of some historic photographs of local scenes and bits and pieces of interest. If you want to become a member do come to the AGM. However, non members are welcome to turn up at 8pm for the tea and the photo show. Alternatively phone **Barry Simon on 521723** and he will be happy to come around and sign you up as member or invite you round to No 3, The Hall for a cup of tea.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Winemakers

For the September meeting we had a talk given to us by Barry Simon on the history of Swindon Village. It was a most interesting talk; it was a shame that a lot of our members were away on holiday.

The October meeting was the annual wine competition; this year it was Marrow and the winner of the competition was Mike Attwood. It was also a fish & chip evening with thanks to Ray Hales who organised members orders etc. We were lucky to have Derek and Pat Thorpe accompanied by his guide dog (Jasper) with us; yes although Derek is visually impaired his hobby is pottery and he gave us a talk on different types of clay and he brought a variety of pots that he had made and explained the process of firing. The pots were handed round so everyone could feel the different textures of the pots. The pots Derek brought were for sale and several people bought them. At the end of the evening Pat presented Mike Attwood with the trophy for winning the wine competition.

In December we will be having our Christmas meal at the Swan at Coombe Hill.

Can I on behalf of the Swindon Village Winemakers wish everyone A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL 2016.

Roy Harper



What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

"Can you smell carrots?"



Wednesday Club

We had such an entertaining evening at our last meeting that we are all still talking about it. The Dame and the Diva (aka Janet and Sue) were brilliant and had us laughing all night. We had a few songs and several anecdotes all of which were extremely funny, one in particular mentioning Minchinhampton several times. They have known each other for many years but only started entertaining about four years ago. Their lyrics and words were very cleverly put together and their act reminded me of Victoria Wood and Julie Walters and one or two acts from many years ago. A great evening and perhaps to be booked again for another year.

On Wednesday 2nd December it will be our Christmas Party. I believe Shane will be coming along to entertain us again this year and so please could you all arrive by 7.30pm so that we can be settled down by 7.45. Raffle tickets will be £1 each at this meeting and so we look forward to seeing you all then.

On January 6th we will be meeting again for our annual meal, this time at the Rising Sun Hotel. Please be there for around 7pm ready for 7.30.

Our meeting on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 will be our AGM. We usually have a quiz and play a game when the business is finished and so do please come along and remember all are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

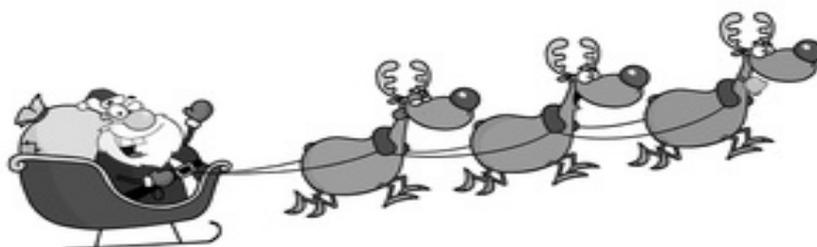
Pauline Wright

Art & Crafts Club

After only a few sessions we are producing some really super pictures - one member is painting the poppies at the Tower of London so it will be poppies, poppies, poppies, for the next few weeks, but will be fantastic when finished! We are decorating a tree to put in the church for the Christmas Tree Festival so look out for it, and it wouldn't be the same if we didn't have our usual Christmas Party.

It leaves me to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and hopefully a Peaceful New Year.

Helen Dicks



It was November again which heralded our AGM, a new Committee and a Presidential election. All proceeded well with Wendy elected for her third and last year as President; next year we will be looking for a new incumbent in the chair. Tea and coffee with Social Time completed the evening. Other activities included an enjoyable evening at the theatre to see 'Guys and Dolls', a meal at The White Spoon, a demonstration of puddings and lunch (which included two puddings!) at the Montpellier Chapter, a coffee morning at Marilyn's, a day dying silk and making it into jewellery and a half day of photography, make-up tuition or hot enamel jewellery. Unfortunately we lost our skittles match in the semi-finals to Avening by 5 pins, after a tense close-scoring evening.

