

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

March 2024 Edition No.501

Upcoming Events



MARCH

Monday 4th Marle Hill WI St Nicholas Church hall
7.30pm

Monday 11th Parish Council Meeting

Sunday 17th Litter Pick. Meet 10.30am at Village Hall
Easter Family Event details to follow

Wednesday 20th **Swindon Village Society.** Talk –
Votes for Women – the campaign in the
Cheltenham area' by Sue Jones.
Village Hall 7.30pm. Visitors Welcome.

Sunday 24th **9am** Palm Sunday Procession from Chelt.
PALM SUNDAY Town Football Club Training Ground
9.15am Holy Communion and Blessing of
Palms

6.30pm Evensong

Friday 29th 2pm Good Friday Meditation
GOOD FRIDAY

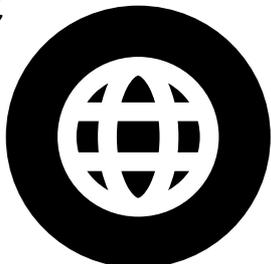
Sunday 31st **9.15am** Holy Communion
EASTER SUNDAY **6.30pm** Evensong



A Connected Community!



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



Parish Council Website

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



Parish Council Facebook Page

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



Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

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



Anti-Social Behaviour

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



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

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



A Note From The Editor

Firstly an apology.

James wrote an article last month about the Parish Council budget. I'm afraid when moving it into the publishing software, I inadvertently cut a paragraph which unfortunately was the part which contained the figures. I've included the whole article again this month. Sorry James!

I have been playing around with the pictures that head the pages, to make them more subject appropriate. Some were easy – a writing implement for Editor. I was toying with the idea of a quill as I consider myself an old-fashioned writer, but that seemed too dramatic. I settled on a fountain pen. Up until a few years ago I still used my school fountain pen but an unhappy accident found it nib side down after a tumble from my desk. It was never the same and after using it for 30 plus years I didn't have the heart to replace it.

Anyway I digress... I was very pleased with the windows that were similar to the side ones in St Lawrence's but some seem a little generic and how on earth do you sum up Swindon Village Society?!! Have a look at what I have chosen for each of you. If you have a better idea or would like to be represented differently, please let me know.

We have had a request for recipes that are both plant based and healthy. Would anyone be interested in taking this on? It need not be every month as our current recipe page is very popular and often contains vegetarian recipes. Maybe we could alternate them to give the writers a month off?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Karren



Swindon Parish Council

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

It is always difficult to get things done during the Christmas break but time seems to have slipped through my hands more than ever this season. The purchase of the Village Hall car park and the tree works in the Amenity Area are both firmly at the top of my expanding “to do” list, but progress on both has been frustratingly slow.

Before Christmas I asked our solicitor for a progress report on the purchase of the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council. I heard nothing until recently, when I discovered that the legal practice had fallen victim to a cyber attack. Criminals don't need to break a window these days, they can simply sit at a computer in eastern Europe and cause mayhem while they are helping their kids with their homework. Back in contact, the solicitor asked me what wording we would like for the attestation clause in the deeds. I have no idea what that means. Why do some professions have a language all of their own?

Also before Christmas, I asked the Borough Council tree department if they would take a walk with me through the Amenity Area so that I could describe the proposed tree works to them before submitting a planning application. I waited a few weeks then sent a reminder. The answer came back that no, they wouldn't be taking a walk and that I should submit a planning application.

A couple of other planning-related items. We were recently consulted on a planning application for the unit between Dunelm and the Range on Centrum Retail Park. Perhaps, like me, you hadn't even noticed that there was a vacant unit between Dunelm and the Range! Take a look next time you are out and about....



Swindon Parish Council

It turns out that M&S Home and M&S Food stores on Kingsditch Retail Park will close and, with a following wind, a larger M&S Food store will open in the aforementioned vacant unit. I have no insight into the future use of the Kingsditch units that will be vacated.



Consultation is under way on the Strategic and Local Plan. I noticed an event in Regent Arcade the other day and one of your councillors has also attended a couple of meetings. It is all a bit vague at the moment. The current consultation is on the process by which the Strategic and Local Plan should be developed rather than the plan itself. As we feared it is clear that we will need to fight to retain local green space.

