



Swanbourne Village News

Newsletter No. 154 March 2021 – May 2021

*Swanbourne Post Office and Stores
will re-open on Monday, 22nd
March, 2021.*

**We warmly welcome back to
Swanbourne Jean-Claude and
Julie Blanc who will be our new
proprietors of SWANBOURNE POST
OFFICE AND STORES
from 22nd March 2021**



“Julie and I lived in Swanbourne 22 years ago, with our now grown-up children, and we are delighted to be returning to the village to re-open the Village Post Office & Store.

After fifteen years in France, we feel like we are coming home.

We hope the Store will continue to be the hub of the Community our aim is to provide good locally sourced produce, quality wines and beers, and the usual convenience store fare.

Opening hours have been extended for a trial period (see below) and we have plenty of ideas on how to improve your Village Store.

Any feedback you may have, and preferred stock item ideas, are also very welcome.

*We will be opening on **Monday 22nd March** and look forward to welcoming old faces and new”.*

Jean-Claude & Julie Blanc
swanbourne.store@gmail.com



Swanbourne Store hours: - Mon. to Fri. 0800-1900, Sat. 0900-12.30
Swanbourne Post Office: - Sat. 0900-1300, Mon. to Fri. 0900-1700

DIARY DATES

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the usual Springtime, social and SCA events still seem unlikely to happen. Plans to ease the lockdown during the Spring have just been announced, and any events which do become possible will need to be notified via the village email system.



Local Elections on 6th May 2021 Explained

by Clive Rodgers, PC Chair and Newsletter Co-editor

Election procedures - These elections were cancelled last year, so will they still take place? Earlier this year, the local elections for England, scheduled for May, were under review amid uncertainty about lockdown restrictions. But Cabinet Office minister Chloe Smith has confirmed they will go ahead. While a late change of mind isn't impossible, the government is giving councils an extra £31m for plastic screens in polling stations and hand sanitiser in an effort to make the polls Covid-safe. People who are shielding will be encouraged to vote by post.

As well as being asked to bring your own pen or pencil to mark your ballots, those voting in a polling station must wear a mask.

Candidates are also being asked not to give voters a lift to polling stations in their cars - a common practice at election time.

However, anyone preferring a postal vote can call Buckinghamshire Council Electoral Services, their direct line is 01296-585701, and they will post a postal vote application form to you.

Buckinghamshire Council Elections - AVDC and BCC merged on 31st March, 2020 but as last year's election was cancelled the old councillors continued to look after public interests. However, new Unitary County Councillors will need to be elected at the local elections on 6th May.

Do we know anything about the candidates?

Janet Blake resigned a year ago and has now retired from local council politics. At the moment we know two Councillors representing our Ward area (running from Great Brickhill to Quainton) inherited from before reorganisation. As well as being MP for Milton Keynes North, Ben Everitt (Conservative) is also a County Councillor for this area since Janet's departure. Ben is being replaced by Iain MacPherson as the candidate in May, and he is helping with his current workload.

Iain was a guest at the January Parish Council meeting and is helpful, liaising with the police on our behalf to try to get the mobile speed camera van to stop in Swanbourne.

Secondly, there is Councillor Scott Raven (Lib. Dem.) who attended our PC meeting last September. Scott lives in North Marston and has also been helpful in recommending some reliable local contractors.

Parish Council - There will only be a ballot if there are more than 7 candidates in which case ballot papers will need to be printed for use on 6th May. Members of the public interested in standing should reside or work in the village and be UK citizens.

There is a simple nomination form and any adult resident can nominate a candidate. Electronic copies of blank forms may be accessed by downloading from the Electoral Commission's website. Once completed, candidates should hand them in to reception at the Gateway Council offices on the Aylesbury ring road between 22nd March and 8th April.

What if an existing Councillor doesn't stand for re-election? - Then they come off the Parish Council with no need to resign.

There are advantages in maintaining a throughflow of fresh faces, ideas and enthusiasm which can strengthen a Parish Council. If you feel you have something to offer the village either now or for the future, you can find out what it's like to be a Parish Councillor by talking to an existing councillor or the Parish Clerk. Under current Covid 19 restrictions that will probably mean a telephone conversation.

Should Parish Councillors choose a political affiliation? - Not needed at this level but can be done if preferred. At the last PC election, all entered 'Independent' or nothing.

