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*a snapshot of a
Yorkshire Village
at the new millennium*



Foreword

Six dedicated villagers are in the process of trying to research the history of Swanland past. On a visit to the Local History Library in Beverley, one of the very helpful librarians there, Jenny Stanley, said that many people were undertaking similar projects but no-one was actually recording life in their villages now. It was her comment that sparked off the idea for the book - this is the electronic version.

The idea was discussed with John and Christine Wheeler, (who had already spent many hours producing their own book "Recollections of Village Life"), and with their encouragement, the whole process began. I contacted each business and organisation in the village and asked them (and anyone else I could think of) to contribute a page. The results are here for all to see.

Members of the SVA Committee helped with proof reading.

David Waters designed the Swan 2000 logo



The book cover design was by Graham Latter and Yvonne Dumsday



The expertise of Graham Latter was invaluable in laying out the format and organising the printing. The University of Hull printed the pages and thanks are due to Russell Jones for his help. The book was bound together by Colin Burnam.

We have had regretfully to print the book photographs in black and white because of the prohibitive cost of colour printing.

To all of them - my thanks.

Yvonne Dumsday

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Introduction

January 1st 2000 was a Saturday - but not just any old Saturday, or any New Year's Day, but the start of a new Century and the start of a new Millennium.

It was a time for looking backward but also for looking forward to what the future might bring. In the year before that fateful day many predictions had been made. A few predicted the end of the world but many predicted the crashing of many of the world's computers. Hospital administrations would collapse; aeroplanes would fall out of the sky; emergency services would not be able to operate; transport would come to a halt and even humble domestic appliances would fail if they contained a microchip.

None of this came to pass and life continued in Swanland very much the same as in 1999. But it was not always the same and the fastest changes to the village happened over the last century. This book aims to give a snapshot in words of what life is like in Swanland at the year 2000, so that future readers may be able to visualise *our* lives better than we can when looking back at our own ancestors.

The village of Swanland in East Yorkshire lies at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds, just a mile from the Humber estuary. It began life as a mediaeval village in a farming community and grew steadily until the middle of the twentieth century when its boundaries began to expand rapidly. The Parish boundaries now cover 1289 hectares.



Swanland extends, West to East from the Water Tower to the A164 Humber Bridge-Beverley road. From North to South from the fields alongside Great Gutter Lane to the properties to the south of Tranby Lane down to the bottom of Kemp Road.

The centre of the village has the pond with the neighbouring Christ Church, Old School, Council-owned flats and Bowling Green.

Across the road from the pond stands the old Mere House and the new properties built recently on the Blacksmith's Yard. The whole village is surrounded by several arable farms and much of the boundary of the populated area is designated with mature trees. On Occupation Lane there is an agricultural machinery outlet and a pig unit. "Home from Home" at Humberdale Farm provides holiday accommodation for cats and dogs.

In a recent survey most residents considered that Swanland was a large village. There are approximately 1500 homes in the village with a population of around 4,000 (although the 2001 census will give more accurate figures). The homes range from one-bedroomed rented council flats to privately-owned very large houses set in acres of ground.



Swanland, unlike many similar sized villages today, is very fortunate to have so many amenities lost to other communities and many of them are to be found in the pages of this book.

As the picture on the left shows, we lost our wet fish shop last year but the property, on the corner of West End and Kemp Road, is now being converted into a cafe.

In just over a quarter of a mile one can shop at the Post Office, Chemist, Picture Framer, Butcher, Off-Licence, Florist, Hairdresser, General Store and Bakery (shown below) and Newsagent.

One can visit the French Consul (yes really!), a sports' injury clinic, two hairdressers, a beauty salon (which this year introduced eye-lash perming to its clientele!), an estate agents, the doctor's surgery and the Swan and Cygnet public house. Other businesses include a joiner's and a builder's yard, a company that provides scientific expertise to firms worldwide and a firm of designers, surveyors and management consultants. On the north-west of the village is an equestrian centre and on the south-east a veterinary practice.



In addition we are visited regularly by a mobile fishmonger, a mobile butcher and a delivery of organic fruit and vegetables (in a converted milk-float - powered by solar electricity). Representatives of Avon, Betterware and Kleeneze drop their leaflets through letterboxes then return to pick up orders and, later, to deliver the goods. Each day the litter bins are emptied and each week the streets are swept by a mechanical sweeper and our household dustbins are emptied. Once each month many people are visited by a man with a ladder, who will clean the outside windows for a very reasonable sum.

There are a wide variety of clubs: mother and toddlers and youth clubs, brownies and scouts, bridge, tennis and bowls to name but a few. We have a residential home at Swanland House, which caters for the elderly in need of some care. There is also Haldenby Court, which is a development of flats designed specifically for retired people who still want independent living.

For information, we have a small library; for education, we have a pre-school group and an excellent junior school (families with young children are now moving into the village because of its good reputation); for religion we have two churches - Christ Church by the pond and St. Barnabas at the end of Main Street; for young children we have one playground between the rear of Mere Flats and the school playing field and another one by the village's playing field on West Leys Road. Although the vast majority of homes in Swanland have a garden, many are too small to produce fruit and vegetables so the Council provide allotments to rent and these are situated at the top of the village, opposite the water tower.

We are administered by a locally-elected Parish Council, above which is the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to which we elect three councillors. We are represented in the Westminster Parliament by David Davis MP and in the European Parliament by Diana Wallis MEP. We pay a local precept to the Parish, rates to the ERYC and taxes to the Government.



The day starts in the village before dawn when the electric milk float from Express Dairies wends its way through the streets leaving 0.3 litre bottles of milk on people's doorsteps. (We still call them pint bottles but EEC regulations determined that we became metric and market traders have been prosecuted this year for still selling fruit and vegetables by the pound instead of by the kilogram.) In recent years, Express Dairies has offered many other groceries that can be ordered and delivered with the milk.

Later on, a number of young teenagers can be seen emerging from the newsagents with large yellow satchels full of the morning's newspapers and cycling or trudging around the village to be delivered to those who have ordered them. On a Thursday afternoon every house receives a free copy of the Haltemprice Advertiser and once a month some houses also receive a free copy of a glossy magazine - The Journal. Our local daily paper is the Hull Daily Mail.

The sorting of our mail is done in the newly opened office in nearby Hessle. As the picture shows, it is then brought, early each morning (except Sunday) in a big red Royal Mail van, together with our postmen and women and their bicycles who start their delivery rounds radiating outward from the pond.



In recent times many people are using text messages and e-mail in preference to "snail-mail" but for those who prefer to use paper and envelopes there are four red post boxes around the village which are emptied twice each weekday and once on Saturday and Sunday.

Trevor Fall Duncan Shaw Gary Miell Mark Raper

By eight o'clock the smartly uniformed children, who attend schools in Hull, can be seen waiting for their buses and shortly afterwards the more casually dressed pupils, bound for South Hunsley School, meet with their friends around the village 'bus stops. Once it is approaching nine o'clock the younger children can be seen making their way to the Junior School. Those who need to cross Main Street are assisted by the help of a "Lollipop Man" - someone employed by the council to stop the traffic with the help of a large round disc on a pole.

Most people now have a telephone in their homes and the ownership of mobile 'phones is increasing rapidly but we still have the distinctive white Kingston Communication's public telephone box by the Institute, where anyone can call any number world-wide just by inserting the correct amount of money - minimum 10 pence.

If one needs to travel outside the village by public transport, the East Yorkshire Motor Services runs an hourly service from approximately half-past seven in the morning until half-past six in the evening from Hull to Ferriby via Swanland, with a late bus coming from Hull at eleven-thirty.

Of those who work, the majority now travel out of Swanland by private car but at the end of each day children return home from school and workers return home from their labours - and they all return to Swanland which, at the start of the new millennium, is a very nice place to live.



The Cost of Living

Average income		Value Added Tax	
Top 1/5th of homes	£51,000 per annum	Most taxable goods and services	17.5%
Bottom 1/5th of homes	£2,900 per annum	Heating fuel	8.0%
Old Age Pension		Motor Taxes - Private vehicles per annum	
Single	£67.50 per week	Under 1100cc	£100
Double	£107.90 per week	Over 1100cc	£155
Family allowances		Motor Taxes - Motor Cycles	
First child	£15.00 per week	Under 150cc	£15
Other children	£10 per week	150- 250cc	£40
Income Tax - single persons allowance		Over 250cc	£60
for under 65's	£4,385	Bus to Hull (Children and Pensioners half fare)	
for 65-75's	£5,790	One way fare	£1.85
for over 75's	£6,050	Return fare	£2.80
Income Tax - rates after allowances		Taxi to Hull	£7.50
up to next £1,520	10%	Litre of Unleaded Petrol	
up to £28,400	22%	Average cost	78.5 p
over £28,400	40 %	Hull Daily Mail	28 p
Minimum Wage (from 1 Oct)		Pint of Milk (delivered)	40 p
Age 18 - 21	£3.20 per hour	Postage	
Age 22 and over	£3.70 per hour	1st class stamp	26 p
Total Rates per annum		1st class stamp from April	27 p
Parish Precept	Total (including precept)	2nd class stamp	19 p
		Pint of beer	£1.65
Band A - £40.12	£611.68	Shot of whisky	£1.30
Band B - £46.90	£713.61	Telephone calls	
Band C - £53.60	£815.57	Private - local calls unlimited time	5.5p
Band D - £60.30	£917.51	Public (minimum)	10 p
Band E - £73.70	£1121.41	Television Licence (colour)	£109
Band F - £87.10	£ 1325.29	Dentist*	£4.76
Band G - £100.50	£1529.19	Medical Prescription*	£5.90
Band H - £120.60	£1835.02	Houses prices in Swanland	
		Minimum(2-bedroomed mid-terraced)	£48,500
		Maximum	£575,000

* Medical charges are for a dental inspection and the price of a prescription (per item) under the N.H.S. Children, pensioners and those in receipt of some benefits are normally exempt from charges.



A village consists of buildings, it is true, but it is represented by the people who make their homes here and the things that they do to make the place where they live a vibrant community in which to spend their time, rather than just a place to return to after a day's work is done.

The following pages represent the views of a cross-section of just a few of the people who live in Swanland at the year 2000 a.d.



Growing Up in Swanland

by Catherine Jane Appleton

My name is Catherine Jane Appleton and I am fourteen years old. I have lived at 8, Northfield, Swanland all my life. I live with my parents, Richard and Pauline and sister, Helen, who is ten years old. Our house is detached and has three bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, a bathroom (upstairs) and a small cloakroom downstairs. My parents came to live in Swanland in 1980 when my Father came to work for Barclays Bank in Hull.



Catherine with her Prize Winning Entry
at Swanland Show 2000

When I was three years old, I attended Swanland Playschool at the James Reckitt Hall. This was on two or three half days per week and was run by Mrs Woodbridge. At five years old, I started at Swanland Primary School where there were 180 pupils. Mr Woodward was the headmaster from my starting in reception to my leaving at age eleven. I attended the school from Monday to Friday each week from 8.50 am to 3.30 pm.

In 1997, when I was eleven years old, I moved to South Hunsley High School in Melton, which is about three miles from Swanland. Because the school is not within walking distance I have to travel by bus. At first we had to pay a concessionary charge of 45 pence which gradually rose to 53 pence each way but now we have free travel.

At school we have five lessons each day of one hour each. Three in the morning, one hour for lunch, then two more in the afternoon. School starts at 8.50 am and ends at 3.50 pm. I am in year 10 at the moment and sat national assessment tests earlier this year.

When I was at primary school I took part in various activities after school. I went to a half-hour swimming lesson at Sydney Smith School in Anlaby from the age of six to eleven. I went to Brownies at St. Barnabas Church on Main Street in Swanland for 1 hour 15 minutes each week and I attended these sessions from the age of seven to ten. I also attended dance classes in the village, which were held at Christ Church by the pond and were run by Paula Holdstock. The lessons cost about £1 at the beginning, when I was six years old, but they rose to £2 as people dropped out. There were 20 or more of us at the start but, by the end, there were only six left in my group. I participated in dance festivals and took exams in ballet and modern dance. The lessons ended when I was ten years old as our teacher decided to leave.

I have weekly piano lessons, each lasting a half hour, with Miss Bristow who is a teacher at Swanland School and comes to our house to teach myself and my sister. We both take exams but I am ahead as I have been playing for longer. I have passed four grades and am now working towards grade 5.

In the summer tennis lessons are held at Swanland Tennis Courts next to the school. These last for an hour each week and I have taken part in a few tournaments. There is an ever growing tennis club for adults and matches are often played against other clubs.

Growing up in Swanland at the year 2000 is great!



A Life in Swanland

by John Wheeler

I was born on the 21st March 1947, at the end of the worst winter in living memory. My arrival in this world was at 10A, Main Street, Swanland - a cottage that survives to this day, between the doctor's surgery and the estate agent's. Neither of my parents were Swanland people; my father came from a tough mining village near Doncaster and my mother from the genteel resort of Filey. My elder brother was born at Plaistow in the East End of London. By 1948, we had moved into a new Council house at 6 Dale Grove, Crowther Lane, now 42 Dale Road. It was at here that my younger brother was born in 1949.

Much of the Swanland of my childhood is still easily recognised, particularly the fields and woods and of course the area around the pond. In many respects, the village centre is neater now than it was then. Old and decayed buildings have been replaced. The Swan and Cygnet was built around a plain 1930 detached house, and Mere House stands proudly overlooking the pond, a lovely house with a long history. The old school, which I attended, looks at long last that it will be converted and enlarged into a community centre, a very commendable use. The wonderful views from the periphery of the village have always given me great pleasure. Over the years the view from Ferriby Hill has altered a little, the Ferriby by-pass scheme of the early 60's and then later the construction of the Humber Bridge gave another aspect to the vista.

One hears and indeed reads about a "them and us" attitude between the residents of certain areas of the village. It has never bothered me- if it actually exists. Kemp Road, Tranby Lane and some of the new houses have long been host to the wealthier residents of the village. My Mother, a state registered nurse, helped the village undertaker to prepare the deceased for burial. She also did quite a lot of private nursing to the wealthy but elderly and infirm residents. Being a woman of great common sense, she said frequently, "Two things money does not buy you - health and happiness". How right she was.

After two years at college, I worked in Rochdale, Lancashire from 1965 until 1970. Whilst there I met the girl who was to become my wife. We always intended to move back to Swanland and in 1969 purchased 22 Dale Road. We married in 1970 and have lived there ever since. Our two children, now grown up, have flown the nest and both serve in the RAF.

I obtained work at De le Pole Hospital at Willerby and stayed there until its closure in 1977. I now work at an acute psychiatric unit on Anlaby Road, Hull. At the millennium I still enjoy living in Swanland. I hope there are no more major housing developments. I suspect, like many long-term residents, the one thing I do not want to see is the visible boundaries around the village disappear. I also hope that the local GP is able to convert the old water pumping station into a new and better-equipped surgery and that the village is able to keep its general store. People who do not rely on its services need to reflect on the hardships it would cause to those who do, when forwarding their objections.

