

June/July 2023

The **Swanmore** *Link*



**Coronation celebrations
Swanmore Open Gardens
Hampshire's lost forest
Swanmore Society latest**

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**Deadline for the August/September issue is
Wednesday 12th July 2023.**

**Copies will be available to collect at
The Link from 1st August 2023.**



Celebrating the Coronation
in Lower Chase Road

The Swanmore Link

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

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

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

The magazine can also be posted to you at a cost of £11 p.a. to cover postage. To arrange payment please contact treasurer@stbarnabas.org.uk.

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

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Serving all shapes and sizes

Do you know the poem* about the six blind men of Hindustan? I learnt it at school – don't ask me why! Six blind men, having never seen an elephant before, are asked to describe one when

they come upon it. The first, who is at the side, thinks it's like a wall; another grasps the tusk and says it would make a useful spear; the third grabs the trunk and compares an elephant to a snake... And, so it goes on. It all depends on where you're standing.

That is true of life, too. If you are a school teacher, you are probably hanging in there and counting the days until term ends; those of you who are in the thick of exams will be hoping you've got the energy to stay the course. You might be looking forward to that long-awaited holiday or, on the other hand, wondering how you will feed and entertain your children for six long weeks.

For those who are sick or suffering, recently bereaved or alone, the summer sun and long, light days will bring little comfort. So much depends on where you're standing.

So, because we are all different, we shouldn't be surprised that when we try to talk about God, we find ourselves stumbling over words and sometimes disagreeing about what God looks like or what God thinks. Perhaps because your past experience was not like mine or because my present circumstances are not the same as yours, and *vice versa*. It all

depends on where you're standing.

The six blind men needed one another to get a comprehensive view of what an elephant was really like. They needed to listen to one another, move around and share the other's experience so they could discard their own narrow view for a much fuller picture. The people in our community need one another. How would we manage life without shoulders to cry on, helping hands to support us or friendly smiles when we are going through the mill?

And the church community definitely needs everybody. *Whether you're tall or whether you're small or whether you're in-between* as we sometimes sing, not only does God love you but God needs you to share in the work of bringing life and light to the world.

The Church has not always been good at embracing variety, preferring to reject those who are *not like us* or whose experience is different from ours. Many Christians only want to worship or be friends with those who are standing with them by the trunk or the tail so they can be affirmed in their view of what the elephant – or God – is like. A colleague of mine once critiqued her congregation as "fully inclusive – as long as you're a graduate".

At St Barnabas, we don't always get it right either but we *want* to be welcoming to all, to listen and share your experience of God wherever you're standing.

Hazel Whitehead

*The poem is by John Godfrey Saxe



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



The following contact details may be useful:

Ministry Team: ministers@stbarnabas.org.uk
Nick & Hazel Whitehead on 01489 895327
Jill Phipps on 01489 891117

Churchwardens:
churchwardens@stbarnabas.org.uk

Paterson Centre/Parish Office:
office@stbarnabas.org.uk or 07857 936023

Services in June and July

Saturday 3rd June

Marriage of Anna Roberta
Burningham and Samuel Oliver
Cowley



Sunday 4th June

Trinity Sunday



8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion. We
welcome Canon Dr Steve
Summers to preach and preside
for his third visit to Swanmore.

Sunday 11th June

St Barnabas Patronal Festival

No 8am

10am Holy Communion. Jill Phipps will preach on
her last official Sunday at St Barnabas before her
ordination on 24th June. Do come and support
her.

Sunday 18th June

2nd Sunday after Trinity – Fathers' Day.

8am Holy Communion

10am Café Church on the theme of Dads

Sunday 25th June

Third Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd July

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion. We welcome Revd Terry
Louden to preach and preside.

Sunday 16th July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Café Church

Sunday 23rd July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

No 8 am

10 am Holy Communion

12 noon Blessing of Marriage of
Doug and Karen Martin and
Thanksgiving for the birth of
Fraser Raymond Sean.



Sunday 30th July

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion. We welcome Revd
Godfrey Hilliard, a retired naval chaplain and
priest, now living in our diocese.

Sunday 6th August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

No 8am

10am Holy Communion



Jill Phipps

Jill Phipps' Ordination will be on 24th
June at 11am in Portsmouth Cathedral.
If you would like to contribute to a
leaving collection for Jill as she moves
on to her curacy at Shedfield and
Wickham, please leave an envelope in
the church wall safe (by the font)
clearly marked. We will be presenting
her with a gift on 11th June.

From the Registers

Baptisms

23rd April Molly Joanna Mullins
28th May Nuno Jonathan de
Sousa

Weddings

28th May Harry John Savage and
Danielle Louise Emery

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB



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

Loving God Loving our community Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services in June and July

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

4th June – Trinity Sunday	Revd. Andrew De Ville
11th June	Revd. Bryan Coates
18th June	Kathy Elvy
25th June	Jill Letts – local arrangement
2nd July	Revd. Bob Kitching – Holy Communion
9th July	Kathy Elvy
16th July	Stephen Freemantle
23rd July	Ron Morgan
30th July	Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) led service

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 the first Thursday each month in person in the Church. If you would like to join us please contact Jill Letts – 01489 896182; email: jill.letts@hotmail.com

Coffee and Company

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

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

13th June – Afternoon visit to Hambledon House Gardens
11th July at 2.00pm – Cream tea
Both these meetings must be booked and paid for in advance. Please telephone Mavis for details on 01489 892148. All ladies welcome

Men's Group

Thursday 15th June at 7.30pm – Revd. Canon Nick Whitehead on "Art: I know what I like"
Thursday 20th July at 7.30pm – To be arranged
All are welcome and there will be light refreshments. For further details contact Martin Letts on 01489 896182

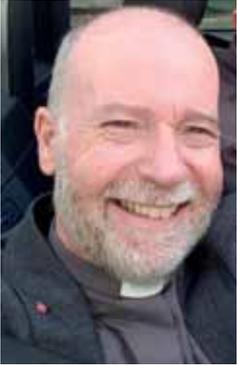
Looking for somewhere to hold an event?

Our premises are now available for hire. Please visit the "Use our venue" page on the church website for details or email: swanmoremclettings@gmail.com

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

Find us on 

Are you being served?



I've been asked to write an article for the Parish Magazine and so I ought to say who I am! I'm Revd Andrew de Ville, Acting Superintendent Minister of the Meon Valley Methodist Circuit. My colleague will be on sabbatical when you read this so three of us have been asked to contribute during this time. My other role in the Methodist Church is as Chair of the Southampton Methodist District, which is a regional role offering pastoral support and leadership across the south coast from Bridport, east to Emsworth in Hampshire, north to Caversham in Berkshire and west to Yeovil in

Somerset, and including the Isle of Wight. But enough about me!

Due to the deadline for printing I'm writing this article on the Coronation weekend and thought that, by June, it would be good to remind myself of the events of that weekend. I'm aware that not everyone wanted to engage with this event, or noted its relevance for themselves or the country, but, in watching the Coronation itself, I was struck by the opening of the service in Westminster Abbey when the young choirboy welcomed the King to the service. The King's reply was that he had not come to be served but to serve.

It's a reminder that the Coronation is about an individual being set aside to serve the kingdom of which they are the Monarch.

On the Sunday of that weekend many people celebrated with the community in which they lived or worked, as street parties and other events were organised so that people could celebrate their own community – a reminder of the many parties that have taken place during other national milestone celebrations, but also a reminder of the community spirit that became evident during the pandemic from 2020 onwards.

On the Bank Holiday Monday people were invited to consider getting involved in volunteering. I am aware, from my own knowledge of various communities based on neighbourhoods, charities, church and faith communities that many people have for many years been volunteering in different ways. It is not that we needed reminding of the need and, I have to say, many organisations would have folded years ago without the support of volunteers. It was, I think, more about the recognition of the value of volunteering. Indeed the Coronation itself would have struggled without the army of volunteers who played their part. It was also important to note that many volunteers were invited as guests into the Abbey, which was an important recognition of the role of volunteers.

In the Christian way of life, our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ is to treat others as we would like to be treated – to be aware of our neighbours and reach out to support those at most risk within society for whatever reason.

As the King took his vows, I hoped and prayed that others would be encouraged to take the vow of continuing to look out for the needs of others, as well as those closest to them. It is only when we really are aware of what is going on around us within the lives of others that we can truly make a difference to God's creation. May we all be supported by our neighbours and seek to be the best neighbour we can be.

Andrew de Ville

St Barnabas social programme

16th July:

Teddy bear's picnic

*If you go down to the church today,
you're sure of a big surprise;
If you go down to the church today,
you'd better go in disguise.*

Join us in the Paterson Centre for a Teddy Bear's Picnic, from 2pm to 4pm.

If the weather is fine, we can sit outside for our picnic. There will be bear-based activities in and around the church, and cakes, biscuits and drinks in the Paterson Centre.

Bring your picnic, blanket, teddy and all of your teddy bear knowledge!

We also hope to be joined by a special visitor, parachuting in for some marmalade sandwiches.

Nina Cawley



9th September:

Film night with supper

Fancy dress is optional and there'll be the opportunity to sing, dance, eat, drink and be merry. This is your chance to suggest a film – just email to jsharpe2016@hotmail.com with your ideas. Please note: films should be PG15 or lower.

John Sharpe

7th Oct: Beer & hymns

Hymns plus other favourite "singalong" songs; supper will be served in the interval. Further information from John Sharpe.

St Barnabas' churchyard Tree planting planned

As part of our churchyard improvements we are going to plant some small/medium sized trees in the south west area which is quite bare, especially following the loss of the large Holm Oak some years back.