Notice of Election - The Notice of Election is likely to be published on 22nd March 2021. The period for nominations will then commence, the nomination deadline is likely to be at 4pm on 8th April 2021. Following the deadline, a complete statement of persons nominated will be available to the public.

Timings - Hours of poll will be 7am - 10pm.

Poll booth location - likely to be Swanbourne Village Hall.

Costs charged to the Parish Council - Based on the estimates from last year's cancelled election, it is likely to cost the Parish Council about £116. If ballot papers need to be printed, the cost increases to about £1,000.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting is planned for 7th April, to be held remotely using the Zoom platform (details from Vanda). A PC meeting is also planned for the AGM on 12th May. A Parish Assembly is planned probably via Zoom on 19th May. At the time of writing all are likely to be remote meetings starting at 7.30pm.

New Walk Footpath

The waterlogged conditions over the winter have caused a further deterioration of the tarmac and base pebble layer which is starting to break up in some areas. The Parish Council are currently obtaining quotes to cost repairs/replacement to the tarmac surface. Full replacement would be expensive, but will need to be considered as an option because this is a key pathway connecting Nearton End to the rest of the village.

Village Planning News

21/00359/AOP - Outline planning for a new farmhouse on land between Buxlow Farm and Christmas Gorse (Applicant: Mr Little) – *Pending*

21/00614/APP - 12 Ridgeway Cottages, erection of a rear extension – *Pending*

Swanbourne's Conservation Area

Questions have recently arisen in the village about the location of the Conservation Area. Swanbourne has two Conservation Areas, designated in 1989 to help preserve the historic character of Swanbourne. Within those areas, planning regulations are tighter and planning permission is required to bring down a mature tree. There is insufficient space to include a map in this edition but one will be on display in the PC noticeboard near the shop. The main areas outside of the Conservation Areas are: - the Betsey and a couple of houses opposite, Breakfast Field, 31 and 33 Mursley Road, Tattams Lane, Ridgeway Cottages and Old Drovers View.

Medical Prescription Deliveries from Winslow Dispensary

Due to the merger between Winslow, Whitchurch and Wing surgeries, the EMIS online system for requesting repeat prescriptions no longer works. It will be necessary to register with the new system and at the time of writing most patients will have been contacted concerning this process. If there are any queries you may email: - 3whealth.patientaccess@nhs.net
If you are still waiting for the new system to be set up 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 the over 60s in Swanbourne (except for patients who collect from Lloyds Pharmacy) which is not available if registered at Whitchurch.

ACTIVITIES HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL

These are largely suspended due to Covid 19 but the general pattern (when things return back to normal) is as follows: -

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 (following Covid 19 rules) 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: - Administrators: 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, email ken.kelston1@gmail.com Website:- www.swanbournehistory.co.uk

The Shop and Post Office – Jean-Claude and Julie Blanc are new proprietors and they will open on Monday 22nd March. swanbourne.store@gmail.com

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

Swanbourne Parish Council – Parish Clerk (Vanda Bennett) Tel. 728392. Website: www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Playing Fields – Vanda Bennett Tel. 728392.

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

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. **Please note that this service was suspended due to Covid 19 and at the time of writing is still inoperative.**

Playing Field – At the time of writing **the tennis court is CLOSED** during the lockdown. Government guidance indicates a possible reopening on 29th March, depending on progress. Social distancing and sanitiser are still required for all visits to the playground.

Pot holes can appear suddenly but they can be reported by anyone on the Fix My Street website. If they are deep enough Buckinghamshire Council should arrange repair. A photograph of the pothole is advantageous. [FixMyStreet \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](http://FixMyStreet(buckscc.gov.uk))

Doggy Diaries – March-May 2021

Hello Swanbourne! Springtime at last ☺. I have never, ever been so pleased to sniff around and find snowdrops - January lasted for EVER!

I am hoping that soon it won't be quite as wet and muddy; I'm not a great one for getting my feet wet, don't much like having mud wiped from my paws, and really am not a fan of the big-towel-coat-thing I have to wear when I come home filthy after a walk. Ma thinks the big-towel-coat-thing is marvellous; it stops me spreading mud through the house apparently. Personally, I do not find it at all dignified and can't see the problem with spreading a bit of mud around. It is

exciting to get into the car every now and then, but very tedious only to get out again back at home every time. I'm getting used to it so I don't stand up and wag every time the car stops (in the olden days Ma and I would get out and go places), but it will be good when we can get out and do things again – aren't we all feeling like that? Ma says that when we are allowed to go out, we will take it gently so I can get used to all the extra distractions again and not get sensory overload – I am sure she is right, but I am longing to get out there and work!

