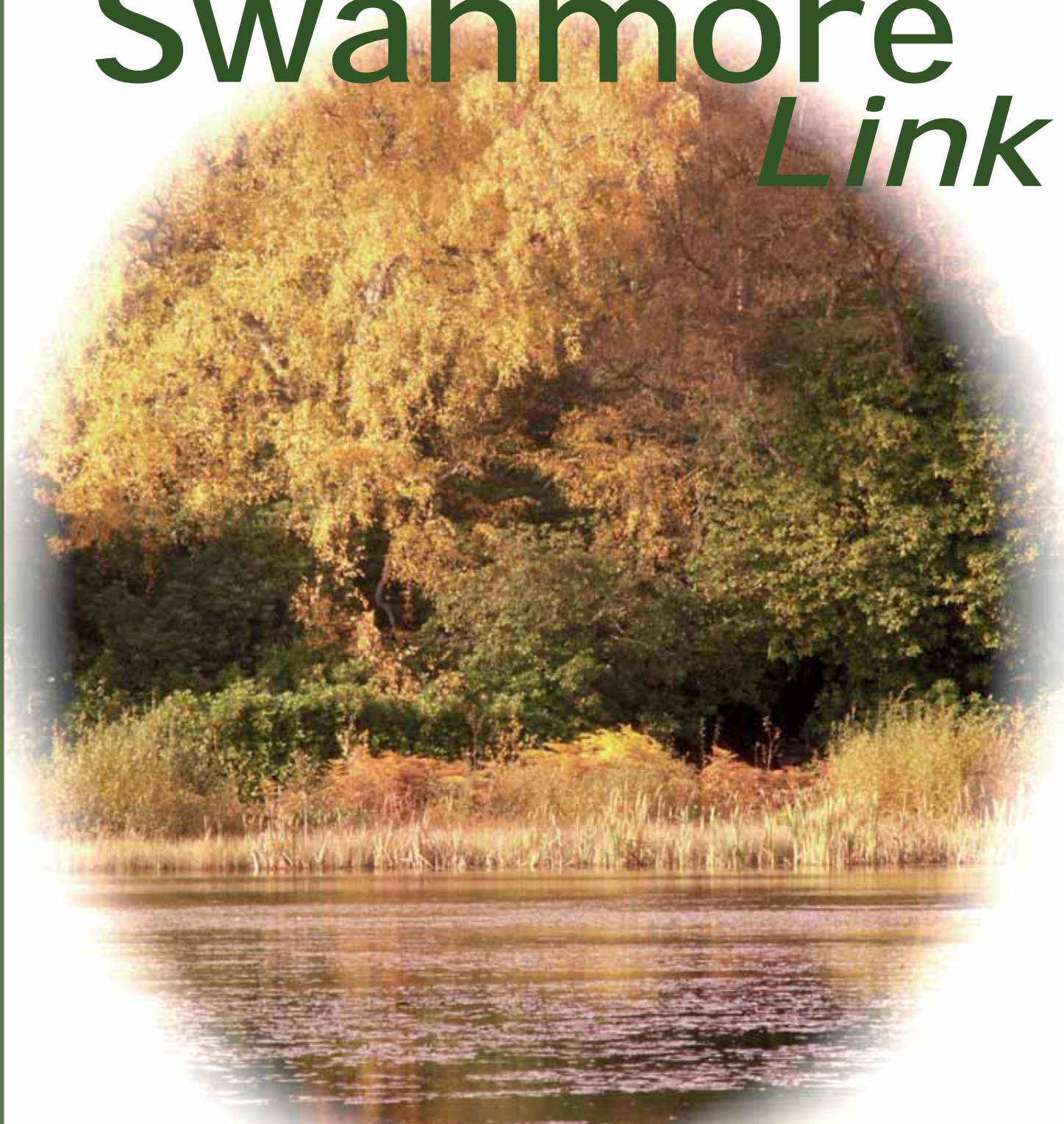


August/September 2022

The **Swanmore** *Link*



Holiday games
Open studios
Riots in the Meon Valley

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**Deadline for the October/November issue is
Wednesday 7th September 2022.**

**Copies will be available to collect from
The Link from
Tuesday 27th September 2022**

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

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Front cover: Autumn colours or a lack of rain?

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Swanmore Guides meeting alpacas (p.10). To find out more about the local Guide groups contact swanmore-guides@hotmail.com.

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 a year 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.

Asking who loves you?

Boris Johnson has recently resigned as I write this, and I reflect on the extraordinary strength of character and self-belief you must have to be Prime Minister. People started by valuing your leadership skills and voting for you; and then, later, they changed their minds, or you changed them for them, and you are out of office. The former Bishop of St Albans, Christopher Herbert, once said to me that he thought politicians to be the bravest of people, having no place to hide – putting their jobs and their reputations on the line day after day - much like professional footballers. *We should pray for them all, and especially for our next Prime Minister.*

I suppose that, if you are sensible, you will attempt to manage the pressures by sitting as lightly as you are able to in your role, recognising that many successes in life are fleeting. Isn't this why we have families and friends – to support us through the ups and downs, and to give us a right sense of worth, whatever our successes or failures in other areas?

As I have gone through the process of retirement (three and a half years and counting) I see some parallels, though on a much more modest scale. When employed, my self-worth was dependent, in part, on the success I enjoyed in paid employment in my role in the community as Vicar/Rector. When this came to an end and I moved away from the community in which I'd lived, the sense of worth gained there also ended. It took some time getting used to living in "no man's land", exemplified by being able to go shopping in Bishop's Waltham and to be recognised by no one (not much has changed there). Doing some ministry in retirement turns the clock back a bit – but I do know that this is not where my value nor my self-worth must ultimately reside.

My Christian faith – my relationship with God – is the ultimate source of my value. He is my creator and,

because he spends a lot of time being a silent companion, it is largely an act of will on my part to locate my worth in him. I am helped in this by the fact that retirement ministry has me still taking baptisms. These remind me that we have traditionally begun our Christian life by being named and affirmed by God before we have achieved anything at all. This relationship of unconditional love does not change whether we become Prime Minister or Lionel Messi.

It also puts our lives into the correct perspective when, having been Prime Minister or having succeeded in numerous other ways, we end up having to be fed, or reminded to put our trousers on in the morning.

Postscript

John Sharpe asked us if we would put up an estate agent's board outside our house advertising *Shakespeare in the Garden*. I was quietly pleased when a neighbour in our small community in Dean (having not read the notice in full) emailed to say we would be missed if we moved away (which we are not). So, don't read this article and stop telling people they are valued – you might just be God's messenger in that moment.

Revd Canon Nick 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.

ST BARNABAS Swanmore

The 3rd@10 - Cafe Church

coffee, chat and croissants

Meeting every 3rd Sunday 10am in the Paterson Centre

Everyone welcome for informal worship

Creche facilities available for children under 3

St. Barnabas, Swanmore invites YOU to

Sunday Club

For ages 3+ meeting on the second, fourth & fifth Sunday of each month

Come and enjoy stories, songs, craft, games and prayer

SC7+ for our young people in year 7 and above - Discover the truth through discussion, hot chocolate & cookies!

The 3rd @ 10 - Cafe Church every 3rd Sunday

Meeting at 10am in the Paterson Centre for more details contact - office@stbarnabas.org.uk

Services in August and September

Sunday 7th August

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion with a sermon from Jenn Camirand, a visiting student from the Portsmouth Pathway.

Baptism of Harry Stephen Rodney and Oliver Ronald Hobbs

Sunday 14th August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

No 8 am

10 am Holy Communion



Sunday 21st August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Service of favourite hymns led by Jill Phipps.

Baptism of Reuben James Simpson-Riggs and Arthur Harry Briney

Sunday 28th August

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with Revd Keith Wickert from Bishop's Waltham

Sunday 4th September

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with Canon David Isaac

Sunday 11th September

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion. Please come to welcome Canon Nick Ralph.



Friday 16th September-

Wedding of Will Woods and Nicola Grove



Sunday 18th September

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity



8am Holy Communion

10am Café Church for all ages.

Sunday 25th September

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

From the registers

Baptisms

29th May – Athena Laura Franks

10th July – Alaria Rose Sharvill

17th July – Alexander James Burgess, Ruby Hendricks Martin Tuckwell and Remy Elisa Hendricks Faulds

Weddings

16th July – James Smith and Grace Kerton

23rd July – Bruce Collie and Alice Troup

Dates for your diaries

Saturday 1st October "Harvest Beer and Hymns" let's get our Harvest Festival Weekend off to a rip-roaring start at The Paterson Centre. Tickets (£8 adults, £4 under 16s) on sale during September but you can book your seat or a whole table via jsharpe2016@hotmail.com.uk

Friday 9th December Christmas Saxophones, the wonderful BLOW Saxophone Ensemble has been persuaded to return for another great concert at St Barnabas.

John Sharpe



Barnaby's says "thank you" to Bill Jones

Customers and volunteers gathered in Barnaby's Coffee Shop on Saturday 16th July to thank Bill Jones, as he stands down from the Barnaby's Business Team (BBT).

Bill has been an integral part of Barnaby's since the very beginning. His enthusiasm, positivity, can-do attitude and straight-talking style have been exactly what Barnaby's has needed, in good times and in challenging ones. Bill has always spoken up for Barnaby's volunteers, for good coffee, and for the village.

As he was presented with a "Free Coffee For Life" Loyalty Card by the BBT, Bill said: "I'm so chuffed that so many people have come out to say thank you. I've loved being part of Barnaby's success, and look forward to returning as a customer!".

Thank you Bill. We could not have done it without you.

◆ Upcoming dates for Barnaby's classic car events are:
Saturday 27th August and
Saturday 24th September.

Alastair Walton

It's all in the timing

My time working with the Methodist Church in the Meon Valley is coming to a close. Come the beginning of September I will, hopefully, be starting a new adventure in mid-Devon. I've always believed that most things were for a season, and I am now entering a new season of my life.



