

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

January 2023

The Gate Of The Year

Imagine if we knew exactly what was going to happen in the coming year! We could happily anticipate the good things and prepare for the bad. But just as our eyes can't see around corners, we can't see into the future either. And perhaps that's not always a bad thing - we already spend enough time worried about what might happen, even though most of our fears are never realised.

We can't live without hope. Even if we struggle with deep anxieties, the sun rises on every new day, and every new year offers hope for the future. We work hard to understand how the world works (experts do have much to teach us). Good information helps us plan and prepare – checking the school timetable so you have the books for the right day and remembering your PE kit on Thursdays, packing clothes that suit the weather for your trip, having the surveyor check the house you plan to buy, even writing a shopping list for your food for the week.

But what about when we can't know what is ahead?

Donald Rumsfeld (US Secretary of State for Defense) wrote in 2011: 'as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know.'

The same is true in the Christian faith and in the life of our churches - there are plenty of things that we know, and also things we can't possibly know. We can know, and be certain of, God's great love for every one of us. We can know that Jesus, whose birth we celebrated at



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Christmas, is the knowable, human face of God. We can't always know the future. But we can know that God will never leave us in good times or in bad.

In our local parish life we can't know what shape our churches' ministry will be in the future. What clergy might we look forward to? Who might that be, and when? Along with many other churches in the diocese, in a time of enormous challenge for our new bishop, this benefice is waiting to know more, and our answers are unlikely to emerge immediately. There is so much that we just can't know yet.

We can know that our church community has a vital purpose even without a Vicar or Rector. It is our church members and officers, volunteers and worshippers who keep the witness of God in Christ Jesus alive and vibrant here. We serve and pray, worship and do our best, with God's help, to share God's love in word and action.

We also know the encouragement of Deanery clergy taking on responsibilities that will support us here. New and existing vicars will have Deanery-wide 'lead roles'. So those appointed soon to Liss and Sheet parishes will both serve their own churches and also bring skills and initiatives to help us grow our work among young people and our outreach across the Deanery. Deanery clergy will continue to support the development of Lay Ministry too.



Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) was a remarkable woman. Social worker, teacher and academic, in 1908 she wrote words that came to the notice of King George VI. He used them in his Christmas message in 1939 and they captured the sense of facing an unknown future. Most people that year faced challenge at an unprecedented level. Yet these words offered a positive perspective:

‘And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.’

New Year holds so much promise. A new page turned, a chapter begun. With hope and faith, at the start of this year may we place our hands in God's Hand, trusting that through the known and unknown future, God's love will lead us safely through. Maybe we will find that our hope grows stronger and our faith grows deeper in the process.

With love, prayer and best wishes,
Susie Collingridge

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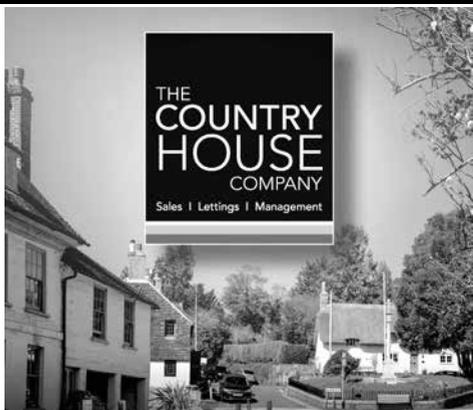
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WI Christmas at the George

We held our Christmas Lunch on Monday 5th December at The George Inn in East Meon.

The food was excellent, the staff looked after us very well and a good time was had by all!

For our next meeting on Monday 9th January there is a change to our normal timings and our meeting will commence at 12.45pm when we will be discussing our vote for the W.I. Resolution of the Year campaign over a soup and sandwich lunch. At 2.30pm our speaker, Jeremy Prescott, will be joining us for coffee and cake before his talk on Violetta Szabo G.C., the celebrated SOE agent, which should be a fascinating subject.

With best wishes for a happy New Year to you all and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 9th January at our next meeting.

