

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

March 2023

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## **There's a welcome in the valley**

We could not leave without saying thank you.

A year in West Meon was not what we had planned but it has been an unexpected gift and what a year the last has been, 2022, a year of multiple crises.

Moving home is one of the most stressful experiences, right up there along with bereavement and divorce, the doctor had reminded me at a routine check-up.

Like so many post COVID, we had taken the decision to move nearer family. This at a time when many other people were on the move across the world, people who have felt compelled to leave their family, forced to flee driven by fear that they are no longer safe in their homes as a result of war, natural disaster, climate change and economic necessity. We all need a place where we feel safe. The recent economic crisis has seen many homes put at risk and sadly an increase in homelessness.

It's heartening to find in these difficult times a friendly community that welcomes the newcomer, the stranger.



*Photo: Judy Griffiths*



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We've had lovely chats with people as we've been out and about with our dog, sometimes sharing concerns for the state of the world and the difficulties people are facing. Someone said that every night she thought of those having to spend it in cold damp basements in the beleaguered cities of Ukraine. These days we are taking things less for granted. Around the villages and in the churches the blue and yellow flag demonstrates our solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they defend the values and the loved ones they hold dear.

These are the core values that are important for human flourishing, a mutual concern for the wellbeing of others in acts of generosity and kindness, so thank you West Meon and all the people who work tirelessly to make this part of the beautiful Meon valley a good place to be. We are grateful to have been able to call it home even for just a year.

*Judy and Keith Griffiths*

## West Meon Church Electoral Roll

Each year the church electoral roll is revised in preparation for the annual parochial church meeting. This year the APCM will be on Sunday 23rd April at 11.45 am after the 10.30am service in St John's Church. Once every six years there is a new roll. The next one will be in 2025 so this year it is just a revision. This might include, for example, those who have moved into the villages, would like to join the roll or have reached age 16. The roll will be revised from 20th to 27th March. If you would like to have your name added, please contact Louise Clay (829235). Having your name on the roll gives you a say in the future of the church.

*Louise Clay*



## Easter lilies for West Meon and Warnford churches

If you would like to dedicate a lily in memory of loved ones, please sponsor a lily for £5 each. These will then be used as part of the beautiful floral decoration of our churches at Easter. Please send your £5 per lily and the name of the dedicatees by Wednesday 29th March to:

### **For Warnford:**

Penny Power [kitandpenny@jpower.co.uk](mailto:kitandpenny@jpower.co.uk) (829751)

### **For West Meon:**

Buffy Morris [buffymorris54@gmail.com](mailto:buffymorris54@gmail.com) (829325)

*Louise Clay*

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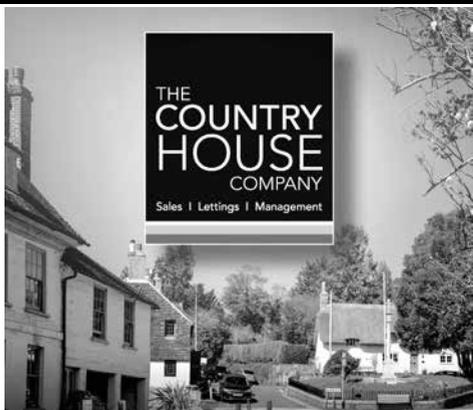
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# West Meon CofE Primary School



Group 1 Y4/5/6 swimming at Bedales was a great success, despite our regular instructor Dave being very unwell and Helen stepping in. The children made him some great cards which he loved and he is on the mend. Group 2 start after half term.

We are still looking to train up members of the community to drive the minibus, subject to safeguarding checks. This would be for swimming and occasional trips and you have to have D1 on your driving licence.

Y5 Bikeability was enjoyed by all and they earned their Level 2 badges by riding confidently around the village; you may have seen them.

Popcorn (Cinema) Club saw most of the school stay for the Friday treat and the film was so popular it was played in both the classrooms, while they munched on their popcorn.

