

December 2022/January 2023

# *The* **Swanmore** *Link*



**Christmas is coming  
More volunteers please!  
A wartime headmaster**

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# Happy Christmas to all

**Deadline for the February/March issue is  
Wednesday 11th January 2023**

**Copies will be available to collect from  
The Link of Tuesday 31st January 2023**

## 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.

**Please do not deliver copies on a random basis to houses in your street unless specifically asked to do so. Several people have complained about having a second copy thrust through their letter boxes when they have already collected the magazine; others may have no interest in receiving it.**

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 £11 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](mailto:office@stbarnabas.org.uk)) if you would like to be alerted by email when the online version is available.

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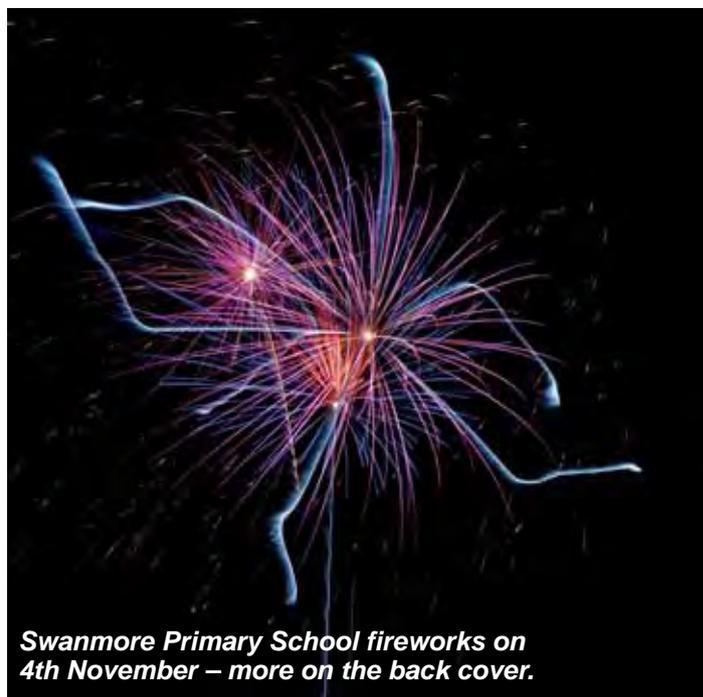
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Front cover: Photograph by Berty Ferrone

Back cover: Photographs by Berty Ferrone and Peter Mason – *Primary School fireworks, Pete's grandchild in Hallowe'en mood and autumn colours.*

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**Swanmore Primary School fireworks on  
4th November – more on the back cover.**

# Advent: For what are you waiting?

- The results of a medical examination
- The war in Ukraine to end
- A part to arrive to complete a repair
- Christmas Day
- The anniversary of a death
- The stock market to recover
- A loved one to die
- The world to cool down
- A family member to get better
- A problem to be resolved
- A pain to ease
- Good news

Is your waiting accompanied by anxiety or some other emotion – excitement, anger, joy...? Can you do anything to make the outcome you desire more likely? Who else, if anyone, knows of your waiting? Would you like the time to go by more slowly or quickly, as you wait?

When I was a child, time dragged interminably between bonfire night and Christmas Day. One yearly highlight followed so slowly (as it seemed) by the next. Now I'd like to stretch this season so I can fit everything in – and I'm retired.

Underlying our various waitings is the general unease in world news – exemplified by a much greater willingness to talk about mental health and anxiety – and initiatives like *Night Tracks* on Radio 3. Who would have thought that a classical radio station would be giving tips on how to get a good night's sleep, and providing a playlist to help?\*

In November we visited the city of Mechelen, Belgium. At the *Kazein Dossin* museum I was faced with the reality that German and Hitler's persecution of the Jews started way back in the 1920s: people suffering antagonism and persecution for two decades, and then facing the Holocaust. That's a long wait for that evil to be defeated, by anyone's reckoning, let alone the suffering that continued for so long afterwards.

Having said all this, waiting is not always without

benefit. Had I been given everything I wanted when I wanted by my parents, I'd hardly be prepared for the adult world. Is there anything you appreciate in having to wait? Anticipation, patience, being reliant on others (an underrated gift), allowing your subconscious to get a thought in edgeways, or the humility to see that God's world is far more complex and subtle than any human can master:



*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*  
Isaiah 55:8-9

*"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. . . Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."*

Rainer Maria Rilke

Father God,

I'm sometimes anxious about the future and feel unable to do much about it.

May my waiting do me more good than harm, and show me more clearly my place and part in your world.

May the birth of your Son in the stable give me confidence

that worldly struggles are not alien to you but held in your heart until ended.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

\*<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4n0kNr1BSHLJnnFbcbk0F/five-easy-ways-to-wind-down-before-bed>

**This copy of The Swanmore Link is being delivered to all households in the parish along with a Christmas card. We hope you enjoy it. If you would like to continue to receive the magazine in 2023 please see the panel on the opposite page for details.**

**St Barnabas Ministry Team**

**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.**

# Services in December and January

## Sunday 4th December

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

No 8am

10am Holy Communion and "toy service" with a special visit from Robert the Bear.



Please bring new toys, toiletries or toys in such good condition that they could be given as presents. No clothes, thanks. In aid of the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth.

## Sunday 11th December

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion.

Canon Peter Hall, our diocesan director of ordinands, will be preaching and presiding and talking about vocations in general.

Be prepared to be challenged about whether God is calling you to some new form of discipleship or ministry. Meanwhile, Sunday Club will be making Christingles which they will bring into church to show.



## Sunday 18th December

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

No 8am

10am Holy Communion.

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

## Saturday 24th December

*Christmas Eve*

5pm Crib Service.

Come dressed up as any character from the nativity or use the dressing-up clothes provided.

No prams or pushchairs will be allowed in church but will need to be parked in the Paterson Centre.

This is a safety requirement due to the large numbers that come.



11.15pm Midnight Mass. Join us for the first Communion of the Christmas season

## Sunday 25th December

*Christmas Day*

8am Holy

Communion

10am All age

Family

Communion.

Bring a present to show.



## Sunday 1st January

*The Second Sunday of Christmas*

No 8am

10am Said service of Holy Communion



## Sunday 8th January

*Epiphany Sunday*

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 15th January

*The Second Sunday of Epiphany*

8am Holy Communion.

10am Café Church

## Sunday 22nd January

*The Third Sunday of Epiphany*

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 29th January

*Candlemas*

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion with Revd Terry Loudon preaching and presiding.



## Sunday 5th February

*Third Sunday before Lent*

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

# Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB



**Minister**  
**Revd Phil Griffin**  
**Tel. 01329 833518**  
Email:  
rev\_phil@outlook.com

**Loving God**

**Loving our community**

**Making disciples for Jesus**

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

## **Sunday Services December and January**

All services will commence at 10.30am except on 18th December and Christmas Day

### **December**

4th December	Revd Phil Griffin
11th December	Tom Banks – advent crafts
18th December	Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
18th December, 6pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Christmas Day, 9.45am	Kathy Elvy

### **January**

1st January	Rosie / Tom Banks
8th January	Revd Phil Griffin – Covenant Service and Holy Communion
15th January	Kathy Elvy and Jill Letts
22nd January	Revd Bob Kitching
29th January	David Boswell

**There will be a warm welcome for all who wish to join us for these services and please stay for tea and coffee afterwards.**

### **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; or visit our website.

### **Thursday Fellowship**

We hold a Fellowship meeting every Thursday 2.30pm–3.30pm – an opportunity to meet with fellow Christians for prayer, Bible reading and discussion. Meetings are held via Skype and once a month in person in the Church.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jill Letts – 01489 896182, email: [jill.letts@hotmail.com](mailto:jill.letts@hotmail.com).

### **TLC (Tuesday Ladies Club)**

**13th December at 7.30pm**

Carols and Cake!

**10th January at 12.30pm**

Soup lunch

All ladies welcome – non-members £3 per meeting

### **Coffee, Craft and Company**

Weekly on Tuesday at 10am–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.

### **Men's Group**

**Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm** in the Church Hall

Christmas Quiz and seasonal refreshments.

**Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm**

*To be arranged*

All are welcome. For further details contact Martin Letts on 01489 896182

### **Looking for somewhere to hold an event?**

Our premises are now available for hire. Please visit the "Use our venue" page on the church website for details <http://www.swanmoremethodistchurch.org.uk> or email [swanmoremclettings@gmail.com](mailto:swanmoremclettings@gmail.com)

Find us on 

## Letting God break in

In the summer, my family bought a pair of four-month-old rabbits. Although skittish at first, they have now made themselves very much at home, and are letting their personalities come to the fore.

One evening not so long ago, my wife and I were getting our daughters settled for bed, when one of the rabbits came hopping through the bedroom door at see where everyone was and what we were up to. Needless to say, the girls were immediately wide awake and excitedly watching as Cookie evaded our best efforts to catch him and send him downstairs again. When we did get him, I escorted him down to the lounge, where the other one – Donut – was busily munching on a mince pie that he'd spied on the coffee table and pulled down!

Thus proceeded an anxious call to the vet to see if mince pies are poisonous to rabbits. Surprisingly enough, it was first time the vet had heard of it but thankfully discovered that it was OK, if not recommended!

This made me think of Christmas (because this is a minister's letter, so of course it did!). We humans were getting along with our lives without too much thought being given to Who and What God is like. But then, like Cookie, God broke into our lives in an unexpected way.

Not in a bedroom, but a barn. Not two excitable girls, but one helpless boy. He revealed His personality to us in Jesus, and that personality is one of love, of humility and of grace. And the reason that He came into our world and disrupted the *status quo* was because, just like Donut, we do things we ought not to do. Our selfishness and willingness to ignore God and do our own thing – i.e. "sin" – had built a barrier between us and God: a barrier we could not do anything about. But God in Jesus came to do what we could not do: destroy the barrier and welcome us into relationship with Himself.

The message of Christmas is that God has given us the solution to the most important question in life: "Am I loved?". And the answer, found in Jesus, is a resounding "Yes!". I pray that this Christmas you would know the love and peace of Jesus, and find in Him a relationship full of forgiveness, grace and joy. Merry Christmas to you all.

Revd Phil Griffin, Minister



## Stewardship at St Barnabas

At the beginning of November, St Barnabas launched a Stewardship Campaign to raise funds for our beautiful church. This is the first time a Stewardship Campaign has been run since 2014, and as we all know, expenses for everything have risen sharply since then. Our income, however, has not increased as rapidly and the disparity between income and outgoings is growing.

Stewardship is the act of caring for something and as our predecessors have passed this special central part of our community to us, we have the privilege of looking after it ready for following generations. Most of us will have seen a line of little blue jumpers crossing the road from school to church at least once a week, seen the creative shower of poppies around the archway before Remembrance Sunday, enjoyed the warmth and joy of Christmas lights on dark December evenings, or even been glad to see a regular note from the vicar or supporting clergy in our village magazine. We all have a beautiful space to celebrate births and marriages in if we wish, or to say our final farewell to loved ones. If we so choose, we all have a welcoming and peaceful haven for quiet contemplation and inspiration.

