

February/March 2021

The **Swanmore** *Link*



**A sparkling Christmas
Swanmore's Victorian squire
Treading the boards
Looking ahead to spring**

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Please note: the April/May 2021 issue will be available to collect from Wednesday 31st March and will be online shortly after that.

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St Barnabas Church Swanmore Services in February

All services in February will be online only and you can take part via Facebook Live on our St Barnabas FB page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to watch.

Sunday February 7th

2nd Sunday before Lent

10am Service of hymns, readings and prayers

Sunday February 14th

Sunday next before Lent

10am All-Ages Together Family Service

Wednesday February 17th

Ash Wednesday

7pm Ash Wednesday

Liturgy



Oxh973, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

Sunday February 21st

1st Sunday of Lent

10am Service of hymns, readings and prayers



Sunday February 28th

2nd Sunday of Lent

10am All-Ages Together
Family Service

Private Prayer

If you would like to come into the church for private prayer it is open at the following times:

Mondays 2pm – 3pm

Thursdays 11am – 12noon

Saturdays 11am – 12noon



Hello everyone. 2021 is now well upon us, with many of us glad that 2020 is out of the way. The first few weeks of this new year, however, are a bit of a mixed bag aren't they? We have the good and welcome news that the vaccination rollout has

begun in earnest but the not so good news that there is a new variant of covid-19, which for now, is making life very challenging as we live in lockdown once again. Thankfully, however, there is much hope around, that as we move further into the year, we'll see positive change and a return to something more akin to normal life. Meanwhile, we grit our teeth and get on with it!

Part of getting on with it at St Barnabas has been to move our worship to online only. The law permits us to gather but the PCC, Ministry Team and myself believe that the safest and most loving thing to do is to continue to suspend public worship in church for February and to hopefully resume again in March, depending on the trend of the virus as we move forward. Our online services can be watched via Facebook Live – you'll find details of these elsewhere in this magazine. The church remains open for private prayer for an hour on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Talking of the magazine, thank you for all of your feedback forms and comments about the new format. If you haven't already done so, there is still time and opportunity to let us know if and how you'd like to receive your copy of the magazine. If we don't hear from you, we'll assume that you no longer wish to receive it from April onwards.

I'm guessing that the news of our departure from Swanmore is now old news...but in case some of you haven't heard it... Sally and I will be moving to Wells, Somerset in May. I've been invited to take up the position of Priest in Charge of Wells St Thomas, with the Horringtons and the benefice of Chewton Mendip with Emborough, Litton and Ston Easton. That sounds

a lot of churches but, although I will have overall responsibility for the rural benefice, the day to day running of it is done by another priest and the main focus of my work will be St Thomas', which is just up the hill from the Cathedral.

We are both feeling very sad about leaving Swanmore, St Barnabas and the many friends we have made in our almost nine years here, but nonetheless excited about the move to Wells. As you know, we almost went to St Albans at the end of 2019 but didn't and for all sorts of reasons, that was such a right decision, not least because of the sort of year that 2020 turned out to be! I'll be licensed into my new role on Thursday 27th May so, although it's yet to be confirmed, I anticipate my final Sunday in Swanmore to be either Sunday 3rd or 10th May.

Hopefully by then, it will be safer to gather and have a proper ending...some sort of service and maybe an outdoor beer and hymns leaving "do"! We'll just have to wait and see. Meanwhile, there is still work to be done.

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, a "heavy" day in the Church's year, when we reflect on our human helplessness, frailty and mortality, with the charge "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return". Although ashing you will not be permitted this year, I will still say those words as part of our online Ash Wednesday service. I'm sure they will have special poignancy this year for many of us, as we've realised over and over again our frailty when faced with the virus running roughshod over us.

Easter Sunday, when we celebrate Christ's rising again from the dead, is April 4th. We weren't able to gather together last Easter so hopefully it will be possible this year. This year, more than ever, we need to hear and celebrate the message of hope, that when all seems lost, life and love are shown to be stronger than death.

Blessings to you all. Keep safe and well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire".

The Revd Claire Towns, Vicar of Swanmore

The covid-19 pandemic has brought about many changes, not least in the way we offer church services. When services in church are allowed again we expect to be still following strict guidelines in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. There are only 15 household/bubble seating spaces in order to maintain safe social distancing, face masks are mandatory for attendees (unless they are exempt), hands must be sanitised, there can be no congregational singing. For any updates on church service arrangements during February and March please check the website:www.stbarnabas.org.uk

St Barnabas Church, Swanmore Services in March

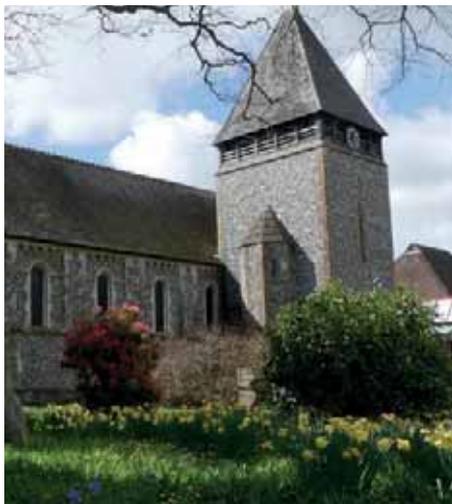
We hope to be back in church for March, but please see our website and noticeboards for further updates.

Sunday 7th March

3rd Sunday of Lent
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist

Sunday 14th March

Mothers' Sunday
8am Eucharist
10am All-Ages Together Family Service



Sunday 21st March

5th Sunday of Lent
8am Eucharist
10am Eucharist

Sunday 28th March

Palm Sunday
8am Eucharist
10am All-Ages Together Family Service



We live-stream via Facebook Live on our FB page, St Barnabas Church. If you'd like to attend a service, you will need to book your place.

Please do so by:

1. Using the "Contact Us" form on our website, www.stbarnabas.org.uk,
2. Emailing the Vicar – vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk, or
3. Telephoning The Revd Claire Towns on 01489 808968.

How would you like to receive your magazine?

As explained in the last issue, the way we distribute the magazine is changing. From the next issue (April/May 2021) it will no longer be delivered to every household.

There will be four options for receiving the magazine:

- ◆ Collecting a printed copy from The Link (between the church and the Paterson Centre);
- ◆ Reading it online.
- ◆ Subscribing to receive a copy by post at a cost to cover the postage.
- ◆ Those in the village who may be housebound or find visiting the collection point difficult, can request a personal delivery.

In order to help with planning these future distribution needs, please let us know if you still want a copy of the magazine by:

- ◆ Emailing vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk or dropping a note into The Vicarage detailing your preference. Please include your name and address – especially if you are requesting a delivery.
- ◆ If you plan to read the magazine online and would like to be notified when it is available please make sure the Vicar has your email address.
- ◆ If you plan to collect a number of copies for your friends or neighbours please let us know how many you would like.
- ◆ If you have any queries then please contact vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk or editor@stbarnabas.co.uk.

A message of hope

Looking ahead to spring

I'm sitting here writing this at the end of December 2020 and you are reading it in the February/March issue of the magazine so it is hard to imagine what the day looks like as you read this. I hope that the covid vaccinations are rolling along at a great pace and we are all living in tier 1 and able to meet, shop, go to the pub and get back to those things we all spent our days doing back long ago in 2019. In the absence of a time machine I'll have to take the long route and find out when I get there.

Even with our messed-up seasons and the possibility of snow still not something to bet against, we are on the downhill run into spring. Winter is almost behind us and 2021 lies ahead. It is hard to picture what 2021 will be like. Covid will still be an issue as the vaccination programmes are going to take many months. Brexit has happened and we are now seeing what a post-Brexit world looks like for good or ill. Covid will have changed many businesses and our jobs and lives may look very different.

The Japanese have a spring tradition called *Hanami*. *Hanami* translates literally as "flower viewing" and is connected to the many cherry blossom festivals that take place between February and early May. It is a time to enjoy the transient beauty of flowers. It carries a valuable lesson as the cyclic nature of the year reminds us that, while nothing lasts forever it is important to find joy in even the most temporary of things. My wife finds a similar joy in magnolias with their short flowering season. From mid-March to late April she will point out

every magnolia we pass, sometimes talking at length about its beauty and impermanence, sometimes with a sigh and a gesture as if lost for words.

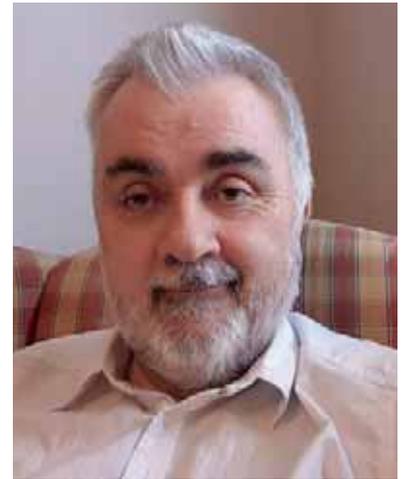
The point is though, that spring reminds us to look to life and to beauty. It reminds us there is always hope and, even though it may appear fleeting, hope never goes away but comes back again year on year. It can be very hard to hold on to hope at times, particularly in the face of personal loss and 2020 certainly took away more than it gave.

I hope that 2021 offers at least a glimpse of hope to everyone. Hope for the future, hope for recovering from loss. As Christians, rebirth and resurrection, are key to our beliefs. We believe Jesus rose again, like the magnolia flowering in spring and therein lies our hope. I think it is no coincidence that the Easter celebration falls in spring time and so the new growth of the season has extra meaning for us.

I'll leave you with this short quote from *The Song of Solomon*, "The winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come..."

Pete Bangs

Methodist Connexion Missioner for the Meon Valley



Pete Bangs

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore. SO32 2QB



Minister

Rev. Joseph Tembo

Tel. 01329 833518

Email: ministerjt@outlook.com

Loving God

Loving our community

Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services

Due to the continuing covid pandemic Swanmore Methodist Church will, regrettably, remain closed until such time as it is safe to open again. We will keep all our members informed and hope that everyone stays safe and well.