Mrs Blogg, who leads Y2/3, returns from her training at a school in Winchester and the children have been amazing while myself, Mrs Mortiz and Mrs Harris have covered for half term. The real star however, has been Bethan Ivey, the Learning Support Assistant in Foxes, who was the constant staff member who supported the children over the six weeks.

Mrs Massey Hocquard has now returned from maternity leave and teaches in Owls on Fridays and after half term we will welcome Miss Hall as 1:1 support for two days in Foxes.

While the weather has been cold outside, I have watched some wonderful Science lessons with exploding volcanoes, sieving earth and studying rocks. Outdoor visits will start again after half term when Owls attend the Rainforest Experience and inter school sports resume.

World Book Day and Comic Relief are coming up as well as Parents Evenings, which are slightly later this year so Mrs Blogg can settle back in.

We are very grateful to Sandra Balciutte, one of our parents and a part of Griffiths, a civil engineering contractor, who help connect communities. They



took down our old dilapidated shed and put up a great new shed for our Early Years equipment, at no cost to the school.

You are very welcome to look around the school at any time and we welcome children from outside our catchment area as well. Check out our new website which is under development.

*Julie Kelly, Headteacher*



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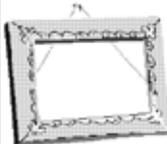
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## Cyber Bobby – Our First Year

The growing demands of the digital age come with pitfalls. Cybercrime and fraud can have a devastating impact, both financially and emotionally, on victims' lives. In January 2022 The Blue Lamp Trust launched the Cyber Bobby scheme to help older people, those with disabilities or who have been a victim of cyber crime to stay safe online.

The Cyber Bobby service is unique in offering home visits from our volunteer Cyber Advisors to give advice and guidance about basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime to the elderly and disabled in Hampshire.

The areas covered during a visit are:

- What is cyber crime?
- Cyber and scam prevention advice
- How to check privacy settings
- Signposting to other advice and resources
- How to report issues
- How to recognise scam emails and text messages



In the first year of the scheme we have visited 76 residents in Hampshire. 88% of these have been aged 60 and over. 23% of referrals were for people who had already been a victim of cyber crime. Collectively our volunteer Cyber Advisors have donated over 135 hours of their time, visiting residents and giving talks to community groups. One client's feedback; "It was wonderful, I learnt lots. It is a great service and I appreciated the advisors being so patient with me".

Anyone can make an online referral for someone they know who may benefit from a visit at <https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/about-cyber-bobby/>

If you organise a community group in Hampshire and would like a Cyber Bobby Advisor to come and give a talk people can get in touch via [cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk](mailto:cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk)

Do you have a background in IT? Could you be a volunteer Cyber Bobby Advisor? Email the team at [cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk](mailto:cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk) for more information.

Supported by the emergency services and local authorities, The Blue Lamp Trust offers two schemes; Bobby Scheme & Cyber Bobby Scheme. Both provide free services to elderly and vulnerable people in Hampshire (the Bobby Scheme also covers Isle of Wight). The Bobby scheme promotes crime prevention and fire safety initiatives. For over 20 years its trained fitters, who are all vetted by Hampshire police, uniformed and carry ID cards, visit homes to fill out home crime-prevention surveys, give reassurance and offer specific crime-prevention advice to improve safety. They also fit locks, spyholes, door chains and smoke alarms where needed.

*Emma Burt  
Business Administration Manager*

## A Short History of the West Meon Village Shop

When I came to the village in 1973, there were three general stores in the village, plus a saddler, a butcher, two pubs, and the post office. What is our house now on The Cross used to be Parson's Empire Stores and it folded just before I bought it. Sim and Nina Byles ran Byles shop on the north side of the High Street and our village shop then was called Valley Stores. Alan Banham's shop – The Saddlery and DIY Shop sold hardware and nails by the pound – closed some 20 years ago and the property is now owned by Karen Hughes. The Valley Stores had a series of tenants with varying degrees of success until Sim sold out The Baechus and moved across the street to take over Valley Stores. In due course Sim and Nina retired after serving the village for many, many years and the shop found new owners again until forced to close along with all the others except the butchers.

