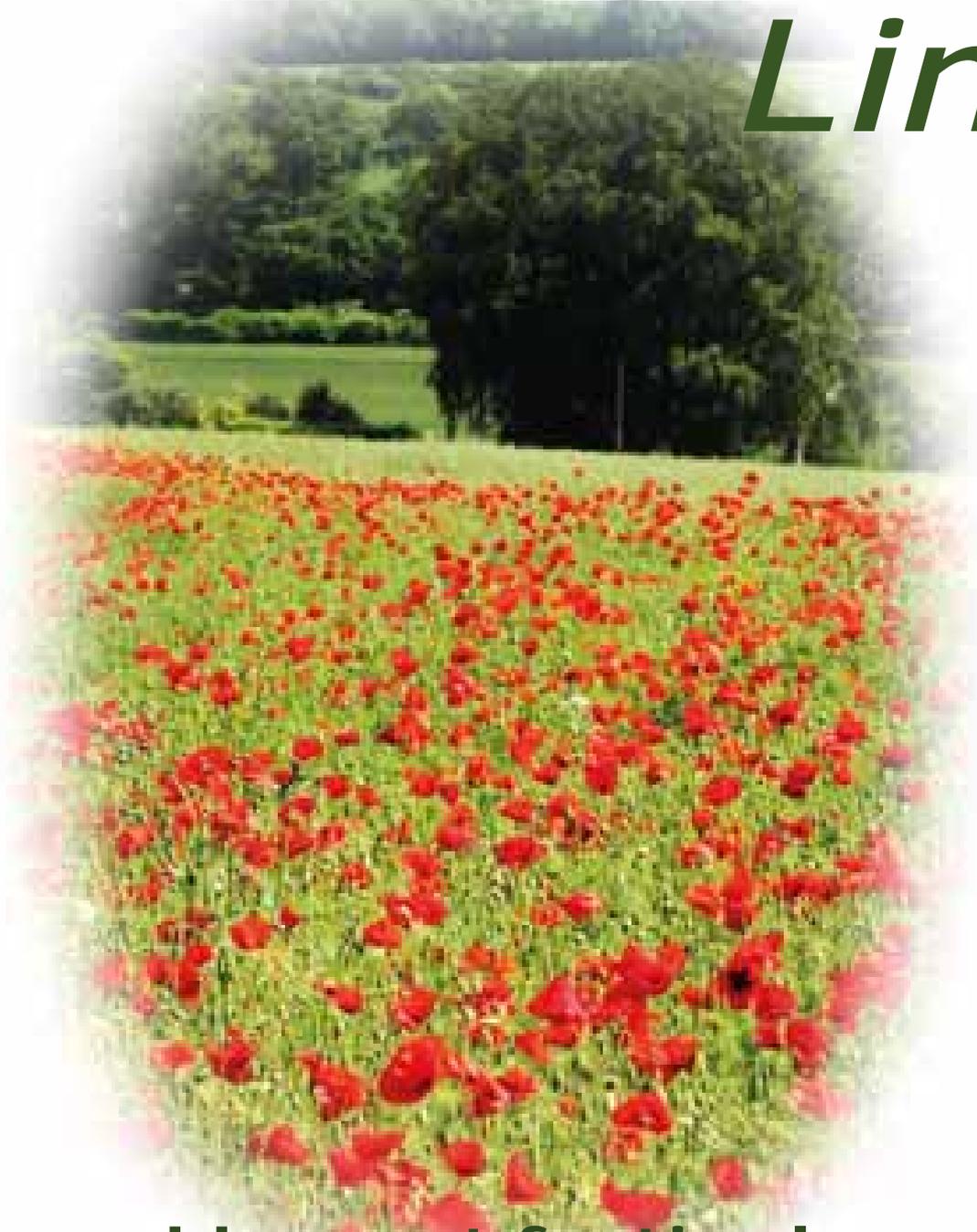


October/November 2021

The **Swanmore** *Link*



Harvest festival
Time to remember
Meon Valley Railway
Swanmore Society

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**Deadline for the December/January issue
is Wednesday 10th November**

Church services at St Barnabas

3rd October

8am Holy Communion with Revd Kathy O'Loughlin.
10am Harvest Festival Family Eucharist
4 pm Combined Methodist/Anglican Harvest Tea in the Paterson Centre followed by a joint service in Church at 5pm

10th October

No 8am service
10am, We welcome Canon Dr Anthony Rustell who will preach and preside. Anthony is Head of Mission and Ministry for the diocese.

17th October

8am Holy Communion
10am 3rd@ 10 creative service
11.45am Baptism of Isla Simmons

24th October

No 8 am service.
10am We welcome Revd Ruth Howlett-Shipley, asst curate at Shedfield and Wickham.

31st October

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
4pm Light Party in church for all children and families – details p.4.

7th November

No 8am service
10am We welcome Revd Terry Loudon.
4pm Tea in the Paterson Centre followed by the Annual Memorial Service at 5pm – details p.5.

14th November Remembrance Sunday

8am Holy Communion with Revd Kathy O'Loughlin.
10.00 Remembrance Sunday service begins in church and ends at the War Memorial.

20th November

Confirmation in the Cathedral at 6pm (tbc).

21st November

8am Holy Communion
10am 3rd@10 creative service for all.

28th November Advent Sunday

No 8am service
10am We welcome Canon David Isaac, our Area Dean.

The Swanmore Link is published by the Parochial Church Council of Swanmore six times a year.

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Words and music

I was organising a service with somebody once and, when I asked if they had a favourite hymn, they replied: "What's a hymn?". It made me think that hymns are increasingly a minority sport. So, when was the first time you heard or sang a hymn (if ever), and when was the last – and do you have a favourite?

At a recent wedding I took at St Barnabas I explained that one of the reasons we sing a hymn early on in a service is to "bind together" the group of individuals that have gathered, forming them into a group/community/congregation. The equivalent happens at sporting events but it tends to be rousing music that people just listen to rather than singing themselves. The movement from individual to group supporter is still the aim.

At the moment, I'm choosing the hymns at St Barnabas with support from our organists and pianists. Were I mad enough not to select: "We plough the fields and scatter" at harvest-time (October 3rd), I would likely have the same outcry many clergy suffer when they fail to choose what is expected or favourite.

When it comes to the Annual Memorial Service on November 7th, it will be a bit more complicated. There will be many different hymns and tunes that the people who gather will want – bringing back memories of the loved ones they have come to remember. My dad died when he was 49 and I was 18. In his case *Angel voices, ever singing* was the special hymn we chose for his funeral. It had been sung at my confirmation service five years earlier and I have chosen it many times since at important moments; most noticeably at my last service as Rector in Shere in 2019. That's a span of half a century, and puts into harsh perspective the question at the start of this article.

I love the tune of *Angel Voices*, but I believe that the words say something important about your and my place in God's world – this verse particularly:

*Yes, we know your heart rejoices
in each work divine,
using minds and hands and voices
in your great design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for your pleasure all combine.*

The penultimate line captures twin joys in my life: music and woodwork. Try ringing me up and see if you can catch me without music playing in the background. When finding our retirement home, Hazel would say to estate agents: "We don't need a bathroom, but we do need a workshop".

In my role as a priest, I recognise a wider significance – the words linking human creativity and service to God: the imagination and hard work that got

the Paterson Centre built, the care with which cakes and coffee are produced in Barnaby's, the production of this magazine, the insightful care shown for someone near the end of their life, the musician able to help turn a number of individuals into a congregation. All these things, and so many more, are partly why the angels sing.



Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

Harvest Festival

Sunday 3rd October

This year we were hoping to collect items for refugees from Afghanistan but all the charities have been inundated with donations and have closed their collection points. So instead we shall be collecting non-perishable foodstuffs for foodbanks. Please bring goods to either of the harvest services (details below) or leave them at the back of the church on 30th September or 1st October.

On 3rd October there will be a 10am Harvest Eucharist for all ages and at 4pm a combined Methodist/Anglican Harvest Tea in the Paterson Centre with (optional) craft making, followed by a service in church at 5pm on the theme of bees.

Offers of help with tea, crafts and music welcomed – please contact Jill (07842636746 or Jill.m.phipps@gmail.com).



The following contact details may be useful:

Ministry Team: ministers@stbarnabas.org.uk
Nick & Hazel Whitehead on 01489 895327
Jill Phipps on 01489 891117

Parochial Church Council:

pccsecretary@stbarnabas.org.uk or 01489 891117

Churchwardens:

churchwardens@stbarnabas.org.uk

Paterson Centre/Parish Office:

office@stbarnabas.org.uk or 07857 936023

Community is hard work

I was born and grew up in two small, rural villages. The kind of places where everyone knew everyone. They were the kind of places where you could live for 25 years and still be a newcomer. Community seemed easy because virtually everyone had been born in the village and the odd newcomer was easy to assimilate.

As time passed more new people moved in to the village, kids born in the village grew up and moved away. The sense of community grew smaller, people knew their next door neighbour maybe but circles grew smaller. Long time villagers started mumbling about how it wasn't like the "good old days".

Then something happened. Someone started a WI and invited neighbours they hadn't met, people they were just on nodding terms with. Another woman lost her husband and connected with a couple of neighbours who had been widowed. Now there are about a dozen in the group known as "ladies who lunch". A new church toddler group connected young mothers, grandparents and carers who had been isolated with their respective charges. A couple of football fans got talking after watching a match at the local pub and now half a dozen meet regularly after matches to talk about the ref's poor decisions and mock each other's team. Other things are happening too. Conversations and seed swapping at the allotments, parents and kids connecting through Brownies, Scouts and the like, someone put a free library outside their house, making another place for conversations to start.

The thing is, it takes effort, it takes work. Connection is not a one way thing and someone always has to make the first step. Community is built one conversation at a time. If you are born into a community you don't recognise the work you put into it and it is easy to see it disappear as people move or pass away. But the majority of people want connection and a sense of belonging, they just don't know how to find it or what it looks like. They do, however, know it when they see it.

The communities in the Meon Valley are going through change at the moment. New housing is sprouting up, "newcomers" are buying houses and the young are moving away, either through choice or just because they cannot afford homes here.

This doesn't have to mean the death of local community though. It just means you need to do the work to re-establish it. So if you feel the sense of community is disappearing, ask yourself what can you do to bring it back? It could be something as simple as asking your new neighbour to a barbecue or setting up and coaching a children's football team, or just joining a group. The world is filled with opportunities and possibilities if you're willing to grasp them.

*Pete Bangs
Methodist Missioner*

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore. SO32 2QB



Minister: Revd. Phil Griffin
Tel. 01329 833518
Email: rev_phil@outlook.com
Loving God
Loving our community
Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services October & November
All services will commence at 10.30am.

