



Swanbourne Village News

Newsletter No. 151 June 2020 – August 2020

Lockdown Swanbourne celebrates the 75th
Anniversary of VE day (in a socially distanced fashion!)



The red arrows fly past (as photographed near
Smithfield End)



Worth a visit while walking outdoors in Swanbourne

Millennium Wood is a good place for a walk, and dogs are welcome. A series of grassy glades with picnic benches appear to the walker as you follow the paths. Some undergrowth is deliberately left to encourage wildlife. This is a good place to sit down and spot bird life and butterfly species (details on plaque).



The War Memorial gardens, beautifully maintained by Phil and Sylvia Dalton, are opposite the church and have benches for a rest, beautiful flowers and a plaque with photos and stories about Swanbourne servicemen (worth reading!).

Garden hedging ideas



Laurel



Photinia



Leylandii

Fast growing Leylandii conifers are renowned for causing neighbour disputes, but there are other fast-growing alternatives. Cherry laurel grows half as fast but is easier to maintain and to add colour, laurel-like *Photinia* has some red leaves.

June, July and August 2020 - All events previously arranged are cancelled (pending further notice). This includes: SCA teas and meetings, SCA lottery, History Group events, Book Club, Sports Day, Church Fete and playing field play outs. The playground and exercise equipment are still out of bounds but the tennis court has reopened (late May 2020).

Future Dates

Sun 18th Oct - Swanbourne Endeavour tenth anniversary special (brief details below)

Swanbourne Endeavour

The Swanbourne Endeavour is still planned for 18th October (all being well, with relaxation of the lockdown.) There is a new shorter course and 'last man or woman standing' tournament this year! Full details are all on the Endeavour website, take a look now! www.theswanbourneendeavour.co.uk



Village Hall Availability

The Village Hall is not available for bookings in June but bookings are being taken for events after 1st July *only provided that they are events which allow for social distancing*. Please look out for any changes (which will be informed via the village email system and notice boards).

MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION DELIVERIES FROM WINSLOW DISPENSARY

For the duration of the Coronavirus crisis (as agreed with practice manager Noel Ratcliffe), all residents who are over 60 and are registered with the practice and who usually collect their prescriptions from the dispensary are eligible to request their prescriptions to be delivered to their home address in Swanbourne village/parish. Make the request in the comments space if you do an on-line repeat or tel. 713434. If any problems you may email Noel at: noel.ratcliffe@nhs.net but please note that this does not apply if you normally collect your prescriptions from Lloyds Pharmacy in Winslow. Unfortunately, there's no formal delivery service for Whitchurch surgery users.

Swanbourne Church Fete

Unfortunately, we had to cancel this year's church fete as it was doubtful that we would be out of lockdown by the 6th June. This is the church's main source of income that enables us to keep the church open. So, it looks like our finances may be rather bleak in the future.

Going to church may not be a regular activity for you and we have no desire to make you feel guilty. The church belongs to the village and in times of need can be both a place of comfort and a place of celebration. We welcome all those with a Christian faith, those with a different faith or those of no faith. It is a place for Sunday worship but also for christenings (baptisms), weddings and funerals. The local schools use it frequently throughout the year and many villagers pop in for quiet moments, to say a prayer or to sit a while. We also have many who come from a far to look and find out information regarding their relatives who once lived in the village.

So, if you would like to help keep the church going by making a financial donation, either now or in the future, we would be glad to receive it. This might be a one-off gift, or you may wish to set up more regular giving with a standing order. If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to claim back tax thus making your gift worth more by 25%.

If you would like to know how to go about this, or for more clarification, please do get in touch with us at stswithuns.treasurer@gmail.com. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Can we also encourage you to support our fund-raising efforts once lockdown has ended? We think that with your help we can continue to keep the church open, not only for those who want to worship there on a Sunday but also for those one-off occasions and for the local schools. Please can you help?

Though the building is closed at the moment we are still here during the lockdown, please let us know if we can help you in any way during this time.

Jill Bailey

SWANBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report

Clive N. Rodgers

A year ago, nobody could have predicted the crisis that we are living through now. The Covid 19 virus has severely disrupted our lives and the lockdown and social distancing rules have resulted in government directives cancelling the first elections for the new Buckinghamshire Council (due on 7th May). The Parish Council elections on the same date have also been postponed until 2021, so it is necessary to carry over the existing Parish Councillors and their roles for another year. The existing AVDC councillors were also to be carried over. For Swanbourne this would be Janet Blake, though I understand she has recently resigned.

