

December 2023/January 2024

The

Swanmore

Link



**Happy Christmas
Swanmore in wartime
Wellness Week**

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We apologise to all those who tried to collect their own copy of this magazine. Unfortunately we were not advised by the PCC that it would be delivered to all households until after the October/November issue had been published, so were unable to forewarn readers of the change.

**Deadline for the February/March issue is
Wednesday 10th January 2024**

**Copies will be available to collect from
The Link as usual from 30th January 2024**

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Remembrance Sunday 2023

St Barnabas was full to capacity for this year's service. Sqn Ldr (ret'd) Jennifer Cambell-Gurry read the names of those killed in conflicts – far more names than feature on the village war memorial – where Cdre (ret'd) Dean Bassett CBE spoke the familiar words from Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen", before the two minutes' silence and laying of wreaths. Photographs by Pete Mason



Top: The colour parties and parade assemble at the War memorial. Above: Beavers present their wreath – seen right.



Around we go again?

On the evening of 19th February 2024, in St Barnabas, Swanmore, we will welcome our new priest-in-charge, Revd Andy Davis and his wife, Chris, at his Licensing Service. Andy will be the fifteenth resident of a Swanmore vicarage but will be the first to have their responsibilities extend to include the Benefice of Soberton, Newtown and Hambleton, and the Meon Bridge Benefice (Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton), albeit assisted by a team of other clergy. Andy will not formally be the Vicar, for the time being at least, because his initial appointment is to enable all the parishes to be brought together into a new ministerial and legal structure.

Andy writes: I'm looking forward to the interesting challenge of leading a team of people who will be offering ministry across these parishes. I've already either led or attended services at every one of these churches, so I hope I can bring some knowledge and experience to this role.

Our Archdeacon, Katheryn Percival, writes: Andy, who is a very experienced priest and knows the diocese well, has accepted the offer to take on this significant role in the Meon Valley.

So, there is nothing new about Andy's arrival and there is everything new about it. He knows, and is known, by many locally, but the circumstances of his new post are unique.

In a similar vein, we will shortly be celebrating Christmas, and there will be nothing new about that celebration, and everything new about it. We may sing the same carols and hear the same story of Christ's birth, but circumstances have changed. Some friends or family have died, children have been born, some people are more ill than last year and others have new or different roles and responsibilities. The world is not as it was in 2022, and our culture has again subtly changed (still fewer Christmas cards – more Christmas e-mails). Even the conflict in Israel/Palestine has different

features from previous attacks/counteroffensives (which, prayerfully, might eventually open up fissures for peace).

It is not unusual sometimes for people to see life as simply circular: another summer, another autumn, another Christmas; perhaps this view contributes to a belief in re-incarnation, where beyond death we circle back and start all over again. But life always has forward momentum. Christmas 2023 will be different from Christmas 2022 in small ways and large; Andy will be unlike any previous incumbent, bringing different insights and promoting the Christian faith in a way unique to him.

Our Christian hope is that the next yearly cycle will bring new opportunities for growth in love, acceptance and understanding as, with God, we move forward; and that this momentum will bring us not to re-birth but into the presence of God, beyond time itself.

If you are fortunate on Christmas Day to be able to afford to open a celebratory bottle of wine then take a look at the corkscrew that opened it (or the screw top). They have the unique quality of combining circular and forward motion and are not bad visual aids for the nature of our lives.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead

NB: The link below will give you more information about Revd Andy Davis and his new appointment:
<https://bit.ly/46IKd48>.



Welcoming Revd Andy

The Licensing Service for Revd Andy Davis as Priest-in-Charge Swanmore will be held at St Barnabas on Monday 19th February at 7.30pm. All will be welcome to attend.

The following contact details may be useful:

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

Parochial Church Council:
pccsecretary@stbarnabas.org.uk

Churchwardens:
churchwardens@stbarnabas.org.uk

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

We encourage everybody to pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza and Israel. For those who have power to work for peace, for those made homeless in the conflicts



and for all those who are suffering, grieving and living in fear.



Services in December and January

Sunday 3rd December

Advent Sunday

No 8am

10 am Holy Communion for all ages

Robert the Bear is indisposed this year as he is moving to new premises so the toys we collect will be going to the Salvation Army and Ukraine. If you are able to give new toys that's ideal but they will also take good-as-new toys and games. Please bring them to this service.

Sunday 10th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

During the service, children will make Christingles which they will process into church. This is one of our key events for children so do come.



Sunday 17th December

The Third Sunday of Advent

No 8am

10am Communion

6.30pm Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols

Come and sing as Christmas approaches

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service

Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and take part as we re-tell the Christmas story. We do have a limited selection of costumes available for you to borrow for the service.

This is a very popular service, so we recommend you come early to get a seat! Due to safety concerns, all buggies and prams etc will need to be left in the Paterson Centre.

11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

Led by our Archdeacon, The Ven. Kathryn Percival.



Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion led by

Revd Kathy O'Loughlin

10am All Age Communion

Sunday 31st December

The first Sunday of Christmas

No 8am

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th January

Epiphany Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

No 8am

10am Holy Communion



Sunday 21st January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

8am Holy Communion with Revd Kathy O'Loughlin

10am Café Church with Ben Armstrong

Sunday 28th January

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany – Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

No 8am

10am Holy Communion with

the Rt Revd Ian Brackley

Bishop Ian has been very supportive during the vacancy and it would be good if many of you could come to hear him preach and preside at this service.



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 December and January

All services will commence at 10.30am unless otherwise noted.

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

3rd December	Jordan Cousins and Tom Banks – Advent Craft Morning see ** below.
10th December	Revd. Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
17th December	Ron Morgan
17th December, 6.00pm	Carol Service – led by Kathy Elvy and Jill Letts
24th December	Revd. Colin Chambers
Christmas Day, 9.45am	Christmas Day Service – Kathy Elvy
31st December	Revd. Bob Kitching
7th January	Richard Cole
14th January	Revd. Phil Griffin – Covenant Service and Holy Communion
21st January	Kathy Elvy & Jill Letts
28th January	David Boswell

****Advent Craft Morning – Sunday 3rd December from 10.15am**

If your young people would like to join us, please let Mavis know: mavisdaniels@talktalk.net

Parents and friends please join us at 11.30 for coffee and cake.

In need of Prayer?

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

Thursday Fellowship

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

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

Coffee and Company

Weekly on Tuesday at 10am–12 noon

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

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

TLC (Tuesday Ladies Club)

12th December at 7.30pm: Christmas Carols and canapes

9th January at 12.30pm: Soup lunch with Age Concern All ladies welcome.

Subscriptions £25.00 for the year (11 meetings) payable in September or £3.00 per meeting

Men's Group

Thursday 21st December at 7.30 pm: Christmas Quiz and Mince Pies

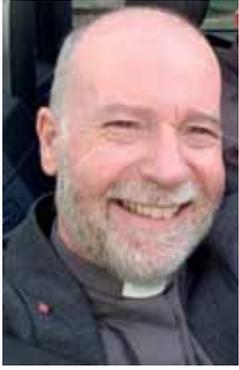
Thursday 18th January at 7.30pm: To be confirmed All are welcome and there will be light refreshments.

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 <http://www.swanmoremethodistchurch.org.uk> or email swanmoremcletings@gmail.com

Find us on 



Christmas is coming!

Some of the books I grew up with were those by A. A. Milne about Winnie the Pooh. For those not familiar with the books, they are set within the Hundred Acre Wood and follow the adventures of Christopher Robin with his bear, Winnie the Pooh, and other friends Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, Rabbit, Kanga and Roo. In one of their walks around the wood, Christopher Robin asks Pooh what he likes doing most in the world. Pooh

thinks for a moment and begins to say that what he likes most in the world is eating honey ... but he pauses because he realises that actually the best moment was just before you actually start eating, but he couldn't remember what it was called! We would call that the "anticipation" – but it was probably too big a word for Pooh!

"Anticipation" is a word that describes the build-up to Christmas for many people – young and old. The excitement of children starting to think about what presents they would like to receive, the carol singing, the Christmas films, even the John Lewis advert – the build up to Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier each year – but then businesses have to attract customers especially when there is so much to tempt us!

"Anticipation" is also a word that describes the Christian journey through Advent to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is the period of four weeks running up to Christmas day when we explore the story that speaks of how God so loved all of creation that he sent His Son, Jesus, to offer to the world love, peace and hope. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The baby Jesus grew to be a man who, through his life, ministry and then his death and resurrection, offers us the chance to know God's love, peace and hope for ourselves.

Today, as in all past generations, the world really needs to hear a message of hope especially when we look around at what is happening across the world, let alone what might be happening in our own lives.

Perhaps in our "anticipation" for Christmas this year we might find the time to pause and remember that the birth of the baby Jesus is a sign of the love of God for us and for all creation. Then we might find those moments when we can bring some small bit of hope into the lives of others through our words, actions and decisions.

On behalf of the people of the Methodist Churches in the Meon Valley Circuit, I wish you peace at Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Revd Andrew de Ville



New trees in the Churchyard

Following on from an item in *The Swanmore Link* (June/July 2023), which showed six potential tree locations on a map of the churchyard, we have now installed marker post indicating the first four locations.

The trees will each be about 2 to 2.5 metres high when planted and will be selected from rowan, *Liquidamber* spp. whitebeam, hornbeam and field maple.

If you have loved ones buried in this area of the churchyard (behind Barnaby's) please have a look at our markers and contact me if you have any concerns about these locations.

Revd Canon Nick Whitehead:
nickjameswhitehead@gmail.com
01489 895327



Ad hoc choir

Come and sing for Christmas

It is that wonderful time of year again! 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 4pm on Sunday 3rd and 5pm on Sunday 10th December. Absolutely everyone is welcome and we will be so excited to see you there. If you would like to take part, please drop me a message - I'll be very excited to hear from you.

Emily Sandoval
emilylouisesandoval@gmail.com

Beer and Hymns

Enjoying a great night out

The ever popular “Beer and Hymns” event, organised by John Sharpe, was held in the Paterson Centre on Saturday 7th October. Around 60 people gathered to enjoy a fun evening of singing, eating, drinking

and laughter, which makes it sound rather like a mediæval feast, although instead of a roast pig we enjoyed a delicious ploughman’s supper prepared by our excellent volunteer caterers.

Our host and compère for the night was MC Nick Whitehead with piano and vocals from Peter Fellows, Claire Eathorne and Emily Singleton, playing and singing some of Swanmore’s favourite hymns, including, rather mysteriously Abbas’s Waterloo – when did that become a hymn? Many thanks to all the volunteers (which seemed to be pretty much everyone that came along!) who helped make this a brilliant night.

See you next year!

Paul Eathorne



Churchwarden Dave Lee prepares to sample the beer.



St Barnabas

Make a date for BLOW – and planning for 2024

As I write we are looking forward to Oh Heck on 18th November and Christmas Saxophones featuring the BLOW Ensemble. This is now a firm favourite in our Christmas festivities and BLOW will be performing on Saturday 9th December.