I've been working at home of course and am learning new things to keep me busy. I'm very proud that I can now take my jacket off and put it away all on one command. I even persevere when my coat gets stuck over my head and on my ears 😊. I am practising picking up all sorts of different items from tricky places too – fetching things Ma can't reach from down the side of the bed, or behind the sofa is fun! Ma's water bottle is a difficult shape (and I'm not keen on carrying stainless steel in my mouth) but I can get it every time now, and I'm getting really good at finding little awkward things like hair ties and those little twisty-things-that-hold-bags-shut then giving them back to Ma straight away.

I hope that you are finding lots of things to keep you happy and busy too and I bet you are looking forward to the longer warmer days.... not long now. I can't wait until we are all out and about again and can see each other properly. In the meantime, keep wagging – in your best possible human way ;) - and look after yourselves.

Sending love for now,

Barry xx



Swanbourne History Group

Swanbourne History Walks

It has been over a year since we have been able to hold any meetings of the Swanbourne History group, but I am hoping that we can begin to hold some history walks again once the warmer weather arrives. Previously we have tried to do a full tour of the village in an evening, but in practice, we have run out of time. So, in future, we plan to divide evening walks into two parts, one including Smithfield and the other including Nearton End, with a minimum of overlap between the two.

It may be necessary to continue keeping a 2 metre distance from each other, so rather than advertise a date I will ask anyone who is interested in joining a walk to get in touch with me, by email: ken.kelston1@gmail.com or telephone (01296) 720454, and I will arrange suitable times during the day or evening, when we can have small groups with either Clive Rodgers (Smithfield End walk) or myself (Nearton End walk) leading.

Those who are new to the village will be surprised at just how much history there is, nationally and internationally as well as locally, in a small village with a population of around 500 people. Please do come and find out.

Ken Harris

NEWSPAPER & 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

STREETLIGHTS - If you notice any streetlights not working, please could you email me: - clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com rather than contact Buckinghamshire Council. It is the Parish Council who are responsible for the maintenance of streetlights in the village. Please indicate the precise location and, ideally, the number stencilled onto the streetlight and it will assist in organising the repair. *Vanda*

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 Mar 02</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday Mar 09</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Mar 16</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday Mar 23</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Mar 30</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday Apr 06</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	No Collection	No Collection
<i>Wednesday Apr 07</i>	No Collection	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Apr 13</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday Apr 20</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday Apr 27</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Wednesday May 05</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
<i>Tuesday May 11</i>	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
<i>Tuesday May 18</i>	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection

Note the unusual collection pattern on 6th and 7th April, after Easter weekend.

Introduction to article below: The editors invited a short public information item for the Newsletter relating to Swanbourne Cemetery and burial procedures:

The Story of our Cemetery *by David Blunt*

How did Swanbourne come to have a church cemetery away from the church? How did it come to be placed where it is? How did it come to be extended? Who can be buried there? And who looks after it? First, some history....

From earliest times burials were in the 'churchyard' surrounding the church, and we know from the records that just between 1600 and 1900 when the churchyard was closed to further burials there were over two and a half thousand.

So, from the six centuries that passed from the building of the present church in stone in the 13th Century, probably replacing an earlier wooden structure and quite possibly the local burial site before that, and so in all probability a number of centuries in addition to those six, it's anyone's guess how many of our forebears lie buried there. Five thousand? Six thousand? More?

And how, one might ask, could such a number possibly be fitted in? The answer? Over-burying: the churchyard was repeatedly over-buried, time and again – with the slightly macabre consequence that in common with many churchyards the ground level inside our churchyard rose, as may be seen, to

become higher than adjacent land, especially on the always favoured southern side. This practice of over-burying might well have continued ad infinitum were it not for the growing prevalence of stone memorials shrinking the area left available and a growing distaste, no doubt, for having in consequence to disturb not-so-old previous interments – plus the goodwill of the Fremantle family: at the 1887 vestry meeting the request was made to Lord Cottesloe (the family had twenty years previously funded a complete renovation and reordering of the church, and had built the new vicarage next door) *‘to set apart a small piece of land for a cemetery, so that we may bury our dead decently’* – and thus the site of the new Cemetery, *‘two roods or thereabouts’*, was gifted by Lord Cottesloe to the village church, cleared, laid out, consecrated on the 15th April 1890, and came into use.

