

The **Swanmore** *Link*

December 2021/January 2022



Christmas events
Village walks
The first headmaster
Parish Council plans



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The Swanmore Link

The Swanmore Link – which is free of charge to all residents – can be collected from The Link (between the church and the Paterson Centre) whenever it is open – generally between 9am and 5pm each day.

You are welcome to take additional copies for new neighbours or any in the village you know who may have difficulty collecting copies themselves.

If you are housebound or disabled and unable to collect your magazine then please contact Sue de Vere who can arrange delivery.

The magazine can also be posted to you at a cost of £10 p.a. to cover postage.

Alternatively, the magazine is available to read online at the St Barnabas website (<https://stbarnabas.org.uk/information-hub>). Please contact Gail Norris at the Parish Office (office@stbarnabas.org.uk) if you would like to be alerted by email when the online version is available.

**Advertisers are reminded that
your annual renewal response
is due by 3rd December for
entries in the six issues of *The
Swanmore Link* starting from
February/March 2022.**

**New advertisers are always
welcome.**

**Contact: John Austin on
01489 893409 or
j.austin830@talktalk.net**

Looking both ways at Christmas

Did you know that Janus, the two-headed Greek turtle, celebrated his 24th birthday during 2021? He may live for many more years thanks to the dedication of his carers. Because of his rare condition, he would have died young if left to fend for himself. Why this sudden interest in unusual wildlife? You may well ask!

It's because I've found it rather tricky writing an article which needs to encompass Christmas and all that goes with the end of 2021 – as well as New Year and all that is to come in 2022. It made me think of Janus, the Roman god, who had two faces looking in different directions and then I heard about the turtle...

So Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christians also look in two directions – backwards and forwards. We look back with thanks for all the blessings we've experienced; we look back to see who has gone before us and what they learned about life and God; we look back on the lives of our loved ones whom we no longer see and we read about the important events of the past that we find in scripture.

However, we don't stay in the past. Christians also look forward with hope and enthusiasm – not just to heaven, the last things and resurrected life with Christ (what we call eschatology) but to our life on earth this coming year and other years to come, however few or many they may be. Of course, it's quite easy to do that



Janus, the two-headed turtle, at home in Geneva.

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

when you are well fed, living in a comfortable home and not afraid of your neighbours. Harder if you are struggling with mental health, or are a victim of abuse, are homeless or hungry.

It's been a very odd year for everybody and there's much we'd like to forget. It's a year that has taught us life is fragile, that nothing is certain and that we are seriously dependent on certain commodities and those who deliver them.

Many of us will be making up for last year's disappointing Christmas and I hope yours is a jolly affair with friends and family from far and wide; but I hope, too, that you will find time to remember God and God's place in your life. Come and worship at one of the many services on offer in all the local churches and take stock. Come and ponder, wonder and listen to God.

And then it will be New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Epiphany – when the wise men from the East brought their most precious gifts to the baby Jesus. What will you be offering to the world next year? Every small act of kindness, every generous donation, every day in which you seek to be more Christ-like, every tiny prayer you utter – these will be your gifts to the community. Don't bother making a New Year's resolution to bring life to others. Just do it!

Revd Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead



**St Barnabas'
Crib Service
Christmas Eve at 5pm
Everybody welcome**

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

With good wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year from the stewards and members of Swanmore Methodist Church.

Sunday Services December and January

All services will commence at 10.30am unless indicated otherwise

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5th December | Revd. Phil Griffin – Holy Communion |
| 12th December | Stephen Freemantle |
| 19th December | Kathy Elvy |
| 19th December at 6pm | Candlelight Service |
| 26th December | Ron Morgan |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd January | To be arranged |
| 9th January | Revd. Phil Griffin* - Covenant Service and Holy Communion |

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 16th January | Peter Castle* |
| 23rd January | Revd. Nicky Gilbert* |
| 30th January | Grace Westerduin* |

* To be confirmed

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 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.

Christmas Day lunch

Regretfully, this year Swanmore Methodist Church is unable to provide a Christmas Day lunch for those who are on their own in Swanmore. It is hoped that a new team can come together and that this will resume in time for Christmas 2022. Please accept our apologies.

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

14th December at 7.30 – Carols and canapés.

Please bring along a Christmas decoration that has a special meaning for you and share that story.

11th January at 12.30 – Soup lunch.

Come along and enjoy a simple lunch together and hear Pat Morris's story of the 20 years that she has raised money for Friends of Teso.

Please advise Mavis Daniels – mavidaniels@talktalk.net – of your attendance at these meetings so she can make the necessary catering arrangements.

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>



Minister's letter Some Christmas thoughts

Here's a little pop quiz for you: what do Christmas jumpers, people-fatigue and carol services all have in common? The answer is: they are all things I have a lot of in December! Let me explain (and maybe even pull out something wholesome and useful as I do...).

Christmas jumpers. I got my first ever Christmas jumper about four years ago, having historically spurned them for being kitsch and frankly an offence against sensibility and eyesight. But since I spotted a slightly less kitsch one in a charity shop and succumbed to it, I've got something of a seasonal addiction to them now. I have two drawers in my room dedicated to them, and you'll probably spot me in a rich variety of them during advent.

The thing is, just like the heart of Christmas (which we'll get to in a minute), sometimes you have to be willing to take the plunge and get invested in something before you "get it" and realise an unexpected and wonderfully freeing joy.

People-fatigue. Now, this one may sound awful from someone in a people-focussed profession; but being a severe introvert, I find it very emotionally and psychologically draining to be around a lot of people for extended periods. After a while, I want nothing more than 48 hours with absolutely no human contact whatsoever – just a pile of books and a steady stream of tea. Of course, at Advent and Christmas that doesn't happen much.

There's a constant flow of extra services, visiting friends and family, and all the people-y activities that go on at this time of year. Seeing people is a good thing, though, in spite of my neuroses: Christmas is a time of sharing, giving and being with loved ones. Sometimes we think that that's all Christmas is about – in fact, it is probably the



Phil Griffin.

most popular answer to the question: "What's Christmas all about?". But is it really...?

Carol services. If there are two things that really make my Christmas, it's a carol service (bonus points for it being candlelit) and midnight Communion on Christmas night. I could go to 100 carol services and I would be happy.

Even if I had to sing *Away In A Manger* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful* in every one of them, I'd belt them out joyfully every time. Because *this* is what Christmas really is about: a baby in a manger; shepherds and magi and choirs of angels; God loving us enough to choose to physically be with us, giving Himself as the ultimate gift for you and me. Amid all the chintz and colour, in the joy (and stress) of seeing family and friends, let's make room for the Baby who was God. Let's make sure that Jesus is at the heart of Christmas this year.

God bless, and Merry Christmas to you all.

Revd Phil Griffin
Minister



St Barnabas

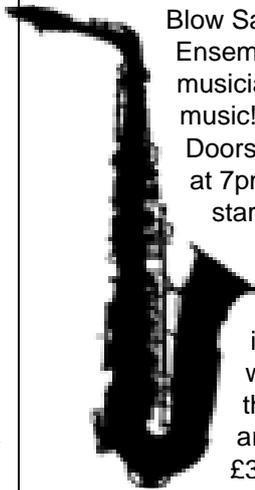
Social events restart

After a few false starts due to covid surges, St Barnabas will end 2021 in style with the popular Christmas Tree Festival, which runs from 10th December to 8th January, and the return of the Christmas Saxophone Concert on 11th December. It is hoped that 2022 will see a packed calendar, starting in January with a Family Bingo Night on the 15th January. February will see either a Quiz or Beer & Hymns on Saturday the 19th.

Christmas Saxophones

Concert on Saturday 11th December at St Barnabas featuring The Blow Saxophone Ensemble. Eight brilliant musicians play festive music!

Doors and cash bar open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7:45pm. Tea and coffee will also be available during the interval and the bar will stay open throughout. Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for under-16s and



are available from me – John Sharpe – (jsharpe2016@hotmail.com), Dave Lee (daveblowsax@gmail.com) or Rick Ankers (rick.ankers@gmail.com).

Family Bingo Night

Saturday 15th January at The Paterson Centre. Six games of bingo plus other family-orientated games with prizes included in the ticket price. Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for under-16 and are also available from me. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Doors will open 7pm.

Quiz or "Beer & Hymns"

Either will be on Saturday 19th February at The Paterson Centre. More details available in the New Year and the February Link.

For more details on any of these events call me on 01489 892750 or visit stbarnabas.org.uk

John Sharpe

Mothers' Union

End of the line

It is with regret that I must inform you that our Swanmore branch of the Mothers' Union will be closing in December.

Our numbers have been dropping and I think covid has just been the final straw. Several of our committee wish to step down after many years of service and no replacements could be found.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Mothers' Union, there are other branches in Bishop's Waltham, Wickham and Shedfield.

I would like to thank everyone for all their help in running our group for many years.

Take care everyone and God bless.

Allison Gurry, MU Secretary
01489 895188

Remembrance poppies

Thank you to all those who kindly knitted/crocheted poppies to place at the church to commemorate Remembrance.

We finally received more than 600, which was fantastic, and these were hung outside the church in various ways for us all to see.

Wendy and Derrinda,
St Barnabas Church.





St Barnabas

Help to support our parish church

It would be hard to imagine the centre of the village without the church and churchyard. St Barnabas seems such an integral part of Swanmore, yet it was not built until 1845. Before then, Droxford was our local church. We were going to celebrate our 175th birthday last year but somehow a pandemic got in the way!

The village church is for everyone, of whatever religion (or none) and everyone in the parish is equally entitled to use it. We love to see the church full, as at Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday and for weddings and funerals and Primary School events.

Services are free to attend and the building is usually open during the day for anyone who would like a few minutes of peace and quiet. Lots of people come to events at the Paterson Centre or to buy coffee and cake at Barnaby's. The churchyard, too, is an oasis of calm and, for many people, a place to remember loved ones.

But who pays for the upkeep and running of the church? Not the state, not the council, not even the Archbishop of Canterbury. By and large it is the regular congregation who, between them, find the £90,000 or so it costs annually to maintain the buildings, vicarage and churchyard, pay the Vicar and provide all the services.

Having said that, we are grateful

for occasional grants from the council for specific projects and for legacies from parishioners, but the main burden falls on relatively few shoulders.

If you already give to the church could you give a little more? If you don't, could you contribute to the running costs? Here are some ways to consider:

*If you could make a regular donation every month or every year, then please join the Parish Giving Scheme <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/>

*To make a single donation, please visit the donate page on our website <https://stbarnabas.org.uk/donations/> or scan the QR code below to visit our Give a Little page.

*If you shop online, use smile.amazon or Easyfundraising and search for St Barnabas Swanmore.

*Could you leave a legacy to the church in your will?

If you would like to know more, please get in touch.
Thank you.

