

Swanbourne Village News

Newsletter No. 165 December 2023 – February 2024

WINTER EDITIO

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Doggy Diaries December 23 – February 24



Well Hello Swanbourne

Can you believe it is that time again?!



I don't actually understand time. Well, not other than when it is 4.30 pm, precisely, when I am far more aware of time than anyone else, and especially more than my Ma who is Mistress of Food Distribution. To me it is obvious when it is 4.30pm, but the number of occasions when I have to remind her (I have some very clear communication techniques) is quite extraordinary. 4.30pm, precisely, every single day. You would think she had got that nailed by now wouldn't you?

Anyway, beyond that, I don't really get time. All of the time is love time, all of the time is wag time and given that all my worktime is playtime, all of the time is sleep-play-play-sleep time.

I do know when special people are about to arrive though, I always know about that. And I let my Ma know when her alarm goes off (that has to do with time, right?), and I know when it is chilly and I think it is time for a fire (I take the matches to Ma), and I take Ma's bag upstairs when it is time for bed, and when I am waiting for my food after it has been put down for me (I always wait for permission to eat; canine manners) my mouth tells me that time passes v-e-r-y s-I-o-w-I-y. So perhaps I do know something about time after all.

And now it is THAT time of year again and then after that time we will move onto the next time, and 2024.

To me, I like all time to be the dog-waggy way – keeping everything simple and full of love and waggy things (oh, and food at 4.30pm, precisely).

I wish you all a wonderful waggy Christmas, and a 2024 that is full of love and happy playful times.

Until next year - please look after yourselves and each other, as always

Lots of love, Barry





ESSENTIAL DATES

Tues 28th November - Book Club, 8.00pm at the Betsey (See P9) Wed 29th November – Parish Council meeting; 7.00pm in Village Hall (See P6) Sun 3rd December – Christingle Family Service; 5pm at the Chapel (See P7) Mon 4th December – SCA Christmas Lunch: 12.30pm for 1.00pm (See P7) Sat 9th December - Christmas Fair; 11am in the Village Hall (See P19) Sat 9th December - Carol Singing; 6.30pm at Brises Farm (See P6) Sun 10th December - Annual Carol Service 6pm at St. Swithun's (See P 8) Sat 16th December - Film Night in Village Hall; Nativity! 7 p.m. (See P7) Sun 17th December – Carols and Nativity; 5pm at the Chapel (See P7) Wed 20th December - Drop in for coffee at the Chapel, 10.30am (See P6) Sun 24th December – Crib Service; 5pm at the Chapel (See P7) Mon 25th December - Family Christmas Service at 11am (See P8) Mon 8th January - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in Village Hall (See P7) Wed 10th January - Parish Council meeting; 7.00pm in Village Hall (See P6) Wed 24th January - Drop in for coffee at the Chapel, 10.30am (See P6) Mon 5th February - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in Village Hall (See P7) Wed 21st February - Drop in for coffee at the Chapel, 10.30am (See P7) Wed 21st February - Moonlight Endeavour; 7pm at the Shoot Room (See P20) Mon 4th March - SCA Afternoon Tea 2.30pm in Village Hall (See P7) Wed 20th March - Drop in for coffee at the Chapel, 10.30am (See P7) Wed 20th March - Parish Council meeting; 7.00pm in Village Hall (See P6) I Wed 8th May - Parish Council meeting (AGM); 7.00pm in Village Hall (See P6) Wed 22nd May - Parish Assembly; 7.00pm in Village Hall (See P6)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2023

#makeachange

We would like your help - hearing fresh perspectives and adding to our mix of life-experience, interests and skills is really important and helps us thrive. We would love you to join us and to help in any way you feel able and would like to – from litter picking, to traffic calming (see below), to reporting broken streetlamps, to helping out in other ways, to making suggestions, to specific expertise (perhaps we don't even know what we are missing!) – please do get in touch with our clerk, Jo Tudor - <u>clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com</u> - in the first instance. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

You can also be in touch via the website or just write to tell us anything you'd like us to know via <u>clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com</u> (or drop a note in to the Village Shop addressed to us).

Council Vacancy

We are hoping to appoint two new councillors to join the Parish Council at the next meeting on 29th November – complete information about this this will be posted on our website following the meeting.