Our primary aim is to increase our steady monthly income on which we can budget by 50%. However, a stewardship campaign is aimed not only at improving the financial position, but also calling upon the time and talents of our growing parish community; for instance – volunteering at Barnaby's, helping with church and grounds maintenance, or taking minutes at PCC meetings.

Many of us value the presence of the church and we are asking everyone to give what they can. If you would be able to set up a regular gift, this can be done monthly, quarterly or annually by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. Alternatively you could make a single donation by bank transfer (to PCC of Swanmore, sort code 30-90-85, account number 00135767). Our website has other ways in which you can donate at <https://stbarnabas.org.uk/donations/>. Our treasurer, Andrew Wilkinson, would be very pleased to hear from you at [treasurer@stbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stbarnabas.org.uk).

Liz Newbold





## St Barnabas' ad hoc Christmas choir Come and sing at the carol service

This year's traditional service of nine lessons and carols, the first in church since 2019, will be on 18th December at 6.30pm.

As usual we will have an ad hoc choir and this is a warm invitation to singers to join us for this lovely start to the Christmas season.

All are welcome, especially singers in the lower parts. Rehearsals will be in church on 4th December (4pm), 11th December (5pm) and 18th December (5pm).

Please get in touch with me on 01489 895870 or [andrew@swanmore.net](mailto:andrew@swanmore.net).

*Andrew Wilkinson*

## St Barnabas' churchyard Looking much tidier – thanks to Swanmore Scouts

We are very grateful to Swanmore Scouts who spent an evening this autumn tidying the churchyard as part of their service to the local community. They will be carrying out similar tasks during the coming year.

The mowing team have now cut the wild grass area and reduced the southern hedge height in preparation for winter.

It may not be generally known that

## St Barnabas Christmas saxophones

The BLOW Saxophone Ensemble will be back on Friday 9th December at St Barnabas to get the Christmas festivities off to a flying start and this year, unlike last, you won't be asked to mask up and take all those dreary covid precautions.

Other arrangements will be much as before: doors open at 7pm, concert starts at 7:45pm, tea and coffee will be available in the interval and the bar (beer, wine and soft drinks) will be open throughout; drinks can be taken into the church during the concert.

In the first half the music will merely nod to Christmas but the second half will be full-on Christmas and you will be invited to sing along with the band.

Tickets £10 (under 16s free) are on sale at Barnaby's and will also be available online from Eventbrite, at the Paterson Centre after the 10am service on Sundays or me at [jsharpe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:jsharpe2016@hotmail.com) or 01489 892750. *John Sharpe*

## From the Registers

### Weddings

15th October – Hannah Daisy  
Clarkson and Adam Paul Shone

### Funerals

23rd August – Ivy James  
30th September – Jason Vidler  
3rd October – William Jack Gordon  
"Bill" Smith

artificial flowers are not permitted in churchyards – unlike some other cemeteries. We would be very grateful if families and friends would bear this in mind when leaving tributes to loved ones.

It would also help to keep the churchyard looking tidy if Christmas (and other) wreaths could be removed once the flowers have died.

*Nick Whitehead*



## SWANMORE CYGNETS

BABY & TODDLER PLAYGROUP

**Come for some chatter, play,  
crafts, songs and snacks!**

The Swanmore Cygnets baby and toddler playgroup meets every Monday during term time from 8.45am to 10.30am

in the Paterson Centre.

Cost is £2 per session, which includes drinks and a snack.

For more information contact Jill Phipps on 01489 891117

Find us on 

## St Barnabas Social programme for 2023

- \* January 28: Love Concert with a *capella* group Beati (see p.7).
- \* February 24: Family Quiz Night with pudding (£5 and £2 juniors).
- \* March 18: Beetle Drive largely aimed at families with primary school children.
- \* April 22/23: Open Gardens.
- \* May 8: Royal Tea to celebrate the Coronation.
- \* June 17/18: Open Gardens.
- \* July 16: Teddy Bear Picnic with games in the Churchyard and Paterson Centre.
- \* Aug: no events.
- \* September 9: Film night with supper at the Village Hall, fancy dress, sing and dance.
- \* October 7: Beer and Hymns.
- \* October 28: Light Party with tea.
- \* Nov 18: Oh Heck.
- \* December: Christmas Saxophones.
- \* December: Children's film afternoon and tea.

Methodist Church

## Half-term Cookery Club cooks for a birthday party

During the October half term, 17 young people gathered at Swanmore Methodist Church for a session of the popular Cookery Club.

The first part of the morning was spent chopping, grating and mixing the various ingredients needed for the Christmas puddings for the annual lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own. Each child had the opportunity to stir the mixture and make a wish while the "Stir Up" prayer was said.

The older children then prepared sausage plaits and crumbles for lunch while the younger ones baked muffins, scones, sausage rolls and palmiers.

After enjoying a tasty meal, the children helped arrange the goodies they had made in readiness for an afternoon tea to celebrate the 80th birthday of Martin Letts, who is one of

the circuit stewards and often dame in the Christmas Panto!

We were joined by many from the congregation for a very special occasion.

*Dennis Gamblin*



*Above: Martin Letts enjoying his birthday tea.*



*Left: Beth and Issy stir up the Christmas pudding mix.*

Tuesday Ladies Club

## Christmas rucksacks for Winchester homeless

Swanmore Methodist Tuesday Ladies Club (TLC) has passed on some practical winter warmth to the homeless of Winchester.

Some 20 rucksacks full of gloves, hats, coats, fleeces, washing items and chocolates were prepared on 8th November and packed ready for onward transport to Trinity Winchester, a local homeless charity.

Trinity's direct access services are the first port of call for many people experiencing homelessness, social isolation and the impact of poverty within. Services range from meeting the most basic of human needs in terms of bathing, laundry, clothes, and warmth, as well as a nutritious and hearty hot meal.

Trinity also enables people to access all levels of help, from therapies to housing, qualifications

and employment opportunities.

Last year six rucksacks were sent to Trinity but Mavis Daniels, TLC organiser, said the group was amazed at this year's response to their appeal for help. Thank you Swanmore.

*Martin Letts*

*Below: Packing the rucksacks.*



## Barnaby's Christmas offers and events

There is plenty going on at Barnaby's this Christmas.

- \* On 4th December we'll be celebrating our wonderful volunteers in Barnaby's from 5pm.
- \* Collapsible reusable coffee cups are ideal stocking fillers that are easy-to-wrap; on offer at a special discounted price of just £6, or two for £10.
- \* Ginger is the unmistakable aroma of Christmas, so a welcome return to our homemade gingerbread man and ginger latte for just £3. Just ask our volunteers for our Christmas Special.
- \* On Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st, every tea or barista-made coffee you order will come with a free mince pie.

Barnaby's will be on holiday over the Christmas break, returning at 2pm on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

*Alastair Walton*

## St Barnabas concert New choir debuts with a focus on love

Newly-formed and locally-based a *cappella* singing group Beati will be performing a concert in St Barnabas' Church on 28th January at 7:30pm in aid of church funds.

The chamber choir, comprising eleven singers, are all friends who have considerable experience of singing together in other choirs. Many of the choir are current or former Swanmore residents, and all are locally-based.

Their January concert will be on the theme of Love, and will include music spanning 500 years, from Monteverdi to Cole Porter, Dowland to Billy Joel, along with poems and other readings.

Tickets £10 (under-16s free) will be available from the Paterson Centre after the 10am services on Sundays and online from Eventbrite at "St Barnabas Swanmore".

Tickets will also be available at the kitchen hatch opposite the entrance to Barnaby's between 10am and 12noon on Saturdays the 7th, 14th and 21st January. Doors will open at 7pm. The bar will be open before the concert and during the interval. Tea and coffee will also be available in the interval.

*Peter Fellows*



## Volunteering

# Our village needs you!

Appeals for volunteers earlier this year were successful in filling some vital "people gaps" – but more help is still needed by many of our village organisations.



## More support needed for the Village Hall

Swanmore Village Hall is a vital community asset run entirely by volunteers and its management committee is much in need of new members.

Day-to-day functions, such as bookings and cleaning, are well under control but we need more help with financial planning, managing maintenance projects, marketing and, as a registered charity, ensuring compliance.

The committee usually meets every two months so please get in touch if you would like to find out more about how you can support this essential village asset.

For more information contact Jon Woodman 07768 661606 or email: swanmorevillagehall@gmail.com

## Volunteer drivers needed...

Swanmore Voluntary Care Group's small pool of drivers has now dwindled to a puddle and if we cannot get any new drivers the service will inevitably have to close down.

We need drivers to take people to surgery, hospital or dental appointments and to pick up prescriptions. Demand is not high, but help is important to those who are unable to go for themselves, especially the older members of our community. Drivers are usually contacted well in advance and only agree to drive if it is convenient to them. Mileage expenses are paid.

If you would be willing to help us continue this worthwhile service, even on an occasional basis, please ring Pam Manson on 01489 892374.

*Thank you.*

## ...also for the Lunch Club...

The Swanmore Lunch Club needs one or two more drivers. The club caters for older members of the community. It meets at the Paterson Centre on Wednesdays, and provides an opportunity for them to enjoy a freshly cooked meal and an important social time. We need more drivers to pick up club members at 11.45am and take them home again at 1.15pm. If you would be able to help, *even once or twice a month*, please contact Pam Manson on 01489 892374. *Thank you.*

## ...which needs all sorts of help

Your Lunch Club still needs you! More help is required particularly for the jobs nobody likes doing but need to be done. On Wednesdays we need people to prepare vegetables, do the washing up (dishwasher to be used) and the tables and chairs need putting up at the start and away at the end of the lunch

If you feel you could spare maybe an hour or two please contact Ann Warrington on 07850 100547 or ann.warrington@btinternet.com. The more help we get, the less often you will need to come in. Please give this some consideration.

## What about joining the Beavers?

Beavers have a great learning experience and much fun – as detailed elsewhere in this issue. There is, however, a long waiting list due to the lack of adult support. If you want your child to join in why not volunteer to help? Contact: swanmorebeavers@gmail.com

*Roisin Smith*

Swanmore CE Primary School

# Learning all about the need for sustainability

This year we have begun our journey into making our school and its community more sustainable. With energy prices and the cost of living increasing, there is no better time to start acting locally by making small changes in order to support global issues.

All children were introduced to the "Global Goals" ([www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)) at the start of the academic year, in particular looking at building more sustainable communities.

We wanted to explore ways that we could help conserve our environment for many more years to come, so put our thinking hats on and came up with some top tips to share with our school and local community in order to live more-sustainable lives.

Thanks to Jill Phipps who has been sharing these with the congregation at

St Barnabas but why not take a look at some of our top suggestions and begin to make a change this week.