Thursday Fellowship

We hold a Fellowship meeting via Skype every Thursday 2.30–3.30pm – an opportunity to meet for prayer, Bible reading and discussion – and, if you want to join in, with singing at home! If you would like to join us, please contact Jill Letts – 01489 896182 email – jill.letts@hotmail.com

Website:

<http://www.swanmoremethodistchurch.org.uk>

Find us on 

Moving on Thanks for being here for us

Claire

My first encounter with Claire from a distance was at the Remembrance Day service in 2018. Nick was away and I'd gone to check out the local church and see how the vicar handled the crowds.

It's tricky for retired clergy to find a new worshipping community where they feel comfortable. We have inside knowledge and a tendency to spot the things we would have done differently.

More than two years on and we're still here. We love the inclusivity, the friendliness and being able to contribute in a variety of ways. Claire has welcomed us into the congregation and to the Ministry Team and we have enjoyed getting involved without having to take responsibility for strategy, finance and meetings.

Claire gives a lot of time to pastoral care and the wider community and we will be sorry to see her go. But we know how to get to Wells...

Hazel and Nick Whitehead

Sally

Sally has been a great support for Claire and her ministry but also has a ministry in her own right as a Reader. Her sermons, leading of worship and engagement in the community are a sample of what she has brought to the Swanmore party and her work as a dyslexia specialist has been important to local children.

When we first came, she lived

halfway up the country and was juggling work, home and the motorway but we have enjoyed getting to know her since she moved down – and we still know how to get to Wells.

Nick and Hazel Whitehead

Claire & Sally

I had no idea when I first met Claire and Sally that they would be instrumental in such a big change in my life. It was talking to Sally, herself a Reader, at Claire's licensing service as Vicar of St Barnabas, that introduced me to the idea of becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (the full and clearer title), a ministry which I was not aware of at the time.

Having looked into it and discovered a bit more, the first job was to discuss it with my new Vicar. I felt rather apprehensive but Claire has always been supportive, encouraging (and challenging – she would say) in my application, training and ministry, giving me lots of opportunities to lead and building up my confidence. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her and 'learn from a pro'.

When Sally joined Claire it was wonderful to have an experienced Reader colleague to learn from and share with; and I have enjoyed and been grateful for her specialist knowledge and skills as a teacher, her passion for social justice and her expertise with social media!

As I have recently become a dog-owner, we also share a love of our pets; Bonny will miss her "playdates" with Thelma, tearing round the vicarage garden – but we know how to get to Wells too...

Jill Phipps

Claire and Sally (with Thelma) while filming last December's Crib service.



Photograph by Jack Fellows.

Farewell to Claire

The Reverend Claire Towns, vicar of our village church, and her partner Sally Beazley, will be leaving us in May when Claire takes up a new post in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The church will be organising a farewell gift and anyone wishing to contribute can place cash or cheques, made payable to PCC of Swanmore, in an envelope with "Claire" on the outside and deliver these direct to: Andrew Wilkinson, Swanmore PCC Treasurer, 2 Donigers Dell, Swanmore SO32 2TL.

Anyone wishing to donate via BACS transfer should use:

Account: PCC of Swanmore

Sort Code: 30-90-85

Account number: 00135767

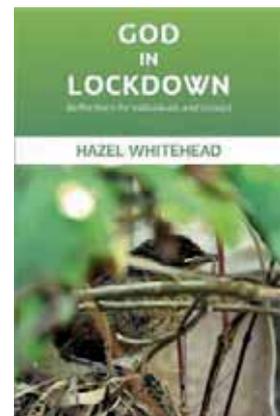
Reference: CLAIRE

Jill Phipps

God in lockdown

Hazel Whitehead's book "God in Lockdown:" – based on the "Thoughts for the Day", written for members of St Barnabas, Swanmore and sent out regularly by Revd Claire Towns during the first lockdown last year, is now available.

The book, which includes contributions from Sally Beazley, Jill Phipps and Nick Whitehead – as well as Hazel and Claire, is available from www.ypdbooks.com at £5.99 (plus £3.25 P&P) or if you live locally, you can order direct from Hazel at: hazelwhitehead54@gmail.com.



Remembrance display

Thank you to those who provided a few additional knitted/crocheted poppies for the display outside the church last November.

Whilst the coronavirus curtailed any definite plans for a poppy project last year, we hope to be back in the summer with some fresh crafting ideas for November 2021.

Watch this space!

*Derrinder and Wendy
St Barnabas Church*

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who donated toys and household goods for the Roberts Centre before Christmas. Claire and CSO Gary braved the cold to collect a mountain of good quality children's items and assorted kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery for needy families and the rehoused homeless who often lacked basic equipment. With the help of the Meon Valley Lions, three full van loads were delivered to the Centre.

Collections from the church's Christmas services – including the drive-in carol service at the Village Hall, raised £999 which will be split between 2020's nominated charities: Emmaus Project, Christians Against Poverty and Water Aid.

Charities for 2021

Each year the PCC chooses three charities – one international, one national and one local – to raise funds for during the year. In 2021 the international charity will be St George's Foundation, which was founded by Philip Dean 16 years ago and supports homeless and street children in Sierra Leone.

The local charity will be Friends without Borders which operates from All Saints' Church in inner city Portsmouth and supports asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants while the national charity for 2021 will be decided at the PCC meeting on 4th February.

Swanmore Conservation Group

Signs of spring – and vandalism

Nothing was straight forward for any of us in 2020 and 2021 has started the same way. There were very few work parties for our group in 2020 although when not in lockdown we did manage a couple with people working separately and in different parts of the conservation area. Fortunately the area lends itself to this way of working and several members were able to do any urgent work required at times to suit them.

So despite everything we have been able to keep on top of the schedule of work we agree each year with the Parish Council. In December this meant we cleared the three ditches of leaves, sticks and a huge number of acorns.

The conservation area is a lovely resource for everyone in the village, an outdoor space that we can all access easily just on our doorstep. I'm sure we have all been aware that many more people have been walking around the village but the down side to this is that there has been an increase in vandalism.

Throwing logs and plastic bottles into the pond has always been popular and this year we have had many more of the rails and posts by the pond broken. These have all been replaced by members of our group but our plan to paint our storage hut has been delayed yet again, at least the roof was repaired well before covid-19 changed our lives.

The wildflower meadow that the Parish cCouncil has been developing in the lower meadow is now beginning to grow well, it is easy to see the difference between the coarse grasses elsewhere in the meadows and those in the seeded area. If you look closely you can see some of the wildflowers starting to put up leaves, so it should provide us all with a lovely display this spring and summer.

Perhaps because we had so much rain in the autumn there have been lots of fungi to see in the woods this year and lots of squirrels too. There have been the usual pigeons and magpies, rooks and crows with the occasional buzzard and even red kites up above the area. One of our members has also noted the presence of goldcrests, nuthatches and long-tailed tits whilst walking through the woods.

Hopefully work parties will be able to resume later this year, they are always held on the second Saturday of each month from 9.45am until 12noon, we meet by our hut and have a coffee break at 11am. This seems unlikely to happen in the next few months but when lockdown does end we will return to this way of organising the work.

Gill Sawyer – 01489 894206

Duck watching at Drover's Pond in January..



Photograph by Peter Mason.

Swanmore Care Group

Still caring despite covid

Once upon a time, way back in the deep past, before the pandemic, the Swanmore Care Group was busy.

We were busy taking people to their doctors or hospital appointments – and we were busy with the weekly Lunch Club for elderly or needy local residents. But with the covid pandemic the numbers of people wanting help with transport to the doctors or hospitals shrunk to almost zero and the Lunch Club had to be stopped as it was obviously an unwise thing to have 20 or so elderly people inside for an hour or more, all together.

Early on the committee members contacted all the Lunch Club members by phone to see if anyone needed any help and to offer support. As the months have gone by we have made more calls and received advice from the Winchester Good Neighbours Network about what we, as volunteers, were allowed to do. Such as using younger volunteers where possible rather than those over 70. We have been able to help people when needed, so if anyone has a need to go to a medical appointment, please ask and we will do our best to help.

Meanwhile, Jenny, one of our Lunch Club cooks, started cooking food at her home which her husband would then deliver. We are most grateful to Jenny for this initiative and managed to help her by, arranging the use of the Village Hall kitchen and later the Paterson Centre for this, with some financial help from Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club.

In September we were able to turn this into a hot meal service. It was very nice to be able to deliver a hot meal, but also that tiny moment of interaction with a friendly face as the food was delivered was much welcomed. We also managed to deliver special Christmas meals to about 30 people.

One day soon, we hope, we'll be able to restart these hot food deliveries, while in the meantime Jenny soldiers on alone.

So, we are still open and ready to help where we can. Thank you to everyone in the Care Group for being there and ready to assist where sensible and if anyone needs help or would like a meal delivered please contact me.

Dennis Wheeler – 01489 892911

Beavers

Keeping busy

In September, Beavers restarted face to face activities for the first time since March and it was so lovely to see the young people again. We started with our global issues badge looking at endangered animals and recycling; we also had an evening tidying our village by picking up rubbish. Thank you to Swanmore litter pickers for loaning us the equipment.

We then had a virtual Zoom session from the Purple Community Fund (<https://www.p-c-f.org>) when we discussed their work. We learnt that children and older people in the Philippines are not allowed to leave their homes until a covid vaccine is found.

During the November lockdown we

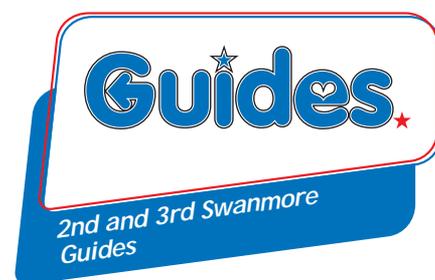
had a talk from MP Flick Drummond about her job in Parliament and a talk from a Buddhist monk, as well as a few Kahoot! quizzes.

Christmas saw our annual sleepover held at home with lots of activities planned and a virtual visit and story from Father Christmas. Now, January sees us back on Zoom for the foreseeable so we are going to travel to space, learn about pets and – fingers crossed – for some guest speakers to help us.

As always thanks to everyone who is supporting us at this time.



Roisin Smith



Zooming along

Swanmore Guides have had a different few months since the first lockdown in March. We didn't see each other in the summer term which is when we would usually be enjoying the great outdoors, camping and having fun in the fresh air. Sadly the jamboree "Camp Brave" that we were due to join in Scotland in August was cancelled and the Region International trip to Greece that Amelia was selected to join couldn't go ahead in the summer either.