We plan to end up with two sets of three trees and, once these are established, will consider planting one or two more if it seems appropriate.

We have taken advice and trees such as field maple, whitebeam, hornbeam, *Liquidambar* sp. and mountain ash (rowan) have been recommended as being in keeping with the setting. We don't require planning permission but will need the approval of the Diocesan Archdeacon.

Each tree will be quite modest in size – 2-3 metres high at the time of planting – and will be placed in the spaces between graves and, where possible, in areas where the gravestones are not close together or are absent.

The plan below shows the approximate locations and the spread when fully grown. If you have members of your family with graves in this area I would welcome you

contacting me now so we can choose the precise final locations sensitively.

The expectation is that the planting would start in the autumn.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

01489 895327

nickjameswhitehead@gmail.com

The images show established versions of the trees suggested with the approximate height and spread for each after about 20 years. The trees will continue growing for much longer than that: some live for up to 400 years and a few can reach 20m/65ft or more.



Field maple – Acer campestre; height: 7m, spread: 4m



Hornbeam – Carpinus betulus; height: 6m, spread: 4m



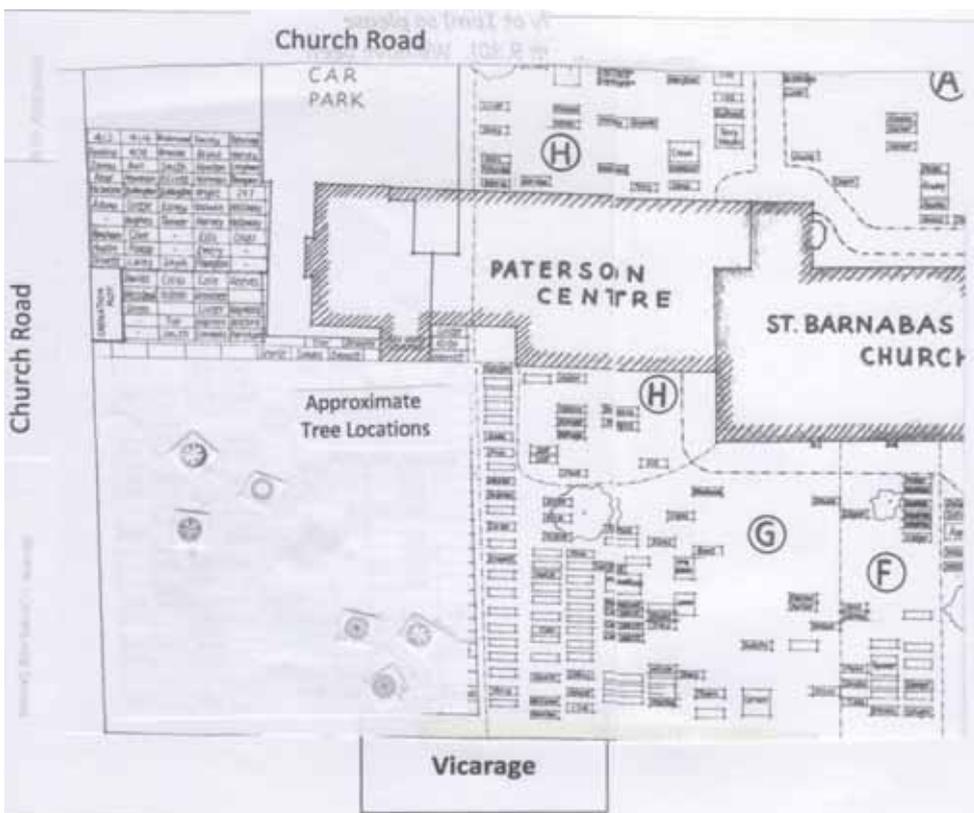
American sweetgum – Liquidambar styraciflua; height: 10m, spread: 6m



Mountain ash/rowan – Sorbus aucuparia; height: 6m, spread: 4m



Whitebeam – Sorbus aria; height: 6m spread: 3m



Swanmore Open Gardens

Record attendance in April – despite the forecast

The weather was kind on 22nd and 23rd April but the forecast was not; nevertheless, visitors came from up to 40 miles away and we broke our record for the weekend with 240-plus visitors and more than £2,000 raised shared between Rowans, Paterson Centre upkeep and St Barnabas.

It was great to see lots of new faces as well as some old ones. I was able to reminisce with a previous attendee about the time she got to push the Lions' minibus while I tried and failed to bump start it on the hill down to *The Hampshire Bowman*. The passengers had to be rescued from

the bottom of the hill by my daughter driving my car and I had to wait several hours for the rescue vehicle to recover the minibus.

Fortunately, there were no such problems with the current elderly minibus, although the Lions are currently raising funds to buy a replacement. The minibus proved invaluable: without it, the lack of parking at the gardens and the narrow lanes would have caused huge traffic jams.

The tea team worked their socks off but stayed cheerful and still had smiles on their faces at the end of

each day. Huge quantities of tea, coffee and delicious homemade cake were dispensed.

Ten gardens were open totalling roughly ten acres. All the gardens are different and show the love and care that is lavished on them by their owners. We are immensely grateful to them and, if the minibus and refreshments are important, it is the gardens that are vital. We are truly blessed with so many generous gardeners, all of whom give their time and energy to prepare their gardens and make us feel welcome.

That brings me on to the weekend of 17th and 18th June when we will again have ten gardens open, including one that has not previously been opened. Arrangements will be as before (adults £6, accompanied under-15s free), free park and ride, delicious homemade cakes, plants for sale, etc. but, in view of the longer days, you will be able to spend more time in each garden. The roses will be at their peak and the gardens possibly even more beautiful than in April. Programmes will be available from 12.30pm at The Paterson Centre, teas from 2pm to 5.30pm and the gardens open from 1pm to 6pm.

John Sharpe

1. *The hard-working tea team: from left to right Anne Pearson, Allison Gurry, Cheryl Young, Derrinda Laing, Jen Frampton and Janet Chant.*
2. *Mike and Jenny Maunder's garden*
3. *Julian and Katie Livingstone's garden*
4. *Jeremy and Mary Thorp's garden*
5. *Roger and Mary Morfill's garden*
6. *Crawford and Julia Wright's garden.*

Photographs by Bertie Ferrone.





Meon Valley Lions

Providing plenty of help

This year's Swanmore Village Fête organised by the Meon Valley Lions Club is on Saturday 8th July from 12 noon held on the Recreation Ground. There will be the usual mixture of stalls, dog show, entertainments and barbecue – as well as some new attractions – so make a date in your diary to join in the fun.

The Lions took the barbecue and new “Bunny Hop” race game to Swanmore's Big Lunch on 7th May. The event was extremely well supported, so much so we ran out of food and the bunnies were a roaring success. Let's hope our fête on 8th July is as successful!

There was a tremendous turn out for Swanmore's Open Gardens in April and the Meon Valley Lions Club's minibus supported the event by picking up and dropping off lots of people at the various gardens.

The minibus is an essential component of the event as, without it, the narrow lanes of Upper Swanmore would clog and the event wouldn't be feasible.

Minibus appeal

Our 15-year-old minibus has done us proud for many years but sadly its upkeep, running costs and reliability are starting to impact on our ability to help local people.

The estimated cost of a suitable

second-hand vehicle is around £36,000. To date we have raised £18,000 but it's taking too long and we are concerned it will impact heavily on the assistance we provide.

We are seeking support from a number of organisations but if you feel you can donate, no matter how large or small, it will go directly to the fund helping us achieve our goal. Go to www.peoplesfundraising.com and search for Meon Valley Lions.

Carole Dash



Above: Bunny Hoppers at the Swanmore Big Lunch. Below: Delivering visitors to Dahlia Cottage.



SADS

Full houses and an award for excellence

This is a very exciting time for SADS, having fully found our acting legs again after the pandemic with three successful productions behind us.

Planning for this year's panto, *Treasure Island*, is well under way and aiming to be bigger and better than ever. So make sure you keep the 30th November, 1st and 2nd December free to join the pirates and WI (yes, I did mean WI) on the not-so-good ship *Hispaniola!*

We are also very excited to announce that our 2022 spring production of *Hound of the Baskervilles*, under the directorship of Danny Jeffs, has been awarded the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), Accolade of Excellence for Drama. These awards are much coveted and we are especially thrilled with this one as it

was Danny's first time directing.

We launched from a classic production to a full-on, fast-paced farce, *Curl Up & Die*, in April under the experienced hand of director Lesley Preedy. We had fantastic audiences who showed us tremendous support, mainly through their loud laughter! Our NODA review was the icing on the cake praising all aspects of the show, and recognising the sense of team in the society. As they said: "This was a very high quality, delightful production of *Curl Up & Die* which was very obviously enjoyed by a full house".

We are hugely grateful to all our supporters who help this 63-year-old society go from strength to strength.

If you would like to be a part of SADS in any way please contact swanmoredrama@gmail.com.

Caroline Powell



Photographs by Berty Ferrone



Above: Images from the award-winning "*Hound of the Baskervilles*".

Do you want to join the panto... *Oh yes you do!*

SADS will be running a workshop next week for aspiring actors aged eight to 17 who want to take part in this year's pantomime.

If you enjoy acting, singing or dancing and are enthusiastic and committed then the group would love to hear from you.

SADS has a strong reputation in the community for putting on family-orientated, fun pantomimes and is very excited to be looking at increasing its cast of young people to include chorus members and spoken parts. The fun workshop evening is for any young person wishing to be involved.