*How can I reduce my use of single-use plastic?*

- Use fabric bags, cardboard boxes or re-use old plastic bags when shopping.
- Use fabric bunting and decorations instead of plastic ones.
- Instead of buying more plastic toys, get creative and make your own toys.
- Fix toys instead of throwing them away.
- Swap toys with friends.

*How can we reduce our waste?*

- Recycle old clothes. Make something new out of something old.
- Plan meals and only buy food that you are going to use and eat.
  - Reduce paper use by switching to paperless billing.
  - Use food waste and used paper to make compost.
  - Make dinners that you can

*The children have been learning about composting (pictured above right), and growing their own (left) as well as designing T-shirts for the Sustainability Centre's "Earth Protectors T-shirt Competition" (below).*



also use for lunch the following day.

*How can we live more sustainable lives?*

- Use a water butt/buckets to collect rain water.
- Use solar energy. This could be as simple as installing solar lighting within your garden or shed.
- Use your car less, walk more and dust off that old bike.
- Begin to grow your own produce.

Further top tips and information on our continuing journey can be seen within the "News" section of our school's website: <https://www.swanmoreprimary.org.uk>

We hope to use our work this year towards achieving the "Global Neighbours Bronze Award", which is an accreditation run by Christian Aid.

*Katherine Burdett  
Geography Manager*



## Swanmore Pre-school

# Bug hunting and jumping puddles

At Swanmore Pre-school we have been exploring the changing environment around us and making the most of the many rainy days we have had.

While exploring, the children have found fairy mushrooms, snails, slugs, spiders and even a creature that we had to look on the computer to see what it was called: it was a devil's coach horse beetle. We have been looking after the birds, making bird food and busy sweeping leaves into a large

pile for the hedgehogs to hibernate in.

We are now getting ready for our Christmas activities, practicing songs to show off their beautiful singing voices to the parents and carers.

We are hosting a Christmas party on Friday 2nd December at 4.30pm in the



*Left :  
Raffie  
examining  
bugs.*

*Above:  
Halle  
puddle  
jumping.*

*Right:  
Oliver bug  
hunting.*



Paterson Centre for Pre-school children and their siblings aged up to eight years old; please contact the Pre-school for tickets and more information.

We are looking to enhance our nature area with future fundraising events to support this project.

We are unable to take applications to join as we are full for the next few years, so enquiries will be added to a waiting list. Please contact me on 0795 8436396 or email sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk

*Sarah Hiscock*

## Beavers

# Being very busy!

1st Swanmore Beavers have had an extremely busy term.

We have had a sleepover with Droxford Beavers and had a festival theme. We visited alpacas in Waltham Chase, went to Paultons Park, had a campfire, plus lots more.

Beavers also invited local people to an open evening to show off their badgework and talk about some of the things they get up to.

We have a Christmas sleepover planned with a secret visitor (sssh), we are going to visit the apple store in Southampton, have a visit from a police dog with much more planned.

*Roisin Smih*

## Charity party Come and dance for Ukraine

Celebrating the 12th day of Christmas and end of seasonal festivities on Friday 6th January will be Hampshire-based cover band Contraband, which is holding a "charity party" and dance at the Village Hall in aid of British Ukrainian Aid.

The band plays covers from the 1960s to contemporary hits and has previously raised £1,700 for The Alzheimer's Society at a similar event.

The party is from 8pm to 11pm and partygoers should bring their own



drinks and nibbles.

Tickets at £10 are available from Andie on 07752 022135 or email contrabandcontact9@gmail.com.

*Pictured above: The members of Contraband seen at a Knowle Village Fête in the summer.*

Swanmore Educational Trust

## A little reading aid that makes a big difference

Swanmore Education Trust has supplied Hannah Martin, who is dyslexic, with a c-pen reader. This is a portable scanning pen that can read text aloud, give dictionary definitions and scan text to a PC.

The c-pen means that Hannah will be more independent in the classroom, needing less individual support from staff as she will no longer struggle to read text.



*Pictures show above, Hannah being presented with her c-pen by Geoff Pavey, chair of the Swanmore Education Trust, and (left) with grandmother Judy Cook after the presentation.*



## Droxford charity Giving a little help when needed

The Droxford Relief in Need charity is an amalgamation of several local funds established over many years to help those in the surrounding parishes, including Swanmore.

Although it is a small charity with limited funds, it regularly makes small grants to help those in need. Recent requests have covered bills for children's shoes and after-school club fees to enable a single parent to return to work.

During the current cost of living crisis, many people could find they need additional cash to meet unexpected bills and may be reluctant to appeal to a charity.

All applications are treated sensitively and in confidence, so if you do have an unexpected or urgent need, please do not hesitate to ask.

Applications can be made direct to the charity's clerk Caroline Chadder at [chadder@btinternet.com](mailto:chadder@btinternet.com)



The Swanmore Educational Trust was formed in 1981 and is an amalgamation of two older charities: the first, known as "The School Allotments Charity", was founded in 1863 and the second, "The Leonora Goodlad Charity", was founded in 1895. Leonora Goodlad, who lived at Hill Place in Swanmore, wanted to support the educational and social development of future generations of young people in the parish and set aside in her will some of the land that she owned to provide an ongoing income for the Trust.

Today, the Trust is managed by a

small group of trustees who are all resident in Swanmore.

Over the years, the Trust has awarded grants to many young people from the village and has also, from time to time, provided funds towards projects being undertaken at the Primary School.

- The main focus of the Trust's work has been to aid young people who are taking part in visits and projects, often overseas, that are both educational and have provided practical assistance to disadvantaged communities.
- Grants have been made to support ongoing education, particularly the development of sporting, musical or artistic talents. We have sponsored young people who have benefited from programmes that help to develop team working, leadership and

other life skills.

- Support is available to youth organisations based in Swanmore that are focused on providing opportunities for young people from our Parish.

We recognise that difficulties experienced by families in our village can have a serious detrimental effect on the wellbeing of children, which in turn can lead to problems within the school environment. In exceptional circumstances the Trust may be able to provide some limited, short-term financial assistance in areas such as uniform provision and funding of school trips.

All requests for financial support are considered on an individual basis and grants are made at the discretion of the Trustees. Applicants must be under the age of 25 and reside in the Parish of Swanmore.

*For more information contact*

Geoff Pavey, Chair– [pavey.pavey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pavey.pavey@tiscali.co.uk)  
Dick Cooksley, Secretary – [Secretary.SwanmoreET@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.SwanmoreET@gmail.com)

## Murder at the Village Hall

# Mystery evening raises funds for Home-Start

In October, Meon Valley Lions and Home-Start Hampshire joined forces to raise funds for their organisations at the Village Hall. This event was an evening of murder mystery taking place aboard an imaginary cruise liner, where a performance by seven amateur actors meant one of these did not survive the evening!

The hall was decorated to resemble the dining room of luxury cruise ship the *SS Finlandia*, where guests were greeted aboard by "Captain" Alec Dirks. Home-Start Hampshire trustee Ian Wollam gave a brief outline of the need and work of the charity before the performance. Then a full-capacity audience of about 100 "cruise guests" were invited – while enjoying their meal – to follow the clues and the red herrings to

determine the murderer, the motive and the method. Diana Weberstadt, Gillian Dirks and their team arranged the menu enjoyed between the three scenes at a supposedly first evening meal aboard ship.

At the end of the evening two or three of the "detective" table teams managed to sleuth their way through and guess most of the hidden clues. More importantly, it was an enjoyable community evening with some £1,300 raised for charity. Very kindly, the Lions passed their share of this generous funding directly to Home-Start, to the delight of their team.

Grateful appreciation is due to SADS for the loan of costumes and to John Lewis Partnership, Aldi Fareham and Stainers' Bakery for their support.

*Martin Letts*



*The cast for murder on the SS Finlandia, from the left: Kerry Fox, Avril Dalrymple, Ted Quincey, Brenda Cogswell, Ross Cogswell and Victoria Cronin.*



***If anyone was wondering why Lower Chase Road was closed at the beginning of November, it was to change over the electric sub-station at the junction with Broad Lane – as Berty Ferrone captured in these pictures.***

## Ocean Brass

# Celebrating Christmas in Swanmore



Ocean Brass will be giving a Christmas concert at Swanmore Village Hall on 11th December in aid of the Bishop's Waltham Minibus Fund.

The programme includes "Carols, Christmas tunes and fun", with doors opening at 2pm and the concert starting at 2.30pm.

Tickets, which include mince pies, are £7 for adults and £2.50 for children, and are available from The Sweet Shop in Bishop's Waltham High Street or on the door.

*Sandy Kara*

## Meon Valley Lions Out and about with Santa

This year Santa and the Lions will be out and about, with visits to villages from East and West Meon at the top of the valley to Boarhunt and Knowle at the bottom. Santa will also be on duty at various locations, so please look for the full schedule on our social media and the Santa page of our website: [www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk/santa](http://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk/santa) and our social media.

It takes a lot of time and effort to help Santa during the three-and-a-half-week promotional period and we are always grateful for extra Santa helpers. If you are able-bodied and would like to help us as a volunteer, we'll be grateful to hear from you.

*Carole Dash*

Conservation Group

## Getting the meadows ready for winter's weather

With winter just around the corner the September and October work parties were mainly concerned with readying the conservation area for the bad weather to come. In September we cleared the path through the Upper Meadow, cutting back the brambles and thistles, hopefully ensuring that walkers won't get drenched by wet vegetation. In October the entrance path from Church Road into Green's Wood was cleared of brambles, nettles and ash seedlings and the hazel at the corner of the path was cut back too.

A long stretch of the ditch through Green's Wood was cleared in September as it was almost full of oak leaves and acorns, which have been particularly abundant this year. In October more work on the ditches was done just in time, we hope, to deal with the huge amount of rain we have endured already.

Further work was done to lift the canopy of the oaks along the ridge in the Upper Meadow and saplings were removed in the copse adjacent to Ivy Dale. At both work parties, more coppicing was done of the trees along the edge of the triangular plantation that overlooks the Upper Meadow. This opens up the view and sight lines along the paths and should encourage plants to grow on the woodland floor.

More work has had to be done to repair damage by vandals in the conservation area. Two of our members repaired the fence round the

pond, which had been damaged by vandals, and wood from the coppicing was used to replace the damaged shutter boards in Green's Wood.

We have agreed to help with improving the wildlife pond area at the Primary School; we've been rained off once but hopefully we'll be able to get there soon. During the summer the pond, which is a dew pond, dried up in the drought. The site manager at the school did a huge amount of work to clear out the silt and plants that had almost completely taken over the pond. We have agreed to help finish this work and help repair the boardwalk and its railings. We will also continue the work to cut back overhanging trees and clear a walkway around the whole pond, making it safer and giving better access to the whole area. This winter we hope we can do some major work to clear the silt and reeds from the pond in Broad Lane and finally manage to paint our hut.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month, so the next work parties will be on 10th December and 14th January, starting at 9.45am by the hut in the Lower Meadow. We stop for coffee at 11am and finish at 12noon, unless it rains when we go home early; if the weather's too bad we don't go at all. If you fancy joining us just turn up on the day; you will be warmly welcomed.

