

# Annual Parish Meeting Reports

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## Southwater Youth Project – Report to Funding Bodies - APRIL 2023

SYP is much more than the occasional club. It is an **embedded** youth work which enables relationships to grow, building bridges into young people's lives where other agencies, groups and schools can struggle to engage. Our creative, innovative, personal one to one engagement working alongside our regular clubs and activities is widely appreciated and makes a real difference to our young people. SYP builds upon local connections, networks and organisations in engaging with children & young people through a widely respected professional community **youth project**, supported by some amazing community volunteers, in both delivering and signposting young people to a broad range of affordable and accessible educational, social, community and leisure based activities & opportunities. Declining youth mental health was already a concern before the covid pandemic and lockdowns, and SYP's intervention has been vital, but our local embedded approach also means that young people's needs are understood much earlier, which helps them feel there are solutions to their concerns and someone to turn to before things escalate. Horsham District Council continues to engage with a hugely serious ongoing youth mental health crisis and SYP's services are seen as a vital partner in HDC and our community's responses. A key part of this provision is our aim to secure and provide the necessary funding to employ professional Youth Worker/s to work with children and young people in Southwater as outlined above, in order to build, develop and sustain a youth project which creates conversations, activities and experiences to help move them beyond their limitations, fostering a culture of enjoyment, learning, and respect, and creating long-term change which is of benefit to them and to wider society. The Project's management, employees, volunteers, policies, premises, finances and funding are overseen by the Board of Trustees.

## Highlights: September to December 2022

- *Positive return to term time clubs after the summer holidays with new faces joining all the sessions.*
- *Young people representing SYP in the community, becoming young leaders/young ambassadors e.g. fundraising by selling sweets and glow sticks at the community fireworks*
- *Amazing support and encouragement from the best team of volunteer youth workers who kept the clubs going when I was twice on compassionate leave and unable to be present*
- *Young people involved in planning, making/creating Santa's grotto for the village Christmas festival*
- *End of the year Christmas holiday activities, especially the Christmas disco/DJ evening.*

The Youth Centre in Beeson House has always been a safe space which local young people saw as theirs, where they could go whether in or outside of school hours and be sure to find support. The SYP Trustees are pleased that the conversations with SPC have resulted in the signing of an agreed license to occupy and use the Youth Centre. We are therefore grateful to the Chair of SPC and SPC's EO for their help in enabling the Trustee Board to secure a Licence to Occupy agreement which all parties could support. While some practical work is now ongoing to re-establish this essential space for our local young people, as of January 2023 the Youth Centre is open again, and clubs and group meetings are able to take place in this purpose



built space, and this vital confidential base for SYP to deliver one to ones and mental health support has been reinstated.

We are also very grateful to our community volunteers who stepped up to run groups and activities during the two periods of compassionate leave given to the Lead Youth Worker following the death of her father, and then her mother, both in the last school term.

### **An outline of what we deliver:**

**Schools work:** Southwater schools & Horsham secondary schools: assemblies/RE & other lessons; one to one engagement/mentoring; year 5 residential & year 6 secondary transition/support; crisis & ongoing mental health support; liaison with home schooled children & special interest groups where needed.

**Community youth work:** after school clubs/activities; DofE; online support; ongoing mentoring, mental health support, suicide ideation & crisis intervention; engaging with young people at risk of or engaging with ASB, & other detached work; assisting with youth employability; holiday clubs/trips.

**Community & church engagement:** involvement with local events: e.g. local school events & SJA student residential; community events such as the Jubilee Jamboree & Village Christmas; advising other community youth projects, & attending funding bodies' & Trustee Board meetings including local churches as required.

**Partnerships:** WSCC/HDC/4TheYouth liaison & linking to local/area youth projects/schemes; attending Social Service Case Conferences; supporting young people in the criminal justice system liaising with TAC, Police, the courts; developing contacts with other secular & church youth support agencies.

