

# Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 450

December 2018/January 2019

## *November*

**Thursday 29 Meeting on the future management of the Village Hall  
7.00pm in the Village Hall bar**

Friday 30 Swindon Village School Winter Fair 3.30pm - 5.30pm

## *December*

Saturday & Sunday 1 & 2 Christmas Tree Festival  
St. Lawrence's Church 11am - 5pm

Monday 3 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Ukulele Band

Wednesday 5 Wednesday Club - Christmas Supper & Music (Members only)

**Tuesday 11 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**

Wednesday 12 Vegetation Cutting in the Amenity Area  
Meet outside the church at 1.00pm

## *January*

Monday 7 Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm  
Phil Collins - Postcodes of Cheltenham

**Tuesday 8 Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm**

Wednesday 16 Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm AGM  
8.15pm - Barry Simon - Some Letters From The Front

*(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk). They are also available on request from the Chairman.)*

Last month was the Big Issue! The Village News wasn't twice its normal size because Karen took pity on our failing eyesight. Perhaps it was actually the normal size and we had all got smaller since the last issue. The actual reason is quite mundane but might make a good question for the village quiz in future.

On 14th November a meeting was held to discuss the future management of the Village Hall. It was standing room only and excellent to see that so many people regard the hall as a valuable community asset. Helen and Yvonne of the Parish Council prepared an excellent presentation so that everybody was on the same page. In a nutshell, the Village Hall is owned by the Parish Council but the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the hall is the responsibility of the management committee, organised as a charitable trust.

The committee has done sterling work over the years and, understandably, feel it is time they stepped back. The meeting was focused very much on the future. Our meeting asked the audience whether they would be willing to assist in the ongoing running on the hall. It is not just a matter of finding a handful of people to form a committee in the future. We recognise that there are many people with useful skills and experience who may hate the idea of being involved in committee work. Well, we need you all. Even if you weren't at the event on the 14th, or if you were there but didn't register with us, please let us know if you feel you have something to offer. Accounts need to be prepared, walls need to be painted, supplies need to be collected and floors need to be cleaned. Contact me or any parish councillor if you are willing to join in.

We have obtained a defibrillator for the parish. It will be a great shame if the Village Hall disappears as I will have nothing to screw the defibrillator to. At the moment we are obtaining quotes for wiring the cabinet to the electrical supply. Once it is available we will need to get as many people as possible trained in its use. My research into defibrillators turned up an interesting story. In Coventry the City Council refused planning permission for fifteen defibrillators in the city centre because they said they would clutter the street scene.

Just when you thought the JCS, for better or worse, was finished with, a new consultation on "issues and options" has begun. This consultation concerns the implementation of the JCS, including such questions as:

- What timeframe should the plan cover?
- How many new homes are needed to provide for our communities?
- How can the plan support existing and new business? and
- What infrastructure is needed to support growth?

I must admit I thought these considerations were an integral part of the JCS. Anyway, the consultation has started and runs until Friday 11th January 2019. Details are on our website.

Following public consultation the Cheltenham Local Plan is now being reviewed by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. This is the planning policy document that sits below the JCS and provides more detailed planning policy for Cheltenham.

There has been very little in the way of local planning applications for us to consider recently. It has been good to have a chance to draw breath as considering planning applications is a major part of our work.

I have produced a draft budget for the council for 2019-2020. This will be reviewed in our December meeting. Once we have a budget we will know how much money we need by way of the precept and can ask Cheltenham Borough Council for the appropriate amount. Actually, the formal term is the precept *demand* but that sounds very rude. The Borough Council have no say in the matter and must give us what we "demand". As the money comes from council tax we always try to be prudent. After all, the clerk and the councillors also have to pay taxes!

One of the locals who was concerned at the state of the footpaths across the fields asked if the farmer was in breach of any bye-laws. To be honest I am not aware that we have any (readers may correct me!). I looked into the issue of bye-laws and found that the government produce some model texts that can be used. The one I would most like to enact is the one related to "climbing upon and hanging from bridges". Given that there are only a handful of topics covered this seems an odd subject to choose. Perhaps it is a bigger problem than I think.

You may be aware that Hyde Lane has now been resurfaced. We'll see how long the surface lasts. Make the most of it while it's new.