My wife and I may well remain in the village. Who knows? My parents have sadly passed away, my two brothers have not settled here. Our son is stationed in Hampshire and our daughter near Inverness. They are unlikely to return permanently to the village. That said, I am proud that I was born here and at this moment in time, I will be quite happy to stay here.



Granddaughter Ellie daughter-in-law Leah, son Simon, daughter Catherine with John and his wife Christine (seated)



The Evolving Village

by Jean Foster

We relocated to Swanland in October 1967, moving into the new estate of chalet bungalows known as Chantry Way East. These were the latest addition to a village, which, during the thirty years since, has seen enormous growth - an ever-expanding building site.

When we chose our house, Swanland was a pretty, countryside, farming village. The pond was without any fencing around it. The Methodist schoolroom was exactly that, being used as the private school, now relocated to Hessle Mount. The children of the village were taught in the "Old School" building behind the pond. James Reckitt Memorial Hall was in place but the true village hall was part of what has now become Swanland County Primary School. Then it was used as a community hall with plays on the stage, dances and various classes - ballet, flower-arranging etcetera.

The building, which is now the off-licence and flower shop, was a general store and cafe with brightly coloured gingham cloths on the square tables. Mrs. Minoghue cooked food on the Aga cooker, which still remains in the back of the wine shop. Meals were provided for the private school and also to feed the workman who were constructing Chantry Way East and Manor Road.

Where there is now a village pub - The Swan and Cygnet - there was then a petrol station and pig-farm - until the latter moved to Occupation Lane. Look carefully at the pub today and one can see the original house still there, with extensions around it.

There were some very pretty walks around the village. Mums, including me, pushed their prams down West Leys Road and fed sugar lumps to the horses and sat on the seat admiring the view. We also walked the circuit down Tranby Lane (with huge detached houses down the West side now demolished and replaced with small private estates), along Greenstiles Lane and backup Main Street. There were fields all the way and no streetlights!

Where Westerdale and The Green now stand, there was a field, used by the Primary School for games and football. The children would walk crocodile-style up Dale Road to play - dodging the sheep, which were kept in the field!

Mr. Westerdale, the farmer who owned the said field, was a staunch preserver of village life, being on the Parish Council. He also allowed the Wine Guild to hold barn dances in his barn, including the hay bales. How he must turn in his grave now to see the changes to his beloved village.

When we arrived in Swanland, at the rear of the pond next to the school wall was a thick bed of flag iris and reeds which sheltered moorhens, coots and of course ducks. There were however no swans at that time.

The 'old' villagers must have seen many more changes than me over the ages. We are pleased that the village centre has been maintained but the traffic does need calming!



Even in the year 2000 it is still possible to walk along West Leys Road on the west, or Greenstiles Lane on the east, and have views over the fields.





A Personal View

by Margit Newman

There are still a few leaves on the trees after a long, mild Autumn. Usually, by late November there have been a few frosty nights, but this year is different with temperatures at or above 10 degrees. The flower beds still have some colour.

This morning, as I went out for my early morning jog around the village, I met a few schoolboys delivering newspapers, saw a milk-float along Greenstiles Lane, the usual dog walkers and one lady doing so called 'fast walking' with head-phones over her ears to regulate her pace. I must say I prefer to listen to the early morning sounds of birds; just now the blackbirds are rustling about in the fallen leaves along the hedge bottoms. Swanland really is very green and leafy with many trees and evergreen hedges of laurel, holly and conifers. Some of the conifers are of the Leylandii type, an American import, and they grow enormously tall unless regularly trimmed. There is talk of legislation to set a maximum height for these fast-growing trees - roll on the new Bill, I say!

During the summer of 1999 I watched the primary school being extended, to accommodate the many pupils who now attend it. The present school used to be the James Reckitt Village Hall and has already been extended several times as the population of Swanland has grown. It is hoped that, very soon, the Old School by the pond, together with the present James Reckitt Memorial Hall to its rear, will be rebuilt into a new, larger village and sports hall in the new millennium; we do need such a hall.



During my sixteen years in Swanland the village has continued to grow as groups of houses were built on plots where formerly a single house stood. The village centre is now a Conservation area and thought is being given to traffic calming so that the area around the pond will be a peaceful place to walk, or even sit, to enjoy this amenity.

In the last few years, many of us have joined the University of the Third Age, or U3A, which meets for lectures every other week in Saint Barnabas' Church Hall. I feel that this has made a valuable contribution to life in Swanland for many people in their early retirement years.

A group, consisting mainly of women, work on a rota basis to serve meals to elderly or housebound people in the village. These 'Meals on Wheels' are currently cooked at St Anne's School in Welton and then taken, still hot, by the voluntary helpers, always working in twos, to whoever needs them. It is a pleasure to get to know some of the older residents whose memories stretch back much further than ours.

We benefit from being close to the City of Hull which, last year, celebrated the fact that it was 700 years since it was granted its Royal Charter by King Edward the First in 1299. There were many special events and several choir members from Swanland rehearsed long and hard before the performance of Mahler's Symphony Number Eight, the so-called 'Symphony of a Thousand' performed at Hull City Hall. This year some of them sang again in the "Swanland Festival 2000".



Retirement in Swanland

by Malcolm Thompson

All in all, Swanland is a great place to live in the year 2000 and we hope will long remain so.

My awareness of Swanland began in 1980. My friend and I left the Lancashire company (which had provided us with a joint 35 years employment) on the same day in 1979 as its closure had been announced. He obtained a position in Hull and I in mid-Lincolnshire. Thus it was that, when he settled in Swanland, we came to visit him and his wife on several occasions.

In 1990 my Mother died and I decided to lease her house in Grimsby. The successful applicants lived in Swanland - what a coincidence. In fact they had a flat above the hairdressers next to the grocers, so I learned some more about the village.



Glenys and Malcolm Thompson enjoying their retirement.

My wife and I both worked in Hull from mid-1990 and by 1993 we were ready to buy our retirement home, although still working for a short time. Swanland was high on our list and we moved into a bungalow towards the north-east corner of the village in April 1993. My wife retired almost at once and I in 1994, just nine months later, so our life in the village began to revolve around the various clubs and associations which cater for the retired and others. After encouragement from friends, the Bowling Club was one of the first that we joined, although we had never played before. Now, on most Mondays in the summer, we enjoy our game without performing to a high standard.

The formation of the Swanland branch of the University of the Third Age was a tremendous development. We had been on the waiting list at the Hessle branch for some time, so joined in enthusiastically with the Swanland group. After a few months, when a treasurer was needed, I was appointed and served for three years until last year. Now that I have more time to enjoy the meetings and the many other activities, I regularly do so. My favourite groups are the Family History, Local History, Discussion Group, Technology Group and French conversation. These groups meet either once or twice per month and the annual holidays and day trips to places of interest are especially good. This year we went to Cochem on the Mosel river in Germany.

The Swanland Village Association immediately came to our attention when we arrived and we joined, but as passive members, paying our subscriptions and doing little else. However, when the Association decided that twinning with a European village was one of the ways in which the village could celebrate the Millennium, my wife and I agreed to co-ordinate the necessary activities. This was successfully accomplished when the Twinning Charter was signed in July as part of the Swanland Festival 2000 celebrations. For us, life in Swanland in the first half of the year 2000 involved getting to know more and more Swanland people and persuading them to help with Twinning activities. We are now much more involved with the activities of the Village Association, which involves thinking about how we could make improvements in the village. I have, during this year particularly, taken to attending the monthly meetings of the Parish Council, which also keeps me informed of the issues affecting the village.

The proximity of Hull and Beverley also gives us ample opportunity to attend various cultural activities and to play bridge, my favourite game.



Diana Wallis M.E.P

Swanland is a rather special name for a village - I remember the first time when I saw it on a map some nine years ago when my husband, Stewart, and I were due to move up here. I thought then that it sounded appealing and conjured up all sorts of images. By a chain of coincidences we ended up renting our first home here - at Briar Cottage - in the middle of the village and got to know what a delightful community it is.

It was good to be at the centre of the village, next to the pond, even if at certain times of the year the ducks become a bit tiresome! I felt very proud to represent our village during the five years I spent as an East Riding Councillor. One of the things enjoyed the most was meeting people in Swanland and learning from them about how the village had changed over the years. Residents, like Bob Jennison, who have spent their lives here and become so much a part of the fabric of our community.



**Diana Wallis - Swanland's very own
Member of the European Parliament**

To become, last June, the first Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament for Yorkshire and Humber was, for me, the fulfilment of a long-term ambition. But the hardest part of that success was to give up my local council seat. I believe it is desperately important for all politicians to stay deeply rooted in their local community, all the more so when elected at a national or European level where we are away from home so much.

A large part of my working life is now spent in a constant trail of meetings in Strasbourg and Brussels, the dual meeting places of the European Parliament, which, combined with my weekend travels across Yorkshire, convince me that I represent one of the most diverse and beautiful of the English regions.

Yet all this is away from my home in Swanland and one of the views I enjoy best is my homeward approach to the village towards Tranby Lane, and the changing colours of the trees that border Swanland from the Tranby Lane gardens down towards the Humber.

I remember my mother always impressing on me that swans are one of the few birds that mate as a pair for life; I cannot help thinking that as Swanlanders our relationship with our very special village is just as permanent.



Life in Toft House

by Bev and Phil Gray

Toft House is one of the oldest houses in the village and must have many stories to tell if only its walls could talk. We moved here in the summer of 1993 from a brand new house on a brand new estate in Cambridge, so getting to grips with old house living has taken some time and a fair bit of cash! We have rewired, replumbed, repointed, replastered, redecorated: in fact re-anything you can think of. One home improvement we decided to turn down was that of a porch (the doubleglazing man having failed to talk us into windows, doors or a conservatory). We are sure no one would appreciate having to walk on the road for a couple of yards to pass a porch blocking the pavement!



Toft House 46 Main Street Swanland

We keep meaning to dig out records for the house and occupants but never seem to have the time. In the meantime we have enjoyed reading the Wheeler's great book and we sometimes sit by the inglenook fireplace and wonder what life was like 300 years ago. Colder and damper almost certainly. For all the expense and occasional hassle we would not give it up now.

Moving up north has been great for us and our only potential difficulty has been leaving family and friends several hours drive away down south. Spare bedrooms mean we get lots of visitors though and in a way we have a new family in Swanland based around St Barnabas Church. We asked to join a home group when we arrived and particularly requested to be in a group with people of a similar age so that we would make friends and settle in to village life. Members of that group (which we now lead) are amongst our best friends and we thank God every day for them. Mind you, the youngest member of our group is 4 months and the oldest 80 so we have discovered we can enjoy friendships with all ages.

We meet once a week to pray for and with each other (and for our friends, families and neighbours). We listen to what God is saying to us by reading the Bible and using the topical and provoking questions provided by Richard Hill and others! We realise that, although the Bible was written 2 millennia ago, it is still completely relevant to our circumstances in 2000. We also enjoy singing to God with one excellent, and one rapidly-improving, guitarist in the group to keep us in time and tune. So if you ever hear us as you walk by on the pavement, stop and join in! We have a lot of fun in our get-togethers and supplement this by frequent Sunday lunches together, walks, cinema trips, croquet tournaments and lots more. Meeting in each other's homes, laughing and crying together, talking about the things that really matter to us and knowing that we are in the Lord Jesus' presence and under His care is better than anything else we do. As friends and spouses join the group, the walls of Toft House are bulging and we may have multiplied into two groups by the time you read this.



We expect to be here in Toft House for a long time: with renovation work almost completed we will no doubt keep going round and round the maintenance work (like painting the Forth Bridge). It is good to know that our final home in heaven will be ready for us when we get there!

The picture shows details of the building style at Toft House.



Life in Mere House

by Jim, Yvonne and Millie Dumsday

Mere House competes with Toft House for the honour of being the oldest house in the village. It stands in the heart of Swanland across the road from the pond, flanked on one side by the previous kitchens and servants quarters and, on the other, by a previous farm labourer's cottage.

When we arrived here three years ago there was the old blacksmith's yard to our left but the buildings have since been demolished and replaced with five new homes.



Mere House

We feel truly privileged to be able to live here and enjoy our view of the pond and the old school beyond it. The pond is maintained by the Parish Council, the wildlife is tended by Mrs Nurse and her friends and the flower beds and tubs are kept in colourful condition by the Swanland Village Association.

Swanland is thought by people outside the village to be a snobbish area but we have found it to be far from so. It still has the feel of a real village and all who pass our gate tend to smile a greeting whilst many will stop to chat about growing up here and remembering the people who have lived in this house before us. There are comments on the beauty of the magnolia tree in the front garden and many villagers wait with anticipation to see if the flowers will manage to open in all their glory without being spoiled by a late frost.

Although the house is built of red brick, it has many stone features. Each window surround has stops (corbels) in the shape of faces - eight different designs (three of which are shown opposite). Did someone, in years gone by, order a stonemason to make caricatures of eight of his relatives or could one go out and buy a "job lot"?



The two monkey-like creatures on the string course of the upper storey once gave the house the nickname "Monkey Hall". Above them is the stone shield with the initials "WW", who we now believe to be one William Walmsley, described as a Hull gentleman, who owned the house, according to the land tax details of 1840. It is commonly believed that the present house was substantially altered - or maybe completely rebuilt - at about that time but, as with many old properties, it has evolved many times over the years since. The extensive back gardens, complete with tennis court, which stretched up Dale Road, were sold off during the last century and a new kitchen was added at the rear. Our contribution has been to add a two-storey extension on to the north-east face of the property where the boiler house and back yard used to be. This now provides a balconied study-cum-library downstairs and extension to a bedroom upstairs.



One of the old panes of glass in the lounge window has a tiny sketch of a gentleman of Victorian or Edwardian appearance (with a remarkable resemblance to the present owner). We have to presume that this was scratched by a diamond ring at some time in the past. Could it be a portrait of a previous inhabitant of Mere House?

There are stories of a ghost that is supposed to walk from the Old Chantry (which, back in the 1300's, stood on the land where Chantry Way now runs) through an underground passage into Mere House. Coincidentally, the north east corner of Mere House's arched cellar is blocked off (could it hide the entrance to this passage?).

Children also tell me the rumour of a tunnel running south from the house, which flooded when the pond leaked into it. Co-incidentally, there is a capped opening under the floor of the cellar. Makes one think, doesn't it?

Each winter we are entertained by seeing the ducks flying in to land on ice instead of the water they expected. At Christmas the pond is lit by coloured lights and Father Christmas is rowed across by his elf to the accompaniment of the Salvation Army band and the steam organ. Each spring the pond is visited by passing geese on their migration north, then we watch the new ducklings enjoying their first swim on the pond.

On a summer's evening we can watch the youngsters of the village roller-blading and skateboarding (and this year a new hobby of speeding along on small scooters) around the pond area, to a background of tennis balls hitting strings at the tennis club and bowls clicking on the nearby green. Our indication of autumn is when the flock of black-headed gulls, now without their summer caps, return to take up their winter quarters with us.

