

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

April 2026

Fifty days of rejoicing

At the time of writing, we are just emerging from a cold, wet and cloudy winter that seems to have gone on forever, only being punctuated with the joyful season of Christmas. But now the days are lengthening (the origin of the word 'Lent'), the snowdrops have done their duty, and now it is the turn of the daffodils to cheer us – spring must be under way, and our thoughts can turn to Easter.



Indeed, it is Christmas and Easter that provide the two 'poles' of the Christian calendar. In the midst of winter, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, and our thoughts were of the 'incarnation' – the Word made flesh - and how Jesus was revealed as God and human to both Jews and Gentiles.

Within a few weeks our attention shifts from the joyous celebrations of Jesus' birth and towards his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and his suffering and crucifixion on Good Friday (3rd April this year). Join us on our walk from Langrish to Warnford to commemorate the Via Dolorosa. But, what on earth are those Christians playing at?



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A joyful festival in the depths of winter makes sense, but as soon as spring begins to lift our spirits again, they start celebrating the torture and death of their saviour!

But Good Friday is not the end of the story, rather it is a necessary prelude to the bigger story. Spring is the time when new signs of life burst into the world, and Easter is all about new and eternal life for the world. The bursting into life in Spring, is only noteworthy after the period of dying back, of dormancy and sparsity that characterises Winter; without crucifixion and death, there can be no resurrection. Without Jesus paying for all our wrongdoing, there can be no redemption.

Just as Christmas is more than a day of turkey, pudding and presents, Easter is more than a day of chocolate eggs and bunnies. Easter is a whole season of remarkable events, and the celebration lasts for 50 days - hence the name 'Pentecost' for its culmination. In fact, early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing.

On Easter Day, flowers return to our bare churches – often including lilies as a sign of our remembrance of those that we love but see no longer. In a sense, they show our faith in God's mighty power that brings joy out of grief and even life out of death. The lit Easter or Paschal candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services, as it does at baptisms. The imagery of light and new life come together in Jesus as the Light of the World.

From the late fourth century, and reflecting scripture (Acts 1), the fortieth day after Easter has been the time when we celebrate of Christ's ascension. It marks the commissioning of the disciples to continue his work. It was when he promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, since he will no longer be among them in the flesh. The theme of mission is clearly integral to the ascension narrative. The arrival of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Whitsun) empowered the newly commissioned disciples for their work, gloriously crowning the first Easter season – and here we are 2000+ years later and 2000+ miles away from Jerusalem and still going.

Pentecost is marked on 24th May this year, which is also the culmination of the East Meon Flower Festival, at which our whole benefice will be represented. A special service at 5.30pm will be led by our archdeacon, the Venerable Kathryn Percival, to mark the conclusion of the Easter season and to bring the wonderful Flower Festival to a close.

Jesus was no party-pooper, he wants us to have life in all its fullness, but at Christmas let's remember whose birthday party it is and that we are his welcome guests. Not only that, he shares Easter, his re-birthday, so we too may share in the joy. Alleluia!

Fr Tony

RAINFALL REPORT FOR February/March 2026

We have got away with things very lightly so far in March 2026 as far as the weather is concerned. We said in last month's report that it was 'rain, rain and more rain' but since the end of February we have had a lull and so far this month we have had 32.8mms (1.29"). It hasn't been very windy as March is supposed to be and we have had only a few light frosts. The grass is starting to grow and mowers will be out soon trimming the lawns for this year's first cut. The flooding of the meadows in Exton has subsided. Total for this year to date is 398.6mms (15.6"), at the same time last year it was 249.8mms (9.83"). March 2025 was the driest that we have recorded with only 6.2mm, barely a quarter of an inch.

Peter and Stephen Short

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Half a million hot meals in Hampshire



In March, Health & Independent Living Support (HILS) celebrated delivering its five hundred thousandth hot meal. That's enough meals to serve every older resident in Hampshire several times over.

Since launching in October 2023, HILS meals on wheels service have supported over three thousand residents with a daily two-course hot meal and a caring wellbeing check. As demand continues to grow across the County, HILS has invested in new facilities in

Itchen Abbas and Fareham to implement its City Car Model, making the service more efficient, sustainable, and better equipped to reach even more people.