The social distancing requirements meant that the annual Parish Assembly held in the Village Hall (planned for Wednesday 20th May) could not take place.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to give you a written summary of our work over the 2019-20 financial year and the prospects for Swanbourne for the year ahead.

Bus Shelters – Provision of bus shelters has been something of a mission. Bus shelters were originally proposed by John Fremantle in 1971, but since that time Swanbourne had remained the only village in the area not to have any. To finally make this happen, I first obtained permission from Bucks County Council to erect two bus shelters at the most suitable sites. In order to match with our historic village environment, they were hand built by James Tattam in hardwood. The first bus shelter was completed in February 2019 and I am pleased to report that the second bus shelter (again hand built in the same style by James) was completed in November 2019 at the top of New Walk, yet preserving the John Price memorial bench which was relocated to a new concrete base next to the shelter. In normal times both bus shelters are used by school children every day as well as by members of the public through the day.

Broadband – I am pleased to report success in helping to achieve a levelling up of the fibre Broadband provision within Swanbourne village. Accordingly, it gives me pleasure to report that the main patches of the village originally missed out by AVB (Smithfield End, Charlton Close and Ridgeway Cottages) have all been connected to the fibre network by Gigaclear over the last year.

Playing Field and Playground Equipment – Over the last year, two new rubbish bins have been installed which are being emptied by AVDC (now BC). The Playing Field Committee have also purchased some new signs. The possibility of a cycle track around the edge of the playing field is being considered and what used to be called the woodland walk in the wide hedge around the edge is being considered for a children's adventure walk. The Playing Field Committee and Swanbourne Community Association organised a very successful sports day on Saturday, 13th July, 2019.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway – Over the last year I have continued to attend meetings and write letters to Highways England and others concerning the very worrying prospect of a dual carriageway. The village has been united - together with Swanbourne Estate and the SCA we have strongly opposed it. While the Oxford-Cambridge rail project is widely supported (and work on it continues), the Expressway road proposals have been widely regarded as environmentally catastrophic. However, I am very pleased to report that on 11th March 2020 the government announced that the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway proposal would be "paused". The Department for Transport and Highways England said they will instead "undertake further work on other potential road projects" between the two university cities that would seek to reduce congestion in other areas between them.

Traffic Feasibility Study – The report is about future options which may help to manage the volumes of traffic passing through Swanbourne. Helen Cleaveley has liaised with Ringway Jacobs who completed a study and provided a report earlier this year. This has now been fully considered by the Parish Council at our April and May video conference meetings and it was our intention to discuss the options available/recommended at the Parish Assembly on 20th May. As this has not been possible, we have decided to conduct a consultation via a simple online survey, details of which are included after this report.

Standing Orders – Nothing to do with banking, local authority Standing Orders are the set of rules by which a Parish Council operates. We have to follow a government template but also to tailor some requirements for local circumstances. Following work on this with Mike King, we presented our proposals to the Parish Council at the January 2020 meeting. Following discussion, the proposals were approved and formally adopted. A copy is published on the PC website.

Swanbourne Village Community Facebook Group – At the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd October 2019 it was resolved (*minute 72/19*) to organise a Community Facebook group in order to help keep the village up to date with current issues (e.g. expressway proposals). Started by the Parish Clerk (Vanda Bennett) and a Parish Councillor (Deborah Barrow) soon after the meeting, this is proving to be a vital resource during the current Covid 19 crisis, enabling the community to help each other in so many different ways e.g. sourcing local fresh food (with Swanbourne shop closed) and has provided an important source of practical and moral support as/when needed (e.g. dropping off shopping/medicines) as well as providing a discussion outlet when so many people feel relatively isolated due to the lockdown regulations. Parish Councillor Rosemary Andrew has now replaced Vanda Bennett as the second moderator. Deborah and Rosemary are providing helpful advice and doing a fantastic job as moderators, ensuring the discussion remains on an even keel and ending discussion threads at the most appropriate moment.

Finances and Annual Return - The Annual Return and finances for the 2019-20 year were considered and approved by the Parish Council via video conference meeting held on 13th May 2020. To fund the costs of the second bus shelter and the traffic feasibility study together required approx. £7000 to be taken from reserves. A copy of the Annual Return and documentation will shortly be posted on the Parish Council website.

Notification of public rights (to inspect Parish Council books held by the Parish Clerk) – This will include the first 10 working days in July. However, the accounts summary, Annual Return etc. will also be published on the Parish Council website.

Parish Council Transparency – The Parish Council website follows government transparency guidelines and contains all the Parish Council news and documentation (e.g. agenda and minute records as well as all financial information). www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings – The last normal Parish Council meeting to be held in the Village Hall was in January 2020. Since then The Parish Council have held video conference meetings in April and in May but under the lockdown regulations it was not possible to hold the normal Parish Assembly. We are hoping it will be possible to have a normal Parish Council meeting back in the Village Hall again by September.