On Wednesday the 12th December I propose to do some undergrowth cutting in the Amenity Area. If you wish to join me I would appreciate your company. I will be at the church at 1:00pm. You will have to bring your own secateurs, shears, etc. No power tools I'm afraid.

As this is your end of year issue a few quick "thank you"s.

When I walked to the Village Hall for a meeting the other day I took in the glory that is the horse trough. This is planted by Neil Goodwin, our local landscape gardener. I'm not sure how Neil copes with the weird weather, but he has again produced a fantastic display.

Thank you to Barry Simon, leading light of the Swindon Village Society, for supporting our meeting on the Village Hall. Barry produced tea, coffee, biscuits, a projection screen, extension leads, etc. I'm sure if we fail to get enough volunteers Barry will be able to source an entire committee from the back of his car.

The last Village News spoke of the retirement of a couple who have helped with the distribution of the Village News for over 40 years. I would like to say a big thank you to them and to the other distributors for providing a first class service to our community. The Parish Council pay for the printing but that is the easy bit.

Thank you of course to Karen and Stuart, our editors, without whom we wouldn't have a Village News to write for and to deliver.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

[www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

# SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Meeting on the management and operation of Swindon Village Hall**

We have organised a follow-up meeting *for people who are willing to lend a hand* (whether on the committee or as a helper behind the scenes)

**The meeting will take place in the Hall bar  
at 7:00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

If you are willing to help in the running of the Hall but not able to make the meeting please let me know

# **HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

07833 089435

[parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk)

<https://swindonparish.org.uk>

## Services and Events for December

1	Saturday	11.00am - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
2	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ Ten Thirty
		11.00am - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival
		6.30pm	Holy Communion
4	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
9	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		6.30pm	Evensong
11	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
		7.00pm	Holy Communion
16	Sunday	10.30am	Together @ The Table
		6.30pm	Evensong
18	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
23	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Carol Service
24	Monday	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
		4.30pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Holy Communion (The First Communion of Christmas)
25	Tuesday	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
30	Sunday	10.00am (Note time)	Holy Communion

## Services and Events for January

6	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
8	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In Holy Communion
13	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
15	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
20	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ The Table Evensong
22	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
27	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
29	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

## Church flowers for Christmas

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers to decorate the church this Christmas, maybe in memory of a loved one, please phone **Joan Howes on 513573**.

## From the registers



### **Baptisms**

*We welcomed in to the family of the church*

Abigail Kathleen Shutter

4th November

Dominic Dobi Deeley

4th November



### **Funeral**

*We gave thanks for the life of*

Kathleen Barnard

1st November

### **Interment of ashes**

*We commemorated the life of*

Jean Smith

1st November

## **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 Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector) by email [nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk) or via the office.**

St. Lawrence's Church

# Christmas Tree Festival

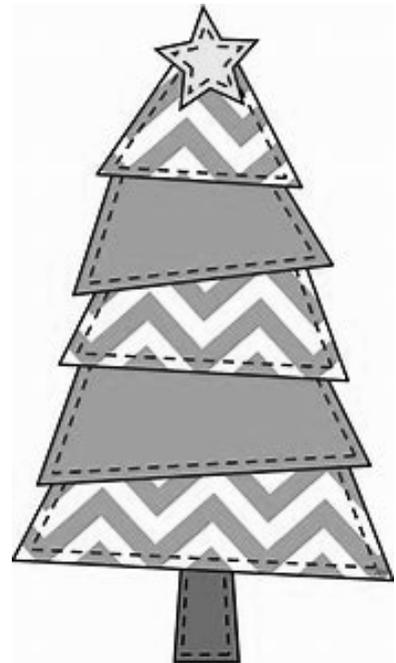
“Hobbies and Pastimes”

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd  
December

11.00am to 5.00pm

On the Sunday join us for  
Together @ Ten Thirty among the trees

- Display of Christmas Trees
- Vote for your favourite tree
- Sale of Christmas goods
- Musical entertainment at 2pm
- Hamper raffle
- Children's craft activity
- Refreshments



Free admission but donations to the St. Lawrence  
Restoration Appeal would be gratefully received.

