



Swanbourne Village News

Newsletter No. 158 March – May 2022



**Swanbourne Over Sixties
- (SOS). An initiative
from Jane Lowe- Page 9**



Doggy Diaries - Page 13

Environment Act – Pages 2-4
Parish Council News – Pages 5-7
Planning News – Page 8
Swanbourne Over Sixties – Page 9
Doggy Diaries – Page 13
Changes to Highway Code – Page 14

Karate Club – Page 15
History Evening – Pages 16-17
Book Club – Page 18
Refuse Collection dates – Page 18
Newts and lizards – Page 19
Bird identification – Page 20



*Nice wild swimming! But did you
know about*

**Tom Finchett's Karate
club – Page 15**

Avey Lane pond on 29th Dec.



**Nature Conservation –
Pages 2-4 and 19-20**

English bluebells

The Environment Act, November 2021

In England, November 2021 saw the very welcome addition to the statute book of a new Environment Act, the most ground-breaking piece of environmental legislation for many years. For the first time this Act will set clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste, and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. It sets in law new tools that Natural England and others can use to help meet those targets, which will at last enable us to lift the grim graphs of species decline upward towards a Nature-positive 2030.

Sources:- [The Environment Act 2021 – a turning point for Nature - Natural England \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk)

Examples of Swanbourne's wild flowers which deserve to be encouraged



Examples of verge and hedgerow “weeds” which actually help to conserve our wildlife



+



= more of these:-



DIARY DATES

Mon 7th March - SCA Lunch, 12.30pm for 1.00pm in the Village Hall (See P8)

Wed 9th March – Parish Council meeting, 7pm in the Village Hall

Fri 11th March – History Evening 7.30pm in the Village Hall (See P17)

Wed 23th March – Coffee at the Methodist Chapel (see P14)

Tues 29th March - Book Club, 8pm at the Betsey (See P18)

Mon 4th April - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall (See P8)

Sun 10th April – Palm Sun. procession from Chapel at 10.40am (See P4)

Wed 27th April - Coffee at the Methodist Chapel (See P14)

Mon 9th May - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall (See P8)

Wed 25th May - Coffee at the Methodist Chapel (See P14)

FUTURE DATES

Sat 4th June – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations – details to follow

Mon 13th June- SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Mon 4th July - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Environment Act, November 2021 *contd.*

“Where in 1945 it was thought that the way to solve the problem was to create wildlife parks and nature reserves, that is no longer an option. They are not enough now. The whole countryside should be available for wildlife. The suburban garden, roadside verges ... all must be used”. *Sir David Attenborough*. “We live in one of the most nature depleted countries in the world”. *Chris Packham*.

Editorial opinion - Now is a good time for more re-wilding. Plants such as nettles and brambles really do help our wildlife. The plans for Bucks are summarised below:

Buckinghamshire’s Biodiversity Action Plan

Buckinghamshire’s countryside may look green and pleasant but this disguises dramatic declines in both the range of wildlife species present and the numbers of individuals of those species. The 2016 State of Nature Report highlighted how the wildlife of Britain is struggling, with on-going declines in its overall abundance. UK priority species have fared particularly badly since 1970 with two thirds of individuals having been lost so that their populations are now only one-third of what they were in 1970. These include some of our best-known wildlife such as skylarks, yellowhammers, water voles, hares, hedgehogs, frogs, and toads. For every three individuals of these priority species that existed in 1970 now only one now remains.

Everyone from landowners to window box gardeners can do their part. Each and every bit of wildlife habitat created contributes to making Buckinghamshire a better place for wildlife and people. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, can you set some of your lawn aside for a meadow or plant wildlife friendly plants in the borders? We can help to create wilder spaces. Local organisations, parish councils, groups and individuals can all make a valuable contribution, working on your own land or working in partnership with others, you can help wildlife in Bucks.

