

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

July/August 2023

Archdeacon of the Moon?

Hello! I am honoured to have been invited to introduce myself as your new archdeacon. As I write, we're about to pack up and move house from Old Portsmouth, where I've been working for the last few years at our wonderful Cathedral, to Fareham, where we'll be living now.

So what does an archdeacon do? Well...

This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

All of this is broadly speaking true (apart from the 'fount of all knowledge' bit, which is definitely tongue-in-cheek!). But I think the most important task of an archdeacon is to encourage people: to be there to help and support church communities as they do their job of being the praying and serving hearts of their places.

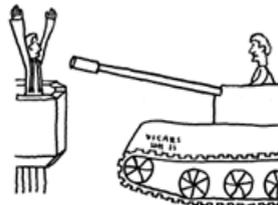
So how did I get here? Well, after reading philosophy and theology at university, just because I was fascinated by it, I became a barrister, practising law until I had a career break to have children. It was at this point that a niggle I'd had since university became stronger, and (with

ARCHDEACONS

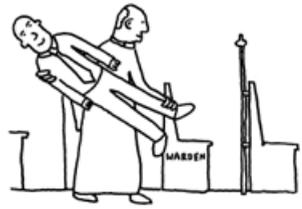
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a lot of encouragement and support) I explored a call to ordained ministry. After ordination training in rural Oxfordshire, I became a curate in suburban Purley, before moving on to be vicar of two parish churches in semi-rural East Surrey. Just before lockdown, I was installed as Canon Chancellor and Vice Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral, a role which came with particular responsibility for schools work, adult education, visual art, volunteers, inter-faith partnerships, and our networks across the city and diocese, as well as sharing in the leading of the daily and weekly round of prayer worship which anchors everything the Cathedral is and does. As you can see, it was a fantastic job – and it was only the strong calling to this one that could pull me away! I hope that I can put my legal background and my experience as a parish priest, together with all that I've learned at the Cathedral, to good use in the service of parishes here.

This area is covered by the archdeaconry of the Meon – or as someone misread it online, the Moon. (Our press officer was able to confirm that ‘...the moon is not – yet – part of Portsmouth Diocese’.) The archdeaconry is quite diverse, taking in the Gosport, Petersfield, Fareham and Bishop’s Waltham deaneries – and so I hope that my previous work in rural, urban, and suburban ministry will be helpful, too.

My husband, James, is a Royal Navy Chaplain, currently working at HMS Sultan in Gosport, and we have two grown-up children. We all love the countryside, and we know we are going to enjoy walking in this area, and of course to getting to know its many historic churches.

But beautiful though West Meon and Warnford are, it's people that matter, and most of all, I want to meet and learn from you. In the meantime, I am praying for you, and although I'd be fibbing if I said I was looking forward to the actual process of moving house, I can't wait for all that lies beyond it!



Photo credit: Diocese of Portsmouth

Kathryn Percival

Funeral Notice

Peter John Fowler died peacefully on the 31st May in Rowan's Hospice, after a long illness fighting CNS Lymphoma.

His funeral will take place in West Meon Parish Church at 11.00 am on Friday 30th June. Family flowers only for the funeral but if people wish to make a donation then these can be made to Rowan's Hospice using the link below.

<https://www.memorygiving.com/peterfowler>

Sue Fowler

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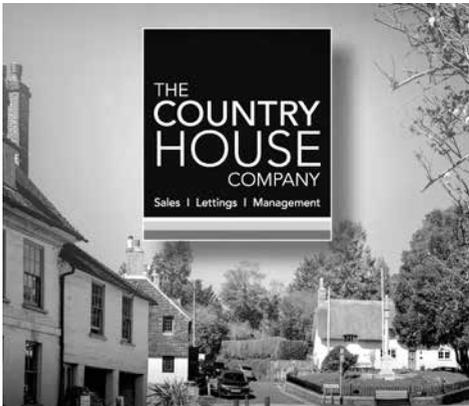
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Please contact Amie Boyes at
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Thank You!



Junior Tennis Coaching

On behalf of the West Meon Tennis club Aspire will be running three days of Junior Tennis coaching on the West Meon Courts for ages 6 years (school year 1) up to 12 years (school year 7) on three consecutive days on Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th August.

For more information and to book a place please follow the link :-

www.aspirecoaching.org.uk/cricket-and-tennis.