Peter Bangs

Christians will often tell you, when it is time for something to come to an end, that it is time for a new season. We believe that God has a plan for us that requires us to move through a series of events. This is not just a Christian "thing". Many people, with and without a faith, think something similar. The thing we often forget is that these life events do not run to our timetable. I'll give you an example. Some ten years ago my wife and I were both unhappy in our work and looking for a way out. We both found a great deal of appeal in owning and running a camping site of some kind. We worked out all the finances and details for the campsite before we realised that, doing it on our own we would kill each other within the first two weeks. Still we never let go of the idea and came back to it every so often.

During that time we met and became friends with another couple and discovered they had a similar idea. We talked about it and decided to do it together once our sons had left school. Then covid arrived and put all sorts of dastardly pressures on both families and by the start of this year we realised that the time was now. Come September, we should be living on a ten acre smallholding and working towards making our dreams a reality.

The time we first had the idea, my wife and I weren't ready to pursue it. If we had tried at that time we would have failed and probably damaged our relationship beyond repair. The idea was a good one. There were just elements missing. Now obviously, as Christians, we will put that down to God's plan and God's timing but it really doesn't matter what you put it down to, most of us will acknowledge there is a wrong time and a right time to do things, whether it's down to fate, destiny, luck or the God of another faith.

It is hard, however, to spot that sweet point between too early and too late, and that, I think, is where God and faith come into it. Hearing that little voice, that whisper, at the back of your head saying "Now's the time. Go for it" can be an incredible blessing. My wife and I, and our friends, may have spent a lifetime looking to recognise "the right time" without our faith to give us the push, but because of that we are off on a wild adventure. So listen to your quiet voice.

*Pete Bangs, Pioneer Missioner
Meon Valley Methodist Circuit*

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 August and September

All services will commence at 10.30am

August

7th Gill Bailey
14th Kathy Elvy
21st Peter Castle
28th Rosie Banks – Holy Communion

September

The following appointments are to be confirmed

4th Revd Phil Griffin - Holy Communion
11th Revd Tom Johns
18th Revd Nicky Gilbert
25th Kathy Elvy/Jill Letts – Harvest Festival

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 and Company

Weekly on Tuesday at 10am to 12 noon
Enjoy company, coffee, tea and biscuits/craft, if you would like to bring knitting /sewing etc. or just come along for a chat we will be pleased to see you

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

9th August Garden visit – contact Mavis for details
13th September – Handbells
All ladies welcome

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

Platinum Jubilee

Celebrating a very special event

Methodist tea party

On the afternoon of Sunday 5th June Swanmore Methodists held a tea party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee for our church family and invited guests.

The guests were those usually invited to the Methodist Christmas Day meal at the church but, due to covid restrictions, one Christmas Day meal had to be cancelled and another was a "meals on wheels" delivery service only. So this celebration was an ideal opportunity to meet together again for around 40 people. We call it fellowship.

The hall was decorated with Union flags and bunting, people were picked

up from their homes, and after the tea party there was a Songs of Praise service in the church celebrating the life and reign of Her Majesty.

Martin Letts



Above: Suitably patriotic scones.

Left: Having missed the Methodist Church's Christmas lunch, due to covid restrictions, many older residents were very happy to enjoy the Jubilee tea party instead.

Below: The Methodist church family and guests celebrating.



Parish Council competition

Winner of the Parish Council's Platinum Jubilee "best-dressed house or window" competition was the "Book and Beer Club" at Sunnyview in Spring Lane, with an eye-catching poster and plenty of bunting. They also celebrated with a "street party" in the front garden.

In second place was Jane Dartnall in Hillpound who made red, white and blue planters and decorated her front window with a "street party theme" – there was plenty of bunting as well.

Third place went to Karen Rich in Medicott Way, where daughter Katherine (aged 9) had made and painted a cut-out image of the Queen and dressed her teddy to match.

Several hundred Jubilee mugs were collected from the Parish Office by people who had successfully completed the treasure hunt and there was a steady stream of visitors to the "70 years of Swanmore" exhibition on Thursday 2nd June.

Later in the month the exhibition boards were moved to The Link next to the Paterson Centre for a couple of weeks. They were also shown on the Parish Council stand at the Swanmore Fête on 9th July allowing many more people to see how our village has changed during the Queen's long reign.

◆ Photographs of more of the "best decorated house or window" entrants appear on the back cover of this issue.

Pictured opposite

1st – "Book and Beer Club" in Spring Lane.

2nd – Jane Dartnall, colourful planters in Hillpound.

3rd – Karen Rich's daughter Katharine made the cut-out Queen in Medicott Way.

4 – Jane Dartnall picked a street party theme for her window display.

5 – The Book and Beer Club also enjoyed a Jubilee party.

6 – The "Seventy Years of Swanmore" exhibition in the Parish Office.



Swanmore's very own music festival, Swanfest, returned in June 2022 and the event was a huge success. We featured an amazing line-up, with a variety of fresh new talent and well-established bands. The event concluded with headline performances from rapper Tinchy Strider and an '80s DJ set from icon Martin Kemp, which really got the crowd dancing.

We hope some of you managed to join us and, if not, perhaps you saw some of the coverage in the local media? Next year's event, on 17th June 2023, promises to be even bigger and better, so get your tickets now at www.swanfest.co.uk

Year 11 leavers

Our Year 11 pupils have now completed their GCSE examinations; these were held on site, under full examination conditions, for the first time in three years. Pupils all worked very hard and were rewarded with a fabulous prom event on Thursday 30th June. The rain didn't stop play and the pupils really dressed to impress, and enjoyed an evening of fun, food and a fairground to round off their time with us. We would like to wish all our Year 11 leavers lots of luck on their future journeys.

Year 10 work experience

We are very excited that our current Year 10 cohort have the opportunity to spend the last week of the Summer Term away from the college, undertaking work experience. This is a

Swanmore College

Celebrating in style as Year 11s move on



All ready for Year 11 prommers on 30th June.

wonderful opportunity for them to experience life in the workplace and develop some new skills. Many of them have been visiting local colleges over the last half term, to review the courses and facilities on offer.

Rewards fair and celebrations

Our pupils have all worked very hard throughout this academic year and, as a reward, Swanmore Parents' Association (SPA) donated funds for them to enjoy the onsite Fun Fair on Wednesday 29th June. Each year group spent an hour on the rides with their friends, with some receiving additional time for their outstanding effort and behaviour.

Celebrating success was a big focus this term, as we hosted a celebration evening on Thursday 16th June also. Selected pupils received awards from their teachers across a range of subjects and disciplines. Well done to everyone who achieved an award.

College productions

We have enjoyed more live events and productions again this term. Our Summer Music Concert took place on 4th July and our end of year production of *Peter Pan* took place on 12th, 13th and 14th July, which concluded a very creative year.

Everyone is hoping for a restful and sunny summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming all pupils (old and new) back to Swanmore College in September.

The College is closed for a professional day on Thursday 1st September and will re-open only to our new Year 7 pupils on Friday 2nd September, with all other year groups joining us from Monday 5th September.

Sandra Cox



Rapper Tinchy Strider wows the crowd at Swanfest.

Conservation Group

A tranquil village asset teaming with life

The conservation area in Swanmore has been in existence for many years now and is a wonderful open space for us all to use. Before Marsh's Meadows with Green's Wood were gifted to the village in the 1990s the land was grazed by horses, whereas now people, dogs and wildlife can all enjoy this area even if it is only as a short cut.

It is interesting to know just how much is going on in the conservation area. The following piece was written by a local resident who has been part of our group since it was established about 20 years ago, I think it makes interesting reading.

"I have been for a wander round the conservation site this morning; it's been a long time so I see lots of changes. Lots of yellow rattle in the area that the experts sowed with wild flowers. [Members of the Conservation Group did subsequently sow six patches of yellow rattle seeds.]

Plenty of marsh orchids on the

other slope although I didn't go in to count the spikes. Plenty of cross hybrids (!) in the usual place in Upper Meadow and the usual three or four of what we generally called early-spotted orchids in Lower Meadow.

Common blue butterflies on the wing plus a couple of meadow browns. I think the prolonged warm spell has brought them out a bit early this year for our area; a cinnabar moth, which I've also had for the first time in my garden; and a large dragonfly (couldn't see the colour) hawking over the meadow. The pond had some blue damsel flies – unidentifiable unless up close – a speckled wood butterfly and loads of goldfish! Chiff chaffs in the meadow and a red kite flying overhead.

I noticed the Ecklington Canal (ditch through Green's Wood) is bone dry but it had exposed some lovely ferns – male fern and hart's tongue on the steeper slopes.

Not so welcome are more rhododendron saplings: a big one by the corner of the Church Road path, plus a smaller one on the left near the tiny bridge in the middle of the wood if



Orchids in Marsh's Meadows.

Photograph by Peter Mason

you are walking towards the Church Road path. Lots of oak saplings on the upper part of Lower Meadow..."

3rd June 2022.

Work parties are run on the second Saturday every month. We meet by the hut near the kissing gate in Broad Lane and start at 9.45am stopping for a coffee break at 11am; we finish at 12noon. Just turn up if you decide to join us, come for however long you like and as often or as infrequently as suits you. All help is gratefully received.

Gill Sawyer 01489 894206



Starting to repair the board walk.

Photograph by Peter Mason

Meon Valley Lions

Murder mystery at the Village Hall

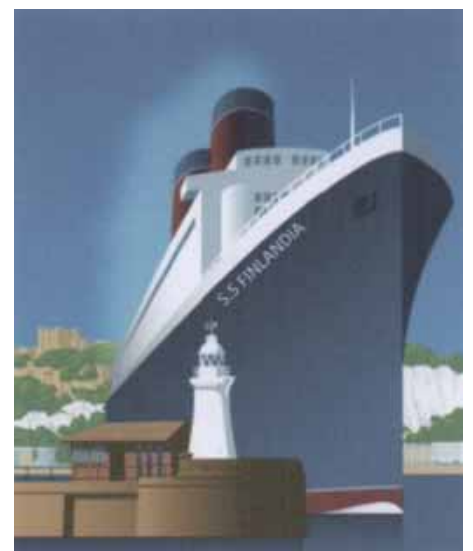
Meon Valley Lions are holding a "Murder Cruise" at Swanmore Village Hall on Friday 14th October at 7pm.

