

April/May 2024

# *The* Swanmore *Link*



When the village was divided  
The three vicarages  
Searching for swifts

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**Deadline for the June/July issue is  
Wednesday 8th May 2024.**

**Copies will be available to collect at  
The Link from 29th May 2024.**

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## War Memorial appeal

Gary McCulloch, our volunteer "War Memorial Custodian", is currently fundraising £2,500 to cover essential repairs to the memorial's surrounding fence, to clean the monument with a biodegradable solution to bring it back to its former self and to tidy up the ground with pea shingle.

Any money donated over the total cost will be split between The Royal British Legion and The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Please help Gary to reach his target by donating at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/swanmore-village-war-memorial-refurbishment>



## 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.

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.

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

# Easter is more than chocolate eggs

Mark Twain is famous - among many other things - for saying, "There are lies, damn lies and statistics". If you were to say that one of these statistics is good news, and the other is bad news, which way round would it be?

❖ *One in three marriages ends in divorce.*

❖ *65% of the British population believe that Jesus rose from the dead.*

I suspect that quite a number would say that the first is "bad" news and the second is "good" (what a healthy majority 65% is). Well, it could be argued that the first is actually a very good statistic because, despite the huge pressures on marriage these days, it is still the case that two out of every three survive. The second is a very bad statistic because, even though 65% say that they believe Jesus rose from the dead, that "belief" has little or no impact on the way they lead their lives, otherwise there would be huge Christian churches and communities needed to accommodate the 40 million or so fired up Christians around the place.

As Easter is celebrated again, it is worth reminding Christians in particular that simply *believing* that Jesus rose from the dead means next to nothing. It only means something if you believe that he is therefore with you, and can (through prayer, faith exploration, worship, self-giving love and service) become more and more real to you and more and more of a living presence in the way you live (and die). It only means something if it translates into a belief that although life is full of "crucifixions", Jesus being resurrected, real and present means that suffering (like his, and like so many peoples') is never the last word.

Most importantly, a true embracing of the reality of the resurrection is an antidote to the distorted forms of Christianity that are sadly on the increase: those that

claim that being a Christian is some form of "insurance policy" against suffering and misfortune. It is a heavy irony that those Christians who say most about Jesus being alive, and the transforming power of the resurrection and the Holy Spirit also often take the view that if you are ill, dying or sinful, you are not praying hard enough, or haven't been "saved". This is actually a denial of a true Easter faith that knows instead that we carry our crosses daily; and that *within* and *through* that cross-carrying, resurrection becomes a reality.

This Easter it isn't just one day of eating chocolate eggs. In the church, Easter is marked for seven weeks, and every Sunday is the day of Resurrection – so don't be a statistic. Be one of the Easter people: acknowledging that suffering is real and terrible (as Christ's was) but that the transforming power of Christ's risen love is always present: a light that shines in darkness and cannot be overcome!

There are many, many challenges in our lives these days, not least for the Church of England. Here are three sobering statistics:

1. In just 25 years, the proportion of those who identify as "Church of England" has fallen from 66% of the population to just 12%.
  2. In 2019, for the first time in history, a majority of the UK population identified as "non-religious" (52%) – an increase of 70% on 1979 figures.
  3. The average age of Anglicans in the UK is 65.
- But we are an Easter people. The light of the risen Christ continues to shine, whenever we love, pray, worship and serve our community.

With love,



The Revd Andy Davis  
07709 919602  
vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk  
revd.andydavis@gmail.com



Andy Davis pictured during his licensing service in February.  
Photograph by Berty Ferrone

**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 Easter to May

## 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

*The Second Sunday  
of Easter*

8am Holy Communion  
10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 14th April

*The Third Sunday of Easter*

No 8am  
10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 21st April

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

8am Holy Communion  
10am Café Church

## Sunday 28th April

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

No 8am  
10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 5th May

*The Sixth Sunday  
of Easter*

8am Holy  
Communion  
10am Holy  
Communion



## Sunday 12th May

*Ascension Sunday*

No 8am  
10am Holy Communion

## Sunday 19th May

*Pentecost*

8am Holy Communion  
10am Café Church

## Sunday 25th May

*Trinity Sunday*

No 8am  
10am Holy  
Communion



Paul Scott

## Interment of ashes

Paul Scott, a much loved member of St Barnabas Church for many years, died in his care home on Christmas Eve after a long illness.

He wished his ashes to be buried on the Memorial Path in the churchyard where his wife's (Toni) were interred. We will be interring Paul's ashes on Saturday 30th March at 11.30am.

Paul's son Tom and his daughter Clare would be pleased if anyone who knew Paul would like to join us for this short service.

*Jill Phipps*

## From the registers

### Baptism

25th February Phoebe May Swales

### Interment of ashes

30th March Paul Scott





Licensing service

## A packed church and plenty of participation

With seven parishes to care for as “priest-in-charge” it was hardly surprising that St Barnabas was full to capacity on 19th February for Revd Andy Davis’s licensing service.

As well as many from Swanmore, the congregation included representatives from Droxford, Exton, Hambledon, Meonstoke & Corhampton, Newtown, and Soberton as well as guests from Andy’s previous parish of Bramley in Surrey. Also attending was Cllr Angela Clear, Mayor of Winchester.

The service was also streamed to many more in the Paterson Centre or watching online, while the overflowing village car park was augmented by space at the Primary School next door, with our community safety officers, Gary and Sarah, turning traffic managers to prevent any potential chaos.

The 90-minute service, led by the

Rt Revd Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth, ably assisted by Archdeacon of the Meon, the Ven Kathryn Percival, opened with a prayer sung by a choir formed of representatives from the seven parishes who later sang the anthem “O though the central orb” to music by Charles Wood.

Tony King played the organ for the congregational hymns, while Peter Fellows moved from choir to electric Kawai organ for the more jaunty “One more step along the world I go” – chosen to end the service by our newly-installed priest.

*Photographs of the service by Berty Ferrone.*

*Above: The Bishop’s sermon was attentively listened to by little Anoushka Lee, who took part as the “young person” welcoming the “priest-in-charge designate” at the start of the service, while Fiona Noble (extreme right) was one of several local representatives to elicit the necessary promises from Andy during that stage of the service. Andy and his wife Christine can be seen in the pew behind, while the Mayor of Winchester sits on the opposite side of the aisle.*

*Below: Andy kneels for the Bishop’s blessing watched by, among others, Susie Fellows in the choir and Tony King at the organ.*



## Quiz & Pudding night

# A great time had by all

When asked to join Team “Rose” for St Barnabas Church Quiz, the family thought, “why not?” and what a fabulous fun evening it turned out to be! It was so good to see many new faces from the village joining in too at the packed out Village Hall.

With names decided and the Joker card (for double points) placed on everyone’s chosen category, the anticipation of a great evening was already being felt. With a blank map of the UK to ponder over, guessing the correct cities by definition of miles and direction from Swanmore, and stretching our memories to the names of the puppets in *The Muppets* from decades ago, each table was soon very busy discussing and debating. A good ice-breaker to get to know any new team-mates placed with you.

Alastair Walton expertly compered the evening with questions set and adjudicated by Sarah Woodman. We moved through quite a challenging set of categories to the interval when we enjoyed such a wonderful array of mouth-watering puddings. When well fed (some of us more than others), we worked through the remaining groups of questions.

Finally at a nail-biting finish, with very little in it,

our team edged into the winning position. What a nice surprise. Thanks to Shuna our team lead and Sarah (our music maestro), a mix of our ages and knowledge, and Vicki’s strategy for our joker, we had topped the leaderboard. Grateful thanks to all who helped organise the event; everyone really enjoyed it and wonderful to hear we raised a bit over £1,300 toward fixing the gutters and leaky roofs at St Barnabas and The Paterson Centre.

We were delighted to hear that there will be a repeat next year. The Village Hall is booked for 1st February 2025 and it’s in my diary.

*Wendy Horn, Team Member*

❖ *Note: This year we had 114 attendees in 16 teams and will limit entries to 18 teams in 2025, so get your reservation in early – John Sharpe.*

*Below: Great fun and plenty of puds.*



## Social & fundraising

### Exciting new plans – but no gardens

We have some exciting changes to our planned programme and are already scheduling events for 2025.

We have licenced the Church and Paterson Centre to show films throughout the year. In addition to occasional evening shows, this gives us the opportunity to start regular film clubs. Currently we are looking at two possibilities:

- ❖ Children’s film – afternoons in the school holidays.
- ❖ Monthly film - afternoons, possibly the first Tuesday of the month.

If you are interested in either of these, especially if you are prepared to take an active role, then please get in touch via [events@stbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:events@stbarnabas.org.uk).

### Some future events

- ❖ 27th/28th April: Open Gardens has been cancelled due to the shortage of gardens able to take part.
- ❖ 18th May: 7.30pm Spring concert featuring Swanmore Wind Band with Emily Sandoval on vocals. Tickets £7.70, under-16s free from: [events@stbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:events@stbarnabas.org.uk); John Sharpe – 01489 892750; Sarah Woodman – 07771 801579; Ed Wright – 07765 406336 or [Ticketsource.co.uk/st-barnabas-church-swanmore](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-barnabas-church-swanmore).
- ❖ 6th/7th July: Open Gardens – despite April’s problems this will go ahead as planned and will feature several new gardens and, of course, lots of cake. Ticket prices are unchanged at £6, under-15s free.
- ❖ 21st July: Teddy Bears’ Picnic..
- ❖ September: Event tba.
- ❖ 12th October: Beer & Hymns.
- ❖ 27th October: Light Party.
- ❖ 9th November: Sing-Along to The Sound of Music, prizes for best costume.
- ❖ December: Christmas Saxophones date tbc.
- ❖ December: Children’s film and tea date tbc.
- ❖ 1st February 2025: Quiz & Pudding Night, arrangements as 2024.

*John Sharpe*

## 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 April and May**

**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**

7th April	Ron Morgan
14th April	Revd Bob Kitching – Holy Communion
21st April	Mark Chester
28th April	Jill Letts – local arrangement
5th May	Revd Phil Griffin – Holy Communion
12th May	Revd Nicky Gilbert
19th May	Tom Banks “Open the Book” – Pentecost
26th May	Richard Cole – Trinity Sunday

### **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)**

**9th April for 7.30pm start** – Buffet supper and planning for future meetings - please bring a plate and cutlery.

**14th May at 7.30pm** – Experiences of a Prison Chaplain by Revd Tom Johns  
Subs £3.00 per meeting. All ladies welcome.