As the population in Hampshire continues to age, meals on wheels remains a vital service ensuring those who are unable to prepare or source a hot meal can receive one. But meals on wheels is far more than a delivery of a hot nutritious meals: it's the friendly chats, reassurance, and a feeling of being supported by a HILS Community Team Member that their clients benefit from too. "I love the cheerful, friendly and welcoming greeting from the delivery driver, often the only human contact I have in a day. I also love having a hot meal delivered to my door." says one of our clients.

This support is vital for many older people who might otherwise struggle to access a hot, nutritious meal or have a regular social contact. During each delivery, a HILS Community Team Member will carry out a wellbeing check, they can fetch cutlery, plate meals up, and offer a glass of water.

HILS mission is to help people stay happy, healthy, and independent through its essential meals on wheels service, operated on behalf of Hampshire District Council. A charitable social enterprise, HILS first launched its meals on wheels service in Hertfordshire in 2007 and has since expanded its work there to include Active Ageing programmes, Community Hubs, and Dementia support. In 2025, HILS introduced their FREE nutrition telephone support service to its meals clients in Hampshire which helps to combat malnutrition. HILS will also be launching Breakfast Packs soon to their clients in the coming months, which can provide even more much needed support.

The service is available to anyone living in Hampshire. Meals are delivered between 11.15am and 2.15pm and with a wide range of meals to choose from and all dietary requirements catered for there is something for everyone to enjoy. In addition to hot lunches, HILS offers a cold Tea Pack to enjoy later in the day. Choose from a selection of sandwiches or even a traditional cream tea, served with a dessert and a snack. This is delivered alongside your hot meal and popped in the fridge.

To learn more about pricing visit www.hils-uk.org or to refer yourself or someone else then you can use their online referral form or call their Support Team on 0330 2000 103.

Fiona Mackintosh

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The Great Meon Valley Litter Pick, 2026

On an uncharacteristically misty Spring morning on Sunday 8th March, you may have spotted numerous high-vis clad members of the Meon Valley out and about on the verges clearing other people's litter and assumed we were all on community service. Well, when we pushed on to clear the layby beyond 'the Machine', we certainly felt that to be case. That was a low point, due to the disgraceful 'quality' of the litter (which included numerous vodka bottles!)



on an otherwise largely positive and fulfilling experience as we cleared countless bags of waste and numerous discarded and damaged road signs from beyond the 'Hut' to the North, a fair distance towards Petersfield, and all the way to Sheepbridge in the South, while another team tackled from East Meon to Westbury 'Palace'.

Notable finds this year included an unopened bottle of red from Waitrose (it was a little early..), a sachet of cat-car meat (channelling Bob Mortimer), an unused disposable camera (disposed again), a beautifully intact skeleton of a deer complete with antlers (RIP), a couple of rigid squirrels (caught in motion), a solitary black stocking (Stevol!), and in one location a hard hat with muffers together with a well-used nappy (presumably connected).

Dutiful parishioners worthy of gratitude and praise: Alan Bassil, Jim Brooks-Hill, David Jeffers, Peter Smith, Pippa Griffin, Stevo Dick, Tom Warner, Richard Sturgess, Tim Hiscox, Dave and Vic Harvey, Al Wilson, Hilary Hickmore and the Filmore Hill / Woodlands possie, Hugh Morris, Jerry Berry, Alan Coad and the East Meon / Drayton Bridge possie, including Melissa Lacey, Lou Bushell and Emma Gaisford (pictured right bringing a little glamour).

Until next year...

Unless Tom follows up on his offer to do it more often...

Jim Ulph



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Atlantic salmon's long journey back to the River Itchen



Photo: Linda Pitkin 2020VISION

Atlantic salmon have one of the most remarkable life cycles in the natural world. Born in the clean gravels of rivers like the River Itchen, these powerful fish travel thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean before returning, often years later, to the very same stretch of river where they began life.

