

April/May 2022

The **Swanmore** *Link*



**A joyous Eastertide
Exhibitions and events
Housing growth
Walking the Meon Valley**

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The Hound of the Baskervilles

By Arthur Conan Doyle
Adapted by Tim Churchill & Catherine O'Reilly

Tickets on sale April
www.ticketsource.co.uk/swanmoredrama
Or the Box Office at Barnaby's Community Coffee Shop
Saturdays 10am-12noon

For information telephone
01489 894955, 893639 or 896182

29th, 29th, 30th April 2022
Swanmore Village Hall

noda
Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society

The Swanmore Link

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

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

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

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

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

Everybody in the community counts

I was once asked to preach at Royal Holloway University on Founder's Day on the final chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. I'm guessing there aren't many readers who will immediately say "Ah, that old chapter" and it's not everybody's favourite biblical passage. In case you can't immediately bring it to mind, basically, there are 25 verses, of which 23 comprise a list of names of people Paul wants to greet: Phoebe, Prisca and Aquila, Epaenetus, Andronicus and Junia... and so on.

Having always maintained clergy should be willing to preach on any text they are given and not pick and choose their favourite bits, I gritted my teeth and set to work.

It turned out to be a gift because it enabled me to speak of community, of past, present and future members of the university and chapel. We celebrated the part everybody had played throughout the centuries building on the work of those who'd gone before. Not every student was famous, not every lecturer had won a Nobel prize but every individual at Royal Holloway had played a part.

Epaenetus and Junia – whoever they were – had obviously made a welcome contribution to the life of the church. In our village community we need teachers, carers, plumbers, hairdressers, IT specialists, councillors, community safety officers and... on and on. Whether yours is a household name or not doesn't matter as long as you are doing your best to improve life for others.

At St Barnabas, we've been grateful for visiting preachers who have supported the ministry during the vacancy (and in May it will be a year since we had a proper vicar) – a retired bishop, two canons from the cathedral, local retired clergy, a previous vicar of St Barnabas, a woman priest living in the village, former colleagues of mine... to name a few. Within the

congregation and wider community, there is always a lot going on. Many have taken on new things or kept on with the old, others continue to pray, come to worship and live Christian lives in the community.

For all of us, spring is here, bringing new energy and hope as we come out of the cold, grey days of winter. Flowers and trees, birdsong and blossom lift our hearts and Christians prepare to celebrate the miracle of Easter - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (see p.3 for the services on offer).

That doesn't lead us to a glib 'Jesus loves you so what's your problem' approach. We will still, at times, find ourselves in the depths of grief, we will have doubts and questions but we know that our hope is in the new life God offers us.

As you celebrate Easter this year, take a moment to give thanks for the catalogue of individuals who have helped you in your life. Have a holy and blessed Easter and a wonderful May.

Canon Hazel Whitehead



**We encourage everybody to
continue to pray for the
people of Ukraine,
for those who have power to
work for peace,
for those made homeless in
the conflict and
for all those who are
suffering and living in fear.**



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 social events

Prepare for open gardens and a treasure hunt

"Wow what a difference a couple of months make!" When I wrote that for the February/March magazine we were mid-omicron panic and yet again covid fooled us. Omicron has not proved the problem we feared, almost entirely due to the unflinching efforts of the vaccination teams.

We held a successful Zoom Quiz on the 12th February but dropped the one scheduled for March. Instead we had a low-key evening of "Oh Heck" at the Paterson Centre. This was on the 19th March and a light-hearted, fun evening of cards with a fish and chip supper was enjoyed by a little more than 30 people. Our remaining calendar for the first half of 2022 is:

- ◆ 23/24th April – Swanmore open gardens.
- ◆ 15/16th May – Treasure hunt.
- ◆ 16/17th July – Swanmore open gardens.

Swanmore open gardens

We will follow our usual, tried and tested format for this event. The Lions minibus will provide a free shuttle to all the gardens but visitors will be encouraged to walk to the ones in the village centre.

Teas will be available in the Paterson Centre. Gardens will open at 1pm and tickets (£6) will be available from 12:30pm at the Paterson Centre.

The gardens range in size from two

acres on the outskirts of Swanmore down to small gardens in and around the village centre; no matter what their size all are delightful. Many will have plants for sale and there will be a plant stall at the Paterson Centre.

Proceeds will be shared by St Barnabas and Rowans Hospice, both of whose funds have been badly affected over the last two years.

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 at jsharpe2016@hotmail.com or 01489 892750.

Treasure hunt

This will be a walking hunt in and around Swanmore; the route will be two to three miles long with a number of easy cryptic clues to solve. Question sheets (£2) will be available from Barnaby's (9am to 1pm) on Saturday 15th May and the Paterson Centre (11am to 1pm) on Sunday 16th May. There will be a small prize for the best entry returned by Thursday 20th. Solutions will be published on the Church Noticeboard on Saturday 22nd May, so you will not have to rush.

John Sharpe

Below: Two of the village gardens that opened in 2021.



St Barnabas at Easter Marking memories with flowers

Perhaps you would like to remember a special someone by giving a donation in their memory towards our Easter flowers this year?

If so, please pop this in an envelope marked "Easter flowers" or use one of the little white envelopes in the basket marked "Easter flowers" at the back of the pews. Your contribution can also be put in the wall safe near the font, placed in the collection plate at one of the services, or popped through my door at 14 Glendale.

We will do our best to decorate the church as is fitting for this special time of the church year. With many thanks.

Juliet Helbren

Classic cars head for Swanmore

Originally conceived as a small collection of selected motors, Barnaby's classic car gatherings quickly attracted cars from all over Hampshire and beyond.

This year classic car events, from 10am to 1pm, will be held each month from April to November in the village car park, thanks to the Parish Council, with a "pop-up" coffee shop from the Barnaby's team.

The first few dates are:

- ◆ 23rd April
- ◆ 28th May, and
- ◆ 25th June.

Alastair Walton

From the registers

Baptisms

6th Feb – Mabon Cawley
20th March – Emily Hamilton

Confirmation

5th February – Lila Chesters at
Portsmouth Cathedral

Funerals

14th January – Zach Keay
28th January – Sheila Palmer at
Portchester Crematorium
18th March – Lylie (Dulcie) Prow

Services in April and May

Sunday 3rd April

Passion Sunday

No 8am

10am Holy Communion and please welcome Bishop Ian Brackley.

Sunday 10th April

Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

9.20am Palm Sunday procession leaves from the Village Hall and arrives in church for the 10am service, which will include a dramatised reading of the Passion story.



Wednesday 13th April

8pm Holy Week Compline: in church and live streamed.

Thursday 14th April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion: in church and live streamed.



Friday 15th April

Good Friday

10am to 12noon Children's event in church

1.30pm to 3pm Meditation, talks and music with Canon Angela Tilby

Sunday 17th April

Easter Sunday

6am Holy Communion in the churchyard

8am Holy Communion

10am All Age Communion



Sunday 24th April

Second Sunday of Easter

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with Revd Terry Louden

Sunday 1st May

Third Sunday of Easter

8am Holy

Communion

10am Holy

Communion

and baptism

of Austin Reid



Sunday 8th

May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion with Canon David Isaac

10am 3rd@10.



Saturday 21st May

12noon Wedding of Aaron Cooper and Christina Thomas

Sunday 22nd May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with

Canon David Isaac

Thursday 26th May

Ascension Day

9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Sunday 29th May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion



Some very memorable sunrises



I'm not a great one for sunrise services (I'm not a great one for sunrises!), but there are two sunrise services that have always stuck with me. One was when I was a teenager, and I ventured out on a misty morning to the graveyard of the neo-gothic Anglican church I was part of.

As we stood there, singing *Thine be the Glory* with great gusto, it struck me – standing there amongst the graves – that it would be very unnerving to have come without the orange glow of the street lights partially lighting the way. How much more eerie must it have seemed to

those ladies who first approached the garden tomb in the darkness before dawn, to anoint the mangled remains of Jesus?

The other service I remember was at Spring Harvest in Minehead when I was 17. I'd heard it was not going to be great weather that Easter day, but I was determined to watch the sun rise. It was gusty and there was heavy drizzle in the air. I stood in the cold and damp, looking at the grey sea and greyer sky when I noticed someone else on the sand. I idled over to her and it turned out she was also at Spring Harvest and had the same idea as me. She'd got some breakfast and we decided to share Communion together.

So on that dull morning, we had a Communion of Nutella sandwich and orange squash, and sat together watching the sky turn from dark grey to not-quite-so-dark grey. We couldn't honestly say when the sun had actually risen – everything looked much as it had before. Looking back

on it now, I think about how that Easter weekend must have seemed 2000 years ago.

Often when a person dies, their relatives feel a great indignation that their world has come crashing to a halt but the rest of the world goes on unmoved. That first Easter Sunday, I am sure that that is how the disciples felt when they woke up. Then reports came to them saying that the impossible had happened – the tomb was empty and Jesus had appeared to some of their number alive! This was and is the most world-changing thing ever to happen, but most of the world pottered on unaware of the seismic shift that had taken place and it has continued thus ever since; a world in need of a Saviour, largely unaware – or unwilling to hear – that the Saviour has come.

Christianity is often thought of as an exclusivist faith, because we claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven and a right standing before God. But I think the opposite is true: it is the most

Dreaming beyond



We all have dreams. How do we decide which ones to follow and which ones to let go? It's a tough decision to make. Sometimes you can follow a dream only to see it fail for reasons outside your control. Sometimes you give up on it just too early. And sometimes you stick with it and it becomes a reality.

Most of us hang on to practical dreams and let go of the wild ones. My wife always wished she was better

educated. After a less than stellar school performance she decided, in her 30s, that she wanted to progress in her career and to do that she needed a university degree. It took her six years, part-time distance learning, to complete but she became the only one in her family with a university degree.

When I was at college I wanted to be an animator. The dream was shot down by a careers advisor who told me the only way that would work was by moving to California and seeking a job with Walt Disney. I let go of that dream and discovered 30 years later that the careers advisor was wrong and there were dozens of places crying out for people. I let go because I was told it was too fanciful a dream.

I think part of the problem with following dreams is we've come to

believe that if it's meant to be, it will come easily and quickly. Thomas Edison reputedly said "genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration" and the same is true of dreams.

Having the dream is that 1% but for it to become real you have to be willing to risk much and put in a whole ton of work.