We held our latest litter pick starting from the Cross Hands. The litter picks that start from the Village Hall tend to attract more support from residents than ones south of the Tewkesbury Road. Your Parish Councillors actively participate in these events, and they do so as volunteers. Their only reward might be a cup of coffee and the feeling of a job well done. The next picks will be on 17th March starting from the Village Hall and 7th April starting from the Cross Hands. In future we are likely to focus on areas where residents are prepared to lend a hand. Seems only fair.



Swindon Parish Council

Once again I have had to respond to queries and rants mistaking our Swindon for one of the others in the country. I had to answer an irate request to get some broken glass cleared in Swindon Town and also a request for an allotment from someone in South Staffordshire!

I took the dog for an early morning walk. On the pavement opposite the house, a key route used by parents and children on their way to school, a horse had made a very significant deposit. To be clear, I'm not referring to banking matters. With Valentine's Day just around the corner I thought perhaps that, rather than roses, something to put on the roses might be welcome. That was a mistake I shall not repeat.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Litter picking

You might see a few of us sporting our yellow vests each month doing our bit to keeping our lovely area tidy.

We would love some more volunteers to join us for an hour or so when you can on a Sunday morning. We provide all tools, although you might want to bring your own gloves.

Here are the dates:
10.30 - 12.00 on the following Sundays.

7th April Cross Hands
5th May Village Hall
2nd June Cross Hands

Here are some of our regulars, Helen Wells.



The Swindon Village Society

Just before Christmas I did write a letter to Santa Claus asking if he could send me a Village Society Secretary and maybe even a Talk Bookings member. If he was feeling really kind a nice new YOUNG Chairman would be best of all. But then, when I came down on Christmas Day full of hope there was nothing at the bottom of the chimney. The glass of sherry had been drunk and the slice of Christmas cake had been eaten but no new Committee Members. Not even a part used biro. Sigh. However, I do send my thanks to those who continue to serve on the committee. And that takes us to the Annual General Meeting.

Well, in fact we seem to be doing alright. The finances have recovered after the barren period of lockdown and membership is steady. Thanks, Julia, and please take great care whenever you are crossing the road. We had a good year in 2023. I think we may even have made a good contribution on the Nimby front. I would like to think that our letter about the proposed communications aerial in Rivelands, which suggested better alternatives, helped to get the idea turned down.



The Swindon Village Society

Let us hope that our letter against early development of Home Farm has a similar result when the matter does come up for discussion by CBC. I would say that we are only one voice in these matters after the Parish Council and the many individuals who pitch in. However, the Society can say that we speak for 87 concerned residents. So if you are a concerned resident do consider joining us and make that 88.

After the AGM we had tea, coffee and biscuits and again thanks to those who help with that.

Then Eileen gave us a talk about two ladies buried in the churchyard who had quite a history. They were Louisa Wentworth Clifford and Temperance Maria Clifford, the first and second wives of John Clifford. The family had no connection to Swindon. John and Louisa lived in Aban Court South, in Malvern place, Cheltenham but when Louisa died she was buried here.

Then John and Temperance moved to Yorkshire but when Temperance died he sent her body from Yorkshire to be buried alongside his first wife. He and his third wife were later buried in Yorkshire. So what was all that about. Was there a background connection to Swindon? Were Louisa and Temperance best friends? We will probably never know.

It is quite interesting to find just who is buried in our patch. Several of the great and good of Cheltenham seem to have finished up here or have their memorial here even though they never actually lived here. I know that Eileen has also researched Admiral Rickets who has a lengthy memorial in the church but never seems to have resided here. So, as ever, thanks to Eileen who keeps the history project alive and is always digging out more.

Annual membership is £10 or £20 for two or a family. It would be nice to have 88 and no, you will not be expected to take on the role of bookings secretary. Barry Simon

EASTER EGG HUNT



17th
MARCH

1PM - 6PM

DISCO

GOODY BAG

ACTIVITIES

HOT DOGS & BURGERS

Keep an eye of posters and Facebook for more details and how to book.



