

October/November 2023

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



Time to remember  
Where to find help  
A notable submariner  
Moths and butterflies

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**Deadline for the December/January issue is  
Wednesday 8th November 2023.**

**Copies will be available to collect at  
The Link from 28th November 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.

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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# October Festivals – come and celebrate

October is an interesting month. Keats wasn't wrong when he described autumn as a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". Seasonal change is all around us in the trees, hedges and flowers. Winter is not quite here but summer is a distant memory (and we're probably glad this year to forget the rain and wind). Did you know that, amongst other things, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and International Walk to School Month? You could be really busy in October!

It's also a month of festivals and celebrations, some of them stranger than others. Did you know that the 4th of October is Noodle Day (only in the States, of course), and the 28th is International Animation Day? That sounds like an open invitation to spend all day watching your favourite cartoons – including the Simpsons Hallowe'en Special which has been shown on TV every 31st October since 1990.

Hallowe'en is now a major event in the UK and has been hijacked by trick-or-treating and by tales of ghosts and witches – largely following the pattern in the USA. Yet its original title was "All Hallows' Eve" because it was, and still is, the day before All Saints' Day when we give thanks for the saints – not just the famous and well-known ones but the ordinary, everyday ones who have gone before us. It was meant to celebrate the light and goodness in the world, not glorify the scary bits. So why not support the St Barnabas' Light Party (see p.3) and surround your children with light and love rather than let them roam the streets in the dark?

Centuries ago, October was the first month of the year, marking the end of summer and the beginning

of winter – particularly noticeable when there was no electricity to light up and warm the cave. In a good year, the crops were safely gathered and people were thankful they weren't going to starve. That celebration has continued and Christians have built



on the natural human desire to give thanks by having Harvest Festivals. Originally, only vegetables and fruit were offered, but tins, cereals and dried goods are now more useful, and represent the same attitude of thankfulness. They are an offering to God and those in need from those of us who have more than enough. If you haven't been to church for a while, why not come to Harvest Festival on 1st October and join in the harvest hymns.

That sense of thanksgiving is carried into the annual Memorial Service on 29th October, where we come together to laugh and cry and remember all our loved ones who have died. Sharing a cuppa, lighting candles and reading names unites us in our common humanity and grief. And the 12th November is Remembrance Sunday when we gather to remember those who gave their lives in conflict.

Whether you have a strong faith or none, these will be meaningful occasions. Even if you've never stepped inside the church before or not been for a long time, you'll be welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

*Hazel Whitehead*

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



# Services in October & November

**Sunday 1st October**  
*Seventeenth after Trinity –  
Harvest Festival*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am All Age Harvest  
Festival (non-  
Communion)



**Sunday 8th October**  
*Eighteenth after Trinity*  
No 8am  
10am Holy Communion

**Sunday 15th October**  
*Nineteenth after Trinity*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Café Church: The Wedding Banquet

**22nd October**  
*Twentieth after Trinity*  
No 8am  
10am Holy Communion. Please come to welcome  
Rt Revd Ian Brackley who will preach and preside.

**Sunday 29th October**  
*Last after Trinity*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion  
12noon Thanksgiving for the birth of Maria  
Bonnie Alice Lowndes.  
5pm Annual Memorial Service

**Sunday 5th November**  
*All Saints*  
No 8am  
10am Holy Communion

**Sunday 12th November**  
*Third before Advent*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Remembrance Sunday  
service  
10.50am Service continues  
at the War Memorial



**Sunday 19th November**  
*Second before Advent*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Café Church: The Parable of the Talents

**Sunday 26th November**  
*Christ the King*  
No 8am  
10am Holy Communion. Please come to welcome  
Canon Anthony Rustell who will preach and  
preside

**Sunday 3rd December**  
*Advent Sunday*  
8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion



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## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 1st October at 10am. This will be an all-age, non-Communion service so please come and join in the fun, bringing with you dried goods and tins, which will be distributed locally.

## Memorial Service

The annual Memorial Service happens at St Barnabas on Sunday 29th October at 5pm, with tea and cakes at 4pm. We will light candles, sing hymns, say prayers and give thanks for the people we have loved and lost. If you would like the name of a person to be read out, please write it clearly on a note and put it in the box in the Link in the Paterson Centre, or email [da.laing@outlook.com](mailto:da.laing@outlook.com) or [allisongurry@btinternet.com](mailto:allisongurry@btinternet.com)

## Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 12th November. The 10am service is in church and at 10.50am parades to the War Memorial.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

13th August – Baptism of Oscar Lewis Tapley

### Weddings

16th September – Camilla Jane Hamilton Pelly and Oliver James Wilkinson

### Funerals

27th July - Michael Willis  
8th September – Pete Angelis

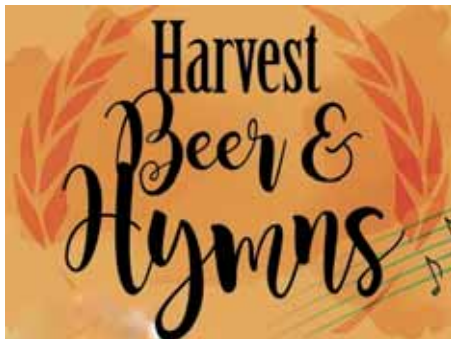
St Barnabas

## Upcoming social and fundraising events

### 7th October – Beer & Hymns at The Paterson Centre

This popular event is back featuring our usual mix of hymns and “singalong songs” brilliantly led by Peter Fellows. Tickets (£10 adults; £5 under-16s) are selling well so don't delay or you may be disappointed. They can be obtained from me: call 01489 892750. or e-mail [jsharpe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:jsharpe2016@hotmail.com)

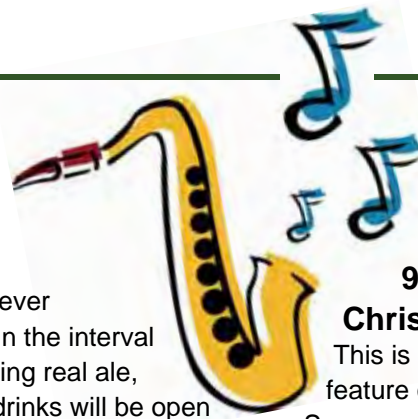
Supper, possibly the best



“ploughman's” you'll ever have, will be served in the interval and the cash bar selling real ale, lager, wine and soft drinks will be open throughout. Doors and bar open at 7pm and singing starts at 7:30pm.

### 18th November – Oh Heck! at The Paterson Centre

Our usual format of whist and a fish and chip supper with lots of laughter (this is not a serious evening of cards). If you haven't played before, it takes a couple of minutes to learn, a bit longer if you have never played cards. I am happy to run teaching sessions at mutually convenient times, just ask me. Tickets go on sale at Beer and Hymns and thereafter by contacting me, see above.



### 9th December Christmas Saxophones

This is becoming a regular feature of December in Swanmore and once again we have a superb concert for you featuring the BLOW Saxophone Ensemble.

Not only will you hear brilliant interpretations of favourite music but you'll be able to join in and sing to your heart's content. Doors and bar open at 7pm, drinks can be taken into the concert, starting at 7:45pm and tea and coffee will be available in the interval.

Tickets (£10 adults, under-16s free) will go on sale in early November, but you can reserve your tickets now by contacting me.

*John Sharpe 01489 892750 or [jsharpe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:jsharpe2016@hotmail.com)*



Ad hoc choir

## Come and sing at Christmas

Christmas is coming and with it the Carol Service on Sunday 17th December.

Our tradition at Swanmore is to form a choir to lead the singing at this lovely candle-lit service. We expect to hold short rehearsals at 5pm on Sunday 3rd and Sunday 10th December and would love to see both

our regular singers and some new faces. Men's voices would be especially welcome. For further information please get in touch with one of us.

*Emily – [emilylouisesandoval@gmail.com](mailto:emilylouisesandoval@gmail.com), or Andrew – [andrew@swanmore.net](mailto:andrew@swanmore.net) or 01489 895870*

## Make a date for the Sunday Club Light Party

The Light Party for all children aged three to ten years is on Saturday 28th October at the Paterson Centre from 4pm to 6pm. There will be games, singing, crafts, music and food. Come in fancy dress.

Entry is free but numbers are limited so contact Ben Armstrong on 07927 933073 for more information.



## 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 October & November**

All services will commence at **10.30am**

1st October	Graham Barber
8th October	Revd. Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
15th October	Mark Tizzard
22nd October	Revd. Tom Johns
29th October	David Boswell
5th November	Kathy Elvy
12th November	Grace Westerduin
19th November	Revd. Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
26th November	Local arrangement – Jill Letts

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](mailto: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)**

10th October at 7.30pm – Silver Jewellery: see how it is made and bring along any items to clean.  
14th November at 7.30pm – Emmaus, Hampshire. Nigel the CEO will tell us about their amazing work  
All ladies welcome. Subscriptions £25.00 for the year (11 meetings) payable in September or £3.00 per meeting

### **Men's Group**

Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm – “Bank Life”, speaker John Gray  
Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm – “Woodworking”, speaker Nick Whitehead 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](mailto:swanmoremclettings@gmail.com)

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

Find us on 

## Versions of ourselves

I write this article in the closing days of August – within touching distance of the end of the summer holidays. The rabbits, who have been perfectly happy together all summer long, have decided to start fighting today (perhaps, like many families with school-aged children at this time of year, they are ready for school to restart!). They've not fought for months, so it's caught us off guard. Sometimes the old behaviours we think we have left behind are lurking just out of sight in the recesses of our minds.

In September, I return (returned, from your perspective) to circuit work after the extended break of a sabbatical. The first week I was at the church I attended for the duration of my sabbatical – the generous and loving Fair Oak Family Church – they played a song called *New Wine*. This song was repeated in a service at the end of the sabbatical, too, giving it spiritual significance to me. Part of the chorus of that song goes "So make me a vessel, Make me an offering. Make me whatever You want me to be".