## **Festivals – What is behind them?**

The Christian year is dotted with festivals. We are pretty good at celebrating! But maybe this December and new year, we might stop and ponder: what is the place of Christian festivals in our nation's life?

Some background first of all. A clergyman was walking from his car in the Sainsbury's car park trying to avoid the puddles and pouring rain. Suddenly, a rather grumpy looking couple stopped right in front of him, blocking his path. The wife elbowed her husband in his ribs. She pointed at the clergyman, with her carrier bags swaying at the end of her outstretched arm. "Look", she said, "look, a vicar out shopping", as if this clergyman were a rare car, an unusual plant or even an exotic pet. The lady continued pointing at him and the clergyman was getting cross. The lady's husband enquired: 'Do they still have vicars then?' 'Oh yes', his wife replied, 'they've got one on Coronation Street.' Meanwhile, church leaders like the soon-to-retire Archbishop of York have clearly had enough of this kind of 'backs against the wall' Christianity, getting even crosser than our vicar, and show every sign of being a pain in the backside of the establishment and entrenched C of E bashers.

What do this vicar and the Archbishop have in common? What they share is anger that any priest could be turned into some kind of exhibit. Do festivals therefore seem little more than an illusion over the surface of religious decay, what Pink Floyd called in 1972 'the tolling of the iron bell which draws the faithful to their knees to hear the softly spoken magic spells'?

I contend that we're actually clearing the platform for a time of re-building of the Christian faith.

First though, let's look at the lie of the land. Our Christian foundations might seem to be slipping. Did you know that 200,000 people registered their religion as 'Jedi Knight' at the last census? Another 400,000 people registered their religion as 'pagan'. Meanwhile, there are only 800,000 others like us in churches on Sundays. Given that to describe yourself as Jedi Knight demands a certain level of personal commitment, there might be almost as many of them as there are of us. Meanwhile, church attendance has fallen by 1% a year since 1980.

With this in mind let's get back to re-building because shortly I'd love to ask you to do something. In Mark's Gospel (chapter 13, first 8 verses) the disciples pressed Jesus for a timetable, a run-down of the days to when the end of things would be – before that re-building can happen. The answer Jesus gives them is vague yet precise. It's vague, in that he gives no date. It's precise, in that the signs of the times will leave no room for doubt.

In fact, the shocking-ness of these signs prompts us always to be ready for what is to come, regardless of when. Remember Jesus is talking about demolition here, not restoration. There will be no cleaned-up, restored and power-washed shop facades. Everything must go. It's an act of faith to accept that Jesus gives no answer about timing to his disciples or to us. Part of the Christian discipline (now there's a word we're not used to) is to accept the need to wait.

What it's not is a waiting where we sit in the pews and do nothing. What I am sure it is, is a desire to share our faith with those alongside us and those who might come back.

That's where I would love it if you do something this Christmas which will make a big difference. First, would you set aside some special extra time to pray each day? All of two or three minutes are fine. In that prayer time, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to one person. Don't worry about how unprepared you feel to do this. Maybe someone who is feeling like giving up or unwell; or someone who is missing one they love. And second, tell them that their name came to you in prayer.

Having done this praying, then let God start to build someone new or build them back up again, in the confidence that being able to pray like this does not belong to some privileged elite but to ordinary ones like you and me. We, who take God's promises at His word, possessing Jesus and his promises with a passion.

**Fr. Nick**



# **SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL WINTER FAIR 2018**

Christmas Stalls & Games  
Handmade gifts from the children  
Santas Grotto  
Christmas Toy Shop  
Tombola & Raffle

Plenty of refreshments will be available including  
cakes, hotdogs and burgers.

**- FREE ENTRY, EVERYONE WELCOME! -**  
**FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER**  
**3.30PM - 5.30PM**

A fundraising event organised  
by the Friends Of Swindon  
Village Primary School  
committee.



## Wednesday Club

A lovely evening was had by all at our November meeting. Derek Thorpe came along with his Guide Dog, Jasper and told us all about the training of these lovely dogs. They are all bred by the Guide Dog Association but are dogs living with families. When the puppies are six weeks old they are given to "Puppy Walkers", not the best title as they live with them until they are matched at about eighteen months. Their training is intensive to include dealing with doors (hadn't realised there were so many different openings) getting on and off buses and travelling by train etc. At twelve months they are trained intensively Monday to Friday but do go home to their families evenings and weekends.