The evening involves watching a murder mystery, with a light meal between acts, while trying to work out "who done it".

Tickets at £12 each will be on sale in Barnaby's on Saturdays from 10th September between 10.30am and 12noon or to reserve tickets call Dinah Weberstadt on 01489 896967.

Proceeds will be divided between Home-Start Hampshire and the Meon Valley Lions.

Carole Dash



Swanmore Village Fête

A great day out for all

Swanmore Fête in July was blessed with fabulous weather, large crowds, and great efforts by members of the Meon Valley Lions, their friends and numerous helpers. A record 2,000 people attended and more than £7,000 was raised for the Lions to use in supporting local people and groups.

Highlights included a Spitfire flypast with the plane completing three circuits of the Recreation Ground, while Mill Cottage Petting Farm was a favourite with children and adults .

More than 70 classic cars and 49 motorbikes entered the Fête's competitions with "Best in Show" car awarded to Andrew Blow in his 1951 Jowett Jupiter, while Mike Gibson was highly commended for his 1927 Austin Heavy 12.

Winners of the bike competition were:

- ◆ Best Foreign non-Japanese – Neil Houghton from Southbourne with an Indian Velo 1973 500cc.
- ◆ Best Foreign Japanese – John



Byrne from Swanmore with a Honda Postie 110cc.

- ◆ Landlords Choice at *The Chairmakers* pub at World's End, Barry Taylor from Waterlooville with a Triumph Cub 1961 230cc.
- ◆ Best British Motorcycle – Martyn Taylor from Waterlooville with a Norton Special 1960 750cc.

Among other attractions at the Fête were plenty of games to play, including "racing piggies", "play your cards right" and "coconut shy".

Entertainment in the arena was provided by Roynon School of Dance, the Swan Samba Band, Soberton Strummers and the Bernie Boozle Band.

Next year's Fête is scheduled for Saturday 8th July 2023.

Carole Dash

Left: Winning bikers.



Combatting stress

Free chance to learn mindfulness

Alison Potter may be best known in Swanmore for her "Village Heroes" art project last year, but since then she has been busy training to become a mindfulness teacher to deliver the "Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction" programme as she explains:



Alison Potter

"This is an eight-week programme considered to be the gold-standard in secular mindfulness training; it's scientifically-proven to alleviate stress and anxiety. To complete my qualification, I need to deliver two programmes under supervision, so I'd like to offer five free places on my trainee programme to Swanmore residents on a first-come, first-served basis, starting in September.

The programmes are typically charged at £275 for the eight weeks, so in return for the free sessions I'd appreciate a donation to the local food bank.

It is hoped that the training may offer some useful tools and techniques to reduce stress and introduce (or retain!) some of the

slowness of pace experienced throughout lockdown now that society has opened back up again."

Prior to confirming your place, you will need to complete a short assessment form to ensure that it is safe and appropriate for you to attend the programme and Alison will contact you to discuss your individual needs.

So, if you are interested in learning how mindfulness can help you feel calmer and clearer, and develop a keener awareness in the present moment, do get in touch.

For more information and a chance to secure one of the five free places, please email Alison Potter at alison@mindfulbreathstudio.co.uk quoting MINDFULSWAN in the subject line.

Hampshire Open Studios

Quality art and design on show in Swanmore

If you enjoy top-quality art, design and craftsmanship, come along to this summer's popular Hampshire Open Studios (HOS) event in August. HOS enables artists and craftspeople across Hampshire to meet the public, discuss their methods and show and sell their work. Two venues in Swanmore – covering eleven artists and designers – will be taking part this year.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend (26th-29th August), ten members of the Wessex Guild of Craftsmen (<https://wessexguildofcraftsmen.co.uk>) will be exhibiting and selling their work at the Paterson Centre from 10am to 5pm each day. Come along and chat to these local artists and designers about their techniques and choose unique pieces to take home. Skills include textile art, pottery, paintings

and prints, decorated ceramics, woodturning, stained glass art, basketmaking, illustration and fabric design.

You can also visit local painter Jerry Smith, who will be opening his studio at 3 Fortunes, Vicarage Lane, from 20th-29th August from 10am to 5pm (www.jerrysmithartist.co.uk).

You will be able to view paintings, studies and sketches of the Meon Valley and farther afield in oil, acrylic, charcoal and pencil.

Treat yourself to a bespoke artwork or find the perfect gift for a friend or loved one with prices to suit all budgets.

Linda Banks



Clockwise from top left: Embroidered art by Sheila Barrow; illustrated make-up bag by Vanessa Wells; "Poppies" – stained glass by Linda Banks; and "Mayhill Lane" by Jerry Smith.



Open Gardens

Too much sunshine deters the crowds

Contrary to the dire warnings, the weather was kind in Swanmore on 16th–17th July. It was warm but very comfortable in the shade and a pleasant breeze kept everyone cool.

However, visitor numbers were down by about 50% compared with last year. We had a total of 126 visitors across the two days compared with 237 in July 2021 – but all enjoyed themselves and praise for the gardens was universal.

The Lions' minibus was greatly appreciated, especially by those that set out to walk up Hampton Hill. Needless to say, the teas and homemade cakes were declared delicious and particularly welcome to the few hardy souls that cycled round.

Several people commented that it was streets ahead of other "Open Garden" events they'd visited this year. Next year we plan to open again

in April and might bring the summer weekend forward into June.

John Sharpe

Below and right: Visiting Michael and Jenny Maunder's garden.

Photographs by Berty Ferrone.



Swanmore Guides

From stroking alpacas to enjoying water sports

Swanmore Guides have had a busy and varied summer term. One of the highlights was meeting and feeding the alpacas at Solomons Alpacas in Waltham Chase. We challenged the parents to a game of rounders and borrowed some litter pickers from the

Parish Council. We collected a lot of litter from a stroll around the village!

As usual, we spent evenings cooking treats on open fires and finally we dusted off our camp equipment for a fabulous weekend of water sports camping on the shores of Lake

Wimbleball in Exmoor.

On our last evening of the term we said goodbye to our three oldest guides. They chose to go to Old Winchester Hill and were presented with the Guides' highest accolade – the Gold Award.

Sarah Woodman

Below left: Enjoying water sports. Below: Gold-winning Guides: Emma, Esme and Izzie.





Local Plan – An update from Winchester City Council

“Several factors have emerged that now mean it will be challenging to adhere to the existing timetable for the six-week public consultation on the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan that was due to take place between August/September 2022. These include:

- ◆ Extending the time for parish/town councils/Town Forum to respond to the request to identify suitable sites to accommodate housing in their towns and villages;
- ◆ New guidance issued by Natural England in March 2022, without prior warning, relating to the impact of wastewater produced by new developments on the integrity of nationally-protected sites, which now includes phosphates as well as nitrates in the River Itchen Catchment area; and
- ◆ Availability of counsel providing legal guidance for the draft plan.

Taking into account the above considerations, the City Council is not intending to change the adoption date of the Local Plan (Autumn 2024) but has adjusted the date of the six-week public consultation.

The draft Regulation 18 Local Plan is now due to be discussed at a Cabinet meeting on the 18th October 2022. Subject to any views from Cabinet, the six-week public consultation on the plan will now take place between 2nd November and the 14th December. There will be a Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG) meeting

to discuss the draft Local Plan around the middle of September (date to be confirmed).

The new Local Plan will be structured so that policies addressing particular issues will be grouped together under a number of specific topics.”

WCC says that this consultation will give everyone the opportunity to have a say in the final shape of the Local Plan. So it is important that not only the Parish Council takes part, but also as many of our village residents as possible.

Recreation improvements

1. Recreation Ground

As part of our project to improve the recreation areas in Swanmore, toilet and baby-change facilities are now available between 9am and 5pm at Swanmore Recreation Ground on Broad Lane. The entrance is to the side of the pavilion, as shown below.

We are also looking to extend the patio area at the cricket pavilion and relocate the kick wall so that we can repair the extensive damage to the football pitch.

2. New Road Playing Field

A tender process for installing three pieces of new play equipment at New Road Playing Field (and taking away

Parish Council Office

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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.

the old) is underway. The Zip Wire is staying, but it has been resurfaced. It is hoped that new equipment will be installed by November 2022.

New Parish Councillor

We are pleased to report that Simon Campbell-Gurry has joined the Parish Council.

As a trade union representative within the aviation industry, Simon has developed key influencing skills at all levels of business, which will be highly beneficial when undertaking the duties of a parish councillor!

Simon is a resident of Swanmore and a parent of young children, so he has a vested interest in making the village a great place to live and work, and we look forward to Simon helping the parish achieve its goals.

Swanmore Parish Council Meeting Dates

There are no meetings in August.

13th Sept	Planning & Highways
20th Sept	Open Spaces & Amenities
27th Sept	Finance

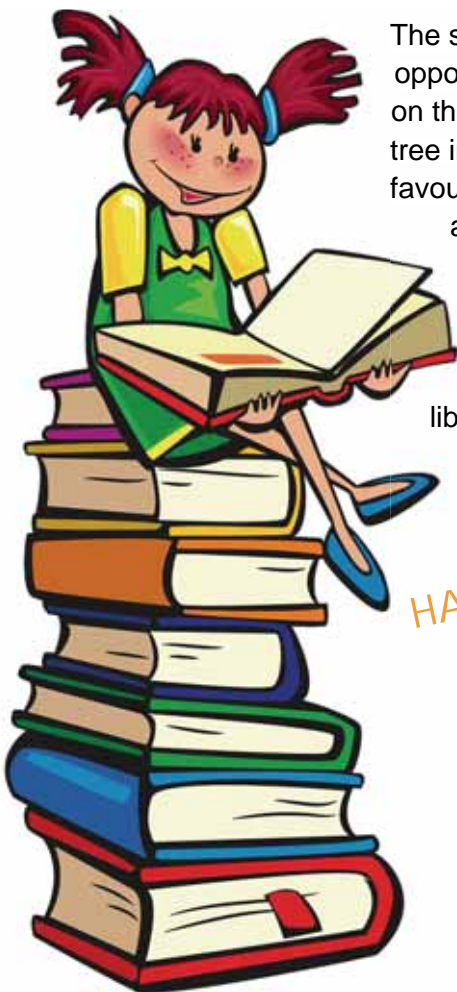
Council meetings generally start at 7pm and all meetings are open to members of the public.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information.