Sue Kinlochan



Snowdrops Sundays

The PCC of Warnford Church is pleased that Andrew and Candi Sellick have kindly agreed that we may hold the Snowdrop Sundays again in Warnford Park on the four Sunday afternoons in February 2023. Accordingly we are looking for stewards (Car Park and Reception) to help, for a shift of one and a half hours during the period 2-5pm on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th February 2023. If you are able and willing to help please contact Angie Trenchard on 01730 829545 or 07879 408898.

Snowdrops herald the start of Spring, so we ask the public to come for a lovely winter walk and a warm welcome in the Church.

Snowdrop Sundays contribute funds to help with the running of Warnford Church which has a small but loyal congregation. Please come and rejoice at the beauty of Warnford Park and the glorious snowdrops. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome, lovely refreshments and a peaceful afternoon.

Many thanks to all who help and to our visitors.

Angie Trenchard



Snowdrops c. Jacqueline Annabel

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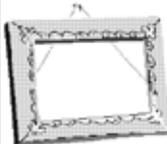
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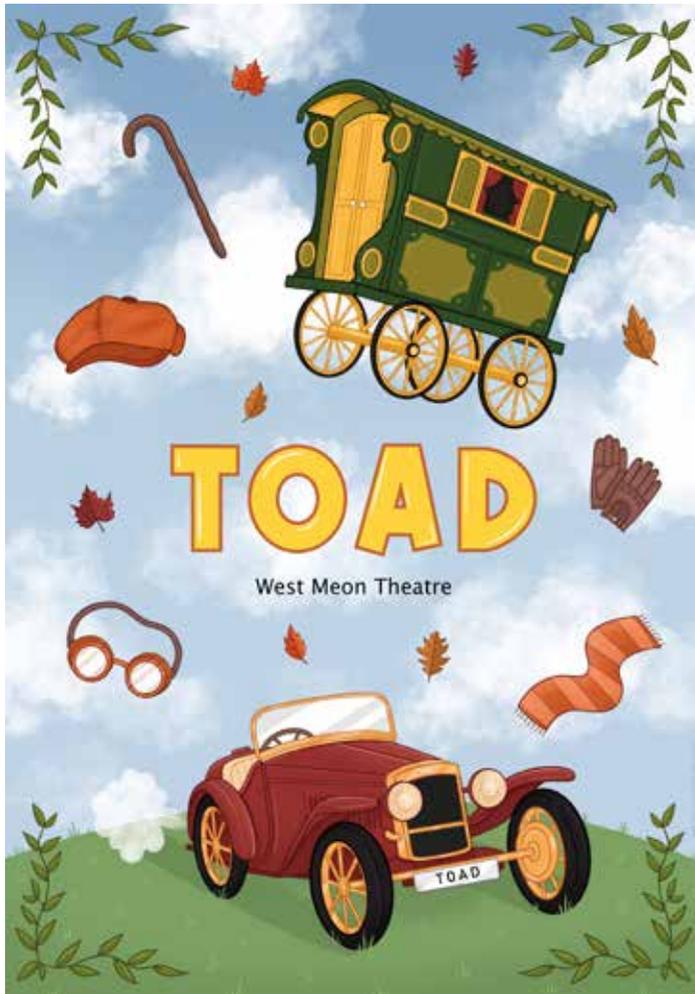
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West Meon Theatre will be thirty years old in 2023!



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TOAD will be joyous, fun and full of colour, music and songs and with a strong contemporary feel.

It will be a cross generational project open to all ages from 8 years and up.

There are adult speaking and singing roles, and several opportunities for young actors both speaking and non-speaking. The cast can be as large as we want to make it!

The production will take place the first week of July 2023.

If you would like to know more about how to be involved come along to an

Information Evening at West Meon Village Hall on Sunday 8th January 5-6.30pm.

We will be looking for actors, back stage crew, costume and props teams and especially people with an interest in marketing and promotion.

So..... if you act, sing, dance, like creating sets, props and costumes, can write press releases, are skilled on social media come along on 5th January – we need you!