Sources: - [Green infrastructure strategy](#) | [Buckinghamshire Council](#) | [Aylesbury Vale Area \(aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk\)](#)

Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy

The Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy states that development in suitable areas should provide bat or bird roosting provision within the fabric of the buildings.

Local Plan Policy 'NE1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity' of the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033 states that: *"Development proposals will be expected to promote site permeability for wildlife and avoid the fragmentation of wildlife corridors, incorporating features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value on site.*

Existing ecological networks should be identified and maintained to avoid habitat fragmentation, and ecological corridors including water courses should form an essential component of green infrastructure provision in association with new development to ensure habitat connectivity".

Palm Sunday

It has become a tradition in Swanbourne that on Palm Sunday (April 10th this year), there is a procession from the chapel at 10.40 a.m.

Branches are waved and songs are sung till we reach St. Swithuns for a Family Service, this year led by Rev. Terry Richards.

We used to have Eleanor's donkey, which unfortunately died. So his place is therefore taken by a Terry family pony!

Everyone is welcome at this joyful occasion. *Frankie*

Parish Council News

Summary from Jo Hill: - We hope that 2022 has begun well for you all.

Once again it has been really good to have people from the village join us at meetings to contribute from their areas of expertise and interest – we are extremely grateful for your feedback and input. As always, the minutes of our meetings are posted on the website – please do have a look if you are interested.

We have some notices and updates for you:

- **Parking**

- We have listened to you tell us that this is an increasing problem and are taking action; watch out for notices on offending vehicles.
- Parking on the road is safe, and helps slow down traffic.
- Inconsiderate parking is dangerous, and results in blocked pavements and damaged verges.

Pavements

- Parking on our pavements makes them impossible to use safely - especially for those with pushchairs, with wheelchairs, and with dogs - and it makes crossing the road dangerous for everyone.

Verges

- The verges are key to the appearance of our village and are critical havens for wildlife. The Parish Council pays for their maintenance – this money comes from the Precept we all pay as part of our Council Tax.
- Parking on or inconsiderate driving across the verges causes physical and ecological damage which it costs money to repair (which leaves less money for other things!).

School parking

- We have been working with the Primary School to remedy the congestion and parking problems at drop of and pick-up times.
- The School is very concerned and is actively monitoring traffic/parking at both ends of the day. Parents are being encouraged to take care, and to park at the Betsey Wynne and walk to the school if it is at all possible.

- **Village Playing Field**
 - Good news! We are in the process of replacing the netting on 2 sides of the tennis court, 2 baby swings and the broken 'bubble' on the climbing frame.
 - A new Village Playing Field Committee is being formed to look after the playing field and keep it in best shape. Watch this space...
- **Streetlights**
 - Repair and maintenance of our streetlights are in progress.
- **Litter**
 - 'The Great British Spring Clean' is coming to Swanbourne! If you would like to be involved in this exciting and worthwhile project in our village, please let us know (rosemary@swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk)
- **Village Hall**
 - Do remember the Village Hall - it is the perfect size for all sorts of events, has good kitchen and toilet facilities, AND has a lovely garden.
 - The pricing is extremely reasonable, and villagers are offered a discount.
 - Please contact Hugo Gilbert to find out more and to book: telephone 07754181522.
- **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**
 - Swanbourne will have a wonderful celebration on Saturday 4th June.
 - The planning has begun – please watch the Village Facebook page and also the Village Noticeboards for more information and for opportunities to be involved.
 - There is a WhatsApp group for volunteers. If you would like to help now, and/or you have any ideas please be in touch.
- **Village Precept***
 - There was no increase to the Village Precept in 2021-22 but as expected due to inflation, increased costs and the areas that require funding over the next 12 months it has been necessary to

increase the precept for year 2022-23. Detail of this is included in the Parish Council minutes.

- Particular areas that will benefit from the precept over the coming year are street lighting, work to the village grass areas and verges, and addressing the speeding issues. We are grateful to the villagers who have highlighted these areas to us.