Swindon Parish Council

Swindon Parish Council 2024/2025 Budget

A question that I know you've all be asking lately: how does the Parish Council get its money? Seriously if you have been, drop me an email; you should be a parish councillor! Well, like every level of government, you, the taxpayers provide most of the Council's funding. For Parish Councils this is done via a mechanism called the precept. The precept is the amount of money that Cheltenham Borough Council pays the Parish Council each year to fund our activities and is paid for through Council Tax. For the current tax year, a Band D property in Swindon Parish paid a total of £2,066.85 in council tax, of which £17.21 went to the Parish Council. The total precept for 2023/24 is £12,175.58.

Over the past several years we have all been impacted by uncertain economic times, first with the pandemic and more recently high inflation. As such, for several years the Parish Council has made a conscious decision to freeze the precept. We believe this has been the right thing to do. We are fortunate that we have had sufficient reserves, along with underspend on several projects to do this. We hope this has provided you with some small relief.

With the new year now upon us the Parish Council has set its budget for 2024/2025. In doing so we always look at what projects we'd like to deliver and what liabilities we need to cover. This year the Parish Council has agreed to raise the precept by 5% to £12,784.36. As we have a few extra people living in the Parish this year, this equates to you seeing a 4.75% rise. While you probably wouldn't even notice the change (82p for a band D property!), as the kind people who will paying a little extra, we feel it's important you know why.



Swindon Parish Council

This year we will (hopefully!) see the purchase of the Village Hall Car Park finalised. We are buying the car park from Cheltenham Borough Council to secure its long-term future, ensuring it remains free to use by all users of the park and village hall. We believe this is important, especially given the congestion and safety issues during school drop-off and pick-up along Church Road.

While we have secured a grant that will fund the actual purchase, the car park will need maintaining and improving. This could include things like new automatic gates, crossings, re-painting, resurfacing, and maintaining vegetation and trees. We have been provided professional advice that over the next decade this could cost up to £80,000. This is what is behind the rise: we need to ensure the Parish Council remains in a sufficiently robust financial footing to be able to maintain and improve the car park.

For our 2024/25 budget we have allocated funding for lots of exciting projects including: a big summer celebration, redevelopment of sundial in the park, and improvement of the park & play area.

You can dig into all the details of the budget here:

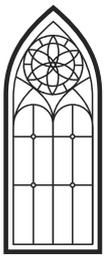
<https://swindonparish.org.uk/> under quick links, financial information.

Of course, if you think we should be spending money on different things, or not increasing our budget at all, come and talk to us! Our next meeting is on Monday 12th February 2024, 7:30PM at Swindon Village Hall. We would love to hear from you.

James Cornish

Swindon Parish Council Chair

james@swindonparish.org.uk



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS

Moving house is a stressful time. Sorting out address changes, making sure the cat doesn't run off and packing up your life in a lorry can seem like a big upheaval. We have only moved from Leckhampton to Swindon Village and yet, to start afresh with two children has proved to be quite challenging. However, we have come to be certain that this move is the right thing for us as a family. We have all fluctuated at times between being really excited and then quite apprehensive about what our future holds. The licensing service which was held on 31st January was uplifting and affirming and I would like to thank everyone who has made us feel so welcome. During the last four years since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have all faced uncertainty and challenges. We might not take quite so many things for granted. Life has changed for everyone in ways we might not have predicted. However, I am confident that sometimes we need to let things expire before new growth can emerge.



As we continue through Lent, towards Easter, this is a good time to reflect on those things in our lives which might need some tweaking. Sometimes, we have things on our to-do lists which we know we ought to get on with but never quite get round to. As your new Vicar, I will strive to work with the community and support everyone who might be feeling a bit wobbly or in need of a listening ear. But be confident in faithfully following your hearts;

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)



St. Lawrence's Church



Easter Services at St Lawrence

Palm Sunday – 24th March

9.00 am Palm Sunday Procession (from Cheltenham
Town Football Club Training Ground)

9.15am Holy Communion and Blessing of Palms

6.30pm Evensong

Good Friday - 29th March

2pm Good Friday Meditation

Easter Sunday - 31st March

9.15am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

For more information, contact Rev. Jacqueline Henson (Team
Vicar) by email - revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com

Please note that further services are being held across the
North Cheltenham Ministry Team.



