

February/March 2024

The **Swanmore** *Link*



**Welcoming a new Vicar
SwanmOre in wartime
Walking to Winchester
A very helpful Trust**

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**Deadline for the April/May issue is
Wednesday 6th March 2024.**

**Copies will be available to collect at
The Link from 25th March 2024.**



St Barnabas Christmas lights.

The Swanmore Link

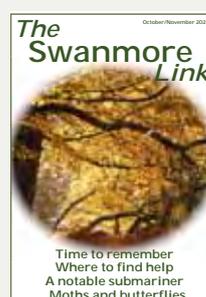
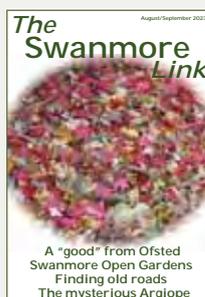
The Swanmore Link – which is free of charge to all residents – can be collected from The Link (between the church and the Paterson Centre) whenever it is open, generally between 9am and 5pm each day.

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

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

The magazine can also be posted to you at a cost of £15 p.a. to cover postage. To arrange payment please contact treasurer@stbarnabas.org.uk.

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



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Back cover: Sunset over St Barnabas' spotted by teacher Jo Hughes on 1st February 2023 as she left the Primary School

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“Happy to help!”

I once spent some time as an Asda Chaplain, and wore a very bright lime-green jacket with a big badge saying, “Happy to Help!”

That would be my simple message to everyone in Swanmore and in all the other parishes in the “Meon Valley Parishes” group: it is not my style to give orders or tell others what they should be doing. I am simply “happy to help”.

I am so looking forward to working with the clergy, Readers, PCCs, churchwardens and the many, many others who already serve so faithfully in all the Meon Valley parishes. I aim to come alongside in friendship and mutual support, rejoice in what you are doing, and learn from everyone!

I will, of course, focus on taking services at Swanmore (because part of my role is being your parish priest) but I will be delighted to work with, and alongside, Hazel, Nick, Kathy and all those who have been faithfully ministering and taking services here in recent times and who will continue to be actively involved. As far as the other parishes are concerned, I would prefer to (gradually!) pop along and experience services (with the express agreement of the person officiating) so that I can get a feel for what they do, and honour those who are already leading services across the churches. But I would of course be very open to invitations to be involved with any particular services or events across the Meon Valley Parishes.

As you probably know by now, I have lots of history with Swanmore - including being a pupil at the Secondary School, where many (including Anne Pearson) did their best to keep me on the straight and narrow. I also remember doing a S.I.A.M.S. (church inspection) related visit to Swanmore Primary School when I was Bishop’s Chaplain (alongside our current Area Dean, David Isaac!).



I enjoyed working with Revd Peter Kelly and other Swanmore folk when I was “next door” in Bishop’s Waltham and Upham; and with another of your former vicars, Revd Ron Paterson, who retired to Bishop’s Waltham. He was a great support to me – and was my wife’s dancing partner for a time!

Great, too, that my time with you begins in Lent, with Holy Week and Easter on the horizon.

Looking at my job description, I will need your help in not succumbing to “the tyranny of busyness”. It is so important – by God’s grace – to maintain a “still centre” deep within our hearts: to tune in to the “still small voice of calm”.

My inspiration here has always been my granddad in Shedfield, Archie Edwards. Three things stick in my mind. Firstly, he worked hard but found time most days to lean on his gate and watch the world go by. Secondly, he always kept his sense of humour. When, sadly, one of his chickens got run over by the village bus, he put a bus timetable up in the hen house, so that the others would know when the buses were coming(!). Thirdly, many years ago, after a long day selling his produce at Portsmouth Market, he’d lie down in the back of his cart and go to sleep – while his horse (Admiral) took him home... “calm amidst the storm did sleep”.

May God grant us the profound and beautiful gifts of stillness and calm.

With blessings to everyone!

The Revd Andy Davis

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 February and March



Sunday 4th February
Candlemas
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February
Sunday next before Lent
No 8am
10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 14th February
Ash Wednesday
7.30pm Holy Communion
with imposition of ashes



Sunday 18th February
First Sunday of Lent
8am Holy Communion
10am Café Church in the Paterson Centre

Monday 19th February
7.30pm The licensing of the Revd Andy Davis

Sunday 25th February
Second Sunday of Lent
No 8am
10 am Holy Communion
12noon Baptism of Phoebe May Swales

Sunday 3rd March
Third Sunday of Lent
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th March
Fourth Sunday of Lent. Mothering Sunday
No 8am
10am All-age Family Communion

Sunday 17th March
Fifth Sunday of Lent. Passion Sunday
8am Holy Communion
10am Café Church

Sunday 24th March
Palm Sunday
No 8am
10am Holy Communion. There will be a Palm Sunday procession leaving from the Village Hall at 9.20am, hopefully following a donkey.

Monday 25th March
8.30pm Devotions on Zoom*

Tuesday 26th March
8.30pm Devotions on Zoom*

Wednesday 27th March
8.30pm Devotions on Zoom*
*Please email Andy (vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk or revd.andydavis@gmail.com) if you would like to be sent the Zoom link that allows you to join any of the three Devotions.

Thursday 28th March
Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Holy Communion and Gethsemane Vigil of Silent Prayer until Midnight

Friday 29th March
Good Friday
10am–11.30am Easter Craft workshop for children.
2pm The Service of the Cross.



Sunday 31st March
Easter Day
6am Easter Ceremonies
8am Holy Communion
10am All Age Easter Communion

Sunday 7th April
Low Sunday
Second Sunday of Easter
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion

Swanmore Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB



Superintendent Minister: Revd Phil Griffin

Tel. 01329 833518

Email: rev_phil@outlook.com

Loving God Loving our community Making disciples for Jesus

Sunday Services in February and March

**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**

4th February	Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
11th February	Gill Bailey
18th February	Peter Castle
25th February	Revd Phil Griffin
3rd March	Revd. Nicky Gilbert
10th March	Stephen Freemantle
17th March	Graham Barber
24th March	Kathy Elvy
31st March	Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion

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 in the Church and everyone is welcome. If you would like more detail, please contact Jill Letts – 01489 896182; email – jill.letts47@gmail.com

Coffee and Company

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

TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club)

13th February at 2.00pm – “Off the beaten track in China”. Come along and see Carol Watson's beautiful photography of a country little known to many of us.

12th March at 7.30pm – “Cyber Bobby”. Hear how you can avoid the scammers!

Subs £3.00 per meeting. All ladies welcome

Men's Group

15th February at 7.30pm – “Samaritans”, speaker Brian Huggett

21st March at 7.30pm – “Bishop's Waltham Palace and Museum”, speaker Penny Copeland (the museum's collections manager)

All are welcome and there will be light refreshments. For further details contact Martin Letts on 01489 896182

Looking for somewhere to hold an event?

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

Why are we here?

Hmmm – that’s a very tricky question to answer. I imagine each one of us has asked that question, even if only to ourselves. Otherwise it could develop into quite a debate, ranging from the philosophical to the religious, with many different opinions and arguments.

Why do we humans exist? What is the point of it all? We now think life may have developed over millions of years, transforming us into the size, shape and intelligence we now have. Yes, we are here to pass our genes onto the next generation. But what about the fundamental reasons we are here now, while we are here - alive? As a very basic reply to this, I believe the answer may be “To serve each other”. Too simple an answer you may say. But let’s think about it. Due to all sorts of reasons we are not created alike.



There are many rich people in the world and many, many more who are poor. As I said: we are here to serve each other. We have in the past had such institutions as churches and workhouses set up to reduce the burden on the local community for supporting the sick and the poor. These days we have our excellent hospitals, care homes, our child-minding services, etc. Our society also requires help within the local community. So we all need to help one another.

Let us imagine for a moment the answer to the question “why am I here?” is something like “to make as much money as I can” or “to travel the world”. We all have feelings and if these feelings are selfish, to the detriment of others, it may end badly. Imagine a world where there were no charities, no Meon Valley Lions (motto “We Serve”), no litter pickers, no Lunch Club, no food banks, no Hampshire Home-Start or HeartStart or even volunteer drivers.

Imagine a world with no volunteers to care for others, whether it is visiting the sick or child-minding. Now, instead, imagine a world where each of us cared a little more for our neighbours and others. Less poverty, less depression from living alone, less need for security (fewer keys – if only!) and possibly even fewer wars.

The Greeks had several words for love. Some may be translated as charity, compassion to others, brotherly and sisterly love, respect, etc. They knew a thing or two about philosophy. I have just had my hair cut and my hairdresser told me her youngster had said “We all should share the love”.

Jesus told us to share our love by saying: “Love your neighbour as yourself”. By this he meant we should care for others as we would wish them to care for us. This includes respect and charity to others. Even if we don’t particularly like them! Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. The Jews and the Samaritans did not get on at all, but the story demonstrated we should all help those in need, no matter if we get on with them or not.

So – as the Beatles’ song goes - let us try a bit more of “All you need is love” or even learn a little from the film “Love Actually”.

*Martin Letts
Meon Valley Methodist Circuit Steward*

Christmas lunch A much enjoyed community effort

Swanmore Methodist Church was able to support 26 individuals from Swanmore and surrounding villages, including helpers, who wished not to be alone at Christmas, with companionship, lunch and a present.

Following mulled fruit juice, blessing of our food by Mary Morfill, everyone ate their fill. Typically, more food than everyone could eat, even with food parcels for those attending, there was still plenty of excess food to take to Portsmouth Homeless Shelter. So the kind donations from everyone were not wasted.

After the meal, carols were sung, supported by Monica Simpson, before we listened to the King’s speech.

I wish to thank Swanmore Parish Council for its donation to the event, Owton’s for supplying the meat, Hill Farm for the apple juice, Garson’s Garden Centre and Park Place Farm Nursery for their donations.

So many people helped make this event run well from Kathleen Moorhouse who contacted everyone; the Parish Council, suppliers and attendees. The cookery club children, organised by Mavis Daniels, who made Christmas puddings, Jill Letts who made mince pies for everyone attending and Sally Ann Smith who made Olafs, reindeers and Santas out of sweets for gift bags.

Also the children of Swanmore Primary School who made Christmas cards for all those who attended, Christmas decorations and beautiful fir cone table decorations. These were gratefully received.

Thanks too, to the band of volunteers who set up, prepared the vegetables and cooked, which made this Christmas lunch a real community effort. The £135 donated at the lunch was split between Bishop Waltham’s minibus and Crisis at Christmas. A special “thank you” to my husband and children who supported me with Christmas lunch.

Helen Currie

Revd Andy Davis

All about our new priest

I am a Meon Valley boy. I was born and raised in Shedfield. My mother Brenda's maiden name was Edwards, a Shedfield family. My granddad, Archie, founded A.A. Edwards and Son (the market gardeners in the village).

My mum died after a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease in 1998. My father, Harold, who is well into his 90s, is originally from Wickham, and still lives in the house where I was born and raised. My brother, who took early retirement from a career in human resources, lives in Norfolk with his wife and two daughters.

I have been married to Christine (Chris) since 1996. We have always had cats – currently a black and white rescue cat called Lou-Lou (Lou for short). Chris has a number of significant health challenges that she prefers to keep private but, despite them, she manages to provide a rich and secure domestic life (thereby freeing me up for my ministry) rather than having a direct involvement in parish life.

After attending Shedfield Primary School (then located in the village, directly opposite the church) I went to

secondary school in Swanmore and then on to do A Levels at Price's College in Fareham. My dad went to Price's School in the 1940s and my brother went there for seven years – through both grammar school and sixth form.

I studied for a BSc in Psychology at Bath University and, later, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Edinburgh University, where I did my theological training. This included an extended placement in New York (the Church of St Mary the Virgin, West 46th Street, just off Times Square).

