

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2022

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on 19th May 2022.

APM1-2022 Appointment of a Clerk to the meeting

C Miles was appointed as Clerk to the meeting

APM2-2022 Apologies received

A Flemming (2nd Swanwick St, Andrews Brownies), G Holmes (Methodist Church), Alex Wakefield (Swanwick Cricket Club), S Clarke (2nd Swanwick Scouts), J Hughes (Swanwick WI), PC L Shurki (Derbyshire Constabulary) Cllrs Alan King & Barnett.

APM3-2022 Minutes

Minutes of Meeting held on 6th May 2021 were deemed to have been received. These are available in the Archived folders on the Parish Council website.

APM4-2022 Chair's Report

The Chair presented his report. Copy is appended (page 3).

APM5-2022 Matters for the attention of the Police

There was no Police representation at the meeting, but there have been some on-going communications with the Police over anti-social behaviour within the village open spaces and the chair read out brief report from PC Lauren Shurki. (page 4)

APM6-2022 Reports from the community

Reports on activities, achievements and aspirations from the Chair and community groups were read out at the meeting

A copy of each of the reports is appended:

1. Amber Friendship Group Report (page 6)
2. Swanwick Residents Association (page 7)
3. Swanwick Preschool (page 9)
4. Amber Valley Voices (page 9)
5. Man Shed (page 9)
6. Swanwick Allotment Association (page 10)
7. Swanwick Primary (page 10)
8. Swanwick Wildlife Group (page 11)
9. Swanwick WI (page 11)
10. Swanwick Methodist Church Luncheon Club (page 11)
11. St Andrew's Parish Church (page 12)
12. Scouts 2nd Swanwick (page 13)
13. Swanwick Cricket Club (page 15)

APM7-2022 Open forum - question and answer session

Due to the late hour, discussion was brief as most issues were covered during representations.

Closure

Meeting closed at 8.06pm

Chair's Report – 19 May 2022

Chair's Report is to the Parish Meeting of the Swanwick Electorate held on 19th May 2022.

Just to remind ourselves, the Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting and tends to be more informal but we do have an Agenda to guide us through the meeting. It is a meeting of the parish electors and organisations and usually takes place between 1 March and 1 June but cannot be held before 6.00pm. Notice of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting was given by posting details on the Parish Council website, Facebook and the notice boards in the village

Electors can contribute to the agenda. As we have not received any specific requests for items to be added to the agenda before publication, I am quite happy to receive any suggestions at this late stage.

It is a further opportunity for the electorate to bring issues to the attention of the Parish Council at the beginning of the year so that we can consider these matters in preparing our future plans.

In practice these meetings often

- Celebrate local activities and
- Debate current issues in the community.

The Chair's report is intended to review the past year, celebrate our achievements and thank those who actively contributed whether by giving their time or in other ways.

In preparing this report to the Annual Parish Meeting, I realise that the meeting in May 2021 was held virtually and numbers attending were small. As always I rely on several people, not least the Clerk to the Parish Council who has returned from long term sick leave. This has taken some of the pressure off me.

I have acted as unpaid clerk during the Clerk's absence, but am still dealing with some issues personally.

I have once again learned the importance of keeping a running, contemporaneous record in preference to relying on memory at the year end. So if I miss anything or miss thanking anyone, I am sure you will bring it to my attention.

Well Dressing

One of the first events in the Parish Calendar is the Well Dressing week which usually starts in second week in May. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and the restrictions we have missed two years of well dressing and Fayre.

It is too late to organise this year's Well Dressing as the route out of the restrictions is rather organic. It takes a lot of work to organise and co-ordinating all the activities necessary to make the event another success. This year's Well Dressing will be muted and the number of wells will be limited. There will not be the traditional Fayre. However we will start planning for next year to have a successful and enjoyable event for all in 2023.

Armed Forces Week

Unfortunately the Parish did not participate in celebrating Armed Forces Week this last year. Again as soon as dates are known for 2023 we will start planning for any suitable events.

Village Hall Working Group

The group held virtual meetings infrequently during the previous year. However the meetings did not move the project any further forward. Acrimonious disagreement expressed by some members about the project resulted in professionals withdrawing their help. I have already indicated that I intend to revive the working group with professionals only advising. The focus will focus been mainly on the continuation of the development and the fund raising options. The Parish Council has earmarked reserves for the development and future effort will be to concentrate on raising the remaining capital for the project.

