



Square 1 Newsletter

Issue 36 - 4th Quarter 2015

Keeping you up to date with news of some of the many events enjoyed by members since the last newsletter for Q3 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](#)

Lunch at the Barrington Arms in Shrivenham – Sunday 4th October

This was one place suggested for us to try...

Well we did. It was easy to get to with its own carpark or park in the High Street. And there was a carvery too.

It was busy, much as expected and there were good choices in the carvery at reasonable prices.

Good choice of puds – but we all seemed to have piled our plates up so much – there was no room left.

Personally, I waddled out to drive home, hoping the tyre pressures would hold out.

Had to lie down when I got home – and finally then I was ready for pud! Sadly too late...

But probably worth trying again.

Michael Buble Tribute – Friday 9th October

20 of us went to the Village Urban Resort Hotel (De Vere) to attend a Michael Buble tribute evening.

The event was very well attended, and a meal was included. There was chicken for first course and profiteroles for pudding.

A disco played until 'Michael Buble' came on at 9pm. He was a fantastic singer and sang mostly Michael's hits plus others.

Whilst singing, he moved around the room and at one point sang to Margaret M & kissed her hand!

Later he took her up on stage and serenaded her with 'Me & Mrs Jones' and kissed her hand again! Photos available...

When he had finished, the disco started up and some of us got up to dance.

A great night had by all.

Barn Dance at Ridgeway School – Saturday 10th October

There was a Barn dance for the Prospect and some 25 members enjoyed a very energetic evening with 6 members winning various raffle prizes.

A good evening with thanks to Chris for organising.

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Folk Music Boat Trip - Friday 16th October

What a shame it was dark when 19 members boarded the canal boat at Devizes Wharf for what should have been a fun evening listening to Folk music and enjoying a Fish & Chip supper.

Sadly neither of which were very good.

I'm afraid this was NOT one of Square One's finer events - better luck for the next event Sylvia!

Rod Stewart Tribute - Saturday 17th October

12 members enjoyed an evening at 12 Oaks Golf Club listening to a Rob Stewart tribute evening - shame the "star" didn't come on stage until after 9pm - a long wait for those who got there early!

It was a good evening however, and thanks to Chris for organising.

Quiz at the Shield & Dagger - Thursday 22nd October

This was a bit last minute and a bit of a try out - but 7 great brains gathered to see how we did.

Unexpectedly we came second. Hurrah! But please don't ask 'second out of how many?'

There was lots of chat and discussions amongst the team about the questions - but that's why you have a mixed team as everyone brought different thoughts and ideas to the quiz.

But we were all pretty much stumped when asked to name the 5 members of One Direction! Who? Must be an age thing....

A fun evening, which started at 8pm and was finished by 10. Am sure we'll want to do it again...

Sylv's Quiz - Saturday 24th October

This is such a popular event - names must be entered early for a place. And there is always a waiting list....

It really lived up to all expectations and you could sense the tension in the room! We were all perched on various chairs, from sofas to garden to dining ones - and waiting expectantly for the fiendish questions.

Such fun!

Delicious food was provided by Sylv, Jo, Jessamy and Brenda and all for a nominal charge with the excess going to charity.

Celebrating the autumn change of clocks - we will gather again for the next round at the time of the spring change of clocks - when we'll lose an hour instead of gaining one! Boing! Boing!

The extra hour this time didn't help though - as my team lost the tie break! Grrgh...

Still - everyone who came and took part were winners!

A wonderful evening - enjoyed by everyone and we helped to get Sylv's house back to normal afterwards.



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Thanks and well done to Sylv for the organising and for opening her home to such an invasion of eggheads!

Walk in Stratton Woods - Sunday 25th October

What a beautiful day for a walk - 8 members ambled around Stratton Woods and then some left us while others joined us for a very good lunch at the Kingsdown Pub.

Thanks Sylvia for organising.

Meal and Cinema - Saturday 31st October

It was hard to coordinate timings for a meal and cinema choices, so we split into two groups.

8 members went earlyish to the Kembrey and went on to see Suffragette, which they really enjoyed.

2 of us ate at The White Hart, before watching Spectre, which was a fabulous romp and such fun, definitely not to be taken seriously!

And between you and me, Daniel Craig and his weapon can abseil into my life anytime he likes!

Phew...

Bridgewater Carnival - Saturday 7th November

Sylv writes:

Thank goodness it stopped raining as some 15 club members caught a Barnes coach to Bridgewater for the floodlight carnival.

We all went to different parts of the route to watch a fantastic display of floats.

We all enjoyed the evening but thought Weston was a better venue.

Jo writes:

One Saturday at the beginning of November, a group of us joined a Barnes coach trip to the famous Bridgewater Carnival.