For thousands of years this migration has been part of the natural rhythm of the Itchen. Each year young salmon head out to sea,

growing to adulthood in the North Atlantic before navigating their way back to the chalk streams of southern England. Their return is one of nature's most extraordinary journeys, guided by instinct and an ability to detect the unique chemical signature of their home river.

Atlantic salmon are among the most recognisable fish in British rivers. Adults returning from the sea are powerful, streamlined fish with silvery flanks, dark speckles along their backs and a forked tail built for endurance swimming. Some can grow over a metre long. During the spawning season their appearance changes as they adapt to freshwater, often darkening in colour while males can develop a distinctive hooked jaw. After returning from the ocean in winter, females dig shallow depressions in clean gravel known as redds, where they lay thousands of eggs. Redds appear as lighter patches of gravel with a shallow dip and mound. The eggs remain buried in the gravel until they hatch in late spring. However, these nests are fragile and easily damaged by disturbance in the river such as wading, wild swimming, paddling, and dogs entering the water. Any activity that disturbs the riverbed can crush the eggs or compact the gravel around them, cutting off the oxygen they need to survive. Members of the public can help protect this vulnerable stage in the salmon's life cycle by keeping to the riverbanks and staying out of the River Itchen.

Atlantic salmon are uniquely adapted to their home rivers. Chalk stream salmon populations are genetically distinct, shaped over thousands of years by the conditions of the rivers they return to. The River Itchen is one of only six chalk streams in England that still supports wild Atlantic salmon. However, their numbers have fallen dramatically. In 2022, just 133 adult salmon were recorded returning to spawn, and numbers remain critically low. This decline has prompted conservation organisations, including Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, to launch the Itchen Salmon Delivery Plan, a coordinated effort to restore habitats, improve water quality and remove barriers to migration.

For more information about this iconic species, please visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: hiwwt.org.uk/news/urgent-action-launched-save-endangered-atlantic-salmon.

Helen Skelton-Smith



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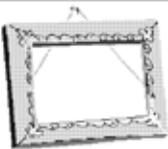
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We are delighted that our much-loved Easter Holiday Activity is back this year!

We are offering children and young people the opportunity to take part in a fun and creative experience this Easter. Participants will spend 4 days working with a team of Directors and Musical Directors, staging songs alongside professional Musical Theatre performers. On the fifth and final day, two performances will take place with a live band for friends and family to enjoy.

It's the perfect opportunity to meet new friends, gain confidence and perform in a fun and creative atmosphere.

Age 5 to School year 9, Sunday 29th March to Thursday 2nd April at Bedales, Steep. All details and booking information on our website – www.pyt.org.uk

Charlotte Godfrey

Cricket Fixtures and a plea for players

It is that time of the year again when the cricket season is approaching. We are a friendly, social Sunday side and we have lost a few players this year and we would welcome returners and newcomers to the sport. If you would like to join us please contact Stuart Smith on 07490 298309.

At our fixture on 12th July, against Steep, we will be providing a BBQ and other refreshments during and after the match, so please come and join us.

West Meon and Warnford Cricket Club Fixtures 2026

19/4 (a) STEEP – 1PM	17/5 (h) RACQUETEERS – 1PM
24/5 (h) SHIRREL HEATH – 1PM	7/6 (h) LAVANT – 1PM
21/6 (h) BISHOP WALTHAM – 1PM	12/7 (h) STEEP – 1PM
19/7 (h) TICHBORNE PARK – 1PM	23/7 (h) MILBURY'S – 6PM (20/20)
9/8 (h) CLANFIELD – 1PM	23/8 (h) BROKEN WANDERERS -1PM
6/9 (h) KINGS ROAD SOCIAL CLUB – 1PM	13/9 (a) NEWPORT INN – 1PM

Mary Edwards

Meon Community Connect report on recent events:

1) 28th February - Mac's quiz was very well attended and enjoyed by many; the questions taxed the brains and the charcuterie boards satisfied the tastebuds! MCC are delighted to announce that £600 raised on the evening will be donated to Breast Cancer Now.

2) 9th March – an afternoon of demonstrations and talk about chocolate given by The Crafty Chocolatier was thoroughly enjoyed by attendees.

What's on next?

Visit to West Dean Gardens on 18th June.

