



Square 1 Newsletter

Issue 47 - 3rd Quarter 2018

**Welcome to our 3rd newsletter of 2018
with Carole as 'Editor in chief'**

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

<http://www.sq1singlesclubswindon.co.uk>
**and also on Facebook at Square One –
Swindon**

**Carriers Arms, South Marston
Lunch**

Sunday 1 July 2018

Dennis writes:

4 members enjoyed lunch it what was an almost full pub.

In the afternoon we retired to Swindon Town Gardens to listen and enjoy the Swindon Brass Band play in the garden Bandstand.

We met 6 other members of the club, who had the same idea of listening to the brass band.

A great day was had by all in spite of the hot weather.

Square 1 Coach Trip

Cardiff

Sunday 8 July 2018

Editor writes:

Cardiff wasn't our first choice of venue. It should have been Ironbridge but restoration work at Ironbridge meant our visit would be best postponed for another time.

Back to Cardiff – as said it wasn't our first choice but it turned out to be a GREAT choice.

It was a glorious sunny day (a bit too hot maybe?) and it was their Festival Weekend.

WOW there was so much going on: Craft stalls, food stalls, drink stalls, harbour trips, water taxi ride to the Castle, Norwegian Church to visit and live entertainment

OR

Because it was so lovely you could just do nothing but soak up the atmosphere.

We probably did all it though.....

Thank you Jo for organising the coach and making sure that those that got off the coach also got back on.



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Square 1 Coach Trip Cardiff

Sunday 8 July 2018

Dennis writes:

The annual bus trip this year was to Cardiff Quay. It was a very hot day and some of the club members opted to go on a boat trip across the quay, stop for a coffee and then catch the boat back, followed by a walk around the many Farmers Market stalls.

Other more adventurous members (me) went by water taxi to explore Cardiff Castle. Part of the Castle had a building called "The Keep". To view, you had a 100 near vertical steps to climb. However it was worth it for the panoramic view of Cardiff.

The Wales Rugby Stadium now called the Principality Stadium stood out along the with University of Wales buildings.

A free audio guide was provided which explained the history of the castle. The military museum was interesting as all the Welsh Regiments are now under the one banner of The Royal Welsh.

During the 2nd World war the people of Cardiff sheltered within the walls of the Castle like the people of London sheltered in the underground.

Back at the quay an air conditioned building, part of the University was just the place to cool down in from the heat (their coffee shop was well used too).

As we travelled home on the coach it was quite noticeable that ground was being cleared for houses to be built.

Once the tolls on the bridge cease in December 2019, I am told that the people in Bristol are expected to buy houses in Wales

as they are cheaper and then commute to work across the bridge to Bristol.

I had a great day out and thank you Jo and Sylvia for organising.

Shrivenham Music and Fireworks

Celebrating RAF 100

Thursday 12 July 2018

Editor writes:

The current heatwave was just perfect weather to picnic whilst listening to the music, watch the aerial aeroplane displays and enjoying the firework display choreographed to the music of The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals & Prince of Wales Division - 1st Set.

I counted 17 members, amid the crowd - although it didn't feel like a crowd - enjoying the spectacle.

We danced to the music, waved our flags, viewed the static displays (Spitfire and various vehicles) clambered inside the tanks (well tried to), watched the RAF Falcons Parachute display and if you wanted, there was the chance to ride (tethered sort of ride) in the RAF hot air balloon.

At only £10 a ticket it was a fantastic evening.

Thank you Sylvia for organising the tickets.



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Shrivenham Music and Fireworks **Celebrating RAF 100** **Thursday 12 July 2018**

Dennis writes:

The annual trip, to the Defence Academy to see 'last night of the proms,' was another spectacular memorial evening.

There was a balloon flight - well about 10m off the ground - but still exciting for some members of Sq1.

New for me was the RAF Falcons Parachute display team descending in a non-contactable stack, corkscrewing down to the ground. It was really spectacular to see.

Another first was a display by Aerosparx. An aerobatic engineered glider firing fireworks as it circled overhead. Great to watch.

The band of the Royal Signals played a wonderful interpretation of the song Macarthur Park.