After terrible weather earlier in the day, we were pleased to arrive in the dry. We all managed to find something to eat and drink, not gourmet stuff, but filling all the same and then we waited for the procession to arrive. The floats were a blaze of colour and sounds, with a variety of themes that went on for over 2 hours. It was spectacular.

When it was over, we picked our way back through all the rubbish left lying in the streets, to where the coach was parked. I think there were a few snores on the coach back to Swindon.

Lunch at the Sun Inn in Lydiard Millicent - Sunday 8th November

This is one of our favourites so here we all were gathered again, at somewhere where we've all been many times before.

10 of us were booked and 9 of us waited and waited and waited. No - not poor service (it was rather good actually) but a lost member!

Really?

Did we need to send out the Sherpas?



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Fortunately not, as after some local help, the last member of our party finally joined us.

We could order at last.

There were fairly usual Sunday choices of roasts and veggie options –so we all made our choices and sat chatting while we waited.

Then... Splash!

Fortunately only water was spilt – but chose carefully where you sit next time!

The food was delicious we all agreed – but sadly no room for puds. Next time perhaps!

That'll be the Day – Monday 9th November

26 members went on our yearly trip to see That'll be the Day at The Wyvern.

We were not disappointed. We had great comedy and humorous skits, along with great music and singing from every decade.

It was enjoyed by everyone.

Unfortunately a great evening ended with some of us unable to leave the car park, due to machines not working and no response from attendants.

Eventually help and police arrived – and they got out of the car park and away, but much later than expected.

Club Night – Wednesday 11th November

Tonight the Committee encouraged the members to participate in a 'games night' and participate they did - enthusiastically!

36 members were each asked to draw a given animal.

The game was to identify the animal. Not as easy as it sounds. We do have some budding David Shepherds and some who shouldn't give up the day job!

It was great fun, got members talking and mixing, with sweeties for the winners.

Warner's Weekend 13-16th November at Holme Lacy House Hotel, Herefordshire

Carole writes:

This was only my second venture to a Warner's Weekend and I was impressed.

It was no "hi di hi morning campers holiday park" but more like living in the 'Manor House' with fine dining on par with the cruise ships dining.

Our single rooms were modern, spacious and we didn't need to leave the main building either.



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Holme Lacy House itself is magnificent: beautiful ceilings, ornate state rooms, wood panelling. The spectacular formal gardens having been restored to their original design.

There was lots to do or not as you wished: dancing, quiz, spa, scrumping the apples from the orchard or just relaxing on the sofas. The highlight of the evening's entertainment being the tribute Eagles band on Saturday night.

It might have been the weekend of Friday 13th, but there was nothing unlucky about the weekend at all.

Thanks Jo for doing the organising. Did anyone else discover the basket of free chocs?

Sylv writes:

8 members plus 1 non-member went to the beautiful Holme Lacy – a Warner's venue – for a fabulous Eagles tribute weekend.

We dined very well, thoroughly enjoyed the comedian on Friday night and the music on Saturday was just great.

Celia did a fab job of collecting info from the audience during the first of the weekend audience participation.

Thanks to Jo for organising.

Jo writes:

Warner's at Holme Lacy, near Hereford, was the location for a weekend of entertainment and relaxation in November for eight members and one non-member.

It was a beautiful location and a bit of drizzle didn't dampen our spirits. Walks, quizzes, dance lessons, swimming and beauty treatments were enjoyed during the day, while the evening shows were amazing.

The main attraction was a group called Talon, an Eagles tribute band and they were amazing. We were also treated to some laughs from a very entertaining comedian.

Altogether an extremely enjoyable weekend.

Last Night of the Proms – Saturday 14th November

8 members went to The Last Night of the Proms at The Wyvern.

This was a charity event organised by The Rotary Club in aid of Prospect Hospice.

The evening was very enjoyable with popular classical music played by a Military Reservists Volunteer Band, the Swindon Youth Orchestra and vocal contributions from 2 soloists and a choir.

The end was very lively with the waving of Union Jacks and everybody joining in with rousing renditions of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory.

Lunch at College Farm in Shrivenham – Sunday 15th November

This was another suggestion for a possible regular Sunday lunch venue...



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It's easy to find, has good parking and a 2 for 1 deal on all main courses

On offer was a full menu, including roasts and Specials. Sounded great. But...

...not all menu choices were available (they had run out), service was slow, drinks ordered at the bar and not put on the bill seemed to confuse. When the food finally arrived it looked appetising – but strangely it wasn't!

Meat was tough and the gravy thin and watery.

We soldiered on and inspected the pud menu. Great choices! But they had run out of some of them too!

But when they did arrive, they were delicious (which rather made up for the poor main courses) – but then we asked for the bill.

It wasn't right (not even close). Such confusion ensued...