I was ordained deacon and, a year later, priest – both times by Bishop Timothy Bavin in Portsmouth Cathedral.

I began my ordained ministry with three fixed-term posts of three, four and three years respectively – followed by three incumbencies. All but one post has been in Portsmouth Diocese, where I have also served in a wide range of deanery and diocesan roles. I have attended and/or taken services in all the Meon Valley churches at some point.

I served as Curate in the parish of Alverstoke in Gosport. During that

period, I spent six weeks in India, as part of a Rotary Club "Group Study Exchange" programme. I was then Curate-in-Charge of St Francis, Hilsea in the parish of St Mark's, Portsea; and then Bishop's Chaplain (the late Bishop Kenneth Stevenson's first Chaplain).

The three incumbencies followed: Rector of Bishop's Waltham and Upham from 1998 to 2007 (so I have served in the deanery before); Vicar of Christ Church and Holy Trinity in Gosport until 2020 and, most recently, Priest-in-Charge of Bramley (the Surrey Bramley in Guildford Diocese, rather than the Bramley in Hampshire).

I like to relax with a gin and tonic or a glass of red wine and by walking or taking a bike ride. I like to read widely (mostly non-fiction) and I enjoy trashy films and comedy shows. I am a platelet and plasma donor.

Andy Davis

The Rev Andy Davis will be licensed by Bishop Jonathan as the Interim Priest-in-Charge of Swanmore, Hambledon, Newtown and Soberton, Droxford, Exton, and Meonstoke with Corhampton on Monday 19th February at

From the registers

Thanksgiving for birth

29th October Maria Bonnie Alice Lowndes

Funerals

8th September Pete Angelis

15th September Anne Shotlander (at St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield)

9th October Maisie James

13th November Eva Milburn (was a resident in Bishop's Waltham but had her funeral service in St Barnabas)

24th November William (Bill) Jones

14th December Cheryl Young

Easter flowers in St Barnabas

If you would like to remember a loved one by giving a donation in their memory towards our Easter flowers please pop this in an envelope marked Easter Flowers or use one of the white envelopes in the basket marked Easter flowers at the back of the pews. Your contribution can be put in the wall safe near the font or popped through my door at 14, Glendale. We will do our best to decorate the church as is fitting for this special time of the church year. Thank you

Juliet Helbren



Exploring Prayer

There will be five weekly sessions during Lent in the Paterson Centre on Wednesday evenings, and repeated on Friday mornings.

✿ Wednesday evenings 7.30pm to 9.30pm (21st February; 29th*. 6th, 13th and 20th March). *NB

Thursday 29th February in the church not Wednesday 28th.

✿ Friday mornings 10.45am to 12.45pm (23rd February; 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March).

If you could let Andy know that you are coming and whether you will be attending on Wednesday evening or Friday morning, that would be very helpful.

revd.andydavis@gmail.com

vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk

07709 919602

Licensing Service for Andy Davis

The service to license Andy Davis as Priest-in-Charge of the parish of Swanmore and the other parishes of the Meon Valley group will take place at 7:30pm on Monday 19th February.

The service will be presided over by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Frost.

With so many parishes involved we are expecting this to be a packed service, and so we are implementing a ticketing system to avoid disappointment. We will also be live-streaming the service for those who wish to join from home.

For further details of applying for tickets or the livestream, please see stbarnabas.org.uk/whats-on/

*Dave Lee and Janet Chant
Churchwardens*

St Barnabas Tree planting in the churchyard

You may be aware that we were looking to plant some more trees in the churchyard.

We have had a period of consultation, with prospective locations marked out with posts, during which it has become apparent that the initial proposal is unsuitable. We are therefore halting work on this proposal and will review whether we want to come forward with an alternative idea at some point in the future. Our thanks to all who have engaged in this process.

Work to maintain the grounds as a reflective green space within the village is always ongoing: anyone interested in finding out more or helping on the gardening team do please get in touch.

*Dave Lee and Janet Chant
Churchwardens*



Support during the vacancy

A huge thank you

While St Barnabas has been in vacancy, we have been hugely blessed by the commitment of three people: Nick and Hazel Whitehead, and Kathy O'Loughlin. Together they have enabled services to be held every week since May 2021.

We have all benefitted from their care and kindness, as well as from inspiring services. We have learned new ways of looking at things both to do with our faith and in practical ways of managing services. Our church and grounds have been cared for and loved. Our congregation has grown, and new ways have been found to engage with the community.

When they were unable to be in Swanmore themselves, Hazel used her amazing book of contacts to arrange for visiting preachers from across the diocese. Hazel spearheaded the formation of our pastoral visiting team, and Nick lead the PCC for two years. He has also encouraged a growing team who meet to work on the church grounds and buildings – gradually taking on more

and more ambitious projects and enjoying great times together in the process. Hazel and Nick moved to this area for their retirement, but they are yet to realise what retirement is like!

Kathy has been invaluable in keeping the 8am service running fortnightly. This service has a regular congregation, who have been able to continue to meet for worship during the vacancy. Kathy has been a good friend to us, helping to keep business as usual.

Churches run on their congregations volunteering for roles and responsibilities to keep things going. However, it is easy to forget that, in a time of vacancy, those who run our services are also volunteers in much the same way! We are so grateful for the generosity of time and spirit shown to us by Nick, Hazel and Kathy – and now wish all three of them a somewhat less hectic life! Perhaps they will be able to discover the joy of a more leisurely retirement!

*Janet Chant and Dave Lee
Churchwardens*

Another great saxophone concert at St Barnabas

Once again, "Blow" entertained a packed St Barnabas with their eclectic saxophone music.

Directed by Dave Lee, who also masterminded many of the arrangements, the ensemble played music ranging from a Baroque Choral to Wham's greatest hits, John Rutter to

Black Sabbath.

The concert was enthusiastically received and the audience participated in singing Christmas carols.

Sincere thanks to all of those who organised and took part in this joyful occasion.

Sue Holloway



St Barnabas social events

Still time to book for the Quiz

Last February we held a quiz and pudding night; the hall was packed and everyone had a great time. This year on 3rd February starting at 7pm, the format will be the same and Sarah and Jo are again setting the questions. We hope you will come.

Teams should be of six to eight people. If your team is fewer than six we will try to bolster it with unattached people. You can order and pay for tickets for a whole table or smaller groups/individuals. If not buying for a whole team please let us know when booking who is on your team or whether you are happy to be allocated to a team.



World Day of Prayer 2024

Do come and join us at the World Day of Prayer service, which is to be held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1GX on Friday 1st March at 2pm.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical Christian organisation whose motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action".

Communities of women from more than 170 countries annually and simultaneously join together across the globe to share their issues and aspirations.

This year we are invited by the Christian women of Palestine, who have compiled the service, to reflect on the continuing extreme challenges faced by the people in that part of the world.

Please think about joining us for this enlightened and spiritually uplifting service and for afternoon tea after the service. We look forward to seeing as many women, men and children as possible.

Louise McEwen

One change from last year is that we have dropped Eventbrite. So, this year you can pay for your tickets by cash, cheque or card (using the machine in the Link) or via BACS (PCC pf Swanmore. sort code: 30-90-85, account number: 00135767 and quote "Quiz24") or by using the donate page at stbarnabas.org.uk (do not apply gift aid). If you use any of the last three payment methods let us know via events@stbarnabas.org.uk so that we can warn the PCC treasurer.

We would be very grateful for dessert donations (we can reimburse your costs). Please let us know what you can bring and how many portions.

To avoid disappointment don't delay, reserve your tickets now via events@stbarnabas.org.uk.

John Sharpe and Sarah Woodman

Some future events

27th–28th April: Open Gardens
18th May: Concert featuring The Swanmore Wind Band
6th–7th July: Open Gardens
21st July: Teddy Bears' Picnic

Cygnets need help!

Could you help St Barnabas' Swanmore Cygnets baby and



toddler group? We are a friendly and welcoming group for babies and toddlers who attend with their parents/carers. Our sessions are held at the Paterson Centre on Mondays from 9am to 10.30am during term time.

We need some extra help with the activities we run. So if you have the occasional couple of hours, weekly, monthly or termly, that you could volunteer, we would be very glad to hear from you.

For more information please contact Teresa Reynolds, 07415 982206.



Twinning Spring Quiz

Swanmore Twinning Association are hosting a quiz on Friday, 15th March in the Paterson Centre starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £15 per person and we will be serving local LUSH pizza slices with accompaniments. Bring your own drinks. There will be a raffle on the night.

For more details and to reserve a table please call me on 07963 809888 or email lornajneill@hotmail.com.

Lorna Neil



Supporting Macmillan

Macmillan's Meon Valley Group are delighted to invite you to our annual quiz night on Friday 8th March at the Paterson Centre from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £12.50 per person including ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tables of eight if possible. There will also be a raffle.

For more information and tickets, please contact Kathy Weaver 07840 697055.

RBLWS

Come to our coffee morning

The Swanmore branch of the Royal British Legion (Women's Section) will be holding another of its popular coffee mornings and sale at the Paterson Centre on Saturday 27th April from 10.30am to 12noon.

There will be a raffle, and cake, book and bric-a-brac stalls – as well as plenty of opportunity for coffee and chat. All proceeds to the Royal British Legion.

For more information contact Penny Eliot, 01489 890766.

Swanmore College

Ending the year with festivities and fun

Swanmore College closed a very busy Autumn term with Celebration Assemblies for each Year Group and the now infamous Christmas lunches; approximately 800 pupils over four days enjoyed a festive lunch in our main hall in the final week of term.

Focus on the arts

We also hosted an “Evening with the Arts” which, as always, was a high-quality mix of art, dance, drama and music. The evening was compered superbly by our current head boy and head girl – Thomas and Lyla.

More than 100 children participated in this event, demonstrating just how important the creative arts are at

Swanmore. The talent and variety of performances on offer were incredible and a fitting way for children to showcase months of hard work.

Once again, we are indebted to our superb Creative Arts Team who must be amongst the best in Hampshire.

New leaders

Pupils and staff chose their new head boy and head girl for 2024, which is a lengthy and quite formal process. Luca and Alice have now taken up their roles, which are varied and carry



Festive Christmas lunch was enjoyed by around 800 students.

significant responsibility; we are very grateful to them for doing so.

Published poets

The English Department is incredibly proud to congratulate a group of 21 Year 7 pupils for having their poems chosen for publication in a national Young Writers competition.

Vaping – a national issue

Swanmore College is very active in addressing the issue of vaping in schools. This requires a collective effort from us all – staff, parents/carers and pupils. Vaping is an epidemic in society and no school is immune from its evil.

Vaping not only poses a serious health risk to those directly involved but it also creates a disruptive environment within a school community. The variety of vapes is enormous and those containing cannabis are beginning to permeate all schools. This will see a rise in permanent exclusions.

Swanmore College has installed an electronic vape detection system in the toilet to help support and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment; it went live in January,

We hope we can all work towards ensuring a school environment that is doing everything it can to eradicate vaping and promote the overall welfare of our pupils.



Left: The young poetry winners in Year 7. Below: An evening of the arts allowed talented pupils to showcase their skills,



In memoriam

Remembering John Brooke

John was born in 1927 in Inverness, and moved to Swanmore at the age of eight. His grandfather was the landlord of *The Bricklayers Arms* at that time.

He attended Swanmore school for about a year before moving to Bishop's Waltham when his father bought Tangier Farm. He went to Bishop's Waltham school until the age of 14, and then worked on the farm. He joined the Fleet Air Arm for hostilities only, training on Rolls Royce Merlin engines. He was posted to Malta until being demobbed: a place he would revisit many times on holiday in later years.

In 1961 he bought the garage in New Road, renamed it Brooke Garage, and successfully ran the business until he retired in 1996. John was well-known around Swanmore and the local area.