Summer quiz and coffee date tbc.

Supper Event 17th October – details to follow

We are hoping to host a members only event in June – more info soon.

Details on our website www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk

Emma Barry



Services in the Upper Meon Parishes

01APR26	Wednesday in Holy Week	
09:00	Morning Prayer with Via Dolorosa	East Meon
17:15	Compline	Warnford
02APR26	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
11:00	Chrism Mass	Portsmouth Cathedral
18:00	Holy Communion	East Meon
19:00	Stripping the Altar	
19:30	Vigil	
22:00	Said Compline	
03APR26	GOOD FRIDAY	
09:00	GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS (Langrish Churchyard to Warnford)	
14:00	At the Foot of the Cross	Warnford
05APR26	EASTER	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
09:00	Parish Eucharist	Langrish
10:30	Parish Eucharist	East Meon
10:30	Parish Eucharist	West Meon
07APR26	TUES	
18:00	No Service	Langrish
08APR26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
12APR26	1st after Easter/ 2nd of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Service of the Word	Langrish
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
15APR26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	West Meon
19APR26	2nd after Easter/ 3rd of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
10:30	Service of the Word	East Meon
22APR26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
23APR26	St George	
10:00	Holy Communion	East Meon – Lady Chapel
25APR26	SAT WEDDING	East Meon
26APR26	3rd after Easter/ 4th of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	Langrish
10:30	Service of the Word	West Meon

29APR26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
01MAY26	FRI WEDDING	West Meon
03MAY26	4th after Easter/ 5th of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Mattins BCP	Warnford
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	East Meon
05MAY26	TUES	
18:00	Compline	Langrish
06MAY26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
10MAY26	5th after Easter/ 6th of Easter/ Rogation	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
15:00	Rogation Walk	East Meon
16:00	Rogation Picnic Tea	East Meon Vicarage Garden
13MAY26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
14MAY26	ASCENSION DAY	
18:00	Outdoor Eucharist	Warnford Ruins
17MAY26	Sunday after Ascension Day/ 7th of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
10:30	Service of the Word	East Meon
20May26	WEDS	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
21May26	THURS	
	Flower Festival begins	East Meon
22May26	FRI	
All Day	Flower Festival	East Meon
23May26	SAT	
All Day	Flower Festival	East Meon
24MAY26	WHIT SUNDAY/ PENTECOST	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
All Day	Flower Festival 17:30 Special Service	Whole Benefice Service East Meon
27MAY26	WEDS 09:00 Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
30MAY26	SAT WEDDING	East Meon
31MAY26	TRINITY SUNDAY	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Pet Service	Vicarage Garden

East Meon Flower Festival back at All Saints'



Following the success of previous years, All Saints' Church, East Meon, is delighted to announce the return of its much-loved Flower Festival, taking place from Friday 22nd May to Monday 25th May 2026.

For four days, the beautiful Grade I listed church will be dressed to the nines with stunning floral displays, transforming this historic 11th Century building into a celebration of creativity, nature and community. The festival aims to attract visitors from near and far while raising vital funds for the ongoing care and preservation of this much-loved landmark.

The 2026 festival will feature more than 20 floral-themed displays, each created by and representing the many groups and societies that make up village life in East Meon. From local farming communities and the cricket team to cold-water swimmers, allotment

holders, beekeepers and the local history society, the displays promise to reflect the rich character and diversity of the community.

A central theme of this year's festival is the countryside and sustainability. Wherever possible, arrangements will use locally sourced, environmentally friendly materials. Held in May, the festival takes full advantage of the season's abundant greenery (hedgerows, woods and grasses at their freshest) and bringing the natural beauty of the Meon Valley into the church in an organic and sympathetic way.

While celebrating creativity and community, the festival also highlights a serious purpose. All Saints' requires constant care and renovations and the proceeds from the Flower Festival will directly support some vital projects. Alongside the floral displays, visitors can enjoy delicious teas, a local artists' exhibition in the church hall, live jazz performed by Kati Whitaker on Friday afternoon, daily history tours with James Rothwell, and get to listen to our amazing bells which will be peeling throughout the weekend.