### **Men's Group**

**18th April at 7.30pm** – “The Land of Oz”, speaker Martin Letts'

**16th May at 7.30pm** – tbc

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

# A time of transformation

When I was about four or five, Hasbro developed a new toy line that has continued producing new models to this day. The premise was very simple: children enjoy playing with toy vehicles; children enjoy playing with robots.

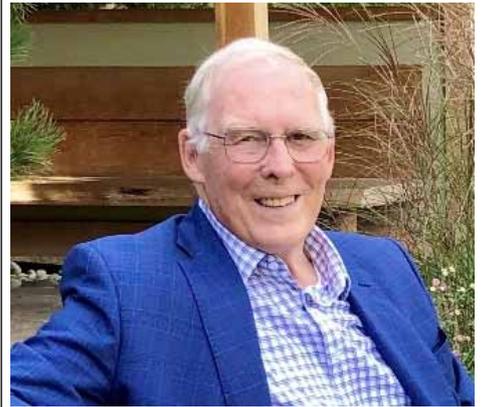
Therefore, children will love to play with vehicles that are also robots. And thus, the phenomenally successful Transformers brand was born.

I was eight when I bought my first one from Woolworths – an F16 fighter plane called Skydive. Now entering my mid-life crisis – or second childhood if you prefer – I have purchased a number of updated versions of the figures I once loved playing with (included a modernised version of Skydive). Whereas it was the play value I loved as a child, now it is the technical ingenuity of the creators in making one form almost unrecognisable from the other (along with dollops of nostalgia for good measure).

In the biblical letter of Romans, Paul wrote that we ought to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds”. Perhaps because of my childhood toy collection, I have always had an affinity for this verse; but it is only since I have started to collect the updated versions that I’ve really appreciated what the verse means.

When our minds are renewed by being in a relationship with God, we are unrecognisable as our old selves. In this period between Easter and the celebration of Pentecost, we celebrate the new life Jesus offers, and anticipate that transformation that is promised to all believers. It is a process that might take many steps (and more than a few missteps), and there may be vestiges of our old selves sticking out, but when we reach the end and look back, we’ll be able to say, “I’m transformed. I have been changed for the better by God”. That doesn’t mean we become perfect, but (in the words of the Transformers advertising) we become “more than meets the eye”.

*Revd Phil Griffin*



## Councillor Frank Pearson Calling it a day

When you vote on May 2nd at local elections, either via your postal vote or at the polling station, there is one name you will not find on your ballot paper – that of Frank Pearson. After 22 years of loyal service to residents in the Central Meon Valley ward, Frank has decided to retire.

When he was first elected in 2002, he promised that the name of Swanmore would be heard loudly and clearly by administrators and cabinets at Winchester City Council. And so it has proved to be!

The ward at that time was called Swanmore and Newtown with two councillor representatives; after further reorganisation the area now has three councillors and was renamed Central Meon Valley to cover the villages of Droxford, Hambledon, Soberton, SobertonHeath and Newtown, Swanmore and Waltham Chase.

Frank has held cabinet posts for much of his service, specialising in the environment, health and safety. He was also leader for a short time but always his priority has been the needs of the residents of this area. On two occasions (2012/13 and 2018/19) he was the Mayor of Winchester, a hugely prestigious honour. He was also a member of Swanmore Parish Council for ten years and served as a Governor at Swanmore College.

“It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve you over long years and to support and help those who requested it. Thank you for the continuing confidence you have shown in me. Now it is to pastures new.”

*Anne Pearson*



Swanmore Guides

# Having fun – so do come and join us!

Have you ever considered getting involved in Girlguiding in Swanmore? We have lots of new Guides who have started since September and everyone thoroughly enjoys it (even the leaders have fun!).

We have recently taken part in a Sparkle & Ice Camp, an evening at Winchester Science Centre, a trip to Ninja Warrior, built campfires at Sandy Acres and lots more. Lots of the younger Guides loved the woodwork painting we did recently and our older Guides always really enjoy baking and creating in the kitchen.

During the rest of 2024 we are supporting some of our older Guides to lead their own camps and gain their Patrol Camp Permits and we are excited about cooking full meals on campfires next term.

In late November we took part in

the Winchester Lantern Parade at Winchester Cathedral where we carried the willow angels that we had designed and decorated ourselves. You may have seen these on display in the Church over the Christmas period.

Also in November, the Sparkle & Ice Camp was very special as Guides from across the country came to our Guiding "home" in the New Forest at Foxlease (but sadly probably for the last time as it might be sold). We had fireworks and so many adventurous activities to try. However, it was so cold and frosty it literally would have been warmer to sleep in a fridge!

We particularly enjoyed the Christmas wreath making. We created our own wreaths from willow, hazel or bracken and added leaves, flowers and berries.

All of us at Guides welcome newcomers and are always excited to make new friends.

*Marcie Garside and Delilah Hatcher  
(aged 13)*



*Clockwise from top left:*

- ❖ *Freezing at the Sparkle & Ice Camp.*
- ❖ *Very proud of their Christmas wreaths.*
- ❖ *Willow angels that decorated St Barnabas' Church at Christmas.*

## Swanmore Care Group Time for tea (or coffee) and cake

The Care Group will be holding a fundraising tea/coffee and cake afternoon in the Paterson Centre on Tuesday 21st May from 2pm to 4pm. There will also be cakes, books, bring-and-buy and raffle tickets for sale.

We would welcome any donations of books and raffle prizes. You can bring them on the day or please contact Allison Gurry on 07766 857161 if you would like to have donated items collected. Please do come and have tea or coffee and cake to support your village Care Group and Lunch Club.

*Pam Manson*

## Beavers

### Busy with bird watching and post

Beavers have been very busy this term, we have taken part in the Big Garden Bird Watch and made bird feeders for this.

We have been learning about communication and posted letters home, made telephone calls to our parents, and we then sent emails as well. Then we went caving in a bus, that was weird! We still have lots planned for the rest of the term including a night away watching films.

*Roisin Smith*

## Barnaby's

### Classic cars with coffee

Barnaby's will be holding its regular "Classic Car" mornings this year starting on 27th April and then on the last Saturday of each month until October. Cars will be on display from 10am to 1pm each time. There will be a pop-up coffee shop and all proceeds will be given to charity.

For classic car enthusiasts similar sessions take place at *The Hunter's Inn* and *The Rising Sun* on the first and third Saturdays of most months.

Full details at <https://www.yeomansyearbook.org.uk>

Gas leak

# When lengthy diversions became a daily normality

As the smell of gas in Church Road began to be noticed by passing motorists in mid-January, it was quite clear that something was very wrong. SGN's vans and workmen quickly arrived, and began digging up the road. Temporary traffic lights controlled access and for a few days we all got used to the delays. But then it all changed.

Around mid-day on 23rd January the diversion signs appeared, and the road between the Hampton Hill junction and *The Brickmakers* was sealed off. Seven households were evacuated to hotels and supplied with meal vouchers while SGN optimistically implied that the gas main could be completely replaced in five days.

Villagers were faced with following the indicated 2½ mile detour via New Road and Lower Chase Road, while those prepared to brave narrow lanes with few passing places preferred the Vicarage Lane and Hampton Hill route – a mere 1½ miles. A few, short of time and prepared to ignore some long-established “private road” signs, sneaked through Broad Lane – much to the annoyance of

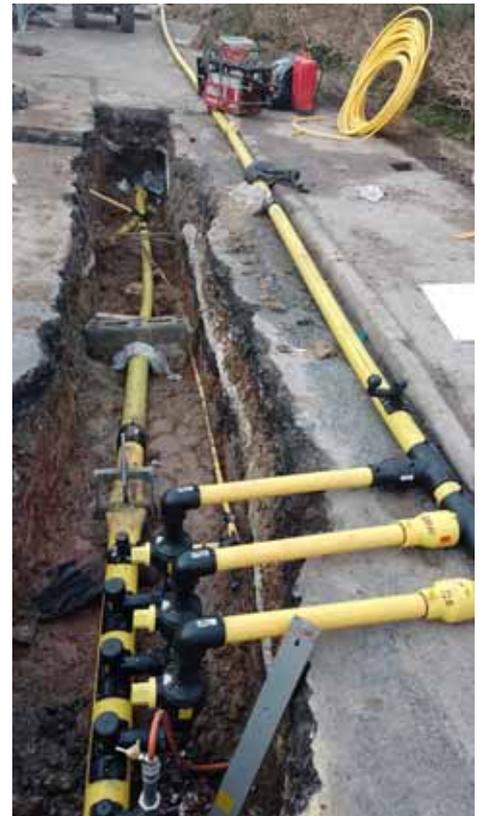
residents.

SGN had clearly been slightly over-optimistic as it was 1st February before the road re-opened and displaced residents could return. The road may have been passable, but not the pavements, with numerous holes and plenty of barriers remaining.

Nothing much seemed to happen for a few weeks but towards the end of February a barrier appeared at the bottom of Hampton Hill – fortunately after the normal bin day – completely closing one side of the road (where there had been a temporary cover over yet another hole) and the work was finally completed by the end of the month.

All the barriers were removed and the pavements returned to normal. It had all taken a couple of weeks short of two months...

❖ *As we go to press in mid-March, SGN is back in Church Road with holes and barriers – so maybe it's not quite over yet.*



*Above: Plenty of new pipes had to be laid.*

*Below left: The road was closed as far as *The Brickmakers*, which stayed open.*

*Photographs by Bert Ferrone*



## Daily deliveries At least one satisfied customer

When the village shop sold its newspaper round to News Team Group, the chaotic result caused many to cancel their deliveries or switch to reading the papers online.

However, Dave Daniels in Orchardlea stayed with the company and is now enthusiastic about its service. As he says: “There is nothing like the sound of a printed newspaper popping through my letterbox. Time to read before the (sometimes) hectic day. Later to attempt some of the many puzzles to keep my ageing brain active. Anthony and John from News Team drop mine off promptly in all weathers. I find this an excellent service that the village needs to maintain. I have absolutely no connection to this company except as a satisfied customer.”