Things to do in the holidays

With school over, Sarah Chase has some ideas to occupy the coming weeks.



The summer holidays are a great opportunity to spend time reading, lying on the beach, or curled up under a shady tree in the garden. You might have many favourites but perhaps you could pop along to the local library (in Bishop's Waltham) and join in the summer reading challenge. Use this link to find out more:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/kids-zone/more-fun/summer-reading-challenge-2022>

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER



The sun's out so what can we play?

- ◆ **Create an obstacle course** – some great ideas on Pinterest.
- ◆ **Hopscotch** - all you need is a concrete driveway or a pavement and some chalk.



- ◆ **Sardines** – basically this is like hide and seek – only backwards. There is only one hider and everyone else is "It". When one of the "It" players finds the hidden sardine, they quietly hide with them.
- ◆ **Marco Polo** – Marco Polo is usually played in a pool but really you can play it anywhere. It would be fun to play in the backyard or even in the house. One player who is "It" who must close their eyes and try to find and tag the others relying on hearing alone to find them. The player who is "It" shouts "Marco" and the others must all respond by shouting "Polo", which the "It" player uses to try to find them. If a player is tagged, then that player becomes "It".

Riddles

1. What gets wetter the more it dries?
2. What travels all the way around the world but always stays in one spot?
3. I have no eyes, no ears, or legs, and yet I help move the earth. What am I?
4. A man was walking in the middle of nowhere and it started to rain. He had no umbrella and no hat, but not a single hair on his head got wet. How can this be?
5. What question can never have an (honest!) answer?
6. Why do bananas use sun cream?
7. What is full of lots of holes but can still hold water?
8. What do you call a dog on the beach in summer?

- Answers**
- 1) A towel
 - 2) A stamp
 - 3) An earthworm
 - 4) The man was bald
 - 5) "Are you asleep?"
 - 6) Because they peel
 - 7) A sponge
 - 8) A hot dog.

Swanmore Society

A Tudor treaty and the wonders of woodland

At our June meeting, we enjoyed a fascinating and meticulously researched talk from Tony Kippenberger. Entitled “Henry VIII and the Treaty of Waltham”, this acted as a prelude to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the visit by Charles V of Spain and King Henry to Bishop’s Waltham, and the signing of the treaty in July 1522.

In continental Europe, the early decades of the sixteenth century were characterised by constant jockeying for supremacy and changing allegiances between the major European powers. Across the Channel, Henry VIII was highly ambitious, wanting to be included among the major players.

A failed invasion of France early in his reign weakened Henry’s position. However, within a few years the tide turned in his favour, aided by the diplomatic skills of his new Lord Chancellor, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Briefly(!) seeing peace as the way to greater influence, Henry and Wolsey sought an alliance with Francis I via the legendary “Field of Cloth of Gold” meeting in 1520. But only days later, Henry met his wife’s nephew Charles

V of Spain, the newly elected Holy Roman Emperor and Francis’ sworn enemy. This meeting in turn led to Charles’ six-week state visit to England and a new, rival alliance.

Henry comes to Hampshire
Meeting in Dover in late May 1522, with retinues of about 2,000 people and 1,000 horses apiece, Charles and Henry progressed over several weeks to Windsor where the Treaty of Windsor was negotiated, establishing the principles for an alliance between England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire; agreeing the future betrothal of young Princess Mary to Charles; and confirming broad plans for a joint invasion of France in 1526.

The royal parties then travelled to Winchester but the threat of plague cut the visit short. Thus, they moved on early to Bishop’s Waltham, a favourite location for Henry VIII due to the excellent deer-hunting on offer.

Tony vividly pictured for us the arrival of the royal procession over Beeches Hill and down Pondsides Lane to reach the bishop’s palace – as well as the logistical headaches the locals faced of housing and feeding the



A magnificent specimen of an ancient tree (courtesy of the Woodland Trust Media library).

royals and their huge entourages for ten days.

Only the highest ranked would have been accommodated at the palace, with the rest housed far and wide across southern Hampshire. Alongside the pageantry, hunting and feasting, the details of the alliance and invasion plans were thrashed out, concluding with the signing of the Treaty of Waltham on 2nd July 1522. Of course, the treaty ultimately came to nothing but it is unlikely that Bishop’s Waltham has witnessed another event of such grandeur since!

Protecting our precious trees

At our July meeting, Susan Davies, a volunteer with the Woodland Trust, talked about its work to conserve existing trees and plant new ones. She explained that trees are our most dynamic natural resource, absorbing harmful pollutants, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere, helping to control climate change and providing timber for many uses.

Woodlands are also home to many species of animals and plants that could not survive without them. Unfortunately, pests and diseases such as Dutch elm disease and ash dieback have taken their toll, but the greatest threat is from human activity causing catastrophic damage to the environment, with many more trees lost than planted for at least a century.

Many large forests of pine were planted to provide timber after the Second World War, but they do not ►



Re-enactment of the signing of the Treaty of Waltham at July’s Tudor Experience weekend in Bishop’s Waltham

have a rich habitat and the Trust concentrates on renewing and conserving broad leaf forests.

The Woodland Trust was formed in 1972 by a small group of people fighting to save a local wood in Devon. Today it is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. There are 500,000 members and supporters, and the Trust owns more than 1,000 woods, which are free to visit at any time. It has planted 50 million trees in 50 years. It aims to save trees under threat, bring devastated ancient woodland back from the brink and create new community woods for future generations to enjoy.

One current project is to create a First World War centenary wood at Langley Vale, near Epsom, Surrey; another is to plant 50 million trees along the M62 corridor. The Trust is the largest private owner of ancient woodland and also helps the National Trust, the next largest, to manage its estates. The trust also provides trees free of charge for schools, local communities and the "Plant a tree for the Queen's Jubilee" campaign.

The Trust's website has a map showing where all their sites are. The nearest one to us is Runny Down Copse near Dundry Lane, which unfortunately has been decimated by ash dieback.

Following our usual August break, the Society's meetings recommence on 14th September, when our topic will be Highclere Castle and its archive, presented by David Rymill from the Hampshire Record Office. David will explain the history of the site, from its first use as a bishop's palace through the origins of the current house and subsequent remodellings to today's stately home, known as the setting for *Downton Abbey*. The castle's association with Tutankhamun – through the fifth Earl of Carnarvon – will also be explored.

Our meetings start at 8pm and will be held in the Paterson Centre until further notice. Visitors are always most welcome.

Caroline Clapperton (891447) and
David Street (896331)

Buglife

Look out for the moth that hums

You're relaxing in the garden on a hot summer's day, perhaps imbibing a refreshing item from the fridge, when suddenly, from the corner of your eye, you notice something moving around the buddleja bush. You try to take a closer look, but the "something" is darting from flower to flower so quickly it's hard to keep track of it. Its wings are beating so fast you can hear a faint humming. Is it a butterfly? Is it a bird? Well, no – it is in fact a hummingbird hawkmoth. Not a hummingbird – a hummingbird hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*), a day-flying moth.

Every year wildlife organisations receive questions from the public about seeing humming birds in their gardens. Every year they explain that this is impossible. While some species of humming bird migrate within North America, or between Central and North America, they do require frequent food stops to maintain their energy levels. Unfortunately, they would not get very far across the Atlantic if they tried. Also, humming birds are very difficult to breed in

captivity, so escapes within this country are extremely unlikely.

If you manage to get a closer look you will be able to see that, instead of a rigid beak, it has a long tongue that bends in the middle as it reaches into flowers for nectar, which it rolls up and tucks away when not in use. The mousy-grey head and back, mottled black-and-white abdomen, grey-brown forewings with cryptic dark markings, and orange hindwings are all diagnostic features.

The hummingbird hawkmoths we see are mostly migrants from southern Europe or north Africa, mainly arriving in August and September. They are known to breed in this country during the summer, using bedstraw plants (*Galium* species) as food for its green stripy caterpillar, then the new generation may migrate back. There is some evidence that they may overwinter as pupae here in the south.

So, if you think you are seeing a humming bird in the garden, take a closer look, or maybe ease off the barbecue drinks.

Marcus Charig



A hummingbird hawkmoth with long, bent tongue feasting on red valerian.

In the hedgerows

A potent herb found under your feet

To the Native Americans it was “white man’s foot” – a plant that sprouted wherever the settlers trod since the seeds were ingrained in their boots and had survived the journey from Europe.

Wherever you happen to be today, if you look down, be it to city pavements or country lanes, the chances are that you will very quickly spot this same plant – great or broadleaf plantain (*Plantago major*). In urban streets it may look a trifle insignificant with small leaves and squashed flowers, but in the hedgerows its basal rosette of leaves may spread to 12in/30cm, with the flower spikes growing to 15in/38cm or more.

Plantain is more than just a common weed. To the Anglo-Saxons it was “waybread” – a useful foraging plant with young tender leaves to eat raw as a wayside snack – while the older, tougher ones were added to stews. The leaves are rich in calcium and other minerals, while 4oz/100g of plantain leaves contain about the same amount of beta-carotene as a large carrot.



Greater plantain (*Plantago major*).