Not only will you hear brilliant interpretations of favourite music but you’ll also be able to join in and sing to your heart’s content. The church will look beautiful, and there will be a bar in the Link with beer, wine and soft drinks; this will be open throughout and drinks may be taken into the church. Tea and coffee will be available in the interval. Doors and bar open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7:45pm. Tickets cost £10 (under-16s free); numbers are capped so you are strongly advised to buy in advance either via Eventbrite or from me (jsharpe2016@hotmail.com, 01489 892750).

That brings us to our programme for next year:

- * Saturday 3rd February – we will start the year with a brilliant quiz together with puddings to die for. Tickets £10 adults, £5 under-16s, reservations and tickets from me
- * March – Swanmore Wind Band Concert: in church
- * April - Open Gardens
- * June - Open Gardens
- * July – Teddy Bears’ Picnic

John Sharpe

Remembrance Sunday

Making the most of poppies

The Methodist Church’s Coffee and Company group have been busily knitting to create a cascade of poppies for the entrance lobby of the church ready for Remembrance Sunday in November.

The group, led by Jill Letts and Rosemarie Parker, produced around

250 poppies, with the surplus used in displays in the church.

At St Barnabas, knitted and crocheted poppies again adorned the lych gate but also this year marked graves within the churchyard where Swanmore’s war dead or buried or remembered on family headstones.



Above, Rosemarie Parker stitches the cascade.
Right: The finished article.



In memoriam

Remembering Bill Jones

November is a time for remembering and the Swanmore community remembers with love and affection Bill Jones, whose funeral took place in St Barnabas Church on 24th November.

Although his parents lived in Liverpool, Irene, his mother, went to live with relatives in Wales while Bill senior, who served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was stationed in India, Burma and France, so Bill was born in Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1941.

When the war ended, Bill's father went to work in Hamburg and Irene and Bill joined him in 1946. The Jones' made some very close friends in Germany, more like family; Bill became fluent in German and attended a British boarding school in Plon where he made more life-long friends. Later, the family moved around as Bill senior was transferred to other cities, before returning to England to live. After moving from Birkenhead to Berwick-on-Tweed and Kidderminster, the family settled in Little Sutton, Cheshire.

Bill did a five-year mechanical engineering apprenticeship with Metal Containers at Ellesmere Port and then worked for the recently opened Vauxhall Motors small-car production centre until he retired.

Bill started "dating" Diane Youd from Helsby and used to pick her up on his motorbike although her parents didn't know he had a motorbike! They

enjoyed ballroom dancing lessons together and were awarded several silver medals in competitions. They married on 5th September 1964.

Diane and Bill continued to explore the UK with Vauxhall Motors Caravan & Camping Club, and Bill became its Chairman. They visited many places abroad including Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Thailand and Canada. Bill was very sociable, he enjoyed fancy dress parties, discos, BBQs and trying the cuisine in the countries they visited.

Bill and Diane moved to Swanmore in 2009 to be nearer their daughters Gail and Kay and grandchildren Megan, Luke, Rebecca and Zak. Diane's health was deteriorating and in time Bill became her full-time carer. They started to attend St Barnabas church, became involved in home-groups, made lots of friends and in 2011 Bill, Kay and Megan were all confirmed.

Alastair Walton recalls that in 2013, when conversations started happening about potential uses for the barely-used Old School Room, Bill, amongst many others, got behind the idea of creating a community coffee shop. He quickly became an active member of the Barnaby's Business Team (BBT) - the team that still runs the business.

After Diane passed away in 2014, Bill became a churchwarden and remained so until 2020. Janet Chant and Bill worked together as

churchwardens for three years, during which time they were kept busy as the lych gate and holm oak both fell down.

Janet recalls: "Bill liked to drive and used "satnav" with confidence! On one journey to a Diocesan conference at the

Old Thorns Hotel in Liphook, the 'back seat drivers' were allowed to direct the out-going route. On the return journey Bill and Sidney Dean insisted they knew a better route. Back seat drivers were dismissed. Then we were treated to an interesting tour around Waterlooville and Horndean and eventually ended up on the M27 we got back to Swanmore about half an hour later than the rest of the group!"

Bill was part of a small group called "The Super Six" who needed no excuse to eat out: "...we celebrated birthdays, Christmas, Chinese New Year and any other event that could involve eating! Bill especially loved cake. There wasn't one he didn't like! Sometimes if he wasn't sure he would have a second slice. We also had trips to London for Christmas concerts. With Bill, some of us had a memorable visit to the Holy Land".

Bill enjoyed many holidays at New Wine (an evangelical network) with the group from St Barnabas and earned himself a nickname "Village Grampy" - or sometimes "Grumpy Grampy!".

Bill lived life to the full and was willing to give anything a go; during his life he enjoyed caravanning, travelling to different countries and trying out the local food, sailing, motorbiking, cycling, ice-skating, line dancing, archery, playing cards, squash, gardening, DIY, going to the gym and swimming - he wasn't even phased by riding on a camel!

Bill was loyal, trustworthy, hardworking, brave, and generous, with a brilliant sense of humour; he was happy to lend a hand to anyone that needed it and always on the search for a bargain or a good deal! Living life to the full was even made possible through the last few months; with his new friend Paul Maduna (his live-in carer) by his side, he was able to remain a part of the community.

Bill made a huge contribution to Swanmore village life and we will miss him enormously. We echo Janet's words: "I will miss Bill, but I will remember him with a smile, he was our good friend".

Thank you, Bill.

Jill Phipps



Photograph by Bertie Ferrone

Thermal imaging

Is a chilly home costing you dear?

Surveys are underway around the village as Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore (SWaCS) is loaning out its thermal imaging camera to residents over the winter.

The easy-to-use device reveals where cold air is leaking in or hot air is escaping from our homes.

Once images of these areas have been captured, the SWaCS team analyses the information and reports back, so that householders or landlords can upgrade insulation, fill gaps or perhaps block chimneys and seal up disused vents. This in turn can help keep homes warmer, cut the cost of fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions.

This is the first project for SWaCS' trained volunteers, using a camera bought by Swanmore Parish Council, as heat loss from homes contributes to Swanmore having a higher than average carbon footprint (according to "Impact Report by the Centre for Sustainable Energy" produced for Winchester City Council in 2021).

SWaCS is an independent community group, set up to help reduce the greenhouse gas footprint in our villages and has no commercial interest in the survey or work arising from it. We work with Winchester Action on Climate Change and are part of the Winchester Climate Action Network. Contact us at swacs1997onwards@gmail.com to book a survey or if you're interested in our future projects.

Kim Blakeway
SWaCS



Murder Mystery

An enjoyable way to fundraise

On Friday 13th October, Swanmore Village Hall was transformed into the British Embassy in Budapest for another Murder Mystery in aid of Home-Start Hampshire. The hall was packed for *A Diplomatic Incident* to see what would happen, and the "ambassadors, their wives and dignitaries" performed with gusto.

Their performance was interspersed with a meal and £1,127 was raised for Home-Start. Grateful thanks to Dinah Weberstadt, Gillian Dirks and their team who pulled it all together and served the meals.

A big thank you also to Peter Fellows, who provided our musical interludes and dramatic chords, and to the actors: Kathy Saunders, Brian Huggett, Alec Dirks, Penny Copeland, Kerry Fox, Brenda Cogswell, Ted Quincy, Vicky Cronin and Roy Phillips, all who performed with appropriate accents and remained in their acting roles even towards the end of the evening.



A good night out for everyone and especially for Home-Start Hampshire.

Martin Letts

Above: Martin Letts, who wrote and compered the event.

Below: The cast (left to right) Kathy Saunders, Brian Huggett, Alec Dirks (standing), Penny Copeland, Kerry Fox, Brenda Cogswell, Ted Quincy, Vicky Cronin and Roy Phillips.



SADS

Theatrical DIY enthusiasts needed

Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society is looking for people to join its backstage crew to help create our fantastic sets, and have fun in the organised chaos of scene-changing during our production weeks. We are a very friendly society and grateful for any time people can spare to help us.

So, if you:

- * Like designing and building things
- * Are happy using power and hand tools

- * Can wield a paint brush or roller
- * Can hang wallpaper
- * Want to be part of a team
- * Can do any of these or even just think you may be interested, please get in touch for a chat and to hear more about this area of theatre.

Contact Caroline Powell at swanmoredrama@gmail.com or mobile 07701 044563. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gail Norris, SADS joint secretary

Wellness Week

Finding ways to stay healthy and stress-free

Early October brought about a special experience for more than 30 local residents who gathered at the Paterson Centre for the launch of the first Swanmore Wellness Week. The event, coordinated by local wellness businesses and sponsored by Swanmore Parish Council, aimed to enhance the well-being of all attendees. It was a delight to see so many new faces.

The day started with talks and demonstrations on mindfulness, reflexology, and facial massage – techniques renowned for their stress-relief and sleep-improvement benefits. Attendees took part in taster sessions of yoga, meditation and Pilates. These sessions provided residents with an introduction to practices that can improve their physical and mental health.

Across the village at Damson Hill Cottage, doors were open, welcoming visitors with refreshments and baked goods. This location was a perfect complement to the Paterson Centre's activities, creating a sense of community that beautifully reflected the village's ethos.

In the days following the wellness event, a comprehensive schedule of free and discounted wellness sessions were on offer. The response from the village was overwhelming, with more than 90 residents seizing the opportunity to invest in their well-being

and attend a course or treatment.

As winter approaches, know that you can reach out to any one of the participating practitioners for support and assistance in staying healthy and happy during the colder months.

Alison Potter



Participating practitioners

Christine Adams
Victoria Corbett
Mel Cutriss
Lucy Gatland
Debbie Jones
Hannah Pateman

Sports massage
Pilates/fitness
Holistic therapies
Counselling
Pilates/fitness
Nutrition/wellness

www.cjasportsmassage.com
www.damsonhillcottage.com
www.relaxandretreat.co.uk
www.lucygatlandcounselling.co.uk
www.inspiremefit.co.uk/
www.facebook.com/nutritionwellnesshannah
www.yoga-natalie.co.uk
www.mindfulbreathstudio.co.uk
www.meontrails.co.uk
www.angiwardpilates.co.uk
www.mellowtherapies.co.uk

Natalie Penniall
Alison Potter
Paul Turner
Angi Ward
Sarah Wright

Yoga classes
Mindfulness/retreats
Guided walks
Pilates classes
Reflexology





Scenes from Wellness Week:

1. Reflexology with Sarah Wright.
2. Pilates at Damson Hill Cottage.
3. Alison Potter runs a mindfulness session.
4. Guided walk with Paul Turner.

Enthusiastic support

- "I thoroughly enjoyed attending Swanmore's first Wellness Week. What a great way to find out more about our local wellness businesses and the different treatments available. – Liz Hughes
- "What a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning. From the moment I arrived I entered a lovely calm and relaxing space with a warm welcome. Lovely friendly cafe next door for refreshments, which was an added bonus. I was treated to a wonderful reflexology taster that left me wanting more. – Sarah Grieve
- We joined the welcome session, which focussed on allowing us to give back to ourselves. We also joined a Pilates session held by instructor Debbie that I enjoyed so much I went along later in the week to join a full session and will be going back for more – Thea George

Do you remember...?

