

February/March 2022

The **Swanmore** *Link*



Volunteers needed
Village walks
Meon Valley Romans
Upcoming events

Inside this issue

From the churches

From St Barnabas' Church	1
Church news	2
St Barnabas' Services	4
From the Methodist Church	5

Around the village

Village news	7
Volunteers needed	9
From the College	10
Swanmore Parish Council	12
Village walks	14
Swanmore Society	16
Romans around Swanmore	17
Nature notes	20

Around the district

From our District Councillors	22
District news	23
Dates for your diaries	27

Advertisers Directory	28
-----------------------	----

Village Directory	44
-------------------	----

**Deadline for the April/May issue is
Wednesday 16th March 2022.**

**Copies will be available to collect at
The Link from
Tuesday 5th April 2022.**

Jubilee celebrations?

Below are images from Berty Ferrone's cine film of Swanmore's celebrations of the Queen's Silver Jubilee at the Recreation Ground in 1977.

Do you have any memories from the event to share with us? And how will Swanmore mark her Platinum Jubilee this year?



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

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Front cover: Cowslip

Back Cover: Photograph by Peter Mason

Printing managed by Jellyfish Solutions

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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 anyone in the village you know who may have difficulty collecting copies themselves.

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

Thinking about the Churchyard

I met a woman in her late 70s in the churchyard last September, tending the grave of a friend, a task she had undertaken for several decades. Latterly, it involved getting two different buses from her present home, so was a labour of love even before she got down on her knees and scrubbed the marble and cut the grass. You see similar signs of activity around the Church, particularly where the family still live close by. For the rest, it's up to the band of volunteers to keep things under control.

I think that a degree of decay is entirely appropriate in churchyards, evidence of the processes that are generally at work in life, but that does not mean that they should be left unkempt. I wonder what you think of the steady deterioration that takes place? Is it a helpful reminder of our frailty? It is interesting to compare this with the pristine condition of a typical war graves cemetery – which, of course, has been created in somewhat different circumstances.

So, in the spring the mowing and strimming will recommence, whilst avoiding the lesser celandine and snowdrops. Over the winter we have been working on the hedge on the southern boundary, and are hoping to plant two or three new trees at the back of Barnaby's and the Paterson Centre, to replace the huge tree that fell a few years back.

From time to time we also have to lay down a headstone when it has started to wobble – they are often amazingly heavy and quite a health hazard (which is somewhat ironic).

Over the years a wide range of people have been involved with keeping everything in order. In my case it's a great way of getting regular exercise in the open air and giving the week a framework (it's usually Friday mornings that we gather – which has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that Barnaby's is open then). When Sally was still here she'd see two or three of us from the vicarage, sitting on the bench behind Barnaby's drinking

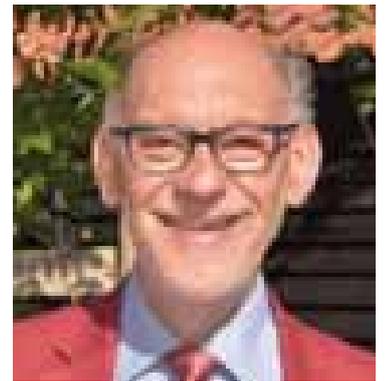
and chatting, and described it as a scene straight out of *Last of the Summer Wine*.

In fact, churchyards are a sign to each generation of the limited life each of us enjoys, and that human beings are sufficiently important that (until quite recently) when they die they are laid to rest beside the house of God.

In the last verse of Philip Larkin's poem *Church Going*, having gently poked fun at the CofE and anticipated its eventual demise, he suddenly backtracks, recognising that something of ultimate value would be lost when the last church is closed:

*Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious,
And gravitating with it to this ground,
Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,
If only that so many dead lie round.*

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead



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



St Barnabas' Pastoral Visitors

Here to help when it is most needed

Jesus told us that whatever we do for the sick, the hungry, those in prison and so on we do for him; and whatever we *don't* do, we don't do for him. It's on that basis that the St Barnabas' Pastoral Visitors will be undertaking their work.

You don't need to have been on a course in order to care for your neighbours. It comes naturally to most people and we've seen over the last two years just how important simple, human kindness is. Nevertheless, it's always helpful to supplement your existing skills by thinking more deeply about the nature of pastoral care and discussing with others what it means.

Six women (where were the men??) have attended a four-session course and then opted for particular areas of ministry. They have all been DBS checked and completed safeguarding training. They were formally recognised at the 10am service on Sunday 30th January.

You can find out more about what they will be doing on this page.

Hazel Whitehead

I attended the training course to become a Pastoral Visitor and in this role I hope to support families bringing their children for baptism.



I envisage making visits to the family, answering any questions they may have, going through the Service with them and then being there to welcome and support them on the day. I also hope to provide some follow-up support.

I currently help with "Worship Wonders" in the Primary school and would like to increase my involvement within the school.

Jen Frampton

For some years, prior to lockdown, I have acted as assistant verger at funerals, supporting the ministry team and the bereaved family.



Following on from the Bereavement Pastoral Visiting training, I am hoping to be a recognised friendly face to the family on their difficult day, and after the funeral to make contact and arrange to visit if agreed and appropriate. I'll also be sending out invitations to the annual thanksgiving service.

Derrinda Laing

During the Pastoral Visitors' course, I was reminded that we all need someone to listen to us at different times in life. And I realised that I often find it easier to talk rather than listen! So, I look forward to visiting any who would like some company, whether elderly, housebound or unwell, and I'll try to listen more than I talk!



I will also be involved in welcoming newcomers to the church and village so that they quickly feel at home in our lovely community.

Janet Pancott



I hope to be able to undertake two roles as a Pastoral Visitor. Firstly, by increasing my current role as part of the *Open the Book* team and

working with Jill Phipps and the headteacher to see how I can assist

more in events in church involving the school.

I have always enjoyed working with children, as I was a child myself once!

Secondly, I will undertake the role of visiting the elderly to see if I may be of any help or support. I think that, especially in the last two years, some elderly people have felt very lonely and cut off and would perhaps welcome a visit from a friendly face who would come in for a cup of tea. I'll bring the biscuits!

Allison Gurry

Swanmore's Pastoral Visitors

- ◆ **Welcoming Newcomers:** Janet Pancott and Caroline Clapperton
- ◆ **Valuing the Elderly:** Janet Pancott, Caroline Clapperton and Allison Gurry
- ◆ **Baptism Families:** Cheryl Young and Jen Frampton
- ◆ **Bereavement:** Derrinda Laing and Allison Gurry
- ◆ **Visiting the Sick and Housebound:** Janet Pancott, Caroline Clapperton and Derrinda Laing
- ◆ **Supporting Swanmore School:** Allison Gurry, Cheryl Young and Jen Frampton

I found the Pastoral Visitors' Course informative and thought provoking. Some of the content was revision of previous training I have done, but revisiting is always helpful and brings information to the fore and makes me more aware.

I will be one of the Pastoral Visitors visiting families who would like their child/children baptised. I will also be engaging with families and children through the Primary School.



Cheryl Young

From the experiences of some of my family, I'm very aware how isolating old age and long-term illness can be, as well as how important the support of their churches has been for them during difficult times.

So in this new role as a Pastoral Visitor, I'm really hoping to be able to help the elderly and unwell in our village more through visits, lifts and other support.

Alongside Janet I will also be involved in welcoming those who are new to Swanmore.



Caroline Clapperton

Pastoral Visitors can be contacted via the Parish Office:

office@stbarnabas.org.uk

St Barnabas Social Events

Planning for a new normal

Wow! What a difference a couple of months make! When I wrote my article for the December/January edition I had not even heard of omicron and now...

So, once again we are going to be risk-averse and avoid indoor social events for at least a couple of months. We are, however, going to restart our series of free Zoom quizzes and we will continue with our outdoor events as planned.

In the light of covid, we were incredibly fortunate to be able to host our marvellous Christmas Saxophone Concert on 11th December. It was brilliant. The music was great and with just under 100 attendees the Church had a great atmosphere without feeling dangerously crowded.

My thanks to the Blow Saxophone Ensemble and to all those who came and made it such a memorable evening.

Our revised calendar for the next few months is:

- ◆ 12th February: Free Zoom quiz
- ◆ 12th March: Free Zoom quiz
- ◆ 23/24th April: Swanmore Open Gardens
- ◆ May: Treasure Hunt (date tbc)
- ◆ 16/17th July: Swanmore Open Gardens

Free Zoom quiz

These are not restricted to locals; previously we have had participants from France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Wales, Yorkshire, Nottingham, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Surrey.

Teams can be any size and may be split between two or three locations. Login details are sent out a couple of days beforehand to those that have registered a team. Questions are more Pub Quiz than Mastermind and of course there are no prizes – only pride or despair.

Log in between 7.15-7.30pm, questions start at 7:30pm. We have a 10 minute break halfway and aim to finish at about 9.30pm. Contact jsharpe2016@hotmail.com in order to register.

Swanmore Open Gardens

We will follow our usual, tried and tested format for this event. The Lions minibus will provide a free shuttle to the remoter gardens and teas will be available in the Paterson Centre. Gardens open at 1pm and tickets (£6) will be available from 12.30pm at the Paterson Centre. For more details see the April issue of *The Swanmore Link* or St Barnabas' website. Proceeds to be shared by St Barnabas and Rowans Hospice.

We are always trying to find new gardens: they do not have to be show gardens or large, just interesting, family gardens. So if you might be interested in opening yours do please contact me jsharpe2016@hotmail.com or 01489 892750.

Treasure hunt

The format for this has yet to be decided; it will be either a walking hunt in and around Swanmore or a car/bicycle hunt with walking sections in Swanmore, Wickham and Bishop's Waltham. There will be a small charge for the question sheet.

John Sharpe

Sunday Club

Come and join us

We would like to invite you to:

- ◆ Sunday Club – for children aged 3-10 years. Meets on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, 10am in the Paterson Centre.
- ◆ Youth Alpha – for young people aged 11-16 years. Meets on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, 10am in Barnaby's Coffee Shop. Croissants & hot chocolate on arrival!
- ◆ The 3rd@10 - a family service with refreshments on arrival. Every 3rd Sunday at 10am.
- ◆ Please also join us for an All-Age Communion Service on Mothering Sunday, 27th March at 10am.

We would love to see you. We also have toys and books suitable and available for any children under three years old.

Ben Armstrong

Services in February and March

Sunday 6th February

4th Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion and baptism of
Mabon Donald Crawley

Sunday 13th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

We welcome Canon David Isaac our Area Dean.

Sunday 20th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

We welcome Revd Kathy O'Loughlin.

10am 3rd@10

Sunday 27th February

Next before Lent

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

We welcome Revd Jackie Twine, a curate in
Portsmouth and looking to broaden her experience
by preaching in other churches.

Sunday 6th March

1st Sunday in Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th March

2nd Sunday in Lent

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

We welcome 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.

Sunday 20th March

3rd Sunday in Lent

8am Holy Communion

We welcome Revd Kathy O'Loughlin.

10am 3rd@10

Sunday 27th March

4th Sunday in Lent: Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am All Age Communion



Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy
Communion



Lent 2022

Encounters with God

Why not join us for our Lent groups, take some time out to think about God and meet some new (and old, familiar) people. Last year, we enjoyed successful Zoom sessions on *God in Lockdown*. This year we are mixing and matching to give maximum opportunity for engagement.