3rd October	Richard Cole
10th October	Harvest Festival songs of praise
17th October	David Boswell
24th October	Revd. Bob Kitching
31st October	Revd. Philip Griffin – Holy Communion
7th November	Peter Castle
14th November	Mark Chester
21st November	Revd. John Hughes – Holy Communion
28th November	Gill Bailey

At the time of writing we are following Methodist Church guidance in relation to the easing of covid restrictions – we are able to sing but request masks are still to be worn. There will be a warm welcome for all who wish to join us for these services. If you would like to but want to check if any restrictions remain, please email stewards@s-m-c.org.uk or see our Facebook page. Church members will be updated regularly.

In need of prayer?

Place your prayer request in the post box on the wall next to the Chapel entrance, add your contact details if you would like a visit and we'll be in touch.

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

12th October at 7.30pm – A display of quilting by Dinah Weberstadt
9th November at 7.30pm – "Remembrance - An ongoing need?" – John Reed, SSAFA
All ladies welcome.

Thursday Fellowship

We hold a Fellowship meeting via Skype every Thursday 2.30pm–3.30pm – an opportunity to meet with fellow Christians 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 

Swanmore Methodist Church

Picnic in the park

In August Swanmore Methodist children made the most of a sunny “staycation” day with a picnic, fun and games afternoon on Swanmore Recreation Ground. In all, 40 people came along with ages ranging from a baby to a 90-year old. Youngsters who had belonged to the “Buggies and Brunch” mornings were invited by Mavis Daniels who organised the afternoon.

The afternoon started with a few games and we were honoured to have not only our Community Safety Officer, Gary, with us but also our Police Community Support Officer, Sarah, who appeared with a police vehicle. Sarah showed the youngsters the inside and outside of the vary large



police truck and explained that in our rural area everyone can help to keep our countryside safe by looking out for anything unusual happening when we are out enjoying our beautiful local area.

The children really enjoyed being allowed to sit in the vehicle and we are grateful to our PCSO and CSO for their engagement with the young people.

Next, the young people went on a bug hunt led by experienced countryside ranger Marcus Charig. Lots of grasshoppers were caught in Marsh’s Meadows.

We also found a young leopard slug, a hoverfly, a “daddy-long-legs” crane fly, leaf hoppers, and in one corner of the meadows a large female “wasp” spider. We briefly shared our finds at the end, learned a bit about each one, then returned them to their habitats.

Thank you Marcus.

Another attraction was ventriloquist John Gray with his friend Jimmy. John and cheeky Jimmy brought a Christian message to us all.

There were cakes, drinks and other delicious treats for the children who, as tradition dictates, sat on picnic rugs. To close, Vanessa Pearce with her guitar, led the singing in a “*Sound of Music*” finale to the afternoon.

Martin Letts

Above left: Having fun at the picnic.

Left: PCSO Sarah McCulloch explains the importance of keeping watch in the countryside. Below The wasp spider spotted in Marsh’s Meadows



Remembrance Sunday Poppy knitters still needed

With Remembrance Sunday now only weeks away there is still time to make those knitted or crocheted poppies to hang in a tree (or two if we have many) to commemorate.

You can be as creative as you want but they need to be about 4 inches wide and have two woollen ties at the back please of at least 5–6 inches long. They will be placed in the churchyard about a week before so that you’ll be able to view them.

A collection box is now in the Link at the church for any to be dropped off and we will continue to collect any finished poppies until the end of October.

There are many free patterns online but we shared a knitted one in the last issue (still available on the St Barnabas website if you missed it). We look forward to seeing your contributions!

Wendy and Derrinda – St Barnabas Church 01489 878220



St Barnabas The Christmas tree festival is back

The event this year will run from 10th December to 8th January with organisations, groups, streets (could you compete against Crofton Way and Orchardlea?) and individuals all welcome to enter.

This year’s theme is “Christmas carols” and potential participants should email lou.hurley@gmail.com if they’d like to join the festival. Please include your name and your tree theme so that spaces can be allocated.

We hope you will join us for this “tree-mendous” event!

*Bauble and Tinsel
(Louise and Dinah)*

St Barnabas Come to the Sunday Club light party

Sunday Club is holding a Light Party for children aged 3-11 years old (books and toys will be available for any under 3s) on Sunday 31st October from 4pm to 6pm in St. Barnabas Church, Swanmore



Our theme this year is "Pirates", please come along in fancy dress and enjoy music, craft, games and a party tea.

Entry is free, but you will need ticket which will be available at Barnaby's Coffee Shop from mid-October.



On Sunday 5th December Sunday Club will also be holding a Toy Service at 10am St Barnabas in aid of The Roberts Centre in Portsmouth. A special guest will be Robert the Bear.

Please bring along any good quality second-hand or new toys you have. The Roberts Centre has also asked for children's clothes – especially coats, hats, gloves and scarfs. Tea and cake will be served after the service.

Ben Armstrong

Last call for confirmation

Calling all potential Confirmation candidates: if you are in Year 7 or above or are an adult and would like to think about being confirmed, we will be running some preparation sessions leading to a Confirmation Service on either Saturday 6th or 20th November at the Cathedral. Please contact Nick or Hazel Whitehead (01489 895327).

Baptisms

Freddie Swales was baptised on Sunday 18th September at St Barnabas and Isla Rose Simmons will be baptised on 17th October.

If you are thinking about having your child baptised, we are open for enquiries. Talk to Nick or Hazel Whitehead.

Barnaby's classic cars

All sorts of motors

Barnaby's Classic Car events drew plenty of interested "petrol-heads" during the summer who enjoyed gathering around engines and discussing the finer points of motoring.

Pictures by Bert Ferrone.



Swanmore brides

A time for weddings

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions those endlessly delayed weddings are able to take place and St Barnabas' bell-ringers have been back in action to celebrate.

On 11th August Claire Lloyd married Paul Eathorne, pictured

below also with Claire's son Jack, and on 20th August Hollie Branson married fellow Royal Marine musician Sam Firth. Congratulations to them all. There'll be another wedding at St Barnabas on 28th October when Jamie Faulds marries Sarah Martin.



Swanmore Mothers' Union

Lovely garden party weather – and talks to come

In August we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day to hold our annual afternoon tea in a member's garden. Thank you Nick and Juliet for letting us share your lovely garden. The photographs show our ladies enjoying their cake and having a good old natter, as it is the first time in about 18 months that we have been able to meet.

In September we began with a very brief AGM, as let's face it, not a lot happened in 2020 for our branch of the Mothers' Union. All committee members decided to stay on, which was great.

Then we had a talk, carried over from last year, entitled "What I have hanging on my wall". What a selection of photos, pictures and other items we had. Thank you to everyone who brought along something.

We are having a coffee morning in the Paterson Centre on Saturday 2nd October (Harvest weekend) from 10.00am until 12.00noon. We will be having our usual tables of books, plants and general all sorts etc. for you to spend your pennies on. Please come along and support us as this will be our first fund-raising event in over 18 months.

On October 19th, we shall be having a talk from one of our members, Anne Shotlander, all about Lord Shaftesbury. That, I'm sure, will be another great talk from Anne.

On 16th November we shall be having a talk about "Sponsoring a child abroad". That sounds like a really interesting topic.

Another date for your diaries is Tuesday 7th December when we shall be having our Deanery Mothers' Union Advent Service at St Barnabas, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm, with tea and a mince pie afterwards in the Paterson Centre. Please come along and enjoy singing carols with us.

Take care everyone and God bless

Allison Gurry
MU Secretary
Tel. 01489 895188



Annual Memorial Service

A time to remember

The Annual Memorial Service of thanks for the lives of loved ones will be held this year on Sunday 7th November at St Barnabas Church. Candles will be lit for the people remembered during the service by name. The event starts at 4pm with tea and cake at the Paterson Centre and moves to the church at around 5pm for the service. All are welcome

To have someone remembered by name, please either email office@stbarnabas.org.uk using "Annual Memorial Service" in the subject box and giving the names of those you would like remembered; or drop a note into the box in the Paterson Centre (available from 1st October).

Church flowers

Please come to our coffee morning

St Barnabas's flower arrangers are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 13th November to raise funds to finance the floral decorations planned for the church this Christmas.

There will be a "book and sundries" table, cake stall and raffle.

The coffee morning runs from 10.30am to 12noon.

Please support us!

Juliet Helbron



Community Art Project

Village heroes on show

In early September, Mayor Beary McBearface made a special guest appearance at the Paterson Centre to welcome more than 150 visitors to the Village Heroes community art exhibition.

The project matched local

artists (aspiring, amateur and professional) to nominated individuals to create a portrait of the village heroes who supported their



community during the worst of the pandemic.

With support from the Swanmore Art Group and interest from almost 200 members to the project's Facebook page, more than 30 local artists and residents nominated and created 40 fabulous portraits. Thank you to every one of you!

Each portrait is an expression of gratitude for the people who made village life just a little warmer, just a little more connected and a lot more human throughout the worst of the pandemic; whether it was delivering shopping for a neighbour, providing warm and nutritious home-cooked soup for the elderly, leading online activities for young children, or making

us smile with a well-dressed bear!

With thanks to Swanmore Parish Council for helping to make the exhibition possible.

Above far left: Beary McBearface at the show. Left: Visitors enjoyed identifying friends.



Tidy-up Group

Making a difference

The Village Centre Tidy-up Group, co-ordinated by David Street, has been trimming back weedy edges and generally improving the appearance of Swanmore in recent months – as these before and after photographs by Berty Ferrone testify.

David also co-ordinates the village's "litter pickers" so if you'd like to help with either contact David at david@streetfamily.org.uk.

Guides

Making new plans

The summer holiday has seen groups of Guides and Rangers from Swanmore and the wider Meon Valley Division complete their practice and assessed expeditions for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.

The expedition is one of four sections that young people need to complete as part of the Award and after a couple of false starts due to covid isolation the girls did an amazing job showing the assessors their proficiency in navigation, team spirit and endurance. Well done all!!

We are looking forward to a varied programme this term including a beach walk and bbq, first aid, community service, dark games, skills builder activities, trips out and gift making leading up to Christmas.

We do however have a problem with storage, particularly with our camp gear. We are being asked to vacate our current camp store and have nowhere to move to!! If anyone has a spare garage/outbuilding or land that could house a small container we would be very grateful. Due to the nature of what would be contained within we would not be accessing it very regularly. Our current kit is in a store approx. 6m x 2m x 3m. If anyone is able to help we would be very grateful to hear from you – thank you!

Sarah Woodman

swanmore-guides@hotmail.com

SADS

Treading the boards again

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, Swanmore's "am-dram" enthusiasts are finally able to take to the stage again with a suitably

seasonal spectacular: "*Comedy at Christmas – a mix of music and merriment*" which will be at the Village Hall from Thursday 2nd December to

Saturday 4th December. with curtain up at 7.30pm each night. The show has an advisory age of 11years+.

Tickets, £10 each, will be on sale from 6th November at www.ticketsource.co.uk/swanmoredrama and also at Barnaby's Coffee Shop on Saturdays – also from 6th November – between 10am and 12noon.