Rehearsals will take place on Monday nights from 7pm at Swanmore Village Hall and would-be performers also need to commit to additional rehearsals on Thursday 16th and Thursday 23rd November and for the whole of production week from Monday 27th November to Saturday 2nd December (excluding

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

The workshop is from 7pm to 8pm on Monday 5th June at the Portal Room in Swanmore Village Hall. It will be an interactive evening, limited to 15 people, who will get a chance to work with and to talk to some current members. Please note that attendance at the workshop does not

guarantee a place in the show as SADS can only take limited numbers.

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

Below: Young performers at "*Puss in Boots*" in 2022.





Swanmore Conservation Group Making progress as spring starts to bloom

Spring has arrived at last and despite the fact that it's still really cold most of the time the Conservation Area is beginning to look more colourful. In the meadows the blackthorn is in blossom, primroses are still flowering and the dandelions are well out. The buttercups are now coming into flower as is the lady's smock, both pink and white forms. In the woods the wild garlic is looking fabulous and I have seen docks, groundsel and horsetails starting into life.

Last year we planted some hawthorn seedlings in the hedge between the two meadows and it appeared that they had succumbed to the drought but this spring we've seen signs of life on two of them and we've planted one more; hopefully they will grow quite quickly from now on.

The pond in Broad Lane is looking much better after the work done in March; the marsh marigolds have looked good for weeks and now the water lilies have started to make their way up to the surface.

We have had another session helping out with the Primary School pond, clearing more of the reeds, which were threatening to take over, together with some of the mud that was silting up the pond. We also cleared some of the ivy away from trees although there's lots left, which is great because it is a good source of nectar later in the year. With more light reaching the ground, wild flowers have started to appear around the pond including primroses, wood anemones,

bluebells and stitchwort.

We have ordered more hoggin to put on the paths through the Upper Meadow where the water forms large puddles in the winter. We hope to put this down at our June work party - we didn't hold a work party in May as many of our members were away.

After more than twelve years Barry Nicholson has retired as the contractor responsible for cutting the grass and the hedges in the Conservation Area. He has done a wonderful job; his wide grass paths have been much appreciated by walkers and also they look really attractive. We would like to thank him for all his hard work, especially for fitting in the grass cutting around both the weather and the best time to encourage the wild flowers.

On a less happy note, there has been yet more vandalism in Green's Wood, the railing alongside the path at the Church Road end has been torn down and thrown into the deep boggy area where the drainage channel runs. The slope is quite steep and hopefully this can be fixed quite quickly by the



Parish Council as it could be rather dangerous.

The Conservation Group has a work party on the second Saturday of each month; the next dates are 10th June and 8th July. We meet at the hut in the Lower Meadow 9.45am to 12noon with a break for coffee at 11am and we are grateful for all help as there is always plenty to do.

Gill Sawyer, 01489 894206



Mike and Pete with contractors Eddie and James clear the pond.

1. Plan of campaign.
 2. Getting down to work...
 3. ...in the water.
 4. Rubbish cleared.
 5. A job well done.
- Photographs by Pete Mason*





Naomi House

Please save your stamps

I collect used postage stamps, both British and foreign, for Naomi House, so if you have no other outlet perhaps you would like to leave a border of approximately 1/4in/8mm around the stamps and take them to the Link at the Paterson Centre or the Methodist Church foyer where there are collection boxes.

Alternatively call me on 01489 893810. Thank you

Brenda Simpson

Art opportunity

Exhibit your work at Barnaby's

This volunteer-run café invites artists and photographers, amateur or professional, to freely exhibit their artwork on a wall space measuring 1.5m x 1m, complete with STAS hanging system ideal for framed artwork, for one month at a time. Space is available from August.

Contact Alisongailpotter@gmail.com to make enquiries.

Alison Potter

Garden party

Supporting the St George Foundation

The 2023 Swanmore Charity Garden Party in aid of St George Foundation will be held again in the grounds of Primrose Cottage in Vicarage Lane from 12noon to 4.30pm on Saturday 24th June.

There will be a bouncy castle, Mr Bean's mini, face painting, ferret racing, cake stall, tombola, games, pony rides and much more. Classic cars will be a major feature, along with jeep rides for children.

There will also be a barbecue and cream teas, with music from "the village group", Vera Lynn and the "Winchester Guitarist".

Guests are encouraged to park in the village and walk across the field, although there will be limited parking on site (particularly for the disabled and elderly).

Entrance will be free, but with donations to St George Foundation welcome.

St George Foundation, a registered charity, has been rescuing street children in Sierra Leone since 2006. So far, more than 1,500 children have been rescued.

Richard Green-Wilkinson

Below: Last year's well-attended party.



Meon Valley Carers

A meeting with royal flavour

Members of the Meon Valley Carers Group were entertained in April by a presentation by John Wills, one of its members. John is a retired Royal Navy Captain who spent some of his time aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. He presented a personal film of his time on the Yacht which was then followed by a slice of homemade celebration cake.

We welcome carers and the cared for, giving you the opportunity to meet new friends, play along in a quiz and other activities and discover new interests with some of our regular guest speakers and activities.

The group is hosted by Judy (Carer Support Worker) and Alicia and Kim (Dementia Advisors) who are happy to offer advice and information. We also have a committed group of volunteers who offer support and most importantly provide a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit!

If you would like to join us please contact our central team at emailenquiries@andovermind.org.uk or call 01264 332297.

Judy Beaunier

Right: John Wills cuts the celebration cake.



Swanmore College

Plenty of activity in the summer term

College productions

Our creative department staged an amazing production of "Six" last term. It was so professionally put together and as one parent commented: "It was like watching a West End show!". I do hope some of you were able to come along and enjoy it. Rehearsals are now underway for our summer production of "Chicago", which will be taking place on 11th, 12th and 13th July in our main hall.

Sports success

Our sports teams have been busy playing lots of matches and winning them too. These are a list of some of their recent successes:

Netball

- Year 8 girls won the Netball Tournament at Mountbatten School.
- Year 9 girls are unbeaten this term in their league.

Football

- Under-13 girls got through to the Hampshire School Finals Day and came second.
- Under-14 girls won the District Cup and are through to the Hampshire Cup finals.
- Year 7 boys won the District Cup, are through to the Hampshire Cup

finals and are unbeaten in their league.

- Year 8 boys won the Football Tournament at Mountbatten School.
- Year 9 boys are through to the semi-final of the Hampshire Cup and were runners up in the final of the District Cup. They are also top of their league.
- Year 11 boys have won four out of their five league games.

More than 50 of our Year 10 pupils are involved in organising and running events for our catchment primary school pupils.

In addition, we've had notable successes in indoor athletics, table tennis, cross-country, England basketball and skiing, to name but a few.

Year 11

Our Year 11 pupils will be leaving us shortly to embark on their GCSE examinations.

We wish them all the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming them back into college for their end of year celebration : "A Night in Hollywood" themed prom on Wednesday 28th June from 5.30pm to 10pm.

Governor vacancy

An exciting opportunity has arisen for us to recruit both a Parent Governor and a Co-opted Governor to support the work of the Swanmore College Board of Governors and the Senior Leadership Team as we strive to deliver "outstanding" results for pupils.

If you can give an average of up to three hours a week in term time (meetings are held mainly on Monday evenings 5pm to 7 pm) and are willing to undertake real work in supporting the College in delivering its targets, then we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for people with experience and skills, to complement existing board members; these could come from a range of areas including, but not exclusively: health and safety; human resource management and recruitment; careers; finance and accounting; marketing and sales management; performance management, data and statistical analysis; education of young and older people; project management; or information services and computing.

For further information, please look at the Governors' pages on the College website:

<https://swanmore-school.co.uk/general-information/governors/>

Swanfest

Just a reminder that our annual Swanfest music festival is approaching. This is taking place at Swanmore College on Saturday 17th June 2023.

We have some great acts and those already confirmed include Artful Dodger, Blazin' Squad and Toyah Wilcox among others. Tickets are available now via: www.swanfest.co.uk



Left: Under-14 girls football team with the District Cup.

Guiding history

Researching Swanmore's early Guide company

The first Guide Company in the village was registered in 1919 and I have a list of the local girls in the unit at that time. One of the guide leaders in 1924 was Miss Frances Ellwood who had been a Guide in 1919. She was the daughter of the head gardener at Swanmore Park House.

The first Guide leader was Miss P Strick, I think. From the log book completed in Frances' beautiful copperplate handwriting, Miss Strick retired in 1935 and Mrs Brice became Captain in 1937. Ms L G Doyle took over in 1944 and I think Mrs Joan Miller was in charge in 1950.

When I moved to the village in 1973, Margaret Elkins was running the guides and I knew Margaret quite well. Sadly I know very little about those early leaders, Miss Strick, Frances Ellwood, Mrs Brice and L G Doyle, and there may well have been others whom I do not know about.

Any information about these ladies would be most welcome. Maybe there are relatives of these people still in the area and even still in Swanmore?

I would also like to find out more about twins May and Elsie Paice who lived at *The Rising Sun*. They were aged 15 (born 7th April 1904) when they joined 1st Swanmore Guides in 1919. Also information on Ella Barnes, who lived at the School House in 1919, would be of great interest to me.

There are no central records which can confirm these names and dates so I am hoping someone reading this article will have useful information to help with my research. Please send any information to me via the editor. Thank you very much

Denise Lord

Leader of 1st Swanmore Brownies 1978-85; District Commissioner and Division Commissioner 1985-1995

Swanmore Brownies c.1925. Back row – Cissie Carter, Frances Miler, Ivy Jacobs, Nellie Flood, and Stella Silvester. Front row – Margaret Titheridge, Stella Paice (a niece perhaps of those earlier guider twins?), Cissie Richardson, Dorothy Edmunds, Linda Tyne and Sheila Brooks.



