



**2024**

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**TUESDAY 7TH  
MAY 2024  
6:30PM -  
8:30PM**

LOCATION:  
LARDNER HALL,  
THE GHYLL,  
SOUTHWATER

# REPORT PACK

✉ [enquiry@southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@southwater-pc.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.southwater-pc.gov.uk](http://www.southwater-pc.gov.uk)

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# Chairman's Report 2023-2024

## **During the Year:**

**Chairman's Discretionary Fund.** A number of awards were made during the year equating to a value of £1,023. Examples of this included:

- Assisting vulnerable, elderly, and isolated residents.
- Providing Christmas gifts to some very deserving children from Southwater Junior & Infant Academies and Castlewood Primary School.
- Assisting a Southwater Art Club event.
- Free pony rides for children at the Christmas event at Lintot Square.
- Free DJ workshop lessons to youth at the Summer Fun Fest.

The Chairman's Discretionary Fund is for people living within Southwater Parish requiring help, community groups in need, and other worthy causes at the discretion of the Chairman in conjunction with the Executive Officer. Our Neighbourhood Wardens have been key in assisting to identify those in need.



*Photo 1: Credit - Southwater Parish Council*

**Southwater Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) Review:** The reviewed version, inclusive of amendments, has been completed following consultation with the public. It was submitted to Horsham District Council (HDC) in December 2023, but we are still awaiting response from HDC to be able to progress the review to the next stage and have the reviewed plan 'made'.

**HDC Local Plan:** Whilst there are many good parts within the Regulation 19 Local Plan, there are areas SPC were not satisfied with. We have made our position clear as to the implications of the Local Plan, especially the demonstrably harmful impacts on the community of Southwater over a prolonged period of 20-years. For the full response submitted to HDC in response to the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation it can be [viewed here](#).



*Photo 2: Credit - Southwater Parish Council*

**Benches:** SPC installed six new benches across Southwater located at Charlock Way Open Space, Larkspur Way Open Space, Nutham Lane Open Space, and the rebuilt Skate Park at Ben's Field, Stakers Lane.

**Dog Waste Bins:** A new dog litter bin had been installed on Charlock Way Open Space in the summer of 2023 following numerous requests from residents and listening to feedback.

**Tree Surveys, Open Space and Woodland:** In October 2023, SPC carried out essential tree maintenance to all its tree stock based on an independent tree survey undertaken in July 2023. Ash dieback has affected many of our trees within Southwater. Work continues to remove trees affected as indicated and advised by independent tree surveys.

Amongst routine regular grounds maintenance, thirteen grass cuts per year on all our open spaces and various other improvements and repairs, enhancements to Eversfield Public Open Space were carried out with the complete replacement of the fencing around the pond.

Our Executive Officer, with the assistance of legal and consultancy services, has been able to ensure the planning application for the redevelopment of the RSPCA site complied with and implemented the Southwater Neighbourhood Policy ‘SNP18 – Treed Landscape’ to reinforce the importance that trees are planted with development taking place within Southwater. This will work towards Southwater retaining its trees and green space outlook.

**Neighbourhood Wardens:** They continue to provide valuable support to the community and hold regular drop-in sessions for people to meet them and talk about concerns. Their work includes identifying need in our community and have been behind awards made to those in need. Their reports are available on the SPC website which explain their achievements and great work within Southwater.

In July 2023, working with Southwater Youth Project CIO, Southwater Community Partnership, and Southwater Ghyll CIO, our wardens were able to help organise and run a Community Summer Fest Day at The Ghyll for children aged 3 to 16.

**Saturday Surgeries:** Councillors continue to make a concerted effort to ensure the provision of Saturday Surgeries where residents can come and discuss matters of concern. These take place every first Saturday of the month 10.00 -11.00am in Beeson House (except August or otherwise stated).



Photo 3: Credit - Southwater Parish Council

**Freedom of the Parish:** On 20th March 2024, Southwater Parish Council bestowed the Freedom of the Parish award upon six outstanding individuals for their exceptional contributions to the community.

Nirmala (Nim) and Ramesh Shingadia, owners of a village store since 1983 now known as Budgens, were recognised for their 40 years of service, including providing employment opportunities to Southwater residents, various community engagement, and input into the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan.

Teresa and Nick Longdon, residents since 1989, were honoured for their roles in Southwater Village Hall over 27 plus years and initiatives supporting older community members via Southwater Neighbour Network.

Ann Smith, known as “Paddy”, having moved to Southwater in 1987 was celebrated for her leadership in youth activities with Southwater Guides holding the position of Commissioner and co-ownership of The Little Tea House in Lintot Square.

Geoff Cole, having been a resident for 22-years was lauded for his contributions to Southwater Parish Council as a Councillor and his extensive work to produce the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan.

The Freedom of the Parish Award signifies the highest honour for exceptional community service.

**Climate Emergency:** SPC declared a climate emergency at its Full Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. By declaring a Climate Emergency SPC have acknowledged that the Council needs to act on the causes and impacts of climate change. This therefore means as a council we are committed to enhancing positive steps towards reducing the possible contribution to climate change.

**Streetlights Upgrade to LED:** Many of the streetlights in Southwater are owned by West Sussex County Council, however Southwater Parish Council historically gained a significant number of streetlights of which we are responsible for, and their power consumption. These streetlights are dotted around the village but are mainly in the College Road/surrounding roads area. These lights use the old-fashioned sodium lighting system and typically not as energy efficient to LED. SPC has commenced the upgrades to LED lamps on 33 of its streetlights, which it hopes to have concluded by June 2024.

**Skate & BMX Park, Bens Field, Stakers Lane:** Construction completed in July 2023 with the official opening on 31<sup>st</sup> July with our MP Jeremy Quin in attendance. A Skate Jam event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September with the assistance of Southwater Community Partnership and Southwater Youth Project CIO which saw many people in attendance and an extreme sports demonstration by Team Extreme. It was extremely pleasing to see the skatepark being used by young and old, from users who have only just started using the skatepark since it opened in the summer, to experienced users who had used the previous skatepark some seventeen years ago and how everyone joined in together, supporting and encouraging each other, cultivating a real sense of community. We are in communication with various members of the community to progress fundraising events that could assist with the future maintenance and may alleviate precept and council tax requirements.



Photo 4: Credit - Sue Surita

**Play Areas:** weekly inspections were carried out by our two Litter Wardens who are also trained Play Area Inspectors. Various maintenance works were undertaken throughout the year to ensure the highest standards of health and safety at all SPC's play areas.

**Parish Council Staff:** The newly appointed Assistant Executive Officer left at the end of September 2023 with the recruitment process to find another suitable candidate underway. Our newly appointed Community Engagement Officer, Veronika Toth, joined the team in March 2024.

**Litter picking:** Our two Litter Wardens, who with the support of the residents who have adopted their streets, and the Southwater Litter Pickers, have all helped to keep Southwater a clean and tidy place to live.



*Photo 5: Credit - Southwater Parish Council*

**Annual Budget and Precept for 2024-25:** The focus for Southwater Parish Council is to ensure the people of Southwater receive good value from paying their council tax and specifically the proportion due to the Parish Council. SPC approved the budget for financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which represented a total precept requirement of £512,424, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £105.81, signifying an increase of 3.97% from 2023/24. This equates to an increase of 34 pence per month to a Band D Household. Following two years of decreases it was with a heavy heart that an increase of 3.97% was necessary but this would ensure we can continue to provide the quality and level of services in view of the various rising costs and upwards global pressure on prices.

**Internal Audit:** The independent internal audit of all the Council's processes, yearend accounts and actions was carried out in October 2023 with the final audit scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. To date no concerns or issues have been highlighted demonstrating the progress and improvements the Council has made over the last few years thanks to its office team.

**Civility & Respect Pledge:** The Parish Council voted unanimously in favour to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) led project, for a council to demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector, and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

**Southwater Ghyll CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation):** Continues to increase the footfall at The Ghyll and Laurie Apted Building with bookings returning to pre pandemic levels. More improvements to The Ghyll have taken place with the overall appearance making the facility a valuable part of our community. Their annual report will be available on the Parish Council website.

**Youth Services from Southwater Youth Project CIO (SYP CIO):** SPC continue to provide grant funding to SYP CIO for its core costs and covering the costs of providing a youth club facility. SPC recently setup a Working Party to review and consider the relocation of SYP CIO to The Ghyll's café area from Beeson House and also its future funding. Relocation to The Ghyll had been the approved long-term plan of SPC and SYP CIO since 2021, but it had also included a medium-term plan to initially relocate the youth club to the ground floor of Beeson House prior to a relocation to The Ghyll. SYP CIO have expressed their full support of the relocation to the former café at The Ghyll.

**Highways and Footpaths:** the Community Highways Application to WSCC to install a footpath along Blakes Farm Road (from the mini roundabout that connects Wilberforce Way and Blakes Farm Road to the Hangman's Hill Roundabout) has been approved by WSCC and should be commenced in this financial year of 2024-25.

April 2024 finally saw the completion of the much-awaited upgrades to the traffic lights and road resurfacing works at the junction of Lintot Square (Worthing Road and Fairbank Road).



*Photo 6: Credit - Southwater Parish Council*



*Photo 7: Credit - Southwater Community Partnership*

**The Coronation of the King & Christmas Festivals:** Our special thanks to the Southwater Community Partnership and the Parish Church, who organised and ran the events again. These were successful events ending with fireworks and beacon lighting. Our thanks also go to the local businesses who also contributed to the provision of the festive lights and Christmas tree in Lintot Square. We look forward to more of the events they have planned.