For more information call 01489 893639 or 01489 894955.



Glendale street party

Cakes, cream scones and prize-winning sunflowers

Following on from the success of our 75th Anniversary of VE Day socially-distanced street party last year, the residents of Glendale decided they'd like another street party on August Bank Holiday Monday this year.

It was lovely that we didn't need to be as socially-distanced as we were last year and the weather stayed fine (though a bit warmer would have been nice!) so a very sociable afternoon was had by all.

Not needing to socially-distance on our own drives as in 2020, we congregated on Heather and Howard's front lawn (number 5), decorated with bunting with much help from Maria (number 16). More than 30 of us met up there with several children and two dogs, our picnics and drinks.

This included current residents, such as Mavis and Colin (number 1) and Michael (number 17) who have lived in Glendale since it was built in 1970-71, as well as some past residents and friends, with ages ranging from toddlers to over-80s. It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to get to know newer residents.

Mavis very kindly made delicious strawberry cream scones for everyone; these were a gift from Mavis and Colin to Glendale residents to celebrate the 50 years that they have lived here and the friendship they have experienced over the years. Evelyn (number 8) made some lovely

decorated cupcakes which were very popular with the children!

Sarah (3 Glendale) and Maria have been busy for much of the year growing many wonderful plants in aid of Dementia UK (which also includes Admiral Nurses) and the Alzheimer's Society. Mavis has had several sales of her delicious cakes and scones and Chris (3 Glendale) made some ingenious bug boxes. At the street party they announced that the total resulting donations from residents is now £835 – far in excess of the £500 they had originally hoped to raise!

Sarah and Maria had also organised the Glendale Sunflower Competition, and Sarah announced the results at the street party. The newest children in the road, Penny and Dominic (15 Glendale), won the children's sunflower trophy and prize and Heather and Howard were given beautiful flowers and a trophy for their "triffid" which won the grown-ups' competition. Chris made the brilliant trophies.

The afternoon ended with Nick and Juliet (14 Glendale) very kindly opening their beautiful garden to all. Their quiz/treasure hunt for younger children was especially popular with participants going round at least three times!

We're hoping that the plant and cake sales, sunflower competition and Glendale Street Party become annual events; it is wonderful that something

as good as this has emerged from the covid lockdowns.

Heather Short



Glendale residents enjoying their "street party".

Lunch Club

We really do need your help!

Could anyone spare a couple of hours on one or two Wednesdays each month, on a rota basis, to help at the Lunch Club for Swanmore's senior citizens?

It would be from 11.30am until 1.30pm at the Paterson Centre.

You'll be part of a team of people who sell raffle tickets, lay tables, help serve the meals, eat, clear up and wash up – there's an efficient dishwasher!

We also need one or two people on a rota basis to put out tables and chairs at 11am, and then at 1.30pm to put them away again.

If you are able to help please ring Ann Warrington on 01329 510667.

Thank you.

Pam Manson

Swanmore Twinning Join the new quiz night

Now that restrictions have been lifted, Swanmore Twinning Association would like to invite teams of eight to join us at the Paterson Centre on Saturday, 13th November at 7.30pm for our "nearly" annual autumn quiz.

Cost is £12.50 per person which includes a fish and chip supper (veggie option available), bring your own drinks. Numbers are limited so get in quick. Contact Lorna on 01489 896031 or 07963 809888 or email: lornajneill@hotmail.com to register your team.

Lorna Neill

Royal British Legion Another coffee morning for you!

After an 18 month break, the Swanmore branch of the RBL Women's Section will again be holding one of its popular coffee mornings complete with raffle, cake stall, plant sale and bric-a-brac on Saturday 20th November from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Please do come and support this very worthwhile cause.

BBQ in the Park

Fun for all on a sunny September Saturday

Saturday the 11th September saw the Meon Valley Lions Club make the most of the beautiful weather when they put on a splendid afternoon for the people of Swanmore.

A BBQ in the Park with free entry, food, fun stalls for the youngsters; what more could we ask for? To top it off *The Rising Sun* provided chilled drinks to enjoy in the warm sunshine and the delicious burgers came from Westland's Farm.

The post lockdown BBQ was

primarily run as a reminder that although lockdown was a challenge for fundraising, the Lions have been and are still supporting those that require their assistance. The funds raised at the event will be awarded locally to people and organisations who are in need of their support.

Although I arrived towards the end of the afternoon there was plenty going on and people waiting to try their luck at the stalls.

Peter Mason



Children having fun and a crowded Recreation Ground at the BBQ.



In memoriam

Remembering Colin Mort

Many readers will be sorry to learn of the death of Colin Mort. His wife was the Revd Marion Mort who was a minister at St Barnabas and the Meon Valley circuit. Marion died a few years ago after a lifetime working in the church in a range of roles.

Colin spent his early life out in India where his father was a colonel in the British Army. On their return to the UK he was stationed in Scotland. Colin attended Framlingham School for some years where he excelled in science and engineering subjects. Therefore it was no surprise that he was offered a graduate apprenticeship with Rolls Royce in Derby. He attended Edinburgh University graduating in electrical engineering.

It was whilst at university that he met Marion. They soon married and lived in Derby before moving south to

London when Colin obtained a job with IBM. Later he transferred to IBM in Hampshire and they bought Rivendale in Shirrell Heath.

In addition to his engineering skills Colin was an accomplished musician, especially on the harmonica, winning the national championship. He entertained many of us with his performances at concerts in St Barnabas. He also sung in the choir at St John's Shedfield and West End Choral.

I was privileged to know Colin by sharing our engineering skills in building his 1930s Rover Tourer. This included the basic chassis, rebuilding the back differential axle, braking systems and body work.

Colin and Marion were a devoted couple. When Marion died he lost the love of his life and rock. He carried on at Rivendale but the burden of a large

garden and extensive outbuildings were too much for him to cope with. This together with the effect of losing Marion weighed down on him and he began to develop Alzheimer's. Sensibly he decided to move to Devon and live close to his daughter Sally.

Sadly he passed away on the 13th August and a thanksgiving service was held at St John's Shedfield on the 25th August. His children (Sally, Laurie and Frankie) played a part in the service which was conducted by Stephen Campion and an address on Colin's life was given by his lifelong friend Adrian Mitchell.

Colin was buried next to Marion in Shedfield Cemetery, close to the church. They both contributed to society and enriched our lives; they will be sadly missed.

Crawford Wright

Swanmore Society

A successful “reopening” and more talks to look forward to

It is very pleasing to report that the Swanmore Society successfully held its “reopening” meeting on 8th September. However, as members will already be aware, there has been a significant change to our previously announced plans... With the Methodist Hall now not available until the new year, we have temporarily relocated our meetings to the Paterson Centre, up to and including the 2021/2022 AGM in March 2022.

Duncan Colin-Jones’s educational and entertaining talk on Admiral Sir George Anson, Baron Soberton was well-received by an appreciative audience of members and visitors. As



Sir George Anson by Joshua Reynolds, 1755.

a “second son” born in 1697, a naval career was preordained for Anson, who proved himself highly capable.

Striking gold

A good part of Duncan’s talk focussed on the period from 1740 to 1744, when Anson was in command of a squadron tasked with “annoying the Spanish”! During this time, the small fleet encountered terrible adversities, including the loss of some three-quarters of the original crew to scurvy and other diseases, but ultimately achieved its aim by capturing a Spanish treasure ship in the Pacific in 1743.

As a result, Anson made both his name and fortune (with which he bought the Manor of Soberton) and, incidentally, became only the seventh British commander to circumnavigate the globe.

However, the difficulties faced during this expedition left a deep impression on Anson such that, when he became First Lord of the Admiralty following later victories over the French, he initiated a series of reforms. Among them, he set up an investigation into the causes of scurvy, which led to its eventual prevention and much improved health for sailors.

Anson also established the Royal Marines, commissioned a programme of shipbuilding, and introduced regular cleaning of ships’ hulls and reviews of the dockyards. His legacy therefore contributed substantially to the supremacy of the Royal Navy during the



Hospitalised victims during the polio outbreak of the 1950s. During these epidemics entire wards were filled with polio sufferers locked into their “iron lungs”.

Napoleonic wars and the decades when Britain “ruled the waves”

Future meetings

Looking ahead, our next meeting on 13th October will start with a short AGM held over from March 2020, followed by a talk from Tim Mason on “The Polio Story”. Also known as infantile paralysis, this viral disease was considered a relatively rare childhood affliction for most of its long history before morphing into a worldwide scourge in the nineteenth century. Counter-intuitively, water supply and sanitation improvements in urban centres contributed to this deadly transformation, as Tim will explain.

He will also discuss changing attitudes to the treatment of polio victims over time and the development of the vaccination programme that has so successfully eradicated this disease in all but a few countries. All are welcome at the meeting but please note that only members will be eligible to vote during the AGM.

All about Portsmouth

On 10th November, Andrew Negus will entertain us with the first in a four-part series of talks entitled “Portsmouth – Harlots, Dung and Glory”. He will cover some 700 years of the city’s history from the establishment of the first, and rather boggy, settlement around 1100 through to its pre-eminent position as the world’s largest naval dockyards by the end of the eighteenth century. Along the way we will encounter several kings, the *Mary Rose*’ infamous Portsmouth Poles and lots more besides!

Our meetings start at 8.00pm and visitors are always most welcome. Until further notice, all meetings will be held with appropriate covid precautions in place. These currently include socially-distanced seating, ventilation and the provision of hand sanitiser. The wearing of face masks is optional but encouraged, particularly when moving about the hall, and a register of those present will be taken at the entrance. We hope that these measures will allow those attending to feel safe and enjoy the talks after such a long break. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Caroline Clapperton
Secretary 01489 891447*

Conservation Group

Counting the wildflowers and planning for more

Despite the lacklustre weather this summer the Conservation Area has had a good variety of flowers this year. The meadow areas have all been swamped with grasses but the unmown areas and hedgerows have been filled with a good variety of flowers so far.

Each year we do a survey of the wild flowers in the Conservation Area which includes Green's Wood. This year we counted 60 different species, the number has gone up by about eight over the last four years but whether that is because we are better at identifying wild flowers or because we have been in Swanmore more this year is unclear.

The wildflower meadow planted by a contractor on behalf of the Parish Council has struggled to get established although there was a wonderful display of cornflowers

before the grasses took over. Although the contractor originally sowed a mix of 22 annual and perennial flower seeds it is the grasses that have flourished. The perennials will take several years to get established and the cornflowers which are annuals may or may not reappear in future years.

I understand that the contractor visited the site in July and was disappointed with the way the meadow had developed this year. The seed mix was the same as that used for the wildflower meadow in Bishop's Waltham which is now quite well established.