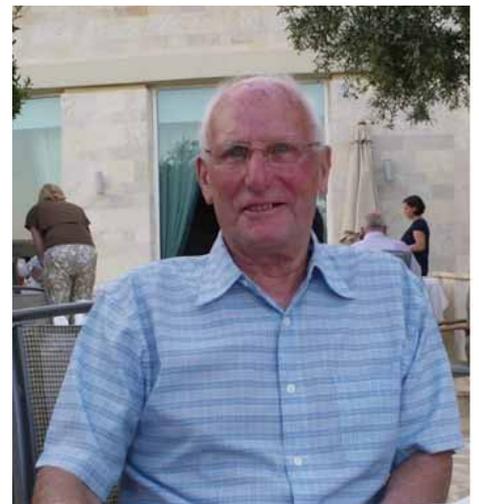
He joined Swanmore bowls club when it was at Swanmore Village Hall. The club moved to Bishop's Waltham when a new clubhouse and outside bowling green were established.

John enjoyed bowling and was the

club's membership secretary for many years, introducing new members to bowling. He also helped with green maintenance until covid arrived in 2020, after which his health slowly started to deteriorate.

John's funeral was held on 4th January 2024 at Wessex Vale Crematorium. He will be greatly missed by his wife Heather, sons John and Simon, daughters Sally and Maria, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Heather Brooke



Above: John Brooke. Below: The garage in New Road that he ran from 1961 until 1996.



Swanmore Lunch Club Celebrating with Christmas lunch

Wednesday 20th December saw all the Lunch Club members and a majority of helpers gather together for their annual Christmas Lunch (pictured below). Everybody had a lovely time and the meal, cooked by Gaye Smith was delicious.



In between courses Tony King, entertained everyone with some suitably Christmassy music on the electric organ. By the time you read this Christmas and the New Year will unfortunately will be a distant memory.

Anne Warrington

Supporting MND The shrink in the drink

Katie Livingstone invites you to a talk given by her brother about his five-month trip around the British Isles in 2023 in a Laser dinghy, in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association

Please support the charity and come and join us at the Paterson Centre on Saturday 10th February at 7pm for 7.30pm Tickets are £10 per person, including wine and nibbles, available from Katie at 01489 893399 or katielivingstone25@icloud.com

All proceeds to Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Katie Livingstone



As well as contributing to the financial costs of William's trip to Borneo, the Swanmore Education Trust exists to support the ongoing education of young people who reside in the village by allowing them to participate in programmes aimed at developing team-working, leadership and other life skills.

Examples of grants that have previously been awarded include:

- ❖ Funding towards the cost of sports equipment.
- ❖ Support with funding towards a school trip to Ghana.
- ❖ Financial assistance for an electric wheelchair that allowed a student to continue full-time education.
- ❖ Support towards the cost of travel to attend secondary education.
- ❖ Contributed to the purchase of a laptop to allow education both at home and at school.
- ❖ Covered the cost of a Dyslexia Assessment.
- ❖ Support to attend the Guides International Jamboree.
- ❖ Helped with the funding of new resources as part of a new Girl-guiding national programme.
- ❖ Support with costs to attend a National Student Drama Festival.
- ❖ Support with travel to Uganda to help provide facilities at a primary school in South West Uganda.

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

Dick Cooksley

Trustee contact details

Geoff Pavey, Chairperson:

pavey.pavey@tiscali.co.uk

Dick Cooksley, Secretary:

secretary.swanmoreet@gmail.com

Christine Ekless: cekless@gmail.com

Christiaan Beech:

christiaan.beech@me.com

Susie Fellows: sfj.fellows@gmail.com

Swanmore Education Trust

Discovering the wonders of Borneo

A grant from the Swanmore Education Trust enabled William Dickinson to head to Borneo for a fascinating three weeks. Here he recalls the experience.

From the 11th of July to the 31st of July, I was on a school expedition to the Malaysian part of Borneo for three weeks (run by an external company called Outlook Expeditions). The purpose of the expedition was to develop leadership skills, experience new challenges and contribute to the local community.

I raised money for my trip through easyfundraising, a generous grant from the Swanmore Educational Trust and I also sold honey, homemade, by my grandfather, and handmade Christmas and greeting cards. I did this for around 18 months before we went on the expedition. The benefit of fundraising helped me build my self-sufficiency.

In April, a few months before going on the real thing, we went on a practice weekend; I had to wake up early (4.30am!) as we were travelling to the Hope Valley in the Peak District. When we arrived, we had to put up our tents and we climbed the highest hill in the area, which was 463m (1,580ft). This was great because you could see the entire valley below and it felt like a great achievement. The next day we went to the nearby village of Hope. I really enjoyed going to the village because all the houses were really cosy, and it felt nice to have a calming break before we came home.

On the morning of the expedition, I woke up full of excitement and nerves but as we got to school, and I saw all my friends, I felt grateful and happy to be there. But before we could get going, we had to give out equipment and allocate jobs. I signed up to oversee transport. Then we headed to the airport. To get to Borneo we had to take two flights: one 13-hour flight from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur and

from there to Kota Kinabalu, which was 2½ hours. However we missed the second flight after a delay on the first. The next day we looked around Kota Kinabalu and booked travel and accommodation for the rest of the trip.

We then travelled to Sepilok, which is where the orangutan and sun bear sanctuaries are. I was super excited to go there, and it was definitely one of



Top: The spectacular view from Mount Kinabalu. Above: A sun bear at the sanctuary in Sepilok.

the highlights of my trip. I learnt lots of cool facts while we were there, for example: sun bears are the smallest type of bear and are about 1.3m (4ft) tall when standing on their hind legs. Once we had left the sanctuaries we went to the tip of Borneo where we were to complete our project, which was helping to renovate a 3.5acre wildlife reserve by building steps and making some concrete bridges.

We then went to Mount Kinabalu, the tallest mountain in south-east Asia at 4,095.2m (13,436ft). On the first day of climbing, we went up to where we would be staying for the night, and on the second day we woke up at 1.30am in order to leave at 2.30am so that we could get to the summit in time for sunrise.

There were clouds at the top, but we still had an amazing view that made it well worth the climb. That day we then returned to the base of the mountain; it made my legs and feet hurt by the end but everyone else was saying the same thing. For dinner I had a tasty beef burger that made it all worthwhile.

After the mountain we went to a nature lodge for three days and we saw lots of local wildlife such as a herd of pygmy elephants that included a few calves crossing a river; it felt a bit like being in a David Attenborough show. We also had a cooking class where we made fish curry, chicken curry and rice.

We then came back to Kota Kinabalu where we visited the TAR islands (the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park) and went white water rafting, which was fun – however, there seemed to be a lot of paddling and not a lot of actual white water. Finally we came home on two flights. I was very tired by the end of it, but I enjoyed the trip so much. I think the expedition made me more independent and I felt in control of what we were doing. All in all I felt that this trip gave me many new opportunities and I felt I had made the most of it.

William Dickinson

Swanmore Conservation Group

Beaten by the weather – puddles and no wildflowers

Our plans for work parties in December didn't go as we had hoped; our usual monthly work party was cancelled due to heavy rain. More of a disappointment was the fact that we had to cancel our work on the pond that was planned for the following day. We had arranged for some help from two students as we have done before, as paying young people means we get much more done in a shorter time.

We had hoped to reduce the islands of reeds, irises and water lilies in the pond and remove some of the sludge from the bottom of the pond and remove some of the leaves from the pond too. Sadly it wasn't to be due to even heavier rain, so we have rescheduled this pond work for January, before any wildlife becomes active.

With some funds we have left over this year we plan to have some work done by the contractors working for the Parish Council when they do the scheduled tree work in Green's Wood. There is a dead tree to remove and also the cutting back of branches that overhang the pond to let in more light and reduce the amount of leaves that end up in the pond - it's worth a try!

We have had more success with plugging the gap between the two meadows near the old gate. Over the years ivy has strangled this section of hedge so we have transplanted some hawthorn seedlings from a member's garden, which seem to have survived the move; this will hopefully revitalise this bit of the hedge.

We have had some success with reducing puddles on the paths through the Conservation Area by putting down quite a lot of hoggin. Sometimes this just seems to move the puddles along but we have cut gaps in the shuttering

to help drain these areas although with so much rainfall we will probably never be completely successful. The boardwalk at the church path end of Green's Wood has had a temporary repair and hopefully the Parish Council will be able to make a long-term replacement in the spring.

The Parish Council's wildflower meadow has been far from the success we had all hoped for, the contractor did a very thorough job and planted many different varieties of wild flower seeds but the area has just become overwhelmed by grass.

Our group has made several attempts to establish yellow rattle plants in the area and although we had some success in the first year none were seen this year and the poppy seeds we sowed also failed to put in an appearance. Whether this failure is due to the fertility of the clay soil, the high rainfall we have been having, or both is unclear but if you do an internet search for wildflower meadows there is inevitably a mention of how difficult it is to establish one!

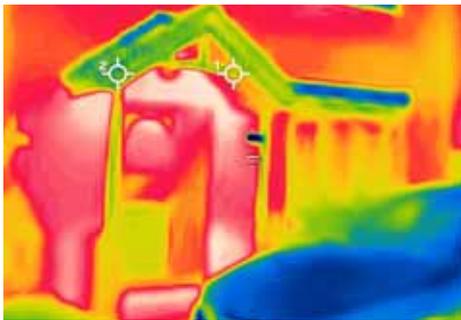
The only guarantee of success is removing all the grass and sowing new seed every year. This just isn't feasible for such a large area and it would also be really expensive for the Parish Council, which has many other calls on its money.

Our work parties are on the second Saturday of each month, 9.45am to 12 noon. We meet at the green hut in the Lower Meadow, have coffee at 11am and go home early if it rains; join us if you can.

Gill Sawyer, 01489 894206

Below: An ideal wildflower meadow – not easy to establish!





SWaCS

Still time for a thermal check-up

With winter weather here for some weeks yet, there is still time to book a free thermal imaging camera (TIC) survey. Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore (SWaCS) volunteers are running the TIC project throughout the colder months so that householders can discover how well their homes hold their heat.

Homes surveyed so far include two dating from the turn of the last century, with the majority falling into the 30-60 year-old category.

It's not just poor door seals, loose window hinges or gaps in loft insulation that have been revealed – to name but a few findings – an Xbox left on standby was found to be generating high levels of heat, making for a cosy room but at an extra cost of about £120 per year!

There's also been plenty of good news as several properties surveyed found no major issues.

If you'd like to perform a free thermal check-up on your home contact SWaCS at swacs1997onwards@gmail.com. The camera, provided by Swanmore Parish Council, is loaned out with instructions and guidance from trained volunteers.

❖ Come along and meet us at the Eco-Fair in the Jubilee Hall, Bishop's Waltham on Saturday 23rd March from 11.30am to 4pm.

❖ SWaCS will be holding a Bike Doctor free cycle check-up with the Meon Valley Repair Café on Saturday, 6th April from 10am to 12noon at Waltham Chase Methodist Church.

Kim Blakeway
SWaCS



Parish Council Office

Tracey Moll o y
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.

Welcome to our additional Community Safety Officer

We are delighted to announce a new member of the Parish Council team.

Sarah McCulloch has been recruited as our second Community Safety Officer, working alongside Gary to support communities across the Meon Valley.

Many of you will know Sarah from her previous role as our Police Community Support Officer, bringing with her a mountain of experience and experiences, as well as a strong community presence.

Sarah is working across Swanmore and Whiteley. Please do stop and say "Hi" if



you see her, and please remember she has left the police; the two roles are very different, and you will need to still report police matters to the police!

Save the date – Annual Meeting of the Parish – 16th April 2024 at 7pm

We will be hosting the annual meeting of the Parish on Tuesday 16th April, at Swanmore Village Hall. This is your opportunity to come along, see what the Council has been up to and help us plan for the future. With more and more financial pressure being put on the City and County Council, it is really important to us as a Parish Council that we get our spending right.

Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation

Hampshire County Council is asking for people's views on the future of some local services in a public consultation on options to help the authority meet a £132million budget shortfall by April 2025.

Context for the consultation

Hampshire County Council delivers most of Hampshire's public services, and is responsible for around 80% of all spending on council services in the county.

Hampshire is in a better position than many other councils, but needs to make deeper savings to meet the shortfall while continuing to deliver critical services.

All areas of the County Council have been asked to consider what savings could be achieved by only providing the legal minimum of services that the council must deliver.

The consultation period began on 8th January and will end at 11.59pm on 31st March.

About the proposals

The service change proposals, summarised below, would contribute around £17.5million in savings. HCC says that feedback from each service change proposal will be fully taken into account when final decisions on the proposals are made.

There are 13 service change proposals in total, and you can share your views on some or all of them, as you prefer. Full details of all the proposals can be found on the HCC website.

❖ Adult social care charges:

Proposals to change the way contributions towards non-residential social care costs are calculated, so that the amount someone pays towards their non-residential care and support increases from 95% to 100% of any assessable income remaining once standard outgoings are paid for and an allowance is made for general living costs.



❖ **Adult social care grant schemes:**

To withdraw funding for three Adult Social Care grant programmes: the Council for Voluntary Services Infrastructure Grant, the Citizens Advice Infrastructure Grant and the Local Solutions Grant

❖ **Competitive (one-off) grant schemes:**

To withdraw three competitive grant schemes which provide one-off grants to a range of community groups and organisations: the Leader's Community Grants, the Rural Communities Fund (including country shows) and the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.

❖ **Hampshire Cultural Trust grant:**

To reduce the amount of grant given to Hampshire Cultural Trust for arts and museums services.

❖ **Highways maintenance:**

To reduce planned highways maintenance activities, including larger-scale structural repairs, road surfaces and drainage improvements.

❖ **Highways winter service:**

To change the criteria used to determine which roads should be treated to better align with current national guidance and reflect changes in travelling and commuting patterns.

❖ **Homelessness Support Services:**

To stop funding services that the County Council does not have a legal requirement to provide.

❖ **Household Waste Recycling Centres:**

A reduced budget that might involve charging for discretionary services, implementing alternative delivery

models, reducing opening days and/or hours or closing some centres.

❖ **Library stock:**

To cut spending on new library stock each year.

❖ **Passenger transport:**

To reduce the amount of money spent on passenger transport by withdrawing all remaining funding that the County Council is not legally required to provide. This includes funding for community transport services (incorporating Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go, Taxi Shares, Group Hire Services, and Wheels to Work), subsidies for bus routes that are not commercially viable, additional funding to extend the Concessionary Travel Scheme (older and disabled persons bus passes) and a review of the potential impact of reductions on the school transport service and social care budgets

❖ **Rural countryside parking:**

To introduce car parking charges at rural countryside car parks that the County Council manages – such as at nature reserves and conservation sites.

❖ **School Crossing Patrols:**

To review the School Crossing Patrols (SCP) service to see if alternative safety measures exist or could be provided to enable the SCP to be safely withdrawn or alternatively funded.

❖ **Street lighting:**

To reduce the brightness of street lights further and to extend the periods that street lights are switched off during the night, where it is considered safe to do so.

How to have your say

You can give your feedback

- ❖ using the online consultation Response Form,
- ❖ download a printable version,
- ❖ email a written response directly to Hampshire County Council via insight@hants.gov.uk or
- ❖ write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE (Please also write PandO, IEU, FM09 on the back of the envelope).

You can request forms in other language formats or information packs at insight@hants.gov.uk, or call: 0300 5551375.

Full details of all the proposals and information on completing the survey can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

SPC Meeting Dates

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

8th February – Planning and Highways Committee

20th February – Open Spaces and Amenities Committee

27th February – Finance Committee

12th March – Planning and Highways Committee

19th March – Open Spaces and Amenities Committee

26th March – Full Council

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

Swanmore Pre-school Going wild for wildlife

We are pleased to say that we have begun our project to enhance our nature garden, which enables us to offer forest school experiences. The next phase will be staff training, a natural pond and a woodwork area.

We are now offering "Dance with Dawn" provided by Dance Box, the children really enjoy the weekly sessions and so do the adults. Dance is a great way to improve co-ordination, body strength and confidence in children.

We will be hosting many more fundraising event throughout the year to support the completion of our projects.

There have been many changes in childcare funding recently and full details can be found at: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

We remain very busy, please contact me for information on how to register your child for a place with us.

Sarah Hiscock 07958 436396

Right: Louie dancing.

Below: Wilf and Thomas raking leaves.



Swanmore Society

Policing matters and Spitfire "shadow factories"

Our final two meetings of 2023 were excellent and well-attended but could scarcely have been more different. In November, we welcomed Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Donna Jones, accompanied by her deputy Terry Norton. Our December meeting featured a presentation on "Building Spitfires without a factory", by Alan Matlock, chair of Southampton-based The Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust.

Donna Jones explained that the role of elected PCCs is primarily to ensure an effective police service in their areas of jurisdiction by setting the strategy and budget, and putting in place the key legal contracts. The force's Chief Constable is then employed by the PCC to deliver effective operational policing within those constraints.

Since taking up the role in May 2021, two of Donna's chief priorities have been to provide 600 extra police officers – the target was reached as promised by the end of 2023 – and to increase their visibility on the streets.

She discussed how this has been achieved through cost savings, scrapping the mandatory degree for police officers and changing the force's operational model from "siloes" to "geographical". Donna is also targeting anti-social behaviour and its causes, and an improvement in the 101 reporting service.

In December Alan Matlock recounted how after the Supermarine factories at Woolston and Itchen were bombed in September 1940, killing 44 people, production of R J Mitchell's

iconic Spitfire fighter plane was dispersed to dozens of secret workshops, or "shadow factories", across Southampton and beyond, as far as Reading and Trowbridge.

Closer to the Swanmore area, many sites were requisitioned for parts manufacturing and storage, including sites in Botley and Bishop's Waltham; the drying shed at brickworks in what is now Claylands Road, Bishop's Waltham was among those used.

Alan's research also revealed that an engineering works in Shirrell Heath (now Hanex Solid Surfaces) made aircraft parts during the war, very probably for Spitfires, and a garage in Titchfield was used to repair damaged wings and seats. At Marwell Hall estate (now the zoo), an airfield was built, disguised by moveable hedges on farm trailers; the original "Robin" hangars can still be seen on the estate, while the hall's cellars were used as the pilots' mess room and feature many graffitied signatures.

In the 1940s Park Place in Wickham was the home of Supermarine's managing director, Sir James Bird. He built a hut in his gardens where the ladies of Wickham WVS sorted jumbled rivets till 1945.

At our upcoming meeting on 14th February, Jonathan Simmons, head of Data Management and Data Science at Ordnance Survey (OS), will discuss the development and work of OS from the 1790s to the present day. In a change to our advertised programme, please note that our AGM will take place on 27th March. Both events start at 8pm at the Paterson Centre.

Visitors are always very welcome but only members will be able to vote at the AGM.

*Caroline Clapperton
01489 891447*



Left: The drying shed (left) at the Bishop's Waltham brickworks once used for Spitfire work, is now the Tavcom building.

Swanmore in the Second World War

Part 2: The later years

As the tide of the war slowly began to turn in the Allies' favour, notably after the battles of Midway (June 1942) and Stalingrad (February 1943), life in Swanmore took on a new rhythm – punctuated by shortages, news of more deaths of local men, less frequent bombing raids and, ultimately, the impact of D-Day plans and the arrival of V1s.

Although the constant bombardments of earlier years had abated, there were still occasional local bombs as enemy bombers jettisoned their unused cargo before hurrying home. The drops included those that landed on Tangier Farm killing seven cows, while several other animals had to be put down as they were so badly injured.

Anne Horn, who went to school in Droxford, missed the bombing of the Meon Valley Railway line that day by going home a different way. She saw four bombs land near a freight train. Later she experienced a land mine which blew all the windows out of their house, as well as some of those in Droxford Church. Many people in Bishop's Waltham witnessed an enemy plane dropping bombs on the

Below: Timothy White workers relax in the grounds of Swanmore House.

brickworks in Claylands Road where Elliotts Builders Merchant is now.

Swanmore lost more villagers: Douglas Roberts in the Royal Ordnance Corps died in February 1942 during an Army training accident on Salisbury Plain; Arthur Carpenter, a Merchant Navy seaman, died when his ship was sunk in March 1942 on a convoy to Russia, north east of Murmansk, and George Law, also Merchant Navy, was killed in March 1943 when his ship carrying iron ore was sunk by U-Boat 662 south-west of Ireland. The U-Boat was later sunk with the loss of all its crew except one. Harry Wood of the Royal Artillery died on Christmas Day 1943. He is buried in St Barnabas' churchyard. Trevor Cawte, a Shedfield schoolboy, was killed by a bomb at Shirrell Heath.

With much of the infrastructure in Portsmouth and Southampton damaged, many businesses – both armament producers and civilian enterprises – were forced to relocate to the countryside. Glider Coaches had its depot (where Sainsbury's is now) and garage commandeered for military use. The distribution centre of chemist retailer Timothy Whites and Taylors in Portsmouth had been destroyed in the blitz and the company

relocated to Swanmore House, building temporary warehouses in the grounds. While some local women worked there, buses brought others to and from Portsmouth; local post offices and the railway station at Bishop's Waltham handled much of the parcel trade. The Timothy Whites buildings at Swanmore House burnt down in the late 1940s.

POWs and shortages

Since many men had been conscripted, farms employed Land Girls to help out with the work. After the armistice with Italy in September 1943, Italian prisoners of war (POWs) were also employed on farms. They were of low risk since few of them wanted to go home to fight and were only too pleased to be away from it all. There was a large POW camp next to the B2177 between Albany Road and Winters Hill in Bishop's Waltham where a new housing estate has recently been built.

Jean Marriner lived in Lower Chase Road and went to school in Swanmore. She remembers the Italian prisoners working in the fields along Lower Chase Road. Her future husband Don lived at Exton and went to school in Droxford and because it was more than a mile away he was issued with Wellington boots. He remembers German POWs working in the fields at Exton. Both also remember the shortages and rationing: Jean recalls fish pie made of tinned pilchards mixed with mashed potatoes as well as tins of spam and dried milk powder. Don's mother made his school blazer from an old police uniform.

Joan Gamblin (née Horn) lived at Upper Hill Farm, Swanmore and she worked on the family farm, milking cows and feeding 300 hens. Several bombs dropped on the farm but the parachute mine was the worst. It came down in the middle of the night in a copse of trees causing a "terrible blast, windows broke, the fire was blown out of the fireplace onto the mat and some ceilings came down". The family kept buckets of sand ready should fire bombs be dropped. Being on a ►



farm meant they was no shortage of food. Pork was smoked in the farmhouse chimney and Joan remembers meat pies from Case's Bakery in Wickham and a fish and chip hut by St Barnabas' lych gate. Many of Joan's eggs ended up on the black market: a policeman was billeted with them, but even he took eggs home to his grateful mother.

Fighting back

Military intelligence played a key part in winning the war and the local area intercept station was at Buryfield Farm at the top of Beeches Hill in Bishop's Waltham. The Royal Signals provided trained operators for this station and had a camp next to the Old Mill House in Waltham Chase, by the B2177. These stations listened to enemy communications signals and fed this information to Bletchley Park, which was the key centre for intercept translation and interpretation. There was also an important intercept station for the Royal Navy at HMS Flowerdown in Winchester.