## **Parish Councillors**

Until March 2024 we continued with our full quota of fifteen Councillors. The resignation of Cllr Geoff Scoon brings the number to fourteen and we are considering applications to return to our full quota. Cllr Claire Vickers was successful in the recent by-election for District Councillor Southwater North. My thanks also go to our current Parish Councillors:

- Nicola BROWN - [nicola.brown@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Geoff COLE - [geoff.cole@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.cole@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Lloyd EVERARD - [lloyd.everard@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lloyd.everard@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Pauline FLORES-MOORE - [pauline.floresmoore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.floresmoore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Erica HADDON - [erica.haddon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:erica.haddon@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Nikki KNOTT - [nikki.knott@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.knott@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Steve LEWIS - [steven.lewis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:steven.lewis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Chris PEARCE - [chris.pearce@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.pearce@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Ilanit SLOWLY - [ilanit.slowly@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ilanit.slowly@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Graham TURNWELL - [graham.turnwell@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:graham.turnwell@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Claire VICKERS - [claire.vickers@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vickers@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Jeff VILLIS - [jeff.villis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.villis@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)
- Graham WATKINS - [graham.watkins@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:graham.watkins@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)

## **County/District Councillor Liaison**

The Parish Council would like to thank our County and District Councillors for their continued help and support over this period:

### **County Councillor:**

- Cllr Nigel Jupp – [nigel.jupp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.jupp@westsussex.gov.uk)

### **District Councillors:**

- Cllr Claire Vickers – [Claire.Vickers@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Vickers@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Peter van de Borgh - [peter.vanderborgh@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.vanderborgh@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Colette Blackburn - [colette.blackburn@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:colette.blackburn@horsham.gov.uk)
- Cllr Alexander Jeffery - [alex.jeffery@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:alex.jeffery@horsham.gov.uk)

*Yours sincerely,*

### ***Cllr Derek Moore***

*Chairman of Southwater Parish Council*

[derek.moore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk](mailto:derek.moore@cllr.southwater-pc.gov.uk)



# Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens

Annual Report for March 2023 - April 2024

## Background:

Horsham District Council's first Neighbourhood Warden Scheme started in Ashington in 2001 and today, HDC's Community Safety Partnership is operating 7 schemes with 14 Wardens across the Horsham District. Southwater's Warden Scheme began in May 2019. All wardens remain accountable to the Parish or Neighbourhood Councils of the areas in which they work and ensure that the aims and objectives of the service are met. These are:

- ✓ To contribute to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan by working in partnership with Sussex Police and other stakeholders to provide a highly visible and reassuring uniform patrolling presence across Horsham District, deterring low level criminality (including environmental offences) and anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Promote community cohesion, resilience and solidarity to encourage communities and neighbourhoods to identify and solve their own problems.
- ✓ Work in partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Be a trusted friend for the community.
- ✓ Improve access to local authority services.
- ✓ Support the community by encouraging activities for young people.
- ✓ Support the vulnerable members of the community by preventing social isolation.

At the SPC Steering Group meeting in February 2024, contributed to by Councillors Lewis and Pearce plus HDC's Warden Supervisor, our priorities were reviewed.

These priorities are structured to address the issues that are seen by the residents of the Parish as most relevant. Whilst the priorities are categorised, they are not listed in order of importance. It is important that the Wardens are not expected to adopt the role of replacement Police Officers.

<b>Illegal/Nuisance Activities</b>	Actions
Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responding to Reports of ASB</li><li>• Visual foot patrol at relevant times and locations</li><li>• Time critical reporting of incidents and updating outcomes</li></ul>
Criminal Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responding to reports of crime where appropriate</li><li>• Reporting crimes to Sussex Police</li></ul>
Public Spaces Protection Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responding to reports of breaches of PSPO</li><li>• Time critical reporting and retention of information</li><li>• Issue of FPN if and when appropriate</li></ul>
<b>Road Safety/Traffic</b>	Actions
Dangerous and irresponsible Driving & Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visual Monitoring of Traffic Speed</li><li>• Liaison with Southwater Speed Watch group</li><li>• Information collation and dissemination to authorities</li><li>• Advise vehicle owners and request vehicles are moved</li><li>• Regular school attendance at peak times</li></ul>

<b>Community Liaison</b>	Activities
Vulnerable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain regular contact</li> <li>• Retain appropriate data</li> <li>• Liaise with proper authorities</li> </ul>
Local Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish business links and networks</li> <li>• Retain list of business contacts</li> <li>• Explore the principles of DISC</li> </ul>
Activity Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular scheduled visits to Community Groups</li> <li>• Education and Awareness Programmes to groups</li> </ul>
Schools/Playgroups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish links with all schools and pre-school groups</li> <li>• Create an education awareness package for Yr 6</li> <li>• Visible presence at start/end of day when possible</li> </ul>

<b>Environmental</b>	Activities
Health and Safety Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting any concerns to SPC immediately</li> </ul>
Litter/Fly Tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with Southwater litter picking volunteers</li> <li>• As appropriate investigating incidents of fly tipping</li> </ul>

<b>Communication</b>	Activities
Sussex Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular contact with NPT/PCSO &amp; Police Volunteer Office</li> </ul>
Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled monthly 'surgeries' for residents to make contact</li> <li>• 'Drop box' positioned in Beeson House</li> </ul>
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish relevant social media platforms</li> <li>• Regular media updates</li> </ul>

[Southwater.Wardens@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Southwater.Wardens@horsham.gov.uk)



Dominic Woodhead 07789 943193  
[Dominic.Woodhead@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Dominic.Woodhead@horsham.gov.uk)



Bettina Long 07789 943156  
[Bettina.Long@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Bettina.Long@horsham.gov.uk)

Table 1 below shows the Neighbourhood Warden activities from April 2022 to March 2023 inclusive:

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>1124.25</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	<b>184.00</b>
Foot (high visibility)	496.50	Noise	12
Vehicle	627.75	Neighbours	3
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>139.00</b>	Driving/vehicles	117
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes/Skateboarder	14
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	9
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Other	29
Parking alert / Verbal Warning	105/34	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>719.00</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>208.00</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	31/1
Phone (including 101 and 999)	63	Graffiti	11
Email	104	Dog fouling	189
Intelligence report	4	Litter	77
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	67
In Person	37	Hazards	343
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>77.00</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	61
Press release / Community magazines	8	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	16
Social Media	69	<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	1
<b>Admin</b>	485	<b>School contact</b>	74
<b>Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)</b>	46	<b>Youth engagement</b>	453
<b>Signposting</b>	57	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	8

Table 2 below shows Neighbourhood Warden activities from April 2023 to March 2024 inclusive and should be read in conjunction with the monthly reports for greater clarity around specific events, awareness promotions or national publicity campaigns:

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>1243.25</b>	<b>ASB incidents reported to us TOTAL:</b>	<b>176.00</b>
Foot (high visibility)	529.75	Noise	8
Vehicle	713.50	Neighbours	7
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>124.00</b>	Driving/vehicles	123
Verbal Warning	57	Bicycles	4
Parking Alert	67	Alcohol/Drugs	5
Yellow card warning (ASB)	0	Other	29
Fixed Penalty Notice	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>224.00</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>247.00</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	31/7
In person	121	Graffiti	8
Phone (including 101 and 999)	72	Dog fouling	61
Email	48	Litter	41
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	24
Intelligence report	6	Hazards	52
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>49.00</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	77
Press release / Community magazines	13	<b>School contact</b>	47
Social Media Posts	36	<b>Youth engagement</b>	1150
<b>Vulnerable People Welfare Checks</b>	36	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	9
<b>Signposting</b>	52	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	13
<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	1	<b>Admin</b>	420

### Highlights from the Data:

Patrol Hours	up from 1124 to 1243
Youth engagement	up from 453 to 1150
Police Contact	up from 208 to 247
Community Events	up from 61 to 77

ASB (Excluding Parking)	down from 67 to 53
Dog Fouling	down from 189 to 61
Drugs litter	down from 67 to 24
Litter	down from 77 to 41
Graffiti	down from 11 to 8

## Anti-Social Behaviour

- Although we are not an emergency service, we respond to incidents as promptly as is practicable and have often been asked by residents for support with many forms of anti-social behaviour and even crimes, the investigation of which is the responsibility of Sussex Police.
- We practically support and actively encourage residents to report crimes to Sussex Police either via the Emergency 999 (where there is an immediate risk to life or crime is taking place), Non-Emergency 101 phone number or the webform <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime>
- We routinely monitor crime reporting websites and social media for information regarding suspicious activity, enabling us to understand and respond to emerging trends.
- We are working to reduce the fear of crime by providing high visibility, foot and vehicle patrols during a rotating shift pattern designed to disrupt ASB and prevent opportunist crimes. Our patrols, routes and working times are flexible and often change in direct response to community needs or new information.
- We identify 'hot spot' locations requiring additional patrols and regularly interact with people found in these areas before passing data on environmental impact factors to strategic partners.
- We are involved in finding high risk Missing Persons, providing Witness Statements, the dispersal of groups exhibiting anti-social behaviour and engaging with people acting suspiciously all whilst passing real-time information and intelligence to the Police in relation to criminal offences.
- We work with local businesses to tackle anti-social customers, encouraging target hardening and engagement with the digital reporting platform DISC. We have also been instrumental in securing arrests of persistent repeat offenders and banning notices where appropriate.
- We continued to monitor, report on and dispose of drugs litter whilst providing intelligence reports to partner agencies and law enforcement colleagues.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

### Youth Anti-Social Behaviour

We can all remember the levels of anti-social behaviour exhibited by a small but high-profile minority of young people two years ago. The atmosphere in the village has now completely changed in this regard. Whereas in previous years we received youth related ASB reports on a daily basis, there has been a sustained reduction especially over the last 12 months which is in contrast to other areas of Sussex that have seen ongoing disruption. We continue to work to establish professional relationships with young people in the village and offer positive interventions where needed. We continue to work in close collaboration with all partner enforcement agencies to modify unacceptable behaviours and promote positive engagement within our community.