You can find out more about us on www.westmeontheatre.co.uk or email marydawson@westmeontheatre.co.uk.

Mary Dawson

Meon Valley Community Bus Association

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1200 Fareham Sainsbury's
1205 Fareham Library

1st Friday each month to Winchester

0926 Warnford Village Hall
0946 Winchester Broadway
0953 River Park Leisure Centre

Return

1155 River Park Leisure Centre
1200 Winchester Broadway

3rd Friday each month to Hedge End

0900 West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903 Warnford Village Hall
1007 Hedge End Marks & Spencer

Return

1200 Hedge End Marks & Spencer

4th Friday each month to Waterlooville

0900 West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903 Warnford Village Hall
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1005 Waterlooville Sainsbury's

Return

1200 Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1205 Waterlooville Waitrose

Wednesdays to Petersfield

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0945 Petersfield Square

0950 Petersfield Tesco

Return

1155 Petersfield Tesco

1200 Petersfield Square

1221* Warnford George and Falcon

*Drop off only. Time approximate depending on number of passengers.



Note: Includes all request stops up to and including West Lodge (Church Lane, West Meon).

No service on other days or Public Holidays. £5 return, £2.50 single any journey. Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free. Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion. Timings are

strictly adhered to (traffic permitting). The bus will not wait after the scheduled time. All enquiries to: mvcba1985@gmail.com.

When boarding for the return journey, priority will be given to returning passengers over “one way only” passengers.

If you don't live directly on the route, then why not consider “Park & Ride” from Droxford Square, Soberton Village Hall or Rookesbury Hall?

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Jenny Clarke

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 8th January

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 15th January

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 22nd January

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word.

Sunday 29th January

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

No service at 9am.

No service at 10.30am.

11.30am Warnford. Benefice Service followed by lunch together.



West Meon Village Shop

Many thanks to all our customers for their ongoing support throughout the year, and to our many volunteers for all their hard work in 2022.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

200 Club Prize Draw Winners

The lucky winners of the December prize draw were the following:

1st Prize of £200 to Christiane Andersen

2nd Prize of £100 to Roddy Davidson

3rd Prize of £50 to Margaret Major

4th Prize of £25 to Mr & Mrs Cobden

Annual Fees

For those of you who paid the annual fee by cheque for 2022, you will need to pay the £25 subscription for the next six draws. All those who paid by standing order have been automatically renewed with our thanks.

If you are not already a member and wish to join in the fun, then applications forms are available from the shop. It is a great way to support your community shop. The prizes are £40, £20, £10 and £5 in February, June and October; and £200, £100, £50 and £25 in April, August and December.

Shop Lease

We have signed a new lease for our village shop to last 15 years from the effective date 25th November 2021. The terms reflect pretty much those of the original lease with the addition of a provision for fixed escalation of the annual rent over the initial five years. Thereafter we are subject to valuation/rent review.

We have established the shop - West Meon Community Shop Ltd. - as the tenant, our preference, and displacing Rupert Younger in the old lease. This makes the shop an independent entity, but we have had to concede the protection of the Landlord and Tenants Act where it provides for continuity after expiry of the term. The terms are still "Full Repairing by the tenant" and we are committed to effect redecoration of the facade before the end of next year. In these uncertain times we have to plan for the exorbitant power costs and an increase in the minimum wage this coming April by 10%. Your continued support of our community shop is needed more than ever.

New Year Shop Opening Hours

New Year's Eve 8am – 12 Noon (with deliveries)

New Year's Day 8am – 12 Noon

Monday 2nd January 8am – 12 Noon (with deliveries)

Tuesday 3rd January Open as normal (with deliveries)

West Meon Community Shop Committee

The wonderful world of worms

Trainee ecologist Laura Krusin explains why Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have been busy conducting worm surveys and why we should all appreciate worms more.



(c) Aggie Thomson, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Worms are not often at the forefront of our minds, but perhaps they should be.