We all have ideas about who or what we want ourselves, our families, or indeed our pets, to be. Sometimes, we put up masks when we talk to people or post things on social media, to show a sanitised, idealised version of life. We try to "control the narrative": to make sure that people only see our best sides. Over the last few months, I've been reminded that the best side of us is the side with which we face God. That when we give ourselves over to His love and His plans, He works in us to be the best versions of ourselves. We might still be a mess at times, but a mess in God's hands is more beautiful than a fine sculpture in our own hands.

Revd Phil Griffin



Home alone this  
Christmas Day?

Lonely and wishing  
for company?

Come and join us for  
Christmas Lunch with  
pleasant, cheerful  
company.

At Swanmore  
Methodist Church.

Please let us know by  
1st December 2023 if you  
would like to come.  
Contact Kathleen Moorhouse  
by email  
moorhousekathleen@gmail.com  
or phone 01489 893366

Limited transport is available on  
request.

## Picnic in the Park – ended up in the Chapel this year

On the last day of August Swanmore Methodists invited the local children to a "Picnic in the Park". However, the weather didn't approve of us having it at the Rec, so we all joined together in the Methodist Church hall for fun and games.

There were games with a parachute to start, then a singalong session, followed by dressing up and acting out "The Feeding of the Five Thousand" (*à la* "Open the Book" bible story for children).

There was a session of showing people how to pray with the help of Tilly the large TeaSPoon (TSP initials for Thank you, Sorry and Please). Then we had more lively indoor games led by Helen.

Of course there were numerous breaks for refreshment – and rest for the grown ups! These included hot dogs at lunchtime, more than one eaten quite often. After lunch there was a craft session when the youngsters made prayer books.

Later we went into the church to see Uncle John and his puppet friend Jimmy, before finishing officially at 2pm with goody bags to take home. Even the adults were given goody bags as well. (Thank you, Mavis!)

Finally the adults left around 3pm to rest quietly in darkened rooms.

Thank you to Mavis Daniels who organised us all and to all the helpers too.

Right: Feeding the Five Thousand.



In memoriam

# A farewell to Michael Willis

On Thursday 27th July, at St Barnabas. Church, Swanmore said a sad goodbye to one of its own "sons": Michael Willis.

Mike, Mick, Jake – he was known by various names, including Grandad Horsey by his grandchildren – was born in Swanmore on 14th February 1950 to Mick and June Willis, the second eldest child of seven, brother to Christina, Dannie, Tony, Andrew, Caroline and Diana.

He was christened in Swanmore church and lived most of his life in the village; his first home was in Bricklayers Cottage and in 1962 the family moved to 5 Chapel Road. Mike went to school in Swanmore and on leaving school he went to work on building sites and very soon become a digger driver, which he did until retirement at the age of 70.

In 1971 Mike married, and had two beautiful daughters, Cheryl and Vicky. In 1981, Mike met Debbie and they went on to marry in 1984; Debbie already had three children, Sarah, Darren and Zoe, whom Mike took on as his own. They lived in Denmead for a couple of years, then moved back to his beloved Swanmore.

Mike had many hobbies, he enjoyed being outdoors with his dogs and, in later life, he enjoyed his horse

and cart. On Saturdays he would go off with the horse and cart with his friends Colin, Tim, Danny, Wayne and Zane. They would have too many beers – it was a good job the horse knew his way home! Mike also loved to grow his own food in the back garden just like his dad and grandad.

St Barnabas' Church was full at Mike's funeral with standing room only at the back and many people outside – a tribute to his popularity and his good and kind nature. During the service, his family shared memories of him as a brother, a father and a grandfather that included camping holidays at Selsey and Homesley, cooking a big family roast dinner in the caravans, being taught to drive by Mike, bus trips, picnics, meals at Weatherspoons, his love of Guinness, and all the family on holiday in Tenerife, as well as stories of him getting into – and out of – various scrapes.

After the service, Mike journeyed to West Hoe Cemetery on a flatbed cart followed by his horse Queenie. We shall miss lots about him but especially his cheerful smile, and his favourite saying – "it is what it is!".

*Jill Phipps*

*Below: Mike Willis with Queenie.*



## Swanmore Wellness Week Prioritise your well-being

Join us for a week-long series of activities from 7th to 13th October dedicated to nurturing your mind, body and spirit.

On Saturday 7th October from 10am to 1pm, we will bring together local wellness experts, speakers and enthusiasts for a special kick-off event at the Paterson Centre in Swanmore. There will be interactive sessions, empowering workshops and inspiring talks by local wellness experts giving everyone the opportunity to discover wellness services local to you, explore products and connect with like-minded individuals.

This event, sponsored by Swanmore Parish Council, is your opportunity to prioritise your well-being. There will be something for everyone. including mindfulness meditation, holistic massage, reflexology, Pilates, walking groups, nutrition advice, and much more...

And it doesn't stop there. During the kick-off event you can choose to sign up to a variety of wellness activities taking place across the week. All with special introductory offers.

Don't miss this special week-long event designed for you to put yourself first.

Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SwanmoreWellness> for the latest news and updates as the event programme takes shape.

*Alison Potter*



SADS

# Casting off for Treasure Island

And we're off! The crew of the *Hispaniola* has been recruited and Admiral Preedy is really excited to have one of the biggest crews we have ever had. We have new talent, existing talent and returning talent in this crew, so prepare to be amazed.

We even have a team of talented young powder monkeys (recruited from our young people's workshop in June) to scurry around the ship and add mischief to the proceedings.

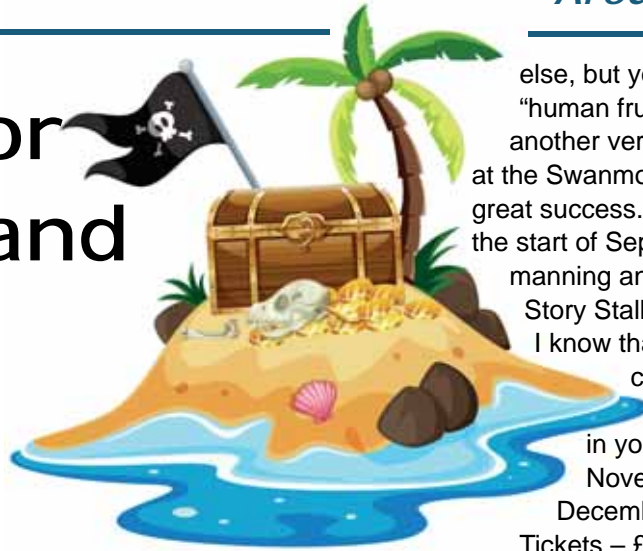
Shipwrights and chandlers (aka backstage crew) are honing their ship-building skills to present a set suitable for high jinks on the high seas. Light and sound teams are working hard

## Theatrical sewing bees needed

Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society is looking for people who would be interested in working with our costume designer on costumes for this year's pantomime, *Treasure Island*.

- \* Do you enjoy theatre?
- \* Do you own a sewing machine?
- \* Can you work with a sewing pattern?
- \* Do you have some spare time?
- \* Would you like to be part of a large friendly group?

If your answer is yes to the above, and you think you might like to give it a try, please contact Caroline Powell at [swanmoredrama@gmail.com](mailto:swanmoredrama@gmail.com) or 07701 044563



to transport you into a world of pirates and adventure. The band has been tuning up, and music rehearsals are underway.

Let's not forget that a crew this size needs a lot of clothes, and our costume designer certainly has her work cut out. If you fancy getting involved in sewing for this crew (see box left) get in touch; the recruiting office is still open!

You may think after reading all this we haven't had time for anything

else, but you would be wrong; our "human fruit machine" made another very popular appearance at the Swanmore Fête and was a great success. "Taste of Wickham" at the start of September saw us manning an interactive "Children's Story Stall".

I know that we are only just casting off but put those *Treasure Island* dates in your diaries: 30th November, 1st and 2nd December.

Tickets – £10 adults, £5 children (Saturday evening, all tickets £10) – go on sale on 3rd November from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/) [swanmoredrama](http://swanmoredrama) or are available Saturday mornings during November from 10am to 12noon next to Barnaby's coffee shop.

Our traditional pantomimes are colourful, lively, and definitely fun for all the family.

We look forward to seeing you all there, me hearties.

*Gail Norris*

## Home-Start

# Murder mystery at the embassy

Following the success of our "Murder Cruise" last year, Home-Start Hampshire is presenting a new murder mystery by Martin Letts, called "A Diplomatic Incident".

The event takes place on Friday 13th October at Swanmore Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm.

Watch the murder mystery and enjoy a light meal between acts (bring

your own drinks, glasses and nibbles) while you try to work out "Who dunnit?". Why not bring your friends and make up a team?

Tickets are £12.50 each, available at Barnaby's on Saturdays between 10.30am and 12noon or you can reserve your tickets by phoning Dinah Weberstadt on 01489 896967.

*Gillian Dirks*



Swanmore Conservation Group

## Fighting duckweed and invasive foreign fern

The new contractors employed by Swanmore Parish Council cut the meadows promptly at the end of July. They also cut the overgrown hedges hard back and cleared the overhanging growth along the Foxcombe Close to the Upper Meadow path for which we were very grateful, it saves us having to do it; furthermore they made a better job of it!

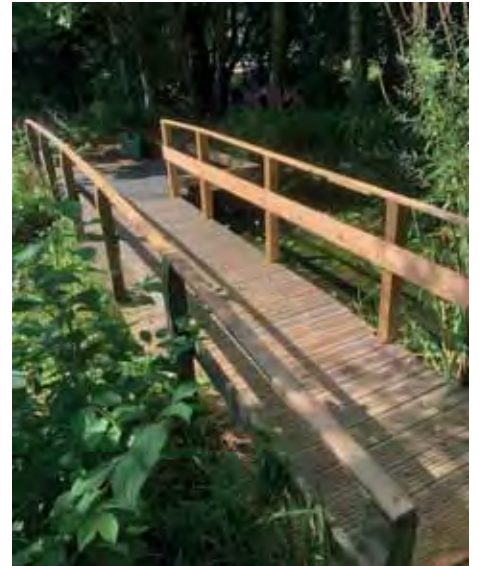
July was wet and so we abandoned our work party but some of our members put in extra hours doing ditch clearance and replacing some rotten boards at the Church Road end of the boardwalk.

