

# South Swindon Parish Council

## Winter 2018 newsletter



### Chair's report

Firstly, I would like to wish all parishioners a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We have appointed a new clerk, Rob Core, who currently

works for Swindon Borough Council, heading up the team that work on the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

We would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks and gratitude

to our outgoing clerk, Joyce Holman, who has performed an immense task under challenging circumstances.

As a new Parish Council, that we have been able to maintain

and improve services, whilst building an excellent team, is testament to Joyce's dedication and professionalism. We wish Joyce well for her retirement. Cllr Chris Watts Chair

### Broadgreen Community Centre success

South Swindon Parish Council has recently taken on a 99-year lease for Broadgreen Community Centre. The community centre had been running at a loss and was due to be closed by Swindon Borough Council before the Parish Council stepped in and took over the running of

the centre in July 2017. This has been done on a yearly Licence to Occupy.

The Parish Council is very pleased to report that at the end of the first year there was a small surplus.

The decision to take a lease will ensure the future of a community centre at the site.

### Play area

South Swindon Parish Council has approved some major improvements to the play area at Broadgreen and these should be completed by Christmas.

This will include a new piece of play equipment, new path and new surface for the MUGA.

The remainder of the site will be refurbished with seats being painted and new litter bins.

The work on the play area is due to start at the end of November.

This is the first play area to be refurbished by South Swindon Parish Council.

### Park South open evening

The Chair would like to pass on his thanks to all the parishioners and stakeholders that attended this open evening to discuss plans for Shaftesbury Lake and the green space on Oldlands Walk.

The feedback we received was invaluable and we intend to hold similar events in other areas of the parish.

### Old Town lights

The Parish Council is pleased to support the Old Town Christmas lights again this year.

Volunteer organisers have delivered and improved this marvellous winter festival.

The Parish Council understands that this is exactly where it should focus its support, giving a boost to local businesses and bringing joy to many parishioners.

### The Journey

South Swindon Parish Council is very pleased to support 'The Journey'. This is a processional nativity play which will take place on 9th December 2018 in Old Town. There will be two performances at noon and 4pm. The play will start at Lethbridge School, moving along Avenue Road, Bath Road and into Wood Street before finishing at Christ Church.

### Credit union

The Parish Council is pleased to support the Wiltshire & Swindon Credit Union.

They will be providing the use of the small office at Broadgreen Community Centre as a collection/ customer service point.

The Credit Union is looking for more volunteers. Please contact the Parish Office to find out more information.

### Library news

Old Town Library has changed to two term-time sessions of Story, Rhyme & Crafts every Tuesday. The free sessions will be from 11.15am to 12.15pm and 2pm to 3pm. There will be a Storytime Christmas Special on 18 December 2018 at 11.15am and 2pm. On 21 December, artist Fred Blunt will be reading his new Christmas Book entitled Santa Claus v The Easter Bunny. This will be followed by Christmas crafts with the best receiving a signed copy of Fred's book.

### First World War commemoration

The Parish Council is extremely proud to commemorate the centenary of World War 1.

In Queens Park, 25 photographs of local soldiers with a description of their service were displayed on trees.

A plaque was laid in Town Gardens to mark the tree that was

planted at the end of World War 1. The new war memorial in GWR Park was unveiled on Saturday 10 November 2018 by Parish Council chair Cllr Chris Watts. The memorial has been designed by Swindon



artist Dr Mike Pringle and has been sited in a quiet corner of the park.



### Christmas opening

The Parish Council office will close on Friday 21 December 2018 and Old Town Library will close on Saturday 22 December 2018.

Both will reopen on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

**(Central Swindon South Parish Council)**

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