*Gill Sawyer*  
01489 894206



*The pond in Green's Wood*

## Winchester Local Plan update – good news for Swanmore!

Winchester City Council has approved the Draft Local Plan. This document sets out the number of new houses to be built in the Winchester district over the next 20 years.

The good news for Swanmore is that we have been allocated **NO** new housing over and above the 100 houses already allocated under the existing Local Plan to be built at The Lakes.

This is a significant change from the figure of an additional 90 to 100 houses that was given to us by Winchester in March. As promised at that time, we continued to challenge that number and in particular our position within the Settlement Hierarchy document, which allocated Swanmore similar housing numbers to larger villages such as Wickham and Denmead.

The Parish Council's view is that Swanmore is not sustainable, is already overstretched and lacks the required facilities and infrastructure for more housing.

The additional 90 to 100 houses initially proposed by Winchester would not have come with any "extras" – such as improved roads or medical facilities – so we are very pleased to note that, under the Draft Plan, we have been reclassified as an "intermediate settlement", with a lower housing allocation that is satisfied by the additional housing on The Lakes

### Swanmore Parish Council Meeting Dates

Council meetings are usually held in the Parish Office and generally start at 7pm and all meetings are open to members of the public. There are no meetings in December

- 10th January – Planning and Highways Committee
- 17th January – Open Spaces and Amenities Committee
- 24th January – Full Council

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



# PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THESE TOPICS

CLIMATE      DESIGN      TRAVEL      NATURE

HISTORIC      HOMES      ECONOMY      ALLOCATIONS

### Parish Council Office

Tracey Molloy  
Executive Officer  
Hollythorns House, New Road  
Swanmore, SO32 2NW  
Tel: 01489 890651  
Email: [clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk)  
Web: [www.swanmorepc.org.uk](http://www.swanmorepc.org.uk)

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

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

As with the Community Projects Awards, nominations must be received by Tuesday 20th December.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2023.

due to be built in the next year or so.

Winchester City Council's consultation on the Draft Local Plan is now open and runs until 14th December 2022.

You can view the Draft Plan and find details of how you can give your views on the dedicated website: [winchester.citizenspace.com](http://winchester.citizenspace.com)

This Local Plan addresses some major challenges, including new development management policies against which planning proposals will be assessed. Some key themes include the climate emergency and cutting carbon, affordable homes, and the natural environment.

A copy of the Local Plan will be available to view at Bishop's Waltham library and there were public drop-in session throughout the district during November.

## Community Awards

Don't forget to get your applications in for this year's Community Projects Award.

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

To apply for an award please email [clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk) and ask for an application form. Completed forms must to be received at the parish

Office by 20th December.

We are also asking you to think about the individuals and groups in the village whom you believe have made a difference to your life or the village this year. We welcome nominations for the following three categories:

- Adult,
- Young Person,
- Group.

Anyone can enter. To nominate a person or group you simply need to email [clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk) with the name of the person or group you would like to nominate and why. We know there are lots of village heroes out there so please do take the time to send us a nomination.

## 2023–2024 Budget

The Parish Council is currently budget setting for 2023-2024.

Are there any areas you think we need to focus on? If so, please email your feedback to: [clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk).

## Merry Christmas

On 2nd December, the Christmas lights in the village centre and on the tree are being switched on.

We hope that once again they will bring a little festive cheer to the village.

A very Happy Christmas to all from everyone in the Parish Office.



Swanmore Society

# Of assorted earls, etiquette and the art of tipping

The opening talk of our autumn programme, given by David Rymill of the Hampshire Record Office, was a portrait of Highclere Castle and its owners. For 13 years, David has had an enviable part-time secondment to work as the archivist for the Herbert family at Highclere, a role he clearly relishes.

While never an actual abbey, the location for “Downton” was originally a bishop’s palace – complete with fishponds and deer parks – built by William of Wykeham in the 1300s. The estate was confiscated during the Reformation and had a succession of owners until purchased by Sir Robert Sawyer, Attorney General to Charles II, who demolished the original palace and replaced it with Place House in 1679.

## Transforming the castle

Sawyer left the property to his daughter Margaret, wife of Thomas Herbert, 8th Earl of Pembroke, and Highclere has remained in the family’s possession ever since. Their grandson Henry, who was created 1st Earl of Carnarvon in 1793, was responsible

*Highclere Castle.*



for transforming the magnificent 5,000-acre grounds using a Capability Brown design, while in the 1840s the 3rd Earl commissioned Sir Charles Barry, best known for his work on the Houses of Parliament, to remodel the house into its current form.

The 5th Earl is probably the most familiar owner of Highclere, owing to his sponsorship of Howard Carter’s discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb in 1922, although those of a horse-racing bent will know that 7th Earl was the late Queen’s racing manager for many years. David regaled us with many more stories gleaned from Highclere’s archives in his very enjoyable and well-received talk.

## Meeting a Georgian butler

At our October meeting, we were thoroughly entertained by Bob France presenting “What the Butler Saw” in costume as John Dine, the Georgian butler at Petworth House in the time of George Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont (1751–1837). The 3rd Earl was notable as a great collector of art and patron of the likes of Turner and Constable. He was also a prodigious womaniser and maintained many mistresses and their offspring at the



*A Georgian wine chilling and rinsing bowl. (Photograph from Auckland Museum, CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons)*

house. In addition, the Earl was a very generous host, entertaining frequently and lavishly, with Petworth in his day being described as like a “great inn”. Such was the household in which Mr Dine lived and worked.

His chief domain was the extensive wine cellar, which reportedly contained some 17,500 bottles in 1830, of which port would have been the most numerous. As butler, Dine was responsible for improving the wine and making it last as long as possible. Tricks included adding brandy to red wines and milk to whites, while sherry could be improved with honey.

## The best table manners

At great houses like Petworth, dinner in Georgian times would have involved three courses, each with around 20 dishes. The best dishes would be placed near the most important guests but the butler and serving staff could be bribed... According to Bob, the word “tip” dates from that era as an abbreviation for “to insure promptness”.

He used a beautifully laid table to show us a typical place setting of the day. Spoons and, more importantly, forks were placed face down to avoid catching in the flamboyant lacy cuffs.

Wine glasses were smaller than today and only one was used per person. When you wanted a drink, you called the butler to fill your glass, tossed it down in one then replaced the glass inverted in an individual bowl



Georgian wine glasses were enough for one mouthful while until the 1750s forks had only two tines.



of iced water to rinse and chill till the next serving was required. Napkins were out of favour in England in Georgian times (a result of anti-French sentiment) – so the tablecloth was tucked into the collar instead, and the cloth changed after the first course. Finger bowls were also provided.

### Looking ahead

On 14th December, Crawford Wright will be giving an illustrated talk on the Fosse Way, which runs from Exeter via Bath to Lincoln. This road is one of the best known of those built by the Romans in Britain and played a key part in the history of our country. The meeting will start at 8pm in the Paterson Centre. Visitors are always very welcome.

Further ahead, we plan to hold a social event for members and friends in January. We have decided against going to Lysses Hotel this time and will instead experiment with a meal catered for us at the Paterson Centre. Plans are still unfolding but we aim to provide full details at the December meeting.

*Caroline Clapperton 01489 891447*

## Swanmore College

# New arrivals and excellent results for leavers

We have welcomed our new Year 7s to Swanmore College this term; they have settled well and are enjoying college life.

We also held our annual Open Evening on Thursday 15th September for prospective pupils who are currently in Year 6 at Primary School. Some of these families booked a tour with current pupils when they attended our viewing mornings at the end of September.

To date, we have had an incredible 297 families put Swanmore College as their first choice of secondary school for their child in September 2023. There are only 270 places available which means that, once again, we are oversubscribed.

### Exam success

We recently had some very positive news regarding the 2022 GCSE results. The external validation came in just before half-term, which showed that the pupils who left this year had achieved a positive progress score for the College (Progress 8 +0.22). Progress is measured by working out the difference from what children achieved at Key Stage 2 and comparing this to their Key Stage 4 (GCSE) results. This makes us one of the highest schools in Hampshire for progress.

Our current Year 11 pupils sat their first set of mock GCSE examinations before half term and our Year 10 pupils embarked on their first set of mock examinations during November.

These help to give pupils and teachers a good indication of how they are performing and what areas they need to focus on going forward into the academic year.

### Adding "Enrichment"

This term has seen the launch of our new "Enrichment" programme. Every Wednesday afternoon, all pupils and staff across the College take part in a

huge range of activities to celebrate and promote wellbeing, functional skills and social skills in a purposeful way. It has wonderful to see our pupils enjoying new activities and working with different staff and pupils from other year groups.

There are lots of photographs of our Wednesday afternoon antics on the Swanmore College Facebook page.



### Remembrance Day and poppies

The British Legion's work is more vital than ever as they support people from all generations who have new hardships to deal with. Pupils and staff donated to the 2022 Poppy Appeal and on Friday 11th November at 11am we observed the two minutes' silence to commemorate Armistice Day. The Last Post was played and everyone on site was respectful of this annual event.

### College productions

Rehearsals for our "Winter Evening with the Arts" production are now underway. This Christmassy array of music, dance, drama and artwork will take place in the Main Hall at Swanmore College on 8th December at 7pm.

A limited number of tickets are available on Scopay and need to be bought in advance: prices are at £6 adults and £3.50 children.

Swanmore School

# Remembering a wartime headmaster

When Charles Martin retired in 1913 after 37 years as headmaster of Swanmore School, he was going to be a difficult act to follow. The managers chose Ernest Francis Whitaker, then teaching at North Waltham near Basingstoke, as the new head at a salary of £135 a year. He was 33 years old and would remain as headmaster of Swanmore's only school for almost 30 years.

Ernest Whitaker – commonly called “Frank” – was born in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire in 1881. A keen sportsman, as a young teacher he had played rugby for London Welsh, and in Swanmore he became an active member of the village cricket team and enthusiastic coach for the school's footballers.

Just as Charles Martin's wife Emily had taught Swanmore's infants, so Frank Whitaker's wife, Alice, also joined the teaching staff. When the governors appointed her they received a letter from the County Chief Education Officer “deprecating the principle of appointing the wife of the headmaster” but the governors persisted and “in default of other applicants” she kept her post.

## Teaching all ages

In 1913 Swanmore's school was typical of its time: large classes often grouped by ability rather than age; most pupils left at the age of ten, while the school curriculum was firmly based on the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) along with studies of the Bible and Prayer Book. It was not until 1918 that the leaving age was increased to 14.