We did, however, join hundreds of other Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders from across Hampshire East in a virtual sleepover doing lots of activities before sleeping in our own tents in our gardens or in a den in our houses.

From September – until the latest lockdown – we have been meeting online and outside in small groups. We are all growing in confidence meeting on Zoom and have been doing all sorts of things including baking biscuits, making microwave mug pizzas, scavenger hunts, Diwali lanterns, singing, games and welcoming guests including Laughing Lyn a Guider from Cumbria who had us all giggling at her session of laughter yoga with us.

When we could meet outside in a socially distanced and hand sanitised way we did treasure trails around Swanmore and made tin can lanterns – using hammers and nails by torchlight in the dark was quite an experience!!

We have all been doing our best to keep the Guiding spirit alive in these challenging times and are looking forward to being able to be all back together

Sarah Woodman

Community art project Celebrating our village heroes

Calling all artists – regardless of age, ability or artistic style – I am wishing to set up a small community art project to celebrate and give thanks to our village heroes throughout this pandemic.

Similar to Tom Croft's "Portraits for NHS Heroes" initiative, where artists were matched with NHS staff to create a portrait of them, I am looking to start a small-scale community art project matching local artists to create a portrait of a village hero.

This might be the local postman, your neighbour or your child's schoolteacher.

Needless to say, portraits will need to be created from a photograph with permission from the person.

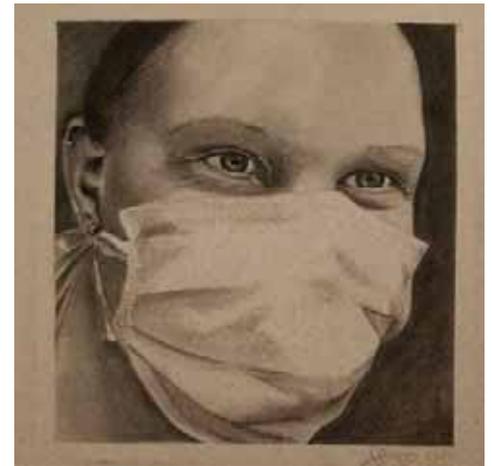
If there is enough interest, we may even be able to take requests and exhibit our work when restrictions allow.

This idea is very much in its infancy, so I don't yet have all the details set out.

If you're aged between 2 and 200 and this sounds like it might interest you then please email me at alisongailpotter@gmail.com

Alison Potter

No matter your style or ability, Alison hopes many villagers will want to take part.



Primary School Discovering the meaning of light

During Advent, Year 1 explored what light means to Christians.

The children looked at the similarities and differences between what light could denote for Jews and Christians, which in turn meant that they had lots of fun recreating a Menorah and an Advent wreath.

Each child made their own Christingle, and used fine motor control skills to place the cocktail sticks into the orange to represent the four seasons, and wrap a red ribbon around the orange to represent the blood of Christ.

The climax to the project was inviting Sally from St. Barnabas to the classes to look at in detail what each part of the Christingle meant, and then sharing our special Christingle song with her. Sally blessed both classes

with a special Christingle prayer.

It was a delightful way to share the light of Christ during Advent with the children by lighting the candles on their Christingles.

Tricia & Vicky - Year 1 teachers at Swanmore CofE Primary

Year 1 's completed Christingle oranges.



Swanmore Society Waiting for June

As promised, the committee of the Swanmore Society has reviewed the situation surrounding the restart of our normal programme of events.

Given the current trajectory of the coronavirus pandemic, it is clear that, sadly, it will be neither permissible nor safe to hold indoor gatherings for some months at the very least. As a result, there will be no Society meetings in March, April or May.

We will review the situation again in three months, based on the progress by then of the vaccination programme and the easing of lockdown restrictions, and provide information in the next available parish magazine.

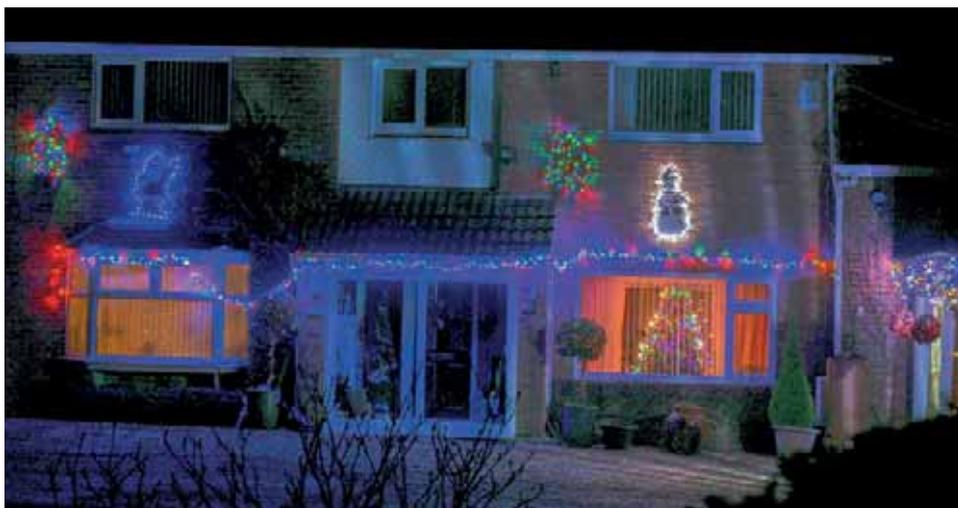
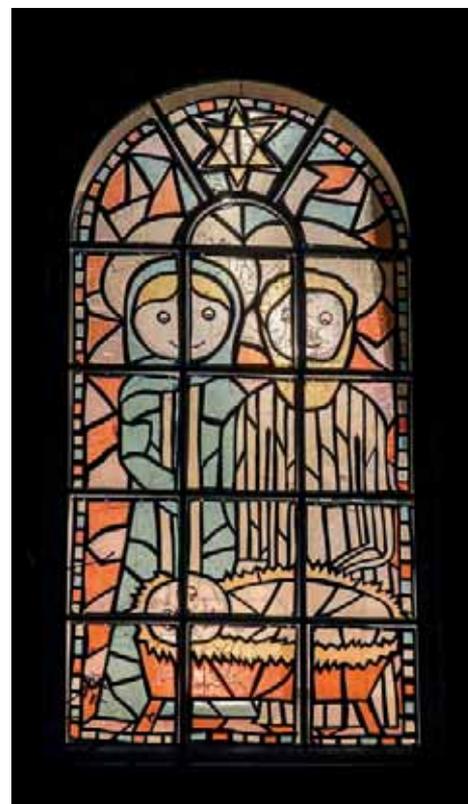
Until then, we hope you all stay safe and well, and we look forward to better times ahead.

Caroline Clapperton, Secretary
01489 891447

Swanmore Advent Calendar 2020 Doors without chocolate

Remember these? Can you remember what was behind them? On December CSO Gary and the Festive Trail combined forces to create the Swanmore Advent Calendar 2020. Long ago before chocolate advent calendars were invented, children were very excited to open the cardboard door of the Advent Calendar, (no plastic in sight!) and see a colourful festive image be it a robin or a present or something a little obscure. With the help of willing volunteers, we attempted to recreate the early advent calendar magic using several props. We absolutely loved doing this and we hope that you enjoyed it too. Many thanks to all our doors and to all the guessers who made it so much fun. Roll on next year!

Lou Hurley



Festive trail

Lighting up the village

Christmas seems a long time ago now, it was wet, it was windy, and it was chilly, but the lights were beautiful. Roaming around Swanmore after dark was delightful as lights and decorations were in abundance this year and from early on in December, too.

It was a tonic to see the variety of decorations and light installations around the village. It was very clear the effort that people had put into their displays and some houses were remarkable, you had to stop and take it all in, there was a lot going on.

If I were discussing trends for a Sunday supplement, I would say multi-coloured lights are on the increase, pallet Christmas trees and snowman are very now, willow sculptures are very hard to make and are unlikely to be big in 2021, and that pre-lit deer are gorgeous and should be everywhere!

A big thank you to all of you who offered to go on the Festive Trail map and huge apologies if I accidentally dropped you off (pdfs are not my friend and it was my error if you were left off).

*Sparkle and Tinsel
Photographs by Peter Mason*



Swanmore Pre-school Exploring snow and spaghetti

We have begun 2021 with yet more challenging times due to covid-19 and have temporarily reduced the numbers of children attending each session to maximise keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for their continued understanding and support to the Pre-school.

The children returned in January full of news about their Christmas experiences and enjoyed exploring the icy weather. The children took part in some crunchy welly walks around the school field looking at patterns made by the frost.

We have been exploring textures and experimenting with malleable materials often resulting in mucky children.

If you are interested in a place at Swanmore Pre-school for September

2021 please contact us:
www.swanmorepreschool.org.uk
01489 893779 or 0795 8436396.

Sarah Hiscock



Above: Jack – discovering the malleable texture of a bowl of spaghetti. Left: Levison keeping warm outside in hat and gloves looking at frost patterns.

Christmas window competition

Keeping them occupied at Christmas

While the Festive Trail brightened the village over the Christmas period, the Parish Council's colouring and window decoration competition kept many children occupied and enlivened some windows too. The selection of entries pictured here each received a £10 Amazon voucher.

Congratulations to:

1. Harry age 4
2. Eva age 3
3. Daisy age 9
4. Keira age 6
5. Zoe age 9
6. Jasmine age 6



Kid's Corner

You may well have more time at home this month with usual play groups and activities not able to run. Sarah Chase has a few ideas for you to keep busy and have fun.

How about a **scavenger hunt** or going for a walk to see what you can see? Make a list before you set out, you can include things to see such as an evergreen tree, some berries, an umbrella, a robin, a cyclist or a feather. You decide.



Tidy up the village

Why not wear rubber gloves and take a plastic bag and litter picker (if you have one) with you on your walk and see who can find the most litter to pick up and bin when you get home – a good way to help keep Swanmore's streets and country lanes clean and tidy!

Take your soft toys outside ...for an adventure.