Jane Shawyer is looking for any information – memories or photographs – of the draper's shop that her grandmother, Ellen Shawyer, ran in Swanmore during the 1950s/early 1960s. If you can recall anything do contact editor@stbarnabas.org.uk and we can put you in touch with Jane.

Swanmore Pre-school

Learning about trees, boats and farm animals

The children have shown an interest in seasonal changes that are happening to our world. This has included observing the trees changing their colours, acorns dropping, pine cones falling, branches coming down and more.

Children have thus encouraged us to go on nature walks, which led to making a nature documentary using our video camera. We found out lots about different types of trees comparing all the leaf patterns.

The children have also shown interest in boats recently; we have been learning about different types of boats such as pedalos, sailing boats, canoes, car ferries and barges. We

are excited to see where the children will lead us on their next topic journey. In addition, the children have enjoyed visiting Swanmore Primary School and learning more about farm animals.

We have been fundraising for our "Help Nurture our Nature Area" and have currently raised £395.00 so that we can buy some outdoor learning equipment. Thank you to all who donated! The "Quiz Night" raised £188 that will also help to enhance the nature area and we held a Christmas Fayre on 24th November.

To find out more please contact us on 01489-893779 or visit www.swanmorepreschool.org.uk.

Bonnie Lapham



Preschool children finding out about farm animals.

Lunch Club

Can you spare a few hours to help?

Swanmore Lunch Club needs more volunteers to help.

Do you think you could spare a couple of hours once a month to enable the older folk of the village to get together with their friends for a cordial two-course lunch followed by tea/coffee?

Maybe you could help while waiting to collect children from school? The more volunteers we can get, the more chance it will be only once a month.

We need people to assist the cook

with vegetable preparation, and others to put the tables and chairs out before the meal and away again after the meal is finished.

We also need people to sell raffle tickets and eggs, to serve the meal, and most importantly some people to wash up.

If you think you could help, please contact on me on 01329 510667 or 07850 100547 or email to: ann.warrington@btinternet.com

Ann Warrington

Swanmore Conservation Group

Making progress – despite a lack of wildflowers

At the beginning of October, a few members of our group met the Parish Council's Executive Officer and a representative from the Council's newly-appointed contractors that are responsible for, among other things, cutting the grass in the Conservation Area. This was a very helpful meeting for us as it meant we could confirm exactly how and when we think the meadows should be cut and discuss areas needing work in the future. It also gave us an opportunity to express our thanks and satisfaction with the company's work since it took over the job – their cutting back of the brambles on the path through the Upper Meadow is a huge improvement.

Although we are still enjoying the success of finally painting our shed in the Lower Meadow there is still a small amount of maintenance that needs to be done. However, it is looking much better and hopefully the anti-graffiti paint that was used will be effective if ever needed.

In October, the work party did a great deal of work in and around the pond. We were able to remove an immense amount of duckweed, parrot

weed, algae and litter using rakes and nets without having to get into the pond. We hope to enlist the help of the two students who have helped us before to do some more drastic clearing. They did a great job on their previous visit cutting back reeds, marsh marigolds and water lilies that are always trying to take over the pond, blocking light from the pond life below. Wearing waders means they can reach the most-overgrown areas and their youth means they accomplish so much so quickly; they really earn their money. We plan to have the overhanging branches of the trees around the pond cut back too and several dead trees removed, all this using our "pond fund".

In August and September we had very much curtailed work parties: once we were rained off by a thunderstorm and then another time our session was abandoned because of the heat. We did much better in October as besides the work on the pond we repaired the fence by the gate into Green's Wood where the top half of a silver birch tree had broken the rails when it fell some weeks before. We tidied up the Church Road path from where the new fence, built by the Parish Council's contractor, ends right to the gate on Church Road. We also started the annual path repairs by putting hoggin



Yellow rattle (Rhinanthus minor) is hemiparasitic on grass so helps to reduce its vigour in a meadow allowing wild flowers to thrive.

down in the wettest part of this path. Hopefully we were able to put down the rest of the hoggin in November.

The Parish Council's wildflower meadow has been very disappointing: few of the seeds the contractor sowed germinated and those that did were overwhelmed by the vigorous grass. We tried to help by sowing yellow rattle seed two years in a row and although it grew well in the first year it failed to appear again and the second lot of seed failed to germinate at all. Perhaps the clay soil is too rich or the grass grew too strongly due to all the rain. The Parish Council is now considering what to do next...

Our work parties meet, weather permitting, on the second Saturday of the month – 9th December and 13th January – from 9.45am to 12 noon. We meet at the hut in the Lower Meadow to plan our jobs and stop for coffee at 11am. Do join us if you are interested; all help is welcome.

*Gill Sawyer
01489 894206*



Two of the temporary or seasonal ponds at Marsh's Meadows. These ponds are a feature of old meadows and can be very rich in plant and animal life, particularly amphibians and invertebrates such as water beetles. They will remain until the spring.

Photographs by Pete Mason

Swanmore College

Plenty of activities and good GCSE results

Our new Year 7 pupils have settled well this term and are enjoying life at Swanmore College.

On Thursday 14th September we held our annual Open Evening for prospective pupils who are currently in Year 6 at primary school. We also hosted viewing mornings at the end of September, when more than 130 families were given a tour of the facilities by some of our current pupils.

Applications for secondary school places closed on 31st October and the outcomes will be announced nationally on 1st March 2024.

College trips

During the summer holiday, a group of 60 pupils and staff travelled to Ghana

with African Adventures to help teach and build at two partner schools in the Volta region. This was the first trip of its kind for Swanmore College and an amazing experience for all who attended. The college also collected and donated clothes and supplies for local families in Ghana.

During the October half-term some of our GCSE Spanish pupils joined a trip to Seville to help them improve their language skills and experience Spanish culture.

GCSE exams

We had a very pleasing set of GCSE results this year, despite the rising bar on expectation. Certificates were presented to all our 2023 leavers at a



A car load of shoe boxes.

celebration evening at the College on 23rd November 2023.

Our current Year 11 pupils sat mock GCSE examinations before half-term and our Year 10 pupils are embarking on their first set of mock examinations during November. These tests help to give pupils and teachers a good indication of how they are performing and which areas they need to focus on going forward into the academic year.

Shoebox appeal

Swanmore College supported the Wessex Shoebox Appeal again this year. Each tutor group was tasked with filling at least two shoeboxes with donations to send to disadvantaged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity of our pupils and their families, we managed to fill a whole car full of shoeboxes for this very worthy cause.

College production

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

Tickets are on sale via pupil's Scopay accounts.



Left: Pupils at the Plaza de España in Seville. Below: College pupils hard at work in Ghana.



Roly's Run

Why all these people run in Swanmore each year

Sunday 19th November was the day of the fifth Roly's Run. Instigated in November 2019, participants opt to complete 40, 20 or 15 miles – running or walking along a circular route in and around the Meon Valley, taking in some of the local ascents and descents, including Beacon and Old Winchester Hills.

The event starts each year at Swanmore Village Hall and is organised by Roly's best friend, Charles Brent (known as Carlos), whose partner is Roly's sister Anna. They live in Swanmore and their three children all attend Swanmore Primary School where Anna is a parent governor. As the run has grown, more people from Swanmore have become involved either by participating directly or helping in various ways. There was a display of pictures and information in the Swanmore Village Hall on the day of the event, telling more about what the run is all about.

Roly's Run is named after Richard Walklate. "Roly" was Rich's nickname from his badminton days. He would often visit his sister and Carlos in Swanmore and they would regularly run together in the Meon Valley, often well into the night with head torches.

In May 2018, Rich died suddenly. This extremely active and fit young man, aged 33, fell very ill over a weekend and in less than a week had

A welcome pit stop for runners.

died. It is very likely that his death was caused by sepsis. The family and his many friends were devastated. Carlos was determined that Rich would be remembered and decided to honour him by starting Roly's Run.

Unbeknown to most of his friends and family, Rich had achieved so much in his short life. He had a very important job and had played both chess and badminton at junior county level. He had participated in triathlons, Ironman events and, in November 2017, had been the first British athlete to cross the line in the highest marathon in the world that had started just below base camp on Everest. Three weeks before he died, Rich had run the Manchester Marathon in his best ever time: just three minutes over three hours.

Rich lived in Cheltenham and it staggered the family that the week after his death more than 700 people took part in the local parkrun where he had been a co-director. The previous Cheltenham record had been just in



excess of 500. Because he lived on his own, the family had assumed that he had few friends. How wrong they were.

With about 12 weeks to go before the first Roly's Run there were just twelve entrants. This finally increased to more than 110. This year's figure was around 250. There are innumerable volunteers marshalling the course, preparing and cooking food and/or making home-made cakes for the runners to enjoy both during and after the run.

Shops, such as Alexandra Sports and Sainsbury's, donated prizes for the event, which included a raffle on the day. Roly's Run is now featured on the Ordnance Survey map of the area and people have entered from all over the country.

The event has raised much money for charity. Last year £5,400 was shared between the Papworth Hospital Charity (Papworth was where Rich was treated in 2014); the UK Sepsis Trust, since sepsis was the likely cause of his death; and Help for Heroes, as we found after his death that Rich made regular donations to the charity and the family wanted to continue this support.

At his funeral, one of his colleagues in Cheltenham ended his testimony to Rich with these words: "Rich was an iron man with a heart of gold". There is no better epitaph.

For more detailed information look on www.rolys.run

Stephen Walklate



Five of last year's runners prepare to start the race. Left to right: Louis de Sousa, Rob Walker, Fiona Sharvill, Dominic Ducellier and Mackenzie Cockram.

Swanmore Society

More on Portsmouth's history and vital responders

Our autumn term kicked off in September with the welcome return of Andrew Negus to continue his series on the history of Portsmouth. As always, an enjoyable, fact- and anecdote-packed evening ensued, this time covering 1850–1930.

During that period the dockyard tripled in size, as Britain's navy grew in line with the expansion of its empire. The engineering projects extracted vast volumes of mud, which were used to create Whale Island, home to the Royal Navy gunnery school. The extensive ring of Palmerston Forts was constructed in the 1860s and '70s to protect the dockyards from possible invasion from both land and sea.

The problem of "dung" in Portsmouth, which has featured in both of Andrew's previous instalments, was finally tackled effectively with the building of Eastney sewage pumping station in 1870; as he said, this probably saved more lives than any hospital. The advent of corset factories also greatly cut down on prostitution as it provided impoverished women

with an alternative income.

Andrew introduced us to a wealth of notables. Arthur Conan Doyle worked as a GP in Southsea for eight years from 1882 and wrote the first two of his Sherlock Holmes books there. Among Andrew's favourite characters were Aggie Weston and Sarah Robinson, who created safe, clean and temperate accommodation for sailors and soldiers, and Father Dolling, who worked among the most deprived and built St Agatha's church.