The evening finished as traditional with a terrify fireworks display and the singing Land of Hope and Glory.

Thus ended a very British evening.

A great evening and thanks must go to Sylvia for organising the ticket buying.

Town Gardens, Swindon **Sunday 15 July 2018**

Dennis writes:

I counted 7 Sq1 members listening to the music from the "Cricklade Band" being played in the Town Gardens.

We were given a list of tunes to be played but not all tunes played were listed so it became a bit of a guessing game as to which tune they were actually playing.

It was noticed that some band members were not using paper music but the music was on their iPad. A sign of modern times....

A hot afternoon but an afternoon listening to music was just a perfect way to spend a Sunday.

Wrag Barn **Rod Stewart Tribute Night** **Friday 20 July 2018**

Editor writes:

The lookalike looked the part, acted the part and certainly had a gravelly sort of voice.

I guess that impersonating such a well-known singer is quite hard but he did ok.

The venue was packed with Rod Stewart Fans out to have a good evening and lots did.

We enjoyed a variety of pre-ordered food which was good.

It was another hot night (these are becoming the norm) and good to catch up with other club members.

Thanks to Jo for organising the tickets and food.



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Wrag Barn

Rod Stewart Tribute Night **Friday 20 July 2018**

Dennis writes:

About 17 members went. The food was excellent and the company great.

The Rod Stewart lookalike singer did look like the original and had all his mannerisms but it was just that he could not sing.

I was struggling to understand which popular song he was singing. At times the audience was talking amongst themselves rather than listening, which might explain why at the interval some members left.

The final song of the evening was "Sailing" and the entire audience sang with him.

Not an evening to be remembered but it is impossible to know how well a tribute act will go down.

No blame of any kind has been attributed to Jo who organised our tickets. It is just one of those things that happen.

Hart in Hand, Blunsdon **Sunday 22 July 2018**

Dennis writes:

It was a very hot day but 11 members enjoyed a two course carvery.

Afterwards some members went to the Town Gardens to listen to the Wroughton Silver Band playing in the bandstand.

A pleasant way to end the day.

Greenbridge Cinema

Tuesday 24 July 2018

Dennis Writes:

The "in film" at the moment is "Mama Mia - here we go again".

We 8 members had difficulty parking as most people in Swindon must have had the same idea!

It was a good film, but I found it a bit confusing as to which part of Donna's life was being shown as it chopped from past to present and back again.

Worth a mention was Cher's entrance as the Grandmother. Her singing was great (and her line free face make-up at her age was something else).

An enjoyable evening: listening to and singing along to those ABBA songs.

Thanks Pat for organising the event.

Greenbridge Cinema

Saturday 28 July 2018

Sylvia writes:

4 Members plus 1 non-member spent the evening watching Andre Rieu in Concert at Maastricht.

It was brilliant. Good value at £16 and so much cheaper than going to see him live!

It was very enjoyable.

Thanks to Sylvia for organising. We look forward to the next concert in Jan 2019 - tickets are already on sale!!



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The White Hart

Sunday 12 August 2018

Sylvia writes:

Yet another good carvery at the White Hart as 7 or 8 members cleaned their plates and couldn't manage a pudding between them.

Heart in Hand, Blunsdon

Sunday 19 August 2018

Dennis writes:

11 members of the club went to the pub for a two course lunch. Good value, good company and enjoyable meal were had by everybody. Some of us went to the Town Gardens later to listen to the "Stable yard Jazz Band" that played all types of jazz music from the bandstand.

It was a really wonderful sunny day.

Wyvern Theatre

Saturday 25 August 2018

Dennis writes:

5 members attended the show 'Oliver' performed by the Swindon Youth Theatre Group.

We agreed that the singing was really at a professional level and that the actor who played the part of 'Fagin' was so good that he could pass for a professional actor.

The standard of the show was so high that at the end, the audience gave the cast several curtain calls (although this may have been due to the attendance of slightly biased parents).

It was an enjoyable evening and many thanks to Wendy for organising this event.

Ten Pin Bowling, Shaw

Saturday 18 August 2018

Sylvia writes:

It was chaotic until we sorted ourselves into teams then it was just great fun evening as 18 members bowled egged on by 2 non-members.