Perhaps you could play hide and seek together, listen to the birds, or look at the wildlife. Maybe you could take some nibbles and have a teddy bear's picnic too.

Quiz time

Here's a little quiz to ponder on, just for fun:

1. How many legs does a spider have?
2. What is the name of the cowboy in Toy Story?
3. Whose nose grew longer every time he lied?
4. If you freeze water what do you get?
5. What is the response to "see you later, alligator"?
6. What do caterpillars turn into?



Answers at the bottom of the page

Make mud pies

Always good fun! Find some nice squishy mud or mix some garden soil with a little water and then shape it with your hands into a ball and use your palms to flatten the mud into smooth shapes. Decorate your pie with petals, leaves, twigs or whatever you can find.

Make a fairy garden

Here is an example to give you some ideas.



Painting stones

You do not need any special paints for this, just be creative. and find some suitable stones in the garden or on your walk .



Make a nature rubbing

Take a pencil or crayon and paper and find a tree with a suitably knobbly bark – put the paper against the tree and gently rub the pencil over the paper to create a pattern.

Swanmore College

Coping with changing circumstances

Christmas celebrations at the college were very different this year while the latest lockdown means lessons are back online...

Sadly, we had to take the very difficult decision to cancel our annual and extremely popular Christmas lunches. Each year, we serve more than 800 festive meals during the final week of term with pupils from each year group gathering in the hall for a "party".

Instead, on Wednesday 16th December 2020, our amazing catering team provided takeaway Christmas lunches for everybody who wanted one. We hope to celebrate in the usual way in 2021. A huge thank you to our catering team for making this possible!

Elf and safety!

On the last day of term, staff surprised pupils by dressing as elves! As well as being great fun, we raised £175 for the



Alzheimer's Society <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/elfday>

Christmas concert online

The music department presented us with an online Christmas Concert 2020. It is always wonderful to see our talented pupils perform and we look forward to showcasing more of their work in the future.

Meon Valley Food Bank

In December, just in time for Christmas, we donated more than 500 items of food to the Meon Valley Food Bank. Pupils collected items throughout the month of November. Year 11 donated the most with 189 items!

Delicious new menu

The Swanmore College Catering Team have been working very hard to introduce several new dishes to their menu. One of the most popular was "sticky chicken" which went down very well with pupils and staff alike.

Anti-bullying assembly

Year 7 produced their own T-shirts to promote anti-bullying and to celebrate the qualities of the pupils in each tutor group. The "Anti-Bullying

Left: Sticky chicken - a new college favourite. Below: College staff celebrate Christmas dressed as elves.



Anti-bullying T-shirts designed, made and judged by Year 7.

Ambassadors" judged the competition and presented the results during a Zoom assembly. All the T-shirts were inspiring and creative.

Time for reflection

Year 7 pupils, who joined us in September 2020, spent some time in their tutor groups reflecting on their primary school days. They wrote postcards to pupils and staff at their former primary schools to share their experience of "big school". Despite the difficult circumstances, they have settled in very well. We are extremely proud of them and the maturity with which they have transitioned to Swanmore College.

Hitting the ground running

During our Christmas break, we monitored track and trace to ensure all staff and pupils were informed if there were any new cases.

We had planned a phased return as directed, however, the government announcement on 4th January 2021 meant we had to change our arrangements at short notice.

We are sad that all pupils cannot be in school with us, however, we are providing live lessons whilst ensuring pupils are safe and well.





2021-22 Precept

Covid 19 made 2020 a tough year for everyone, and the challenges continue as the pandemic forces us into a third lockdown.

While there is hope in sight that at some point this year our lives can start getting back the normal, the Parish Council appreciates that we don't need to make things any harder and has agreed to keep the 2021-22 precept at the same level as this year's.

The precept is the Parish Council's share of your council tax. We spend the second half of every year planning the budget, which makes up our precept for the following year. We then submit our precept requirement to Winchester City Council in January.

Road safety

New speed limit radar sign

Road safety in Swanmore is an important priority for the Parish Council. As a Parish Council we are limited on what we are allowed to do, however, this does not stop us thinking of ways we can help reduce speeding in the village.

In January, the Planning & Highways Committee approved the purchase of a third speed limit radar sign for the village. This will smile or frown at motorists depending on their speed and these signs are known to be very effective in reducing speeding.

This new sign will be rotated monthly, along with the two existing speed signs, enhancing the village's already comprehensive Speed Limit Radar Programme. We will purchase and install the sign in the next few months.



Wheelie bin stickers

The Committee also decided to buy some speed limit reminder wheelie bin stickers for residents, providing a visual reminder to drivers to reduce their speed. As they are only displayed on bin collection days, it reduces the chance of drivers becoming accustomed to them.

Please contact Kate Chesters (deo@swanmorepc.org.uk) or leave a message on the office telephone if you would like some stickers, letting us know if "30mph" is suitable for your location.

We hope to be able to give every interested household at least two stickers. If 30mph is not relevant for outside your house but you would like an alternative "Slow down" sticker, please contact Kate. If there is enough interest, we can add a batch to our order.

New Road bus shelter

The bus shelter in New Road, opposite the College, was damaged in December. We have been advised that the shelter needs to be replaced and are liaising with the bus company's insurers on this matter.

Swanmore scarecrows

Help us celebrate our key workers by creating a scarecrow of them! From Easter Sunday 4th April to Sunday 11th April please display the scarecrows you have made with pride.

A very generous resident has offered cash prizes for the top three

Parish Council Office

Tracey Molloy,
Executive Officer
Hollythorns House, New Road
Swanmore, SO32 2NW
Tel: 01489 890651
Email: clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk
Web: www.swanmorepc.org.uk

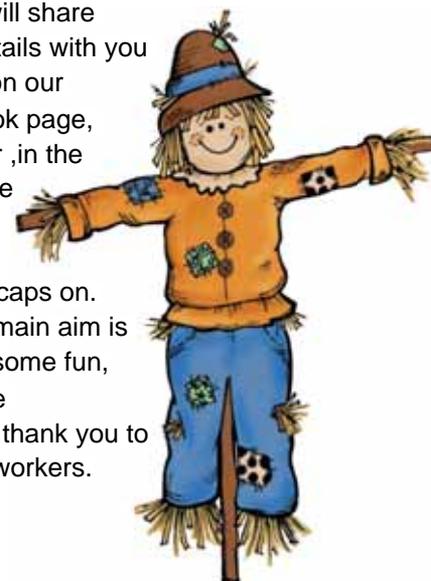
PUBLIC OPENING TIMES WEEKDAYS 10am-2pm

Please contact us by email, letter or phone or visit us at the office.

scarecrows.

We will share more details with you shortly on our Facebook page, however, in the meantime please get your thinking caps on.

The main aim is to have some fun, celebrate and say thank you to our key workers.



Upcoming meetings

Our Parish Council meetings are currently being held on Microsoft Teams and members of the public are welcome to attend. The meeting links can be found on the Agenda which are posted on our website and Facebook page.

You can download the Teams app free of charge (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>) or use the online version.

- ◆ 9th February: Planning & Highways.
- ◆ 16th February: Open Spaces & Amenities.
- ◆ 26th February: Finance.
- ◆ 9th March: Planning & Highways.
- ◆ 16th March: Open Spaces & Amenities.
- ◆ 23rd March: Full Council.

Swanmore Park House – lying between South and North Lodges in Park Lane – was once the home of the Myers family. Swanmore’s archivist, Crawford Wright, looks back on the life of William Myers

Swanmore’s Victorian “squire”

The Swanmore Park Estate was bought in September 1877 by Charles Myers, a director of the White Star Line, from Liverpool, for £21,000. It then totalled some 303 acres including the park, pleasure gardens, lodges, farmhouse and cottages as well as four pews in Droxford Church.

He had the earlier eighteenth century house demolished and employed his fellow Liverpoolian Alfred Waterhouse, the renowned architect, to design a new one. The house cost a total of £36,250, excluding land and fees.

Unfortunately Charles suddenly died at the age of 52, just two years after buying Swanmore Park and before the new house was completed. He had been living previously at Botley Grange.

The Swanmore Park Estate was

left to his elder son William; educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford. William was only 24 when his father died and reading for the Bar at the Inner Temple. In July 1888, now a JP, he married Frances Prideaux-Brune in Knightsbridge at a society wedding.

William was elected Conservative MP for Winchester (1892–1906), Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire and as a JP sat on the Droxford Bench. He was elected to the County Council in 1889, with responsibility for the Roads and Bridges Committee. In Swanmore he became churchwarden, remaining so for 50 years and when the Parish Council was formed in 1884 he was the natural Chairman and held the post for 36 years.

The neo-Tudor house was in a superb position some 400 feet above sea level with extensive views to

W J Myers & Co

Charles Myer’s father – William Joseph Myers (d.1871) – was a ship owner who lived in the Aigburth area of Liverpool, a district that was also home to Alfred Waterhouse and Bruce Ismay (of Titanic notoriety). Charles Myers appears to have run the company from the 1860s, after his father retired, while he was also a director of Ismay, Imrie & Co which owned the White Star Line.

Portsdown Hill, the Solent, Isle of Wight and Forest of Bere. It contained ample servants’ quarters (14 bedrooms), a drawing room (47 by 20 feet), billiard room (48 feet in length), wine cellars and 16 bedrooms.

In October 1873 it had been resolved that a Gentlemen’s Cricket Club be formed in the grounds of Swanmore House. Its members and non-members were elected from the aristocracy of South Hampshire and included an earl, four generals and three admirals. The original cricket pavilion was on the site of Pavilion

Left: The advertisement for the estate’s sale in 1935. Below: William Myers MP, JP, DL (1854–1933). Opposite page: The pulpit in St Barnabas’ church was designed by Alfred Waterhouse and donated by the Myers family.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE.
WITHIN 12 MILES OF THE SOUTH COAST,
and within easy reach of Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester;
2 miles from Bishop’s Waltham, and adjoining the Villages of Droxford and Swanmore.
THE FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING PROPERTY
SWANMORE PARK.