Swanbourne Community Association Annual Report -

- * Monthly teas and lunches continue to be well-supported, with three lunches and nine teas held again during the year.
- * Two quizzes were held in March 2019 and October 2019, and were much appreciated by those who took part.
- * The Village Newsletter continued to be delivered to every house in the Village every three months.
- * A new edition of All About Swanbourne was produced, and circulated together with the December newsletter.
- * Another Swanbourne Sports Day was held in July, supported by SCA funds.
- * A further tennis coaching event was organised on the Playing Field in June.
- * The History Group held two public meetings – on ‘*Two Men called Thomas*’ and on ‘*The Wing Airport Resistance Association*’. Articles continue to be added on its website, and two village history walks were organised.
- * A donation was made to the Village Hall and a further grant was made towards the second bus shelter recently erected at the top of the New Walk.
- * Roger and Anne Parker continued to support the link with Nedlands (which includes Cottesloe and Swanbourne) in Perth, Australia.
- * The SCA website continued to be supported financially and updated as necessary.
- * The Christmas carol singing around the village raised £300.89 for The Aylesbury Homeless Action Group.
- * In 2019, £700 was paid out in prizes, and a further £410 was raised to fund future village activities.

Parish Council Meetings - All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who live in Swanbourne and freely give up their time to help improve life for the people of Swanbourne community. Regular meetings are normally held in the Village Hall.

Swanbourne Parish Council AGM had to be held remotely on 13th May 2020, and we agreed to carry over our existing roles for another year. These are: - Parish Clerk – Vanda Bennett, email clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com telephone enquiries to 728392.

Parish Councillor (Chair) - Clive Rodgers, email swanbourne13@gmail.com Strategic planning, liaising with SCA, maintenance overview, Newsletter, liaison with Swanbourne Estate, websites, maintenance overview.

Parish Councillor - Helen Cleaveley – Traffic issues, MVAS and Speed watch.

Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.

Parish Councillor Linda Sirett – Dog related issues, playing field/verges liaison. *Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.*

Parish Councillor Steve French – Local Authority Funding (LAF) meetings, local planning applications. *Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.*

Parish Councillor Rosemary Andrew – Bus shelters, bus stops, liaison with passenger transport. Joint Facebook community moderator. *Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.*

Parish Councillor Deborah Barrow – Highway defect reporting to Buckinghamshire Council and litter issues. Joint Facebook community moderator. *Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.*

Parish Councillor Mike King – Standing orders, transparency compliance, help with Parish Council website. *Emails will be forwarded via the Parish Clerk.*

Swanbourne Parish Council

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PLEASE TAKE TWO MINUTES TO ANSWER A SIMPLE SURVEY CONCERNING TRAFFIC IN SWANBOURNE. *Your opinion matters.*

One of the unexpected benefits of the strange and sad times we are currently experiencing is the quiet which lockdown has brought to the village.

The dramatic reduction in commuter traffic (by 72%) has brought the hum of insects and the sound of birdsong back to the main thoroughfares.

If, like me, you've been enjoying the new-found peace, then please do complete this PC survey by following the link: - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3MJBS8D>

Following the PC's Traffic Survey in 2018 and the new Feasibility Study (both carried out for us by Transport for Bucks) we are now seeking your views on more ways to keep our village roads quieter and safer.

Thank you, *Helen Cleaveley*

Village Planning News

19/04412/APP | Construction of detached house and all ancillary works | The Swan 15 Mursley Road Swanbourne Buckinghamshire MK17 0SH – *Approved.*

19/03984/ACL | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed wedding licence - no alteration to the building | The Betsey Wynne PH Mursley Road Swanbourne Buckinghamshire MK17 0SH – *Certificate approved.*

20/00570/APP | Erection of a 2-metre boundary wall | Old Orchard House 13A Tattams Lane Swanbourne Buckinghamshire MK17 0SU – *Approved.*

20/00021/ALB | Rebuild old masonry boundary wall between Church Cottage and St Swithun's Church | Land Between Church Cottage and St Swithun's Church Swanbourne Buckinghamshire MK17 0FF – *Approved.*

20/00831/APP | Old Nearton Farm | Replacement double garage – *Approved.*

20/01017/ALB | The Old School House, 7 Mursley Road | Wooden Double garage in rear garden – *Withdrawn (would not be attached to house so alteration to listed building not needed).*

Doggy Diaries June - August 2020

Hello Swanbourne!