Now the soil isn't bone dry, thanks to the recent downpours, the rest of the ecology team and I have been out doing worm surveys on our nature reserves. These involve digging into the soil and seeing what we find beneath the surface. Any worms we find are divided into four main groups: endogeic, epigeic, anecic, and compost.

Endogeic worms are the most common worms in arable fields, they live in and feed on the soil itself and so burrow horizontally through the soil. Epigeic worms live in the topsoil among the leaf litter. Whereas anecic worms – the biggest worms in the UK – are deep burrowing worms that feed on leaves which they drag deep down into their burrows. The final group of worms, composting worms, are most likely to be found in areas of rotting plants or food.

But why do we spend hours counting worms in the mud? Well, worms are vital for several reasons. Firstly, each group of worms has an important role in the environment. Worms are often called 'ecosystem engineers'. Their burrowing produces holes within soil that allow water and other elements, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide, to move between the air and the soil. This small act can help prevent disasters, such as flash flooding and erosion, and allows plants to access vital water sources during drought.

Another huge benefit of worms is nutrient cycling and decomposition. Endogeic and epigeic worms break down waste material and turn it into easily accessible nutrients. The worms decompose dead plant and animal matter and drag it deep into the soil. As they burrow, the nutrients mix in the different soil layers and these can then be accessed by living plants. Nutritiously enriched soil is advantageous not only to plants but to home gardeners, allotment holders, and farmers as well.

Worms can also act as indicator of toxicity and pollution in our soil, alerting us to any problems and cleaning contaminated land through 'bioremediation' – the process where living organisms convert toxic pollutants into non-toxic substances. Earthworms are also a vital food source for some of our favourite British species, from hedgehogs to robins to frogs.

So, when you next see an earthworm, remember all the important work they do for us. Worms really are wonderful. Find out more about local wildlife on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website at www.hiwwt.org.uk.

Laura Krusin, trainee ecologist
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting

West Meon Parish Council would like to wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WMPC Parish Council Vacancies. WMPC has two vacancies to fill. If you are interested please contact the Chairman Angie Trenchard (details opposite).

Email distribution list. WMPC's new Parish Clerk (details opposite) is eager to set up an email distribution list for parishioners (to be able to send out notices and save the dates etc.) Anyone interested please send confirmation to the Parish Clerk's email address.

King's Coronation - 6th May 2023. Do Parishioners feel that the village should celebrate the Coronation? If so, in what way? Please email your suggestions to the Parish Clerk (see opposite) by the end of January 2023.

Small Grants. If you have a project that requires a small amount of funding the Parish Council may be able to help you. Please see our website for details of how to apply. All applications should be received by 28th February 2023 for consideration at the March Council meeting.

Lengthsman. The Lengthsman will be coming to the village for a day in February 2023.

Drains. Residents are asked to please keep drains outside of there properties clear of debris.

And Finally, from West Meon. The next Parish Council Meetings will be held on Tuesday 10th January 7.30 p.m.in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome; please contact the clerk Jo Tester at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

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. The Chairman has an email distribution list so that emails can be sent to parishioners (eg. with details of planning applications). If you would like to be added to this then please email the Clerk.

Rights of way in Warnford. If you are aware of any rights of way in Warnford that are becoming overgrown or are otherwise obstructed please email Derek Chapman at ederekchapman@btinternet.com.

The King's Coronation. If you have any suggestions as to how Warnford might celebrate this then please email the Clerk.

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

West Meon Parish Council

Angie Trenchard
Chair, Planning
chairmanwmpc@gmail.com or
angiewmpc1@gmail.com
01730 829545

Jane Nicholson
Vice Chair, Finance, Communication
janewmpc@gmail.com
01730 829303

Cheryl Adams
cherylwmpc@gmail.com
Communication, Community
01730 829346

Graham Silk
grahamwmpc@gmail.com
Environment, Planning
07887 611100

Chris Waller
Environment, Planning, Highways
chrismwmpc@gmail.com
01730 829489

Mac Edwards
macwmpc@gmail.com
Highways, Recreation Ground
07778 775486

Robin Gedye
Robinwmpc@gmail.com
River Flooding, Neighbourhood Watch
07774 698958

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)

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nbolton@winchester.gov.uk
01962 771256

Hugh Lumby
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk
01489 877444

Hampshire County Councillor
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Rainfall Records November/December 2022

November was a very wet month. There were only ten days without rain. From the 15th until the end of the month we had 97.8mm of rain, having had 139.1mm in the first 15 days. So the month ended with 237mm (9.32”).