Swanmore Pre-school Watching butterflies and hunting eggs

This spring term the children have been following butterfly life cycles, able to watch them pupate into four beautiful butterflies that the children released into the garden.

The children celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III, making their own bunting, flags, and dressing in red, white and blue; all children were given a commemorative King Charles III medal to take home supported by the Parish Council.

Following a successful fund-raising Easter egg hunt and thanks to additional funding we have been able to purchase a new Junior Jumper and a placement rug.

Thank you also to the "Knitter Knatter" group which kindly made our military dolls that have been a talking point for many children and a supportive aid for military families.

Our fundraising "Race Night" is on Friday 23rd June from 7.30pm to 11pm at Swanmore Village Hall. Bring your friends and join us for an alternative fun night of horse racing. All you need is an eye for form and a willingness to place a small bet!

Tickets are £15 per person. Pizza is included but bring your own drinks. Adults only. Tickets are available at the Swanmore Pre-school

If you wish to make an enquiry regarding a place at Swanmore Pre-school, please email sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk or call 07958 436396.

Chimney fire Drama in Chapel Road

Fire engines were called to Chapel Road during the early evening of 5th April when a chimney fire broke out next to the hairdresser's.

Fortunately Pete Mason was on hand with his camera to capture the drama – which was happily resolved by the fire brigade.





Parish Council update

When the elections took place earlier this month, Swanmore's election was uncontested. Nine of our ten councillors were standing again, so were-elected, leaving us with one vacancy.

Following the Council's Annual Meeting, Councillor Jon Woodman was nominated and accepted the position of Chairman and Councillor Pete Ansty was nominated and accepted the position of Vice Chairman.

The Council has three committees each comprising five members: Planning and Highways, Open Spaces and Amenities, and Finance.

West Hoe Cemetery is administered jointly with Bishop's Waltham Parish Council and comprises three members from each parish council.

Each year the Councillors are appointed to at least one of the committees. For the 2023-24 year, the Committees are made up as follows:

Open Spaces & Amenities

Committee is responsible for maintaining and developing key recreational facilities and open spaces within Swanmore parish as well as monitoring the biodiversity of its conservation areas.

Members: Councillor Chris Newhouse, Councillor Pete Ansty, Councillor Andy Rankine, Councillor Simon Campbell-Gurry, Councillor Richard Ladd-Jones.

SPC Meeting Dates

Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Parish Office, usually starting at 7pm

13th June – Planning & Highways Committee

20th June – Open Spaces & Amenities Committee

27th June – Full Council

11th July – Planning & Highways Committee

18th July – Open Spaces & Amenities Committee

25th July – Finance Committee

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

Planning and Highways

Committee is responsible for a range of activities, from commenting on planning applications to road safety and highways maintenance – in conjunction with Winchester and Hampshire councils.

Members: Councillor David Newberry, Councillor Jon Woodman, Councillor Penny Clive, Councillor Richard Ladd-Jones, Councillor Steve Johnston.

Finance

The Committee's focus is on monitoring expenditure to ensure the Council is delivering services within budget.

Members: Councillor Jon Woodman, Councillor David Newberry, Councillor Chris Newhouse, Councillor Pete Ansty, Councillor Penny Clive.

West Hoe Cemetery

Members: Councillor Penny Clive, Councillor Andy Rankine, Councillor Jon Woodman.

Parish Council vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would love to hear from people who are interested in making Swanmore an even better place to live and work.

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences to reflect and represent our community. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor please contact Tracey on 01489 890651 or email clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk for further information.

Parish Council Office

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

PUBLIC OPENING TIMES WEEKDAYS 10am-2pm

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

Parish Maintenance Support

We are very pleased to welcome Paul Eathorne to the Council. Paul is the Council's Maintenance Support, responsible for a whole variety of maintenance jobs around the village, from fixing play equipment to clearing pavements.

Paul already volunteers for a similar role at Itchen Valley Country Park as well as being one of the team who looks after St Barnabas' grounds, so we are in safe hands.

Coronation memorial benches

To commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, the Parish Council is replacing two old and deteriorating benches in the Recreation Ground with two new benches fit for a king.

We think they are a wonderful, sustainable keepsake of the Coronation, and for many they will remind you of the fun we had at our Coronation Big Lunch.



The Coronation

Celebrating a very memorable weekend

The lych gate went red, white and blue, bunting stretched across the village, the church sang "Coronation Praise", a thousand villagers joined in the fun at the "Big Lunch" and the litter pickers did their bit for the "Big Help Out". Swanmore celebrated with a weekend no-one would forget.

Rejoicing at St Barnabas

We didn't have massed military bands or pipers, but we did have our own musicians who made a stirring and joyful noise. No archbishops were present and not a single member of the Royal Family crept in at the last minute to join our service of Coronation Praise but none of that prevented us from having a moving and rousing time as we sang hymns, listened to readings and poetry, and celebrated the coronation of King Charles III.

Our crown comprised 39 knitted flowers in red, white and blue, our candles were made especially for the Coronation and the content of the service all related to kings – earthly and heavenly – and servants.

An extract from Dylan Thomas' *Under Milkwood* reminded us that nobody is "wholly good or wholly bad" and that became part of the theme – that all of us, despite our inadequacies, can do our best to serve others as the King has pledged to do.

The children told us they loved "the blue horses", and the bit "where the Archbishop dunked the King" (anointing with oil is the technical term). Adults appreciated seeing the King stripped of his finery, kneeling in



a white tunic before God – a man like any other, offering himself to God's service.

There were about 20 people present who remembered the last coronation (and were prepared to admit it.) They swapped notes about the size of the television on which they watched it – one boasting a 14-inch screen – such profligate luxury.

Apparently, King Charles loves fruit cake so we enjoyed that with our bubbly after the service. Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way and thank goodness the sun then came out so that the Big Lunches could go ahead. Long live the King!

Revd Canon Hazel Whitehead

Packing the Rec for the Big Lunch

Swanmore Parish Council would like to thank the community for supporting the Big Lunch, and making the day a huge success.

With more than 1,000 people attending the event there was a real sense of community, which was the Parish Council's aim when we started planning the Big Lunch earlier this year.

We wanted the village to make memories and have fun. The afternoon sunshine really was the icing on the cake.

The event was supported by various businesses and groups, and we would like to extend our thanks to





the following people:

- * J Chipperfield & Sons Traditional Amusements for the funfair.
- * The Fun Experts for providing games, including the very popular tug of war.
- * The Rising Sun and The Original

Bar for supplying much needed refreshments.

- * The Meon Valley Lions for another expertly run BBQ.
- * Swanmore Wind Band who played two sets and were brilliant, they really added to the atmosphere of

the occasion.

- * Swanmore Guides and Scout Group who provided lots of support and activities for our younger residents.
- * Chris Thompson for sculpting a record number of balloons.
- * Lila Chesters for creating a ►





throne that was sat upon by hundreds in our photo booth and even made it onto national television.

We had so much fun, we might make it an annual event...

Tracey Molloy, SPC Executive Officer

The litter pickers "helped out"

Swanmore's contribution to the national volunteer day on the bank holiday after the Coronation was to carry out a group litter pick in the village.

Many of the village litter pickers spent time during the weekend, if not actually on the day, making sure that the village looked as tidy as possible. Fortunately the rain, which was threatened for the whole day, was not as bad as forecast and most of the work was done in the relative dry.

There was quite a large pile of bags for Winchester City Council to



collect at the end of the litter pick. The pile could have been larger but not all litter pickers could get their bags there on the day.

Those who took part on the day were able to relax afterwards in the Paterson Centre (below) with a well deserved cup of tea/coffee and cake/biscuits. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for hiring the Paterson Centre and Anne Pearson for setting up the hall and doing the catering.

*David Street
Litter picking Co-ordinator*

Photographs by Bert Ferrone, Jen Frampton and Peter Mason



Swanmore Society

Around Chichester harbour and the reality of prison life

The Swanmore Society's new programme opened with a very pleasant evening in the company of regular speaker Duncan Colin-Jones, who took us on a "sailing trip" around Chichester Harbour as if in his trusty Wayfarer dinghy.

His intent was to reveal the rich history of the area – from the Iron Age fort at Tourner Bury to the little-known exploits of the Combined Operations Pilotage Parties based on Hayling Island in the Second World War. Sites include Fishbourne Roman Palace, the largest residential complex from that era yet discovered in Britain, as well as several manors around Chichester Harbour that are mentioned in the Domesday Book, including that at Warblington near Langstone.

The eye-catching castle tower is all that remains of a fortified house built in the 1520s by Margaret Pole. A niece of Edward IV, she was forced by Henry VII to marry a lowly cousin of his to effectively "neutralise" her threat to the Tudors. Margaret was eventually

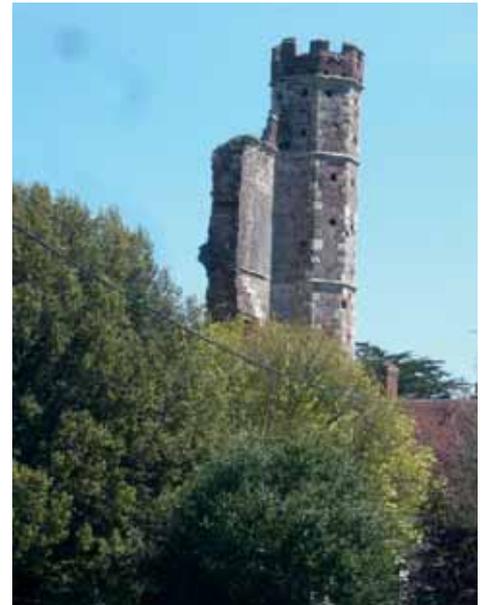
executed in 1541, when Warblington passed to the Cotton family. A century later the Cottons backed the Royalist cause, the castle was taken by parliamentary forces and "slighted", leaving the ruin that is seen today.