### Business Community

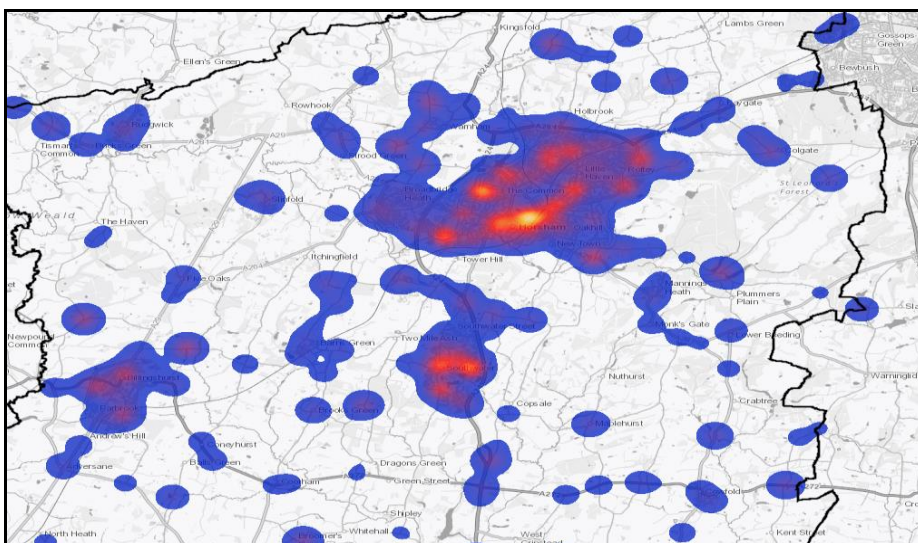
Following on from the excellent work done over the last couple of years with retailers and partner agencies, we now have an efficient and effective reporting system in place to alert other shops of potential threats, how to report offences and secure best evidence in support of prosecutions. This year we have had some notable successes including arrests and prosecutions of several prolific shoplifting offenders due to the great collaborative work we have been involved in. The message has been delivered to thieves in the district that the Southwater retail community is alert, responsive and deliberate in its approach to target hardening and works as a team to combat theft in a robust and effective manner.

### Parking/vehicles

The highest number of anti-social behaviour incidents witnessed by or reported to us over the past year continues to be in relation to the use of vehicles. We regularly support our schools at key times to reduce the risks caused. Where appropriate, verbal warnings, advice leaflets or parking notices are issued to raise awareness of the risks caused by anti-social parking and several Parking Charge Notices (PCN) were issued to repeat offenders by HDC Parking Services. We challenge and report anti-social driving where appropriate as well as abandoned vehicles with no MOT/Road Tax which are reported directly to DVLA and/or Operation Crackdown.

### Fly Tipping/Fly Posting/ Litter/Graffiti

Fly tipping is an ever-present threat to our parish due to its geography, access routes and secluded rural borders. We have located over 30 such incidents and liaised with HDC's Environmental Enforcement Officer acting as a professional witness by securing and preserving evidence, taking photographs and writing statements prior to arranging specialist removal by HDC.



Fly posting incidents increased slightly this year but most commercial advertisers understand that signage contravening regulations will be removed, potentially at their expense, for them to avoid legal action.

We work closely with our two, fabulous Parish Litter Pickers, Community Groups such as 'Adopt A Street' and other amazing volunteers who work tirelessly to keep litter to a minimum.

When graffiti occurs, we will try to remove it ourselves but where specialist equipment or materials are required, we call for support from HDC to have the offending material removed professionally.

You too can report all these issues via the HDC website at: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/report>

## Community Engagement & Events

Southwater residents are fortunate to have access to many excellent community groups and volunteer organisations. We have endeavoured to link up with as many of these as possible in order to support residents of all ages and abilities throughout the village.

We linked in with many fabulous volunteers from the community to help set up the **Coronation Party** with bunting, access paths, lighting and gazebos. The weather was pretty dreadful but improved and it was great to see so many residents attending, some having a couple of drinks, taking selfies and even having a dance before the fireworks brought the event to a crescendo.



The first **Southwater Summer Fest** was held at The Ghyll which was organised by us in collaboration with community groups supported by both the parish and district councils plus several very generous local businesses.





**Security & Event Solutions** Working with Professionals

[www.securityandeventsolutions.co.uk](http://www.securityandeventsolutions.co.uk)



The **Southwater Skate & BMX Park** officially opened after a tremendous amount of hard work by all those involved with the planning and creation of this beautiful open space. It has already been 'tested' by Jordan Clark, described on Instagram as a 5 x World Champion who has added it to his list of favourite outdoor parks!



Bettina was invited to join Angie Choat and volunteers from the **Southwater Youth Project** on a day trip to **Chessington World of Adventures Resort** with 11 young adults and was able to get to know the youngsters in an informal setting. The day went very well and all those who attended had a lot of fun with some even conquering the rollercoasters.





We attended the **Horticultural Society Late Summer Show** in the village hall.



Together with our colleagues Maria & Charlie from Horsham Town, we attended Tanbridge House School for a parents' evening. This was a **'Growing Your Teenager'** event promoting a free course designed to help parents understand some of the challenges the teenage years present and provide some useful tips and ideas to help them and their child navigate this difficult time of life.



We visited the **Southwater Art & Craft Show** where we met some of the artists displaying their art & crafts. Some young visitors were also taking part in the art activities that were being offered.



The **Skate Jam** organised by Southwater Parish Council and hosted by Team Extreme took place at the new BMX and Skate Park off Stakers Lane. The event attracted a lot of visitors of all ages and included demonstrations by Team Extreme and a competition for both beginners and seasoned professionals.



We attended the **Blackberry Fair** at Castlewood School



We regularly visit the **Welcome Club** and **Games Afternoon** held in the Village Hall each Wednesday providing a variety of guest speakers, activities and plenty of social engagement.



We were invited to the **Southwater Sports Club** Fireworks Display which was a brilliant event.



We helped many great volunteers to set up and support the **Southwater Christmas Festival**.



We helped to decorate **The Phoenix Tree** devoted to lost loved ones in Southwater.



We attended the **Southwater Infant & Junior Academies' Christmas Fair** which was really well supported. We followed the map, joined in the fun and spoke to some wonderful people.



The Southwater Parish Council **Chairman's Discretionary Fund** helped us add some extra Christmas Cheer. In collaboration with Santa and Southwater Parish Council and our very best wishes, we organised the special delivery of some surprise gifts for some very deserving children from our three village schools.



We attended the **Southwater Santa Fun Run** with over 100 runners who registered for the event.



We joined the ‘**Local Policing for Local People**’ roadshow held at Beeson House. This event was created and delivered by Sussex Police and designed as an opportunity for residents to meet with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector and his colleagues to discuss concerns. Many conversations were had between partners agencies with representatives from Cyber Crime Team, Road Safety, HDC Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators, Neighbourhood Watch and the HDC Neighbourhood Warden Scheme. This was the first such meeting with further events being held around the district in the coming months.

We were invited to a well-attended SPC run meeting to discuss Southwater’s approach to the **Climate Emergency**. It was a positive meeting with many great ideas and approaches discussed which will all help to build new and constructive relationships with residents, community groups and councils to tackle this crucial issue.

### **Warden Drop-In Sessions**

We hold regular drop-in sessions at various locations across the Parish at different times, so that as many residents as possible have the opportunity to chat with us in person and can highlight issues, raise concerns, seek support and suggest solutions. These events are advertised on social media and the SPC website so keep an eye out for our next event and maybe come and pick up some of our information leaflets on everything from scams and personal safety to local community groups or support services. We would appreciate hearing your ideas on how to further improve life for everyone in our village.



### **Patrols**

- We provide high visibility mobile and foot patrols throughout the Parish.
- We patrol local businesses designed to disrupt ASB, shoplifting and to improve engagement.

## Vulnerable People

Through the relationships we have developed with community and volunteer support groups, we are able to reach out to and help others find appropriate guidance and advice.

### Case Studies

Whilst on a routine patrol around Hop Oast, we saw an older resident on the edge of the roundabout who was attempting to cross in a very dangerous location. We stopped and engaged with them and due to **safety concerns**, we helped them to the Park & Ride so they could safely continue their journey in to town.

We visited a **vulnerable** resident in their home. After liaising with Age UK, we were able to provide them with advice and access to ongoing support services.

We were contacted by a resident who was concerned for the welfare of man found sleeping on a grass verge. We attended, assessed their **welfare needs**, discussed their situation and offered specialist support which they declined.

Whilst out on patrol we came across an incident involving an older pedestrian who had fallen and **badly hurt** himself. He was already being cared for by a local jogger and a passing motorist so we were able to ensure the patient's wife could join him and we stayed with him until he was taken to hospital by South East Coast Ambulance Service for treatment.

We **assisted** an older motorist by bump-starting their car and then escorting them home; ensuring they got back safely.

We were alerted to a **High Risk Missing Person** by Sussex Police and undertook area searches around the parish. We were able to pass updated information to the Missing Person Team which we hope assisted their investigation. Thankfully, they were found and support services put in place.

Following a call from a **distressed and vulnerable** resident, we undertook a home visit, listened to their concerns, offered advice and provided some potential solutions which they agreed to explore.

