



Square 1 Newsletter

Issue 33 - 1st Quarter 2015

Keeping you up to date with news of some of the many events enjoyed by members since the last newsletter for Q4 2014 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.

January Cinema Visits

Our first visit was Saturday 3rd January and following a meal at The Dockle Farm pub (thank goodness the bridge was open!) some of us went to see The Imitation Game and some of us went to see The Theory of Everything.

Both films were marvellous and we thoroughly enjoyed them.

Proof that those in the know in Oscar-land also thought so – as both films got loads and loads of nominations. Well – not loads actually, but some quite important ones!

Those that hadn't see The Theory of Everything, went back a few days later to see it.

Wonderful! Many thanks to Ron for organising.

One member is currently working her way through all the flavours of Ben & Jerry's ice creams in search of the perfect combination.

Much more work needs to be done on this important project – so when are we going again?

Skittles at Woodshaw – Saturday 10th January

A good start to the New Year with 34 club members plus 4 non-members enjoying a great skittles evening at the Woodshaw pub in Royal Wootton Bassett.

The food was excellent as usual - Jenny E won the prize for highest score for the ladies and Spike won for the men - he just pipped John R by 1 point.

Sadly someone had to be lowest and the consolation prize of a much deserved bag of SKITTLES went to Brenda!

A good time was had by all. And...

Thanks to the Committee and Treasurer for ensuring that this well supported event could be subsidised.

January Sunday Lunches and walks

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

First off was **The Rat Trap**, which we have been to before and enjoyed. Food and service were good, as was the conversation.

Not a carvery, so your roast arrives already on the plate in a large Yorkshire Pud with gravy. Great if you like both! Plenty of veggies served separately.

But I wasn't too impressed with the puds...



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On Sunday 18th we went to **The Carpenters Arms in South Marston** – but a walk in nearby Nightingale Woods was scheduled first.

The winter sun shone and we all wrapped up warmly. Led by Jo with no assistance whatsoever from Claude (the four-legged member) who kept veering into the woods. Not helpful. He then kept bashing the backs of knees as he tried to power through the group with sticks far too large for the space between the walkers!

Will he be invited again? It remains to be seen...

The Adventure Trail was attempted. With mixed success. And much hilarity from the onlookers. So certainly an adventure. And certainly a trial. Sorry – trail...

The cold water of the stream was not for everyone but the four-legged member of the group tried it – and found it warm and welcoming! There is just no accounting for choices in outdoor activities, is there?

Jo and Kathy would agree I'm sure! And hopefully Val too...

A large group gathered for lunch and, again, the food was delicious and the conversation excellent.

This pub was known to some Square Oners but we had not visited for a while.

While not a carvery, the roasts were served with all potatoes and gravy already on the plate – the veggies came separately. Pity about the slightly burnt Yorkshires...

And even on a Sunday, there were other choices from their regular menu and specials board.

And the puds were delicious!

The White Hart is a carvery and has been visited several times by members, who like to

return. You can – of course – add your own potatoes, gravy and Yorkshires once you select your chosen roast. Not forgetting a good choice of vegetables.

There was a good group there on Sunday 25th January, with good food, good conversation and good puds! A good Sunday lunch all round then....

Note: far too many 'goods' - must find another adjective!

Emperor's New Clothes – Friday 23rd January

8 of us attended a play by Thames Water entitled The Emperor's New Clothes at The Wyvern.

Lots of belly laughs at the antics in some of the script and quite a few obvious ad libs too. Some of the in-house jokes were appreciated by the majority of the audience, and we laughed at them laughing.

A good evening, although in my opinion the sound could have been better from the narrators microphone, {or perhaps I should have worn my hearing aids}.

The Irish dancers are worth a special mention as too was the Michael Jackson tribute man.

But all said and done it was very good value for this charitable cause. And just to let you know, at the ending the Thames Water ladies did NOT bare all as the Wyvern's write up indicated.

Shame!

RAFA Disco – Saturday 24th January

17 members + 2 partners {prospective members?} attended a disco at the RAFA club, where once again we were made to feel most welcome.



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Some of Terry's {DJ} choice of music was somewhat odd but we all enjoyed ourselves.

The Karaoke was not to everyone's liking but was confined to 2 or 3 small sessions.

We decided to resurrect the bringing of food and as always there was a lot left over, but I expect Kelvin's poodles enjoyed what was left after the RAFA's other guests and members had partaken of it.

Just £1 for attendance and we were still dancing at 11.30. Parking was much better.

Great night must do it again.

Quiz Night at The Shield & Dagger - Saturday 31st January

This was held in aid of Asthma UK and Square 1 fielded 5 teams -which was great and bodes well for Sylv's Quiz in March.

They did well and thoroughly enjoyed the evening - which was well supported.

There was a Raffle during the evening and members gave generously and won some 'interesting' prizes.

A fun evening, and all in a good cause.

Walk at Stanton Park and Sunday Lunch - Sunday 8th February

And on into February we go - continuing our Sunday walks and lunches...