### **Autumn 2022 – some specifics from Angie Choat, Lead Youth Worker:**

#### **Weekly sessions & average attendance: autumn programme/activities**

*NB: numbers attending indoor sessions/activities in the Ghyll on Fridays are lower due to being in a smaller space than the previous Friday Club offered by the Leisure Centre (as was).*

- Tuesday Duke of Edinburgh Award: key leaders stepping down meant we didn't run a new autumn group but will be starting a new BRONZE group in Feb 2023.
- Wednesday pm Youth Hang Out: no indoor space available so we did outreach and detached youth work engaging with 15 - 20 youngsters some weeks, zero on others (weather dependent)
- Thursday After School Safe Space: 10 - 15 children weekly (school years 3 - 6)
- Friday Art Club: 15-20 young people (years 3 - 9)
- Friday Junior Youth Club: 35 – 50 young people (years 5 - 8)
- Weekly schools One to One mentoring/mental health/support sessions in SJA, Tanbridge, Millais: 6 students (year 6 – 10) - much lower than usual due to personal bereavement/compassionate leave
- Weekly community One to One mentoring/support sessions: 4 young people (year 7 – 13)
- Community One to One interactions (detached work/informal chats), giving support as needed.

One to One issues raised included: self-harm; suicidal ideation; physical & sexual abuse; parental cancer diagnoses; anxiety & anger management; self-confidence; self-worth; grief e.g. supporting a number of children and young people following the death of grandparents; gender identity; exam worries; stress moving to secondary school; school attendance/refusal; faith questions; bullying; boyfriend/girlfriend/general friendship issues; body image; anti-social behaviour/fear of anti-social behaviour; drug/alcohol & solvent abuse.

#### **Other: Christmas holidays**

- In the week before Christmas we offered 2 extra holiday sessions for children and young people, a craft/games session and a chill out afternoon, both well attended with about 25 young people.

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- We held a Christmas disco party and DJ session - lots of festive cheer with c30 youngsters joining the fun.
- Over the Christmas holiday period some of the SYP young leaders/ambassadors helped other volunteers in getting the Beeson House Youth Centre straightened out ready for the new term. We are all very excited about having the facility back after so long.

**Angie Choat: Lead Youth Worker**

**Kath Jones: Chair Southwater Youth Project January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**



# Southwater Village Hall

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**

Deborah Bailey	Southwater Welcome Club
Suzanne Lewis	Southwater WI
Teresa Longdon	Southwater Games Afternoon
Geoff Scoon	Southwater Parish Council
Dave Taylor	Elim Church
Patricia Thorpe	Southwater Horticultural Society
Alex Woolf	Elsden Dance Company
TBC	Southwater Village Hall Pre-School

Heather Clarke, Long-term Manager of the Pre-School, retired after some 27 years with the preschool and as their representative on the committee. We recognised her contribution to the village hall at our March Committee Meeting.

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

By mid-February 2022, all regular hall users were back to using the Village Hall after Omicron and since then usage has returned to pre-Covid times. 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: -

## The Main Hall

- New roller blinds, replacing the old blue curtains, were fitted in the main hall which had been re-decorated at the end of 2021. This has made the main hall a much brighter and airier space and many positive comments have been received from hall users.
- We also now have a state-of-the-art sound system installed in early 2023. It has been well used by the regular hall users already and is another achievement for the hall.



## Exterior

- To ensure the safe evacuation from the new play area an outside fire alarm with flashing light and sounder was installed.
- The new, long-awaited car park, provided as part of the Section 106 Agreement was finally built in April 2022. Following a lengthy legal transfer process, it was in use in September. Prior to its opening, the Management Committee used money from the Village Hall's reserves to have the old car park resurfaced and marked out for the sole use of disabled car parking and dropping off. The new car parking has made a tremendous difference for hall users and the local community. This has dramatically reduced on street parking in the local area which has always been a major issue.



The new car park is landscaped, and the decision was taken to employ a gardener to keep this and other areas tidy. This has made a real difference.

Chris Mitchell, Berkeley's Project Manager, can be seen handing it over to our Chairman, James Tillier, along with Heather Clarke.

Lighting for the new car park is seen as a priority to ensure the safety of hall users. After several avenues were explored. We were delighted to receive planning permission for bollard lighting from HDC in April 2023.



## Pre-School Play Area

- The new play area has continued to be well used by the Pre-School and the children have clearly benefitted from having this. The Management Committee, in partnership with the Pre-School Committee, looked at providing a shelter/outdoor classroom for the play area to enable the children to spend more time outside.

Applications to grant making organisations were made. The Management Committee is very grateful to Southwater Parish Council for making a grant of £1000. The project has also been selected to benefit from the Coop Local Community Fund.



