



### SVA AGM ....and something to think about

At the SVA Annual General Meeting on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, John and Rena Downing will be unfolding their story of more than four years in Kenya where they were setting up a research Master's degree to study aspects of HIV/AIDS in the community.

In the meantime John asks you to just imagine that HIV had worked its way into Swanland as it has in many towns and villages in Kenya.

#### *Just Imagine...*

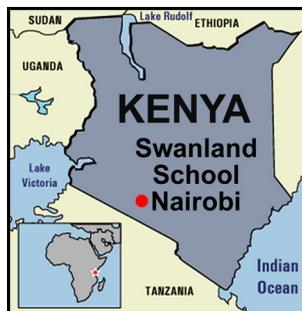
...at least 200 homes blighted by a premature death and over 40 orphans at Swanland school.

...20 or more sets of grandparents with the burden of care of their grandchildren. Neighbours too.

...a disease that remains concealed for years, and all the while the carrier passes it on to unsuspecting loved ones.

...the secrecy that surrounds its transmission and the stigma. And that is Kenya: in Southern Africa it is five times worse.

... having to pay for health care. The absolute poverty that results from AIDS. No capital. No income. No DHSS. Slums on the playing field or on any vacant piece of land. Would you go to the Voluntary Counselling and Testing centre by the Pond? or secretly go elsewhere?



**Continued overleaf >>**

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## *Just Imagine...*

... the undoing of years of development. Lost lives. Lost education.

Where to start in response? The Government? The West? The United Nations? No, in the community itself lies the power to change itself. Equip community leaders. Defuse stigma by shameless, blameless openness. Share resources. Network with others in the same boat. In Kenya there are now well over 100 community groups working transformation in response to the devastation of HIV. Come along to the SVA AGM and find out more!

### **SVA AGM**

Everyone is welcome at the AGM of Swanland Village Association on Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, whether members or not. After a short business meeting the highlight of the evening will be John and Rena Downing's account of their work in Kenya. Shirley Waters will be bringing her Kenyan jewellery. The evening will end with Cheese and Wine

#### **AGENDA**

Apologies

Minutes of the last AGM

Matters arising

Chairman's Report

Treasurers Report

Election of officers and committee

A.O.B

Talk by John and Rena Downing

## **SVA News Items**

The SVA is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us. If you would like to put your name forward, please contact the chairwoman of the SVA (Jan Rogerson, Tel: 634583) with your details and the name of your nominator, at least two weeks before the AGM.

## **Village Signs**

The SVA in conjunction with the Parish Council is looking into new Swanland signs for the entrances to the village. We have noted the handsome new signs for West Ella and Kirk Ella and commend the organising committees for all their hard work. We will have some graphics available at the AGM and look forward to hearing your views. We will then be looking for funding to help with the costs. A very exciting venture!

## **Swanland Festival 2008**

The Village Festival will take place next year from Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> until Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>. The coordinators of this village event are Yvonne Dumsday (**634 863**) and Jan Rogerson (**634 583**). There has been much interest in the festival and hopefully the events will be as popular as in previous years.

If you can suggest ideas, or organise an event to be included in the week's festivities please contact Yvonne or Jan. We have six events so far which include Open Gardens, Playing Field Gala, a U3A Musical Evening and Beauty and the Rest etc., which is a very encouraging start.



## **Lestrem Twinning Group**

[www.swanland.info/lestrem.htm](http://www.swanland.info/lestrem.htm)

Would you like to visit our twinning village in France? May 2008 will be Swanland's turn to go to Lestrem. Accommodation and meals will be provided by your host family in Lestrem.

This will be our 4th exchange since the association formed in 2000 and if this visit is half as successful, you can look forward to a most enjoyable and entertaining weekend. Activities could include sport, music, walking or simply taking in the French culture, washed down with red wine. At present we are looking at various travel options, which could include a city visit to Lille, Bruges or Ypres on our return leg. We do hope that you might like to join us. Contacts: Marion and Brendan Riley **632 652**, Malcolm Thompson **633 893**, David Losh **634 291**

### **Quiz Night**

Saturday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall £5 a ticket including supper  
Please bring your own drinks. Contact Marion Riley **632 652**

## **Calor Village of the Year Competition**

The village entered the competition earlier this year and we are pleased to report that we were 'Highly Commended' and received a framed certificate at the Humber and Wolds AGM in September.

Thanks to all who very kindly gave presentations when the judges visited the village (some are pictured here) and to the



band of many volunteers who continue to make Swanland a very special place in which to live.

## **Woodgates Lane - Road Closure**

Woodgates Lane will be closed to through traffic from Mon 5 Nov. for approximately 6 weeks for essential gas mains works. Vehicle access between Swanland and Ferriby will only be via Swanland Hill. Pedestrian and residents' access will not be affected.