Swanwick Recreation Grounds Trust

Swanwick Parish Council has taken over as the sole Trustee of the Charity. The Parish Council meetings have an agenda item at each of the meetings to deal with and decide matters as sole trustee. There are some issues about the transfer of land from Amber Valley Borough Council to Swanwick. Once these have been resolved, the Trustees will apply for grant funding from various bodies such as the Football Foundation, to develop the facilities. New goal posts have been erected to replace the rusty ones. Ball stop netting also needs to be replaced and the changing rooms need refurbishment.

In preparation for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a community garden is being created in an area of ground that has recently been cleared. This is funded by a grant.

Queen Elizabeth II (Crays Hill) Park Community Group Meeting

During the last year there have not been any meetings of the Queen Elizabeth II (Crays Hill) Park Community Group.

Neighbouring Civic Services

Needless to say, I have not attended any neighbouring Civic Services held during the height of the pandemic.

Civic Service

The joint Swanwick Parish Civic and Carol Service was also cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions

Anti-Social Behaviour on Play Area Chapel Street

Recent incidents have been reported to the Parish Council. The advice continues to please report these to the Police on the non-emergency number 101. This will bring hot-spots to the attention of the Police who are responsible for enforcing the newly revised Public Spaces Prohibition Orders (PSPOs) that now cover the whole of the Recreation Grounds.

The fencing around the area has been reinstated. The play area soft surfaces have also been refurbished following safety inspections and needless vandalism.

Swanwick Allotments

The Parish Council has started legal proceedings against a resident of an adjoining property for misappropriation of council land. This is an ongoing claim registered at court.

The development at Swanwick Fields and the Lily Street Farm

These continue to raise issues of traffic management, which should be directed to DCC Highways, and planning conditions which should be directed to Amber Valley Borough Council Planning Development.

The traffic lanes and directional arrows on Derby Road have been altered following complaints from the Parish Council and members of the public. However there are still instances where unobservant drivers emerging and turning right from Sleetmoor Lane have turned into oncoming traffic.

Public Participation

I have been encouraged by the level of public participation when big issues are being discussed. We must still strive to encourage a wider level of participation.

George Soudah, Chair
Swanwick Parish Council

Amber Friendship Club Report

We started our club in January 2014 to help people feel less isolated and lonely and to let them know that someone cares for them. We aim to serve our local communities by offering a monthly outing to a friendly, social amenity. We called ourselves Amber Friendship and we meet at the Methodist Hall Swanwick and welcome people not only from Swanwick, but also their friends from Alferton, Somercotes and Riddings.

As for many clubs and groups the last couple of years have been difficult. We kept in contact with our members by phone and Easter, Christmas and birthday cards throughout Lockdown when we were unable to meet. The Methodist Church Hall was and still is operating under the Covid guidance and regulations to keep our members as safe as possible.

We have nine volunteer helpers and seven are members of the Methodist church. We have some who are Food Hygiene qualified and most of us have attended Safeguarding Training run by The Methodist Church. We do not pay rent, but we do give an annual donation to the Methodist Church to cover use of the room and facilities and heating. We believe in sharing the love of God by demonstrating it to those who come and share food and friendship together.

We start the afternoon at 2-30 by welcoming members with a cup of tea or coffee. Our tea tables are laid with pretty white cloths and decorated depending on the time of the year. For instance, at Easter, we had eggs, chickens and daffodils. The meeting nearest to Valentine's Day we had a love quiz, chocolate hearts and red serviettes. Our June meeting is obviously a celebration for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. We shall be entertained by Amber Voices and enjoy a good sing-along together. People arrive, settle in, meet friends and have a chat. About ten or fifteen minutes later, we introduce our speaker or the entertainment that we have booked. This is usually enjoyed by everyone. This year, we have welcomed Derbyshire Carers, enjoyed a trip round the UK with amazing photos, joined in with a singer at Easter and looked into the secrets of Buckfast Abbey in Devon with the Methodist church Minister sharing what it was like to live there with the monks for a week. After thanking our speaker and asking our questions we serve the afternoon tea. We offer dainty sandwiches and cakes on pretty cake stands and of course plenty of tea. We buy the bread and some of the fillings, but our volunteers supply the cakes and do all the preparation work. Our members pay £4 per session.

