



Square 1 Newsletter

Issue 35 - 3rd Quarter 2015

Keeping you up to date with news of some of the many events enjoyed by members since the last newsletter for Q2 2015 was issued.

Pictures and latest diary available on our Website – courtesy of Ron.

<http://www.sq1singlesclubswindon.co.uk> and also on Facebook at [Square One – Swindon](#)

FUTURE EVENTS/SUGGESTIONS

As always, if there is anything you would like organised or any suggestions you may have, please speak to a committee member.

That way, we can make sure the diary is kept up to date and everyone is aware of other events being held at the same time.

Most Sundays there is a group of members who lunch at The Carriers Arms in South Marston (book with Celia) but we try a few other places as well.

Gardens Visit – Sunday 5th July

Unfortunately rain cut short our visit to Hilmarton Open Gardens near Calne.

This very pretty village had 5 gardens open for the NGS Open Gardens Scheme, including one that consisted of 5 allotment plots attached to the attractive almshouses.

The gardens weren't large, but each had its own charm and story.

After the 3rd garden, we had to take refuge in the church for a while. We thought the rain had eased, so went across the road to the 4th garden, but the heavens opened again, so we decided to call it a day and return to the village hall for tea and cakes.

Summer Dance – Saturday 11th July

Wrag Barn is always an excellent and reliable place for a party.

So we all gathered together on a lovely summer evening for our Dance – plenty of room and access to the bar and dance floor.

We were able to enjoy the views before darkness fell.

Good food and good company to be enjoyed – so what else was needed?

Thanks to the generosity of members, there were some wonderful raffle prizes (and if you didn't win anything this time – there is always next time!). We raised over £100 for the Prospect Hospice – well done to everyone.

Music was by Michael Ian Brown, who is fast becoming a firm favourite, and he soon had us up and dancing.

I did think the Mick Jagger impersonations by two members, needed a little work, but were particularly good in places! Not too many adverse comments...

Huge thanks to Jo and Sylv for all their hard work and a special mention and RESPECT to those who stayed to the bitter end!

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Meal at The Trout in Lechlade – Saturday 18th July

16 members spent a fine Saturday evening enjoying a medley of different folk singers and bands at the Trout Inn in Lechlade.

It was the same weekend as the Fairford Air Tattoo, so we were also treated to glimpses of the Red Arrows and a couple of other aircraft.

Most of us were happy to have burgers and sausages from the barbeque, while others preferred something more exotic from the pub.

The ducks had a field day with Sylv's roll!

Walk in Lydiard Park – Sunday 19th July

On this sunny afternoon, a group of members enjoyed a wander round Lydiard Park.

Some walked through the park grounds, while a few others visited the Walled Garden which was open to the public under the NGS Scheme.

We all met up later for tea in the Stable Yard café.

Boat Trip from Devizes and meal at The White Hart in Wroughton – Saturday 25th July

We were fortunate as it was the only warm and sunny day in between the rains.

15 of us met in the Wharf Car Park in Devizes, an ancient and historic town.

The drive from Swindon is also ancient and historic – through rolling Wiltshire downlands, heritage sites, Neolithic areas, potential crop-circle-making landing pads for passing aliens, and distant white horses.

We were to embark on a narrow boat trip along the ancient and historic Kennet & Avon Canal.

I'm sure some of us felt ancient and historic too!

The sun continued to shine and the boat soon filled up with other water-borne travellers and dogs too.

Beautiful and lovely creatures – so well behaved and not (as Val might have thought) at any risk at all from any fellow passengers!

Their owners were also well behaved too!

We saw sunlight on the canal, overhanging lush vegetation, tantalising glimpses of houses and gardens bordering the canal, ducks, grebes and moorhens. And the odd butterfly.

A peaceful sunny Saturday afternoon with good company, on a boat with a bar!

If only I wasn't driving...