It is truly a pleasure to live here at the year 2000 and, hopefully, will remain so for many years to come.



Some Pros & Cons of Swanland

by Graham & Jean Latter

We moved to Mill Rise in Swanland in 1992 - **MCMXCII** sounds so ancient now that we are in **MM**! We had lived at Anlaby Common for the previous 21 years so we can hardly be classed as "Gypsies" (20th century term for the more politically correct "travellers"). So here is a (none too serious) assessment of some good and bad points about living here.

Pros ✓



The Pond and Waterfalls in our Garden

- 1 Our garden.
- 2 Our vegetable garden - tended by Jean's father who is 85.
- 3 Participating in Open Gardens' Day - we enjoy meeting the many folk who travel from afar to visit.
- 4 Peace and quiet.
- 5 Living in the countryside.
- 6 Fresh air at this high altitude!
- 7 Easy access to the M62 and Humber Bridge.
- 8 A reasonable number of shops and amenities.
- 9 An amazing number of clubs and organisations.
- 10 People saying *hello* to you in the street.
- 11 The Village Pond.
- 12 Only a minor crime problem.
- 13 Walking/cycling down to North Ferriby.

Cons ✘

- 1 Preparing our garden for Open Garden day (and being asked searching questions on the day, to which we do not know the answers!)
- 2 Gale force winds in winter (we are very exposed on the north western corner of the village - anything such as plastic tables and chairs literally take off if not fastened down).
- 3 Attending a meeting at one of the organisations and getting conscripted - but not seriously a con!
- 4 Traffic speeding through Main Street and West End.
- 5 People using narrow roads as public car parks - especially at the beginning of Dale Road which reduces it to a single lane.
- 6 Traffic congestion around school "chucking out" time - are children born with legs these days?
- 7 The Village Pond area being used as a large car park
- 8 Seemingly never-ending housing development
- 9 Infrequent and inadequate public transport
- 10 Walking/cycling BACK UP from North Ferriby!

All in all, we think that the pros far outweigh the cons and hope that the village retains its character in the future.



Swanland abounds with groups and organisations covering a wide variety of interests: indoor, outdoor, intellectual, sporting, secular, religious, for young, for old, for anyone and for everyone.

The following pages represent just a few of the many bodies that one can join in Swanland in the year 2000 a.d.



Boys' Brigade

by Capt. Brian Gillyard

The Boys' Brigade is a uniformed youth organisation of the Christian Church. Its object is "The advancement of Christ's kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

The 1st Swanland Boys' Brigade is part of Christ Church United Reformed/Methodist Church and seeks to present the Christian message in a way that is meaningful and relevant to boys and girls.

In Autumn 1983 an attempt was made to form 1st Swanland Boys' Brigade with a junior section (boys aged 8-11), this being the centennial year of the Boys' Brigade in the UK. Interest unfortunately was shown only by four 12 year old boys. Although the boys enjoyed the activities provided it was agreed by the officers and staff that a new start be made for the company in January 1984 with an Anchor Section (boys age 6 - 8 years). On that first Friday evening we started with six 7 year old boys. The evening, led by Mrs. Jenny Calland and helped by Mr Bill Calland and Mr Brian Gillyard, comprised games, craft work, singing and a story.

From that small start, in the Autumn of 1983 the company expanded, mainly by word of mouth amongst the boys. Those boys, on reaching the age of eight, were then promoted to form the junior section. Activities included games, craft work, figure marching and drama along with taking part in battalion organised competitions. The boys of the junior section soon proved that they were a match for the more established companies of the battalion, doing well not only in the sporting competitions, such as swimming, five-a-side football, cross-country running and team games but also in the bible and safety quizzes. During those early years we were indebted to the help and assistance given by some of the boys, who would come during the evening to take classes, help with games and provide valuable assistance to the officers.

Over the next few years, the company continued to grow with an Anchor Section of upwards of a dozen boys, a Junior Section of 20 plus boys and the formation of a Company Section (boys aged 11 - 15). It was during this period that Mr Howard Tyler joined us as a helper. In the late 1980's and early 1990's the Company won and held the Junior Section Shield for several continuous years and also were able to win the prestigious Battalion Colours on two occasions, the first time being presented with them in Beverley Minster. Latterly, with the addition of our female officers, Dr. Linda Stanton and Miss Ruth Burman and the encouragement of the Church we have accepted girls into all three sections, taking a full and active part alongside the boys.



In addition to weekday activities the Junior Section have an annual weekend holiday that began at a hostel in Horton in Ribblesdale; was followed by two years at Askrigg and more recently at Barmoor House, Hutton-le-Hole - the picture shows us at Pickering Swimming Pool during this trip

The Company Section has either joined with the Junior Section there or had its own camps at Wrelton and Rudston. The Company Section also had the opportunity to take part in a Battalion organised weekend "Challenge Hike" on the North Yorkshire Moors.

The Company is now in its 17th year with a membership of approximately eight Anchor boys and girls, eighteen Junior Section boys and girls and four Company Section Boys and Girls with a staff of four officers.



The Flower Arranging Class

by Val Ions (*Flower arranging tutor*)

Each Wednesday morning there is a flurry of activity by the pond in the centre of Swanland, as a group of ladies make their way to the Christ Church Hall. This procession of ladies carry an odd collection of artefacts tool-boxes, buckets, bunches of twigs, baskets, foliage and flowers. What can they be about? This is the flower arranging class.

The flower arranging class has been running in the village for over thirty years. It was set up by the Adult Education Service at a time when it was a very new hobby and flower clubs were being formed throughout the country under the umbrella of NAFAS - the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.

At these Flower Clubs, skilled flower arrangers would demonstrate their art and club members wanted to learn how to emulate these talented people. The war was now over and, once again, herbaceous borders were replacing vegetable gardens. So flowers and foliage were available to these ladies and they began to go along to class to learn how best to display them to enhance their homes.

For many years the Swanland class was tutored by a well-known Hull florist, Kathleen Knott, and on her retirement it was taken over by Margaret Stockbridge, a very popular and talented tutor in floral art in our area.

Our traditional English style of flower arranging is unique and heavily influenced by those wonderful herbaceous perennial plants grown in our English gardens. These plants are much admired and coveted throughout the world and in recent years the Dutch horticulturists have begun to develop them commercially and ship them all over the world. Campanula, delphinium, achillea, ageratum, lady's mantle (*alchemilla mollis*), antirrhinum, michaelmas daisy, larkspur and phlox to name but a few are now available at the Dutch flower market to be shipped to flower enthusiasts throughout the world.

In recent years our traditional English style of arranging flowers has begun to be influenced and rivalled by the styles of our European neighbours and designers from further afield - New Zealand, Japan, South Africa and America for example. This has added a new dimension to lessons in the village; new and interesting ways to use our flowers and foliage being experimented with.

As we step forward into a new century our flower arranging continues and classes are attended as enthusiastically as they were thirty years ago. Much has been learned about the care of our flowers and foliage and our thoughts are beginning to turn to recycling and conservation and how this can relate to our work.

But, whatever uncertainties lie ahead for us as we step into the new millennium, of one thing I am sure. Our interest in the wonderful resources of our "green and pleasant land" will remain and continue to express itself in the creative enjoyment of the students of the village flower arranging class.



Jean Moore and Judith Reed enjoying their arrangements at the Flower Class



Swanland Mens' Institute

by Don Brook

The Swanland Mens' Institute enters the new Millennium with a membership of 71 men and a promising future.



The front aspect of the Mens' Institute, Main Street, Swanland
(Note the white public telephone box of Kingston Communications)

The Institute was opened in 1914 on land owned by and adjoining the then Congregational Chapel (now the United Reform Church). The fully furnished building, provided by Sir James Reckitt, consisted of two large rooms, for the playing of snooker and a reading room (library). The agreement for the running of the Institute was dated 30th December of that year and the rules, at that time, included:

" The Objects : The object of the Institute is to provide a place of recreation with a view to moral and intellectual improvement."

"Rule 5iii : No member or guest shall participate in games played for money or any other consideration whatsoever."

A further agreement dated 1916 between the trustees of the Chapel and the committee of the Institute indicates that a room was let for other uses. Swanland Manor Cricket Club, the Swanland Horticultural Society and the Swanland Manor Bowling Club all used it for committee meetings.

The agreement shows that the library contained about 1,500 books, being the property of Sir James Reckitt. The whereabouts of these books at the present is unknown.



The Institute now comprises only one main room, which is still lit by its chandelier - originally gas but now converted to electricity. The second room was where the youngsters had to learn the game, only being allowed on the main table when proficient. This room reverted to the Church over 30 years ago when membership fell to single figures but the advent of snooker on colour television helped to encourage more people to take up the game and join the Institute. The reading room now houses the local East Riding branch library.



Inside the Institute

There is at present a thriving membership of some 70 members ranging in age from 18 to over 80 years. Each member has his own key but up to 15 years ago there was just one, kept in a box outside an adjacent cottage, for any member to take when needed.

Three snooker teams play league snooker from the Institute. They are affiliated to the local League and play against other teams in the area, including North Ferriby and Welton. Over the years, players have had considerable success as both individuals and team members.

Members of the Institute are able to play at any time, except Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day (part of the original rules still in place). The committee meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the day to day running of the Institute and the fabric of the building, which is a listed building. It is an interesting architectural feature of the village and situated at a focal point, opposite the pond.



North Ferriby and Swanland Mothers' Union

by Judy Cooke

Our branch of the Mothers' Union celebrated its 50th birthday last year. In 1949, the York Diocesan Secretary came to North Ferriby, at the invitation of Mrs. Stanley Robinson, the Station Master's wife, to encourage the ladies of the then Parish of North Ferriby and Swanland to form a branch of the Mothers' Union.

Mrs Godfrey Robinson, herself a Mothers' Union member, invited the ladies of North Ferriby and Swanland to meet at her home, Four Acres on Woodgates Lane in North Ferriby. Following this meeting, at a service at All Saints' Church on 5th October 1949, forty local ladies were enrolled as members of the Mothers' Union, together with three members from other branches. One of these ladies, Mrs Nan Gibson, is a member of the branch to this day.

The Branch began raising funds for a banner in 1952 and the Reverend T. Ashton dedicated it in October 1953. The banner was paraded at the Deanery Service in Holy Trinity Church, Hull in May 1954, (white gloves and blue veils being the order of the day).

Throughout the 1950's the membership continued at fifty-plus but in the 1960's the Young Wives groups were formed. These were affiliated to the Mothers' Union and were expected to bring younger women into the organisation. This ambition was never realised and their formation actually created an age gap in the Mothers' Union and, consequently, a decline in membership.

For many years now our membership has been twenty-plus so, in 1998, when North Ferriby and Swanland became separate parishes, the Mothers' Union took the decision to continue with a joint branch rather than split up old friendships.



The picture shows members of the Mothers' Union at the Hull Deanery Millennium Garden Party prior to releasing their balloons for a Balloon Race

This was a popular fund-raising event when one would buy a balloon, write one's name and address on the label and wait...and wait... and wait.

As balloons landed and the labels were returned, the person who had bought and the person who had returned the furthest travelled balloon would win the prizes.

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide society and its objects are:

- 1 to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
- 2 to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
- 3 to maintain a world wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- 4 to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- 5 to help those whose family life has met with adversity.



Neighbourhood Watch

by John Redfern

Following a spate of house burglaries early in 1988, the Parish Council asked Dr. John Redfern to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Swanland. A steering committee of volunteers was formed and invited the owners of the twelve hundred plus dwellings in the village to attend a preliminary meeting. Only twenty-six people attended and they were addressed by Crime Prevention Officers and shown a video on the subject.

At this meeting the village was divided into four administrative areas, defined by the main road axes North-South and East-West. An Area Co-ordinator was appointed for each and took on the task of recruiting some ten Local Co-ordinators to help them.



Arlene Branton, Anita Morton
PC Les Smith and PC John Fawcett

During the winter of 1988, all the houses of the village were visited and the owners were asked if they would like to join the scheme and also to pay £1 contribution towards the cost of the official signs. The response to the latter was very good but finding the co-ordinators proved more difficult. Twenty-five signs were purchased and erected around the village and Action Cards were given out, showing the names and telephone numbers of the Co-ordinators, the local Policeman and the Police Station.

The objects of the Scheme were:

- 1 to raise people's awareness of crime.
- 2 to report events or sightings, which might be a prelude to a crime, to the Co-ordinator or the Police, depending on the urgency.
- 3 to cover for neighbours in an absence and to report ringing burglar alarms to the owners or the police.

The Scheme slowly lapsed as the crime rate in Swanland fell to its previous low level until 1994 when the Swanland Village Association took it under its wing and attempted to revitalise it by using publicity for Neighbourhood Watch in its Newsletter. There were still not enough Local Co-ordinators to cover the whole of the village so it was decided to concentrate on areas where there were the volunteers who would cover their immediate areas. We hoped that this would encourage others to become interested and become co-ordinators who would limit their efforts to approximately twelve to twenty houses in their own vicinity. Fortunately for the Scheme, Anita Morton, who lives in Swanland and works for the Humberside Association of Neighbourhood Watch Groups (HANWAG), was able to supply starter packs and information. She also enrolled the help of Alene Branton, the chief executive of HANWAG, to speak to the Co-ordinators.

In the year 2000, we now have 36 Co-ordinators who meet with our local policeman three times each year to discuss incidents and crime in the village. The results, with advice to householders, are published in the Swanland Village Association Newsletter.

Luckily, at the time of writing, the crime level in the village is low, mainly confined to theft from garden sheds and cars. This is the pattern for the Haltemprice Rural Area.

We hope it long continues thus.



St. Barnabas Church

by Reverend Richard Hill



St Barnabas Church, Swanland seeks to be a vibrant community of people who have come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way.

The congregation has been in its present premises at the eastern end of Main Street since February 1992, the old building opposite the newsagents having been pulled down and replaced by flats.

The church began as a daughter church of All Saints, Ferriby and did not have regular services every Sunday or a clergyman living in Swanland until relatively recently. The original building was founded in 1899 by a kind gift of the Todd family.

The church caters for all ages, with a formal service of Holy Communion every Sunday at 9am and a more informal service at 10.30am appealing to all ages, with facilities for all young people aged nought to eighteen years. There is also a service at 6.30pm catering for varying needs such as healing, parade (with the uniformed organisations), informal and interactive services.

There is a full-time children and youth co-ordinator, Andrew Gray, who oversees all the youth activities, both on Sundays and the mid-week clubs. His wife Anne-Marie looks after the Kids Club for mums and toddlers.

I came to St Barnabas in 1986 as a single man! I know that people in the church were praying that I might find a wife. It later transpired that some, knowing Elaine from when she had been a member of St. Barnabas in the 1970's, were praying that she might find a husband. But few thought that both prayers might be answered in one go! In fact, we were married at All Saints Church in North Ferriby in April 1989 - so this means that I have become an honorary Yorkshireman!

As our policy is to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness and give away all monies raised from fund-raising, it was only possible to find the £800,000 needed to build the new St. Barnabas by asking people to pray and give as God had led. This was perhaps even more a demonstration that God answers prayer!