Seeing the need for a village shop four residents of West Meon clubbed together to fund buying the lease from the last owner and refurbishing the building in its entirety. The plan covered rewiring, new display equipment and racks, a new floor, redecoration throughout including



the flat above, a café and operating capital. The money raised was given as a non-repayable loan and is on the books as such. The shop is constituted as an Industrial Provident Society and shares were sold in the company to residents of the village. That was all back in 2006 and the shop reopened for business later that year. The shop was manned by a paid manager, paid delivery drivers, some paid till staff and volunteers. The two delivery rounds for papers and milk were kept and the café opened for business as well. Letting the flat has had its moments, that and the café contribute very usefully to the rent we pay for the whole establishment. There was and is a management committee the members of which are the early contributors or founders and others brought in to help with their specific knowledge, not least the accounts, legal obligations and the desperate modern needs of the computer systems. From the start a computerised management system was bought and installed giving us the automated till, bar code readers and customer accounts processing.

Over the years, we have had our ups and downs. The lead was stolen off the flat roof twice, and there have been two other burglaries. Our milk and paper round was halted by an accident with an SUV that was driven without due care and attention. The drains, ah, the drains! We have a full repairing lease. In 2013 the West Meon Hut garage opened in competition with their own general store.

The competition from the garage cut our turnover and our ability to dictate margins and as a result in 2014 the shop lost £40,000. The management committee called a special “town hall” meeting to discuss options and to raise awareness in the village and the valley. Volunteers from the village formed a group to address the issues and plot a recovery. The group met regularly and identified several areas in need of study and help:

- The trading margins were insupportable;

- The delivery rounds were losing money hand over fist;
- The electricity bill was horrendous;
- The automation of the purchasing process (to some extent).

By 2015 the loss was reduced to £20,000 and by 2016 the shop broke even and continued to do so until habits changed for the better with Covid. The losses were born through the generosity of one of our benefactors and for the most part is still outstanding. In 2016 a team from the village completely rearranged the inside of the shop with the till moving from the door to where it is now. Replacing the old Formica and aluminium extruded section with an oak working surface for the till and introducing new display crates has worked wonders with the general ambiance, resulting in visitors remarking how welcoming the shop is and how they wished they had one like it.

So to bring us up to date: we have signed a new 15 years lease for the shop, café and the flat above, with rents agreed for the first five years. After that we will be subject to a market rate rent review. We have replaced and upgraded the computer systems and had the sewer lined and cut the electricity consumption to half of what it was. This was done by buying more efficient chillers and changing all the lighting to LED. We still maintain the inner delivery round but were unable to find a driver for the outer round which has had to be abandoned.

The West Meon Wine Society initiative has helped the finances enormously and that money is used for projects and not for the normal run of the business.

Now for the future: the minimum wage continues to increase year by year and the big unknown is the cost of power. During Covid lockdowns shopping habits changed to our advantage with an increase in turnover around 25% but we are now drifting back to the situation prior to the pandemic. The subject of marketing, dragging customers in from the street, has been raised many times but only Covid had a noticeable effect despite our best efforts at promotion through leaflets, pamphlets and the like.

Our support from the village, the city council and the parish council is vital and hugely appreciated. Every now and then we receive totally unexpected and unlooked for donations from private individuals which we use to help with maintenance and replacement of equipment. By June of 2024, we are obligated to our landlord for the redecoration and maintenance both internally and externally. Some we will contract out but help from volunteers will be needed to set off the effects of the new austerity, but we are not calling it that!

The shop is part of our village history brought about by our community with all its many strengths and now with a lease in place for the next 15 years. Your ongoing help and support is essential for all of us.

*Proctor Hutchison*

## **20's Plenty!**

Many thanks to one and all who have completed and returned their survey forms. We have had so many brilliant replies; as we work together to avoid even more “accidents just waiting to happen”. Final results will be presented at the March Parish Council meeting. Watch this space as we keep everyone updated on our progress.

