



# Swanbourne Village News

Newsletter No. 157 December 2021 – February 2022



*Christmas &  
New Year  
Edition*



Merry Christmas

We reach full moon this year on 19<sup>th</sup> December, and as some of us eagerly watch for Santa's sleigh in lunar profile, the story of the origin of our moon is fascinating.

Today, a range of scientific evidence strongly suggests that the Earth and Moon are a result of a giant impact between an early proto-Earth and an astronomical body about the size of Mars (referred to by scientists as Theia). The debris from this impact collected in an orbit around Earth to form the Moon.

During this massive collision, nearly all of Earth and Theia melted and reformed as one body, with a small part of the new mass spinning off to become the Moon as we know it.

Scientists have experimented with modelling the impact, and computer simulations show that the Moon (once formed) would originally have been closer to the earth and should gradually be moving further away from the Earth by about two and a half inches each year. Laser beams bounced off the earth are able to measure the distance from the earth to the moon by measuring the precise amount of time it takes to return. This has been done each year since the 1970s, and sure enough the moon is gradually moving further away from the earth by precisely two and a half inches every year!

*Clive*

**Fireworks at the Betsey** – Car parking donations at the Betsey for the firework display on 5<sup>th</sup> November proved highly successful. At one point the cars were queuing all the way back to the Mursley junction! The total amount raised was £1,636 for good causes within the village. Many thanks to all involved.

*Hugo*



### DIARY DATES

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> November – Christingle Service at St. Swithun’s start at 5pm (See P.4)  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> December - SCA Christmas meal, 12.30pm in the Village Hall (See P.16)  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> December – Methodist Chapel drop in for coffee (See P.8).  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> December – Carols and children’s nativity, the Chapel, 5pm  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> December – Village carol singing, 6.30pm from Brises (See P.13)  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December – Crib service at St. Swithun’s starting at 4pm  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service at St. Swithun, Swanbourne, 11am  
Mon 10<sup>th</sup> January - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> January – Book Club, 8pm at the Betsey Wynne Pub (See P. 13)  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> January – Parish Council Meeting, 7.00pm in the Village Hall  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> February - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall

### FUTURE DATES

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> March - SCA Lunch, 12.30pm for 1.00pm start in the Village Hall  
Mon 4<sup>th</sup> April - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> May - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> June- SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall  
Mon 4<sup>th</sup> July - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in the Village Hall

### Parish Council News

The new Parish Council have now had two meetings which have been great and which we have all enjoyed. It has been really good to have other people from the Village join us to contribute from their areas of expertise and interest – particular thanks to Tom Finchett, David Blunt and Ken Harris.

We have a few updates for you:

- **Improving the footpath around the cemetery**

Great news; The Estate is looking at options to make this footpath easier to use and more accessible, particularly where the steps lead on to Nearton End. This is likely to include a slope or ramp so that it is much easier for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

- **A wonderful gift of wildflowers for Swanbourne from Kings College**

Kings College have given us a wonderful gift of wildflowers - the flowers have been planted on the edge of the Millennium Wood picnic area. Huge

thanks to Ken Harris for securing this for us. We are looking forward to watching the flowers bloom next year – do send us your photos; it would be great to include them here.

- **The Nearton End drains are clear again – thank you Trudy!**

Thank you very much indeed to Trudy Timms who has armed herself with a bucket and rake and very kindly cleared the Nearton End drains.

- **Parking on Mursley Road – please keep the pavements clear and park on the road**

Parking on the road slows traffic, is safer and is considerate:

- i) Keeping pavements clear for walkers, pushchairs and wheelchairs makes access easier, and will keep us all safe
- ii) Parking on the road is likely to slow traffic down which will make Swanbourne safer and more quiet

Let's all encourage our guests and neighbours to do the same.

- **Notice of likely Parish Council Precept increase**

The precept is the Parish Council's share of Council Tax; the Parish Council uses this money for the direct benefit of our Village. How the money can be spent is defined by law, and how it is spent can be seen on the website [www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk).

The Parish Council will be requesting a modest increase (likely to be in region of 5%) for tax year 2022/23. This is largely due to rising inflation. That is all for this time. Please remember that we thrive on feedback (if you don't tell us we won't necessarily know) – do keep in touch

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

See you in 2022!

Jo Hill

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** - The united Christingle Service will be held at St. Swithun's Church at 5pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November to be followed by seasonal refreshments. A collection will be made to be divided between the Children's Society and Action for Children.