The vast majority of the membership belong to small groups, where the main caring and encouragement to grow in faith occurs, as well as outreach, especially through the very popular Alpha courses. Groups of about ten to twelve people have met either weekly or fortnightly in various homes for many years. Currently there are around twenty groups, including one for the severely disabled at the Godfrey Robinson Home. Most meet weekly and draw a high level of commitment. They are basically groups of friends coming together as "family", sharing, studying the Bible, enjoying a spot of worship and helping one another live for Jesus. Support is given in times of difficulty and friends are invited to socials and other events.

A number of the home groups derive from the Alpha courses (Alpha being a ten week introductory course to the Christian Faith). Where people have progressed in their journey of faith and want to carry on meeting together, groups have been formed. Some therefore tend to be older and some younger but it means there is a place where everybody feels comfortable.

Over two hundred people are involved in groups at St Barnabas and the leaders meet from time to time for mutual encouragement and to ensure they are being cared for in "clusters". Anyone who wants to join a small group is recommended to go on the Alpha course first as that forms both a good grounding in the Christian faith and acts as an introduction to life at St. Barnabas.

St Barnabas - Youth

by Andrew Gray

Barney & Co (Sunday School) is where the children and young people meet on a Sunday morning to worship God and learn more about Him. We use sign language in our songs and stories. The number of children (and thus the leadership team) has grown during the last year - and we are still growing!

Y.T. (Youth Together) is a group that meets on Sunday evenings from 7.29. At present its members are fourteen years plus and the aim of the group is to radiate Jesus and blend ages together. The main vision of the group is to make all young people feel at home in a social atmosphere and for no-one to feel left out. Although mainly social, the group does visit some Christian youth events, including the Harvest Camp each summer, and other local events.

B.R.I.M. (Be Ready It's Monday) is a young people's small group for youngsters aged eleven to fourteen and meets on a Monday evening. Its aim is to encourage, support and facilitate its members in their independent and growing relationship with Jesus. The group was only formed in November 1999 and already they have planned and led a whole Church service as well as leading their own group evenings (with supervision). The overall vision for the group is for the young people to develop their gifts, make a difference in the Church and to follow God's special plan for them. They are really enjoying it and look forward to each week's meeting.

Youth Home Group is the second young people's small group and its members are fourteen to sixteen years old. The aim of the group is to provide an environment where the young people can develop a lasting faith, which will withstand moving out into the wider world. During the last year the young people have experienced how to put their faith and their gifts into action.

Kid's Club is a group for pre-school children and their carers where they can play in a safe environment whilst learning social skills mixing with the other children. It also provides a place to learn the simplest of Bible messages for both the children and the adults. The group has grown considerably during the last year, more than doubling its weekly attendance, and is now looking to split - starting a second group at a different time.

continued overleaf >>>



St Barnabas - Youth

Frogs is the first of our Wednesday night groups and is for four to six year olds. It was started in November 1999 with just four members and now has over 30. Each week, as well as having loads of fun, the children learn more about God in a very simple way. The aim of the group is to see the children develop their experience of God and to want to develop that further as they move into the older groups.

Ark is our second Wednesday night group and it is for seven to ten year olds. This group has also seen a growth in its membership during the last year and we have a projected attendance of getting on towards sixty children within the next twelve months! The children mix a social atmosphere with a place to learn about God. They work together in small groups, playing and having fun.

Sonic is the last of the Wednesday night groups and is for young people aged eleven to fourteen years old. The first part of Sonic is purely social; a place to meet their friends where we can get alongside them. The second part of Sonic is optional but, for those that stay, it provides a place to learn more about God whilst doing the things they enjoy. During the last year this has taken the form of an Alpha course, with up to 18 teenagers staying.

I think the main thing that has happened for the Millennium is that we have now achieved a goal that the Church envisaged many years ago - namely to create a way in which we can be there for the children all the way from birth through to adulthood, showing them a caring but yet challenging place to be.

Like regular youth work, we seek to equip and empower youngsters at all stages of their development in the three areas of physical, mental and spiritual. However we do focus more on the spiritual than perhaps more contemporary youth work well, we are a Church after all!

For the future, we are hoping to strengthen the groups and the ways in which we see the youngsters through from group to group; to build ties with the other organisations for young people in the village; perhaps to visit a struggling country abroad; to give short term aid work; to take advantage of the twinning with a village in France to give the young people a further experience of another culture and community; and to build contacts with other young people in Swanland who are currently feeling isolated by the situations in which they find themselves.



St Barnabas Youth Group



The Swan Scheme

by Dorothy Warwick

The Swan Scheme is a local good neighbour group, trying to help the community wherever possible.

It was started as long ago as 1965 by Mark Simon, then Curate of St. Barnabas Church (when it stood opposite the newsagents), and Idris Bridges, the Headmaster of Swanland School, together with representatives of village organisations. Initially the main aim was to operate a scheme for taking prescriptions to the chemist at North Ferriby (there being no facilities in Swanland at that time), collecting the medicines and returning them to the patients.

The Scheme was rejuvenated in 1976 by Alan Bradshaw, the Vicar of St. Barnabas, following the Queen's Silver Jubilee speech, which expressed her wish for an increased concern in community caring. An alarm system was set up for vulnerable people at the time but it has now ceased as that need has been filled in other ways.

In May 1977 the red and green swan cards were brought into operation.

A red card was delivered to every house in Swanland, which could be displayed in the window in a case of emergency.

Green cards were for display at all times by volunteer members of the scheme who could be contacted when needed.



A swan sign in a window

At the year 2000, the scheme operates a "Pop-In" centre each Wednesday morning in Christ Church hall, by the pond, from 9 am until 11.30 am where all are welcome to have a coffee and a chat, making new friends. On the same day lunch is also served there to a number of elderly residents of the village. This ensures that they do have an opportunity to socialise over a pleasant meal with friends.

Scheme members also run errands for the sick, elderly and lonely and try to provide transport to hospital, opticians, etcetera (although we are only situated a few miles from Castle Hill Hospital there is no direct public transport to there from Swanland).

Each year the Scheme holds a "Bring-and-Buy" Sale with raffle and tombola held during a coffee morning day and this helps considerably with the finances.

As with most voluntary organisations, we are constantly on the lookout for new helpers, and hope that if anyone feels that they could give just a few hours each month to the scheme, they can call in on a Wednesday morning or contact one of the committee members - see the Appendix at back of this book.



Swanland Lawn Tennis Club

by Trevor Seanor



At the start of the year 2000 Swanland Lawn Tennis Club is in a strong position to leap forward into the new millennium, having just completed the final part of its development plan, which commenced in 1992.

Since 1992, the club committee has set aside funds from subscriptions, organised many fund raising events and obtained grants of £58,523 to enable the construction of three artificial grass courts (in 1993) to replace the worn out natural grass courts; the building of a new permanent clubhouse (in 1996); the appointment of coaches to improve junior tennis; the installation of floodlighting to two courts and (in 1999) the resurfacing of the two worn-out tarmacadam courts with artificial grass.

The total cost for providing these improved facilities was £16,152. The new surfaces allow comfortable and all year round play for over two hundred members of all ages.

The club was formed in or about 1924 on land given in trust to the village by Sir Harold James Reckitt and Philip Bealby Reckitt to provide a recreation ground for the inhabitants of Swanland. Initially there were probably three grass courts with access from Kemp Road, as shown on the 1927 Ordnance sheet. The access down the side of the pond from Main Street was probably formed when the Village Hall (now the primary school) was built. The two hard courts were added in 1947 after a season when no play was possible on the grass courts due to rain.

Club records only exist back as far as 1943 and one of the first entries in the A.G.M. minutes book is, "There is not much to be said about the past season but I think we will all agree that it was very successful. There was a record membership, the weather on the whole was good and the war came to an end."

Club nights are held on Monday and Thursday evenings - throughout the year now that the floodlights are installed - and on Sunday mornings. Coaching is provided free of charge to juniors on Friday nights when juniors have exclusive use of the courts until 8.30p.m.

Our current club coach is Teo Arkut, an enthusiastic L.T.A. licenced D.C.A. standard coach, who runs squads for all abilities and ages. Coaching continues throughout the year with floodlights being used in almost all weathers during the winter months.



Floodlit tennis courts

In June this year we held an Open Day as part of the Swanland Festival and organised various fun activities for children, families, members and non-members alike.

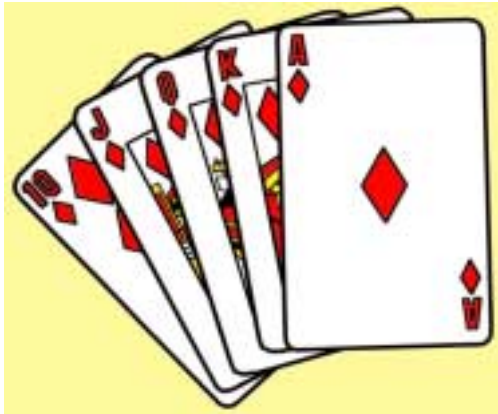
Social events are organised throughout the year including quiz nights, wine tasting evenings, jumble sales, barn dances and, last but not most important, the annual barbecue usually held on the club championship finals day in July.

New members are always welcome.



Swanland Thursday Bridge Club

by Joan Coombes







The Swanland Thursday Bridge Club was founded in 1993 by Mr and Mrs Coombes with a group of other bridge players. The inaugural meeting of the club was held in the James Reckitt Memorial Hall on 22nd. July 1993. Mrs. Coombes placed advertisements in local newspapers and local bridge clubs were advised of the meeting. A five pounds membership fee was proposed and ninety people joined. It was very gratifying to see such a terrific response. The following officers were appointed: Chairman - Mr Charles Coombes; Secretary - Mrs Joan Coombes; Treasurer - Mr Jack Stamford; and a committee consisting of Mrs Pat Capron, Mrs Glenys Thompson and Mr Jack Simpson.

It was felt that there was a need for a bridge club to meet during the day. Many elderly people did not want to travel very far in the winter months or at night. It was agreed that the club should meet every Thursday afternoon in the James Reckitt Memorial Hall at 1.30pm and Duplicate Bridge would be played. The club would be open all the year round. Table money is one pound and the annual membership fee has been maintained at five pounds ever since that first meeting.

Grants from Beverley Borough Council and Humberside County Council were applied for and each Council awarded us one hundred pounds. This money was used to purchase bridge tables, cloths, bidding boxes, cards and boards. In 1994 the club was affiliated to the English Bridge Union. Also in that year the club bought a Cup to be competed for yearly on a scratch basis and Mr and Mrs Coombes presented the club with a trophy to be played for on a handicap basis. Each year we hold a presentation lunch, which is very well supported.

The club is now in a very healthy position and we regularly have about ten tables playing every week.

			
Bid	something you say when you should not		
Contract	the mess your bidding has landed you in		
Overtricks	you ought to have bid but did not		
A grand slam	what we ought to bid and did not		
A small slam	what we ought never to have bid but did		

If you don't emphasise your bid, pass or play - how do you get your partner to notice?

*The alternative to hesitation is to say the first thing that comes into your head
- is this seriously recommended?*

"Have more than thou showest, Speak less than thou knowest." - King Lear



Swanland / Lestrem Twinning

by Malcolm Thompson

When thought was being given to ways in which Swanland could celebrate the Millennium, one of the suggestions was to form a twinning relationship with a village of similar size on the mainland of Europe. The idea was advertised in the Swanland Village News and Malcolm and Glenys Thompson volunteered to assist with the project. As it turned out, they actually became the organisers and assembled a small team of helpers to carry the idea forward.

First, the details of our village were sent to the Local Government International Bureau which was going to find us a suitable prospective partner for our approval. Imagine our surprise, when a mass of information came directly to us from a village in Northern France called Lestrem (pronounced Letrem). This was not supposed to happen but Lestrem was clearly very keen to proceed with the arrangements.

At the end of January 2000, a party of five Swanlanders went by car to France via the Tunnel. We were met at Bethune by Jacques Brassart, the President of Twinning, who conducted the convoy of cars through the gathering gloom to Lestrem, which was about a twenty minutes drive away. We were received in the Mairie by Marc Delannoy, le maire, and some of his staff and invited to eat our fill of sandwiches and drink wine. After spending the night with families, the following day was taken up by an extensive tour of the village. Perhaps the high point was a visit to the scene of a massacre of British troops in 1940 and to their cemetery. The Lestremois take their guardianship of this place very seriously. In the evening we were shown the nearby city of Lille which was very impressive. On the following day we visited the new sports centre, which has almost unbelievable facilities for a community of that size.

In early March a delegation from Lestrem visited Swanland, comprising Marc Delannoy, Jacques Brassart and Christian Mannechez, who masterminded their sports' centre.

They were impressed with the compactness of Swanland compared with their own village, which is spread over a wide area, and particularly with our flowers.



Showing the Flag

Marc, who is a keen photographer, took many pictures of them and also of our playground at our playing field and other village features. On returning home, he mounted an exhibition of his pictures in the Mairie for all his villagers to see. Clearly both sides had agreed that we were the right partners for one another.



The Swanland Festival 2000 provided an ideal backdrop for the signing of the Twinning Charter between the two villages. For the final weekend of the Festival a party of forty-one Lestremois arrived by coach. Their arrival was greeted by so much rain that the lower end of Main Street became a river. Lestrem is very low lying and often subject to flooding, so perhaps they immediately felt at home.

The task of accommodating the forty-one visitors was at first daunting but Swanlanders rallied round and everything was organised in time. St Barnabas Church very generously made their premises available for receiving the guests and for entertaining them to lunch on the Sunday. The final concert of the Festival on the Saturday evening was augmented by items from seventeen members of the Lestrem choir and from a brass quintet of young men of Lestrem.



The picture shows the Lestrem Brass Quintet playing in Harry Sidwell's garden for the visitors at the Open Gardens' Day.

On the Sunday morning our visitors toured the village on foot, accompanied by volunteer guides. Several of our beautiful gardens were opened especially for their benefit (prior to the Open Gardens event in the afternoon). The walk terminated at St Barnabas Church where lunch was taken by our visitors, their hosts and those who had helped with the project. The Parish Council paid for food for the ninety diners, which was prepared and cooked by half a dozen helpers organised by Anita Morton and Glenys Thompson and served by five young people of the village who volunteered for this valuable service.



The Twinning Charter was signed in the Chapel immediately after the meal by Marc Delannoy and Jacques Brassart for Lestrem and John Downing and Malcolm Thompson for Swanland. Gifts were exchanged, (most notably the Lestremois town flag) and then it was time for the visitors to leave. This took much longer than expected as there were so many "Goodbyes" to be said between new found friends. The "Twinning" was declared to be a big success by all who experienced the occasion and we hope that this friendly relationship will continue to develop in the years to come.