We sit and chat at tables with our members when we can, although some people need to be in the kitchen refilling teapots and starting on the washing up. After everyone has filled themselves with sandwiches and cake some of us start to clear the tables while others call the raffle and give out the prizes. We give out individual Birthday cards each month (home made by one of our volunteers) and sing Happy Birthday together. We announce next month's activity and people start to make their way home at 4-15 to 4-30.

There is a lot of sharing and laughter takes place- each month not only between our members but also between us as volunteers. We are a happy team of people sharing food and friendship together.

One of our aspirations for the coming year is to plan and organise an outing to The Secret Diner at Sudbury Prison in August. We are due to welcome Amber Valley Singers and a speaker from the Derbyshire Blood Bikes. We always have a Christmas party with presents, games, food and often a visit from Father Christmas.

As well as this we hope to continue growing our membership and ensure more people feel welcome to come along and try out for themselves what we have to offer. We have around 40 members at present, mostly aged over 70. We do a regular 'leaflet drop' to help advertise and welcome more people. We offered transport before Covid which our members valued, but we not offered it since Covid.

We would offer a warm welcome to anyone from the parish council to any of our meetings

Presented by Linda Smith Church Member Volunteer

Swanwick Residents Association Report

The Resident's Association continues in its steadfast pursuit of upholding the four main aims and objectives of its Constitution. Since preparing my first written report to this meeting back in 2016 there have been two important issues that have always remained dominant and six years later that still has not changed. Indeed, from a personal point of view my involvement goes back to 2011, since when I have written and spoken many thousands of words in the form of representations, consultations, speaking at Parish and Borough Council meetings and at two public examinations.

These two issues are of course, the Amber Valley Local Plan and the Green Belt, which are, in this Borough inextricably linked.

The Borough Council is currently in its third attempt at trying to formulate a Local Plan which will set out planning policies and proposals for future development and use of land in Amber Valley for the period up to 2039. Central to the Local Plan will be an overarching Spatial Strategy, which will establish the level of future housing and economic growth and where the growth should be broadly directed. The previous two attempts, both withdrawn by the Council at the Public Examination stage, cost the council tax payer over £2 million and this current third attempt has been calculated to cost a further £1.4 million.

Since reporting to you last, a response to a consultation has been submitted in September last year on three options on Scale of Growth, and four options on Distribution of Growth, as part of the Plan process. Publication of the pre-submission Local Plan is scheduled for June/July 2022, Public Examination in December, 2022 with Adoption planned in September, 2023.

Development of the green fields continues to dominate the north of the village at Lily Street Farm and the ironically named site of Swanwick Fields on Sleetmoor Lane. In addition to the neighbouring site at Damstead Park, there has been a recent application for a 340 acre solar panel farm and a more current application on the opposite side of the road for a further 240 new homes to form a retirement village. The change of landscape and loss of the countryside has been immense and could be even further changed forever.

In May of last year, the developer at Lily Street Farm submitted five planning applications to reserved matters on a convenience store, primary school, restaurant with drive-thru, employment area and residential phases, these together with amendments to the original plans submitted of removal of a 80 bedded hotel complex and a community/medical plot. Strong representations were made to the proposed changes and loss of community related infrastructure, which were clearly on the original plans submitted for approval on which the local authority planning board made a decision to grant outline approval, yet are no longer part of the development with nothing similar to replace them.

I reported last year of Central Government plans for a consultation on planning reforms, which would include, councils identifying land for development which would receive automatic planning approval and imposing nationally determined and binding housing requirements, together with removing the automatic right to appear in person at hearings discussing local plans. This would also unfairly exclude local people from having influence over what happens in their area.

Following a strong lobby from various groups and organisations, including our own and even government supporters, together with the loss of a by-election, which was fought entirely on planning reforms, the government abruptly performed a U-turn on these intended policies. The then current Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government lost his job and the department was reborn as the Levelling-Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government together with a new Secretary of State. Now, there has been a complete change of direction, introducing the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, included in the recent Queen's Speech, which aims to take power out of hands of developers and councils and give it to homeowners, whereupon residents will be able to vote, street by street, on future housing and decide how to spend levies on development. The new Bill pledges to cut bureaucracy and enhance the power of communities to protect areas from development. Having had the experience of being given similar assurances a few years ago, by

a former Prime Minister, on giving the power to local people to determine development where they wanted it to be, in the shape of Neighbourhood Planning, I feel being the born pessimist I am, that this is yet another misconception being heralded by Central Government. However, I may be proved wrong and will certainly not believe it until I both see and experience such a system, but more importantly, sadly, for Swanwick this proposed new policy has come seven years too late.