* The village precept is the money paid by residents (as part of Council Tax) to provide funds for necessary village maintenance, repairs and improvements, both routine (e.g., dog waste collection, and playing field maintenance), and exceptional (e.g., the extensive repairs to the New Walk footpath).

And finally – thank you to everyone who has been in touch. We thrive on hearing from you, in fact it is imperative to the way we operate. Recently for example, your input has informed the work on streetlighting, playing field equipment, speeding, parking and verges.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and to seeing you soon – perhaps at one of the groups/events that happen in our village. Please do come along to any of them as and when you can. The Swanbourne News is always full of information about what is going on and village organisations and groups are always looking for members and volunteers.

Swanbourne Parish Council

www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Councillor Details

As well as all PC meeting and finance records, a complete list of Parish Councillor areas of responsibility is available on the website and on the Parish Notice Board outside the Village Hall.

Each Councillor has a unique email address to be used for PC business which are available from the Swanbourne Parish Council website: <https://www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk/councillors>

Village Planning News

21/04281/ATC | Magnolia Tree - reduce (excessive shading) and remove overgrown Holly Bush at Orchard View, 6A, Smithfield End, Swanbourne, MK17 0SP - *Pending*.

21/04851/APP | Proposed single storey rear extension. | The Old Vicarage, 2 Winslow Road, Swanbourne, MK17 0SW - *Approved*.

21/00359/AOP | Outline planning for new farmhouse | Buxlow Farm, MK18 3LF - *Approved*.

21/04829/AGN | Extension to existing farm building | North Hill Farm, MK18 3LF - *No objections*.

22/00370/ALB | Listed building application for 3 new exterior doors | 15 Smithfield End Swanbourne, MK17 0SP - *Pending*.

22/00051/CPE | Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use as garden land | Glebe House, Swanbourne, MK17 0SH - *Pending*.

22/00244/ATC | G1 Leylandii Hedge- reduce height by approx. 50% and trim sides | Goodwyn 15 Winslow Road, Swanbourne, MK17 0SW - *Pending*.

22/00102/APP | Demolition of redundant farm buildings and erection of four dwellings | Hensmans Farm, Nearton End, Swanbourne, MK17 0SL - *Pending*.

SCA LUNCH AND TEAS THIS SPRING

Please join us for lunch on Monday 7th March at 12.30pm (£6, pay at door) for a 1pm start.

Also please join us for our SCA Afternoon Teas on Monday 4th April and 9th May starting at 2.30pm.

Residents of all ages are most welcome.

SCA Committee

SOS (Swanbourne Over Sixties)

Are there any ladies or men that are 60+ and hate going out alone? As social restrictions are lifting, a WhatsApp group for villagers who are over 60 has been started. The aim of the group is if you want to go out anywhere, for example to a pub, meal, coffee, cinema etc. and be in the company of others, then you would just put this up on the group and see if anyone else wants to go; if anyone does, then they will be able to contact you.

You will not have to answer anything you don't want to, as you can just ignore the text. I have seen this work really well in other villages and think this is a wonderful idea.

If you are interested, please contact me - **Jane Lowe on 720650 or 07511580795** and I will answer any questions. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Jane

SOS (Swanbourne Over Sixties) - initial meeting feedback

Initial meetings indicate possible demand for more than one type of WhatsApp - based social group. It was agreed that SOS is primarily intended for individual older residents who may have no company to attend events - so would like to meet up with others who feel the same. If you are interested, please continue to contact Jane. However, if you would prefer a wider social group of adults (could include families), please contact Dee Thomas on 07903695757 who is investigating the possibility of establishing a broader WhatsApp group – Editors.

Activities held at the Village Hall

There are currently no ongoing regular weekly reservations for the Village Hall.

Monday to Friday am and pm – Currently available for hire.

(Please note that for Wednesday pm evening's preference is given to any planned PC and SCA meetings).

Please note that all regular weekly slots for the Village Hall are now available.