At eighteen months they are hopefully matched and then the dog and handler are given training to learn how to live with each other. Jasper is Derek's third Guide Dog and it was lovely to see them together. Derek and Jasper stayed for supper and were then taken home. Thanks to Jim for fetching them and Shirley for taking them home again.

Our next meeting is on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and will be our Christmas Party. There will be entertainment during the evening and so please come along at 7.30 so that we can start at about 7.45.

We will also be meeting for a meal at the Swan Inn at Coombe Hill on Wednesday 2nd January and, again, if you could be there for about 12 noon so that we can sit down to eat at 12.30. If you have not paid for your meal yet please bring the money along in December.

There will not be a meeting in January and so we meet again on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February and it will be our AGM.

On behalf of Wednesday Club we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2019.

**Pauline Wright**

Well, I think this write-up is going to be short. The October meeting got covered in the last edition and as I hit the keys we have not yet had our November talk about the early history of Prestbury. So, how to fill a bit of space.

There is always our primary *raison d'être* – NIMBYism – so it is back to the dear old Joint Core Strategy. Now this was all done and dusted a while back but it took so long it is up for review already. A NIMBY's work is never done. For those not in the know NIMBY is Not In My Back Yard, a derogatory term used about those who are prepared to have a barney rather than give in supinely to the wonderful plans for development thought up by developers and, sometimes, local planners. NIMBY is now a term many of us embrace with pride. At present the JCS concludes in 2031 but there is now a debate as to whether to extend it for five or ten years. Stop yawning at the back. Consultation has only just started. If you want to get involved just look it up on your computer or take a look at the hard copy consultation proposals in the Library.

One other little point on the development front is that the Elm's Park development has had another six month delay put on it by the planners while they continue to sort out the transport provisions. Surprise, surprise.

What will the Village Society offer next year? Well we do have some ideas. At present we are trying to negotiate a talk by Spirax Sarco on just what they do except generate some rather scenic steam on an evening. I think Arthur Ball may have another talk for us on the wildlife around Dowdeswell Reservoir. It would be nice to have Tim Brain back and I see he has a talk on Gloucestershire Battles. There will be the usual bird walk, probably in June and led by John Heathcott, except that his intended destination, Lineover Wood, an ancient woodland, will probably be even better in wild flowers than birds. There will be a garden visit but we always wait until the annual open gardens brochure comes out before checking to see if there are any new gardens opening. There will be the usual garden party in August.

I must remind you that there is no meeting in December and in January we will have our AGM which we will try to keep short. After that I will tell the tale of the letters written by my wife's grandfather from the front line in the First World War and read a few of the most evocative out. While the AGM

is for members only, the letters from the front bit will start at about 8.15pm and is open to anyone.

**Barry Simon**

*The Swindon Village Society*

Wednesday 16th January

7.30pm - Annual General Meeting - for members only

Visitors will be welcome at 8.15pm for  
Some Letters From The Front  
presented by Barry Simon

**Used Postage Stamps and Cards for Recycling**

The many Christmas, birthday and special occasion cards you passed to me this year have gone to the Cobalt Unit for recycling and I have given all the used postage stamps to the LINC Clinic where they are welcomed to boost their funds.

I shall be pleased to receive used Christmas cards up to January the 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, used stamps and special occasion cards all year round.

Do continue to save your cards and stamps to help those worthy local causes.

**Moiria Stoneman**

Benrines,  
5 Stanton's Drive  
Tel. 529631

Another year gone! Our November meeting was taken up with our usual monthly business and then, after tea and biscuits and time for a good chat, we had our Annual Meeting. The officers' reports were read out, including a healthy financial statement, before the appointment of our President. Sue Davies was elected to the post for the third year running and so will be standing down this time next year. The committee will be sorting out the other officers at their next meeting.