Once again we had a great Birthday Party at the Muffin Man. A group of members joined a trip to see Legal London. A guided tour of all the Inns of Court and the Royal Courts of Justice made for a tiring but worthwhile day. Our Group Meeting consisted of the Fashion Parade with outfits from 'Just In' of Winchcombe, modelled by members, and an opportunity to buy some very reasonably priced clothing. A theatre outing to the Playhouse to see 'The Follies' and a day at the races and a coach trip to the Cardiff Christmas Market provided more opportunities to spend some money! The retiring Committee had their usual lunch; this time we went to the 'House in the Tree'.

We are looking forward to the big event in December, the Christmas Concert in the Town Hall. The guest artiste this year is Laura Wright. She won the BBC Young Chorister of the Year and is the official anthem singer for the RFU. Some members are going to the Playhouse to see 'Looking for Lansbury', a tribute to Angela Lansbury. We are going to the Montpellier Chapter for a cookery demonstration and a Christmas Lunch and to the Farmers Arms at Apperley for our own Christmas Lunch. Wendy has arranged a Solo Club Christmas Lunch Party. We have an invitation to join Bishops Cleeve WI for their Birthday party. At our Craft afternoon we discussed our entry for the Christmas Tree Festival, at St Lawrence Church in Swindon Village, and are busy making decorations.

The speaker at our meeting on 7th December is Jemma Fowkes on 'Birch, Beer and Bible - Education in the 16th and 17th Centuries. On 4th January Bob Skelton is to speak on 'People of Bletchley Park'. We warmly welcome visitors to our meetings at 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Church Hall in Swindon Lane.

May I take this opportunity to offer you all Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sara Jefferies

Open Evening and Awards

The Group's Open evening and AGM was held in the village hall at the end of October. All the leaders gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months. The highlights of these were the entertaining reports given by the Cubs and Scouts themselves who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people.

Sadly our Beaver Leaders Mandy and Charlotte announced that, after five years in the role, they would be standing down at Christmas. Both Mandy and Charlotte have done a terrific job with the Beavers which has seen the section go from strength to strength, including the first Beaver overnight camps up at Cranham. We owe them a huge thank-you for all that they have done for the Beavers and for the group and we will miss them both as they leave us for a well deserved break.

We were honoured to have Pat Hopes, our District Commissioner with us for the evening. Pat has been in the role of DC for 15 years now and has done an amazing job of promoting and supporting Scouting throughout Cheltenham during this time, so it is with sadness that we have learnt that she is also standing down at the end of the year. I have worked with Pat throughout her time as DC and know what a challenging role it is and how hard she has worked to keep so many groups and activities running smoothly. Again, we wish her well as she takes a deserved break from the front line of Scouting and thank her for all she has done in supporting us here at Swindon Village.

The evening concluded with the presentation of awards and special badges by Pat.

Chief Scout's Silver Award

The highest award you can achieve as a Cub Scout

Victoria Emery

Chief Scout's Gold Award

The highest award you can achieve as a Scout

**Josh Williams
George Wood
Kubko Kubinak**

It's also the night that we celebrate the achievements and the efforts of the youngsters from each section of the Group. The award winners this year were:

Beavers	The Alan Studd Award:	Dylan Jenkins and Ben Meech
Cubs	The Phil Long Award	Luc Upton
Best Cub Camper	The Di Dimond Award	Jess Lea
Scouts	The Phil Long Award	Sam Burge

Congratulations and very well done to you all.

The three Chief Scout's Gold Award recipients were honoured further at a County reception held at the Bacon Theatre, where they were presented with Certificates to mark their achievement by the Regional Commissioner. Some entertaining presentations on Duke of Edinburgh Gold expeditions followed and the evening was rounded off with a splendid buffet which we all enjoyed.