Community names, websites, email and telephone contacts

Swanbourne Village Hall – Please contact Hugo Gilbert to find out more and to book: telephone 07754181522.

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 funded by Swanbourne Parish Council. Printed by Harlequin Press. Each edition of the Newsletter covers three months. The editors reserve the right to make corrections for accuracy (e.g., spelling, punctuation and grammar) in items submitted.

Village information via email circulation - Information is circulated by email by Peter Hampton. If new to the village, you may add 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: - Administrators: Deborah Barrow and Rosemary Andrew. Please email via the Parish Council website www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk or direct message via Facebook <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, email ken.kelston1@gmail.com History Website: - www.swanbournehistory.co.uk History Webmaster is Clive Rodgers, email Swanbourne13@gmail.com

The Store and Post Office – Jean-Claude and Julie Blanc are the proprietors. The Store is open from 8.30am to 6pm on Monday to Friday and from 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturdays. The Post Office is normally open from 9.00am until 1.00pm from Monday to Saturday swanbourne.store@gmail.com

Betsey Wynne Pub - www.thebetseywynne.co.uk Tel. 720825
Reservations for dining are usually made on-line.

Swanbourne Parish Council – Parish Clerk (Jo Tudor) Email: - clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com Parish Council Website: www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk

Play Out Swanbourne - Ellie Markland Tel. 720454, Website: - www.facebook.com/playoutswanbourne

Playing Fields – Please contact the Parish Clerk if issues arise.

Church Wardens - St. Swithun's Church; David Blunt and Jon Walker

Swanbourne Burial Authority – Swanbourne Parochial Church Council, tel. David Blunt 720397 email: david.blunt@hart-house.net

Medical Prescription Deliveries from Winslow Dispensary -

The online system for requesting repeat prescriptions is now through the Evergreen Life system. If there are any queries you may email: - 3whealth.patientaccess@nhs.net

Alternatively, you may telephone 713434 to request a repeat or email: - prescriptions.norden@nhs.net listing the medication requested.

Norden House maintains a patient delivery service for prescriptions the over 60s in Swanbourne (except for patients who collect from Lloyds Pharmacy) which is not available if registered at Whitchurch.

Winslow Community Bus - Normally, 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. Full details on their website:

[Bus Services - Winslow and District Community Bus - Winslow and District Community Bus, Winslow, Buckingham \(winslowbus.com\)](http://www.winslowbus.com)

Alternatively, telephone Lynne King on 07483 336440.

Newspaper and Magazine Deliveries - Get newspapers and/or magazines delivered 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

Karate Club - The club is run by Sensei Tom Finchett a 2nd Dan British Karate Association, with over 30 years of experience in Karate, tel. 07974 029961 or hakagurekarate1@gmail.com (see feature on P.16).

Book Club – This is organised by Jane Rowe; for further details email: jane.rowe101@btinternet.com

TUITION IN SWANBOURNE

Improving Reading and Spelling AND French/English

Tuition

Amanda Brawn BA Hons (French, Spanish, Economics), PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education), NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship)

Making A Difference & Maximising Potential

Beginner and confused readers/spellers, here's the answer! Just 4 keys needed to be confident using our **alphabet code!** (Read and spell in 18 hours or less!) **£30/hour**

Tutoring: 1) FRENCH at all key stages + Holiday French. **£35 French KS3 & 4, £40 at KS5/hour.** 2) ENGLISH at KS2, helpful to ameliorate 11+ results & KS3. **£35/hour**

I am a retired secondary school leader with 37 years experience in schools and education raising attainment and improving standards. I now work as a freelance education consultant, examiner and tutor. Let my vast experience help you, your child, family or organization!

Contact Details: Amanda Brawn, Swanbourne, Email: abrawn1@gmail.com, Mobile: [07759 282549](tel:07759282549)

Website: www.amandabrawnmaximisingpotential.webs.com

For information concerning the Sound Reading Scheme I use.

All exam boards/Your house or mine, just let me know.