You can find out more at [www.newsteamgroup.co.uk](http://www.newsteamgroup.co.uk)



Holywell Estate

## Bluebell Walk to help sick children

On 27th and 28th April, the historic parklands at the Holywell Estate will be open for a three-mile “Bluebell Walk” through the grounds in aid of the Murray Parish Trust.

This Hampshire-based trust aims to “drive innovation in children’s healthcare” and supports hospital projects that would be unachievable under NHS funding. Currently this includes fundraising for a paediatric neurosurgery centre at Southampton Children’s Hospital.

### 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, cake, book and bric-a-brac stalls as well as the ever-popular “Jigsaw Jumble” – with plenty of opportunity for coffee and chat. All proceeds to the Royal British Legion.

For more information contact Penny Eliot, 01489 890766.

The grounds at Holywell (pictured above and below) will be open from 10.30am with two self-guided walk time slots at 11am and 2pm. The walk takes around 1 to 1½ hours.

Tickets, including a hot drink or squash, are £10 for adults and £5 for children (under-2s are free). Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome but the nature of the woodland walk makes it unsuitable for wheelchairs or push chairs. Hot food and cakes will be available to buy. Parking is available on site (use the Cott Street entrance to the estate). Tickets are on sale at the trust’s website: [www.themurrayparishtrust.com/bluebell-walk-2024-at-the-holywell-estate](http://www.themurrayparishtrust.com/bluebell-walk-2024-at-the-holywell-estate).



SADS

## Spooks in Swanmore

This spring will see Swanmore Amateur Dramatic Society welcoming you to Quittendon Manor, built in the 1700s and the ancestral family seat of Lady Cholmondeley, where she lives with her niece the Hon Selena Harcourt, nephew the Hon Greville Harcourt and her precious Pekinese – Kitchener.

Lady Cholmondeley, Connie to friends, is hosting a country house weekend for an intriguing group of people – including Count Wildenstein and Signora Frapelli.

Anyone who has ever seen an episode of *Poirot* knows that a country house weekend is a recipe for murder, and there are key questions to ask:

- ❖ Who gets “dun” in?
- ❖ Who “dun” the doing in?
- ❖ Who will make it through the weekend?
- ❖ And just who are these ghosts?

The answers to these and other questions will only be discovered by attending a performance of *Murder with Ghosts* by Simon Brett coming to Swanmore Village Hall on 25th, 26th and 27th April at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 each are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/swanmoredrama](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/swanmoredrama) or on Saturday mornings during April from 10am to 12noon next to Barnaby’s.

Of course, Swanmore is no stranger to ghosts. It is rumoured that a local hostelry has its own resident phantom. Do you know which one?

Gail Norris

Swanmore Conservation Group

# Making good progress – despite the weather

This update is all about hard work, mud, maintenance and lots of rain.

The December meeting was cut short by torrential rain, more rain means more leaves and mud washed into the ditches and the pond. Even so, we have achieved a great deal since then.

The pond fills up very rapidly with leaves and mud, washed through Green's Wood and down the sides of the ditch by the rain.

Despite the weather we have been able to clear out the ditch very successfully at our recent work parties. We should also thank the members of the group who routinely clear the ditch by the kissing gate into the Upper Meadow which they do as they pass by on their dog walking outings. Every little bit helps! What doesn't help is the amount of bottles, cans, crisp packets and branches that get thrown into the pond on a regular basis.

In January we were finally able to do the work on the pond that had to be

*Below: Two "hard-working students" helped the Conservation Group clear the pond.*



postponed due to bad weather in December. With the help of two extremely hard working students we were able to greatly reduce the large mats of vegetation that had built up in the pond. Several separate areas of plants were left, which will soon regrow; reeds, flag irises and water lilies are seemingly indestructible. Along with the plant matter a great deal of heavy sediment from the bottom of the pond was removed, so hopefully the water will remain clear and the flow of water through the pond will be improved.

At the same time, members of the Conservation Group were clearing ditches and removing vast amounts of parrot weed and duckweed from the surface of the pond.

Other work done either at a work party or just on a day when it wasn't raining include repairs to the boardwalks in Green's Wood and the replacement of a post in the Broad Lane pond fence. Three hawthorn whips were planted in a gap that had developed in the hedge between the Upper and Lower Meadows and a post was added to stop any possible



*Above: Water flooding from the pond during a recent deluge.*

*Photographs by Pete Mason.*

disturbance. Another job was the removal of a low hanging branch that was obscuring the information board near the gate into Foxcombe Close.

The Parish Council's contractors have been unable to start the work in Green's Wood due to the extremely wet weather. The ground has been too wet – waterlogged in fact – so the contractors have been unable to use the platform that enables a greater reach and added stability, which sounds safer all round. The contractor will also reduce the tree growth around the pond, which should let in more light, but the work to remove the dead ash trees and thin the plantation has yet to be agreed.

## **Please come and help!**

It would be great if we could acquire a few more volunteers. We recently had one new volunteer come to our work parties and that has been great as we can do much more but a few more would be really helpful. If you can spare a few hours occasionally do come along.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month at the hut in the Lower Meadow by the picnic bench. We hopefully work from 9.45am to 12 noon, weather permitting, stopping for coffee at 11am. The next work parties are on 13th April and 11th May.

*Gill Sawyer 01489 894206*

Swanmore College

# Please help us stamp out under-age vaping

Swanmore College continues to address vaping in schools, which remains a serious health risk to those directly involved. We recently held a Parent Forum and showed attendees our electronic vape detection system and a variety of confiscated items. We are doing everything we can to eradicate vaping at Swanmore and promote the welfare of our pupils.

We are shocked and disappointed to see that our local shop has a large display cabinet giving children easy access to vapes. We implore you to contact Mr West, Regional Manager, to voice any concerns you may have. Items are within the reach of toddlers and school children, posing a significant risk to all concerned. Whilst the shop is unable to sell items to under-18s, they are easily accessible.

Sadly, there are no measures to regulate the display of vaping products in shops in the UK currently. Items with colourful brand packaging can be openly and prominently displayed. However, other shops in the local area sell these items from behind the counter and we hope Swanmore's shop will choose to do the same.

The Government has raised concerns about the number of children who are vaping and has made it clear that marketing vapes to children is utterly unacceptable and is considering bringing forward legislation on point-of-sale displays of vaping products in shops.

## Dance Live! 2024

We would like to congratulate our Dance Live and Technical Theatre enrichment groups, who travelled to Portsmouth Guildhall on 7th February to compete in Dance Live! 2024. This is a national competition for schools and further education colleges to present a dance, with digital screen and off-stage skills. Swanmore College students won several awards

for their soundtrack, journey video and came second place overall in their heat, against some very tough competition including private schools and sixth form colleges.

It has since been announced that, as the highest scoring second place school, they have been invited to perform at the competition final on 24th April. We wish them lots of luck and success again!

## Cats – spring production

Our spring production this term was the musical, *Cats*. Performances took place in the Performing Arts building on 5th–7th March. A cast of 24 performers sang and danced their hearts out. Well done to our creative teams and all involved in putting this production together. Rehearsals start again after Easter for our summer production: *Around the World in 80 Days*.

## Pupil trips

In February half-term, a group of Year 10 pupils travelled to Sestriere in Italy for the annual ski trip. Most of the pupils had never skied before and made excellent progress throughout the week.

Great fun was had by all, and activities included an Italian pizza and gelato night, as well as a farewell costume party.

We also took a group of pupils on an "Immersive History" trip to Belgium on 2nd–3rd March, to visit the historic First World War battlefields of Ypres



*Easily-accessible vapes on display in Swanmore's shop. Please help us get them behind the counter.*

and the Somme. A great way to inspire and enhance their learning.

## Swanfest

We would like to remind you that our annual Swanfest music festival is taking place at Swanmore College on Saturday 22nd June. Our headline act is Scouting for Girls, with more to be announced soon. Please see the website for further information and to purchase tickets: [www.swanfest.co.uk](http://www.swanfest.co.uk)

*Below: Jean-Luc Coleman, the College's dance lead and teacher of dance who choreographed the piece, with the group's awards. Bottom: Happy Year 10 pupils on the ski slopes.*



## Meon Valley Lions

# Giving a helping hand

Meon Valley Lions have been disbursing the funds they raised during their Christmas collections.

Beneficiaries included:

- ❖ **Young Carers** – where £500 from the Santa collection paid for a Christmas party and an outing to the pantomime for local young carers.
- ❖ **Rowans Hospice** – where £600 paid for care to ensure better sleep for six terminally ill people in the Meon Valley.
- ❖ **Friends of PICU** - the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in Southampton, which provides support to families, received £1,000 to help with information packs that signpost all the help and services families with children in IC need.

## Charity fishing festival

On Sunday 28th January, more than 80 lines went into the water on Weston Shore for the Ford Open Beach Fishing Festival. Unfortunately only seven fish were caught but a huge



*Above: Mr A Turner is pictured with his winning fish.*

thank you to everyone who supported the event. The Meon Valley Lions' raffle raised money for Rose Road Association in Southampton which supports children with disabilities.

- ❖ **Save the date:** Saturday 13th July 2024, Swanmore Village Fête – plans are well underway for a brilliant fête again this year with both regular and new attractions.

*Carole Dash*

## Charity Ceilidh

# Make a date to jig with Jigfoot



If you're fond of an *Eightsome Reel* or a *Dashing White Sergeant* – or maybe a *Gay Gordons* – then put a special note in your diary for 8th June at the Village Hall. Traditional dance band Jigfoot will be playing for a ceilidh in aid of Cancer Research and Rona Sailing Project.

The Rona Project runs Sail Training Voyages for youth groups and people with special needs – including hearing loss, visual impairment, recovery from addiction, learning difficulties, chronic or serious illness.

Doors open at 7pm with dancing from 7.30pm. Food is provided with a cash bar and raffle.

Tickets are £15 and are available from Sarah Woodman 07771 801579, [swoodman276@gmail.com](mailto:swoodman276@gmail.com) or Rachel Scott 07840 456783, [rachel\\_scott@hotmail.com](mailto:rachel_scott@hotmail.com).

## Swanmore Pre-school Learning from wood and water

We have been working hard to implement a forest school area at Pre-school. The natural pond is now in place ready to house pond creatures for us to explore. We were lucky to be invited to Lucky Owls forest Pre-school to explore their area, which has inspired us with many ideas.