Not a wonderful experience at all – one of our group had eaten there before (not on a Sunday) with greater success. Perhaps just a bad day.

But not likely it'll be one of our regular Sunday lunch pubs...

Skittles at the Woodshaw Pub Royal Wootton Bassett – Saturday 21st November

Saturday evening saw 32 members enjoying a great skittles evening at the Woodshaw Pub.

The food was brilliant as usual with plenty of it – and the skittles was good fun.

Winners of the highest scores were John Reid and Sue Bede whilst Sylvia won the bag of Skittles for the LOWEST overall score!

Thanks Sylv for organising.

Lunch at the Angel in Royal Wootton Bassett – Sunday 22nd November

Here we were, gathering again for another suggested Sunday lunch venue...

Good service, nice pub, easy to get to and park.

But the food wasn't wonderful. The potatoes and parsnips were hard and almost inedible.

Spoilt the rest really...

But the puds were great!

Probably worth another try another Sunday – to check on the progress of edible potatoes and parsnips!

Festive Meal at The Toby Carvery - Friday 4th December

32 members enjoyed an excellent festive meal at the Toby Carvery organised by Celia – well done Celia.



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Meal and Cinema – Saturday 5th December

Seven members went to the Kembrey for dinner, then we went on to the cinema where three more members joined us.

Jo and Sylvia went to see The Lady in the Van whilst everyone else went to see Bridge of Spies.

We all enjoyed the evening.

The Generation Gap at the Arts Centre – Sunday 6th December

8 members went to the Arts Centre to see The Generation Gap – a singing father and daughter duo who were joined by two choirs with 3 club members in one of them – it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Thanks Sylv for organising.

Club Night – Wednesday 9th December

Nicki organised a great festive quiz with lots of prizes – yummy sweets – thanks to her for organising.

And Jenny E had some beautiful homemade quilted Christmas goods on sale.

Indian Meal – Saturday 12th December

Six members enjoyed a lovely meal at the Taj Mahal restaurant in Shaw Ridge – has to be a rival to RAFUs in Highworth.

Thanks Celia for organising.

Quiz at the Shield & Dagger - Thursday 17th December

The December quiz at the Shield and Dagger proved to be controversial as all good quizzes do.

Square One members made up three teams, but we didn't win –not even Val C's team!!

The quiz master was a bit slow at times and we had great fun trying to guess the next question in the connections round!

Better than sitting in and watching the telly!!

Christmas Dance at Wrag Barn – Saturday 19th December

I am glad to say that Square One members still know how to enjoy themselves!!

The Christmas dance at Wrag Barn proved to be another huge success with a bunch of re-cycled teenagers boogying on till the very end.

Michael Ian Brown (alias Fox – where did that come from, Sylv?) knows what we like and provided fantastic music from start to finish.

Final numbers were 75 and looking back through the ticket sales book, I think this is a record number! It was good to see some 'old' faces too, welcome back to them.

And what a raffle – so many prizes and a whopping £190 raised for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Janet for the scratch cards - I think there were a few



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minor wins, but no-one will be jetting off to the Bahamas!

Also spotted were a few stray balloons with minds of their own floating around the room and there was a tantalising glimpse of fishnets too!

A wonderful evening – and huge thanks to Sylv and Jo for all their hard work.

Music and Carols – Wednesday 23rd December

It was a usual Club Night and our last before Christmas – and we were treated to mince pies, sausage roll, cupcakes, and other delights and then some wonderful music and singing by Ross.

It was great – and I swear I heard harps and heavenly choirs! Or perhaps that was just buttons on his enormous keyboard...

And there was dancing too. A wonderful way to start the festive season.

Thanks to Ross for all his time and effort – we really loved it.

Walk, Meal and Cinema – Saturday 26th December

Boxing Day saw 5 hardy members taking a stroll around Stanton Park and afterwards 3 of us went for lunch at Pizza Hut, and then onto the cinema to watch Daddy's Home.

New Year's Eve – Thursday 31st December

This was a busy evening, with some members going to the Messenger Pub, whilst over 30 of us enjoyed the evening at the RAFA club, where the music and food were both good.

Thanks to Celia for organising the tickets.

Thanks to the following reporters:

Sylvia Kendall
Jo Noblin
Brenda Bruch
Carole Woodcock
Jessamy Crozier

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.

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.



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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.

We've had some really good Sunday lunches recently - two of which were the Four Pillars, South Cerney and the White Hart at Wroughton. The beef at the Four Pillars was the tenderest and tastiest I've had in a long time, excellent meal.

The White Hart also proved to be a venue worth returning to.

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.

<http://www.sq1singlesclubswindon.co.uk>
[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.

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

And a Very Happy New Year to everyone from the committee.

Let's also remember the two Square Members we lost in 2015. RIP Richard and Kelvin.

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