St. Lawrence's Church

Regular Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10.30am Together @ Ten Thirty all-age worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

All other Sundays:

9.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday:

10.00am to 12noon Church open for private prayer

St. Lawrence's Church is part of the



Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence's church, please contact Karen in the Team Office on 01242 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

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

St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox



Every Tuesday
10.30am to 12noon



Pop in any time
Coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about anything and everything.
Everyone's welcome, old or new.
(It's free!)

Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show

Many stalls including: Locally grown plants for sale,
Homemade Cakes, Handicrafts, Books,
Refreshments available.

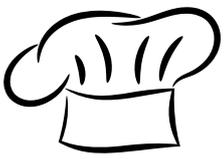
WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JD ****new venue**

WHEN: Sunday 7th April 2023 12.30 to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults £2.50 accompanied under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





Bekah's Bites

Chicken and Mushroom Pie

A really easy “pie” to make – I definitely cheat and only put pastry on top so technically I think it’s not a pie... but it looks like one! I originally made this as a chicken pie but have frequently made it vegetarian using leeks instead, or I’m sure you could substitute for any vegetables or meat alternatives very easily!

Serves 6.

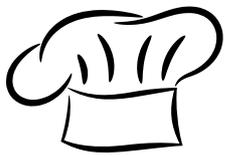
Ingredients:

- Puff/Short crust ready roll pastry (Even Jamie Oliver says life’s too short to make your own pastry – unless that fills you with joy!)
- 1 small onion – chopped
- 1-2 garlic cloves – chopped
- 250g mushrooms – halved/quartered
- Around 500g of chicken breast or thigh – bite-sized pieces – or your replacement
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ tsp dry thyme (or fresh equivalent)
- 200ml of chicken stock/vegetable stock
- 50g plain flour
- 200ml whole milk
- 4-5 tbsp of cream – optional – add more milk if not using
- Tbsp of butter – for greasing and cooking

Method

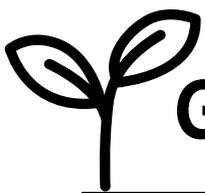
1. Cook the onions, garlic and mushrooms on medium heat with the butter in a frying pan.

2. Once slightly browned add the chicken and season everything well with salt and pepper as well as adding the bay leaf and thyme.



Bekah's Bites

3. After around 5 minutes the meat should no longer be pink. Add your stock and mix well.
4. Sprinkle over the flour and mix so everything is coated.
5. Turn the pan to a gentle simmer and gradually add the milk while stirring.
6. After 2 minutes you should have a smooth slightly thick sauce. At this point you can mix the cream in and turn the heat off.
7. Perform a quality control check to ensure that no further seasoning is required.
8. Grease a medium pie dish and add the mixture to the dish and smooth it flat.
9. Lay the pastry on top and trim of any over-hang. I like to use the remaining pastry to spell my name on top of the pie so there is no confusion with who slaved away in the kitchen!
10. Cook in a preheated oven at 180 degrees for around 30 minutes, or until the pastry has browned to your liking. Alternatively, you can let the pie cool and cook within 3 days or pop it in the freezer. From cool it will need 40-45 minutes in the oven.



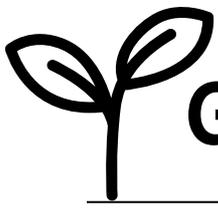
Go grow with Dale

Hello Gardeners!

Spring feels like it's right around the corner now, an exciting time for any Gardener. This issue I thought I'd just go through tasks you might want to do to this month to really make your Garden bloom.

Rejuvenate your soil. This is especially important if you're growing fruit/veg, but also relevant for potted perennial plants.

To do this for veg/fruit beds, you've actually got three options, depending on what you do with your food waste.



Go grow with Dale

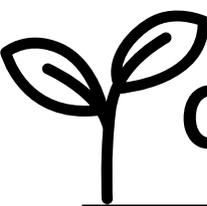
1) A tip I obtained from 'GrowVeg' YouTube, dig a hole in your bed at least 40cm deep and tip the contents of a small food waste caddy into it. I use brown paper food waste bags from Waitrose, which decompose a lot quicker than anything plastic based, and make it easier to transfer the contents into the ground. Be sure to cover with at least 20cm of soil to stop any rodents getting wind (you should never have cooked food in food waste anyway). This is an easy way to boost your food production if you don't make your own compost. Note, you want a maximum of one small food waste caddy per 1sqm.