Like all new brooms, (now the Whitakers brought change: for the first time in the school's history, older pupils were encouraged to take examinations to enter local secondary schools – usually Price's Grammar School in Fareham for boys,

Winchester County High School for girls (now The Westgate School) or Barton Peveril Grammar School in Eastleigh for both. The numbers qualifying were low: two in 1929, one in 1930 and one in 1931. Swanmore resident Vera Tribbeck still remembers Mrs Whitaker and considers her “the best teacher” she ever had. Vera went on to win a scholarship to Winchester County High School.

Other village residents remembered the Whitakers as inspirational teachers instilling in them a lifelong love of both the English language and the countryside. One, Jack Hoar – a regular contributor to the parish magazine in the 1960s – recalled in a memoir\* the noise when the call went up from the teacher to “pass your slates up”.

## Overcrowded and basic

Numbers at Swanmore's school increased steadily through the 1920s: by 1929 there were 163 pupils and 181 in 1931. By then there were four teachers – the Whitakers, Mollie Twine and Ellen Blunden – with classes averaging around 40 pupils and generally encompassing two or more age groups.

By 1938 school inspectors considered the school unacceptably full and the managers decided to stop accepting children from outside the parish into the infant school, which would eventually reduce numbers in the older age groups. The school playground was surfaced in 1933 but other facilities were still primitive by today's standards, with cesspit toilets and a well for water.

## Coping with two wars

Ernest Whitaker's tenure as headmaster coincided with some of the most traumatic years in the country's history: 1914 saw the start of



*Ernest Francis “Frank” Whitaker (1881–1952). Headmaster of Swanmore School 1913–1942.*

the First World War when many young men from the village – virtually all ex-pupils of the school – volunteered or were later conscripted into the armed services.

Ernest Targett, a popular teacher at Swanmore School since 1908, as well as a scoutmaster, talented musician, and the church's organist and choirmaster, joined the Hampshire Regiment. He was killed at Ypres on 20th September 1917 aged 31.

After the war there was large-scale unemployment and ongoing financial restraints; the General Strike of 1926 and US stock market crash of 1929 were followed by the great global depression continuing in many areas well into the 1930s. Fortunately Swanmore, being a more rural community, did not suffer as badly as some parts of the country – but there was little money available for much-needed school improvements.

The economy had barely recovered when war broke out again and Ernest Whitaker had to deal with the problems arising from the Second World War. Once more men from the village entered military service – but

\* “*Swanmore 1906 to 1918*”, which Jack Hoar dedicated “to the memory of Ernest F Whitaker”.



*Above: Frank Whitaker with the 42 all-age pupils of Swanmore School's "Class A" in 1923.*



*Left: The Victorian building and headmaster's house, which – along with the "infant school" across the road (now home to Barnaby's coffee shop) – comprised Swanmore's "all-age" school until the 1960s.*

this time the war was much closer to home with enemy aircraft raids on Portsmouth, the main base for the navy, and Southampton for the docks and the design office and manufacturing sites of the Spitfire fighter aircraft. Children from Gosport were evacuated to Swanmore, which meant that Swanmore children attended school in the morning while those from Gosport had their lessons in the afternoon.

### **An active village life**

Alongside his school and sporting activities, Frank Whitaker also played a significant part in wider village activities.

He was voted onto the Parish Council (receiving more votes than any of the other candidates) and was its chairman in 1930/31 – the first to

take over the chair following William Myers' long tenure (1894–1930). He also played a key role in negotiations with the Gosport Water Company that was providing mains water into the village and was involved with the West Hampshire Electricity Company, which introduced electric street lighting to Swanmore. Electric lighting was installed in the school in 1932.

When the Rights of Way Act 1932 came into force, Mr Whitaker walked every local footpath and right of way in the parish, consulting older inhabitants in the village on any doubtful points, and ensuring that traditional rights of way were not lost

Ernest "Frank" Whitaker retired on 31st January 1942 after 29 years as headmaster. He continued to live in Swanmore until he died in November 1952 and he left a lasting tribute to the

school by donating land he owned next door as a sports field.

He was succeeded as head teacher by Margaret Belbin, who took the revolutionary step of grouping pupils in classes by age rather than ability and encouraged more pupils to sit the 11-plus examination to attend the local grammar schools. The Hadow Report of 1928 had recommended that all pupils should move to "secondary school" at the age of 11 and all-age schools with pupils from five to 14 should be phased out as soon as possible.

By 1961 when Swanmore's new "secondary modern school" – now Swanmore College – finally opened, fewer than 4% of England's pupils were still in all-age education. Swanmore was thus one of the last places in the country to continue teaching village children up to, by then, their 15th birthdays in the same school.

*Crawford Wright*

## In the hedgerows

# Have a very berry Christmas

It's the time of year when grass verges have been trimmed, most hedgerow plants have died down for the winter and all that is to be seen are late stinging nettles, some struggling cow parsley seedlings and the last of the bedstraws. In theory all those berries on the hedgerow trees should have been collected in the "autumn", but the weather has been mild and the first frosts that should soften so many of them have been a rare occurrence. So there may still be time to find rosehips, possibly even some unshrivelled sloes, although the elderberries and haws are long gone.

There are, of course, plenty of berries on the hollies this year for Christmas displays. They are toxic to mammals – humans and dogs – and swallowing them can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration, and drowsiness. Adults might get away with swallowing up to three berries but children (and dogs) have had symptoms after chewing on just one or two. Including some holly berries in your advent wreath looks festive – but if you have a dog that tends to chew on anything that might be edible, do pick up any that fall off your wreath.

As for those rosehips and sloes, they are best picked after the first frosts. Pick them before and you have to pierce your sloes with a needle before adding them to gin or struggle to chop rock-hard hips. After the first



Rosehips in November – almost ready to pick.

frosts they are suitably softened – which certainly reduces the "prep" time.

### A useful source of vitamin C

Weight for weight, rosehips contain 20 times more vitamin C than oranges and wartime babies may remember being regularly dosed with spoonfuls of rosehip syrup in the 1950s. More recent studies have shown that rosehip extracts also have anti-inflammatory properties and can reduce the pain of osteoarthritis. Apart from its health-giving properties, the syrup is delicious poured over vanilla ice cream, porridge or yoghurt and can also be diluted for use as a cordial.

Rosehips are generally gathered from the dog rose (*Rosa canina*) – widely found in our local hedgerows – or *Rosa rugosa*, a particularly thorny variety often recommended for creating burglar-detering hedges in gardens. Most modern garden roses are hybrids and there is little information on the vitamin C content of their hips, but those from older varieties (such as *R. centifolia*, *R. damascena* and *R. gallica*) are all edible, although they are not as flavoursome as dog rose hips.

### Making your own syrup

There are numerous recipes for making rosehip syrup: some recommend de-seeding the rosehips first and also removing the tiny hairs they contain. This can be both time-consuming and very fiddly, but is easier if the hips have been softened by frost first. Otherwise simply crush the whole hips with a potato masher or give them a short spin in a food processor and strain the prepared syrup very thoroughly (see box right).

An alternative is to wash and trim the hips (top and tail to remove the stalk and flower remnants), score each hip with a sharp knife and then fill a large jar with alternate layers of hips and sugar. Leave for about three months on a sunny windowsill until the



Plenty of holly berries this year – but make sure your pets don't eat them.

sugar has absorbed the juice from the hips to create a syrup; strain and store in clean sterilised bottles.

If you don't want to wait quite as long you can put your jar (make sure the lid is loose) in an oven on its lowest setting for a few hours (or leave it in the bottom oven of an Aga overnight) which will also produce a syrup.

## Rosehip syrup

11b/500g rosehips – crushed  
Sugar (soft dark brown sugar works well)

Wash and rinse a couple of bottles – enough for about 1.5pt/750ml of syrup – and put on a tray in a low oven (50–100°C).

Put the crushed rosehips in a large pan with 1.5pts/1lt water, bring to the boil and simmer for 15-20 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to steep for a further 15 minutes, then strain through a fine jelly bag. Return the strained pulp to the pan and add a further 1pt/500ml water to the mixture and repeat.

Combine the two extracts, strain once more and measure the juice and transfer to a clean pan.

To every 1pt/500ml of juice add 12oz/300g sugar. Bring to the boil, stirring until the sugar has dissolved and skimming off any scum if necessary. Boil for about 5 minutes then decant into the warm bottles. It will last for about four months.



*Farringdon's ancient yew – now in need of support: both practical and financial.*

## Trees

### Hampshire's very ancient yews

Methuselah allegedly reached 969 years but 27 ancient yew trees in Hampshire are even older: at least 1,000 years old.

Old yews are usually found in churchyards; they include those at St Nicholas Church in Brockenhurst, St Mary the Blessed Virgin in Newton Valance and St Thomas à Becket in Warblington.

The yew tree in the churchyard of St Mary's, Hayling Island, has an impressive girth of some nine metres. Its age has been estimated to be between 1,000 to nearly 2,000 years.

The oldest yew tree in Hampshire is at All Saints Church in Farringdon near Alton. Estimates of its age range from 2,500 to 3,000 years.

It is now listed in the Ancient Tree Inventory as a tree of National Special Interest. In 2020, a campaign was started to raise funds for a support structure for the tree, which is now at risk of collapse. So far £5,500 has been raised, but more money is still needed.

*Bryen Woods, CPRE Hampshire*

## Seen and heard

### Watch out for winter warblers

Global climate change is now widely accepted to be happening, whether people believe it is human-caused or not. Its manifestations are varied and sometimes complicated, with so many factors involved. One possible manifestation is behavioural change in some migratory bird species.

Two warblers illustrate this quite well with winter sightings, either in Swanmore gardens or the local countryside, being commonplace, whereas 50 years ago they would have been rare occurrences.

Both blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) winter numbers have significantly increased over recent years. This is partly down to individuals finding sufficient food during the milder winter conditions to induce them to remain in the UK, rather than carry out the usual migration to southern Europe or northern Africa.

It is also due to some individuals migrating from their breeding grounds in northern Europe to spend winter in the UK rather than heading further south. Travelling shorter distances to find winter food appears to have the advantages of less energy expenditure and less overall risk.

Blackcaps are difficult to confuse with any other bird species. Roughly the size of a house sparrow, they are one of the more robust-looking warblers, the male sporting a black cap (hence the name) and ashy-grey

undercarriage, while the female is broadly similar but with a rich brown crown. Their presence is often given away by rustlings in the ivy, as they help themselves to the nutritious berries. The males' calls are, to my mind, one of the most-attractive sounds of spring, like a flutey and more-urgent version of a blackbird's call.

Chiffchaffs can easily be confused with willow warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). Both are smaller and daintier than house sparrows, with an overall greeny-brown appearance and a pale eye-stripe. They can be found flitting about in shrubs and the undergrowth searching for insects. Chiffchaffs can be distinguished by their darker legs, but the best diagnostic feature is their onomatopoeic call, but this is not usually heard until early spring. Willow warblers, however, invariably migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during the winter months, so are unlikely to be seen.