There will also be a floral-themed choral performance by the Octavus Choir on Saturday evening. Tickets for this event will be sold separately and also include a free glass of wine!

Throughout the weekend, All Saints' will truly be abuzz with activity, visitors are warmly invited to join this special celebration of flowers, heritage and community. For all up-to-date news and timings please follow us on @eastmeonflowerfest Instagram page and look out for our posters!

Tickets are available via ticketsource:

FESTIVAL TICKETS: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eastmeonflowerfestival2026>

OCTAVUS CHOIR TICKETS: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/petersfield/all-saints-church/octavus-choir-concert-to-celebrate-the-2026-east-meon-flower-festival/e-logoyo>

Clare de Lotbiniere

West Meon Village Hall Updates

We are delighted to be able to report the full installation and commissioning of our new air-to-air source heating system throughout West Meon Village Hall (WMVH). This was funded by the UK Government from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and supported by Winchester City Council as a central component of the “West Meon Village Hall Energy Efficiency Drive”.

As well as providing energy efficient heating (replacing the old storage heaters), the system will also be able to provide cool air-conditioning in the summer months for those exercise classes that will benefit from it.

As a community initiative, WMVH is offering two hours a month, free of charge, on a non-commercial basis for community focussed events, subject to hall availability. Please contact any of the Management Team if you wish to be considered.

Planning ahead, if anyone is thinking of arranging summer holiday clubs or activities, there will be reduced booking rates during August this year. Please discuss and coordinate with Caroline Butcher. Contact details can be found in the WMVH lobby or our advertisement in this Parish News.

Our AGM will be held in the evening of Wednesday 22nd April in the WMVH. Do come along to hear about our past year and ask about our plans.

Jerry Berry



West Meon Community Cinema

Our film this month is The Choral, showing on Friday 10th April, the story of the Choral Society in the fictional village of Ramsden, Yorkshire, set in 1916 when most of the men from the Society have volunteered for the front. The demanding Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Chorus Master recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls with varying results!

We are offering a two course supper to precede the performance – Sausage and Vegetable Casserole with Mash, followed by Yorkshire Rhubarb Fool. Vegetarian option available.

Tickets - £15 for film and supper, £7 film only. Supper 7pm, film starts 8pm

Tickets for supper and film available in the village shop (cash only) or on line at

Ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall. Must be booked by Wednesday, 8th. April

Tickets for the film only are also available on the door.

Rosemary Morrish

West Meon School

At West Meon Primary we have joyfully greeted Spring and have appreciated the drier, sunnier days. It is great to be able to again make use of the extra space the recreational field opposite the school offers for running around at lunchtime. The trees at the edge of the ground offer great places for small people to investigate, explore and create opportunities for positive risk taking.

We have had a very busy half term arranging excursions for the pupils of our school. During the period, every class has had the opportunity to take part in a trip that supports their learning. We are grateful to the teachers who plan and lead these events which would not happen without the dedication of the teaching team.

School trips and excursions offer rich, hands on learning that strengthens what primary aged children experience in the classroom. They give children the chance to explore new environments, interact with real world examples, and connect abstract ideas to concrete experiences. This kind of learning often boosts curiosity and helps children remember concepts more deeply because they have seen, touched, or experienced them directly.

During this term we have also held West Meon Book Day which was a great success. We had lots of entries for the Extreme Reading competition, all of whom received a small prize. The winners were Oliva who sat high up in a digger truck, and Babie whose face displayed so much joy when reading.

On the day, children had the opportunity to dress up as characters from children's books. The teachers at West Meon are good sports and joined in with a White Rabbit, Big Bad Wolf and March Hare being just a few of the characters in evidence on the day. Pupils also took part in a Book Swap; young people brought in books that they had finished with and then chose a book, or two, to take home. Children in Hoglets were particularly excited to be able to choose a book to own for themselves.

Our hard-working FOWMS group, (Friends of West Meon School) have been raising money during the term with Make your Own Rules Day, Doughnut sales and most recently, Mother's Day gifts; beautifully made and presented by the team.