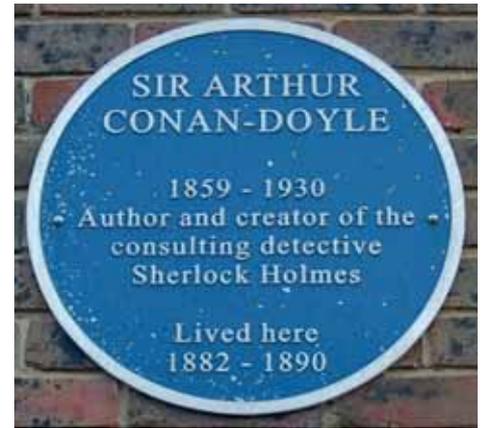
Later on, the First World War brought glory and death to the town, which, as a result, was honoured as a city with a bishop and cathedral.

In October, we welcomed Andrew Brown from Bishop's Waltham's Community First Responders (CFRs). This team of volunteers, who are trained and deployed by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), attend medical emergencies within their local communities and provide live-saving treatments, such as defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, until an ambulance arrives. Starting these critical treatments even a minute or two earlier can make all the difference in such situations, so CFRs really do help to save more lives.

Andrew introduced us to the twelve-strong local team, which included some familiar faces. In terms of headcount, they comprise fewer than 2% of CFRs within the SCAS but respond to 3% of all calls, so they "punch above their weight". Their commitment was recognised with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2020, of which they are very proud.

In order to help CFRs to assist us, Andrew urged us all to ensure that our house name or number is clearly visible from the road. Registering the number of any key safe with the ambulance service is also important

On 13th December, our talk will be on "Building Spitfires without a



Plaque at Bush House, Southsea commemorating the author's years in the town.

Factory", by Alan Matlock, chair of Southampton-based The Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust. After the Supermarine factories on the banks of the Itchen were destroyed by bombing in 1940, manufacturing was moved to dozens of secret workshops across Southampton and beyond – including some in the Swanmore area.

Looking further ahead, the society is taking a break in January. We are experimenting with a summer social event in 2024 – more details in due course. So, the next gathering of the Swanmore Society will be on 14th February. Our meetings are held in the Paterson Centre, starting at 8pm, and all are welcome.

Caroline Clapperton 01489 891447



Portable defibrillator – a vital component of the CFR's kit.



Spitfire Mk II P7350, the only airworthy example of its type that flew and fought in the Battle of Britain in 1940. Photographed at the Swanmore Fête in 2022 by Rob Day.

SADS Backstage spotlight

From deer to director – a SADS success story

Emilie Morgan will be making her directing debut with SADS' production of *Murder with Ghosts*, in Spring 2024. Emilie joined us at eight years of age and her first role was Leading Deer in *Snow White*. Her face lit up when she was given the role, and she has gone on to light up the stage many times since then. Now she will be taking all that stage experience off stage.

We have been blessed with many talented and award-winning directors over SADS' long history. Some are adding their "Words of Wisdom" but first Emilie's views.

How did you start with SADS?

I started SADS when I was in Brownies. I remember watching the pantomime with my mum and loved it. An opportunity was offered to children to take part so I thought I would give it a go. I have been a part of SADS ever since.

What range of parts have you had and which was your favourite?

I have had several parts during my time at SADS: starting off as being part of the chorus, getting my first "big break" as lead deer; then developing to some minor roles with some speaking lines. It did include me



Eight-year-old Emilie Morgan as "Leading Deer" in Snow White.

singing, which I was terrified of doing, but I had a lot of help from the team to support me. I was then leading lady in *Mother Goose*, and after that, I challenged myself to do something different by playing the evil witch Frogmella, which was my favourite as it is fun being mean on stage. Finally, I was the lead last year in *Puss in Boots!*

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you?

I do have a bad habit of getting the giggles, particularly with certain members of the group, but if I had to choose anything, it would be when I was Frogmella and I had to come on stage cackling, but a smoke flare went off and I inhaled the smoke and came on stage coughing rather than cackling. The audience thought it was funny and it definitely wasn't part of the script; so much for being scary!

What prompted you to turn to directing?

I always thought I would try directing eventually when I had more experience being a part of SADS. I sadly wasn't able to be a part of the pantomime this year due to home commitments, so I looked towards the spring play. When they wanted a director for the show, I thought I would put my name forward and see what would happen and luckily for me they were happy for me to direct!

What are you most looking forward to during your directing debut?

I am looking forward to experiencing the show from a different point of view. I've always loved being on stage and putting on a good show for the audience. I can now try and do the same but as a director. I am hoping I can bring my own creative ideas forward and try something different. Fingers crossed the audience enjoy it.

Words of wisdom

For aspiring directors may I recommend: Use enthusiasm, encouragement, know your script and schedule, and keep it fun. It has to be fun for all. Keep everyone with you and fully informed. The good and the bad times – they will respond. Let them be creative, let them do their thing. It may change and expand as characters develop. Basic requirements are a loud voice and a sense of humour!

Martin Letts

- *Designation – of a good crew in all departments
- *Imagination – in casting the best actor for each role
- *Resilience – against problems
- *Encouragement – of the cast in their characterisation
- *Calmness – when things don't go right
- *Thoroughness – in details
- *Open minded – to suggestions and change
- *Resolve – to give the audience the best show

Lesley Preedy

Over the years, I have directed several plays and pantomimes, with initially little experience of directing. SADS productions are based on team work and initially one needs to watch, listen and learn. Also, try out as many positions as you can. I have been prompt, involved with back stage, props, scenery, front of house, etc; it all helps to understand what is needed. A director also has to be prepared for the directions from the "actors" who often consider themselves associate stage directors. A sense of humour is vital, and sometimes a whistle!

Carol Sealey





Community Awards

Community Service Awards
It's that time of year again when we ask you to think about the individuals and groups in the village whom you believe have made a difference to your life, or the village as a whole this year.

We welcome nomination for the following three categories:

- ★ Adult
- ★ Young Person
- ★ Group

We are particularly keen to hear about our young village heroes. We have yet to give an award to a young person...

Anyone can enter: to nominate a person or group you simply need to email clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk with the name of the person or group you

would like to nominate and why, by Friday 26th January 2024.

Community Project Award
Swanmore Parish Council has £2,000 to give away for this year's Community Project Award.

Local groups, clubs, organisations and charities are invited to apply for part or all of this funding.

Once the applications are in we then ask the parish to vote for the Community Project Award winners.

To apply for an award please email clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk for an application form. Completed forms to be received by Friday 26th January 2024.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2024.

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.

Please note: there are no committee meetings during December.

- 9th January – Planning & Highways Committee
 - 16th January – Open Spaces & Amenities Committee
 - 30th January – Full Council
- Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information.

Swanmore's Forward Vision

Earlier this year the Parish Council asked for your help to prioritise the numerous activities that have been identified as areas where the Parish Council should support or provide investment, in order to help the wider community.

The results of the consultation are below. The Parish Council will use this information when reviewing the Forward Plan and priorities.

2024–25 Budget and Forward Planning

The Parish Council is currently budget setting for 2024–25. Are there any areas that you think we need to focus on? If so, please email your feedback to: clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk.

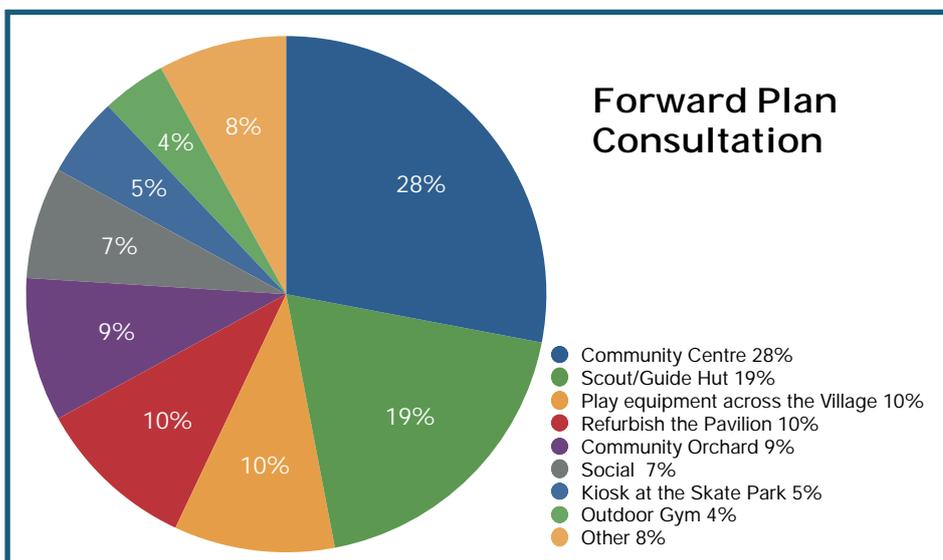
Welcome

A slightly belated welcome to our new councillor Michela Iadarola. Michela sits on the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee and with a

young family is perfectly placed to support the parish on our recreation areas and open spaces. With Michela joining us, we now have a full complement of Councillors.

Merry Christmas

On 1st December the Christmas lights will be switched on. We would like to take this opportunity to thank residents for their ongoing support of the Parish Council. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



Swanmore Golf Centre

Something for everyone – especially more “seniors”

Just west of the A32 you'll find an attractive parkland nine-hole golf course, surrounded by woodland and with pleasant views across the Meon Valley towards Swanmore.

Swanmore Golf Centre is a friendly or fun place to play or practice with good parking in a tranquil area. Run by PGA professional Kevin Bowden, the Golf Centre's course offers some of the best greens in Hampshire.

Just nine holes it may be, but whether you are young or old, male or female, the course will test every aspect of your game. At around 1,400 to 1,600 yards long (depending on which tees you play off) you will need unflinching accuracy, solid driving ability, and a sound club selection to score well. There is something to enjoy for every age and level of golfer.

The centre has had a Senior Section for more than 25 years with up to 30 players; its youngest are in their 50s, with several players in their vibrant 80s still exhibiting good golfing skills. Every Wednesday morning there is a senior's stroke play competition, with the first Wednesday

every month being a Stapleford contest. We play a six-monthly league in summer and again through the winter months, culminating in team fun days. There are also stand-alone knockout singles and doubles competitions during each summer and winter season. In addition, the seniors play against other local clubs, home and away, every summer season. You can join the Senior Section by becoming a five- or seven-day member, or just by paying a weekly green fee. Male and female players are both welcome: we have both currently. If you are over-50 and would like to join us, contact me or the Golf Centre; or even just turn up between 8.30am and 9am one Wednesday morning.

As you might guess, with some long-term senior members become pretty aged, we would like some younger (but not too young) blood to join our Senior Section.

Starting to play golf? Tuition is available from two professionals teaching a modern approach to the game, with both off- and on-course



Putting on hole 5.

tuition available. There's a practice bunker, a putting green and you can buy or hire golf equipment from the Professional's shop. All hire is free if you are having tuition at Swanmore.

The groundsman work hard to keep the course in a pristine state right through the year; occasionally the weather will influence course conditions but when it's had to close it is mainly due to snow. We also stay on the main greens whatever the weather.