Jane Waller

Sunday Teas

Regrettably there will be no Sunday Teas taking place in August at St John's Church this year due to other commitments of several of the organisers. We have much appreciated all the help we have been given in recent years, donating cakes and helping to serve teas and we hope to pick up again next year.

As this event raised money for local charities, we hope to be able to donate in other ways this year. Meanwhile, we are still collecting for our local foodbank and we will deliver all those donations left in the back of the St John's church.

Louise Clay

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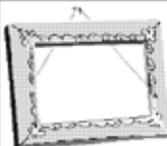
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Top tips for a sustainable summer



Summer Picnic (c) John Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography

From barbecues to ball games, every outdoor summer activity can impact the environment in some way. Here are some easy ways from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to help you, help nature this summer.

Using reusable or recyclable plates and cutlery: Everyone loves a good picnic or barbecue – little brings more joy than a delicious meal accompanied by the sounds and sights of nature. Disposable plates and cutlery are an attractive option compared to lugging your entire dinner set to your desired dining spot. However, these items are often designed for single usage, a fact which does not do the environment justice given the contribution of trees and fossil fuels to their manufacture. Instead, try using reusable, lightweight alternatives such as travel-friendly cutlery and bamboo plates. These last much longer than their disposable counterparts, meaning you save money and the environment!

Eco-friendly cooking: Whether big or small, barbecues are what make summer great. However, some outdoor cooking methods can release harmful pollutants into the fresh surrounding air and damage nearby wildlife. Charcoal, though seemingly a natural and sustainable fuel for barbecues, is often made from hardwood of tropical rainforests which are already vanishing at an alarming rate. The solution? British lumpwood charcoal from sustainable sources such as coppiced trees or managed forests.

Reduce your electricity consumption: Summer days are brighter, hence we can use less electricity for lighting. Not only will this reduce our reliance on unsustainable fossil fuels, you can also save a great deal on your energy bills! You can also save energy by opening windows to ventilate your house or workplace instead of blasting the air conditioners at full power. Window shutters or blinds also help block strong sunbeams from blazing through windows and intensifying the summer heat.

Ditch the car: With summer comes sunshine. This means that travelling between places offers the perfect opportunity to get some vitamin D and much-needed fresh air by walking or cycling. It's been proven that exercise and being outside can both boost physical and mental wellbeing. On top of that, walking and cycling are safer for wildlife and have a much less detrimental effect on the environment than cars.

There's a plethora of simple actions we can take to reduce our impact on the environment. While reducing waste production and saving energy are important throughout the year, our connection with nature through summer walks, seaside visits, or evenings lounging in the garden is particularly evident during summer, strengthening the motivation to do everything we can to protect the irreplaceable beauty of nature.

Helen Skelton-Smith

West Meon Village Shop

Podium Finish in Rural Oscars - West Meon Village shop crowned runner-up out of 15,000+ entries in the best Village Shop Award of the Countryside Alliance Awards 2023

On the day of the Awards, Catherine and I went up to London on the train and were lucky enough to be given a tour of the House of Lords, which was amazing, such grand rooms, with so much history. After that we made our way to the conference room where the Countryside Alliance team were waiting for us. We were greeted with name tags of who we were and what shop/category we represented, then given an ice-cold drink and were free to mingle. There were lots of different awards up for grabs, best butcher, best pub, best rural shop, best entrepreneur, the list went on. These were the best of the best, all winners from the regionals, all very friendly, but some were very competitive!

Anyway, after teas and coffees and a little speech about the awards, The Daily Telegraph Award for Village Shops was up next. This award celebrates the important role village shops play in rural communities. It commends those who go above and beyond the call of duty and are the hub of the community. The village shop award was the second one to be announced and as the presenter started reading out about what this particular shop offers to the community, I looked at Catherine and whispered 'that's us' and sure enough it was. We were the runner up with high commendation for a shop whose services go way beyond that of simply a retail

outlet. The winners, Bayview Stores, Pembrokeshire, were much deserved I'm sure, so well done them too!! After

all the excitement and a few photos, we were joined by Flick Drummond, the Conservative MP for Meon Valley, who then asked us if we would like a tour around the House of Commons, and so we did, all very interesting and we even sat in a live debate about buses (shame it wasn't the No. 67 or I might of stood up and said something).

By this time, my feet were hurting from wearing high heels, so Catherine and I took a taxi into London town and had a wonderful Italian meal. Thank you for taking me, Catherine, and for sharing the wonderful experience with me. However, none of this would have been possible without all the votes from our very loyal, loving customers and our amazing team of staff and volunteers, so well done everyone - this is a community award for the whole community. Well done West Meon, this will put us on the map even more, BEST SHOP IN ENGLAND, almost!!