## **Voluntary Work Overseas**

Comment in the national media has asked the question ‘What is the point of young people spending a few weeks doing voluntary work in the Third world?’ Three stories in this edition hope to answer that question for Swanland.

**John Downing**, who will be telling the story of his recent time in Kenya at the SVA meeting on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, spent time as a young man in Cameroon, whence developed his love for and interest in Africa.

**Ruth Waters**, whose trip to Kenya sparked off the project that is now known as Swanland High School in Nairobi. Five years ago Ruth Waters (now Selby) from Beech Hill Road went out on a Gap year to Kenya. She did not know what a change it was going to make in the lives of so many people

**Miriam Bennett**, whose Ecuador experience may have as yet unknown consequences. Miriam left school this summer and is going to Newcastle to study Medicine next year and will spend her Gap year in Canada. To fund her trip to Ecuador she had to raise £2500. Villagers may remember her coming round with a wheelbarrow to collect small items such as pens, paper and toys to take with her.

### **Ruth Waters**

Ruth spent much of her time working at the Riverside Children’s Centre in the Kawangware Slum in Nairobi. Her parents John & Shirley Waters visited the corrugated iron school room with mud floor where she had been working and were surprised at how happy the children were despite having so little. The children had nothing to eat or drink from 9am to 4pm.

When they returned they told their friends in Swanland about the terrible conditions and offered to start a feeding programme for the children. Around this time John & Rena Downing also from Swanland had gone to work in Nairobi and were able to keep an eye on the progress at the school. Once the feeding programme started the numbers at the school grew rapidly from 100 pupils to almost 500.

After 2 years Blair Jacob from the BBC went out to make some programmes for Look North and was amazed at what had been achieved in such a short time. Shortly after the filming the school was attacked by an armed gang and had to be rebuilt on a different site. Pastor Hudson who runs the school does a monthly diary for the BBC and can be found on

**[http://www.bbc.co.uk/humber/faith/pastor\\_hudson\\_nairobi\\_diary](http://www.bbc.co.uk/humber/faith/pastor_hudson_nairobi_diary)**

Swanland High School is now thriving on the new site thanks to the hard work and generosity of many people in Swanland and they employ 50 staff to teach and care

for the pupils. This work provides an income for the teachers' families. The school is now registered with the Kenya Education Department and has a small boarding section for the orphans and refugees that live at the school.

## **Message from Miriam Bennett**

This is a major thank you to all those villagers who supported my trip to FEVI in Ecuador this summer. (FEVI – from the Spanish is the Foundation for Intercultural Education and International Volunteer work) To let you all know how your generosity made a difference, here is a brief report of what I did:

I arrived in Quito after travelling for 24 hours, with only a bag full of children's toys (my clothes bag never left Manchester airport). My voluntary work was to be in Cumbaya, a small community outside Quito. As it was the summer holidays there was no school available for FEVI. So, it was in a kindly donated football clubhouse that I found myself teaching for the coming weeks. I knew the children there would have very little as they were all from extremely poor backgrounds, but I never anticipated the real situation.



Arriving for my first day in Cumbaya, the only items we had to entertain and teach over 30 children aged 3 to 13, were the things which I had collected all those months ago in Swanland. Pencils, crayons, paper, toys, jigsaws, books and even some plastic maracas, which were all so generously donated proved to be the life line for the running of each school day. Each day began with about an hour's travel, walking and bussing to meet the children at 7.45am. Then someone would make a trip to the local University to pick up unwanted bread and rice etc for the children's lunch. (You will see from these photos in Ecuador, the "picture pose" requires you look as solemn as though you are at someone's funeral, perfectly modelled here by some (honestly) very happy children!)



The language is Spanish, so all lessons were more of a challenge than usual! Basic maths, geography, English and much drawing made up the bulk of the lessons, while playing football and generally causing havoc filled the spaces in between!

I would once again like to say thank you for all the donated items and money. FEVI depends entirely on voluntary workers, so the generosity of others enables it to keep doing its good work in Ecuador.

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(Written details on request)

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### Garage/Yard Sale

I think I can honestly say the day was a huge success! Thirty-eight people responded to the request to participate in the garage/yard sale recently. Everyone who opened up their garage was very pleased with the outcome as the event attracted hundreds of visitors into the village. The incredible sum of over £600 has been raised from the registration fees, sale of location maps and very kind donations. This money will be donated to local funds for breast cancer and leukaemia research.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way, especially Julia Deighton for doing such a marvellous job with the advertising.

*Jean Latter*

### Swanland in Bloom

The small gardening group who look after Swanland's flower displays are in dire need of more able bodied volunteers. If anyone can spare a few hours to help please contact Pam Portal on 631567. Gardening skills are not necessary.