Parsla amused everyone by bowling with her back to the lane (through her legs!!) and managing to score a strike!!!

John Wilcock scored 204 for the men whilst Sylvia scored an impressive 172 for the ladies.

Ron won the shield again by working hard to get the lowest score and a telling off by staff for walking on the lane to recover a ball!!

Thank you Brian for organising your first event - with only a little help from Sylvia.

Sausage & Ale Trail Old Town, Swindon

Sunday 2 September 2018

Linda writes:

6 of us thought we would try out the Sausage & Ale Trail held in Old Town. We met at The Kings Hotel at midday.

First priority was coffee, and then we walked around the stalls selling a variety of food and drink - especially sausages. There were a few music groups, charity tombola's and of course ale.

We had a great afternoon and will do it again.

Thank you Linda for organising this outing.



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Helen Browning Chop House **Saturday 15 September 2018**

Linda writes:

7 of us went to the Chop House. The meat is organic so we thought we could give it a try. 5 of us were persuaded to try alcohol free gin with elderflower tonic but no one was impressed.

It was a pleasant evening with good conversation but there was mixed opinions on the meal.

Well, we tried it but are in no hurry to go back.

Thank you Linda for organising this event.

Southbrook Inn **Southbrook Street, Swindon** **SN2 1HF** **Sunday 16 September 2018**

Nicki writes:

A large crowd of us went to the Southbrook Inn for Sunday lunch. We thought that we would try the food before Square 1 moved there on 26 September.

This was our first visit for lunch. I can say for everyone that the food was excellent.

Everyone was served quickly, the food was hot and there was plenty of it.

The price was very good at £9.95.

We will certainly be going back.

Thank you Nicki for organising this event.

Southbrook Inn **Southbrook Street, Swindon** **SN2 1HF** **Wednesday 26 September 2018**

Editor writes:

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that we have relocated our Wednesday evening club nights from the Shield and Dagger (after 8 years) to Southbrook Inn.

A nice looking pub from the outside and the seating areas outside looked attractive too.

Reasonably sized car park (we were never going to be able to find a venue with a car park to match that of the Shield and Dagger).

A nice looking pub on the inside too. We are located in the large room which houses the bowling alley, dart board and pool table.

As a tempter to get club members to go and have a look on our first night a buffet was provided. It clearly worked as we had 48 members turn out!

I guess that other club members will have their own views - good and bad. Time will tell.

I wish Square1 many happy Wednesday Club nights at the new venue.



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Art Centre, Swindon

Dead Man's Hand

Saturday 29 September 2018

Sylvia writes:

9 members plus one non-member went to the Arts Centre to watch The Phoenix Players production of Dead Man's Hand.

Whilst it was a good storyline – a play within a play – which was well acted but was sadly not one of their better productions being a bit slow and boring.

Thanks to Sylvia for organising.

Wyvern Theatre, Swindon

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday 30 September 2018

Sylvia writes:

8 members plus 2 non-members had a lovely Sunday lunch at the Carriers Arms before 4 members went onto the Wyvern to join 8 other club members for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. It was superb and a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Many thanks to Linda for organising.

WEDNESDAY CLUB NIGHTS

NEW VENUE

***Southbrook Inn
Southbrook Street
Swindon
SN2 1HF
01793 513540***

SUNDAY LUNCHES

Most Sundays we meet at various venues throughout the quarter.

We often need to book so:

Check the Diary to see which pub
Add your name to the list
Or contact the Committee member

Current favourite seems to be:

The Carriers Arms, South Marston
The Village Inn, Liddington
The Saracens Head, Highworth
The White Hart, Stratton

KENNETT VALE HASHES

Several members attend and are 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.

Thanks to the following reporters:

Dennis Wood

Sylvia Kendall

Linda Jones

Nicki Sheppard



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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.

REGULAR EVENTS

Various events have been held during the quarter at the RAFA Club, including quizzes, discos, dances etc.

Contact Ron or Celia for details of the events.

Often 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.

Organised an event?

We would like to be able to include it in the Square 1 Newsletter.

Please email a few lines to:
carolewoodcock@btinternet.com