On Saturday 16th May, they will be hosting their annual charity evening, with bingo and a raffle and lots of amazing prizes kindly donated by the local community - ranging from camping and holiday accommodation, to wine tasting and family meals. Last year was a really fun evening and we want to send out a big thank you to everyone who has donated to this important event that will raise money to enhance our outside areas and outdoor learning. This is a community event and tickets will be available from West Meon shop, butcher, pub and school. We look forward to seeing you there.

As I write we are heading towards the end of a very busy Spring term. Children are looking forward to Egg Decorating and Egg Rolling, two of our traditional events at West Meon Primary. Whole school participation in these activities is one of the things that makes our small school so special.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher





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Alien Species Alert

On behalf of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and DEFRA, I am writing to request to your assistance in raising awareness of an extremely destructive invasive species. The yellow-legged Asian hornet (YLH) was first detected in the UK in 2016, having migrated from its native territory in Asia to France, and subsequently crossed the Channel into Britain.

Until 2025, the population of this species was largely contained. However, there has been a dramatic increase in sightings, particularly in the south of England. Over 150 nests have been eradicated in Kent and Sussex, with further incidents reported in Hampshire and Dorset. This surge is deeply concerning for both beekeepers and environmental experts. The yellow-legged Asian hornet poses a substantial threat to honeybee colonies and all other pollinators, including bumblebees, butterflies, and even spiders!

Can you help?

Members of the British Beekeepers' Association are actively supporting the Government's eradication initiative which is being managed by the Animal Plant Health Agency and National Bee Unit. Their goal is to encourage the public to report any hornet sightings. Please can you help support us in this endeavour?

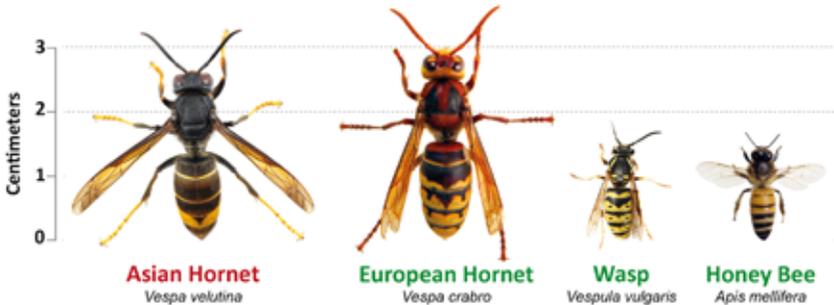
As well as serious threats to pollinators this issue carries potential public health risks. While encountering a single hornet may not be dangerous, these insects aggressively defend their nests, which can contain thousands of individuals. Such nests can be hidden in hedgerows and brambles, posing a real hazard to unsuspecting members of the public who may inadvertently disturb them.

How to Help

It is crucial for everyone to know how to correctly identify and report yellow-legged Asian hornets. We urge individuals to download the Asian Hornet Watch App and log any suspected sightings so that authorities can locate and safely remove nests.

Further details are available on the BBKA website (bbka.org.uk) or by contacting Linda Milne by email, asian-hornet@meonvalleybeekeepers.co.uk). Thank you.

Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Team, Meon Valley Beekeepers Association, Hampshire



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport





www.meonvalleybus.co.uk
info@meonvalleybus.co.uk

Timetable from November 2025

Mondays West Meon to Fareham

- 0930 West Meon Thomas Lord PH
- 0933 Warnford Village Hall
- 0938 Exton The Shoe PH
- 0940 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0944 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0951 Droxford Square
- 0955 Brockbridge The Hurdles
- 1000 Soberton Village Hall
- 1003 Webbs Green War Memorial
- 1006 Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
- 1008 Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
- 1010 Newtown Rookesbury Hall
- 1015 Hundred Acres
- 1027 Fareham Library
- 1032 Fareham Station *Drop off only* *
- 1039 Fareham Sainsbury's

Return:

- 1230 Fareham Sainsbury's
- 1235 Fareham Library

* *Station stops only on request*

Wednesdays Soberton to Petersfield

Including all request stops on A32 Droxford- West Meon

- 0930 Soberton Village Hall
- 0934 Brockbridge (The Hurdles)
- 0939 Droxford Square
- 0946 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0951 Corhampton
- 0954 Warnford George and Falcon
- 0957 West Meon Thomas Lord
- 1013 Petersfield *Station Drop off only* *
- 1017 Petersfield Square
- 1022 Petersfield Tesco