A MEDIUM-SIZED MANSION OF ELIZABETHAN DESIGN,
seated in superb grounds and park, occupying a lovely position with extensive views.
FOUR CAPITAL MIXED FARMS.
Small holdings, accommodation pasture and arable lands, numerous superior cottages with gardens.
The Freehold Country Residence, Swanmore Cottage
Woodlands with valuable
OAK, BEECH AND LARCH TIMBER.
The whole extending to about
1,357 ACRES.
Vacant Possession of the Residence, Home Farm and the major portion on Completion,
which Messrs.
DUNCAN B. GRAY AND PARTNERS
ARE INSTRUCTED TO OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION IN LOTS DURING FEBRUARY
(unless previously sold privately).
Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of the Solicitors:—Messrs. Ellison and Co., 5,
Petty Cury, Cambridge, or of the Auctioneers:—Messrs. DUNCAN B. GRAY and PARTNERS, 129, Mount
Street, W.F. and Branches.



Park Farm in Park Lane.

The majority of people in Swanmore were employed within the village, mainly on the land as agricultural labourers, as tradesmen or in service.

For those attending Swanmore church the front pew close to the lectern was reserved for the Myers. Swanmore Park was the venue for many of the villagers on social occasions including Harvest Home, Christmas and School Treats.

William Myers died in December 1933 at the age of 79, leaving £191,000. He had no children to leave the estate to, neither did his brother or sisters; he was buried in Swanmore churchyard.

Swanmore Park Estate, now some 1,357 acres was sold off in 42 lots by auction at the George Hotel, Winchester. The house was Grade II listed in 1997 and today is more or less intact, being divided into apartments.

In addition to Swanmore House Alfred Waterhouse's designs include the pulpit in Swanmore church, Eaton Hall in Cheshire for the 1st Duke of Westminster, Manchester Town Hall, Metropole Hotel in Brighton, Prudential Buildings, the Natural History Museum, and several Oxford and Cambridge Colleges.



Swanmore's renowned gardens

According to the Hampshire Garden Trust the gardens at Swanmore House were originally laid out in the 1830s by Bettsworth Shearer. By the time he sold the 303 acre estate to Charles Myers, he had extended the park and laid out pleasure gardens to the north of the house from an original 59 acres.

Charles Myers commissioned Edwin Molyneux, whom he had probably known in Liverpool to redesign the gardens, and a large walled garden with elaborate glasshouses was built and the whole gardens redesigned. After 1879 Molyneux continued to work for William Myers to create some impressive grounds.

As the HGT puts it: "Due to the skills of Molyneux as a plantsman, in particular in growing prize chrysanthemums, Swanmore Park gained a reputation for the quality and maturity of its planting and was written about in several garden magazines of the time, such as the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the *Journal of Horticulture*, *Cottage Gardener*, *Gardening World* and *Country Life*.

"A rock garden of pulhamite was created by James Pulham & Sons,

with water, many alpinas and two bridges and the glasshouses were developed and extensively used for vines, fruit and exotic plants.

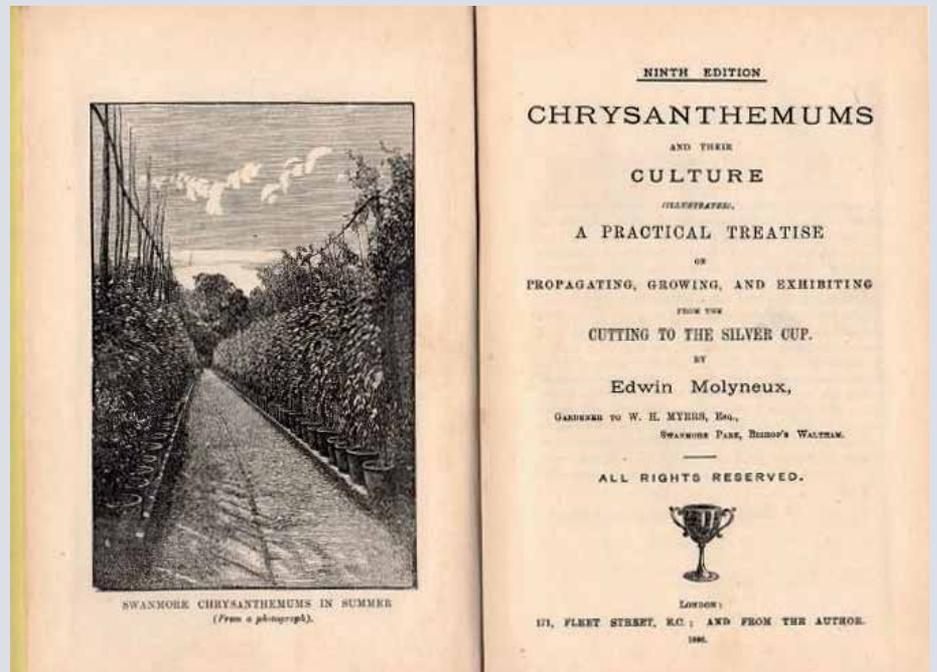
"There was an orchard, a winter tennis court, a ha-ha, many climbing roses and other plants along a pergola, half a million trees with some specimens planted in the parkland, the house covered with colourful climbers and two acres of grassland planted with limes, elms, Spanish chestnut and 1,000s of bulbs in the grass. A sun dial is moved round the grounds. There was an avenue of cupressus and sweet briar hedges.

"Molyneux moved to be Farm Bailiff around 1898 and Mr G Ellwood became the head gardener. A conifer, *Chamaecyparis lawsonia* "Elwoodii" originating as a seedling, was named after him."

After a succession of owners the estate was divided and sold in 1952 and the gardens sold to a developer and were partly built on.

<http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/swanmore-park-house/>

Molyneux's seminal work on Chrysanthemums was first published in 1886.



SWANMORE CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN SUMMER
(From a photograph).

NINTH EDITION
CHRYSANTHEMUMS
AND THEIR
CULTURE
ILLUSTRATED.
A PRACTICAL TREATISE
OR
PROPAGATING, GROWING, AND EXHIBITING
FROM THE
CUTTING TO THE SILVER CUP.
BY
Edwin Molyneux,
GARDENER TO W. H. MYERS, ESQ.,
SWANMORE PARK, REIDON'S WALTHAM.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



LONDON:
171, FLEET STREET, E.C. 1. AND FROM THE AUTHOR.
1886.

Like many of Swanmore's clubs and societies, activities for the village's amateur dramatic group (SADS) have been "on hold" since March 2020. Enthusiastic member, Martin Letts, recalls the joys of "treading the boards" and looks forward to a resumption of performances later this year.

Hoping to get back on stage again

It was back in 1959 when Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society staged its first production, at the old Swanmore village hall, now long gone. Today, we have very good facilities in its replacement and SADS has become a part of life in Swanmore's community. A faithful crowd of "Friends of SADS" turn up to run the bar, sell the raffle tickets, move the chairs, manage "front of house" things, apply make-up and do lots of clearing up. Thank you Friends. Our behind-the-scenes people work magic with material, making everything from princesses' dresses to frogs' outfits, from robots to carrots.

One of our panto dames, suitably dressed in a skimpy Spice Girls outfit of a Union Jack flag, wanted his heeled red shoes made higher. Our Friend John returned them within an hour, having cut off the heels, inserted lifting wedges and painted them bright red.

Thinking it would be fun to be in a pantomime I joined SADS in 1985 and one September evening met a group of people sitting in a circle in the Village Hall. They gave me a small part to read but a week or so later someone dropped out and I suddenly became Baron Hardup in Cinderella and was hooked.

Plays and pantomimes

In March 1989 we put on "*Arsenic and Old Lace*". This required a body. One of our members borrowed a shop mannequin and "she" sat in the passenger seat of his topless sports car for a while. The car wasn't the only topless item and she looked very lifelike; so much so that she was "kidnapped" by his work colleagues and we had to pay a ransom to retrieve "her". He and I played the villains in that production.

I wrote a couple of pantomimes – it

saves the royalty fees, y'know. "*Old King Cole*" was in millennium year 2000 so we had a millennium bug and a cake "baked" on stage to look like the Millennium Dome (now the O2 Arena).

The other was "*Alice in Wonderland*". It is a tremendous privilege to be write pantos and let your imagination run wild. In "*Alice*" we had a Mad Hatter, an angry Queen of Hearts and a wonderful Caterpillar on a mushroom. Caterpillar appeared surrounded by smoke although, unfortunately, at the end of the scene the first three rows of the audience also disappeared into the fog: Swanmore vicar Claire was a Cheshire cat, who gradually "disappeared" too.

Although I wrote the songs for Alice, there was a problem: I can't write music and don't admit to playing an instrument. Fortunately band leader Peter kindly allowed me to sing the tunes to him; then translated them into proper music.

Nearer to performance night we are all nervous. In my first play, coming on stage as a Bishop, I completely forgot my lines, went off

again to get prompted, then re-appeared. – hoping the audience didn't notice.

In 2014 we put on a revue to remember the First World War. It was so popular that we put on another performance at the Paterson Centre later in the year. "*Lest We Forget*" was directed by our Lynda who produced lots of ideas, poems and sketches from the period. I wrote a sketch about the Lord Kitchener "Your Country Needs You" poster.

Favourite shows

Classics which have won us accolades include "*Far from the Madding Crowd*", "*The Titchfield Thunderbolt*" and many more. One was a Russian comedy (would you believe it) called "The Government Inspector" which involved confusion due to the failings of human nature. It was written many years ago – but human nature never changes.

For 2019, our sixtieth anniversary year, we put on "*The Snow Queen*" with a lavish set and plenty of colourful dancing and songs: I had six changes of costume. We had more than 30 people on stage, our fine orchestra



"*The Government Inspector* impressing the ladies" – left to right: Mike Rich, Chris Tatum, Gail Norris, Lesley Preedy, with Patric Howe standing behind. From SADS' production in May 2015.

and a very glamorous Snow Queen, who later also switched on the Swanmore Christmas lights.

We build scenery on Sunday mornings. The director makes a model and our set builders get on with it. The whole of the Village Hall floor is a sea of bottoms-up and heads-down as we hammer, saw and paint. It's a very creative experience. I like sign writing and remember "Suds R Us" for Widow Twanky's Laundry in "Aladdin" and advertising boards hung on the primary school fence.