*Tony Dees*

## **Northfield**

The housing development at the end of Long Priors is now complete and it's official name is NORTHFIELD.

*Angie Trenchard*

## Early bloomers hint at Spring



*Snowdrops are one of the earliest plants to bloom, offering a nectar boost to bees (c) Jonathan Oakley*

As the light creeps slowly back into our evening skies, the very first spring flowers brave the frosty ground, providing the earliest of hints that sunnier days lie ahead. Perhaps the first floral sign that spring is edging ever closer is the appearance of the humble snowdrop. This elegant little plant may be seen peeping over the frosted soil of woodlands, churchyards or gardens as early as January and can continue to flower until March.

Their dainty (yet deceptively hardy) nodding, pure white flowers have often symbolised innocence, purity and hope. In fact, in Yorkshire, it was customary for village maidens to gather bunches of snowdrops and wear them as a symbol of their purity on February 2nd, which was Candlemas – or otherwise, the feast of the Virgin Mary. Despite its long history in the UK, however, the snowdrop may not actually be native to our shores; they were not recorded as growing wild here until the late 18th century. Nevertheless, it has certainly become naturalised from garden escapees, and white snowdrop ‘valleys’ can now be seen across the country.

Another delightful flower that you may find on a late winter walk is the primrose. The name ‘primrose’ comes from the Latin ‘prima rosa’, meaning ‘first rose’. This is very apt, as this resilient little plant can flower as early as December in mild years. Look out for their pretty, creamy-yellow flowers in woodland and grassland habitats.

Primroses are also one of the main foodplants for the caterpillars of the threatened and extremely rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly, which is only found in England. Since Victorian times, April 19th has been known as ‘Primrose Day’ in honour of the late Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Primroses were his favourite flowers and they duly grow near his statue in

Westminster Abbey and by his grave at Hughenden in Buckinghamshire.

Lesser celandines also bring a welcome splash of sunshine in early spring. Keep an eye out for their bright and buttery blooms growing along hedgerows, in parks and even in graveyards from March through to May. Their happy, star-shaped yellow flowers typically open in the sunlight. As one of the first spring flowers to bloom, the low-growing lesser celandines provide a valuable nectar source for early insects. Despite its name, lesser celandine is not a close relative of greater celandine – it is actually a member of the buttercup family.

*Jake Kendall-Ashton*

## **Rainfall report for January/February**

The rain finally stopped on the 15th January after our last report and we then had a dry spell until the 25th when we had 1.5mms, the month ending with 139.5mms (5.49”). ‘February fill dyke’ as it was once called, has been amazingly dry with the only rain recorded was on the 2nd with 0.7mms since then it has been very dry and apart from the 5th to the 10th not particularly cold either. The lowest temperature we recorded was -7C on the 7th of the month. Our first two Warnford Snowdrop Sundays have been dry underfoot and we have had record crowds.

Last year’s rainfall, month by month as follows:

January... 42.6	May...54.5	Sept...109.0
February...91.3	June...43.5	Oct...93.3
March...52.2	July...1.0	Nov...237.0
April...21.4	Aug...33.7	Dec...139.3
Total 919.3mm, 36.2”.		

*Peter Short*

## **W.I. Report**

At our meeting on 13th February our speaker was Gordon Small, and he talked to us on ‘The Flora and Fauna of Hampshire’, which proved to be a very interesting subject. Gordon’s knowledge of his subject was fantastic and his photographs were of a very high quality (all taken by himself).

He also gave us tips about how to look after the wildlife in our gardens, eg. make sure you clean out nest boxes regularly and he had a novel way of deterring squirrels! He had taken a lot of photographs at Blashford Lakes, a Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserve near Ringwood, and his photos of the animals and birds present at this site were amazing. Gordon also spends a lot of time in the New Forest and his images of fungi to be found there were beautiful and the red deer were very photogenic!