Andrew Wilkinson
treasurer@stbarnabas.org.uk



From the registers

Marriages:

28th October – Jamie Faulds and Sarah Martin

Baptisms:

17th October – Isla Rose Simmons
21st November- Francis Leonard Kit Green

Funerals:

17th August – Layla Oates
23rd August– Angela “Angi” Harwood
5th October – Marion Harrison
22nd October – Jennifer “Jenny” Rawlings
3rd November – Marlene King
10th December – Anthony “Tony” Collins

Confirmations

William and Alexandra Dickinson, Jack Lloyd, and George Walton were confirmed at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday 6th November. “It was a very moving experience that I will never forget,” says Jack, who is pictured below with Rt Revd Ian Brackley, retired Bishop of Dorking and now Assistant Bishop of Portsmouth, who conducted the service.



Services in December and January

Sunday 5th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion.

10am Toy service and Holy Communion with Robert the Bear visiting from the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth.



There will be a talk about the important work they do there and an opportunity to bring any new and almost-new, pre-loved toys and games for children who have less than we do. We will also

be formally welcoming our four confirmation candidates.

Sunday 12th December

The Third Sunday of Advent

No 8am.

10am Canon Peter Kelly preaches and presides.

Sunday 19th December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion.

10am Holy Communion.

6.30pm Candle-lit Carols.



Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service.

Come dressed up as any character from the nativity or use the dressing up clothes provided. Please spread the word that due to safety concerns, no buggies, prams or pushchairs will be able to come into church or The Link. They may be parked in the Paterson Centre.

11.15pm Midnight Communion.



Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

No 8am.

10am All age Holy Communion.

Bring your favourite Christmas present to show.

Sunday 26th December

The First Sunday of Christmas.

9.30am Please note the change in time.

Said Holy Communion with Canon David Isaac.

Sunday 2nd January

The Second Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion.

10am Holy Communion.

Sunday 9th January

The First Sunday of Epiphany

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with Canon Angela Tilby, a retired priest attached to Portsmouth Cathedral. She writes a regular column in the *Church Times*

and contributes to "Thought for the Day" on the *Today* programme (Radio 4).



Sunday 16th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion.

10am 3rd@10 Creative church.

Sunday 23rd January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

No 8am.

10am Holy Communion.

Sunday 30th January

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion.

10am Holy Communion with Canon Nick Ralph, Residentiary Canon at Portsmouth Cathedral and Director of Social Enterprise



Carol service

Singers needed for the choir

After a year's absence in 2020, due to covid, St Barnabas is planning to hold a candlelit Christmas Carol Service again this year. As usual we are recruiting singers for the ad hoc choir.

Normally we have about 20 singers and we hope to see again many of those who have sung with us before for this lovely service, as well as some new faces. Men (tenors or basses) would be especially welcome.

We shall hold three one-hour

practices in church on:

*5th December at 5pm,

*12th December at 5pm,

*19th December at 5pm, before the Carol Service at 6.30pm.

Music will be provided and we hope that everyone will be able to attend at least two of the practices.

Please get in touch with me at andrew@swanmore.net to book your place or to find out more.

Andrew Wilkinson

St Barnabas

Come and meet Robert the Bear

St Barnabas Sunday Club is inviting everyone to its Toy Service on Sunday 5th December at 10am at St Barnabas with a special guest – Robert the Bear.

The service is in aid of The Roberts Centre in Portsmouth, which provides support for children, families, young people and vulnerable adults from across Portsmouth and the surrounding area.

There will be a collection of any good-quality, second-hand or new toys you would like to give away, while 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



Charities

Please remember our good causes this Christmas

Every year at St Barnabas we choose three good causes to support, one local, one national and one international. We collect money for them on particular Sundays in the year and our collections at the main Christmas services are divided among them.

In 2021 our chosen charities have been:

***Friends without Borders** supports asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants in the Portsmouth area. There is a drop-in centre at All Saints' Church in Portsmouth where clients have a safe place to meet and get professional advice and advocacy. Specially trained volunteers give free legal advice.

***The Children's Society** fights for young people by understanding their needs and supporting them through their most serious life challenges.

They work with young people who have suffered years of abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. They look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by gangs and help refugees who have no one else to turn to in this country.

***The St George Foundation** was started in Swanmore to rescue homeless and abandoned children in Sierra Leone, operating from a centre in Freetown where the children are welcomed, fed, clothed

and educated. Where possible and appropriate children are reunited with their families and supported in their continuing education.

Please help us to support these worthy causes, especially at Christmas, by donating in church or making a bank transfer to: PCC of Swanmore, 30-90-85, 00135767 and using the reference XMAS.

Thank you.

*Andrew Wilkinson
PCC Treasurer*



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

SADS

Back stage crew needed

Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society is currently looking to develop its back-stage crew to meet the challenges of creating modern and exciting sets, complemented by atmospheric sound and lighting, for our well-attended plays and pantomimes.

Are you interested in:

- * Design
- * Carpentry
- * Painting
- * DIY
- * Sound
- * Lighting
- * Special effects?



Do you enjoy being part of a social group? Do you like working in a team? Do you ever go to the theatre and wonder how the sets are created?

Have you a few hours to spare on a Monday evening, even occasionally?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these, then – we are waiting to hear from you.

Please contact me with any questions at caroline-powell@live.com or phone 07701 044563.

Caroline Powell

Clean-up groups

Come and help tidy the village

I manage two groups of volunteers who try to keep your village looking smart.

Swanmore litter pickers

This group of up to 30 people try to keep all the areas of the parish free of litter.

It is sponsored by Winchester City Council and the Parish Council and managed by the Swanmore Society. All equipment is supplied through Winchester City Council and there is public liability insurance through the Swanmore Society.

Members of the group find time to go out and clear up litter on a patch that suits them. Most of us have a beat that we manage but we will also stray into other areas when we see the need.

Several members of the group have either "retired" recently or moved away so I need more volunteers particularly for Hillpound/Gravel Hill, The Lakes and Springvale.

If you hate litter and can spare time to help clear it up, please get in touch.

Village Centre Working Party

This small group of volunteers meet about once a month for about two hours to sweep pavements and gutters and keep hedges and the foliage around the shops' car park under control.

We aim to manage Church Road from the main car park to the entrance into the shops, New Road to the lychgate, the car parks and footpath to the Pre-school.

Equipment is provided by the Parish Council and Conservation Group. At present, there are just enough volunteers to keep the main areas under control but I need more people to allow us to keep the whole area tidy. If you like to see a tidy village centre, please consider joining the group.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these tasks, please get in touch with me on 01489 896331 or email at david@streetfamily.org.uk. Thank you in anticipation!

David Street



The Village Centre Working Party with the impressive amount they'd cleared.



Christmas lunch cancelled

Regrettably, this year Swanmore Methodist Church will not be able to provide the usual lunch for our neighbours and friends who are on their own on Christmas Day.

Hopefully next year this will be resumed but with a new team.

Happy Christmas and a good New Year from all your friends at SMC.

Jill Letts

Swanmore pre-school

Colours, Diwali and many letters to Santa

During November the children engaged in some colourful art activities with firework pictures and painting the letter box – ready for writing and sending letters to Santa.

We explored colour mixing, mark making with different resources including writing with feathers, spray painting and chalk print rubbing. The children learnt about Diwali and explored painting patterns on hands.

We welcomed a family photographer into the setting one Saturday to provide opportunities for



families to come along for a family photo shoot. This event was very successful and something we hope to repeat annually.

Mrs Pettit took part in the Great South Run and raised an amazing £525 for Pre-school, which will be put towards enhancing our outdoor provision. Well done and thank you Mrs Pettit.

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

Left: George enjoys painting the letterbox. Right: Chloe and Peggy-Lou focus on yellow and green.



Meon Valley Repair Café

Helping to reduce land-fill

To encourage sustainability a Repair Café has been set up by members of the Waltham Chase Methodist Church. Several men have decided to invite people to bring along portable domestic items in need of repair to save them from being disposed of at the local tip.

To be known as Meon Valley Repair Café the group has received a grant from Hampshire County Council under a scheme to reduce the amount of unwanted products which may end up in landfill. The café also provides a place where men can meet to chat. It is hoped this may also address the difficulty some may have in discussing health and wellbeing topics which may concern them.

At the moment the café is being piloted as a once-a-month project, opening on the first Saturday morning of the month. Facilities include a shipping container fitted out with a workbench and tools, together with a room in the church building where café members can enjoy a cup of tea and perhaps a bacon butty as well.

So far several items have been repaired and returned to their owners. These include a wooden chair, an

exercise cycle, a guitar case, a computer-printer interface, a vacuum cleaner and a pair of trousers!.

Volunteers are always needed with skills to help repair items such as domestic electrical and mechanical goods, jewellery, leather, and even clothing. We are open to ladies who may wish to come along to offer their skills too. To contact the café email: admin@r-men.org.uk

Martin Letts

Below: Mike Kirby repairs a chair.



SADS

Curtain up!

Don't forget SADS latest production "Comedy at Christmas – a mix of music and merriment" at the Village Hall from Thursday 2nd December to Saturday 4th December. with curtain up at 7.30pm each night. Tickets, £10 each. For more information call 01489 893639 or 01489 894955.



Conservation Group

Solving ongoing problems

Autumn and early winter are good times to think about pond maintenance and/or renovation. The pond in Broad Lane is perhaps more prone than others to fill with mud as some of Swanmore's many springs drain through Green's Wood. They bring huge quantities of silt into the pond especially during periods of heavy rain. Whether this in turn encourages the reeds and water lilies isn't clear but they are beginning to take over more than half the pond surface.

Another ongoing problem is the presence of an all too healthy population of goldfish. Attempts have been made in the past to get rid of them as they are not a native species and feed on the native pond life. We have therefore decided to take advice on how best to manage the pond and

its problems and we are investigating which is the best option.

Yet another problem in the pond area is the fence, which – although largely decorative – seems to define the area visually. Over recent years members of our group have devoted a lot of time and effort to keeping the fence in reasonable repair but now seems the time for more drastic action. The Parish Council has agreed to fund this work and a new and more substantial fence will replace the present one, which – with a renovated pond – will tidy up the whole area.

We have cut down a few trees recently that had either blown over, dropped branches or been cut back to keep the paths clear. As this timber has become available for free we intend to use it to edge the path through the wood rather than buy more. Not only will this save money but we hope it will blend in better, who knows it may even need replacing less often!

We have also started cutting back some of the self-seeded hazel at the edge of the plantation and we plan to coppice it in the future to let more light into the area and maintain the views though it. This should make the

Left: Spindle tree fruits in Green's Wood. Below: The pond invaded by reeds.

Photographs by Peter Mason.



plantation lighter, which should help plants to grow beneath the trees.

The trees – willows, oak and hazel – are gradually taking over the bottom area of the Lower Meadow alongside Lower Chase Road and we have discussed with the Parish Council the removal and or thinning of these trees before they completely take over and alter the whole character of this area.