Rachell Barnett



Rachell Barnett and Catherine Younger

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Sacha Welch

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Rising Stars and Dramatic Music

There'll be some exciting musical experiences to enjoy at this year's West Meon Music Festival (14th to 17th September) with brilliant award-winning young performers and a dramatic renaissance band joining the festival's founders – the internationally acclaimed Primrose Piano Quartet.

On Saturday afternoon Warnford's lovely 12th century Church of Our Lady will welcome The Gonzaga Band – one of the country's leading specialist early music groups – exploring the works of Monteverdi and his contemporaries. Formed by cornettist Jamie Savan in 1997 the band takes its name from the Gonzaga family of Mantua who employed Claudio Monteverdi as their maestro della musica at the turn of the seventeenth century. Jamie is joined by soprano Faye Newton and Steven Devine on chamber organ. That evening brings the chance to hear one of the country's rising stars when double-bass player Will Duerden will join the Primrose for Schubert's Trout Quintet. Will rose to prominence after reaching the Strings Category Final of the 2018 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition and this year has been selected as one of six young musicians to be supported by the Young Classical Artists Trust. Will has already had several significant new works specially written for him, with premières in Milan and London.



Since graduating from the Guildhall Opera School, British soprano Harriet Burns has won a raft of international awards including second prize and German Lied Award at 2022 Concours Musical International de Montréal, the Compulsory Song Prize and Recital Prize at the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch, and first prize at the Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards at the Wigmore Hall. She is fast-developing a reputation as a “polished, witty, expressive and sweet-toned” (The Times) performer both in recital and

on stage and on Sunday 17th September at West Meon church she will be giving a morning recital, enticingly called “Les Chemins d'Amour” (Pathways of Love) featuring songs by French composers including Fauré, Poulenc, Gounod and Debussy.

Completing the festival's trio of “rising stars” is pianist Thomas Kelly, who will be playing works by Chopin, Scarlatti and Rachmaninoff on Friday 15th September. Thomas has won first prizes at several international competitions including Pianale International Piano Competition, the Kendall Taylor Beethoven competition, Theodor Leschetizky competition and most recently he was awarded second prize and special prize for best semi-final performance at Hastings International Concerto Competition 2022.

In all there will be eight concerts during the four-day festival and full details can be found at www.westmeonmusic.co.uk where tickets (priced from £14) are also available.

Sue Scholes



W.I. Report

The West Meon W.I. met in the village hall on Monday 12th June. Berry Preece took the meeting and thanked members for bringing their garden flowers, arranged in a teacup, for the competition.

Our speaker, Ollie Butler, gave her anecdotal talk “Once a Wren Always a Wren” depicting her life as a Wren having joined at 17 and staying for 12 years. She was assessed for two weeks and during cleaning duties, if arriving late, had to scrub the swimming pool with a tooth brush. She decided to stay in the Navy. She spent training time at HMS Mercury, living in Soberton Towers; and at Lossiemouth working with the Fleet Air Arm. Then on to Singapore, back to Culdrose and Yeovilton. She has worked hard as Vice President of the WRNS Benevolent Trust and wrote and performed a *Centwrennial Ode* at the 75th WRNS BT AGM in the presence of HRH Princess Anne. Here is just a small quote:



“By the end of World War two,
100,000 Wrens had marched in blue.

They were never going back,
Surely, their place was alongside Jack.
The Government allayed their fears,
It wouldn't end this time in tears.

Altho' the War was at an end,
The Navy would keep the Jenny Wren.” Ollie Butler

Her audience enjoyed her positive and humorous talk.

There were a dozen entries in the flower competition. All of them very pretty and bright. Pat Stribling's entry of lilies arranged symetrically won the prize. Well done.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th July at West Meon Village Hall at 2 p.m. when our speaker will be Robert Mocatta who will give a talk entitled “The Story of Westbury House”. Please join us.

Jan Claisse

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 2nd July

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins with choir.

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

Sunday 9th July

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 16th July

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion taken by Rev. Lionel Stock.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 23rd July

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word.

Sunday 30th July

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

11.30am Langrish on Butser Hill. Service of the Word. Bring picnic.

Sunday 6th August

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins with choir.