A view Of life "inside"

Our May talk could not have been more different. Angus Somerville is a current member and recent chair of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at HMP/YO Winchester. He explained that every prison and immigration centre in the UK must have a functioning IMB in order to remain operational. All IMB members are independently appointed volunteers, and their core role is to monitor the day-to-day lives of prisoners and report on whether they are being treated fairly, humanely and decently.

Angus reported that at 84,500 the prison population in England and Wales is proportionally higher than in other European countries, and is forecast to rise by more than 14,000 by the end of 2026; two-thirds of our prisons are already overcrowded.

HMP/YO Winchester houses Category B and C male adult prisoners and young offenders. Its main building dates from 1846 with cells designed for a single prisoner now mostly having double occupancy, so rather worse conditions than in



The remains of Warblington Manor.

Victorian times.

Capacity at Winchester is 670 and the average length of stay twelve weeks so the annual throughput is around 2,800, with more than 65% of prisoners spending 22 hours each day in their cells. Angus told us that levels of violence, assaults and self-harm in HMP Winchester were some of the worst in the country until May 2022, though significant improvement has been observed since, which he attributed to improved staffing ratios and an increasing focus on education and other purposeful activities.

Suffice to say it was an excellent if sobering talk and the questions from the audience at the end showed how thought-provoking it was for us all.

Next up, on 14th June we have a presentation from Deborah Wheeler on Whitchurch Silk Mill, a 200-year-old watermill powered by the River Test. Deborah will update us on the recently completed "Preserving the Fabric" project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, which undertook major restoration work on the Mill and also put in place a programme to train the next generation of silk weavers.

Following that, Craig Whitelock of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust will visit us on 12th July to explain how we can all make more space for nature in our gardens. We meet at 8.00pm in the Paterson Centre and visitors are very welcome.

Caroline Clapperton 01489 891447



Left above: Silk weaving loom and bobbins. Photograph by Joe Lowe courtesy of Whitchurch Mill.

Left: An aerial view of HMP/YO Winchester.

Local history

Hampshire's long lost Royal Forest

The Forest of Bere was one of the great "royal forests" of England – and just as with the New Forest – it was originally a mixture of habitats, such as heaths, open grassland and farmland rather than uninterrupted wildwood.

The word "forest" was simply a legal definition of land "outside" (*foris* in Latin) that implied areas kept for specific purposes, such as royal hunting, and where Forest Law rather than Common Law applied. The name "Bere" is thought to derive from the Saxon "baer" which meant a swine pasture – although some argue that it related to the number of bears that once roamed the area.

By the eighth century the area was divided into numerous Saxon estates, dotted with farmsteads and, thanks to grazing animals eating any seedlings, a landscape of open pastures with scattered mature trees that were often pollarded or coppiced to create a regular supply of fire wood. More productive land would have been divided into strips with multiple owners – a form of farming that persisted into mediæval times.

Traces of this Saxon occupancy still survive: there are Saxon burial mounds along the southern edge of the Forest, while the names of many local areas are derived from Saxon words. Some local churches include Saxon elements; Corhampton Church, for example, was built in 1020 and is the best example of a late Saxon church in Hampshire.

The arrival of the Normans in 1066 changed all that. The new aristocracy were eager to create areas, with restricted access for the resident Saxons, where they could indulge their love of hunting. Within these new

"royal forests" deer had the right to roam (eating the crops of any Saxon residents that had not already been evicted by the Normans) and only the Crown had the right to hunt them – it was a capital offence for anyone else to do so. The locals – commoners – were also banned from cutting timber for firewood, with teams of keepers and under-keepers employed to enforce the rules. Bere was put under Forest Law in the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries and remained so for some 800 years. As late as the nineteenth century a man could be hanged if found with a gun in an area controlled by Forest Law.

Hunting only for some

With Winchester still the capital of England, the Normans clearly wanted some suitable "forests" nearby and the New Forest to the West was matched by the large area of Baer to the East. It was so large that for administrative purposes it was divided in half: between the River Test at Romsey and River Itchen was the Royal Forest of Bere Ashley, administered from Ashley Manor near Winchester, while from the River Hamble to West Sussex was the Royal Forest of Bere Portchester administered by the Constable of



West Walk was one of the first areas enclosed to encourage tree growth.

Portchester Castle. Dividing the two sections were the "Chases" belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, which included Waltham Chase. These were run much like the Forests, but local Lords and the Bishop had the right to hunt deer there as well as the Crown. The total area covered by the Forest of Bere was around 100 square miles. Horders Wood in Swanmore, which once stretched from *The Rising Sun* to the Winchester to Gosport turnpike, was in the Forest as was Dirty Copse (between Mislingford Road and Cott Street).

The Forest also included "Walks" – areas where teams of keepers could patrol, no doubt on the look-out for anyone breaking the forest laws – who



Hundred Acres Road near Wickham runs through a remnant of the Forest of Bere

Photograph by Crawford Wright.



One of the Forestry Commission's circular trails running through West Walk.

Photograph by Crawford Wright.

would be tried by the Walks' resident Verderers (judicial officers). The first Verderers' Court for the Forest of Bere is recorded in Winchester in 1306 and the last in 1766.

The Forest of Bere hosted many of our earlier kings. Richard the Lionheart held a Royal Council at Bishop's Waltham Palace, visited Portsmouth and stayed at Rowlands Castle for hunting in the Forest. There is evidence that Henry II also hunted in the Forest during his stay at Rowlands Castle, while nearly 300 years later Henry VI stayed at Southwick for some time – possibly hunting as well – while waiting for Margaret of Anjou to arrive from France. They were later married at Titchfield Abbey. Charles I was the last known king to have hunted in the forest in 1628.

While the Normans established the Royal Forests for hunting, their successors were rather more interested in shipbuilding and, as regal interest in deer waned, the need for timber increased. Gradually more areas of the Forest were enclosed to prevent deer from nibbling the trees

Bere's own Robin Hood

Forest Law inflicted on Bere by the Normans caused much suffering to the poor, unable to poach game or cut timber without risking capital punishment, so it is not surprising that many supported the law breakers – especially if they were gifted the odd joint of venison.

The most famous of Bere's brigands were a local band of poachers and robbers known as the "Waltham Blacks", their leader going under the pseudonym of "King John", a title considered to be a dig at the king. This band of men wore masks and blackened their faces to prevent being recognised and must have been of some standing since they were well mounted on horseback and carried swords and firearms.

The more affluent – those more likely to be robbed by the band – were less supportive. In 1721 the band started repeatedly raiding the Bishop of Winchester's land in the Chase and killing deer, before progressing to capturing consignments of wine heading to London from Portsmouth via the forest. The Bishop and others put pressure on government and in 1723 the Black Act came into force. This was: "An Act for the more

effectual punishing of wicked and evil disposed Persons going armed in Disguise and doing Injuries and Violence to the Persons and Properties of His Majesty's Subject, and for the more speedy bringing the Offenders to Justice".

This draconian Act carried the death penalty for almost anything, including cutting down trees, setting fire to ricks, hunting in disguise, damaging orchards, breaking down fishponds or rescuing anyone so charged from custody. As the Blacks became more ruthless so the number of punishable offences increased. Occasionally one might be caught, as was the case with Benjamin Rivers, who was found guilty at his trial in Winchester and hanged on the Waltham gallows as a lesson to others.

The "Black Act" lasted for 100 years until repealed in 1823 under a bill introduced by the then Home Secretary, Robert Peel.

Legend has it that "King John" was "a very robust, enterprising and substantial gentleman" with a mission to restore a little more balance between rich and poor – but who he really was remains a mystery.

and their seedlings, and the area became increasingly wooded – providing useful revenue for the Crown. Between 1600 and 1608 some 5,365 trees were felled in the Forest with a value of £2,129-4s-6d (equivalent to more than £300,000 today), while 8,814 decayed trees valued at £661-4s-6d (almost another £100,000) were also removed.

Declining fortunes

Enforcement of the Forest Law and the associated management structure gradually began to crumble and by the seventeenth century the Forest of Bere had become notorious for lawlessness. In 1662 Samuel Pepys, by then secretary to the Navy Board, recorded hiring "...a countryman to guide us to Havant to avoid going

through the Forest" so great was the risk of highwaymen within Bere.

By the eighteenth century the trees of the Forest of Bere were also fast disappearing. Parliament set up a commission to advise on the future of the Forest and the Land Revenue Office produced a comprehensive report dated 31st May 1792. By then the Forest was estimated to be reduced to 25 square miles with the report noting "...that the condition and management of the Forest is very neglected and in an unproductive state. The lands belong to the Crown and are continually shrinking, mainly due to incursions".

The report also suggested that unenclosed land was worth one shilling (5p) per acre, but enclosed land ten to 15 shillings (50–75p) ►

per acre in tillage. It was decided that Bere would be dealt with in this way, with the exceptions of the East and West Walks and a few other areas that had already been enclosed.