So, look out for the latest winter warblers, not just the traditional ones singing on your doorstep before Christmas.

*Marcus Charig*



*Above: Chiffchaff above the Meon.  
Left: Male blackcap in the orchards.*

From our district councillors

# Ways to save energy and pay for garden waste

It seems to have been only yesterday when we were talking about young people going to college or university for the first time, or indeed going back to their various places of study. Since then, we have had occasion to “plumb the depths of sadness” when Queen Elizabeth II died; but we have also been able to celebrate – the accession of a new King, Charles III, Swanfest at the College, Boomtown to the east of Winchester, and – more recently – Bonfire Night put on by Friends of the Primary School, Hallowe’en and Thanksgiving Nowwe look forward to Christmas and the Coronation on 6th May 2023.

In the middle of all of this we have a new Prime Minister and what appears to be a period when we will all have to “draw our belts in” to pay for our energy supplies and the excess spending during the covid months; not forgetting the dreadful war in Ukraine, which each day seems to bring successive horror stories.

### Coping with high energy bills

We are frequently asked how are we all going to pay our energy bills? Some suggestions are being often repeated:

- Can we turn our central heating down by 1° Celsius?
- Do we need to have so many lights on in the evening; will only one or two do?
- Can we turn our hot water temperature down to 50°C?

Of course, there are other, more-expensive measures for the long term such as double or triple glazing, insulation in the walls and roof space, or solar panels on the roof (and a back-up battery?); drawing your curtains in the evening and night is rather less expensive. Even so, heat can still be lost through double glazing and air-source or ground-source heating.

Organisations like WinACC (Winchester Action on Climate Change) as well as both the County Council and the City Council have ideas that may help, as do various charities. WCC has established an Emergency Grant Fund to provide help and give practical support around the cost-of-living crisis. See [winchester.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://winchester.gov.uk/cost-of-living) for additional support.

While we write this article, we only have what hopefully is “wild speculation” as to what the “mini-budget”, scheduled for the 17th November, will bring. Some very “hard choices” are going to be made – none of them easy, many financially painful. We await!

### Garden waste payments

Let us remind all garden owners that the new garden waste annual subscription for 2023 is now required if you wish to have continued garden waste (brown bin) collection. So far, we have no news about the proposed food collection regime promised in the Environment Act 2021. We are advised that while cost estimates are being drawn up in anticipation, there are no regulations dictating when it should start.

### Local Plan consultation

The Winchester Draft Local Plan is now available to all for consultation (until 14th December). You may make comments via [winchester.citizen-space.com/policy-and-planning/local-plan-regulations-18](http://winchester.citizen-space.com/policy-and-planning/local-plan-regulations-18).

The good news so far is that, other than the Persimmon Homes, Belmont Farm and adjacent field sites in Swanmore, and the Morgan’s Yard development in Waltham Chase, there will be no further building other than “windfall houses” – generally in-fill developments in gardens. We are all hoping that Government figures, along

with those from the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH) authorities e.g. Fareham and Eastleigh, will not change the situation too much.

The CEO of Winchester City Council has given her staff a slightly longer break for the Christmas period in thanks for the incredibly hard work that they have put in over the covid period and in the preparation of the Regulation 18 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan. While the office will have a much-reduced workforce, the emergency procedures will still be staffed throughout the Christmas period.

The WCC budget will be drafted before the beginning of 2023. We are already aware that parking fees will be changed to encourage out-of-town parking (in part due to air quality issues) and we expect some other charges will be increased along with Council Tax and various precept rises.

Finally, may we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a very happy New Year.

## Our Winchester District Councillors

- Frank Pearson 01489 892822 – [fpearson@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:fpearson@winchester.gov.uk)
- Malcolm Wallace 07739 050224 – [mwallace@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)
- Vicki Weston 01329 835161 – [vweston@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:vweston@winchester.gov.uk)



Frank Pearson



Malcolm Wallace



Vicki Weston

Village walks

# A circular walk from Droxford via Soberton

This walk takes in countryside views and a local pub. It can easily be shortened to three miles.

Distance: 5.5 miles/9km Time: 2–2.5 hours

This walk crosses fields with pleasant views, particularly on Soberton Down where there is a panoramic view from the Isle of Wight almost round to Old Winchester Hill, some woodland walking and several short distances of road walking.

It passes the White Lion at Soberton at about four miles, just the right time to slip in for a pint. It is generally suitable for winter walking. Parking is generally possible at Droxford Village Hall, in Union Lane or near the church. On busy days there is usually plenty of space at Droxford Recreation Ground.

**Start**

**1. From Droxford Church to Station Road – 0.4 miles**

The path follows the Wayfarers Walk around the churchyard making for the bridges over the River Meon. Cross the bridges and head straight up the field, through two kissing gates (sometimes these can be avoided by using the field on the right) and go slightly left making for a gate. Cross the bridge over the Meon Valley Trail to meet Station Road.

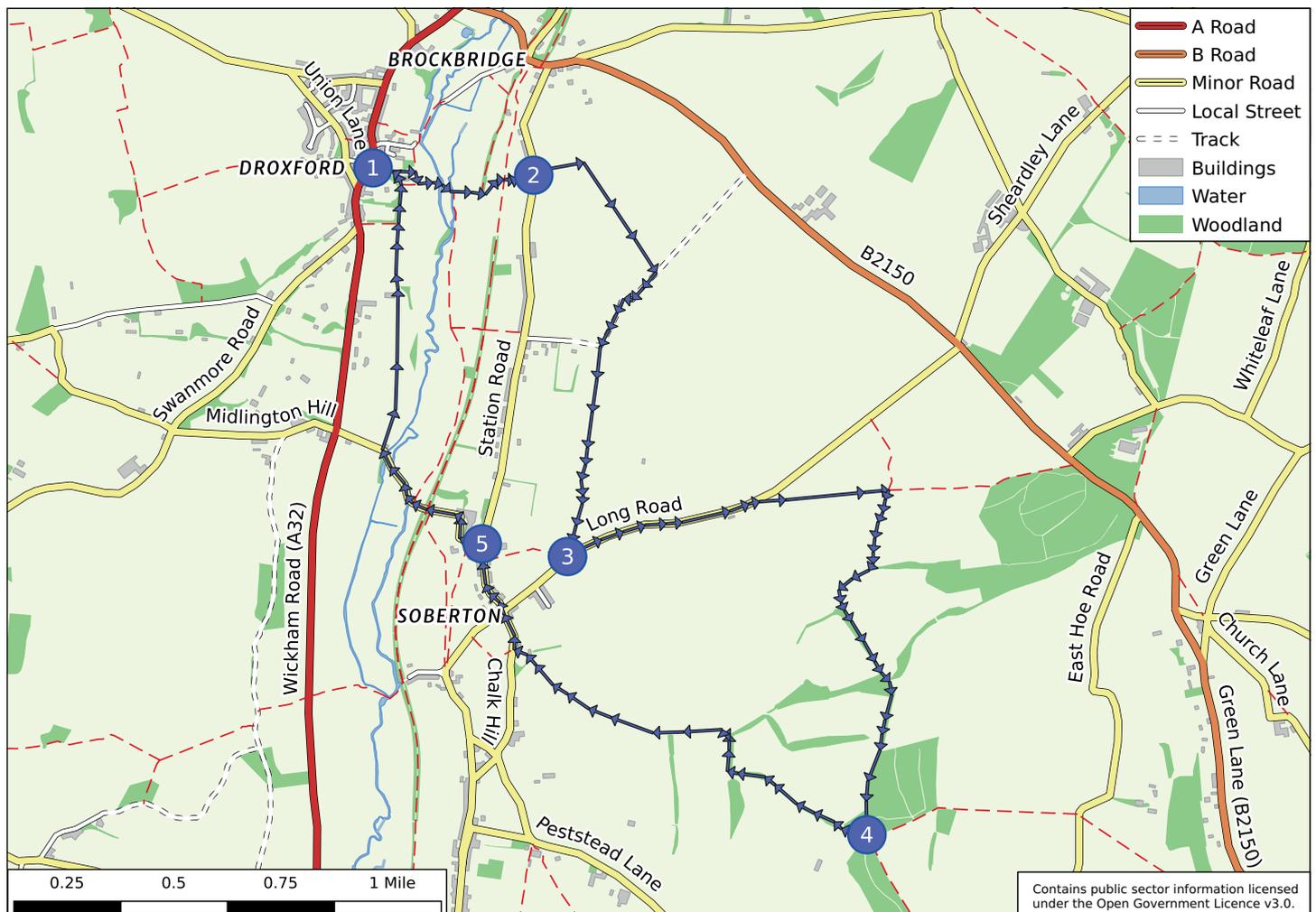
*If the river is flooding the path between the bridges, there is an alternative adding half a mile by going from the churchyard through a field to*

*Mill Lane. Take the path to the right of the Mill which becomes a road. At the end of the road at Brockbridge, turn right up a track to the Meon Valley Trail going right. Exit the trail at the next bridge and join the path to Station Road.*

**2. Station Road to Long Road Soberton – 1.2 miles**

Turn left onto Station Road and immediately right, over a stile into fields. Follow a broad path, at first beside a hedge line on the right, then across a field to meet a track. Turn right onto the track and follow it until you see a stile straight ahead when the track turns right. Go over the stile and bear slightly left across a field to another stile. Continue with a fence line on your right, over a further stile to reach Long Road.

*Here you can shorten the walk by turning right onto a track/footpath which comes out on School Hill just below the White Lion pub (see section 5 overleaf).*





*The White Lion at Soberton.*

### 3. Long Road to Wayfarers Walk at Bottom Copse – 1.7 miles

If you are not taking the short cut, turn left onto Long Road and continue for half a mile until you see some sheep pens on the right and a finger post. Climb over an awkward stile, go along beside the pens, then diagonally across the field to another stile. Go across the stile onto a bridleway and turn right. This climbs steadily on a track, sometimes narrow, until it reaches the Wayfarers Walk – 1.2 miles. Look out for the waymarks at the crossing to avoid going too far.

*The Roman coffin found at Manor Farm in 1880 now rests outside Soberton church.*



### 4. Bottom Copse to the White Lion – 1.3 miles

At Bottom Copse, turn right onto the Wayfarers Walk footpath through a narrow belt of trees. In spring there are masses of bluebells here. The path turns right when reaching a field and then left around the field boundary. Go straight through the hedge line onto Soberton Down. Take in the fantastic view from the Isle of Wight almost round to Old Winchester Hill. Continue straight across the Down to a gate and an enclosed path steeply downhill beside a horse paddock. At the end bear right onto a driveway which leads to Chalk Hill. Turn right onto Chalk Hill and go down the hill to the crossroads by the village hall. Go straight across into School Hill and the White Lion pub.