We were alerted by staff from a local business to a person expressing **suicidal intentions**. We located them and observed the vulnerable person until Sussex Police arrived.

We undertook a home visit to support a young person who had been subjected to **harassment and threats**. We encouraged their parent to report it to the Police.

With the authority of a vulnerable resident suffering with a **neighbour dispute**, we liaised with a relative, discussed the situation, examined the options and decided on how to resolve the issue.

We received reports of concern for a male presenting adult who had told people he was **homeless**. Having conducted searches of several secluded areas within the village and located a tent in woodland, we contacted **Turning Tides** (a local charity supporting homeless people) and together returned the next day to facilitate access to support.

Whilst on a routine patrol, we noted an older resident had been waiting a long time at a bus stop on one of the hottest days of the year. We conducted a **welfare check** and thankfully, moments later, the bus arrived and the situation was resolved.

We met a resident who felt very **isolated** due to their **medical needs** and after some research, we were able to pass on details of a specific support group that they are now in contact with.

The Police Volunteer Office made us aware of a resident who was having trouble with an Amazon delivery which we identified as a potential scam. We were able to make contact with them and talked about online security avoiding them becoming a **scam victim**.

We met an older resident whose **mobility scooter** had run out of power. We were able to escort them home safely and having moved a few things around in their garage, we made access to the charger easier.

In collaboration with Southwater Youth Project, we made an **emergency food parcel** available to a vulnerable family.

A resident alerted us to concerns they had for one of their neighbours in relation to **self-neglect** and possible **hoarding**. We alerted our local PCSO who made a welfare check and support was offered.

We found a **broken-down car** parked in Lintot Square so ensured the occupants were safe and warm before alerting our colleagues from Parking Services to avoid any parking penalties being issued prior to the vehicle being recovered.

We checked on a resident who had not been seen for some time and concerns had been raised for their **welfare**. We found the resident in good health and continue to monitor the situation.

We visited a resident who had recently complained of low-level **noise disturbance** from a neighbour. We offered reassurance and continue to support them.

We were made aware of an older resident living alone who had been **without electricity** and was unable to use her stairlift. We undertook two home visits, liaised with a family member to ensure it was addressed promptly and thankfully, power was soon restored.

In collaboration with our colleagues in Horsham Town we were able to return a handbag, which had been **stolen** several months previously to a Southwater resident. They were delighted to be reunited with irreplaceable personal items of considerable sentimental value.

We were approached by a family struggling with increased **cost of living** expenses and we were able to support them to get a crisis food parcel and contact details for local support services.

Whilst on an evening patrol we noticed a young adult **searching** a stretch of pavement in the dark with only a phone for light. We joined them in the search for their missing glasses which they had lost while jogging.

We were first on scene to a tree that had fallen on to powerlines, blocking the road. We put in road-closures, liaised with Sussex Police, UK Power Network & West Sussex County Council alerting them to the incident and helped to coordinate repairs. We provided hot water in flasks to residents affected by the **power outage** as some could not even make a hot drink to keep warm. These flasks were kindly donated to us by Caroline Paul who is the Coop Member Pioneer.

We met a resident in their 90s managing the impact of a deterioration in their eyesight which has caused feelings of **social isolation**. We were able to talk about our role and put them in touch with community groups offering support. The Southwater Parish Council Chairman's Discretionary Fund financed the purchase of a "speaking clock" to help their continued independence.

We received reports concerning the welfare of a resident who had not been seen for several days. We attended their home address which was found to be in a **state of disrepair** and neglect. Receiving no response to our repeated knocking, we alerted the housing provider and our local PCSO for priority checks to be undertaken.

We received a report that a vulnerable resident had missed an important **medical appointment** and could not be contacted by phone. We attended their home address, undertook a safe and well check and asked them to contact their medical practitioner to provide an update on their condition.



## **Young People**

We have continued to get to know and support younger members of the community in an informal context often outside of organised groups when we are out and about on patrol. We are able to feedback to agencies and schools any causes for concern, refer for safeguarding and to signpost young people to relevant information and support where needed. Building trust is crucial and takes time especially within an ever-changing social environment often driven by social media trends and changing pressures experienced by our young people.

We attended the V.I.M (very important minor) Holiday Club held at Castlewood Primary School. This service was offered to a group of children aged between 4 and 11 years of age. There were also some spaces made available by West Sussex County Council for those children who receive free school meals.

We were very pleased to be asked to provide a Work Experience placement for a local, young person as part of their Diploma in Uniform Services course at college. It was a great opportunity to showcase Southwater, support their progression and promote positive community engagement with young people.

## **Southwater Youth Project**

We have forged an excellent working relationship with Angie Choat and the Southwater Youth Project volunteers which helps children and young people between the ages of 8 to 19 in the Southwater area by supporting mental wellbeing and promoting positive self-esteem through activities. These sessions provide safe places for young people to ask difficult questions, learn about themselves and develop skills whilst being supported by trusted leaders. You can get in touch with Angie on 07795 835905 or by emailing [southwateryouthworker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:southwateryouthworker@hotmail.co.uk). We continue to drop into their sessions, which has helped us to maintain our existing relationships and encourage new ones plus provide a further layer of support should they need to talk in confidence.



We joined up with some fantastic young people from SYP doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition practice session.



## Dog related issues

Dog fouling is an offence and if caught, we are authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices but you could alternatively find yourself in court. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of dogs within our village in the last two years but we are pleased to see the number of recorded incidents has dramatically reduced from 189 to 61 as more people take their responsibilities seriously.

## Cycling

We have been working to enforce the cycling & skateboarding prohibition within Lintot Square by stopping offenders of all ages and educating them as to the health & safety issues and risks.

## Parish specific/other

### **Training**

HDC mandatory E-learning on Harassment & Bullying  
Food Poverty training delivered by Citizens Advice Bureau  
Food Hygiene  
Carer Awareness  
Scams

### **Social Media**

To improve our visibility, accessibility and to provide more information on our work, we have increased our presence on social media over the past year, regularly posting to:

[Horsham District Neighbourhood Wardens Twitter: @HorshamWardens](#)

### **Southwater News**

This year we had several articles for publication in the printed edition of Southwater News. This is an invaluable source of local information and news, particularly for those residents who are less mobile in the community or do not use the internet or social media.

## An Inspiring Future

Throughout the coming year, we will continue to effectively deliver on the wide range of routine tasks but we are always looking for ways to improve our service delivery, develop existing support, or create new ways to help our community.

### **Projects**

We are currently researching a number of community projects. Together with Councillors Steve Lewis and Chris Pearce, we are working on ways to reduce food waste by setting up a community larder. The principle of a community larder is to prevent food waste by picking up food items from local supermarkets and distributing it free to the community. Discussions have started about a Community Fun Fest and we are also planning to offer a number of free water sports sessions as well as a 'Bat Walk' during the summer holidays for young people in Southwater.

### **Stakeholders and Community Groups**

The established lines of communication with our local Sussex Police PCSO, Damian Cecil, continue to afford residents a further layer of support and the benefits of his extensive local knowledge. We have an established relationship with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service through our attendance at regular meetings so that we are aware of issues specific to Southwater and have linked them in with local community organisations to offer presentations and 'safe & well' advice.

Our relationships with the Southwater Youth Project, Neighbourhood Watch Association, The Welcome Club and Neighbour Network and many others continue to flourish.

### **Your Views**

We are always looking for ways to increase engagement and provide the residents of Southwater with the opportunity to voice their opinions to us. We welcome suggestions, new ideas/initiatives or feedback on existing services so please get in touch.

Our monthly reports are published on SPC's website and links are also made available via social media platforms but if you need one printed, just let us know. We provide dedicated times to meet residents face to face via our Drop-in Sessions and we encourage you all to stop us in the street or contact us by phone or email if you would like support or just a chat. We would be happy to set up individual meetings in private if you need a confidential space to discuss your particular concerns.

### **KEY:**

**ASB:** Anti-social behaviour.

**HDC:** Horsham District Council

**Operation Crackdown:** Joint initiative with Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police to report abandoned vehicles or anti-social driving.

**PCSO:** Police Community Support Officer

**SPC:** Southwater Parish Council

**WSFR:** West Sussex Fire & Rescue



# Southwater Ghyll CIO Annual Parish Meeting Report

Southwater Ghyll CIO is pleased to present our annual report.  
The 'Ghyll' comprises The Ghyll building and sports field as well as the Laurie Apted Building adjacent to the sports club.

Southwater Ghyll CIO is a charity set up and run to operate the Ghyll facilities with an aim to both serve the needs of the local community users and to become financially independent from the Parish Council.

## Licensees

The Ghyll itself is home to seven local clubs and businesses;

- Southwater Royals FC
- Southwater Bowls Club
- The Performance Zone
- Infinity Gymnastics
- LB Massage & Beauty
- Blossom Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Small Steps Forward Counselling

We thank them all for their continued use of the facilities and for their understanding and flexibility whilst important maintenance work continues.

The Licensees of The Cafe had to leave due to family circumstances and we are now working on an exciting new venture for this space.

## Facilities for Hire

The Ghyll offers four areas for hire, which are:

1. The Lardner Hall
2. Laurie Apted Building
3. Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
4. Meeting Room

We continue to see a growth in bookings of these facilities, and we are grateful to both our regular and one-time hirers for their custom. The breadth of uses is astounding from birthday parties to business meetings, from toddler groups to yoga, keep fit, art classes and wedding receptions. Feedback on these facilities has been 100% positive.