- The work was completed over the Easter holidays, this is a fantastic enhancement to the Pre-School's facilities.
- An opening ceremony was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May with Heather Clarke cutting the ribbon to officially open the shelter. Attendees included representatives from the village hall committee, SPC, Coop, Sovereign and the Pre-School.





## Village Celebrations

- The Village Hall participated in the late Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations in June. The WI decorated the outside of the hall and the Pre-School, Games Afternoon and the Welcome Club all marked the occasion. There are pictures of this on the Village Hall's website.



- Similarly for the recent Coronation, the hall was once again festooned in bunting and there were more celebratory events.

## Financial Review

- Income from hall bookings has returned to pre-Covid levels.
- The Village Hall benefitted from the Government's Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £2,667.
- The cost of energy is a major issue for community buildings. Our Village Hall is in the very fortunate position of being on a fixed tariff until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. It also received income for the electricity produced by the solar panels from the Government's Feed In Tariff Scheme [FIT] of £1,774.95 and its Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme [RHI], in relation to the air source heat pumps, of £762.04, together totaling £2,536.99. This meant that the Village Hall's net energy costs were only £206.63.
- 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 forwards with enthusiasm and optimism. The hall has flourished since Covid, when many other facilities have floundered. We have a strong, positive management committee and are proud to be part of the Southwater community. We also look forward to celebrating our centenary in 2025.

# Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens

Annual Report for March 2022- April 2023

## 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 March 2023, contributed to by Justin Tyler (Executive Officer & RFO), 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 ShopWatch aka 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>

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Table 1 below shows the Neighbourhood Warden activities from April 2021 to March 2022 inclusive:

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>1112.0</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	<b>148.00</b>
Foot (high visibility)	541.50	Noise	7
Vehicle	570.50	Neighbours	4
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>80.00</b>	Driving/vehicles	88
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes/Skateboarder	15
Yellow card warning	2	Alcohol/drugs	2
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	32
Parking alert	78	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>1123.00</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>164.00</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	21/9
Phone (including 101 and 999)	24	Graffiti	32
Email	61	Dog fouling	345
Intelligence report	3	Litter	175
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	12	Drug litter	148
Verbal	64	Hazards	393
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>121.00</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>36</b>
Press release / Community magazines	11	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>18</b>
Social Media	110	<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>School contact</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Youth engagement</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 2 below shows Neighbourhood Warden activities from April 2022 to March 2023 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>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>	<b>61</b>
Press release / Community magazines	8	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>16</b>
Social Media	69	<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>School contact</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>Youth engagement</b>	<b>453</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Highlights**

Youth engagement	up from 158 to 453
Police Contact	up from 164 to 208
School engagement	up from 33 to 74
Community Events	up from 36 to 61
Drugs litter	down from 148 to 67
Dog Fouling	down from 345 to 189
Litter	down from 175 to 77
Graffiti	down from 32 to 11

## 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 new information and community needs.
- 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 DISC which will replace ShopWatch. We have also been instrumental in securing banning notices for persistent offenders.
- We continued to monitor, report on and dispose of drug litter whilst providing intelligence reports to partner agencies and law enforcement colleagues.

## Youth Anti-Social Behaviour

In our last Annual Report, we reported on the extensive work being undertaken to address the negative impact of a very small group of young residents who were engaging in physical assaults and damage to property. Data from the last 12 months provides clear evidence that the collaborative partnership working of Project Southwater made progress in dramatically reducing youth related anti-social behaviour in our village. The last 8 months has seen a dramatic reduction in youth related ASB. We continue to work in close collaboration with all partner enforcement agencies to modify unacceptable behaviours and promote positive engagement within our community.

## Parking/vehicles

The highest number of anti-social behaviour incidents witnessed by or reported to us over the past year have been in relation to vehicle use be it inconsiderate driving, inappropriate parking or any number of other behaviours potentially increasing the risk to pedestrians and other road users.

\* Parking incidents or complaints up from 80 -139

\* Driving incidents or complaints up from 88 -117

Where appropriate, verbal warnings, advice leaflets or parking notices are issued to raise awareness of anti-social parking and several Parking Charge Notices were issued to repeat offenders by HDC Parking Services.

We regularly support our schools at pick up and drop off times to reduce the risks to the welfare of students, parents and staff caused by inconsiderate drivers which has included enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

In consultation with one of our schools, we initiated discussions with Southwater Parish and Horsham District Council who in turn submitted an application to WSCC Highways for a new TRO in an attempt to tackle ongoing issues as there is currently no enforcement provision in the area.