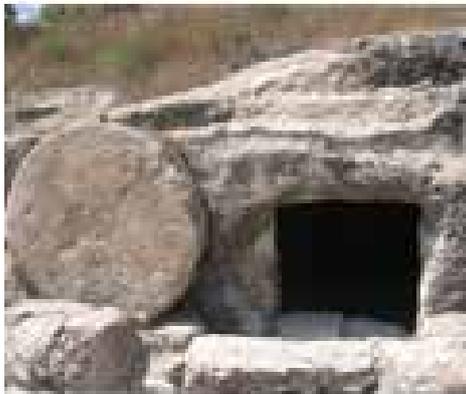
Often when you see someone heralded as an overnight sensation you don't see the years of work they did beforehand. Lucille Ball worked in film and theatre for more than 20 years before her big break with *"I Love Lucy"*. Kathy Bates, likewise, had been working steadily but unspectacularly for 20 years before her starring role in Stephen King's *Misery*.

In the Bible, Joseph, of the famously colourful coat, was a slave and then in prison before his literal dreams saved him and raised him up to be the pharaoh's right-hand man.

inclusive of all faiths, because its central claim is that a person's capacity to reach heaven is not based on their ethnicity, gender, qualifications, actions or any abilities or attributes.

No, it just depends on them recognising their inability to be good enough, and to trust the One Who is good enough – Jesus. As the biblical writers repeatedly tell us, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved". That's good news for a broken and hurting world. That's the message of Easter.

May God bless you this Eastertide.
Revd Phil Griffin, Minister



Not every dream is about fame and power though. A dream can be something as straightforward as owning chickens or becoming a qualified electrician. Not everyone's dream is big; some are small and equally important.

Either way, achieving your dream can mean a lot of hard work and sacrifice, something that leads many of us to fall by the wayside into happy, productive and valuable ordinary lives.

The thing is, it's never too late to chase your dream. There are many examples of people who have done so late in life. So think about your dream. Is it time to give it a go?

*Peter Bangs
Methodist Missioner*

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB



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

Loving God Loving our community
Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services April and May

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

3rd April	Nicky Gilbert
10th April – Palm Sunday	Revd Phil Griffin
17th April – Easter Sunday	Kathy Elvy
24th April	Revd Bob Kitching – Holy Communion
1st May – Vocations Sunday	Grace Westerduin
8th May	Rosie Banks
15th May	Kathy Elvy
22nd May	Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
29th May	To be confirmed

At the time of writing we are following Methodist Church guidance in relation to the easing of covid restrictions – we are able to sing but masks are still to be worn.

There will be a warm welcome for all who wish to join us for these services. If you would like to but want to check if any restrictions remain, please email stewards@s-m-c.org.uk or see our Facebook page. Church members will be updated regularly.

In need of Prayer?

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

Coffee, Craft & Company

Weekly on Tuesdays at 10am to 12noon

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)

12th April at 12.30pm Charity Soup Lunch – Pat Morris will talk about Friends of Teso

10th May at 7.30pm The Eden Project – Jill Daniels

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 

Conservation Group

Signs of spring and plenty of wildlife

Spring is finally on its way in the conservation area: the wild garlic leaves are showing in the wood, the primroses in the upper meadow are flowering along the old hedge line and the blackthorn is in full blossom. In the pond the marsh marigolds have been flowering their hearts out for a couple of weeks.

All eleven volunteers on the February work party spent the morning entirely in Green's Wood. The majority of the volunteers worked near the Church Road end of the wood where contractors have taken out some dead and unsafe trees, and left quite a lot of debris. It was a mammoth task to try to make the area look better but the volunteers made great progress, although there are still lots more jobs to do.

The contractors left a huge log near the path and this has proved really popular as a resting place for walkers so, thankfully we won't need to move it: a Herculean task to say the least.

A few volunteers worked at the pond end of the wood, clearing up a lot of fallen wood and clearing away many holly seedlings, whose mission seems to be to take over the whole wood. Everything was stacked into

Tackling fallen trees.



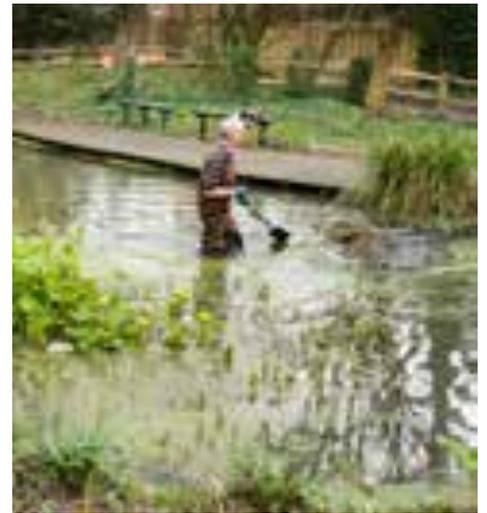
wigwam piles in the hope that local wildlife will colonise them and eventually cause the piles of wood to decompose, which will fertilise that area.

In March we decided that we would do the annual inventory of the tools: a daunting task as rakes and spades seem to get in a hopeless muddle no matter how carefully we stow them away at the end of our sessions. Nothing seemed to have gone missing and we have purchased extra saws and loppers during the last year, whilst several tools have been donated to us. One broom was retired as only half its bristles were left but we kept the handle for future repairs.

De-silting the pond

Only two people were involved in the tool count so, besides one person on ditch-clearing duty, all the other volunteers were able to tackle the pond. This has silted up significantly and the reeds had formed a huge mat in the centre, which we had intended to reduce by at least half.

Some work was done but had to stop suddenly when a huge number of frogs and toads, together with their different types of spawn, were seen amongst the roots of the reeds.



Clearing the pond.

Obviously we try to do pond work in the wildlife "off season" in winter but this isn't always possible due to the weather or the availability of the necessary manpower. So, although we were disappointed that the work won't get done now until late autumn, we were thrilled to find so much activity in the pond. We hope this means we are doing something right!

Several trees were felled by Storm Eunice, bless her, and these have been cleared away as far as we are able, there are still trees to be dealt with by contractors. Another survey of Green's Wood is due to be done on behalf of the Parish Council soon and any work needed will be done by contractors, and the smaller jobs by the Conservation Group.

In the meadows, the contractor was able to use a flail last week to cut away some areas of brambles that were getting ever larger. Some parts of the meadows were, however, too wet for the tractor and will have to wait until later in the year.

The Conservation Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, weather permitting, from 9.45am until 12noon. We gather by the hut in the lower meadow to decide who wants to do the jobs that are on offer. We break for coffee at 11am and if it rains we go home early! Do come as often and for as long as you can if you are interested in helping out. Our next meetings are 9th April, 14th May and 11th June.

Gill Sawyer 01489 894206

Meon Valley Carers Providing regular support

Do you look after somebody with dementia? Would you like to join our friendly Carers Support Group where you can meet and talk to other carers in similar situations?

The group is hosted by Judy (carer support worker) and Gary (dementia advisor) who are happy to offer advice and information. We also have a committed group of volunteers who offer support and, most importantly, provide tea or coffee and a biscuit!

We welcome carers and the cared for, giving you the opportunity to meet new friends, play along in a quiz and other activities, and discover new interests.

We have had a successful last six months with quizzes and games, a seated exercise session, a guest appearance from local artist and wicker sculptor Jacqueline Rolls, as well as a sing-a-long at the Christmas Party.

The Meon Valley Carers Group meets at the Paterson Centre on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. If you would like to join us please contact our central team on 01264 332297 or email enquiries@andovermind.org.uk.

Judy Beaunier

Below: Carers and cared for at the Christmas party.

Swanmore Lunch Club

Much more than just a meal – it's time to talk

Every week the Swanmore Care Group runs a lunch club in the Paterson Centre. The aim is to provide older residents with a two-course meal and to have a chance to get together and chat.

When I first started helping at the lunch club I was pleased to be a volunteer and saw the idea of a freshly cooked meal as a good one. However, I have now got older (I am now 71) and have become the carer for my wife. What I now see is that the benefit of people getting together and talking is even more important than the meal. The sharing of talk, of time spent together – whilst seeing few others each week – and sharing experiences about getting help when needed is invaluable.

Now that I can see how good it is for me to have time to talk in this way, to not have to think of what food to cook for one day a week, to get a healthy meal served with a smile, I'd like to encourage others to come along. I often raise the question with local residents and some say that they are too young – some of them way older than I am. Others tell me that they are very happy and perfectly capable of cooking for themselves, but

in this they miss the opportunity to get out of the house to chat. There are those who say that they have no transport, but each week we collect a dozen people from their homes – though anyone reading this who would care to volunteer to help with transport or anything else would be welcomed with open arms.

So, if you are getting a bit older, or are on your own, or are caring for someone, please come along and share a meal with us. If you are good at talking but don't feel that you need the lunch club for yourself, come along anyway and help by chatting to everyone else. If you know a neighbour who you think might benefit, please talk to them and suggest they try it.

Currently we have many people who are living on their own, we have people who have great difficulty walking, are blind or are deaf. We have people whose partners are in care homes and others who come as a couple. We have some who are very fit and able, and doing very well for whatever age they are. Feel free to call me if you would like to talk it over.

*Dennis Wheeler, 07490 676710 or
01489 892911*



Meon Valley Lions

Getting ready for Swanmore's fête

Preparations are going well for our annual fête held in the Swanmore Recreation Ground. This year, the Lions' Swanmore Fête is on Saturday 9th July.

We're keeping all the regular favourites and, following its success in 2019, we are going to host a dog show again. We're not going to recreate Crufts, but hope to have a bit of fun and a chance for local dog-owners to show off their pet's best attributes. There will be numerous prizes for the best pooches in various classes..

The Lions' Swanmore Fête takes a lot of time and effort to plan and we need dozens of people to help us make the event work on the day.

If you can volunteer for a few hours setting up the field, manning the gate or running a stall, we'd love to hear from you.

Drop us your details via the contact us page on the website or email: info@meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk

Help delivered at speed

It is known that Meon Valley Lions are always there to help those who find themselves in a tight corner. It can happen to anyone at any time, so we never judge. However, we are also proud of how quickly we can deliver that help.

Recently we had two requests from people struggling financially: a youngster urgently needing some clothes, and a household with a couple of broken appliances and a freezing cold floor.

Within just a few days, the funds were agreed and actions taken to resolve the problems. So Meon Valley Lions Club not only provides essential help but delivers it at great speed.

◆ If you would like to make a donation please visit www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk/donate.html.

Carole Dash

Art exhibition

Finding new views of the Meon Valley

Local artist Jerry Smith will be having his fourth solo exhibition at the Paterson Centre on Saturday 14th May from 10am until 4pm, with a range of new landscape paintings and drawings on show, plus prints and greeting cards for sale.

"The local Meon Valley landscape is a constant source of artistic inspiration," he says, "and with spring now well and truly underway, it's definitely a good time to be out exploring this charming area of Hampshire. Droxford via Mayhill Lane, the River Meon and the old Meon Valley Railway line are easily accessible. The lanes and paths

that run through the valley have their own distinctive character, with dense woodland giving way to open fields and broad skies. Over time you can get to know these places well, but the changing seasons will inevitably throw new light on a familiar scene."