We enjoyed a very interesting and informative trip to Richmond-on – Thames and the Poppy Factory. After an introductory talk about the history of the Poppy and the Factory we were shown many of the special wreaths ready for this year's ceremonies. We saw the machines punching out the red poppies ready to be assembled by hand, and even had a go at making up our own poppies. The red hearts that float down from the roof of the Royal Albert Hall, one for each life lost, were punched out of crepe paper and weighed, not counted! The Queen has a selection of three poppy sprays sent for her to choose from.

A day was spent at WI House making a decorated silk bag and then a rustic Christmas banner made from woven willow. Continuing the seasonal theme, several members spent an afternoon at Eileen's making creative Christmas cards. We are collecting contributions of decorations for our entry at the Swindon Village Christmas Tree Festival. Our Birthday Party meal and celebrations were held at Doubletrees. I shall elaborate on the weekend trip to Chatsworth and Leicester in my next write-up.

We have booked to go for a Christmas lunch at the Farmers Arms and the retiring committee are meeting for their lunch at the Old Courthouse. December also sees the annual Christmas Concert in the Town Hall. We are looking forward to the return visit of Only Men Aloud as the guest artistes.

Our programme slows down for a while, but we still have our usual meetings in December and January. For our meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we are to be entertained by a Ukulele group followed by tea and mince pies. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January we start the New Year with Phil Collins as our speaker on the subject of 'Postcodes of Cheltenham'. We always make visitors welcome at our meetings at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane at 7.30pm.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Sara Jefferies**

## **Collecting your Christmas tree – for charity!**

Have your tree collected and recycled, just after Twelfth Night, and help a highly valued local charity.

Longfield will collect the tree from your home between January 10th and 14th and recycle it for you, in return for a donation.

All you need to do is register before 6.00.pm on Sunday January 6th and make your donation, online or by phone.

The money raised will help to pay for Longfield's Hospice at Home nurses. They provide specialist support, day and night, on every day of the year (including Christmas Day!) and the service is completely free of charge. So please be generous in donating to Longfield this Christmas and support people in your community, when they need it most.

For more information or to register go to [www.longfield.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-recycling](http://www.longfield.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-recycling) or ring 01453 886868 (option 1).

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

**Ring 101** (you may be charged for this call)  
**or email [101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk)**

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it. If the police are not made aware of a problem **THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM**".

## Swindon Village Early Years

We have been running the playgroup at Swindon Village Hall for 19 years in April and continue to be excited with all aspects of running the group. Life is always busy! The backdrop of the playing field plays a huge part in us helping the children to recognise the changing seasons. There is always something exciting to plan for and plenty of opportunities to support and extend imagination and interests.

We are delighted with our Ofsted inspection which was carried out on the 4<sup>th</sup> October this year. The quality and standards of our provision were marked as 'good'. The comments included:

- Managers are passionate about their provision.
- Managers monitor staff effectively. They encourage them to gain new skills or qualifications to improve knowledge and understanding of children's development.
- Children make good progress in their development.
- Staff build strong partnerships with parents and other professionals.
- Children benefit from consistent care tailored to their needs.
- Staff make excellent use of the local community and services to provide different experiences for the children.
- Staff provide good role models for the children. Children's behaviour is good.

Whilst most of our children will go on to attend Swindon Village Primary, we are also able to create close links with other local schools to ensure that our children have an easy and relaxed transition when the time comes for them to move on to school.

We currently have available spaces. We are registered to take children from 2 to 5 years old.

If you may be interested in our setting, please contact the Playgroup on 690479. Alternatively we would always welcome a visit from you.

**Sally Stennett & Debbie Styman**  
Joint Play Leaders

As we head into the winter months, our Scouts have been making the most of the mild weather before the frosts. It's been a busy time as you can see...

In September, the annual Canoeing and Kayaking County weekend camp was held on the River Avon at Croft Farm, Bredon's Hardwick. This event is organised by Shelley Wright from Cheltenham and has become a regular fixture on the calendar for everyone interested in Canoeing and Kayaking – youngsters and leaders alike. Over 60 people were in attendance this year and had an excellent weekend of fun and games with plenty of time spent on the water.

At the beginning of October, several of our young Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended the Harvest Festival Service held in St Lawrence's Church. It's lovely to get all the sections together and see them taking an active part in the service.