As part of last year's Road Safety Campaign, we delivered school presentations and organised a poster competition for pupils with the winners selected by each school being presented with a prize by local councillors in a small ceremony at Beeson House before being displayed outside each school.

We challenge and report ASB driving where appropriate as well as abandoned vehicles with no MOT/Road Tax directly to DVLA and/or Operation Crackdown <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/> and made 24 such reports this year.

## 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, reported and liaised with HDC's Environmental Enforcement Officer and when appropriate, have acted as professional witnesses by securing and preserving evidence, taking photographs and writing statements prior to arranging specialist removal by HDC.
- Fly posting incidents decreased again this year as commercial advertisers understand that signage contravening regulations will be removed, potentially at their expense in order 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 excellent provision of community groups and volunteer organisations. We have endeavoured to link up with as many community groups, charities and volunteers as possible in order to support residents of all ages and abilities across the village.

### Free Water Sports Sessions

August 2022 - With funding support from both Horsham District Council and Southwater Parish Council, we were able to organise water sports sessions delivered by Southwater Water Sports at the Country Park. Twenty pupils from Year 6 at Southwater Junior Academy and Castlewood Primary were nominated by their schools in recognition of their individual personal achievements.



### Southwater Horticultural Society Show

September 2022 - This was a fabulous opportunity to join with residents to admire the amazing results of all their hard work. On display were flowers, fruits and vegetables of different varieties, jams and marmalades as well as breads and cakes. Congratulations to all those who entered produce in the competitive categories in search of a coveted trophy.



### Blackberry Fair

October 2022 - Thank you to Castlewood School for inviting us and congratulations to their supporters and all contributors for your brilliant community event which was very well attended.





Southwater Fire Works

We were invited to support the fabulous fireworks event held at the Sports Club. It was wonderful to meet so many supporters and contributors which make these events possible. With a capacity crowd, it was a great way to showcase Southwater. Congratulations to the organisers on a very successful event.

Christmas Festival

We joined with many wonderful and enthusiastic volunteers to support stall holders set up their gazebos. It was fantastic to see brilliant dancing in the performance area plus great music and singing on the stage. The event was brought to a conclusion by Santa turning on the lights and a final flurry of Xmas carols.



Southwater Village Hall Pre-School

We were invited to attend the Village Hall pre-school for a 'Meet the Wardens' session. We met a fabulous group of children who were amazingly well behaved and very interested. We told them a little bit about what we do and that we are in the village to help. The interactive part of our presentation went really well with particular interest shown in our Body Worn Cameras and the equipment in our patrol car. Who knew you could have so much fun putting on PPE, wearing a Hi-Viz jacket and using a litter picker. Thank you so much to all the teachers for such a warm welcome and for the opportunity to meet you all. We had a great time.



### Southwater Youth Project

We continue to work in partnership with Angie Choat (Youth Worker) and the Southwater Youth Project volunteers regarding children and young people. We regularly drop in to support Art Club or the Friday Night Youth Club when our commitments allow.



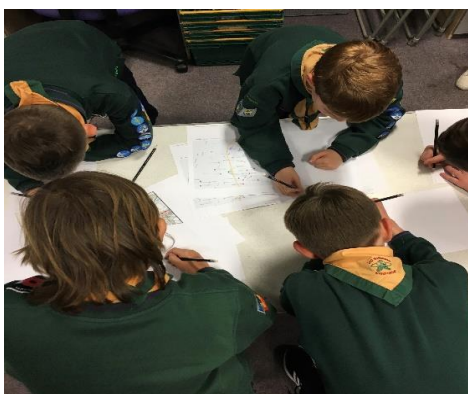
### Road Safety Poster Competition

As part of Road Safety Week, we asked the parish schools if their students would like to take part in a poster competition. The aim was to make drivers aware of the dangers they present to pupils outside their schools and to persuade motorists to drive and park safely. The response was overwhelming, with many amazing designs often in bright colours and even clever slogans. After a lot of consideration and discussion, a winning poster was selected from each of the three schools. Well done and huge congratulations to Lowri, William and Amir who were presented with their prizes by Southwater Parish Councillors Ilanit Slowly and Nicola Brown at a small event at Beeson House watched by proud family and friends.