2) If you make your own compost, extract enough well rotted compost to cover your whole bed in a thin layer. This should ideally be done 2-4 weeks before you start growing anything, to allow the fresh nutrients to work their way down.

3) If you just want ease, buy general purpose multi-compost from your local garden centre. Top tip, put a rag in your car boot so you can purchase ripped/open bags for up to half the price! I know Gotherington do this and sure others do too. Once acquired, do the same as Option 2 above.

To do this for your potted perennial plants, for example Hydrangeas, you have two options, but option 1 will help longer term.

1) Buy a slightly bigger pot, carefully pull out your plant from its old pot, transfer into new pot and fill the bottom & sides with fresh compost. Brush your hands along the sides of the rooted soil to encourage the roots too, just before you transfer. Be sure to water in the plant once finished.



Go grow with Dale

2) Carefully pull out your plant from its current pot. Shake and scrape any loose soil off (maybe do this held over your open compost bin). Gravity will likely mean most will come off from the bottom, so before you place your plant back in its pot, set aside and put fresh compost in the bottom of the pot. If you think the soil level on the top of the plant, around the base, is lower than it once was, also add a thin layer of compost to the top. Once your plant is back in its pot, give it a good water.

Buy and 'Chit' your first early potatoes (aka New Potatoes). As I've mentioned in other articles, I can't recommend growing potatoes enough, they taste far better than from the supermarkets, as they haven't been stored for 6 months, and they're super easy. Seed potatoes are available to buy now from most good garden centres. First Early Potatoes can be planted from mid March if there's no risk of frost. Seed potatoes are very cheap to buy, I got 40 (Swift Variety) for myself and my dad for £7. One potato plant is likely to produce enough for 4-6 per person meal portions.

When you get them, all potatoes benefit from 'Chitting', which means putting them in an empty seed tray or egg cartons on a windowsill to allow them to start sprouting shoots. Ideally your seed potatoes will have shoots measuring 1-2cm before they go in the ground, to give them the biggest head start. Ideally you want to be 'Chitting' for 2-6 weeks. When it's time to put your seed potatoes in the ground, simply make a hole around 15cm deep, put the seed potato in and cover. First early potatoes will be ready to pull out the ground mid-late June and can be instantly replaced with Main crop potatoes, if you're wanting a plentiful supply.

I hope these tips have been useful, thanks for reading! Dale.

LOCAL DISCOUNT

PUREDRIVE
ENERGY

Calling Gloucestershire...

Save 75%* on Your Energy Bills

You can save a significant amount on your home energy bill with a Puredrive energy storage battery and inverter solution without the need for solar.



Fully Integrated Energy Products

Puredrive's Smart APP integrates energy products and dynamic time-of-use tariffs seamlessly, and manages your energy so you don't have to.

Automate and maximise your savings - hassle free!

Why Puredrive?

Our battery storage is smarter, faster and longer-lasting, meaning you will get the best return on investment and fastest payback on the market in less than 5 years!* Supported by over 100 technical staff based locally in Toddington!

Get A Quote Now!



Scan and Start Saving...



01386571544

30% Off

*75% savings are made possible in conjunction with a time-of-use energy tariff

Crossword #1

Across

- 1. Peter I, for one
- 5. Border plant
- 10. Call to a mate
- 14. Altar locale
- 15. Gibson garnish
- 16. Ice cream treat
- 17. Quarterback's option
- 18. Girder material
- 19. Comedienne Imogene
- 20. "Halt!"
- 21. Verse of four measures
- 23. Show fear
- 25. Dead letters?
- 26. Kind of cord
- 28. Chill out
- 33. Unrefined
- 34. Energize (with "up")

- 35. Block
- 36. Hourly charge
- 37. Stake
- 38. Look after
- 39. Chowd down
- 40. Neglected boy
- 41. Abstain
- 42. From the age of chivalry
- 44. Plow's trail
- 45. "Gosh!"
- 46. Heart line
- 47. Smelly pranks
- 52. Desire
- 55. Fashion designer Chanel
- 56. Circa
- 57. Showy flower