Waybread was also one of the nine sacred herbs given to mankind by the god Woden and listed in the ninth-century poem the *Lacnunga*:

*“And you waybread, mother of plants
Open to the east, mighty within
carts ran over you, ladies rode over you,
brides cried over you...
you withstood all then,... so may you
withstand poison and infection and
the evil that travels around the land.”*

As such it was regarded as an important healing herb – a tradition that dated back to the Romans. In the first century AD, Pliny had even suggested that if several pieces of flesh were put in a pot with plantain they would join back together again, so effective was the plant at healing. Today we regard plantain as soothing, anti-bacterial, anti-histamine and anti-allergenic. It is a good blood tonic and astringent so contracts tissues and blood vessels to stop secretions and bleeding.

Externally the leaves are a useful emergency treatment for irritant insect bites, while internally, greater plantain tea – made from the leaves – can be helpful for gastric irritations, irritable bowel, haemorrhoids, cystitis or heavy periods. Plantain juice, mixed with honey, is a soothing remedy for cuts and minor wounds.

Common plantain’s close relative, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) also grows in our hedgerows. It is a good anti-catarhal used for colds, hay fever and allergic rhinitis, but it also contains minerals and trace elements – particularly zinc, potassium and silica – so can act as a tissue healer and immune stimulant. Both plants will encourage the coughing response so can be added to cough syrups to help productive coughs, and they both contain the chemical aucubin which has a protective effect on the liver.

In plant lore, plantain was a herb of prophecy and love and used as a tool



Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) with a close-up of the flowers.

of divination: counting the number of ribs on a leaf, for example, was supposed to reveal the number of lies that you would be told that day.

Greater plantain is also used in cooking: in Turkey the leaves are added to pies, in China combined with pork and used in dumplings, and in Spain they’re added as flavouring to the liqueur ratafia.

Plantains also flourished in America long before the settlers arrived: blackseed plantain (*P. rugelii*) is the native species – which does look rather different to the one the “white men brought”.

Other varieties of *Plantago* – not growing in this country but with which many people will be familiar – are known as isphaghula (usually *P. ovata* or *P. indica*). The seeds are largely sourced from India and are the main ingredient of Fybogel – a popular over-the-counter remedy for constipation.

Local history

The “Swing Riots” in the Meon Valley

There could be few more peaceful places today than the Meon Valley, so it might be a surprise that it, was once the scene of riots and insurrection.

The introduction of agricultural machinery – particularly threshing machines – meant that when the corn was harvested in the autumn the winter work of many labourers was replaced by automation. Threshing machines meant few workers were needed – and no work meant no pay.

In August 1830, collective violent action by agricultural workers against such machinery in Kent spread quickly through Sussex and into Hampshire. Since the Meon Valley was largely dependent on agriculture, farm labourers were actively involved.

Letters were often sent to employers stating the workers’ case and threatening to burn down barns and haystacks if they did not destroy the new machinery. The letters were signed by a Captain Swing, a made-up name representing the anger of the labourers in rural England who wanted a change in their circumstances, the right to contracted labour, fair wages and no machines.

Traditionally, agricultural workers

attended a local hiring fair and secured a year-long contract that brought security. A succession of poor harvests meant that many landowners started offering only short contracts for work – for a week or a few months instead of the annual arrangement. Combined with the Enclosure Acts, which reduced the availability of common land previously used by the poor for growing crops and grazing cattle, many of the poorest faced destitution.

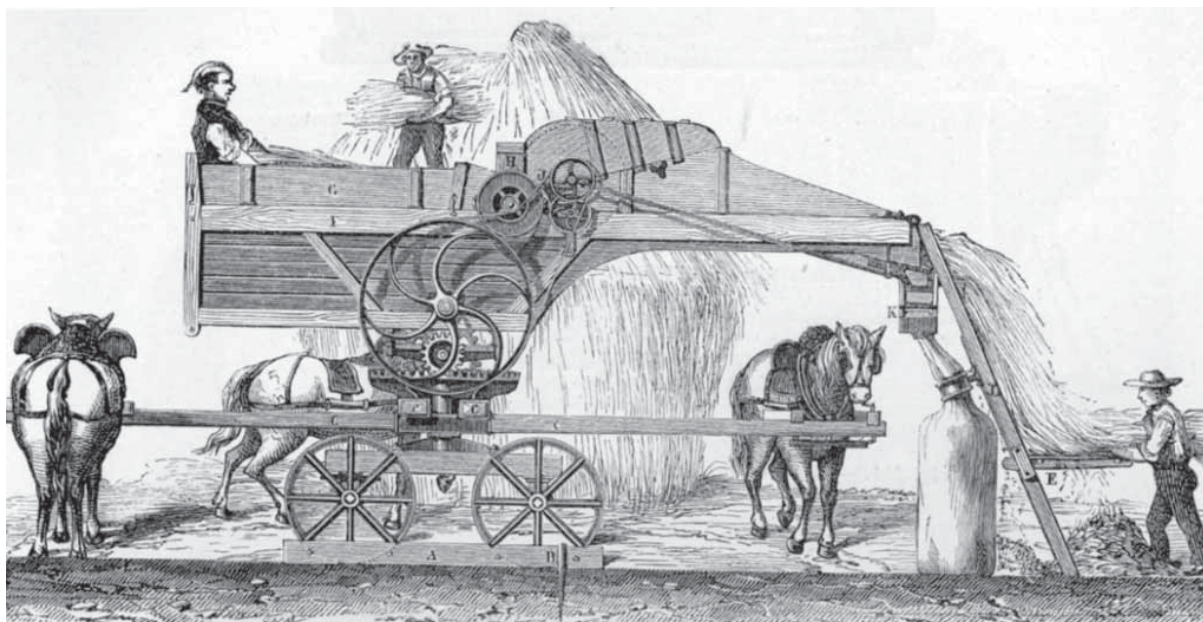
Subsistence living

Those labourers with large families were generally given preference for more secure agricultural work, while young single men could often only find work mending roads, which paid just half a crown per week (12.5p). Most labourers in the Meon Valley lived in hovels with little access to even the most basic facilities. Wages were often ten shillings (50p) a week or less, which could not support a family at the minimal subsistence level. Labourers



were often not paid in cash but in kind. William Cobbett (1763–1835), a reforming campaigner who farmed much of the land in and around Swanmore, sometimes paid his workers in flour: he considered this fair since they received it at wholesale prices. He also wrote about the appalling conditions for agricultural workers in “*Rural Rides*” and campaigned for the abolition of “rotten boroughs”, thinking this would ease the poverty of farm labourers.

The Hampshire troubles intensified in November 1830 with riots in Andover spreading to Stockbridge and King’s Somborne on the 21st and



A typical threshing machine from the 1830s.

Selborne on the 22nd. In the Meon Valley, matters came to a head on Tuesday 23rd November, when labourers gathered in large numbers on Shedfield Common and headed for Wickham. They were armed with their normal working tools: spades, axes and stakes.

Riots and arrests

Mr Pole, a local magistrate, arrived and read the Riot Act, but the men refused to disperse so he sent for the army and violence broke out. Three of the ring leaders – William Abraham, John Smith and William Varnnell – were captured while a Major Campbell addressed the labourers asking them to let him know their complaints. They told him that they could not live on their low wages and were demanding 12 shillings (60p) a week. After assurances by the Major that their grievances would be looked into, the mob broke up and the arrested men were sent to Winchester Gaol.

There were many incidents across Hampshire, far more violent than those in the Meon Valley, with more than 400 men committed to Winchester Gaol.

1830 was a “year of revolutions” across Europe with the monarchy overthrown in France and violent uprisings in Belgium, Italy, Poland and elsewhere. The authorities were determined to prevent similar

Below: William Cobbett painted in 1831 by George Cooke.



outbreaks in Britain, so treated any sign of insurrection with a heavy hand.

The trials were held in the Great Hall in Winchester and anyone who set fire to a stack of hay was sentenced to be hanged. It was normal that prisoners awaiting trial were brought out to watch the victim die. Many prisoners were transported to the Australian Colonies, their papers marked VDL for Van Diemen’s Land or NSW (New South Wales). Some were acquitted or sent to a house of correction.

As for the three arrested in Wickham, their charge sheets read: “Charged this day in the Parish of Wickham with riotous and unlawful assembly and armed with offensive weapons”. William Abraham and John Smith, both aged 26, were sentenced to one month in the house of correction, while William Varnnell was given six weeks.

Nicholas Freemantle of Corhampton was charged with more serious offences and sentenced to death, which was commuted to transportation for life. He was transferred to the prison hulk *York* in Portsmouth Harbour and then transported to Van Diemen’s Land. Thomas Burgess was acquitted after a letter provided by George Butler of Soberton stated that he was working on his estate and therefore not involved – which was fortunate since he had eight children.

A rejected petition

A particularly important Hampshire event was when the labourers of Sutton Scotney sent a petition to the King, which is worth quoting:

“That many of us have not food sufficient to satisfy our hunger, our drink is chiefly the crystal element, we have not clothes to hide our nakedness of ourselves, our wives or children, nor fuel to warm us, while at the same time our (employers) barns are filled with corn, our garners with wool, our pastures abound with cattle, and our land yields abundance of wood and coal, all of which display the wisdom, kindness and mercy of our creator.”



Illustration from “The Life and History of Swing: The Kent Rick-burner” – an 1830 pamphlet highlighting the plight of the rural poor.

Joseph Mason walked the 60 miles from Sutton Scotney to Brighton to deliver the petition, but after waiting was told that the King could not accept it. He and his brother Robert were later convicted of robbery on a series of trumped up charges: the brothers were clearly “trouble-makers” and had to be removed. They were transported to Australia where both made a success of their new lives.

While the authorities were determined to put down the riots with deliberate judicial terror – of the 250 or so sentenced to death only 19 were eventually hanged and the rest transported – the uprisings did have an effect as a wake-up call to everyone that things needed to change, which ultimately enabled the Great Reform Act of 1832 that extended the franchise to a slightly broader range of people and abolished most of the “rotten boroughs”.

In the Meon Valley things gradually improved, with industrialisation bringing a wider range of available work. These jobs needed a better-educated workforce and schools opened throughout the region – including in Swanmore in 1833.