### 2nd Southwater Cubs Pack

We were invited to provide two presentations to the Cubs explaining our role in the community and to help them as they create a community map describing all the different services, what they do and who they support as they work on their Community Impact and Our World badges.





## Road Safety Project

We ran a Road Safety campaign involving all our local schools which started with a poster competition where pupils designed awareness posters highlighting the hazards that they face from anti-social driving and inconsiderate parking. The winners from each of the three schools had their signs put up outside each school. We hope these posters will have a positive impact on all road users as we work to keep everyone safe.



## Southwater Infant Academy Presentation

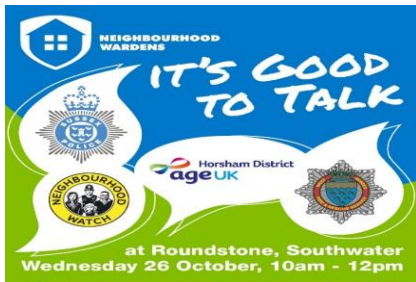
Accompanied by Sussex Police PCSO Cecil, we were invited to attend Southwater Infant Academy to deliver a presentation about staying safe when getting to and from school. All the pupils were brilliant and we enjoyed their enthusiastic interaction. The slogan "Stop, Look, Listen, Think" was reinforced at the end with an interactive film from the government's THINK! Road Safety programme.



## Warden Drop-Ins

We hold regular drop-in sessions at various locations across the Parish at different times of the day, 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.

At one of these sessions we organised for residents to have conversations with representatives of West Sussex Fire & Rescue, Age UK, Neighbourhood Watch Association and the Southwater Neighbour Network when we were hosted by the brilliant staff of Roundstone. As a result, WSFRs visited residents to undertake safety checks and provide guidance to reduce fire risks in their homes.



Horsham District Council organised for advisors from Citizens Advice to hold a joint drop in with us at The Ghyll Café so residents could come to discuss any concerns they had about the cost-of-living crisis or get access to support for any other aspect of their life.



In conjunction with Ken Broomfield, Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch Association Chairman and staff from Southwater Police Volunteer Office, we held a session at Beeson House where we provide bicycle security marking advice and anti-tamper sticker packs to 16 new bike owners to help deter bike thefts by registering the unique codes on a UK wide database.





In January, we were inside the Co Op in Lintot Square and met with many people who asked lots of important questions about our service, how they could get support with a specific issue or just to get the latest information on community groups or scams.

## 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.

## Elderly and Youth

### **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 Study 1

Concerns were raised by residents about an adult male who appeared to be sleeping rough and potentially in need of support. A local business kindly supplied him with bottled water but even after a long chat he still declined direct intervention or to take up sign-posting to a local homeless charity. We continued to monitor the man's conditions/needs and liaised with the appropriate stakeholders including a local charity who undertook site visits to engage with him.

#### Case Study 2

We were contacted by someone who was concerned for a resident who had missed several social appointments. In conjunction with our local PCSO Damian Cecil, we were able to organise a home visit and established that they were safe and well and a support plan was subsequently devised by Adult Social Care services.

#### Case Study 3

We attended the home of an older resident who had been seen walking outside without shoes and had told neighbours that they needed food. We met with social services representatives together with a locksmith as, due to developing additional needs, the resident had locked themselves out of their house. A care plan is now in place to provide additional support services moving forwards.

#### Case Study 4

We met with an older resident struggling to carry their shopping and following a conversation, realised that the resident could really benefit from some additional support. We were invited into the resident's home and were able to talk about our role in the community and other agencies that would be able to provide help. By agreement with the resident, we contacted West Sussex Fire and Rescue and the Southwater Neighbour Network and provided contact details for agencies including Age UK and Citizens Advice. The Southwater Parish Council Chairman's Discretionary Fund was utilised to purchase a wheeled shopping trolley. We know that small interventions of this kind can make all the difference to residents.

### **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.



### **Southwater Youth Project**

We have forged an excellent working relationship with Angie Choat and the Southwater Youth Project volunteers. We continue to drop into to their regular weekly sessions, which has helped us get to know some of the younger people in Southwater and promote safe places for young people to ask difficult questions, learn about themselves and others and develop skills whilst supported by trusted leaders.