• Speeding

There seems to be more traffic than ever travelling through our village and speeding remains a significant and frightening issue.

>>> Speedwatch

Speeding is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but as fellow villagers we know it is a serious collective concern.

Many villagers have said they would be willing to do whatever they can to help calm the traffic.

The Speedwatch Scheme is a possible route that has been successful in other areas like ours.

If you are interested in setting up a group and running the scheme in Swanbourne, would like to be involved or would simply like to know more please do act on it. We all need you!

For more information visit https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news/sign-up-to-community-speedwatch/

Email <u>mikeking@swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk</u> if you would like to express your interest.

What else can we ALL do to make a difference?

There are simple everyday things we can do to help:

- Drive with particular care and attention ourselves (and abide by the speed limits)
- Park on the roadside rather than up on curbs or verges (this has been shown to slow traffic speed)
- Keep verges tidy and trim, and lines of sight clear
- Allow extra time for the start/end of our journeys during school drop-off and pick-up times
- 'Twenty Is Plenty' stickers

These can be purchased from various online or local providers and applied to waste bins. We gather anecdotally that the stickers can be an effective reminder to drivers to slow down and take care.

Our roads are particularly busy at either end of the school day and parking is still problem. This is highly frustrating for everyone involved, and we all want it to be different. It is also simply a reality at the moment. Please take particular care and be patient.

Speeding will be discussed at the PC meeting on 29th November

• Autumn leaves and clearing up after your dog

We will have all trodden on what we thought were leaves to discover there was dog poo hidden underneath. It is not nice for anyone and for those villagers with wheels (e.g. buggies, scooters, wheelchairs), sticks or other walking aids it is even more unpleasant.

Please clear up after your dog even if it is not immediately visible, and if you are able, please also keep the pavement or path areas outside your homes leaf free.

• Broken Streetlights

Please report these, and anything else you see that requires attention to our clerk in the first instance <u>clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com</u>

You can also still report matters that need fixing (e.g., potholes, fly tipping, damaged pathways) to fixmystreet.com All you need is the postcode or street name and area.

• Donation towards upkeep of Swanbourne Cemetery

As a Parish Council we continue to be committed to the care and appearance of our village. To this end we will be donating £1,200 to the Parochial Church Council towards the mowing and upkeep of Swanbourne Cemetery.

• Active Defibrillator – located outside the Betsey Wynne

Reminder: Swanbourne's working defibrillator is outside the Betsey Wynne

The older device that was previously located outside the Village Hall is out of order and temporarily decommissioned

Please make sure that all your neighbours are aware of this

When it is back in action the second defibrillator will be located outside the school to ensure geographical cover for the whole village. We will keep you posted.

Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Mike King, Chair of Swanbourne Parish Council, was honoured to represent the village in laying a wreath at the Memorial Cross on Remembrance Sunday. Nick Holloway, Head of Swanbourne School also laid a wreath.

• Next meetings

Wednesday 29 th November	Wednesday 8 th May (AGM)
Wednesday 10 th January	Wednesday 22 nd May (Parish Assembly)
Wednesday 20 th March	

All meetings begin promptly at 1900, and aim to finish by 2100.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year

Swanbourne Parish Council

Jo Bowen-Hill

SWANBOURNE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Carol-singing round the village on Saturday 9th December

If you have never joined us in this traditional Christmas activity, please think about it for this year!

We travel round the village on a tractor and trailer, driven again by Toby Terry, so it involves little walking. We make a series of stops to sing and our collectors go round door-knocking to raise funds charity, which this year is the Florence Nightingale Hospice. Please listen out for us and be ready to make a donation. Last year we raised a record £369 for Milton Keynes Food Bank, so we want to do even better!

We meet in Nearton End at Brises Farm by 6.30 pm but you can join us later if necessary. Singers of all ages and collectors are both needed. Father Christmas will be there too, to wave to the little ones, so if you have young children, please listen out for us.