Covid guidance permitting, everybody will come together for an opening session on Thursday, 10th March in church and for a closing session on Wednesday, 30th March in the Paterson Centre, both from 7.30 to 9pm. In the intervening two weeks, a variety of groups will meet in homes, on Zoom or in

church and the Paterson Centre, and you can sign up on the notice in the Link from 1st February. Please include your email and phone details so we can send you the material. All comers welcome – no prior knowledge required.

We are limiting the groups to six to allow everybody to participate and, with so many options of dates and times, there should be something for everyone. We will be using our own material and looking at four biblical passages.

Session 1: 10th March

Session 2: w/c 14th March

Session 3: w/c 21st March

Session 4: 30th March

Questions to Hazel on hazelwhitehead54@gmail.com

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB



Minister: Revd Phil Griffin
Tel. 01329 833518
Email: rev_phil@outlook.com

Loving God Loving our community Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services February and March

All services will commence at **10.30am**.

6th February Stephen Freemantle
13th February Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
20th February Revd Johns – Church Anniversary
27th February Kathy Elvy

6th March Tom Banks
13th March Gill Bailey
20th March Peter Castle
27th March Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion – Mothering Sunday

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.

Coffee, Craft & Company - recommencing Tuesday 15th February

Weekly on Tuesdays at 10am to 12 noon

Enjoy company, coffee, tea and biscuits/craft, if you would like to bring knitting/sewing etc. or just come along for a chat we will be pleased to see you.

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

8th February – Questions and Answers with PC Sarah McCollough

8th March – Cruise the Cheshire Ring with Carol Watson

Please watch your Inbox for any amendments due to the covid situation.

All ladies welcome.

Thursday Fellowship

We hold a Fellowship meeting via Skype every Thursday 2.30pm–3.30pm – an opportunity to meet with fellow Christians for prayer, Bible reading and discussion and, if you want, to join in with singing at home!

If you would like to join us please contact Jill Letts – 01489 896182; email – jill.letts@hotmail.com

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

Find us on 



Pete Bangs

Wearing the red suit

I'm sitting here eight days before Christmas and I want to share a Christmas-related story with you, even though Christmas will be long past when you read this.

In the run-up to Christmas I get invited to stand in for Santa at several

toddler groups and this year was no exception. I practised my ho, ho, hos, worked on my figure so I didn't need padding, had some stories about the elves and the reindeer ready, and did my utmost to engage the children and parents so it was a memorable time.

For me Santa is about kindness and love and generosity, and I don't see that as being at odds with my beliefs as a Christian. For many parents Christmas is also about sacrificial love, giving up things themselves so they are able to give to their children.

Anyway, back to the story. So I've stood in for Santa many times over the last 25 years but I want to share two particular stories from my first time in the red suit.

My first Santa was when my employer encouraged staff to give gifts for children in hospitals over Christmas. I got to put on the red suit, a luxurious affair, and visit with a member of the PR team. I met many wonderful children that day but two stuck in my mind.

One was a young girl who had just had a bone marrow transplant. As we chatted she said to me "I know you're not real Santa, you have a false beard on." I leaned in and whispered conspiratorially. I told her I shave it off over the summer because it gets very itchy and it hadn't grown back fast enough. I then lifted the fake beard to show my own beard underneath, which I had whitened with talcum powder. The look on the girl's face was priceless. She knew something no one else in the world did and she just beamed.

On the way out a little boy of five or six was coming towards us. He was clearly there for cancer treatment and was wheeling an IV drip with him. His eyes lit up when he saw me and I stopped to talk to him. I rambled for a few minutes and then asked him what he wanted for Christmas and he started to tell me. I said I'd do my best and we shook hands as we parted. As I got up I noticed the nurse was crying and she told me I was the first person he'd spoken to since he came into hospital six weeks before.

When my son got to the "Father Christmas isn't real" stage I told him these stories. I told him Santa was real and he is a spirit of kindness in all of us that was manifest in the red suit. He was now a part of Santa. Be kind this year.

Peter Bangs – Methodist Missioner

Measuring your happiness

The world is increasingly designed to depress us. Happiness isn't very good for the economy. If we were happy with what we had why would we need more? How do you sell an anti-ageing moisturiser? You make someone worry about ageing. How do you get people to vote for a political party? You make them worry about immigration or the economy. How do you get them to buy insurance? By making them worry about everything. How do you get them to have plastic surgery? By highlighting their physical flaws. How do you get them to watch a TV show? By making them worry about missing out. How do you get them to buy a new Smartphone? By making them think they are being left behind.

To be calm becomes a kind of revolutionary act; to be happy with your own non-upgraded existence. To be comfortable with our messy human selves would not be good for business.

So – what does make people happy?

According to one list it is:

1. Family and relationships. The happiest people spend time with those they love.
2. Meaningful work. We are happiest when engaged in activities that make us forget ourselves and lose track of time.
3. Positive thinking. Refuse to compare yourself with others.
4. Gratitude.
5. Forgiveness.
6. Giving to others.

It's interesting to see that having more money, a bigger house, bigger car, big holiday, latest item (be it a Smartphone or fashion icon) are not on the list.

So maybe we should work on these things listed above and we may all become happier. I must admit "Meaningful work" was a surprise; perhaps it's "Meaningful" that is important.

Of course happiness is defined in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew chapter 5, the Bible defines it through the words of Jesus. The words differ from the list above – but again there is no mention of more money, a bigger house or gadgets. And if you wish to check you will see lots of commonality between these two examples.

Let's all be truly happy in 2022.

Martin Letts



Conservation Group

Plenty of work to do...

2021 ended with two work parties in December, one at the Primary School and the other in the Conservation Area. This was our second visit to the wildlife pond at the school and luckily we were blessed with a beautiful sunny morning.

We did more work on the path around the pond, cutting back brambles and ivy on the ground as well as on some of the trees. The major job involved two of our group spending time in waders reducing the area of reeds to allow some areas of clear water and removing some of the sludge at the bottom of the pond.

Our usual work party back in the Conservation Area also involved a lot of cutting back. In the plantation, shrubs had grown up to form a barrier along the edges on the sides near the picnic area. The idea is that cutting these back will open up the area, allowing ground cover plants to grow. It also opens up the views across the area hopefully making it more pleasant to walk through.

We also continued crown-lifting the oaks along the line of the old hedge in the Upper Meadow; again this has improved the views and should encourage the primroses, which are spreading along the bank. Over the years the sedges on this bank have grown ever more vigorously and seem to have crowded out the marsh orchids, which have reduced in numbers. Fortunately we were able to use brush cutters for this job as the sedges are really hard to cut down.

After all the rain we've had recently the "ephemeral pond" below the bank has become ever large; if we get a dry spring it should start to shrink in size and disappear over the summer.

The wildflower meadow that the Parish Council has been developing within the Conservation Area was left to die down in the autumn and hopefully those flowers that did survive the wet weather had a chance to set seed. The area was then strimmed and in December two of our members scattered yellow rattle seeds in six places across the area. This involved scraping the grass away to create bare patches to sow the seeds onto.

Yellow rattle is an annual sometimes referred to as the "meadow maker" as it is semi-parasitic on grass so weakens its roots. If it is a warmer and drier summer this year hopefully the perennial flowering plants in the wildflower meadow will have a chance to become established and flourish.

The Conservation Group meets on the second Saturday of the month from 9.45am–12noon, with a break for coffee at 11.00. Recently we have been joined by two college students and we've been impressed both by their strength and their enthusiasm. We meet at the hut by the kissing gate



Photographs by Peter Mason

The "ephemeral pond" at its winter peak in January.

in Broad Lane. New members are always welcome for however long or infrequently they are able to join us.

Dates for the beginning of 2022 are 12th February, 12th March and 8th April, there will be plenty to do as we were rained off in January.

Gill Sawyer – 01489 894206

...de-wilding the School pond

On Saturday 4th December seven gallant volunteers from the Swanmore Conservation Group returned to the Primary School to follow up on the initial clearance they had begun back in June.

A busy couple of hours were spent dredging, trimming, tidying and litter picking, and the over-all effect is that this area is beginning to look as though it is being reclaimed from the wilderness!

The team have now cleared a pathway around the pond to create ease of access for the children to explore the whole area and view the pond from all sides. The shallow side of the pond is much more accessible so that creatures can easily get in and out and the children will have a clear view of the water, which will be very exciting if we are lucky enough to have frog spawn this year.

After years of neglect the team removed another six wheelbarrow loads of growth, roots and sediment from the pond itself, which will no doubt encourage more pond

life to inhabit it as the water will benefit from increased space and light. In addition, the team used some timber to create a habitat woodpile.

The children will really enjoy making observations within the pond area and trying to discover how many other creatures enjoy sharing the school grounds with them.

We are so grateful to the team for their hard work and are looking forward to seeing the benefits of this in the springtime. They have kindly volunteered to continue to support us with the maintenance of this area.

*Jo Hughes, School Grounds Lead
Swanmore Primary School.*



Conservation Group hard at work at the Primary School.

In memoriam

Remembering Marlene King

On behalf of my son Martin and daughter Alison, and all my family, thank you all so much for your sympathy, kindness and support following the very unexpected loss of my dear wife Marlene.



The thoughtful comments written in the many cards I received were beautifully expressed – and made me realise afresh how much Marlene reached out to so many people.

I'm sure Marlene would have been pleased that her funeral was very well attended, and she would have loved the flowery coffin, decorated with displays of flowers in a setting rather like her beloved garden at Hill Cottage.

On Marlene's birthday, Monday 13th December, a small family group gathered to inter her ashes beside the

Below: The garden at Hill Cottage.



Millennium Memorial Path in the churchyard.

My cousin, the Revd Marian Randall, spoke some carefully chosen words and prayers while, in keeping with our tearful mood, light rain fell from dark grey clouds.

Hill Cottage is too big for just one person, so I want to move to somewhere in or near the centre of the village, and continue life's journey from a new base.

My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Tony King



The ashes casket was made in Somerset from willow.

Meon Valley Carers Monthly meetings planned

The Meon Valley Carers Group, which now comes under the auspices of Andover Mind, will be meeting at the Paterson Centre on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 2pm–4pm.

Andover Mind, a registered charity formed in 1984, provides services across Hampshire, supporting people with mental ill health, as well as adult carers, who care for an adult, and people living with dementia and mild cognitive impairment.

Its monthly meetings in Swanmore will allow carers looking after someone with dementia in the area to meet and talk to others in similar situations, as well as providing support, information and signposting.

For more information contact enquiries@andovermind.org.uk or 01264 332297.



BEAVERS

Finding lots to do

Beavers have been having a wonderful time and had a busy term.

We held our first pop-up cafe and thank you all who came to view our photos and talk to the Beavers. They were very proud of themselves as talking to people is a hard skill to learn.

We had our annual Christmas sleepover and did so many activities, and even had a visit from Father Christmas: he read a story to us and helped present some awards.

We finished our term with a visit to a local mosque and then a Christmas party.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are looking for more adults to help children have more fun and adventures. If you are interested please contact us.

Roisin Smith



Volunteering

Our village needs you

Recent issues of *The Swanmore Link* have carried an increasing number of appeals from several village groups for helpers. Every village is much more than a simple assemblage of dwellings – old and new – or residents, be they long-established families or recent arrivals. It's a community where everyone has a part to play in helping each other, contributing to village events and actively participating. Please consider helping any of these groups to help us all.

Julian Livingstone, Group Scout Leader, 1st Swanmore Scout Group, 01489 893399, 07720 758764 or email julian.livingstone@bopenworld.com

Swanmore Lunch Club

Could anyone spare some time, on Wednesdays, on a rota basis, to come and put up tables and chairs at the Paterson Centre at 11am, and then return at 1.30pm to put them away again?