The picture above shows the signing ceremony with:

- Jaques Brassart - Lestrem's President of Twinning
- Marc Delannoy - the Mayor of Lestrem
- John Downing - Chairman of Swanland Parish Council
- Malcolm Thompson - Chairman of Swanland Twinning



Swanland U3A

by Malcolm Lawrenson

Swanland's branch of the University of the Third Age was launched at a public meeting in May 1996 and held its first proper lecture meeting in September. It all came about because Jim Willson of Tranby Lane found that Hessle U3A would accept no new members.

He and his friends, Delia and Peter Bingham from Beech Hill Road, decided to start their own. They invited Linda and Geoff Collier of Manor Road and Malcolm Lawrenson of Kemp Road to join them.



The founding committee of Swanland's U3A

Malcolm Thompson - Malcolm Lawrenson - Peter Bingham - Jim Willson
Delia Bingham - Linda Collier - Jenny Thomas - Barbara Howard

Together they advertised a public meeting in Christ Church Hall and to their amazement more than eighty people turned up, so many that some were not even able to get into the hall.

There was clearly a need for a U3A in Swanland. Barbara Howard of Kirkella offered to wash up the tea things and was co-opted onto the committee. Enrolment began at a meeting on 27th June and the membership rapidly expanded to over one hundred and eighty, with the annual fee set at £5 and a 50p charge for each lecture. At the first AGM on 6th March 1997 a constitution was adopted and by then Jenny Thomas from Anlaby had joined the committee to organise outings.

Since then Swanland University of the Third Age has grown steadily and in July 2000 its membership stood at just over three hundred and fifty. Subscription is now £9 per year with no meeting charge. In addition to the lectures on two Thursdays in each month, there are a number of interest groups that meet once or twice monthly, usually in the daytime, often in members' homes.

These groups reflect members' interests including Ambling, Art and Craft, Bridge, Creative Writing, Discussion Group, Embroidery, Family History, French, French for Beginners, Gardeners, Latin, Literature, Local History, Play Reading, Spanish, Scottish Dancing, Walking, Wine Tasting and Yoga. Occasional courses are run on First Aid and Computing. Visits are arranged in the U.K. and abroad. 1998 saw a trip to Rouen, 1999 to Bruges and this year a visit to the Mosel.



You're never too old to enjoy a good walk with members
of Swanland's University of the Third Age

The University of the Third Age sets out to provide stimulating activities for those who are retired from full time employment and no longer have parental responsibilities. A U3A is what its members make it. It need not be academic. No qualifications are asked or given. There are some four hundred U3A groups in the U.K. affiliated to the Third Age Trust, with about one hundred thousand individual members.

In Swanland, the U3A has proved to be an admirable way of meeting new friends, developing old interests and discovering new ones. There is a determination not to limit membership by numbers or by the area in which people live. The chairman must resign after serving for two years and there are rules to ensure regular changes on the committee.

This is a flexible and friendly community of people creating new interest groups to reflect their own wishes. In the year 2000 its direction is more social than strictly academic but, if one thing is certain, any U3A will change if its membership wants it to change.

The committee in September 2000 consists of Jim Bainbridge, Peter Bingham, Tony Bodimeade (Welton), Pauline Dennison (Cottingham), Malcolm Lawrenson, David Losh (North Ferriby), John Singleton, Brian Slater, Jennie Thomas (Anlaby) and Jim Willson.

There were three other U3A groups in the East Riding based on Hessle, Hull and Driffield. This year members of Swanland U3A successfully formed other groups in Beverley and Cottingham. It is obviously an organisation that has a future far beyond the year 2000.



Swanland Village Association

by Paul Priestley-Leach



Colin Hotham - Wallace Portal - Peter Ward - Paul Priestley-Leach
Pamela Portal - Karen Park - Elspeth Hotham

At the start of a new millennium, the SVA is more active than ever before. Its membership stands at over five hundred people, not all of whom live in Swanland itself, with a dedicated committee always searching for new initiatives to make Swanland an even prettier village and better place to live.

The Association originated on 29th June 1987 when a meeting, attended by thirty-one people, resolved to form the Swanland Preservation Society in order to keep the village character of Swanland and, in particular, to oppose the proposed Beech Hill development.

The picture above shows Members of the Swanland Village Association taking a welcome break from the clearing up of the flower beds at the west of the pond:

The first public meeting was held on 13th January 1988 and membership was set at £5 per annum (since reduced to £2). Fundraising activities were undertaken and the Swanland Preservation Society News (now the SVA News) was born. The Society gave evidence at the Beech Hill Road Inquiry and, as a result, the Inspector gave planning permission for the land to the south of Beech Hill House but not to the north. In January 1989 the Society gave evidence at the Greenstiles Lane Local Inquiry but the Inspector gave Persimmon Homes permission to develop the site.

At the A.G.M. in November 1989 it was resolved to rename the Society the Swanland Village Association. This was to reflect the growing range of activities then being undertaken and to put more emphasis on conservation and improvement rather than just the preservation of the village boundaries. However the SVA continued to be active in planning matters and in June 1990 it objected to an application for a filling station and restaurant complex at the junction of Tranby Lane and the A164. The application was refused but it has been repeated and refused regularly since.

In 1991 it was decided to hold three open meetings, with speakers, each year in order to encourage villagers to become more involved in village matters. In addition to the SVA news, which was (and is) delivered to every house in Swanland, a members' newsletter was also produced every two months (now two or three per year). The SVA was already planting up tubs of flowers in the village centre and in 1992 a decision was taken to enter Swanland into the Britain in Bloom competition.



1993 saw the first edition of "Swanland Signpost" which contained information about the amenities of the village together with local advertisements. This, as with the two subsequent editions, was delivered free to each house and given to newcomers to Swanland. In June, opposition to the proposed Westfield Farm began but, despite all efforts, permission was granted by the then Beverley Borough Council.

In 1994, the Association planted daffodils at the entrances to the village and crocus were planted in some verges. It took over responsibility for organising the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The following year saw the first of a succession of enjoyable St. Valentine dances.

As a change from the usual talk, in 1997 a very popular outing was organised to Bishop Burton College where a walk around the grounds was followed by a buffet supper and "Gardeners' Question Time".

Later that year the Parish Council asked the SVA to organise the production of a Village Design Statement (VDS), a new concept in the planning process. The Association undertook this task with enthusiasm and a questionnaire was circulated to all residents then a workshop day was held to gather their views. The Swanland VDS was finally adopted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance on 4th. May 1999.

Shortly after this, the SVA Committee decided to set up a small working group to ensure that the recommendations of the VDS were implemented where practical and to think up new projects which could be undertaken to improve the amenities and environment of the village, particularly in view of the desire to mark the start of a new millennium. This group has already encouraged and helped to develop the ideas of Town Twinning; the Swanland 2000 Festival; new entrance features to the village; the removal of the wall by the Old School which provided more car parking spaces; the removal of the "temporary" boards covering the windows of the Old School (put up eight years before); improvement of the surface area at the west of the pond and, of course, the production of this book.

Three committee members organised a new event in June 1999 - a Treasure Hunt around the village with over sixty participants. It proved to be so popular that it was repeated as part of the Festival this year and even more people joined in the fun.

Swanland had increasing success with its entry into the Britain in Bloom competition. No-one could help but notice how much tidier and more colourful the village has become as a result of the activities of a dedicated group of SVA members.

In 1997 Swanland achieved the top award when it was placed first in both the Spring and the Summer judgings and was declared the winner of the annual award in the small country town category of the Yorkshire section.

Swanland won again in 1998 and, at the time of going to press, preparations are being made for our tenth entry in the competition.



Pam Portal retrieving a dustbin from the Pond!



Women's Institute

by Enid Tracy

The W.I. offers opportunities for women to enjoy friendship, to learn to widen their horizon and together to influence local, national and international affairs. Not just jam and Jerusalem! It is non-sectarian and welcomes women of any age, creed, colour and background.

Swanland W.I. is part of the East Yorkshire Federation, which has groups from Withernsea, to Wold Newton, to Snaith and forms part of the National Federation, whose head office is in London. The National Federation has its own educational establishment, Denman College in Oxfordshire, which provides a wide variety of courses open to all members which have been attended by a number of Swanland members over the years.

Originally Swanland women were members of the North Ferriby W.I. until April 1949, when Swanland W.I. was formed with a membership of ninety-seven who met in Swanland Memorial Hall (now Swanland Primary School). Meetings were held then, as now, on the first Wednesday of each month. In 1965 they moved to the newly built James Reckitt Memorial Hall; officially opened on 11th. December of that year. Meetings are now held in Christ Church Hall.

The first President was Mrs Wood, who served for three years. The first Secretary was Mrs Murray, who became President for the next eighteen years and the first Treasurer was Mrs Burman. This year our President is Mrs. Caygill.

The format of the meetings has remained the same over the years with a half hour of business followed by a speaker and then ending with tea and conversation. In the early days the speakers tended to talk about handicrafts, cookery and home-making but, over the years, this has changed.

Swanland has always been represented at the National Annual Meeting where resolutions of national and international interest have been discussed. In 1955 we were instrumental in initiating the Keep Britain Tidy campaign and latterly genetically modified foods, ovarian cancer, young carers, green and brown housing sites have all been discussed.

Over the years the W.I. has played an active part in Swanland village life: In 1949 we organised a blood donating session, attended by twenty people. Between 1949 and 1959 we held raffles, jumble sales, whist and beetle drives to raise money for Christmas parties for children, members and friends.

During 1949 and 1950 we were instrumental in organising evening classes - initially for all types of sewing, handicrafts, country dancing, drama and choral singing - which proved very popular until the new Secondary Modern School opened in 1957, where a greater variety of classes were on offer. We have helped at Swanland Show since 1951 and that year saw us organise and pay for the village's senior citizens to go on a trip to Withernsea and give them presents at Christmas. For many years we distributed Harvest baskets.

To mark the Queen's coronation in 1952 a committee was set to organise a party for 250 children and 125 Old Age Pensioners. In that year we helped to set up and run a Welfare Clinic for mums and babies, until its closure in 1997.

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the worldwide movement of Womens' Institutes in 1965 we provided curtains for the committee room and kitchen in the new James Reckitt Memorial Hall. To mark our own Silver Jubilee, a weeping willow and flowering cherry tree were planted in the grounds of the Swanland Primary School and a mountain ash and shrubs (unfortunately no longer there) were planted by the pond. In that summer, one of our members attended a Royal Garden Party.



Two W.I. members were appointed in 1968 to a committee, set up with representatives from other local organisations, to form the Swanland Good Neighbour Scheme. We started a campaign for a chemist shop in the village.

During 1992 we agreed to be associated with the Swanland in Bloom but did not help in a practical way until assuming responsibility for the troughs on stands outside Christ Church.

To commemorate our Golden Jubilee in 1999 we had a seat placed in Woodgates Lane.



Members of Swanland's Womens' Institute celebrating at their Golden Jubilee Party

Over the years we have held plays, concerts, musical events and fashion shows to help various charities including Cancer, Red Cross and Hesslewood Orphanage. In practical ways teddies were knitted, garments collected for Oxfam and, more recently, shoe boxes were filled with gifts for children in Romania and jumpers knitted for children in Kosovo.

We have had outings to many and varied venues - such as to see the Coronation decorations, the Great Yorkshire Show, Edinburgh to name but a few - and these are always popular. We still organise a mystery trip in most years together with summer and harvest suppers, an annual dinner, strawberry teas, as well as coffee mornings and evenings.

During the Swanland Festival 2000, W.I. members were in evidence at many events, helping and participating in various ways. Swanland Womens ' Institute has always tried to offer what the W.I. first set out to achieve - friendship and an opportunity for women to widen their horizons.



Street Map of Swanland



Key

1 Toft House	11 Hedley Burman & Son
2 Men's Institute	12 Doctor's Surgery
3 Library	13 Pepper Tree Florist
4 Christ Church	14 Mere House
5 The Pond	15 Swan & Cygnet Public House
6 Bowling Club	16 Caroline Jayne
7 Tennis Club	17 St Barnabas Church
8 Post Office	18 Swanland Nurseries
9 Building Bricks	19 Swanland Veterinary Hospital
10 Belmont Garage	20 School



For such a small, rural village Swanland is very fortunate to have such a wide range of businesses that operate from within its boundaries.

The following pages represent just a few of those who trade here in the year 2000 a.d.



Building Bricks Pre-School

by Jean Lawrence



Story Time

In the year 2000 there are eighty-six children attending between two and eight sessions each week at Building Bricks. We have nine trained staff who are dedicated and committed to this community Pre School.

Building Bricks is a privately run pre-school, founded in 1982, managed and owned by Jean Lawrence, an Early Years Teacher. It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, registered and approved by Social Services, and works in partnership with the East Riding of Yorkshire Education Authority as a provider of nursery education.

We aim to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment with a high ratio of adults to children where the children can develop emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement so that they become independent, self-disciplined, caring members of society. We enhance the development and education of pre-school children in a parent/carer-involved community based group.

The Pre-School offers education during the foundation stage (between 3 and 5 years old) which creates the basis for later learning when they attend primary school. We plan activities which build on children's existing skills and interests, enabling them to progress toward the "Early Learning Goals". These goals set out what children are expected to know and understand by the end of the foundation stage.

Recently there have been many changes in pre-school education. Today, all four year olds, and some three year olds, are entitled to free part-time education. Early years settings that offer the free places have to be inspected by Social Services and OFSTED.

At our last inspection in 1999, OFSTED said, "Building Bricks is a very good pre-school which provides a wide range of worthwhile and stimulating activities. The staff have created a very homely, welcoming, friendly, secure and relaxed environment and are well organised".

Each year we have an Easter Concert, a Sports' Day, a coach outing for children and parents, a visit to Swanland House to sing carols and take a Christmas cake for the residents and a Christmas party and concert.



Easter Bonnets



We play both inside and out (weather permitting). We enjoy sand, paint, dough, crafts, music and much more. Parental and community involvement is a vital part of Building Bricks. Parents come into the group and have organised woodwork, movement, drama, cooking, games, stories, etc. Community involvement has included visits from local people e.g. lollypop lady, police, nurse, doctor, pet owners, etc. plus visits to the stables, pond and Swanland House.

The year 2000 has been important to us. We now have perimeter fencing around our outdoor play area and we are very grateful for the funding for this, provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and the Ferriby and Swanland Scout Group. In addition, an extension was built onto the Scout Headquarters during the summer holidays and, as a result, we now have access to a larger storage area and a delightful room for messy activities - sand, dough, water, paint, craft.

During the "Swanland Festival 2000" we held a Teddy Bears' Picnic to which the whole village was invited - providing they brought a Teddy Bear and a Picnic! We were very lucky with our choice of date as the sun shone for us and we had over a hundred people join us to enjoy the day - including the video-maker from the Festival Committee so the event is now recorded for posterity.

Over the last 18 years we have provided pre-school education for thousands of local children, mainly from Swanland and Ferriby. We have very happy memories of them and hope they have of us!



Playing outside



Hedley L. Burman and Son

by W M Burman



I was born in Swanland over half a century ago, the son of the local builder Hedley Burman. Hedley came to live in North Drive in about 1938 and first worked for the local builder Jim Beilby who lived at Horton House, Mill Road, Swanland.