In August we did some work on the pond, attempting to reduce the duckweed and the mosquito fern (*Azolla filiculoides*); this is a fern with much reduced leaves and roots that hangs down into the water. Both weeds

block out the light to the wildlife below and stop native plants from flourishing whilst filling up ditches. Mosquito fern originated in the Americas and was introduced into the UK in the nineteenth century; it has become invasive and is difficult to eradicate. The path around the pond was cut back to enable access to overhanging branches and the area around and behind the bench was cut back to make it more inviting to sit on – nettle- and bramble-free hopefully.

The parish council is having work done in Green's Wood, and the contractors are felling ten ash trees suffering from ash dieback. They will also fell a large dead conifer, a dead field maple, a thorn and a dead elm. Other work will be done to remove overhanging dead wood.

A few members of the group have been helping repair the boardwalk



*The boardwalk at the Primary School.*

over the Primary School pond; this has taken several visits during quite a few months but the work is now complete.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month – weather permitting – at 9.45am at the shed in the Lower Meadow. We stop for coffee at 11am and finish at noon. Please join us if you have time; every little bit helps.

*Gill Sawyer 01489 894206*

Swanmore Preschool

## Starting a new term with more fundraising for facilities

We are back after this lovely summer holiday and wish the best of luck to the children who have just left to carry on their journey at "big school". At the start of the term we welcomed back our children who are happy and exploring our new resources, including our water play area. We also have some new children starting this term and are excited and proud to be a part of their journey.

A big thank you to our current and previous parents who have gifted a lovely apple tree to show their appreciation. The new apple tree is situated in our front garden for all to see.

There is also a new staff member to welcome: Nina Cawley, who is undertaking her Level 3 Apprenticeship with us, and we are

very excited to have her join our team!

A family photographer is booked for 14th October who will be available to all current and previous families. Please email [sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk) if you would like to join in.

We are currently fundraising for our nature garden, with the goal of reaching £2,000 to transform this area and allowing us to use it in all weathers. However, in order to achieve this we need new equipment, such as outdoor shelters, nature resources, and more. If you would like to donate please follow

the link on our website to our Just Giving page.

The Preschool offers 15 and 30 hours' flexible entitlement, with opening hours 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday

To find out more visit our website: [www.swanmorepreschool.org.uk](http://www.swanmorepreschool.org.uk) or contact us on 01489 893779.

*Sarah Hiscock*





## It's quiz time

Swanmore Twinning Association will be hosting a quiz on Friday 10th November in the Paterson Centre, starting at 7.30pm. It's £12.50 per person, which includes a fish and chip supper, and there will be a raffle on the night. Bring your own drinks.

For more details and to reserve a table please call me on 07963 809888 or email [lornajneill@hotmail.com](mailto:lornajneill@hotmail.com)

*Lorna Neill*



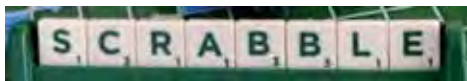
## Swanmore Bridge Club

Do you play bridge? If you do and you would like to spend an enjoyable Thursday evening, why not come to the Paterson Centre from 6:30pm and play with friendly people till just before 10pm? If you don't play bridge (it's a card game in the whist family) free lessons are available.

Some of us started in our teens, others when they learnt that the only two things you need before you retire are bridge and golf – with these skills you'll always find friendship.

For more information please contact me, or visit our website: [www.SwanmoreBridgeClub.org.uk](http://www.SwanmoreBridgeClub.org.uk)

*Graham Lawrence, Chair,  
Swanmore Bridge Club, 01489 894916*



## Join in the fun

The Meon Valley Active Retirement Association (MVARA) is looking for more players to join its "Scrabble for Fun" group that meets each week on Friday's at the Paterson Centre.

Sessions are from 2pm to 4pm so come along and enjoy an afternoon! For more information contact Linda Jones on 01489 891844.

*Leslie Craddock  
Chairman/Treasurer, MVARA*

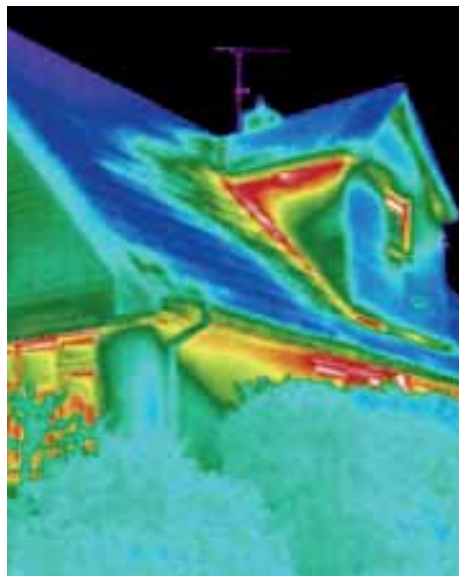
## Cutting carbon

# Identify your home's heat losses and cut fuel bills

Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore (SWaCS) is offering the loan of a thermal imaging camera to Swanmore residents to enable them to identify areas of heat loss from their homes where in-maturation or draught excluders could help them to cut fuel bills this winter.

SWaCS is an independent group of volunteers formed in October 2022 and covering the parishes of Swanmore and Shedfield. It aims to find projects to cut the carbon footprint in these villages following the lead of Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council, who both declared a climate emergency in 2019 and are working towards a "net zero" county by 2030. SWaCS' first project focuses on preventable heat loss from homes.

The average UK carbon footprint per person is about 8.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and the loss of heat from homes is a major contributor. Global reduction of this footprint to about two tonnes per person per year by 2050 should keep a rise in world temperatures below 2°C.



*Thermal imagery can highlight the hot spots on a house where heat is escaping – such as around windows and eaves.*



*SWaCS member, Dave Smith took this thermal image inside the front door of his house built in 2018. It highlights the cold spots where heat is being lost that renewed insulating tape could cure.*

A thermal imaging camera produces a heat map of hot and cold spots and can be used to find where cold is leaking into and heat is leaking out of our homes. Discovering these areas can highlight where to upgrade or repair insulation, leading to warmer homes, thus saving on heating bills and reducing our carbon footprint.

Swanmore Parish Council has bought a small thermal imaging camera that pairs with a smart phone and SWaCS is launching a free loan project from October for anyone interested, whether homeowners or tenants., to survey their own homes. A survey takes about an hour. The camera loan is available to anyone who lives in the parish of Swanmore.

Contact SWaCS at [swacs1997onwards@gmail.com](mailto:swacs1997onwards@gmail.com) and we will get in touch to arrange a suitable time for you to borrow the camera – instructions and help will be provided. SWaCS is an independent group and has no commercial interests in the survey or work arising from it.

*Kim Blakeway, SWaCS*

Barnaby's

## Still time – just – to take part in the “biggest coffee morning”



Almost £30m has been raised through “The World’s Biggest Coffee Morning” in recent years, a nationwide event run in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Barnaby's coffee shop in Swanmore is taking part in this superb event once again, allowing connoisseurs of cake of all types to get involved! Pop into Barnaby's between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 30th September for a slice of whatever takes your fancy,

along with a wide selection of teas and barista-made coffees. We'll also have some games for our younger visitors to enjoy.

Calling all cake bakers! If you'd like to bake for Macmillan, drop your creation into Barnaby's before 9am on Saturday 30th September or by 5pm the evening before. Go to [www.barnabys.coffee](http://www.barnabys.coffee) for more info. We look forward to seeing you all!

*Sarah Walton*

## Meon Valley Lions Club Raising funds in the sunshine

Remember those heady days of summer when carnivals and fêtes provided entertainment for all the family? Bishop's Waltham Carnival, Swanmore Fête, Droxford Fair and Colden Common Fair were just a few of the events the Meon Valley Lions' BBQ and games attended.

They helped create a great day out while raising essential funds – so what do we do with the money raised

In recent months we have:

- repaired or replaced white goods for families in need;
- donated £1,000 to the Wickham Food Pantry;
- donated £1,000 to the Rainbow Centre;
- provided a mobility device for a local disabled youngster;
- supported several Youth applications to fund various trips; and
- run our minibus to support essential clubs for the elderly.

If you'd like to join us contact [www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk](http://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk) .

*Carole Dash*

In memoriam

## Memories of Val Green

*15th September 1936 –  
11th August 2023*

The members of the Swanmore Conservation Group were sad to hear of the recent death of Val Green who together with her husband Alan played such a big part in the creation of the Conservation Area after it was gifted to the village. One of our members recalls what is now the Church Road footpath being just a patch of inaccessible brambles and not realising that it led anywhere. Alan put in a huge amount of work to make the area of Green's Wood and the Meadows accessible to everyone in the village. We are all grateful for all their hard work.

*Gill Sawyer*

Val with her husband Alan and others were founder members of the Swanmore Conservation Group in 2000. Val, who had been a biology teacher, was very knowledgeable about plants, and her warm and friendly personality and sense of humour made her very popular. She provided much appreciated coffee and biscuits for the group during work-party breaks, when practical tasks became difficult for her. Val and Alan moved to Bishop's Waltham for a while before going to Bournemouth to be near family. She remained stoical throughout periods of ill health in later life, and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

*Catherine Kemp*

I met Val, Alan and family in 1974 when we moved into a house opposite them in Fareham. Both families became good friends and neighbours, and their youngest daughter and mine were inseparable throughout their school years. I unfortunately lost touch with them on moving away, but to my huge surprise met up again when moving to Swanmore some years later. It was just wonderful to renew my friendship with them both. Val and I had many interests in common, especially gardening and the keeping of hens, and of course reminiscing about the earlier years. Val was a lovely person to know, kind and caring, and much missed.

*Carol Paling*

Swanmore Society

# Looking ahead to a varied programme

At the time of writing, the Swanmore Society is looking forward to the restart of our meetings and the eagerly anticipated return of Andrew Negus to continue his series on the history of Portsmouth. Look out for the report next time!

On 13th October, we will welcome Andrew Brown from Bishop's Waltham's team of Community First Responders (CFRs) to talk about their important work. CFRs are all volunteers, who are trained by and work with their local ambulance service, in this case, the South Central Ambulance Service. Their primary role is to attend medical emergencies within their local communities and provide live-saving treatments until an ambulance arrives. Andrew will provide more information on the night and it promises to be a very interesting evening.