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

Pam Manson

Swanmore Scouts

We are struggling to offer places for all the children moving through the Scouting groups and are now at a point where Beavers will take children from the waiting list but cannot offer a guarantee that they will progress straight away into the next section. Cubs are now full for the foreseeable future. We will not be able to keep Beavers who are due to move to Cubs within the Beaver Colony.

To continue to offer the children of Swanmore a Scouting experience we need both another Beaver Colony and, more urgently, a second Cub Pack. We can only offer this with your help and support. We need a group of people to take up leadership roles. There will be lots of support from the existing team and an established programme available to use.

We will be arranging an open day for parents to come and join us with their children and talk to existing leaders. This will be an opportunity for you to find out how rewarding being a leader in the Scouting movement is, not just for the young people but for yourself as well. If you are interested in helping please speak to me or the leaders of the sections currently running.

Swanmore Brownies

Swanmore Brownies has temporarily closed until more adults can be found to help run and support the sessions. Could you, or someone you know, join the team to give the Brownies a fresh start?

Guiding is totally flexible and units can run weekly, fortnightly, monthly, in the evening or at weekends to fit around families, work and other commitments.

The new team will be really well supported by experienced leaders and all training and resources will be provided. Having a team of four to six would give good flexibility.

If you want to know more please call 07771 801579, message meonvalleydivcommis@gmail.com or have a look at the website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>



What is volunteering?

- ◆ Giving your precious own "me" time up for something else? Yes
- ◆ Not getting paid for lots of work done? Yes
- ◆ Being even more busy, worried, planning, organising, stressing then you would be otherwise? Yes
- ◆ Knowing there's always something else that needs to be done? Yes
- ◆ Lots of crazy juggling of time and logistics to make it all work? Yes
- ◆ Knowing that you're making a huge difference in a million tiny ways? Yes
- ◆ A new way of life that is not only helping others but is really rewarding? Yes
- ◆ Finding an amazing new set of friends who all believe in the same things you do? Yes!
- ◆ Totally and utterly worth every moment? Yes!!

You might be the busiest person. You might think that even an hour is not possible. But you can build volunteering into your life. It might not seem like it but volunteering can be your "me" time, but "me" time with a true purpose.

Make your New Year resolution to volunteer. Go on! You **can** make it work for you.

Vicky Feldwick, Twyford Guides

Also needing volunteers are:

- ◆ **Swanmore Litter Pickers,**
- ◆ **Village Centre Working Party,**
- ◆ **Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society (backstage helpers),** and
- ◆ **a new team to take over the Christmas lunch for the lonely.**

Full details are in the December/January issue of *The Swanmore Link* which is available online at <http://stbarnabas.org.uk/informationhub>

Charity events and more

For Remembrance Day we supported the British Armed Forces past and present, and their families, by selling such items as poppies, bracelets, reflective poppies, rings, snap-bands, and temporary tattoos. Many of our pupils, their families and staff supported this worthy cause and wore poppy items with pride.

We had a two minutes' silence at 11.00am on the 11th November and three of our musicians played the last post.

Pupils produced so many boxes for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal that the collection team had to make two trips! The College is always delighted to contribute to this very worthwhile event.

Year 11 Pupils focussed on supporting the Meon Valley Food Bank in their charity week and were encouraged to bring in an item of food.

We received a lovely letter of thanks from the Food Bank: *"We're really not sure how to start this letter. Wow! Amazing! Unbelievable! Extraordinary! When the minibus arrived, we had no idea what was inside. Box after box kept appearing. Last week, we helped 21 families who were in need of food support and this week it has been the same. No one likes to ask for help but at least we know that we can be there for people because of the amazing generosity of*

Year 11's collection for the Meon Valley Food Bank.

The enormous number of filled shoeboxes produced by Year 11.

Swanmore College. With all that is happening at the moment we cannot see the need for food support diminishing, in fact it is likely to get worse. So please pass on a huge thank you to everyone at the College for the most amazing, unbelievable, extraordinary, wow making gifts".

What's been happening?

In November, we welcomed back Year 11 leavers from the class of 2021 for their GCSE Certificate Evening.

Our guest speaker journalist Emily Ford, who was a former pupil and head girl at Swanmore, made the presentations and certificates, subject prizes and special awards were given while current pupils delighted the audience with their musical talent and performances. Emily gave a short address reflecting on her experiences at the College and her road into journalism.

The evening was hosted by the current head boy and head girl. It was wonderful to be able to congratulate the pupils who, through a very difficult period, had achieved so much, as well as thanking staff and parents/carers for adapting so well.

We also held a Parent and Child, Italian-themed cooking evening and a Hallowe'en Cooking Competition.

Hampshire County Council conducted a traffic survey in December to assess the need for a

zebra crossing outside Swanmore College. We are hopeful of a positive outcome!

We launched the availability of free sanitary products for all pupils – they can collect items from various locations around the College during their lunch and break.

We invited our parents/carers to complete a survey – to enable them to "Have Their Say" about life at Swanmore College.

Pupils from Year 11 and Year 8 have been hard at work creating a book exchange. If you have any unwanted books at home and would like to donate them to the pupil's book exchange, we would be very grateful to receive them.

On 14 December, Year 7 took part in the annual English Poetry Festival. This involved every class – and every pupil – performing a Christmas poem. It was a wonderful event and Year 7 were all amazing!

Year 10 sat their Mock Examinations and their behaviour throughout was impeccable.

Christmas 2021

We participated in Save The Children's "Christmas Jumper Day" on Friday 10th December and we managed to hold Christmas lunches for Year 7 and Year 8 but were forced to cancel lunches for the other year groups as our catering team were off with covid – it was shock to have no food on site!

On the last day of term, pupils and staff were invited to wear something "Christmassy". Everyone arrived on site wearing a token Christmas item: jumpers, ear-rings, hats, socks and tinsel were popular choices.

COVID-19 precautions

Our pupils and staff continue to undertake lateral flow tests twice weekly. We provide staff and pupils with the new covid testing kits to enable them to do this.

At present, pupils and staff are wearing masks throughout the site in an effort to keep numbers of positive cases low and in accordance with government guidelines. If anyone is displaying covid symptoms, we ask them to arrange for a PCR test before returning to College.

In memoriam

Remembering Sheila Palmer

We are sad to report the death of Sheila Palmer, peacefully on 24th December 2021 at the Queen Alexandra Hospital.

Sheila was born on 9th July 1937 in Hamworthy, Poole, and moved to Swanmore in February 1973 with her husband Bruce and her two children Clive and Sarah.

During her time living in Swanmore Sheila was extremely active in the local community; she was a member of the local WI and served at various times as the President and Treasurer. She was also involved in promoting the Swanmore Care Group, more than 40 years ago, as well as the Lunch Club, formed under the aegis of the Care Group.

During the years Sheila was involved with the Lunch Club she was present most weeks and at other times, co-ordinated transport, arranged menus, organised the rotas for volunteer helpers, and arranged

the weekly raffle.

In her role as Care Group co-ordinator, Sheila was the first port of call for village people requiring help with transport for medical purposes, which she then arranged from a team of volunteers.

Sheila continued in her role organising transport for the Lunch Club even after her mobility deteriorated, which prevented her from attending each week.

In 2008 Sheila was presented with a Parish Council "Service to the Community" award in recognition of her commitment and dedication to the Swanmore Lunch Club.

In addition, Sheila was awarded the Mayor of Winchester's Community Award in recognition and grateful appreciation for service to the community in 2012.

Alongside her community work Sheila enjoyed her role as a home-maker caring for her husband and two

children. She was a talented craftswoman excelling at cake decorating, needlework and china painting, alongside many other skills.

Deteriorating health resulted in time in hospital in her later years, and ultimately a move to the Cams Ridge Care Home in August 2017.

Sheila will be missed by her husband Bruce, her two children Clive and Sarah, and her five grandchildren.

Sarah Bishop



Sheila Palmer with a favourite Christmas gift.

Swanmore Preschool

Brushing teeth is fun!

At the beginning of 2022 we welcomed some new children into Preschool who have all settled in very well, with the older children taking on some responsibility in helping the new ones with feeling happy and safe.

We have been learning how to keep ourselves healthy, fit and well with doctors role play, keeping our teeth clean and healthy with a visit from Hampshire Healthy Heroes and practising cleaning teeth; and learning about regular exercise and feeling our hearts beating fast after running.

We have purchased some pet fish following fundraising from Mrs Pettit over the Christmas period selling her home-made crochet decorations, Thank you Mrs Pettit.

We are hoping to host a fundraising quiz and games night event this year; more details will follow.

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



Top: Jasmine with Isla heading into the garden. Above: Benji. Left: Jasmine and Jack experiment with teeth cleaning.

New Road Playing Field pump track

We started off the New Year by converting the BMX track at New Road Playing Field into a pump track. This means the old dirt surface has been built up and replaced with tarmac.

This is a result of the Recreation Areas Improvements Consultation we carried out last year. By creating a tarmac pump track, we are opening up the space to scooters, skateboards, bikes and boots/blade users of all ages, and will also free up the skatepark.

Road Safety

Last month we continued the siding out of pavements. This is where vegetation and soil is scraped back so that the full width of the pavement can be used.

Pavements on Gravel Hill (from the Forest Road junction and up towards Shirrell Heath), on Swanmore Road (from the Hampton Hill turning and up the hill towards Donigers Close) and on New Road (opposite the College) were all transformed, hopefully making them safer for walking.

New Councillors

We are very pleased to welcome two new councillors to the Parish Council: Keith Gautier and Richard Ladd-Jones OBE.

Keith, a retired chartered building surveyor, was a partner of a large multi-disciplinary firm of building surveyors, structural and civil

Siding out has widened many of our pavements.



engineers for many years. When he retired from the practice, he consulted for three central London practices and set up a building and surveying consultancy, before finally putting his feet up properly in 2018. As well as his professional credentials he also brings his passion for Swanmore to the role. He will be sitting on our Planning and Highways Committee.

Richard has taken well-deserved early retirement after serving 35 years in the UK civil service, with the majority of time spent abroad on operational tasks and international security policy roles, including three tours at NATO HQ and one at the EU, where he represented and negotiated on behalf of the UK, working with other nations on developing defence policy, planning and finance.

Richard has a particular interest in environmental and sustainability issues, and since retiring has joined CPRE, become a Hampshire Council Footpath Warden and volunteers at the Sustainability Centre in East Meon. Richard will sit on our Open Spaces and Amenities Committee.

The new pump track at New Road Playing Field can be used by cycles, scooters and skateboards.

Community hub

The Parish Council is moving. We currently work at the top of Hollythorns House in New Road and, on 1st February, we are moving into the ground floor offices of the same building.

The ground floor office space is larger and more accessible and creates opportunities that are not possible in our current location.

We would like our office to become a community hub. We have space to create a small internet café, providing residents with free access to the internet and a meeting space, which we will hire out at a small cost.

The treasures that make up the Swanmore Archives can finally be rehomed within the Parish Council offices and become the community asset that they deserve to be, with easy access for those wishing to consult them.



Before



After



Before



After



Save the date

**The Annual Meeting of the Parish
Thursday 31st March 2022**

7.30pm, Swanmore Village Hall

Please put this date in your diaries. Unlike last year when the meeting was held on Zoom, all being well, we shall hold our Annual Meeting of the Parish at the Village Hall, giving residents the opportunity to listen to the latest updates from the Parish Council as well as ask any questions.

Our Community Awards will be announced and presented during the meeting.