Crawford Wright

◆ Hampshire Record Office will be running an online talk about the “Swing Riots in Hampshire” on 10th October from 6pm to 7pm, cost is £5. Details at <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/hampshire-records-office>

From our district councillors

Focussing on water quality and the environment

Welcome to a very hot and steamy July – well it is as I write this article!

The day of Swanmore Fête, like that of SwanFest at Swanmore College, was all the organisers might have wished for. Parking was controlled, the sound levels were acceptable and all seemed to have a great time. Major thanks to the College, and Swanmore Parish Council for making the space available, not forgetting the magnificent input from the local Lions!

It was great to see so many people of all ages there; and I was delighted to see Gary(our ACSO) and Sarah McCulloch (our PCSO) both fit and well post-covid.

The last month or so has been quite quiet, so far as Council activity is concerned. There have been meetings, many online, about Central Winchester regeneration, licensing, planning and, of course, the Local Plan.

Local Plan progress

The Local Plan is slowly emerging but to a limited audience so far. The Planning Policies have been revamped with greater emphasis on those linked with mitigation for the climate emergency and environmental protection. Both Malcolm and I were delighted to see that the local gaps between the villages “will be protected”.

There were no comments about how the habitats in the gaps will be enhanced. We have not yet been told how successfully the Parish Council’s comments (based on your inputs) have been received. Your District Councillors will be shown the chosen sites on 1st August but at that stage these will be confidential until the first “final” draft is released in late October/ November. There will then be six weeks of public consultation until mid-to late-December. This is to give time to assimilate any new information

about Gypsy and Traveller sites, and highways information from both the Hampshire Movement Plan and the Winchester Movement Plan.

Water pollution

Some of the delays are the result of new directions from Natural England about nitrate/phosphate pollution. Some of this is being “leached” from the fields into our watercourses, including our rivers (Itchen, Hamble, Meon). Of increasing concern is that much comes from our housing areas – both old and new. We forget that every time we go to the toilet we make a contribution that goes to local sewerage plants. Under normal conditions these work fine but heavy rain downpours create flood conditions and the sewerage plants let the “overflows” go into the rivers. Legislation about this is a “tad outdated”. Malcolm managed to persuade Council to accept a motion about this. Vicki was able to slightly modify it to cover local situations.

Both Southern Water (foul water disposal) and Portsmouth Water are now under fire about aspects of this: Southern Water about additional capitalisation for sewerage plants and replacing old piping; they also want to pipe water from a huge new reservoir that seems likely to be established close by Abingdon in Oxfordshire. Meanwhile Portsmouth Water is struggling to establish a new fresh water reservoir just to the north of Havant. The problem for both is that they are reaching their limits because of the hundreds of new houses that are being built in Hampshire (including Portsmouth and Southampton). We all use more water than nature supplies. We have known this since the 1960s.

Climate change

Carbon zero is another topic being discussed both nationally and locally. Carbon dioxide is a contributor to



Source of the Meon.

global warming. Yes, it has always been in the atmosphere, since the Earth was born 5 billion years ago, but unfortunately, since the nineteenth century human activity and population growth have increased the amount of this gas in the atmosphere to around 400 parts per million, thus enhancing its warming effect.

Vegetation absorbs carbon dioxide via photosynthesis, but humans are busy cutting down our forests to create more farmland. Transport of goods and our central heating systems create more carbon dioxide and the existing vegetation just cannot cope – hence “plant more trees”, generate more solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy...!

Our Winchester District Councillors

- ◆ Frank Pearson 01489 892822 – fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
- ◆ Malcolm Wallace 07739 050224 mwallace@winchester.gov.uk
- ◆ Vicki Weston 01329 835161 – vweston@winchester.gov.uk



Frank Pearson



Malcolm Wallace



Vicki Weston

Local walks

A circular walk from West Meon towards Warnford

The walk starts and finishes in the charming village of West Meon, a 15-minute drive from Swanmore. Approx. 6.8 miles/11km. Time: 2 hours 45 minutes. Three stiles. The walk can easily be shortened to 3.8 miles/6km in 1 hour 40 minutes with no stiles.

Terrain

Apart from the stiles and a couple of gentle hills, there is nothing too strenuous. The route goes through woodland, quiet lanes and open fields with glorious views across the Meon Valley. Refreshments are available in the village.

Directions

Leave Swanmore via the Droxford Road and travel north along the A32 via Droxford, Corhampton and Warnford to West Meon. As you enter the village, on the first sharp bend,

turn right into Station Road.

A brown sign directs you to the Meon Valley Trail car park, which is a short way further up on your right. There is a height barrier but it is quite a high one.

The main car park area is in the former goods yard of the old West Meon railway station alongside old, overgrown platforms complete with picnic tables.

Start

1. Leaving the car park
Go back to the car park entrance and

cross the road to the enclosed footpath opposite. Follow this as it opens up and cross over two wooden bridges, the second leading out onto the high street where you turn left.

2. Into open country

A few steps along turn right into Doctors Lane marked "To the surgery", which you pass a little way along on your right. Go straight ahead through the metal gates for "The Cedars", where a footpath passes buildings on your left and between two large oil drums.

Follow the path around to the right with the allotments on your left, go through the metal kissing gate into a small paddock, then a second kissing gate up steps and across the route of the old railway line. Here the path bears slightly left uphill through a large meadow, where the views extend across the rolling Hampshire downland to Old Winchester Hill Fort and the South Downs Way on your right. On reaching the top corner,





Top: St John's Church in West Meon as seen from "8".

Above: Thomas Lord's grave.

where red kites and buzzards are often seen overhead, look slightly right and in the far distance you may just make out the mast on Butser Hill in the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Carry on across the open fields and head for Garretts Farm on Vinnells Lane.

3. Towards the A32

Turn left and follow this quiet lane uphill between the banks to the end, bearing left at a bridge over the overgrown railway line and up to the A32 (about 15 minutes).

4. Passing Highfield House

Go straight over the A32 onto the byway opposite where after a few minutes you reach a small lane. Looking back to your right, soaring above the trees in the distance you will see the spire of the Holy Trinity Church at Privett. Built in the 1870s but now redundant, it remains the tallest church steeple in Hampshire.

Go across the lane onto a bridleway that is a wide drive/track marked to Highfield House, which you soon pass on your right.

Follow what now becomes more of a farm track for just over ten minutes as it winds left downhill between the trees and on between the hedged fields (ignoring any paths off). Just beyond a small bend and at the trees ahead, the track itself goes to the left but take the smaller track forking to the right. A hundred yards along, just past a large tree on your right, look out for a footpath to your left through the hedge (which can at times get somewhat overgrown).

5a. A short cut home

At this stage, if you wish to take the shorter route back to West Meon, take this footpath through the hedge to go straight ahead downhill to the houses. Turn left at the bottom, going along the road until you pass the church and school. Here you pick up the return route going left in front of the Memorial Cross, over the A32 opposite the butchers and along the high street to return to the car park (see 9 below).

5b. Taking the longer route

For the longer walk, first pop through the hedge to see the glorious open views across the valley, then retrace your steps back through the hedge, turning left, to continue along the path towards Marldell Farm.

At the lane turn left, and then right, keeping left of a high rail fence with the conservation area on your left. This is a fairly well used bridleway and can get a bit claggy through the trees at times. Follow this bridleway for about 15 minutes until you meet another narrow lane .

6. Towards Brockwood Copse

Turn left. Ignore the track immediately on your left and go along the lane until you reach an unmarked lane from the right amidst stunning copper beech trees. Continue past this lane and take the footpath immediately on your left next to a pair of large wooden gates. Walk alongside Brockwood Copse

going on through the trees ahead where you bear slightly right.

7. To Bosenhill Lane

At the end of the wood turn left and follow the track through the metal field gate with the greenhouse and garden of Bere Farm away on your right. Follow this track for about 15 minutes, going past the front of the farmhouse and then down the driveway until you reach a footpath on your right, which you take to cross a large crop field.

After about five minutes you will come to a path crossing in front of you called Bosenhill Lane where you turn left. This part of the path can look quite overgrown at times with summer foliage so be careful not to miss it, but it's fine underfoot and soon clears once it reaches the trees.

8. To Lippen Lane

At the end of the path you meet Lippen Lane where you bear right, cross opposite the grain store gates to go up a couple of steps and over a stile. On your right down the hill you'll see the small lakes of Moorhen Trout Fishery.

Follow the footpath, which runs parallel to the A32, to West Meon; go over a second stile and head for West Meon church. which will soon appear over the crest of the hill. As you descend towards the houses, keep straight ahead then through the enclosed footpath over a stone wall stile and into the church graveyard.

9. Back to the car park

Bear away from the church, passing Thomas Lord's grave as you do so. Thomas Lord, founder of Lords Cricket Ground, retired to West Meon in 1830 where he died in 1832. Behind the church you will also find the ashes of British spy Guy Burgess, interred in his family plot. Cross the graveyard to reach the road, then left before the Memorial Cross and over the A32 to the butcher's and village shop opposite. Continue along the high street, passing the Thomas Lord pub, and go back over the wooden bridges to return to the car park.

Lyn Powell

Bishop's Waltham Rotary

A great day for breaking all sorts of records

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club's Carnival, Family Fun day, Motorcade and Dog Show proved more popular than ever after its enforced three-year break. We had perfect weather with record numbers coming to enjoy the live music, food, drink and many stalls.

We also had a record number of pets entering the dog show with categories ranging from "fastest biscuit cruncher" to "best six legs". All of this enabled us to raise more than £11,000, with this figure continuing to rise thanks to later donations. This significant amount of money will help us to help others who are in need – locally, nationally and internationally.

New Rotary President

As June drew to a close we saw the end of the Rotary year and with that our President Mandy Tourle handed over her chain of office to incoming President Sara Walker, who in turn handed her Senior Vice-President chain to Jason Rule.



We look forward to the year ahead with Sara at the helm and I'm sure Mandy is looking forward to a well-earned rest.