Memorable sets

In "The Ladykillers" we had marvellous scenery: the inside of an old lady's house, both upstairs and downstairs with roof tops including a chimney. I played a bit part as one of the old lady's female friends. Someone I knew in the audience didn't recognise me: I didn't know whether to be flattered or upset, she thought I really was one of the fairer sex...

Another favourite pantomime was "Wind in the Willows". We had a riverbank scene with a waterwheel which turned, a small boat which floated on the river and a thousand paper leaves stuck one by one onto overhanging willow trees. I was Toad which I enjoyed immensely – apart from washing off the green coloured makeup every night before going to bed.

We all find amateur dramatics a very good personal discipline. It



"Robinson Crusoe" (December 2013)
Robinson and the Dame meet Queen Neptune: left to right – Danny Jeffs, Martin Letts and Lynda Parker.

promotes confidence, co-operation and commitment (especially as we have no understudies). Committing to a play or panto is a three month project once or twice a week, and almost every night during performance week. You have to learn your lines (the tricky bit), take criticism and direction, project your voice, sing, do DIY, wash up and make tea – and, of course, learn to act. So if you want to be the Tin Man from Oz, a candlestick, a butterfly, Rumpelstiltskin, "Monsieur LeClerk in "Allo Allo", Manuel in "Fawlty Towers" Marley's ghost or the back end of a cow, then come along – your imagination is the limit!

SADS "am-dram" is excitement, creative, enjoyment, glamour and community. Where else could you parade across a stage dressed as a pineapple doing the sailor's hornpipe in front of an audience? I hope you

enjoy this very personal account of the fun and games we've had over many years. It may make you smile – it may even encourage you to come along and see what we get up to.

◆ SADS hopes to resume activities later this year with a production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Meetings are held at the Village Hall on Mondays, 7.30–10pm. If you are interested in performing, working behind the scenes, or becoming involved in some way, please contact Caroline Powell on 07701 044563 or visit our website: <http://swanmoreamateurdramaticsociety.co.uk/>



"The Ladykillers" – the evening soirée with the villains: left to right Trudy Fanti, Brenda Lambert, Carol Sealey, Martin Letts, Mike Clay, Mike Edwards, Roy Phillips, Ben Pharoah, Roger Minors. From SADS' May 2018 production.

In the hedgerows

Spring's windflower

As the days get longer the hedgerows – especially along Mayhill Lane – will soon be filled with one of our earliest spring flowers: the white wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). The plant is characteristic of ancient woodlands and since it spreads very slowly – just six feet (1.8m) in 100 years – we can be sure that banks thick with the flowers have been undisturbed for a very long time and may even be the remnants of previous woodland cover.

Anemones are reputedly named after the *anemoi* – the four wind gods of Greek mythology – and their arrival with the March winds also gives their common name of windflowers. An alternative theory is that the flowerheads – which only open in full sun – typically fold their petals and hang their heads on stormy days so, like the scarlet pimpernel, are good predictors of incoming weather.

Another anemone myth concerns Aphrodite and her lover Adonis. When Adonis was killed by a wild boar – reputedly sent by a jealous Ares (the god of war and another of Aphrodite's lovers) – anemones spring up where Aphrodite's tears hit the ground as she mourned. A different version of the myth has the flowers springing from drops of Adonis' blood – but since they are mostly white or pale pink rather than a deep red, perhaps the tear tradition is more appropriate.

The myth may be the reason why wood anemones are often associated

with death and they were included in Roman funerary wreaths – although in even earlier times the Egyptians associated the flowers with sickness.

Local folklore in some parts of Britain cites wood anemones as variously symbols of bad luck (never to be included in bridal bouquets), charms against fevers – if picked when first seen in spring, or as a shelter from the rain for fairies; in the Victorian language of flowers, they represented illness, poor health or to be forsaken. Elsewhere in Europe the flowers' association with death and their appearance in spring adds a "rebirth" dimension and they are significant at Easter.

The plant was once widely used in folk medicine – treating almost anything from fevers, headaches, gout, asthma, shingles or whooping cough to leprosy, syphilis, clearing "watery and phlegmatic humours", or even as an ointment for eye inflammations.

Wood anemones are, however, extremely toxic: they have been known to poison cattle, and should never be taken internally. More recent studies suggest that they have significant analgesic, anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory properties which perhaps explains the plant's nineteenth century use in external remedies for skin disorders.

Wood anemones (Anemone nemorosa).



Seen and heard

Joyous song

On any bright sunny days in the next few weeks, there is a good chance that the first skylarks will again be heard singing in the fields between Green Lane and Mayhill Lane: last year one was heard on 3rd February.

Skylarks (*Alda arvensis*) are dull looking birds around 7ins/18cm long – larger than a house sparrow but smaller than a starling – brown above and paler below with a small crest of head feathers.

The male skylark's amazing continuous song – lasting for up to three minutes as it soars above – is used to both declare its territory and attract a mate: singing and soaring takes a great deal of energy and demonstrates to any listening females just how strong, healthy and an ideal mate is the singing male.

The skylark's song is traditionally associated with daybreak – or as Chaucer put it: "the busy larke, messenger of day" – but as regular walkers know, during spring and summer skylarks can be heard at almost any time of day in the local fields.

Like other ground nesting birds their numbers have fallen significantly in recent decades due to loss of habitat and predation: they have been included on the "Birds of Conservation Concern" Red List since it first appeared in 1996, by which time their numbers had fallen by 75% during the previous 25 years.

Skylarks can produce up to four broods a year, so throughout the nesting season, which starts in March, do keep keep to footpaths with dogs under control when walking in our local fields to avoid disturbing any nests.

If you have noticed any interesting wildlife or hedgerow plants in Swanmore do share your discoveries with us in a future issue. Send you stories to editor@stbarnabas.org.uk

From our district councillors

Preparing for a new Local Plan and policy changes

As we write this article, we are still in the emergency regulations of this dreadful covid-19 pandemic. Tier 4 rules continue to apply – along with additional restrictions – although we are advised that the Government may consider tightening the rules that guide us as to what we may, or must not do. Of course, in the background we are still reminded to wash our hands regularly, wear a “face covering” when in shops, and socially distance i.e. 2 metres (6 feet) apart. The latter may be increased to three metres shortly. Full details are at www.gov.uk under coronavirus (covid-19).

Keeping safe

So far, we in Swanmore have not experienced the worst of the rising numbers experienced in other parts of the country, or even Hampshire. Nonetheless the numbers are still too high, and our local hospitals are reaching their limits. If you have symptoms ring the 111 number to receive advice and directions to (hopefully) the nearest testing station. The vaccination is being rolled out but even if you have received “one jab” you could still carry covid-19.

Frank says that he is one of the lucky ones to receive a Christmas card from the Meon Valley MP – Flick

Drummond. To our delight it carried a beautiful picture of Santa as drawn by two of the children at Swanmore Primary School, JG and his sister HG. Congratulations to these buddy artists.

Draft consultation imminent

Dominant in Council “News” is the Draft Consultation Document about the new Local Plan for Winchester District (outside the National Park). The full document will be found on the WCC website by the end of January. At present it does not identify the development sites chosen from those published in the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).

All change for garden waste

The website also reminds us that the new Garden Waste Collection regime is scheduled to start on 1st February using brown bins rather than the green sacks. These sacks will no longer be collected after 1st February 2021 even though you may keep them. Collection of garden waste was free, but now there will be a charge – details have been published in previous magazines (see also below).

There has been a further tranche of money targeting small businesses. If this applies to you then re-apply to

the Winchester City Council as previously.

The Government’s guidance for Brexit is also to be found at www.gov.uk. This covers business, travelling, living and working with or in the EU. If these changes affect you, it may well be worth your while to look at this site.

WCC policy plans

Much of the consultation about Winchester City Council’s Policy and Development Plans is now going into a “virtual regime”: i.e. online while covid-19 rules apply – these could well last into the autumn. Much of it is about the urban area of the city so if you go to Winchester regularly you may well find the “News” site interesting and wish to take part. At present the Central Winchester Regeneration Consultation is now complete (again!); the new parking system via RingGo and information about progress towards the new Clinic to replace the St Clements surgery are also there.

There are many rumours about the local elections scheduled for May 2021. If covid-19 is still active leading up to that point then it is likely that the District Council, the County Council and the election of a new Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner could well be postponed until September.

May we remind you at this stage that if you wish to vote please ensure that you have registered via Electoral Services Unit, City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9ZZ; the unit can also supply postal voting forms.

District councillors:

- ◆ Linda Gemmell 01489 895 023 lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk
- ◆ Frank R. Pearson 01489 892 822 fpearson@winchester.gov.uk (W) or pierscroft2@gmail.com (H)
- ◆ Vicki Weston Tel: 01329 835 161 or e-mail: vweston@winchester.gov.uk



The new garden bins come in two sizes – 140l or 240l which carry an annual charge of £39 for the small bin and £59 for the larger or “standard” bin.

Winchester & District Young Carers

Caring for the carers

Congratulations to Imogen Day, a pupil at Swanmore College, who was presented with its annual TESSA Award by the Winchester & District Young Carers at the charity's virtual AGM at the end of November.

The award, in memory of Tessa Summers who was involved with the charity and died in 2013, is given each year to one of the young carers "who shows selfless commitment to making a difference".

Imogen helps care for her mother who suffers with fibromyalgia and functional neurological disorder which presented the family with additional challenges when external support was limited during lockdown.

As the award citation noted: "Imogen has always taken pride in supporting her mum both practically in the home and emotionally, all while looking out for her three younger sisters too... [her] sunshine personality shines through and she never fails to make people smile and is welcoming to everyone... Her capacity caring for people and encouraging self-expression in many ways is inspiring, we should all be free

to be our authentic selves. Imogen is a passionate individual who we know will go on to do great things."

Like many charities Winchester & District Young Carers has suffered financially during the successive covid lockdowns as fund-raising events have been cancelled at a time when key donor organisation came to the end of planned funding cycles.

The charity supports children throughout the district – including several living in Swanmore – who care for ill or disabled parents or siblings. As a result many struggle to cope at school, suffer from low self-esteem or find it difficult to make friends, and the charity provides activities, one-to-one befriending, and support groups where they can meet other young carers and discover that they are not alone.