Numerous powerful searchlights in the area also allowed anti-aircraft guns to target enemy aircraft. Searchlight locations included Hospital Road in Shirrell Heath and Pond Side in Bishop's Waltham. Barrage balloons were used mainly in the coastal areas and the balloon sheds at Titchfield can still be seen today.

As allied invasions began in 1943, the Royal Navy played a key role in the landings under the command of Admiral Andrew Browne Cunningham – Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet – (known as "ABC"). He prevented Axis forces fleeing from North Africa leaving more than 275,000 to surrender and become prisoners of war and he oversaw the Anglo-American amphibious invasion of Sicily. On 11th September 1943 he was able to telegram the Admiralty: "Be pleased to inform their Lordships that the Italian battle fleet now lies at anchor under the guns of the fortress of Malta". Admiral Cunningham lived at the Palace House, Bishop's Waltham.

As plans were being made to free Europe, South Hampshire was transformed into a vast military camp and the arrival of more American, Canadian, Commonwealth, Free French and Polish forces meant that many were stationed around Swanmore and the Meon Valley.

Americans surprises

Anne Horn remembered American troops in Upper Swanmore. Initially they were all white then later black American troops arrived. They never mixed as they were in distinct units. Local people found this difficult to understand since they were all from America and in the same army fighting the same enemy. Even the American air force had white and black squadrons.

Most popular were the American army bands, particularly jazz bands, who played at the dances in

Swanmore and Waltham Chase. These were particularly popular with young women who had been starved of both entertainment and dancing partners. Generally they found the black Americans better behaved than the white ones. Canadian troops were also stationed in the area, mainly towards Durlay. They were well known for visiting public houses in Bishop's Waltham – often with their military police having to restore order.

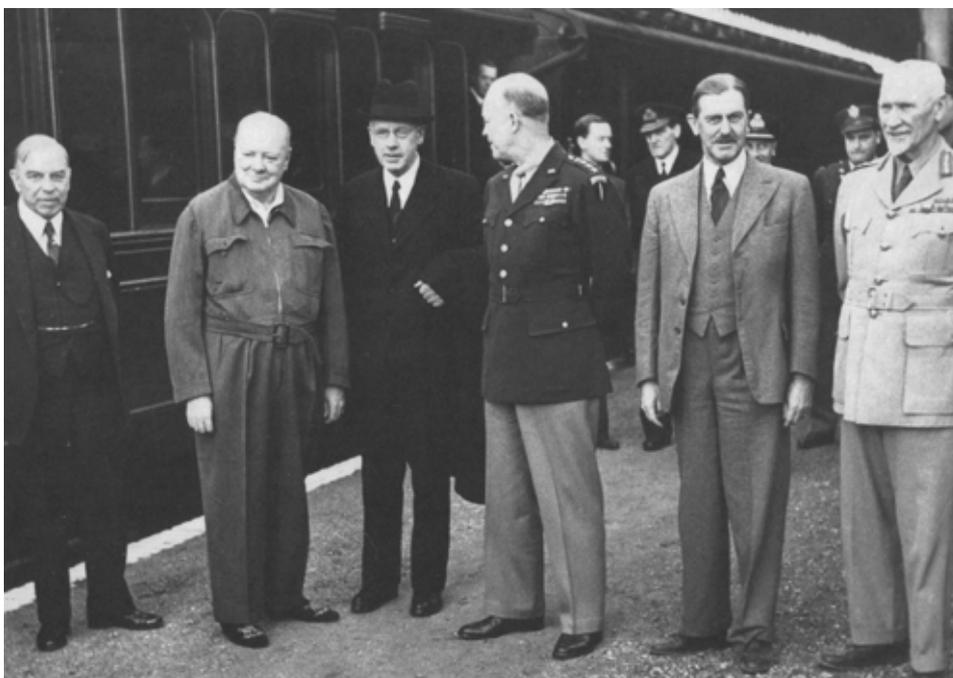
French troops were stationed in Swanmore for a short while before moving off towards Wickham and the Bere Forest.

Peter Turner, who lived on the family farm near Beauworth, remembered the whole area over towards *The Millbury's* was one vast American camp. There were Canadians all down Salt Lane and in the woods; his mother made apple tarts for them which they loved.

Right: Southwick House.

Below: Gathered by the Royal Train (reputedly at Droxford Station on 12th May 1945) are (LtoR)

Canada's President McKenzie King, Churchill, New Zealand PM Peter Fraser, Eisenhower, Sir Godfrey Huggins for Southern Rhodesia and General Jan Smuts of South Africa.



The headquarters for a seaborne assault on the Normandy coast and subsequent operations was at Southwick House, which earlier in the war had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy for HMS Dryad – its Navigation School. While the allied commanders – General Eisenhower, Admiral Ramsey and General Montgomery – had their headquarters in Southwick House, Nissan huts in the grounds housed the headquarters staff.

A large map of the entire coastline of Europe from the top of Norway to Spain was produced for the HQ by Chad Valley Toy Company, which made jigsaws. This was to ensure that should any information fall into enemy hands they would not know where in Europe the assault would take place. The original map is in the house which is still owned by the Ministry of Defence. Access to the Map Room is by appointment only through the Defence School of Policing and Guarding. There is a replica in the D-Day Museum at Southsea.

A story told to me by Commander Richard Phillimore of Shedfield House was that he was notified of an important visitor but he could not inform others who this was in advance. He asked his cook if she could do her best to provide a lunch. When the visitor arrived it was General



Camouflaged tanks in Hampshire.

Montgomery and when he was invited into lunch, Montgomery declined and opened his lapel pocket and took out a sandwich.

Throughout the spring of 1944 planning for the invasion intensified. Anne Horn remembers the military vehicles parked along the A32, in all the local lanes and also in the Bere Forest. There were so many military vehicles that they stopped the Wickham to Droxford buses. Peter Turner remembers that before D-Day the American troops were confined to camp and were desperate for news. They asked Peter to get them newspapers– which he duly did: bought for a penny each he sold them to the troops for 6d (2½p) and to the officers for a shilling (5p). The officers

also provided him with chewing gum, candy and cigarettes for his father.

Just before D-Day the Swanmore Home Guard was sent over to Droxford to help with security for the train carrying Churchill and other leaders. Churchill used the Royal Train as a mobile meeting room and operations centre parked at Droxford Station and convenient for Southwick House. On 2nd June 1944 the train hosted Winston Churchill, members of his war cabinet, Eisenhower, the French leader Charles de Gaulle, the Canadian President William Lyon McKenzie King and the South African leader Jan Smuts, in a siding at Droxford on the Meon Valley line.

A few days later all those troops camped out across the Meon Valley went quickly away. Peggy King remembers seeing the gliders go over for D-Day and a continuous stream of military vehicles heading for Southampton.



Women working on Airspeed wings at Studwell Lodge, Droxford. Similar work was undertaken for the Airspeed Horsa gliders at the Cortursel factory in Swanmore.

D-Day arrives

Part of the over-all plan was for key targets to be taken out by surprise, using glider-borne landings on strategic points by special paratroops. The film *The Longest Day* focussed on one such target – Bénouville Bridge over the Caen Canal. Churchill had insisted that gliders be developed early in the war for just such attacks. These were designed by Airspeed at Portsmouth and were mainly of wood and fabric construction so that they▶

*The Cortursel factory in New Road
– where Crofton Way is now.*



could be manufactured by furniture companies. They needed to be as light as possible and would only be used once. The Cortursel factory in New Road employed local women stretching and gluing the fabric onto the wings of the gliders. There were also many local people involved in making parts in their homes.

On 6th June 1944 Major John Howard and 181 men in six Airspeed gliders successfully took the Bénouville bridge and the nearby Ranville bridge over the Orne. Bénouville Bridge was renamed Pegasus Bridge after the Airborne Corps' shoulder emblem depicting the Greek hero Bellepheron and his flying horse – Pegasus.

While the landings on the five Normandy beaches were successful a terrible toll of allied troops and French civilians was taken then and in the following months. D-Day was the largest sea invasion in history involving 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by more than 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries. Almost 133,000 allied troops landed on D-Day. Casualties were 10,300.

Ron Paterson, later vicar of Swanmore, was a beach master on D-Day with the Canadians on Green Beach. Local man Robert Vincent of the Grenadier Guards died on the 18th July and is commemorated on the Bayeaux memorial.

Final tragedies

On Sunday the 23rd July 1944 a United States B-17 bomber returning after a bombing raid in France to support allied ground forces was running out of fuel. Other members of the squadron in a similar situation managed to land at airfields in Sussex.

The bomber "Paper Dollie" failed to locate an airfield. Three engines had cut out and most of the crew bailed out. The pilot Flight Lieutenant Cecil Miller and rear gunner Sergeant William Zwerk stayed with the plane. Then the fourth engine cut out. By this time the plane was very low and was going to crash. Zwerk bailed out but his parachute caught in the elevators. "Paper Dollie" crashed in a field near Bishop Down Stud Farm, Dundridge.

One can see the site from *The Hampshire Bowman*. They had years

of training and died thousands of miles from home – just for running out of fuel. Ron Crook, a member of the Swanmore Home Guard, was sent to secure the site.

A few months after D-Day the first pilotless V1 bombs appeared over Southern England. They made a noise like a Bunsen burner flame and when the roar stopped you knew it was about to come down and explode. A number landed around Swanmore.

Ted White was a Morse code operator, trained at Bletchley Park, and assigned to the Royal Signal intercept station at Bishop's Waltham. They were camped in a field next to the Old Mill House in Waltham Chase when a V1 landed on the camp killing many. Ted was sleeping using his kit-bag as a pillow. A piece of shrapnel went into his kit-bag but he was saved by it entering his Bible and only going as far as *Deuteronomy*. The Bible had been given to him by Harold Anfield, later a minister at Bishop's Waltham, and the family still have the bible.

Another V1 landed on a pig farm in Curdridge Lane and numerous pig parts were scattered over a wide area. Gradually as the allies advanced the launching sites were captured but not before the large V2 missiles reeked terrible damage particularly in the London Area.

On 31st December 1944 the Home Guard was officially stood down. The war in Europe came to an end on 8th May 1945 with the signing of the unconditional surrender document by Nazi Germany. Following the dropping of two atomic bombs, Emperor Hirohito announced his country's surrender on 15th of August 1945, formally signing the surrender on 2nd September.

Lieutenant William Green, who had commanded the Swanmore Home Guard since 1941, carried out his promise to the Unit and took them to London to see a football match, have dinner out, and then on to the London Palladium.

The challenge now was whether people could build a better and more peaceful world.

Crawford Wright

Below: Swanmore Home Guard's stand down parade in 1944.



Buglife

The hairy-footed flower bee

The hairy-footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*) might sound a bit like a Roald Dahl creation, but it is actually one of the first of our 250 solitary bee species to emerge in spring.

It has the general appearance of a small bumblebee but is easily told apart by its more agile, less “bumbly” movements, including a tendency to hover in front of flowers. Spring blooms of lungwort and comfrey are favourites, along with wild plants such as red dead-nettle, ground-ivy and primrose. Their long robust-looking tongues are ideally suited to gathering nectar and pollen from deep inside the flowers.

The species is sexually dimorphic, meaning male and female have distinctly different forms. Males are gingery in colour, with a yellow face

adorned with cream-coloured hairs, whereas females are uniformly black except for orange pollen baskets (longer and denser hairs) on their back legs, which become increasingly yellow as they continue to collect pollen.

If you are fortunate or patient enough to be able to see a male at close quarters you may observe the reason for the bee’s common name. The long middle pair of legs are much hairier than the others, the feet in particular having a tuft of hairs rather like a miniature splayed paint brush. YouTube videos clearly show these middle legs being used during mating, where the male vigorously “paddles” and brushes the head and antennae of the female as mating takes place. Why this behaviour is necessary does not appear to be known.