The contractor explained that our soil is quite a fertile loam and combined with the wet and dull spring this has favoured the growth of the grasses. To help improve the flower growth for future years the grass will be cut and removed this autumn and 500g of yellow rattle seed will be planted. Hopefully the yellow rattle, a plant that is parasitic on grass, will weaken the grass growth next year



and into the future. The Conservation Group has agreed to plant this seed, this involves creating bare patches of earth within the meadow area before seeding them to give the yellow rattle a better chance of germinating.

Meanwhile, we have been working away keeping the paths clear for walkers and the brambles accessible for blackberry pickers. The edging boards to the paths take a lot of maintenance and we now plan to try using logs instead as we have a ready and free supply of those. Recently a tree fell onto the pond staging and a few of our members were able to spare some extra time to get this quickly and safely removed to allow safe access to the area.

We are lucky to have such a hard working group of volunteers and we are grateful that we have gained two volunteers recently to replace the two members who moved away.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month, weather permitting, at the hut by the kissing gate in Broad Lane not far from the pond. We start at 9.45am, stop for coffee at 11am and finish about 12noon. Please join us if you can, there is always plenty of work to do, we hope to start the replanting of the hut soon!

Our next two meetings are on 9th October and 13th November.

*Gill Sawyer
01489 894206*

Above: A noisy pond inhabitant.

Left: Mike & Philip hard at work clearing the tree that had fallen onto the pond before taking a well-earned rest. Pete helped too – but he took the photographs.



Swanmore Primary School

An exciting year ahead

We are all very excited to be back in school for a new year with the children as we would normally be. With the recent COVID-19 restrictions being lifted in primary schools, it is great to be able to work across the year groups as a community again.

One of the joys of a primary school is the way in which the children across the school can learn and play together. This has such a positive impact on Swanmore's ethos and culture as it builds such strong relationships between the children and helps them understand how to be a responsible member of a community.

As always, the summer holiday is a busy time developing the school in readiness for a new year. Mrs Cole our librarian has been brilliant, sharing her videos with families on our app to promote reading through the summer and Hampshire School Library Service's, Summer Reading Challenge. Mrs Hobbs has been so generous in supporting summer trips for families using the school's minibus.

Even with the challenges from last year, we have been fortunate enough to have support from FOSPS (Friends of Swanmore Primary School, PTA) to install new outside gym equipment and a new trim trail.

This addition will support the school's wellbeing agenda, helping

New outdoor equipment and learning spaces have been added during the summer.



the children's physical and mental development, just as we changed meal provider, to improve the quality of food and offer the Soil Association's Gold Level ingredients.

We have also been able to replace the Year R toilet block with new flooring, wall surfaces, sinks, toilets and cubicles ready for our new children starting this year. We are looking forward to our new children and families joining. The Year R team have been busy refreshing the outside learning area for them in readiness for them starting.

It has been great to welcome families back and as we settle back into the new academic year, we look to see how Swanmore school's values of honesty, charity and respect guide us in supporting children and families seeking refuge from Afghanistan. I know the children will have plans already!

John Paterson



Admiring the summer harvest – sunflower and carrots

Swanmore Pre-school Fund-raising plans

We would like to say a big welcome to all of our new families who joined us this September and welcome back to those returning. The children returned happily and excited to see some new climbing equipment along with our carrots and one sunflower that grew over the summer.

We have a few fundraising events planned for the coming year and will ensure these are featured through the village magazine.

A member of the staff team will be participating in the Great South run in October as a fundraising event for the Pre-school, this will be advertised on our Facebook page and the website with a link for donations.

If you would like to reserve a place for your child for the next academic year 2022/2023 please contact me on 893779 or email sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk

Sarah Hiscock

Things to celebrate in October and November

Over the next few weeks there'll be plenty of exciting times ahead as we head towards Christmas – as Sarah Chase points out.

There are many special days and festivals to celebrate and look forward to over the next two months.

Many you will have heard of such as Hallowe'en, the worldwide celebration of all



things spooky and scary; Guy Fawkes Night when the British celebrate the Gunpowder Plot conspirators failure to blow up the Houses of Parliament; and Remembrance Day when we

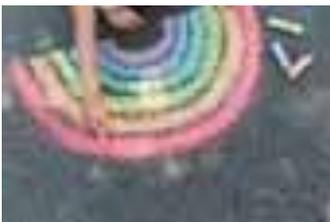
remember those members of the armed forces who gave their lives in conflict.



But did you know there are many more? Here is a selection that perhaps you might like to acknowledge this year too!

✳ **The Big Draw Festival 1st October to 31st October 2021**

The Big Draw is a month-long festival of drawing activities for young and old alike.



Sarah would always welcome additional items for "Kid's corner" from adults – or children!

✳ **World Space Week 4th October to 10th October 2021** celebrates the space science and technology this year focussing on women in space.

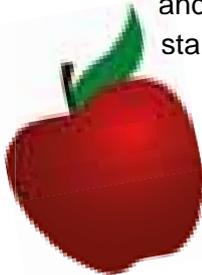


✳ **World Smile Day 5th October 2021**

A day started by the creator of the smiley, as a day which is dedicated to smiles and kind acts



✳ **Apple Day 21st October 2021** An annual celebration of apples and orchards which was started in 1990.



✳ **National Cat Day 29th October 2021** Cat day is the most popular holiday for cats that encourages adoption and breaks the internet with cuteness!



✳ **World Kindness Day 13th November 2021** A day to celebrate and promote kindness in all its forms.



✳ **World Hello Day 21st November 2021** Greet 10 people today!

✳ **Doctor Who Day 23rd November 2021** Wear a bow-tie or a long knitted scarf. Or just eat some jelly babies.



You can find out more about all of these special days on the internet. Which will you celebrate?





Improving the village

New dog waste bin

If you walk your dog in the field behind Swanmore Primary School, you will be pleased to know that we have installed a dog waste bin at the top of it, by Well Lane. Please use this bin and pick up after your dog.

New street light

We have installed a new street light on New Road, next to the start of the footpath leading to the village hall. We hope this light will improve safety in a well-used area of the village.



Improving the shady seating area at the bottom of Hampton Hill. Photographs by Bertie Ferrone.



New planters

To rejuvenate the bench area at the bottom of Hampton Hill, we have installed some bespoke planters and frames to allow the area to benefit from some colour.

Recreation area improvements

Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on how we can improve our three recreation areas: New Road Playing Field, Broad Lane Recreation Ground and Medicott Way.

We are now putting plans together to upgrade these areas over the next three years.

This will include additional seating, new equipment, a pump track to replace the BMX track and some much-needed public toilets at Broad Lane Recreation Ground.

We shall share detailed plans with the village as we go.

Hitting the cold spots service

In preparation for the colder months, the Environment Centre in partnership with Hampshire County Council is asking you to refer or signpost

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.

vulnerable residents in our community, who may be elderly, on a low income or have chronic health conditions and disabilities, for advice and support regarding:

- Broken heating
- Insulation,
- Saving money on energy bills
- Funding for home improvements and energy discount opportunities
- Staying warm and well in your home

by using the Environment Centre's Freephone advice line (0800 804 8601) or email: staywarm@environmentcentre.com

Swanmore Parish Council Meeting Dates

12th October	Planning & Highways
19th October	Open Spaces & Amenities
26th October	Finance
9th November	Planning & Highways
16th November	Open Spaces & Amenities
23rd November	Finance
30th November	Full Council

Meetings generally start at 7pm and are currently held in the Parish Office with the agenda posted on the village noticeboards and Parish Council website a few days beforehand. All meetings are open to members of the public.

Please email Tracey Molloy at clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk if you need more information about attending.

Hitting the Cold Spots Helping you stay warm



- Cold home?
- Expensive bills?
- Broken boiler?
- Mould problems?
- Confusing heating controls?

Get help with staying warm and well from Hitting the Cold Spots

Contact us:

T: **0800 804 8601** Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm
E: staywarm@environmentcentre.com
W: www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots

The advice line is open to all Hampshire residents. Some services have slightly extra. Our advisors can discuss the best possible solution for you. This information may be available in an alternative format upon request. Telephone: **0300 555 1388**

Buglife

A season of the long-legged

Late summer to autumn is the time when small long-legged creatures become more apparent as they roam the house and garden.

They have been around all along, of course, but their smaller size and different life-cycle stages earlier in the year make them more discrete and less noticeable.

The term “daddy-long-legs” means different things to different people. To some it refers to crane flies. To others, particularly in North America, it refers to what are also known as harvestmen, eight-legged spider relatives. More recently the term has been used for cellar spiders in the UK.

Telling them apart is easily possible without close inspection. Crane flies are insects, with six legs, three main body parts and wings. Both harvestmen and cellar spiders are arachnids, with eight legs, but cellar spiders have two main body parts while harvestmen have only one. Leg numbers can vary however, as both crane flies and cellar spiders have a tendency to lose one or two. None of them is harmful to humans.

Females of the 300 or so UK

species of crane fly tend to have rather pointed abdomens, but these are for egg-laying, not stinging. They can be quite disconcerting as they blunder into you or into night lights, with their gangly legs and clumsy flight.

A few species have a bad reputation with farmers and gardeners, as their soil-dwelling leatherjacket larvae cause damage to roots of crops and garden plants. These are however, an important food source for a number of bird and bat species.

The 30 species of harvestmen in the UK can be found on vegetation or on the ground searching for food and mates, but their mouthparts, like cellar spiders, are not powerful enough to pierce human skin.

Cellar spiders are synanthropic, maturing in houses and garages from late summer, making straggly web lines in corners of rooms, which eventually hang down and catch unwary passers-by in the face. The spiders oscillate vigorously in their webs if you disturb them. Before you reach for the tickling stick or the vacuum cleaner however, do bear in mind that woodlice and large running house spiders are on their prey list.

Some people might prefer to leave a few hanging around!

Marcus Charig

1. *Pholcus phalangioides*, spider (female) with woodlouse prey.
2. *Phalangium opilio*, harvestman (male).
3. *Tipula paludosa*, crane fly (female).



In the hedgerows Time to reap autumn's fruitfulness

As we enter autumn – that “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” as Keats put it – flowers may be disappearing from our verges, but it is time to reap the hedgerow harvest instead.

As many will no doubt have discovered already, the blackberries are particularly good this year: plenty of them around in Swanmore’s field borders to make a great many pies or bramble jelly.

Hybridisation makes the taxonomy of brambles complicated but they are generally labelled as “*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate” – and the whole plant has been widely used in the past, not just the delicious fruits.

The root bark and leaves are rich in tannins which make their extracts highly astringent. Writing in 1597, John Gerard rather gruesomely described an extract of the leaves as suitable to “heal the eies that hang out” – which can be interpreted rather less unpleasantly as a remedy for piles. The astringency also makes extracts useful for diarrhoea and the dried fruits have been similarly used. In the 1930s Maud Grieve recommended infusing an ounce of dried leaves in a pint of boiling water to make an infusion and “taken cold” a cupful at a time as “a serviceable remedy for dysentery”.