For the following meeting on 8th November, we have invited Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire since May 2021, to join us and discuss her work. PCCs are elected; their core role is to make policing more accountable and give the public in their jurisdiction a greater voice on police and crime matters through regular consultation.

PCCs also look beyond policing to crime prevention and victim support. In this regard, Donna has been campaigning for mandatory CCTV in taxis across our region to improve safety for drivers and passengers alike. She has also recently approved funding for a drug testing on arrest initiative in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in a bid to tackle the link between drug dependency and crime.

After two months of meetings on



*Above: PCC Donna Jones. Right: Bishop's Waltham CFRs were given this Queen's Award in 2020.*



the broad theme of public service, we will have a complete change of tack in December, with a talk from Alan Matlock on "Building Spitfires without a Factory" in the Southampton area during the Second World War.

The Swanmore Society's meetings are held in the Paterson Centre and start at 8pm. All are welcome.

*Caroline Clapperton  
01489 891447*

## Fly-tipping

# Help to prosecute the culprits

Berty Ferrone is currently incensed at the number of fly-tips he is spotting locally and sent these photographs of debris in Droxford and Hambledon that he spotted in early August.

Winchester City Council has had significant success in recent years in prosecuting the perpetrators of such messes so if you spot a fly-tip on public land or on the highway then report it via the Council's website: [www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/flytipping](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/flytipping)

Don't attempt to move or disturb the rubbish in any way as it is a crime scene and Winchester's investigators will need to look through the rubbish for any evidence that can help identify the culprits. Try to note a reasonably exact location so that you can mark the site on the interactive map on the council's website.

Unfortunately Winchester will not clear fly-tips from private land so rubbish dumped in fields has to be cleared at the expense of the farmer or other landowner.

While Winchester will clear some fly-tips, Hampshire County Council runs the household waste recycling centres where we all ought to be taking items than we cannot dispose of in our usual bin collections.

Since the first covid lockdown it has been necessary to book an appointment at these recycling centres



and Hampshire has been unwilling to change this system although it is generally possible to make a same day appointments so no need to plan too far in advance. You also need to register your car so that you can be identified as a county resident as non-residents are charged £5 per visit. Full details are at [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling)



## Swanmore Primary School Teaching assistant needed

Swanmore Primary School has a vacancy for a 1:1 Teaching Assistant also with lunchtime supervisory hours. We are looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated person to join our fun-loving and supportive team.

The successful applicant will support children who are either on the autism spectrum, have moderate learning difficulties or have a hearing impairment.

The ideal candidate will be someone who is:

- patient, calm and caring
- able to work as part of a team
- committed to enabling children to make good progress
- has excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- demonstrates excellent behaviour management skills
- has an excellent understanding of English and Mathematics (Grade C or above).

Total hours are 17¾ spread over five days with salary Grade A FTE £20,258 - £20,442 and Grade B FTE £20,812 – £21,113.

For an application pack please call into the school office, phone 01489 894555 or email [adminoffice@swanmore-pri.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@swanmore-pri.hants.sch.uk)

*Emily Baker*

## British Legion Christmas coffee morning

Swanmore's Royal British Legion (Women's Section) group will be holding one of its popular coffee mornings at the Paterson Centre on Saturday 25th November from 10.30am to 12noon.

As well as coffee and chat there will be a raffle, cake stall and plenty of books and assorted bric-a-brac with a Christmas theme to help your festive planning.

All proceeds will go to RBL funds.

## Road safety improvements

### New Road

Following feedback from concerned residents and parents, the Parish Council has been talking to Hampshire about safety issues on New Road, and in particular outside of the College, for many years. We have discussed various options including a mini roundabout, a zebra crossing and speed cushions. None of these options have been possible.

For the past three years, the Parish Council has been working on developing detailed plans with Hampshire Highways. Buildouts were proposed by Highways as a solution to slow the traffic down with additional or altered uncontrolled crossing points to improve pedestrian safety..

In early September Hampshire gave the go-ahead for these improvements at New Road which aim to reduce speeding and make the road safer for pedestrians.

The improvements will consist of:

1. An uncontrolled crossing point on New Road, opposite The Lakes.

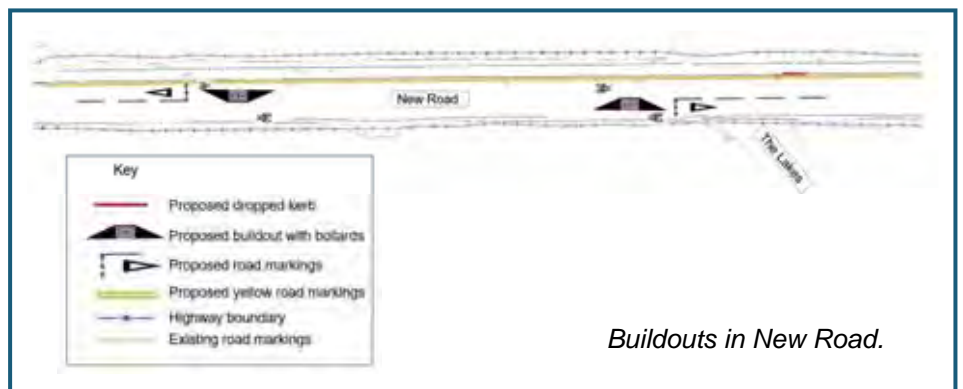
2. Changing the position of the uncontrolled crossing point at the junction of New Road and Springvale to improve visibility.
3. Two buildouts (a form of traffic calming, involving the narrowing of the road) along New Road.

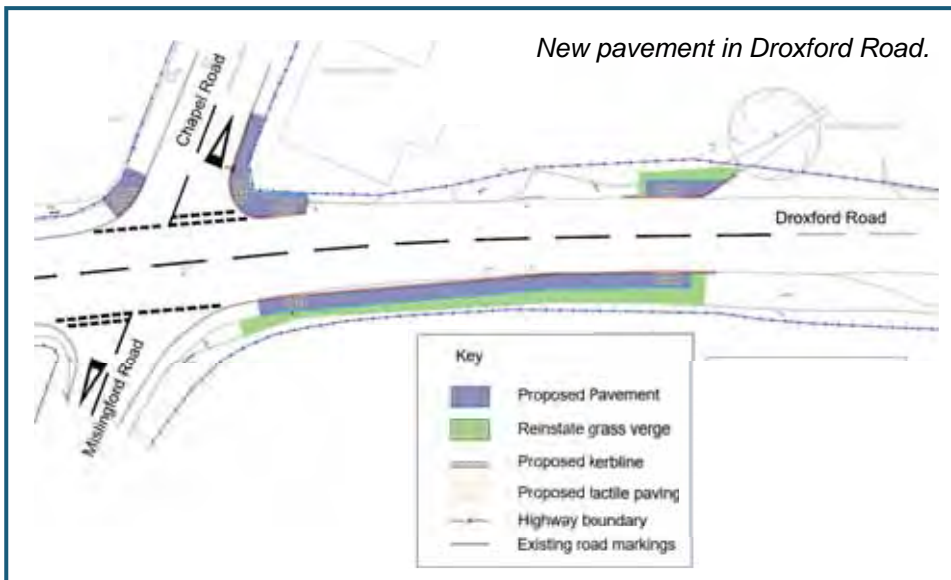
### Mislingford Road/Droxford Road junction

Hampshire is also making improvements to increase safety at the Mislingford Road/Droxford Road junction

When we have start dates for both projects, we will of course share them. We have asked that the New Road work is completed in the school holidays but this may not be possible. If anyone has any feedback on the above plans, please send this to us and we will forward this on to Hampshire.

- ◆ Further details and diagrams for both these projects can be found on Hampshire County Council's website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes>. Search for "New Road" or "Droxford Road".





**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.

**SPC Meeting Dates**

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

- 10th October – Planning & Highways Committee
- 17th October – Open Spaces & Amenities Committee
- 31st October – Finance Committee.
- 14th November – Planning & Highways Committee
- 21st November – Open Spaces & Amenities Committee
- 28th November – Full Council

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

**Local Plan**

Winchester City Council has revised its timetable for finalising the Local Plan. This is the document that sets out development in the district over the next 15 years.

There was a high response rate to the Local Plan consultation which means that the planning team need more time to properly consider all the feedback received. Various pieces of evidence that feed into the Plan also need to be updated.

The “Reg 19” (pre-submission publication version) is now expected to go out for consultation in July-September 2024 before being submitted to the Government and an independent inspector (“Reg 22”) with potentially a further consultation on any modifications in April-June 2025 before ultimate adoption in October-December 2025.

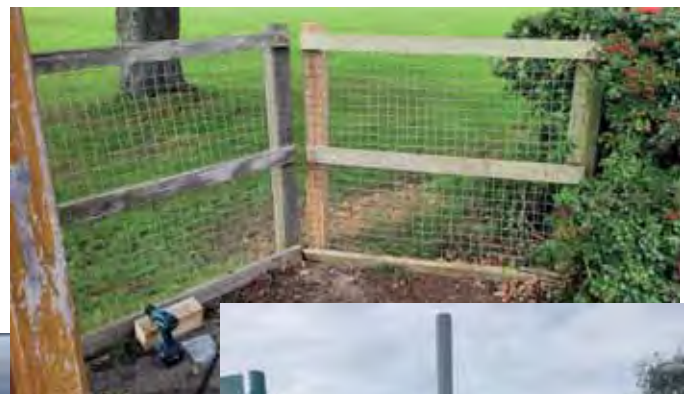
**New Parish Maintenance role**

Paul Eathorne joined the Parish Council in April as our new Parish Maintenance Support.

Paul has hit the ground running and has been busy fixing, painting, installing, cleaning and generally making the place smarter and tidier.

The photographs below show examples of Paul’s handiwork.