SHELAA update

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) document developed by Winchester City Council as part of its current Local Plan project has been updated following a further call for sites in Spring 2021.

There are now four additional sites for Swanmore and we would be grateful please for any local knowledge/feedback on these sites.

By way of background, the SHELAA document lists sites that have been put forward by landowners and site promoters for possible new housing developments. These sites will allow WCC to identify land that will help deliver a variety of community

and accommodation needs across the district.

It is really important to emphasise that the SHELAA document identifies sites that have been submitted to WCC, it does not allocate sites. The inclusion of a site in the SHELAA does not imply that WCC would necessarily grant planning permission. These proposed sites have not yet been assessed by WCC and we don't know yet what the village's housing allocation under the new Local Plan will be.

The new sites are:

- ◆ SWA17 Land at White Cottage, Lower Chase Road with capacity for 92 houses.
- ◆ SWA 18 Oak Meadow, Bishop's Wood Road with capacity for 25 houses.
- ◆ SWA19, Oakfield Stables, Forest Road with capacity for 47 houses.
- ◆ SWA20 Hoe Road with capacity for 104 houses.

Details are shown on the maps on this page and can also be found on our website.

We would like your feedback please. For example, if there are sites that you feel would not be appropriate for development, please could you let us know why – thinking about issues such as existing infrastructure, access, road safety, possible drainage issues, impact on biodiversity.

Equally if you think there is a particular site that would be best-suited to development, please let us know this too. We are hoping to meet with Winchester's Planning Team shortly, when we can present them with all the information that we have gathered.

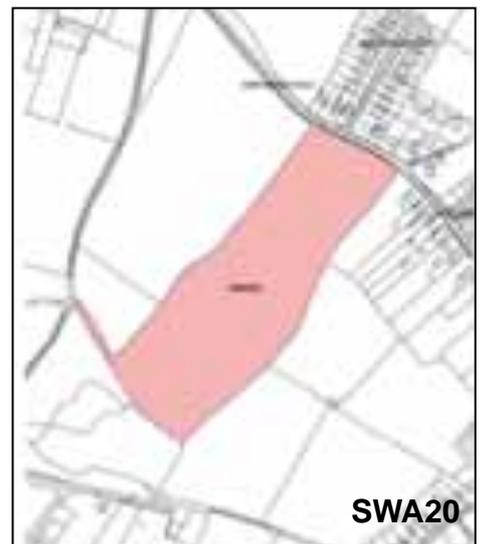
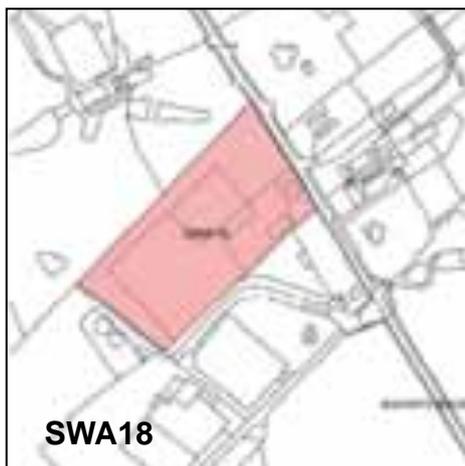
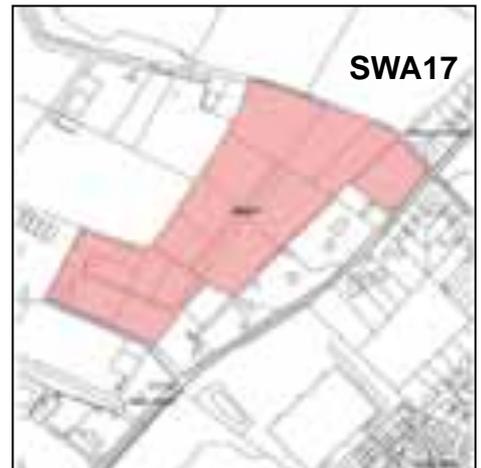
Please send any feedback (on the four new sites only) to: DEO@swanmorepc.org.uk

Parish Council Office

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

**PUBLIC OPENING TIMES
WEEKDAYS 10am-2pm**

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



**Swanmore Parish Council
Meeting Dates**

8th February	Planning & highways
15th February	Open spaces & amenities
22nd February	Finance
8th March	Planning & highways
15th March	Open spaces & amenities
22nd March	Full Council
31st March	Annual Meeting of the Parish

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 stile at the bottom of the hill on the bridleway through Phrymph Wood from Damson Hill which leads into the horse paddock field.

4. Park Lane to Mayhill Lane

Retrace your steps across the stile to the double kissing gates. Turn left through the end of a garden, over a stile and across a pasture field to a stile. Take care going down the steps into Park Lane. Cross into Vicarage Lane and bear left into Green Lane at the triangle by Dahlia Cottage. After about half a mile (and just before the really muddy bit) turn right onto a footpath by a field gate. Follow the path with the edge of the field on your right into a narrow

path in trees to Mayhill Lane.

5. Mayhill Lane to the Primary School

Turn right into Mayhill Lane and left onto a footpath beyond Trenarren. Follow this path to Droxford Road opposite Hill Farm Orchards. Take the permissive path on the right beside Droxford Road (muddy in a few places) to Church Lane. Turn right into Church Lane, cross Mayhill Lane past the entrance to the Old Vicarage to meet Vicarage Lane. Go through the kissing gate into the field, turn left in the middle of the field and return to Church Road.

David Street

The Quaker burial ground off Hampton Hill.



Applying for a Blue Badge

Having a Blue Badge means you can park closer to your destination, when you are travelling as a driver or passenger. A Blue Badge costs £10 and is usually valid for three years.

You are automatically eligible if you:

- ◆ are registered as severely sight impaired (blind);
- ◆ receive the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance;
- ◆ receive a Personal Independence Payment award that indicates you cannot walk further than 50 metres;
- ◆ receive War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement;
- ◆ have been awarded a lump sum benefit at tariffs 1 to 8 of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, and are certified as having a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking; or
- ◆ receive a Personal Independence Payment award of ten points with the specific accompanying statement "where to undertake a journey causes overwhelming psychological distress".

You may still be eligible if:

- ◆ you cannot walk at all;
- ◆ you cannot walk without help from someone else or a mobility aid;
- ◆ walking is difficult due to pain or breathlessness;
- ◆ walking is dangerous to your health.

Full eligibility criteria and the application form are on the Hampshire County Council website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/bluebadge>

If you would like help with completing your Blue Badge application or renewal, contact Lorna Neill, Swanmore's Community Information Volunteer for Age Concern Hampshire on 07790845944 or enquiries@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk



Lorna Neill

Swanmore Society

An enjoyable Autumn but now 'on pause' again until Easter

Andrew Negus was as entertaining and informative as always at the Swanmore Society's November meeting. His talk on "Portsmouth – Harlots, Dung and Glory" (with all three aspects amply covered) took us through some 700 years of the port's history, from its establishment around 1100 through to the start of the Napoleonic Wars.

The sheltered inlet of The Camber, protected by the narrow harbour entrance, became a favoured location for Norman kings and merchants making regular visits to Normandy, and a settlement soon grew up around that area. Richard I granted the town a Royal Charter in 1194, which authorised an annual fair, weekly markets and other privileges, while King John founded the country's first permanent naval base there in 1215.

We learnt much about the development of Portsmouth's defences, from the first wooden fortifications built by Henry V and their replacement in stone later in the fifteenth century by Henry VII. He also made Portsmouth a royal dockyard and ordered the construction of the world's first dry dock, paving the way for its rise to pre-eminence as the world's largest naval dockyards by the end of the eighteenth century.

Portsmouth played a pivotal role in numerous wars throughout these seven centuries but became equally important as a commercial centre.

Mercantile activities were based in the Point area, or "Spice Island" as it became known – which was well provided with hostelryes and brothels.

The origin of the city's cathedral, notorious murders, a royal wedding and so much more were also packed into Andrew's presentation, making it impossible to summarise adequately!

Sailing around Britain

Our December meeting also had a decidedly nautical theme, featuring Geoff Goodwin's humorous talk on his adventures sailing around the UK. Swanmore resident Geoff has been involved with boats, ships and the sea in various capacities for some 60 years, including 35 years in the Royal Navy. He had travelled worldwide but long held a wish to explore this country more widely by boat. This was finally fulfilled three years ago in the company of his good friend Ian Walker, with the spur of raising money to fund a monument to commemorate the work of HMS Vernon (www.vernon-monument.org.uk).

After due planning, the pair departed from Weymouth on 2nd July 2018 in Ian's 40ft sailboat "Pickle" (named after the ship that brought back news of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar). The aim was to sail around much of Britain in an anticlockwise direction to take advantage of the

Portsmouth Harbour with Spinnaker Tower. (Image courtesy of Visit Britain.)



"Pickle" in the Caledonian Canal.

prevailing wind.

Proceeding through the Straits of Dover and into the North Sea required careful negotiation, first of the treacherous Goodwin Sands and later of all the oil rig and wind turbine installations. A blocked "head" and adverse tides at Flamborough Head were offset by wonderful sunsets and atmospheric views of the Farne Islands and Holy Island with "fantastic seabirds" and seals as they proceeded north, while dolphins chasing salmon accompanied them in the Moray Firth.

Another highlight was passage through the scenic Caledonian Canal – and its memorable locks and aqueducts. Our intrepid duo finally made it round Land's End and into Falmouth on 3rd August, and thence back to Weymouth to conclude a memorable adventure!

Back in April – we hope

With great regret the Swanmore Society committee has decided to suspend activities until the April meeting at the earliest, in view of the current coronavirus situation. The February meeting and dedicated AGM in March are therefore cancelled.

We currently plan to hold a short AGM at the start of the meeting on 13th April and we look forward to welcoming Andrew Negus back in May to continue his colourful account of Portsmouth's history.

Further details will be provided in the next issue of this magazine.

Caroline Clapperton – 01489 891447

Local history

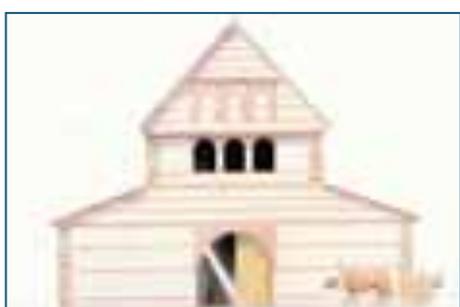
Looking for Swanmore's Roman past

In need of some suggestions for local days out? They why not follow some of our nearby Roman roads or look for Roman villas in local woods as Crawford Wright suggests.

While no Roman sites have been found in Swanmore – nor any relevant artefacts unearthed by metal detectorists – our village is surrounded by excellent evidence of their 400-year occupation.

The recent discovery and excavation of a Roman temple and bath house at Exton is of national significance. The temple was of an uncommon hexagonal construction, initially of early to late Iron Age levels with the skeletons of a female horse and foal, so possibly dedicated to Epona – a Gallo-Roman fertility

Below: Preparing the Roman building at Shavards Farm for transfer to the British Museum. Bottom: Artist's impression of how the original building may have looked.



goddess and the protector of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. The foal was found to have died perinatally, which may also have caused the death of the mare.

The water supply for the bath house came from the river Meon, which was diverted in the nineteenth century to be about 100 yards closer to Exton village, and the building had finely painted wall plaster.

The Exton complex is rare, although there is also a Roman temple built over an Iron Age one on Hayling Island, but a useful piece of dating evidence was the find of a late Iron Age silver coin of Epaticcus – brother of Cunobelinus, king of the Catuvellauni, one of Britain's Iron Age tribes – who died c.35AD.