The course is also slightly famous for possibly being the only one in Hampshire (and maybe the south of England) that can boast a US Open Champion, a young Justin Rose (not all that famous at the time), picking up balls on the driving range. And on several occasions the course has hosted competitions for young golfers from around the area, in which Harry Ellis (a recent Walker Cup player) and Matt Ritchie (the Newcastle United and Scottish midfielder) have both played.

Green fees and membership are all very reasonable. There are special rates for various players according to age. For full details and a guide to the course go to www.swanmoregolf.co.uk or call 01329 835300.

For more information on the Seniors Section contact me on ddan282739@aol.com.

David Daniels



Members of the Centre's Senior Section relaxing after a game.



Left: Members from clubs across the south at a recent training event in Swanmore College.

Powerhouse Taekwondo

Still kicking after 25 years in Swanmore

The history of taekwondo can be traced back thousands of years but was developed in its current form during the 1950s in Korea; it is now the national martial art of South Korea and an Olympic sport. It has also been a weekly event in Swanmore for the past 25 years, still training under the original founder of the club.

Powerhouse Taekwondo was formed in 1994 and has held classes in Swanmore since 1999, originally training in the Paterson Centre. As the club grew, we started using the facilities in Swanmore College and have been training there twice a week ever since, except during covid.



Local guides enjoy a taekwondo taster session.

During that time when people were in need of constructive mental and physical activity with social contact we found great benefit using Zoom three times a week, and started training with long-standing friends from other local clubs on Swanmore Recreation Ground on Saturdays when that became possible.

The literal translation of taekwondo is the art of kicking and punching. People of all ages (from seven to 70), abilities and experiences train with Powerhouse. We cater for all goals, whether you're an aspiring Olympian or simply want to improve your fitness, learn some self-defence, or kick and punch alongside your kids, everyone can learn the basic techniques and derive enjoyment from improving and applying them.

Practising these basic techniques develops strength and improves balance and co-ordination. Moving onto combinations and sparring develops fitness, while learning patterns builds concentration. Combining physical and mental learning has been identified as very effective in developing and maintaining cognitive skills.

Over the years, more than 1,000 people have trained with our club; some for a few months, others for many years – some of whom go on to achieve black belt level.

Founder, lead instructor and Seventh Dan Black Belt, Master Pat Donnelly, reflecting on his nearly 30

years leading the club and his personal 35 years associated with taekwondo says: "I've seen so many students, young and old, of all backgrounds and abilities during my time teaching at the club. Not only do they develop their martial arts skills but they also develop as people. For Powerhouse it's never been about being the best, fastest or strongest in class. It's all about our students as individuals, working within their own abilities to excel, and recognising and congratulating personal progression".

We are affiliated to British Taekwondo through ChungDoKwan GB, which means that grades earned through Powerhouse are nationally and internationally recognised. Powerhouse members have gone on to train with, instruct or lead other clubs, including at universities; some also compete (and win) in national and international competitions. We also benefit from ChungDoKwan clubs from across the south regularly using Swanmore as a venue for training and grading events, most recently in late October when more than 70 people of all grades and ages gathered to train and learn together.

We are a non-profit club, and some of our members become instructors, committee members or support the club in other ways. We could not run without you, so thank you to all our current and previous members, instructors and supporters who have made the past 25 years possible and so enjoyable. If you want to help us make a start on the next 25 years, whatever your age or experience, whether you are a complete beginner, a returning former member or a lapsed martial artist, we would love for you to come along for a free taster of taekwondo. We train in Swanmore College on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (and in Havant on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning).

For further details please call Master Pat Donnelly on 07786 486063 or email pat@powerhousetkd.org.uk

Dave Jobson

Swanmore in the Second World War

Part 1: The early years

One of the interesting items in the Village Archives is the *"Swanmore Invasion Committee War Book"*. It was clear during the 1930s that our country would again be facing another war, so the committee had time to prepare and ensure that the Swanmore community was well-organised to face the conflict. This would be the first war in which aircraft would play a key role, with devastating attacks on civilians.

The Invasion Committee was chaired by Ethel Portal of Holywell House. The Committee's headquarters were in the Parish Rooms, which is where the Home Guard, Police, Air Raid Patrol and Fire Guards were also based. There was also a first aid team headed by Mrs A H Law of Jervis Lodge with a team of 21 trained people operating from the British Legion Hall in New Road.

The Committee's plans included emergency medical centres, if needed, which would be in the school, church, Holywell House, Hill Place, Swanmore House, the Vicarage and the hall at *The Hunters Inn*. Sector Air Raid Patrols and Fire Guards were allocated to each area of the village, ready to report any incidents, and there was a Sector Labour Organisation equipped with prongs, spades, shovels, picks, barrows, ladders and crowbars ready to spring into action in the event of damage to houses or infrastructure.

Rest Centres were planned for the Parish Room and the British Legion Hall, which could accommodate 120 people on mattresses, and also at *The Bricklayers Arms* (now *The Brickmakers*), all supported by more than 20 local volunteers.

Planning for emergencies

In the event of damage to the village water supply, which came from Gosport Waterworks, the *"War Book"* records details of an emergency supply that could be obtained from local wells with a list of the dozen

wells available. Food suppliers were also organised with a list of grocers, butchers and bakers as well as local milk suppliers and farms with the number of cows and anticipated milk output.

The realisation that death could come to the population either through bombing or invasion was not neglected. The "Emergency Burial" section of the book states that: "In the event of fatal casualties, trenches will be dug by the Labour Group...coffins will be dispensed with. It is planned to dig trenches in the Allotment Field on the right of Vicarage Lane".

The realities of war

Following the invasion of Poland, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany at 11.15am on Sunday 3rd September 1939 and the terrifying realities of war would soon become apparent. First of the Swanmore men to be killed was



Bomb disposal team at Buckett's Farm – with bomb.

regular seaman Ernest Farr (chief stoker) who died on 14th October 1939 when his ship *HMS Royal Oak* was sunk by a German U-Boat while at anchor in Scarpa Flow.

War soon caught up with the people of Swanmore, with the conscription of young men, the issuing of gas masks to children, identity cards, blackouts and food rationing. Road signposts were removed in case they might be of use to an enemy.

The British Legion Hall in New Road – sold in the 1970s when the current Village Hall was built.



Captain Bernard Warburton-Lee VC.

In April 1940, during a fierce naval action in the Norwegian harbour of Narvik, Captain Bernard Warburton-Lee, who lived locally at Soberton Mill, took his destroyer into the harbour and sunk a number of enemy ships. His ship received direct hits during which he was severely wounded. In order to save his ship's crew he ordered it to be run aground. Warburton-Lee died of his wounds and for his outstanding action was awarded the first Victoria Cross of the war. Lt Geoffrey Stanning, who had steered the ship ashore, also lived locally and later became churchwarden of St Barnabas.



Left: Members of Swanmore's Home Guard. Back row – Billy Harris, Ron Crook, Sgt Mjr Jack Mills, Vic Triivett, Bill Saunders. Front row – unknown, Lt William Green, Don Hibberd, unknown.

Petrol rationing came into force for those with cars and headlight deflectors were fitted to all vehicles. However, buses continued to run from Winchester to Fareham via Swanmore every 30 minutes. There was also a regular bus service from Southampton to Petersfield via Swanmore. Due to the shortage of fuel, buses were powered by gas kept in an attached trailer. The sound of the air raid sirens located in Bishop's Waltham and Droxford were to become all too familiar.

The defeat of the British Army Expeditionary force, and the rescue operation from Dunkirk in June 1940 following the fall of France, left Britain in a very vulnerable position.

The Solent region was at high risk of attack by enemy aircraft based in France. Since Portsmouth was our main naval base, and Southampton the location of the Spitfire factory and the principal embarkation port for troops, it was decided to evacuate children from these areas, while many from Gosport came to Swanmore. For city children, some from poorer homes, adapting to rural life was a challenge. In Swanmore local children went to school in the morning and those from Gosport in the afternoon. Children were given two weeks off school in the spring to help plant crops and two in the autumn to gather in the harvest. In order to prevent children becoming malnourished, school meals for all were introduced with a daily one-third of a pint of milk. Later, food parcels were sent from Canada for

children; the chocolate powder they contained was especially popular.

The threat of invasion was very real; many men – particularly those who had served in the First World War– joined what became the Home Guard. Ron Crook served in the Swanmore Home Guard and remembered waiting to receive rifles and ammunition. He recalled firing practice on the ranges at Dean. His commanding officer was Lieutenant William Green of Hill Top, Upper Swanmore.

Local targets

The Portsmouth area suffered more than 60 air raids: 930 died and almost 10% of the city's 63,000 homes were destroyed with many more suffering varying levels of damage. On 10th January 1941 Portsmouth Guildhall was destroyed by incendiary bombs, while eight schools and many churches were destroyed in the raids. Southampton experienced 57 large-

scale air raids when a total of 30,000 incendiaries and 2,300 bombs were dropped on the city. The glow from Southampton on fire could be seen in France. Close to 45,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed and the majority of the High Street lay in ruins.

Many people left the cities in the evenings to avoid the bombing, and buses were laid on to bring them to the country areas. The Invasion Committee records suggest that the population of Swanmore was boosted by as many as 350 people at night during 1940/41, with many sleeping in the British Legion Hall and the cellar of *The Rising Sun*, which the landlord had fitted out with bunk-beds.

The Spitfire factory at Woolston was an obvious target from June 1940 onwards while the Cunliffe-Owen factory, which produced Spitfire parts, was attacked on 11th September 1940 with 52 workers killed. The dead included two Swanmore men: Fred Willing, the son of the landlord of *The Rising Sun* and Frederick Bath who lived in Swanmore Road.

It was vital that Spitfire production continued and numerous local factories were set up to produce vital parts, including one at the top of Gravel Hill where Gwen Wood, daughter of the landlord of *The New Inn*, worked. There was also a ►



The Cunliffe-Owen factory the morning after the raid on 11th September 1940.



Land girls at work on a local farm.

factory in Sandy Lane which produced aero engine parts.

Early on, two bombs fell into the field almost opposite the entrance to Moorlands Road. June Clarkson remembered the tremendous explosions shaking their house, blowing the windows out and bringing the ceilings down. Not all the bombs exploded and Harold Inglis, who owned land where one unexploded bomb lay for three weeks in September 1940, charged 6d (2½p) – donated to the Red Cross – to view the crater. Aircraft fell too. An enemy bomber came down in the field opposite *The Horse and Jockey* at Hipley, near Wickham. The landlord went out and took the surrender of those crew still alive until the local army unit turned up. A local man at Waltham Chase cross roads witnessed a Spitfire crashing at Ashton while a damaged enemy bomber



Harry Gomer



Eric Dainty



Frederick Potheary

farms had Land Girls allocated to them and later on prisoners of war were used. There were also rabbits and game birds to be caught. Fruit was available locally and could be preserved for the winter months. Fareham Market – a useful source of many items – still opened on Mondays. Other things were in short supply: old clothes were turned into school uniforms; no scrap of clothing was wasted and mothers had jars of spare buttons to replace lost ones; newspapers and old telephone directories were cut up for toilet paper. Nothing was wasted.

came down at Dundridge.