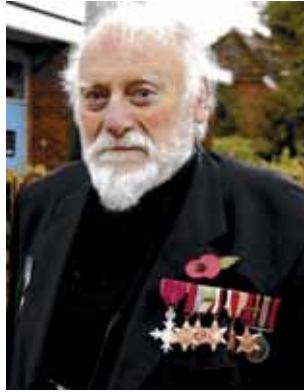
If you notice something in the village that needs some attention, please let us know.



Lt Cmdr Matthew Todd MBE

# Under the Waves

Crawford Wright looks back on the life of Swanmore resident Matthew Todd.



Many people in Swanmore will remember Matthew Todd, who spent his entire career in the Royal Navy before coming to live in Swanmore.

He was a regular village “Father Christmas”, arriving at the village hall in his sleigh and was a driver for the Lunch Club. On Sundays he attended St Barnabas, sitting in his regular place towards the back of the church in the north side pews. He also made several pieces of furniture for the church that are still in daily use.

Matthew was born at Soham in Cambridgeshire in 1924 and attended Hillbrow School in Rugby; the books about submarines he enjoyed as a child made him determined to make his career in them. His was admitted to the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in January 1938, completing his course in July 1941, and joining the battle cruiser HMS *Renown* the following month as a midshipman. He soon put himself down for submarine

training, including the escape course at HMS *Blyth*, and qualified as a submarine officer in November 1943, joining the submarine HMS *Thule* at Devonport, under the command of the “difficult and unpleasant” Lt Cdr Alistair Mars.

## His first submarines

After working up on the Clyde they sailed via the Suez Canal to Trincomalee, the naval base in what was then Ceylon. Their main tasks were to sink enemy shipping, lay mines, put Royal Marines ashore and collect them from behind enemy lines. With a crew of 64, plus 29 Marines, petrol, boats, engines and extra rations things were rather crowded.

No water could be spared for washing, since these patrols lasted weeks making voyages of some 3,600 miles. It was not surprising that there was an infestation of cockroaches but the problem was solved when a small number of black rats came aboard and ate the insects. *Thule* did three patrols in the Malacca Straits (between Java and Sumatra).

Some of these patrols covered more than 7,000 miles with the crew on a limited diet of frozen meat and

*Matthew Todd in escape gear. The image was used on the cover of his autobiography “A Long Time Under Water”, privately printed in 2014.*



fish, powdered eggs, baked beans, Spam, tinned ham and sausages.

Many of these young men in the crew were in their early 20s when they experienced enemy action, including being depth charged and attacked by aircraft, as well as often working in shallow waters. If they were to stay alive and fulfil their missions, then vigilance was required every minute of the day and night, together with accurate navigation.

After the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, effectively ending the Second World War, the submarine returned to the UK and Matthew was promoted to Lieutenant. at the age of 21. He had a large frame and weighed around 15 stone with a strong physique making him ideal for certain sports and he boxed at heavyweight level and played rugby. After time at Chatham, where he won the heavyweight boxing title in the Navy command championships, he was transferred to Portsmouth where his next appointment was in HMS *Seraph*, first of the new streamlined S-class submarines. Later he joined HMS *Astute*, an Amphion class submarine. It was while on this boat making a voyage around Scotland to Rotterdam that a certain naval commander from the Intelligence branch was aboard – it was Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond novels.

## Heading to command

Matthew then spent time in midget submarines before attending the Commanding Officers Qualifying Course in August 1951, which he successfully passed. His next appointment was as the commanding officer of HMS *Sleuth*, a fast S class boat for sea exercises, before becoming commanding officer of HMS *Narwhal* where he was involved in successful trials of a new type of sonar system.

His extensive experience in submarines made him an ideal candidate to join the Submarine Escape Training Task (SETT) at Haslar, initially as Deputy in Command before commanding the unit from 1963 to 1974 during which time around



5,000 men from many nations were trained and he pioneered the replacement of the 50-year old, shallow-water Davis Submerged Escape Apparatus with a hood and suit capable of effecting escape from depth. He was recognised by many in the international submarine world for this work.

### Pioneering escape work

Until then it had been accepted that the crew could escape from a maximum depth of 300 feet, but Matthew worked on a redesign of diving suits helping to develop a system that enabled submariners to escape from far greater depths.

This work was extremely dangerous carrying great personal risk and illustrates the initiative that was such a feature of his character. After work in the SETT and trials off Malta, he and his team successfully demonstrated escapes from 500 feet. For this work he was congratulated by the Naval Committee but forbidden to do more research. He was awarded the MBE for his work in escape techniques.

This successful escape system was quickly recognised by the navies of other countries who came to see it demonstrated and adopted it for their submarines. These included the US, Dutch, French, Greek and Israeli navies. Future UK submarines were fitted with the new system and escape

suits. Later dives up to 600 feet were obtained, but Matthew's own personal best was 525 feet.

During this time he lived in Titchfield and played an active role in the community – including as churchwarden, editor of the parish magazine and president of the Boxing Club. After retirement from the Navy in 1972, and a move to Swanmore, he worked for a commercial diving company before being invited back to command SETT.

Matthew was by nature an achiever, he liked practical challenges and to prove what could be done where others doubted. He reflected that if he had been promoted then he would have occupied a desk rather than achieved a practical breakthrough advancing submarine escape which would in future save many lives. Having spent 35 years in the Royal Navy, even in retirement submarines were still in his blood and, as a great raconteur, he much enjoyed entertaining others by talking about them.



*Lieutenant Commander Matthew Todd MBE before leaving the Navy in 1972.*

### Skilled woodworker

In addition to his regular contributions to life in Swanmore, Matthew was a highly skilled wood worker and made the vestment chest, altar frontal chest and communion table for St Barnabas, which are still in regular use today. Matthew Todd died in 2020 aged 95. He was an interesting and brave man who made significant contributions to the submarine world, especially improving the means of escape from much greater depths than previously thought possible as well as contributing much to village life in Swanmore.

As his son Mark puts it: "...he was fun. Let loose in a social gathering he'd be at the centre of it – he loved chat and found the last couple of years when his poor mobility prevented him moving round a room very frustrating. He was a fine man, with a life's record of important work, but he was also rather entertaining".

Sociable and fun loving, he will be remembered with respect and affection by family and friends.

*Crawford Wright.*

Photograph by Tony King.



*Matthew Todd – as Father Christmas – arriving on horse-drawn "sleigh"*

Buglife

# Successful manoeuvres of the late Admiral

Reports of the demise of many UK butterflies may be premature, at least for some species. This summer has seen good numbers visiting gardens in Swanmore, notably meadow browns, holly blues, peacocks and brimstones, in spite of the very dry summer of 2022, which some thought would shrivel the foodplants and cause

butterfly numbers to crash in following years. Inevitably in nature the picture is somewhat more complicated.

The prize for butterfly abundance this year must surely go to the Red Admiral, or *Vanessa atalanta* in scientific parlance. The origin of the term 'Vanessa' is debatable, but the term 'atalanta' refers to a fleet-footed

huntress in Greek mythology. This can seem quite apt as a red-sashed specimen vigorously flutters by, sometimes at such close quarters you can feel the rush of air from its wings. However, the most it will be hunting is nectar on nearby flowers.

The summer numbers of red admirals in the UK are partly dependent on conditions in mainland Europe, as we receive a migration from that part of the world in late spring. This generation will then breed in the UK, the spiky caterpillars feeding on nettles then pupating. The adults emerge later in the summer and often well into the autumn months if the weather is favourable, when they can often be seen imbibing juices from fermenting blackberries and apples, or taking nectar from ivy flowers. This final generation then either begins to migrate back south to warmer climes, or endeavours to survive the British winter. Those that stay generally do not survive the cold and the damp, but there is evidence that increasing numbers do make it through, particularly in the south of the UK,



Left: Red admiral. Above right: The underside of its wing.

## Magical moths

Moths are often described as the dull cousins of colourful butterflies, but nothing could be further from the truth. The UK has about 2,500 moth species and their sheer diversity, in terms of their colour, size, form, pattern and intricacy of markings, and their varied and often remarkable ecology, is nothing short of astonishing.

Take the bizarrely named goat moth for example. Like all moths and butterflies, it has egg, larval and pupal stages. However, amazingly its caterpillar, or larva, overwinters for several years before emerging to spend a comparatively brief couple of months as an adult. Locally, this nationally scarce species is found in the New Forest.

Interestingly, several of our moths are named after their caterpillars: the

lobster moth and the elephant hawk-moth are good examples. They are reminders of a time before modern light traps made it easier to find the adults and searching out larvae was the main means of recording moths. Not all moths are night flyers. Several species are diurnal and fly mainly during the day. One of the most common day-lying moths is the stunning Six-Spot Burnet. These are beautiful insects but are poisonous to anything wanting to eat it.

Surprisingly for such small insects, some moths migrate here, travelling from Europe or further afield. One migrant that is commonly seen in southern England every year is the humming-bird hawk moth, coming all the way from the Mediterranean or even north Africa.

Moths play vital roles within food chains, being food for birds, bats and mammals and being an important

pollinator of plants. Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation caused by urbanisation and intensive agriculture are linked closely to the decline in species. But while we have lost around 40% of our total moths, since 2000 we have gained several dozen new moth species, colonising from the continent.

But there is hope! The reddish buff moth - a rare moth species that is only found on one site in the UK - has recently been recorded for the first time in four years. Two individual moths were found during the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's annual moth survey programme, at a sanctuary site on the Isle of Wight. The last adult moth was found in 2019, and the new find helps raise hopes for the future of this endangered moth.

Helen Skelton-Smith  
Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



resulting in sporadic red admiral sightings throughout the winter, when mild sunny days present opportunities to fly.

My garden records indicate a distinct increase in red admiral numbers since about 2009, but this may have as much to do with planting a buddleia bush than a sign of climate change. National data do however, indicate an overall increase. If you enjoy seeing an exotic-looking butterfly decorating your garden in late autumn, do leave some rotting apples and some ivy available to encourage the admirable late Red Admiral.

Marcus Charig



Top: Humming-bird hawk moth.  
Above: The reddish buff moth.

In the hedgerows

## Marvellous meadowsweet

Summer may have been mostly wet and dismal this year, but for the meadowsweet growing in local hedgerows it would have been bliss as the plant thrives in wet habitats: ditches, riverbanks, and damp meadows. It grows well enough elsewhere – but loves having its feet wet!