On Monday 13th March at 1.45pm we are holding a talk at West Meon Village Hall when the subject will be ‘Pearls and Art Deco Jewellery’, presented by Frances Carlaw, who is known as The Pearl Lady! Exclusive pearl jewellery will be available for sale. Entry is strictly by ticket only and will include a Special Afternoon Tea. Tickets cost £10 for visitors and are on sale at the Village Shop. Frances has spoken to us before and she is an excellent speaker and a real expert in her subject - it should be a terrific afternoon!

Our April meeting will be held on Monday 10th April at 1.45pm at West Meon Village Hall, with further details to follow in next month’s magazine.

*Sue Kinloch*

# Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

## Sunday 5th March

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Mattins with choir.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word - All Age Worship.

## Sunday 12th March

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Langrish.** Benefice Service of the Word.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Mothering Sunday 19th March

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Holy Communion.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Sunday 26th March

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.30am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word.



## The Sound of Musicals Part 2

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[www.wmos.org.uk](http://www.wmos.org.uk)

Winchester Musicals & Opera Society is returning to West Meon Village Hall with the sequel to their popular concert 'The Sound of Musicals'.

The award winning Winchester based society last performed to a fit-to-burst village hall back in very early 2020, where the audience enjoyed songs from popular musicals and operettas. It was the last time they all sang together before Covid shut them down.

This time WMOS is returning to the village hall on the 3rd March with 'The Sound of Musicals Part 2' featuring songs from Anything Goes, Les Miserable, Fiddler on the Roof and Rent, amongst many more. They will be touring their concert around the Winchester area. There will be a bar and tea and coffee available with the chance to win tickets to their Summer open-air show 'HMS Pinafore'. Tickets are available from their website [www.wmos.org.uk](http://www.wmos.org.uk).

*Suzanne Hall*

## Cricket Club

West Meon and Warnford Cricket Club are looking for new players for the upcoming season.

We play matches on Sunday afternoons and the occasional Thursday evening, we only play friendly matches so ability is most definitely not a requirement. Our players range from 16 to very late 70s so no one is too old.

We are running some winter nets at The Ageas Bowl on Friday 17th and 24th March from 8-9pm if you would like to come and have a go.

If you would like to join a friendly bunch who enjoy their cricket and also enjoy socialising after the game then please contact Stuart on [stuiesmith119@yahoo.com](mailto:stuiesmith119@yahoo.com) or 07803 807428.

*Stuart Smith*

## Boules Court

The plans for the proposed Boules Court, West Meon Recreation Ground, will be made available to view in West Meon Village Hall (small hall) on Saturday 4 March 2023. 10am - 12 noon.

*Angie Trenchard*

## Gallops closed for walkers

The "Gallops" field edge tracks off the Old Road above West Meon will be closed from the 1st March for 2 weeks. Any queries please contact [graham.sil@hotmail.com](mailto:graham.sil@hotmail.com).



*Graham Silk*

## Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

**ALLEN GALLERY Events and activities:** In collaboration with the Memories of the Palace Cinema Project we will have our first **Film Showing** on Saturday 11th March. Please see Allen Gallery website for details. [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

28th March - 18th April (Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery): Join us for an **egg hunt** with a twist! We have 8 eggs hidden around the Allen Gallery and 8 around the Curtis Museum. Using your trail sheet you will match them to 8 British bird species which are unique to each site. Once completed your spotter sheets can be used to watch birds at home or at your local green space.

4th April: **Adventures in Clay** - two family clay sessions 12.00 - 1.30 and 2.00 - 3.30 pm, creating projects inspired by animals in the museum and gallery collections. Please book via the website. [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

Monday mornings throughout March and April: a new creative and **well-being programme for older people**. A series of free creative workshops delivered in partnership with Dementia Friendly Alton and a local primary school. Please email [allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) for more information.

In order to keep these activities running, we would love to hear from anyone with creative skills who could volunteer some time, however occasional, to inspire and teach others their skills - whether it's knitting, pottery, drawing, woodworking or flower arranging. Contact 01420 82802 or website as above.