These recommendations were enacted in 1812: removing Forest Laws, transferring the land into Common Law, enclosing more of it, and with large areas sold off to cover the costs. This escalated the loss of even more of the Forest's woodland – not least as those acquiring tracts of land could quickly sell off the timber to cover the purchase price.

Land was also often sold (or given) to those who already had substantial holdings: for example, the Warden of the Forest, Robert Thistlethwayte (d.1802), who owned the Southwick Estate, was awarded 517 acres under the Land Enclosure Act. It was inherited by his son Thomas (1779-1850) and the estate (including large tracts of Bere land) is still owned by the Thistlethwayte family.

Commoners were able to claim allotments but many poor people were left with nothing and were also no longer able to access land for grazing. Many were left destitute.

Responsibility for the remaining land passed to the Crown Office of Woods until 1915 and thence to the Forestry Commission. Both the West Walk and East Walk (now known as

The Forestry Commission has set aside space for camping within West Walk.

Photograph by Crawford Wright.



How Hundred Acres got its name

The Garnier family of Wickham were originally Huguenots who had arrived in England in the sixteenth century and settled in Wickham around 1629. Later George Garnier (1703–62) had bought the Manor of Wickham, comprising some 3,300 acres including valuable Bere Forest woodlands.

His descendent, William Garnier, inherited the estate and had Rookesbury House built in 1824.

In 1840 a large tract of land had been enclosed from the forest and added to the Manor's estate. Unfortunately for William a large number of peasants were living in

hovels on the land and he rather wanted it as a park for Rookesbury House. Rather than evicting the poor, who had been deprived of their common rights by the enclosure, and leaving them destitute he had 100 acres of the forest cleared and built 24 houses, each with a plot of land to enable self-sufficiency and available for a nominal rental.

The area chosen – sheltered and well above sea level – proved ideal for growing fruit and soon became famous for its strawberries. The landless peasants became successful market gardeners and the area is still known as Hundred Acres today.

Creech Woods) are still owned by the Forestry Commission as is Queen's Enclosure near Waterloooville.

Bere's legacy

Whilst the Forest area is lacking in stone quarries it has plenty of clay, which spawned an extensive brick and tile making industry here in Swanmore, as well as in Bishop's Waltham and Bursledon, where the old brickworks is now The Brickworks Museum. Funtley was famous for chimney pot making. There were even mobile brick-making machines that could be moved to the best clay deposits. Other forest products included timber, coppicing, hurdle, fence making and tree barking (for tanning hides). Charcoal was worked

as a constituent for gunpowder and was always in demand at times of threat or war.

More trees continued to be felled: the northern slopes of Portsdown Hill were cleared when the Palmerston Forts were built in the 1860s. The forts were known as "Palmerston's Follies" because the ones around Portsmouth had their main armaments facing inland to protect the port from a land-based attack, and thus (as it appeared to some) facing the wrong way to defend from a French attack by sea.

Today there are many reminders of the heritage of the Forest, not only in local place names but also in the names of local public houses, including Roebuck, Brickmakers, Forest of Bere, Chair Makers, Hunters and Bold Forester.

The Forestry Commission land at West Walk and Creech Wood includes circular trails open to the public with excellent car parking, picnic and play areas for children.

Other parts of the original Forest that are open to the public include Staunton Country Park near Rowlands Castle, Stoke Park at Bishopstoke, Hamble Country Park, Swanwick Nature Reserve and Botley Woods. It is also worth visiting Bursledon Brickworks, which holds the national collection for this industry.

Crawford Wright

Buglife

Demoiselles in distress?

Was that a squadron of miniature helicopters winging its way along the River Meon? A double-take reveals that their landing strips consist of leaves belonging to bankside plants, and their flight is much more agile than helicopters. Rather than lumbering across the sky, they perform a variety of high-speed manoeuvres more reminiscent of a fast-forwarded stunt plane, interspersed with hovering and frequent returns to base.

These are in fact a large type of damselfly called a banded demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) or, more precisely, the males of the species, whose blue-banded wings in flight bear a resemblance to the pattern sometimes observed in rotating helicopter blades. Their mission is to defend a short stretch of river containing ideal egg-laying sites (emergent vegetation) from other males. This will give them a good opportunity to father the next generation as females arrive, searching for the same habitat.

Some males may adopt a more covert operation, hiding in nearby vegetation and ambushing females as they fly past. Occasionally males will engage in aerial dog-fights to determine territory ownership, the winner having the most stamina.

By the Meon at St Clair's Meadow, below Soberton, it has been possible for the sharp-eyed to spot two species of demoiselle, though not necessarily

at the same time or place. As well as the banded demoiselle, the beautiful demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*) has also been known to make an appearance, from around mid-May, slightly earlier than its banded relation. Males of both species have metallic green/blue bodies, but the wings of the beautiful demoiselle are almost completely pigmented rather than banded. The females both have metallic green/bronze bodies, but the wings are suffused green in the banded, and brown in the beautiful.

Quite a challenge to identify, especially when the colours appear to change at different viewing angles and backgrounds.

The banded demoiselles prefer slow-flowing muddy rivers, whereas the beautiful demoiselles prefer faster-flowing, stony ones. It seems the Meon is capable of supplying both requirements along its length. Their presence would suggest an unpolluted river, unlike many around the country that are subjected to agricultural run-off and sewage overflow. The Meon must remain healthy if we are to avoid the necessity of a rescue mission for demoiselles in distress.

Marcus Charig

1. Male beautiful demoiselle
2. Male banded demoiselle
3. Female beautiful demoiselle
4. Female banded demoiselle



Rewilding survey

Have your say on managing nature in Hampshire

As part of my research project at the University of Southampton, I am looking at the potential of rewilding in Hampshire. Rewilding is the process of getting land back to its natural state, to combat the damage done through years of poor management.

With limited space, new areas are now being questioned on their capacity to be rewilded. Rewilding is seen as a way to solve the climate and biodiversity crisis, but is not

always possible due to the way we want nature to look or act.

Because of this, when carrying out this type of conservation work it would be essential to see if people are accepting of it in the first place.

Everyone deserves to have a say on how we manage the landscape so by completing this survey you will be able to voice your opinions.

Scan the QR code to complete the short survey or go to the website:

<https://tinyurl.com/RewildingHants>.

Thank you

Dylan Gussman



In the hedgerows

Don't weed them – eat them!

Loathed by those who crave an immaculate lawn and the bane of many gardeners, how many of us as children were warned not to pick their bright yellow flowers as doing so would cause us to “wet the bed”? Dandelions certainly come into the “marmite” – love-or-loathe – category.

Loving them will be countless bees and other nectar-needing insects as these early spring flower are their vital food source; loathing them will be anyone living near a field dotted with the things on a windy day when their distinctive seeds, each with its own little parachute, cascade across our gardens and land in our flower beds.

Perhaps those parents who warned against picking dandelions were rather more concerned about their children using the seedheads as clocks – seeing how many puffs would remove all the little parachutes and so tell the time...

Country names tell you a great deal about a plant's properties and dandelion's – piddlybeds, pissabed, wet-the-bed or in French *pissenlit* – accurately identify the diuretic properties of its leaves to increase urination. It is, however, a comparatively recently acknowledged attribute.

To the ancients what we now call “dandelion” was regarded as a food

source: possibly listed by Pliny as *aphace* (the identification is very doubtful), an Egyptian type of chicory. To the Anglo-Saxons it was *ægwyr*t or eggwort and merited only a single mention in any of the surviving medical manuscripts from that era: it is listed with thyme, wormwood, agrimony, pennyroyal, black hellebore, lesser celandine, endive, fleabane, and centaury, plus a few other ingredients that have never been satisfactorily identified, as a remedy for inflammation.

It is possible that the Normans named it dandelion from the French *dente de lion* (lion's tooth) based on the shape of the leaves, although others credit the invention to a 15th-century surgeon known only as Master Wilhelm, who compared the shape of the leaves to a lion's tooth or *dens leonis*. It is given this name in the *Ortus Sanitatis*, a guide to health written in 1485, where – like chicory – it is regarded as a bitter remedy for the liver. The botanical name (*Taraxacum officinale*) similarly derives from the Arabic *tarakhaqún*, that means “wild chicory”.

All sorts of uses

Master Wilhelm and his contemporaries regarded dandelion as a cooling herb, as do the Chinese. They have used it in medicine since the seventh century and recommend it for both liver problems and skin eruptions, where it is considered to “cool the blood”. Both the aerial parts of the European dandelion and an Oriental species (*T. mongolicum*) are known as *pu gong ying* in China.

Dandelion leaves are unusual in that they are extremely rich in potassium, which is generally lost in urination, so the plant helps to restore natural balance despite its diuretic action. They are also very nutritious (rich in vitamins A, B-complex, and C, plus iron, manganese, phosphorus, sulphur, calcium, silica and potassium), so are well worth adding



Top: Dandelion clocks loathed by gardeners. Above: The composite flower typical of the Aster family. Below left: Not what you want to see growing in the field next door...

to salads. The young leaves taste rather more pleasant than tough old ones, although – also like chicory – they are still rather bitter. Maud Grieve in her 1930s herbal recommends dandelion leaf sandwiches: tear the leaves rather than cut them (to maintain the flavour) into shreds, add a little pepper and lemon juice and pop between two slices of bread.

Also like chicory the whole plant has a tonic action on the liver; the root is rather more stimulating and cleansing and dandelion root tea makes a good laxative and liver stimulant for a sluggish digestion. It is also a useful cleansing remedy in rheumatism, helping to clear toxins from the system. Dandelion and burdock have been combined in a popular tonic drink since the Middle Ages, which is still produced by a number of commercial companies – and home-wine makers can make a delicious brew from the flowers.