In the past meadowsweet was popular as a strewing herb with its richly-scented cream blooms spread on floors to scent a room – hence its name. However, when dried or bruised the flowers have a smell usually described as “antiseptic” which reputedly gives it the old country name of “courtship and matrimony” – with the sweetness of fresh love, rapidly turning to the sourness of marriage.

Its botanical name is *Filipendula ulmaria* but in the past it was known as *Spiraea ulmaria* and gave its name to Aspirin – patented by Bayer in 1899. Aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid and meadowsweet is rich in related salicylates, first extracted from the plant in the 1830s. It has long been used for treating the type of ailments for which many now take an aspirin pill: such as feverish colds, arthritic or rheumatic pains, and inflammations.

Meadowsweet has also been widely used in flavouring drinks with the leaves added to beers and wines while the flowers are used (with sugar and lemon) to make a cordial rather like elderflowers. The fresh leaves can

also be chopped and added to soups and sauces, much like other fresh herbs, and they were traditionally dried in autumn for use in winter infusions taken for colds and chills.

In Native American folk medicine infusions of meadowsweet were used as enemas and in vaginal douches. Interestingly a few years ago Russian researchers reported the successful use of an ointment of meadowsweet flowers in treating cervical dysplasia – a condition that, if untreated, can lead to cervical cancer. A future application, perhaps, for this versatile and much undervalued plant?



Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

Spotted in my garden in late August feeding on phlox flowers was a Jersey Tiger moth (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*).

Until recently it was generally restricted to the Channel Islands and parts of the South Coast, but colonies are now found in Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

It flies both in the daytime and at night, when it is attracted to light. The main flight period is July to September.

Ed.

## Colourful visitor



Support groups

# Thoughts on where to find help in Swanmore

Having looked after my wife, with dementia, for some years, I have stumbled over a number of things that I thought might help others. I offer these suggestions which come from personal experience rather than any official information. Hope some of them help someone!

● **Message in a bottle.** The Lions provide a nice low-key service. If you google "Lions message in a bottle" they will provide you, free of charge, with a small plastic container and a form. Fill out the form with



your details; actually you can more or less ignore the form and write what you like – e.g. "my wife has dementia and sleeps in the front bedroom and I am allergic to Septrin". Put the form in the bottle, put the bottle in the fridge and put a sticker on your front door. If ever you need an ambulance or fire brigade, they see the sticker and know that there is useful information in the fridge. Seems daft, but the kitchen is easy to find, as is the fridge, and quick information might help them to save your life. I know from personal experience that they do look for the sticker and information.

● **Lasting Power of Attorney - LPA.** I expect most people reading this will have written their will (and if not, I suggest you think about it and do so!). But the LPA is a simple thing that is equally important. If your loved one gets ill and doesn't have the ability to make decisions, it can be very difficult and stressful for anyone else to help. You can appoint someone you trust, in advance, to

make decisions on your behalf, either financial or medical decisions. I can speak from personal experience and tell you that it was very important for my situation. The key thing is that it needs to be done early (like now!) as you can't do it if the person is already ill. It is cheap and easy. See [www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney)

● **Care Group.** We have, in this village, a small group of volunteers who can take you to the doctors or hospital if you have a need. Of course, if you have a relative who can take you this is much better, but if not, there is no need to struggle on public transport – the Care Group can take you. Search for "Swanmore Care Group".

● **Lunch Club.** The Care Group also runs a Lunch Club every Wednesday at the Paterson Centre, by the church. If you live on your own, or are stuck at home, or just want to come for a cooked two-course meal for £5, then come along. For me, it is great to get a nice meal cooked, good to get some healthy meat and vegetables, and especially nice to meet people and chat over lunch. Transport can be arranged if needed. Again search for "Swanmore Care Group".

● **Proactive team.** Attached to the doctors' surgeries is a team whose mission is to help to keep older people happy in their homes and – in particular – out of hospital. It is targeted at the over-70s and they will come out to your home and talk to you about any trip hazards or problems you might have. For myself, they fitted (for free) some grab rails in the bathroom. It is a great idea and far better for the community than having someone fall over or whatever and then have to

go to hospital. Ask for the Proactive Team at your local surgery to contact them.

● **Meon Valley Carers.** This group is run in association with Andover Mind and this group is one of the few that stood out as being helpful for people with mental health



problems, such as dementia, and for those caring for them. The group meets once a month at the Paterson Centre and being able to talk to others who have had similar problems is very valuable. Carers might find a useful lead to ways of helping but, even more so, just sharing the problems they face can be beneficial. Search for "Meon Valley Carers Group".

● **The Blue Lamp Trust.** Also known as the Bobby Scheme. This Hampshire-based charitable trust employs a small group of half a dozen ex-policemen and fire fighters. They will come to your house and talk about fire safety and security. They will fit, free of charge, fire and CO<sub>2</sub> alarms wherever needed – with a ten-year battery. They'll suggest things you might do to improve safety in the event of a fire, and ways you might improve security to discourage burglars. They get a lot of equipment from manufacturers of security items and will provide and fit these free of charge if appropriate. A nice bunch of people doing a low-key role in a simple and effective manner. See [www.bluelamptrust.org.uk](http://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk)



If anyone would like to talk about any of these things (or add to the list), please feel free to call me.

*Dennis Wheeler*  
07490 676710

# Corhampton circular walk

This is a circular walk around the lanes and fields of Corhampton taking in both Corhampton and Meonstoke churches. Distance: 4¼ miles/6¾ km. Walking time: 1 hour 50 minutes and a little longer to look around the churches and meadow, visit the *The Bucks Head* in Meonstoke or the well-stocked store of Meonstoke Post Office.

## Terrain

This is easy walking for the most part with two stiles. The section of track before reaching Warner's cottage is an uphill stretch but flat after that through woods and across crop fields. The last stretch sweeps downhill giving a glorious view towards Meonstoke through two fields that occasionally have livestock, and onto the A32 and the River Meon. An excursion to Meonstoke Church via the small bridges is amply rewarded by the church itself, the meadow and views along the river.

## Directions

Corhampton is just 4 miles from Swanmore via Droxford along the A32. On reaching the roundabout at Meonstoke take the B3035 to Bishop's Waltham then turn right almost immediately onto a narrow gravel lane marked "Church car park".

## Start

The walk starts and finishes at Corhampton church. A small donation would undoubtedly be appreciated for the use of the car park which may be left in the wall box in the church porch.

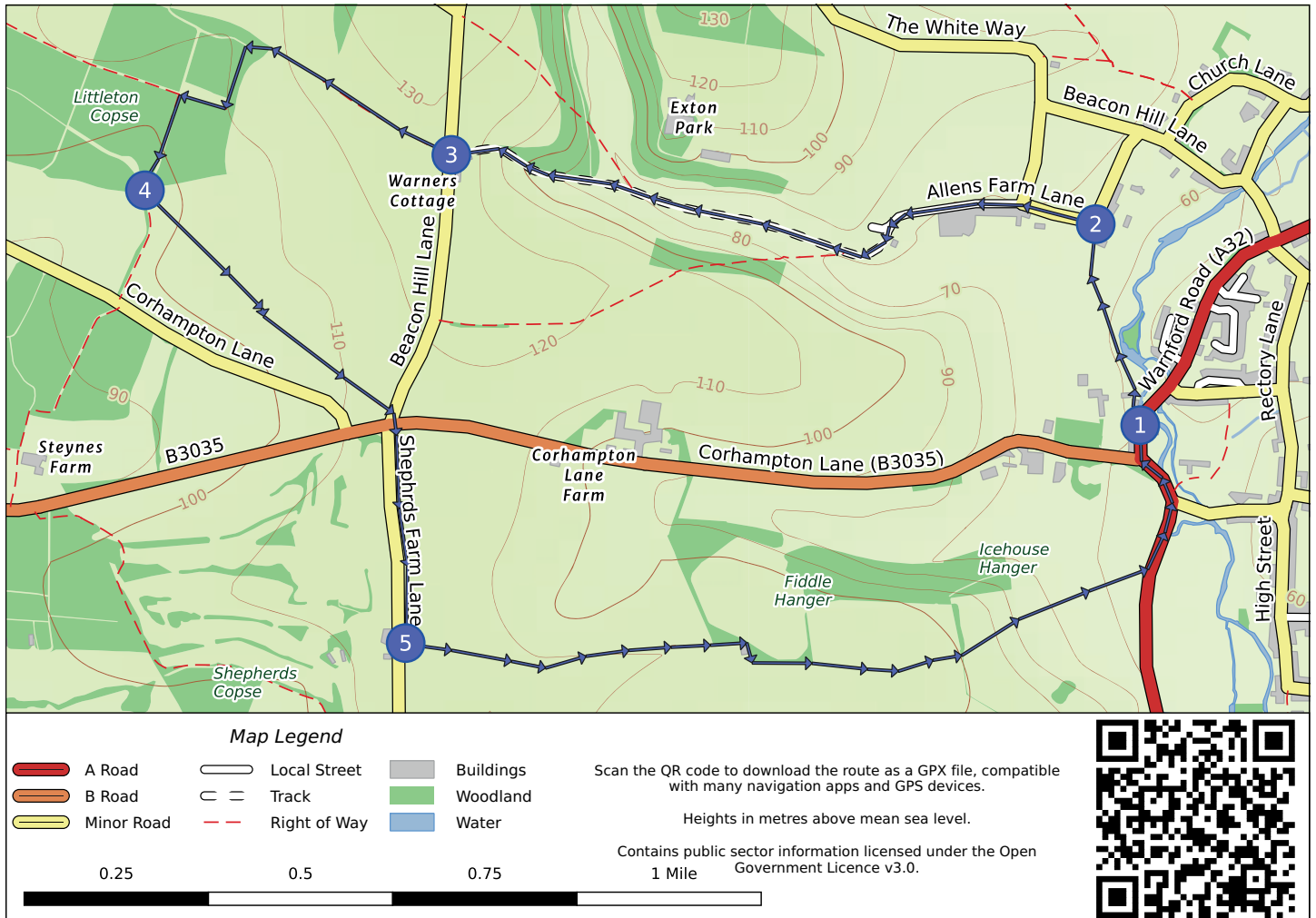
This Saxon Church, unusually undedicated, stands on a mound adjacent to the River Meon. It is a rare example, with its Saxon font, original stone side altar, twelfth century frescoes, sanctuary chair and Saxon "sundial". The key can be obtained from Meonstoke Post Office, almost opposite, left along the A32.