### Over the Garden Wall

A selection of plant studies, drawings and paintings, by renowned landscape artist W H Allen from the collection in the care of Hampshire Cultural Trust. Allen (1863–1943) is best known for his evocative watercolours and chalk and pencil sketches of the landscapes, traditions and people of West Surrey and North-east Hampshire.

As with most professional artists his sketchbook was never far from his side. For a landscape artist, developing the skill instantly to capture changes in the natural world, from season to season, often minute to minute, was essential. These studies allowed Allen to create a body of work that he could reference, and seek inspiration from, when developing the landscape paintings he is most famous for.



*WH Allen: Study of pink and white blossoms*

While these studies aren't intended to be detailed botanical illustrations, they do successfully convey the character and appearance of plants you may well have glimpsed over a garden wall, as you strolled the quiet country lanes of Hampshire in the early 1900s. 4th March to 23rd April, FREE.

### TALKS: G F Watts: England's Michelangelo

A talk by Jane Turner. 9th March, 7.30pm FREE, donations welcome.

**Maria Heath Green** (nee Curtis) and her designing sons, Romney and William.

A talk by Keith Baker. 13th April, 7.30, FREE, donations welcome.

*Jill Line*

## West Meon Wine Society Chairman's Report

The West Meon Wine Society was established as an independently run division of the West Meon Village Shop in May 2020. Its purpose is to help our members discover new and interesting wines, have fun with a growing network of their friends and neighbours, and raise more revenue to help support and secure our much loved village shop. The Society is being managed by the following team of local residents: Jerry Berry, Louise Court, Peter and Sue Fowler, Bernice Gibson-Ost, Nigel Haigh, Mark Hammond, Richard Middleton, John and Sue Scholes, and Graham Walker.

As at 31st December 2022 the Society had over 60 members. The principal benefits of membership are priority access to our tastings, discounted rates for two people to each of our tastings (subject to ticket availability), and access to, help with and support for, wine-oriented events that members wish to hold with their friends and neighbours.

We currently have a wine portfolio of over 100 different wines listed on our website [www.westmeonwine.co.uk](http://www.westmeonwine.co.uk). All of these wines have been tasted and selected by the Management Team members, at their own personal expense, from a range of more than twice that number. Wines are listed on our website only if they have been approved for enjoyment and affordability by a significant majority of the Team. We intend this approach to give our members and customers confidence that they will appreciate wines purchased from the Society.

During 2023, we aim to offer five new selections of wines. The first will be focused on New Zealand wines, to be released shortly. Details of other future additions to the online portfolio will be circulated to all Members as our plans evolve.

It has always been a central aim of The Society that we should host or facilitate get-togethers of members during the year to taste the Society's wines and enjoy the company and friendship of old and new friends from the village and its neighbouring communities. Our preliminary plans for 2023 tasting events are as follows:

- Friday 24th March (pre-dinner) - A tutored tasting event comparing New Zealand wines with similar wines from other countries
- Monday 8th May (after lunch) - A celebratory tasting to acknowledge the coronation of King Charles III.
- July - A summer wines tutored tasting at a local vineyard
- October - A specialist wine importer-tutored tasting in the village
- Friday 24th November - A Christmas treats social in or near the village

In the period since the inception of the Society to 31st December 2022, we have generated £38,400 of wine sales, £4,600 of events sales and an allocation of some £1,200 of membership subscriptions. Our activities have allowed us to make a direct contribution to the bottom line of our village shop of

£4,300, being 10.0% of total sales.

Subscription renewals are due on 31st March 2023. Members will shortly receive an invoice requesting payment. The subscription has been kept at £30 providing members with membership benefits for another year (including discounts on ticket prices for members and a plus one to each of our events).

*Graham Walker*

*Chair – West Meon Wine Society, 19th February 2023*

## Easter activities at Petersfield Youth Theatre



PYT are offering children and young people the opportunity to take part in a fun and creative experience during the Easter holidays. It's the perfect opportunity to meet new friends and gain confidence whilst enjoying all things theatre.