Staff member Nina Cawley attended an "Exploring woodwork in early years" course that will support us with helping children to use real tools in a safe way. We encourage the children to manage their own risks where possible, to explore, problem solve and gain wonder of the world around them.

We have made the most of a very wet few months finding ways to make water travel; the children discovered that water running down the slide made them go faster. They found different containers that would collect rain water overnight and measured what they had collected.

*Sarah Hiscock*

07958 436396 [sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hiscock@swanmorepreschool.org.uk)



*Top: Learning that water makes the slide go faster. Above: Helping to build the pond.*



## Annual Meeting of the Parish

Tuesday 16th April  
Swanmore Village Hall  
7.15pm–8.30pm

**Come along to Swanmore's Annual Meeting of the Parish.**

**Get an update on what we have been doing over the last year and, more importantly, help us to shape the future.**

**There will also be updates on housing developments, road safety and community safety.**

**Beer, wine, soft drinks and nibbles on arrival.**

### On the Agenda

#### Community consultation

As a result of our forward planning consultation last year, we have put some money aside to look into how we can invest in the Village Hall to develop it as a more comprehensive community centre.

This was voted as the priority of what matters most to the village...so now come and tell us what the community centre would look like to you.

Your views will help us create the start of what could be a very exciting project for Swanmore.

You may have seen the Hampshire County Council consultation on future services. We will be looking at how those changes could affect Swanmore and if there is anything we can do as a Parish Council to support our residents - we would like to hear your views.

#### Community safety

Both our Community Safety Officers will be attending and we would love to hear your views on how we can make the most of these valuable roles within the village.

#### Community awards

Find out who has gone over and above for our village this year.

### Road safety

#### Gravel Hill crossroads

Hampshire County Council plans to install three vehicle-activated flashing warning signs at the Gravel Hill junction.

Two signs will go on Gravel Hill, north and south of the crossroads, and one will be on Bishop's Wood Road. The signs will flash with a crossroads warning image when vehicles approach, such as the one on the right.



We share everyone's concerns about the number of accidents and near misses at this junction and have had many discussions with HCC about options to make the junction safer.

The majority of accidents are caused by people not stopping at the junction coming from Bishop's Wood Road and so we hope these signs will have a positive impact.

#### New Road traffic calming

We have been liaising with Hampshire County Council since the installation of the new build-outs, sharing with them lots of feedback from residents.

While the build-outs are working well for the majority of the day, school pick-up time is causing a lot of safety concerns.

The County Council intends to implement permanent parking restrictions to resolve the issue. However, permanent parking



#### Parish Council Office

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

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

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

### SPC Meeting Dates

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

- 18th April – Planning and Highways Committee
- 23rd April – Open Spaces and Amenities Committee
- 30th April – Finance Committee
- 14th May – Full Council AGM
- 21st May – Planning and Highways Committee
- 28th May – Open Spaces and Amenities Committee

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

restrictions will take time so, in the interim, the council is progressing with a temporary traffic regulation order for double yellow lines (DYLs) between the two build-outs nearest the college that would make parking between them illegal and enforceable.

It is anticipated that the DYLs will be put in place during the Easter school holidays.

The County Council's School Travel Planning Team will be liaising with the college to further promote the three "Park and Stride" sites in the area.

Swanmore's vicarages

# From the very grand to the very normal

For centuries, Swanmore – originally a small hillside hamlet – was included within the parish of Droxford, with generations of villagers making the weekly trek along “church paths” to the twelfth century St Mary and All Saints Church just off the High Street. Perhaps, given the two-mile walk each way for every service, it is not surprising that by the seventeenth century there was an established Quaker community in the hamlet.

As Swanmore's population grew in the nineteenth century, largely thanks to the burgeoning brickmaking industry, and with many workers' cottages built in the valley – now up to three miles from Droxford's church – there was clearly a need for something more local. In 1836 the Bishop of Winchester gave permission for a Sunday service to be held in a small schoolroom built in 1833, roughly where the village war memorial now stands.

The then Rector of Droxford, Revd James Colpoys, established a fund to enlarge the schoolroom for “public worship” and took the services. Seven years later, and with Swanmore's population reaching 500, the rector went one step further and expanded his fund-raising efforts to cover the cost of building both a new church and

a parsonage in Swanmore.

The Bishop of Winchester, as Lord of the Manor, provided land next to the expanded schoolroom and the foundation stone of the new church was laid on St Barnabas' Day – 11th June – in 1844. It was consecrated on 11th December 1845. But the new church also needed a priest – so what of the planned “parsonage”?

The search for somewhere suitable had begun as the foundation stone for the church was being laid. Victorian parsons were generally from more affluent families who would expect to live in something rather more impressive than the newish workers' cottages nearest to the church. Swanmore Cottage (now Swanmore Lodge) at the junction of Hampton Hill and Park Lane was then on the market and seemed a likely candidate.

The original cottage had been significantly extended – at one time it boasted eight bedrooms, with attic accommodation for live-in staff – and later in the century would become the home of the Gunner family who ran the eponymous bank in Bishop's Waltham.

## The first vicarage

Efforts to buy the house clearly failed as ultimately land opposite Swanmore

Cottage near to Jervis Court Farm was bought and work begun on a stylish new parsonage. It was completed in 1849 and had cost £1,100, funded by grants from Queen Anne's Bounty – a scheme established in 1704 to augment the incomes of the poorer Church of England clergy – and a donation of £500 from the Rector of Droxford.

The delay in building a parsonage for the church meant that Swanmore's first priest, Henry Hotham, probably did not live in the village. He had arrived in 1843 as a newly-ordained deacon, to take the weekly services in the schoolroom, and was succeeded in 1847 by the Revd Edward Creek, who thus became the first resident of the new parsonage when it was finally completed in 1849. Edward Creek was 31 when he arrived in Swanmore with his wife and two small daughters. Five more children would be born to the couple during their time in the village – although two died in infancy in 1854.

As well as the Creeks and up to seven children, the new parsonage also housed five live-in servants, including at one time a cook, nurse, housemaid, schoolmistress and man servant.

Edward Creek died suddenly in March 1871 aged 55, leaving his wife and three youngest children still living in the parsonage. They soon had to move on as the Revd Creek's successor, Revd Walter Medicott, arrived within a few months.

Walter Medicott's father, the Revd Joseph Medicott, was Vicar of Potterne in Wiltshire, where his sons Henry (b.1840) and Walter (b.1841) were born. Walter had been educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, and, as a curate in Buriton, had married Edith Sumner, grand-daughter of a Bishop of Winchester and daughter of Buriton's rector.

By the time the Medicotts arrived in Swanmore they had two young children and Edith was expecting their third – Grace, born in Swanmore in September 1871.

*Left: Swanmore Cottage (which almost became a vicarage) – now Swanmore Lodge – in the 1930s.*





*Left: Jervis Lodge pictured during Swanmore Open Gardens in 2023. Photograph by Berty Ferrone*

### **The second vicarage**

The Revd Medicott clearly didn't care for his new parsonage and wanted to be closer to the church and the expanding village. In 1872 he bought land in Peke Lane – now known as Vicarage Lane – from Richard Goodlad the owner of Hill Place for £150, and the new Swanmore Vicarage was built within a year at a cost of £2,500, of which £1,300 had come from the sale of the earlier parsonage. As for the original parsonage, that survives as Jervis Lodge and has been Grade II listed since 1987.

The new house was an imposing Victorian dwelling with two wings: one had five bedrooms and the other, the

staff wing, had four with more room in the attic. There was a large cellar, a coach house and stables, and 1½ acres of gardens; from the drawing room it was possible to look across open fields to the church

A fourth child was born to the Medicotts in late 1872 but sadly Edith Medicott died, aged 29, less than three years after moving to the new Vicarage, leaving Walter with four children under the age of seven. In 1881 the servants' wing housed a governess and nurse for the children as well as a live-in cook and housemaids.

Walter Medicott never remarried and remained Vicar of Swanmore for 36 years, retiring in 1907 aged 66. During that time he launched the first Swanmore parish magazine, oversaw the building of the south aisle at St Barnabas, as well as a new vestry and

tower with eight bells. He introduced choir pews in the chancel and in 1880 accepted the alabaster pulpit, designed by Alfred Waterhouse and replacing an earlier wooden one, as a gift from the Myers family of Swanmore House.

Walter Medicott's vicarage would be home to eight more of Swanmore's parsons – one of whom, Revd Edward Ramsbottom, resigned in 1921 after only three years to become a schoolmaster declaring: "I cannot afford to go on living at the Vicarage".

It was not until 1948 that the house was finally divided, with the old servants' quarters becoming The Glebe. The Revd Ron Paterson, who retired in 1985, was its last clerical resident.

### **The third vicarage**

By the mid-1970s it was clear that few future vicars would want to live in a large house with extensive gardens to tend and high heating bills. Such a dwelling could well prove to be a deterrent for any likely new incumbent. Fortunately land was sold by Edwin Green of Leacock House, at below market value, and in 1984 planning permission was given for a new modern vicarage. The Victorian vicarage, now known as The Old Vicarage, was sold while the parish followed the Church Commissioners' specifications for a four bedroom house with study.

The third and current vicarage sits in Church Road behind St Barnabas and its first resident in 1985 was Michael Welch, followed by Peter Kelly (1997), Claire Towns (2012) and now the latest priest-in-charge Andy Davis, who arrived in February.

This latest building will most probably be the last of Swanmore's vicarages and while it may not be quite as grand as its predecessors, it will certainly have lower fuel bills.

❖ *This article is based on research by the late Peter Watkins.*

*Below: The Victorian Vicarage in August 1962 with the Paterson family in front of their new home.*



Swanmore Society

# Mapping the nation and a brief look ahead

At the Swanmore Society's February meeting we were treated to a fact-packed and thoroughly enjoyable presentation on the development and work of Ordnance Survey (OS) by Jonathan Simmons, Head of Data Management and Data Science at the Southampton-based agency.