To let us know you are coming or for more details, phone Frankie Fisher on 720454 or Anne Parker on 07709222792

S.C.A. Community Christmas Lunch

If you have not already booked in for our S.C.A. Christmas Lunch, it is not too late! It is on Monday December 4th in the Village Hall at 12.30 for 1pm. Everyone is welcome but please book a place. We provide turkey (or vegetarian option if ordered in advance) and all the trimmings and a choice of desserts including Christmas pudding, for a modest charge of £10 payable on the door. We provide cordial, but do bring your own wine, etc. if you want! We also have a free Christmas-themed raffle. To book a place call Frankie Fisher on 720454 or Anne Parker on 07709222792. Future dates for 'Tea in the Afternoon Mondays', for the New Year: January 8th, February 5th and March 4th in the Village Hall from 2.30pm. *Frankie and Anne*

Film Nights

The film 'Nativity' will be shown at 7pm on Saturday, 16th December. As we enter 2024 there will be another Film Night in February, exact date to be arranged and subsequently every two months thereafter. *Roger and Anne*

METHODIST CHAPEL EVENTS

Advent & Christmas at the Methodist Chapel

On Advent Sunday December 3rd, we are holding a Christingle Family Service at 5pm. This is a beautiful service of light in the darkness, suitable for all ages. We shall make the Christingles at Sunday Sox in the morning, ready to process with them in the service, which starts at 5pm. Following the service, we shall enjoy seasonal refreshments.

On December 17th at 5.00pm we shall hold our Carol Service with Children's Nativity. This will be followed by mince pies etc.

On Christmas Eve, December 24^{th} at 5.00pm we shall have a Crib Service, led by Frankie Fisher.

Everyone is most welcome to any or all of these child-friendly services. <u>'Drop-in for Coffee'</u> is held at the Chapel between 10.30am and 12.00noon on Wednesdays December 20th, January 24th, February 21st and 20th March for light refreshments and plenty of chat!

Frankie and Ken

ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH EVENTS

Do come to our CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 10th December at **6pm** – followed by mince pies, sherry and coffee – a special celebration, and our 'thank you' to the forty-plus people across the village who very kindly lock and unlock the church through the year, and clean, and do the flowers!

Revd. Canon Linda Church joins us on 13th December as Assistant Priest – a part-time role which has been vacant for the past year, based at the vicarage in Newton Longville, working alongside Revd Yvonne Mullins in Yvonne's ministry across the '5 Parishes' Benefice of Little Horwood, Mursley, Swanbourne, Drayton Parslow, and Newton Longville. We very much look forward to welcoming Linda and her husband Lawrence, and to seeing them around in the village.

On Christmas Day there will be a **CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE** at 11am, led by Revd Yvonne Mullins, and followed by a short, spoken Communion for those wishing. Everyone is welcome to come to both or to either – children are very welcome! *David*

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES & PROJECTS

Buckinghamshire Council - DIY waste disposal charges

The Editors have been informed that the charges for waste disposal from personal DIY projects are being relaxed from January, 2024. Imposed at the at the Council tip in Buckingham, these charges were put in place during 2019 to fill a hole in the budget. It therefore makes financial sense to wait until January before throwing out an old door, pane of glass or lump of concrete - because it would appear that those charges are about to be lifted. This should help to combat fly tipping which (unsurprisingly) seems to have got worse in Aylesbury Vale since 2019. Similar charges never were imposed within Milton Keynes.

Anglian Water - pollution and charging

A pollution incident occurred over a recent weekend. Driving from Little Horwood down Station Road at about 2pm on Saturday, 18th November, a large stream of water was flowing out from a manhole cover in the steep verge and cascading down into Clack Brook. The smell indicated waste water, so Anglian Water were asked to investigate but it was not rectified until later on Sunday morning. As much as 20 hours of pollution could have flowed into the brook. Clearly the responsibility of Anglian Water as the manhole was on highway land. However, to sort out a domestic blockage some residents may be be charged by Anglian Water if their houses were built after 2011 whereas for others (built before 2011) they will not.