Age 5 to School year 8 - Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April 2023.

There will be 4 different workshops each day. Participants will rotate through the sessions experiencing a combination of musical theatre, singing, dancing, drama, creative activities and games. PYT practitioners are all experienced in delivering high quality, fun, engaging experiences.

Why not join us for this fun-filled and creative Easter Holiday Activity? Go to our website [pyt.org.uk](http://pyt.org.uk) for the booking form and all the information.

*Charlotte Godfrey*

## Garden Club News

The Garden Club has now come out of hibernation and our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday 9th March at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall.

Our speaker will be Angela Palmerton. She has recently moved to the Meon Valley and her talk is entitled "An introduction to wildlife gardening – what's all the fuss about?" I'm sure that the drop in the number of birds and bees and indeed other wildlife populations is a concern for many of you so Angela's advice will be very welcome.

Any members who have not yet paid their fee for this year (a bargain at just £5 for the whole year!) will be able to pay at this meeting. For visitors, the entry fee is £2. Please bring the exact amount in cash with you on the night. (Only £1 or £2 coins please or a £5 note.)

A programme of our activities for the rest of the year will be available shortly on our website: <https://www.hugofox.com/community/west-meon-garden-club-18458/upcoming-events/>.

It is now possible to sign up for email alerts on this site. See link on the right of the page: Blue banner "Sign up to our email alerts".

*Clare Swinstead*

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## West Meon Parish Council

**Your Village Needs You** - WMPC has vacancies for new councillors. Are you interested in local issues and improving the lives of the people living around you? Are you keen to represent other villagers' interests and ensure West Meon receives the services to which it is entitled? Are you able to attend one meeting per month? If you are interested in representing the Village and becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk (details opposite) for further information.

**Speed Survey** - WMPC would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to complete the Speed Survey form and also Tony Dees for collating the responses. Due to the fact that this survey was partially carried out over Christmas, it has been decided to extend the period for responses until Tuesday 28th February. Survey forms are available in the Village Shop.

**Maintenance Issues** - The Lengthsman will be here in February to carry out various maintenance issues. WMPC can also confirm that debris at the A32/High Street junction causing excess water run off along The Cross has now been cleared and, hopefully, the drain at the end of Long Priors will have been repaired by the time this issue is delivered.

**Problems with Blocked Drains and Flooding** - If problems are encountered, please report directly to Hampshire County Council by using their website page which can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding).

**WMPC Grants Policy** - Just a reminder that small Grants are available to assist in community projects. If you have a community project that needs some extra funding, please see our website ([www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/grants](http://www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/grants)) for further details. Any applications should be submitted to the Clerk (details opposite) by 28th February 2023 for discussion at the meeting on 7th March.

**Parish Council Website** – Don't forget you can sign up to receive email alerts on our website ([www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/home](http://www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/home)). The alerts inform you of upcoming events, news items and new planning applications. If you would like any events or local businesses promoted, please e-mail details to the Parish Council.

**And Finally from West Meon** – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk, Jo Tester at [clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk) if you wish to attend.

## Warnford Parish Meeting

**Information relating to WPM** - can be found on its website (see opposite) which also has details of local facilities and services, village news and events. Please do sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc. The Chairman has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications). If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

**Rights of Way in Warnford** - if you are aware of any issues with rights of way in Warnford (eg. they are becoming overgrown or obstructed), please email Derek Chapman at: [ederekchapman@btinternet.com](mailto:ederekchapman@btinternet.com).

**The King's Coronation** - if you have any suggestions as to how Warnford might celebrate this, please contact the Clerk.