Intriguing questions remain as to whether there are further buildings close to the Exton complex, since geographical surveys indicate what may be more potential sites and nearby finds of two *solidi* – pure gold coins introduced by the Emperor Constantine in around 312AD.

The Meon Valley is a rich source of Roman occupation with Roman finds in both Fareham High Street and Wallington, the remains of Roman villas in Lippen Wood north of West Meon and in Bottom Copse near Soberton (possibly related to the



The goddess Epona, second century carving found in Luxembourg.

Roman sarcophagus which stands outside Soberton village church). There is also a track network up to Neatham near Alton – believed to be the site of the lost Roman settlement of Vindomis – and the road from Chichester passes through on its way to Silchester. Along the A272 the remains of Roman villas have been found in Bramdean and Stroud.

A Roman building was excavated some years before the Exton temple and bath house across the A32, at Shavards Farm.

The outer wall had fallen onto the ground with the window apertures still intact. With the help of the Royal Engineers, who used special hydraulic equipment to cut underneath the foundations, the complete structure was salvaged, loaded onto a lorry and taken to the British Museum where today it is a key exhibit in the Roman Gallery. ►

Excavations underway at the Exton temple and bath house site.



Walking the Roman roads

Today the Roman road between Chichester (Noviomagus Reginorum) and Winchester (Venta Belgarum) can easily be followed.

Leaving Chichester it runs on what is now the A259, through Havant High Street, Southwick Estates and emerges from the Southwick bypass as a long straight stretch to North Boarhunt.

It then passes through Wickham up into Park Place where it divides,



one section going to Bitterne, where the fortified Roman town of Clausentium was located, at the end of what is today Northam Bridge.

The road to Bitterne can be traced in part where it crosses the river Hamble close to a Roman building. There is also a plaque marking the site of the road at Freemantle Common.

The other section heads towards Winchester. It then crosses Titchfield Lane and can be seen crossing the Meon Valley golf course then along Sandy Lane, crossing the Bishop's Waltham to Botley Road, passing through Wintershill and crossing the B217.

It then passes up through Upham Farm into Owslebury and Morestead, where the Roman alignment runs parallel to the modern road, before running down into Chesil Street and the Roman east gate, by the river Itchen.



Above: The Roman road from Chichester at the end of the Southwick bypass towards North Boarhunt.

Left: The road through Wintershill – now a public footpath.

Measurements of the width of the Roman road from Chichester to Winchester were made and the width at Shedfield was 10 metres/11 yards, which indicates what an important road this was.

Claudius' invasion

By the first century AD, the main tribe in Sussex, Surrey and East Hampshire was the Atrebates; they originally came from the Artois region of Gaul and ruled from Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester). They were pro-Roman and their king, Commius, had supported Julius Caesar's invasion in 54BC, with his descendants regarded as "client kings" by Rome.

The Catuvellauni were largely based north of the Thames but Cunobelinus (died c.AD40) and his brother Epaticcus had expanded their territory south pushing the Atrebates to

their last defensive line just north of Chichester, where the earthworks can still be seen today. The Atrebaten client king, Verica, fled to Rome to beg for support and the new emperor Claudius – keen on conquest to prove himself – saw this as an ideal opportunity to mount a full-scale invasion.

In AD43 the Romans sent four legions, auxiliary troops, plus horses and equipment in sailing boats; after landing in Kent, they defeated the British – led by Togodumnus and Caratacus, sons of Cunobelinus – at the battle of the Medway. We know

that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were conquered by the Second Augusta Legion under Vespasian, who became Roman Emperor in AD69.

In Rome the conquest was seen as a great victory and Claudius even changed his son's name to Britannicus. A triumphal arch was erected to commemorate victory over the barbarians. And what did the Roman's think of their new conquest? According to Tacitus it was a country where "the crops are slow to ripen but spring up quickly due to the moistness of the soil of the land, which yields gold, silver and other metals".



Left: Footprint of Exton's Roman bath house. Below: Sarcophagus at Soberton church. Opposite page: One of the Shedfield pottery kilns.





Above: Chichester's Roman north wall rampart walk.

Right: Museum model imagining Cogidubnus' palace.



The Chichester area became a main base for the Roman invasion, particularly around Fishbourne, where we know that there was a harbour for the fleet and warehouses built as early as AD43 to supply the Roman Army.

Under Roman control the south east of England was managed by the client king Cogidubnus who was seen as a safe and loyal custodian. He was also useful in maintaining strong links with the local tribes. The palace of Fishbourne reflected his status and for administrative reasons the region was split into three main areas, each associated with one of the resident tribes: the Regni – of whom Cogidubnus was king – occupied the area around Chichester, the Atrebates around Silchester, and the Belgae around Winchester.

During the revolt against Roman rule by Queen Boudica in AD60–61 it is clear that the tribes under Cogidubnus remained loyal to Rome. If they had joined forces with Boudica



then it is likely that the Romans would have been defeated and lost Britain.

Places to visit

Winchester was an important Roman administrative centre. All six main roads out of Winchester are directly built on the original Roman roads. Winchester Museum is worth a visit with Roman finds and the floor mosaic from Sparsholt Roman Villa.

Claesentium (Bitterne) has been fully excavated and there are some Roman remains in the grounds of Bitterne Manor. The Roman connection is commemorated in some modern Bitterne road names, such as Vespasian and Rampart.

We also know there was a port here since lead ingots (pigs) have been found in the river: the lead would probably have been mined in the Mendips and would have been exported to the continent via Claesentium for use in pipes, cisterns, bath linings and roofing.

It is also worth visiting Portchester, which was one of the original Roman Saxon shore forts and housed at times the Roman Fleet (Classicus Britannia). It is the only Roman fort north of the Alps with all its walls still standing to their full height. There are also some fine bastions for *ballistae* (stone throwers) around the walls. It is also from Portchester that King Edward III sailed for the battle of Crécy (1346) and Henry V for Agincourt (1415).

Cogidubnus' palace at Fishbourne is one of the finest provincial building complexes in the Roman world. Chichester's street plan is that of the original Roman town and one can

easily trace the Roman walls. On the south side these walls are original with later bastion towers. The amphitheatre was just outside the wall beyond the east gate. There is also a new museum with Roman finds and information. Further into Sussex is Bignor Roman Villa, which is believed to be the centre of a large estate growing food for the Roman Army.

Silchester in the north of Hampshire has around a mile of original Roman walls still standing. The gateway towards Winchester and Chichester is well worth looking at. It is one of the few Roman towns that was never built on. The original amphitheatre, which held around 5000 spectators, was extensively excavated in the early 1900s and the finds include jewellery, coins and a jack plane, which can be seen in Reading Museum. Further scientific excavations have been carried out over the years by Reading University.

The large Roman Villa at Brading on the Isle of Wight is now covered by a modern building with a restaurant. The villa complex is especially known for its mosaics of the four seasons. Rockbourne villa near Fordingbridge is also worth a visit.

Closer to Swanmore, when the golf club at Shedfield required an additional course 22 Roman pottery kilns were excavated. The new housing development in Wickham is also yielding Roman pottery finds.

Clearly there is much to visit locally and it is likely that other finds will be made in the area – perhaps, one day, even in Swanmore.

Crawford Wright

H&IOWWT

Identifying the UK's five owls

Owls are among our most captivating birds and, with a good view, are easily distinguished from other UK birds. But how to tell one owl from another? Here's a guide to the UK's five resident species.

Barn owl

A very pale, slender owl, typically white on the underparts and golden-brown with grey markings on the upper parts. It has a white, heart-shaped facial disk with dark eyes. Usually seen over grassland or farmland at dawn and dusk, though it can be seen at night or even during the day.

Its call resembles eerie squeals and a shrieking "shreeee".

Tawny owl

A mostly brown owl with a large, rounded head. Slightly larger than a barn owl and usually seen in woodland. Plumage is mottled brown but can vary from greyish to reddish brown. In flight, it shows broad, rounded wings and flies with quick wingbeats in long, straight glides.

The tawny's rich vocal repertoire includes a short "ke-wik" contact call and a quavering "hoo, hu-hooo" advertising call.



Barn owl by Tony Matthews.

Short-eared owl

A sandy-brown owl similar in size to a tawny, but with longer wings. It has a streaked breast, but a pale, un-marked belly with thick dark barring on the tail and piercing yellow eyes.

In flight, it shows long, narrow wings with black wingtips that are slightly longer and slimmer than those of long-eared owls. Flies with slow wingbeats and wavering glides.

Males perform display flights at breeding grounds, giving a fast series of deep hoots and short, quick wing-claps. Other calls include rapid, rasping barks when alarmed.

Long-eared owl

This streaky brown owl looks very similar to a short-eared owl but has darker feathers and less of a yellow hue.

The facial disk is buff with a well-defined blackish border and white "eyebrows" extending towards the beak. It has deep orange eyes and long "ear-tufts" atop the head.

In flight, it's tricky to tell from the short-eared owl. Slightly shorter and more blunt-tipped wings, with fine black barring on the wingtips and no white trailing edge to the upper wing.

Males advertise with deep, soft hoots without inflection given every few seconds, while females have a more nasal call.

Little owl

A small owl with a flattened crown. The upper parts are dark brown with whitish streaks and spots, with whitish underparts featuring bold brown streaks. The facial disk is greyish brown with prominent whitish "eyebrows" giving a stern expression. Eyes are yellow.

It flies with a fast, bounding flight like a thrush and hunts by swooping from perches but will also run across ground to pursue prey.

The little owl's various calls include a fast "chi-chi-chi" alarm call, a low-pitched hoot and a mewling call.

Jake Kendall-Ashton
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

In the hedgerows

Plenty of pretty primulas

With around 500 species in the genus, the odds are that you have some *Primula* species growing in your garden: exotic candelabras or drumstick varieties, perhaps, or maybe some brightly coloured primrose cultivars – pink, dark red or even blue?

Rather fewer varieties are likely to be currently found flowering in our hedgerows: certainly some primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), the occasional cowslips (*Primula veris*) and perhaps the naturally occurring hybrid of the two – *Primula veris* x *vulgaris*, the false oxlip. You might grow true oxlips (*Primula elatior*) in your garden, but in the wild they are only found in parts of East Anglia, so perhaps not surprisingly they are the county flower of Suffolk.

Primrose flowers are typically pale yellow, grow on single stems and are held flat, while those of cowslip and oxlip have a corolla tube and occur in clusters of up to 30 flowers on a single stem. Cowslip flowers are a darker yellow with small orange spots on the inner side of the petal, while true oxlips are pale yellow like primroses. False oxlips come in a wide assortment of shades – especially if a cowslip has crossed with one of those brightly coloured garden cultivars.

Cowslips were once popular in homely remedies: cowslip flowers, usually made into wine, were a favourite cure for insomnia, restlessness and nervous upsets, while cowslip ointment, as Culpepper (1653) put it: "...taketh away spots and wrinkles of the skin, sunburnings and freckles and promotes beauty".

All parts of the primrose also had their uses. In his *Natural History* (c.AD77), Pliny declared that "taken in water it cures all diseases" and he called it *dodecatheon* or "plant of the twelve (greater) gods".

Later herbalists recommended primrose remedies for gout, paralysis and rheumatism. Like cowslip it has sedative properties, with John Gerard (1597) declaring that a tea of the petals "...drunk in the month of May is famous for curing the phrensie".