Bramble jelly might be delicious on toast but back in the seventeenth century, its restorative properties were appreciated: it was believed to



improve a “feeble circulation” and lift the spirits. Blackberry wine was equally valued to combat “looseness of the bowels”.

Hawthorn berries (*Craetegus oxyacantha*) are also ready for gathering. Like many members of the rose family, hawthorn is astringent and will help stop bleeding; as such it was largely used as a remedy for diarrhoea and heavy menstrual bleeding. Taking a Doctrine of Signatures approach, old herbals also recommend the plant for drawing thorns and splinters. It has been used for centuries as a hedging plant to divide farms and fields and the name “haw” is actually an old word for a hedge – hence hedgethorn.

Hawthorn berries can be made into a jelly and used much like redcurrant jelly (although rather more tart) and both berries and flowers (gathered in the spring) are used by herbalists to treat high blood pressure. It’s a comparatively recent use – hypertension as a medical entity really only came into being in 1896 with the invention of the cuff-based sphygmomanometer – although old herbals do recommend it for “dropsy”, a swelling of soft tissues often associated with congestive heart failure.

As an astringent, it is also worth remembering that hawthorn infusions – like blackberry – can be used as a gargle for sore throats, a douche for vaginal discharges, and will be helpful for diarrhoea and other digestive upsets.

Left: Blackberries.

Below: Hawthorn fruits.



H&IOWWT

The secret life of our smallest mammals – harvest mice

Rodents are a key component of many healthy ecosystems, such as grasslands and woodlands. They provide food for lots of species from birds of prey to larger mammals. Rodents often produce lots of young every year, so must have ample food available for them – usually seeds, fruit and small insects. When rodent populations dip there are knock-on effects across the habitat.

There are 14 species of rodent commonly found in Britain, including rats, squirrels, mice, voles and more recently the beaver. One of the least familiar of these is the harvest mouse, Britain’s smallest rodent.

Harvest mice are not especially fussy, they are happy anywhere there are ample stems for them to clamber up, very rarely descending to the ground if they can avoid it. They are tiny, around 6cm/2.4ins long, with a tail close to the same length. The tail is used to help with balance and climbing. They react quickly to disturbance, disappearing into the vegetation in response to noises.

Harvest mice are thought to be fairly widespread but are very difficult to find. Their presence is mostly picked up by the signs they leave behind – notably their intricate nests, woven from grass and leaves within dense vegetation and at least 10cm/4ins above ground.!

Harvest mice adapted to farmed habitats by creating their nests in crop fields such as wheat and barley, but modern combine harvesters have caused a new threat. When fields were hand-cut, the mice could easily run to the safety of field margins, but modern machinery does not give them the time to escape.

They also build their nests and live in verges, reed beds and grassy hedges. These habitats have been lost in many areas as green spaces are developed and wetlands drained.

Recent studies have helped shine a light on this elusive mammal, but more must be done to protect the harvest mouse.

They seem to be able to respond quickly to changes in habitat, as long as the habitat is connected to others and buffer zones are present between developments and their living space. Reintroductions can work well, as the mice are relatively easy to breed, and once conservation efforts are in place they seem to breed and colonise the reintroduction area quickly.

The more we learn about marginal habitats like road verges and field edges, the more they are shown to be important for all sorts of wildlife, including our smallest rodent.

Claire Thorpe
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust



Harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) © Natalie Rogers

Village walks

Across the fields to Bishop's Waltham

A circular walk from Swanmore across the fields to Bishop's Waltham. Approx. 8.7km/5.4miles. Time: 2 hours

As winter approaches sturdy shoes and even a walking pole will help traverse some of the muddier paths. After all, Swanmore was once Swanmere. Mere is an old word for a pond so Swanmore is named after a swan pond and you can expect mud and wet in places even if the swans are absent!

There are a few ways to walk to Bishop's Waltham but I've always felt this one of the most scenic and interesting with far reaching views across fields and valleys. You can walk this route in either direction but steps are often more welcome when going down and the shorter route back even more welcome!

There are several places of interest you may wish to visit when you reach there, including St Peter's Church and the Palace ruins, so do allow extra time for visits and a cuppa in one of the many cafés in the High Street!

There are also a couple of tracks to avoid in case you are tempted from the route!

Start.

1. Take the footpath opposite St Barnabas' church to go alongside the school, through the metal kissing gate and into the large field. Go straight ahead towards the middle, where you turn left to go through the metal kissing gate on the left side boundary. Follow the enclosed footpath onto Hampton Hill turn right and after two or three minutes you turn left over a stile at the side of Walnut Cottage. Keep to the left, passing the old Quaker burial ground, to cross the stile in the corner into Jervis Court Lane and turn left. (If you're tempted to continue along Jervis Court Lane here, it often becomes impassable in winter and is quite dull between the

hedgerows). Passing the farm entrance turn right through the metal kissing gate to cross the field to two further metal kissing gates. There are sometimes cows in this field so keep any dogs with you under close control.

- 2. In front of the gate leading straight ahead turn immediately left to walk along the side of the cow field to the end of the stock wire fence. (There is also a worn path on the other side of the fence.) Pass through the metal kissing gate and go straight ahead with the hedge on your right to the end, turning left into the next field. Go along the edge of the field for a few minutes until you see a diagonal path across the field on your right which takes you back onto Jervis Court Lane. Turn right along the track for six or seven minutes passing Meadow View house on your right, ignoring the track alongside the house and take the next right lane (opposite a lane on your left).
- 3. Follow the lane to the end which bears right where it meets a field. Turn left to cross the large open



fields to the trees. As you top the slight rise, do turn around to admire the view towards the Solent while overhead you will often see small light aircraft from the nearby Upham air field. On entering the trees you descend 55 steps to a track where you turn left. Follow the track as it goes uphill and through a wooden kissing gate where a small green sign welcomes you to Dundridge. Follow the path to reach a wooden seat to sit awhile and admire the most lovely views across the valley. Continue on to another seat, where the main footpath swings uphill in front of it. Ignore this, passing right of the seat and go straight on through a narrow meadow and through a wooden kissing gate into another meadow. Carry on through the meadows until you reach the trees and a display board on your left for Beechen Copse.

4. Go through the kissing gate into the copse following the path along a wooden rail fence protecting the path from a steep drop on your right. Follow along down some steps to pass through a small wooden gate keeping to the fence and down hill until you reach a large metal field gate in front of you. Go through the gate turning left onto the wide footpath and carry on this until you meet the road— Free Street.
5. Cross the road turning left along the pavement in front of a large white/cream house. After a few minutes turn right into Maypole Green and into St Peter's churchyard through the wrought iron gates. As you enter the churchyard there are one if not two tulip trees and a liquidamber which is beautiful in Autumn (American Gum tree). Pass the church and out through the gates



into St Peter's Street.

6. At the end of this pretty little street, cross over the road into the street opposite, with "Just in Case" on the left corner. This narrow street runs behind the main shopping street where there are plentiful cafes to have a welcome cuppa. Just pop through one of the alleys between the two. Continue to the end of the street and cross over to The Crown Inn, the charming 16th century coaching inn where the captured French Admiral Villeneuve was billeted after the Battle of Trafalgar. Turn left to walk around the corner to cross left over the road in front of the roundabout. Then turn right to cross over the road to the sign saying Coppice Hill and straight on up the Botley Road. Continue for a minute or two until you reach the end of the pavement and turn left onto the footpath up into a large field.
7. Follow the path ahead of you along the hedge through the fields eventually reaching a metal kissing

gate and a stream beyond it, coming from the Moors, a source of the River Hamble. Cross the bridge into the next field going straight ahead to the next bridge you can see in the far distance. Go through the gate, over the bridge to follow the path out onto the road to emerge opposite the Anatolian Turkish restaurant. Cross the road and turn left here along the pavement back towards Bishops Waltham. After 5 mins turn right into Paradise Lane. (Don't be tempted by the footpath from the field exiting opposite Paradise Lane unless travelling in the opposite direction, as it is lethal to cross the busy road there with no sight line to the right). Follow along Paradise Lane until you reach Spring Meadow and the footpath on your right. There is usually farm machinery parked opposite.

8. Turn right through the woods on the well worn path. This path can get very muddy but is not too long. Continue along a more open footpath out onto Lower Chase Road which you cross over into Broad Lane. Turn left over a small wooden bridge into Marsh's Meadows and with the bushes on your left head over to and go through the open field gate. Turn right onto the gravel path, through the wooden gate and turn left through another wooden gate into Green's Wood.
9. Go through the wood out onto the Swanmore Road where you turn right back to the church.



Above: St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham.

Left: the display board at Beechen Copse.

Lin Powell

Meon Valley Railway

Taking the slow train

Railway enthusiast Crawford Wright looks back to a time when the Meon Valley had its own railway – and Swanmore almost had its own line.

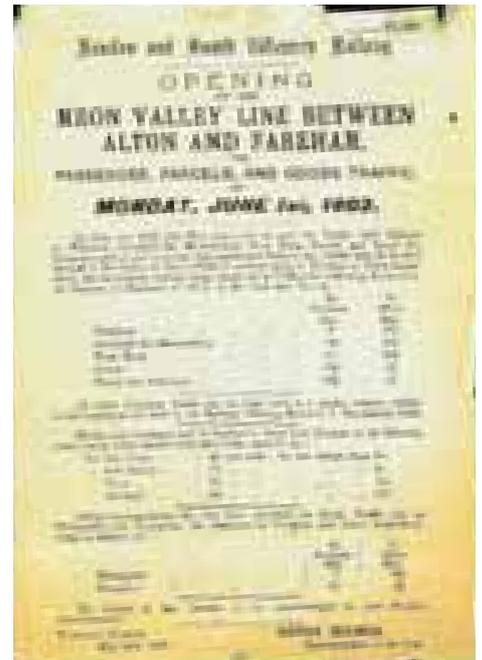
There were various railway schemes to improve links from the north of Hampshire (with access to Aldershot and London) and down to the south coast.

One scheme would have linked up Bishop's Waltham to Petersfield via Meonstoke. Eventually on the 3rd June 1897 the LSWR (London & South Western Railway) obtained *The South Western (Meon Valley) Act*. The chosen route being from Alton down the Meon Valley to Fareham as both were reasonable size market towns.

All the villages in between had relatively small populations and Droxford was in serious decline. Any goods rail traffic out of the area would have been agricultural whilst inward was mainly coal and livestock.

The intermediate stations were Farrington, Tisted, Privett, West Meon, Droxford (for Hambledon), and Wickham. In total some 298 acres of land were purchased. J C Garner was paid £7,500 for 23 acres. Although this was a country railway the construction was to be substantial with the line throughout and its infrastructure built to take two tracks, with significant stations at key locations.