*If you have taken the short cut described in (2) above, continue on the following route.*

### 5. White Lion back to Droxford – 1 mile

Having refreshed yourself at the pub or rested on the green or in the churchyard (seats in both places) it is worth looking in the church and at the Roman stone coffin outside. Join the lane (Cutts Arch) to the left around Soberton Towers and down to the Meon Valley Trail bridge. Here you could join the MVT and exit where you crossed it at the start. However, a more picturesque route takes you further down the lane. The Wayfarers Walk goes off to the right through fields back to the river bridges. You might get the message that the farmer

expects you to keep to the path... However, it can get quite boggy in one or two places and there are usually cows in the fields. I prefer to continue down the lane to the mill and take the footpath on the right. This leads you straight back to the churchyard at Droxford through fields and pleasant scenery.

*David Street*



The Wayfarers Walk is a 71-mile trail running from Inkpen Beacon to the north of Hampshire down to the sea at Emsworth.

It approximates to an ancient route that might have been used by drovers taking cattle for export and passes through a series of small towns and villages, with attractive scenery.

It is a varied walk; the start is high, with imposing views north from the escarpment of Walbury Hill; while the end is a pleasant stroll along the coast past the northern end of Hayling Island. The walk is well waymarked, with discs that contain a "WW" symbol and with a couple of exceptions mainly follows long, linear tracks.

Hampshire County Council has divided the walk into six sections:

- Inkpen Beacon to Kingsclere
- Kingsclere to Dummer
- Dummer to Alresford
- Alresford to Droxford
- Droxford to Denmead
- Denmead to Emsworth

Separate leaflets for each section, as well as one for the entire walk, can be downloaded at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/walking/wayfarerswalk>



**Ramblers**

**Upcoming walks**

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

- Wednesday 7th December, Owslebury via Baybridge, 5 miles, Gill and Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am – Owslebury recreation ground car park (use concrete area only).
- Sunday 11th December, Ropley via West Tisted and Bramdean Common, 8 miles, Lesley 07982 442650. Start: 10am – Ropley recreation ground car park behind the village hall. Bring a picnic lunch.
- Wednesday 21st December, Hambledon, circular walk around the village, 4.5 miles, Peter 07974 648970. Start: 10am – car park at the top of Church Lane. Take the drive to the left of church for the free car park at the rear.
- Wednesday 4th January, Bishop's Waltham via Upham and Ashton, 5 miles, Carol 07724 870674. Start: 10am – park in the road behind the south pond, Bishop's Waltham.
- Wednesday 11th January, West Meon via Bere Farm and Marlands, 5 miles, Lesley 07982 442650. Start: 10am – West Meon village hall car park.
- Sunday 22nd January, Emsworth via Nutbourne and Thornham Point, 7.5 miles, Lesley 07982 442650. Start: 10am – Bridge Road car park. Bring a picnic lunch.

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

*Michael Hewlins*



Photograph by Bertie Ferrone

***Bishop's Waltham's yarn-bombers marked Queen Elizabeth's death in September in their characteristic style atop pillar boxes.***

**BW Tudor Event**

**Community award for celebrating Henry VIII's visit**

Bishop's Waltham has won "Best Community Event of the Year" for its Tudor Experience commemoration of Henry VIII's 1522 visit to Bishop's Waltham, in the annual Hampshire Association of Local Councils Awards.

As the winner of the 2019 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Village of the Year Award – the last time the awards were run due to covid – Bishop's Waltham hosted the 2022 Village of the Year Award Ceremony on 29th September. The 2022 Village of the year award was won by Odiham Parish in North Hampshire.

Bishop's Waltham was delighted to win the Best Community Event of the Year Award. The entry was recognised for the partnership approach used to organise the event in which the Bishop's Waltham Society, the Town Team and the Museum came together to form a Planning Group and share

the load. The judges were also very impressed by the involvement of so many local people, community organisations, traders and volunteers.

Audience at the awards ceremony was shown a film of the Tudor Experience event which helped to bring the event to life. The film can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/8HnhR8W6u6w>. The £100 cheque received as winners was donated to the Meon Valley Foodbank.

"This award is deserved recognition of the hard work and creativity put in by so many people," said Councillor Judy Marsh, chairman of Bishop's Waltham Parish Council.

*Sarah Berry*

*Pictured below are representatives of the Bishop's Waltham Society, Town Team and Museum receiving the award from Dawn Hamblet, chief executive of HALC.*



## Waltham Priory Probus Good talks and a great lunch

Waltham Priory Probus Club members recently enjoyed a "Classic Lunch", with guest speaker Roy Norton. Roy has had a most



interesting career in broadcasting, which started in the BBC many years ago. It was a good light-hearted trip down memory lane with some great shots behind the scenes from past memorable British and world events. An excellent three-course lunch ended the occasion.

Probus is a local, national and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, autonomous clubs that provide regular opportunities for members to meet others with similar interests, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women – friendly, welcoming and able to accept some new members at present. We have some good entertaining speakers lined up.

If you feel like starting each new month with some fun and entertainment followed by a lunch, join us on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley.

For details please contact our secretary on 01489 783386 or email: [janet.gibson1@outlook.com](mailto:janet.gibson1@outlook.com)

*Martin Cooke*  
Vice-president

**Copy deadline for the  
February/March issue of  
The Swanmore Link is  
Wednesday 11th January.**

**Items should be sent to  
[editor@stbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:editor@stbarnabas.org.uk)**

## BW Oral History Group Giving voice to a community's memories

Bishop's Waltham Area Oral History Group's exhibition "Time of Change" is currently on show at the Hampshire Record Office in Winchester until 31st December.

The display comprises posters, research by Bishop's Waltham Junior School, a set of John Bosworth photographs and a "talking book" with the voices of local people who were children in the 1950s and '60s. The group hopes that the display will promote both Bishop's Waltham and oral history as a means of recording community memory.

Formed in 2021, the group aims to collect and preserve memories of local people in the wider area east of Winchester, with the initial aim of recording anyone offering unheard

local memories of the 1930s and the Second World War.

"Time of Change" is accessible in the HRO foyer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free. The pop-up exhibition will be available to other interested groups from January 2023.

*Trish Simpson Davis, 01489 893261*  
Oral history co-ordinator

- *Swanmore's village archive includes an extensive collection of oral history interviews collected in the 1990s and others about the early days of Swanmore College collected in 2018. All are stored as transcripts or recorded on CDs that can be accessed in the Parish Council office.*

## Meon Valley u3a

### Taking a Christmas break

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the afternoon at 2pm in the Houghton Room at the Wickham Centre, Wickham. Visitors are welcome for £2 per meeting.

- 6th December "Winchester part 4" by Andrew Negus.
- 17th January "Mary Seacole and the Crimean Nurses" by Jennifer Burkett.

There are no meetings on 20th December or 3rd January

New members are very welcome, particularly those who have an interest they are willing to share with others in a small group. You can join at a meeting or check out details on the website ([u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley)). Currently the groups are Egyptology, strolling and three reading groups that have spaces. Art appreciation visits will soon restart.

Members have also offered to set up a petanque group to play at Priory Park, Bishop's Waltham and to arrange a bus pass outings group.

Our members are able to visit the Fareham Cinema on the second Thursday of the month as guests of Solent u3a for a reduced price of £3.50.

We are a small friendly u3a of just over 60 members at present and really need more members to keep us going. We are also seeking a new Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested, please let me know.

*Betty Hiscock, Secretary*  
01489 894807

*email: [mvu3asec@yahoo.com](mailto:mvu3asec@yahoo.com)*

*Mary Seacole in  
the Crimea,  
drawn by war  
artist William  
Simpson in  
1855.*



Portsmouth Water

# Don't forget to check your oil tank for leaks

The Environment Agency, Portsmouth Water and OFTEC are encouraging people in Hampshire and West Sussex villages to check and replace failing domestic heating oil tanks.

In the last three years there have been 395 pollution incidents recorded in England caused by leaking or split heating oil tanks, harming birds and aquatic life.

"Heating oil leaks are expensive and are often not covered by insurance," says Dawn O'Neill, groundwater technical specialist, at the Environment Agency. "Clean-up costs are regularly more than £20,000 and can quickly escalate to six figures if drinking water supplies are affected".

"Domestic heating oil tanks are likely to leak and contaminate groundwater if they are more than 20 years old, in poor condition, single skinned or have deteriorating pipework," adds Simon Deacon, Portsmouth Water's catchment and environment manager. "To help prevent this we offer eligible homes a free tank inspection and 50% off replacement works to help protect drinking water supplies."

Easy steps to take to protect your heating oil and home include:

- Find out if your tank and pipes are safe at [www.oilcare.org.uk/look-after-your-oil/regular-tank-checks/](http://www.oilcare.org.uk/look-after-your-oil/regular-tank-checks/) or watch <https://youtu.be/igk6JbKbV3M>.
- Check your tank regularly and before you place an order and have a technician check it annually. This



can happen with your annual boiler service. You can find a registered oil technician at [www.oftec.org.uk/Consumers/FindTechnician](http://www.oftec.org.uk/Consumers/FindTechnician).

- Check your home insurance. You need to be covered for a "gradual environmental spill" not just "sudden, accidental loss".

Always report an oil spill or leak to the Environment Agency's 24-hour emergency hotline on 0800 807060.

Contact Portsmouth Water to find out if you are eligible for the local grant scheme: call 023 9224 9248, email [catchment.management@portsmouthwater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.management@portsmouthwater.co.uk) or visit [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/about-us/water-quality/heating-oil/](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/about-us/water-quality/heating-oil/)

*Ellie Moore  
Catchment & Environment officer  
Portsmouth Water*

## Meon Voices Carols, classics and Show Boat

The Meon Voices community choir's annual Christmas concert will be held on Thursday 15th December at St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham from 7.30pm.

The performance will include favourites from the musical *Show Boat*, traditional and modern classical pieces, and the opportunity to join in with some much-loved Christmas carols. There will be an interval with tea, coffee and mince pies and there is no need to book.

The concert is free to attend but there will be a cash collection with all proceeds divided between the choir and the church's charities.

If you'd like more information about the concert, or about joining the choir, please contact Phil on 01489 579078 or [coundleypj@yahoo.com](mailto:coundleypj@yahoo.com), or email Jane on [janevose@icloud.com](mailto:janevose@icloud.com).

## Bishop's Waltham WI

# Looking forward to carols and "barbershop" songs

Unfortunately, our lecture for October had to be cancelled at the last minute as the speaker had contracted covid, so we had an impromptu beetle drive. Some of us hadn't played since being in the Girl Guides, but there were a lot of laughs, with prizes for the winner and the person who came last.

Some of our members joined up with ladies from Waltham Chase WI and had a lovely walk around Droxford at the end of October, with a stop for tea and cake at the end.