Presented by John G. Briggs Vice-Chairman.

Swanwick Preschool Report

Swanwick Pre-School is a key part of the local community, providing a vital service in Early Years Foundation Stage for local children and their families / carers. The last few years have been exceptionally challenging for the setting, working with / through the backdrop of COVID-19, whilst looking to support the needs of key workers initially, and more recently the wider community. We are pleased to report we have been able to maintain the service to the community throughout this period, with little disruption. It is our aspiration to now build upon these foundations and start to assist in re-linking the community. There are parents and carers that due to COVID-19 restrictions have been unable to mix with others in their children's group, therefore missing out on the opportunity to form bonds with other parents / carers and to understand their children's friendship groups, as others in previous years may have reaped the benefit. Resultantly, Swanwick Pre-School are looking to support local community engagement, which commences this Saturday (21st May 2022) with an Open Day. We are opening our doors to meet new / prospective children and their parents / carers, offering the opportunity for discussion and support. We are also currently considering with the Pre-School Committee further ideas for community engagement. These include but are not limited to: - cake stalls, pub quizzes, summer and winter events. Furthermore, we are on the lookout for any potential new members for the Pre-School Committee to join the existing team. Let's work together to re-link people in the community whilst continuing to provide a key service to Swanwick and surrounding areas. Presented by Martin Dye Swanwick Pre-School Committee Chair.

Amber Valley Voices Report

Amber Valley Voices sadly ceased meeting in person to sing together in March 2020, in line with Covid Lockdown rules. However, our enthusiastic musical director and skilful accompanist, along with the help of steering group members, continued to offer singing opportunities and continuity through the setting up of a 'Zoom' choir. This was loyally and eagerly supported by over half the membership who embraced the benefits of this new, versatile technology, which also enabled singing in full harmony as well as in unison. The social and well being benefits of AVV were further maintained through regular newsletters, on line /Zoom monthly quizzes, book club and treasure hunts, virtual coffee mornings and a garden gallery, for example. This all helped to keep people feel connected and engaged, especially during the most restrictive and lonely weeks of Lockdown, and served to maintain the important friendship our members enjoy. We were finally able to bring people back together face to face with a summer BBQ in August 2021 and then joyfully welcomed the resumption of singing together side by side in St Andrew's Church (with all Covid safeguarding in place) in September 2021. We have over 100 members on roll and we regularly have over 70 attending our weekly practices. At Christmas 2021, we were able to perform Christmas songs and carols in St Thomas' Church and over recent months, have increasingly taken up requests to sing at local venues, celebrations and for community organisations. We are excited to be performing a formal concert (at last!) on the 28th May, 2022 at David Nieper Academy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and 70 years of musicals. All proceeds will go to the Ukraine Appeal. Amber Valley Voices has a full diary of engagements through to the end of the summer term and beyond.

Presented by A Trenear

Man Shed Report

Traditionally called the Man Shed but is open to all. We opened 5 years ago and had become very strong before Covid with lots of donated tools; we are now raising funds to buy new tools. In 2019 we received both a National and Derbyshire awards for our community building. We work with the

Local Authorities to help with loneliness also mental health and dementia. We do woodwork, repairs, make garden structures including owl boxes and obelisks on request. Recently we had the blind wood turner come to our shed to be filmed and this is now on social media.
Presented by Charlie Parkes.

Swanwick Allotment Association

Chair – Simon Ford

Secretary – Anthony (Tony) McKenna

Treasurer – Diana McKenna OBE

Committee – Dawn Barker, John Wilcoxson, Robert Pownall.

Affiliated to The National Allotment Society. Fully insured site & plot holders.

49 plots – some sub divided into half plots. We have 2 plots divided into 1/3 plots.

4 plot sizes Very small, Small, Standard & Large.

Currently 3 people on the waiting list.

Allotments are a proven Asset to the health & wellbeing of communities. This was especially so during lock down.

The site has a wildlife garden, uses water butts. A variety of wildlife has been seen on the plots, nesting birds are regular visitors along with hedgehogs and local urban foxes.

Current/future issues.

10% increase this season on individual plot rental costs. 23/24 growing season will see higher plot rental fee's due to less income than outgoings.

Access is via a gated entrance. This remains locked even when plot holders are on site.