Death toll rises

Five more Swanmore men died serving their country during 1941: Royal Marine Harry Gomer went down with *HMS Hood* after an engagement with the *Bismark* on the 24th May; Lt Eric Dainty died on the 23rd November fighting in the North African campaign; Frederick Potheary, Royal Marine, has been taken prisoner in Crete and died in captivity on 15th October; while Cecil George, a Royal Navy officer, and Sidney Light (able seaman) were killed when *HMS Barham* was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on 25th November 1941.

Generally people in Swanmore were very fortunate in that many kept chickens and some pigs. They also lived within a farming community where food was available. Many local

Government posters declaring “Dig for Victory or “Make do and Mend” encouraged people to make the best of what was available. In Bishop’s Waltham a team assembled gas masks while children rolled bandages and filled shoe boxes for the troops.

It was not until November 1942 and the second battle of El Alemein that eventual victory seemed possible. For the first time since the war had started, church bells were rung out across the country. As Prime Minister Winston Churchill put it: “This is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end but it is perhaps the end of the beginning”. Clearly there was some way to go.

Crawford Wright



Cecil George



Sidney Light

Twyford to Owslebury circular walk

This is a circular walk accessible by bus or car and traverses beautiful Hampshire countryside between Twyford and Owslebury. Distance: 7 miles/11¼ km. Walking time: 2 hours 45 minutes.

Directions

The 69 bus from Swanmore church runs at half past the hour and takes approximately 45 minutes to reach Twyford Crossroads. The return bus goes at 42 minutes past the hour from the sheltered bus stop just along from the traffic lights towards Swanmore. The £2 fare for any single ride is now operational until December 2024.

The route goes through Hunter Park where there is a small car park accessed from Park Lane that may be used by individuals walking local paths. (Turn left from Roman Road for the car park in Hunter Park.)

“It’s not Ow-slebury and it’s certainly not Ussle-bury. It’s Uzzlebury with a zzz,” some villagers will tell you, “that’s the proper ‘ampshire way” to pronounce the name of this remote hilltop village that runs higgledy-piggledy along a lofty chalk ridge south-east of Winchester. However you like to pronounce it, *The Ship Inn* or the picnic tables at the Glebe meadow will be ideal for that mid-walk break.

1. Twyford crossroads to Hensting Lane

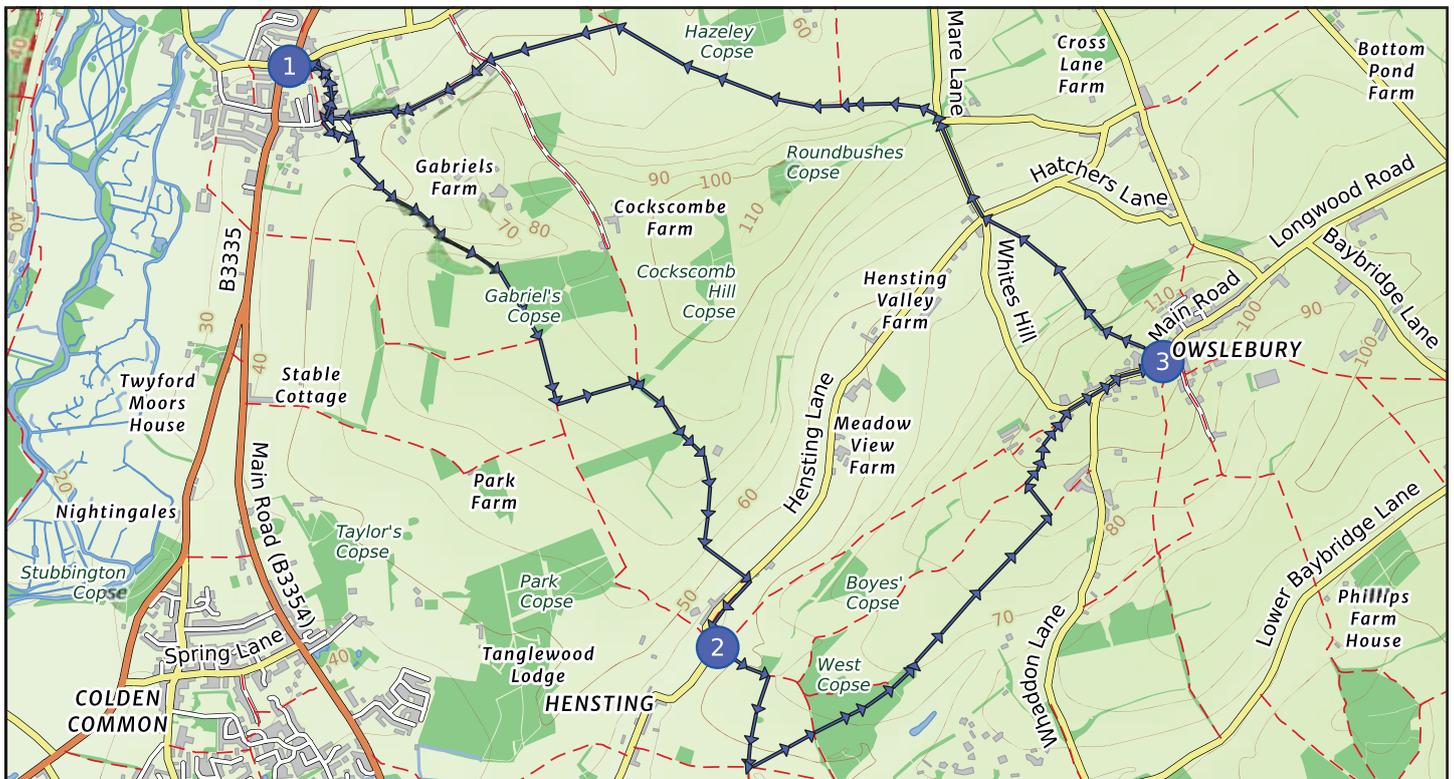
From the bus stop near the shop and café-wine bar at Twyford crossroads take the Owslebury road alongside the



The shop at the Twyford Crossroads.

shop and go into Roman Road on the right. At the end turn right onto Park Lane then left to the pedestrian access to Hunter Park recreational fields. (Alternatively, from the car park head towards the green pavilion.)

The western section of the park is land that was gifted to the Parish Council by a Mr Hunter in 1964, hence the name; he specified that its use was to be limited to leisure pursuits. ▶



Map Legend

B Road	Right of Way	Water
Minor Road	Buildings	
Local Street	Woodland	

Scan the QR code to download the route as a GPX file, compatible with many navigation apps and GPS devices.

Heights in metres above mean sea level.

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0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile



St Andrew's Church, Owslebury.

Follow the path alongside the allotments and go left over to the car park, past the green pavilion and over through the gap behind the children's playground.

The footpath runs alongside a fence on the left with a pasture on the right. This path can be uneven and slippery in places when wet. Keep to the fence, ignoring the steep path to the right a little way along and go on gradually uphill to an open field.

Continue alongside the open fields for approximately eight to ten minutes past the footpath to your right, until you reach a permissive footpath on your left.

Take this wide track over the open fields to the trees and turn right down Watley Lane. This is a bridleway going down to Hensting Lane that soon becomes a gravelled drive from the large barns of Immanuel Farm. Go straight across the lane and turn right along the field edge, passing cottages and the low thatched roof at Hensting Farm on the other side of the lane.

2. Hensting Lane to Owslebury

Just after a bend turn right through the hedge and left onto a bridleway to pass steps going back up into the field. Hensting Lane goes off to the right.

Follow the gently rising track to take the next small path on the right. Passing stables on the right, continue until you meet a large tree in the middle of the path. Shortly after this

take the footpath left, opposite a metal gate and a wooden gate. The path signs here are often hidden by foliage so be

careful not to miss the path bearing left under overhanging trees. Go straight ahead upwards across the open meadow to three wide steps that will take you down across a bridleway and to a footpath ahead.

Continue through the trees to a kissing gate at the end of the path where a bridleway comes from the left. Keep straight ahead to open crop fields and head for the houses in the distance. Just before reaching these take the wide permissive footpath to your left to Water Lane and turn right. After five minutes exit right opposite Boyes Farm to reach *The Ship Inn* where refreshments are available from noon onwards.

The Ship Inn is an oak-beamed country pub with a restaurant and gardens. Built in the reign of King Charles II in 1681, timbers from an old wooden sailing vessel were used in the construction, giving the pub its name. These exposed beams can still

be seen in the Old Bar.

If you prefer your own snack, continue along the village road signposted Bramdean and Petersfield to the bench and picnic tables by St Andrew's Church.

Here our route joins The Monarchs Way, a 625 mile long-distance footpath established in 1994 that traces the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after the battle of Worcester to Shoreham in West Sussex where he took ship to France.

We also join the Pilgrims' Trail, a 155 mile mediæval route from the shrine of St Swithun at Winchester Cathedral to Mont St Michael in Normandy. This trail weaves through both Bishop's Waltham and Swanmore on its way to Portsmouth. This route follows in the footsteps of the Miquelot pilgrims who made the long journey to worship in Normandy. Most pilgrims stopped at the Mont on their way to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

3. Owslebury to Twyford Waterworks Pumping Station

From St Andrew's Church, turn right crossing the road and go up a grassy bank to a narrow footpath alongside the wall of a house. Follow this path to a metal kissing gate and the fenced-off path of a horse paddock towards a large barn.

Continue through another metal kissing gate ahead, taking care as the path can be slippery with roots as it



Twyford Waterworks Pumping Station.



A signpost worth noting.

goes downhill to emerge into a field. Keep right to go through the hedge ahead, and then slightly left diagonally across another crop field and then turn right into a lane. Go over the crossroads uphill signed to Morestead and Twyford.

At the top of the rise turn left onto the byway under the metal height barrier. Follow the path downhill to eventually turn left at a well-signed footpath through a hedge into a pasture.

If you wish to visit the Twyford Waterworks Pumping Station stay on the track downhill for four or five minutes, then return the same way back to this footpath.

Twyford Waterworks, an Edwardian pumping station, is a distinctive building that contains a varied collection of steam, diesel and electric pump engines. Its open days in 2024 are on the first Sunday of each month from May to October. The entrance fee covers the Pumping Station and the exhibitions of machinery; there is also a small café.

In the last pasture, it is worth taking one more look across this beautiful Hampshire downland, complete with the chimney of the historic Pumping Station, before heading back along the lanes into Twyford.

On leaving the pasture, cross over the lane to Love Lane and continue ahead to the walk's starting point at the Twyford crossroads.

Lin Powell

Seen & heard

What's your pigeon?

Those of us who do not own a tumble dryer often use a washing line and natural processes to dry clothes. One potential downside to this is having to wash certain items again after a bird has appeared to use them as "target practice".