The roots of OS extend back to the aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite uprising when brilliant, young army engineer William Cole was tasked with producing a military survey of Scotland. Forward to 1784 and an academic spat between the Greenwich and Paris Observatories "required" highly precise measurement of the distance between the two locations. The Royal Society commissioned instrument maker Jesse Ramsden to create a giant theodolite of unprecedented accuracy and, with Cole to provide the surveying work, the necessary calculation was made.

In 1791, under threat of French invasion, the Board of Ordnance (the MoD's forerunner) realised the need for accurate maps of Britain for defence purposes, so bought its own Ramsden theodolite – and Ordnance Survey was officially born. The first OS map to be published was of Kent in 1801, at a scale of one inch to one mile with a map of the Isle of Wight (and part of Hampshire) appearing in 1810. The "principal triangulation" of the country was interrupted in 1824

when OS staff were transferred to Ireland to carry out a detailed survey for land taxation purposes. As Jonathan remarked, this was pretty unpopular with the Irish but the resulting six inch to a mile maps generated great demand for similar surveys of England and Wales.

Although now a government agency, OS was originally part of the military and headquartered in the Tower of London. However, a serious fire in 1841 forced a move to Southampton where – apart from the 1940s war years – it has remained ever since.

During both world wars, OS played a vital role by producing millions of maps to support military operations, while the inter-war years saw burgeoning use of OS maps for leisure pursuits such as hiking and driving.



*Left: Jane Austen's house in Chawton. Above: A Ramsden theodolite. Right: A local 1919 OS map with cover designed by artist Ellis Martin, which enhanced the maps' popular appeal.*



## Programme 2024/25

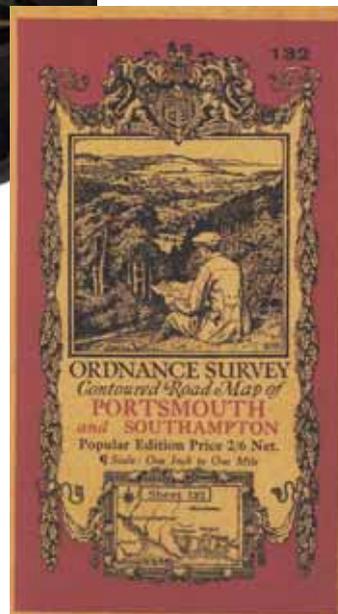
- ❖ 10th April: "History of Portsmouth Chapter 4: 1930–1950" by Andrew Negus
- ❖ 8th May: "Jane Austen: Woman and Writer" by Maureen Stiller
- ❖ 12th June: "D-Day and the Battle of Normandy" by Jeff Ballard
- ❖ 10th July: Social Event at *The Rising Sun*
- ❖ 11th September: "The Early History of Bishop's Waltham" by Tony Kippenberger
- ❖ 9th October: "100 Million Years of Malaria History" by Tim Mason
- ❖ 13th November: "The RNLI – Ordinary People doing Extraordinary Things" by Caroline Tilley
- ❖ 11th December: "The Watercress Line through Time" by Daniel Ball
- ❖ 15th January 2025: "Titchfield Haven Past and Present" by Richard Levett
- ❖ 12th February: "Domestic Technology: We Had One of Those!" by Stephen Hoadley
- ❖ 19th March: AGM

Today, its operations are fully digitised and it maintains a National Geographic Database with more than 500million features, updated daily.

Our new programme opens on 10th April with a return visit from Andrew Negus. He will continue his series on the history of Portsmouth, covering the

period from 1930 to 1950. On 8th May, we will welcome Maureen Stiller of the Jane Austen Society to tell us about "the real Jane Austen". Our meetings are held in the Paterson Centre and start at 8.00pm. Visitors are very welcome.

Caroline  
Clapperton  
01489 891447



Local walks

# Soberton to Hambledon

This is a circular walk from Soberton church and back via Hambledon village. The outward route goes along quiet country lanes and returns through Hambledon. Distance: 7.8 miles/12.6km. Walking time: 3.15 hours.

The outward route ascends over Windmill Down and then down through a vineyard to Hambledon while the return journey continues through the village, then along footpaths, through fields and woods, to open downland, descending via a steep footpath back into Soberton. Refreshment is available in Hambledon with takeaways at the “People’s Market” in the village centre, *The Vine* in West Street or *The Old Forge Tea Rooms* at the end of the village. Please remember to keep dogs on leads in the sheep fields.

**Terrain:** Tarmac lanes, sheep pastures, crop fields, woods and a vineyard. There are gentle ups and downs before a final steep descent.

The path can get a little soggy in the wooded areas. There are quite a few stiles to clamber over.

**Access.** By car to Soberton. Limited parking is available around Church Green on the road by *The White Lion*.

## 1. Soberton Church to Big West End Farm

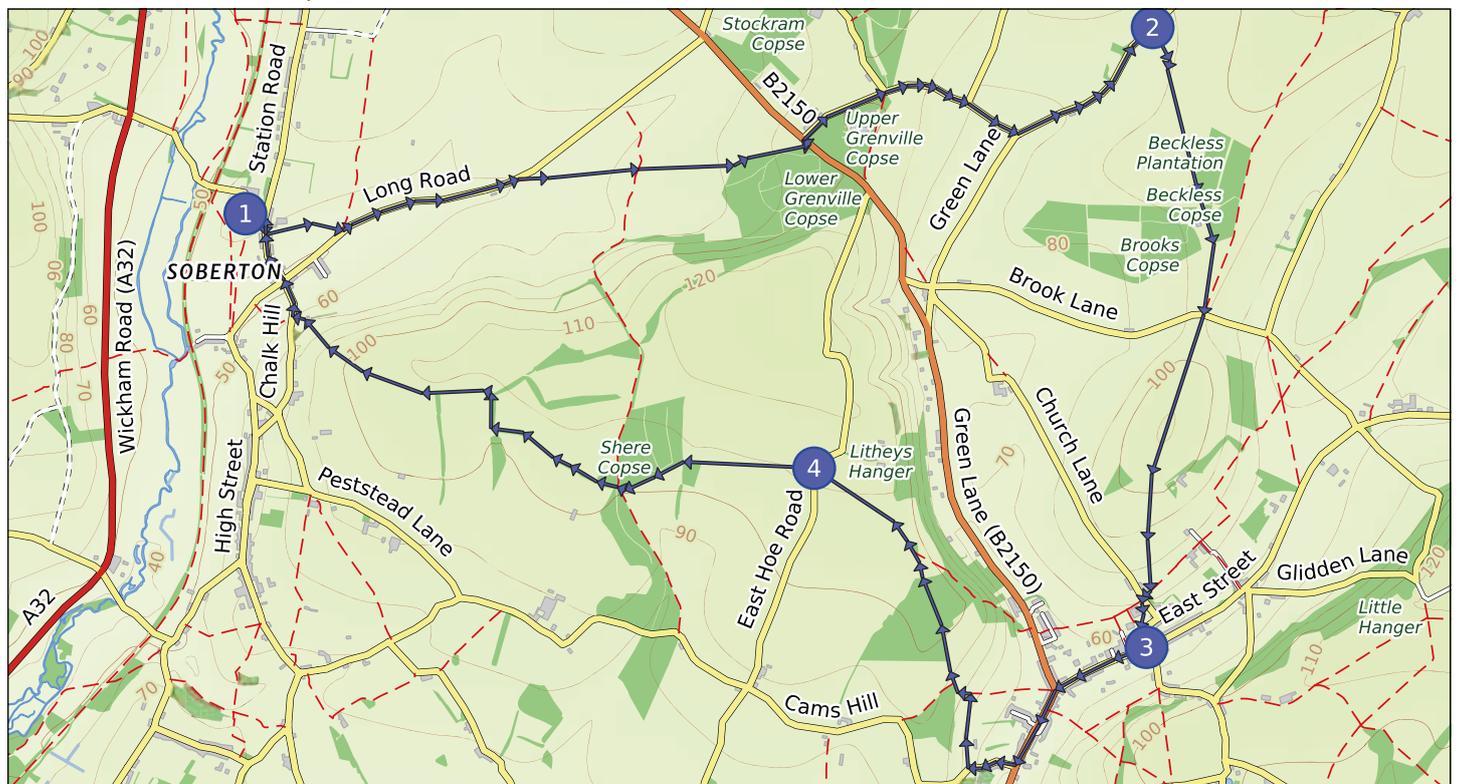
St Peter’s Church in Soberton was originally a “chapel of ease” (i.e. easier to get to than the main “mother church”) and only later became a parish church. It dates from the twelfth century and contains many hidden treasures, such as magnificent stained glass windows, including the “Pilgrims prayer”, some of the earliest and most

important wall paintings in the Meon Valley dating from 1330, carvings from a mediæval legend of the tower being built by a butler and a dairymaid, and a Roman coffin.

In addition, the vault beneath the church was used for the storage of contraband when the village was part of a smuggling route during the eighteenth century. It is included in the Meon Valley Pilgrimage Trail that runs from the sea to East Meon linking the ten churches founded by St Wilfred from the seventh century.

From the church go to *The White Lion* pub on the corner and turn right into School Hill. Just past the telephone box turn left and follow a narrow footpath as it widens to a track down to Long Road and turn left. Walk along the road past a house for approximately ten minutes until you see a metal sheep pen in the field on the right.

Take the footpath at the step-over-stile and left along the side of the pen. Cross the pasture at 11 o’clock, over a stile to a track and then over ►



**Map Legend**

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

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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*Above: St Peter's Church, Soberton.  
Right: Church Lane, Hambledon,  
leading to People's Market,*

another stile opposite into a crop field. Turn left on reaching the side of the wood to another stile onto a busy road. Taking great care, cross the road left to go into a lane with a house (Grenville Lodge) just by the corner. Follow this lane past the houses and trees as it opens up into the fields; ignore lanes on the left until you come to a junction where you keep left onto Green Lane (approximately 15 minutes).

Continue along this lane past two cottages, Hook and Battlegreen, and then turn right by the metal field gates onto a hard track just before Big West End Farm on the left.

### 2. Big West End Farm to Hambledon village centre

Hambledon village is probably best known as the "cradle of cricket", with *The Bat and Ball* pub and the historic Broadhalfpenny Down cricket ground on its outskirts. It is, however, also the home of England's oldest commercial vineyard which is part of our route. Hambledon Vineyard regularly opens its doors to wine lovers, and produces fine sparkling wines from the same geological seam of chalk that is found in the Champagne area of France.