Although the bee is classified as a solitary species they can often form nesting colonies where suitable habitat exists, mainly in the south and east of the UK. Females tend to build nests in soft mortar, soil banks, and sometimes on the ground where there is compacted clay. Eggs are laid in cells and each provisioned with pollen to feed the growing larvae, which become the next generation the following spring.

No-mow May has become a familiar concept to encourage our pollinators. Perhaps we could add a semi-mow March where we leave selected patches of lawn with wild flowers to provide pollen for the hairy-footed flower bee.

Marcus Charig



Above right: Female with full pollen basket on cowslip.

Left: Male with long tongue, on anchusa.

Below: Male with long hairy middle leg, on anchusa.



Help for wilding your garden

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has a team of “Wilder Garden Champions” who can advise you how to make you garden a little wilder to benefit both you and nature.

The “champions” are gardening volunteers, vetted by the Trust, who will give you free personal advice on how to make your spaces wilder.

For a free gardening consultation you need to complete a form (available at <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/request-gardening-consultation>) with your details and some information about the space you want to transform.

The trust will then match you with a Wilder Garden Champion and arrange a time for your consultation or you can email wilder@hiwwt.org.uk for more information.

Jane Rankine

Wilder Gardens Champion

In the hedgerows

Celebrating nature's medicine chest

With spring on its way in March trees are already in bud, catkins have appeared on the hazels and by the beginning of the month the first leaves will be on the elders – one of the earliest trees to leaf in spring, of which there are plenty in our hedgerows.

To earlier generations the elder was imbued with magical powers and in its branches dwelt the *Hylde-Moer* – the “elder mother” – who looked after the tree. As Maud Grieve records in her 1930s herbal, in those days it was still customary for countrymen to doff their caps as they passed the tree as a salute to its resident lady.

Upsetting the *Hylde-Moer* had to be avoided so her permission was sought to cut branches (fortunately given by the lady remaining quiet) and it was, of course, unlucky to make furniture from its wood: legends tell of a cradle made from elder wood that regularly tipped out the infant as *Hylde-Moer* didn't like being used in that way.

The elder was also associated with the 13th lunar month of the Celtic tree calendar – as such it was a symbol of beginnings and endings; life and death. Or as Mrs Grieve put it: the English summer is “not here until the elder is fully in flower” and “it ends when the berries are ripe”.

Burning elderwood was also frowned upon as it would also upset the elder mother and bring bad luck. It

was, however, a more practical taboo since elderwood contains cyanogenic glycosides and burning it releases cyanide: not a good idea if you depend on firewood for cooking.

Its species name – *Sambucus* – is believed to derive from an ancient musical instrument, probably pan pipes: until recent times Italian peasants regularly made a pipe, called a *sampogna*, from its twigs.

Medicinal uses

The elder (*Sambucus nigra*) was also regarded as nature's medicine chest, with every part of it used to treat different ailments. The leaves were made into a simple green ointment – a household standby for sores, bruises and chilblains. The outer bark was decocted to make a laxative remedy while inner bark is an even stronger purgative.

The flowers are anti-catarrhal and anti-inflammatory and are ideal for colds, flu, winter chills, sinusitis and sore throats; they can also be made into soothing creams for dry skin and sores. Elderflower water (a distillate made like rosewater) was a favourite with Victorian ladies for clearing freckles and sunburn for a faultless, pale complexion.

The berries should generally be cooked as they are toxic when eaten

Below: Elderflowers and flowerbuds.



raw in large quantities (due to those cyanogenic compounds) but they are a good source of vitamin C and were traditionally used in wine or made into elderberry “rob” – a sort of thick syrup – which would be used in the winter as a prophylactic to combat colds and flu. During the covid pandemic commercial elderberry products were widely promoted as a treatment for viral respiratory infections, with some studies suggesting that the fruits could reduce the severity and duration of symptoms.

If you want to cook with elder then the flowers make a delicious ice cream, they can be dunked in batter to make fritters, added to summer puddings or the flower buds pickled and added to chutney. As well as wine and rob, the berries can be made into jam or jelly, added to fruit pies – they go well with blackberry and apple – and in Northern Germany they are made into a soup served with dumplings (*Holundersuppe mit Griessklösschen*).

Elderflower cordial

Elderflower cordial is readily available commercially but it is also extremely easy to make. The flowers generally appear in early May.

- ❖ 20 elderflower heads,
- ❖ 3pts (1.7litres) water that has been boiled and allowed to cool,
- ❖ 3lbs (1.4kg) sugar,
- ❖ 1 lemon, sliced
- ❖ 1¼oz (50g) tartaric or citric acid

Mix everything in a large bucket, stirring to help dissolve the sugar, and leave overnight. Next day strain the liquid through muslin and store in clean bottles in the fridge.



Local walks

Twyford to Winchester – a river and a down

This is a well-signed circular walk between Twyford and Winchester, crossing an amazing stretch of Hampshire downland to come back along the popular River Itchen.

Distance: 8¼ miles. Walking time: 3½ hours.

Accessible by bus, this route is walkable throughout the year and provides a masterclass in both the environment and history; it is one of my favourites.

Terrain: Rolling chalk, stony downland gives way to a “dry” grass valley edging St Catherine’s Hill. The return journey along the river and water meadows is shingled/stony paths or tarmac lanes and may have puddles but not too much mud. There are no stiles, many gates and while there are a few cows in the water meadows and at St Catherine’s Hill,

they have become very use to walkers and dogs.

Access: The 69 bus from Swanmore runs at half past the hour and takes approx 45 minutes to Twyford crossroads. The return bus goes at 42 minutes past the hour from Twyford and 25 minutes past the hour from Winchester Bus Station.

The £2 fare for any single ride is operational until December 2024. Hunter Park car park can be used for individuals walking local paths and is accessed along Park Lane, which is very narrow, with the entrance next to *The Bugle Inn* on the right as you enter Twyford. There is limited car parking at Twyford church and near *The Bridge Inn*, Shawford.

Start

1. Twyford Crossroads to Hazeley Road

From Twyford crossroads take the Owslebury road alongside the shop and go into Roman Road on the right. At the end turn left onto Park Lane and continue along the byway and up into the pasture opposite keeping on the Monarch’s Way. Cross the pasture and wild meadow and turn right onto

Left: The memorial to the dead of regiments stationed in Twyford during the First World War. Below: A panoramic view of Winchester.



the rising track where you may spot several walnut trees. Passing a very large walnut tree on the right, go a little further along before turning left alongside the horse paddocks and marked by the blue sign of the Kingfisher Trail (approximately 15 minutes).

This is a six-mile circular trail around Twyford that our route shares for much of its way. Go past Hazeley Farm on the left, to Hazeley Road. The path is also the Pilgrims Trail, which stretches straight across Twyford Down over to the M3 motorway.▶

Why not make a day of it?

The River Itchen is a chalk stream enjoyed alike by ramblers, fishermen, nature lovers and dog walkers. The Itchen Way, the path alongside the river, provides an opportunity to explore the streams and mills of the old Itchen Navigation waterway and you can also spend time wandering around Winchester.

Some 85% of the world’s chalk streams are in England and are known for supporting an abundance of wildlife. The River Itchen is home to many protected species, such as water vole, otter and white-clawed crayfish. It has several varieties of fish together with butterflies, dragonflies, herons and kingfishers – to name just a few – and gives everyone something to look out for.

From Twyford, the Itchen Way is a 3½ mile stroll directly into Winchester. It also links a pleasant five-mile circular trip to the water meadows and mills through St Cross, part of which is included in our walk.

Our extended circular route, however, goes first to Twyford Down and St Catherine’s Hill.

Just beyond the half-way point, refreshments are available at a café on the old railway line by Tun Bridge car park or a little further along at the Pump House.



The cause of the controversy. The M3 cutting through the downland.

2. Hazeley Road to the M3 motorway

Take care when crossing this often busy road and go up the wide track that soon takes you past the large memorial cross dedicated to the dead of the six London regiments stationed here during the First World War.

As you turn the corners, ahead the path becomes much narrower and you will see horse hurdles and widespread views over the most splendid of

Hampshire downland – Twyford Down. Ignoring a cross path at a dip by some trees, go up the hill towards the motorway.

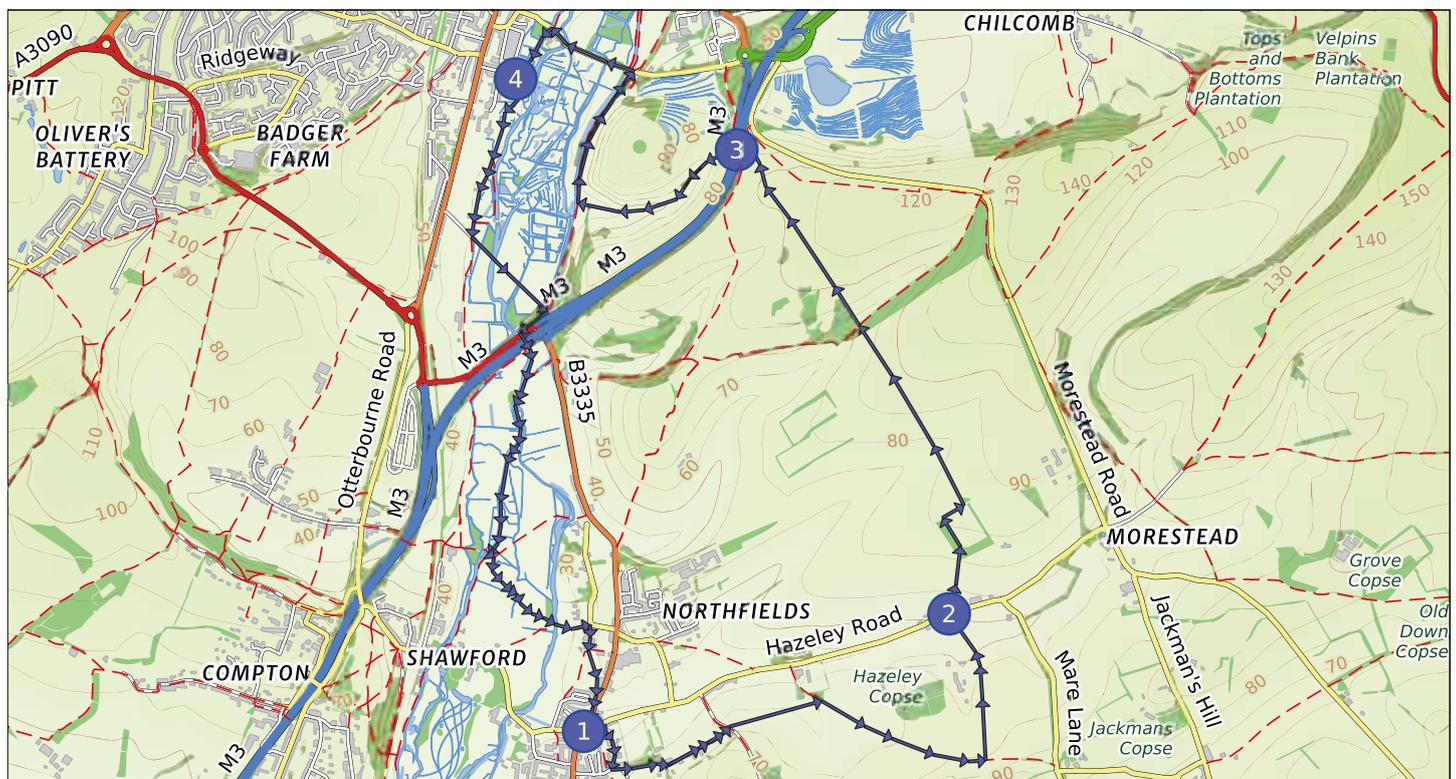
Towards the end you pass Hockley Golf Club, with good views over Winchester (approximately 45 minutes).