The air was crisp, the sky was blue and it was a perfect winter morning for a slow amble round Stanton Park.

It was either hard frost or mud underfoot, but that did not deter our dozen Square 1 walkers (and dog).

The lake was half frozen, which seemed to confuse some of the ducks and even the

seagulls didn't want to stand on the ice to take the bread we threw at them.

Their loss.

The rendezvous for the walkers and non-walkers was The Kingsdown Pub at 12.30pm to enjoy a Sunday lunch.

There were 23 of us and I would like to think it was my 'magnetic personality' that attracted such a record number and not the fact that the food was good, plentiful and inexpensive!

Walk at Moulden Hill and Sunday Lunch - Sunday 15th February

We were not blessed with good weather, as it was grey and overcast but 11 members met in the car park and off we set.

On a sunny dry day, Moulden Hill is a lovely place to walk, offering different routes, through woods, open fields and along the canal and around the lake. The views can be amazing too.

'On a clear day you can see...' Well, it wasn't and we couldn't!

It was muddy and chilly and we could make little out - but we bravely forged on. Good company can make all the difference...

Fortunately Claude was allowed to accompany us and we tried to keep him away from the muddy stream! Did it work? No! But he ran and jumped for the ball and eventually enjoyed a swim in the cleaner waters of the lake. Surprising even the swans.....

And to cap it off, he rolled in something unspeakably smelly. He definitely won't be invited again!

Did we experience some wildlife? Well - there was Carole's (wild) attempts with the ball thrower! Not much else really - even Robin's binoculars didn't come out!



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There were 14 of us for lunch at the nearby Tawny Owl. Our table was in the Parliament Room (a legislature but also a card game and a group of owls). Quite a choice of descriptions there! Take your pick!

The food was excellent and the service good. Again, not a carvery but choices from Sunday roasts to the usual menu. For those who don't like Yorkshire Puds, the roasts all came served with them. Note for next time...

Veggies good and extra gravy available for those who like it with the spoon standing upright!

As for the puds - well, clotted cream to accompany was a first. More please...

Sadly not enough room here to cover all the conversation subjects - but they were wide-ranging, educational and very interesting - and some secrets revealed will stay that way!

Definitely a place to return to - must organise better weather first....

Weekend Away at Warners Hayling Island- 21st February

Jo writes:

A fantastic weekend was enjoyed by 20 members at Warners at Sinah Warren on Hayling Island. The rooms were mostly large, airy and comfortable and some had wonderful views of the sea.

The food was excellent, with Ron trying to outdo '2 puds Sue' with a second pudding consisting of blue cheese, celery and vanilla ice cream!!

Edwin and Ron needed to try all the beers on the first afternoon, to decide which they liked best.

The evening entertainment was brilliant with 'Almost the Bee Gees' and My My - an Abba Tribute - dancing was almost obligatory. This

was followed by karaoke, with Anne showing us a hidden talent singing 'Big Spender'.

Daytime activities were many and varied, there were skittles, quizzes, one of which was won by our group consisting of Val Carter, Brenda, Janet Heenan, Anne, Ron and Terry; dance lessons where Celia and Pat Coultas excelled at the Cha Cha; drawing lessons - ask Carole to show you her masterpiece.

Some ladies headed off to Chichester to raid the charity shops on the Saturday while others took advantage of the beauty Salon for manicures etc., and I'm sure Sylv and Jo looked 10 years younger after their massages and facials. A lot of us took advantage of the swimming pool, jacuzzi, steam and sauna rooms to chill out and relax.

We plan to book another Warners weekend next spring, so look out for details later this year.

Ron writes:

20 people attended at what turned out to be an absolutely fantastic weekend.

The weather was kind to us for the most part, staff were very friendly, and food was top class {the word fine-dining was mentioned by some who know about these things}.

Arrival was non problematic and after visiting our respective rooms we soon congregated in the bar where one was already sat behind a tray full of Bucks Fizz.

We met our respective waiters/waitress at the evening meal - ours was called Patricia from Portugal {still working on the limerick for that}.

We were then entertained with a Bee Gees tribute and dancing to a band.

All met for breakfast on Saturday and we all went our separate ways, either shopping or in my case visiting the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea.



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All returned at around 4pm and met in the cafe where Jo and Sylv were going for a Massage and Facial. With Face, Back, Front, Nails all honed to perfection it was time to eat again, but not before once again meeting in the bar for a swifty.

We now formed two teams for a quiz.

One team {ours of course Terry, Ann, Pat, Val and Benda and Ron} far outshone the competition and won a bottle of fizzy stuff.

We were then entertained to a Tribute of Abba and as we were looking at 90 degrees to the stage the males amongst us delighted at the short skirts worn by the performers. In fairness they sang very well too and we danced along.

This was followed at 11pm by Karaoke - the usual ones Celia and Ron found themselves with baying groupies asking for their autographs {in my dreams} but the highlight for us all was Ann singing Big Spender {standing ovation for one so nervous}.