### **WBC Cares UK/Brighton & Hove Boxing Team Free Boxing Sessions**

One of the initiatives from Project Southwater was the delivery of free boxing sessions by the WBC Cares UK programme in partnership with Horsham District Council. These were delivered by coaches from Brighton & Hove Boxing Team at The Ghyll each week for young people aged 11-17. These sessions continued throughout the year and were thoroughly enjoyed by attendees.

### **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 year but we are pleased to see the number of recorded incidents has dramatically reduced from 345 to 189 as more people take their responsibilities seriously possibly encouraged by our now infamous Social Media pink, eco spray-paint campaign.

We are aware of an increase in reports to Sussex Police of incidents in the village involving 'dogs dangerously out of control in a public space and likely to cause harm'. If you or your children are walking anyone's dog in the community and a conflict arises, you will be deemed to be the person responsible for the control of the dog at that time regardless of who owns them.

### **Cycling**

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

### **Parish specific/other**

#### **Training**

Hate & ASB Risk Assessment  
Safeguarding & Child Protection  
Fire Risk Assessment for Vulnerable People  
First Aid Refresher (EFAW Level 3)  
Rest Centre Manager  
Bystander Intervention  
Local Authority Incident Liaison Officer  
Burglary Prevention  
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service  
Mandatory Corporate and Health & Safety

#### **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:

Facebook: [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 including an inter-generational planting and food growing area, a community Fun Day with entertainment and activities in partnership with local groups as well as free sports sessions for the summer.

### **Stakeholders and Community Groups**

The established lines of communication with our local Sussex Police PCSO will continue to afford residents a further layer of support and the benefits of his local knowledge. We have been building a closer working relationship with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service by attending regular meetings so that we are aware of any salient 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 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.

**E-CINS:** Online confidential multi-agency sharing of caseloads.

**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

**PSPO:** Public Spaces Protection Order – Intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.

**SPC:** Southwater Parish Council

**WSFR:** West Sussex Fire & Rescue

# 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 started 2022 with 32 members, we were just getting back into socialising and getting out and about after pandemic restrictions eased.

We ended 2022 with 59 members, including a Committee of 10.

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



We have a varied and entertaining programme which, in 2022, included welcoming in the new year in January with some line dancing, tales of MI5 and MI6 in February and a thought provoking discussion on climate change in March.

In April we learned about the traditional art of beekeeping. May saw a visit from Sussex Search and Southwater Community First Responders.



June was an action packed month, with the beacon lighting, decoration of the village hall, and war memorial. The village's Platinum Jubilee Jamboree celebration saw the creations of our very own village artwork our 'Queen of Stamps'. We even made the local paper!

We rounded the month off nicely with our Jubilee picnic. Indoors this year to avoid the showers, a fabulous street party theme with lots of fizz.



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN





# SOUTHWATER WI



Our annual quiz returned in July and was as popular as ever. Whilst we do not have an official August meeting, we enjoyed our very first fundraiser. For Breast Cancer Now and raised £600!.

In September we had a nostalgic evening with memory boxes from Horsham Museum. We made a bittersweet toast to honour Her Majesty the Queen with her favourite gin and dubonnet. We kept the Barns Green runners motivated and watered by manning the Marlpost water station with Southwater Guides.



October saw us 'Showcase Southwater' with our local business marketplace. November got us in to the festive spirit with a Victorian Christmas show, and we enjoyed live music at our December Christmas party.

We enjoyed a successful Southwater Christmas Festival, selling out much earlier than planned, we will be coming back, bigger and better in 2023!



# SOUTHWATER WI



## Campaigns & Charities

The Campaign & Charities Sub Committee was formed a year ago and is headed up by Karen Jordan.

We've supported Horsham Matters with food donations to support families, and our timings coordinate with the school holidays. We've supplied period products for Tanbridge House School and have collected jewellery donations for Safe in Sussex Womens Refuge.

We launched our 'Smalls for All' Campaign – donating lightly loved bras and new pants, boxes and boxes of them! Thereby supporting young women in Africa and the UK to stay within education during their periods.

And, at the end of the year we heard about Turning Tides, a homeless hub being set up in Horsham with the aim of supporting employment and IT skills in a residential setting. We provided a lunch with cakes, of course, for the volunteers working on the premises, and had a tour of the complex. Then in December we delivered a home made Christmas cake.



In 2023, we continue with our Horsham Matters food bank, collection for Easter, Summer & Christmas holidays, Smalls for All in April and May, and St Catherine's Hospice in August. We have a 10 strong team completing the 'Midnight Walk' in June.