What a weird time we are living in - one minute Ma and I had our settled and happy routine, I was helping her with the things she had to do, and accompanying her to the places she had to go, and we were looking after sisters two and three who were doing their thing alongside us - out when they were out, and in when they were in. And the next minute the television was on a lot, and everyone was rushing around trying to “organise” things – all a bit confusing from a dogs’ point of view. And then the next minute we had a houseful, and everyone was loving me and needing love (I’ll be adding emotional support to my CV ;)), and I was getting more walks and attention than I could have ever imagined. And then it all quietened down; the house is still full, and life is a new normal. I can focus back totally on Ma again, we have our routine, and I am still getting a ton of love and attention when they (or I) want it.

It has been very up and down and inside out. I’m loving having my family here but I’m missing going out and about, and really miss my friends (so does Ma) - I should think you are missing things and people too.

All through this I’ve been working, and doing what I do best 😊. Ma and I have

been playing lots of doggy discipline games too (I try hard at them all but definitely like some more than others!). One of them is me going to bed, to find a chew there, but not eating it (!) and another that Ma thinks is great fun, but is definitely not my favourite because it is so hard (I am a labrador!) is the crime scene challenge - I lie down and Ma makes a line of treats on the floor all around me - it looks a bit like a crime scene!

Swanbourne is such a good place to be, and we are very lucky, but even so none of this is easy. I hope you are all managing to find happy in the middle of everything that is going on.

Keep on looking after yourselves, and each other, please.

with hugs and love

- until next time,



Barry



Photo:- Barry attempting (and succeeding) at the Doggy 'Crime Scene' Challenge

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL (set to resume in July)

Monday am and pm – Currently available for hire.

Tuesday Yoga classes – Paul Blissett daytime and evening yoga classes

– Tel. 680454 for further details or email to:

paulblissett@hedgelayer.co.uk

Wednesday am Pilates – Tel. Phil Nuttridge Tel. 01280 817200

Pm evening preference is offered for PC and SCA meetings.

Thursday am Body Sculpt - Tara Hughes 0787 2449019. Evening pm

Giocosso Concert Band; Tel. David Sharp 01908 503461 or email

d.sharp@open.ac.uk

Friday am and pm - Currently available for hire.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE, EMAIL & TELEPHONE CONTACTS

Swanbourne Village Hall – To make a booking please contact Simone on 07582967171 and leave a message – then she will get back to you within 24 hours. The Village Hall Committee Chairman/Treasurer is now Hugo Gilbert. hugogilbert@fir-tree.co.uk Other Committee members are: Wilma Gilbert and Mo Gray.

Swanbourne Neighbourhood and Countryside Watch

Email swanwatch7@gmail.com or tel: - Mo on 720269 or Doody on 728161.

Newsletter editors: - Clive and Linda Rodgers; print costs are funded by Swanbourne Parish Council. Printed by Harlequin Press. Each edition of the Newsletter covers three months.

Village information via email circulation - Newer village residents may like to know that information is regularly circulated by email by Peter Hampton. If you are new to the village you may be interested in adding your name to the list. Notices should be forwarded to Peter at the following email address:- swanbournemail@gmail.com

Swanbourne Community Association – Tel. Frankie Fisher (Chair) on 720454 Website: -www.swanbournecommunityassociation.com

Swanbourne Facebook Village Community Group: - Moderators: Cllr. Rosemary Andrew and Cllr. Deborah Barrow.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/443602106260000/>

Swanbourne Estate- The Estate Manager is Tom Finchett. Tel. 01296-720256 email: office@swanbourneestate.co.uk

Swanbourne History Group – Tel. Ken Harris (Chair) on 720454, Website:- www.swanbournehistory.co.uk

The Shop – Jan and Magda Bos Tel. 720288, Website:-

<https://www.facebook.com/SwanbourneStores/>

Betsey Wynne Pub - www.thebetseywynne.co.uk Tel. 720825.

Swanbourne Parish Council – Parish Clerk (Vanda Bennett) Tel.

www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk

Play Out Swanbourne - Ellie Markland Tel. 720454, Website:-

www.facebook.com/playoutswanbourne

Winslow Community Bus

Tel. 01296 715786 (Sue) You can get the Community Bus in Winslow any Friday or Saturday morning at 9.15am to get to Aylesbury for just after 10 o'clock – dropping off by Sainsbury's or the bus station, then return 12.15pm depart from bus station (+ High St pick up on a Friday).

All for FREE with a bus pass.