The White Hart in Wroughton also had a bar – so after a short time spent in Devizes after the cruise, having cups of tea, walking further along the towpath or wandering around the shops, our ancient and historic group headed back through the rolling Wiltshire downland for a meal to round off the day.



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Huge thanks to Sylv and Jo for all organising.

Then the rain returned – but only once we were safely back home!

Lunch at The Carriers – Sunday 26th July

A small group gathered at one of our favourite Sunday lunch places – and we welcomed some new members for a leisurely lunch and chat.

Music and Fireworks at Shrivenham – Thursday 30th July

The sun shone on 13 members as they sat and enjoyed their picnics whilst listening to the music at the Shrivenham Defence Academy - the pop music was good- the Shrivenham Military Wives Choir were excellent, as was the music played by the Band of Riflemen (I probably have that wrong)!

The fireworks at the end of the evening were spectacular as was the display by the Mustang Aeroplane at the start of the evening.

Roll on next year when we can enjoy it all again.

Aldbourne Band Pond Concert – Sunday 2nd August

Again the sun shone as we sat on the green in Aldbourne to listen to the music provided by the Aldbourne Band it was a pleasant afternoon enhanced by a lovely ice cream which some members enjoyed.

Walk at Crickley Hill and meal at The Air Balloon – Saturday 8th August

Ten energetic members enjoyed the stunning views as we took various paths around the Crickley Hill Country Park - it was a strenuous walk for some whilst our chairperson took an easy stroll and enjoyed -yet again- the glorious sunshine which obviously shines on the righteous!!

A good meal was enjoyed by all at the Air Balloon Pub after all the hard walking.

Day Trip to Cardiff – Saturday 9th August

The Barnes coach was full of Square Oners as we headed down the motorway, bound for foreign lands – well, Welsh anyway!

An early start would give us as much of the day as possible, but I did worry if Julie had time for her porridge. So important! But she was in fine form, so I think all was well.

There were even two escapee hot air balloons from the Bristol Festival hovering, to see us off.

Under grey-ish skies joy was a bit muted due to the early start, but we all soon woke up and planned our day.

Lots to do and see and the first group got off at Cardiff Bay for their start point, while the rest of us headed to the Castle.

We had been advised that our English Bus Passes wouldn't work in Wales, but it didn't stop one member trying to get into the Castle with hers!



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Those Welsh signs really were confusing...

Did a night in the dungeon beckon?
Fortunately good sense prevailed and they let her in...

Celebrations with coffee, cake and a hot chocolate which had an unseemly amount of whipped cream and marshmallows added to it! It was a careful balancing act to keep it all on the cup and saucer!

Two-puds Sue has now earned a new name.
Answers on a postcard please...

The skies cleared a bit and the threatened rain never arrived so everyone filled their day in their own special way...

So what did Cardiff hold? Well – a Roman/Norman/Mediaeval castle with battlements, a keep, a disused moat and a gothic house. Shops, markets, art & craft stalls, classic cars, boat rides, train trips, water buses, ordinary buses – and sore feet! Phew! We tried them all.

I heard that two intrepid ladies even tried out the Flying Chairs at the funfair at Cardiff Bay! Really? One false move and you could have been propelled into the Severn Estuary to swim with the fishes!

Now – that would really be a bore...

But if photographic evidence exists – send to Ron please. Heroines indeed...

We all seemed to gather back at the Bay during the afternoon, while waiting for the coach pickup. Tea, coffee and cakes and a horrendously expensive Pimms were on the

menu and some of the conversations were nothing short of confusing.

Brenda? Eric? Emmerdale? To a non-soap watcher it was confusing indeed. Oh – and there was a ghost too! How much do these plot planners and screen writers earn?

Blimey – that Pimms was strong... And what was it about Roald Dahl and Cardiff?

Would there be time for a Mojito before pick up time?

I had some mental images to erase....

Enormous thanks to Jo for all her hard work in organising an excellent day out.

I think we all enjoyed it!

Must make a note that the next time I see some unusual food stuffs to buy them then and there – not hope I'll find them later!