Later, my father took over the business and began trading as "Beilby and Burman".

In 1971, when he became due for retirement, I joined the business and the name was then changed to "Hedley L. Burman and Son".

The business has traded from the rear of West End, Swanland for many years. This site was previously a farm with yard and cottages facing the street. The old stable is still used as a store and workshop. I have clear recollections, in my childhood, of Mrs. Robinson who occupied the cottage at Number Fourteen (now Heather Boldy's Salon). The only water supply to the cottage was from a tap positioned in the centre of the builder's yard at the rear and the toilet was an earth closet in the very far corner of the yard. Not a very pleasant trip on a cold winter's morning.

Number Twelve (now Morley the Butcher's) was still the blacksmiths and horses entered through the front shop door, the forge being at the back of the shop. I can well remember horses being reshod. In those days all the builders' chisels were sharpened and tempered by the blacksmith, so this was very convenient for us.

I remember Frank York, Harry and Charlie Laws, Gordon Skinn and Bill Frankish working for my father in those early days. Frank was a local Methodist preacher who took many a service in the old Methodist chapel which stood at the rear of Caley's store on Main Street. The working week included Saturday mornings and, after lunch on Saturdays, I had the job of delivering the wages. I always looked forward to going to Charlie Laws because his wife made me up a parcel of mixed goodies.

Gordon Skinn came to work for my father almost straight from school except for a few weeks when he worked for George Brooks, the decorator. He served his two years National Service in the R.A.F. and spent the rest of his working life with Burmans, until he took early retirement in 1997. Gordon was known by some people in the village as "Whistler" for, wherever he was working, his tunes could be heard, sometimes coming down from rooftops. Many people were fooled by Gordon's realistic "cuckoo-oo" in October!

Bill Frankish worked on a farm, using horses to cultivate the land. He always had very enthusiastic gardening interests in common with my father. I learned much of my gardening knowledge from the two of them.



The main form of transport of materials was by car and trailer and, to jobs within the village, by pushing trailers and handcarts. This method was still in use when I joined in 1971. My father had a Morris 8 car, followed by a Rover 10, with which he towed the trailers. These were the day before ball couplings when only a pin was used. As a result of the heavy workload that these cars had to endure, they were fit only for the scrap heap when my father had finished with them. I recall, in the latter years of the Rover, when it negotiated a corner the rear tyre rubbed and squealed on the inside of the mudguard. The days before M.O.T.'s ! It was always easy to identify the approach of the Burman car and trailer as it rattled and banged over the bumps with the trailer pin jangling.

Most of the work in the early days was for large landowners on estates or farms. I have one recollection of being called to Westerdale's farm to investigate a suspected leak on the landing ceiling. A stain was evident there, which did not seem to be growing any larger. The roof outside was in sound condition so all that I could do was to investigate in the roof space. On entering the loft, I discovered a large object lying immediately above the stained area. Further investigation revealed more similar objects hanging from the rafters. On inspection, these were found to be 'hams' which had been hung in the loft to cure during the war and had been hanging there for about 30 years. They had no bad smell but had converted to pure fat and the one that had fallen caused the stain to the ceiling.

The business today has a workforce of three and is supported by regular subcontractors for electrical, plumbing and heating along with various other trades.

We carry out all aspects of building work but are mainly involved with extensions, alterations, refurbishments, garden terraces and repairs.

We have constructed full houses in the past but some years ago, I made the decision to keep the business to a small, manageable size. I have always preferred to be closely involved and enjoy using my manual skills.



Mike Burman on a roof at West End
with John Dunn and Gordon Skinn

We have many customers whom we have served for over twenty-five years and our aim has always been to provide a high standard of workmanship so that we may be invited to carry out future work.

For many years now we have run a small tipping lorry and a light van with a trailer in contrast to the handcarts of earlier years. My wife Pat and daughter Ruth both help with the administration side of the business.

In this year 2000 we look forward in the hope that the business may continue to provide a service to the local community and the area in which it operates.



Caroline Jayne

by Caroline Kerr



The salon opens at 7.30 sharp on most weekdays, following a short, pleasant drive from home, (with winter mornings proving the odd exception). On my own, with that first cup of strong, black coffee inside me, I collect my thoughts.

Organising the tools of the trade comes next, placing them carefully on the clean, white work top below the gleaming full height mirrors. The momentary tranquillity is soon over with the arrival of the first customer of the day. Opening early is especially popular with local people on their way to work. As I guide my titanium scissors at lightening speed, they stare into the mirror and reflect upon the day ahead. A quick tidy up with the electric razor is followed by a cheerful good-bye wave and the first satisfied client is out of the door.

Invariably chaos reigns from then on as, one by one, the rest of the staff arrive, pursued by their clients, some early, some on time and some occasionally late and all in various states of mind. We have sweet old ladies who will sit patiently for their regular styles. We have demanding clients for whom nothing short of perfection will do. We also have the younger generation who come in clutching a magazine extract of their particular idol, hoping to leave the salon with a similar style.

Hardly pausing to catch breath, let alone a bite to eat, we cross the tiled floor in our seasonal uniforms past clients with heads in and out of basins. Begowned and bedraggled ladies sit in front of the mirrors looking somewhat vulnerable and often unrecognisable.

When it is too cold to open the windows, the smell of perm lotion and hair spray fills the salon. Constant chatter is frequently interrupted by a burst of laughter as an amusing anecdote is passed on or something funny happens in the salon.

Colourful collections of plastic rollers are purposefully placed to bring order to wet hair with the finished arrangement being escorted to the hairdryer. Under the dryers, magazines are read and seeds of village gossip are sown. As we counsel our way through client after client from simple trims to complicated blow dries, people pass through all day long.

No-one is turned away, come rain or shine and more than the occasional power cut! It has not been unknown for hot water to be provided by a friendly neighbourhood kettle.

As the sun goes down on the bright salon, the late shift will begin. Favoured by friends or acquaintances or business people on their way home, there is seldom sign of the day's chaotic activity. Normally it is just me still cutting away, with a couple of juniors preparing the salon for the following day. Half past eight usually sees the front door key being turned in the lock with less than twelve hours to go before the same key will be turned in the opposite direction.

But, for the most part, I love every minute of it.....



The Pepper Tree Florists

by Louise Pepper

We opened in July 1987, just myself and one part-time staff. The villagers said that the village did not need a flower shop and that we would be closed in six weeks.

We had an opening party with deck-chairs and tables outside for the opening night and the orders came in! We have not looked back since. Thirteen years on, now with six staff and two vans, we are still trading.



At first the customers would pay by cash and they would always want mixed coloured flowers in cellophane and arrangements in baskets. Wedding work was always in peach, with the brides and bridesmaids all wanting shower style bouquets with rings of flowers for their hair.

The artificial arrangements would all be made from dried flowers and put into baskets mainly in a triangular shape, which would fade and get dusty very quickly. Now we only put together silk flower arrangements in glass, tin and ceramic vases to look as natural as possible, with the trend at the moment being the feng chui look.

Today's brides come from far and wide - London, the Home Counties or even the U.S.A. - and now hand tied bouquets are all the fashion with a wide variety of colours, although white is still the predominant colour for the bride's bouquet with lilies being the favourite flower.

In the past, elaborate floral wreaths were popular at funerals but funeral work is slowing down now, with more and more people wanting donations made to charity. The immediate family generally require flowers for the coffin. Choosing someone's particular favourite flower, or colour of flower, is the last 'present' which the family can give to their loved one. Funeral arrangements have a special peace about them and add gentleness to a sad and difficult occasion.

Nowadays, customers are looking upon flowers as an accessory to their decorations and buy flowers in colours to match their decor. We send a lot of flowers out ready arranged in glass and ceramic vases instead of the baskets, and bouquets have become hand-tied bouquets, wrapped in tissue and crepe paper with all one colour being the most requested choice.

At first customers would walk into the shop to place their orders but now three-quarters of them telephone their orders into the shop and pay by credit card over the 'phone. We have a machine which processes the credit slips immediately - a far cry from before, when we had to write them out individually and put them through a sliding machine, which took ages to do. I would like to see more people coming into the shop but I think those days have long gone. To look into the future I would like to see people putting flowers on their shopping list each week as they do on the continent.



The Post Office

by *Richard Thompson*

This millennium year is a good time to take stock of the way we live - computers, the internet, out-of-town shopping, pollution, congestion - enough to depress the strongest spirit among us. Banks no longer see the need to provide a service, only wishing to be BIG. The fabric of society is changing, values long treasured are no longer considered important as long as we can all sit in front of a screen and "communicate".

Successive governments of whatever political persuasion have fuelled the fire of progress and all have made the mistake of assuming that everyone has a car, a telephone, a TV, a computer and no desire to meet face to face to conduct their business.

When I look at Swanland, I see an idyllic English village: the stuff chocolate box covers are made of. I see the pub, the bowling green, neat houses, shops and of course the duck pond. The duck pond is a reminder of the way we used to live and a microcosm of the way we live now, serenity on the surface and frantic activity beneath it.

My wife Jane recently took over the running of Swanland Post Office which, though very small, offers a huge range of just under 200 hundred transactions including stamps, holiday insurance, travellers' cheques, banking, pensions and even sending flowers. Although we were both born and brought up in the East Riding and have family connections with the village, we are nevertheless newcomers. The most striking thing that we have noticed about the people of the village is the friendliness of everyone we have met, the obvious community spirit and the feeling of belonging.

All the more important therefore, that village values are maintained and passed down through the generations. We must not let Swanland become just another dormitory as is happening to so many villages. The shops, services and facilities of the village must be used to show government that they cannot turn us all into keyboard prodding, screen watching automatons happy to do their bidding.



The year 2000 has brought big changes to the Post Office. Recently, the computer has arrived and this is the way forward into the 21st century. We hope that we shall still be able to offer a friendly face behind the counter and only use the computer to give a better service to our customers. There will still be the personal touch.

The way forward for your Post Office is to be a contact with village people who still want a person to talk to - not a telephone answering machine.

We should cherish our way of life and offer it to our children and grandchildren. We should use what we have in this millennium and future years. If we don't use it - we shall lose it.

The picture shows Swanland Post Office with its Royal Mail collecting box and a basket of flowers (supporting Swanland in Bloom) together with the ice-age boulder outside Rock Cottage, next door.



Swanland Surgery

by Dr. Ronald Clarke

Swanland Surgery takes place in a small converted cottage at 10, West End and patients will first meet one of the receptionists - Anne Chester, Mavis Williams or Dorothy Clarke.

Dr Clarke was appointed in April 1994, to replace the retiring Dr June Alexander, by the then Family Health Service Authority. He is married with two children and lives in the village.

On taking over the practice, Dr Clarke shut the branch surgery in North Ferriby and offered new evening surgeries at Swanland.



Dr Clarke's surgery takes place in the right-hand cottage of this old row of four at Number 8 West End

The list size reached a low point in 1995 of one thousand five hundred and twenty-five (eight hundred and seventy-four of whom were Swanland residents). This has increased to the current list size of one thousand seven hundred and forty-four (one thousand, one hundred and twenty of whom are Swanland residents).

Because of the small size of the premises Dr Clarke will only be accepting Swanland patients until a new surgery is built. He has applied to convert the Old Pump House, which is opposite the present surgery and beside the pond, and could offer disabled entrance, toilet and increased nurse services. At present there is a Practice Manager, Mrs Carol Clarke, a Secretary and Practice Nurse, Karen Brown, plus Health Visitors, District Nurses and a Midwife attached to the practice.

The surgery is open five mornings and four evenings per week with various clinics being held in the afternoons. An emergency clinic is available on Saturday mornings on a rota and, when necessary, home visits are made by arrangement. The clinics include specialist help for diabetics and asthmatics with fortnightly antenatal and baby clinics and, a quite recent innovation in medical provisions in this country, both weekly well-women and well-man clinics.

The practice provides Family Planning advice and routine cervical smears and blood tests.



In 1999 the National Health Services reorganised the administration of health care and, as a result, the Swanland Surgery is now part of a Primary Care Group of doctors in neighbouring areas under the auspices of the East Riding Health Authority.

Hopefully all the appeals and planning procedures will soon be completed and by 2001 Swanland may have a larger, better equipped medical facility at The Old Pump House.

The Old Pump House at Main Street in 2000



Swanland Nurseries

by John Waters



"Handle with Care" - a six foot tall geranium being transported by Mark Robinson and Debbie Nauls

The year 2000 saw great celebrations at Swanland Nurseries on Beech Hill. On 30th. June, as part of the Swanland Festival 2000, a great birthday party was held in one of the glasshouses to celebrate the 50th. birthday of the business.

It all began in 1942 when Howard Waters, from Mere House in the centre of the village, and Molly Hardman, from The Beeches in Kemp Road, married at All Saints' Church in Ferriby. They had four children - Mary, Ann, Jane and John.

In 1949 they had a house built on three acres of land on the then Greenstiles Lane (now Beech Hill Road). There they planted apple trees, gooseberry and blackcurrant bushes and built a piggery and battery houses for chickens. Howard gave up his job in the grain trade to enjoy the outdoor life and support his young family from the land. As the family grew up, they were encouraged to help do tasks like collecting and washing eggs before going to school. Each of the children was responsible for one row of eggs and it was always a race to collect the eggs first as the dirty ones had a habit of changing rows!

Many people comment on how congested the Main Street is today but John remembers helping his Dad to escort sows through the village to visit Sid Lister's boars. The main difficulty was keeping them out of people's front gardens.

In 1952 they bought the walled kitchen garden at Swanland Hall. It had been neglected for many years and they restored it to a working garden. They built more glasshouses and grew chrysanthemum blooms, which they marketed in Humber Street, Hull. In the mid 1960's they started to build glasshouses on the Beech Hill Road site in which to grow pelargoniums and bedding plants. They celebrated their silver wedding party in a brand new glasshouse in 1967.

Howard's eyesight had been deteriorating over the years and Mary and John became involved in the family business. In 1972 a large glasshouse was built and the piggery was converted into a flower-packing shed and then weekly deliveries of chrysanthemum blooms were made as far away as Newcastle. In 1974 the glasshouses from the Swanland Hall walled garden were transported and re-erected on the present Beech Hill site. Very sadly, on one bitterly cold December day in 1981, Howard collapsed and died whilst carrying a bunch of chrysanthemums into the packing shed.

In 1989, the nursery expanded when two acres of land were purchased at the rear of the existing site. This enabled the newly named "Swanland Nurseries" to sell trees, shrubs and garden accessories to the public. By this time, Mary was starting to show pelargoniums at local shows and then progressed to the most prestigious show in the world - Chelsea. Her first Chelsea Gold Medal was awarded in 1994 and this gave the opportunity to the Nursery to sell their pelargoniums by mail order and now they are exported all over the world. She repeated her success in the following year and again in 1999.

As soon as the news of another award is received in Swanland, a large bow of the appropriate colour - gold, silver or bronze - is tied to the gatepost to share the news with all who pass by.