Work parties are held, weather permitting, on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 9.45 am until 12 noon with an outdoor coffee break at 11am. We meet at the hut by the kissing gate in Broad Lane to divide up the jobs and each member does whatever they fancy or feel they can manage. We always welcome new members but we are really grateful to all our existing volunteers for all their hard work.

Gill Sawyer – 01489 894206



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)

Swanmore College

A return to normality

On Friday 3rd September, we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils, who had Swanmore College to themselves on their first day. They completed Lateral Flow Tests, had finger scans for food purchases and had



photographs taken in their shiny new uniforms. Our annual Open Evening took place on 16th September, and we were able to welcome visitors back on site! It was lovely to meet so many prospective pupils and their parents/carer in person. The evening was a huge success with live science experiments, the opportunity to meet teachers for all subjects, and to show off our wonderful staff and facilities.

Swanfest will be back on Saturday 18 June 2022 with father and son duo Martin and Rowan Kemp appearing live on stage! Tickets can be booked via our website.

Catering team shortlisted

In early September our Catering Team travelled to London to attend the Public Sector Catering Awards 2021 as they were shortlisted in the “Team of the Year” award category and were runners up. We are very proud of them all. They produce freshly cooked food, twice a day, 5 days a week for 1300 children and 120 staff. No mean feat!

Left above: Headmaster Kyle Jonathan and English teacher Mrs Wilkinson with Baasit Siddiqui.

Left: The new kitchens used for food technology.

A visitor from Gogglebox

We were very fortunate to have Baasit Siddiqui of Siddiqui Education visit us. He gave a wonderfully engaging assembly to all pupils on “Unconscious Bias”. This was followed by a session for staff and governors on the same topic. A truly thought-provoking subject, and we look forward to seeing our branded mug on Gogglebox soon!

Exciting new facilities

We are installing 142 Canadian Solar 420W panels on the roof of A Block, which should produce an estimated 57,000kWh per year. We hope to reduce our “grid” consumption by around 12% and save approximately 19 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

During holiday periods, when our electricity consumption is lower, excess photovoltaic energy will be exported automatically to the National Grid to be used elsewhere.

Over the summer we had some new kitchens fitted in N Block for food technology. They are fabulous – as are the food items being produced by our pupils. A huge thank you to Matt and the team from Design 1805 Ltd for creating this amazing teaching space.

We have had another canopy installed by Auracanopies and it looks fantastic. This provides pupils with a much-needed outdoor dining hall, complete with lighting, heating, glazed sides, and a sound system. Not only does it give pupils a dedicated dining space but, in the current climate, it will help reduce the transmission of viruses.

Local legends

An old Swanmore mystery

Until the 1960s a commonly held belief among long-time Swanmore residents was that a network of tunnels linked many of the older houses that had formed the original hamlet – some of which date back the the mid-seventeenth century – now referred to as “Upper Swanmore”.

In the 1650s several of the homeowners were Quakers and a small Quaker burial ground survives beside the footpath which runs from Hampton Hill to Jervis Court Lane. The theory was that the tunnels had been used by the Quakers to attend

meetings in each other’s houses without being seen and thus avoid persecution under the Quaker Act of 1662.

However, since Swanmore was a remote and secluded hamlet in the seventeenth century with few houses it seems unlikely that anyone would have noticed such visits anyway.

According to Robert Watson, his father Jack – whose family moved to Jervis Court Farm in the 1900s – would also relate that as well as various tunnels between the houses and under Hampton Hill, another

tunnel ran from Swanmore Park House to the thatched cottage at the end of Green Lane.

Tunnels of such length, when the underlying chalk in this area is often less than a metre below the surface, seem extremely unlikely and it is possible that the tradition arose as a number of these old houses have cellars which include doorways that have been bricked-up with more recent Victorian bricks, in marked contrast to the narrower Jacobean bricks used elsewhere in the cellars.

“It would be a pity if people forgot about this tradition,” adds Robert – although if anyone does find a tunnel, do let us know!

Primary School

Staff changes ahead

After 10 years of wonderful and committed service to the school and local community, Swanmore CE Primary School's Deputy Headteacher, Jonathan Flynn, will leave at Christmas to become the new headteacher at Owslebury Primary School.

As a school we have very mixed emotions. It is fantastic that we have been able to provide the right experiences and training to support him to take on this new challenge. It is great that the school has grown staff to become able to support children's learning in their community. It is wonderful that the school's ethos is such that we support colleagues' development, which then benefits the wider community. However, we will of course miss having him here at school.

Over the years Mr Flynn has worked tirelessly to support the learning in classes across the school and he has built some strong relationships with families of the school. His passion for sport is readily evident and I am not sure the Tag Rugby team will ever be the same again!

Mr Flynn has such a compassionate nature and he has raised so much money for charities and worthy causes. Such generosity of character will have definitely rubbed off on the children and they too look to

make a positive difference to the lives of others around them. Mr Flynn has been such a positive support to the school's residential programme and has helped at the camp, Minstead, Swanage and Wales trips as well as the Year 6 bivvy. His boundless energy and enthusiasm have excited and motivated the children hugely and that will be missed.

As with any change, there comes opportunity and we are really excited to be appointing a new Deputy Headteacher for Easter. Miss Morgan is our acting deputy and we are confident we will be able to appoint a fantastic new colleague who will be able to make an even greater impact on the learning in the school. I know the governors and staff are keen for the school to go from strength to strength and the new Deputy Headteacher will play a crucial role in that process.

Whoever we appoint will join a wonderful team, including, Mrs Wilkie, our new Key Stage 1 lead who joins us in January. As an experienced Key Stage and English lead (as well as being a netball fanatic), Mrs Wilkie will make huge contributions to the school. I am very pleased to see the team grow in capacity.

As we look to welcome our new Year R families later in the year, the school is in a great place.

John Paterson



The Primary School's annual Bonfire Night celebrations on 5th November produced some spectacular sights – despite the lack of wind produced lingering smoke that obscured some of the views.

Pictures by Peter Mason



Barnaby's Coffee From locked down to sold out

Many of you will already be very familiar with Barnaby's Coffee Shop, which occupies the Old School Room next to the Paterson Centre and is staffed entirely by a team of volunteers. Since it opened in October 2014, it has become a real hub for the community.

The last 18 months have been extremely challenging for small ventures like Barnaby's which was locked down for large swathes of last year. While many small businesses were able to re-open last summer, Barnaby's could not do so: as a community hub, it performs a very different function to most coffee shops. You go to Barnaby's to meet people – not just to have a coffee.

After 19th July we were able to expand our outdoor seating and experimented with many ideas on how to ensure people could use a take-away service safely. This required social distancing monitors to be on station, kindly supplied by the PCC.

On many occasions, Barnaby's had customers sitting outside in the rain but enjoying a coffee with others from the village. By September, we were back to our normal hours – the first time since March 2020.

Just a few weeks ago, Barnaby's hosted so many classic cars that we ended up with queues for coffee that rivalled that of a large outdoor festival.

What a turnaround! It is hard to imagine how we got from total lockdown to being overrun in quite such a short period of time, but the transformation has been remarkable.

To all the volunteers, suppliers and customers who have helped to ensure Barnaby's made it through the past 18 months, thank you. You've been resourceful, enthusiastic and patient. Barnaby's would not be the same without you.

Alastair Walton, Barnaby's

Road safety

One of the Parish Council's key priorities is to improve road safety within the village. Over the summer, we gathered data on traffic speeds from twelve locations around the village. Councillor Pete Ansty then kindly prepared a Key Routes Traffic Survey Analysis report.

The last data was gathered in 2019 and the analysis compares the two sets of data. There have been some increases in speeds recorded on Hill Pound and New Road, and the 30mph stretches of Forest Road, Gravel Hill and Swanmore Road continue to be areas of concern.

The Council will use the analysis to review the sites for our three speed limit reminder signs. This year the Council purchased a smiley face sign and going forwards there is potential for us to upgrade the two other signs to smiley faces. We will continue to use the data we have gathered to inform our discussions with Hampshire County Council and with the police, and to lobby developers.

The report can be found on our website <https://www.swanmorepc.org.uk/strategic-documents> or you can contact the Parish Council office.

Accredited Community Safety Officer

We are pleased to announce that Gary, our Community Safety Officer, is now "Accredited". This means the Chief Constable from Hampshire Constabulary has accredited Gary with

Swanmore Parish Council Meeting Dates

11th January Planning & highways
18th January Open spaces & amenities
30th January 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.



the following powers:

1. Power to require a name and address.
2. Power to require a name and address for anti-social behaviour.
3. Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol.
4. Power to seize tobacco from a person under-16.
5. Power to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for fly-posting.
6. Power to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for littering.
7. Power to stop cycles.
8. Power to control traffic for purposes other than escorting a load of exceptional dimension.
9. Power to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice in relation to offences against certain parish bye-laws.

These powers allow Gary to work with the police and partner agencies even more effectively, and give him the tools to help make Swanmore safer.

The Parish Council is setting up the administration system behind the Fixed Penalty Notices; any FPNs issued will be followed up.

Community Service Awards

Now is your chance to recognise and say thank you to those groups or individuals whom you believe have made a difference to your life or the village as whole over the year.

We welcome nominations for the following three categories:

- * Adult.
- * Young Person (under 18 years).
- * Group.

Anyone can enter: to nominate a person or group you simply need to email clerk@swanmore.gov.uk with the following details:

- * The nomination category.
 - * The name and contact details of the person(s) or group being nominated.
 - * The reason(s) for the nomination
- Nominations must be received by Friday 31st December 2021. You can also send your nomination by post. Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly in March 2022.

Access improvements

The Parish Council has been working with Hampshire County Council to deliver a project that will hopefully see lots of improvements to our village highways.

The improvements consist of such things as new, uncontrolled crossing points around the village, chicanes on New Road and improvements to the Misingford Road/Chapel Road junction, including a new footway from the junction to *The Rising Sun* pub.

The money being spent on these improvements comes from developer contributions, which are held within Hampshire County Council, and not from parishioner contributions through the Council Tax precept. The project is at its feasibility stage, which means lots of options have been proposed for the village and Hampshire Highways has worked through the ones that are possible.

The project now faces further review with Hampshire County Council, where some of the proposed works could be discounted as not viable on detailed inspection. We hope this isn't the case; however, you can be sure that we will do the very best we can to get the most out of this project. We will continue to ensure it remains a priority and keep momentum going so we can make Swanmore safer.

A new footway to The Rising Sun is one of the possibilities.





Community Project Awards

Swanmore Parish Council has £2,500 to give away for this year's Community Project Awards.



Local groups, clubs, organisations and charities are invited to apply for part, of all, of this funding. Once applications are in we then ask the parish to vote for the Community Project Award winners.