Return:

- 1225 Petersfield Tesco
- 1230 Petersfield Square

Fridays Soberton to Winchester

- 0930 Soberton Village Hall
- 0934 Brockbridge The Hurdles
- 0939 Droxford Square
- 0945 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0949 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0951 Exton The Shoe PH
- 0956 Warnford Village Hall
- 1016 Winchester Broadway
- 1023 Winchester Station *Drop off only* *
- 1030 River Park Leisure Centre

Return

- 1225 River Park Leisure Centre
- 1230 Winchester Broadway

No service on other days or public holidays. £6 return,£3 single any journey. Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free. Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion. Timings are strict, bus will not wait after scheduled time.

West Meon Parish Council

Parish Council Hub - Drop-in, support your community and have your say.

Location: Cuppacheeno, The Village Shop, West Meon

Time: 9am-10am

Date: Saturday, 4th April 2026

It's a casual opportunity to ask questions and meet some of your Councillors. Whilst you're visiting the wonderful amenities of the village, please pop in for a chat.

Recreation Ground Tree Works

Following a review of the trees on the recreation ground, Tree Assist will be removing the trees affected by Ash dieback. The work is scheduled to take place from Monday 13th April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026 please take care and avoid the top playing field on these dates. There will be a provision of traffic management teams on a 15-minute emergency closure agreement to manage the Old Road and prevent a flow of traffic entering the lane whilst they work.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will take place on the 22nd April in the Village Hall from 19:00 to 21:00 with refreshments.

To make the evening more informal, active and engaging for our community, we will include defibrillator demonstrations run by St John Ambulance, with the opportunity for residents to have a go themselves.

There will also be a number of information stands, including:

- Biodiversity Working Group (with some giveaways)
- Parish News
- Community Bus
- Meon Community Connect
- A space for your ideas and suggestions about the village and recreation ground

Please do come along, have a chat and find out more about what is happening in West Meon. We hope to see you there.

If you would like a stand at this event, please contact clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Hampshire Wildlife Trust Action for Nature Workshop

Attention nature lovers! Put this date in your diary! The parish biodiversity team have arranged the following talk: Saturday 25th April from 11:00 to 13:00 in the Village Hall (small hall).

- 11:00 to 12:00: Talk on gardening and managing greenspaces for wildlife

Join Wilder Community Officer, Steve Bolton, from Hampshire Wildlife Trust for a talk on how we can all support nature recovery with wildlife friendly gardening and management of public greenspaces as part of Team Wilder. We will look at practical actions to enhance gardens and greenspaces for wildlife as part of the nature recovery network that's needed to help reverse wildlife decline.

- 12:00 – 13:00 Pollinator count walk

The talk will be followed by a guided walk around the recreation ground learning how to complete a pollinating insect count which helps monitor the health of local populations. We are looking for volunteers to help complete regular surveys.

You are welcome to attend both or only one of the events, booking is not required. Refreshments will be provided. Join us to help support nature recovery in West Meon!

Warnford, West Meon, Winchester, Hampshire and Parliamentary Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk to WMPC, clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Jacqueline Humphreys, WMPC

Parish website www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Warnford Parish Meeting

Chair: Toby Drought, warnfordchair@gmail.com 07788 715707

Clerk: Lucy Hutchinson, warnfordclerk@gmail.com 07717 296610

Parish website www.warnfordparish.gov.uk

Winchester City Councillors

Neil Bolton, nbolton@winchester.gov.uk 01962 771256

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

Hampshire County Councillor

Malcolm Wallace, malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk 07739 050224

Member of Parliament for Winchester

Dr Danny Chambers, danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk 01962 868586

Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website which also details local facilities and services, village news and events. Please sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc.

WPM 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.

The 2026 AGM will be held in the VillageHhall at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th May. All parishioners welcome. Please give any suggestions for the agenda to the Clerk.