This constantly changing light – with silhouettes of bare winter trees and long shadows from a low, winter sun at one end of the year to the soft glow of a summer evening – provides the artistic inspiration for Jerry's work, whether it be in charcoal, pastel sketches, oil or acrylic.

For more information visit: jerrysmithartist.co.uk



*Right: Mayhill Lane in charcoal.
Below: Bridge over the Meon at Droxford.*



SADS

Sherlock Holmes comes to Swanmore

Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society will journey back to 1800s England, at the end of April, where the great Sherlock Holmes and his esteemed colleague Dr Watson will attempt to solve the case of the mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville.

More than 125 years after his creation, Sherlock Holmes remains the most popular fictional detective in history and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is best known for the 60 stories that he wrote about him.

Danny Jeffs is making his debut as director with SADS, using his acting, artistic and musical knowledge to turn his ideas into real life. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was always a favourite of his when growing up and he was excited to discover the

wonderful adaptation by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly.

SADS's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* opens at Swanmore Village Hall on Thursday 28th April and runs until Saturday 30th April. Doors open at 7pm with curtain up at 7.30pm. The cash bar will be open for drinks on arrival and during the interval.

To book tickets online please go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/swanmoredrama or visit the Box Office at Barnaby's on Saturdays from 10am to 12noon.

For further information telephone 01489 894955, 893639 or 896182.

Gail Norris



Workshop planned for young performers

Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society will be holding a fun workshop evening for any young person wishing to be considered for involvement in its 2022 December pantomime.

SADS has a strong reputation in the community for putting on family-orientated, fun pantomimes and we are very excited to be looking at increasing our cast of young people, which will include chorus members, dance team and spoken parts.

Rehearsals take place on Monday nights from 7pm at Swanmore Village Hall and you also need to commit to additional rehearsals on Thursday 17th November and Thursday 24th November and to the whole of production week from Monday 28th November to Saturday 3rd December (excluding Wednesday).

We will also need parents/adults to sign up to help chaperone backstage.

The workshop evening is on Tuesday 7th June from 7pm to 8pm at the Paterson Centre and will be limited to 30 people. There will be a chance to work with and to talk to some of our current members.

If you would like to ask any questions or go straight to signing up to attend the workshop, please contact Caroline Powell on 0770 1044563 or email caroline-powell@live.com

Swanmore Pre-school Having fun in pyjamas

We have been busy at Pre-school exploring the weather, seasons and raising money to support having the outdoor provision enhanced.

In March we came to Pre-school in our pyjamas for three days; this was extended by talking and learning about bedtime routines, reading bedtime stories popular for children, and making bath bombs. We have learned that the seasons change the weather and our environment. We made kites on a windy day. Jill Phipps from the church, visited us to help us all learn about spring and new life.

In April the children will be involved in creating pictures for the Easter egg hunt.

We will be hosting a quiz, fun and games evening in May for the adults to enjoy on Saturday 14th May, at the Paterson Centre from 7pm to 10pm.

Tickets are £5 each, with suggested tables of six or eight as a team. Bring your own refreshments. Contact Pre-school for tickets.

Sarah Hiscock 01489 893779,
sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk



Right: Eliza with her kite. Far right: Eliza, Leonardo, Megan and Isla in pyjamas, making bath bombs.

Volunteering

Our village needs you!



Many thanks to all those who have offered to help recently. The Lunch Club has some new volunteers. The Brownies are planning to restart with new leaders and the Rainbows also have some new helpers... but more volunteers are still needed.

Swanmore Scouts

Currently, while the Beavers have a waiting list for would-be members, older children are unable to progress to the Cubs as the pack is full for the foreseeable future.

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 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. If you are interested in helping please speak to me or any of the current section leaders.

Julian Livingstone

01489 893399, 07720 758764 or

julian.livingstone@btopenworld.com

Care Group drivers

Swanmore Care Group operates a volunteer driving scheme to take local residents to hospitals, doctors, dentists, etc. This doesn't have to be a regular commitment.

We have two Care Group contacts (Barry Rowe and Allison Gurry, see p.47 for details). After receiving a transport request, Barry and Allison have a list of volunteer drivers to ring to see who is available.

Unfortunately, with several volunteers moving away, or no longer able to drive, the list is now worryingly small. This means that some of our elderly and frail residents must rely on travelling to healthcare appointments by bus or taxi, which is not ideal. Could you be one of our drivers, even if it is just once a month or so?

If you feel you could volunteer, or would like any more information on what being a volunteer driver entails, please call our co-ordinator Pam Manson on 01489 892374.

Allison Gurry

New Governors for the College

The college has vacancies for a co-opted Governor and parent Governor.

If you would like to join the current Board of Governors and the senior leadership team as we strive to deliver "outstanding" results for pupils then why not contact the Chair of Governors, Dennis Gamblin, at governors@swanmore-sec.hants.sch.uk for more information, or have a look at the website: <https://swanmore-school.co.uk/general-information/governors/>

Village centre clean-up group

I am looking for volunteers to help with the Village Centre Working Party. It meets about once a month to keep the area around the outside of the churchyard, Primary School and the shops' car park clear of leaves, weeds etc.

We meet on a Thursday morning at 10.00am for about two hours. Please get in touch if you can spare an occasional Thursday morning to help.

David Street – 01489 896331

RBL garage sale

The Swanmore Branch of the Royal British Legion (Womens' Section) will be holding a garage sale in the Paterson Centre car park on Saturday 7th May from 10am to 1pm in aid of the RBL.

All sorts of goodies will be on sale – from lawn mowers and camping equipment to household goods and tools.

Please come and support this worthwhile cause.

Poppy Appeal 2021 – and help wanted for 2022

Apologies for being a bit late, but I can finally report that last year's Poppy Appeal raised £2,596.96 (plus gift aid). A fabulous effort by all involved and a big thank you to all the collectors and other outlets where money was donated.

I have informed the Royal British Legion that I will be standing down from my role as Swanmore area organiser and as such, I am asking if there is someone who would like to take this on. I will be more than happy to talk through the role with anyone who makes contact with me.

Also, we need more volunteer collectors to cover the following roads: Orchardlea, Glendale, Lower Chase Road and Broad Lane. It would also be handy to have an extra couple of volunteers who could step in at the last moment to cover one of the collection rounds should it be needed.

Kerry Fox – 01489-894765

Join the club

Tony King found this ditty in a 2011 issue of a parish magazine from South Wales and suspected that many older readers would find the text rather familiar...

Just a line to say I'm living,
that I'm not amongst the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis;
to my dentures I'm resigned;
I can cope with my bi-focals
but, ye gods, I miss my mind.
Sometimes I can't remember,
when I'm standing on the stair,
if I'm going up for something
or just coming down from there.

And before the fridge so often
my mind is full of doubt;
did I put some food away
or did I take some out?

Don't let it get you worried
or your brain begin to doubt;
stay peaceful, calm, unflurried
because –

there's a lot of us about!

Meon Valley Trefoil Guild

Meeting face-to-face once more

Despite the pandemic with its restrictions on meeting up, Meon Valley Trefoil Guild has continued to meet regularly on Zoom and now we are having face-to-face gatherings once again. We have also managed to recruit two new members in this period and now there are 16 of us.

Our Guild co-hosted the County Christmas party in the Village Hall early in December with Titchfield Guild. Nearly 100 members from

Hampshire East attended, including members from Hayling Island, Havant, Gosport, Liphook and Horndean. We wore Christmas jumpers and seasonal headwear, which was just as well as we had windows and doors open in line with covid restrictions at the time.

This term our Meon Valley meetings have all been face-to-face and non-virtual, and have included a story-telling session, a very useful and informative presentation by the Blue

Lamp Trust, and a games afternoon where members also brought along a treasured possession and gave their reasons for valuing their chosen item. We decided to call that meeting "Cake and keepsakes" for obvious reasons!

Next month we have a talk by Gillian Taylor entitled "It shouldn't happen to a vet", which promises to be very entertaining.

In February, Bere Forest Guild invited us to Southwick Park Golf Club for skittles and supper, and we took along quizzes to complete whilst not skittling. Meon Valley won the skittles and Bere Forest won the quiz: a very equitable outcome.

As you can see our programme is quite varied; we are a friendly bunch and would welcome any potential members to come along to our meetings.

Denise Lord – 0774 7064455

Left: Trefoilers having fun marbling papers.



Swanmore Guides

Trying all sorts of new things

Swanmore Guides have been up to all sorts of things this term! We have tried out bungee exercising, night hike (and chips!) and stayed at Foxlease in the New Forest where we did archery, crate stacking, had a go at slacklining and were brave doing the leap of faith several metres up!

World Thinking Day on 22nd February each year is a good time for us to think about all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the World. This year we did this by making food from around the world and other food-related activities. We made a very messy avocado face mask, Anzac biscuits, pizza key rings and some "Guide-tingles".

We welcomed Gary McCulloch (ACSO) along one evening as we would like to "take action" in our community. Watch out around Easter for a trail around Swanmore and the surrounding area. There will be a

variety of routes around suitable for walkers with or without pushchairs, dogs and bikes.

The Guides are keen that the trail will get people out and about in the fresh air, have some fun by spotting our cryptic clues, do some exercise and make our village happy by picking up litter along the way. More details will be shared nearer Easter.

Sarah Woodman

Bungee exercising and crate stacking in the Forest.



Review of the year

As the end of our financial year comes to a close it gives us a chance to reflect on what we have achieved, consider the challenges we have faced and continue to face, and look at our upcoming priorities.

Covid has affected us all over the last two years and just as we find ourselves getting, back to some sort of normality, we are now facing fresh challenges surrounding the cost of living, with further uncertainties for all.

As a Parish Council we chose not to increase the 2021/22 precept. However, we still managed to maintain our daily duties as well as deliver a number of improvements within the village. We continued the siding out of pavements, making them safer to walk along. We installed a third flashing speed limit reminder (SLR), giving Swanmore one of the most comprehensive SLR programmes in the county, and installed a new street light on New Road, by the Village Hall, making that area safer at night times.

Footpath 502, which runs from Ludwells Lane along to Lower Chase Road has been resurfaced using "CIL money" (a levy that local authorities can charge on new developments in the area), which finally gives residents a useable path. The footpath at the Village Hall has been resurfaced following plenty of feedback from residents living in Spring Vale; we hope this is now a little more user-friendly.

We have started to deliver our Recreation Areas Improvements, with additional seating in Swanmore Recreation Ground and the conversion of the old BMX track into a tarmacked pump track, available to more users.

We also managed to squeeze an office move into the year, moving from the top floor of Hollythorns House into the ground floor offices. The ground floor office space is larger and more accessible, and creates opportunities not possible in our previous location.

We would like our office to become a community hub. We have created a small internet café, providing residents

with free access to the internet; a meeting space, which we will hire out at a small cost; and the treasures that make up the Swanmore Archives have finally been re-homed within the Parish Council offices and become the community asset they should be.