## West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City & Hampshire C.C. Contacts

### West Meon Parish Council

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chairmanwmpc@gmail.com or  
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01730 829545

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Vice Chair, Finance, Communication  
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Environment, Planning, Highways  
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01730 829489

Jo Tester  
Clerk to West Meon Parish Council  
clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk  
02392 632106

**West Meon Parish Council website**  
www.westmeonpc.org.uk  
email: westmeonpc2017@gmail.com

### Warnford Parish Meeting

Mark Rogers  
Chairman  
chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk  
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson  
Clerk  
warnfordclerk@gmail.com  
01730 829598

**Warnford Parish website**  
[www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village-7802/about-us](http://www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village-7802/about-us)

### Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors  
Neil Bolton  
nbolton@winchester.gov.uk  
01962 771256

Hugh Lumby  
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk  
01489 877444

Hampshire County Councillor  
Hugh Lumby  
hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk  
07738 289912

### Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond  
flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk  
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# Froxfield Choir

## Choral Evensong at St Peter's Church, Petersfield on Sunday 5th March

We are delighted to be singing Choral Evensong for the first time at St Peter's Church, Petersfield on Sunday 5th March at 6.00pm. We hope you'll join us for what we're sure will be a lovely service.

Following on from our successful anniversary year last year, we're busy developing plans for this year which of course includes our annual Summer concert in June. Please be sure to add the date to your diary:

Saturday 17th June at Holy Trinity Church, Privett – Poulenc Gloria and Vaughan Williams Serenade to Music.



*St. Peter's Church, Petersfield © 2023 Petersfield Community Radio Ltd*

The Choir has grown quite considerably over the past year but is always open and very welcoming to new members. If you're interested in giving choral singing a go, please contact Lesley Howe at [lkhowe58@gmail.com](mailto:lkhowe58@gmail.com) who can provide you with more details of when and where we rehearse.

Come along with a friend!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@Froxfield\\_Chair](https://www.facebook.com/FroxfieldChoir) and on our website <https://froxfieldchoir.co.uk>.

*Sarah Rush*

## West Meon Village Hall

The hall is a great place to hire for regular classes, clubs or groups and for parties, especially following the repainting inside which was undertaken during last Autumn. Come and have a look if you haven't been in for a while!

However although our income in 2022 was back to (and exceeded) pre-covid levels, the rocketing cost of electricity which we all know about and unexpected maintenance costs including repairing part of the roof meant that we made an operating loss of over £5,500. Our initial budgets for this year indicated an even bigger gap was likely to occur in 2023.

So at our January meeting we took some difficult decisions to try to get back to break-even namely:

- a) we have halved our professional cleaning time to once per week, and
- b) we have increased our hiring fees by around 17.5%. This means that the hourly rates for Parish Bookings are now £13 for the Main Hall and £9 for the Small Hall. We're sorry for the impact that both of these measures will have on our hirers, but needed to ensure that we are stable enough financially to keep the hall running for the longer term.

We have further plans to reduce our running costs and are trying hard to increase bookings. We have some exciting plans – details to follow in the coming months.

*Chris Town*



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*West Meon Village Hall*

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## Diary Dates

**Friday 3rd March The Sound of Musicals Part 2** - 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

**Thursday 9th March The Garden Club** ton - An introduction to wildlife gardening by Angela Palmerton - 7:30pm Warnford Village Hall.

**Monday 13th March WI Talk** Pearls & Art Deco by Frances Carlaw - 1.45pm West Meon Village Hall.

**Saturday 25th March Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Show** - 13.30-16.30 Meon Hall, Meonstoke.

**Saturday 1st April Easter Fair** - 10-12 noon West Meon Village Hall

**Thursday 18th May Warnford Parish AGM** 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall.

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922  
Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

**Rector:** Vacant

**Churchwarden for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829105

**PCC Secretary for West Meon:**

Louise Clay 829235

**Churchwarden for Warnford:**

Andrew Sellick 829161

**Verger for Warnford:**

Peter Short 829285



## Hampshire Farmers' Markets in March

Sunday 5th Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 11th Alton

Sunday 12th Winchester

Saturday 18th Emsworth

Sunday 19th Southsea

Saturday 25th Ringwood

Sunday 26th Winchester

**The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.**

Contributions by the 15th of the previous month please to:

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