#### **NEW - Classified Ads**

If you offer a service to Swanland Residents advertise here for just £10

**FRESH FISH** Arctic Fisheries will come to your home up to 3 times a week with quality fresh fish - direct from the Market. Specialist in Scottish Salmon Contact Neil on **875 269**  
Mobile **07966 173 056**

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES** Kirkella News will deliver morning papers anywhere in Swanland. Contact Mark or Graham on **656 509**

## **Film Shows come to Swanland**

In future there will be no need to get into the car, find somewhere to park and sit in a soulless multiplex cinema with a scattering of unknown other people. There is to be the opportunity to walk to the centre of the village and experience a social cinema occasion with friends and neighbours.

A first meeting has taken place of a group to arrange for the showing of films, for a trial period of four months, at Swanland Village Hall. If everything goes according to plan, the first showing will be this December. If there is a good attendance then future showings will go ahead - including a selection for children.

We regret that more details cannot be given but this newsletter is going to press before they have been finalised. As soon as a date, time, and title are known the information will be posted on the Swanland Website

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## **Swanland Parish Council Website**

**[www.swanlandparish.org](http://www.swanlandparish.org)**

Swanland Parish Council have set up their own website to better communicate with residents. This is for any topic but particularly for planning issues.

There is no duplication of the village information on the SVA Village site but both sites have reciprocal links.

There are full contact details of all Parish Councillors, an explanation of the planning process, and a link to the East Riding Council Planning portal. Council meeting minutes, the precept for the current year and the current Council Newsletter are now accessible on-line. It is hoped that residents will be able to be more involved in village issues, which are the responsibility of the Parish Council, as a result of this development.

### **Village Websites**

**[www.swanland.info](http://www.swanland.info)**

The Swanland Village website is kept up to date with local news and regular update e-mails are sent out - if you would like to be on the update list just e-mail [website@swanland.info](mailto:website@swanland.info)

Organisers of events can help to avoid clashing with other events by posting them on the website.



**NEW** - Swanland Parish Council Website as described above

**[www.swanlandparish.org](http://www.swanlandparish.org)**

## Reunion Day for ex-Swanlanders

On Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> a unique event took place in the Village Hall, once the old school, with the coming together of 133 ex-Swanlanders (pre 1980) with resident traditional villagers, reuniting scattered families, long lost friends and neighbours in a welter of handshakes, hugs, tears of joy and lots of laughter! Two of the guests were in their 90s, many in their 80s and some accompanied by two or three generations of their family.

The event resulted from the combined efforts of Derek Brooks, Carol Ledgard and John & Chris Wheeler. Derek copied old photos of guests for the Village Archive. The Wheelers sold copies of their much appreciated book 'Reflections of Village



Life". There were various themed stalls with photos and memorabilia. Tony Waites presented "Waites" shop and John Tuck his Mobile Shop. Copies of Swanland School Registers for 1920-1950 interested old school friends. Alan Brooks provided Family History Search and Swanland Village Association sold their excellent History books and displayed 180 photos already in the Archive. Swanland Churches were also represented.

Guests included wartime evacuees Norma Levinson and Ron Tomlinson with members and descendents from the Allen, Caley, Crawford, Farmery, Frankish, Frow, Grundy, Harrap, Holdstock, Humble, Kirby, Londesborough and Waudby families. They reminisced over many cups of tea or coffee, with scones served and provided by the WI, and posed for Reunion Day photos taken by Tom and Nigel Waller. It was a wonderful day full of lots of treasured memories for all! Messages of support came from ex Villagers living in Canada, Australia and the UK. Hopefully they will make the next Reunion planned for 2012! Guests overwhelmingly approved the new Village Hall. Carol Ledgard sincerely thanks all those who helped, contributed to and attended the event.

*Isabelle Gellé Parfums*

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## Swanland Show

[www.swanland.info/swanlandshow.htm](http://www.swanland.info/swanlandshow.htm)



The twenty-seventh annual Swanland Show, held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, in St. Barnabas Church Hall, was most successful. Over 400 entries from 85 adults, and over 200 children's entries – predominately from Swanland School – ensured a very attractive display.

Whilst the number of entries from Swanland residents remains static, more people, both adult and child, from neighbouring villages, are becoming attracted to the Show. This is reflected in the distribution of the trophies: 21 to non residents and 10 to residents. Surely 'Swanlanders' can do better than this! Make an effort next year to make an entry in one of the 80 classes.

Congratulations to the following residents who did win trophies:

**Shirley Waters Phil Corby John Eagle Louise Pepper  
Bill Ayton Roz Jordan-Jackson Jean Latter**

Many thanks to all who helped make the Show a success – the ladies from the W.I., St. Barnabas Church, Bidy Grundy, Mr. Zempstra, the committee and of course the entrants and visitors. If you have any constructive comments to make, contact Tony Featherstone on **631 110**.