December, by contrast, has been relatively dry with only 0.2mm on the 4th and then, of course, the snow came on the 11th. When it melted, after the rain of the 18th, there was 33.9mm in the gauge. So to the 19th of December we have had 40.1mm (1.6”).

We will give you a full resume of the year's rainfall records in next months issue when the annual report has been completed.

Peter Short



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Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

Opening times Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

Allen Gallery

The Allen Gallery and Garden Project, with grant funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, is now underway. This project is currently in the pilot phase for planned refurbishment of the gallery and involves researching and cataloguing the several thousand historic ceramic artefacts in the collection. We are also delivering a wide outreach programme; offering a range of activities from art classes to film showings and talks.

The gallery is seeking volunteers to help make this project a success. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to be involved, whether researching from home or helping deliver our creative workshop programme, the project team would love to hear from you. Please email allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk.

Echoes of Iceland

An exhibition of textile pieces inspired by Icelandic scenery and traditions continues until 15th January 2023. FREE.

Doing Time: 175 Years of Winchester Prison

This exhibition tells the story of Winchester Prison over the last 175 years, shedding light on its history as the county jail for Hampshire and revealing how changing attitudes towards incarceration have led to a focus on rehabilitation and reform. The exhibition features photography from Javaid Akhtar, and shares the stories of the people who work and volunteer at the prison with absolute dedication in often extremely demanding circumstances. A number of prisoners' stories are also included, revealing the challenges of overcoming drug dependency and the commitment needed to embrace life-changing rehabilitation. FREE.

How Safe are our Medicines? From Curtis to Covid

Talk by John Taylor sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery on the 9th February 2023, 7.30pm. FREE, donations welcome.

February half-term activities

Gallery Trail: Find the figurines! All week there will be a trail through the Gallery. Find the figures and win a reward.

Make and Take: a playful creative session. Create your own artworks inspired by the Gallery collection. This is a fun and interpretative session for all ages, no experience necessary. Saturday 17th February. Times to follow.

Together at the Allen: Join us alone or with company at the Allen Gallery on Tuesday 14th February, 1.30 - 4pm. Make friends over a cup of tea and cake in the cafe, explore the unique Gallery collection and sketch or draw with our free art materials, or take in the peace and quiet of our hidden garden as winter draws to a close. Everyone welcome!

Curtis Museum

Nursery Rhyme Trail: do you remember any nursery rhymes? Come to the Curtis Museum and follow our free trail. All half-term (11th - 19th February).

Museum by Torchlight: Tuesday 14th February. 5.30-7pm. Bring a torch and explore The Curtis Museum at night at our family-friendly event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £3 per child (adults free). Last entry 7pm but we will be open until 7.30pm.

Jill Line

Diary Dates

Sunday 8th January

West Meon Theatre TOAD Information

Evening 5-6.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

Monday 9th January

**WI Resolution of the Year and talk on
Violetta Szabo by Jeremy Prescott** 12.45pm

(N.B. changed time but usual venue).

Tuesday 10th January

West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

West Meon Village Hall.

2023

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

Sunday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th February

Snowdrop Sundays 2-5pm Warnford Park.

Happy
new
Year

The Parish News is published by the
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The Editor: Jacqueline Annabel

Tel: (01730) 829023

westmeonparishnews@gmail.com

Advertising: Questions regarding
advertising should be addressed to:

Helena Gomm Tel: (01730) 829741

helena@helenagomm.co.uk

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