## 1. Corhampton Church to Allen Farm Road

From the church porch go towards the Warnford Road (A32) and turn left to take the track around the church. Bearing right go up past the beamed cottage to go over the low stile onto the narrow footpath between the hedges. Follow this until you reach a lane and turn left.

## 2. Allen Farm Road to Warner's Cottage

Follow the lane past Beacon Hill House keeping left past the Allen Farm Lane road sign to the Exton Park





Above: The Saxon church at Corhampton. Above right: Exton Park Vineyard. Right: Looking down towards the A32 and Meonstoke.



vineyard with its grand metal gates.

As mentioned in a previous walk, the chalky soil of the local landscape is well-known for producing sparkling English wines and for those of a mind, the vineyard offers a variety of tours.

Just past the gates the road becomes a track. Carry on uphill along the track (twich is somewhat rutted, uneven in places, and not good in winter or after prolonged heavy rain) to Warner's Cottage on Beacon Hill Lane. Go straight across the lane to a wide footpath past large metal field gates.

### 3. Warner's Cottage to Corhampton Forest

Follow the footpath into the woods. This is part of the Preshaw estate where there are very helpful, clear signs showing where you are allowed! Turn left on entering the woods and follow round to the right where after approximately 130yds/120m (one minute) you come to a junction. Here you turn left for another 250yds/230m where you ceoss a stile, into the crop fields.

### 4. Over the fields to Corhampton Golf Club

Take the diagonal footpath off to the left across the open fields to exit once again onto Beacon Hill Lane. Head right to the crossroads and the large Bishop's Waltham sign. Go behind the

sign and through the hedge onto a permissive path with a hedge on your right. Continue until you reach Corhampton Golf Club where you exit onto the road and turn immediateley left back into the fields. Here you start to get the glorious downland views towards Old Winchester Hill Fort.

### 5. Towards Meonstoke.

Follow the path keeping the hedge on your left continuing on past a large brown metal shed (approximately 10 minutes) until you reach a metal wicket gate. There are occasionally livestock in the next two fields, if so, please keep dogs on leads. Head on down the hill through another metal wicket gate to the A32 and turn left.

If you wish to visit *The Bucks Head* pub, go right or go on to the small footbridges

across the Meon river to visit St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke. In the graveyard there is a century-old, recently restored terracotta monument dedicated to Meonstoke pottery designer Dorothy Marshall Lawrence.

There is an enclosed church green opposite Meonstoke church where you can relax by the river and where more often than not you may spot a heron.

Trace back to the A32 and go right to Corhampton church. A little further along the road on the right is the Meonstoke Post Office where delicious ice creams can be purchased and where the key to Corhampton church can be collected.

*Lin Powell*

*Rededication of the terracotta monument to Dorothy Lawrence in Meonstoke churchyard.*



From our district councillors

# Delays to Local Plans and utility problems

Looking back over many years it is amazing how many times we have experienced an “Indian summer” to celebrate the return of our children to school. We also used to remark that examination time in May/June was also usually hot enough to be uncomfortable in the examination rooms.

How lucky we are that our school buildings in Hampshire – with apparently only a couple of exceptions – seem to be free of the aerated concrete (RAAC) that is prone to crumble. Why was it ever used by local county authorities for roofing? This question is not being asked.

## Local Plan delays

It has been reported to your local councillors that the Winchester Local Plan has stalled at Reg 18. It was to be published as Reg 19 for final consultation this autumn but this will not now take place until Q2 (July to September) next year. The issue relates to developers and water boards finding a solution to nitrate and phosphate pollution from farmland and large housing estates.

Similarly, the SDNP plan is wending its slow way to its publication in... who knows?. The first draft consultation is currently expected in January–March 2025.

Recall that for national parks the rural landscape has priority over the urban landscape, so their interpretation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is from a different viewpoint. That is why potentially fewer houses are likely to be built north of Swanmore, possibly putting pressure on the southern settlement gaps between Shirrell Heath, Swanmore and Waltham Chase. Your local councilors are insisting on a policy that protects these local gaps between the villages.

The houses being built today are

much more energy-efficient than hitherto, although many have smaller room sizes. Using the policy of “brownfield sites” first the developers are being directed to marginal land. Arguments are growing into: “Where should our priorities be?”. Land for recreation? Land for the protected environment? Land for solar panels? Or land for growing food?

## Issues with utilities

The CPRE are asking MPs why solar panels aren’t put on our parking areas and all large buildings before they are erected on farmland? You may have seen articles in the media asking this and similar questions.

We read the report on the BBC website that Southern Water is one of the worst offenders for releasing raw sewage into our rivers such as the Itchen and the Hamble. They apparently do this not only just after torrential downpours, but also during dry periods. This was published on 5th September on the BBC website. It makes for an interesting and frustrating read.

What is equally important locally are the foul water pipes in Waltham Chase and Hambledon. The frequent sight of a manhole cover being held up by a fountain of foul sewage is not just annoying but, in our view, unhealthy. Sewage on the roadway and in gardens is not only smelly but also dangerous for our keen gardeners.

Should new housing be built if the infrastructure used by the utilities cannot cope? New build in Swanmore is held back partly because of this but also because, according to press reports, Persimmon Homes has suffered a significant drop in revenue and pre-tax profits as it is completing and selling fewer houses this year due to “market challenges”. The Morgan’s Yard development in Waltham Chase has not yet gone to planning!

## Ongoing updates

Highways England continues with preparatory work for the A34/Junction 9 on the M3. We now have news of the new Junction 10 on the M27. This is to serve Welborne – Fareham’s “urban village” of 6,000 houses.

Archaeology continues within the district. Central Winchester continues with its “trial trenching”; a further dig is starting to reveal more of the secrets of the twelfth century Hyde Abbey and work on the Welborne site has revealed an Iron Age settlement.

We are still waiting for further news about the waste collection system promised by the Environment Act 2022. This Act included a requirement to collect food waste separately.

*Food waste collection coming soon?*



## 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*

## BW Community Swimming

# Is it time you learnt to swim?

Bishop's Waltham Community Swimming is offering adult swimming lessons for those who have never learned to swim or are lacking in confidence in water. Are you an adult who can't swim but would love to learn? If so, these small group lessons at Bishop's Waltham Junior School pool could be right for you.

The water is warm and the pool less than a metre deep at the shallow end sloping gradually to the deep end which is only 1.8metres deep.

There will be two sessions on Wednesdays between 8.15pm and 9.15pm with each session lasting 30 minutes, and groups will be limited to no more than five swimmers at a time with two teachers and a qualified lifeguard on poolside. This will ensure that tuition is individualised to the needs and confidence of the learner.

The teachers will be in the water to help those beginners who need it and a variety of swimming aids will be available to boost confidence. Groups will be divided into beginners and improvers as appropriate.

The course length will vary due to term dates, lifeguard training dates



progress but blocks of lessons will normally be for five sessions or a whole term of eleven weeks.

The cost of each lesson is anticipated to be £7.00, depending on pool hire costs if these are increased later in the year. Clients would be expected to book and pay for a block of lessons before starting the course. The first course of lessons began on September 13th.

For further information on this opportunity please contact Mitres Head Coach – [headcoachmitres@gmail.com](mailto:headcoachmitres@gmail.com). Information about Bishop's Waltham Community Swimming, and cost of sessions, can be found on the website.

*Penny Eliot*

## Heartstart Help needed

Meon Valley Heartstart is looking for a Volunteer School Liaison Co-ordinator to help teach more pupils essential medical life-saving skills.

Equipping young people with life-saving skills makes a massive difference to their confidence when faced with an emergency medical situation and a co-ordinator is needed to help us reach more schools and schedule training courses for their pupils and staff as well as continuing communications with our existing schools for refresher training.

If you have an understanding of schools, are able to be proactive, have good organisational and communication skills and can offer up to three hours a week – we'd love to hear from you! This is a home working opportunity with regular contact with other Heartstart Team members by email, telephone and face to face meetings as required.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity or send a letter of application, please contact us at [info@heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk](mailto:info@heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk) or call David on 07730 148920

*Jane Tennent*

## BW Museum

# When football was very different

Imagine a time when footballs could be any size, captains told referees when to call a foul, and only fools passed to their team mates...

As part of the "Sporting Bishop's Waltham" exhibition football analyst Joel Turner will be recalling these earlier days, with a talk on "Wanderers to World War 1 – the first 60 years of Association Football (but not quite as we know it)".

The talk is on 4th October at 7.30pm at Bishop's Waltham Church Hall in Free Street. Entry is free and all are welcome. The sporting exhibition will be open at weekends in October from 12noon to 2.00pm, in the museum at Bishop's Waltham Palace.



*Gus Crook – an early Bishop's Waltham player*

## BW WI

# Talks and fundraising

In July Bishop's Waltham Women's Institute heard how Naomi House and Jacksplace support children with life-limiting health issues and their families. Members held a bring and buy sale and gave generously with proceeds donated, with money from WI funds, to the charity.

In August members enjoyed a lunch at *The Black Dog* which gave us plenty of time to socialise.

Our next meetings are on Tuesday 17th October when we shall have a talk about Commonwealth War Graves, while on Tuesday 21st November Meon Valley Beekeeper will talk on "Candles and bees" Both meetings are at 7.30 pm. at the Church Hall in Free Street.

*Pauline Powell*





# Interesting talks and new friends

Somebody told me the other day that they did not know what U3A stands for: it is, of course, the university of the third age. Our Meon Valley U3A meets at the Wickham Community Centre where about 40 of our 80 members gather twice monthly on Tuesdays at 2pm during the autumn/winter and spring lecture seasons.