To apply for an award please email clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk for an application form. Completed forms must be received by Tuesday 21st December and the awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2022.

SHELAA update

We are looking forward to meeting with Winchester City Council (WCC) so that we can discuss the feedback that we gathered from residents over the summer on all of the proposed Swanmore SHELAA sites (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment sites). The date of this meeting is still to be confirmed.

Meanwhile, as a result of WCC's 2021 "Call for sites", five further sites have been proposed for Swanmore. So far we have only had sight of the maps (shown below). The new sites are shown in pink while those previously listed are in orange and the green site in Shirrell Heath indicates a conservation area.

The details are due to be finalised by WCC shortly and, as soon as we have site-specific maps and information, we will publicise these and ask for any comments/feedback.

The current timescale seems to be a draft Local Plan in Autumn 2022. This document will confirm WCC's new development strategy and will set out how many houses are to be

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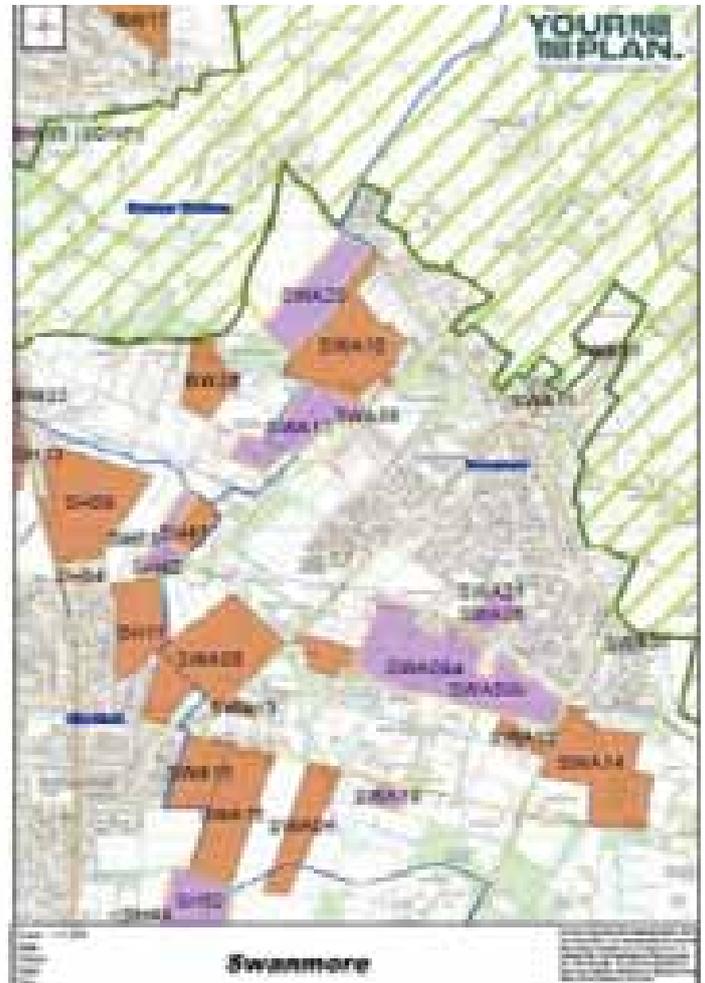
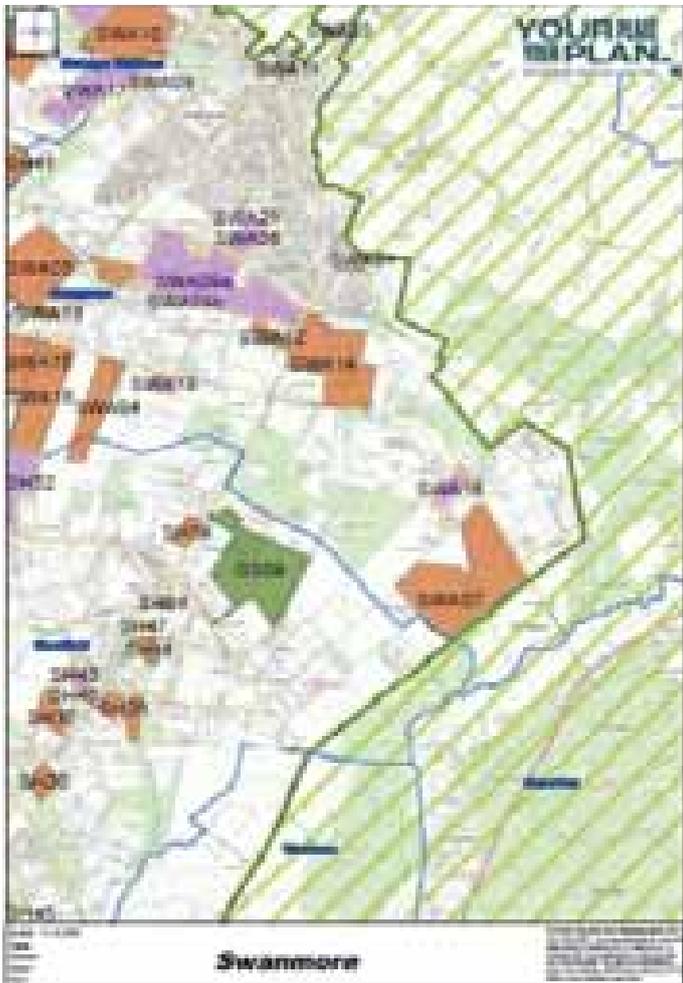
PUBLIC OPENING TIMES WEEKDAYS 10am-2pm

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

allocated to Swanmore and on which of the submitted SHELAA sites.

Please note that the current SHELAA document only identifies sites that have been submitted to WCC by prospective developers, it does NOT imply allocated sites.

The inclusion of a site in the SHELAA list does not mean that WCC would necessarily grant planning permission. There has been no assessment of the viability of any sites yet and we also don't know how many houses – if any – will be allocated to Swanmore.



Swanmore Society

Discovering all about polio

At our October meeting, retired microbiology lecturer Dr Tim Mason presented "The Polio Story". The pathogen has been with us for thousands of years and is highly infectious, spread by dirty water and poor hand hygiene. However, as Tim explained, the vast majority of infections are mild or symptomless, with polio producing the paralysis for which it is known and feared in fewer than 2% of cases.

We learnt how the improvements in urban water supplies and sewerage, which combatted water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, led – surprisingly – to the emergence of polio as a worldwide health scourge



in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This was because improved hygiene meant that children no longer developed lifelong immunity from exposure in early infancy and the severity of the disease increases significantly with age.

The second half of Tim's talk focussed on the development first of treatments and aids for polio victims, such as the famous iron lung, and then of preventative vaccines. He thoroughly explained the differences between Salk's vaccine, which uses inactivated (dead) virus, and Sabin's, which is based instead on live but attenuated virus. He also elucidated how the two different approaches have been successfully combined over the decades since the 1950s in the global vaccination programme that has now eradicated this debilitating disease in all but a few countries.

Looking ahead

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed an entertaining evening in November with Andrew Negus, learning about the history of Portsmouth; more in the next issue.

For now, we look ahead to the Society's next meeting on 8th

December, when we will welcome Swanmore resident and seafarer Geoff Goodwin, who has been involved with boats, ships and the sea for about 60 years, including 35 years in the Royal Navy.

In 2018, Geoff joined good friend Ian Walker in his beautiful boat "Pickle" (a 40ft Dawn Class 39 sailboat for those in the know), departing from Weymouth to sail around England and Wales – and a bit of Scotland. I'm sure we will be very glad to be

*Left above: Geoff Goodwin on board.
Left: "Pickle" setting out from Weymouth at the start of her epic journey.*



in the warm and dry as we marvel and shiver at his account of the pair's escapades on the high seas! The meeting will be held at 8pm in the Paterson Centre. Visitors are always very welcome.

Following the Christmas and New Year break, we hope to hold our annual social evening for members and guests on Saturday 22nd January at Lysses Hotel in Fareham. However, the dinner will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest and will naturally be dependent on any covid restrictions in place at the time. It would therefore be very helpful if members could indicate their intention to attend as soon as possible so that the committee has an idea of numbers and can determine before Christmas whether to proceed or cancel. We will be in touch with members directly once we have reached a decision.

Further ahead, our speaker meetings resume on 9th February, again in the Paterson Centre, with a talk from Carol Watson on her long-distance hiking adventures in the highlands and glens of Scotland.

*Caroline Clapperton
01489 891447*



Getting back together again

Beavers are back together again with everything in full swing. We even had a science sleepover recently when we did lots of experiments, played games, slept in tents in a hall and stayed up late watching films.

We have been to a Beavers' County Day to Paultons Park when we had great fun and saw Beavers from all over Hampshire.

We had a fantastic visit from Gary, Swanmore's Community Safety Officer, who talked to us about his job and how to keep safe and we also had a visit from Sarah Woodman who talked about healthy eating and taught us to make some yummy snacks.

Soon we shall have our Christmas sleepover and we are really looking forward to this.

Roisin Smith

Village walks

Beacon Hill to Hinton Ampner

A circular walk. Distance 14.5 km/9 miles. Time: 3 hours 20 minutes walking time, plus extra for a spot of lunch and visits. There are several stiles to clamber over.

The walk starts from Beacon Hill car park, a 15 minute drive from Swanmore. Travel up Hampton Hill, onto Park Lane, turn left into Shepherds Farm Lane and straight across at the cross roads onto Beacon Hill Lane. The car park is at the top in the trees (SU598227).

Prepare to enjoy beautiful views all the way to Hinton Ampner, a National Trust property set in the heart of the glorious Hampshire countryside.

Start

1. From Beacon Hill car park walk along the road for 3 mins following the signpost for the South Downs Way (the continuation of Beacon Hill Lane) and at the bend leave the road, going straight ahead through a gate onto the wide track. Here, looking to your left, is the start of the glorious views stretching over to the Solent. This track is the route for two long-distance footpaths, the South

Downs Way and the Monarch's Way. The latter is a 615 mile walking trail following the escape of Charles II after the battle of Worcester in 1651. Follow the track until you reach Lomer Farm.