However, Site security to be raised with Swanwick Parish Council with regards to a few properties on the Delves (opposite Swanwick Sport College). The site remains open to these properties with risk of boundary related issues.

Prepared by Diana McKenna

Swanwick Primary School

Thank you for inviting us to put forward a report on our school, Swanwick Primary School.

The school currently has 404 pupils on roll and this number is expected to continue for the future years. Our catchment area covers Swanwick and Pentrich. We also have pupils attending from outside our catchment area which accounts for approx. 30% of our pupils.

Mandy Fogg was appointed Head teacher and started in January 2020 which has presented her with many challenges, which she certainly did not envisage when she agreed to accept the post. Thankfully, we finally seem to be 'post-Covid' and looking forward to the future. Our first major event will be our celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 27 May. Children will: wear red, white and blue; create celebratory hats for a competition; sing a special song for the Jubilee and receive engraved medals to commemorate the occasion. We are also planning our first Sports Day with an audience since 2019.

Last year, we won the National Timpson's Award for the work we do as an Attachment Aware school. This work supports the large number of children we now have in school who benefit from this approach to learning.

We currently have several vacancies on our Governing Board and would welcome any interest from the local community and beyond. One of our biggest challenges at the moment is a lack of space and need somewhere where we can implement specialist programmes our children need, such as

interventions and nurture. We are exploring ways in which we can expand our internal space on a very tight budget...all ideas considered!

We are very lucky to have a hard-working, dedicated and passionate team who strive every day to achieve the very best for the children of our community. We continue to recognise that the children we have in school have been through a global pandemic – but never fail to amaze us with their resilience every day.

Through our Thrive values of: team work, honesty, respect, inclusive, value and engage, in partnership with our staff, children, parents and governors, Together We Achieve.
Presented by Varinka Strong

Swanwick Wildlife Group

We started the group in September 2021 to try and make people aware about biodiversity and the environment. Green spaces are important and our aim is to make people aware of nature and to re-wild areas in Swanwick. It started as a Facebook page, we have about 50 members and have had nature walks in the area and are planning more of these including an orchid and bat walk. We have also been very involved in the Queens Jubilee Community garden on the Recreation ground and hope to do more in the future.

Presented by Amy Trewick

Swanwick WI

A report of our year ended 31st March 2022

Early in the year, when we were unable to meet due to Covid restrictions, we kept in touch with our members by producing our own Swanwick WI newsletters.

In July we had our first actual gathering of members, enjoying tea and cake in the garden of our oldest member.

In September, we resumed our programme of regular monthly meetings.

We have had a varied programme of activities including a Christmas wreath making demonstration, a fish and chip supper, and a talk on the etiquette of afternoon tea. We are a very lively group and have over 50 members.

Prepared by Judith Hughes Joint President

Swanwick Methodist Church Luncheon Club Report

Swanwick Luncheon Club members, like everyone else, were pleased when the Covid lockdowns came to an end, and were able to return to some sort of normality. During the lockdowns we were able to keep in touch with the members with “doorstep visits” and regular newsletters. Most of our members live alone, some are housebound and all had missed the social contacts, friendship and fellowship which the club provides, not to mention the home cooked meals!

We were able to start back again in September 2021, and have continued to meet monthly at the Methodist Church Hall. We have 40+ members and volunteer helpers.

We enjoyed being back to normal especially for celebrating Christmas together. We now look forward to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebratory meal, and our summer outing.

Prepared by Gill Holmes Luncheon Club Organiser

St Andrew's Parish Church Report

2021 began with yet another period of lock down and once more the church was closed for worship, this time for 10 weeks. The newsletter was the prime means by which we were able to keep our congregation informed as to what was going on. It was a difficult time. But we opened in time for an Easter Sunday service which was wonderful and even more special than usual.

From May onwards the churches of St. Andrew and St. Matthews worked together to host services between us every week. The first 2 Sundays of the month at St Andrew's church and the last 2 Sundays at St Matthew's church. Thanks go to Brian Kirkland, Maurice Greasley and David Hitchcox. This system worked well and to make it easier for people to remember start times we moved all services to start at 10.30a.m. from August onwards.

As the Covid situation eased it was decided to reopen from September onwards for a weekly Wednesday morning service and for a monthly Crossroads service for our younger members. These have proved to be very popular. Especially so was the Christingle before Christmas. Both services are followed by refreshments (which seem to last longer than the service itself!) Sadly the large Christmas events for which we are well known could not take place.