For more information about volunteering or supporting the charity financially visit:
www.winchesteryoungcarers.org.uk

Below: Imogen was presented with her award at Swanmore College during the charity's "Zoom" AGM.



On the move

December was a busy month for us at Home-Start.

Alongside our busy Christmas schedule, we also moved offices to join Home-Start Hampshire's Gosport & Fareham and Havant branches. It will be lovely to work alongside our neighbouring branches. Home-Start Meon Valley opened at The Wickham Centre in December 1998: we are sad to leave, and can't thank the staff enough for their support.

We were able to offer some families additional support over the Christmas period, in the form of gifts for children and food hampers. We received toys, kindly donated to us through Wave 105's "Cash for kids appeal", along with funding for some food hampers from The Meon Valley Lions. Our team worked hard to collect and distribute these toys and hampers to the families.

This year we were unable to participate in the Christmas Fair, however, we have had some success with raising funds through a Santa Run. Thank you to all those who took part and raised much needed funds to enable us to provide emotional and practical support to local families.

Do you or anyone you know need support, or have some spare time to volunteer? Please get in touch either through our website (<https://home-starthampshire.org.uk>) or use the contact details below:

- ◆ Arena Business Centre, Lancaster Court, 8 Barnes Wallis Road, Segensworth, Fareham, PO15 5TU
- ◆ Phone number: 0330 124 2095
- ◆ Email: info@hshants.org.uk or familysupport@hshants.org.uk

Avril Dalrymple

Rotary Club

Start planning for the carnival

Theme for the 2021 Bishop's Waltham Rotary Carnival, planned for 12 June, will be "Children's Books" and the group is already encouraging people to start planning how they can support the Carnival procession by getting dressed up or organising a float depicting a character or scene from their favourite children's book.

In December the group was able to take "Roger" its brightly lit and music playing Christmas steam engine around most of its normal routes with Santa waving from a suitable distance to welcome the start of Christmas, While knocking on doors was not allowed, a bucket placed on "Roger" for donations plus electronic contributions raised more than £1,000. to support worthy causes that are desperately in need of funds this year.

The club was also approached by several of the local schools asking for visits by Santa and Roger, to help raise spirits in the schools in the run up to Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, Roger also made a very special trip to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and was parked with Santa below the paediatric ward windows so the children could wave and talk to Santa via telephone. The visit followed a BBC News report from the ward the day before, where nurses explained that they couldn't have any

special visitors inside the children's ward this year or put-up decorations.

Although the presidential year usually runs from July to June, the group's current president, Linda Treveil, has put in an extended stint covering an 18-month period instead. It has not been an easy time, trying to keep things running from a distance, while also having to make difficult decisions to cancel some eagerly anticipated events, and dealing with disruptions that the club has not seen in its 30-plus years.

Due to the disruption to Linda's year, with many of her major events cancelled, the incoming president, Mandy Tourle, who should have taken over in July, agreed that Linda would stay on and Mandy would take over in January when she would do an 18-month stint to get back to the normal yearly cycle. Presidential nominee, Sara Walker, will then take over in July 2022.

◆ *For information about Rotary Club activities or membership contact: ian.treveil@bishopsvalthamrotary.org.uk*

Below: In pre-covid days, John Natt, 2018-2019 president handed over his chain of office to Linda, who is handing over her president-elect chain to Mandy, who is handing over her president-nominee chain to Sara.



Peddling for Shout

For more than 14 years a group of friends – in their 60s, 70s and 80s – from around Bishop's Waltham have been meeting every Thursday to cycle around the country lanes of the Meon Valley, enjoying the Hampshire Hills and stopping for a great pub lunch on route.

When the last lockdown (not the current one) started in November and group cycling was off the agenda, as was a nice pub lunch, the group decided to turn a negative into a positive: they challenged themselves to cycle 2,000 miles and at the same time raise funds for a good cause.

"We know how important being outside and getting physical exercise is for people of our age, and we know that the past year has been particularly hard on charities", says Mike Berry, who came up with the idea. "So calling ourselves 'Peddling Pensioners', we each set ourselves targets for the miles we could cycle during the lockdown period and went out to clock up the miles and raise funds for Shout 85258."

Launched in May 2019, Shout 85258 is a text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Since then the service's volunteers have held more than 500,000 conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, suicidal or overwhelmed and who need immediate support. As a digital service, Shout 85258 has become increasingly critical since the start of the covid-19 pandemic, as one of the few mental health support services able to operate as normal.

By December the 12 Peddling Pensioners had cycled more than 2,300 miles and raised more than £3,000 for the charity. "It has given us real motivation to get out on our bikes and we are really grateful for the very generous support that we have received from family and friends for our fundraising efforts." Their fundraising page is still open and accepting donations at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PeddlingPensioners>.

Finding the right help

Sensory impairment is a very common issue for people as they grow older but fortunately, there are many things you can do to help you cope with the issues arising from declining sight and hearing.

Visual impairment

- ◆ **Sight tests** – You can arrange for an optician to visit you at home, by calling the Outside Clinic on 0800 640 9513 or visit www.outsideclinic.co.uk. Specsavers also offers a home visit service, which you can book at 07796 705239. Both organisations offer free NHS sight tests and help towards the costs of glasses, if you are eligible.
- ◆ **Sight aids** – Magnifiers, large button telephones, talking clocks and text-speak devices are available to help with everyday tasks. The

- ◆ NHS website provides more information.
- ◆ **Support organisations:**
 - ◆ The Macular Society 0300 3030111 <https://www.macularsociety.org/>
 - ◆ Seeability 01372 755000 <https://www.seeability.org/>
 - ◆ RNIB 0303 1239999 <https://www.rnib.org.uk/>
 - ◆ Open Sight Hampshire 02380 641244 <https://www.opensight.org.uk/>
 - ◆ The Partially Sighted Society 01302 965195 <https://www.partsight.org.uk/>

Hearing impairment

- ◆ **Hearing tests** - You can also arrange for a free hearing test at home, with the Outside Clinic, by calling 0333 255 4749 or www.outsideclinic.co.uk. NHS hearing tests and free NHS hearing

aids are available with a referral from your GP. Specsavers also offers hearing tests at home, at a cost, by calling 0800 023 2949 or www.specsavers.co.uk

- ◆ **Hearing aids** – Audio amplifiers, text phones, specialist smoke detectors, vibrating clocks and watches, and flashing or vibrating doorbells, are available to help. The NHS website provides more information.
- ◆ **Support organisations:**
 - ◆ RNID 0808 8080123 www.rnid.org.uk/
 - ◆ Sonus 02380 220225 <http://www.sonus.org.uk>

For more information or help with contacting these organisation speak to your local Age Concern volunteer support worker, Lorna Neill, on 07790 845944.

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Awards made and meetings continue

The year began with our AGM and annual awards presentation in early January. And what a great evening we had. Very chatty and lots of input from members. Our President, Steve Green presented the annual awards (virtually) to the competition league winners plus in the second half, the audience were treated to a collection of images contributed by members as a "photographic review of 2020".

Rona Bassett stepped down as Programme Secretary after a three year stint organising external speakers, workshops and other club events. We have been treated to a varied programme over that time and our Chairman John Coote joined members in thanking Rona for all her hard work.

In the awards presentation, John introduced a new award for the Society to be given to the "Most Improved Photographer". The award has been named in honour of our founding member and past-president

Alan Inder who passed away recently and the first recipient is Louise Goslin

On 4th February we shall welcome Robert Harvey on a return visit to the Society. His presentation on Zoom is called "Small is Beautiful". Macro photography opens up a fascinating world of wildlife, and Robert's talk will demonstrate techniques for making striking images of insects, orchids and fungi and will include composition, depth of field and how to control light, as well as how to find and identify subjects. Robert is an award winning photographer based in Wiltshire who has written a number of books on photography and astronomy.

We are still accepting new members – we may not be able to meet face-to face but a warm welcome will await anyone interested in taking pictures, wanting to improve their skills and chat (via Zoom) with like-minded people. More information about the Society can be found on our website:



Louise Goslin winner of the Alan Inder Shield pictured at Bishop's Waltham Palace with Jane Inder.

www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

For anyone with children or grandchildren interested in photography, the Society's Junior section is also continuing at this time with online meetings and set topics – please contact Peter Mason junior@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk for more information.

Dawn Blight

Meon Valley Lions

A helping hand at Christmas

Santa runs are usually a large part of Meon Valley Lions Club's fundraising events, but we were out in the villages and really impressed with the number of people who took the time to chat and make a donation.

We'd like to thank everyone who supported us in raising more than £2,500 which will shortly be used to help needy causes; one of the projects we are considering is providing computers for schools to lend to those who need equipment to help with home schooling.

Following consultation with Age Concern, the club also delivered 19 hampers to local needy residents. Eddy Barringer, President of Meon Valley Lions Club said: "Thanks to the support of the public, it was our great pleasure to provide just a little Christmas cheer".

Do you need help?

If you, or someone you know, needs help please get in touch on 07443 753780 or go to our website : www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk where you will also find information about how to donate.

Wheels for a local family

The club came to the rescue of a local family in need of a "new set of wheels". Basic tasks like going to the shops or school were a major challenge as the family were struggling to teach road safety to their 4 year old with autism.

Providing the family with a buggy, for an adult child, will help all of them get out and about safely.



U3A

Zoom talks planned

Meon Valley U3A is one of the smallest U3As with a membership of more than 100 people and has nine interest groups. Membership renewals have been sent out, the cost is £10 for January to September.

New members are welcome, if you are interested please contact me for a form on any of the numbers or addresses below.

We are now holding our meetings via Zoom. Members will be sent a link to join the session a few days before, and we look forward to more of you taking part.

- ◆ February 2nd: The RNLI – Brian Masters
- ◆ February 16th: The Universe is Transient – Phillip Charles
- ◆ March 2nd: Living in Cairo – Janet Diamond
- ◆ March 16th: Ernest Hemmingway and the International Brigade – Lyndon Palmer
- ◆ April 6th: TBA
- ◆ April 20th: Graffiti All Around You – Tony Kippenberger
- ◆ May 4th: South Coast from the Air – Brian Barrett

Some of our groups have managed to continue by communicating via email:

- ◆ Poetry Circle and Reading.
- ◆ Mike is giving Zoom presentations to the Egyptology group.
- ◆ Strolling had resumed with a limit of groups of up to six people socially distancing, but due to the current lockdown is now suspended again.
- ◆ Others due to their nature of visiting places /meeting in groups – Art Appreciation, Geology and Nostalgia have ceased for the time being.