2. At Lomer Farm bear left to go through the farm buildings to the farm cottages, where you turn right at the side of them. Here, another long-distance trail, the Wayfarer's Walk, joins the track and is the route you follow to Hinton Ampner. Keep on the wide track ahead for approx 15 mins until you pass Wind Farm and reach the road. Here you leave the South Downs Way and follow the Wayfarer's Walk signs.
3. Go straight across the road and through a wooden kissing gate. Here you can just spot your goal, Hinton Ampner house, in the far distance. Go down the pasture through a hedge where you then go across two large open arable fields. Passing through a couple of wooden gates and narrow grass strips you reach Kilmeston, exiting through a pasture opposite the village hall. This should take approx 1 hour from the start.
4. Go across the road in front of the village hall, pass in front of the cottages with the eyebrow windows, on the lane signposted to Dean Farm and Dean House. One or two minutes down the lane turn left into a narrow woodland strip and continue over several stiles following the Wayfarer's Walk signs, keeping generally left in the pastures, passing Kilmeston church and exiting opposite Kilmeston Manor. The path goes ahead over the lane, but a quick left will take you to visit St Andrew's Church, Kilmeston.
5. Taking the path across the lane alongside the side of the Manor, go through the pasture following the telegraph poles and soon see the glorious vista of Hinton Ampner house in front of you. Follow the footpath across the open pastures and up to the trees, taking the left hand gate, and on through the posted footpath towards the house.
6. These are public footpaths through National Trust property. You can go ahead towards Hinton Ampner house, where you can also visit the thirteenth century church of All





Saints. This is a Grade 2-listed building going back to Saxon times. If you wish to go further than the church you should go to the main entrance to pay or to show your NT card. There are the usual excellent NT café and facilities. You need then to backtrack down to the exit of the “posted” Meadow and turn left to continue the route. Alternatively, omitting the visit to the house, you can sit on the fallen tree before exiting the posted meadow, to look across the meadows to the source of the River Itchen, while enjoying your own snack. To start your return journey, go through the gate and turn right along the path, shortly crossing a lane to a restricted Byway. Continue along the ByWay with a row of planted beech trees, and small mixed woodland on your right until you reach New Pond Cottages. 7. Turn right on the bend off the lane that comes from between the cottages. This is a little-used lane leading only to Black House Farm. At the entrance to the farm the original mapped footpath has been diverted from going through the farm. Go for 250 yards along the track straight ahead. Turn right at the signpost to go along the post and rail footpath passing the lake and farm now on your right. Go through the wooden gate at the end to go straight ahead along the wide grass path to a narrow lane where you turn right. 8. Go along the lane for a minute or two when you turn left

into Wheely Farm, passing the cottages on your left. Follow the hard track through the farm, pass the farmhouse on your right behind the high hedge and past the poultry houses on your left. Go straight ahead along the narrow hedged footpath. The path then becomes a wider grassy track. Ignoring footpaths to your right and left go straight ahead where, on a clear day, you have a magnificent view across the Solent to the monument on Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight! Keep going down the track until you reach Wheely Down Road. Turn right, passing D. Scott garden machinery on your left.

9. After one minute along the road turn left in front of Wheely Forge onto a bridleway on the Monarch’s Way, passing the shark (pictured below) on your left. Continue bearing right up the track and turn right onto the bridleway back up the long, gentle slope, going finally through the woods back into the car park.

Lin Powell

Above: Hinton Ampner house a National Trust property.

Below: The “shark” which points you on your home-ward path.



Services to keep you safe

A new phone service by banks and telephone companies is being piloted across the UK to combat increasing levels of fraud.

This includes Barclays, Lloyds (including Halifax and Bank of Scotland), Nat West (including Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank) as well as Santander and Starling Bank. This service allows you to contact your participating bank directly if you think you are being scammed.

The number is 159 and works in a similar way to 101 with the police and 111 for the NHS – it ensures that you are protected against possible fraudsters attempting to gain access to personal information or financial information such as bank details.

You should call 159 (they will never call you) if:

- * Someone contacts you saying they’re from your bank – even if they are not suspicious.
- * You receive a call asking you to transfer money or make a payment even if it seems genuine.
- * You receive a call about a financial matter and it seems suspicious.

Register for priority services

The Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, which repairs the networks and fixes power cuts, is inviting people to register for priority services. If you or anyone you know:

- * are deaf or hard of hearing;
- * have a disability;
- * live with children under five;
- * are blind or partially sighted;
- * Have a chronic illness
- * use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity; or
- * are over 60;

then you can register for free by calling 0800 294 3259 or visit the website, ssen.co.uk. Once registered, SSE will be able to offer support.

You can contact me, Swanmore’s Age Concern Hampshire Community Information Volunteer, on 07790 845944 or by emailing: enquiries@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

Lorna Neill

Early days of Swanmore College

Remembering the first headmaster

Village archivist, Crawford Wright, looks back at the work of John Gimblett, who helped make Swanmore's highly-regarded local school the success it is today.

The Hadow Report of 1926 advised the Government that future education in England should be organised into primary and separate secondary schools. Prior to this children in the state sector were educated in a single school. In the case of Swanmore at what is now the Primary School: students left school when they reached 14 and in 1947 the leaving age was raised to 15.

Swanmore was one of the very last areas in the county to go from a single all-age school to adopting the secondary system.

Finding a site

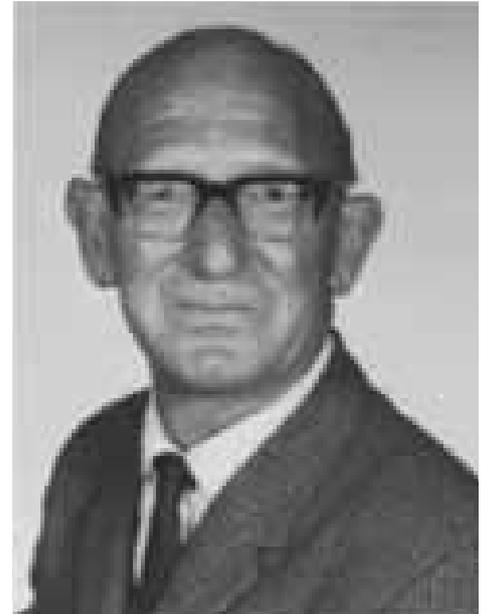
In November 1959 the Vicar of Swanmore, the Revd Albert McCaig, sent a handwritten note to the County Education Officer suggesting that land, belonging to the educational charity, "on the road from Swanmore to Waltham Chase" might be available for a new area secondary school, with the potential to expand onto further land to the west.

This information was passed on to the County Land Officer and it started the slow process that would eventually result in the land being acquired for the building of a secondary school.

Although Bishop's Waltham was the largest town and may have seemed the more obvious location for the school, Swanmore was central to the lower Meon Valley area and affordable land was available to purchase.

John Gimblett was the founding head teacher of Swanmore Secondary School when it opened in April 1961. He had previously been head teacher at Bishop's Waltham County Mixed School (for boys and girls – in Victoria Road) where he had turned around a failing school and achieved a very commendable report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education. He had also been a successful head at a school in Eastleigh which he had joined in 1955. During the Second World War John Gimblett had served in the RAF, rising to the rank of Squadron Leader.

He was an inspired choice for a new school and both set the tone and laid down the foundations of what would become a truly respected place of learning. At the opening in April 1961 there were some 280 pupils, mainly from Bishop's Waltham and a rapidly-growing Swanmore. Initially very few of the buildings were in a finished state, even the telephone



John Gimblett

switchboard was incomplete and it took years for the school playing fields to be suitably drained.

Traffic problems

As early as 1962 there was a recommendation that a lay-by for parents' cars be provided along New Road. However, this was not possible as the road was category class C, so it was against Ministry of Transport regulations. It was also not until 1967 that a footpath was laid from the school to Forest Road as a route for



Staff at Swanmore Secondary School, Whitsun 1961 shortly after opening: From left to right – John Pilston, Ruth Crosby, Michael Noble, Elsie Harris (deputy head), Kathy Sinclair, Anne Spence, Jenny Parker, John Kotch (partially hidden) John Gimblett, Douglas Gunstone, Fred Sargent, Warwick Burden, Don (Jim) Maclean and John Bates.

From: "Swanmore in Pictures 1870-1970" by Keith Harrington and Juliet Burgess.



School trip to Ireland c.1961. Staff extreme left–Mike Noble and Douglas Gunstone; extreme right – Jenny Parker and Warwick Burden. Pupils in between include Andrew Watson, Ron Morgan, Julie Harvey, Louise Griffiths, Janet Foulkes, Judy Stainer and Janet Attrill.

From: "Swanmore in Pictures 1870-1970 Revisited" by Keith Harrington and Gloria Atkinson-Carter.

the students from Waltham Chase.

Pupil numbers were initially limited due to the lack of both buildings and teachers, so not all children from Waltham Chase and other areas close by could attend until sometime later; even then this was only possible by using temporary huts. As the school grew, with students coming from further afield, problems continued with the provision of school buses, a problem they had from the early days when Hants and Dorset provided the services.

There was a school assembly each

morning with an address and hymns until the student numbers grew beyond what the hall could accommodate. For the first school speech day the new head invited his long-standing friend the Rt Hon George Thomas MP for Cardiff West, later Speaker of the House of Commons.

Rapid expansion

As the school expanded further land was purchased, including in 1962 the field north of the school, which was later sold for housing, allowing land to

the west across to Lower Chase Road to be obtained for sports fields. John Gimblett was fortunate that he was ably supported by a strong team of School Governors, chaired by Captain Robert Phillimore RN, who's name will be familiar to many for his contribution to education in Swanmore.

In 1962 some enterprising teachers set up a School Travel Club. The following August 61 students and staff set sail for Guernsey in what would become an annual visit, while a later trip involved 31 pupils and three staff heading to Switzerland. These were the start of many trips within the UK and abroad and many ex-students will remember visits to the First World War battlefields.

As funding for buildings and teachers became available the school grew until today there are around 1,300 students.

Initially some teachers from Bishop's Waltham had transferred with John Gimblett to Swanmore but as the school expanded he started recruiting new members of staff. He was a shrewd judge of people, selecting staff that were well educated and competent but also shared his inspirational passion for teaching and getting the best out of every student according to their ability.

He had a wide view of what education really should achieve to equip all students with a lifelong passion for learning. Even today past teachers speak of his ability to inspire and build a passionate team that

The School's staff had expanded significantly by the time this photograph was taken c.1972.

John Gimblett is in the front row five from the right and caretaker Alf Pyke is in the back row, extreme right.





One of the College's newer buildings – very different from in John Gimblett's day!

Photograph by Tony King

worked together. Past pupils remember his passion for teaching and getting the best out of them to equip them for a life of work ahead.

In the early years of the school students left at 15 years of age with no formal qualifications. Having recently met some of those past students I was impressed by the love of learning that John had instilled in them and how some had eventually gone to university and made very successful careers. He was a strict but fair disciplinarian and ensured that students and staff took a pride in the school and how it was kept. There were also friendly social events outside school: John Gimblett had a broad view of education and supported the many clubs that were started including Music, Drama, Young Farmers, Camera and Forum Clubs.

Sporting prowess

Being a Welshman John was passionate about rugby and a pitch was laid out and teams recruited who quickly became successful. In their second season (1963) they beat Gosport Grammar School by 16 to nil in the final to win the Gosport Schools Seven-a-side Tournament. There were other school teams for netball, hockey, athletics and cricket, and the school developed a strong reputation for its sports activities, providing a number of players at county level.