On a very positive note we hosted 2 weddings during 2021 and 3 baptisms although the list for the latter is growing exponentially! Sadly we were also the point of farewell for 8 families who said 'goodbye' their loved ones.

During the summer of 2021 we decided to merge the PCCs of St. Andrew and St. Matthew. This has started and we are slowly learning to work as one. It will take time and we have not yet joined legally but we all feel that we need to take things slowly.

We have missed the contact with the other 2 churches in Swanwick through Christians Together. It has recently reformed but we need representatives from our church to work with them. Michelle Dye and Robert Quarton initially volunteered but with their present commitments they are finding this too much.

Remembrance Sunday this year was held in the upper car park at Swanwick Hall School as it was felt that this allowed the congregation to spread out safely. Over 100 people turned up and Brian Kirkland took the service. The scout and guide movements were well represented and the scouts arranged a beautiful memorial around which all of the wreaths were laid. After the service the wreaths were moved back to the war memorial outside the church. On Remembrance Day itself we opened for a period of private prayer and went outside for the 2 minute silence at 11.00 a.m.

Tim and I as church wardens wish to thank everyone for the enormous amount of support given to us. We continually give thanks for the loving fellowship that we share and that supports us all. Especial mention must go to Hazel Croxall for starting up the monthly Coffee and Cakes sessions that have proved to be so valuable for raising funds for various Christian organisations and for providing a much needed opportunity for people from the village and beyond to get together to socialise. And also to John Sterland for leading the team of wonderful bell ringers one of the strongest in the area. Finally our brilliant organists must not be omitted as they are essential to our worship and all make such a difference to the services.

Towards the year's end Tim was able to announce that Aron Simpson had accepted a post at Shirland and that the Revd. John Wigram had accepted the invitation to take on our benefice as priest-in-charge in addition to his role as vicar of All Saint's at Ripley. The response from both congregations has been positive and welcoming.

2022 will be an exciting new start for us that we welcome.

Scouts 2nd Swanwick Report

GSL's Report AGM April 2022

This AGM covers the period January 1st- December 31st 2021.

Again 2021 was a mixed year for all Sections. At the start and end of the year we were still in various stages of meeting restrictions due to COVID. During the year however we were able to meet together and start providing activities for the Young People again. Initially group sizes were very restricted so Sections had to meet outdoors in small numbers- generally once every other week. It was only getting into September that Sections were able to meet indoors in normal numbers.

Beavers

Beavers were able to set the ball rolling following a winter of activities via Zoom. They were able to re-start shortly after Easter, and had a bushcraft day with the whole Colony in May. This was particularly important for them as for a number of Beaver Scouts who had only joined the Colony during the COVID lockdown this was the first time they were able to meet in person with the leaders and the other Beaver Scouts. By September the colony was able to start meeting properly and carried out a wide and varied number of activities including an afternoon on a climbing wall at Altar Rock in Derby. My thanks to Kate, Fergus, Lynda, Catherine and Ellie for running the programme.

Cubs

Cubs were also active at the start of the year on Zoom. Re-starting the Pack in uncertain times was also a challenge, particularly as a number of leaders were in the vulnerable categories. A number of parents stepped in to the breach to help out as we restarted, and Katherine stepped up to take on the role of Cub Scout Leader. The Cubs have taken part in a number of activities and continued with their badgework. I'm grateful for Katherine, Chris, Sandra, Pete, John, Joanne, Ellie, Rebecca and Rachael for their help and support in running the programme.

Scouts

Scouts have continued with strong numbers. It was always more of a struggle maintaining an on-line programme throughout the lockdown due to the nature of the Scout programme. As the activities were allowed to re-start (and numbers allowed to attend at any time were limited), a certain emphasis was placed on the activities for the older members to allow them to finish the higher awards. One-day skills events were run and a raft building & canoeing day at Carsington Water was held. My thanks to Kevin, Julian, Mick, Pippa, James, Abi, Martyn, David, Joe and Josh for their time in running the Scout Troop

Explorer Scouts

Our partnership agreement with Beauchief Explorer Scout Unit continues to our mutual benefit. Although a District-run Unit, the Unit provides activities for 14-18 year old young people and supports the Group with fund raising and activities. With us, they have a place to call 'home' and to store their equipment. Most of our Young Leaders have come via this Unit and several have gone on to become adult leaders when they turn 18. Recently, Zoe Barber has taken over from James Braithwaite as Section Leader and we wish her every success in the role. Congratulations especially to James and Jo Braithwaite on the birth of their baby son Oliver.