In the case of private developments this means that a domestic blockage in Charton Close will be rectified for free but in Old Drovers View they will charge. Confusing... yet they frequently send out mailshots suggesting residents should take out insurance to pay for such issues when for most people it's probably not needed! *Clive*

Conservation Projects on Swanbourne Estate Lands

Reviewed by Tom Finchett (Swanbourne Estate Manager)

Swanbourne Estate is about to take responsibility back for the ecological management of all the land North of the railway line, which we will be managing and 'conservation farming' according to the proposals designed by Network Rail. The footpath should be re-opened soon. We also reported previously about some new conservation and woodland planting proposals that we have for Swanbourne. This comprises over 30ha (75 acres) of new woodland, scrub planting, ponds and new wildflower meadows. We are hoping to still make a start on some this winter, with the remaining planting next winter. A full colour plan of the Swanbourne Estate schemes is on pages 10-11 (see overleaf).

Swanbourne Estate Farms

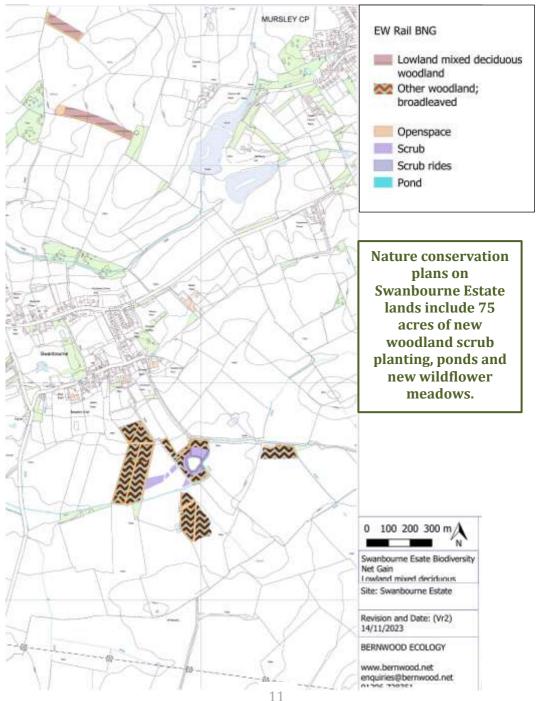
Just a little farm update: Villagers might have noticed it has been a 'tad wet' this autumn. So much so that we have only managed to plant...

Continued on page 12

Conservation



Schemes



Continued from page 9 ...some fields of wheat, two fields of oats and no beans. The ground is so waterlogged that what we have planted is struggling to grow, and some is rotting in the field – hence the number of gaps in the crops. Hopefully the weather will dry up and we can make a start again – otherwise it will be spring cropping.

Estate Planning

The Parish Council website has links to our planning applications; see: <u>https://swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk/planning-applications</u>

We still have a planning application in for Church Farmyard (one barn conversion and three dwellings), and have been making a number of amendments to the layout of the yard proposals and details for the barn conversion. The aim is to create more of a farm courtyard appearance. The plan would be to keep these for rental rather than sell them (if and when we are able to commence the development).

Swanbourne Endeavour

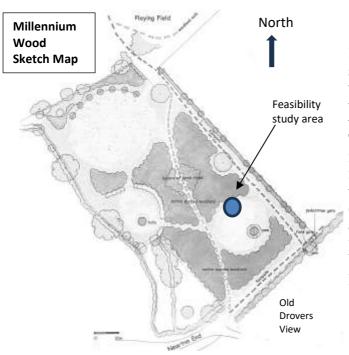
A big congratulations to all those who took part this year and a massive thank you for all the marshals. If any runners / marshals did not get 'T' shirts – we still have some. This will be taking a break for a couple of years but in the meantime will re-invigorate our smaller "Moonlight" night time winter runs, for those who feel tempted or mad enough. NB see details of the "Moonlight" Endeavour event on page 20 (back page). *Tom*

A Pond with Public Access - Feasibility Study

On behalf of the SCA and working with Swanbourne Estate and the Parish Council, I am currently investigating the feasibility of creating a new freshwater conservation pond in an area which allows public access close to the village yet is quiet and away from roads. Once established, the main advantages of having a public access pond are: -

- 1. Provides access for educational study purposes for the two Swanbourne schools and members of the public.
- 2. A restful place for the public while walking. Looking at stretches of water is beneficial to mental health.
- 3. For the benefit of conservation ecology itself, helping to preserve rare freshwater animal and plant life.