Both cowslip and primrose flowers are edible and can be scattered on salads, floated on soup or added to rice dishes.

And what about oxlips? According to the *Chemist and Druggist* of 5th March 1921, these particular *Primula* species are "...of more interest to the botanist than to the pharmacist" – although the report conceded that they, too, were once recommended as a cure for paralysis.

Top: Primroses photographed in Swanmore by Peter Mason in mid-January. Below: Cowslips. Bottom: True oxlip.



Buglife

The garden's Jekylls and Hydes

During warm days of spring, what look like crosses between small fluffy brown bumble bees and oversized mosquitoes may appear in Swanmore gardens. These are a group of insects called bee-flies (*Bombyliidae*), in other words fly species that have a resemblance to small bumble bees.

In spite of formidable needle-like mouthparts they are completely harmless to us. They use this lengthy proboscis to feed on nectar deep within flowers. Keep an eye on a patch of primroses while gardening on a sunny day and you may see one.

It will be probing the flowers by hovering in front of them, placing its proboscis inside and steadying itself with its dainty legs, gently resting on the petals, reversing back out and then darting to the next flower. They also visit other spring flowers and when not feeding sunbathe on bare ground.

Although there are nine species of bee-fly that live in the UK and only two are likely to be found in the Swanmore area. The most abundant is the dark-edged bee-fly (*Bombylius major*), followed by the dotted bee-fly (*Bombylius discolor*).

Their common names describe their wing patterns but in flight the wings can be just a blur, so to tell them apart, the dark-edged bee-fly is a uniform mid-brown, whereas the dotted bee-fly has a dark back end to the abdomen, cream-coloured fluffy "armpits", and the female a series of white dots running down the centre of the abdomen.

The endearing nature of the adults conceals a darker side however. After mating, the female then seems to

cover her eggs with sand or dust, before carpet-bombing them out on to soil where solitary mining bees are likely to have nested. The larvae hatch and search for the bee's larvae in their burrows. They then become parasitoids, attaching to the skin of the larvae before consuming their body fluids and eventually killing them. In spite of their gruesome larval stages they have a role to play in the natural world, and indicate a healthy and biodiverse environment.

If you do spot bee-flies this spring please add your observations to the Dipterist Forum's Bee-fly Watch recording scheme whose website has help with identification and some good images and video clips (<https://dipterists.org.uk>). By allowing spring wildflowers to grow in your garden you will support bee-flies as well as their bee hosts. We may have lost Flybe from the south but we don't want to lose bee-flies as well!

Marcus Charig

Below: Female dotted bee-fly with white spots on the abdomen.
Bottom: Dark-edged bee-fly.
Bottom left: Male dotted bee-fly with fluffy "armpits".



From our District Councillors

Local Plan progress, green issues and possible waste changes

It comes as a large shock to realise that it is now 2022. Memo to self – “Remember it is 2022”! Hopefully you all enjoyed a happy family Christmas.

Much hasn't changed as we are still in the throes of face coverings, washing hands and cautious distancing. Most of us have received a “double jab” and many have received a “booster shot” and now we must learn a new name for COVID-19: omicron. Numbers of cases are still disturbingly high but life is slowly coming back to the “new normal” and we are learning to live with it – just as with ‘flu. That seems to suggest that we will be expecting a further “booster” in the autumn, along with the ‘flu jab.

Little seems to have changed regarding the City Council. Meetings are now face-to-face – such as planning, licensing, cabinet, scrutiny, housing, and “health and the environment”.

Local Plan progress

The Local Plan update continues to progress and we now have a full list of potential SHELAA sites, although none has been chosen yet (see Swanmore Parish Council news on p.13 for an update).

A number of sites have been identified that will be preserved for “wilding” and “wild life corridors”. We

Payments for green garden waste bins are due in February and will cover collections from March 2022 until the end of February 2023.

New bins can still be ordered via the WCC website. The standard bins cost £59 a year and the smaller ones £39.

Payment can be made online or via 0300 300 0013.

Full details are at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up>.

are arguing in favour of not only retaining the “local gaps” between the villages but also enhancing them to improve “biodiversity”. We also want a “green cushion” between the villages and to limit the urban sprawl that is the Havant/Fareham/Eastleigh expansion.

There is still the need for local consultation about the site selection process, some of which has already occurred in Swanmore and more is expected.

Council changes

Some Council business papers were postponed (regarding the Climate Emergency and Green Policies) because of the sad death of Cllr Lynda Murphy, who was the relevant portfolio holder. When you read this article they will have come forward for debate and possible acceptance in mid-January. Cllr Hannah Williams is now the Environment Portfolio Holder.

One of these papers is about the likely changes in the Waste Collection regime brought about by the Environment Act 2021.

Possible waste changes

These are unlikely to come in before at least 2023 but the most significant is that there may not be a green garden waste collection charge, and there might well be a new household food waste collection system.

There will also be a need for new waste processing facilities – a Material Recycling Facility in Eastleigh; and possible “anaerobic digesters” to process the food waste materials collected. One catch for these is that they produce biogas which is mostly methane, a global warming gas.

However, if this this gas is efficiently captured it can be used to generate energy. We would all require an additional waste bin entirely for food waste.

An alternative might be a “hot digester” in your garden. Some are a reasonable price but others can cost close on £200 or more. Many can be

found online. Some of you may have a “compost heap” in the garden. They should only be used for uncooked food waste and do not generate methane – but they may attract rats.

Quarry decision on hold

Locally – there is, as yet, no further news about the proposed “sand quarry/land fill site” just south of Waltham Chase. HCC may delay the decision on this until after the May elections.

College grant

We learn that Swanmore College will receive a financial grant to update the science laboratories; but we still have no news from Hampshire Highways about the enhanced parking restrictions on New Road, or the uncontrolled crossing so necessary for our teenagers and others to cross the road outside the College.

Our Winchester 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



Linda Gemmell



Vicki Weston



Frank Pearson

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

Spreading Christmas cheer

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club, with the help of local clubs, schools and friends, collected and sorted more than 300 shoeboxes packed with presents for children in need at Christmas.

These boxes were added to over 18,000 boxes collected from around our district, which covers most of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Islands, and parts of Dorset and Wiltshire. This year the boxes have gone to Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania, where they will be shipped to local Rotary Clubs who will distribute them from there.

Thanks to all for supporting this scheme, which brings a lot of Christmas cheer to many Children who would otherwise not have any presents at this time.

Rotarians in Albania distributing the shoe boxes .



We were able to resume some sort of normality at the end of last year, and Santa, plus his music-playing, brightly lit train "Roger", were able to tour the local area covering many of the roads in Bishop's Waltham, Waltham Chase, Horton Heath and Fair Oak.

We raised more than £5,600 to help us help others, which is our highest total raised during the many years we have been out with Santa and "Roger".

After a two-year absence, due to covid restrictions, the Bishop's Waltham Rotary Summer Fayre and Motorcade will take place at Hoe Road Recreation Ground on Saturday 11th June 2022. There will be music, food, cars and fun for the family plus our popular dog show. More details to follow.

Ian Treveil

Meon Valley Bowling Club

Get ready for Open Day

Preparations for our annual Public Open Day are in the planning stage and (again subject to government and Bowls England guidelines) we are looking forward to welcoming everyone of all ages on Saturday 30th April 2022 to come and have a go at lawn bowls.

We anticipate that due to restrictions it will be necessary for us to provide a booking system for allocated time slots for members of the public to come along and visit us, and this will be on a first come, first served basis. We will publish full details of this booking system at the end of March on our website <https://meonvalleybowlingclub.chessck.co.uk>. Alternatively, telephone 01489 896194 from 10th April.

Our Public Open Day provides an opportunity to meet club members and look round our lovely pavilion and all the facilities our friendly club offers. Our qualified coaching team will be on hand to assist your introduction to our sport and encourage you to enrol for our highly successful Beginners Course.

Affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Hampshire, Southampton and District Men's and Women's Bowling Associations, we enjoy competitive league and friendly bowling against local clubs and have produced both county and district champions in recent years.

In addition to playing bowls, our social committee produces an entertaining programme of events throughout the year to enable members to meet socially, make new friends and enjoy all that our bar and catering facilities can offer. Bowls is not just a game - it's where friendships are formed.

John Gray



Bishop's Waltham Museum

Come to our Fun Quiz night!

Bishop's Waltham Museum will be holding a Fun Quiz night hosted by Kevin Ashman from the television's *Eggheads* programme, on Saturday 26th March, from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start to the quiz..

The quiz will be held at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Waltham and costs £10 per person, which includes a ploughman's supper (please let us know of any dietary requirements when you book).

Bring your own drinks and glasses. Teams are of six, but if you want to come on your own, you can form a team with others on the night.

There will also be a raffle in aid of the Museum with tickets available on the night, and there will be a musical interlude by local singer Sue Apicella.

For tickets, please contact: Dawn Woodsford on 01489 894640 or Penny Copeland on bishopswalthammuseum@gmail.com

Tudor Experience

Celebrating Henry VIII's visit to Bishop's Waltham

Bishop's Waltham will be celebrating Henry VIII's visit to the town 500 years ago with a series of events in coming months, culminating in a two-day "Tudor Experience" in the Palace grounds in July.

King Charles V of Spain – the Holy Roman Emperor – had landed at Dover on 29th May 1522 for a series of meetings with Henry VIII, which resulted in several secret treaties aimed at planning the joint invasion and conquest of France. The "Great

Enterprise" was sealed by the betrothal of Henry's six-year-old daughter, Princess Mary, to the 22-year-old Charles.

Shortly before he was due to sail from Southampton on 6th July, Charles arrived at Bishop's Waltham Palace and met Henry there on 2nd July to sign yet another secret treaty, which laid down in detail the military and naval obligations of the allies until the "Great Enterprise" should begin.

When Henry's army did attack



Mary Tudor aged six by Lucas Horenbout; she is wearing a brooch marked "The Emperour" to commemorate her engagement to Charles V.

France in 1523, Charles made only token efforts to join in and the project failed, while the proposed marriage to Princess Mary was also shelved – presumably not helped by Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Charles' aunt.

To commemorate the historic visit, the Bishop's Waltham Society, the Town Team and the Museum are planning activities that start with a "Where's Henry Trail" during the February half-term week.

Children will need to spot models of Henry VIII hidden in Bishop's Waltham shop windows and answer related quiz questions to be entered in a prize draw. The "Where's Henry Trail" and prize draw will be repeated during the Easter holidays and followed by a series of guest appearances by "Henry VIII and his entourage" at events during June.

The main celebrations on the 2nd and 3rd July will include:

- ◆ re-enactments of life in Tudor times and living history demonstrations;
- ◆ an exhibition at Bishop's Waltham Museum;
- ◆ displays of falconry, archery, puppetry, story telling, fishing, crafts, dancing, music and theatre; as well as
- ◆ a traditional Tudor banquet.

Tickets for the "Tudor Experience" weekend will be on sale from the end of April; entry will be free for primary school children and discounted for older children.

For further information contact bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com

Meon Valley U3A

Meetings still going ahead

We hope you had a good Christmas and look forward to seeing you all this year. Unfortunately our December meeting was cancelled due to the arrival of the omicron variant.

These are difficult times for everybody and the Committee is doing its best to keep the U3A going. Some groups are still managing to continue.

The following meetings are planned for February and March. They may change due to any change in covid restrictions at the time as well as speaker availability.

Members will be emailed prior to meetings as to whether they will go ahead. If you are not on email, please contact the Secretary by telephone.

- ◆ February 1st: Travels with the Queen in Papua New Guinea – Roger Esnault.