Quantum Scout Network

The Quantum Scout Network are also mainly based at our headquarters and provide activities and socialising for 18-25 year old young people. It is to their credit that they are one of the most

successful Networks in the country, and a role model for the Section. The Group also benefits from our strong links, with a number of our Group leaders also being members of the Network. They provide a good deal of labour for the large jobs of maintaining the headquarters- for instance the clearance of the shrubbery at the front of the hall and levelling the grassed area.

Fund Raising

Active Group fund raising was obviously reduced last year due to the effects of COVID and various lockdowns. We were however able to successfully apply for a number of local authority grants designed to keep charities and organisations such as ours going throughout the crisis. Unlike most other clubs and societies that young people belong to, owning our own building puts us in a situation where we have fixed costs to maintain it and a combination of subs and grants have enabled us to stay on an even keel. Late in the year we were able to carry out Santa's Sleigh collection in a much reduced format. We felt strongly that we would like to spread some good cheer around the community after a fairly miserable couple of years, and whatever money was raised would be of secondary importance. We learnt a lot of lessons from the new format, which I'm sure we will apply for this year's event and going forward. My thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation and collection this year. It remains our ambition that we should have an Exec member in charge of fund raising and if you think that could be you then please speak to Ady or myself.

The main asset of the Group remains the building that we are in. Thanks to the efforts of the Exec and mainly the adult members of the Group it remains in a good state of repair. We have been able to tidy the front area of the hall and level the grassed area as previously mentioned. We have also improved the shelving in the external store and been able to invest in a number of items such as the defibrillator to improve the building for it's users. As the building is nearing 15 years old we are conscious that it will probably need replacement of major items such as the boiler in the next few years, and it is thanks to the strong financial position of the Group that we have been able to set aside funds to cover these expenses when they arise.

The Group Exec has continued to meet throughout the COVID crisis, initially via Zoom and more lately back together in person. We are in a fortunate position amongst many Scout Groups of having all our main positions filled, and the almost unique position of having a number of 18-25 year olds stepping up to serve on the Exec. This latter aspect is one which is strongly recommended by the Scout Association as we are after all a movement for Young People, and they should have a say in how the Group is run. My thanks to Nigel, Sandra, Sue, Pete, Jo & James Braithwaite, Kev, Kate, Katherine and more latterly Zoe, Joe Bishton & James Bowman for serving on the Exec. Special thanks from me to our Group Treasurer Rebecca and our Group Chairman Ady for everything they do in the background and the close working relationship we have. I couldn't do this job without their support.

Finally, congratulations to all our Young People who have achieved their top awards in their sections- Chief Scouts Bronze Award in Beavers, Silver Award in Cubs and Gold Award in Scouts. This has been a challenging time in their young lives and I'm extremely proud of their achievements and their resilience in gaining these top awards. Also many congratulations to our Leaders who have been presented with awards this year. Kate Lane and Julian Hart were awarded the Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service- this is awarded for not less than 5 years of outstanding service. John Bradley and Pete Richmond have both been awarded the Silver Acorn- which is awarded for not less than 20 years of outstanding service.

Prepared by Steve Clarke

Swanwick Cricket Club

SHCC continues to prosper and 2022 is seeing the introduction of a Women's Softball team at Crays Hill which is a really positive step for the club. We are also in the process of bidding for funding from the ECB to support our Disability Cricket section, again a great step forward and ensures that we are able to provide a fully inclusive cricket experience for any member of the local community.

We have continued to experience sporadic issues of anti-social behaviour which we report to the Police. The last issue being a deliberate fire over Easter which destroyed one of the picnic benches in front of the pavilion. We are in the process of arranging a replacement and our thanks must go out to the local community and our own members for supporting our crowd funding page to raise the required £500 for the replacement bench.

We continue to be engaged with AVBC in regards to using the facilities at Crays Hill, however we remain disappointed that they are not forthcoming in agreeing a long term lease on the facilities. Unfortunately this continues to hamper our applications for significant grants that would enable us to greatly improve the facilities for the community. We continue to hold fund raising activities to drive minor improvements, but without significant investment we will continue to struggle in developing the club to its full potential.

Prepared by Alex Wakefield