From Big West End Farm follow the track past a farm and a row of cottages on the right to cross a road, which can be deceptively busy. Here you meet the vines (albeit on the other side of the hedge on your left,) to go

*Right: The Vineyard at Windmill Hill.*



up the gentle rise over Windmill Down. There are nearly always red kites to be seen circling overhead here and quite often deer. As you descend, pass metal field gates to follow a narrow path through the middle of the vines ahead, ignoring the tracks on your left and right.

Go down to the school, which you pass on your right, over a lane bearing left to the footpath into the churchyard, keeping the church on your right. Here is a good place to have a break if you've brought your own snack. Follow the path through the graveyard into Church Lane down to the village centre.

*The Old George*, an eighteenth century coaching house, once stood in the village centre, hosting Cricket Club annual dinners and Hambledon Hunt Balls. Over the centuries a coach left daily to meet the Portsmouth to

London stagecoach near Petersfield. It has now been refurbished as residential units but its large sign still hangs above the road. Going under this you see Hambledon House on the left, a three acre partly walled plantsman's garden for all seasons and well worth a visit when open as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

The "People's Market" houses the village shop where takeaway Costa coffee is available and, if not too late in the day, hot snacks as well. Facing the shop go right along West Street.

### 3. West Street to East Hoe Road

Go past the *The Vine* in West Street to the junction and turn left to continue through the village until you arrive at the end and The Old Forge Tea Rooms. This is another excellent refreshment place, open seven days a week 9.30am to 4pm, which is very



dog-friendly both inside and out.

Turn right at the side of the tea rooms to go up Cams Hill. After three or four minutes, passing a small lane going uphill on your left, turn right over the stile next to a wooden gate to continue to a wide track that goes uphill past a wall. Go over a stile, through a pasture, which sometimes contains a pony, over another stile to the path by trees. Turn left at the junction, following the main path uphill and turn right through a wooden gate into open pasture.

Follow along the side of wood, (ignoring the tracks into it) to reach the small footpath sign on a curve and turn left into the wood. Keep straight ahead between craters, ignoring a cross path and on through woods to a kissing gate into a sheep pasture.

Half way along go through a wooden gate on the right and keep left to exit through another gate ahead into another sheep pasture. Cross straight over to a lane, East Hoe Road, with the grand house of East Hoe Manor to the right, and a magnificent view to the Isle of Wight and the Solent, on the left. Here you join the Wayfarers Way .



#### 4. East Hoe Road to Soberton

Go over the stile opposite onto a wide grassy track. At the end follow the path ahead along a field and wire fence with trees on your right. This very narrow path is often overgrown albeit part of a long-distance path. Go through the wooden gate signed in memory of Ted Tudgley to join the Allan King Way coming up from the left.

Keep straight ahead passing signs on a short post on the right, and head for the metal barrier onto the footpath through the trees. You now also join the Soberton and Newton Millenium Walk.

Turn right on the now well-signed path as you reach the fields, follow it as it turns left and continue on to a gate in the hedge straight ahead to open downland.

Follow the path across the downland to a further gate and the

*Left: Hambleton's school badge echoes the village's cricketing history.*

*Below: The Old Forge Tea Rooms.*



*Above: Looking from the edge of the downland towards Soberton.*

steep path down past the Shetland ponies. Turn right past houses to the end of track, to go right again on the lane to the crossroads back to School Hill and *The White Lion* pub.

❖ **The Wayfarer's Walk** is a 71miles/114km long-distance footpath in England from Walbury Hill, Berkshire to Emsworth, Hampshire. It links the highest downland in southern England to the mud flats along the coast and approximates to an ancient route that might have been used by drovers taking cattle for export.

❖ **Allan King Way** is a 42miles/68km long walk devised by the Hampshire Area Ramblers Association in memory of Allan King, one of their early members. The route links the old Roman strongholds of Portchester Castle along old Roman roads to Winchester. It finishes at the King Alfred statue.

❖ **The Soberton and Newtown Millennium Walk 2000** is a 10miles/16km circular footpath around the villages of Soberton and Newtown. Sections of the footpath are shared with the Allan King Way, Pilgrim's Trail and Wayfarers Walk.

❖ **The Pilgrim's Trail** is a 155miles/250km mediæval route from the shrine of St Swithun at Winchester Cathedral to St Michael in Normandy. It weaves through Bishop's Waltham and Southwick to Portsmouth.

*Lin Powell*

Buglife

# Big blundering beetles

May 2020 was marked by an unusual visitor to our conservatory, not a human one as this would have flouted lockdown rules. It was the only time in more than 30 years of living in Swanmore that I have come across a cockchafer or May bug (*Melolontha melolontha*).

The term “cockchafer” is a seventeenth century expression meaning a large, vigorous insect, while “May bug” refers to the adult’s usual emergence time. It is actually a beetle, scientifically speaking, as it has wing cases (elytra) that meet in the middle, and belongs to the scarab family, which also includes the dung beetles.

The rusty-brown elytra and distinctive row of white triangles on the abdomen, along with its overall size (2–3cm/1in long), make it unmistakable from any other species. The orange antennae end in a characteristic fan of “leaves”, six in the female and seven in the male, which are used for detecting food, egg-laying sites and a mate.

The visit in May 2020 brought back a teenage memory of being bombarded by a bumbling group of these beetles while walking across a park on my way home from school.

The high-pitched clattering or buzzing noise along with their ungainly flight was initially quite disconcerting. This habit gave them the name of “doodlebug”, which in turn was used as a nickname for the V1 flying bombs of the Second World War, due to their buzzing sound being reminiscent of May bugs.

Female May bugs have a pointed end to the abdomen, a pygidium, which is used for egg-laying deep in the soil (not a sting – they are completely harmless). The larvae develop over three to four years, feeding on plant roots and tubers.

This unfortunately made them quite significant agricultural pests at one time, but indiscriminate use of pesticides in the mid-twentieth century wiped out the beetles over large areas of the country, leading to the much lower numbers we see today. I suspect their distribution is rather localised these days, as I have heard of more frequent sightings in other locations, in Droxford for example. However, if you hear someone knocking at the window on a May or June evening, it could well be a big blundering beetle attracted to the artificial light, looking for a mate!

Marcus Charig



Top: Female May bug.  
Above: May bug showing the fanned antenna.  
Below left: May bug showing the pointed pygidium for egg-laying.



## Eat your weeds Hairy bittercress

This annual weed (*Cardamine hirsuta*), which we all remove from our flowerbeds, is edible and the raw leaves make a useful addition to salads. Alternatively trim off the roots and wilt the whole aerial plant as spinach.



Seen and heard

# Trying to attract swifts to Swanmore

Since moving to the village a few years ago I have become fixated on trying to attract swifts to nest at my house. I've always been interested in wildlife, particularly birds. I've never had quite the right setting or been settled long enough to bother. After all, the complexities in attracting swifts make it a long game.

I made it a personal challenge. I did a lot of reading online about fellow enthusiasts to try to understand what could work. Swifts are red-listed and declining in numbers. Loss of nesting sites, due to modern housing practices and UPVC soffits blocking holes where swifts like to nest, contribute to this decline. Luckily they readily take to nesting boxes instead.

Step one was to make a caller. This is a speaker attached to the house that plays swift calls – a distinctive high-pitched call. I hoped passing swifts would hear this and come to take a look. In 2021 I put up three home-made plywood boxes complete with nesting cup lined with feathers from my partner's old coat. That year I had immediate interest from swifts screaming past to see where the calls were coming from.

They say it can be difficult to attract swifts as they are faithful to an

established site and nest in a colony of other swifts. What I was hoping for was juvenile swifts looking to find themselves a new nest for the following year. In 2022 I added a further two boxes with different entrance hole sizes and positions.

I've seen a couple of boxes on Chapel Road and plenty of swifts over Springvale but I have no idea whether they nest locally in natural sites, such as under eaves or tiles – or I'm missing some boxes elsewhere in the village?

In 2023 I added a further swift box and a swift brick that slides into the cavity wall with an entry hole suitable for swifts. I now have seven potential homes – and to date I've only attracted house sparrows, not quite what I was hoping for but these birds are also now red-listed as a species of high conservation concern, and they're beautiful birds as well.

The nearest large colony of swifts I know of is in Bishop's Waltham at Claypits Lane. A local enthusiast is doing great work there trying to reverse the decline of these amazing summer visitors. Fingers crossed



that 2024 will be the year that a swift enters one of my boxes.

If you're interested in trying to attract swifts, I have boxes and callers that I have made which are available to purchase. Hampshire Swifts' website has plenty of information about how you can help.

[www.hampshireswifts.co.uk](http://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk)

Aaron Burgess  
[aaronburgess1984@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronburgess1984@hotmail.com)



Above: A happy resident swift.  
 Left: Swift boxes attached to soffits on a modern house.

All photographs this page courtesy of Robert Booth and Hampshire Swifts.

From our district councillors

# Times of change and climate emergency

I might say “Welcome to spring” as I write this article. It is odd that spring is now defined to start on 1st March, rather than at the equinox on 21st/22nd March!

Looking back through the more than two decades that I have represented you all on the City Council, it is interesting how much of our “history” is being re-written. A little confusing, for those who have lived through “history” since the Second World War, that so much of what we lived through is now not what we remember it to have been. Similarly, how often is it that we are advised that issues are being “worked on”, but apparently with little effect?

## Housing developments

Looking around the greatly extended Ward – now the Central Meon Valley – the reining housing allocation under the current Local Plan is now being

built or is about to be built. That is: Morgan’s Yard in Waltham Chase, and the Persimmon Homes and Beaumont Farm developments opposite Swanmore College.

Hopefully, the Morgan’s Yard developers will make the necessary improvements to the water outflow (some of which is sewerage) that impacts on Brooklynn Close, Waltham Chase.

## Climate emergency

Concern about the climate emergency continues. Fortunately, new housing has the “built in aim” of meeting the “carbon zero” policy expressed in the Environment Act 2021. Winchester City Council aims to upgrade council housing; unfortunately, only 50% of the council’s tenants want to go along with this – apparently because insulation will reduce or remove valuable storage space. Nonetheless, “carbon zero” is more than this because it also means more green open spaces in developments and using wetlands for wild or natural vegetation rather than using that land for housing.