## Events

The CIO were proud to host several events on our premises in the last year which were a great success. Bark in The Park held its first event with us on the Ghyll fields, which was a great opportunity for the dog owners of the community and the regular dog walkers we see on our field, to have an event that was catered towards them.



# Southwater Ghyll CIO Annual Parish Meeting Report

Southwater Summer Fest, a community kids fun day was run by Southwater Youth Project in collaboration with Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens, Connect Church, Southwater Community Partnership and The Ghyll. Despite the rain, this had a great turnout from the local families and children who especially loved having a look around the fire engines and Police Cars that were in attendance.

The Southwater Art Club held their annual Art Exhibition in our Lardner Hall for the second year running, which attracted a larger audience than the previous year.

Infinity Gymnastics and Southwater Royals FC held their annual events, Gymnastics competition and Presentation Day, respectively. Both these events saw hundreds of visitors using the Ghyll premises over those weekends and it was a fantastic way for them to showcase their clubs achievements over the last year.

## Maintenance

Most of the works that we have carried out in the past 12 months have been to address the maintenance and services of the building. Our aim as a CIO is to address each area on an as-needed basis with remedies that provide longevity, value for money and with an eye on the reduction of running costs.

Most of last year's work has taken place behind the scenes, which may not be so obvious to regular users of the building, projects included;

- Removal of the old gas heaters in the gymnastics hall
- Removal of the two boilers that were obsolete
- Installed a new heating/cooling system for the gymnastics hall, further future proofing this area by adding air conditioning to this space that wasn't there previously
- Installed one new efficient boiler, to replace the 2 boilers that were removed. As part of these works a new flume was also installed
- Upgraded the boiler control panel system
- The café area toilets were refurbished to include an accessible cubicle. The separate male and female toilets were combined to create a unisex toilet area with a more modern look and feel to them
- Playground was updated with repair works carried out to ensure safety, including new secure gates, fresh coats of paint, repairing the perimeter fencing and fixing the walk-on barrel to remove the annoying squeaky noise!
- Improvements were made to electrics in the building and a new circuit board installed
- Investigating ongoing roof leaks we have in the gymnastics hall and Lardner Hall
- Started refurbishment works to the Lardner Hall toilets. These toilets will include an accessible toilet, shower room and baby change.

In the coming year we are looking to complete the refurbishment works to the Lardner Hall toilets, repairing the roof to prevent the leaks we are experiencing and improve the Muga surface which



# Southwater Ghyll CIO Annual Parish Meeting Report

now floods in heavy rainfalls. These have been made worse by the unprecedented rainfall we have experienced in the last few months.

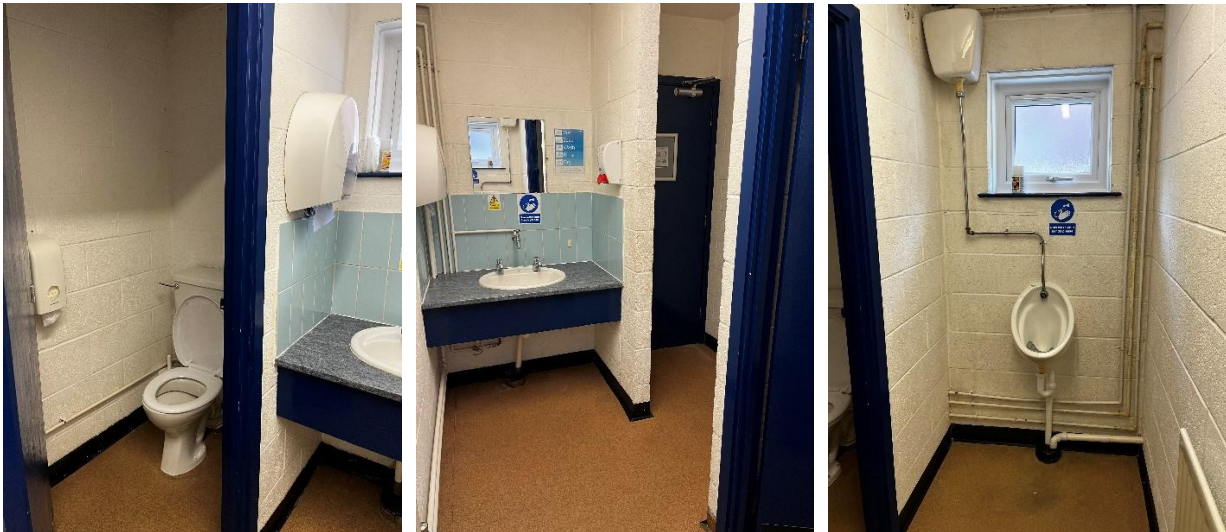
## Trustees

The CIO is run by volunteer trustees from the Southwater community and by paid part-time Operations Manager and Caretaker. We would like to thank them all for their time, support and continued passion to keep the Ghyll as a valuable asset for the community.

## Pictures

### **Café Area Toilets**

**Then:**



**Now:**





# Southwater Ghyll CIO Annual Parish Meeting Report

## Pictures

### Boiler works & new circuit board

Then:



Now:



## Pictures

### Gymnastics Hall heating system

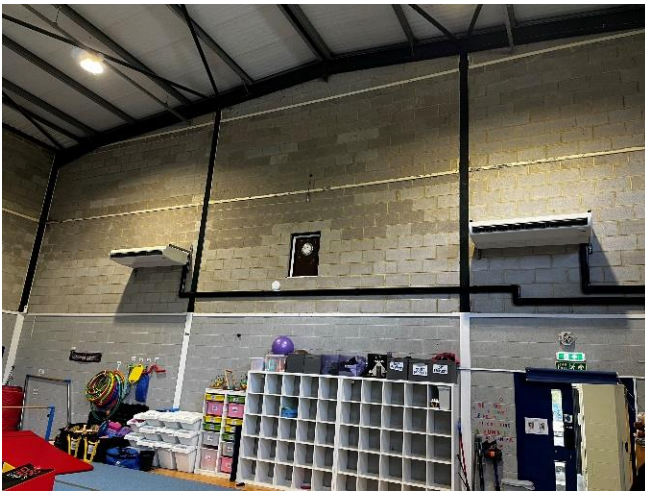
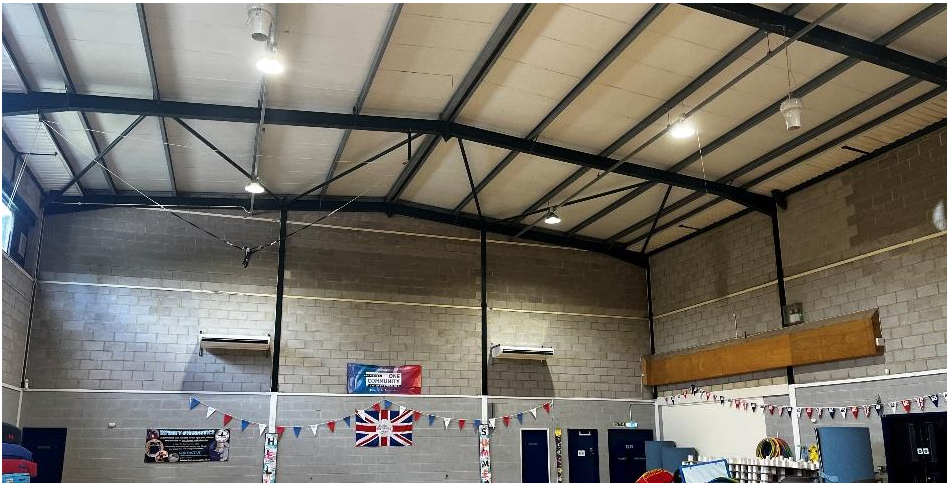
Then:





# Southwater Ghyll CIO Annual Parish Meeting Report

**Now:**



## Pictures

**Playground:**





Kath Jones: SYP Chair 01403 273454  
Angie Choat: SYP Lead Youth Worker 07795835905  
southwateryouthworker@hotmail.co.uk  
www.southwateryouthproject.org.uk



## Southwater Youth Project Chair's Report April 2024:

SYP is a local **community charity** engaging with children & young people in Southwater & surrounding areas through the provision of professional, embedded, community youth work, both providing & signposting them to a broad range of affordable, accessible youth activities & opportunities. SYP seeks to help young people become **The Best That They Can Be**, to develop & mature physically, mentally, emotionally & spiritually as individuals, & as contributing members of society & the local community.

### Spring update: (for detailed activities see our Engagement Report 2024 Jan – March)

We are excited by the possibility of moving from Beeson House to the Ghyll, currently under discussion at SPC. There are clear advantages to this proposed move for all parties, & we can envisage the further potential that this gives to SYP, hence the Trustees are hoping that this can be progressed swiftly.

In brief, as a charity SYP operates within the Christian ethos to deliver age appropriate, fully inclusive activities & events for any children & young people aged 8 to 19 who are resident in Southwater & the surrounding area in order to help them advance in life through (a) the provision of recreational & leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life; & (b) the provision of support & activities which develop their skills, capacities & capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature, responsible individuals.