Almost exactly one hundred years later this new Cemetery, despite being larger than the churchyard but of course with no over-burying, was running out of space – and the Fremantle family generously gave the village church further land from the Park to form the present extension, which was then cleared, hedged and ditched, and consecrated by the Bishop of Buckingham on 5th February 1999.

This, together with the ‘original’ part of the Cemetery, is a precious gift indeed; it enables any resident (or ex-resident still with a close connection with the village), of any faith or none and with no need to reserve a space, to be buried, or their ashes interred, in this rural setting in their home village rather than in some distant municipal facility.

Arrangements for burials or for interment of ashes, and for the provision of memorial stones, are usually made through the undertakers. They and their masons should be familiar with the regulations and process and fees to be followed under Church of England law, but please always first have a word with the person responsible for the Cemetery (David Blunt, 01296 720397 and david.blunt@hart-house.net).

Guidance on the process and fees (currently around two £250 for interment of ashes and permission for a memorial tablet, £500 for burial and permission for a headstone, separate from undertakers’ charges), is available from David and displayed on the church porch noticeboard.

With the Cemetery’s proliferation of head stones, curb stones, banks and hedges and trees, and its size (proportionate to the size of our village it really is big) maintaining it is not straightforward, and we are fortunate to have Eleanor Sherwood’s help. The village church, whose responsibility it is, takes pride in ensuring that it is well cared for, for the enjoyment of all, and the

Parish Council, representing the village, has for the past twenty years, since the new land was given, made a donation each year towards the village church's costs of Cemetery mowing upkeep. This Parish Council donation is greatly appreciated both financially and, equally, as recognition on behalf of the village of the public benefit provided to the village by the Cemetery being maintained as an attractive space and a well-cared for resting place for village antecedents, residents and their loved ones. *David Blunt, churchwarden.*

Swanbourne Estate Country Flowers and Veg.



So the story continues!

Following on from last year, Swanbourne Estate Country Flowers and Veg would like to thank all those who supported us. We have been overwhelmed by messages of thanks from those who have enjoyed our fresh vegetables, flowers, honey, apple juice and gin.

So onto this year! We already have seedlings appearing in the potting shed with sweet peas, cosmos and a variety of wild flowers amongst them. The veg are growing well and we hope to be able to start supplying seasonal veg again by the end of March/April.

A lot happens during the winter months in the garden with pruning of fruit trees to ensure a good harvest, so we can make more juice. A general tidy up and cut back in the garden and planting of more veg and flower seeds.

We will be posting on Swanbourne Village Community page again when we are fully up and running. Don't forget we are still delivering apple juice, apple and pear juice, honey, gin and any seasonal veg we have available at the time.

Linda and Nick Sirett

Email: linda.sirett27@gmail.com

Why is Swanbourne so very waterlogged and muddy?

As we have taken our daily exercise over the last winter, nobody could miss the extent of waterlogging and muddy conditions around the village and the amount of free-flowing water going down certain roads and paths. Yet Swanbourne is on a hill which is approximately 425 feet above sea level, so why doesn't gravity take the water straight down into local streams?

Information from the geological map – As a geologist, my obvious first point of reference is a geological map. According to the British Geological Survey map, the Swanbourne hill top is made of superficial boulder clay deposited by glaciers 450,000 years ago in the Ice Age, but contained inside the clay there are deposits of pebbles, gravel and sand where meltwater streams used to flow. At greater depth there are much older impermeable Jurassic clays. The meltwater gravels are crucial because surrounded by impervious clays, they soak up water like a sponge and store it in the spaces between the pebbles. They are called aquifers and when they cause the water table to be higher up than expected are ‘perched’ aquifers.

Station Road – A flowing stream of water coming up through the tarmac at the edge of the road next to the junction with the school goes back many years. Over the last 10 years both Anglian Water and BCC have been called out repeatedly to investigate. Anglian Water analysed the water – it’s pure so they think it’s a natural spring and not caused by them. BCC could have piped it but they but didn’t - they blame Anglian Water as their pipes are nearby. The water froze over in February giving an ‘ice rink’ effect (see photo, right). A meltwater gravel deposit sits on the hill near to the school, underlain by boulder clay, the boundary doesn’t match precisely but it’s likely to be connected. Water cannot go down because clay is impermeable so where the gravel ends water has to come out.