I still wonder where the demanded new housing should be. We would argue that “previously developed land” should be used first. Your local district councillors continue to pursue a policy that retains local gaps and the inclusion of gardens for most, if not all, new housing. We still want more trees to be planted. This is becoming a major battle when we look at the number of trees felled by storms over the last couple of years.

## Water issues

Recently Southern Water gave a presentation to district councillors about its work. It seems that the company is about to embark on a spending programme to provide more “fresh” water – some of it “recycled”.

This water is needed to supply not

only the existing population but also the additional 700,000 more that are expected to migrate into Hampshire during the next 20 or so years.

Yes, Southern Water did get round to talking about the need to improve the inadequate infrastructure, which is presently used to remove both foul water from homes and flood water runoff, to prevent it polluting our beautiful chalk streams – the Itchen, Hamble, Meon and Wallington.

The cost to upgrade the system must be incredibly high and, unfortunately, as the media points out, that means eventually the customer will have to pay more. We are advised that shareholders have not received any income from Southern Water for several years.

## Introducing 20mph zones

Most will have heard of Hampshire County Council’s new policy on 20mph zones. The new policy allows the council to introduce speed restrictions where there is a proven safety need for them, for example, outside schools.

I would argue in favour of this within school zones only. This could impact Waltham Chase, Swanmore and Newtown (Soberton) but both Droxford and Hambledon Junior Schools are well back from busy roads. If communities request such zones they must fund them – although developer contributions, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, will generally be available.

*Frank Pearson*

## Our Winchester District Councillors

■ Frank Pearson 01489 892822 or 07515 116

647fpearson@winchester.gov.uk

■ Malcolm Wallace 07739 050224  
mwallace@winchester.gov.uk

■ Danny Lee 07896 644 504  
dlee@winchester.gov.uk



Frank Pearson  
(until 2nd May)

Malcolm Wallace



Danny Lee

## 2024 Elections

*Local elections are planned for 2nd May – don’t forget to take your photo ID – while a general election is due sometime later this year.*

*Following the recent boundary changes, the Meon Valley parliamentary constituency has been abolished. Swanmore is now 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.*

**Meon Valley Bowling Club**

# Come and have a go at lawn bowls



Preparations for our annual Public Open Day are in the planning stage and we are looking forward to welcoming anyone of any age on Saturday 27th April to come and have a go at lawn bowls.

We anticipate that a booking system will be needed for allocated time slots

for newcomers to visit us and these will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Full details of this booking system will be on our website: <https://meonvalleybowlingclub.chessck.co.uk>. Alternatively, telephone 01489 896194 from 15th April.

Our Public Open Day provides an

opportunity to meet club members and look around our lovely pavilion at Priory Park off Victoria Road in Bishop's Waltham to see all the facilities our friendly club offers. Our qualified coaching team will be on hand to assist your introduction to our sport and encourage you to enrol for our highly successful beginners course.

Affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Hampshire, and Southampton and District Men's and Women's Bowling Associations, we enjoy competitive league and friendly bowling against local clubs and have produced both county and district champions in recent years.

In addition to playing bowls, our social committee produces an entertaining programme of events throughout the year to enable members to meet informally, make new friends and enjoy all that our bar and catering facilities can offer. Bowls is not just a game – it's where friendships are formed.

*John Gray*



*Left: Meon Valley bowlers in action at an Open Day.*

**Waltham Ramblers**

# Summer's almost here and it's time for evening walks



Organised walks are held by the Waltham Group of the Ramblers on Wednesdays (mornings), Fridays (evenings in the summer months) 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.

- ❖ Wednesday 3rd April – Ropley, 5 miles, Clive 07584 243885. Start: 10am – Meet in the village car park behind the village hall in Vicarage Lane, SO24 ODJ.
- ❖ Sunday 7th April – Broughton via Nether Wallop, 8 miles (picnic lunch). John 07709 732990. Start: 10am - Meet in Buckholt Road off B3084, SO20 8DA.
- ❖ Wednesday 10th April – East

Meon via Small Down, 5 miles, Mike 07762 120754. Start: 10am – Meet in the car park at the western edge of the village off Workhouse Lane, GU32 1PF.

- ❖ Wednesday 24th April – Upham via Street End, 5 miles, Gareth 07867 523049. Start: 10am – Meet at the duck pond, SO32 1JH.
- ❖ Wednesday 1st May – Marwell via Owslebury, 5 miles, Clive 07584 243885. Start: 10am – Meet in the main Marwell Zoo car park (free parking), SO21 1JY.
- ❖ Wednesday 15th May – Denmead via Hinton Daubney, 5.6 miles, Gill and Ian 07789 768579. Start: 10am – Meet in Kidmore Lane car park, Denmead (free parking), PO7 6JZ.
- ❖ Friday 17th May – Colden

Common via Hensting, 5 miles, Andy 07449 447247. Start: 6.30pm – Meet at Colden Common Community Centre car park, St Vigor Way, SO21 1SW.

- ❖ Wednesday 29th May – East Meon via Drayton and Salt Hill, 6.1 miles, Gareth 07867 523049. Start: 10am – Meet in the car park at western edge of village off Workhouse Lane, GU32 1PF.
- ❖ Friday 31st May – Wickham via Meon Valley Trail, 5 miles, David 07805 957030. Start: 7pm – Meet in the car park at Station Close, PO17 5JY.

For further information about Waltham Ramblers, email [delia.rampton@talktalk.net](mailto:delia.rampton@talktalk.net)

*Delia Rampton*

## Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

# Fundraising, fashion and fun

We reported in the last issue that we had been able to send three desperately needed incubators to medical facilities in Ukraine in January.

This initial effort came about through a collaboration between Bishop's Waltham Rotary, the Hampshire Medical Fund, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, React disaster relief, V-Aid and Ukrainian charities.

Thanks to this initial collaboration we have managed to keep things going and have secured a further five incubators that went to Ukraine in mid-March. These incubators were packed with other donated medical essentials that are much needed.

### Charity fashion show

Back by popular demand, the Bishop's Waltham Rotary Charity Fashion Show will take place on Thursday 18th April, at the Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane in aid of Breast Cancer Now, a charity dedicated to giving support for today and hope for the future, for anyone affected by breast cancer.

The evening will start at 6.30pm when visitors can browse stalls of local businesses showing handbags, shoes, jewellery, glasswork, beauty products,

gifts, accessories, pictures, crochet, pet supplies and much more.

This will be followed by the fashion show starting at 7.30pm, when Labels Boutique & Dress Agency and Luvvit Boutique will show their spring and summer styles modelled by local ladies. We will also have a grand raffle. Tickets are now on sale from Labels and Luvvit in Bishop's Waltham High Street.

For further information contact [Debbie.walker@bishopsalthamrotary.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.walker@bishopsalthamrotary.org.uk)

### Getting ready for the Fayre

Planning for the main event of our fundraising year, our annual Bishop's Waltham Rotary Summer Fayre is underway – with live music, dog show, motorcade, classic car show, plenty of stalls, food and drink.

This year it will be held, as usual, at Hoe Road Recreation Ground on Saturday 8th June from 12.30pm to 5pm. If you would like to get involved or have a stall, then contact us via our website.

*Ian Treveil*

*Crowds assemble at last year's Fayre to watch the dog show... the dogs really are there somewhere.*



## U3A

# Last lectures of the season

It's time for another reminder of our Meon Valley U3A monthly activities.

April showers? As I write it seems as if it will never stop raining, but there are interesting times ahead with our meetings in April and May – we meet at 2pm in the Wickham Community Centre.

❖ 2nd April – We have “Timber framing for beginners” by Penny Copeland. Penny has spoken before with great expertise. I suspect she will not be showing us how to use a carpenter's chisel!

❖ 16th April – We have a speaker new to us but well known on the professional circuit: Glen Duggan speaking on “Orchids, terrorists and kidnapping in the Darien”.

❖ 7th May – This brings us to our last lecture for this season: “Who was Henry of Blois?” from Tony Kippenberger. His Powerpoint presentations are a work of art and something to behold.

Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome. Our current record is 20 guests at a single meeting!

Guests pay £2 to defray speaker costs. Tea and biscuits are provided after the talk, and we always have pre-loved books for charitable sale.

*Lyndon Palmer, Chairman,*  
07881991763

*lyndonplmr@gmail.com*

*<http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley>*

## BW Gardening Club

Monthly speaker at the 24th April meeting of Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club will be Elizabeth Sawday on “Roses grow on you”. The meeting at Bishop's Waltham Junior School has a 6.45pm for 7pm start and is £2 for non-members. The talk

will be followed by refreshments and a raffle. For more information visit [www.bwgc.org.uk](http://www.bwgc.org.uk)



*Liz McClymont*

BW Photographic Society

# Learning the art of food photography

The Society's out and about trip to Welford Park on Valentine's Day was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions and the early demise of the snowdrops – the constant rain ruined them and shortened the season.

However, the Members evening on 29th February was a hands-on session putting into practice what we had learnt from February's speaker, Paul Gregory. Paul is a freelance food photographer whose award-winning images illustrate many well-known cookbooks.

Armed with cameras, tripods, flash and LED light panels (not forgetting batteries, remote-release cables and camera manuals) members worked in small groups, helping each other with lighting techniques and having fun "styling" their food products – chocolate cake among the favourites.

Our speaker for April is Margaret Salisbury. Known as the "Welsh Dragon" because of her dragon signature on the back of her prints, the title of her talk is: "The dragon's more monochrome". Margaret will explain why she chooses monochrome for landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes and in particular for people and their way of life.



*Hands-on practice at taking stylish food photographs.*

If you would like to take your photography to another level, why not 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. A full programme of events can be found on our website [bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk](http://bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk) If you are interested in joining our Society please contact [info@bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk](mailto:info@bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk) or visit our website.

*Ann Erkut*

## Women's Institute

# Dispelling winter blues

Bishop's Waltham Evening WI had two social events during February to cheer us all up after a long wet winter.

On 13th February 20 members took the bus to Fareham to enjoy a superb lunch at the Lysses House Hotel. Members pre-ordered their choices from the menu and we enjoyed our meal with slick silver service. The outing was voted a great success.

Our February meeting was spent playing board games. Different tables offered a variety of games and

members shared stories of games played in the past. It was a very social, fun evening.