## 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 new Swanbourne Parish Council website: <https://www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk/councillors>

## Village Planning News

**21/04281/ATC | Magnolia Tree - reduce** because of excessive shading Holly Bush - **remove overgrown Holly Bush** with low amenity value at Orchard View, 6A, Smithfield End, Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire MK17 0SP - *Pending*.

**21/03802/AHR | Removal of 15m section of hedgerow** | Land off Winslow Road, Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire MK17 0SW for Anglian Water - *Refused, hedgerow retention notice issued*.

**21/03291/ATC | G1 - x3 Leylandii, over mature screening trees, remove to ground level** at 17, Winslow Road, Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire MK17 0SW - *Pending*.

**21/00614/APP | First floor rear extension** at 12, Ridgeway Cottages, Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire MK17 0SJ - *Refused*.

## 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.**

Hugo

## COMMUNITY Names, Website, Email & Telephone Contacts

**Swanbourne Village Hall** – Simone's booking number is currently not in use. Instead, please call **Hugo Gilbert** on 07754181522 with any booking

queries. We want to keep everybody safe so numbers may be restricted depending on the occasion. The hall will be cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis and hand sanitiser is provided.

The Village Hall Committee Chairman/Treasurer is Hugo Gilbert, email [hugogilbert@fir-tree.co.uk](mailto:hugogilbert@fir-tree.co.uk) and other Committee members are: Wilma Gilbert and Mo Gray.

### **Swanbourne Neighbourhood and Countryside Watch**

Email [swanwatch7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:swanbournemail@gmail.com)

**Swanbourne Community Association** – Tel. Frankie Fisher (Chair) on 720454. Website: -[www.swanbournecommunityassociation.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@swanbourneestate.co.uk)

**Swanbourne History Group** – Tel. Ken Harris (Chair) on 720454, email [ken.kelston1@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kelston1@gmail.com) History Website: - [www.swanbournehistory.co.uk](http://www.swanbournehistory.co.uk) History Webmaster is Clive Rodgers, email [Swanbourne13@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:swanbourne.store@gmail.com) but

over the Christmas and New Year period the Post Office is open weekday afternoons until 5.00pm.

**Betsey Wynne Pub** - [www.thebetseywynne.co.uk](http://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](mailto:clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com) Parish Council Website:  
[www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Play Out Swanbourne** - Ellie Markland Tel. 720454, Website: -  
[www.facebook.com/playoutswanbourne](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:3whealth.patientaccess@nhs.net)

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

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

**Winslow Community Bus** - Tel. 01296 715786. 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: -  
[Winslow and District Community Bus, Winslow, Buckingham \(winslowbus.com\)](http://Winslow and District Community Bus, Winslow, Buckingham (winslowbus.com))

**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](mailto:info@wedelivernews.com)

## Group Holidays

At a recent 'Tea in the Afternoon', Peter and Thelma from Newton Longville told us about the coach holidays that they arrange annually for people in the local area. In 2022, they have made a booking in The Auckland Hotel, Morecombe, Lancashire from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. This includes coach travel from Newton Longville to and from the hotel, 6 nights bed, breakfast and evening meals, with entertainment every night except Wednesday.

There are various day trips arranged for an additional charge. They have 2 twin rooms and 1 double room left.

Anyone who is interested and would like to know more can contact Peter and Thelma on 01908 645194.

*Ken Harris*

## Drop in for Coffee

The Methodist Chapel in Nearton End will be open for you to drop in for coffee, biscuits and chat on the morning of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30 a.m.

It is hoped to offer this as a monthly opportunity to meet up with other people, alongside the monthly SCA Tea in the Afternoon & Lunches. Everyone is welcome. *Frankie Fisher & Anne Parker*

## Doggy Diaries – Dec 2021-Feb 2022



Happy Everything Swanbourne!



Well, here we are again, and I am SO excited about Christmas and about the New Year celebrations, and about 2022 which I am quite sure is going to be better than the last two years (it has to be, right?). Ma and I have a lot of change coming up, and a huge amount to look forward to - lots of lovely people and lots of happy things. We hope that you have nice things ahead as well.

I have been as busier as ever, perhaps even busier. I have had some new experiences in London and have helped my Ma in some very tricky

situations – but together we did it and everything turned out ok. That was a good feeling, and everyone was very pleased with me.