- ◆ February 15th: Tools for Self -Reliance – Jemma Chambers.
- ◆ March 1st: The Eden Project – Jill Daniels.
- ◆ March 15th: William Marshal "The Greatest Knight" from the Age of Chivalry – Graham Dandy (member).

Meetings are held on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in the Houghton Room at Wickham Community Centre. Our annual fee is £12, meetings with member speakers are free to members and £1 for guest speakers. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting.

The Centre follows government advice on keeping the venue safe for visitors. Hand sanitiser will be available, and masks are to be worn in communal areas. It is recommended that masks be worn in the room to protect other members. If

possible, please do a lateral flow test before attending the meetings. Thank you.

*Betty Hiscock, Secretary
01489 894807; email:
mvu3asec@yahoo.com
Website: [u3asites.org.uk/
meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley).*

Tomb effigy of William Marshal in Temple Church, London – the subject of a U3A talk in March.





BW Photographic Society

Highlights at the end of the year

December 2021 ended with a flourish for the Society: a visit to Bishop's Waltham's Christmas Fayre, Kev's Christmas Quiz and guest speaker Roger Hance FRPS, who showed us how to set up feeding stations for wildlife in our garden – and how best to photograph them. Not only was Roger's photography excellent but the vast range of hints and tips Roger gave the audience was very generous and was certainly appreciated by our members.

The new year always begins with the society's AGM. In reviewing the past year, Chairman John Coote recalled how using the Zoom platform has allowed members to catch-up online more regularly, with most months having three meetings.

This allowed members to share lots of images, take up monthly photographic challenges together, and present images taken at meet-ups at local venues. It also enabled the society to invite guest speakers from further afield – last year from Ireland, Birmingham and Guernsey.

John also said that the 2022 programme will continue with these extra meetings, although it is hoped to resume "physical" meetings in the Church Hall very soon, and the Society has a very full programme ahead.

January saw a presentation by

long-standing member Wendy Spencer LRPS, who shared her passion for astrophotography and showed the audience how to capture star trails!

Presentations were made to 2021 Competition League winners:

- ◆ The Primary League winner was Sue Collingwood who received the President's Shield.
- ◆ The Intermediate League winner was John Coote who received the Pat Clancy Trophy.
- ◆ The Advanced League winner was Helen Otton LRPS who took home the President's Cup.

Two other trophies were also presented. Kevin Melsome received the Alan Inder Shield for "Most Improved Photographer" and the winner of the public's favourite image at the Society's Annual Exhibition was Dan Clarke with his photograph of starlings called "We're just looking". Many congratulations to all winners.

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

www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

The Society's junior section meets on the first Thursday of the month. Please contact Peter Mason for more information at:

junior@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

Dawn Blight



From the top: "We're just looking" by Dan Clarke – favourite of visitors to the society's annual show. Dan Clarke with his award and (bottom) Kevin Melsome with the Alan Inder Shield.

Waltham Chase Flower Club

Wood you believe it?



An interesting programme for Waltham Chase Flower Club has been planned. Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of most months at Waltham Chase village hall at 2.15pm, the club has demonstrations, talks and "DIY" meetings.

One of these is on Wednesday 23rd February, when members and friends are invited to bring flower arranging items and a piece of wood to complement the title "Wood you believe it?". Any sort of wood is required – small, wooden bowls, large pieces of drift wood, wooden trays or boxes. Bring it along and show

everybody what can be done. Don't worry if you're not particularly good at flower arranging; just bring your equipment or watch to see what everybody else can do.

The following month on 23rd March, we have a demonstration by Christine Evans of "Floral Magic". That could be interesting!

There is no charge for entry in February. As we have a demonstrator in March cost is £5 for non-members. We do invite you to join this friendly club. The charge is £35 this year. We have a sales table, raffle and teas.

Jill Sutton

Meon Valley Lions

Still raising funds despite transport issues

Unfortunately Santa's elves had transport troubles this year, which greatly hindered our collections. We did manage to visit some areas and would like to apologise to those of you who will have missed us.

Despite only spending half the time "on the road" helping Santa, his elves raised a grand total of £4,213.37. Everyone gave a warm welcome and generously donated, not only at our door-to-door collections, but also at our static collections, outside local retail outlets.



Some of the boxes packed for the needy at Christmas.

Hoping to bring a little Christmas cheer to local people, Meon Valley Lions also donated 66 tubs of Heros



Citizens Advice

Help for better budgeting

With energy prices set to rise, many people will be trying to make savings elsewhere and better manage their finances. The good news is that there are lots of things you can do to be more in control of your money and better prepared for the future. Be realistic about what you need for essentials, such as food and travel, and set yourself a budget that you can stick to. Take a look at the budgeting tool on the Citizens Advice website to help you do this.

If any of your bills do go up in the coming year, you can go back to our budgeting tool at any time to create a new plan and stay in control. Our website tips on how to reduce your regular living costs may be helpful if you find you have more money going out than coming in at any point.

You should also make sure you're getting all the income you're entitled to. Use the income checker on the Citizens Advice website to see if you could be getting more support, such as benefits or government grants. You can also use this to make sure you're being paid the right wage.

If you've been using credit cards, your overdraft or store cards for your spending, it's understandable if these debts are causing you worry. However, it's important to prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these has the most serious consequences. On the Citizens Advice website, we have advice about which bills you need to prioritise and the support available for paying these and other bills.

to Meon Valley Food Bank and Waltham Chase Food Bank, and we prepared Christmas boxes in conjunction with Age Concern, for the most needy, lonely and isolated in our communities.

Since the start of covid, we have helped numerous households in our area with beds, furniture, carpets, rugs, cookers, fridges and washing machines. We have also bought specialist pushchairs, tactile toys for disabled children and a powered wheelchair to help a young lady reclaim some independence.

For home schooling we provided a printer and several laptops. We have also provided support to numerous charities and local groups including Meon Valley Baby Bank, Men's Shed, Age Concern, The Rainbow Centre, and many others.

All of this is only possible with the generosity of our community, so we'd like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year with fantastic donations.

Each and every week our minibus provides support for many different local clubs: a social life line for those attending. However, our minibus let us down badly this year and we are in desperate need of a new one. If you can help or know anyone who can, please get in touch.

Carole Dash

Once you have planned how to pay your priority bills, the budgeting tool can help you plan how to repay credit cards, overdraft charges and store cards.

*Lesley Rose
Advice Services Manager
Citizens Advice Winchester District
0808 278 7861*

Useful links

- ◆ <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget/>
- ◆ <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your-debts/reducing-your-regular-living-costs/>
- ◆ <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your-debts/check-if-you-can-increase-your-income/>

Bishop's Waltham WI An end to Zoom meetings in sight?

A very belated happy new year to you all. I do hope you managed to meet up with your family and friends at Christmas.

Bishop's Waltham WI usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street, next to the library. There is plenty of free parking, but please call me to check, as in January we were still meeting on Zoom.

Our December meeting was really interesting and fun and was a (Zoom) talk all about the history of handbags and accessories. Sarah Delves, the speaker, who is an expert lecturer at the Victoria & Albert Museum, had loads of examples to show us. Like many of us, Sarah has built up quite a collection of handbags.

Our January meeting also saw us meeting on Zoom for a marvellous talk from Belinda Langford-Butler all about exercise and keeping fit. We all managed to have a go, even though it was on Zoom. We had to use a strong dining room-type chair, so some of our ladies could sit and not get too tired.

Our February meeting will be on 15th February, when we will have a talk all about our local Fire Brigade Service and how they manage to keep us all safe and well. Eloise, the speaker, is the daughter of one of our members and it promises to be an interesting evening.

Our March meeting will be on 15th March and is a talk about Kon Mari Decluttering by Sue Spencer. I must admit I have no idea what this is about so look forward to learning more. Why not come along and make some new friends?

*Allison Gurry, President
01489 895188*



Dates for your diaries

1st February	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Travels with the Queen in Papua New Guinea" by Roger Esnault.
12th February	9.45am-12 noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh's Meadows.
12th February	7.30pm St Barnabas, Free Zoom quiz, details p.3.
15th February	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "Tools for Self Reliance" by Jemma Chambers.
15th February	7.30pm St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham, WI, "Local Fire Brigade".
19th-25th February	"Where's Henry Trail", Bishop's Waltham – details on p.24.
26th February	10am-11.30am, Bishop's Waltham High Street, "Here's Henry" parade and presentation.
23rd February	2.15pm Waltham Chase Village Hall, Waltham Chase Flower Club.
1st March	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "The Eden Project" by Jill Daniels.
12th March	9.45am-12 noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh's Meadows.
12th March	7.30pm St Barnabas, Free Zoom quiz, details p.3.
15th March	2pm Wickham Centre, U3A, "William Marshal 'The Greatest Knight' from the Age of Chivalry" by Graham Dandy.
15th March	7.30pm St Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham, WI, Kon Mari Decluttering by Sue Spencer.
23rd March	2.15pm Waltham Chase Village Hall, Waltham Chase Flower Club, demonstration by Christine Evans.
26th March	7.15pm Jubilee Hall, Bishop's Waltham, Fun Quiz Night, details p.23.
31st March	7.30pm Village Hall, Annual Meeting of the Parish.
10th April	Meon Valley Bowling Club Open Day.
13th April	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society AGM and meeting.

Home-Start

Encouraging parents to drop the mask

Home-Start UK has been chosen, alongside the NSPCC and Adoption UK, as one of three charity partners supported by *The Masked Singer* television show.

Home-Start aims to encourage families to share the realities of parenting and also encourage others to check on family members, neighbours, work colleagues or friends, to see how they are doing and if they need help.

Parents will be encouraged to share their honest, unfiltered parenting experiences on social media using the hashtag #BehindTheMask.

"We want to begin a massive online

conversation," says Vivien Waterfield, deputy chief executive of Home-Start UK, "to encourage families who are struggling to come out from behind the mask and ask for help if they are going through tough times."

Home-Start works with families in communities right across Hampshire. Starting in the home, our approach is as individual as the people we're helping.