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

Sunday 13th August

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 20th August

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 27th August

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word.

West Meon C of E Primary School

Aspire ran a Girls' Football Tournament in Petersfield before we broke up for half term and we entered two teams. They loved it so much, Mrs Blogg who took them, is starting a Girls' Football Club next year!

The Small Schools Y4/5/6 Football Tournament on the 9th June on the recreation field saw us entering two mixed teams and there was great team work. Playleader training for Y4 was very successful and they have already started leading play during breaktimes. The Y6 week residential at Fairthorne Manor was amazing and they kayaked, abseiled, climbed, and did archery and raft building. Y4's activity days at the QE Park and Hawk Conservancy were very hot but the bug hunting, woodland art and shelter building at the park was in the shade of the trees.



Sports Day is coming up soon and Y5 have a wonderful week lined up at the Stubbington Study Centre at the beginning of July. Owls are busy practising their Summer Play and Y6 have a Leavers' service at Portsmouth Cathedral, Leavers' Trip and Leavers' Assembly and Prizegiving to go.

Visits are booked in to welcome our new Reception children and change over afternoon near the end of term gives them a taste of their



Coronation Tea. Photo supplied by J Kelly

next class.

A reminder that we are open from 7.30 a.m. until 6 p.m. with excellent before and after school care for working parents and for those who do not live in the village, but pass through on their way to and from work. 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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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The day of the West Meon Church Fete 2023 finally arrived and it was a brilliant, if exhausting day. Buffy has done initial sums and we think that our efforts have been rewarded to the tune of approx. £5000. We SO appreciate all the willing helpers and the support of our parish church in this way. Once again, thank you to Catherine and Rupert for the beautiful surroundings in which to hold our fete. We are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you to all our raffle prize donors and sponsors. We really appreciate your generosity and support which enabled us to have fantastic raffle prizes once again and generates a significant portion of the result. Thanks too to all the raffle ticket sellers beforehand.

Thank you to Emma for stepping up to sort out the publicity once again as well as lots of other tasks in the last couple of weeks. We missed you on the day! Thank you to all the unsung heroes who make the fete possible – Mac and his trusty tractor and trailer, Mark Hammond and his set up team, Hugh Morris and Michael & Simon Johnson. Thank you to Henry & Nigel and Emma & Simon for organising and erecting all the fete signage. Thank you to all those on parking duty – a vital behind the scenes job – thanks Charlie, Hugh, Stephen, Phil, Dan, Paul and Simon. Thank you to those on the gate who fielded many adults (and countless children) – thanks Bernice, Lizzie, Tanya and Buffy.

Thank you to the many stall holders, both seasoned volunteers and newbies this year – most of whom have promised to return – we couldn't run the fete without your hard work and support! Thank you to Julie, our head teacher and her FOWMS (friends of West Meon school) team – thank you Sarah and all your helpers for taking on most of the children's games for the first time. Thank you to Jane and her brilliant team on cream teas and to all the other folk serving great food and refreshments – Helen and Nikki and helpers, Victoria and Moyra, Mary and Rory. Thank you to Rachel in the shop for being a Tombola collection point and selling raffle tickets. Thank you to Edwin for sorting out the PA system brilliantly for the wonderful jazz band, East of Meon and the MC. Thank you to Jerry for being a great MC – you definitely have a job waiting for you after retirement. Again, a sincere thank you to everyone and apologies if I have forgotten anyone. What a fantastic village we live in and what a brilliant community to be part of.

Susan Berry

Rainfall report for May/June

Without doubt this is the easiest Rainfall Report that I have ever had to write for the Parish magazine and the most amazing. From the start of May until we made our last report on the 15th May we had recorded 47.6mms (1.83") since then we have recorded just 3.1mms on the 11th June which was thunder rain. I think it is the driest period in my time recording our rainfall which started back in the 1970's. We have also recorded temperatures into the 30's on a wall at 9am. Although it is very pleasant enjoying wall to wall sunshine it will have major implications and I would have thought impaired our 'aquifers' for some time into the future. *Peter Short*

Petersfield Youth Theatre

We are offering two projects this summer:

Summer Fun! offers a week full of fun and creative activities for children currently aged 5 to School Year 2.

Singing & dancing, games & drama, along with craft all feature in the activities. There will be a sharing at the end of the week for friends and family.

Monday 21st – Friday 25th August

Open to Aged 5 to current School Year 2

Show in a Week offers children currently in School Years 3 to 8 the opportunity to work with a Director, Musical Director and Choreographer to create a performance.