Construction began in 1898, which was rather late in railway terms. This had the advantage that steam powered excavators could be used, although much of the work still required the picks and shovels of the navvies. The majority of the earthworks were through dry chalk,

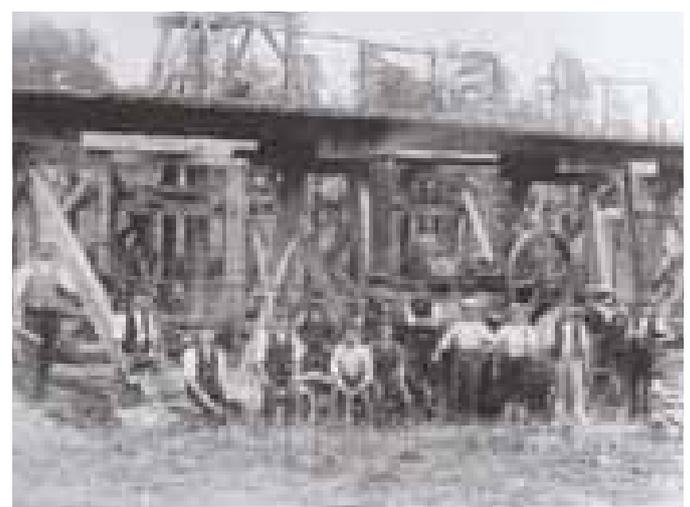


although there was a problem of supplying water for the steam excavator. The spoil from the cuttings and tunnels was used for the embankments.

There were a number of interesting civil engineering works including a large steel viaduct at West Meon, long tunnels at Privett and West Meon with a shorter one at Funtley under the ridge of chalk. The latter was commemorated by the *Miners Arms* public house.

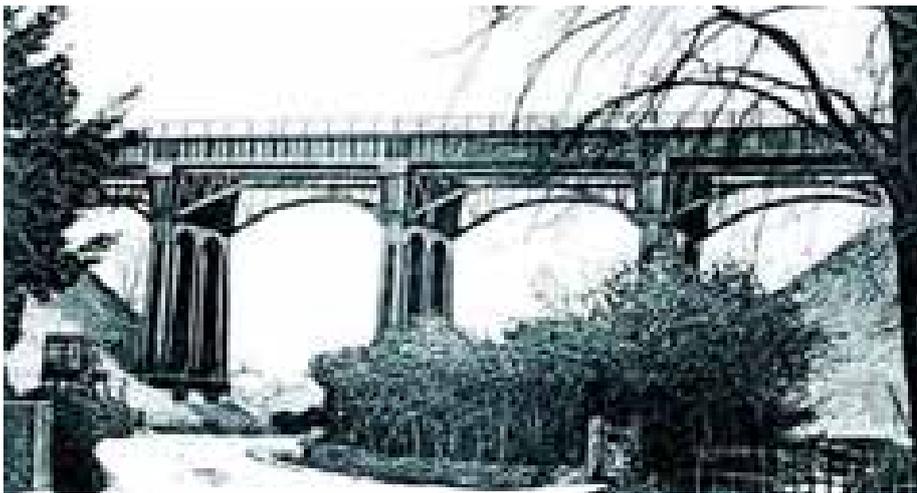
Accommodation for the navvies building the line and their families was provided by huts along the route. Hence the name "Meon Hut" where the A32 crosses with the A272.

Left: Cutting through the chalk, from Keith Robertson's seminal book on the railway. Below left: Wickham station staff in the 1900s. Below: Navvies building one of the bridges.





The West Meon steel viaduct as designed (left) and built (below) on the Petersfield Road. When the line closed it was sold for scrap and was demolished in 1957 by Thomas W Ward Ltd of London.



ground conditions a steel structure was used. The final tunnel was at Funtley into Fareham through the chalk ridge. Due to the difficult nature of the earthworks this tunnel did not open until 1907.

Although the line was built throughout to take a double track, only a single line was laid with passing places at all stations and goods yards.

Approximately 600 men were employed constructing the line, earning 6d (2.5p) per hour. In 1901 the *Railway Hotel* (later known as *The Hurdles*) opened just across the way from Droxford Station. This would have been convenient for those attending the races at Hambledon. It is now a private residence.

Stylish stations elsewhere

The station architect was Thomas Philipps (1858–1948). Each building was large and to a very high standard including Portland Stone and stained glass windows. The platforms were 600 feet long, sufficient for ten coach trains. The railway opened on Monday 1st of June 1903.

There were through trains of eight coaches from Waterloo to Gosport via the Meon Valley line, usually hauled by an express T9

Navvies had hard physical work and a reputation for brawling, often fuelled by drink. In July 1901 there were a number of accidents near Tisted. Arthur Hawking age 15 was crushed between two ballast wagons and at Privett a navy lost both his legs when run over by an engine. He was taken to Alton hospital by horse-drawn wagon but found to be dead on arrival.

A further accident occurred at night when two men were digging a shaft by candle light at Privett Tunnel when the earthworks collapsed on top of them. One man managed to dig himself out but his colleague died.

No trains for Swanmore

The estimated cost of the line was £399,500 and the contract was awarded to Robert T Relfe & Son. Included was the building of the five substantial stations at a total cost of £4,000. There was also Board of Trade approval for a railway line to be built from Bishop's Waltham through Swanmore, and Droxford to link with the Meon Valley line at Corhampton but it was never built.

The most substantial works were the tunnels at Privett and West Meon and the high viaduct at West Meon over the roadway to East Meon. This was originally to be of stone but due to



Left: The Railway Hotel, now The Hurdles, a private house. Below: Wickham Station shortly before closure in 1955.





Above: Original railway workers' cottages at Mislingford.

Left: Route map.

Below: The line's WW2 significance remembered on a Meon Trail information board.

running between Fareham and Alton, although "specials" to Droxford were run for horse racing at Hambledon.

After the war further economies were made by BR (British Railways) including the closing of signal boxes and station footbridges. The rapid increase in car ownership and the Beeching cuts brought about the end of passenger services.

The last passenger train ran on Saturday, 5th February 1955, although a pick-up goods train continued to run, serving the goods yards and usually operated by a class 700 engine. A special farewell enthusiasts' train was run from Waterloo and then on to Petersfield, Midhurst and Pulborough – all lines that had met the same fate as the Meon Valley. The track was removed, stations either sold off or demolished.

Today we are fortunate that Hampshire County Council purchased much of the southern section of the track bed for a public way. Those few stations that are left were turned into domestic accommodation. They originally cost less than £1,000 each to build but are today valued in excess of £1,000,000.

Crawford Wright.

Greyhound 4-4-0 engine or a Jubilee class 0-4-2. Special excursion trains ran on Sundays. Since few people owned cars the railway provided opportunities for employment in other areas including Alton, Fareham and Portsmouth for the dockyard. Agricultural produce including strawberries, milk and sugar beet could also be sent to markets further away including London.

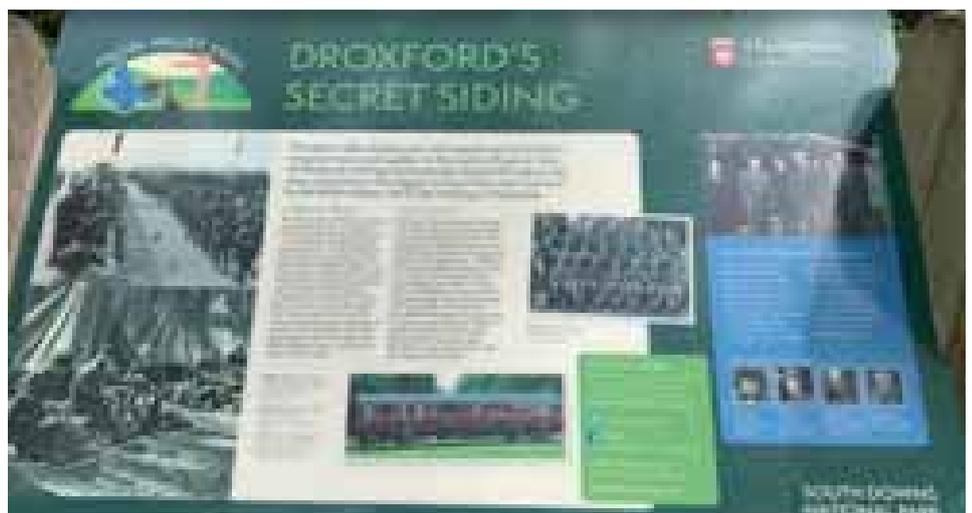
Gradual decline

At the outbreak of the First World War passenger services on the line were reduced in order for troop trains and their supplies to be carried to the coastal ports. A goods siding was provided at Mislingford for a timber company. Swanmore and Shedfield Councils petitioned the LSWR to provide a halt at Mislingford to serve their passengers but this was declined. The poor train service on the line was also raised in Parliament, but no improvements were made.

In the Second World War the line came into its own again providing a useful transit route especially to the ports of embarkation in the build up to D-Day. The most famous time was just

prior to D-day when Winston Churchill and key members of the government were stationed in a special train at Droxford. This was close to Southwark House (General Eisenhower's Headquarters) and ports of embarkation. They were protected by the local Home Guard and today a notice board commemorates this historic event.

After the war the rail service deteriorated further and all that was offered was a two coach push-pull train with an M7 class tank engine,



From our district councillors

Finding many ways to go green

It is difficult to believe that 18 months ago we would still be experiencing the trials of a pandemic called COVID-19, and yet here we are. Our children and grandchildren are going back to face-to-face teaching in our schools while, we as adults, are venturing back into the office.

Should we wear a face covering – often yes (but not always); should we wash our hands regularly, yes (always); should we socially distance (if we can)!

Travel is getting back to ‘normal’ – traffic jams (oh joy!) although there are many streets that have now become pedestrian or bicycles only.

Unfortunate glitches

Winchester Council continues to operate, although there have been “glitches”. We are receiving reports that the green waste collection is not always happening and others commenting that “waste electrical equipment” is also occasionally left at the doorstep. Two reasons: a general shortage of HGV drivers, and the impact of covid on the health of the crews.

Planning applications are still being dealt with, as are new licensing permissions. Fly-tipping is being removed as soon as possible. Delays are sometime due to fly-tipping being reported by Facebook rather than via

the council app or via your local District Councillors.

Climate change planning

Your council still has the climate emergency at the head of its agenda. Developers are being persuaded into building housing units that are as close to “carbon zero” as possible. There is a webpage on the Winchester CC site (www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy) with a click through to “What you can do to help”. It has various suggestions including “Warmer homes”, “Keeping your energy bills down”, advice from “Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)” and help available via the “Green Future Fund”. The page also refers to the “Winchester Green Week 2021” which was held in September.

Calculating your carbon footprint is a sobering exercise.

We are pleased to report that the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park is now “up and running”. The City website has a “Drone Video” under the news section. Unfortunately, the video was filmed about a month before the opening, but it does give a clear preview of what it is like.