SYP provision is delivered by a professional youth worker & committed local volunteers through:

- Community youth work – clubs, DoE, one to one support, mentoring, detached work/activities
- Schools work: local secondary schools & feeder primary/junior schools
- Community groups & funder engagement & events, & partnership with other local organisations

The Lead Youth Worker's current & long term aims as approved by the Trustees are to continue to:

- Promote the self-worth, self-care, mental, emotional, spiritual, & physical well-being of young people within the Southwater community, in their village schools & secondary schools
- Care for young people by building relationships, mentoring, pastoring, & counselling young people face to face, in schools, & within families, in activities, clubs & in detached work, liaising with social services, police & other agencies, working in partnership with other relevant agencies & other secular/church youth, children & family workers wherever possible or necessary
- Ensure essential policies are in place/updated; identify, train & support volunteers; help Trustees both in writing engagement reports, fundraising bids & identifying funding possibilities

Our application to the Sussex Community Foundation was unsuccessful – there were a huge number of applicants, but we have been invited to apply again, & Trustees are working on other one-off funding bids. In April we receive an HDC Grant for £10,000, but our core costs grant from Horsham & Slinfold URC, one of the original funding partners, ends this summer. The Trustees remain grateful for the vital core cost grant & other support given by our founding partners Southwater Parish Council & Connect Southwater Community Church, & securing increased funding for core costs continues to be a key aim for the Trustees. SYP's annual expenditure budget is £44,500 & our current funding agreements & commitments total £24,000. One-off grants in recent years have covered off some of this shortfall but given the difficulty in obtaining core cost funding from other sources, additional funding of £20,000 per year for a period of 3 years is needed to ensure the continued operation of this great local project beyond 2024.

***Kath Jones: Chair Southwater Youth Project April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024***

# SYP Engagement Report Jan – March 2024

What a great start to 2024! Over the ten week term we ran 60 timetabled indoor sessions & clubs – about 150 hours in all including prep/tidy & follow up, plus a similar amount of time engaged in a variety of face-to-face interactions, either informally while out & about, or through formal weekly community one to ones, plus school holiday activities/trips, weekend interactions, & engagements in schools. Somewhere in there we do the admin, reports, fundraising, & management meetings. Our team of dedicated volunteers have enjoyed seeing young people try something new for the first time & love it, & valued supporting youngsters who felt comfortable enough to share challenging personal stories, encouraging them to feel that those experiences don't define them. We came alongside a group of year 11s anxious about the final year at school, writing references for them to get into college & help them find part time work. We sat with youngsters dealing with grief after the loss of a grandparent, & others worrying about their parent's illness. We celebrated birthdays with young people & laughed over their very many funny moments. All of this demonstrates the wide range of great work that happens in our embedded community youth project.

## **Some quotes from young people from our graffiti wall:**

- What does youth club mean to you?

*"Spending times with friends" - "space to destress and have some fun with mates"*

*"Safe space to chill" - "less stressful than other clubs"*

*"A safe space for me & my friends to express who we are freely but also to discover who we are too"*

- What do you think/like about youth club?

*"Xbox & computer as I don't have these at home" - "I love hanging out with my friends" - "amazing"*

- What would you like to see/do in youth club?

*"New computers" - "bean bags" - "trips out" - "outside space/games - when it's not raining!"*

## **Highlights:**

**TTT – Tuesday Tea and Talk** – a small group for school years 6 - 8, to build confidence, resilience, learn a new skill (cooking), & chance to talk to trusted adults in a safe space. Beeson House, 4.30 - 6pm.

A lifeline for some youngsters, the only safe place where some of them engage outside of school - they say they feel welcomed, not afraid, & safe. This is really important to us at SYP - far too many young people feel afraid to step outside their bedroom door because of fear, an ongoing issue post COVID. This term has been about learning different culinary cultures; we had fun celebrating Burns Night, cooking & trying food flavours that most of us had not had before. The volunteer leading this said it was lovely to share some of her family traditions with them - she is Scottish & celebrates Burns Night each year. Sampling the flavours of Mexico also proved successful, & I loved that the group had learnt enough about the differing flavourings to create their own marinade rather than using a shop bought one. Next term we are helping them to create/plan a three-course dinner & then give a dinner party for them & their guests. Without a proper kitchen, it is quite amazing what they have achieved using the air fryer, microwave, & panini press.

**Wednesday Youth Hang Out** - a youth club @ Beeson House for young people in school years 8 and upwards. We provide a safe space for them to meet up with friends, play on computers & game consoles, try various creative activities as well as offering a listening ear to all who need a trusted adult to talk to. We operate on a drop-in basis, youngsters can drop in during the session or stay for the whole time, 7 - 8.30pm

We get between 15-25 youngsters, most staying for the whole evening. Those who drop in are building up contact, as we see them at other times during the week, mainly when hanging about in the village. They are happy to chat, & sometimes they have specifically looked out for me so they can talk with me.

# SYP Engagement Report Jan – March 2024

The most fun Hang Out sessions have ranged from the rather childish activities of making car sounds from out of a crushed drinks can (!) to creating/making sushi. Wednesday Youth Hang Out is important to SYP - it is this year group who are looking for their identity & where they fit in (in school/in the community/in their families/in the world). This is the age group that seems to have lost a sense of direction, or any desire or ability to dream. We provide a safe space for youngsters to start to enthuse about the future, both their own & the future of the country/community etc.

**Thursday After School Club** - *school years 3-6 from any school, safe space to relax with friends old & new, learn new skills, have fun, & make friends. 4-5.30pm @ Beeson House.*

This term has seen a slight drop in numbers, partly due to the age range as afterschool clubs at the schools change each term. However this has meant we have been able to give targeted support, rather than just offering generic provision. A couple of the young people attending this term have been diagnosed with ADHD, & AUTISM & their families were fearing they may not be able to access a mainstream youth club setting. It's not that we needed to do anything different, as we seek to include all where we can, but with smaller numbers we were able to offer greater individual support & encouragement.

**Art Club** - *Friday afterschool for school years 3-6 from any school, safe space to get creative, try different forms/styles of art, e.g. watercolour, clay, mosaics & more. 4-5.30pm in Beeson House.*

Another popular group; the youngsters particularly liked the shaving foam marbling art, egg carton animals, & made some amazing spring flowers & pink blossom trees as wonderful Mothering Sunday gifts.

**Junior Youth Club** – *Friday in the Lardner Hall at The Ghyll.*

Still the most popular club, but it is proving very hard to recruit enough volunteers for the numbers we get. Some youngsters struggle with the noise, even with sound proofing panels, & do not come as regularly. Another challenge is finding ways to engage with those not into the sports we offer, such as the football on the MUGA. But those problems are small compared to the many positives. The majority of youngsters enjoy coming together at the end of each session for a team game, although the discussion element hasn't worked out as hoped, partly due to the nature of the space in the Hall & the lack of comfy sofas/chairs etc. Although this is a busy, active, high energy evening we have also been able to support some of the young people who were dealing with issues such as bullying, crime, and secondary school placement.

**Duke of Edinburgh Award** – *Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm ish, fortnightly Beeson House & outdoors*

We continue to offer the Bronze DofE Award, with 20 young people taking part, hopefully completing the award this summer. This term they have learned new skills in first aid & developed some "interesting" meals on the Trangias, as well as getting in some steps on night hikes, encountering all kinds of obstacles not only the weather (a lot of rain & wind!) but also the results e.g. muddy & blocked pathways....

**One to One/pastoral support in the community inc. parent support, & schools inc. assemblies** – *as needed*

We continue to support to children & young people (& parents at times) in our community; issues include anxiety around attending school, bereavement, issues around alcohol both personally & within the family.

## **And finally:**

We ended with lots of Easter holiday activities – a massive thank you to Tesco (Horsham town centre) & Southwater Co-Op for donating Easter Eggs to enable lots of Easter fun and games, along with the decorating of (actual!) eggs. We are now looking forward to the new term, hopefully with better weather, & more volunteers, so we can offer more outdoor opportunities for the groups meeting in Beeson House while still supporting those who want to stay indoors. We remain grateful to all those who support, fund & promote SYP, our volunteers, Trustees & all who help us find the necessary funding to keep going. Thank you!

**Angie Choat Lead Youth Worker**



QEI School Outdoor  
Library Project  
Impact  
Report



Queen Elizabeth School

# The Outdoor Library Project will help our students to thrive as they now have a quiet space to relax and read in whilst they are in the playground.



Our playground can often be overwhelming and noisy, which means sometimes our students need somewhere quiet to reset and self regulate. The outdoor library will provide this safe and relaxing area to not only achieve this, but it will also mean books and a calming environment are readily available for those who want them all year round!



Helen Elphick, our Headteacher, said about The Outdoor Library "I am really excited that pupils will have a quiet place they can go to on the playground. I am sure it will help them to develop their ability to self-regulate by taking themselves there or requesting it when they know that a quiet space is what they need"



Queen Elizabeth School

Due to the generosity of Southwater Parish Council we have been able to put the £1,000 grant towards the purchase of a Summer House to use as an outdoor library. This was installed on site in early April 2024, and we are now in the process of purchasing sensory beanbags and suitable shelving for the books to go in the library.



# We would like to thank Southwater Parish Council for their



# generous support



## How we spent our grant...

The Summer House cost us in the region of:  
£1,500 for the specialist base  
£2,200 for the summer house itself

Bean Bags: about to be purchased but are in the region of £400 for 4

Shelving: we aren't buying it all at once as we are seeing how much we can fit in the Summer House but will be purchasing a few shelving options for approx £200

## Impact of this grant ...

The Impact of this grant:

- the ability to complete the project as required
- the ability to provide students a calming quiet space to regulate and reset when necessary, so they can continue their school day in a positive manner with the least amount of disruption to themselves and others
- the ability to provide all year round access to books in the playground for all students



## SOUTHWATER BOWLS CLUB

The Club, a friendly and welcoming organisation, remains one of the few places in our community where young and old alike can get exercise, enjoy sport and competition ( both on the green and shortmat bowls in the Lardner Hall), and enjoy a variety of social events, generally monthly, whilst also building friendships with and finding support from fellow members of the club community.