Because I didn't...

Sunday lunch at The Carpenters Arms – Sunday 16th August

This pub always seems to be popular, as although not a carvery, you can choose from roasts and specials and their usual menu.

14 of us went to lunch there – and we enjoyed good company and good food.



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Jo's interview with Graham Seaman on Radio Wiltshire - Friday 4th September

Didn't she do well!

Hope you all heard Jo talk about Square One, as being Swindon's largest social club - and its activities and what the aims and successes of the club are....

Sounds like a great club to be part of....

Club Night - Wednesday 9th September

Members divided themselves into teams of 6 and had to guess the object in the sealed brown envelopes that were passed from team to team.

It wasn't a quiet game but noisy and enthusiastic, with lots of laughter and heated discussions.

Thank you to Val for organising and distributing sweets to the winners.

Sunday Lunch at Blunsdon Arms - Sunday 13th September

Twelve of us met up for lunch. The food was good and reasonably priced, but sadly the service was dreadful.

Some confusion and misinformation led to sweets having to be reordered and I'm afraid to say we had a considerable wait.

Perhaps not a place to visit again until they sort out their service?

With a Little Help from my Friends at The Arts Centre - Friday 18th September

A record 25 members visited The Arts Centre to watch this performance by the cast of Stage Struck.

It was a brilliant evening, though hot in the theatre. Well done to the cast and thanks to Bernie for organising the evening.

Sunday Lunch at The White Hart - Sunday 20th September

A small but select group of six met up for the carvery, which was excellent and very reasonably priced. There was a good selection of meat and vegetables with plenty of accompaniments. If you had room, there were sweets too and the cost didn't break the bank.

Walk round Stanton Park and Cream Tea - Sunday 27th September

The sun shone on the terrace of Stanton House Hotel, as 8 members enjoyed various refreshments after a lovely walk around the lake and woods.

I have to say, I enjoyed my afternoon tea and look forward to going again.

I have to thank Ron for mending my walking stick/stool after it collapsed during the walk!

Many thanks to Jo for organising the walk and tea.



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Thanks to the following reporters:

Sylvia Kendall
Jo Noblin
Nicki Sheppard
Carole Woodcock
Jessamy Crozier

Regular Events

Various events have been held during the quarter at the RAFA Club, including quizzes, discos, dances etc. See Ron for details of the events.

There have been regular Sunday lunches at various venues throughout the quarter.

Current favourite seems to be the Carriers Arms, South Marston where 6-7 members regularly meet for Sunday lunch - nice meal - good value - great company and it saves cooking!! Why not come along one Sunday?

Call Celia to book.

During the quarter, members have attended regular live music events held at Morris Street Club, Rodbourne. And also the Haydon Club, which is always popular and most Fridays and Saturdays there will most likely be someone going.

Several members attend Kennett Vale hashes held at different venues within a 20 miles radius of Swindon on alternate Sundays. You can either run (about 6-7 miles) or walk gently and natter (about 3-4 miles). The hashes start and end at the same pub where you can have a drink and/or Sunday lunch if you want. Web site <http://kvh3.co.uk/>

Pictures and latest diary available on our Website - courtesy of Ron.

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Facebook at Square One - Swindon

Please, if you organise an event, e-mail a short blurb on the event (you can see the sort of details required from the events described above) for the Quarterly Newsletter to:

jessamycrozier@yahoo.co.uk.

It saves me chasing around pestering people for them. Thanks.

FUTURE EVENTS/SUGGESTIONS

As always, if there is anything you would like organised or any suggestions you may have, please speak to a committee member.

That way, we can make sure the diary is kept up to date and everyone is aware of other events being held at the same time.

The committee are voluntary and work hard for all members and as long as all fees are paid promptly, we are often able to subsidise costs which helps everyone.

And a Very Happy Birthday to all members who celebrated during this quarter.

Congratulations to Babs and Ken who got married in September. Well done and all good wishes from everyone...

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