The possible site under consideration is within Millennium Wood. Walking from the South (near Old Drovers View) going along the central path in the wood and walking towards the playing field, the side on the right of the path has fewer existing trees and might have potential. The ground should be able to retain water as the subsurface consists of impervious boulder clay and at greater depth consists of Jurassic clays and mudstones, also impervious. *Clive*



If this or a similar scheme happened, it would be kept as a wild area with no vegetation trimmed. The edges may have reeds, sedges and nettles etc. That's what nature conservation is all about. Strategically placed benches and a boardwalk would be possible.

Applications for Swanbourne Newsletter Editor(s) are invited for the Spring 2024 Edition and thereafter.

I have enjoyed being editor. However, after doing it for exactly ten years, the time has come to pass this on. A second person is also desirable to proof read and make corrections. Basic proficiency in Microsoft Word (or Publisher) is an advantage. Advice is offered if desired. Please email me if you are interested on <u>clmrodgers@btinternet.com</u> Clive

Community names, websites, email and telephone contacts

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

Newsletter Editors: - Applications invited. This role will be vacant from January 2024. Print costs funded by Swanbourne Parish Council. Printed by Harlequin Press. Each edition of the Newsletter covers three months. Corrections for accuracy are made (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: -<u>swanbournemail@gmail.com</u>

Swanbourne Community Association – Tel. Anne Parker (Chair) on 07709222792. Website: -<u>www.swanbournecommunityassociation.com</u>

Swanbourne Facebook Village Community Group: - Administrator:

Deborah Barrow. Direct message via Facebook

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

Swanbourne Estate - The Estate Manager is Tom Finchett. Tel. 720256 email: <u>office@swanbourneestate.co.uk</u>

Swanbourne History Group – Tel. Ken Harris (Chair) on 720454, email <u>ken.kelston1@gmail.com</u> History Website: - <u>www.swanbournehistory.co.uk</u> History Webmaster is Clive Rodgers, email <u>Swanbourne13@gmail.com</u>

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 is closed on Saturdays. The Post Office is normally open from 9.00am until 1.00pm from Monday to Friday swanbourne.store@gmail.com Tel. 720288

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

Swanbourne Parish Council - Parish Clerk (Jo Tudor) Email: -

<u>clerkswanbournepc@gmail.com</u> Parish Council Website: <u>www.swanbourneparishcouncil.co.uk</u>

Play Out and Sports Swanbourne - Sasha Dalwood, Vicki Price and Ria Deane. Call Sasha on 07949973626 <u>www.facebook.com/playoutswanbourne</u>

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: <u>david.blunt@hart-house.net</u>

Medical Prescription Deliveries from Winslow Dispensary - The online system for requesting repeat prescriptions is now through the NHS App. If there are any queries you may email: - <u>3whealth.patientaccess@nhs.net</u>

Alternatively, you may telephone 713434 to request a repeat or email: - <u>prescriptions.norden@nhs.net</u> 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). Free with a bus pass. Full details on the website: <u>Bus Services - Winslow and District Community Bus - Winslow and District</u> <u>Community Bus, Winslow, Buckingham (winslowbus.com)</u>

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 <u>info@wedelivernews.com</u>

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

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

East-West Rail

A new railway station is due to open in 2024 in Winslow. Located immediately on the left as you drive out of Winslow on the road towards Buckingham and in the cutting of the original route, the station will feature lifts (in addition to the new footbridge which is currently in fabrication), as well as waiting shelters, toilets, cycle storage, CCTV and customer information systems. There will also be a dedicated 365 space car park. There will be frequent trains to Oxford and in the opposite direction to Milton Keynes (and subsequently to Bedford).



GIGACLEAR QUIZ

SWANBOURNE BOOK CLUB

Greetings Bookclubbers

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th November at 8pm at the Betsy Wynne and the book we will be discussing is Eva Sleeps by Francesca Melandri. Everyone is welcome whether you have read the book or not.