Our WI talk in November was a very interesting one as James Freemantle explained all about Lasting Powers of Attorney and how to complete and submit the numerous forms. There are two Powers of Attorney, one for financial affairs and one for health. Good to have peace of mind with plans in place for the future, should it be needed

Our WI Group Carol Service is being held this year on Tuesday 13th

December at St John the Baptist Church in Shedfield at 2.30pm, with members from our local branches taking part and tea and cake afterwards. At our December meeting on the 20th at 7.30pm, we will be seasonably entertained by Dolly Mixtures, a barbershop group. I'm sure we will be able to join in too.

Our first meeting of 2023 will be on Tuesday 17th January and we will be learning all about Salisbury's Secret War. The New Year is a good time to think about joining us. We have a full quota of lectures lined up, with something for everyone.

If you are new to the area, or perhaps have always wondered what belonging to the WI means, why not give it a try? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street. There is plenty of free parking.

*Allison Gurry, President  
Tel. 01489 895188*

BW Photographic Society

# Annual exhibition draws admiring crowds

One of the big events in the Photographic Society's year is our annual exhibition of member's work, which took place at the beginning of October. A Past Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, Richard and Elaine Izard, kindly presented awards to the winners of the under-12 and 12-16 age categories of our photographic competition for young people in the local area.

Over the three days of the exhibition more than 360 people visited the exhibition, and the comments were wonderful; everyone spent a great deal of time choosing their favourite image for our visitor competition.

We would like to thank the United Free Church for use of their wonderful space to display our work, our sponsors, Pearsons and Jenny Bird, for their continued support, plus thanks to the Town Team organisers

for promoting the exhibition alongside the BW Bites event.

After a two-year wait, Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society was pleased to welcome Iain McGowan FRPS – a member of the Focus Group of Photographers from the Chichester area – to St Peter's Church Hall for a truly inspiring and refreshingly different presentation.

Iain's approach these days is to take images on a compact camera and print them with no processing in software. He then presents the images in panel form.

Looking ahead, our final guest speaker of the year on 1st December will be David McKibben with a talk entitled "Jack of all Trades".

New members are always welcome at BWPS. More information about the Society can be found on our website: [www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk). The Society's junior section meets

on the first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm. If your child/grandchildren are interested in joining please contact Peter Mason on [junior@bishopswalthamphoto.society.co.uk](mailto:junior@bishopswalthamphoto.society.co.uk)

*Dawn Blight*



*Above: 12-16s winner Bebe, with Past Mayor Richard Izard. Her winning entry – "Beach haze" is just above Bebe's head. Right: winner of the Under-12s was "Happy Pup" by Arthur.*



## BW Rotary Club Getting ready for Christmas

Bishop's Waltham Rotary will be out and about in coming weeks with Father Christmas and "Roger" his trusty, brightly lit, musical steam train (pictured above). Tours start on Monday 12th December in Bishop's Waltham and continue on weekday evenings until 23rd December. We will also be having a few static collections over the weekends during that period.

Last year we raised an amazing total of £5,695 and, although we understand that in the present economic climate that money is tight, we would love to equal that amount or do even better.

If you no longer carry change around alternative ways to donate can be found on our website: [www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk)

### Lend with care

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club is committed to helping with both local and international causes so we have allocated a small sum of money to Lendwithcare, a microfinance scheme that supports entrepreneurs living in low-income countries.

The projects we are supporting need between £800 and just short of £5,000, with repayment over four months to 36 months. We have loaned a total of £180 to four projects covering farming, retail and manufacturing in Zambia, Ecuador, Thailand and Cambodia.

As the money is repaid, we will identify further projects and reloan the money to other schemes.

*Ian Treveil*

# Dates for your diaries

## December

- 1st–3rd December 7.30pm (matinée 2pm on 3rd December) Swanmore Village Hall, “Puss in Boots”, Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society pantomime.
- 2nd December 4.30pm Paterson Centre, Pre-school Christmas party.
- Until 3rd December 7.30pm (2.30pm on 3rd December) Oak Theatre, Titchfield, “A Christmas Carol”.
- 4th December 5pm Paterson Centre, Barnaby’s volunteers’ party.
- Until 31st December Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm. Hampshire Records Office, “Times of Change: children of the 1950s and ’60s remember everyday life in Bishop’s Waltham” foyer exhibition, free.
- 6th December 2pm U3A, Wickham Centre, “Winchester part 4” by Andrew Negus.
- 6th December 7.30pm, Wickham Centre. Wickham Society “Domestic technology: We had one of those” by Stephen Hoadley.
- 9th December 7pm St Barnabas, BLOW Saxophone Ensemble, tickets £10 (under-16s free).
- 7th December 10am Waltham Ramblers, Owslebury via Baybridge (see p.23).
- 9th–11th December 11am and 2pm, Acorn Studio, Titchfield. “Night Before Christmas” for 3–8 year olds.
- 10th December 9.45am to 12noon Marsh’s Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
- 11th December 2.30pm, Swanmore Village Hall, Ocean Brass Christmas Concert. £7 adults, £3.50 children.
- 11th December 10am Waltham Ramblers, Ropley via West Tisted and Bramdean Common (see p.23).
- 13th December 2.30pm St John the Baptist, Shedfield, WI Group Carol Service.
- 13th–23rd December 7pm (2.30pm or 1pm on 17th and 18th December) Oak Theatre, Titchfield. “The Nutcracker”, a pantomime.
- 14th December 8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society “The Fosse Way – from Exeter to Lincoln” by Crawford Wright.
- 15th December 7.30pm St Peter’s, Bishop’s Waltham. Meon Voices Christmas concert, free with retiring collection.
- 18th December 6.30pm St Barnabas, Nine Lessons and carols.
- 20th December 7.30pm St Peter’s Church Hall, Bishop’s Waltham WI. “Dolly mixtures”.
- 21st December 10am Waltham Ramblers, Hambledon, circular walk round village, (see p.23).

## January

- 4th January 10am Waltham Ramblers, Bishop’s Waltham via Upham and Ashton (see p.23).
- 6th January 9pm to 11pm, Swanmore Village Hall: charity party and dance by Contraband, tickets £10.
- 11th January 10am Waltham Ramblers, West Meon via Bere Farm and Marlands (see p.23).
- 14th January 9.45am to 12noon Marsh’s Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
- 17th January 2pm U3A, Wickham Centre, “Mary Seacole and the Crimean Nurses” by Jennifer Burkett.
- 17th January 7.30pm St Peter’s Church Hall, Bishop’s Waltham WI “Salisbury’s Secret War”.
- 22nd January 10am Waltham Ramblers, Emsworth via Nutbourne and Thornham Point (see p.23).
- 28th January 7.30pm St Barnabas. A capella music and readings on the theme of love by Beati, tickets £10 (under-16s free).

# Advertisers' Directory

The advertising "year" for six issues of *The Swanmore Link* begins with the February/March issue and renewal subscriptions are due in early December. Thanks to all who have renewed already. A reminder to those still "thinking about it" to contact John Austin on 01489 893409 or [j.austin830@talktalk.net](mailto:j.austin830@talktalk.net) as soon as possible either to renew or to start advertising.

Advertisements can now be in full colour at no additional charge.



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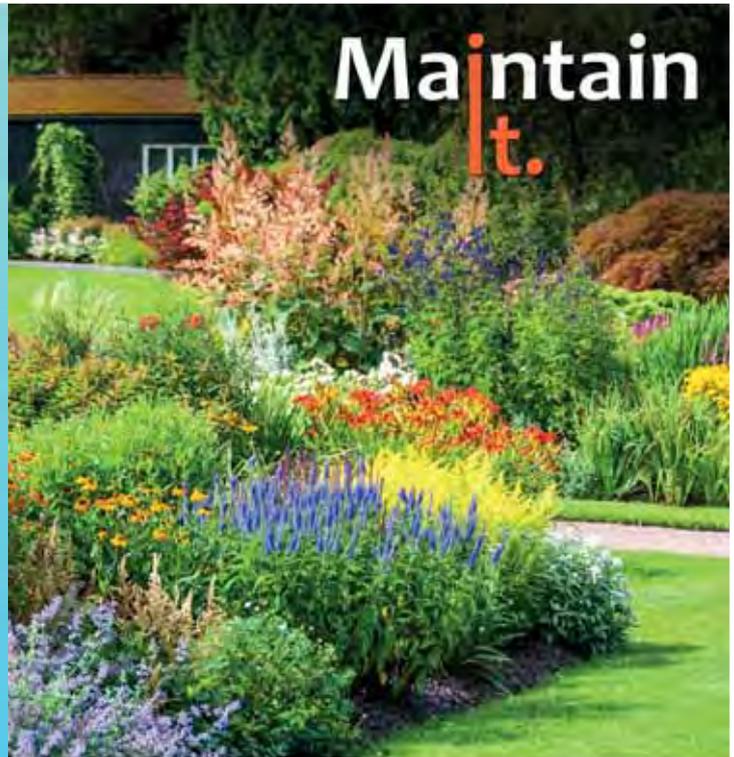
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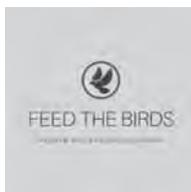
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 SO32 2SA**

**Tel: 01489 896996**

**Email: [enquiries@butlerco-bw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@butlerco-bw.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.butlerco-bw.co.uk](http://www.butlerco-bw.co.uk)**

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Please contact me for more information.

P: 07737 761920

W: sarahcurrycounselling.co.uk

E: sarah@sarahcurrycounselling.co.uk



## Planning - Building Regulation Architectural Services

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[sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk)  
or contact us on  
01489-893779 or 07958 436396

## CHAMBERLAINS

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Rob  
01489 - 891801

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**Mobile: 07721 458067**



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- bte.enquiries@gmail.com

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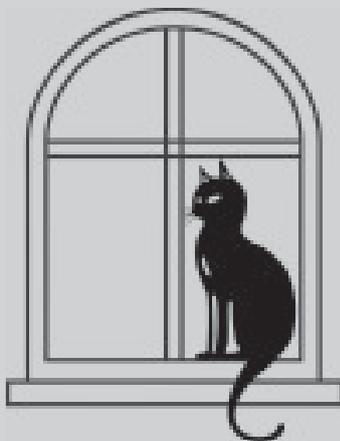
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*Online: [www.sajeupvc.co.uk](http://www.sajeupvc.co.uk)*

**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 TBD  
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 Frank Pearson 01489 892822  
Malcolm Wallace 07739 050224  
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  
Village archives – any enquiries should be sent to the clerk.

## Swanmore College

Headteacher Kyle Jonathan 01489 892256  
Community Programme Chris Loveday 01489 897896

## Swanmore Primary School

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

## Village Amenities

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

### Village Hall

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

### Care Group

Help numbers Barry Rowe 01489 894521  
Allison Gurry 01489 895188

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

### Lunch Club

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

### Baby & Toddler Support

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

### Police

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

### Doctors

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

### Transport

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

### Clubs and Social Organisations

Bridge 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	Information Hub	0800 3287154
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	via 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 "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		01329 667541
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](mailto: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](http://www.barnabys.coffee)



Images of autumn