Meanwhile over the same weekend, seven of our Scouts and one former Scout (Josh W) joined Shane, Sos & Co on the County Canal weekend on narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal just west of London. Once on board, we travelled north from Hillingdon in Middlesex up around Watford towards Hemel Hempstead and then back again on the Sunday. The countryside along the canals there is beautiful and with a lock every half a mile or so, there is plenty to keep everyone occupied. The Scouts had to plan their own menu and on the Saturday morning, moored the boat outside a conveniently situated Tesco's, while they went and bought all the food. The weather was dull and a little drizzly on the Saturday morning and then from around 11am onwards – it poured down for the next six hours. However, the Sunday was one of those gloriously bright, sunny and warm autumn days that was just perfect for "messing about on the water"! The Scouts got totally immersed in life on the canals and took it in turns to steer the boat and work the locks. They also helped prepare all the meals and took it in turns to do the washing up. They all returned home full of their adventures and I'm happy to report that the Scout who fell in wasn't one of ours; he came to no harm – just his pride dampened somewhat!

On the following weekend, eight of our Scouts and three leaders took part in this year's Operation Bald Eagle camp – our final Scout camp of the year. The camp was held at Rhydd Covert Scout Camp Site - right next

door to the West Midland Safari Park in Worcestershire. Here we joined together with around 500 Scouts from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. Friday and Saturday were both exceptionally mild and very windy but at least that kept the forecast rain at bay. We arrived at around 7:30pm on the Friday evening and the Scouts set about pitching their tents in the dark before tackling the Friday evening challenge – blind tasting and trying to identify 20 different flavours of crisps! On Saturday after a cooked breakfast and flag break, our Scouts started to tackle some of the 30 day bases around the campsite, solving puzzles and completing tasks, challenges and games. Then on Saturday night they joined more than 60 teams and set off on a 7 mile incident hike around the local area with 16 activities to complete at the various checkpoints around the route. There was great team work in evidence throughout the weekend and both of our teams managed to complete the entire hike at around midnight – a fantastic achievement. A very tired bunch of Scouts awoke on the Sunday morning to find it pouring with rain, from first light until we got back home. So, after another cooked breakfast, we all had to pack up everything and take down the tents in the rain. The camp finished with everyone getting together for flag-down, a moment of reflection and the results and presentations. All of our Scouts did tremendously well in what was a very long night! As a leadership team, we were really proud of all of them. And to top the weekend off, one of our teams won checkpoint 14 and were presented with a certificate much to their delight. Congratulations are due to everyone who took part – another terrific weekend.

The following night – with dripping wet tents everywhere, we held our group's Open Evening and AGM in the village hall. The leaders and youngsters gave reports of the many and varied activities and camps attended over the last twelve months. The highlights of the evening were the entertaining reports given by the Cubs themselves who did really well standing up and speaking in front of a room full of people. As always, the evening concluded with the presentation of awards as 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:

**Cubs:** The Phil Long Award:

**Best Cub Camper:** The Di Dimond Award:

**Scouts** - The Phil Long Award:

**Charlie Cotterill**

**Ben Newth**

**Ben Meech**

**Adam Stanford**

Congratulations and very well done to you all.

Then on the following Saturday, there was a chance for those who had taken part in the Air weekend camp in September to get a short flight in a light Aircraft. Sadly, as the date chosen at short notice was also the start of half term, only two of our Scouts were able to attend. We all assembled at Croft Farm Airfield in Defford and once the early morning fog had cleared, they both thoroughly enjoyed their 30 minutes or so in the air and even had a chance to take the controls once airborne. What a fantastic opportunity.

Finally – a huge thank you to all the leaders, parents and helpers who give their time and energy to make the group such a success and offer so many different and exciting challenges and opportunities to all our young people. I know it's really hard at times – but it's worth the effort!

**Sos**





## CHELTENHAM LIONS CLUB

A member of the International Association of Lions Clubs  
(Incorporating Lions Club of Cheltenham Charitable Trust No.1119298)

### **Do you need *all* your Winter Fuel Allowance?**

#### *Wenceslas*

Gathers Winter Fuel Allowances to warm the Cheltenham needy.

If anyone feels that they can manage without their Winter Fuel Allowance, Cheltenham Lions is entering its second year of providing a direct bridge to those in Cheltenham with insufficient money to pay their fuel bills.