One of the lucky things I have been up to is helping Father Christmas – at a top-secret location obviously (have a look at the photo (below) where I am posing with some of the presents ☺). I am a very good bag carrier and paper/sellotape fetcher.



Something else exciting is that I have a special new friend – Ronnie. He is teensy weensy and very fluffy, and he purrs like a train. To be honest I was a bit afraid of him at first but now I know that he is just very young and very curious and very, very friendly. You can see us having our first snuggle together in the photograph (*overleaf*).

I really hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and that 2022 begins in the most peaceful and happy way – for all of us. Please look after yourselves, and each other - as always.

I am sending you  
lots of love  
(and so is my Ma).

Barry 

*Photo (right) is  
of Barry with  
Ronnie.*



### **Housing history in Swanbourne Parish**

Housing history is my ongoing research topic, and I've been surprised to find a high number of houses in Swanbourne Parish which have been demolished or dismantled and not replaced. In the past at least thirty houses have been demolished, mostly in Victorian times, and only two of these have been replaced on the same site. We know how some of these looked from Victorian paintings, examples of which are shown on the Swanbourne History website: - [www.swanbournehistory.co.uk](http://www.swanbournehistory.co.uk)

It's also interesting to see the ownership of residential houses within Swanbourne Parish (based on information in the public domain). At latest count, 99 appear to be owned by Swanbourne Estate, 90 are privately owned (mainly owner occupied) and 13 are owned by the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Association giving us a total of 202 houses at the present time.

*Linda Rodgers*

## Walks from Swanbourne to Mursley and back via the fishing lakes

Some of you will be familiar with this walk, but if not, this is well worth doing in the winter when stretches of water can be glistening.

The footpaths named here are the ones which can be easily identified by their letter/number code marked on the definitive footpath map published by Buckinghamshire Council which was issued to all households with the Newsletter at the end of the 2020 lockdown period. I have a small number of spares if residents are new to the village and didn't receive one the first time round; please email [www.Swanbourne13@gmail.com](mailto:www.Swanbourne13@gmail.com)

If you are starting from Smithfield End, you can begin at the public footpath next to the C. of E. School in Station Road which is SWA/11/1 taking you to the wood behind the Betsey Wynne pub. However, if you are starting from the other end of the village, you can enter the wood via the Swanbourne Estate permissive path which crosses the field behind the Betsey to the wood. Following the same path towards the North East through the other side of the wood (and into fields) reaching the two fishing lakes on the right, and you are now in Mursley Parish where a continuation of the same path is MUR/10/1. Just past the lakes and Church Hill Farm you meet a crossing footpath. Either turn left (option 1) or go straight over (option 2).

**OPTION 1** - If you prefer a shorter walk turn left along MUR/11/1 (which turns into SWA/14/2 as you cross back into Swanbourne Parish) ending at Station Road almost opposite Dodley Hill Farm, then you can turn left and back into Swanbourne.

**OPTION 2** - If you prefer a longer walk, go straight over on to footpath MUR/12/1 and on reaching Mursley, cross the road and pick up the footpath on the other side labelled MUR/2/3, and this changes to MUR/3/2 as you walk down towards the bridleway track at the bottom of the hill. At the bridleway track turn along to the left a short distance you can see Salden House Farm which is the remnant of a brick-built Tutor mansion owned by Sir John Fortescue (who was second cousin and adviser to Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> as well as Chancellor of the Exchequer). Despite being a remnant, it still looks good. This is at the top right edge of the definitive map. Then double back down the bridleway southwards to see the fishing club lake (once the mansion fish pond - breeding fish to be eaten at the mansion). Continue along the bridleway which turns into Cooks Lane, coming out in Mursley where you turn right then cross the road to go down Church Lane. The church itself contains spectacular monuments to the Fortescue family. Continue down Church Lane and as you approach woodland the last house on the right previously belonged to the actor David Tomlinson (of Mary Poppins and Love Bug films). Cross the stream and you see the two lakes to the left where you turn left to re-join MUR/10/1. The lakes are now on your left and you return to the Betsey via SWA/11/1.

Happy walking!

*Clive Rodgers*

*Fortescue  
mansion  
remnant*



11



*David  
Tomlinson*

## Electric car charging

The government recently announced that new homes and buildings in England will be required by law to install electric vehicle charging points from next year.

This move will see up to 145,000 charging points installed across the country each year. New-build supermarkets, workplaces and buildings undergoing major renovations will also come under the new law.