After breakfast on Sunday we again went our separate ways. I enjoyed a long walk, while others did a quiz, evening entertainment was a man on a piano and a cabaret of all the Reps.

After breakfast on Monday we all departed {I think I am right in saying there are 20 definites on the list for next year}.

Thank you Jo for organising - Photos are on our website.

Funnies that happened;

1. 2 puds Sue was challenged as now we have 2 puds Terry {he {me} has got more ice-cream than me}
2. Avril, Brenda, Janet, Pat, and Celia doing the line dancing
3. Lyn, Pat and Terry exiting stage right for their chalets, to be seen a few

moments later going from stage right to stage left.

I think you had to be there!

Sunday Lunch at The Southbrook Inn - Sunday 1st March

And on into March we go - continuing our Sunday walks and lunches...

Yet again a good gathering for a Sunday lunch at a different pub.

Not a carvery, but a good choice of food and puds.

One to try again?

Blunsdon Dog Racing - Saturday 7th March

7 of us enjoyed a great evening 'at the dogs'. Hopefully everyone came away with more money than they started. I know I did.

I bet £1 per race and unbelievable had 5 winners and a couple of runners up. Lady luck must have been looking over my shoulder.

Maybe I should have upped my stake - but that would probably have been a barking mad idea!!

Early Spring Walk and Lunch - Sunday 8th March

9 members gathered to walk round Coate Water although only 8 went all the way round, while our intrepid leader turned back and went for a hot chocolate at the cafe while she waited for the rest to join her!

Everyone else enjoyed the walk we then adjourned to join 10 more members at the White Hart for a very enjoyable carvery - although sadly the Sticky Toffee pudding



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wasn't as good as usual but the carvery was very enjoyable.

Shady Business at The Arts Centre - Friday 13th March

It was hard to believe they were only amateur actors - The Western Players put on a very good show at the Arts Centre and the 8 club members who went to see "Shady Business" thoroughly enjoyed the performance as did the packed theatre.

Roll on their next production in June.

Meal at Rafus - Saturday 21st March

Dupiazza and Rogon Josh, Kurma and Kashmiri, Moglai and Mussala, and many more tasty dishes were enjoyed, eventually, at RAFU's in Highworth in March.

As usual the food was excellent, but we were not too happy at having to wait for over an hour for our main courses.

It won't put us off going there again though!!

Sunday Lunch at The Carpenters Arms - Sunday 22nd March

You can't keep us away! Back we all came to enjoy this pub again -but this time no walk in Nightingale Woods.

Too much of a good thing before? Or perhaps the weather?

There were 17 of us and while the sun shone, we enjoyed good conversation and good food.

Was that two doggy bags I saw? Jan and Val defeated by chops - well - they were huge and there were two of them! Obviously - one for later!

And the puds were delicious and the service good. A popular choice for Sundays I think.

Thanks to Ron for organising.

Sylv's Quiz - Saturday 28th March

The Highworth furniture movers struck again, and 30 of us got fitted in very well for Sylv's quiz! How do they do it? Silently and quietly I would say, as there was no sign of them as we gathered for another Quiz Evening.

It was friendly and neighbourly to fit in at such close quarters - but nobody minded!

Just had to keep your answers to yourself - but as before, seats and tables for all.... And nibbles too.

More fiendish questions - where does she get them from? And more head scratching too...

And those pesky anagrams! Obvious afterwards, but not so clear at the time! And who's idea was it for the Mr Men? I was completely floored!

The provision of hot cooked food from last time was such a success, so Sylv, Jo, Brenda and Jessamy slaved away and produced some delicious food for everyone. And the puds? Even more delicious!

At £5 a head, such good value, and there was money left over to be donated to The Prospect Hospice.

We all helped to get Sylv's house back to normal at the end (yes - where were those furniture movers?) and then we headed home in the un-spring like wind and rain.

And just as soon as it was all over - Boing! The clocks sprung forward...



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Walk at Peatmoor Lake and Sunday Lunch – Sunday 29th March

Rain caused us to cancel our planned walk around Peatmoor Lake, but 7 members still enjoyed a Sunday roast at 2 for £10 at the Woodlands Edge pub one Sunday in March.

The quality was pretty good too.

Unfortunately, the clocks went forward that morning and our stomachs still thought it was 11.30 when we started to eat, so only 2 people managed puds!

During the quarter, members have attended regular live music events held at Morris Street Club, Rodbourne.

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.

Thanks to the following reporters:

Sylvia Kendall
Jo Noblin
Ron Rose
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 at for Sunday lunch - nice meal - good value - great company and it saves cooking!! Why not come along one Sunday?

Call Celia to book.

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.



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FAREWELL

Goodbye to Claude, the four legged and sometime accompaniment to some Sunday walks. He's gone to live with a lovely family in Peatmoor – to save my crumbling back. Much loved and so very much missed.