There will be a performance at the end of the week for friends and family.

Monday 21st – Friday 25th August

Open to current School Year 3 to 8

Date for your diary – we are back at The Festival Hall in September with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – performances run from Thursday 14th to Saturday 23rd September. Tickets will be available via our website from mid August.

Go to the website for all the information – www.pyt.org.uk

Charlotte Godfrey

West Meon Wine Society

South African Wines

Our mixed case of wines this month includes some varieties we haven't listed before from South Africa to show just what a vast range of wines the country makes.

Rosé: Nederburg Rosé, Western Cape, 2020 - a soft, very fruity quaffer

Whites: Jordan Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, Stellenbosch, 2020 - a rich smooth oaked Chardonnay; Vergelegen Reserve Semillon, Somerset West, Cape Town, 2020 - an excellent example of a pure Semillon

Reds: Piekenierskloof Tannat, 2020 - a rare example of a pure Tannat wine which isn't from South-West France or Uruguay; Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Promenade Pinotage, 2016 - a refined and interesting Pinotage; Neethlingshof Estate The Caracal, 2015 - a very classy Bordeaux blend.

Hambleton Vineyard – 21st July

Join us for an exclusive wine event at Hambleton Vineyard and experience an enchanting evening amidst the stunning vineyards of Hambleton. We'll be starting early evening, around 5pm, allowing us to soak up the breathtaking sunset views over the vines. The wine tasting will feature their renowned Hambleton Classic Cuvée, Hambleton Classic Cuvée Rosé, along with a special treat - an exclusive tasting of Hambleton's Première Cuvée, a true hidden gem. To enhance the experience, small-group guided tours will be available followed by an expert talk with the opportunity for you to ask any questions, providing you with fascinating insights into the winemaking process.

For more information about the Hambleton Vineyard event, or if you'd like to buy our wines, or become a member, please go to www.westmeonwine.co.uk.

West Meon Wine Society Management Team

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Mary Edwards **01730 829689** or email:

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

Parish Council Vacancies - Have you recently moved to West Meon and feel you would like to get involved more in village life? Why not become a Parish Councillor to help look after the interests of the Village and its Parishioners. If you can spare some time and would be interested in joining the current Councillors then please contact the Clerk (details opposite).

WMPC Grants Policy - Just a reminder that small Grants are available to assist in community projects. If you have a project that needs some extra funding, please see our website (www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/grants) for further details. Any applications should be submitted to the Clerk (details opposite).

Local Events - If you are holding an event locally and would like the Parish Council to publicise this on their website, please email all relevant details to Councillor Jane Nicholson (details opposite).

Hedges - A reminder that keeping hedges in control, especially along roads and pavements, is the responsibility of the property owner or hedge owner. Where a hedge borders a road, eg. the A32 or Church Lane, then the owner must ensure the hedge does not pose a hazard to road or pedestrian users. It really helps if we all do our bit to keep hedges trimmed.

Daisies at the Cross - A number of Parishioners have mentioned that The Cross is looking a little scruffy at the moment. This is because we are allowing the wildflowers to grow to encourage bees etc. As soon as flowering has finished The Cross will have a "hair cut".

And Finally from West Meon – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk 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 Chair has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.). If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

Warnford's Parish Priorities Statement (PPS) - How do you see the future of the village? Have your say and share your views! The SDNP Authority is inviting each parish to submit a PPS, saying what its priorities are for the future. As promised at the Warnford AGM in May, papers relating to the PPS are now on the village website in the Parish Meeting section. This is a great opportunity to consider Warnford going forward. Please do take a look and let the Chair have your views (details of how to do this are on the website). There will a drop-in session at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8th August in the Village Hall when parishioners can discuss their views.

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.

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

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West Meon Parish Council website
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Warnford Parish Meeting

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Lucy Hutchinson
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Warnford Parish website
www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village-7802/about-us

Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors
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nbolton@winchester.gov.uk

Jerry Pett – 01489 877633
jpett@winchester.gov.uk

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

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West Meon in days gone by

Charlie Hunt - newspaper boy for 50 years

He was born and bred in West Meon and lived in Railway Cottages in the house next door to where he was born. Charlie spent all of his working life on the railways. His first job was trackman on the old Meon Valley railway and he worked his way up to become a Supervisor with British Rail in Winchester by the time he retired in 1979. He, and his wife, used to share their newspaper delivery round which took in 50 homes in West Meon and the surrounding area.