Looking ahead

This year, there has been a minimal increase of 2.8% to the precept. As well as day-to-day business we are focussing on improving our recreation areas further.

The Pavilion on Swanmore Recreation Ground is being refurbished to allow users access to toilet facilities. New play equipment will be installed in all areas over the next couple of years.

One thing you don't see directly is all the hours put in by councillors and officers to keep putting pressure on the City and County Councils to get the best for Swanmore. This year has been particularly challenging, with continuous discussions around road safety and housing development, and this is going to stay a priority as we move into the next financial year.

Housing growth

One of the biggest challenges facing our parish is housing development. Swanmore has a requirement from Winchester City to build houses as part of the Winchester Local Plan. We've had our update meeting with Winchester and, currently we are being asked to find space for an additional 92 houses, on top of the 250 allocation given to us in 2013.

At the meeting with Winchester we questioned the calculations, along with how the growth numbers have been spread across the District.

Conversations will continue and we will be doing all we can to have our allocation reduced to something more manageable within the village.

While these conversations are taking place, we need to plan for the worst-case scenario. Therefore, we will be reviewing the proposed sites for development within the SHELAA to find space for 92.

Residents have already given some really good feedback on the sites but we are now asking you to say where you would put the houses Winchester wants us to provide.

We are having a number of consultation drop-in sessions in the Parish Council Office. Encouraging

Platinum Jubilee

Plans are afoot for some village activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

To complement the street parties that are taking place, there will be a Village Treasure Hunt: find the clues and you will receive a Jubilee Mug and some chocolate treasure coins.

We are also going to run a competition for the best dressed house/garden. First prize will be £100, second prize is £50 and two runners up with £25.

You don't need to

Right: Winning entry from our best-dressed VE day competition in 2020.



spend lots of money, you don't even need to decorate the house or garden, just a window will do. Prizes will be given to the most creative.

We will also be hosting a photographic exhibition in the Parish Council Office celebrating Swanmore over the last 70 years.

Further details will follow.



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.

residents to come and see us and give us your feedback. These will be at:

◆ **Wednesday 6th April**

10am–2pm and 6pm–8pm

◆ **Thursday 7th April**

10am–2pm and 6pm–8pm

◆ **Friday 8th April – 10am–2pm**

◆ **Saturday 9th April – 10am–2pm**

If these dates are not suitable for you, please contact the parish office to arrange an alternative visit.

No one wants to see more houses in Swanmore, but it is a statutory requirement. So please come along and help us look at the proposed sites constructively.

Thank you

We can't close our financial year without saying thank you to all the volunteers in the village who support the Parish Council. The Conservation Group, the troop of litter pickers and the Village Centre Working Group. The time you give to making the village a better place is very much appreciated.

**Swanmore Parish Council
Meeting Dates**

12th April	Planning & highways
19th April	Open spaces & amenities
26th April	Finance
10th May	Full Council AGM
17th May	Planning & highways
24th May	Open spaces & amenities
31st May	Finance

Council meetings generally start at 7pm and all meetings are open to members of the public. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information.

Swanmore Society

Back again and with a full programme for 2022

As hoped, the Swanmore Society is resuming its normal activities from April and has a full programme in place for you to enjoy over the next twelve months! Do join us.

Our first meeting is on 13th April, when Bill Fergie will relate the history and objectives of the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT).

The Trust was set up by Hampshire County Council in 1975 to mark European Architectural Heritage Year. A significant sum of money was allocated by the council with the intention that the HBPT would purchase threatened historic buildings, pay for their restoration and put them back on the market.

Bill will show us many examples of interesting buildings that have been brought back to life by the Trust, including Bursledon Windmill – before and after photographs below – and the estate lodges at West Park in Rockbourne, near the New Forest, which are now bijou holiday lets.

In addition to Bill's talk, our April gathering will include a short AGM, covering essential business only. Please note that only members will be

eligible to vote during the AGM.

We can be sure of an enjoyable evening on 11th May in the company of Andrew Negus who will be delivering the second part of his "Harlots, dung and glory" series on the history of Portsmouth, examining the nineteenth century to 1870. This period saw huge expansion of the dockyard during and following the Napoleonic Wars with corresponding growth of the residential areas. Admiral Nelson will of course be key.

Further ahead, we will welcome Tony Kippenberger on 8th June to tell us about "Henry VIII and the Treaty of Waltham" as Bishop's Waltham celebrates the 500th anniversary of this event in July. Future talk topics include Highclere Castle, the Woodland Trust, Fosse Way and the eccentricities of Georgian dining.

Our meetings start at 8pm and will be held in the Paterson Centre throughout 2022. For the time being, those attending are requested to wear a face covering when moving around the building and use the hand sanitiser provided.

Caroline Clapperton – 01489 891447



Buglife

Be nice to belligerent bees – they are useful

If your garden contains patches of hairy-leaved plants it may also play host to a belligerent bee. This is not a bad thing, as wool carder bees (*Anthidium manicatum*) cannot sting, and they are only aggressive towards other bees entering their territory.

The males can often be found sunbathing on a stone or leaf nearby. If another bee dares to enter the space to use “his” flowers to gather pollen or nectar, or to compete for his territory, he will instantly take off and perform a kind of rugby tackle on the unfortunate victim.

This assault can include the male wool carder using a series of five spikes on the end of his abdomen to beat up or crush the victim, in some cases even killing it. If a female wool carder arrives, the rugby tackle response remains the same, but with mating the end-product. By establishing territories containing plants attractive to females the males gain as many mating opportunities as possible.

The wool carder is relatively common across the south of England and Wales in summer, and is likely to be found in Swanmore gardens that contain such plants as lamb’s ear, mullein and foxglove, amongst others.

It is one of our largest solitary bees (it doesn’t live in social groups like

honey bees or bumble bees), is about the size of a worker honey bee, but with a more robust appearance.

Unusually for solitary bees, the males have evolved on average to be larger than the females, presumably their larger size better enabling them to hold a territory.

Both sexes are black-bodied with yellow markings, notably dots or bars along the sides of the abdomen, making them easy to identify. The species name *manicatum* means “having long sleeves”, and may refer to the long grey hairs on the legs and thorax.

The term “wool carder” relates to the females’ behaviour of cutting and gathering leaf hairs with which to line their nests. This may confer a water-repellent property so the eggs and larvae are less prone to fungal infection. Nests are built in existing cavities, including bee hotels with large enough holes. A reminder perhaps, not to make gardens too tidy, and to provide bee-friendly plants, as our beleaguered pollinators currently need all the help they can get.

Marcus Charig

Below: Male wool carder with abdominal spikes just visible.

Below left: Wool carder bee on foxglove leaf.



In the hedgerows

It’s all in the name

Country names of plants can often tell you a great deal about how they were once – and sometimes still are – used. Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*), for example, was known as knitbone – because that is what it does: accelerate the repair of connective tissue. The lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) revels in the old name of pilewort because it can be used as a treatment for haemorrhoids.

The greater stitchwort currently appearing in our local hedgerows was once – but no longer – regarded as a remedy for stitch: that nasty pain in the side familiar to many of us during unaccustomed exercise. Lesser stitchwort, also called common starwort, had a similar use and appears from May. It forms low mounds so is easily missed and has flowers around 2mm in diameter, while the greater’s are typically 2cm across.

Until 2019 greater stitchwort was classified as *Stellaria holostea* making it an obvious cousin of common chickweed, *Stellaria media*. The botanists then used a technique called phylogenetic analysis, which looks at the evolutionary development of a species, to decide it wasn’t a close cousin after all and they reclassified greater stitchwort as *Rabellera holostea*. Similarly pilewort was always known as *Ranunculus ficaria* making it an obvious member of the buttercup family – which despite its name change it still is.

Lesser stitchwort has, however, remained with the *Stellarias* as *S. graminea*.

Greater stitchwort is an important food source for several moth species and is popular with bees, butterflies and hoverflies looking for nectar in spring. In Cornwall the plant was known as piskie or pixy as the little people were believed to hide in the flowers during day time so anyone picking the flowers risked being “pixy-

led” – becoming confused, lost or otherwise abducted by the fairy folk.

Another country name for it is snapdragon as the seed pods explode with a great bang – just the thing to amuse the children on country walks.

It’s former “cousin” common chickweed – so named as birds will eagerly eat the seed, young tops and leaves – is rather more useful.

It is often used to ease irritant rashes and eczema, it can be used for minor burns and also makes a good drawing ointment for sucking out thorns and splinters as well as clearing carbuncles and external abscesses. A poultice of fresh leaves can also be used on bee sting. Teas of the plant were once popular for coughs and hoarseness and in folk medicine it was believed to be a remedy for obesity.

Chickweed is often regarded by gardeners as a weed, but it and both the stitchworts are edible and can be added to salads or wilted and eaten like spinach. So if you are plagued by a surfeit of any of them in your garden – simply add them to the menu.

Below: Lesser stitchwort.

Bottom: Greater stitchwort.



Mallards in flight by Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography.

H&IoWWT

Getting to know your dabblers and divers

Early spring is a wonderful time to see wildlife, and birds especially. As the cold grip of the Arctic winter takes hold on the lakes, pools and marshes of Northern Europe and Russia, huge numbers of swans, ducks and geese retreat to the relative warmth of the UK, where our lakes, rivers, reservoirs and coasts offer a winter home to an estimated 2.1 million ducks.

Ducks can be split into two broad groups: dabblers and divers. As the name suggests, diving ducks feed mainly by diving underwater, using their strong feet (and sometimes their wings) to swim and chase fish, scoop up insects or graze on tasty aquatic plants. These ducks can be seen year-round, but winter brings a boost in numbers as migrant birds arrive. Some species, like scaup and smew, are mostly winter visitors and are rarely seen during summer.

Examples of diving ducks you may spot include pochard, tufted duck, scaup, goldeneye, eider, smew, goosander and red-breasted merganser. The latter three species are known as sawbills, a sub-group of ducks so named for the saw-like serrations on their slim bills that help them catch and hold fish.

Dabbling ducks, however, feed predominantly at the surface, sometimes even grazing on land.

Many dabblers can often be seen upending, with their heads underwater and their hind parts in the air.

Species of dabbling ducks you may see include mallard, gadwall, wigeon, pintail, shoveler and teal. There are helpful tips to help identify each of these ducks on the Wildlife Trust website at hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife.

One useful trick for identifying ducks (especially females) is to examine the speculum. The speculum is a coloured patch on the secondary flight feathers, which are the feathers at the trailing edge of the wing, close to the body. The speculum is often a distinctive colour and can easily be seen in flight, and often when birds are swimming or standing. Also consider that, for some ducks, the plumage of males and females of the same species can look markedly different. This applies to many, but not all, birds.