In the year 2000 more awards have been gained for flower show exhibits including Royal Horticultural Society awards of a Gold Medal at Tatton Park, Silver Gilt at the Chelsea Flower Show, Hampton Court Flower Show, Gardener's World Live in Birmingham and Floral Guernsey plus a Gold Medal at the Harrogate spring Flower show. Great blooms from small seeds grow!



"Preparing for the Show" with Debbie Nauls , Carol Martin (standing) and Mary Spinks



"Keeping it in the Family" - Swanland Nursery's co-founder Molly Waters with grand-daughter Ruth



Swanbridge Veterinary Hospital

by Mark Holmes

How many small boys have brought home an injured cat, a lost dog or a baby bird and mother has said, "He really ought to be a vet when he grows up". Well, John Levison became one.



The Small Animal Surgery being inspected by a small visitor on Open Day

His interest in animals and their welfare started at about eight years of age and, unsurprisingly, he soon became uncomfortable about the idea of eating animal products and chose to become a vegetarian. Fortunately his parents understood and concurred with his wishes.

Born in Anlaby, John had a local education before studying at the veterinary college in Liverpool. On qualifying, his first job was in Derby but, whilst back in this area, it was by chance that John saw the original small premises at the junction of Tranby Lane and the new road.

This had been a detached two bedroom bungalow with gardens on all sides and empty for a while. As a base for a new veterinary practice, John saw the possibilities and opportunities in the location: on a major road, adjacent to a major city and to the M62, with a clear run to the North.

He bought the house almost on a whim, a speculative idea, with the many questions it raised: would it work, was it needed, what is the animal population, what services were already available?

No-one could answer these questions definitely but he proceeded. Major alterations were made to the house and in May 1993 he opened for business. His local knowledge, contacts and a useful piece of coverage in the local paper all helped to spread the word.

John and his partner Liz organised a smooth workflow to handle the increasing number of animals appearing at the practice. The original premises suddenly looked small and the first of several extensions was undertaken in 1994. One Vet alone is hard pressed to handle the combination of consultations, operations, call-outs (day and night) and emergencies. All this plus the actual business of running the management and finances of a busy practice. A second veterinary surgeon was appointed as an assistant to spread the workload and improve the level of service.

Veterinary nurses - the other crucial backup team - were added to meet demands and handle the stream of unseen essential jobs that have to be done every day.

About this time, John noted the increasing need to offer a more comprehensive service for large animals, which, in practical terms, means horses. Adjacent to the original house was a small building that had been a garden centre growing roses and then a television company making small productions. John acquired this now empty building and set about the massive conversion into an equine centre with a big, fully equipped operating theatre and the ancillary functions required with more living accommodation above.



The decision to embark on such a costly exercise was a massive act of faith and shrewd judgment. Regular call-outs to horses on the owner's premises had indicated the level of demand generally, and whilst much can be treated on the spot some procedures can only be tackled under anaesthetic in a fully equipped theatre.

This picture shows a large horse having a tooth removed in the custom built horse surgery.

With the creation of this valuable facility and demonstrating the expertise underpinning it, the practise was formally designated a 'veterinary hospital' in 1998 in recognition of its total capability.



Several visiting vets from overseas enjoyed periods of observation or assistance and one from South Africa was invited to become part of the team on a long term basis. It was at this time that the BBC had started a big programme of animal coverage in different forms, one of which was to follow trainee vets through college in Bristol. One of the young vets - Sam - was destined to come to Hull later and initially appeared in the college filming.

John and Liz were both interested in horses and breeding them. With the new facility to which had been added stabling and an exercise paddock, the need for someone to concentrate on horses in the practice was evident and it was at this point that 'Sam' arrived. The BBC followed her to Hull and the practice featured in several programmes which showed the activities generally and the progress of individual animals in particular. A splendid relationship was soon evident and led to some pleasant evening socialising.

In the year 2000 we have five vets and about a dozen full and part-time staff; quite a substantial workforce in the veterinary field. Life is never dull, but it is not easy either. Serious horse illnesses can result in all-night working at the practice on Saturdays and Sundays as during the week when an animal's condition is serious. Both vets and owners share a deep concern for its welfare and recovery and the empathy that the vets have for the owners' worries is clearly evident.

The range of animals, birds, reptiles and fish that are present in British homes today are remarkable. This brings with it a need for a very wide ranging experience to identify obscure diseases and problems and then know with confidence how to treat them, which means continually keeping up-to-date with best practice.

With highly pressurised working days, it is a regular event for the team to share meals together in the evening and take time out to chat socially. Summer barbecues are de rigueur - always with a vegetarian option - but the March one, with the staff wearing overcoats, marks some sort of milestone for a practice obsessed with food.

One thing above all unites the place and that is the commitment to the animals in care - to alleviate suffering and cure wherever possible. It is a rewarding task.



Arthur Street Trading Co.

Organic Veg. at a Snail's Pace

by Steve Left

After arriving at the workshop on Arthur Street, the milk-float is loaded, delivery sheet and change collected, and, with my aim to be away by 9.30, I then hit the trail for Swanland.



Organic vegetables leaving their Arthur Street depot

Arthur Street Trading Co. Ltd. is a voluntary co-operative, which has four directors, Graham, Sharon, Beki, and Steve. It's main function is to deliver organic veg door-to-door. It occupies premises to which solar panels have been fitted and these produce enough electricity for all our needs, plus spare capacity that is sold to the National Grid.

The fruit and vegetables arrive with us on a Tuesday dinnertime directly from the local organic producers and are weighed and boxed up, to be delivered to our customers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Wednesday is Swanland Day. After one drop off on Anlaby Road it is then out of Hull with a slow crawl up Tranby Lane, heading towards Swanland.

The milk-float was kindly donated to us by Northern Dairies and after a bit of work and a great paint job by Andy, it has become the workhorse for Arthur Street. The float has a top speed of 15 mph but long drawn out hills, like Tranby Lane can have it down to 5 mph. The speed of the float is a great change from that of a car and at 15 mph I get to appreciate much more of my surroundings.

I love the fact that 20 minutes drive from Arthur Street can have me out in the rolling hills of the countryside. As I reach the village I take a left turn and start the roller coaster ride down Swanland Hill, heading towards Ferriby in the now deafening float, reaching speeds in excess of 25 mph! Once finished in Ferriby I then face the struggle back up Swanland Hill. The hill conquered for another week it is now to Mere House in the centre of Swanland. Yvonne, who lives there, kindly acts as a distribution point for the rest of the village and is a great supporter of what we do.



Organic vegetables being delivered by the converted solar powered milk-float to Swanland by Steve

Many people are now realising the benefits of eating and drinking organic produce and to be able to obtain it fresh from the farm makes it even more nutritious. Many customers tell us how much they enjoy the heightened taste - especially the tomatoes during the summer months when they are as sweet as our older customers remember tomatoes tasting in their youth.

On my return journey I deliver in Kirkella and Cottingham then weave through the outskirts of Hull. After negotiating the hustle and bustle of the city I am hopefully back at the workshop and plug in the milk-float to recharge it ready for tomorrow's round.

Finished for another week!



Belmont Garage

by David Bell

I first arrived in Swanland in the Summer of 1994. It was a glorious day and the village was in full bloom. Some customers had three or four cars per family. This number has now been reduced to one or two cars per family. Cars have changed so much over the past ten to fifteen years, mostly in the electronic department. Some of the changes have been made by the Government and some by popular demand!

Cars have become smaller in size and more 'green' as well as cheaper to buy. More cars are being brought in from Europe, which in turn is flooding the second-hand car market with lower priced bargains. I have found over the last five years that more people are driving newer cars than ever before.

There is an increase in classic cars in Swanland and an increase in younger drivers. The days of a young person passing their driving test and buying an old mini with different coloured wings, blue smoke pouring from the exhaust and an old medium wave radio blasting out Radio One, have changed. Now the car has to be new, smart, and with a CD player blasting out!

The Government has played a large part in changing the motor trade. The introduction of lower tax for small engine cars (up to 1200cc) from July 1st. 2000 and the excessive amount of tax on petrol has seen a large increase in small cars on the road. I don't think it will be long before cars are running on gas and electricity. The fading out of leaded petrol (January 1st 2000) has not troubled many motorists because 90 percent of cars already run on unleaded petrol.



"Happy Motoring"



*In addition to its people, businesses,
clubs and organisations, Swanland
has a lot more to offer
its residents in the year 2000 a.d.,
so read on*



The Village Library

...past, present and future

by Ruth Jameson

Swanland Library is located in the Village Institute overlooking the pond.



Mrs Joyce Lamb - Supervisor at
Swanland library for the past 13 years

The Institute was built in 1914 by the Reckitt family and comprised a snooker room and a committee room. At a later date the committee room became a voluntary library with the Reckitt family making a donation of books. The bookcases, which are still in use, originally had lockable glass fronts.

In 1946 the East Riding County Council took over the provision of library services to Swanland village. They continued to use the same premises, renting the room from the Institute.

Since then there have been two local government reorganisations. In 1975, Humberside County Council took over the Library provision and in 1966 East Riding of Yorkshire County Council became responsible.

Mary Bradley (later Lister) was the first qualified librarian to work in Swanland, followed by Mrs Maw and then Mrs Anne Snowden, who worked here from 1972 to 1977.

Mrs Joyce Lamb, the present Supervisor started working at Swanland Library on 1st Feb 1977 and will be a familiar face to many library users. Regular and new readers can be assured of a friendly welcome and can always ask Joyce for assistance in finding the right book.

The library stocks adult and junior fiction and non-fiction books and has a small reference section. Large print books and spoken word tapes are also provided. The small size of the room limits the amount of stock available, but items not in stock can always be requested. A professional librarian keeps an overview of the stock and, as well as new books, regular circulation and exchanges of stock are organised.

The Library opens Mon 5 - 7pm

Tues 10 - 12 am + 2 - 4.30pm

Fri 2 - 4.30 pm

Sat 10 - 12 am

As for the future:

- will there be a purpose built library?
- will we be visited by a mobile library?
- will the residents of Swanland sit at home and visit a virtual library ordering their books by e-mail at www.swan.lib.com ?

Only time will tell.



Swanland Pond Improvement Committee

(SPIC)

by Paul Neve

Before the birth of the Swanland Village Association, some of the longer-term residents may remember an energetic, but sadly short-lived, burst of activity centred around the pond.

During the 1980's, by courtesy of Horncastle, the builders, a pair of swans was acquired - the first resident swans for several years - thus allowing Swanland to live up to its name once again. A group of like-minded villagers decided that the swans' new home could be made more attractive, not only for the birds but also for the benefit of the village as a whole. So, in May 1987, at the instigation of Paul Neve and Pam Spaven, SPIC was formed.

The first order of business was to give the pond a good spring clean and volunteers were coerced - sorry, invited - to help with the clear out. Luckily there was a good supply of children who thought this a marvellous opportunity to get very wet and very dirty! Donning wellies, waterproofs and rubber gloves they produced a sizeable pile of rubbish - broken branches, bottles and bags as well as some more unusual finds: a car exhaust and an old Christmas tree!

The next stage was to acquire and plant suitable vegetation around the edge of the pond. Iris, bulrushes and oxygenating weeds were donated, begged or extracted from other natural water sites and planted in small clumps. The collection even boasted several species of water lilies. The plants were fenced in with chicken wire until they could become fully established. In addition, steps were taken to trap some of the mallards and relocate them to other ponds. This would make room for other species of birdlife, which could be introduced over a period of time.

Progress and plant growth, though painfully slow, were recognised with the award of a Humberside Village Ventures special commendation in 1988 ... and with the arrival of a pair of moorhens, who decided to take up residence on the pond to raise some youngsters. Their descendants can still be seen there today!

Then disaster struck; some of the ducks got trapped behind the netting and well-meaning residents made a gap in order to free them. However, more birds went in than came out. It was "free lunch" for all and the plants - and SPIC - never recovered. One step forward and two back, it seemed.



Paul Neve and Pam Spaven with their Humberside "Village Ventures" certificates

In May 1989, amidst speculation that the pond was about to be turned into a car park, Swanland Preservation Society held a meeting entitled "Swanland 2000 and Beyond". After giving a presentation about SPIC's aims for the pond, Paul Neve announced, with regret, that he was no longer able to chair the committee and sought a successor to champion the cause. Sadly no-one came forward and SPIC was disbanded shortly afterwards with the residual funds being donated to Swanland Playing Fields to purchase trees and shrubs.

But hope springs eternal, even if the old pumping station no longer does! The Swanland Village Association has taken up the challenge and once again work is underway to beautify the village's central feature. The original SPIC supporters watch the current team's efforts with delight and applaud their hard work ... they know just how hard it is. So thanks to all those volunteers, helpers and fundraisers, past and present, who prefer ponds to car parks.



Swanland Parish Council 2000

by Marlene Barker



Bus shelter built by the Parish Council

Swanland Parish Council has nine members who are elected on a four year cycle. In this year they are:

- Mr John Downing - Chairman
- Mr Colin Hotham - Vice Chairman
- Mr M. Burman
- Mr J. Davies
- Mr M Frankish
- Mr J Gaze
- Mrs H Gilmour
- Mrs M Jobling
- Dr W Portal.

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer is Mrs Marlene Barker.

The Parish Council meets at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of every month in the Christ Church Hall. Residents can attend and, prior to the start of the meeting, anyone present is asked if they have questions to put to the Council. The local Police Constable and an East Riding County Councillor are also present to enable residents to raise any matters with them and to give reports to the Council meeting.

An A.G.M. must be held in May each year when a Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected. Councillors are then also elected to various committees - Planning, Road Safety, Street Lighting, Environment, Allotments, Youth Club, James Reckitt Trust and the Old School. All the Councillors are members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Parish Council is also represented on the Board of Governors at the local primary school and on the Playing Field Committee. At each monthly meeting reports are received from the various committee members and dealt with accordingly.

An Annual Parish Meeting is obligatory in England and must be held between 1st March and 1st June. All residents are entitled to attend, speak and vote, (if necessary). The Chairman presides over the meeting and gives a report on the works that the Parish Council has undertaken during the year.

The Parish Council is responsible for its own finances and, in October each year, starts to prepare a precept. The precept is the money that the Council requires to be raised from the local Council Tax payers and must be sent to the billing authority, the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council, by January each year.

The Clerk to the Council prepares an Agenda prior to each meeting and prepares Minutes of each meeting for approval by the Council. Copies of these Minutes are placed in the local library, Beverley Library, on the Parish Notice Board and in the Post Office. The clerk is also responsible for the administration of the Council, including wages, accounts and VAT returns. The financial year runs from 1st April and the accounts are audited by the District Audit.

The Parish Council owns the Old School, behind the pond, and is responsible for the pond itself. At this time the future of the school building is in doubt as a bid to the National Lottery, for help to convert, refurbish and extend it into a community facility, has recently been turned down.



Swanland Parish Councillors don't just sit around talking at Council meetings - they get their hands dirty and wet (as the picture below shows with Councillors Colin Hotham and Wallace Portal).



This picture shows the annual visit by Father Christmas and his elf to the music of a steam organ - this is also organised by the Council.