The coming of motor vehicles and the gradual shift from agriculture

Mrs Julia Ford at 89 remembers the days before motor cars, garages and petrol stations were an everyday part of the local scene. There have been other changes too. In 1939 approximately 80% worked in mixed farming and some say it's still about 60%. One farmer, Thomas Edwards, was born in the village 61 years ago and also served a time as Parish Council Chairman.

The New Inn and Thomas Lord

What about our coalman and innkeeper I can hear you ask? Yes of course there was William Stone.

The British Legion and the Sports Club still hold their meetings at the Thomas Lord pub in memory of the founder of Lord's Cricket Ground. Thomas Lord died in West Meon on 13th January 1832 and is buried in the local churchyard.

Ron Stone



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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

Summer Exhibition: Rediscovering the Allen Gallery FREE 23rd July – 12th September.

A public exhibition of work in progress to explore and redisplay the Gallery's highly significant collection of ceramics. The exhibition will be an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the themes being researched, as well as the plans for the Gallery spaces. There will also be drop-in events, courses and activities throughout the summer for all ages.

The Allen Gallery Project In the main Exhibition space, 13th June – 29th October. Hampshire Cultural Trust is organising a Fundraising Appeal. Donate a ceramic leaf to our painted tree to help us move one step closer to our aim of redeveloping the Allen Gallery. Each leaf is made by a local ceramicist and is unique, with funds raised directly supporting the Allen Gallery project. You can also make your own free air-dry clay leaf for our tree. Drop in sessions every Tuesday and Saturday from 2-4pm. On a pay-what-you can basis we invite you to contribute to our fundraising appeal for the Rediscovering the Allen Gallery project.

U3A Photography Group exhibition in the café space FREE. 25th July – 1st September.

Project Thrive! 24th July, then every Monday throughout the summer holidays. This FREE gardening and creativity project for young people is a new summer programme in partnership with the South Downs National Park. There are only eight spaces on this special programme, during which you will get to grow your own plants and design natural products for sale. The workshops will be led by gardener Leigh Johnstone, also known as the Beardy Gardener to his many social media followers and the organisations with which he works. Leigh is creating a special Giving Garden at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival this summer and we are delighted to welcome him to Alton to deliver Project Thrive! for our local community. Please register via the website. Project Thrive! | Hampshire Cultural Trust (hampshireculture.org.uk).

Meditations. Wednesday 19th July, 7pm. £5 per ticket. Please book online, some additional tickets will be available at the door. In this evening talk, Farnham-based ceramicist Ashley Howard talks about the influence of Japanese culture and ritual on his oeuvre, with particular reference to work produced for exhibitions at Winchester and Guildford Cathedrals.

Dolls' House Weekend Saturday 22nd July 2023 and Sunday 23rd July 2023 from 10.30am to 4pm. This event will be attractive to all those interested in dolls' houses and their accessories. For more information please contact the Community Manager on 01420 82802. FREE.

Weorod The Anglo-Saxons are coming. They will be making camp just outside the Curtis Museum on Saturday 12th August. "Come along to the Curtis Museum and find out more about the Anglo-Saxon history and archaeology of the Alton area with Weorod. It is always a terrific day, with lots to see both inside and outside the museum. The Museum displays include the internationally important Alton Buckle and associated finds – and outside in the War Memorial gardens Weorod will offer replica artefacts, ancient crafts and even some timed displays throughout the day – weather permitting of course!"

Jill Line

Diary Dates

Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th July TOAD West Meon Theatre 8pm. Matinee 8th July 2.30pm The Meon Hall, Meonstoke.

Monday 10th July W.I. West Meon Village Hall 2 p.m. Robert Mocatta "The Story of Westbury House".

Tuesday 11th July West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

Saturday 2nd September Warnford Village Fete from 1pm. Warnford Playground.

Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th September West Meon Music Festival. Details of times and venues available at:
www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.

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

July

Sunday 2nd Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 8th Alton

Sunday 9th Winchester

Saturday 15th Emsworth

Sunday 16th Southsea Food Festival

Saturday 29th Ringwood

Sunday 30th Winchester

August

Sunday 6th Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 12th Alton

Sunday 13th Winchester

Saturday 19th Emsworth

Sunday 20th Southsea

Saturday 26th Ringwood

Sunday 27th Winchester

Alresford Watercress Line Farmers' Market
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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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