This friendly and welcoming community spirit is also offered to all the other clubs visiting Southwater throughout the summer season outdoors and the winter season in The Lardner Hall with shortmat bowls. Some 40/50 matches are played throughout the summer and fewer indoors in the winter. All these events swell the numbers involved by some 500 or so persons who enjoy the facilities and spirit which Southwater Bowls Club has to offer.

Membership, open to all, remains relatively strong as far as numbers go at this time compared to many other local clubs. However, a significant number of members have been lost at this time for various reasons , mainly less mobility, illness etc.. New members are always sought and are guaranteed a warm welcome. Every encouragement is given to help them enjoy their experience of the club. In our endeavour to increase numbers, the club will , as usual, be offering "Come & Try" sessions on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the season, ( May/September). Advertisements will be placed in Southwater News magazine and, hopefully, Parish notice boards.

Financially, resources remain very delicately balanced as a result of the level of rent currently required, combined with the costs associated with maintaining the green etc.. Matters have not been helped by the need to fund some exceptional items such as new sprinkler heads, and the repair and relaying of all the paving around the green as a result of the replacement of sprinkler pipes around the green. These unexpected items have greatly depleted any reserves. In addition, a grant of £500 from the Parish council has also allowed the Club to replace the sprinkler control box; the old one being over 30 years old. This support has been extremely appreciated and the Club thanks the Parish Council for this help. The new control box is in place and will come into operation as required this season.

Subject to being able to control costs, whilst taking into account what may be on offer at other local clubs, Southwater Bowls Club will hopefully be able to survive. Over the last three years, since the formation of The Ghyll C.I.O., the Club has not been able to break even. Hopefully this is a situation which can be reversed in the very near future. It would be regrettable if this valuable community resource had to close its gates because of financial constraints. The Club will work extremely hard to avoid such an occurrence, if at all possible.





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## How we're spending your grant

Thank you so much for supporting 4Sight Vision Support. Your grant of £350, received in December 2023, has enabled our team to provide support to 32 residents of your parish who are blind or sight impaired.

So far, our Team have:

- Been there for 4 clients with specialist Low Vision advice to help them make best use of their remaining sight, enabling them to carry out everyday tasks (such as reading correspondence or preparing meals) more easily and safely.
- Advised on, and coordinated, delivery of a specialist piece of equipment to support 1 client's independence.
- Been a listening ear and source of support to ensure clients do not feel isolated and alone.
- Supported 1 client experiencing financial difficulties (due to the cost of living crisis) to access the benefits they need to ensure they and their families are provided for, which has improved their financial stability and reduced stress and anxiety.
- Sent out our bi-monthly newsletters, available in five different, accessible formats. These are a key communication tool for our clients, to help them feel connected and stay up to date with changes to our services; as well as receiving the latest news in the sight loss sector.

As we continue our work to support Southwater parish residents who are blind or partially sighted, we look forward to updating you further.

# Southwater Village Hall Update

This much-loved building is a registered charity run by a management committee.



The objective of the charity is laid out in our trust deed.

*'The object of charity shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Southwater and the neighbourhood [hereinafter called 'the area of benefit'] without distinction of political, religious, or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.'*

Southwater Village Hall Management Committee consists of 5 elected trustees and 8 Representative trustees.

## **Elected Trustees**

James Tillier	Chairman
Nick Longdon	Treasurer
Ilanit Slowly	Secretary
Sue Broomfield	Vice-Chair
Barbara Varley	

## **Representative Trustees**

Suzanne Lewis	Southwater WI
Teresa Longdon	Southwater Games Afternoon
Graham Watkins	Southwater Parish Council
Dave Taylor	Elim Church
Patricia Thorpe	Southwater Horticultural Society
Alex Woolf	Elsden Dance Company
Emma Buckland	Southwater Village Hall Pre-School

## **What have we been up to this year?**

The hall continues to be well used. As well as regular bookings, demand for casual bookings has been strong with the Village Hall continuing to be seen as a popular venue for children's parties. The Management Committee has continued to strive to provide a well-maintained village hall for the benefit of the local community and a number of improvements have been made. These included: -

A new sound system has been installed, incorporating a handheld and lapel mic and the ability to play music via CD or Bluetooth. This has been well used by regular hall users and casual users alike.

Fire alarm sensors were replaced, and a new 24-hour monitoring system set up with Fire Risk UK.

A new key fob system was installed with fobs issued to regular hall users.

The guttering has been overhauled and grips, brackets and stop ends replaced. Gutter hedgehogs have also been installed.

Nonfunctioning windows were replaced, and all now operate correctly.



The car park lighting was finally operational at the end of July. Planning permission was agreed in May for four bollard lights, plus exterior building lights. As is required, lighting will come on at dusk and go off at 11pm



The new play area shelter/outdoor classroom and artificial grass was completed in April. This was funded from the Village Hall's reserves with a contribution of £5000 from the Preschool. The Parish Council made a grant of £1,000, towards this and £2,451.10 was received from The Coop, which had selected the project to benefit from its community Fund. There was an informal opening ceremony in May. This was attended by the Chairman of the Parish Council, a representative from the Coop, members of the Village Hall Management Committee, Preschool Committee, staff, parents, and the preschool children. This

was covered on social media and also featured in the local press.

The Village Hall participated in the Kings Coronation celebration in April. The WI decorated the outside of the hall and the Pre-School, Games Afternoon and the Welcome Club all marked the occasion.



## Financial Review

There was significant additional expenditure in 2023. This mainly related to the Committee's various projects, in particular the shelter/outdoor classroom for the Preschool play area. This was all paid for from reserves allocated for these projects.

The direct costs of running the Village Hall in 2023 were covered by hire charges and there was in fact a surplus of £2765.13. This is despite an increase of 34% in direct running costs. This increase was mainly related to a one-off payment to Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd to provide play area inspections for the next five years, the introduction of fire alarm monitoring, and generally increased maintenance costs.

Despite the overall increase in direct running costs, the Village Hall benefitted from another year of very low energy costs. The net cost was only £478.38. This is because it continues to be on a low fixed tariff for electricity and gas [negotiated pre-Energy Crisis] until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. In addition, it received income for the electricity produced by the solar panels from the Government's Feed In Tariff Scheme [FIT] amounting to £1,490.45, and a further £1,134.94 from the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme [RHI], for the energy produced by the air source heat pumps.

When the current fixed tariff comes to an end there will be a significant increase in the Village Hall's energy costs. In 2025, when the full effect of the new energy charges will be

felt it is unlikely that the current level of hire charges will cover the direct running costs. In view of this, the Management Committee will need to review its current hire charges. Charges have not been increased because of its strong commitment to supporting local community groups.

A Reserves Policy is in place and the amounts put aside are regularly reviewed by the Management Committee.

The accounts have been independently examined and were found to be satisfactory.

The Village Hall's financial position remains healthy and secure.

## **The Future**

We look forward to 2024 with some new projects in mind, a kitchen refurbishment and planning a Southwater Village Hall Centenary celebration for June 2025. We will also celebrate with the preschool when they reach their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Summer.

## Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 7 May 2024

Good evening I am XXXXX and represent Southwater Community Partnership and will give you an overview of our organisation. We have been behind and organised many of the recent village events, e.g. Christmas Festivals, Diamond Jubilee Jamboree, Skate Jam, Coronation, Lintot Sq flower bed rewilding etc. We will continue with organising these types of events.

We are

- not for profit
- non-political/ religious
- non lobbying organisation
- made up entirely of volunteers.

Our aim is

To work together on issues and projects of interest and concern to Southwater and its surrounding communities in order to secure its long-term viability as a centre for social, business and cultural activities

Also to help maintain that particular character and heritage associated to Southwater.

We were formally incorporated as a Community Interest Company in March of this year.

We have formed a Management Committee who are taking forward those issues which were originally raised by the Community during the public consultation on the creation of the Neighbourhood plan but not related to planning and developing an action plan. This year we will validate those ambitions and ask the community if there are other things that will help make Southwater a great place to live.

Examples currently being considered

Green Gym for Southwater

Make and mend shed

Easter Market

We are a new group dedicated to delivering those actions that the community through consultation have identified.

Please save the date.....Christmas Festival, Lintot Sq. Saturday 30th November

Watch this space

Southwater Community Partnership .....More volunteers needed.

# SOUTHWATER WI



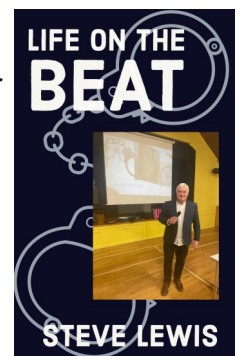
Southwater WI was formed in 2018 and promotes the empowerment of women, creating friendships that last a lifetime. We meet at Southwater Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month.

We ended 2023 with 58 members, including a WI Committee of 11 and 6 further subcommittees..

Jackie Pearce is our President, ilanit Slowly is Secretary, Karen James in our Treasurer and Suzanne Lewis is Vice President



We have a varied and entertaining programme which, in 2023, included welcoming in the new year in January with some line dancing, Our annual meeting took place in February. And we celebrated 5 years as a WI! We learned about 'Life on the Beat', policing in Brighton in the 80s in March.



In April it was 'Flowers not Showers' with Karen from Ruby & Rose. May saw a visit from the RSPCA with a celebration of our animal friends and the story of a very special dog called Norma.



June saw our annual Summer picnic at the village hall and participation in the STCH Mid-night Walk, July was our ever popular quiz and in August we held a fundraiser for St Catherine's Hospice. .

May brought Coronation celebrations, including decorating the village hall and participating in the village beacon lighting evening.



