

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

March 2026

Mothering

Mothering Sunday is celebrated in the UK on the 4th Sunday of Lent, which falls right in the middle of the month this year. The fourth Sunday of Lent is also known as Laetare Sunday and as Refreshment Sunday. It is traditionally allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, as is St Patrick's Day (17th March) for Irish people the world over.

The Feast of the Annunciation (25th March), which almost always falls in Lent, also provides a break from austerity of Lent. Falling nine months before Christmas, it is when we celebrate the Angel visiting Mary to tell her that she had been chosen by God to be bear His son, Jesus. In mediaeval times members of religious orders returned to their Mother House and diocesan clergy to the cathedral – the Mother Church – on this day. Later, on their one day off in the year, young girls (and some boys) 'in service' were allowed to return home to visit family and friends and they often gathered flowers to take home for their mothers. Thus Laetare Sunday and the Annunciation provide the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday. We might also note that Joseph of Nazareth, Jesus' human father is commemorated in March too – let's not forget the role played by father-figures in our lives, who at their best perfectly



Photo: Negative Space Mother Holding Baby

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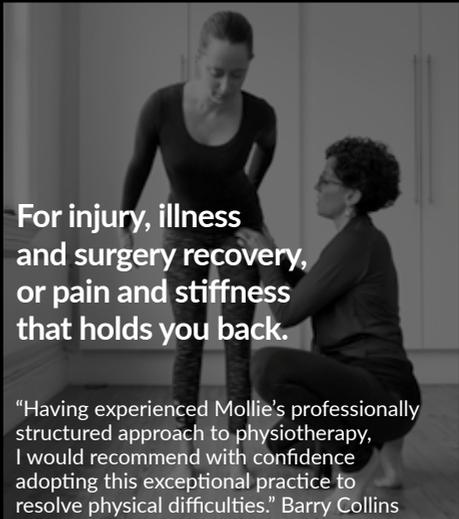
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complement the role of the other parent or carer. The exact ‘chemistry’ of loving parenting and caring is more about our use and understanding of our unique gifts than anything else.

The Bible’s stories of mothering are never twee or sentimental – they are set in the real world – sometimes a very harsh world. How would we describe Samuel’s mother, Hannah? Perhaps, passionate, generous, sacrificial, brave, joyful, trusting and faithful, but certainly not sentimental as she gave up her first-born to live in the Temple. We also find Mary present even in her sorrow: faithful, grieving, caring and cared-for, showing a love that is stronger than death itself. Mothering is all those things and more.

Mothers, and others who ‘mother’ us, look out for us, defend and protect us. They enable us to learn our purpose in life, they model trust, faith and joy. They love us enough to set us on our own way; the risk of loving us, even knowing that may bring them pain. They stand with us in our times of greatest suffering. Without someone to love us so unconditionally, we are missing something very precious – something vital – in our lives.

If mothering were only done by mothers, it would be very hard indeed to ensure that everyone received the nurturing, protection, love, and guidance that we need to become the people we are meant to be. Others, like social services, the NSPCC (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>), Barnardo’s (<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>), the Children’s Society (<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>)- a CofE organisation, and the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth (<https://www.robertscentre.org.uk/>), all seek to do some or all of these things for children, who would otherwise never experience this kind of mothering. They seek to protect children in danger, to be advocates for children in trouble, to enable children, who are struggling, to reach their God-given potential, and they invest in the future of children, affirming that all children are, in the words of Moses’ mother “beautiful before God”.

This Lent is an opportunity to think about our own lives – our experiences of mothering or of being mothered, remembering with thanksgiving the people who have done those things for us. Sadly, some of us will remember times when we have been failed by those who were supposed to care for us or those times when we ourselves have failed.

The church community is called into a role of mothering too. Sometimes, we need to stir ourselves to be just as determined, loyal, loving and compassionate as some of the mothers in the Bible. If we, as a church, truly love the community in which we are situated, just as God loves it, then we must be open to feeling the pain of the world’s suffering, and we must be willing to sacrifice something of ourselves to bring to birth God’s good purposes for the world. Jesus himself quotes scripture, saying “Love your neighbour as yourself” and that requires us all to look out for, and care for those around us who may be in any sort of need. Let’s not just assume all is well around us. Let’s watch out for those living alone and for the elderly who may be cut off from their families. Do they have what they need – not least companionship?