For me U3A is the opportunity to meet friends, new and old across a cup of tea, and gain new knowledge on all sorts of subjects. It also gives elderly people a friendly "club" to attend regularly. The "university" part of the acronym is learning from lectures and the opportunity to join small groups for, reading, art appreciation, petanque, country strolling and even Egyptology. We also organise three outside visits of an educational nature during the Summer.

- Our upcoming lectures are:
- 3rd October – Dr Jenny Burkett on Eye Diseases.
  - 17th October – Jim Busby on the History of Fareham High Street
  - 7th November – Jane Salmon on the History of Shedfield

21st November – Joe Marsden on Defence and Life in the Falklands after the Conflict.

Jenny tells me that on 3rd October she will be concentrating her talk on macular degeneration as cataracts problems are well known in the community, but wet and dry macular problems are less well understood.

Guests are very welcome to try us out. Why not give it a whirl? You may well be pleasantly surprised and wish to come again.

Why not learn all there is to know about cataracts, the eye sort not the river ones! Or find out the secret history of the naughty ladies of Union Street (off the High Street) in Fareham. What do you know about Shedfield? I bet you remember the Falklands War – so now learn more.

So come along: you will get a warm welcome and a cup of tea! Guests pay £2 to defray speakers' costs or our annual sub is £15. We also offer a preloved book and table games stall.

*Lyndon Palmer (Chairman),  
07881991763,*

*lyndonplmr@gmail.com*

*Website: [u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley)*

## Waltham Ramblers Planned walks in October

Organised walks are held by the Waltham Group of the Ramblers on Wednesdays (mornings) and Sundays (usually all-day). A selection is listed here, with meeting venue and leader's contact number. Newcomers are welcome but please contact the leader beforehand in case there is a change.

- Wednesday 4th October, Swanmore via Soberton Mill, 6 miles, David 07805 957030. Start: 10am. Meet in the car park opposite Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore SO32 2PA.
- Wednesday 18th October, Hambledon via Chidden, 5 miles, Gill/Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am. Meet in the free car park at the top of Church Lane to the left of the church, Hambledon PO7 4RT.
- Sunday 29th October, Meonstoke via Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill, 9 miles, Gill/Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am. Park in Meon Hall car park (£1 donation) or on the grass outside SO32 3NP. Bring a picnic lunch.

For further information about Waltham Ramblers email [michael.hewlins@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.hewlins@btinternet.com).

*Michael Hewlins*

## Botley Choral Society All the fun of the last night

Botley Choral Society will be performing an evening of "patriotic music" as their "Last Night of the Proms" concert at All Saints' Church, Botley on 7th October at 7.30pm in aid of the church's organ fund. Tickets are £15 – (under 16s

free) with drinks available to buy on the night or you can bring your own. Tickets are available from 0738 7274448

or [gillpursall@outlook.com](mailto:gillpursall@outlook.com), via [www.botleychoral.co.uk](http://www.botleychoral.co.uk) or scan the QR code above.



*British troops arriving in the Falklands in 1982.*

## Waltham Priory Probus Club Enjoy a monthly lunch – with lively talks

On 19th July members visited Hinton Ampner house and gardens. It was a fine warm summer's day just right for a delightful guided tour of the gardens given by Juliet Brooks. Members were also able to visit the house before retiring to the Hinton Arms for lunch.

Members enjoyed another of their monthly meetings on 5th September. The guest speaker was Geoff Watts and his subject was "Lest we forget – the Commonwealth War Graves", a very interesting historical subject touching the lives of many of us. His talk was followed by lunch.

Our future programme of events, speakers and topics is presently as follows:-

- 3rd October – Tony Kippenberger on "Henry VIII's visit to Bishop's Waltham Palace".
- 22nd October – Classic Lunch with guest speaker Steve Herra on "Cunard history and glamorous stars".
- 7th November – Colin Van Geffen on "Spitfire".
- 5th December – Christmas lunch.

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women. We



are welcoming and friendly. We are also able to accept some new members at present. As you see we have some entertaining events and speakers lined up. If you would like to start each new month

with some fun and entertainment followed by a lunch join us on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley.

Please contact our secretary on 07542109821 or email [janet.gibson1@outlook.com](mailto:janet.gibson1@outlook.com) for details.

*Martin Cooke*  
President



*Church at Hinton Ampner by Sarah Towney.*

## BW Photographic Society

# Getting ready for the exhibition

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society is holding its annual exhibition of members' prints from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th October 2023 at the United Free Church in Basingwell Street, Bishop's Waltham, from 9.30am to 5pm each day. Entry is free. It will be an opportunity to see some exciting images as well as chat about photography with society members stewarding the event.

The exhibition follows some busy times for the society. In August, members were invited to submit their images for Round three of the internal competitions with the set theme of "Hampshire" – an image that celebrated the life or culture of our county. Leading photographer Maria

Leekblade was well placed to act as judge for the evening as she's lived in the New Forest for almost 20 years. Winners were Kev Melsome (intermediate) with "Church on the Hill" and Sarah Townley (Advanced) with "Church at Hinton Ampner".

September's meeting hosted Caroline Preece talking on "Tools not rules" and offered a different way of thinking about photography and photographic composition.

The society meets at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street and there is more information about activities and how to join on the website

[www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk)  
*Ann Erkut*

## BW Rotary

# Still time to book for a night of music

If you collected your parish magazine early then you may still have a chance to book for the Rotary Club's musical evening with Otterbourne Brass on 30th September at 6pm at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Waltham

Otterbourne Brass has competed at county and national level for many years, and this year they will again be competing at the National Brass Band Championships Finals.

The evening is made up of three parts, first a section of music to enjoy with a drink, then a two-course meal and finally a musical quiz where the band will play music from films and television for you to identify. with a raffle and auction at the end of the evening. Tickets are £20 each and include all entertainment and meal. They are available via email to [pr@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk](mailto:pr@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk)

# Dates for your diaries

Every Thursday	6.30pm–10pm Swanmore Bridge Club, Paterson Centre
Every Friday	2pm–4pm MVARA Scrabble, Paterson Centre
3rd October	Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch meeting with Tony Kippenberger on “Henry VIII’s visit to Bishop’s Waltham Palace”.
3rd October	2pm U3A – Dr Jenny Burkett on Eye Diseases, Wickham Community Centre.
4th October	10am Waltham Ramblers – Swanmore via Soberton Mill.
4th October	7.30 “Wanderers to World War 1”. by Joel Turner, St Peter’s Church Hall, Free Street.
6th October	7.30pm “Opera at St Peter’s” with London Festival Opera, St Peter’s Church Ropley. Details from <a href="http://www.stpetersropleyvenue.org.uk">www.stpetersropleyvenue.org.uk</a> .
7th October	10am–1pm Launch of Swanmore Wellness Week, Paterson Centre.
7th October	7pm Beer and Hymns at the Paterson Centre.
7th October	7.30pm Botley Choral Society “Last Night of the Proms” All Saints, Botley.
7th–8th October	12noon–2pm “Sporting Bishop’s Waltham”, Bishop’s Waltham Museum
11th October	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society “Bishop’s Waltham Community First Responders” by Andrew Brown.
12th–14th October	9.30am–5pm Bishop’s Waltham Photographic Society annual exhibition, United Reform Church, Bishop’s Waltham.
13th October	7pm “A Diplomatic Incident” murder mystery evening in aid of Home-Start, Swanmore Village Hall.
14th October	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
14th–15th October	12noon–2pm “Sporting Bishop’s Waltham”, Bishop’s Waltham Museum.
17th October	2pm U3A – Jim Busby on the History of Fareham High Street, Wickham Community Centre.
17th October	7.30pm Bishop’s Waltham WI – Commonwealth War Graves, St Peter’s Church Hall, Free Steet
18th October	10am Waltham Ramblers Hambledon via Chidden.
22nd October	Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch meeting with Steve Herra on “Cunard history and glamorous stars”.
28th October	4pm Sunday Club Light Party, Paterson Centre
29th October	10am Waltham Ramblers Meonstoke via Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill.
7th November	2pm U3A – Jane Salmon on the History of Shedfield, Wickham Community Centre.
7th November	Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch meeting with Colin Van Geffen on “Spitfire”.
8th November	8pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society ‘Police and Crime Commissioner– what the role entails’ by Donna Jones.
10th November	7.30pm Swanmore Twinning Association Quiz, Paterson Centre.
11th November	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
18th November	7pm Oh Heck! cards and supper, Paterson Centre.
21st November	2pm U3A – Joe Marsden on Defence and Life in the Falklands after the Conflict, Wickham Community Centre.
21st November	7.30pm Bishop’s Waltham WI – “Candles and bees” with Meon Valley Beekeepers, St Peters’ Church Hall, Free Street.
25th November	10.30am–12noon British Legion coffee morning and sale, Paterson Centre.
30th Nov– 2nd Dec	7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Saturday) Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society “Treasure Island”, Swanmore Village Hall.
9th December	7pm BLOW Saxaphones Ensemble, Paterson Centre.

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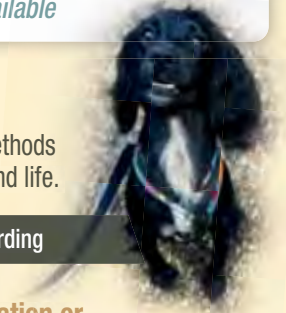
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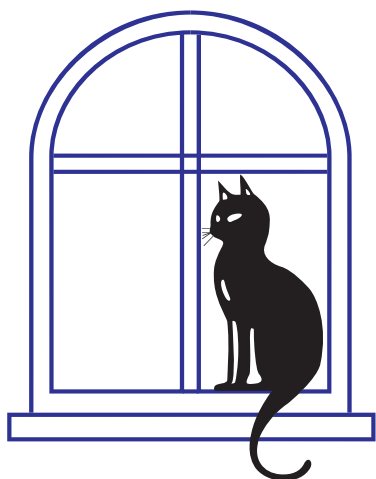


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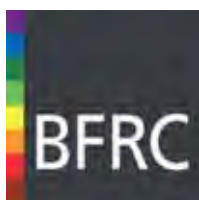
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