The Wildlife Trusts care for many wetland nature reserves across the UK, providing the perfect habitat for our breeding ducks and seasonal visitors. In our region, Blashford Lakes and Farlington Marshes are two Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust nature reserves that boast healthy duck populations.

*Jake Kendall-Ashton
Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust*

Swanmore archives

A new home for our village records

Swanmore's archives are a community asset which – thanks to the additional space at the Parish Council's new offices in Hollythorns House – will become far more accessible to anyone in the village.

For many years the records have been managed by the Swanmore Society on behalf of the Parish Council, which has ultimate responsibility for them, and for more than a decade Crawford Wright has acted as "village archivist", cataloguing and adding to the collection.

The new heritage room at Hollythorns House will enable all the records, currently scattered in storage between the Paterson Centre and the Pavilion on Broad Lane Recreation Ground, to be brought together in one place.

The aim is ultimately to create an online catalogue and digitise many of the records to improve access. Both ambitions will obviously take some time to achieve. However, the archives already include a large number of digital versions of photographs that were used in the various books about Swanmore by Keith Harrington – so it's a start! Some of them are on this page.

Eventually the heritage room will be a place that people can visit: perhaps to look for records relating to their family or house history, maybe to see regular themed exhibitions, or where school groups will be welcomed to work on local history projects.

Last September Crawford announced his intention to retire as village archivist at the end of 2021 and



Swanmore certainly owes him a considerable debt of gratitude for tending the archives for so long: so, thank you Crawford!

1. *The wedding of Raymond Poland in 1913 (Major Poland was killed in the First World War).*
2. *Outside the church in 1904.*
3. *Haymaking in 1940.*
4. *Lower Chase Road in 1910.*
5. *The village shop in 1958.*



Village walks

Exploring the Meon Valley

**A circular walk through beautiful countryside via the Meon valley to Droxford, returning via Mayhill Lane
6.6miles/11km, time: 3 hours.**

1. Swanmore to the River Meon

From the main car park opposite the Paterson Centre, go through the churchyard and across into Chapel Road. Follow it to Hillpound and cross into Mislingford Road. Where the pavement ends, go left into the track and immediately left again onto the permissive footpath around the edge of the field. Follow the yellow footpath signs into an enclosed part of the path until you reach Cott Street.

Turn right and, opposite Tudor Cottage, take the footpath on your left parallel with Cott Street. Go across a field entrance from Cott Street and through a gate in the fencing. Turn

diagonally left across the field to a wood following the yellow waymarks.

Continue on this path, through another gate, beside the fencing and then through a small wood. The path continues straight ahead across a large arable field to the edge of a wood. Turn left across the same field until you reach a track on the top of the hill.

Pause for breath and take in the stunning view of the Meon Valley and see if you can spot Soberton Church to your left. Continue straight ahead to a gap in the hedge and cross the A32. Follow the path beyond it across a field to a kissing gate. (If the path is not obvious, follow the line of the

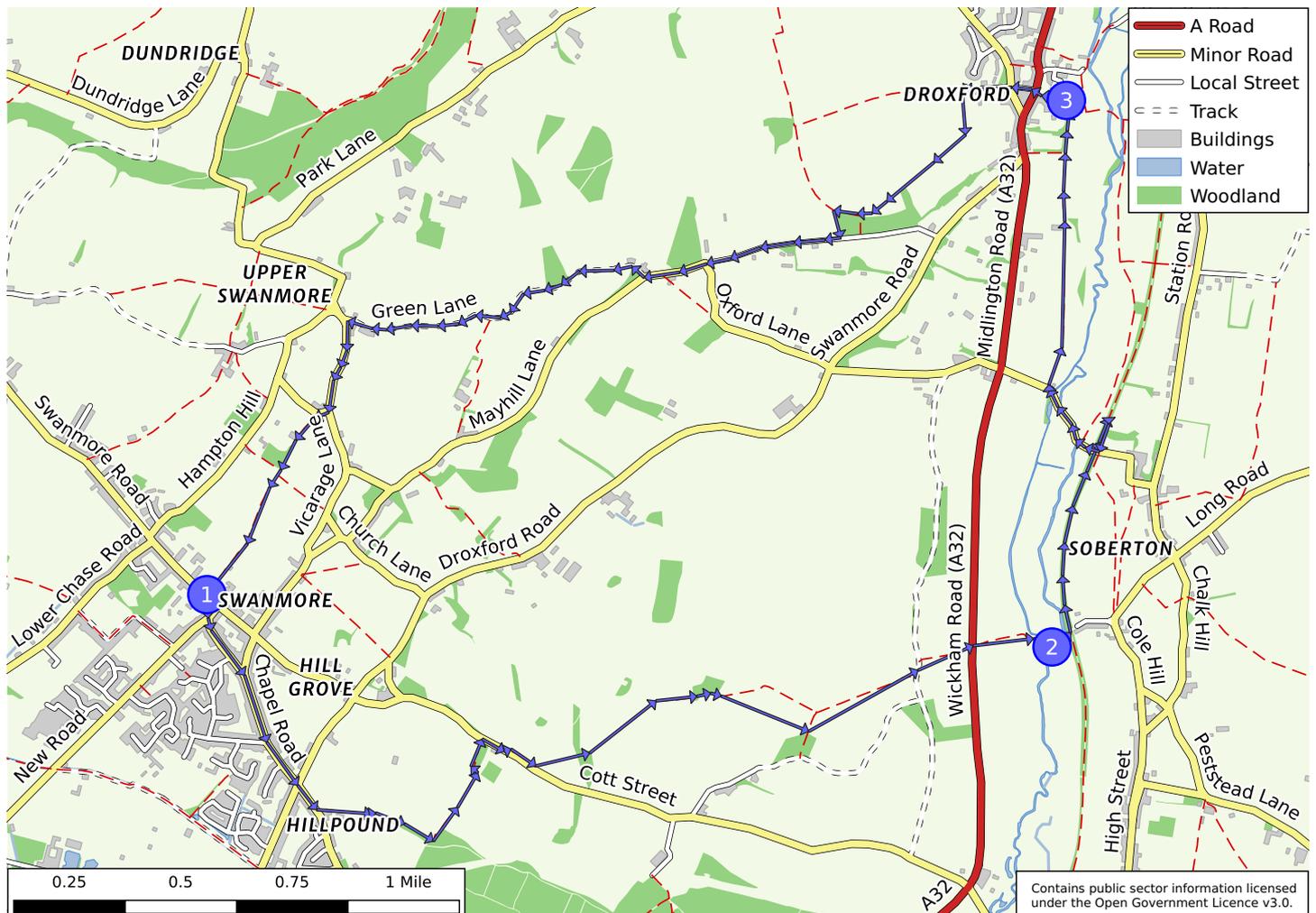
poles.) From there cross the river bridge.

2. To Droxford church

From the river bridge, walk beside the river towards a railway bridge and climb the steps on the right. Turn left onto the Meon Valley Trail. After three-quarters of a mile, go under a bridge and find a path on the right back to the bridge. Turn right across the bridge and walk down the road towards Midlington. Go past the first path (the Wayfarers Walk) and, when you reach the old mill on the right, take the path on the right through a kissing gate into a field.

Follow this path beside the boundary on the right, then across the field to a kissing gate, past some houses and along a fenced field. Continue to a small kissing gate into Droxford churchyard.

Here there are plenty of seats for a break or visit St Wilfrid's café on the far side of the church (open 10am▶





Looking across the Meon Valley towards Soberton.

to 12.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and until 4pm on Saturday).

3. Back to Swanmore

Go to Droxford Square and cross the A32 into Park Lane and straight ahead at the crossroads to Droxford Junior School. Go into the large field just beyond the school and immediately turn left onto a permissive path past the allotments on the left. Follow this path around the edge of the field until the woodland on the left ends.

Take a narrow path to the left steeply uphill beside the wood with 74 steps to reach Mayhill Lane. Turn right and continue past Clayhill Farm, Cathedral Farm and Oxford Lane for three-quarters of a mile until you reach Mayhill Cottage. Turn right down Green Lane and follow it for three-quarters of a mile to reach Vicarage Lane by the green. Turn left into Vicarage Lane and, at Well Lane, go through the kissing gate, down the field and back to the village centre.

Alternative routes home

Green Lane can be very muddy for much of the time at the top of the hill, especially in autumn and winter. Alternative routes are:

- ◆ either continue down Mayhill Lane to Vicarage Lane and Church Road or

- ◆ take the footpath on the right just beyond Mayhill Farm, cross the field and turn left onto Green Lane just beyond the muddy section.

- ◆ If you like the idea of walking in the countryside but do not want to do it on your own, why not try joining one of the many walks laid on by the Ramblers groups.

The groups are based in all the local towns and your very own Waltham group is based here. Walks are usually between five and twelve miles, and there are walks on most days within a 30-mile radius. They are advertised on the Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk.

This is a good way to get to know the countryside around here and to meet new people. The local contact for Waltham Ramblers is Pauline Reed, 01489 892386.

Ramblers offer three trial walks before you are asked to join. It is a very worthwhile charity, which does a great deal of work to sponsor walking and provides assistance to local authorities to keep rights of way open and in good condition.

A sample of Waltham Ramblers walks on offer for April and May are listed on the right.

David Street



Taking to the footpaths

Waltham Ramblers regularly walk on Wednesday mornings. Walks are usually about 5 miles long. Most Sundays the group has a longer walk of 8 to 10 miles, with a picnic lunch. In summer there are also walks of 4 to 5 miles on Friday evenings.

Details of some planned walks are listed below, with meeting venue and leader's contact number. Newcomers are welcome.

- ◆ Sunday 17th April, Shedfield via Bere Forest, 5 miles. Jim 07939 206094. Start: 10.00 – Upper Church Road, High Street end.
- ◆ Wednesday 27th April, Southwick via Boarhunt Mill, 5 miles. Pauline 01489 892386. Start: 10.00 – Southwick Village car park behind Golden Lion PH.
- ◆ Friday 6th May, Cheriton via Sevington Farm, 5 miles. Andy 07449 447247. Start: 18.30 – Cheriton Recreation Ground carpark.
- ◆ Wednesday 11th May, East Meon via Small Down, 5 miles. Mike 07762 120754. Start: 10.00 – Car park at western end of East Meon village off Workhouse Lane.
- ◆ Sunday 29th May, Winchester via Hazeley Down, 8.5 miles. Gill and Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10.00 – St. Catherine's park & ride by the toilet block. Bring a picnic lunch.

For further information about Waltham Ramblers email michael.hewlins@btinternet.com



From our District Councillors

Preparing to select the SHELAA sites

At last, we are “breaking free” from the restrictions deemed necessary to reduce the various versions of the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, it now seems, while our life is returning to the “new normal”, covid is still with us as a background problem – rather like influenza and the “common cold”; and those of us who might be deemed “vulnerable” will still need “protecting” otherwise existing health problems might be made worse.