The culprit is not infrequently a wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), judging by the size of the deposit and by their prevalence in gardens these days. UK numbers have increased substantially since the 1970s, attributed to better winter survival by feeding on winter-grown cereal and rape crops. Climate change may also allow breeding during longer periods of the year.

But are they all definitely wood pigeons? Almost certainly not. Wood pigeons are characterised by a chunky, white incomplete collar and lemon-yellow eyes. They give a rather portly impression as they pace carefully across the ground. Even the juvenile wood pigeons, without these adult features, can be identified by the white streaks along the leading edges of the wings, when not in flight.

The collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) is also commonly found in local gardens, a recent colonist spread naturally from Asia, arriving in the UK in the 1950s. Its more uniform pinkish-brown plumage, red eyes and neater black-and-white striped collar set it apart from the wood pigeon, along with its daintier physique. Its monotonous cooing call can be incessant to the point of annoying, whereas the wood pigeon's cooing is at least more variable in tone, if a little raspier.

Examining a flock of wood pigeons in a field will sometimes reveal slightly smaller individuals, often towards the edges of a flock and in pairs. These are stock doves (*Columba oenas*), without a collar, but with a shimmering green and violet patch on the side of the neck, and black bars on the wings rather than white leading edges.

Apart from an occasional stray racing pigeon or a feral pigeon (both bred from rock doves), the only other local sighting could be the turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). However, your chances of seeing this species in the garden are sadly now vanishingly small, as its population has declined by 99% since the 1960s. Your chances of receiving a pair at Christmas time are even smaller; they are a protected species and will have migrated back to West Africa long before then.

Marcus Charig



From the top: wood pigeon, collared dove and stock dove.

Helping wildlife

Autumn leaves and winter survival

Carpets of colourful leaves are one of the signature signs of autumn, as deciduous trees prepare for the long winter ahead. Whilst they may be done with their leaves for the time being, other wildlife is busy taking advantage of this new leafy blanket.

Leaf litter (which is made up of fallen leaves, small twigs, seeds, and other woody debris) provides a variety of species with a warm, safe place to shelter from the elements with.

Hedgehogs use leaf litter to build their nests. They spend the winter hibernating, surviving off their fat reserves. During this time their breathing will slow, and the heart rate and body temperatures will drop, and leaf litter will provide essential warmth to help them survive the cold. Depending on the weather, hedgehogs will emerge from March onwards.

Common toads also rely on leaf litter and will spend the majority of winter living under a blanket of deep leaf litter, conserving as much energy as possible. They re-emerge for the mating season in early spring, migrating back to the pond in which they were spawned to reproduce.

Garden hedgehog nestling in leaves - reminding us to be careful where we dig in the winter! © Tom Marshall



Whilst some species of butterfly, like the painted lady, may migrate here in summer, others stay with us year-round. They overwinter in their egg, caterpillar, pupal or adult form, depending on the species. During winter, leaf litter provides the perfect place to remain concealed until the spring. The most common way for butterflies to spend their winter is as a caterpillar, some will even continue to feed while it is mild, but as temperatures drop most will enter a temporary state of dormancy known as “diapause”.

As well as warmth, leaf litter also provides an important source of food for detritivore and decomposer species. Both are incredibly important as they help break down the leaf litter and recycle nutrients back into the soil. Detritivores, such as woodlice, ingest and digest decomposing plant matter such as fallen leaves. Closely related to crabs, lobsters and shrimp, woodlice are mainly active at night and breathe through their knees! There are 30 different species of woodlouse in the UK including pill, common rough and common shiny.



Autumn maple leaves © Alan Price

Decomposers, such as fungi, directly absorb nutrients through chemical and biological processes. One of the most recognisable species to find at this time of year is the amethyst deceiver. These bright purple fungi should be easy to spot against the red and brown leaf litter that they love to grow in.

Don't tidy your garden

Autumn is traditionally the time to tidy up your garden, but leaving your garden messy can have a range of benefits for nature and wildlife.

Instead of sweeping up or burning fallen leaves, it's much better to let them decay naturally. This feeds the fungi and micro-organisms in the soil and recycles nutrients into the grass and trees. If you do clear areas of your garden, pile the leaves into heaps so they can decay naturally. These will also offer places for wildlife to hibernate.

Don't be too tidy with your flowerbeds either. Dead-heading everything removes valuable resources; seed heads provide food for small birds and shelter for insects.

Think ahead to the possibility of freezing weather – float a football in your garden pond to prevent it becoming totally frozen and to allow oxygen to circulate.

For more information on welcoming wildlife to your garden visit: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-gardening>

*Helen Skelton-Smith
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife
Trust*

From our district councillors

Funding, grants and new builds

May we all wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

What a pleasure to be able to look out of the window and see blue skies and only scattered clouds, a marked relief from the constant procession of cyclonic storms that are presently crossing our islands. Hopefully these will not start producing snow in our coming winter.

We are pleased to be able to report that our Council has been allocating "Community Infrastructure Funding" (CIL) to parish councils for various projects that have been on hold. These include funding for temporary consulting rooms at the Bishop's Waltham Surgery; funding for a needed upgrade to the Meadowside Leisure facilities in Whiteley (solar panels and air-source heat pumps); Swanmore allotments will receive funding to upgrade facilities; St Barnabas Church will gain funding to improve the community building (Paterson Centre); and Bishop's Waltham gains new energy-efficiency measures at the Jubilee Hall.

We understand the Cabinet has also allocated several hundred thousands of pounds to refurbish public toilets in the city and throughout the district.

Warmer Home grants

Low-income households are set to benefit from a new energy improvement scheme – the "Warmer Homes" scheme. It is aimed at owner-occupiers and private renters with low incomes. Several factors are being used to determine eligibility, including having a household income of less than £31,000 or being in receipt of means-tested benefits. Improvements to be financed could include air-source heat pumps, high heat-retention storage heaters, solar PV panels, and a variety of insulation measures.

The scheme is being led by Portsmouth City Council in partnership with 22 other local authorities, including Winchester City Council.

You can apply online by visiting www.warmerhomes.org.uk/apply or call 0800 1078576 for more information.

Developments continue

Many will have seen that Persimmon has started construction opposite Swanmore College. This is the penultimate development in Swanmore on an allocated site in the current Local Plan. [*New safety measures along New Road by the College were detailed by Swanmore Parish Council in the previous issue of The Swanmore Link – still online at St Barnabas' website if you missed it.*]

Meanwhile, we note planning applications for Morgan's Yard and another site in Solomon's Lane (both in Waltham Chase). Both sites are very close to Waltham Chase Junior School and will mean that there could be further parking issues in that area. Another point to be watched closely is that the "drain" from the open-space to the north of Morgan's Yard is already inadequate. Can we hope that this is upgraded as part of any future development works?

The requirement of "substantial" open space in any new developments continues to be a major demand of your local councillors. A small play area is not enough to supply the green lungs we need to improve air quality.

Our Winchester District Councillors

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



F Pearson



M Wallace



D Lee

Waltham Priory Probus Join us for lunch!

Probus members enjoyed a classic lunch on 22nd October. The special entertainment for the day was a talk by Steve Herra on "The History of Cunard and glamorous stars": an entertaining talk from a third-generation Cunard employee and former purser on the QE2.

At the club's meeting on 7th November our guest speaker was Colin Van Geffen talking about the iconic Spitfire. Much enjoyed by all and followed by lunch.

We meet on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley and our future programme of events, speakers and topics is:

- 5th December – Christmas party and lunch.
- 16th January – "Burns" lunch with guest speaker Gerald Ponting - "Ten years in the Outer Hebrides".
- 6th February – Geoff Watts on "Titanic and Southampton".

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women. We are welcoming and friendly and also able to accept some new members at present. If you would like to start each new month with some fun and entertainment followed by a lunch do join us. Please contact our secretary on 07542109821 or email janet.gibson1@outlook.com for details.

Martin Cooke, President

Singing for Fun Come and join in

After a break due to covid, Singing for Fun has restarted its monthly sessions. If you enjoy singing your favourite songs, as well as learning some new ones, then come and join in. All ages welcome. No talent required. The group meets on 15th December and 19th January from 2pm to 3.30pm at The Stables in Free Street. Sessions are £2 including refreshments. For more information contact Sue on 07710 810552 – or just turn up!

Sue Burket

BW Photographic Society

A highly successful exhibition

The Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society held its annual exhibition of members' photographs in the United Free Church from 12th to 14th October.

We welcomed almost 400 visitors, making this one of our most successful exhibitions. A total of 68 individual prints and 19 "sets of three" were submitted by 31 of our members. Councillor Angela Clear, Mayor of Winchester, opened the preview evening on 11th October and presented prizes to the winners of the Junior Photography Competition.

First place in the 12–16 age group went to Jack Willis with his "Side by Side" picture, while the Under-11 category was won by Emily Perry-Farndon with "Kew, the Water Lilies".

Flick Drummond MP and Don Iro, Vice-Chairman of Bishop's Waltham Parish Council, attended the evening.

A donation from the sale of cards made from members' photographs will be made to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Visitors to the exhibition were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite image and

Right: Visitors enjoy the exhibition at the United Free Church.



Above and right: The Mayor of Winchester presenting awards to the Junior Competition winners – Jack Willis and Emily Perry-Farndon.



the winning image will be announced at the Society's AGM in January 2024. BWPS would like to thank the United Free Church for the use of their premises and our sponsors Jenny

Bird, Pearsons Estate Agents and DSX Fitness. Above all, our thanks to Ali Meadows our exhibition co-ordinator.

Ann Erkut

BW Rotary Club

Helping hands at Christmas

Bishop's Waltham Rotary has been raising money to acquire a 4x4 vehicle to send to Ukraine as part of the "Pick-up's for Peace" convoy, which headed out in mid-November.

We reached nearly £4,000 and purchased and prepared the vehicle, and filled it with essential warm clothing, sleeping bags and first-aid supplies.

We found the right vehicle, with the kind assistance of Silverlake Garage in Shedfield, which not only helped us source the vehicle, but also supplied us with a set of new tyres and a full tank of fuel.

Normally, all vehicles going to Ukraine in this way stay there to

provide much-needed transport, but, due to the quality of the vehicle we have supplied, it will make a second run just before Christmas with a cargo of toys for the children of Ukraine. Once the vehicle has made its second trip, it will stay in Ukraine to join the fleet of vehicles from the original convoy.

Shoebboxes

With the help of local clubs, schools and friends we have collected and sorted more than 400 shoeboxes packed with presents for children in need at Christmas. These boxes will be added to the nearly 20,000 boxes

collected annually from around our district of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Channel Islands, and parts of Dorset and Wiltshire. This year the boxes are going to Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania, and, if possible, to Ukraine, where they will be shipped to local Rotary Clubs who will distribute them.

Christmas Collections

Santa will be travelling around the area during December with Roger, his brightly lit musical steam train.

The tour ends on 23rd December when Santa will be at Sainsbury's in Bishop's Waltham.

You can track Santa and Roger at www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk following the "Where is Roger" link.