Housing Histories – The mysteries of the Old School House

Quoting from Ken Reading's book (*Swanbourne - History of an Anglo-Saxon town p.92*)

"This fine heavily timbered mid 17th Century house is so constructed as to make it a favourite candidate for inclusion in any list of houses rebuilt after the Civil War burnings. In 1763 it was in the hands of the Widow Doe. A large house for such a small landowner, whose strip of Home Close ran northwards. She was also awarded a field off the Mursley Road on the Parish boundary still known as Doe's Close. The husband and wife team who ran the two schools, Mr and Mrs George White, lived here until their deaths during the first decade of the 20th Century, one of the rooms being used as a classroom during the 19th Century."

Photograph (below) the Old School House (7, Mursley Rd.) as it appears today.



Photograph (above) taken in front of The Old School House in the 1890's.

Immediately to the right of the shop, the house is next door to the Village Hall which was the Infant School from around 1871. According to the 1881 census the house was occupied by the White family: George White, 46, head, schoolmaster; Margaret Augusta White nee Browning, 38, wife, schoolmistress; Kate Augusta White, 12, daughter and Amy Charlotte White, 8, daughter. Also resident was Jane Elizabeth Hinton, 15, a domestic servant.

There is the mystery of a large WW2 Stanton shelter in the back garden, rather strange when the house has a cellar that would have been much safer! Part of the garden was an allotment. In more recent years the old Heads of Swanbourne House School lived there, Stephen and Julie Goodhart.

There are some stories of ghosts including a little girl saying 'hello' – they had the house exorcised in around 2013 and they told a story of how Stephen had witnessed seeing a horseshoe flying off the wall at the back of the house going straight across the garden and of a strange atmosphere in the cellar.

I am compiling a history of historic houses in Swanbourne. If you live in a historic house and have access to any interesting information about its history (or previous residents) please let the History Group know.

Linda Rodgers

SWANBOURNE'S SPRING REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

Date	Food waste	Recycling Bin	Waste Bin	Garden waste
<i>Wednesday May 27</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday June 02</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday June 09</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday June 16</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday June 23</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday June 30</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday July 07</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday July 14</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday July 21</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday July 28</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Aug 04</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday Aug 11</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Aug 18</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION

NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINE DELIVERIES

Get newspapers and/or magazines delivered very early in the morning to your home anywhere in Swanbourne! Wedelivernews.com ltd. is based at 52, High St., Winslow. If you wish to go on their delivery list, phone or text Sue on 07834902196 or email info@wedelivernews.com

More outside ideas for the summer

1. Identify and photograph the butterfly species in your garden (P. 15).
2. 'Find the best fossil' children's challenge. Fossils can be found all over Swanbourne. They are the remains of shellfish and other animals and plants that lived in the seas when we were under water millions of years ago - but they are turned to stone. St. Swithun's church wall and most of the other stone around the village is also from the Portland limestone of the Jurassic period (photo P.15). Bigger oyster fossils can be found from the Oxford clay along footpaths which cross ploughed fields, gardens and from the stream behind the Betsey. Take photographs only please. Email if you need help, then please send photos to swanbourne13@gmail.com by 15th August and the best will be published in the next Newsletter.
3. 'Walk the new bridleway' challenge (see p.16)
4. View some lakes on the edge of Mursley. Walk to the stream and spinney immediately North of the Betsey and follow the public footpath as you walk towards Church Hill Farm at the edge of Mursley; the fish farm lakes look pretty on the right. Take the next public footpath to the left and after crossing fields you emerge at Station Road opposite Dodley Hill farm.

Clive Rodgers

Identify your garden butterflies challenge



Peacock (PC)



Red Admiral (RA)



Small Tortoiseshell (ST)



Painted Lady (PL)



Gatekeeper (GK)



Speckled Wood (SP)



Ringlet (RI)



Large White (LW)



Brimstone (BR)



Common Blue (CB)



Holly Blue (HB)



Small Copper (SC)



Orange Tip (OT)



Comma (CO)



Meadow Brown (MB)



Small White (SW)



New Permissive bridleway/footpath from 1st June 2020



This will come into force from 1st June, and we will be shortly starting to waymark the route to make it easier for people to find. From the Avey Lane, off the Aylesbury Road (Cemetery Hill) the route will now continue down the old drovers' road of Avey Lane, rather than heading up the hardcore track to the barns. At the far end of Avey lane, the route turns right and runs along the hedge up to the pylon, continues past the pylon through the next field. At the far end of the field, the route turns right, then immediately left, and heads down the hill along the original route and heads along the track back to the lodge. This can just as easily be walked in reverse. The permissive bridleway still inter connects with several public footpaths along the route. *Tom Finchett*