The Parish Councillors and the Clerk work together closely and liaise with the local County Councillors, the East Riding Council and the Police and we anticipate that, whatever future changes may occur in local government that these relationships will long continue.



Swanland Festival 2000

by Peter Bingham



Jan Rogerson Gail Burrows Mike Newman Kirsty Parry
Richard Hill Yvonne Dumsday Darryl Roberts
Peter Bingham

Swanland Parish Council asked for ideas to celebrate the Millennium. One of the suggestions from Swanland Village Association was for a festival and they asked for volunteers to organise it.

In March 1999 the first committee meeting was held. It comprised of two retired people, (one at University), two teachers, the vicar of St Barnabas Church, a bookkeeper, a school secretary, a young mother and a sixth former.

They met monthly and plans for Swanland Festival 2000 grew and grew from the original concept of a weekend's activities until the brochure issued to all Swanland homes in March 2000 listed over three dozen events covering each of the sixteen days from June 24th to July 9th.

The picture shows the Swanland Festival 2000 Committee (absent are Catherine Maynard and David Waters).

The picture shows the opening of the Festival.

It was attended by Diana Wallis MEP, John Downing, chairman of the Parish Council, and our oldest and youngest Swanlanders, Harry Needler aged ninety-eight and Jacob Somes aged just a few days old.



Village institutions and businesses were generous with sponsorship and help was also obtained from a National Lottery grant. Sixty-three people paid £10 each to become patrons of the Festival. The Festival was financially secure and could afford to host an exhibition of work by local artists, three arts workshops and six demonstrations by local craftspeople.

A collection of over three hundred photographs was collected from the older villagers depicting many aspects of twentieth century life in Swanland. These were digitally enhanced by Derek Brooks, displayed throughout the Festival and copies were reproduced for sale.



All these performers live in the village and gave their services and time for free.

- The Childs family of extremely distinguished brass musicians - David just having been placed second in the BBC's *Young Musician 2000*.
- Two professional singers Delia Fletcher and Peter Bingham.
- Derek Brooks, who was leader of a big swing band.
- Vera Skelton, the principal of the Skelton Hooper School of Dance and Theatre.
- Barry Kensett, with his vintage cars' enthusiasts.
- Ian Morrison with his Morris and Garland Dancers.
- David Parry, a fine Scottish piper.
- The soccer club and some keen cricketers all contributed to the entertainment.

Events were organised and hosted by Swanbridge Veterinary Practice, Swanland Equestrian Centre, Swanland Primary School, Swanland Nurseries, Christ Church, St Barnabas Church, the Tennis and Bowls Clubs and Building Bricks Pre-School

The final weekend was very hectic and exciting, starting on the Friday evening with a barn dance. Over forty French visitors arrived on Saturday from our new twin village Lestrem including a choir and brass quintet to join in the concert that evening. This also included music from the recently formed U3A choir, from the primary school and the premier of a cantata written by Catherine Maynard, the Festival's own music director.



On the very last day of the Festival the twinning agreement between Swanland and Lestrem was signed and a huge number of visitors enjoyed the beauty of Swanland's Open Gardens, organised by Harry Sidwell. The Festival closed with a final service at St. Barnabas Church that highlighted the villager's Hopes and Dreams.

A great many people contributed to the success of the Festival and many villagers were able to enjoy the event despite the unseasonably cold weather that dogged those held in the open-air. It was shown that an enthusiastic audience existed for good music and that there were many talented artists in the village. Such a large festival could hardly become an annual event but at least there had been a pointer for the future.

This picture shows Martin Parry "piping in" The Festival.



Swanland Show

by Tony Featherstone

Swanland Show, originating after the 1939 - 1945 war, was a grand affair incorporating classes for agriculture, horticulture, produce and handicrafts staged in marquees erected around a central area where events, such as horse jumping, took place.



Swanland Show Organiser Tony Featherstone
with Sobhan Daniels, who presented the trophies in 2000

In the early 1950s adverse weather was experienced for three consecutive shows, so the show was wound up and the trophies returned to their donors. In 1979 a small committee, with Tony Featherstone - the then headmaster of the primary school - as chairman, revived the show on a much reduced scale. The first show that year had 50 classes with categories for wine produce, handicrafts, floral art, vegetables, flowers and children's work.

At the first committee meeting it was decided that the 'new' show would be held in September and that this show was to be aimed at local people and therefore prize money would not be given but certificates and trophies would be awarded instead.

The certificates were awarded, designed and printed by local artist Richard Pearson and trophies were donated by local residents and organisations.



The first show was such a success that several more classes were added in succeeding years - including a very popular photography section. The early shows were held in the James Reckitt Memorial Hall but, with the increase in both entries and entrants, a larger venue was required. The headmistress of the primary school, Margaret Adamson came to the rescue by offering the use of the school and taking on the role of show secretary.

In the early 1990s there was a slight hiccup with the retirement of several long serving committee member and a fall in the number of entrants in the various classes. However, the appeal for new members was answered and a larger committee was formed. This also coincided with another change of venue.

The school had been most co-operative in hosting the show but did not possess a hall large enough to stage all the exhibits so this meant that some classrooms also had to be utilised. When the new St Barnabas church was built, it had a hall large enough for the needs of the show. This new venue has proved a great success. Matching tables covered in white cloths, screens to display the artists' work, titles and class numbers on the tables and printed exhibitors labels, all give the show a very professional appearance.



Past and present Show Judges

The number of trophies has steadily increased over the years. There have also been several returned from the original show to be used in the present one. Each year approximately 100 adults submit 500 entries. The school supports the children's classes. Our judges, some with us since 1979, never fail us and the show is financially secure.

This year 2000 has been our 20th show but, despite all our efforts, the numbers of entrants did not break any records. Nevertheless, the participants were enthusiastic, the standards were high and each entrant received a special souvenir certificate printed in silver and purple.



Swanland Pond

by Irene Nurse

As we reach the year 2000 the pond seems to be holding its own. It's origins are unsure with opposing "experts" claiming it to be either a "dew" pond or a "marl" pond.



A summer pond scene with the swans and their cygnets
(though, sadly not in the year 2000)

It is quite badly silted up now and, in the Summer of 1999, we had several weeks with blue algae but this year a cool summer has prevented a reoccurrence.

For years there was a supply of fresh water, occasionally treated to combat bugs, running into the pond from the 'tester taps' of the old Pump House. This housed the village bore hole, which was closed by Yorkshire Water in 1998.

We had a breeding pair of pinioned winged Mute Swans for 15 years until this summer when the cob was killed in trying to protect his pen, her eggs and their nest. The swans began to look at nesting, as is normal, in March. In 1999 the pen laid and incubated eight eggs but all were infertile. The last cygnets we had were three in 1998, all of which went to new homes at five months old to avoid attack by the cob. We hoped that we should have cygnets again this year it seems that our cob and pen had become a pair of Derby and Joans and past producing fertile eggs. Despite our worries at the time of her mate's death, our pen seems to be adapting well to her lone state.

We have a good complement of mallard ducks whose population is kept down by the collection of eggs, ducklings and adults, which are then moved to other homes - the eggs being incubated. In 1999 we relocated four hundred and seventy eggs, two hundred and seven chicks and fifty adult birds. In addition we have a call duck, who had two females earlier this year and a pair of moorhens who have raised three broods in the year 2000. The birds are fed twice daily on wheat paid for from the interest in the Mary Lister Fund; Mary was a villager who left £1,000 for the welfare of the birds.



It should be recorded that the swans and ducks were looked after for many years by Bob Jennison (a Swanland 'boy' born and bred), until his death in January 1999, and his wife Muriel, who died in February 1998. I started to help Bob approximately 14 years ago and am continuing to feed and remove ducks assisted by my friend Audrey Butterwick and her sister Rita.

In addition to the birds we have a great number of fish in the pond, to the surprise of many villagers. There is a large shoal of golden orf and a quantity of ghost carp and other goldfish - many well over a foot in length.

During Spring and Autumn the pond provides a respite for migrating geese on their long journeys, often for only a few hours but occasionally longer.



Passing geese join the resident ducks and gulls on the ice, which has a covering of rain - thus giving the impression that they are walking on water!

Hopefully, with a bit of care, our pond will survive the next 100 years and be here for future generations to enjoy as much as they have in years past.



Swanland Village History Group

A Brief History of Swanland by John Holmes

It is hoped that this little book will provide a snapshot of village life at the end of the second millennium for future generations to look back on. It is a form of time capsule at the conclusion of 800 years of recorded history.

That 800 years provides a fascinating story, and consideration was given to publishing a village history at the time of the millennium. The short time-scale available precluded that possibility, but interest was such that a small group of villagers began to assemble information and articles which it was hoped would form a new and fully referenced *History of Swanland*, complementing the excellent *Recollections of Village Life* produced by John and Christine Wheeler. What follows is intended to provide a flavour of the work undertaken so far, and a glimpse of Swanland's past.

An archive has now been assembled including Parish Register Entries, Census Returns, Directory Entries, Monumental Inscriptions, Wills, Conveyances, Deeds, Taxes, Newspaper Articles, Church Records, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Biographies, Diaries, Council Minutes, Photographs, Paintings, Maps and Plans. Some of the photographs - farm horses, water carts, hockey in Kemp Road, groups of old villagers, etc, were exhibited at the Millennium Festival celebrations.

Researching the documents has taken those involved to local studies libraries at Hull and Beverley, the East and West Riding of Yorkshire archives, Hull University archives, The British Library, and the Public Record Office in London. Numerous earlier histories were consulted. Kind offerings of photographs and other documents were received from interested villagers and assistance has been received from lecturers in local history at the University of Hull. From the documents collected comes the village's history. A number of chapters are now in draft form.

Swanland is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but there is reference in the Victoria County History to land at that time: ".probably representing Swanland." The earliest reference to Swanland , as such, is said to be in The Chronicle of Meaux Abbey.	1086 1210
Amongst the ancient Fines, Inquisitions, Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, etc. researched is found an agreement to a transfer of land to Gerard de Fumival and reference to " Loretta and others of Swanland and Westella [who] broke by night walls and dykes made for the King's manor in Kingston- upon- Hull and his land so that his corn and meadows were submerged." The villagers were concerned about loss of common rights. An original document from the time of Edward III, discovered in the Public Records Office, lists villagers who were liable to tax on one fifteenth of their movable chattels. These mention a "de Swanland".	1276 1316 1330
There are numerous references to the de Swanland family in the Close Rolls. They include cloth merchants, a Clerk of Works for the Kings Castles in Scotland, and Collectors of Customs. One, Simon, was Mayor of London. Some of the family resided in London, but the death of Nicholas son of John of Swanland was at one time recorded in Ferriby Parish Church.	1342
Moving on from medieval times to those of the Tudors and Stuarts we meet the Haldenbys. The lost village of Haldenby was found to lie on the other side of the Humber not many miles to the south east of Goole. Nearby, in Adlingfleet Parish Church, there is an effigy to one of the family. A branch of the family came to reside in: "..a magnificent house [in Swanland] ..". Excavations in the grounds of No 40 West End in about 1972 exposed broad foundations of an ancient building which may be related. The signature of one of the family was discovered on an original document in the West Riding Archives. The last we hear of them is during the Civil War, when Robert, aged 18: "..is accounted a delinquent being in the King's army." At length, we are told: " ..for want of a male heir the family became extinct."	1452 1644



The history of the Church and Education in Swanland are being treated as themes which cross the centuries. From medieval times Swanland had its chapel & chantry, which in common with the rest of the nation, would then be Roman Catholic. Its Independent Chapel and associated school came in 1693, following the Toleration Act of William and Mary. Dissenters were then allowed to worship in public. Many did so, coming to Swanland from surrounding villages. J.E.Whitehead's manuscript history of the Chapel written in the 1890's provides the first written account. 1693

We move on again, this time to the eighteenth century. From the British Library we learn that land "...in a certain piece of meadow called Swanland Ings, in the Lordship of Swanland, was sold for £333-6s-8d for the support of an original Horse Course Plate, to be run at Kiplingcotes." 1748

The first residents of Swanland Hall are identified as the Porters. Hadley's History of Hull tells us that John Porter, was one time Sheriff and Mayor of Hull, and an original subscriber to the Queen's Dock. He was signatory to a loyal address to George III, supporting him in the war in the American colonies. 1777

Whilst examining early records relating to the Independent Chapel, a long neglected manuscript, *The Autobiography of Thomas Blossom*, came to light. Blossom, who was born in Swanland in 1777, assisted in founding in Swanland the first Sunday School in the East Riding. He later travelled as artisan missionary to Tahiti, and other South Sea Islands. His autobiography provided a useful insight into village schooling, and means of travel in the late eighteenth century. He walked overnight to York to obtain his first employment away from home. 1777

Around about this time the first maps of Swanland village appear, [Jeffreys]. Copies may be found in Hull Local Studies Library. The low road to the north of Main Street is shown. Swanland's first mill can be identified on Greenwood's map of 1817. 1772
1817

As we enter the nineteenth century, a dramatic change occurs in the landscape surrounding the village following Parliamentary Enclosures. The strips of land, hitherto fanned in open fields are surrounded by hedges and fences. The diarist Robert Sharp comments on the effects felt by Nathaniel Shaw at Northfield House Swanland, [now Beech Hill]. Copies of the enclosure awards and maps can be seen at the Archives Office in Beverley. 1829

Records become more readily available. A full set of Census returns for Swanland is copied at Beverley Library. Sets of commercial directories are obtained from 1823 onwards. We now have the names of villagers, descendents of whom still reside here. Examples are provided by the Brooks, related to a former carrier, and the Frows, formerly tailors. It is possible to place many of the names from the 1891 Census on the Ordnance Map of 1888. Industrialists such as James Reckitt move into the village purchasing their own farms. 1841
1891
1891

By analysing the Census returns, we can see that more than a quarter of the village's population lived or worked on its dozen or so farms. Many more provide the traditional village trades that support its agricultural economy. It is largely self supporting, and remains a small community of 400 to 500 people.



From 1871 School Manager's Minute Books and School Log Books are found to be available, which assist in drafting an article on Education in Swanland. 1871

By the last quarter of the century we begin to have photographs. Perhaps at a rather later date, and coming from the Reckitt Benckiser archives there are images of the interior of James Reckitt's Swanland Manor.

Parish Council Records are consulted for an account of village affairs in the twentieth century. We note the dramatic growth in population, which begins with the sale of land associated with Swanland Hall in 1926. There is the initiation of the mains water supply and of the electricity supply, switched on from the Village Hall, at a grand ceremony in 1929. We are now within period of living memory, and one of our members writes his own recollection of life in the 1930's. It is intended to convene a meeting of other villagers whose reminiscences will contribute. 1926
1929
1930

Thus we come to an end of our short history. What has been written here is but the briefest of brief summaries and some doubtless still requires final validation. But if it shows that our village has a fascinating history, and encourages others to contribute, it serves its purpose. For those already involved, the challenge is to complete the course.

*"Tis well an old age is out,
Time to begin anew,"*

John Drydon, 1631 - 1700

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Appendix

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