At the handover meeting, outgoing President Mandy had the pleasure of surprising two of our members, Maurice Tester and Doug Draper, with Paul Harris Awards in recognition of their many years of devoted service and numerous roles they have fulfilled over that time. John Stream was also awarded a Paul Harris Award but, unfortunately, could not be there on the night.

Young Carers weekend

As soon as one Rotary year ended, we were immediately out there with a very busy first weekend in July where we saw members putting in a combined total of almost 100 hours of voluntary service.

Over the weekend we, along with other local Rotary Clubs, provided a pop-up café at YMCA Fairthorne Manor as part of their Young Carers Weekend, which is the largest festival in the world for young people with a caring responsibility at home.

Created in 2000 and run in partnership with The Children's Society, the weekend provides opportunities for young people to enjoy a break from their

*Left: Mandy Tourle with incoming Rotary Club President Sara Walker.
Below: A sea of tents at the Young Carers Weekend.*



responsibilities, have fun, make new friends and have their voices heard on issues that affect them. There were fireworks, a radio station, Voice Zone, silent disco, chill out/pamper zone, adventurous activities and more.

We also supported the celebrations in Bishop's Waltham marking the 500th anniversary of the visit of Henry VIII to the area.

Ian Treveil

Meon Valley U3A Talks resume with a busy year ahead

Our twice-monthly talks will recommence on Tuesday 6th September when Toots Ansell will talk on "Renal Dialysis". It will be followed on 20th September by "Masterchef", with former contestant Gill Holland, and on 4th October Jim Busby will talk about "Walking in the Canaries".

Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Houghton Room at the Wickham Centre, Wickham. Meetings with member speakers are free to members and £1 for guest speakers. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting. There will be tea and biscuits after the talks. Each is usually 45 minutes to an hour long. The book table will be available for books, DVDs and puzzles to be swapped, 20p per item.

Membership renewals are due in September; details will be available before the first meeting. New members are very welcome, particularly those who have an interest they are willing to share with other members in a small group. Currently the groups are Egyptology, Strolling and three reading groups. Poetry and Art Appreciation may restart in September.

We are also seeking a new secretary as this is my last year of office. If you are interested, please let me know. You can assist this year to learn what it involves before taking it on after the AGM next May.

Betty Hiscock 01489 894807; email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com

Meon Valley Bowling Club

Horse Racing on the bowling green

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee members of the bowls club gathered in their finery to attend a celebratory garden party at the club's pavilion, and enjoy simulated horse racing on the bowling green. Horses and jockeys were a little untrained and a little cheating did go on but all in good fun. Racing was followed by a traditional afternoon tea with lots of sandwiches, cakes, sausage rolls and of course jelly and ice cream.

Summer tour hit by covid

Due to the pandemic our long-awaited summer tour of South Wales eventually took place in June. Our opening match took us to Blackwood Bowling Club in the Sirhowy Valley. Despite a heavy defeat the match was played with a spirit of friendship and at the end our hosts performed "We'll



keep a welcome in the hillside".

Our second match took us to Pontypool and the Panteg Bowling Club where we were narrowly beaten. On our third day we were looking forward to a match at Barry Island Bowling Club when eight of our team tested positive for covid, forcing an end to the tour and return home.

President's day

President's day this year was celebrated with an afternoon of bowls and raising funds for our President Bill Bailey's chosen charity: Parkinson's UK. The well-supported raffle raised £325 for the charity.

The afternoon concluded with a presentation to John and Jennie Gray of Certificates of Commendation from The English Bowls Coaches Society in recognition of the service they have given over the past ten years.

In the Southampton and District Leagues. Our men are currently in second place in Division 1 of the Combinations League while the ladies also are in second position in the Rinks league and sixth in the Triples B league. For further information please visit: <http://meonvalleybowlingclub.chessck.co.uk>

John Gray

Below: Horses ready for the off... but not the finish (left).



Citizen's Advice

What to do if your flight is cancelled

A lot of people will be worried after seeing the recent news about flights. If you face issues, the Citizens Advice website has lots of information about what to do when your flight is delayed or cancelled.

If you're already at the airport when they announce the delay, the airline should give you food and drink, access to phone calls and emails. You should also get accommodation if you're delayed overnight (including journeys to and from the airport).

Your airline might offer you vouchers to pay for these or advise you to keep receipts to claim back expenses later. They will only refund "reasonable" expenses, not expensive meals or luxury hotels.

What counts as a long enough delay to get this help depends on how long your flight is. A short flight only needs to be delayed two hours, whereas a flight of more than 3,500km needs a delay to be more than four hours. Full details are on the Citizens Advice website (look under the "Consumer" section).

It's worth knowing that if your flight is delayed for more than five hours, you don't have to take it. The airline legally has to give you a full refund for that flight (and any onward flights and return flights if you're part-way through a connecting journey). Talk to someone from the airline as soon as you decide you don't want to fly.

If your flight is cancelled altogether, you've a legal right to either a full refund or a replacement flight to get you to your destination. The refund includes any onward flights and money for a return flight if you're part-way through a connecting journey. Ask about this at the airport if you can.

Don't just rebook another flight yourself - check with the airline first because it's their responsibility to sort out your replacement. If you do have to rebook it yourself, keep any receipts and evidence of why the airline couldn't do this for you, for example screenshots of live chats. If the



cancellation ends up delaying you getting to your holiday by two or more hours, you're entitled to help with costs. Check if you're entitled to compensation for a delayed or cancelled flight. Again, this will depend on how long the delay was, the distance, and whether it's the airline's fault.

The Citizens Advice website has details on claiming compensation for delays or cancellations from the airline. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this.

If you have a problem with an airline and you're not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or call to speak to a local adviser on 0808 278 7861.

Lesley Rose

Why not write a play?

Titchfield Festival Theatre has launched a competition for would-be playwrights to create a new full-length play in any genre. Top prize is £1,000 with the winning play performed at the Acorn Studio for a week. Closing date is 1st September 2022.

You can find further information on the Titchfield Festival Theatre website www.titchfieldfestivaltheatre.com/new-playwright-competition/2022.

Booking for all Titchfield Theatre productions is also available at the website.

Simon Frost

Bishop's Waltham Tudor Experience

A great weekend with plenty of community help

After a year of planning and preparation, the day finally arrived. On the 2nd July, Henry VIII strode down Bishop's Waltham High Street at 10.15am. He was accompanied by Catherine of Aragon, his court, and other followers. The procession was extremely colourful and accompanied by Tudor music from Damian Clarke. The procession made its way to the Palace Grounds for the start of the two-day Tudor Experience.

During 2021/2022 English Heritage implemented a large restoration project of the Palace Ruins, which was completed earlier this year. So, the restored ruins provided a fantastic backdrop for this very special event on a (relatively) warm weekend in July. The Palace grounds were filled with living Tudor history, including a Tudor village with re-enactment groups showing how ordinary Tudor folk lived by demonstrating Tudor cooking, leatherwork, wool spinning, and many other crafts.

It was a real community event with representation from the Meon Valley Beekeepers, a pillory and Tudor toys built by the Bishop's Waltham Men's Shed, Tudor calligraphy from the Bishop's Waltham Youth Club, an exhibition of Henry VIII paintings by the Junior school and a Henry VIII photo competition organised by the Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society. The Bishop's Waltham Museum, which is based in the Palace Grounds, was open so that people could enjoy the Tudor exhibition that had been curated especially for this occasion and will run for the rest of the summer.

It was a great day out with lots to see and do for young and old. On the Saturday evening a Tudor banquet was held in the old bakehouse of the Palace. Guests were entertained with Tudor music, a court jester and a delicious Tudor meal.



*Top: The High Street procession.
Above: Damian Clark.*

This event was a collaboration between the Bishop's Waltham Society, the museum, and the Bishop's Waltham Town Team. It involved some 100 volunteers in its planning and management over the two-day weekend. It could not have taken place without very generous support from local businesses, local charities, and local grant-giving organisations.

Sarah Berry

Photographs by Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society.



BW Photographic Society

Encouraging young photographers

The Society was pleased to be part of the Bishop's Waltham Henry VIII celebrations at the beginning of July. Youngsters had a great time arranging a "castle and knight" scene – using a mobile phone or compact camera to photograph this with great expertise.

With the interest shown by many youngsters in our junior section at the event, it was a good time to launch our annual photo competition for local children in Bishop's Waltham and surrounding parishes.

There are two age groups – for up to eleven years and for twelve to 16 years – and all entrants need do is send a digital image on any subject to competition@bishopswalthamphoto.society.co.uk including their name, age, title of the image and contact details for a parent or guardian in the email. Closing date for entries is 17th September 2022 and the winning entries will be announced in October and displayed at our annual exhibition. Last year's winning entries are shown below. More information can be found at the society's website: www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

Our tenth monthly photo challenge in June was on "Pick your favourite Bond theme tune and illustrate it". It certainly produced some brilliant interpretations! With two Skyfalls, a

couple of Goldeneyes and several "Writing on the Wall" images – all were well received.

On 7th July the society was joined by Robert Harvey ARPS as guest speaker, with a talk entitled "Photographing Wiltshire" based around the Fotovue photographic guide book of the same name. Not only did the audience see some stunning landscape photography, but the presentation also gave a "potted" local history of the environment, architectural highlights, including Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge, and the people who lived in Wiltshire.

On 28th July our very own Wendy Spencer LRPS guided us through the steps needed to plan and take images of supermoons, the Milky Way and meteors. At the beginning of August we have the third Competition round, with a set theme of "Motion". Our judge for the evening will be Gordon Brown ARPS – always a welcome visitor to the Society.

New members are always welcome at BWPS and the Society's junior section meets on the first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm. For more information about the junior section contact Peter Mason at junior@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

Dawn Blight



Waltham Ramblers

Plenty of summer walks to choose

Organised walks are held by the Waltham Group of the Ramblers on Wednesday mornings, Sundays (usually all-day) and Friday evenings. A selection of planned walks is shown below, with meeting venue and leader's contact number. Newcomers are welcome.