The move comes as the UK aims to switch to electric cars, with new petrol and diesel cars sales banned from 2030.

This is undoubtedly an important time. If we are serious about holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees and adapting to the impacts of climate change, we must change the way we live, look after our land and seas and how we grow our food.

We cannot go on as we are. In order to save the planet from extreme global warming, we need to adapt our way of life.



*Photo above – an electric car charger in the Betsey car park*

The time to act is now. However, we live in Swanbourne, and at the moment the editors are only aware of two fast car chargers available to the public (which are in the Betsey Wynne car park), the same as three years ago.

So where could more charging points go? Some suggestions: -

- Add more charging points at the Betsey.
- Add two points at the shop car park.
- Add some charging points in allocated parking areas to help residents who rent from Swanbourne Estate to go electric.

## Village Carol Singing

The traditional village carol-singing on the tractor and trailer will take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, weather and Covid permitting.

We are arranging it a little differently this year, starting in Nearton End at Brises Farm at 6.30 p.m. From there, we plan to stop at various points as we travel around the village, going via Tattams Lane, stopping at Ridgway Cottages and Breakfast Field, then along the Mursley Road, Winslow Road and Smithfield End before ending up at Charlton Close for refreshments.

We will be collecting for the **Florence Nightingale Hospice** and need collectors as well as singers of all ages.

If you are hoping to join with us, it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance by emailing Ken Harris on [ken.kelston1@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kelston1@gmail.com) or by phoning him on (01296) 720454 or 07731 867697.



*Photo (left),  
carol singing  
two years ago*

## SWANBOURNE'S WINTER REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Food waste</i>	<i>Recycling Bin</i>	<i>Waste Bin</i>	<i>Garden waste</i>
<i>Tuesday Nov 30</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Dec 07</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Dec 14</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Dec 21</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	No Collection
<i>Thursday Dec 30</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Friday Jan 07</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	No Collection
<i>Thursday Jan 13</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Wednesday Jan 19</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Jan 25</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Feb 01</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>
<i>Tuesday Feb 08</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Feb 15</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>
<i>Tuesday Feb 22</i>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection	<b>COLLECTION</b>	No Collection

### BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be on 18th January and the book we will be discussing is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Chosen by Frankie.

'Nora's life has been going from bad to worse. Then at the stroke of midnight on her last day on earth she finds herself transported to a library. There she is given the chance to undo her regrets and try out each of the other lives she might have lived. Which raises the ultimate question: with infinite choices, what is the best way to live?'

A Sunday Times No 1 best seller, Goodreads choice 2020 winner.

This is the last of our suggested books, so can everyone have a think for books for upcoming meetings, any suggestions let me know.

Email: [jane.rowe101@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.rowe101@btinternet.com) *Jane Rowe*

## Wildlife watch

**Hedgehogs** - The warm weather this Autumn means that many hedgehogs have been late entering hibernation. This poor squashed hedgehog close to the church entrance certainly looks as though it was flattened by a car.



*This squashed hedgehog photo was taken on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November near the church.*

Hedgehogs love long grass full of insects to feast on once the sun has set. Hedgehogs hibernate over winter from around November to April, usually choosing to nest in piles of leaves or logs.



*There are still healthy hedgehogs in Swanbourne (left) but we need to protect them.*

**Red Kites** – The local population continues to increase.

On Sunday afternoon, 21<sup>st</sup> November, a flock of approx. 30-40 kites circled over Station Road, Charlton close and Smithfield End. Unusual to see so many at the same time.

*Photograph (right) is of a red kite in Station Road. A flock of 30-40 red kites circled overhead for 2-3 hours on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November.*



# Swanbourne Community Association

## Christmas Dinner



The Community Christmas Dinner will be on Monday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12-30pm for 1-00 pm in the Village Hall. We shall serve turkey and all the trimmings or we can also offer a vegetarian alternative, followed by Christmas pudding or an alternative dessert.

There will be a Christmas cordial to drink but do bring your own wine, etc. if you wish. Tickets are £7 to be paid on the door, but please call Frankie on (01296) 720454 or email [frankie.kelston@gmail.com](mailto:frankie.kelston@gmail.com) by Friday 3rd to book your place.

We shall also hold a free raffle, so bring a small prize gift if you can. This will be a friendly, fun celebration and all are very welcome.

*Covid safety - We intend to space out a bit and have some open windows/doors for a through draught.*

Frankie Fisher