Local walks

Over Wickham way to Wallington river

This is a circular route accessible by bus or car and goes across the fields from Wickham to Wallington River.

Distance: 4½ miles/7¼km. Walking time: 1 hour 55 minutes.

Terrain

There is easy walking over open arable fields with no stiles to negotiate. It can be quite muddy in stretches after prolonged heavy rain although it is a delightful summer walk when dry.

Directions

By bus. Take the No 69 to Fareham. Alight at Forest Lane bus stop on the A32 (at the Rodizio Grill) just before Fareham. A return bus to Swanmore leaves from across the road opposite at 14 minutes past the hour. The £2 cap for any single bus fare is operational until 30th June 2023.

By car. Travel towards Fareham on the A32. Go past the Rodizio Grill and turn left at the next roundabout to Albany farm business units and park in the slip road on the left. Walk back towards Wickham along this road taking a footpath between the cottages and a collection of vehicles to Forest Lane.

Start

The walk starts and ends at the Rodizio Grill.

1. From Forest Lane to Bone's Copse

Walk up Forest Lane for just over half

a mile (15 mins) to a footpath on the right just after Crockerhill Chapel, a former Mission School and Victorian chapel that was converted into a house in the early 1990s. Follow this narrow path to the fingerpost to the open fields.

2. From Crockerhill Chapel to Bere Farm

Go straight across the large open crop fields stretching out ahead giving a distant view of the radar aerials at the Admiralty Research Establishment on Portsdown Hill. Keep straight ahead, passing a track from the left and A E Robert's wholesale fruit tree nursery until you reach Bere Farm on your right.

3. From Bere Farm to the Wallington River

Go past the farm and turn right onto a made up track then off towards the river where the track bends round to the right. Keep to the right on the footpath here to avoid any boggy





ground until you reach the small wooden footbridge on your left.

4 –5 From the river via the pylons

Ignore the public footpath over this bridge and instead carry straight ahead through onto a grassy farm track with the river running alongside on the left. The track goes right around the edge of the field and continues onto to a harder track alongside the pylons.

Here you will see environmental margin signs often seen around crop fields. The creation of grassy field margins, as part of the UK

Government's Environmental Stewardship (ES) Scheme, is one of a number of measures proposed to mitigate the adverse effects of arable intensification on wildlife. Widespread development of these margins will potentially increase the amount of habitat available to small mammals in arable landscapes, as many species do not inhabit the cropped area.

Follow the track until it bends sharp left. Here, go straight ahead under the pylons onto the smaller grass path.

6. Heading back to Forest Lane

Joining a public footpath from the left,



Above left: The Rodizio Grill on the A32 near Fareham where the walk starts and ends.

Above: The Environmental Stewardship Scheme is aimed at improving the habitat for small mammals by maintaining uncultivated margins around arable fields.

cross a footbridge to go up some steps into a field. Follow the footpath uphill across the fields, ignoring the track crossing from the right over to a private track on the left, and head towards the trees ahead where the track bears round to the left.

Continue until you reach the earlier fingerpost to turn left to join the footpath back onto Forest Lane, and left back to the restaurant.

At this point people using the bus can walk back into Wickham by crossing Forest Lane onto Castle Farm Lane (unnamed) to the A32 just outside the village. Great care is required here to cross the wide busy road to reach the footpath on the other side.

Lin Powell



Left: Crockerhill Chapel in Forest Lane takes its name from nearby Crocker Hill and was a Victorian chapel that later became a mission school. The building was converted into a private dwelling more than 20 years ago.

From our district councillors

Council changes and ongoing issues

As we write this article, we are well into Spring. Roadside flowers of the season are in full bloom and the trees are midway through gaining their summer foliage. How many of you, like me, have noticed that trees these days seem to have more and bigger leaves – or is it just that they are all that much older?

Just under half of our 18 years-plus adults have been to our various village halls to vote in a new Councillor for the Central Meon Valley. Vicki Weston (now Mrs Sherwill) has retired from the Winchester Council, although she is still an active member of Soberton Parish Council.

We would like to thank Vicki for her years of service to the villages of Central Meon Valley. She was a very active member of the City Council making Winchester aware that the rural element of the Southern Parishes is as important as the urban areas in Winchester.

The May Election results were:

- Ford, Kris – Conservative Party: 889 votes
- Gregory, Thomas – Liberal Democrat: 313 votes
- Lee, Danny – Green Party: 2,168 votes
- McNally, Antony – Labour Party: 66 votes

Cllr Danny Lee (who lives in Droxford) was duly elected as the third Councillor in our area – 45.86% of our electorate voted. The new City Council is 30 Liberal Democrats, 12 Conservatives, two Green Party, and one independent.

Once the “excitement” of the election was over we then had the Coronation weekend for King Charles III, and Queen Camilla, the beginnings of what is being called the Carolean Era.

It seems that every village within our Ward had at least one celebration. Enthusiastic reports suggest that

everyone who attended the village’s events enjoyed the celebratory picnic in the sun. Major thanks to the Parish Councils and those who sponsored the occasion.

Thanks also to the various ‘Litter Pickers’ who cleared up the event sites. Even though most rubbish was put into the bins there were still overspills.

Continued major issues raised during the election campaign included “fly tipping” (WCC, HCC and the Police), sewerage overspills (Southern Water), potholes (HCC Highways), and planning (WCC).

- We are aware of the sewerage outflows in Hambledon and Waltham Chase but are there any others that should be added to our list? Southern Water is “full of apologies” for their very poor performance in January/February. Those that receive their water from Otterbourne had no water for several days and the bottled water supply was very difficult, especially for many elderly people. To compound the problem there were many sewerage leaks – such as in Hambledon, Colden Common and Winchester High Street!

- Fly tipping continues to be outrageous and the City Council continues to be active in its clearance. This service costs ratepayers some £70,000 to £80,000 a year in Winchester District alone. Some is recovered when the offenders are prosecuted.

- Potholes are of increasing concern. In the years that I have lived in the area I have never seen such a massive increase in their numbers. This is a job for HCC (Highways) but financial constraints, and the speed with which they develop, means that it is difficult to clear them all up. Please slow down when driving, and report them via either the WCC App,



Potholes are increasing everywhere.

or direct to HCC (Highways). They are aware if there is a “white box” drawn around them. The County tells us that the heavy weight of electric vehicles along with heavy lorries have added to the problem!

- Planning is often an issue. Any issues raised will be followed up by representations to either the Planning Department or the Planning Committee.

None of these issues can be dealt with in 24 hours but do not let that stop you calling or emailing one of us to try to find a solution.

Our Winchester District Councillors

- Danny Lee 07896 644 504
dlee@winchester.gov.uk
- Frank Pearson 01489 892822 or 07515 116 647
fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
- Malcolm Wallace 07739 050224
mwallace@winchester.gov.uk



Frank Pearson



Malcolm Wallace



Danny Lee

Community Swimming

Making a summer splash

Bishop's Waltham Community Swimming (BWCS) has arranged for the pool at the Bishop's Waltham Junior School site to be open between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Monday to Friday mornings for the first two weeks of the school summer holidays, from Monday 26th July to Friday 4th August.

There will be two fun swim sessions each lasting an hour on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and one fun swim hour on the Tuesdays and Thursdays. The second hour on Tuesday 5th July, Tuesday 1st August, Thursday 27th July and Thursday 3rd August will be for lane swimmers.

Children are welcome to join the lane swimming sessions but they are required to swim lengths and BWCS does ask that they are in the correct lane according to their pace.

All sessions will be supervised by two qualified lifeguards. Children under the age of 8 years must be accompanied by an adult. Toys, floats, rubber rings and sinkable sticks will be available poolside.



The cost per session will be the same as the rest of the year:

- £4.70 Adult
- £3.80 Junior
- £1.00 Children under five years.

Members are able to make use of their membership, which covers summer swimming. Parking is available on the school site close to the pool or on the playground to the left of the main entrance gate.

This summer, Bishop's Waltham Museum's exhibition will include photographs and information about the pool.

For further information: <http://bwcommunityswimming.org.uk/>
Penny Eliot

Waltham Ramblers Evening walks in summer

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

Newcomers are welcome but please contact the leader beforehand in case there is a change.

- Friday 9th June, Beacon Hill Beeches via Betty Mundy's Bottom, 5 miles, David 07805 957030. Start: 7pm. Car park under the trees at Beacon Hill Beeches, SO32 3LJ (SU598227 OS map OL32 or L185).
- Sunday 18th June, Cheriton via Cheriton Wood and Bishops Sutton, 9.6 miles, Gill and Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am Cheriton recreation ground car park. Bring a picnic lunch.
- Friday 30th June, Upham via Green Hill, 5 miles, Andy 07449 447247. Start: 7pm Upham Duck Pond.

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



Until September Bishop's Waltham Museum will be celebrating sport – with many photographs like this one of the BW Cycle Club meeting at Eastways House. The museum is open at weekends, 12pm to 4pm.

Waltham Priory Probus Club

A good way to start each month

Waltham Priory Probus Club members celebrated St George's day on 23rd April with a Classic Lunch. Before the lunch the members and their guests were well-entertained by Roy Norton with a talk entitled "50 years in Television Production – 2" a follow-on from his part 1 talk last October.

Members also recently enjoyed another of their monthly lunches on 2nd May. The guest speaker was Mike Hollis who gave a talk on "King Thutmose – The Lion of Egypt" that was much enjoyed by all. As the lunch was being held in the week of the Coronation of King Charles III all the members proposed a toast of good wishes for the King.