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday, we were well represented by many Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers at the Service of Remembrance held at St Lawrence Church. There were also more than 50 Cheltenham Explorer Scouts in the Promenade at the Service of Remembrance held in the town centre, all looking very smart.

Troop Cooking Competition

In preparation for the District Scout Cooking Competition next February, we held our own troop competition during November. With the Cubs out for the evening on a night hike, the Scouts had the village hall to themselves for 2½ hours to prepare, cook, eat and clear away their meals. We had 18 Scouts that formed four very enthusiastic teams. Having planned their menus the week before, each team was presented with the food items from the shopping lists that they had written out themselves. In order to replicate camp conditions, each team had just a twin burner camp stove to cook on. The hall was a vibrant mix of noise and smells and it was great to see all the Scouts working really well together as teams and then enjoying the meals that they had cooked together. Foxy (Liz) and Mr Foxy (John Attwell) were our judges for the evening and we were also joined by Pat Hopes, our District Commissioner and her husband Noel. They were all very impressed with the high standard of the meals produced and Pat congratulated the Scouts and said that they were all very much up to the standard of competition level. All in all, a really great evening of Scouting with some lovely food to enjoy as well!

Christmas Show

For our final meeting of the year on Monday 14th December, we will again be holding an evening of Christmas Carols together with various sketches and routines performed by the Beavers, the Cubs and the Scouts in the Village Hall. There will be refreshments and a few mince pies available for those who arrive early enough! The doors open at 6pm with a prompt start at 6:15 and everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun. There is no charge on the door, but we will be collecting donations towards the charity we support each Christmas - "The Children's Society". We hope you are able to come and join us all.

Can I finally thank everyone in Swindon Village for all your support and encouragement throughout 2015 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sos

**Swindon Village Rainbows and
Bishop's Cleeve District Rangers**

TABLE TOP SALE

**Friday 4th December
5.45pm 'til 7.15pm
Village Hall**

Admission 50p
includes tea & coffee

Come and browse the stalls and perhaps
pick up a few Christmas presents

For more details please phone
Jackie on 07871 169308.

We hope to see you there.

Advertise your business in the Village News

Monthly rates

Whole page £30 Half page £15 Quarter page £7.50
One sixth of a page (square) £5

Contact the Editors



Friends For You

We offer a free volunteer befriending service for older and vulnerable people living in Gloucestershire.

Friends For You offers regular social contact at a time when a person might be feeling cut off from their community – through ill health, bereavement or because family and friends are scattered. Research suggests that being isolated can be as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

How it Works

We introduce you to a local, reliable volunteer who visits you regularly in the comfort of your own home to spend time together, maybe reminisce about days gone by and share a pot of tea.

We all know how important it is to have someone we can rely on to come and see us regularly, especially if we are housebound and this is where the befriending service comes into its own.

Interested in Helping Us?

However, in order to provide this vital service, we do need volunteers to come forward. Our volunteers are the life blood of our service as without them we couldn't exist.

So if you have an hour a week to spare, why not volunteer for us and be assured that you will spend that time in the company of someone who will really appreciate your time. After all, it only takes an hour a week to transform someone's life. Full training and support is provided together with an opportunity to meet fellow volunteers and to forge new friendships.

Please contact Sue Black, the project co-ordinator, for more information on [07810 630167](tel:07810630167) or [01452 528491](tel:01452528491) or email sue.friendsforyou@grcc.org.uk.



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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Vacant	
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Charlotte Mitchell (Mole)	701854
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D’Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Charlotte Mitchell Mandy Harris	701854 chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
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	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent	Elizabeth Heathcott	527753
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

There will be no Village News in January. The deadline for the February issue of the Village News will be the 16th of January.

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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	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
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Swindon Parish and Community Website: www.swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. David Smith	512348 david.smith@northchelt.org.uk
Associate Priest	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	Val Smith	522245
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

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