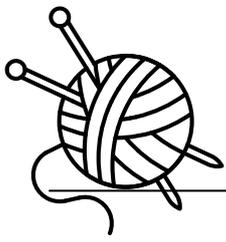
- 58. Unpleasant emanation
 - 59. Hangman's knot
 - 60. Air show stunt
 - 61. Strengthen, with "up"
 - 62. Dissuade
 - 63. Kitty starter
- Down**
- 1. Last call?
 - 2. Cross words
 - 3. Kind of press
 - 4. Answer
 - 5. Inexpensive lodging
 - 6. Script direction
 - 7. South Beach, for one
 - 8. Suffix with theater

- 9. Darkroom apparatus
- 10. Click the OK button
- 11. Knee-slapper
- 12. Enough, for some
- 13. Academic period
- 22. Personal air
- 24. Is no longer
- 26. "Beat it!"
- 27. Go on and on
- 28. Watch
- 29. Square
- 30. Mental lapse
- 31. Ballroom dance
- 32. Fund
- 34. Buddhist leader
- 37. Range of frequencies
- 38. Tex-Mex staple
- 40. Nerdy one
- 41. PETA peeve
- 43. Slight, in a way
- 44. Encourage
- 46. Bullying, e.g.
- 47. Kilt wearer
- 48. Type of list
- 49. Desktop feature
- 50. Double-reed instrument
- 51. Kind of court
- 53. Congeal
- 54. Hoopla

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1. Which celebrity chef host the TV series "Hell's Kitchen"?
2. Which spirit is added to ginger beer and lime juice to make a Moscow Mule?
3. There are three key ingredients for a spaghetti carbonara (not including the spaghetti itself!)... what are they?
4. What pastry is used for a steak and kidney pudding?
5. Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee desert is a trifle with amaretti biscuits, lemon curd and jelly/coulis made from which fruit?
6. If the menu includes kimchee and bulgogi, what nationality restaurant are you in?
7. What is the largest size of an Americano at Starbucks?
8. Which Indian dish is a combination of a protein (eg chicken) and lentils and often contains pineapple?
9. Name Cheltenham's two Michelin starred restaurants.
10. What are finings, and why might the answer matter to vegetarians?





Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI met on Monday 5 February. Our speaker was Gerry O'Brien whose talk was entitled 'Follow the Whispers' Travel the World for Wildlife.

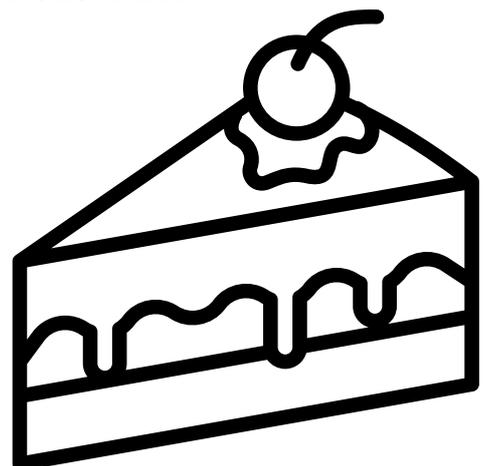
Gerry gave us a most interesting and fascinating account of his journey across the continents, he showed slides of the many various wildlife he encountered. He now works as a Park Ranger in the Forest of Dean. The highlight of his talk was that he brought "The Professor" a beautiful barn owl. Several members had the privilege of, with a glove, having the owl on their hand

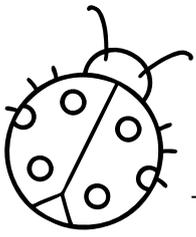
Gremlins were afoot on this night as our microphone decided not to work, Gerry could not at first get his computer and projector to work but it did eventually.

In the business part of the meeting (after coffee and biscuits) dates were arranged for the book club, knit and natter and the usual monthly lunch club.

Next meeting is on Monday 4 March at St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Paul Murphy whose talk is "The amazing Charlie Chaplin – The Early Years". There will be a cake stall with loads of homemade cake for sale.