Many past students will remember Alf Pyke the head caretaker. He was an ex-paratrooper and stood no nonsense about maintaining very high standards of cleanliness; woe betide anyone who dropped any litter, they would soon be given a task that ensured they never did it again.

In 1973, under Hampshire County Council, Swanmore Secondary

Modern School became a comprehensive, while during the early 2000s it was renamed Swanmore College of Technology after receiving specialist status in technology: today it is simply Swanmore College.

A lasting legacy

John Gimblett retired to Machen in South Wales in 1974 having given everything he had to ensuring that the new school had the best possible start. In his later years he suffered a stroke which limited his activities.

His real tribute is how the initial school has continuously grown to where it is today and he would have been proud – although no doubt he would see how things could still be improved.

John died on the 9th November 1982. Many of his past teaching colleagues, governors, caretaker and school secretary attended his funeral at Thornhill Crematorium near Cardiff, with Swanmore's then vicar – the Revd Ronald Paterson – sharing the service with the local incumbent.

A memorial service was held in Swanmore on Sunday 5th December 1982 in St Barnabas' Church, Swanmore, which was attended by many staff, former pupils and friends. The opening hymn was a Welsh favourite "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer".

He would have been very proud if he could have seen how the now College has developed from his hard work in the early days. The people of Swanmore and the wider Meon Valley area owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

It is sad that there is nothing at the college today to commemorate his outstanding work as its first headmaster.

Crawford Wright

In memoriam

Peter Watkins

Readers will be sorry to learn of the death of Peter Watkins, the well-known local historian and speaker. His books included "Swanmore Since 1840", "Villages of the Meon Valley" and "Bishop's Waltham". They were masterpieces of local Meon Valley history but also books of scholarship in their quality of writing.

Peter was educated at Solihull School. Even at an early age he knew all the kings and queens of England with their dates, but also expected the rest of his family to know them as well. He also had a keen interest in church architecture and history and won a scholarship to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to read history.

On completing his National Service in the RAF, he spent his life in education as headmaster at King Edward VI Five Ways School in Birmingham and then came south as headmaster of Chichester High School for Boys. When he became Principal at Price's Sixth Form College he and his family moved to Swanmore; he left when this was amalgamated with Fareham Technical College in 1984, and became Deputy Chief Executive of the National Curriculum Council.

Peter had a love of the countryside and also retained a deep Christian faith. He became a Reader in the Church of England, regularly preaching in St Barnabas and later at St Peter's, Bishop's Waltham. He was a speaker at the Swanmore Society on a number of occasions and lived for many years in Crofton Way.

When his health deteriorated he moved to a nursing home, initially at West End. I visited him there and we had a chat about local history and the village archives. He was pleased that we had produced the book "*Oral History of Swanmore College*".

The service to commemorate his life was held at St Peter's on Thursday 23rd of September. The address was given by the Revd Humphrey Prideaux who had been a long-time colleague of Peter's. Tributes were paid by Peter's brother, Graham, and his daughter Kate. His faith was central to his life and it is perhaps fitting that we close with the words that he truly believed: "Faith is a journey not a destination".

Crawford Wright

In the hedgerow

Evergreen leaves and seasonal berries

With the leaves finally down, it's much easier to spot those parasitic bunches of mistletoe (*Viscum album*) clinging to a tree's branches – and maybe cut a few to hang in the house at Christmas for all those kisses (covid regulations permitting, of course).

With its bright green leaves – more obvious once its host has dropped all of its – and producing its white berries in the depth of winter, it is hardly surprising that the ancients regarded mistletoe as a symbol of vitality and fertility.

The Greeks called mistletoe berries "oak sperm" and regarded them as a symbol of male fertility while the Celts made a similar link to their thunder god Taranis. The Romans hung bunches about the house during the December festival of Saturnalia, which coincided with the winter solstice, and most probably they kissed underneath this fertility symbol too.

In his "Natural History" the Roman author Pliny gives a detailed description of how Druid priests in Gaul used a golden sickle to cut the mistletoe from oak trees adding that "they believe that mistletoe given in drink will impart fertility to any animal that is barren, and that it is an antidote for all poisons".

The berries, while beloved by thrushes which spread the seeds by rubbing their beaks on branches to clear the sticky fruit, are toxic to humans although the leaves and twigs are still used in herbal medicine. Hippocrates recommended it for both epilepsy and tumours and it is still used as a cancer treatment in several European countries.

Equally obvious at this time of year is ivy (*Hedera helix*). Its flowers are a vital food for bees and butterflies during late autumn and winter while the birds will eat the berries. Although it grows on trees, unlike mistletoe it is not a parasite, but if unchecked it can smother a tree making it top-heavy and more likely to fall in high winds.

The berries macerated in vinegar were used during the seventeenth century to treat the plague while a

decoction of the flowers was considered a cure for dysentery. Drinking milk from a cup made of ivy wood was recommended for children with whooping cough and an infusion of the leaves may still be used by herbal practitioners today to liquefy the bronchial phlegm associated with this unpleasant illness.

At a time when herbs were categorised as hot or cold, ivy was seen as a cold plant – a cooling remedy suitable for fevers and inflammations with a poultice of the leaves used on swollen glands, burns or leg ulcers.

The Victorians also used the berries on black silks – as a dye to disguise the tiny white spots that tended to appear on the fabric. It's a rather safer use than eating the berries: humans might escape with a bad stomach upset, but for dogs, cats



Top: Mistletoe. Above: Ivy.

or horses any part of the plant is highly toxic leading to abdominal pain, diarrhoea, vomiting and potentially bad dermatitis as well, so definitely one best left for the birds.

H&IWWT

Let your garden go wild for wildlife

Rustle. Crunch. Swoosh. The familiar sounds of crisp, freshly fallen leaves underfoot are a sure sign autumn has arrived. But as the nights gradually draw in and the temperatures start to dip, this marks a crucial season for wildlife as preparations are put in place to survive winter.

At this time of year, many garden visitors – be it birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles or invertebrates – are busying themselves securing enough food and shelter to see them through the harsh winter months.

You can play your part in helping countless species this autumn. For example, that scattering of leaf litter may look untidy on the lawn but simply sweeping the leaves into a neat pile in a wind-sheltered corner of the garden can provide a vital habitat for frogs and many overwintering invertebrates.

In turn, a garden boasting a healthy population of insects equals more foodstuff for ground-feeding birds like robins, blackbirds and song thrushes as well as small mammals such as

hedgehogs, foxes and badgers.

Avoiding the temptation to prune hedgerows and shrubs excessively also allows birds more time to eat the remaining berries whilst providing a valuable sanctum.

Another olive branch that gardeners can extend in autumn is to put up nest boxes. Though these boxes won't be used for nesting until the breeding season in spring, they can provide birds with a warm and safe space to escape foul weather and boost their chances of survival.

Finally, as many gardens witness an influx of birds during autumn as the search for food intensifies among common species and winter migrants, this makes it the perfect time to clean your feeder, ensuring it is free from disease.

So, remember to spare nature a thought and enjoy turning your garden into a wildlife haven.

Abi Webber
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

Seen & heard

Winter thrush spotting

For much of the year there are three members of the thrush family (Turdidae) inhabiting the Swanmore area, but in the winter months they are boosted by two more species escaping the harsher Scandinavian climate. These are the fieldfare



1



2



3

(*Turdus pilaris*) and the redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

The fieldfare is large and pastel-coloured, with a slatey-blue head and rump, russet-brown back and wings, and downward-pointing arrow chest spots. The redwing is daintier and streaky in appearance, showing a cream eye-stripe and an orange-red “armpit” area, with slightly elongated chest spots.

Fieldfares are often found in large groups in the fields around Swanmore, and have been associated with the Hill Farm orchards for many years, but with most of the trees now pulled up it remains to be seen how many fieldfares will return this winter. Their characteristic throaty “chack-chack-chack” calls often give away their presence, as they re-group in the apple trees or the windbreak poplars after being disturbed.

Redwings are also found as scattered groups, sometimes associating with fieldfares, but seeming to prefer the damper or muddier areas to forage in, such as the fields beside the Meon. They are far less vocal, with thin high “tseeps” while in flight the most that is likely to be heard.

Both species will visit gardens to raid berries if the ground freezes, preventing them from accessing the soil invertebrates they normally eat.

1. Redwing.
2. Song thrush.
3. Fieldfare.
4. Female blackbird.
5. Mistle thrush.



5



4

To avoid confusion with our resident species, check out the chest spots. The rich brown song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) have upward-pointed arrowheads, the misty brown mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) has rounded spots, and blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) have no distinctive spots.

If you see a ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) passing through on migration, like a blackbird with a white chest sash, you are very lucky!

Incidentally, the name *Turdus* is simply Latin for thrush, in case you were wondering.

Marcus Charig

From our district councillors

Green thoughts, planning changes and biodiversity

By now we must all have received the “memo” saying that the Christmas celebration is in the offing. May we be among the first, but hopefully not premature, to wish you all good health and a joyful Christmas celebration.

As we write this article, we have moved into the second week of the COP26 debate about climate change. Views about this vary from “there is too much talking, and not enough action that will make a difference” to “let us ignore it, and perhaps it will go away”.

Unfortunately, it seems that it will not go away, and that if we as individuals and combined United Nations countries do not take action to reduce the emission of excessive carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen oxide then we are likely to have an increase of global temperatures of at least 2°C.

On the one hand this sounds great, but a warmer atmosphere will absorb more water vapour from the sea. In turn this will lead to more violent weather, heavier rainfall, excessive flooding and, in contrast, periods of intense drought and major shortages of water. It is calculated that these events will kill more than a billion people and drown our coastal cities

Some actions can only be taken by governments introducing legislation

designed to reduce emissions. Some legislation will be trying to encourage us as individuals to do what we can e.g. insulate and draught-proof our homes; switch our mode of transport to e-vehicles; use less energy; and plant more trees to “green our landscapes”.

It will be interesting to see if our new housing developments will have greener landscaping, solar energy units, more insulation and greater draught proofing.

Meanwhile, we are still in the uncomfortable regime of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of us now have had our double jab; some have had a booster jab plus a flu jab to see us through the winter. Numbers of covid sufferers are still high so we surely must all continue to take sensible precautions. Information that we are receiving suggests that we will have covid for a long time yet. Clearly, despite wishful thinking from some, it is not going away.

Planning proposals

Your Council is presently organising a series of Local Plan Workshops. When you read this, several will have taken place in November so hopefully some at least will have been able to give input.

Part of this must be comments about the selection of the new housing sites as defined in the latest SHELAA reports. Not all will be used for housing. Some, we are advised, will be designated as conservation areas, and

wildlife corridors to link these conservation areas. It is also hoped that developers, i.e. the builders of the new housing areas, will take note of the Natural England requirement that there should be a minimum of at least 10% gain in biodiversity.