Integration on the way

The Council Green Environment Agenda continues to develop via the closer integration of the landscape

team with that of planning. We are all looking forward two years or so when the fruits of this closer co-operation will begin to be seen in the many new developments around the district.

We are delighted to report that Robert Shield CBE of Bishop’s Waltham has been presented with the prestigious Millennium Egg Award as the “market town economy champion”. It is “Winchester’s equivalent to the ‘Lifetime Achievement Oscar’ for the local economy”.

A further COVID-19 grant programme has been launched across the district to support the local economy. The deadline for applications was Monday 27th September 2021 but still put in your application if you think that you should qualify. Details are to be found at www.winchester.gov.uk/business/winchester-business-bulletin.

We regret that there is no news about the proposed sand extraction, and landfill proposal just south of Waltham Chase on the B2177.

Nor is there any further information about the “dog walking fields” within the Ward. Some are concerned how the sites will be managed as regards “dog poo and noise”.

May we remind you all to try to keep the flashing lights, and noise down on 5th November. Domestic, and farm animals do not appreciate what we humans think is “fun”!

Cllr Frank Pearson



Don't forget about keeping animals safe on November 5th – and warn your neighbours if you plan a noisy party!

Our district councillors:

- ◆ Linda Gemmell 01489 895023 – lgdemmell@winchester.gov.uk;
- ◆ Frank Pearson 01489 892822 – fpearson@winchester.gov.uk;
- ◆ Vicki Weston 01329 835161 – vweston@winchester.gov.uk

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Join our talented juniors

The amazing photographs taken by Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society Juniors have been impressing club members and competition judges and a few are shown here.

Now we are back to being able to meet indoors, the Junior section will start having regular face-to-face meetings. Here they will learn the various skills required to take good photographs. This will be achieved by taking pictures of a particular activity and learning by practice both theory and techniques as they are doing so. Each month the activity will build to a specific goal taking three or four meetings to complete. At present we will be building up to taking pictures of

star trails and fireworks.

We aim to make the activities fun as well as learning about photography. There are three of us (myself, Dianne and Wendy) to provide guidance and help during these meetings.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30pm in The Stables – next to the parish offices in Free Street, Bishop's Waltham – except for November when we will be in St Peter's Church Hall next to the library, also in Free Street.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to learn more, please mail me at junior@bishopswalthamphoto.society.co.uk.

Peter Mason



Getting ready for a real-world exhibition

Planning is going ahead for our annual exhibition, which takes place at the United Free Church in Basingwell Street on 14th–16th October, from 9.30am to 5pm each day.

Meanwhile, our monthly club meetings continued online with the third round in the competition year which took place on 5th August. Providing the critique for the 32 images entered, Maria Leekblade, on a return visit to the society, complimented members by saying “many thanks for another lovely competition this evening, really gorgeous images – you have some exceptional photographers”. Members really appreciated her comments and approach to providing feedback on their images.

The final round takes place on 4th November and has the set theme of “Monochrome” it will be at this stage that the winners of the leagues will be decided – good luck to all.

Winners in our third round were:

- Primary League: 1st Louise Goslin with “Rosemary Beetle”; 2nd Sue Collingwood with “Leading Gracefully”; 3rd Will C with “Café Flowers”.
- Intermediate League: 1st Kevin Melsome with “Bluebell Dawn”; 2nd John Coote with “Sundowner”; 3rd Helen Thompson with “Dancing in Ice”.
- Advanced League: 1st Sarah Townley with “Green Fruit”; 2nd Helen Otton with “Here She Comes”; 3rd Phillippa Smith with “Amur Tiger”.

Although the last club meeting was via Zoom, a small number of members have been able to gather outdoors at local beauty spots for a couple of hours of photography and a



*Left: Giraffe by Alice,
Below left: Nature's
firework by Evie.
Below: Café flowers by
Will. Bottom: Through my
eyes by Hana.*





welcome catch-up. The last meet-up was at Meon Shore with the expectation of lovely evening light and a sunset – and we were not disappointed! What was really evident though was the obvious pleasure in having the opportunity to exchange news and any new techniques/skills learnt recently in a relaxed atmosphere. And, just as importantly for one member who joined over a year ago, it was an opportunity to “physically” meet fellow photographers from the society.

With the relaxation of covid restrictions the society’s junior section return to face-to-face sessions in The Stables meeting rooms. To date our junior section has shown itself to be a force to be reckoned with - their images entered into the Society’s in-house competitions showing well against the adult members of the primary league!

New members are always welcome at BWPS – for anyone interested in taking pictures, wanting to improve their skills and chat with like-minded people more information about the Society can be found on our website: www.bishopswalthamphoto.society.co.uk

Dawn Blight



*Pictured from the top:
Rosemary beetle by Louise Goslin,
Bluebell dawn by Kev Melsome and
Green fruit by Sarah Townley.*

Age Concern Help for carers

Carers provide unpaid practical and emotional support to a family member, friend or another person, who needs help to manage daily activities. Some people don’t realise they are carers, and simply think they are performing their role as a husband, wife, parent or friend. Caring for someone can be really tough, but there is help available:

■ **Hampshire County Council (HCC)** provides support for carers, as well as the cared-for person. You can ask for a Carers Assessment, which will assess what help HCC can offer. They will also tell you about other organisations and services which may be helpful to you. Call them on 0300 555 1386.

■ **Andover Mind – Carer Support and Dementia Advice Service** offers advice, information and support to all carers aged 18 and above, who provide care for an adult. Call them on 01264 332297.

■ **Carers Together** is a local charity offering support to carers. Their Listening Line, offering information, advice and support, is available 365 days a year, Monday-Friday: 10.00am-8.00pm and Bank Holidays & Weekends: 10.00am-4.00pm. Call them on 08000 323456.

■ **Princess Royal Trust for Carers** offer an Emergency Plan, giving you peace of mind, should you be unwell and unable to care for your loved one. In an emergency, up to 48 hours care may be available for the person you care for. Call them on 01264 835246.

Don’t forget to tell your GP that you are a carer. You can register your details with your GP surgery, so your notes show you are a carer and that your family member/friend/another person is a cared-for. This will help your GP be aware of your responsibilities and any potential impact of these responsibilities on your own health.

If you need more information you can contact Lorna, your local volunteer for Age Concern Hampshire on 07790 845944.

Lorna Neill

South Central Ambulance Charity

Joining the first responders – after saving a life

A former British Airways cabin crew member was inspired to volunteer for South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) after saving the life of his friend who collapsed during dinner.

Graham Langley, 63, from Bishop's Waltham, launched into action using emergency training from his 20-year flight career when 66-year-old Richard Lovegrove fell ill suddenly and lost consciousness on an evening in November last year.

Suspecting a cardiac arrest, Graham immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while other guests called 999. He continued this for ten minutes until the arrival of local Community First Responder (CFR) David Spackman, a trained volunteer for SCAS funded by South Central Ambulance Charity, arrived on scene.

David instructed Graham to continue with chest compressions while he set-up an automated external defibrillator (AED) and then delivered several shocks before paramedics and air ambulance doctors arrived to continue resuscitation and treatment.

Richard regained a pulse and was taken to the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth where he spent six days in a coma and almost eight weeks recovering before

returning home. He has made a near-complete recovery from his cardiac arrest but continues to suffer some memory loss as a result.

Realising he was capable under pressure and after seeing the CFR programme in action, Graham decided to join the service and is now a dedicated member of the team of volunteer responders that covers the Bishop's Waltham, Waltham Chase and Swanmore areas.

The Community First Responders are part of the South Central Ambulance Service – NHS Foundation Trust. They are volunteers who are trained to attend medical emergencies, providing both clinical care and reassurance until the arrival of an ambulance.

If you are interested in joining the Bishop's Waltham Community First Responders, please email us at info@sca-charity.org.uk or see our website www.scas.charity for more information.

The CFR programme is funded through voluntary donations and, if you would like to contribute, go to www.justgiving.com/scas

Graham Langley and Richard Lovegrove celebrating Richard's recovery



Meon Valley Lions Offering all sorts of help

Meon Valley Lions were finally able to meet – in reality not just on Zoom – in August to say a huge thank you to Eddy Barringer for keeping the club running during really difficult times and welcome Mike Edwards to his role of Club President *for the forthcoming year*.

A couple of recent referrals to the club show the importance of our organisation giving families the one-off help we typically provide. The first request was an elderly lady with just a cool box to keep food fresh, so a fridge-freezer was desperately needed. The second, a family in need of some bedding and help with a washing machine. After careful consideration and thanks to the support we get from the public, we were able to help both families and source the requested items.

Lions Clubs throughout the UK also collect unwanted and damaged spectacles, and Meon Valley Lions Club recently delivered around 3,000 pairs of spectacles to Chichester Lions Club.

Chichester Lions process tens of thousands of recycled spectacles each year. Sorted pairs may then be sent for grading and distribution by Medico France in Le Havre. Glasses are also sent directly to contacts running eye clinics in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria, and Nepal.

Carole Dash

Eddy Barringer and Michael Edwards MVLC past and new President.



Meon Valley U3A

Restarting small groups – and planning new ones

By the time you read this we shall have had our first two meetings at the Wickham Centre and will have welcomed current, previous, and new members back.

Meetings are held on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in the Houghton Room. Our annual fee is £12; meetings with member speakers are free to members and £1 for guest speakers. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting. The centre follows government advice on keeping the venue safe for visitors. Hand sanitiser will be available and masks are to be worn in communal areas. It is individual choice on wearing masks in the room itself.

The small groups have been meeting over the past 18 months by Zoom and email and are now able to meet in person, usually at members' homes. We have three reading groups, Egyptology, Strolling, Poetry and Art Appreciation. Geology should have restarted by now and the Nostalgia group is looking for a leader. We welcome suggestions for new groups, so if

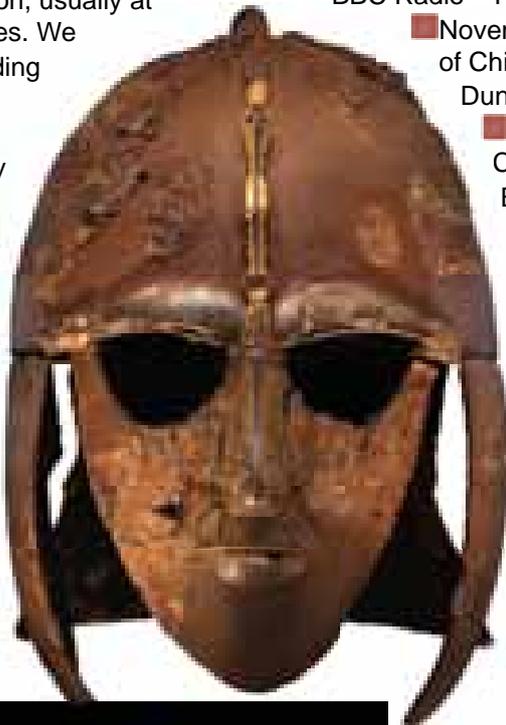
you are interested in a topic and would like to lead a group please let us know.