Head down a chalky path to go over the motorway where the route is self evident. There have always been routes across this chalk downland,

which has been settled since pre-Roman times. It had a series of trackways known as "dongas" where farmers herded animals around St Catherine's Hill, as well as being a coaching route from Southampton to London.

The "Battle for Twyford Down" in 1992 involved violence and prison sentences, but was largely a peaceful protest involving a local and environmentalist bid to stop a new "track" from crossing the Down – the M3 motorway. While the need for a replacement for the old A33 at the very congested Winchester bypass was not in dispute, its route was.

The Down was the site of a major road protest against this section of the M3 motorway, which became one of Britain's most controversial road schemes. While locals and environmentalists lost the battle to stop the motorway being built, the protest was hailed as a major



Map Legend

- Motorway
- Primary Road
- A Road
- B Road
- Minor Road
- Local Street
- - - Right of Way
- Buildings
- Woodland
- Water

0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile

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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influence on environmental issues for future road building and for the much more expensive tunnel options (such as at the A3 at Hindhead and current proposals at Stonehenge).

Many people now applaud the improved, accessible walking paths around St Catherine's Hill and Winchester since the motorway arrived and say that wildlife extinction claims proved unfounded.

Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain: both residents and visitors now hear the perpetual roar of the motorway as it cuts through this historic downland and which for many no amount of compensation would compensate.

From 2011 Twyford Down has been part of the western side of the South Downs National Park.

3. St Catherine's Hill to St Cross

With controversy and the motorway behind you and ignoring paths to the side, continue down through a pleasant "dry" valley along the edge of St Catherine's Hill on the right; ahead to the left is the site of the plague pits, dug during the Black Death in the 1350s when all of Winchester's graveyards were full.

For the energetic, up beyond the hill slopes grassy hummocks cover the site of an Iron Age hill fort, various



Above: The clear, constant water from chalk springs flowing across flinty gravel is characteristic of chalk streams.

Right: The Hospital of St Cross with its almshouses.



Roman remains, the site of a twelfth century chapel dedicated to St Catherine, a seventeenth century turf maze and a football pitch where pupils from Winchester College played football.

A flight of wide steps brings you back down the hill to rejoin our route going through the gates of the valley exit, to join the River Itchen. This is approximately half-way through the walk.

4. St Catherine's Hill to St Cross

Turn right along the Itchen Way on the tarmac path that runs between the river and the old railway line to Tun Bridge where there are refreshments. As part of a circular route from Winchester this path is very popular.

Reaching a small car park with the café above on the old rail track, turn left along the road crossing the river, leaving the Itchen Way to go straight ahead to Winchester. Cross a small bridge, then a larger bridge, until just past the old Victorian Pump House (now owned by Winchester college) and turn left.

Here the many different walking signs include one for the city centre

and one for the "Camino Ingles to Santiago", the pilgrim destination in northern Spain, which you follow.

Having just walked over three different bridges you may understandably wonder which one crosses the River Itchen. This is because for part of its length the river is divided into two or more parallel channels to include the Itchen Navigation, a former navigable waterway from Winchester to Southampton, and streams to irrigate the extensive water meadow system whose locks and restored mills still exist in places today.

Our path now turns down the side of a house accompanying a rush of water. It follows between two streams past a footbridge to houses on the right and with views across the water meadows to St Catherine's Hill to the left.

Continue through a gate into open meadows to see ahead the wall of the Hospital of St Cross where you keep left. Built between 1132 and 1136 it is the oldest charitable institution in the United Kingdom. Rather grandly named an "Almshouse of Noble Poverty", it now houses 25 retired male residents known as "brothers", ▶



The path alongside the defunct Didcot, Newbury to Southampton railway line, which contributed to the decline of the Itchen Navigation in the 1860s.

Around the footpaths

although it is not a religious order.

Situated just south of Winchester, St Cross is another popular area for strolling and where on a sunny weekend whole families and their pets seem to be out on its many paths, including an avenue of lime trees. Having passed the Hospital on your right go through a gate to the lime trees and continue alongside a stream through more meadows until you reach what was once a main road into Winchester, the St James Way, where you turn left.

Cross more streams and the river to a junction of tarmac paths where you turn right, clearly signed Itchen Navigation. Turn left after the bollards, to the Pelican pedestrian crossing at a busy road junction. Ignoring now the paths of the Itchen Way and Kingfisher Trail, which go straight ahead, turn right for about 100 yards to go under the motorway with the river on your right and continue to follow the blue and yellow sign of the "Camino".

Follow the river to cross a wooden bridge to rejoin the Itchen Way and

Kingfisher Trail on the left. Continue along the narrow path eventually going through two kissing gates to Compton Lock, a wider area with seating.

Here we leave the Itchen Way, (which continues to *The Bridge Inn*) to turn left from the path passing the benches through a wooden gate. Turn right to Twyford Mead water meadow to a small wooden bridge. After a gate, keep left over the field, go through the metal gate to cross the main channel of the River Itchen and continue along the gravel track to St Mary's Church.

Built on the site of a Saxon church, St Mary's has been renovated over the centuries and the existing Victorian rebuild was designed by Alfred Waterhouse, who also designed the Natural History Museum and Swanmore House.

Turn right on the footpath alongside the church. Where the path divides, go straight ahead across a small field to return along the raised path at the main road and then back to the Twyford crossroads and the bus stop for Swanmore.

Lin Powell



Left: Compton Lock provides seating for a much-needed rest.

Below: St Mary's church has had many rebuilds over the centuries. The latest was by Alfred Waterhouse who designed Swanmore House and also the pulpit in our village church.



Itchen Navigation

Bringing freight from Southampton

The River Itchen had been used as a trading route between Southampton and Winchester since Saxon times, with a wharf recorded at Bishopstoke in 960AD.

Work on making the entire river more easily navigable as far as Winchester began under Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester (1189–1204) but it was not until the seventeenth century that more formal projects began with a series of mills, locks and artificial cuts as well as a towpath for horses pulling the barges.

Numerous individuals, known as undertakers, were responsible for the various projects and each charged tolls on their particular sections. In all, the Navigation was 10.4 miles long, comprising a mixture of original river, new cuts (around 2¾ miles) and various secondary streams. By 1795 there were 15 locks on the Navigation with the main wharf at Northam from where barges carried coal, salt, chalk and a wide range of other goods from Southampton to Winchester – although the Navigation had become a monopoly with a single owner who controlled both tolls and barges.

The nineteenth century brought many changes: opening up the Navigation to other users (on payment of a toll) and improvements to the state of the waterway. Prosperity was short-lived, however, as by 1840 the London and Southampton Railway had opened, providing a more flexible and faster option for freight and as the railways proliferated the Navigation declined. The last cargo-carrying barge reached Blackbridge Wharf, Winchester in June 1869.

Perhaps surprisingly after more than 150 years, much of the Navigation and its towpath remains intact, while the Itchen Navigation: Heritage Trail Project (2007–2012), run by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, helped with conservation. More information about the Navigation can be found at <https://sotoncs.org.uk/itchen/itchen-v5.htm>

From our district councillors

Concentrating on climate and elections

Wow! So far the winter has given us a series of challenges ranging from named storms to flooding and now very cold temperatures. It is almost embarrassing to say that we have been warned for several decades that changes in the atmosphere, albeit small, are making the air warmer. Warm air while crossing a warm Atlantic Ocean absorbs a great deal of water creating turbulence or depressions.

A series of international reports from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and various meteorological agencies around the world, have been advising us that these changes are coming. Global temperatures are now calculated at 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and influencing both weather patterns and migration – north and south – away from hotter, drier parts of the world.

Our houses now need to be designed to be warm in winter, but cool in summer. Insulated homes and double or triple glazing are becoming musts. These enable us to reduce how much energy our homes need to keep us comfortable.

If we live in an area that is susceptible to flooding, then we need flood barriers to keep water out of the house – even to the extent that air bricks need to be higher from the ground or of the “smart” or “self-sealing” variety.

Help available

Organisations such as WinACC and schemes such as Winchester City Council's “Warmer Homes” initiative can help. Warmer Homes provides fully-funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income, off-gas households. The scheme is available until March 2025. So far, these loans are geared towards people who live in homes that have Energy Certificates lower than D. Older houses could well

be in this category. Look into solar panels on the roof, or air (or ground) source heating. Not all houses are suitable, but they may help in your situation.

Combatting floods

We are advised that the Environment Agency is spending a great deal of money on flood prevention schemes, but for those villages, such as Hambledon, that have problems from rising ground water, help may well come from the County Council. Drain covers need to be kept free of leaves especially in the autumn and winter so they can do their job. In the past homeowners got together to do this, but parked cars don't help as they cover the drain inlets.

While we are being (correctly) encouraged to plant more trees, recent events suggest that they come with a long-term warning. There was a startling number of trees blown over during the recent storms (notably Storm Henk). There seems to have been a tornado along part of Belmore Lane that knocked over some 40 trees in about half a mile. It was an incredible sight!

Preparing for elections

Meanwhile, 2024 is bringing us some local elections, and possibly a national election – this must be held before the end of January 2025. So – have you registered to vote? Both registration and postal voting forms now require your National Insurance number while some form of photo-identity, such as passport or drivers' licence, is needed at the polling station.

Voters who dress to conceal their faces may be taken to a private booth where the Election Officials may check. This is no different from last year and locally we had few, if any, problems. For those who wish to vote, but are going to be away on business, on holiday or have a long-term illness then the postal voting system is still

available. Forms can be downloaded from the Government website. Those of us who had postal votes last year may still have them depending on the preference stated on the application form. All these details are on the City Council website at winchester.gov.uk. Polling Stations will be in the same location as last year.

While we know many of the MPs who are standing in the general election, the local election candidates for the Central Meon Valley have not been announced yet.

■ *Following the boundary changes confirmed last November, the Meon Valley parliamentary constituency has been abolished. Swanmore is now back in Winchester constituency while other areas in the former Meon Valley constituency are now in East Hampshire or the new constituencies of Hamble Valley or Fareham & Waterlooville.*

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



Frank Pearson

Malcolm Wallace



Danny Lee

BW Town Team

Another successful year for Give and Take

For the third year running, between May and October 2023, the Bishop's Waltham Town Team ran a successful series of monthly stalls to help reduce waste in the village. "Give and Take" enables people to donate unwanted items to the stalls and take things that they can use. People do not have to give to take ... they can give, they can take, or they can do both.

Each stall had a different theme; from "Gardening and DIY" in May to "Hallowe'en and Christmas" in October. Stalls were set up in St George's Square with the kind permission of Bramsdon and Childs and run by Town Team volunteers with initial funding from Winchester City Council.

While no money was exchanged – as all items are donated and are free to be taken – charity collection boxes for the village's two charity shops, Rowans and Revitalize, were available if people chose to donate. This year more than £860 was raised and was very much appreciated by both charities.

"We are really pleased that this initiative has become so popular" said Robin Shepherd, Chair, Bishop's Waltham Town Team. "It really does seem to have hit the mark. We are always delighted by how many goods are donated and how many of them end up being re-homed. Of those that are left over at the end of each event, very few are disposed of in the waste system. We mainly manage to redistribute in one way or another – either to charity shops or individual charities in the UK and abroad and to schools".

Give and Take will be back in 2024. For more information contact us at bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com
Sarah Berry



"Give and Take" attracting queues in July 2023.