We would translate that to mean that the new housing areas should have a “green landscape” element, not just bat boxes and hedgehog sites! We would also expect to see that the gaps between our villages are retained along with a green belt to the north of the expanding South Hampshire conurbation (PoSH area).

Let us all hope and demand that our beautiful villages do not become urban extensions.

New uses for old sites

Please note that WCC is advertising “garages to let” in our area. So, if anyone is interested information may be found at the council’s website – <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/garages-applications>. Some of these sites are being looked at as possible sites for council homes, as they are in very poor condition and not being used for the parking of vehicles.

An update about the old sports centre on River Park in Winchester: some have signed a petition to establish a large outdoor swimming lido but unfortunately, as it is so close to the water table, the cost of such a development is deemed unaffordable.

As a contrast, the University of Southampton Art College is interested in developing the site as an extension of its Art and Cultural facilities. They have already bought the old police station site at the North Walls/ Durngate junction so now they have shown interest in expanding north onto that old derelict site. Among the proposals is for a cultural centre, and a new site for the Indoor Bowls Club.



Swanmore’s existing “green corridors”, from the Village Design Statement.

Our district councillors:

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

U3A

Back to real world meetings

The group is again holding meetings on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in the Houghton Room, Wickham Centre, the first since March 2020. Recent talks have included Mike Hollis on Rameses II, Dennis Boylan on the Kariba Dam, Sutton Hoo and the film *The Dig* by Dr Lyndon Palmer, and Recollections of BBC Radio by Pam Marsden of Radio Solent fame: all excellent and well attended.

At the AGM Mike Hollis stepped down as Chairman but remains on the Committee. Dr Lyndon Palmer was elected Chairman. All Committee members were re-elected apart from Josephine Wilkes who retired from the Committee. Many thanks to both Mike and Josephine for their support during the difficulties of the pandemic.

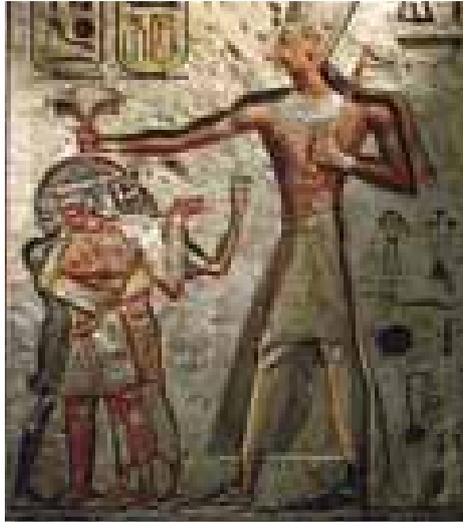
Our annual fee is £12, meetings with member speakers are free to members and £1 for guest speakers. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting. Currently we cannot provide refreshments but hope to once again in the future. Talks are 45 minutes to an hour.

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. Our small groups are mostly continuing. Strolling is popular especially with a lunch afterwards.

There is one vacancy each in two of the reading groups, and our excellent Egyptology group has restarted from predynastic times and is therefore suitable for a new member to join. Poetry has ceased temporarily until the New Year. Geology and Art Appreciation are yet to restart. Bridge has been suggested as a new group.

Our membership is currently 59, so we have a way to go to reach last year (77) and pre-pandemic levels (110), however our finances are secure for a further year. Now we are returning to physical meetings we will be incurring hall hire and speaker costs which we did not have in the last year when we used Zoom.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



Rameses II capturing his enemies – subject of a recent U3A talk (From Cairo Museum).

Future meetings:

- *December 14th – “Wildflower Hotspots” by Carol Watson.
- *January 18th – “Renal Dialysis” by Toots Ansell.
- *February 1st – “Travels with the Queen in Papua New Guinea” by Roger Esnault.
- *February 15th – “Tools for Self Reliance” by Jemma Chambers.

Website: u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley
email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com

Betty Hiscock, Secretary
01489 894807

Meon Voices

Singing at St Peter's for Christmas

The Meon Voices Choir is delighted to announce it has resumed practice, and will perform its popular Christmas concert on 9th December at St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham from 7.30pm, providing there are no further restrictions at that time.

All are most warmly welcome, and of course covid precautions will be taken, which we would ask you to observe.

The programme includes a Gershwin medley with favourites such as *I Got Rhythm*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off*, as well as folk songs and contemporary classics.

There will also be a chance to join in with Christmas carols, restrictions allowing.

It is not a ticketed event, but a retiring collection will be made in aid of church charities.

The choir has members from all local villages and is divided into the the four main vocal ranges – soprano, alto, tenor and bass – so you can delight in some inspiring harmonies.

For further information please contact Phil 01489 579078, email coundleypj@yahoo.com; or Maureen 01489 890335, email alan@agbuckland.plus.com.

Lizz Clarke

Bishop's Waltham WI

Come and join in the fun

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. Plenty of free parking.

Last month we celebrated our WI's 55th Birthday with bubbles and cake and were entertained by the ladies from Solent Ukeladies. Our next meeting will be on the 21st December when Sarah Delves will be coming to talk to us about “A History of Handbags”. Don't forget your Christmas jumper or sparkly top!

After all the food we shall all consume at Christmas, we have a

treat in store for our January meeting on the 18th, when we shall be having fitness and exercises with Belinda Langford Butler. Don't worry, there will be lots of laughs I'm sure. When you reach for another chocolate, you can say: “It's all right, I can work it off at WI in January”. Only joking.

If you are new to the area, would like a new interest, or perhaps have always wondered what belonging to the WI means, 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 895188

Meon Valley Lions

Giving a helping hand

When the three Lions Clubs of Eastleigh, Swanwick and Meon Valley heard about the desperate plight of a family supported by Home-Start that were in need of a specialist pushchair, recommended by Occupational Health for a disabled two-year-old boy, the Lions Clubs were quick to collaborate to make the purchase of the pushchair possible.

Meon Valley Lions also collaborated with Southampton Solent, Fareham and Swanwick Lions Clubs to support a project to refurbish the bereavement room at Mountbatten Hampshire Hospice. We were pleased to support such a project that will provide calm and solace for the families and care workers in the worst of circumstances.

We also supported the 23rd Wickham Charity Beer Festival by providing burgers and sausages to the party goers. The festival was a great success with tickets selling out before the event. A good time was had by all and it was a great opportunity to raise much needed funds to help people in the local area.

After missing the 2020 celebrations due to covid, Santa will be out and about in our area throughout December. For more details keep an eye on our social media and website for the latest up-to-date information.

It takes a lot of time and effort helping Santa over the three-and-a-half-week period and we are always grateful for extra Santa helpers, so if you are able-bodied and fancy helping us out as a volunteer, we'd be grateful to hear from you.

If you're an individual who needs support through a difficult period in your life, you need assistance to purchase specialist equipment to overcome disability, or a helping hand for your youngsters on a specific project, we can help both financially and in other practical ways. We also support clubs, hospices, organisations and other local charities. Please get in touch by using the contact form on our website – www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk

Carole Dash



Above: Serving burgers and sausages at the 23rd Wickham Beer Festival. Below: the outdoor kitchen at the festival.



Give and Take Popular scheme considers its future

Between June and October, the Bishop's Waltham Town Team ran five monthly themed stalls. These allowed people to bring unwanted items to donate and other people to take items that they were able to re-purpose.

For those who couldn't attend this year's stalls, the concept was simple ... people could give, take, or do both. All with the sole aim of reducing the amount of goods that are discarded or end up in landfill.

All items were free; however we had collection boxes for Rowans and Revitalise on the stall table and were thrilled to collect £734.82 for them over the course of the scheme.

The Bishop's Waltham Town Team has received many very favourable comments from people who came along and told us what a great idea it was. At the end of the events we were generally able to pass on residual stock to charities for wider dispersal and so very little had to be disposed of or end in landfill.

We are very grateful to Hampshire County Council for a grant from their Waste Prevention Community Scheme and to Solent Design for their financial support. Thanks also to Ackroyd (Driver-Belcher) who very kindly allowed us to use their parking spaces in St George's Square as the location of our stall.

The big question now is: should we repeat these events in future years?

We would love to hear your views! Are there things we could have done better? Are there ways the scheme could be improved? Are there other themes for goods that we could consider?

As a reminder, the themes for this year were:

- *DIY and garden items,
- * Items for children under 11,
- * Small household items,
- * Arts and craft goods and materials,
- * Miscellaneous items.

If you have any thoughts, please email them to us at:

bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com

Bishop's Waltham Town Team.

Bishop's Waltham Bites

Successful return after so many covid cancellations

Fourth time lucky! Bishop's Waltham Bites in April 2020, October 2020 and April 2021 all had to be cancelled due to covid, but local food lovers finally had the chance to sample the delights of Bishop's Waltham's eateries and food shops on 16th October. How wonderful it was to be back – and the weather helped play its part in making it another terrific day for those involved.

Tickets sold out within two weeks of going on sale and the event received plenty of praise from those who took part. They were treated to pigs in blankets, giant chocolate chip cookies, local cheeses and hams, prosecco with fish chowder and smoked salmon twirls, local ice cream, chocolates, bruschetta, mini pies and much more.

The participating food outlets were The Southern Co-op, Grover Butchers, Any Fish, The Barleycorn Inn, The Crown Inn, Hoxton's Bakehouse and Sweet Corner with

the Bishop's Waltham Country Market putting in a special appearance on the day in Red Lion Street.

The lovely warm and sunny day helped create a real festive atmosphere in the town centre, with participants enthusing about the value for money and variety and quality of food on offer.

Praise for the event didn't stop with the ticket holders. Barry Nicholson, Chairman of the Chamber of Trade, said: "It is such a good village event which attracts regulars and newcomers alike. It is great to welcome people into our outlets for the first time and to have this opportunity to give them a flavour of what we offer. The benefit reaches non-food retailers in the town too. They tell us that footfall is always greater

in their shops on Bishop's Waltham Bites days".

Bishop's Waltham Bites is organised by the Bishop's Waltham Town Team. This year the event was financially supported by The European Regional Development Fund as part of the Government's Welcome Back Fund created in the aftermath of lockdown restrictions.

Sarah Berry

Below: The Any Fish team with their bites.



West Hoe Cemetery

Natural burial site now open

A tranquil corner of West Hoe Cemetery in Bishop's Waltham has been converted into a stunning wildflower meadow where cremated remains of loved ones can be interred in designated plots in natural surroundings.

"We looked at what other facilities we could provide at the cemetery," says Cllr Andy Rankine, Chairman of the West Hoe Cemetery Management Committee, "and after discussion with South Downs Natural Burial Site we found that there was demand in the area for a natural setting for the interment of ashes, rather than the more formal areas we already have at the cemetery. So, we planted our wildflower meadow in 2019 and now that it is firmly established we are able to open it for use."