Upcoming events are:

- ❖ 16th April, 7.30pm – Talk on the Royal Victoria Country Park by Ursula Pearce. Heritage and Education officer.
- ❖ 21st May, 7.30pm – AGM

Our meetings are held at St Peter's Church Hall in Free Street; guests and new members are very welcome.

*Pauline Powell*

## Waltham Priory Probus Club

Our future programme of events, speakers and topics is currently:

- ❖ May 2nd- Madeleine Salvetti on "Famous and Infamous associated with Portsmouth".
- ❖ June 4th- Susan Howe on "History minus the boring bits".
- ❖ July 2nd-Colin Duncan Jones-"DNA an introduction".

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women. We are welcoming and friendly. If you would like to start each new month with some fun and entertainment followed by lunch join us on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley.

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

*Martin Cooke*

## BW Garden Fair

The annual Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair at Wintershill Hall will be held on Sunday 5th May from 10am to 4pm. Entry is £5 with under-14s free.

Attractions include face painting, morris dancers, jazz band, a birds of prey display, various refreshments, and more than 60 specialist stalls. New this year is a cake decorating competition for children.

Proceeds are in aid of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Full details are at the website:

[www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org](http://www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org)

*Jenny Dixon*

## Craft market

A "Spring Craft and Handmade Market" will be held at the Jubilee Hall, Bishop's Waltham from 10am to 2pm on 27th April. Entry is free with two hours free parking.

For more information contact Helen Field at [helfl@aol.com](mailto:helfl@aol.com)



# Dates for your diaries

Every Thursday	6.30pm–10pm, Swanmore Bridge Club, Paterson Centre.
Every Friday	2pm–4pm, MVARA Scrabble, Paterson Centre.
2nd April	2pm, Wickham Community Centre, U3A meeting, Penny Copeland on “Timber framing for beginners”.
3rd April	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Ropley.
5th–13th April	7.30pm, Arden Theatre, Titchfield, Calamity Jane (weekend 2.30pm matinées)
6th April	10am–12noon, Meon Valley Repair Café Waltham Chase Methodist Church, SWaCS “Bike Doctor” free cycle check-up.
7th April	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Broughton via Nether Wallop.
10th April	10am, Waltham Ramblers, East Meon via Small Down.
10th April	8pm, Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society meeting “History of Portsmouth Chapter 4: 1930–1950” by Andrew Negus.
13th April	9.45am-12noon, Marsh’s Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
16th April	2pm, Wickham Community Centre, U3A meeting, Glen Duggan on “Orchids, terrorists and kidnapping in the Darien”.
16th April	7pm, Swanmore Village Hall, Annual meeting of the Parish.
16th April	7.30pm, St Peter’s Church Hall, WI meeting, talk on the Royal Victoria Country Park by Ursula Pearce.
18th April	6.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Bishop’s Waltham Rotary Charity Fashion Show .
24th April	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Upham via Street End.
24th April	6.45pm–7pm, Bishop’s Waltham Junior School, Bishop’s Waltham Gardening Club meeting, “Roses grow on you” with Elizabeth Sawday.
25th–27th April	7.30pm, Swanmore Village Hall, SADS “Murder with Ghosts”.
27th April	10am–2pm, Jubilee Hall, Bishop’s Waltham Spring Craft and Handmade Market.
27th April	10.30am–12 noon, Paterson Centre, RBLWS Coffee morning.
27th April	10am–1pm, Swanmore Village Car Park, Barnaby’s Classic Cars.
27th April	Priory Park, Bishop’s Waltham Meon Valley Bowling Club Open Day.
27th/28th April	10.30am, Holywell Estate, Bluebell Walks (start 11am and 2pm).
27th April	7.30pm, St Peter’s Church, Bishop’s Waltham, Meon Voices Spring Concert, free entry, retiring collection.
1st May	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Marwell via Owslebury.
5th May	10am–4pm, Wintershill Hall, Durley, Bishop’s Waltham Garden Fair.
7th May	2pm, Wickham Community Centre, U3A meeting Tony Kippenberger on “Who was Henry of Blois?”
8th May	8pm, Paterson Centre, Swanmore Society, meeting “Jane Austen: Woman and Writer” by Maureen Stiller.
11th May	9.45am-12noon, Marsh’s Meadows, Swanmore Conservation Group work party.
15th May	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Denmead via Hinton Daubney.
17th May	6.30pm, Waltham Ramblers, Colden Common via Hensting.
18th May	7.30pm, St Barnabas, Spring concert with Swanmore Wind Band.
21st May	2pm-4pm, Paterson Centre, Care Group/Lunch Club Tea afternoon.
25th May	10am–1pm, Swanmore Village Car Park, Barnaby’s Classic Cars.
29th May	10am, Waltham Ramblers, East Meon via Drayton and Salt Hill.
31st May	10am, Waltham Ramblers, Wickham via Meon Valley Trail.
8th June	12.30pm, Hoe Road Recreation Ground, Rotary Summer Fayre.
8th June	7pm Swanmore Village Hall, Charity Ceilidh with Jigfoot.

# Advertisers' Directory

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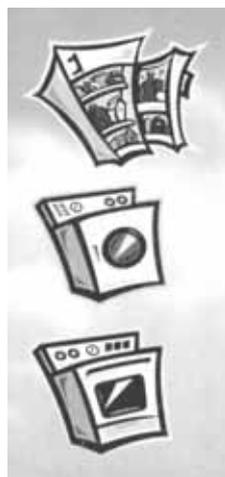
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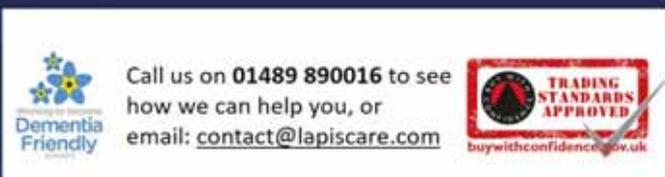


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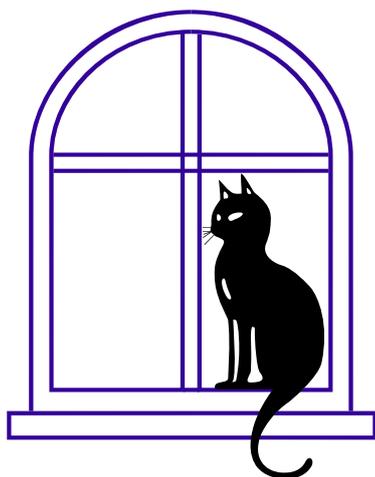


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## St Barnabas contacts

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Revd Andy Davis	vicar@stbarnabas.org.uk revd.andydavis@gmail.com	07709 919602
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Electoral Roll Officer	Jenny Sharpe	01489 892750
Sacristan	Vicky Cronin	01489 536483
Christian Aid Rep	Wendy Horn	01489 354045
Church Cleaning	Jen Frampton	01489 891277
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Hants County Councillor		tbc
Winchester City Councillors	Frank Pearson Malcolm Wallace Danny Lee	01489 892822 07739 050224 07896 644 504

## Swanmore Parish Council

Executive Officer	Tracey Molloy clerk@swanmorepc.org.uk	01489 890651
Accredited Community Safety Officer	Gary McCulloch aco@swanmorepc.org.uk or Facebook-Swanmore ACSO	07442 156124
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## Swanmore College

Headteacher	Kyle Jonathan	01489 892256
Community Programme	Chris Loveday	01489 897896

## Swanmore Primary School

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Site Manager	Scot Murray	07935 699854
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## Village Amenities

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## Sports Clubs

Meon Valley Lawn Bowls	Judith Moss	
jmoss@broadlane2.plus.com		
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Swanmore Cricket Club	Oliver Rowe	07816 332324

## Other Organisations

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Children's Society	Vicky Cronin	01489 536483
Dinah Weberstadt		
Hand Bells	Julia Wright	01489 893378
Home-Start Hampshire	Laura Vincent	01329 835936
<i>Support for young families in the home</i>		
Macmillan Cancer Support	Kathy Weaver	01489 895630
Meon Valley Carers Group	via Andover Mind	01264 332297
enquiries@andovermind.org.uk		
Meon Valley Trefoil Guild	Denise Lord	07747 064455
Royal British Legion	Penny Eliot	01489 890766
RBL Poppy Fund	Jennifer Campbell-Gurry	07879 250601
Swanmore Educational Trust	Richard Cooksley	01489 895776
secretary.swanmoreET@gmail.com		

Swanmore "Litter squad"	David Street	01489 896331
Woodland Trust	Dennis Wheeler	01489 892911

## Utilities Emergencies

Electricity	Emergency	0800 404090
	Power cuts	105
Gas	Emergency/escapes	0800 111999
Portsmouth Water	General enquiries	02392 499888
BT	Directory enquiries	118500

## Other services

Alcoholics Anonymous		01962 869129
Animal Shelter		01329 667541
Bank Scam Service		159
Blood Donors		0800 373701
Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)		03444 111306
Community Health Council		01962 860661
Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)		0800 0113797
Family Conciliation Service		02392 660919
Hampshire Library Services		0845 6035631
Housing Office, Winchester		01962 840222
Job Centre, Fareham		01329 231551
Night Shelter, Winchester		01962 878500
Parent Support Link		02380 399764
PDSA	Southampton	02380 773505
	Portsmouth	02392 754429
Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths		03005 551392
Relate (Marriage Guidance)		01962 861336
RSPCA, Stubbington		01329 667541
Samaritans	Portsmouth	02392 691313
	Southampton	02380 632888
	Winchester	01962 860633
Social Services	Adult services	0845 6035630
	Child Services	0845 6035620

This directory has been compiled jointly by the Parish Council and churches in Swanmore to help you find contacts within the village for further information.

**Please help us to help you by keeping this directory up to date. Amendments or additions should be sent to Roger de Vere at [deverer2@gmail.com](mailto:deverer2@gmail.com), with "Parish magazine" as the subject, at least three days before the deadline for the magazine.**



## Barnaby's Community Coffee Shop

For information about news, events and to check opening times visit [www.barnabys.coffee](http://www.barnabys.coffee)



## A month to remember Gas works in Church Road in February

*Pictures above and below by Berty Ferrone  
and left by Pete Mason*