Waltham Ramblers Out and about in February

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

Newcomers are welcome but please contact the leader beforehand in case there is a change. For further information about Waltham Ramblers, email delia.rampton@talktalk.net

- Wednesday 7th February – Fareham via England Coast Path, 3.5 miles, Chris and Lynda 07710 825506. Start: 11am. Meet outside Lysses Hotel, Fareham, PO16 7AE. If you want to catch a bus, take Stagecoach number 69 and alight at the High Street bus stop. Return buses leave Fareham Bus Station at five minutes past the hour. This is a linear walk.
- Wednesday 14th February – Chalton, 5 miles, Peter 07974 648970. Start: 10am. Meet in *The Red Lion* pub overflow car park, PO8 0BG. Please patronise the pub after the walk.
- Sunday 18th February – Winchester via Twyford, 8 miles, Gill and Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am. Meet in St Catherine's Park and Ride by the toilets, SO23 8RA. Car park is free on Sundays. Please bring a picnic lunch.
- Wednesday 21st February – Swanmore via Upper Swanmore, 5 miles, Pauline 01489 892386. Start: 10am. Meet in the car park opposite the Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore, SO32 2PA.

Delia Rampton



BW Photographic Society

A busy year ahead

The society started the year with its first “Out and about” for 2024 in January to the Southern Counties Photographic Society exhibition in Salisbury. Members were able to spend time at the cathedral for an opportunity for architectural photography.

A full programme of speakers, competitions, image reviews, members’ forum and support activities are planned with a new series of digital projected image competitions that will enable members to share their work with other members and benefit from the critique given by the judge.

Talks planned for 2024 include:

- Paul Gregory on “The art of food photography” in February,
- Margaret Salisbury on “The dragon does monochrome” in April,
- Martin Pickles on “Documentary” in July,
- Carl Reeve with “Portrait workshop” in September, and
- Jet founder of Jet Black Squares on “Smartphone photography” in December.

Awarded the President’s Cup in 2023 for the Advance section was Helen Otton LRPS whose winning images included “Afterglow” (pictured above) while in the Intermediate section Mike Perkins won the league and took home the Pat Clancy trophy.

You are very welcome to come along to one of our meetings, meet the members and see for yourself exactly what we have to offer. We meet at St Peter’s Church Hall, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham SO32 1EE. contact info@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk for more information.

Ann Erkut

Waltham Priory Probus Speakers for spring

Members of Waltham Priory Probus Club enjoyed their Christmas party in December with entertainment provided by Tesoro Duo. Our future programme of speakers includes:

- 6th February– Geoff Watts on “Titanic and Southampton”.
- 2nd April – Carol Watson on “The Cathar Way”.
- 2nd May – Mike Hollis on “Cold war Warriors”.

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women. We are welcoming and friendly. and are able to accept some new members. If you would like to join us on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley please contact our secretary on 07542 109821 or email janet.gibson1@outlook.com for details.

Martin Cooke

BW Rotary Club Sending incubators to Ukraine

Sometimes things just fall into place and make our job of helping people so much easier. This happened in December when we were able to secure several incubators to send out to hospitals in Ukraine that are desperate for this type of equipment.

Just before Christmas we sent a 4x4 vehicle laden with warm clothing, sleeping bags and medical supplies to Ukraine and through this made contact with a team supplying medical equipment to Ukraine via UMAUK (Ukraine Medical Association in the UK) and BUA (British Ukrainian Aid).

We have also supported the Hampshire Medical Fund, which provides medical equipment to Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust. A representative from the fund, presenting at one of our meetings, heard about our support for Ukraine and told us that the fund was in the process of supplying some new incubators to the Hampshire NHS Trust.

We quickly started the ball rolling to try and secure any outgoing incubators that were still fully serviceable, which we could send to Ukraine. So far, we have secured five desperately-needed incubators that will be shipped to Ukraine over the next couple of months, along with other much needed medical equipment.

During January we have also been able to help one local youngster regain his independence and mobility by contributing £500 towards the £5,000 cost of an electric wheelchair. We understand that the amount raised so far will soon be sufficient to buy the chair.

- Our Christmas collections this year reached the amazing sum of nearly £6,500 – up by almost £700 on last year’s record-breaking total. Thanks to all who donated.

Ian Treveil



Plenty to look forward to

Future meetings of the Meon Valley U3A at 2pm in the Wickham Community Centre are:

- 6th February – Tina Tolley talking about Heartbeat House Southampton, an amazing charity catering for relatives of patients undergoing cardiac surgery in Southampton.
- 20th February – Guy Liardet talking on Indian religions. Guy is well known to many and a member of our group.
- 5th March – Dr Lilian Hobbs talking on “What’s visible in the night sky”.
- 19th March – another member, Mike Hollis talking on “Exodus: an event in history”.

Everybody is welcome – guests will have an especially warm welcome. Guests pay £2 to defray speaker costs. So why not come along. You will also have a cup of tea!

Lyndon Palmer –Chairman)
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Singing for Fun Everyone welcome to make music

Singing for Fun takes place at The Stables, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham, on the third Friday of the month, from 2pm to 3.30pm at £2 per session including refreshments.

If you enjoy singing your favourite songs and learning some new ones then come and join us.

No talent required and all ages welcomed. For further information contact me on 07710 810552 or just turn up.

The next sessions are on 16th February and 15th March.

Sue Burkett

BW Town Team

We want your views

Have you ever had a bright idea about an activity or event that would be great to see happen in Bishop’s Waltham – but haven’t known where to start?

- Would you like to see more activities like Bishop’s Waltham Bites and Give and Take stalls i?
- Have you enjoyed the Street Parties, Murder Mysteries, historical events in the Palace Grounds and the KidSTreat event in the High Street that have taken place in the past?
- Do you use the Love Bishop’s Waltham Website or follow the Bishop’s Waltham WhatsOn Facebook Page for information about what is going on in the town?

If you answered yes to any one of the above, then now is your chance to find out more and to have your say about the events and services provided by the Bishop’s Waltham Town Team.

We are inviting you to join us at an open forum event on Saturday 16th March in the United Free Church in Basingwell Street. The event starts at 10.30am with registration and refreshments available from 10.15. It will finish at 11.30 with an opportunity to mix and mingle informally.

We would like to tell you a bit more about us and what we have done in the past. Most importantly, thought, we would like to hear from you about what you think we should be doing in the future’

So now is your chance to have your say – put the date in your diary now and do come along.

For more information email us at bishopswalthamtownteam@gmail.com

- *The Town Team would also be pleased to welcome anyone from Swanmore who attends events in BW to join the Open Forum.*

Sarah Berry

Bishop’s Waltham Museum

Find out more at the annual meeting

Bishop’s Waltham Museum will be holding its AGM on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm at St Peter’s Church Hall in Free Street.

The meeting will include a talk on “Georgian Bishop’s Waltham: Rise of the merchants” by Penny Copeland,

the museum’s collections manager.

Non-members are welcome and full details are available at bishopswalthammuseum.com or [bishopswalthammuseum, @gmail.com](mailto:bishopswalthammuseum@gmail.com)

Below: St George’s House, High Street, Bishop’s Waltham c. 1806.



Dates for your diaries

Every Thursday 6.30pm–10pm Swanmore Bridge Club, Paterson Centre
Every Friday 2pm–4pm MVARA Scrabble, Paterson Centre

February

3rd February 7pm Quiz and Puddings. NB: Now moved to Swanmore Village Hall (see p.7).
5th–10th February 7.30pm Orlando (based on the novel by Virginia Woolf). Oak Theatre, Titchfield.
6th February Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch and Geoff Watts on “Titanic and Southampton”, Botley.
6th February 2pm U3A Tina Tolley on “Heartbeat House Southampton”, Wickham Community Centre.
7th February 11am Wickham Ramblers Fareham via England Coast Path (see p.26).
10th February 9.45am to 12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Green’s Wood.
10th February 7pm for 7.30pm “The Shrink in the Drink”, Paterson Centre (see p.9).
14th February 10am Wickham Ramblers, Chalton (see p.26).
14th February 8pm Swanmore Society Jonathan Simmons on “Ordnance Survey from 1790”, Paterson Centre.
16th February 2pm Singing for Fun, The Stables, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham.
18th February 10am Wickham Ramblers Winchester via Twyford (see p.26)
19th February 7.30pm Licensing Service for Revd Andy Davis, St Barnabas (tickets needed).
20th February 2pm U3A Guy Liardet on “Indian religions”. Wickham Community Centre.
21st February 10am Wickham Ramblers Swanmore via Upper Swanmore (see p.26).

March

1st March 2pm World Day of Prayer, Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Bishop’s Waltham.
5th March 2pm U3A Dr Lilian Hobbs on “What’s visible in the night sky”, Wickham Community Centre.
8th March 7.30pm Macmillan Mammoth Quiz, Paterson Centre (see p.7).
9th March 9.45am to 12noon Swanmore Conservation Group work party, Green’s Wood.
15th March 7.30pm Twinning Spring Quiz, Paterson Centre (see p.7).
18th March 10.15am Open Forum, Bishop’s Waltham Town Team, United Reform Church Basingwell Street.
19th March 2pm U3A Mike Hollis on “Exodus: an event in history” Wickham Community Centre.
23rd March 11.30am-4pm Eco-Fair, Jubilee Hall, Bishop’s Waltham.
25th March 7.30pm AGM of Bishop’s Waltham Museum with Penny Copeland on “Georgian Bishop’s Waltham: Rise of the Merchants”.
27th March 8pm Swanmore Society AGM, Paterson Centre.
31st March **Easter Day**

April

2nd April Waltham Priory Probus Club lunch and Carol Watson on “The Cathar Way”, Botley.
6th April 10am– 12noon SWaCS Bike Doctor free cycle check-up, Meon Valley Repair Café Waltham Chase Methodist Church.
16th April 7pm Annual meeting of the Parish, Swanmore Village Hall.
27th April 10.30am–12 noon RBLWS Coffee morning, Paterson Centre.
27th–28th April: 1pm-5pm Swanmore Open Gardens, tickets at the Paterson Centre.

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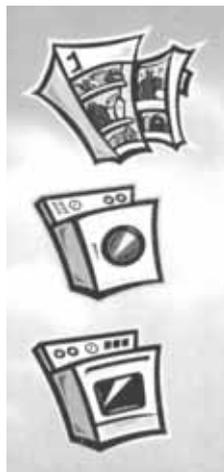
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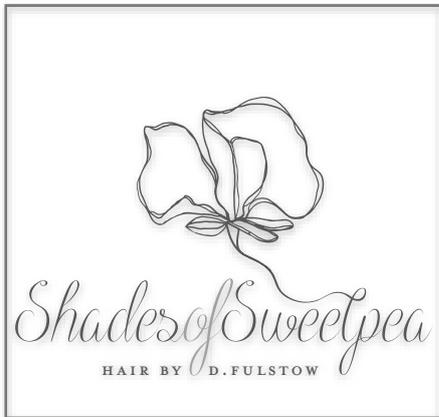
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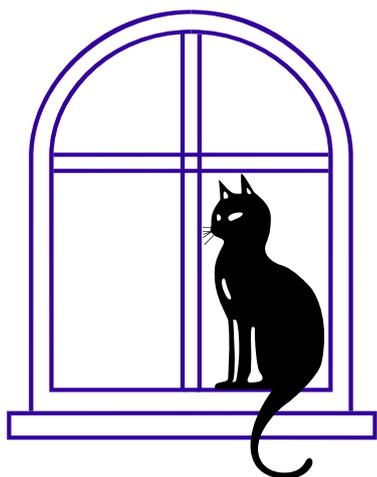


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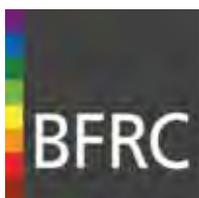
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St Barnabas - Holy Week 2024

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

9.20am Palm Sunday procession from the Village Hall

10am Holy Communion

Monday 25th March – Wednesday 27th March

8.30pm Devotions on Zoom each day

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion and Gethsemane Vigil

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

10am–11.30am Easter craft workshop for children

2pm The Service of the Cross

Sunday 31st March – Easter Day

6am Early Ceremonies

8am Holy Communion

10am All Age Easter Communion