Housing requirements

In this magazine we are going to concentrate on one issue, that is, the “housing requirement for the next ten years”. For example, the last requirements under the Local Plan adopted in 2017, for some of the parishes in our area, were:

- ◆ 250 houses for Waltham Chase,
- ◆ 250 for Swanmore,
- ◆ 500 for Bishop’s Waltham and
- ◆ 250 for Wickham.

These numbers were not to include “windfall sites”, that is houses that were built in gaps, or in large gardens, as it was very difficult to predict where these houses might be built. Instead the City Council asked landowners if they would be prepared to put any of their land forward for development. Details of those sites were then sent to each of the villages, including Swanmore, in a well-praised exercise called “Blueprint”.

The Parish Council drew conclusions from that exercise, i.e. that future development should largely be to the south, with a new village boundary along the Lakes. There was also a “land swap” deal involving an agreement from a builder to use the poorly drained land that was occasionally used for sports or College recreation. In exchange, the College gained a new, all-weather pitch alongside Lower Chase Road, and some allotment land was transferred

to the Parish Council.

This time round we have several SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment) sites, each put forward by landowners or developers, as possible land for housing, based on 32 houses per hectare. Very many more sites have been proposed than will be needed.

The Parish Council published details of these site locations and asked for your comments. Strategic planners will use that information as to which sites, in the view of Swanmore villagers, should be considered. That information is still available on the City Council website under the title SHELAA.

None of the SHELAA sites put forward for Swanmore are fully in the South Downs National Park, although a couple of small ones are very close to it. The SDNP has its own Local Plan and housing numbers, and currently it does not include any developments within the Swanmore section of the Park.

Conservation areas

The next issue/pressure to consider is that some of these sites will be set aside for “conservation reasons” – we would argue that those SHELAA sites that are in the local gaps between the villages should be set aside for “biodiversity” reasons and as “green lungs”; other sites may be for employment.

We will not know government housing demands until the end of March, plus there may also be demand from the PfSH (Partnership for South Hampshire). This comprises twelve local authorities around the Solent (including Winchester) that have agreed to co-operate in various areas, including housing. If any cannot meet their housing allocations they may be passed to other members of

the group. For example, Fareham wants to build 900 of its houses in Winchester District.

At present our Strategic Planners are working on raw figures of 3,000 houses for Winchester District (outside the SDNP) and the parish councils have been meeting with WCC to discuss numbers. That could mean that Swanmore must accept an additional 90 to 100 houses; there are a further 90 to 100 houses for Waltham Chase! The 3,000 in total for Winchester District is more than the previous allocation.

The planners also hope that some of Winchester’s houses may be built within the SDNP boundary.

Theoretical examples of some possible numbers might be:

- ◆ Winchester – 1,600-1,650 houses.
- ◆ Bishop’s Waltham – 100-120 houses.
- ◆ New Alresford – 100-120 houses.
- ◆ South Wonston – 50-60 houses.
- ◆ Otterbourne – 50-60 houses.

Local elections

Some parishes and WCC wards have elections on 5th May – so if your area does, don’t forget to vote.

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



Providing safety support and fighting cyber crime

The Blue Lamp Trust is a Hampshire-based registered charity that is a unique partnership between Hampshire Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, business and the community.

The Trust promotes community safety and security in Hampshire through two schemes: The Bobby Scheme and the Cyber Bobby Scheme.

The Bobby Scheme

The Bobby Scheme operates throughout Hampshire. It provides practical help with home safety and security to those over 65, vulnerable due to circumstance, disabled (over 18) and victims of burglary and domestic abuse.

Full crime prevention and fire safety surveys are carried out by our trained, police-vetted fitters. They will provide both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety. When appropriate, our fitters will fit such items as locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms, etc. This service is completely free.

The Trust can also supply and fit the Supra C500 Key Safe, an Association of Chief Police Officers accredited key safe. The cost to

supply and fit is £75 including VAT.

The Cyber Bobby Scheme

One of our police-checked and trained cyber advisors will visit the client in their own home and give advice and guidance on basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber-enabled crime. The service is open to those over 65, disabled (over 18) and victims of cyber crime.

They will cover such things as:

- ◆ what is cyber crime,
- ◆ cyber and scam prevention advice,
- ◆ how to check privacy settings,
- ◆ signposting to other advice and resources,
- ◆ how to report issues, and
- ◆ how to recognise scam emails and text messages.

As with the Bobby Scheme the service is completely free.

As well as visits, the team can give talks about both schemes to local community and social groups. If you would like a visit for either scheme or to arrange a talk, you can contact the trust by visiting <https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk>, emailing the team at info@bluelamptrust.org.uk or calling 0300 777 0157.

Theresa Pratt, CEO

- ◆ *Swanmore residents can also contact the Trust via our own Accredited Community Safety Officer, Gary McCulloch, ACSO@swanmorepc.org.uk*



Left: the Blue Lamp Trust's team of fitters.



U3A Last meetings of the current session

These are the planned meetings for the rest of this session. They may change due to any covid restrictions at the time and speaker availability. Members will be emailed prior to meetings to confirm the topic. If you are not on email, please contact the secretary by telephone.

- ◆ 5th April – “Winchester Part 3” given by Andrew Negus.
- ◆ 19th April – “Local Nature Reserves” given by R Levett.
- ◆ 3rd May – AGM followed by “900 Years of St Nicholas Church, Wickham” (pictured above) given by Jane Painter.

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 when we have guest speakers. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting.

We hope to provide refreshments again after the talks which are usually 45 minutes to an hour long. The book table will be available for books, DVDs and puzzles to be swapped, 20p per item. The wearing of masks is now optional. Membership renewals will commence in September.

General enquiries to: Betty Hiscock, Secretary, 01489 894807, email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com, <https://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley>

Meon Valley Repair Café

Grand opening with plenty of items to mend

The Meon Valley Repair Café, which opened at Waltham Chase Methodist Church for a trial, held its "Grand Opening" in February when Meon Valley MP Flick Drummond cut the specially-made Repair Café cake. Hampshire County Councillors, District Councillors and well-wishers also came along to the celebrations, with local HCC Councillor Rob Humby cutting the ceremonial ribbon to declare the Repair Café open.

The project started when three men from the church decided to see what they could do to reduce the amount of broken, portable domestic items taken to the local tip and hence landfill. HCC helped with a grant to fund the project and a shipping container was installed in the church car park and fitted out with work bench and tools, and a basement room was also allocated in the church.

There are now at least seven men coming along to fix things on the first Saturday morning each month, with no shortage of items to repair. These have included wooden items, an exercise cycle, guitar case, a computer-printer interface, food mixers, leaf blower, vacuum cleaners, electric drill, cassette radio, a computer-printer interface and a

pair of trousers! Fortunately, the team has engineers qualified to repair these electrical items and test them to the required national standards.

Working together as a team has demonstrated that several brains are better than one. Another benefit of the Café has been to get men together,

Below: Flick Drummond MP cuts the cake. Bottom: Rob Humby cuts the ribbon supported by "repairmen" Sam Charles and Mark Tizzard.



which encourages wellbeing, combats depression and allows them to discuss health problems.

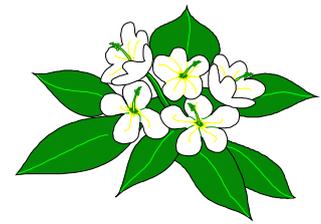
Volunteers are always needed with skills to help repair items such as domestic electrical and mechanical goods, jewellery, leather and even clothing. One lady comes along to assist us. Ladies who wish to offer their skills or just drop in are of course very welcome.

Repair Café is an international initiative started in Holland (you can find more information on Wikipedia) and there are others within Hampshire too.

To contact the Meon Valley Repair Café email: admin@r-men.org.uk

Martin Letts

Meon Valley Methodist Circuit Steward



Waltham Chase Flower Club Learning all about Whiskets (we hope)

We shall have an interesting time over the next three months.

In April we have a demonstration by Christina Payne entitled "Whiskets". No, we don't know what this entails either! Come along to Waltham Chase village hall on 23rd April starting at 2.15pm to find out. Entry for non-members is £5.

Looking ahead, we shall have an outing to Salisbury Cathedral on 11th May to visit its Festival of Flowers.

This celebrates the Queen's platinum jubilee and more than 800 years of the Cathedral, and will include a replica of the Queen's coronation robe in flowers. A coach has been booked starting at the Waltham Chase village hall at 9am.

If you would like to join us, please let me know on 01489 892824. Cost for non-members is £35.

Jill Sutton

Bishop's Waltham Town Team

Henry VIII heads for the High Street

February half-term saw the main shopping area of Bishop's Waltham full of families undertaking the "Where's Henry?" Trail.

The trail, part of the town's 2022 events commemorating the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's visit to Bishop's Waltham, was aimed at primary school children. They were challenged to find the 20 knitted and crocheted models of Henry VIII that were on display in the town's shop windows. For each model found, the children were given a quiz question they had to answer about Henry VIII and life in Tudor times. All leaflets with correct answers were then put into a draw, with three lucky families winning two adult tickets to the Tudor Experience event that will take place in the Bishop's Waltham Palace Grounds on 2nd to 3rd July.

The week's trail ended on Saturday 26th February with a parade of Henry VIII and his entourage through the High Street accompanied by Tudor music. The three lucky children whose leaflets were picked out in the draw were congratulated by Henry VIII and his wife Catherine of Aragon. They were Bella, aged ten, James, aged seven, and Reuben, aged four (with a bit of help from his big sister Olivia, aged eight).

Sue Thomson, one of the

participants said: "We had a wonderful day on Wednesday doing the Henry VIII trail, popping back on Thursday to finish it off. Our two granddaughters, aged nine and six, loved finding all those beautifully knitted Henrys. All the shopkeepers were so lovely and welcoming."

A second trail and procession will take place again in the Easter Holidays. The trail (with different quiz questions) will start on Saturday 16th April and will end on Friday 22nd April. The procession will be on Saturday 23rd April.

For the Tudor Experience in July the bakehouse in the Palace ruins will be turned into a magnificent banqueting hall where guests will be treated to an evening of all things Tudor – food, entertainment, and atmospheric surroundings. Tickets are limited due to the space available but can be reserved now at £65 each.

These events have been made possible by funding from the European Union, European Regional Development Fund and HM Government through Winchester City Council's Welcome Back Fund.

For more information on this event visit www.henry500years.co.uk or follow our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/henry500years

Sarah Berry



Reuben – helped by his sister Olivia – meets Henry VIII.



Time to buy your 'Bites' tickets

If you haven't managed to get to a Bishop's Waltham Bites event before, then now is your chance. Between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 9th April, participating food outlets in Bishop's Waltham will be offering tasters from their establishments to the lucky 125 people who have bought tickets in advance.