We have recently contacted 11 local WIs to see if they will share with us their Charitable successes and asked if they would meet up with us later in the year to see if we can be better together.



## Team War Memorial Gardening Gang



The team have been busy making sure that garden looking its best for the remembrance service each November. It also received a patriotic spruce for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022



## Looking forward to 2023 and beyond.....

We have three new sub committees, Christmas, Walking group and a Cake Committee (well, it is the WI...) We look forward to updated you on their progress next year.

Southwater WI will continue to empower, motivate and entertain members and further develop our charities and campaigns work. We are also passionate about supporting village events and being at the heart of Southwater.



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

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

SNN is a good neighbour scheme which started in 2014. It is run and provided by volunteers, offering 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.

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.

During the Covid 19 pandemic we maintained regular contact with many of the people we support. Through this we established some strong relationships, and this brought home to us the absolute importance of social contact. 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.

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 19 volunteers who are all local people.

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  
08.05.23



## SOUTHWATER BOWLS CLUB

### Report for Parish Council Meeting 30/05/23

Southwater Bowls Club was founded in 1982 and now has 85 members playing Green Bowls and indoor Short Mat Bowls as well as a number of social members.

For many years the Parish Council looked after the bowls club's interests and our yearly rent was some £2500. Since the Ghyll took over our rent has increased substantially. At present it is £7000 and next year will increase again. This figure is unsustainable in the long term. We accept that we have some reserves, these are needed to replace two ageing lawn mowers at around £10,000 and worn ditch surrounds at around £4000, so our reserves would soon disappear.

Many councils, such as Crawley, subsidise their local bowls clubs enabling their members to play at a reasonable cost. We have already lost several players who cannot afford our increased subscription currently at £90 and this will need to increase. Other clubs in Sussex have practical help in carrying out maintenance of their green, however, we carry out our own maintenance of the green and surrounding areas. Volunteers cut the green 3 times a week and apply weed and moss treatments as necessary throughout the summer months.

We use our facilities for 6 months a year but rent is paid for the whole year – we do use the club room occasionally during the winter for social events and maintenance.

Currently our accounts show a yearly deficit and we therefore request the Council's consideration to assist us in maintaining our club. Bowls is one of the few sports that older people can enjoy and is an important way of maintaining fitness, contact with others and improving their wellbeing – we must not lose this facility!

# SOUTHWATER ART CLUB



Southwater Art Club was formed over two decades ago by three local residents. 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 for our members to attend using both the Laurie Apted and village hall facilities. The club has also traditionally run an annual Arts 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.

We have a current membership of approximately 33 members the majority of which fall into an older demographic. We run an evening session twice a month to ensure we can provide Art sessions to those still working.

John O'Grady (Chairperson)

## Southwater u3a

I am chairperson of Southwater u3a. For those of you who don't know what u3a stands for it is the University of the Third Age. That title can be a little off putting as people assume that it is like being back at school. This is not so. 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. Anyone who is over 55 and not in full-time employment can become a member.

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, our 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, discussion and girls that gossip.

Many of our members live alone and as a u3a we provide a vital service for these members. In attending our groups and general meetings they are able to come along, meet and chat to other members. This helps considerably to combat the feeling of loneliness, so important in the present day that we think about our mental well-being.

Due to Covid our numbers decreased and afterwards some people were reluctant to meet up again but at the moment our numbers are rising and we have 72 members. This makes us a 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.

Some of our smaller groups meet in members' houses and for our larger meetings we used the Council Chamber in Beeson House. Unfortunately, because of Covid that was no longer possible and it is still not possible to hold meetings there even now.

This unfortunately has had a knock-on effect and has helped to decrease our numbers as we have had to look elsewhere outside the village even though as a Southwater group we wanted to remain in the village. Some of our members can't drive which is an important reason for staying in the village.

Dial Post Village Hall have come to our rescue and have been very helpful, but some members cannot travel that far. The Church Room has also come to our rescue and we now hold our general meetings there, but we have to limit our numbers to the first 35 people due to fire regulations. Lardner Hall is available but at 2 ½ times the price of the Church Room, we cannot afford it. We have to come here for our AGM as we must use a room that can hold all our members, so we have no option but to make a loss. We can only afford to do this when there is no alternative. Two of our groups meet in the Topsy Fox. Our meetings are during the day, so the Village Hall is not an option.

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.