Smithfield End – A flowing stream of water emerges from the bottom of the road bank on the north side of the road close to the junction with Station Road. Analysed by Anglian Water, again it’s pure.

A meltwater gravel deposit starts at the exact location of the spring, so is almost certainly wholly responsible for it. Current flow is lower than in the past probably due to recent trenching to lay cables down the road making some ground water flow into the buried trench and reducing the pressure. A place with hill top springs where only shallow wells are needed for pure water is a good site to settle.

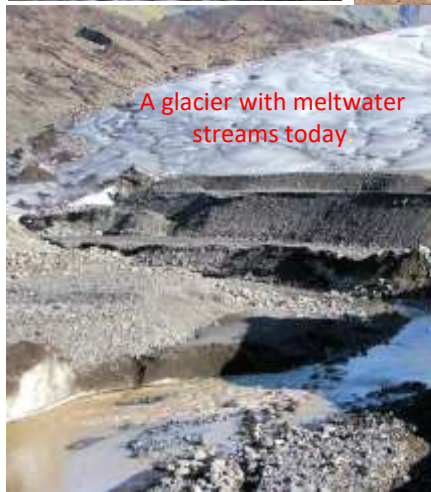
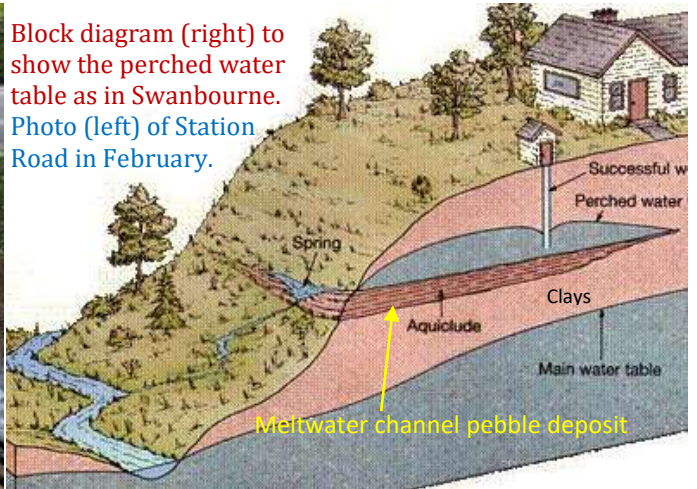
Nearton End – The eastern end of the road leading to the bridleway (near Owl Barn) has intermittent flowing water as well as large pools of standing water going down the bridleway with the stream/ditch full of flowing water.

At the bottom of New Walk there is a small old pebble/sand quarry (where Toby Terry used to keep turkeys). The map shows the gravel geology coinciding with the Nearton End road down to the bridleway. Included are most houses and gardens on the south side. As you enter the bridleway the deposit ends, and as it can’t drain down the water has to come out. *Clive*

Swanbourne's ground and spring water



Block diagram (right) to show the perched water table as in Swanbourne. Photo (left) of Station Road in February.



Pebble and sand deposits (photo) from the Anglian glacial event 450,000 years ago cause Swanbourne's perched water tables.

Large numbers of disused wells are all around the village and old water pumps may be spotted. Areas of impermeable clay which are fairly flat (e.g., part of Millennium Wood) make muddy pools in winter which are very slow to dry out.

300-year-old buried well discovered at Deverells

Animals common in Swanbourne – are there any health issues to consider?



Red Kites - often seen soaring above Swanbourne, are a majestic bird which are great to photograph. While it is legal to feed the kites the RSPB and Chilterns AONB do not advise leaving out lots of raw meat containing fine bones. Dropped pieces can be a bone hazard to pet dogs and excesses of raw meat can encourage rats.



Chickens – following outbreaks of avian influenza in both wild and captive birds, new measures came into effect from 14th December 2020. Keepers of poultry are required to keep birds indoors and follow strict measures to limit the spread of disease e.g., by not letting chickens freely roam out. Worryingly, the virus recently crossed from birds to humans in Russia.



Dogs – Toxocariasis causes partial blindness in around 100 children a year in the UK. Carried by small threadlike worms in the dog's intestine, it follows that the disease is spread in dog mess which is why every dog owner should take care to clear up after their own dogs as hygienically as possible. Regularly worming is also advised.