Other u3as have a wide range of groups – visiting museums and historic places, genealogy, birdwatching, bus outings, Scrabble to name a few. There must be something new we can add to our groups. Inevitably we have suffered loss of membership due to the disruption caused by covid but are determined to bounce back with a revitalised u3a.

If you would like to join us please contact the secretary.

Future 2021 meetings:

- October 5th Photography and Textiles – Ann Riches.
 - October 19th Sutton Hoo and the film *The Dig* – Dr Lyndon Palmer.
 - November 2nd Recollections of BBC Radio – Pam Gillard.
 - November 16th The History of Chichester Harbour – Duncan Colin-Jones.
 - November 30th South Coast from the Air – Brian Barrett.
 - December 14th Wildflower Hotspots – Carol Watson.
- General enquiries to: Betty Hiscock, Secretary 01489 894807, email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com
Website: u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley



The iconic helmet and ornate shoulder clasp found at Sutton Hoo which may have belonged to Raedwald King of the East Angles (d. 616/627). British Museum, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Can you give Home-Start a helping hand?

Home-Start desperately needs additional volunteers. The organisation is running a Volunteer Preparation Course in October and November which provides comprehensive training to help newcomers become a Home-Start home visiting volunteer.

After completing the course volunteers are matched by a co-ordinator to a family in need of practical and emotional support and after that they are asked to give two or three hours a week visiting one family. Volunteers are fully supported throughout training, and if they're a parent or grandparent they already have all that it takes to help others.

To find out more contact Helen via info@hshants.org.uk or telephone 0330124 2095

*Avril Dalrymple
Home-Start Hampshire*

St Wilfrid Join this year's Pilgrimage Trail

The Meon Valley Pilgrimage Trail is a 28-mile walk along the Meon that was planned in the early years of the millennium by Rev Jim Foley, rector of the Bridge parishes, as a suggested route which might have been taken by St Wilfrid, Bishop of York in the late seventh century as he travelled through the lands of the Meonwara tribe preaching Christianity.

The walk is divided into six stages, walked in successive years on the nearest Saturday to St Wilfrid's Day (12th October). This year, walkers will start the route again, walking from Titchfield Haven to St Peter's church in Titchfield. We will meet at the car park at the Haven at 10.45am in order to start the two-mile walk up the canal at 11.00am. There is a car park on the Stubbington Road near to the end of the walk.

The walk will be in support of Christian Aid and a collection will be made.

Further details from Robert Goulson (01329 832915)

Meon Valley Bowling Club

Historic achievement for the ladies

For the first time in our club's history our ladies have become champions of the Southampton and District Women's Bowling Association Rinks A league. In addition to winning this Premier League they have also qualified for the final of the Club Championship Competition. Our ladies Triples team finished the outdoor season in fifth position.

Our men have also performed well in achieving promotion to the Southampton and District Combination 1 Rinks league having finished as runners up in Division 2. Our division 3 team finished in a creditable fourth position and in the Championship Division 3 league our team just escaped relegation.

We were blessed with a sunny day on the 31st July for our President Bill Bailey's "President's Day". The dress code for the day was to wear something colourful and everyone rose to the challenge providing a kaleidoscope of colour across our bowling green. Our thanks to those who generously provided prizes for the raffle which raised a significant amount to be shared between Bill's two nominated charities (Naomi House "Jacks Place" and Macmillan Support).

Whilst Bowls England have recently published a report stating that the number of bowlers across the nation has drastically shrunk over the past 20 years we are pleased to report that our club has increased its membership by almost 25% this year

and our coaches have arranged a new event the "Graduation Bowl!" for our new members to play alongside some of our established bowlers.

September was a busy month with the finals of the club's internal competitions and our annual "Hens v Roosters" match to close what has been a very successful outdoor season.

John Gray

Left and below: Colourful outfits on President's Day made a change from the usual white.



Almost back to normal



Why not come along to the Bishop's Waltham branch of the WI ? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall on Free Street, next to the library. There is plenty of free parking. If you are new to the area and would like a new interest, why not give it a try?

During the last 18 months or so we were meeting by Zoom, but things are slowly getting back to normal and we had our first "real" meeting in August. It was great for everyone to catch up face to face. An excellent talk all about auctioneering. Unfortunately for me, I missed it as I was back home in Scotland attending my brother's wedding. It was third time lucky as it had already been postponed twice because of covid.

Our September meeting was a talk all about Mercy Ships and the great work they do to support some really desperate people. Operations that we take for granted, can really make such a difference to these poor people's lives.

On 19th October we will be having a very informative talk all about Fairtrade. I am sure like me, you will have bought items at the supermarket, to try and support the local farmers in third world countries, but do we really know the story of Fairtrade? I seem to remember the first Fairtrade item I bought was coffee at my church, but they supply lots of different items now including wine and chocolate. Why not come along and find out the true story and I am sure there will be goodies to buy too.

On 16th November we will be having a performance from the Solent Ukeladies, so that sounds like a fun evening. I have heard them perform before and they are really good and lots of fun.

We do normally have trips, picnics etc and we have some excellent speakers. I am sure we will soon be planning our trips and events for next year as things continue to open up.

Why not come along and make some new friends? You can always just come to check us out and see what fun we have?

*Allison Gurry, President
01489 89518*

Give and Take

Final stall to offers a miscellany

The last of Bishop Waltham's "Give and Take" events on Saturday 16th October is not focussing on a particular theme but will provide an opportunity to bring back to the stall some items that were previously donated for the earlier events over the summer, which were not taken then, but which we thought deserved a second chance.

Now is also your chance to bring any items you no longer have a need for, that you think may be able to be put to good use by someone else.

Over the months so many items have been donated – for which, many thanks – and lots of very happy people have left the stall with items for which they have found a use.

For health and safety reasons we will not be able to accept electrical items, food items or opened packages of non-food items

We will reserve the right not to accept items if we already have too many of certain categories of goods and/or we judge that we will be unable to accommodate them all on the stall.

Bishop's Waltham Town Team.

The second Give and Take Stall held in St George's Square, Bishop's Waltham in July 2021.



Dates for your diaries

2nd October	10.30am to 12noon, Coffee morning in aid Mothers' Union, Paterson Centre
3rd October	4pm tea, 5pm service – Harvest Praise, St Barnabas
5th October	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "Photography and Textiles" by Ann Riches
9th October	9.45am Conservation Group work party, Green's Wood
12th October	10.45am St Wilfrid's Day Meon Valley Pilgrimage walks, Titchfield Haven
13th October	8pm Swanmore Society, Paterson Centre "The Polio Story"
14th–16th October	9.30am to 5pm BW Photographic Society Annual Exhibition, United Free Church, Basingwell Street.
16th October	12noon to 4pm "Give and Take, St George's Square Bishop's Waltham
19th October	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "Sutton Hoo and the film <i>The Dig</i> " by Dr Lyndon Palmer
19th October	2.30pm Mothers' Union "Lord Shaftesbury"
19th October	7.30pm, WI "Fairtrade" St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham WI
27th October	2.15pm Waltham Chase Flower Club restarts. Waltham Chase Village Hal
29th October	Bishop's Waltham Museum – Pub Quiz night Swanmore Village Hall
31st October	4pm to 6pm Sunday Club Light Party. St Barnabas
2nd November	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "Recollections of BBC Radio" by Pam Gillard
7th November	4pm tea, 5pm service "Annual Memorial Service", St Barnabas
10th November	8pm Swanmore Society, Paterson Centre "Portsmouth – Harlots, dung and glory"
13th November	9.45-12noon Conservation Group work party, Green's Wood.
13th November	10.30am to 12noon, Coffee morning in aid of Christmas flowers, Paterson Centre
13th November	7.30pm Swanmore Twinning Association Autumn Quiz
16th November	2.30pm "Sponsoring a child abroad", Mothers' Union, Paterson Centre.
16th November	7.30pm, WI "Solent Ukeladies" St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham WI
16th November	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "The History of Chichester Harbour" by Duncan Colin-Jones
20th November	10.30am to 12noon, Coffee morning in aid Royal British Legion, Paterson Centre
30th November	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "South Coast from the Air" by Brian Barrett
2nd–4th December	7.30pm SADS "Comedy at Christmas", Village Hall
5th December	10am Sunday Club Toy Service, St Barnabas
7th December	1.30pm to 4.30pm Mothers' Union Advent Service, St Barnabas
14th December	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A "Wildflower Hotspots" by Carol Watson

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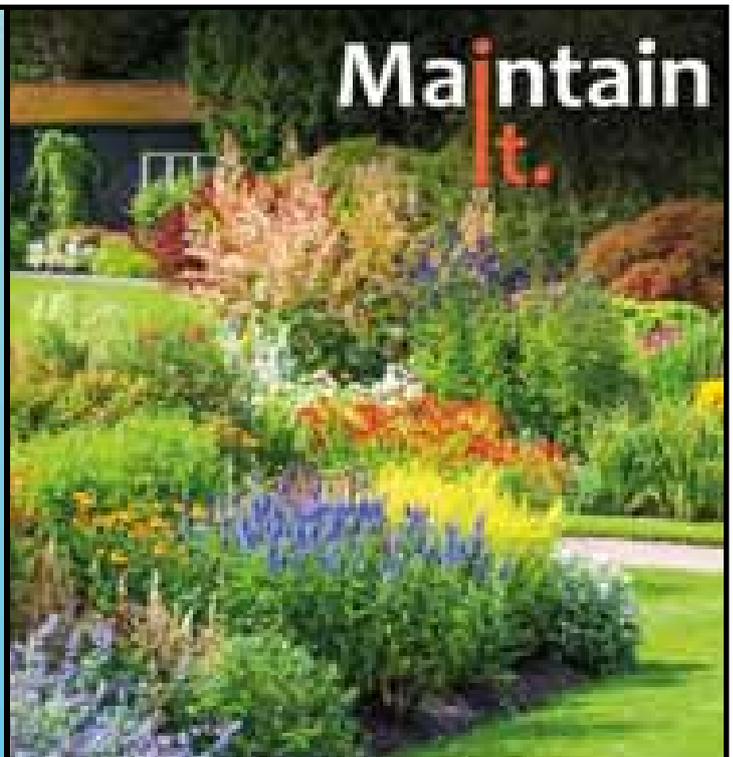
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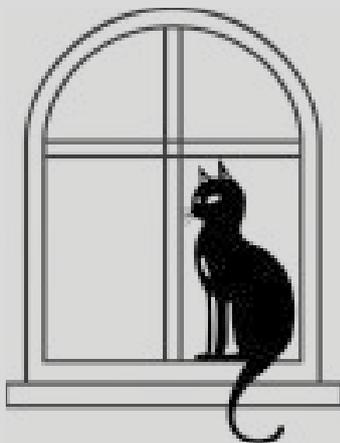
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