Our future programme of speakers

and topics includes:

- 6th June - Madeleine Salvetti on "Mistresses and their influence on history".
- 6th July – Roy Stainton on "The First Queen Regnant of England".
- 5th September- Geoff Watts on "Lest we forget - The Commonwealth War Graves.

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women and we are able to accept some new members at present.

If you feel like starting each month with some entertainment followed by a lunch, join us on the first Tuesday in Botley. Please contact our secretary on 01489 783386 or email contact: janet.gibson1@outlook.com.

Martin Cooke

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Bluebells and waterworks

Bluebells last for a just a few weeks from mid-April to mid-May depending on how cold and damp the late winter and early spring have been. Bluebells prefer native beech woodlands and Micheldever Woods is on our doorstep. The woodlands stretch along the M3 and access is via Main Road off the A33 Basingstoke road (what3words: crank.flux.turntable for the car park).

On 25th April some of our members took a near-dawn trip to Itchen Wood ,which sits across the road from Micheldever Woods.The best time of day to capture them is either early morning when mist can add atmosphere to your image or around sunset when sun bursts through the beech trees creating dappled light.

Members also went "Out and About" at Twyford Waterworks Open Day on 30th April and took the opportunity to photograph a variety of artefacts relating to the history of water supply. The Edwardian pumping station is a scheduled monument and now operates as a museum with a unique selection of buildings and machinery. This includes a complete series of steam diesel motors and a modern submersible electric pump. The present owner is Southern Water Services, which still extracts 5million gallons from the original bore holes. The next Open Day is Sunday 2nd July.

If all this inspires you to do more with your camera, why not come along to one of our meetings?

We meet at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall in Bishop's Waltham or you can find our programme of events and information about joining on our website: bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk

Ann Erkut

1. Bluebell early morning in Itchen Woods by John Coote. Images of Twyford Waterworks by Mike Hickish (2) and Paul Harknett (3).



More chances to swap goodies

Bishop's Waltham Town Team is again holding a monthly free exchange stall in St George's Square on the last Saturday each month until October from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

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

Since starting in 2021 the scheme has raised more than £800 each year for the town's two charity shops: Revitalise and Rowans Hospice.

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

The dates and themes are:

- ◆ 24th June: Holiday and travel items.
- ◆ 29th July: Toys, games, books and clothes for under-11s.
- ◆ 27th August: Small household items and entertainment.
- ◆ 24th September: Art and craft items.
- ◆ 29th October: Hallowe'en and Christmas items.

If you would like to know more, visit www.lovebishops-waltham.com or contact bishops-waltham-townteam@gmail.com.

Robin Shepherd

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



U3A

Going out and about this summer

There are no meetings during the summer months. Three outings have been organised by Jan Ernest. All outings are on Tuesdays.

■ A guided walk around Chichester by Andrew Negus on 13th June, cost £5.

■ A guided tour of Breamore House on 18th July, cost £10. Members to use own transport.

■ A change to the coach trip on 15th August. It will now be to the Weald and Downland Museum where *The Repair Shop* is filmed, cost £32. Pick up points in Wickham and Bishop's Waltham. We need a full coach to make this viable so it is now open to non-members as well. Payment as soon as possible please.

We are a small friendly u3a of about 80 members at present and



welcome new members. Annual memberships will renew in September. Membership runs from September to August each year.

We are also seeking a new Treasurer, Secretary and Committee members. If no one comes forward the group will have to close as has happened to several other u3as. If you are interested, please let me know.

Betty Hiscock, Secretary 01489 894807, mvu3asec@yahoo.com

West Meon Music Festival From Renaissance to 20th Century

This year's West Meon Music Festival, from 14th to 17th September, promises a wide range of classical music to appeal to all tastes: from Monteverdi to Mahler, Schubert to Schoenberg.

Highlights include an opening concert by the event's founders, the Primrose Piano Quartet, performing works by Brahms, Mozart and Schubert; a recital by Thomas Kelly – winner of numerous international piano competition prizes – the following evening; and three concerts on Saturday including a visit from The Gonzaga Band performing works from the "Age of Monteverdi", and a lively performance of Schubert's *Trout Quintet* in the evening.

Sunday has a French flavour with a recital of French song by rising star

young soprano Harriet Burns and a festival finale featuring works by Fauré, Chopin, Bizet and Saint-Saëns.

The box office opens on 1st June and details of all concerts are at www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.

Below: The Primrose Piano Quartet



Bishop's Waltham Rotary Getting ready for family fun

On 10th June we will be holding the big event of our Rotary year: the Bishop's Waltham Family Fun Day with dog show and motorcade at the Hoe Road Recreation Ground; gates open at 12.30pm.

This year we have more stalls than ever, with a wider variety of food stalls, two music performance areas, plus fairground rides and lots of things to see and do, including a large display of vintage and classic cars and bikes.

Also, for a really good view of the amazing cars and bikes in the motorcade, be in Bishop's Waltham High Street at 12noon as they travel through the town on their way to the showground.

Ian Treveil

South Coast Symphonia Launching a summer of music

Eleven concerts are planned for the first promenade season for Titchfield Festival Theatre's resident orchestra – the South Coast Symphonia.

Following its launch at Titchfield Abbey with three concerts in May, the series continues at the Titchfield Festival Theatre with two American-themed concerts on 1st July and a "Best of British" offering on the 19th July – with music ranging from Pomp & Circumstance March to Bohemian Rhapsody. This concert is repeated at Fort Brockhurst on 4th August followed by two military themed events there on 5th and 6th August.

The series ends with three more concerts in September at Titchfield Abbey, with a "Last Night of the Proms" on 3rd September.

Full details are available at www.titchfieldfestivaltheatre.com/whats-on

Dates for your diaries

June

5th June	7pm–8pm SADS pantomime workshop for young people, Portal Room, Village Hall
6th June	Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch: speaker Madeleine Salvetti on “Mistresses and their influence on history”.
10th June	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
10th June	12.30pm Bishop’s Waltham Rotary Family Fun Day, Hoe Road Recreation Ground.
13th June	Meon Valley u3A outing: Guided walk around Chichester by Andrew Negus. Details p.28.
17th–18th June	1pm–6pm Swanmore Open Gardens, tickets available at the Paterson Centre.
24th June	10am Classic Cars at Barnaby’s, Swanmore village car park.
24th June	12noon– 4.30pm St George Foundation Garden Party, Vicarage Lane.
24th June	10.30am–2.30pm Give & Take: Holiday and travel items, St George’s Square, Bishop’s Waltham.
27th June	2pm–4pm Meon Valley Carers Group, Summer afternoon tea, Paterson Centre.
28th June	5.30pm–10pm Swanmore College Year 11 Prom.

July

1st July	2.30pm and 7.30pm Summer Music by South Coast Symphonia at Arden Theatre Titchfeld.
6th July	Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch: speaker Roy Stainton on “The First Queen Regnant of England”.
8th July	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
8th July	from 12 noon Meon Valley Lions’ Swanmore Fête, Recreation Ground.
18th July	Meon Valley u3A outing: A guided tour of Breamore House. Details p.28
22nd July	10am Classic Cars at Barnaby’s, Swanmore village car park.
22nd July	7.30pm Villagers Open Air Shakespeare Group, <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> Hill Farm House, Droxford Road, Swanmore.
26th July–4th Aug	10.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday Community Swimming at Bishop’s Waltham Junior School Pool. Details p.26.
29th July	10.30am–2.30pm Give & Take: Toys, games, books and clothes for under-11s, St George’s Square Bishop’s Waltham.
29th–30th July	2.30pm and 7.30pm Summer Music by South Coast Symphonia at Arden Theatre Titchfeld.

Plenty for the retired to do

The Meon Valley Active Retirement Association holds regular activities throughout the year at various times of the month including:

- Bridge – Thursdays
- French conversation – Tuesdays
- Italian course – Tuesdays
- Members’ lunch – Fridays
- Scrabble for fun – Fridays
- Spanish course – Thursdays
- Tai chi – Wednesdays
- Table tennis – Wednesdays

For a full schedule of events visit <http://www.mvara.co.uk> or contact: Kenrick Fell – 07528 781075

Save the date for Shakespeare

The Villagers Open Air Shakespeare Group will be returning to the garden of Hill Farm House, Droxford Road Swanmore on Saturday 22nd July to perform *“The Comedy of Errors”*.

Bring your own picnic, drinks, and chairs for an entertaining evening. Tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for children under-16. All proceeds will go to the neonatal intensive care unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital. For further details and tickets contact me on 07803 299973 or 01489 878722.

Jenny Maunder

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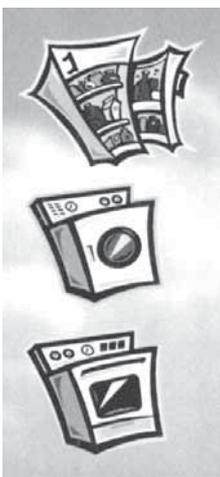
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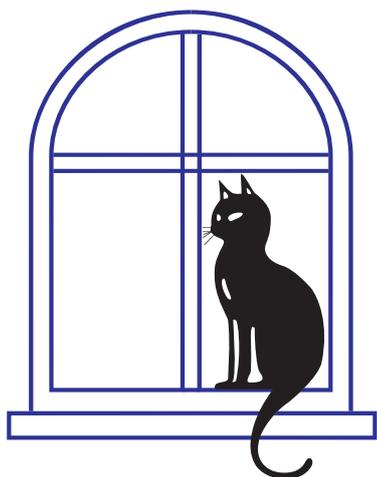


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