Ian Treveil

Tom Parker

An “extended family” reunion

On 22nd October, after much research and communication, many interested and involved parties got together to view the television 1975 documentary about “The Guv’nor” –the one and only Tom Parker – at Wickham Community Centre’s Houghton Rooms.

This was a wonderful reminiscent get-together of employees and family - with familiar faces (albeit now much older) and memorabilia in abundance.

Our legendary Hampshire farmer, Mr Tom – who ruled the roost on much of the land in Hampshire during the years after the war and long into the years before we became part of Europe – was a very astute and successful man. His wit and his “on the coal face” expertise was his grounding.

He employed and housed many families and paid a good wage – hence this reunion was not only a memorial to him but to us all as part of the “Tom Parker Family”.

It was a memorable afternoon, his close family remarking that this



Tom Parker – a skilled coachman.

was a most rare occasion of a family get-together. May the Tom legend never be forgotten. Well, it will not be forgotten by many of us who worked within his enterprise!

Stephanie Cruse

Below: Family and former employees gathered for the reunion.



Tom Parker – The Guv’nor

Tom Parker was born around 1895 – the youngest of eight children. Unlike some of his brothers, he stayed in farming and aged 22, when his father died, took over renting half of the farm that his father had previously run (240 acres).

He started retailing his produce in the 1920s with a milk delivery round and gradually expanded the land he farmed with a mixture of crops and

animal husbandry.

By 1971, when Tom was interviewed for an episode of “*On Your Farm*”, he was farming 4,000 acres (half owned, half rented) with 800 dairy cows, 100,000 hens and 1,000 ewes, as well as arable crops. Tom Parker died in 1982.

■ The original *On Your Farm* interview can be found on YouTube.

Titchfield Theatre Panto time

Red Riding Hood is this year’s Titchfield Festival Theatre original pantomime in a new adaptation by director Sassy Harvey, working together with the same team that produced *The Nutcracker*, *Goose Girl* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

As the Big Bad Wolf threatens the village of Booseburg, Little Red and her Mum Widow Streaky set out to find missing Granny, with songs, laughter and favourite pantomime gags. *Red Riding Hood* is suitable for all ages, with plenty of audience participation.

Ticket prices start at £10 with performances from 15th to 23rd December at the Arden Theatre, St Margarets Lane, Titchfield. For more information including booking tickets please contact the Box Office on 0333 6663366 or go to: <http://titchfieldfestivaltheatre.com>.

Simon Frost

Meon Voices Celebrating Christmas

The Meon Voices community choir will hold its popular Christmas Concert at St Peter’s Church, Bishop’s Waltham on Wednesday 13th December 2023 from 7.30pm.

It promises to be an uplifting performance, with music from *West Side Story*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Tomás Luis de Victoria’s *O Magnum Mysterium*, Rod Stewart’s rendition of “*In my Life*”, and many seasonal favourites. There will also be audience carols, so, if you love to listen as well as sing, this is the concert for you.

There will be an interval with tea, coffee and mince pies. There is no need to book and while the concert is free to attend there will be a cash collection, the proceeds of which will be divided between the choir and the church’s charities.

If you would like further information, please email Jane on janevose@icloud.com, contact Phil on 01489 579078 or via email coundleypj@yahoo.com

Lizz Clarke

U3A

All about DNA and local trains

U3A holds its meetings on Tuesdays at 2pm in the Wickham Community Centre. Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome. Do come along, please! Guests pay £2 to defray speaker costs, and our annual subscription is now £15. We also have lots of books that we sell cheaply for charity.

■ Tuesday 5th December: Professor Duncan Colin-Jones, a well-known local and expert lecturer, is talking on "Beginners guide to DNA".

■ Tuesday 19th December: our own member Glynn Edwards is offering us a Christmas quiz as part of our Christmas party.

January, unfortunately, brings us cold weather, but a really

interesting talk:

■ Tuesday 16th January 2024: the "History of the Meon Valley Railway Line" by Edwin Grimshaw, a local authority on this subject.

Our meetings are always lively with lots of laughs so why not come along and expand your knowledge of these topics.

Lyndon Palmer – Chairman
07881 991763

lyndonplmr@gmail.com

Web site: u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley



A 1955 train heading towards Privett from West Meon.

Waltham Ramblers

Out and about for for winter walks

Organised walks are held by the Waltham Group of the Ramblers on Wednesdays (mornings) and Sundays (usually all-day).

A selection is shown 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 6th December, Soberton via Meon Valley, 5 miles, Peter 07974 648970. Start: 10am. Park around the village green or in School Lane. Meet at *The White Lion* SO32 3PF.

■ Wednesday 13th December, Cheriton via Battle site, 5.6 miles, Gilly 07789 768579. Start: 10am. Park and meet at Cheriton Recreation Ground SO24 0QH.

■ Wednesday 20th December, Upham via Woodlocks Down Farm, 5 miles, Pauline 01489

892386. Start: 10am. Park and meet at Upham Duck Pond, Church Lane, Upham SO32 1JH.

■ Sunday 7th January, Titchfield via Brownwich, 6.5 miles, Gill 07709 933057. Start: 10am. Park at Titchfield Recreation Ground in Mill Lane, opposite "*The Titchfield Mill*" off the A27, Titchfield PO15 5RF.

■ Wednesday 24th January, Beacon Hill Beeches via Betty Mundy's Bottom, 5 miles, David 07805 957030. Start: 10am. Park under the trees at Beacon Hill Beeches, OS Grid Reference: SU598227, SO32 3LJ.

■ Wednesday 31st January, Twyford via Itchen Way, 5.4 miles, Gilly 07789 768579. Start: 10am. Park at the Recreation Ground, Park Lane, Twyford, SO21 1QS.

Michael Hewlins



Bishop's Waltham WI Trying their hand at indoor curling

A few days before our September meeting our committee member responsible for booking our speakers, Mary Freemantle, heard that our scheduled speaker would be unable to attend.

This is a dilemma all committee members dread. At short notice Mary turned up trumps: we were not going to play cards all evening – instead, Mary hired an indoor curling game.

With members divided into two teams the competitive spirit of our group soon began to show and members had a lot of fun cheering and supporting their teams. The winning team won by only five points, so it was a closely fought match and the evening was voted a great success.

Themes and talks at our forthcoming meetings, held at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street. are:

- Tuesday 19th December "Christmas traditions from around the world".
- Tuesday 16th January talk by Jeremy Prescott – "From Flanders to the Tower"

Pauline Powell

★ Dates for your diaries ★

Every Thursday	6.30pm–10pm Swanmore Bridge Club, Paterson Centre
Every Friday	2pm–4pm MVARA Scrabble, Paterson Centre
24th Nov–2nd Dec	7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Saturday) <i>“The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”</i> Arden Theatre, Titchfield Festival Theatre.
30th Nov– 2nd Dec	7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Saturday) Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society <i>“Treasure Island”</i> , Swanmore Village Hall.
5th December	2pm U3A – Professor Duncan Colin-Jones on <i>“Beginners guide to DNA”</i> , Wickham Community Centre.
6th December	10am Waltham Ramblers – Soberton via Meon Valley.
8th–10th Dec	11am and 1pm <i>“The Snowman’s Winter Adventure”</i> (for children under six) Arden Theatre, Titchfield Festival Theatre.
9th December	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
9th December	2.30pm Ocean Brass in aid of Bishop’s Waltham Minibus Group, Swanmore Village Hall. Doors open 2pm. £7 adults, £2.50 children.
9th December	7pm BLOW Saxophones Ensemble, St Barnabas’ Church.
9th December	7.30pm Botley Choral Society Christmas Concert, All Saints’ Church, Botley. Tickets £15, under-16s free
13th December	10am Waltham Ramblers – Cheriton via Battle site.
13th December	7.30pm Christmas Concert by Meon Voices Community Choir, St Peter’s Church, Bishop’s Waltham.
13th December	8pm, Swanmore Society: Alan Matlock on <i>“Building Spitfires without a factory”</i> , Paterson Centre.
15th December	2pm Singing for Fun, The Stables, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham.
15th–23rd Dec	Various times <i>“Red Riding Hood”</i> Arden Theatre, Titchfield Festival Theatre.
17th December	6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols, St Barnabas’ Church.
19th December	2pm U3A – Christmas party and quiz, Wickham Community Centre.
19th December	7.30pm Bishop’s Waltham WI – <i>“Christmas traditions from around the world”</i> , St Peter’s Church Hall, Free Street.
25th December	Happy Christmas everyone
29th December	10am Waltham Ramblers – Upham via Woodlocks Down Farm.
7th January	10am Waltham Ramblers – Titchfield via Brownwich.
12th January	7pm Music for Epiphany sung by the Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, St Peter & St Paul’s Church, Hambledon.
13th January	9.45am–12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Marsh’s Meadows.
16th January	2pm U3A – Edwin Grimshaw on <i>“History of the Meon Valley Railway Line”</i> , Wickham Community Centre.
16th January	7.30pm Bishop’s Waltham WI – talk by Jeremy Prescott: <i>“From Flanders to the Tower”</i> , St Peter’s Church Hall, Free Street.
19th January	2pm Singing for Fun, The Stables, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham.
24th January	10am Waltham Ramblers – Beacon Hill Beeches via Betty Mundy’s Bottom.
31st January	10am Waltham Ramblers – Twyford via Itchen Way.



Advertisers' Directory

The advertising "year" for six issues of *The Swanmore Link* begins with the February/March issue and renewal subscriptions will be due in early January.

Thanks to all who have renewed already.

A reminder to those still "thinking about it" to contact John Austin on 01489 893409 or j.austin830@talktalk.net as soon as possible either to renew or to start advertising.

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



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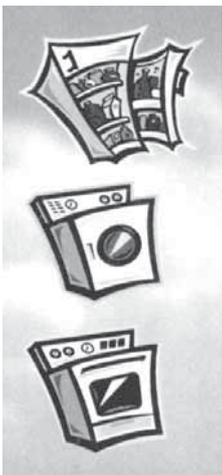
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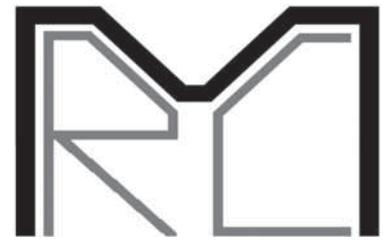
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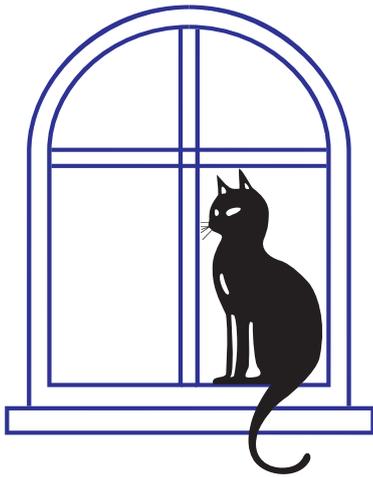


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Christmas at St Barnabas

Sunday 10th December

10am Christingles for children

Sunday 17th December

6.30pm Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December

5pm Crib Service

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion

10am All Age Communion