Nothing will be taken for administration or overheads by Cheltenham Lions.

The project is running successfully by Lions in a few other English towns.

It is calculated that around 6925 households in Cheltenham need to spend 10% or more of their income to achieve adequate warmth.

To give just £30 to each of these households, we would need over £200,000.

Please give generously. Remember you can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Donations can be sent by cheque made payable to "Cheltenham Lions" and endorsed "Wenceslas Heating" on the back to our 'Treasurer, Lions Club of Cheltenham, 21 Cudnall Street, Cheltenham GL53 8HS'.

Alternatively, pay via mydonate (BT online free-to-use service) <https://mydonate.bt.com/charity/search.html> then enter charity name **Wenceslas**.

For advice about receiving money for fuel bills, contact *ccp* by e-mail at [winterfuel@ccp.org.uk](mailto:winterfuel@ccp.org.uk)

## Hedgehogs found in your neighbourhood

Cheltenham's residents came out in force this Autumn to investigate the seldom seen but much loved hedgehog.

Hedgehogs are thought to be doing much better in urban and suburban areas than in rural areas; in part this is because of a network of gardens and green spaces that allow them to roam and nest safely with fewer pesticides and a greater range of beasties to eat. Gardens can also offer more nesting and hibernation spots for our spiny friends in the form of leaf piles, under sheds and homemade hedgehog houses.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Hedgehog Way project needed the help of residents to discover if they have hedgehogs in the neighbourhoods. Swindon Village residents took part in a scientific method of using footprint tunnels to find out what was in their garden. Footprint tunnels encourage animals in with food and the animals leave a trail of inky footprints behind.



*Setting up a footprint tunnel*



*Inky hedgehog footprints*

We're very pleased to say that there are hedgehogs in the neighbourhood. These animals need all the help they can get to survive. If you live in Swindon Village and would like a team of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's volunteers to come and assess your garden for how 'hedgehog friendly' it is and offer tips on ways to help, please contact:

[georgia.spooner@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk](mailto:georgia.spooner@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk)

# SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

We are doing some

## **VEGETATION CUTTING**

in the Amenity Area

at **1:00pm** on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

We will be meeting at

**St. Lawrence Church,  
Church Road,  
Swindon Village**

A short safety briefing will be given. Please bring your secateurs, shears, gardening gloves. **NO POWER TOOLS!**

## **HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Shaun Cullimore**

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

07833 089435

[parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk)

<https://swindonparish.org.uk>

## Woops! - Extra large Village News

We send our apologies to everyone for last month's extra-size Village News -

to those of you who like to keep your Village News and it didn't fit in with the others;

to the distributors who had to carry twice the weight of paper and struggle with some letterboxes;

to those who liked it and are going to be disappointed that it's not a permanent change.

Unfortunately it was the result of a communication error at the printers.

## The Editors

### The Advent Wreath



If you visit St. Lawrence's Church in December you'll see the church's equivalent of an Advent Calendar. It is a wreath of evergreen foliage with five candles. Three of the candles are purple and one is pink, and they stand on the edge of the wreath representing different aspects of Advent. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday, which this year is 2nd December, then another is lit each week so that on the 4th Sunday of Advent all four will be lit. The fifth candle is white and stands in the centre of the wreath; this one represents Jesus and is lit on Christmas Day.

It's very different from the chocolate, gin and beauty products "Christmas Countdowns" filling shop shelves at the moment but Advent is a time of preparation and the building up of light on the Advent wreath is an expression of the growing anticipation of Christmas.

**Karen Evans**



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Village News

### Monthly rates

Whole page £36

Half page £18

Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

Village News is delivered to  
900 homes in Swindon Village

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Hugh Stanford	svbeavers@gmail.com 706020
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Village Hall 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	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Jodie Courts	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928 adrian.skilling@gmail.com
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

### **There is no Village News in January.**

The deadline for the February issue will be the 16th of January.

Please send contributions to the editors via

Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road

or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

## SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: [www.swindonparish.org.uk](http://www.swindonparish.org.uk)

## ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	Revd. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office		244373
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		admin@northchelt.org.uk

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

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