Elle Magazine Book of the Year

'Out of the struggles and conflicts in the border regions of Northern Italy and Austria comes a family story that embodies the history of nations. Eva, a forty-year-old public relations professional based in northern Italy, receives an unexpected message from the deep south. Vito, a man she knew as a child as a friend of her mother's, is very ill and would like to see her one last time. He is a retired police officer who was stationed in the north during the late 1960s, a period rife with tension, protest and violence. These troubles, however, did not stop the young hapless policeman from falling in love with the "wrong" woman... The beautiful Gerda, accomplished cook, sister of a terrorist, and Eva's mother. Their affair was a passionate one, but what was the nature of their love? And if he loved her so passionately, why did he leave her to return to Calabria? What scars did those years leave on Vito, and on Gerda? It's time for Eva to find out.'

The book for our next meeting in January will be All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, date to be fixed.

If anyone has ideas for books for future meetings, please let me know. Jane

History Themed Swanbourne Christmas Holiday Quiz

Where and when within Swanbourne village/parish were these photographs taken? Guess an approximate year for each photo.



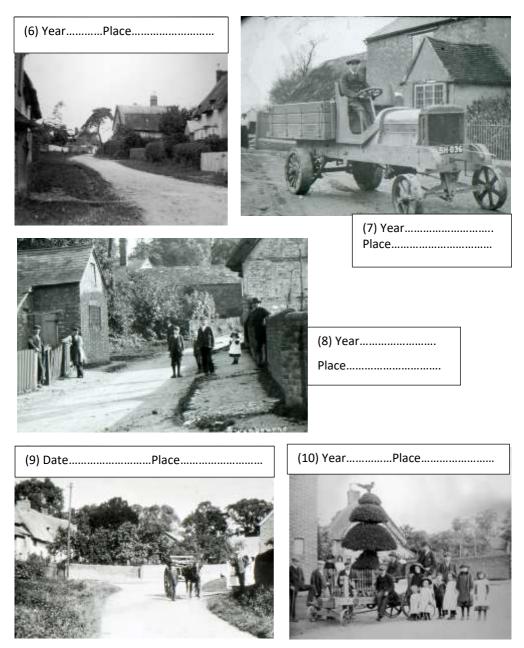


(2) Year.....Place.....









Correct answers will be posted on Swanbourne Village Facebook Group pages on Tuesday 2nd January, 2024. Have fun! *Clive and Linda*

DECEMBER REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

Date	Food waste	Recycling Bin	Waste Bin	Garden waste
Tuesday Dec 5	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION
Tuesday Dec 12	COLLECTION	No Collection	COLLECTION	No Collection
Tuesday Dec 19	COLLECTION	COLLECTION	No Collection	No Collection

*Future dates: Buckinghamshire Council no longer issue collection dates in advance of 2 weeks but the general waste collection due on 26th December (Boxing Day) cannot happen due to the Bank Holiday. *Note that the collection day following a Bank Holiday will normally change to a Wednesday.



*Right: - QR code access to Buckinghamshire Council refuse collection details.



SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH II:00AM - 3:00PM

Come along and browse our wonderful wonderland in our small village Festive Fair, stalls filled with local products, artisans and gifts galore. handmade gifts, stocking fillers, and treasures.



Handmade Decorations, Jewellery, Candles, Cakes, Local Gins, Preserves, Cards and more....



Available to purchase, Cash Only please!







Swanbourne Endeavour report is on page 12



After a great Swanbourne Endeavour this year, come and enjoy a crazy jog round the 10K Endeavour course, late on a wintery evening. Hoping for some bad weather.....

Meet Home Farm shoot room MK17 0SW (what3words pizzeria.lollipop.testers)

MOONLIGHT ENDEAVOUR

WEDNESDAY 21st February 2024 Arrive for 19:00hrs (Event start 19:35)

This is a 'team event' rather than a 'race, we run together as a squad – embrace the challenge of the Endeavour course in the dark.

Maximum 30 runners - so book early.

ENDEAVOUR SQUAD RUN ENTRY FEE £50 – includes Free Water Station & chocolate bar on route Celebratory beer / cider and a bowl of chilli Locked bag storage Slap on the back for completing the course Choice of Vintage Endeavour t shirt

To enter, email tom@endeavour-series.com to confirm entry (& note any dietary requirements)

Pay by BACS to Endeavour Series Ltd Account: 24029868 Sortcode: 30-63-97 Ref: Moon (& your name.)

www.endeavour-series.com