The participating food outlets this time will be Any Fish, Giorgio's Mediterranean Restaurant, Grover Butchers, Southern Co-op, Sweet Corner and The Waltham Tandoori. The Bishop's Waltham Country Market will also have a stall on Red Lion Street to complement the event.

Bites is a hugely popular event, which sells out very quickly. The outlets put on a fantastic feast of flavours and everyone gets into the spirit of the event. All visitors say what a wonderful experience it has been.

Bishop's Waltham Bites is organised by the Bishop's Waltham Town Team. This year it is supported by the Southern Co-op, which is generously covering the costs of printing the programme and publicity materials. The tasters are provided at no cost by the participating outlets so all the proceeds raised through ticket sales can be directed to local community activities.

Tickets, at £8.00 each, are available from Sweet Corner and Any Fish.

For further information contact bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com or follow our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/BishopsWalthamwhatson

[BishopsWalthamwhatson](https://www.facebook.com/BishopsWalthamwhatson).

Sarah Berry



More chances to swap goodies

From May to October, Bishop's Waltham Town Team is again holding a monthly free exchange stall in St George's Square.

As last year, each one will have a different theme. The concept is simple: you can give unwanted items for others to select and take, and you may find something useful to take home free too.

You do not have to give to take: you can give, you can take, or you can do both.

The dates and themes are:

- ◆ 28th May: DIY and gardening tools and equipment.
- ◆ 25th June: Holiday and travel items.
- ◆ 30th July: Children's (under eleven) toys, clothes, books, etc.
- ◆ 27th August: Small household items.
- ◆ 24th September: Art and craft items.
- ◆ 29th October: Hallowe'en and Christmas items.

If you would like to know more, please contact bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com.

Sarah Berry

Below: Give and take in full swing in Bishop's Waltham last summer.



Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

Raising funds for Ukraine and a 'home from home'

On Saturday 5th of March, we did a collection outside Sainsbury's in Bishop's Waltham to raise money for the humanitarian efforts to help those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine. Thanks to the amazing generosity of you all, in just a few hours we raised nearly £1,500. The money will be passed to first response charities, linked with Rotary to and support local areas receiving displaced persons.

Wessex Heartbeat

Back in 1992, Rotary rose to the challenge of helping the newly formed Wessex Heartbeat charity, which had been set up to support people of all ages and their families living with cardiac conditions in the Wessex area, which includes the Channel Islands.

A home from home for the relatives of those undergoing treatment was needed near to Southampton General Hospital and Rotary stepped in to raise the money to purchase a property opposite the A&E entrance.

Once again Wessex Heartbeat has come to Rotary for help and we have made a pledge to give a regular donation of £500 over the next three years, along with other local clubs, as the property now needs major refurbishment. When originally opened the house was named Rotary Heartbeat House. The Rotary connection has been lost over the years, but is now being revived .

Mandy Tourle with new Rotary members Mark Brenton and Tony Cummins.



Bishop's Waltham Rotary Carnival

After two years' absence due to covid, the carnival is back and will be held on Saturday 11th June. It will also be a slightly different day this year as there will be no procession but instead a motorcade of vintage and classic cars and bikes from 12noon in the High Street, leading to Hoe Road where a great "Family Fun Day" will start at 12.30pm with music, food and the ever-popular Dog Show.

Many thanks to our main carnival sponsors White & Guard, as well as Solent Design Publishing for sponsoring our programme. We are keen to hear from any small, local craft businesses, face painters, and vegan and vegetarian hot food vendors interested in taking part.

To join the motorcade, contact pete.yeoman@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk. To book a stall or for further information, contact debbie.walker@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk

New members

President Mandy Tourle had the pleasure of welcoming two new members at the end of February, when Mark Brenton and Tony Cummins decided to join our merry bunch. We warmly welcome them to the wider Rotary family.

Ian Treveil

Meon Valley Bowling Club

Come along to our open day and have a go at bowls

All is prepared for our annual Public Open Day and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone of all ages on Saturday 30th April 2022 to come and have a go at lawn bowls.

To provide a quality experience of one hour's duration it is necessary for us to operate a booking system for allocated time slots for visitors and this will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Booking starts on the 10th April and to book your place phone 01489 896194.

Our Public Open Day provides an opportunity to meet club members and look round our lovely Pavilion and the facilities that 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.

Busy winter season

Our members have enjoyed a busy and competitive winter season. We have entertained many clubs from all over Hampshire and our internal competitions have been keenly contested.

The finals of our Indoor Competitions took place over the weekend of 13th March and both days provided some exceptional bowling skills from all the finalists. (Winners are listed below.)

	Champion(s)
Open Singles	Andy Mintram
Ladies' Singles	Janet Felgate
Men's Singles	Tony Thornley
Men's Pairs	Howard Felgate & Keith Waller
Ladies' Pairs	Janet Chatfield & Helen Chew
Mixed Pairs	Jen Flinter & Howard Felgate
Mixed Triples League	Helen Chew, Glenn Floyd, Bill Houlton, Jenny Meadows and Tony Thornley

During the Winter Season our Green staff have been busy preparing the green to maintain the excellent bowling surface it provides during the outdoor season.

Once again, we shall be hosting teams in both the Southampton and District Men's and Ladies' Leagues when we look forward to entertaining teams throughout Hampshire. This event has been generously sponsored by a number of local business companies to whom we offer our sincere thanks for their support.

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.

For further information visit our website at <https://meonvalleybowlingclub.chessck.co.uk/>.

*John Gray
Publicity Correspondent*



Storm at Sea – one of the quilts that will be on show,

Meon Valley Quilters

Quilters put their work on show

Meon Valley Quilters meet in Waltham Chase Village Hall on the second Saturday afternoon of each month and we have more than 100 members. The group holds an exhibition every two or three years with the last one in 2019.

This year we are holding an exhibition of our members' beautiful work at Rookesbury Park, Southwick Road, Wickham PO17 6HT on 30th April and 1st May, from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday.

There will be a cushion raffle, a sales table of items made by members, refreshments all day with cakes and lunchtime snacks. We will have a bag tombola, book sales and two traders.

Admission is £3.50, children free. There will be a talk by international quilter Joy Salvage at 2pm on Saturday 30th – with the title "My Obsession with Log Cabin". Entry to the talk will be £3.

There is disabled access and plenty of parking. There is so much to see – please come!

You can find more information about the group at:

www.meonvalleyquilters.org.uk

*Rosemary Yeoman
Chairman, Meon Valley Quilters*

Bishop's Waltham WI

No more Zoom – our meetings are back in the real world

I am glad to say that our meetings have now resumed in the hall, rather than on Zoom. It is so lovely to be able to meet face to face again.

In February, we had a most-informative talk by the daughter of one of our members, Eloise Weir, who works for Hampshire Fire Service, giving us lots of advice and tips on how to protect ourselves and our homes against the devastation of a fire. I am sure we all went home and looked at our own fire protection.

We must all have working smoke detectors as these really can save lives and can be supplied by Hampshire Fire Service if you get in touch with them. I also now close all my doors when I go to bed. Unfortunately, a couple of days after our WI meeting one of my neighbour's houses suffered a terrible fire. It can happen to anyone, so we must all be prepared for what to do.

In March, 24 of our ladies met for a lovely lunch at the Black Dog in Waltham Chase and it was so nice to be able to enjoy a trip out again. One to be repeated I am sure. Our meeting last month was a talk all about how to de-clutter our houses and ourselves, using the Japanese method of Kon Mari. I'm sure the local charity shops

will be rubbing their hands with glee with all the donations they must have received.

On 19th April, Jill Daniels will be telling us all about a trip down the Meon Valley. I am sure we will be seeing lots of lovely wildlife and enticing locations.

On 17th May, we will be holding our AGM, followed by a talk on Stansted Park. This will be particularly interesting as we are planning a trip there in June. You can still come as a visitor to this meeting, but you wouldn't be able to vote on any resolutions.

Why not come along to the Bishop's Waltham branch of the WI? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall on Free Street, next to the library. Plenty of free parking.

If you are new to the area, would like a new interest, or perhaps have always wondered what belonging to the WI means, why not give it a try?

Allison Gurry

President

Tel. 01489 895188

Below: Stansted Park near Rowlands Castle – subject of the WI's talk on 17th May – will also be visited by the group in June.



Girl Guides

Staff needed at Sandy Acres

The Sandy Acres Girlguiding Campsite in Sandy Lane, Shedfield is in need of a new housekeeper.

The campsite is regularly hired out to members of the Guide Association and other related charities and there are a few commercial lettings.

The housekeeper is required to ensure that Badgers Lodge is left in a safe, secure and clean condition after lettings and to ensure that all heating and lighting has been turned off after it has been used, and to enable the next event to take place. Hirers are asked to provide an exit check list to say they have cleaned the building.

The housekeeper's "check and clean" will generally be carried out on a Monday for between one and two hours. This will depend on the condition in which the group has left the building. Hours will need to be flexible during school holidays when bookings are more numerous.

There will be less work during the winter months as there are fewer lettings at this time of year. Remuneration is £12 per hour. Please contact Marian Fisher at mjf1066@zen.co.uk if you are interested.

Home-Start

Can you help us?

Home-Start Hampshire's volunteers offer a helping hand to families with young children (birth to 11 years) who are facing a tough time.

We provide experienced, trained parent volunteers offering friendship, support and practical help for two or three hours a week to newer parents.

We always need volunteers with parenting experience to join our home-visiting team, help regularly in our family groups or to help us with publicity and recruitment.

For more information, please contact us on info@hshants.org.uk or via website: <https://home-starthampshire.org.uk/>

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Differing talks and flying contest winners

Within the space of a couple of weeks the Society saw two very different presentations by guest speakers.

Paul Mitchell FRPS is a landscape photographer with numerous awards to his name, chair of one of the Royal Photographic Society's distinctions panels, and a well-respected photographic judge and lecturer.

Paul shared images from various woodlands throughout the year, including from Burnham Beeches, Savernake Forest, Micheldever, Moores Valley and the New Forest.

The second half of his talk was dedicated to a demonstration of Paul's post-production workflow in Lightroom and Photoshop, and showed how subtle enhancements of colour and

light can transform an image.

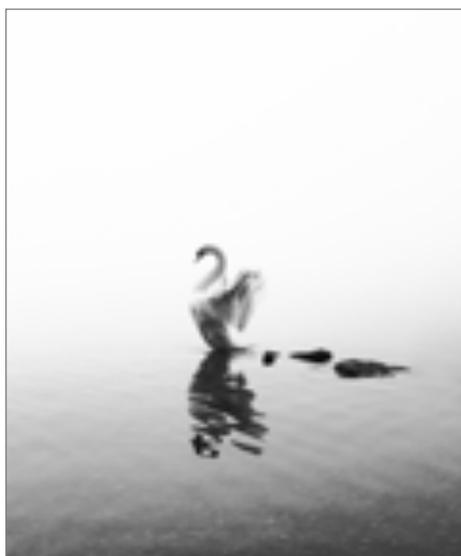
The second speaker was Andy Small, who shared his passion for "fine art nature and flower photography". Andy was an artist before he became a photographer, and his time spent painting and drawing in turn influenced his "painterly" style of photography for which he is well-known.