Gardening this Spring?

Get instant access to Buckingham Garden Centre's catalogue using this QR code via your mobile device.



Doggy Diaries – March – May 2022

🐾🐾 Hello Swanbourne! 🐾🐾

Time passes so quickly - one minute I was surrounded by peculiar things in the house (including a tree with sparkly dangly bits; weird) and all my favourite people were here, and then it was just Ma, me and the youngest sister. Hey ho, I don't know – it's a dog's life (and I love it).

We have moved since I last talked to you, not far but it has been all change. It has made me love Swanbourne even more. I love my walks, the smells, and my friends. We are so lucky.

What have I got to tell you?

Well, I have had a little holiday ☺ I spent 6 days with my 'Puppy Parents' and it was heaven. Pam and John are very special - I went to live with them when I was 8 weeks old. They taught me how to be a good dog, how to mind my manners and how to do some of the important jobs I now do for my Ma. I adore them. I recognised them straight away and also recognised the house and everything – I'm not sure my tail has ever wagged so hard. I didn't recognise Puppy Paula (the Canine Partner puppy recruit they are looking after now) but actually she was ok, and I think I love her (not in that way; she is a colleague...). We had a lot of fun together.

Ma went to stay with a favourite friend too and she had a lovely time but boy were we happy to be back together.

In the Village I have been to a Village Tea (hooray for village teas – please come; I'd love to see you and so would Ma, and everyone), to a village meeting or two (also fun and I always get biiiig love), to the Betsey (you already know my love for that place. Even just for water and dog biscuits), and to our Village Shop (have you tried JC's food? I haven't, but I have seen my humans devour it and am insanely jealous). As I said : We Are Lucky ☺ and I've helped Ma at hospital appointments, and been into Milton Keynes, and to London and all sorts of other things too. I've chosen a photo for you that is of me in a black cab.

I am watching Ma as always (she is sitting on the taxi seat) guarding her wheelchair next to me and the youngest sister is providing my headrest. Perfect. Let me know if there is anything I can help with, really. Swanbourne, you are special. Remember that please.



Until next time, Barry



xxx

Changes to the Highway Code from 29.1.2022:

How cyclists, drivers and pedestrians are affected: -

Rule H1 sets out explicitly the creation of a hierarchy where HGV drivers will be more liable than minibus drivers, which will be more liable than passenger car drivers, and so on. Pedestrians are the most vulnerable. Summary of key points: -

- 1. Drivers no longer have priority at junctions (must give way to pedestrians, cyclists, horseriders)**
- 2. All traffic must stop for pedestrians waiting to cross**
- 3. Cyclists can ride wherever they feel safest**
- 4. Drivers must wait for cyclists to pass, treat as if motor vehicle**
- 5. Mobile phone loopholes (games and filming) are closed**
- 6. Poor driving decisions are more punishable**
- 7. 'Dutch Reach' (using your hand furthest away from the door) is the recommended way to leave your car**

Source: - details at [Highway Code 2022 updates | Parkers](#)

Drop in for Coffee at the Chapel

These monthly coffee drop-ins at the Methodist Chapel in Nearton End have been a growing success and our next ones are on Wednesdays March 23rd, April 27th and May 25th. We enjoy coffee, biscuits and chat in an informal gathering and everyone is very welcome. *Frankie and Ken*

Karate Club

This club is run by Sensei Tom Finchett a 2nd Dan British Karate Association, with over 30 years of experience in Karate. Goju Ryu (Japanese for "Hard-soft style") is a style of karate, which uses a combination of hard and soft techniques, and particularly effective for close quarter fighting and self-defence.



Interested in getting fit, building confidence & self discipline and learning self-defence?

At Hagakure Karate we teach traditional Goju Ryu, practical karate.

Check out: www.hagakurekarate.co.uk

Classes 7.00pm till 9.00pm Mondays Old Stratford Community Centre (shared lifts available.)