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI





Swindon Village Early Years

March 2024

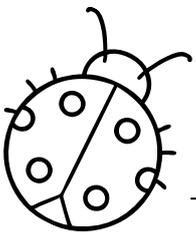
We can't believe we are almost at half term. It has been a very exciting time at playgroup. We started the term with pantomimes and created a fabulous Mother Goose wall display. The children created wands and wishes for our fairytale wall. We have enjoyed the dressing up and created fairy cakes where we were able to look at math through cooking activities. The children have enjoyed traditional stories through books and audio. With the story of Goldilocks assisted by props, we also tried porridge for snack time which was 'just right'.

We then moved on to 'All about me'. The children were able to engage in ICT with the tablets. They have worked hard with name writing and pencil and scissor skills. We have looked at literacy through letter play and also at syllables using instruments to tap out our names. We have a fabulous visit from Jo Jingles music and movement that gives the children a fabulous experience.

We have been looking at healthy living. This started with lots of veg and fruit and song and dance. Fresh vegetables in the home corner to spark some inspiration for dinner!! Some of the children had a chilly walk through the village to look at the new houses being built behind the church. We enjoyed chopping bananas to make banana milkshakes and the children were also invited to assist in juicing oranges to make fresh orange juice for snack time.

As pancake day falls within the half term, we didn't want to miss out so we had these for snack on Monday and were able to choose our own toppings!!

We love festivals and have celebrated Chinese New Year and used culturally relevant materials to give the children a more in depth



Swindon Village Early Years

understanding of this festival. We encouraged the children with chopsticks and the art of origami. We explored and attempted to copy Chinese writing and we have learnt some Cantonese words. The children participated in Tai Chi and we acted out a dragon dance to Chinese music. We encouraged the use of lots of different literature. The children had an opportunity to taste prawn crackers, using chopsticks to access these and also Chinese rice which went down really well.

Whilst we always enjoy the freeflow of indoor/outdoor play we are absolutely looking forward to some more sunshine and warmer days

Sally & Debbie

Crossword
Solution

1	T	2	S	3	A	4	R		5	H	6	7	8	9	E		10	A	11	12	13	O	Y
14	A	P	S	E					15	O	N	I	O	N			16	C	O	N	E		
17	P	A	S	S					18	S	T	E	E	L			19	C	O	C	A		
20	S	T	O	P					21	T	E	T	R	A	22	M	E	T	E	R			
				23	C	O	W	E	R					25	R	I	P						
26	S	27	P	I	N	A	L			28	V	E	G	E	T	30	A	31	32	T	E		
33	C	R	A	S	S				34	L	I	V	E	N			35	B	A	N			
36	R	A	T	E					37	W	A	G	E	R			38	T	E	N	D		
39	A	T	E					40	G	A	M	I	N			41	F	O	R	G	O		
42	M	E	D	43	I	E	V	A	L					44	F	U	R	R	O	W			
				45	G	E	E							46	A	O	R	T	A				
47	S	48	T	49	I	N	K	B	50	51	O	M	B	S			52	I	53	54	T	C	H
55	C	O	C	O					56	A	B	O	U	T			57	L	I	L	Y		
58	O	D	O	R					59	N	O	O	S	E			60	L	O	O	P		
61	T	O	N	E					62	D	E	T	E	R			63	A	N	T	E		

Answers to Quiz

1. Gordon Ramsay
2. Vodka
3. Guanciale (allow pancetta),
pecorino romano (allow
parmesan) and egg yolks
4. Suet pastry
5. Oranges (allow mandarins)
6. Korean
7. Venti (they used to have a
larger size (Trenta))
8. Dhansak
9. Le Champignon Sauvage &
Lumiere
10. Finings are substances used to
clarify beer and wine at the end
of production and often (not
always) made from fish swim
bladders (isinglass)

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Save The Countryside Helen Wells 07770 986078

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

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th March 2024

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

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Clr. Alison Berry	07754 006634
Clr. Lynne Allen	07979 890134

Vacancy 1 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)

Vacancy 2 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)

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Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher.....07523 421012

Allotments Manager

Chaz Pearce..... Please contact via Shaun Cullimore

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

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Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

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May Shurmer..... 241033

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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.