Home-Start Hampshire is now based at the Wickham Community Centre where it is currently running training courses for new volunteers.

www.home-starthampshire.org.uk
Avril Dalrymple

**To advertise in
The Swanmore Link
contact:**

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

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M R Chase	36
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R & G Gamblin	42
Tim Millier Carpentry	38
Geoff Pilcher	36
SAJE UVPC	43
N W Stubbington	39
Winkworth Plastering	35

Chimneys/logs

Chimney Sweep	42
R J Ralls	39
Woodlea Nursery	39

Computer services

Computer Problems Solved	33
--------------------------	----

Educational/childcare

Meon Music	31
Sallie Smith	37
Swanmore Pre-School	41
The Greenery	32

Electrical services

P Graham Electrical	40
MFC Electrical Ltd	37
Derek Pilcher	35
G Rixon Ltd	33
Ben Tibbetts Electrical Ltd	42

Fencing

RJS Fencing Contractor	29
------------------------	----

Financial/legal services

Butler & Co	40
Chamberlains	41
Hayhurst Jackson	39
Nicholas Ridge	33

Food & drink

Clementine Catering	35
Wyches Vineyard	31

Funeral services

South Downs Funeral Service	30
Richard Steel & Partners	32

Gardening/forestry

Richard's Grass	40
Tidy Gardens	29
Trugreen	34
Gerald M Vivian	37

Hairdressers

Shades of Sweetpea	39
--------------------	----

Health services

Piers Spencer Osteopath	32
Julia Plant Foot Care	38
Saxby's Eye Care	38
The 1:1 diet	32
Toe Business	29

Household services

Elliott Carpet Care	40
Hampshire Antique Restoration	38
Osprey Furnishings	41
Alan Shawyer Appliance Repairs	33
Pat Staples Interiors	38

Home Care

Caremark	34
Lapis Care	29

Motor repairs

Chris Gibson	41
W J Heard	37
Swanmore Car Repair Centre	36
Taylor's Garage	42

Painting and decorating

Philip Broad	37
R J Fisher	35
Mark & June Mason	39
N W Stubbington	39

Plumbing/heating

CJL Plumbing and Heating	36
William Fleming Ltd	30
J D Humphrey Ltd	37
G Rixon Ltd	33
White Rose Plumbing	36

Printers

Solent Design	42
---------------	----

Taxi services

Chase Cars Private Hire	40
-------------------------	----





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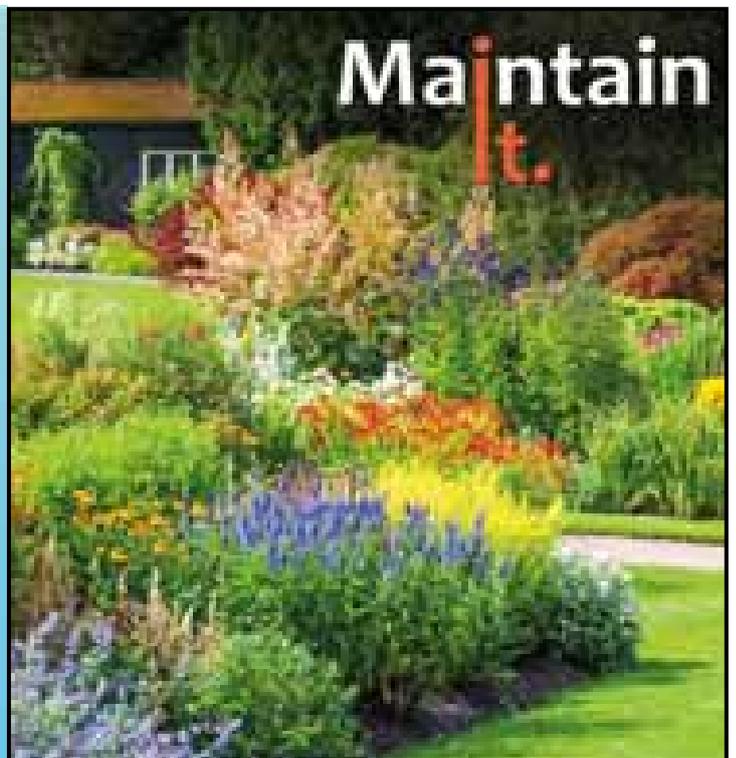


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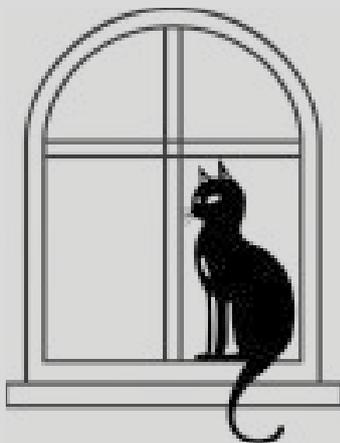
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Parish and village directory

St Barnabas contacts

Church Wardens Janet Chant 01489 894942
Dave Lee 07941 777448
churchwardens@stbarnabas.org.uk

Ministry Team

For enquiries about weddings and baptisms
Revd Canon Nick Whitehead 01489 895327
Revd Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead 01489 895327
Funerals & bereavement support
Jill Phipps 01489 891117

Sunday Club Ben Armstrong 07927 933073
PCC Secretary Jill Phipps 01489 891117
PCC Treasurer Andrew Wilkinson 01489 895870
Parish Giving Champion Derrinda Laing 01489 894250
Safeguarding Officer Caroline Vost 07542 706642
safeguarding@stbarnabas.org.uk

Home Groups Co-ordinator Mary Morfill 01489 892823
Electoral Roll Officer Jenny Sharpe 01489 892750
Sacristan Vicky Cronin 01489 891024
Christian Aid Rep Wendy Horn 01489 878220
Church Cleaning Jen Frampton 01489 891277
Church Flowers Juliet Helbren 01489 893316
Captain of the Tower Ed Collis 02392 523650
Church Clock Roger de Vere 01489 892768
Data Protection contact Amanda Ankers 01489 893415
dataprotection@stbarnabas.org.uk
Parish Administrator Gail Norris
office@stbarnabas.org.uk
Website www.stbarnabas.org.uk

Paterson Centre

Enquiries office@stbarnabas.org.uk

Swanmore Methodist Church contacts

Stewards stewards@s-m-c.org.uk 01489 896182
Hall Bookings David James 01489 896387
Church Notices Jill Sutton 01489 892824

Local Authorities

Hampshire County Council 03300 551375
Winchester City Council 01962 840222
Hampshire Council of Community Services 01962 854971
Electoral Registration Office 01962 840222
County Archivist 01962 863153

Local Representatives

Local MP Flick Drummond 01962 679920
Hants County Councillor Hugh Lumby 01489 877444
Winchester City Councillors Linda Gemmell 01489 895023
Frank Pearson 01489 892822
Vicki Weston 01329 835161

Parish Council

Executive Officer Tracey Molloy 01489 890651
clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk
Community Safety Officer Gary McCulloch 07442 156124
cso@swanmorepc.org.uk or Facebook-Swanmore CSO

Swanmore College

Headteacher Kyle Jonathan 01489 892256
Community Programme Chris Loveday 01489 897896

Swanmore Primary School

Headteacher John Paterson 01489 894555
Site Manager Scot Murray 07935 699854
Friends of... (FOSPS) Naomi Thorby 01489 894555

Village Amenities

Barnaby's Community Coffee Shop 01489 854490
www.barnabys.coffee

Village Hall

Chairman Jon Woodman 01489 890582
Bookings Chris Ansty 07968 646236
bookings@swanmorevillagehall.co.uk 01329 835925

Care Group

Help numbers Barry Rowe 01489 894521
Allison Gurry 01489 895188

If no reply please ring the next number on the list. Do not leave answer phone messages. Please call between 9am and 6pm during the week and only in an emergency at weekends.

Lunch Club

Queries from new or existing volunteers
Ann Warrington 01329 510667
Queries from new or existing members
Pam Manson 01489 892374

Baby & Toddler Support

Baby & Toddler Group Zoe Smart 07788 987212
Swanmore Pre-School Sarah Hiscock 01489 893779
The Greenery Hannah Wallace 07599 954819

Police

Non-emergency 101
Community Police Officer PCSO Sarah McCulloch
sarah.mcculloch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Doctors

Bishop's Waltham 01489 892288
Wickham 01329 833121
Droxford 01489 877588

Transport

Southampton Airport 02380 629600
Railway Timetable Enquiries (Domestic) 08457 484950
International Rail Enquiries 02072 785240
Local Buses (Rosemary Ridgeley) 01489 894205
Bournemouth Airport 01202 364000

Clubs and Social Organisations

Bridge Sue Jones 01489 890586
Disabled Club Susan Stephens 01489 877585
Dramatic Society (SADS) Caroline Powell 07701 044563
Manéglise Twinning Ian Ford 01489 890462
Meon Valley Lions Club Carole Dash 07778 581723

Ramblers	Pauline Reed	01489 892386
Swanmore Art Group	Julia Wright	01489 893378
Swanmore Society	John White	01489 894266
Conservation Group	Carol Paling	01489 894294
Swanmore Old-Time & Modern Seq. Dancing	Francis Baxter Jean Hayman	01329 236587 01489 809271

Youth Organisations

Scouts – Group Leader	Julian Livingstone	01489 893399
Scout Leader	Jo Fox	01489 894765
Cub Scouts	Julie Goddard	07879 330707
goddard@aol.com		
Beavers	Roisin Smith	07748 113320
Swanmorebeavers@gmail.com		
Rainbows	Sallyann Smith	01489 890802
1st Swanmore Brownies	Sam Hemingway	01489 891624
2nd/3rd Swanmore Guides	Sarah Woodman	01489 893280
Meon Valley Rangers	Sarah Chittock	07870 136817
BW Dynamos	Chris Barber	07721 555733
Soccer School	Alison Fripp	
Waltham Wolves	John Hickey	01489 89913
SwanmoreYouth FC		07539 424674

Sports Clubs

Meon Valley Lawn Bowls	Judith Moss	
jmoss@broadlane2.plus.com		
Lawn Tennis	Mandy White	
sec@swanmoretennis.co.uk		
Swanmore Cricket Club	Oliver Rowe	07816 332324

Other Organisations

Action for Children	Brenda Simpson	01489 893810
Age Concern Hampshire	Lorna Neill	07790 845944
Cancer Research	Anne Pearson	01489 892822
Children's Society	Vicky Cronin	01489 891024
	Dinah Weberstadt	01489 896967
GoodNews Library-Cards	Pam Manson	01489 892374
Hand Bells	Julia Wright	01489 893378
Home-Start Hampshire	Laura Vincent	01329 835936
<i>Support for young families in the home</i>		
Leprosy Mission	Bobbie Branson	01489 891717
Macmillan Cancer Support	Kathy Weaver	01489 895630
Meon Valley Carers Group	Andover Mind	01264 332297
enquiries@andovermind.org.uk		
Royal British Legion	Barbara Annison	01489 808147
RBL Poppy Fund	Kerry Fox	01489 894765
Swanmore Educational Trust	Richard Cooksley	01489 895776
secretary.swanmoreET@gmail.com		
Swanmore Historian	Crawford Wright	01489 893378
Swanmore "Litter squad"	David Street	01489 896331
Woodland Trust	Dennis Wheeler	01489 892911

Hospitals

Royal Hampshire, Winchester	01962 863535
Royal South Hampshire, Southampton	02380 634288
Southampton General	02380 777222
Queen Alexandra & St Mary's Hospitals	02392 286000

Utilities Emergencies

Electricity	Emergency	0800 404090
	Power cuts	105
Gas	Emergency/escapes	0800 111999
Portsmouth Water	General enquiries	02392 499888
BT	Directory enquiries	118500

Other services

Alcoholics Anonymous		01962 869129
Animal Shelter		01329 667541
Bank Scam Service		159
Blood Donors		0800 373701
Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)		03444 111306
Community Health Council		01962 860661
Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)		0800 0113797
Family Conciliation Service		02392 660919
Hampshire Library Services		0845 6035631
Housing Office, Winchester		01962 840222
Job Centre, Fareham		01329 231551
Night Shelter, Winchester		01962 878500
Parent Support Link		02380 399764
PDSA	Southampton	02380 773505
	Portsmouth	02392 754429
Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths		03005 551392
Relate (Marriage Guidance)		01962 861336
RSPCA, Stubbington		
Samaritans	Portsmouth	02392 691313
	Southampton	02380 632888
	Winchester	01962 860633
Social Services	Adult services	0845 6035630
	Child Services	0845 6035620

This directory has been compiled jointly by the Parish Council and the churches in Swanmore to help you find contacts within the village for further information.

Please help us to help you by keeping the information up to date. Amendments or additions should be sent to Roger de Vere at deverer2@gmail.com, with "Parish magazine" as the subject, at least three days before the deadline for the magazine.



Barnaby's Community Coffee Shop

For information about news, events and to check opening times visit www.barnabys.coffee

Swanmore's
Christmas tree
brightened up
the centre of the
village.