General enquiries to:

*Betty Hiscock, Secretary
01489 894807 or 07766522464;
email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com
Website: u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley*

H&loWT

Winter larders

Humans aren't the only ones who like to keep a well-stocked larder over the winter months. All sorts of animals have been seen hiding food away, ready to eat in the depths of winter when other food sources get scarce.

"Winter larder" may suggest squirrels, who hide high-fat food in a scattered fashion, either burying their hoard or stuffing it into hollows in trees. Their stash often includes nutritious meals like acorns and hazelnuts. Red squirrels – still to be



found on the Isle of Wight – have also been seen keeping fungi in dry spots between branches to eat later.

Looking to our feathered friends, acorns are also a firm favourite with jays. They cache their food in a similar way to squirrels, scattering it throughout the forest and often forgetting some of the piles. If not buried or hidden well, their stores may be eaten by mice before the jays ever get the chance.

Helping wildlife stock up for winter can be really simple. Putting out food for birds and letting your garden grow wild, with log and rock piles provides food and places for wildlife to shelter.

Claire Thorpe – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Left: Jay on a branch by David Williams



Rural Refugee Network

Helping hands

The Rural Refugee Network (RRN) is a local charity set up in 2015 which finds accommodation for refugee families from Syria and other war-torn countries so that we can help bring them to safety in the UK. Once here our network of more than 60 wonderful volunteers supports them as they set up their new lives in our communities.

During these incredibly tough times as well as supporting our families remotely, RRN has launched two education and employment programmes which work with members of our arrived families to teach them further English and gain skills to enable them to seek work here. Feedback from participants has been incredibly positive and the programmes are making a real difference to helping families gain independence a core aim of our charity. We are currently preparing to launch our third programme.

Children are at the heart of what we do. Examples of work we carry out include providing bicycles for our children, helping them with homework and English tuition, working with schools to provide bursaries, introducing them to clubs and sports activities in their areas and providing funds to support education and welfare.

Many of our families are still suffering greatly from the effects of the wars they have borne witness to and the support we offer is a critically needed lifeline not provided elsewhere.

If you would like to learn more about the work RRN does please email: hello@ruralrefugeenetwork.org to be added to our newsletter and



communications database or visit our website www.ruralrefugeenetwork.org

Nadia Potts

Animal services

Bishops Waltham Pet Services	33
Feed the Birds	27
Pest Off	30
Shield Veterinary Centre	25
The Dog Room	33
The Grooming Room	32

Building/carpentry/property maintenance

M R Chase	29
Lee Cooper	26
Dean Architectural Technician	34
Diamond Carpentry	27
R & G Gamblin	25
Peter D Garber	28
Tim Millier Carpentry	31
Geoff Pilcher	29
SAJE UVPC	39
N W Stubbington	32
Jon Willis Ltd	30
Winkworth Plastering	28

Catering

Clementine Castering	25
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Chimneys/logs

Chimney Sweep	35
R J Ralls	26
Woodlea Nursery	32

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Computer Problems Solved	28
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Suzanna Burton	27
Meon Music	31
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Electrical services

P Graham Electrical	33
MFC Electrical Ltd	26
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Ben Tibbetts Electrical Ltd	25

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Financials/legal services

Butler & Co	33
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Richard's Grass	36
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Gerald M Vivian	30

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Dianne	38
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Piers Spencer Osteopath	36
Julia Plant Foot Care	32
Saxby's Eye Care	35
The 1:1 diet	34
Toe Business	27

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Osprey Furnishings	26
Alan Shawyer Appliance Repairs	31
Pat Staples Interiors	31
Cynthia Tester	30

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Lapis Care	29
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Motor repairs

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W J Heard	30
Taylor's Garage	35

Painting and decorating

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Martyn Cox	34
R J Fisher	38
Peter D Garber	28
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J D Humphrey Ltd	30
G Rixon Ltd	33
White Rose Plumbing	29

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Solent Design	35
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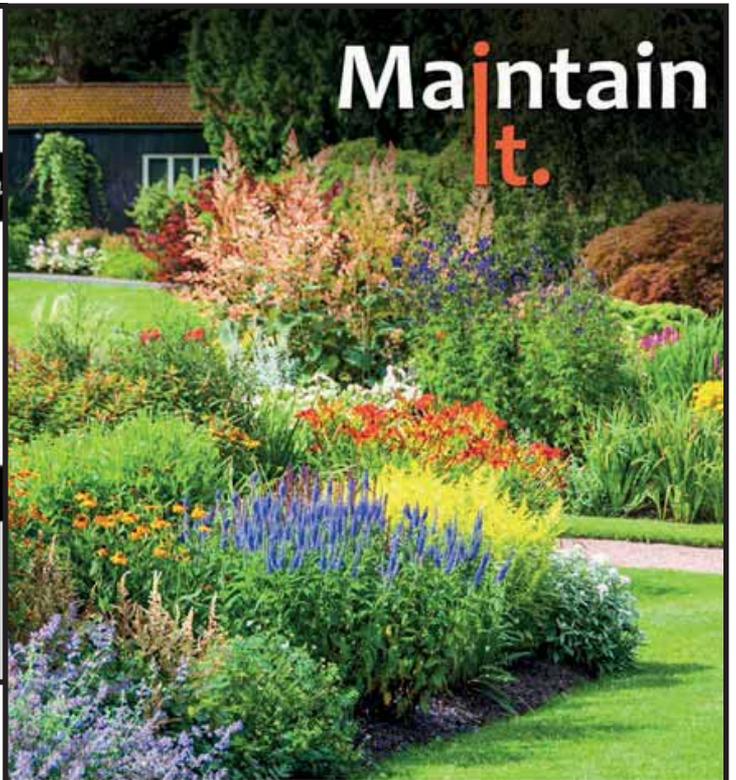
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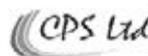
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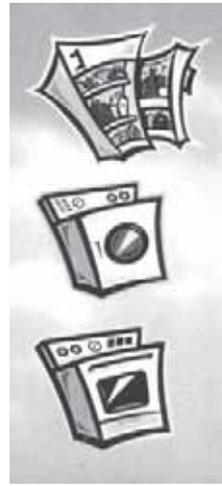
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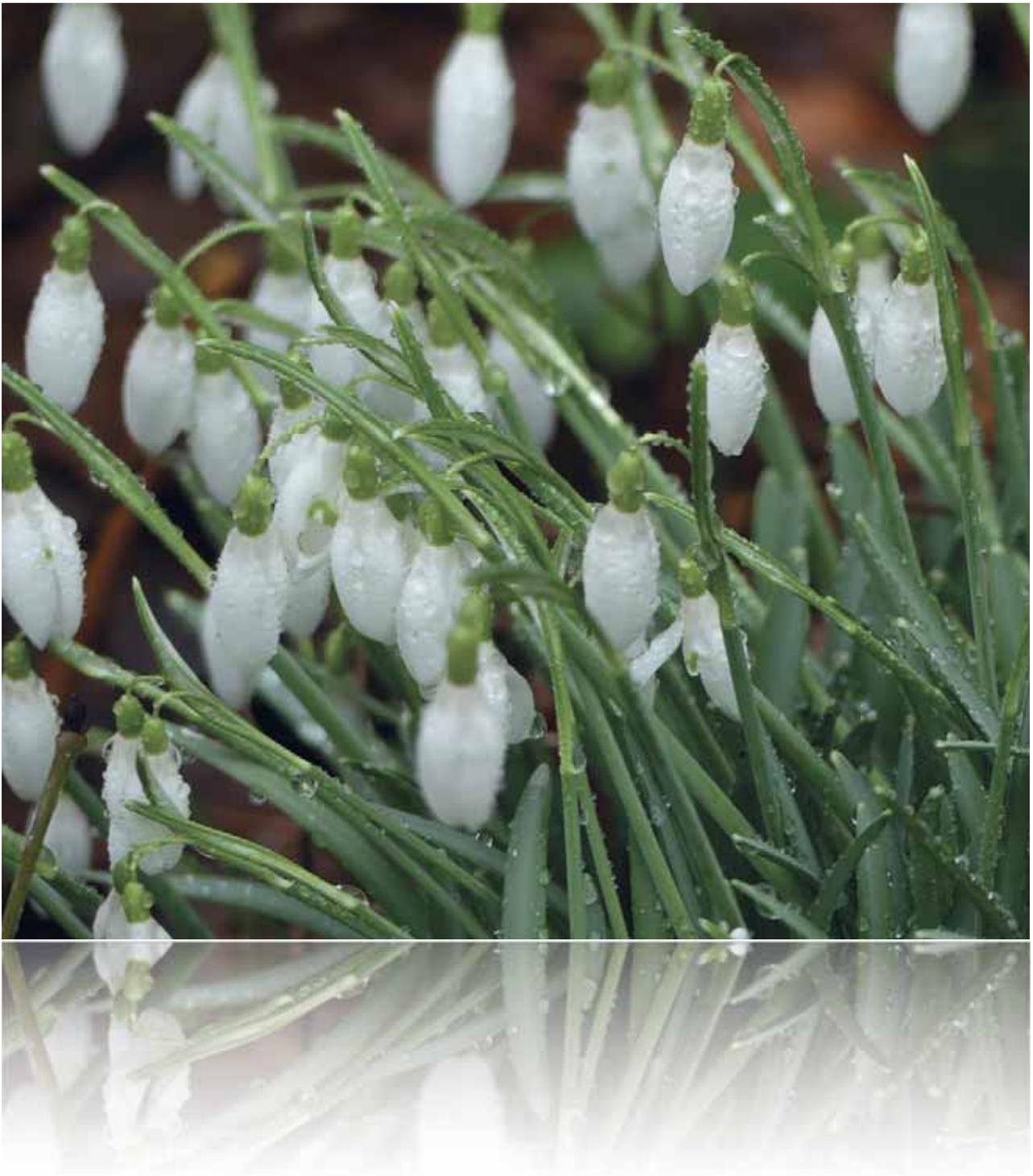
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