## Swanland Playing Field Association

[www.swanland.info/playingfield.htm](http://www.swanland.info/playingfield.htm)

Congratulations to the Playing Fields on being awarded a **Green Pennant Award** for 2007 /08! It was one of three in the whole of Yorkshire and the only one in Humberside and East Yorkshire. The Award scheme is managed by the Civic Trust on behalf of Communities and Local government and the Green Flag Award Advisory committee and supported by these bodies and also Natural England.



The area was assessed on the following criteria:

**A welcoming place. A healthy safe and secure place  
A well maintained place Its biodiversity and heritage  
Community involvement Environmental sustainability Achievements**

## Swanland Wildlife Group (SWG)

[www.swanland.info/wildlife.htm](http://www.swanland.info/wildlife.htm)

Contact Carol Ledgard 632178



### Pond Reclamation Project

Progress continues slowly in developing a viable, flexible and fully costed plan to be agreed by the Parish Council (PC). The PC have debated the costed proposals that Hugh Roberts (Ponds Conservation Trust) has put forward to: -

Introduce silt traps to filter toxins entering the pond via the street drains

Increase the supply of clean water (e.g. from the Village Hall roof)

Control the numbers of ducks and fish to balance the ecology of the pond

Plant oxygenating / toxin absorbing plants

Final approval of any of these plans will await more discussion and information.

A meeting is to be arranged between Hugh Roberts, the PC and the Wildlife Group to so that we can produce a final plan. One query is about the rapid drop in water level of the pond after heavy rain. Is this due to a leak, evaporation or both? Once the PC approves the plan we can arrange finance and start work in 2008. Finally we ask people not to feed bread to the ducks on the pond. Bread causes poor nutrition in ducks and fish, aquatic pollution and encourages harmful algae.

### Myxomatosis Alert

There is a nationwide outbreak in wild rabbits. This has killed pet rabbits locally. The only way to protect them is to have them vaccinated as soon as possible. If you have a pet rabbit contact your vet immediately.

### SWG Events

Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in Christ Church Schoolroom. Illustrated talk, *The Little Mouse That Likes to Sunbathe* by Jon Traill (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) £1 admission. All welcome. For more SWG news see our page on the Village Website.

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### Village Hall 100 Club

The 100 Club aims to raise money to help equip the Village Hall.

Membership costs £24 per annum and half the money raised is allocated to a prize fund.

Support your Village Hall Contact Marion Riley on 632 652

### Art Exhibition

**ART inc. Art With a Tart** Exhibition  
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th Nov. 10am - 4pm  
Small admission fee.

### Anonymous Donor

Someone recently popped an envelope through a door with "Many Thanks for SVA" on the front and a £5 note inside!  
*Many thanks, whoever you are.*

## *Letters to The Editor*

One of the useful facilities at Swanland Village Hall is its car park. People who attend courses and activities at the Hall presume, quite rightly, that the paved parking area is reserved for them and two signs indicate this. The pole barrier to the car park is removed whenever the Library is open or there is a course or an activity taking place in the Village Hall, so that users can park their cars.

In spite of the signs, other drivers occasionally park there, particularly parents picking up their children from the Primary school. The situation is particularly acute if classes start or finish at the same time as the Primary school finishes. This means that there is less car parking space for those coming to the Library or Hall. Activity Course leaders often bring equipment and need to park near the entrance.

The Village Hall has been hugely successful and many of our users appreciate this a great Village facility. However, this popularity has meant that the number of groups and individuals using the hall has grown year by year and this puts great pressure on car parking space. We appeal to villagers and other regular visitors to the village not to use our car park unless they have a booking at that time or are visiting the library.

*Paul Priestley-Leach*  
*Chairman Swanland Village Hall Committee*

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I would like to make some corrections to my Village Families article which appeared in the summer SVA news. The name Mcfarlane should be spelt Macfarlane, also this family is not connected to Mcfarlane Laing biscuits. They are in fact a local engineering company and have been since 1922.

Two names were incorrect. Thether should read Tether and Jem Londesborough should read Jim Londesborough. The Taylor family of West End should have been included. Mr Ray Taylor is a retired plumber. He married Gwen Frow, daughter of the late Mr Joseph Frow, former village postmaster.

*Carol Ledgard*

Articles and Letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to  
portal.briars@virgin.net or sent to Pam & Wallace Portal  
The Briars, Beech Hill Road HU14 3QY  
in electronic format please.

We cannot guarantee to publish articles (maximum 300 words) or letters and reserve the right to edit them.

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## ***SVA Membership Application/Renewal***

**Name (first person)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (second person)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address/Telephone number (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque/Cash enclosed (£2 per person). Please put a cross here if you object to any of the above details being kept on our Database

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To receive regular news updates from the SVA website e-mail [website@swanland.info](mailto:website@swanland.info)