Andy took us through the steps he uses to capture flowers, wild and cultivated, on his mini-table-top studio, using only natural light. He puts together backdrops that complement the colours of his subject or gives them a black background to highlight the contrast of shape and form of individual flowers.

February saw the first competition round of the year. The critique was provided by Jon Mitchell. Winner in the Intermediate League was Daniel Bowhay with "Swan on Ullswater" and in the Advanced League Sarah Townley with "Fledgling Battle".

We had a members' "image review" evening in late March, seeing the results of how everyone tackled the latest monthly photo challenge. The task was to take an image after dark without using flash or a tripod.

In April, the Society returns to "physical" meetings in St Peter's Church Hall. We are all very much looking forward to this and we will be treated to a new presentation called



February's competition winners.

Above left: Daniel Bowhay "Swan on Ullswater"

Left: Sarah Townley's "Fledgling Battle".

"Alternative Views" by a regular visitor to the Society: Janey Divine FRPS.

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

The Society's junior section meets on the first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm. The focus of its meetings will be on gaining practical skills with the emphasis very much on having fun. If your children or grandchildren are interested in photography, please contact Peter Mason for more information on this email address: junior@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk.

Dawn Blight

Winchester GoLD Plenty to do at this year's garden fair

Retired Paralympian Gold Medallist Peter Hull MBE will be opening a "Garden and Craft Fair" at Headbourne Worthy on Wednesday 11th May in aid of Winchester GoLD – a charity for adults with learning disabilities.

As well as more than 30 stalls selling plants, crafts – including pottery, jewellery and clothing – garden equipment, and housewares, there will be a food marquee. Talks and Q&A sessions with Bob McQueen from Hilliers will be running throughout the day.

The fair includes a floral workshop by Louise Bradshaw, with the chance to make a hand-tied bouquet from 11am to 12noon, followed by a demonstration of creating a seasonal "tablescape" from 1pm to 2pm. To book a place at either session contact Louise at 07831807363.

The fair is at Upper Farm, SO23 7LA and is open from 10am to 4pm. Admission is £5. Parking is allowed on site but no dogs are allowed. For more details contact 01962 600281.

Elisabeth Colquhoun

Dates for your diaries

5th April	2pm Wickham Community Centre, U3A, "Winchester Part 3" by Andrew Negus.
6th to 9th April	Housing growth drop-in sessions, Swanmore Parish Council, Hollythorns House.
9th April	9.45am to 12noon Marsh's Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
9th April	11am to 3pm Bishop's Waltham Bites.
13th April	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society AGM and "Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust" by Bill Fergie.
16th to 22nd April	Henry VIII trail in Bishop's Waltham High Street.
17th April	10am Waltham Ramblers - Shedfield via Bere Forest (see p.18).
19th April	2pm Wickham Community Centre, U3A, "Local Nature Reserves" by R Levett.
19th April	7.30pm St Peter's Hall, Bishop's Waltham, WI meeting, "Travelling the Meon Valley" with Jill Daniels.
23rd April	10am to 1pm Classic cars at Barnaby's.
23rd April	2.15pm Waltham Chase Flower Club "Whiskets" by Christina Payne.
23rd to 24th April	From 1pm – Swanmore Open Gardens, tickets at the Paterson Centre.
27th April	10am Waltham Ramblers – Southwick via Boarhunt Mill.
28th to 30th April	7pm Village Hall, Hound of the Baskervilles, SADS production.
30th April	Meon Valley Bowling Club Open Day.
30th April to 1st May	10am to 5pm Meon Valley Quilters, exhibition, Rookesbury Park – closes at 4pm on the Sunday.
3rd May	2pm Wickham Community Centre, U3A, AGM followed by "900 Years of St Nicholas Church, Wickham" by Jane Painter.
6th May	6.30pm Waltham Ramblers – Cheriton via Sevington Farm.
7th May	10am to 1pm Paterson Centre car park, Garage Sale for the Royal British Legion.
11th May	9am Waltham Chase Flower Club visit to Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival.
11th May	10am Waltham Ramblers – East Meon via Small Down.
11th May	10am to 4pm Garden and Craft Fair at Upper Farm, Headbourne Worthy.
11th May	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society "Portsmouth: Harlots., dung and glory. Part 2" by Andrew Negus.
14th May	9.45am to 12noon Marsh's Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
14th May	10am to 4pm Paterson Centre, Jerry Smith Art exhibition.
14th May	7pm to 10pm Paterson Centre Swanmore Pre-school Quiz evening.
15th to 16th May	St Barnabas Treasure Hunt.
17th May	7.30pm St Peter's Hall, Bishop's Waltham, WI meeting. AGM followed by a talk on Stansted Park.
28th May	10am to 1pm Classic cars at Barnaby's.
28th May	Give and Take (DIY and gardening tools and equipment), St George's Square, Bishop's Waltham.
29th May	10am Waltham Ramblers – Winchester via Hazeley Down.
29th May	Meon Valley Bowls Club Annual Open Rinks Tournament.
2nd to 5th June	Platinum Jubilee celebrations including Parish Council Treasure Hunt, best-dressed house and garden competition, and numerous street parties in the village.
7th June	7pm to 8pm, Paterson Centre SADS youth workshop
8th June	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society "Henry VIII and the Treaty of Waltham" by Tony Kippenberger.
11th June	9.45am to 12noon Marsh's Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
11th June	12noon Bishop's Waltham Rotary Carnival.
25th June	10am to 1pm Classic cars at Barnaby's.
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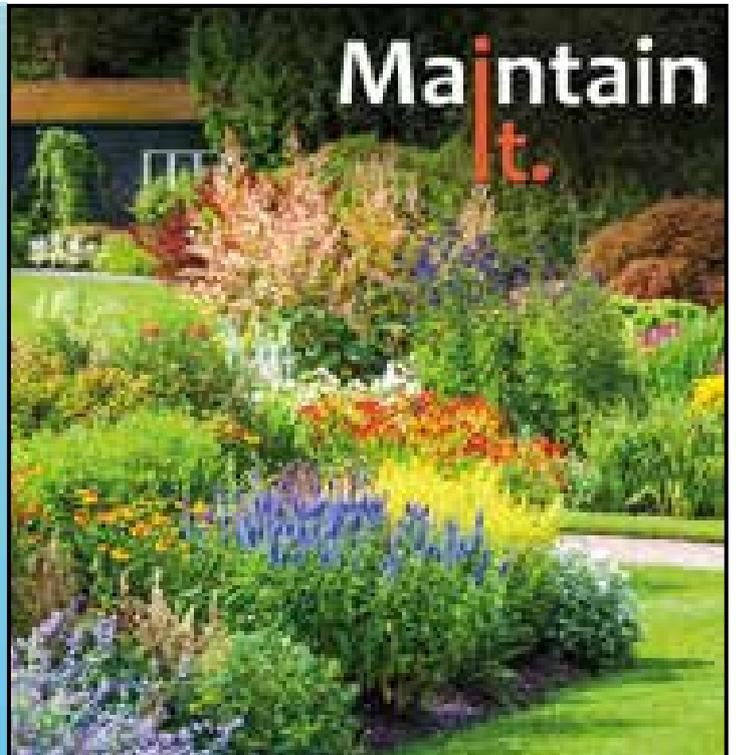
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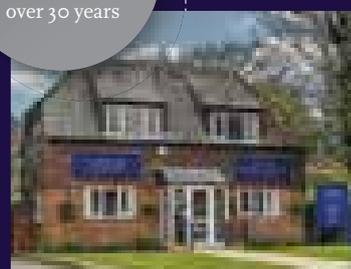

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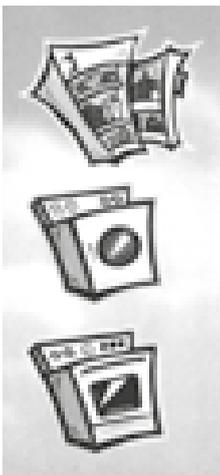
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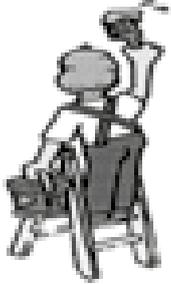
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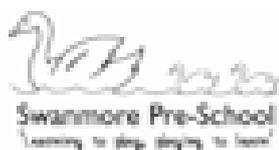


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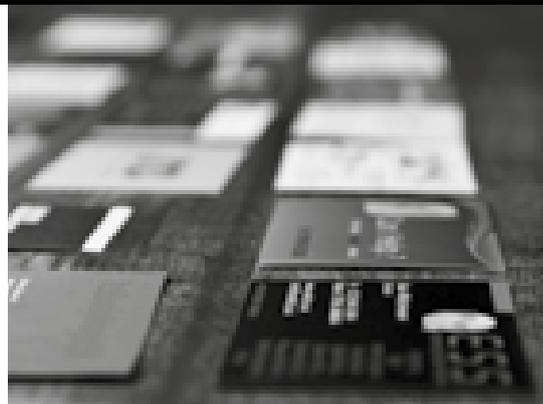
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- 07828 403185
- bte.enquiries@gmail.com

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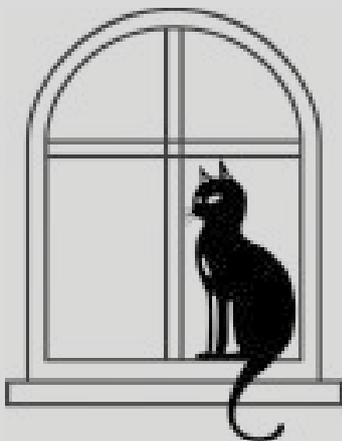
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Email: sales@sajeupvc.co.uk

Online: www.sajeupvc.co.uk

Call us on: 01329 835836

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 536483
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
Accredited Community
Safety Officer Gary McCulloch 07442 156124
acso@swanmorepc.org.uk or Facebook-Swanmore ACSO

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 698854
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 Anne Green-Wilkinson 01489 893114
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 536483
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		
Meon Valley Trefoil Guild	Denise Lord	07747 064455
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

Windswept Swanmore

Storm Eunice left its mark on Swanmore with numerous trees down, damaged roofs and battered fences.

Clockwise from below:

- ◆ Fortunately, Barnaby's chairs and tables were tied down – but not the fence.
- ◆ A holly tree narrowly missed a garden shed.
- ◆ Clearing the tree which blocked Broad Lane.
- ◆ A high gust left this palm tree looking very one sided.