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# SOUTHWATER WI



In September we held an evening of cheese and wine. In October we learned about the history of the WI, and the personal stories behind the local ladies who have shaped our history. For the third year running, we manned the water station, with Southwater guides for Run Barns Green.



In November we were visited by Safe in Sussex, who both moved and educated us, we feel very fortunate to have this much needed local charity.



We made a return to Southwater Christmas Festival with another successful year for our WI stall, we sold out by 3pm! We look forward to participating in this year's village event

# SOUTHWATER WI



## Sub Committees

Our number of Subcommittees increased to 6 this year, this is a key factor in us achieving so much this year.



Our **CAKE** committee organises baked goods at each meeting. They also share a recipe in our WI newsletter each month.

What would a WI be without cake???



The **CAMPAIGNS & CHARITIES** committee is our longest running sub committee and has gone from strength to strength this year. Key achievements included supporting Horsham Matters, in June & July alone we donated the equivalent of 102 meals for families in need. 5 boxes of undergarments went to Smalls For All. We raised over £2,000 for St Catherines Hospice with the Midnight walk and August fundraising evening. We helped tackle period poverty with Tanbridge House School, we have also supported Turning Tides and Safe in Sussex



### Team War Memorial Gardening Gang

The team make sure that garden looking its best for the remembrance service each November. It also receives a patriotic spruce for notable British events.



The **Christmas** committee make sure we are ready for the Southwater Christmas Festival and festive fundraising at our WI meetings. They start planning in the Spring and are well practised by June! They are a keen bunch. Who raised nearly £500 through these activities.



# SOUTHWATER WI

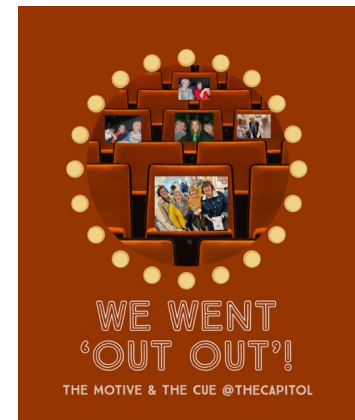


## Sub Committees



Our **WALKING GROUP** covers many miles in and around our area. With evening walks in the Spring and Summer, early Autumn if the weather and light is good. Getting us all out in the air, walking and talking and appreciating the amazing views, wildlife and footpaths Southwater has to offer.

Our newest committee the **'Out Out'** committee formed after two successful theatre tips. They are a sociable bunch and are always looking for opportunities for days and nights out.



## Looking forward to 2024 and

Southwater WI will continue to empower, motivate and entertain members and further develop our sub committees ensuring there is something for everyone! We are proud that members have come on their own and made lasting friendships through our WI.

We couldn't do what we do without our committees, subcommittees and members. Who are all volunteers, giving up so much of their time to make sure we thrive. We will continue to be passionate about supporting village events and strive to remain at The Heart of Southwater.

## **Southwater Neighbour Network [SNN]**

### ***Who we are and what we do***



We are a good neighbour scheme which started in 2014. We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary earlier this year. We are all volunteers and local people. We offer help to Southwater residents who have difficulty getting out because of mobility problems or who are socially isolated. Our aim is to provide the kind of help a good neighbour might offer. We provide transport, if it is local, e.g., to the Village Surgery, Horsham Hospital, hairdressers, local shops etc. We also offer help with shopping and collecting prescriptions. We also provide regular transport to the Welcome Club, Games Afternoon, the Belfry Lunch, and the Friday Lunch Club. We arrange regular outings and in partnership with Southwater Village Hall help to run the Games Afternoon on alternate Wednesday afternoons. We also offer befriending with a volunteer keeping in regular contact with home visits and telephone calls.

Many of the people we support are very lonely and are desperate for contact with others. In response to this, befriending, arranging regular outings, and helping to run the Games Afternoon are key elements of what we do.

Before providing a service, we visit the person preferably with a family member/carer present. This is with the purpose of obtaining some basic information and an understanding of their needs. Information about their mobility is particularly important, i.e., can they walk unaided, do they use a rollator, etc. Once registered with us requests for assistance can be made to our Volunteer Coordinator who will arrange help.

We are a not-for-profit organisation run by a small committee of five volunteers. Our finances are too small for us to qualify for charitable status. We do not charge for our service although we are always pleased to receive donations.

All our volunteers are safely recruited. This includes a DBS check and the taking up of personal references. Every volunteer has a Link Committee member who is responsible for providing an induction and ongoing support. We hold regular meetings with our volunteers. At present we have 18 volunteers.

Currently we have about 45 people on our list. Some receive a lot of support, for a lot it is help to get to the Welcome Club and the Games Afternoon, for some it is just in case they need help in the future. On average, every month we deliver about 100 hours of direct service to the people we support. This does not include the significant amount of time that is spent on coordinating and organising the service.

Nick Longdon  
Chair and Safeguarding Officer – Southwater Neighbour Network  
21.04.24



## Southwater Community First Responders

Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers, trained by their local ambulance service - South - East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) in our case - to respond as First Person On Scene (FPOS) to life threatening medical emergencies in their community, ahead of the ambulance service attending.

The Southwater team was established in 2012 and since then has attended many, many hundreds of calls. We respond to most, but not all, medical emergencies that SECAMB deal with. A typical month can include patients with: Asthma, Cardiac arrest, Chest pain, Difficulty in breathing, Falls, Fitting, Sepsis, Shortness of breath, Stroke, Trauma, and Unconscious. The team has also overseen the installation and maintenance of fourteen Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) around the village.

Southwater CFRs is a registered charity and, as well as being under the auspices of SECAMB, is overseen by a board of local Trustees.

To be a CFR you need to be:

- over eighteen,
- have a full driving licence,
- have ready access to a vehicle,
- and able to commit to volunteering for at least twenty hours a month.

No previous medical experience is required as full training is given. Openings for CFRs are advertised on the NHS jobs website.

More information about the role, and the team, can be found on our Facebook page - Southwater Community Responders.

# SOUTHWATER ART CLUB



## About the club

Southwater Art Club was formed approximately 25 years ago. The club is run by its members on a non-for profit basis. Our primary objective is to provide opportunities for individuals to participate in Art activities in a relaxed and socially engaging environment and at a reasonable cost.

We currently organise twice weekly painting for pleasure sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Wednesday session alternates between afternoons/evenings, thus guaranteeing at least two evening sessions a month to cater for still working.

The club uses local facilities, the Laurie Apted building and village hall for art activities. The club has also traditionally run an annual weekend art and craft exhibition in the village (our current venue of choice is the Ghyll, Lardner Room).

The club is self-funding through an annual membership fee and a fee per organised session. The exhibition is funded partly through the club, grants and local business sponsorship.

Current Fees £25.00 Joining Fee

Annual Renewal £25.00 August/July)

Each Session (3hrs) £5.00

## Review of last 12 months

### Achievements

Membership numbers have remained stable.

Increased our regular session frequency from 6 to 8 a month.

Annual art and craft show was a great success, held over the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct w/e we are grateful for the generous support from local business community and the Parish Council.

Established a small gallery to display local artwork at the tea shop in Lintot Square

### **Challenges ongoing for the art club**

We need to attract more active members to the club to fund the ongoing costs of providing regular facilities.

The annual art and craft show remains an important event not just for the art club but for the village, funding support will remain an area of concern as we look ahead to this September's planned event.

Improving our on-line presence for both information and marketing purposes is a recognised priority for the club.

Provision of more varied art club activity for both members to enjoy and increase local community participation is something the club will strive towards achieving.

John O'Grady (Chairperson)

## Southwater u3a Report

Report on Southwater u3a, u3a meaning university of the third age. The motto of the u3a is learn, laugh, live. It is also about everyone bringing something to the u3a. This can range from making the tea and coffee to running a group. The age that people can join the u3a has changed in that there is no longer a minimum age, but you cannot be in full time employment. The activities are aimed at the over 55 age range. There is also an emphasis now on not just learning but laughing and living as it is ideal for people who live on their own and use the u3a as a way of meeting people.

At Southwater u3a we do a lot of laughing and living and we do learn but in an informal way through quizzes, outings, book group, the other group activities and outside speakers at our general meetings.

The groups we have running at the moment are pitch and putt, backgammon, quiz, rummicub, card making group, book group, garden visits, national trust visits, out and about, discussion and girls that chat. These groups run on a particular day each month. We also have bi-monthly general meetings where we have outside speakers who talk on a wide range of topics.

Some of our smaller groups meet in members' houses and for our larger meetings we use the Church Room and Dial Post Village Hall. Two of our groups meet in the Topsy Fox. We would prefer to have all our meetings in Southwater but sadly due to limited facilities it is not possible.

We are a very small u3a as many other u3as are considerably larger with several hundred members. Being a small u3a can be a bonus as everyone knows everyone and makes making friends easy. The downside is that we only have a small income so each of our groups have to be self-financing when they run activities. Our numbers are increasing slightly and we now have 75 members.

Dial Post Village Hall took part in the Village Halls open day and as some of our groups meet at Dial Post we joined in with the celebrations. As a result, we gained a couple of new members. I find it frustrating that Dial Post, which is so much smaller than Southwater has a brilliant village hall which can be used every day and evening by the community at a very reasonable price and we have very little. You can hire the Lardner Hall, but you have to pay at least twice the price if not more. I voiced my concerns to Jeremy Quinn at the open day.

We offer our General Meetings to non-members to be used as a taster session for joining the u3a. Our noticeboard is outside the library.

We hope to continue to be part of the village and hope that we can remain in the village, but it is not an easy task.