◆ Wednesday 10th August, Swanmore via Peak Down, Shepherds Down, 5.3 miles. Mike 01489 896837. Start: 10am. Meet in the car park opposite the Paterson Centre in Church Road.

◆ Wednesday 17th August, Droxford via Little Common Down, 5.2 miles. Gill and Ian 01329 835219. Start: 10am. Meet in Droxford Square and park there or elsewhere in the village where convenient.

◆ Friday 19th August, Cheriton via Gander Down, 4.3 miles. Gill and Ian 01329 835219. Start: 6.15pm. Meet at Cheriton recreation ground car park.

◆ Wednesday 14th September, Denmead via Pitt Hill, 5.2 miles, Gill and Ian 01329 835219. Start: 10am. Meet at the car park in Kidmore Lane.

◆ Sunday 18th September, Swanmore via Upper Swanmore and Hillpound, 5 miles, Pauline 01489 892386. Start: 10am. Meet in the car park opposite the Paterson Centre in Church Road. Park at the rear of the car park.

◆ Wednesday 21st September, Droxford, 5.5 miles, Peter 01489 894840. Start: 10am. Meet in the Square. Park there or in the surrounding roads.

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

Michael Hewlins

Meon Voices

Time to start singing?



The popular Meon Voices Community Choir will start weekly practice sessions every Monday from 12th September preparing for its Christmas concert in mid-December.

Rehearsals are held from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Bishop's Waltham United Free Church. Choir members will be practising an eclectic mix of old and new music, so there is something for everyone.

Meon Voices is a true community choir, formed in the early 1980s to spread harmony and camaraderie through the pleasure of singing and performing together.

This means there is no need to audition and you don't need to read music – if you love to sing and are prepared to make a bit of effort, you will be warmly welcomed and given all the support you need.

Choir members come from many



Meon Voices in rehearsal at the United Reform Church.

towns and villages around the area and there are two terms per year, January to April/May and September to mid-December.

If you would like a copy of our New

Members leaflet or to talk about joining, contact Phil at 01489 579078, coundleypj@yahoo.com or Jane on janevose@icloud.com

Lizz Clarke

West Meon Music Festival

From classic to contemporary

Spanish guitar, a prize-winning pianist, chamber music favourites, a baroque duo recital and a dazzling young mezzo-soprano: this year's West Meon Music Festival, which runs from the 8th to 11th of September is sure to appeal to a wide range of music lovers.



Prize-winners– Emanuil Ivanov...

The festival, now its twelfth year, was founded by the Primrose Piano Quartet – one of the UK's leading chamber ensembles – who regularly invite their musician friends to join them for the event, held in three beautiful Meon Valley churches. This year's eight concerts include four solo or duo recitals, major works for chamber ensembles and a late night introduction to Schoenberg.

"It's always a joy to share the festival with our various guests," says Andrew Fuller, the Quartet's cellist and festival musical director, "and we're delighted this year that they include renowned guitarist, John Mills; violinist Huw Daniel, who is the leader of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Emanuil Ivanov, a brilliant young Bulgarian pianist who won the 2019 Busoni International Piano competition; and mezzo soprano Helen Charlston, who is a BBC New Generation Artist and

was also the winner of the 2018 London Handel Competition."

As in previous years the festival will be raising funds for The Rosemary Foundation, which runs a "hospice at home" service in Hampshire.

Concerts take place at churches in West Meon, East Meon and Warnford and tickets are from £10 to £20, with generous discounts for students and accompanied children. Full details can be found at www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.



... and Helen Charlston.

Meon Valley Repair Café

In the running for a BBC award

Meon Valley Repair Café has been nominated for a BBC Radio Solent "Make a Difference" Award. Chosen from hundreds of applications the Café has reached the final stage of four nominees in the Environmental Category.

The winner will be announced at a BBC Radio Solent Tea Party in Portsmouth Guildhall on 20th October.

The Repair Café is based at Waltham Chase Methodist Church and started a trial period with meetings once a month before the Grand Opening in February this year.

There's also no shortage of items to repair: these have included wooden

and concrete items, an exercise cycle, guitar case, a computer-printer interface, clocks, vacuum cleaners, electric drill, food mixers, cassette radio and a pair of trousers.

Fortunately the team has engineers qualified to repair electrical items and test them to the required national standards. Word is spreading and there are now an increasing number of items to repair.

Volunteers are always needed with skills to help repair items

Steve, Neil and Eric get to work on a food mixer.

such as domestic electrical and mechanical goods, jewellery, leather and even clothing. Ladies are of course very welcome.

To contact the Meon Valley Repair Café email: admin@meonvalleyrepaircafe.co.uk

Martin Letts



Bishop's Waltham WI

Visits, teas and winning the quiz

What a busy time we have been having! We planted a cherry tree in St Peter's Churchyard, to commemorate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and served plenty of teas, coffees and cakes at the Bishop's Waltham Carnival. It was a sunny day and, as it was the first one for three years, we had lots of visitors. Not only were our cakes very popular, but people also glad to sit down in our "tea area".

We also provided teas, coffees and cakes at the Bishop's Waltham Tudor Festival weekend in July. Our members have visited Stansted Park, the Hospital of St Cross in Winchester and Highgate Cemetery in London.

In June we had a wonderful talk

about nature – which I sadly missed as, like many others, I was stuck at Heathrow airport on my way home from holiday. Also that month our WI branch had entered a team in the WI Group Quiz. It was our turn to host and run the event and provide refreshments – and we won! So we are now through to the next round in September.

In July we had an interesting talk by Jane Painter about the hospital in Knowle. As a newcomer to the area I had never even heard of this, so found it particularly interesting.

On 16th August we will be holding our own "Royal tea party" at 2.30pm (venue tbc). Dress up (smart not



Providing refreshments at the Tudor weekend in July.

fancy) if you wish or maybe just wear a hat or fascinator. Afternoon tea will be provided but please bring a chair. If you fancy joining our WI, why not come and meet us at this social event? Call me on the number below for more details of where to come.

Our following meeting on 20th September will be led by Sarah Zimmer, an artist, who is going to teach us how to draw autumn leaves.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street, next to the library.

Allison Gurry, President

Tel. 01489 895188

Left: WI ladies serving tea and cakes at the BW Rotary Carnival.



Dates for your diaries

August

1st– 4th August	7.30pm <i>Emilia</i> , Titchfield Festival Theatre.
1st–5th August	Bishop's Waltham Community Swimming, mornings, times tbc.
4th–7th August	Wickham Music Festival (www.wickhamfestival.co.uk).
8th– 9th August	11am and 1pm <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Titchfield Festival Theatre.
10th August	10am Waltham Ramblers leaving from Swanmore village centre car park.
13th August	9.45am to 12noon Marsh's Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
16th August	2.30pm Bishop's Waltham WI "Royal tea party" (venue tbc).
17th August	10am Waltham Ramblers leaving from Droxford Square.
19th August	6.15pm Waltham Ramblers leaving from Cheriiton recreation ground car park.
23rd–25th August	7.30pm <i>As you like it</i> , Titchfield Festival Theatre in The Great Barn.
27th August	Bishop's Waltham "Give and Take Stall": Small household Items.
27th August	7pm <i>Night at the Musicals</i> , Titchfield Abbey.
28th August	7pm <i>Classical Proms</i> , Titchfield Abbey.
28th Aug–1st Sept	2.30pm/7.30pm <i>As you like it</i> , Titchfield Festival Theatre.
28th August	10am to 4pm The Earl of Southampton's Fayre, Titchfield Abbey.

September

6th September	2pm U3A Toots Ansell on "Renal Dialysis", Wickham Centre.
8th–11th September	West Meon Music Festival (www.westmeonmusic.co.uk).
10th September	9.45am to 12noon Marsh's Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
12th September	7.30pm Meon Voices rehearsals recommence.
14th September	10am Waltham Ramblers leaving from Kidmore Lane car park, Denmead.
14th–24th September	2.30pm/7.30pm <i>Man of La Mancha</i> , Oak Theatre, Titchfield.
18th September	10am Waltham Ramblers leaving from Swanmore village centre car park
20th September	2pm U3A "Masterchef" with Gill Holland, Wickham Centre.
20th September	7.30pm Bishop's Waltham WI "Drawing autumn leaves" with Sarah Zimmer, St Peter's Hall.
21st September	10am Waltham Ramblers leaving from Droxford Square.
24th September	Bishop's Waltham "Give and Take Stall": Art and craft items.
26th Sept–1st Oct	2.30pm/7.30pm <i>Sitting Pretty</i> , Acorn Theatre, Titchfield.

October

1st October	7pm "Harvest Beer and Hymns" Paterson Centre.
4th October	2pm U3A "Walking in the Canaries" with Jim Busby.
5–7 October	9.30am–5pm Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society Annual Exhibition, United Free Church, Bishop's Waltham.
14th October	7pm "Murder Cruise" in aid of Home-Start Hampshire and Meon Valley Lions, Swanmore Village Hall.



Pumpkin harvest – heading into autumn.

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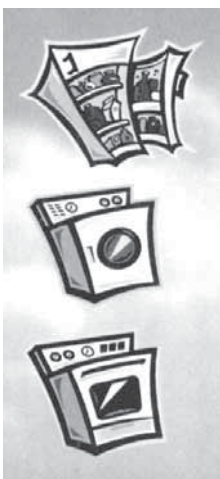
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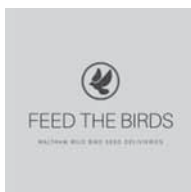
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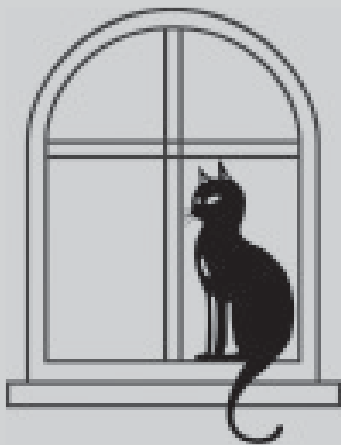
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