For info, contact Tom Finchett on 07974 029961 or

hakagurekarate1@gmail.com



Swanbourne History Evening – Friday 11th March

Whether you are newly resident in Swanbourne or have lived here all your life, there is always something to learn from coming to one of our occasional Swanbourne History evenings. This time, members of the History group will be sharing information about the housing in the village, and how it has developed over the years, as well as something about some of their inhabitants.

During the period of lockdown, Linda Rodgers has worked hard in putting together information that she could find on all the houses, including who lived where, and will share some of this in the first part of the meeting.

Then we will have a closer look at one particular house, 11 Mursley Road known as 'The Cottage', which has been the home of 2 people who became admirals, WW2 fighter ace and 2 female WW2 code-breakers, as well as many other interesting people. Anyone who has enjoyed watching the BBC programmes of 'A House through Time' should find the account of the life of this particular house especially interesting.

There will be a small entrance fee of £3, which will go towards the expenses of the evening and of the maintenance of the Swanbourne History website (www.swanbournehistory.co.uk).



*The old post office
where Nimrod
Boughton (who died
in WW1) was born*

**Swanbourne History Evening on
housing will be held on Friday,
11th March, starting at
7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
Entry £3 paid on the door.**

*For more information about the Swanbourne History Group,
contact Ken Harris on 720454*

**Interested in understanding Swanbourne's history?
Instant access via your mobile device.**

Check out some of Swanbourne's history via these QR codes:-



Women's World Day of Prayer

This will be held on Friday March 4th in the Methodist Chapel at 7.30 p.m. This year the service has been prepared by women from the U.K. and it is as thoughtful and interactive as ever. We always have a good turn-out from different denominations and everyone is welcome to join us. The service will be followed by light refreshments. Do come whether you are an old hand or if you have never been before! *Frankie*

SWANBOURNE'S SPRING REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Food waste</i>	<i>Recycling Bin</i>	<i>Waste Bin</i>	<i>Garden waste</i>
<i>Tuesday Feb 22</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday March 01</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday March 08</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday March 15</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday March 22</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday March 29</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday April 05</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday April 12</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Wednesday April 20</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday April 26</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday May 03</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday May 10</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday May 17</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 29th March (8pm start at the Betsey) and the book we will be discussing is *The Mercies* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

'The Mercies is a story about how suspicion can twist its way through a community, and about a love that could prove as dangerous as it is powerful.'

'This is a powerful story that gathers ever more momentum as it moves towards its conclusion' — Sunday Times.

The book chosen for our meeting in May is *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy, date of meeting to be arranged.

Above books have been chosen by Deborah/Frankie.

If you have any suggestions for books for future meetings, please let me know. *Jane*

Email: jane.rowe101@btinternet.com

Wildlife watch – Newt or Lizard?

Can you tell the difference between a smooth newt and a common lizard? Both are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and both may be found in and around Swanbourne village and parish. Check out their main similarities and differences.



Newt

An amphibian, so it has to lay eggs in water which develop into tadpoles. The tadpoles lose their gills and develop lungs to enable them to come on to the land. They stay in or close to water (e.g., ponds) during the Spring and Summer.

Slow moving on land in Autumn/Winter, often hiding under rocks. Common in gardens, and can dig in soft soil. Shorter tail than a lizard, and unable to detach the tail.

Above: – Smooth newt recently photographed in the Editor's garden in Swanbourne.



Above right – old photo of a common lizard on a gravestone

Lizard

A reptile, so not dependant on water. Whereas reptiles normally lay eggs on dry land, the British common lizard is unusual, retaining the eggs inside the body (thereby appearing to give birth to live young).

They hibernate in Winter. Active in warm sunshine of the Spring/Summer, especially on stone and wood. In warm weather they like stone walls (previously seen around St, Swithuns, but current status uncertain). Can be fast moving in the Spring and Summer.

Able to detach its tail and grow a new one (e.g., when caught by the tail).

Identify your garden birds *(Based on an RSPB guide)*