The West Hoe Meadow is surrounded by hornbeam and rowan

hedges, creating a secluded and peaceful space where visitors can enjoy the vista of a traditional flower meadow. Planting is refreshed each year with additional seeding to ensure a colourful and informal location which can be visited throughout the year. As with the rest of the cemetery, the site was consecrated when the cemetery was initially laid out in 1990.

Whilst grave markers are not permitted, a simple grid system allows plots to be easily identified and families can choose from a list of native bulbs that can be planted on their plot should they wish. Ashes can be interred directly into the ground or be placed in a biodegradable container.

West Hoe Cemetery is managed jointly by members of Bishop's Waltham and Swanmore Parish Councils.

For further information please contact Lindsay Edge, Clerk to the West Hoe Cemetery Management Committee – 07751 790 327 or email: westhoe@bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk



West Hoe Meadow

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

Look out for Roger – Santa's steam engine

Among the usual highlights of the run up to Christmas are our Christmas collections, where we tour the local streets with Santa and "Roger" our brightly lit, and music-playing, Christmas Steam Engine. Last year we did manage a drive round of most of our usual routes, but without stopping due to the impending

lockdown and the need to avoid face to face contact.

This year things seem comparatively more positive and we are excited that we will be able to get out and about with Roger, while Santa will be on hand to take all the children's Christmas present orders.

We have been told on numerous occasions that Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club coming round with Roger marks the start of Christmas, so this year we will be coming around the local area in the first two full weeks of December.

We also have three static collections planned this year (shown below) and keep an eye on our website or Facebook page to find the dates when we will be

Roger the steam engine.



driving round a street near you:

- * Saturday 11th December at McCarthy's Super Stall – 9.30 to 16.30.
- * Saturday 18th December at Sainsbury's Bishop's Waltham – 09.00 to 16.30.
- * Sunday 19th December at Pickwell Farm, Grange Rd, Bursledon – 10.00 to 16.00

We understand that many people no longer carry change, so you can donate via our website <https://www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk>

Food bank

We were approached during the summer and asked to help out by volunteering as drivers every week, delivering the donated food to where it is needed, whilst their normal driver was unavailable. This has put us in touch with individuals and families who we may be able to help in other ways.

The food bank accepts food donations at Wickham Community Centre between 10am and noon every Monday, if you would like to help by donating food to this important and local charity.

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Mayor opens well-attended annual exhibition

Our annual exhibition, opened by the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Vivian Achwal, was held at the United Free in October. At the members-only preview evening on 14th October, the Mayor spent time viewing the images on display and meeting members of the society. She was particularly

impressed by the high standard of the winners in our annual competition for junior photographers.

In all 31 members took part, with 87 images on display. There was also a video for visitors to watch showing images that members had taken during the lockdown.

Exhibition visitors were able to vote for their favourite image; more than 200 votes were cast for 66 different images with many commenting on how difficult it was to choose just one image! The winner will be announced at the Society's AGM in January 2022.

The fourth and final round in our competition year took place in early November and had the set theme of "Monochrome". Many congratulations to those gaining places and thanks to everyone for

The Jacobite by John Coote.



participating. Winners in our three leagues were:

- * Primary League: Sue Collingwood with "The Connection".
- * Intermediate League: John Coote with "The Jacobite".
- * Advanced League: Helen Otton with "Chapel on the Rocks".

We have two more guest speakers this year to complete the great line-up we have been treated to, a member image review evening and a Christmas Quiz – plus a number of "Out & Abouts" so members can get together and enjoy their photography.

New members are always welcome at BWPS and more information about the Society can be found on our.

The Society's junior section meets on the first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm in The Stables meeting rooms (next to the Parish offices, Free Street, Bishop's Waltham). If your children/grandchildren are interested in learning more about photography please contact Peter Mason for more information on this email address: junior@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk.

Dawn Blight



Community swimming A local well-kept secret

Many residents of Swanmore are unaware that the swimming pool at Bishop's Waltham Junior School is regularly open at certain times for community use during school term time. All sessions are supervised by a qualified lifeguard.

During the 2021 summer holidays the pool was upgraded with the installation of a UV system, which has reduced the amount of chlorine needed, and since September the showers in the changing rooms – turned off at the start of lockdown in March 2020 – are once again in operation.

The pool is open for community use between 12noon and 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and these sessions are well supported.

Evening sessions for lane swimming are:

* 7.15pm–8.15pm and 8.15pm–9.15pm on Tuesdays

* 6.15pm–7.15pm on Thursdays.

For families there are fun swim sessions at:

* 5.15pm–6.15pm on Thursday,

* 5.15pm–6.15pm and 6.15pm–7.15pm on Friday, and

* on Saturday morning at 10.45am–11.45am and 11.45am–12.45pm.

During these fun sessions there are no lane barriers and a variety of swimming aids and other items are allowed in the pool.

Annual and six-monthly memberships are available on application, as well as "loyalty" cards offering eleven swim sessions for the price of ten. Single attendance payments (£4.20 for adults and £1-£3.50 for children depending on age) can be paid either in cash or by card.

All details are available on the Bishop's Waltham Community Swimming website (<https://bwcommunityswimming.org.uk>).

Penny Eliot

Dates for your diaries

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd–4th December | 7.30pm SADS "Comedy at Christmas", Village Hall |
| 5th December | 10am Sunday Club Toy Service, St Barnabas |
| 8th December | 8pm Swanmore Society, Paterson Centre, Geoff Goodwin on Sailing with "Pickle" |
| 9th December | 7.30pm St Peter's Bishop's Waltham, Meon Voices Christmas concert |
| 10th December | Christmas Tree Festival, St Barnabas until 8th January |
| 11th December | 9.45am Conservation Group work party, Green's Wood |
| 11th December | 9.30 to 4.30pm Rotary Club collection McCarthy's Super Stall |
| 11th December | 7.45pm Christmas Saxophones, St Barnabas, see p.3 |
| 14th December | 2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Wildflower Hotspots" by Carol Watson |
| 18th December | 9.30 to 4.30pm Rotary Club collection Sainsbury's Bishop's Waltham |
| 21st December | 7.30pm St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham WI, Sarah Delves on "A History of Handbags" |
| 10th January | 9.45am Conservation Group work party, Green's Wood |
| 15th January | 7pm Family Bingo Night, Paterson Centre, see p.3 |
| 18th January | 2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Renal Dialysis" by Toots Ansell |
| 18th January | 7.30pm St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham WI, fitness exercises with Belinda Langford Butler |
| 22nd January | Swanmore Society annual social evening, Lysses Hotel, Fareham (tbc) |
| 1st February | 2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Travels with the Queen in Papua New Guinea" by Roger Esnault |
| 9th February | 8pm Swanmore Society, Paterson Centre, Carol Watson on "Hiking in Scotland" |
| 15th February | 2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Tools for Self Reliance" by Jemma Chambers |

Home-Start

New course for would-be helpers

Home-Start Hampshire, which supports parents who are going through challenging times, is running a preparatory course for new volunteers living in the Meon Valley area starting on 13th January 2022.

The course runs on one day a week for six weeks during school hours and is held at Wickham Community Centre.

To register your interest and find out more about volunteering for Home-Start visit www.home-starthampshire.org.uk or email info@hshants.org.uk

Advertisers are reminded that your renewal response is due by 3rd December for the six issues of *The Swanmore Link* starting from February/March 2022.

New advertisers are always welcome.

Contact: John Austin on 01489 893409 or j.austin830@talktalk.net

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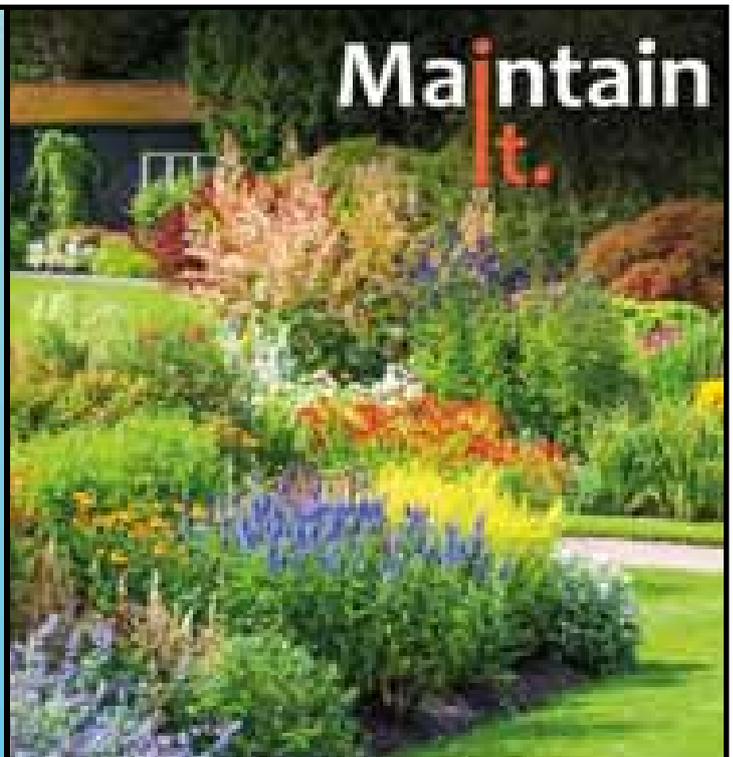
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Daryl Willett Dip FD, CMgr FCMi
Daryl joined the funeral profession in 2001 and after study at the Salisbury College of Funeral Science he gained his Diploma in Funeral Directing in 2003. To support his management credentials he also has a Diploma in Management with a Fellowship of the Chartered Management Institute. He has experience at all levels in the funeral industry and is proud to be a fully qualified Funeral Director of many years standing. Daryl completed five years with the National Association of Funeral Directors Board of Examiners helping others to gain their professional qualifications.



Dee Galloway
Dee worked in Health Care for over 20 years, gaining a Diploma in Health and Social Care and a great reputation for her care, compassion and manner with clients. Dee then joined the funeral profession in 2012 and has gained a great deal of experience supporting the bereaved in the local area. In 2018 Dee joined Richard Steel & Partners of Winchester as an experienced Funeral Director before moving across to Bishops Waltham in 2019 to support the team at Nigel Chamberlain & Partners.



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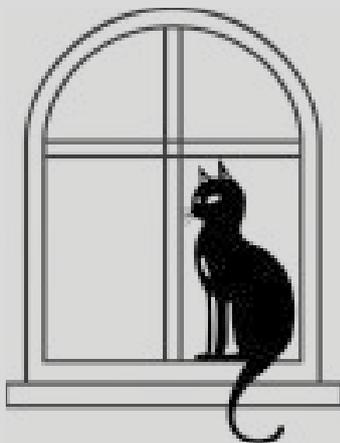
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