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Garden Club

On Thursday, 12th March, Amanda Gomersall gave us a wonderful talk about her struggles and challenges in creating a show-winning garden in Chandlers Ford. Her garden looked amazing, especially as it is only 5m x 11m in size and on three levels. She has made the most of the space with a patio, water feature and terraced garden. Amanda took us through the process she used in designing and creating her garden from a completely weed-strewn blank canvas. This took us from the hard landscaping required, through planning out the seasonal colour palette for the planting scheme to the end product. A few of the superb plants she selected that caught my eye were Narcissus Thalia - a later-flowering, multi-headed narcissus, and Rosa Iceberg a small compact rambler with a delightful repeat-flowering habit.

Our next talk is "Meet the River Meon Conservation Volunteers" by Pam Eastwood, Penny Bridle, & Stephen Short on Thursday 9th April at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall.

Our very own team of River Meon Conservation volunteers will be talking about their work conserving the river. They are a group who are working hard to improve the River Meon, our local chalk stream. Chalk streams are very rare and are home to a variety of wildlife, including fish, such as brown trout, grayling, Atlantic salmon, bullhead and brook lamprey; invertebrates such as mayflies, dragonflies and damselflies, as well as white-clawed crayfish, water voles, kingfishers, and even otters!

The River Meon is facing a number of threats including over-abstraction, nutrient enrichment and the intentional and accidental release of non-native species. The River Meon Conservation Volunteers feel that it is vitally important to preserve and improve this chalk river habitat for the benefit of wildlife and humans alike. Put it in your diary now!

At the April meeting we will also be taking bookings for our Plant Sale & Supper which will be held at Warnford Village Hall on Thursday 21st May at 6:30pm for the Plant Sale, followed by Supper at 7:00 pm with catering provided by our well-loved Cuppacheeno Cafe!

Now that spring is in the air, it's the time to start thinking about entering those prize-winning vegetables, flowers or crafts into our Summer Show on Saturday 8th August at Warnford Village Hall. Do have a long look at the schedule to tempt you to take part in our Summer Show. The show schedule is now online at:

<https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside/copy-of-2025-summer-show>

Edwin Grimshaw

The Curtis Museum April events

Object of the Month: Remember the **Natwest Piggies**? Drop in to see our set of all five ceramic Natwest piggy-banks, along with some of the advertising from the day. While you're here, have a go at drawing and designing your own piggy-bank.

Stepping Stones: Young People's pottery sessions, (ages 10 -16). Saturdays 11 April, 25 April, 02 May, 16 May, 23 May. More details and pre-booking (essential) via the Museum website www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum.

Detective Bunny's Easter Egg Hunt: Join Detective Bunny on a code breaking adventure and win a chocolate prize! 28th March - 12th April, 10am - 4pm, £2 per Trail.

April Talk - Mike Dawes on The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Thursday 9th April. Room 7 Alton Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30pm

Jill Line

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 9th April

Garden Club “Meet the River Meon Conservation Volunteers” Pam Eastwood, Penny Bridle and Stephen Short, 7:30 for 7:45pm Warnford Village Hall.

Friday 17th April

The Annual General Meeting of West Meon & Warnford Sports Club, 6.30pm West Meon Pavilion. Please come along to learn about the Club’s proposals for the future.

Saturday 16th May

Friends of West Meon School Annual Charity Night, 6-9pm West Meon Village Hall. Join us for a fun night of bingo and raffle to raise money for West Meon School. Tickets available from the school, shop, butcher and pub.

Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector:

Fr. Tony Forrest, The Vicarage, Church Street, East Meon 642 115 (usual working Sun to Wed)

Vergers for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Vergers for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

April Farmers’ Markets

Sunday 5th 10am-1pm Romsey

Sunday 5th 10am-2pm Petersfield

Saturday 11th 10am-2pm Alton

Sunday 12th 9am-2pm Winchester

Sunday 12th 10am-2pm Whiteley

Saturday 18th 9am-1pm Emsworth

Sunday 19th 10am-2pm Alresford

Saturday 25th 10am-2pm Ringwood

Sunday 26th 9am-2pm Winchester



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

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