On the cross, God’s love was nailed firmly to the world so as never to let it go. Is our love for the world as firmly fixed as this? Are we this passionate about nurturing the world into becoming the place that God created it to be? A truly parental love is one that would give anything and everything for the child. This is the love of God that we see on the cross, but this is also the love that we are called to have for one another, and which the Church is called to have for the world. When we love like that, we make our mothering-God truly visible.

Fr Tony

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Cardiac Health launch a year of 50th anniversary celebrations

Throughout 2026 local Alton charity Cardiac Health are celebrating 50 years in operation with a host of fantastic fundraising events.

Cardiac Health helps people lead stronger, healthier lives through exercise at their dedicated facility in Chawton Park Road. The charity is launching their anniversary celebrations with an art and design competition for local children. Since July 2025 Alton Football Club has been their charity fundraising partner, so it was only natural that Alton FC Chairman Carl Saunders joined Cardiac Health Centre Manager Denise Ellis to jointly launch the competition at the start of February. In this competition Cardiac Health are inviting young footballers from Alton Football Club and children from local schools to design a 'Heartfelt thank you card' for the cardiac charity.

Denise Ellis, Centre Manager at Cardiac Health said, "So many local people have been supported by Cardiac Health over the last 50 years; it's been a pillar of the community since Dr Hugh Bethell first launched the 'cardiac rehab' exercise sessions at Alton Sports Centre in 1976. Partnering with Alton Football Club for this, our 50th anniversary year, makes so much sense as health, fitness, exercise and community are at the heart of everything we do. I am so pleased that Carl and the team at Alton FC have agreed to help us launch this competition and provide some of the prizes. I can't wait to see the entries!"

Cardiac Health will invite every child who enters the competition to see their design on display at their dedicated exercise centre in Alton on Thursday 26 March. As well as seeing the wonderful artwork, the children and their families will be offered after-school refreshments and given a chance to tour the facilities at Cardiac Health. See the full terms and conditions of entry here: <https://cardiachealth.org.uk/about/news/can-you-design-a-heartfelt-thank-you-card-for-us/>

On Friday 6th March 2026, the famous Cardiac Health Big Quiz returns to Alton Maltings. Sponsored by long-term supporters Sheen Stickland, tickets are £21 person and includes a hot supper. Tables seat 8 people and a bar will be open throughout the night.

The Social Bridge Afternoon Tea returns to Beech Village Hall on Thursday 23 April. This popular event, which combines an afternoon Bridge with a wonderful tea, provided by charity volunteers, costs just £70 for a table of four.

For further details on all Cardiac events and to purchase tickets please visit the website www.cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events alternatively, email hearty@cardiachealth.org.uk or call 01420 544 794.



Denise Ellis with Carl Saunders in the gym at Cardiac Health

Nicci Shepherd

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Marjorie Compton

Our dear Marjorie passed away on Saturday the 24th of January at 6.30am. We thank everyone for the sympathy cards we received and their personal messages and their kind offers of help.

Thank you all again.

Photos of Marjorie © Jim Compton

The Compton family



Rainfall Report for January to mid-February

What can one say, 'rain, rain and yet more rain'. There were only five days without rain in January, while so far February has not had a completely dry day, in fact the last day without any rain was January 12th. The January total was 219mm (8.6"), the second wettest we have ever recorded (since 1974) and the average January rainfall over that period is 106mm (4.2").

This month is traditionally called 'February fill dyke' and to the 15th we have had 107mm (4.2"), it seems to be living up to its name. It has already exceeded the February monthly average of 80mm (3.1"). So the total for the year to date is 326mm (12.8"). Looking back there were only two other years with more rain to the end of February, 1990 with 367mm (14.4") and 2014 with 492mm (19.3").

Peter and Stephen Short



Are you really sure you can't help?

Because, as we were told in January's Parish News, the village Care Group badly needs more drivers.

Nobody much likes asking for help but sadly, in life, "stuff" happens. You develop some medical problem, plus, almost certainly, you grow old and have to stop driving.

And then, when you get an appointment at a local hospital or wherever, right to the top of your worry list rises the question "How on earth am I going to get there?" And surely if we can help with that worry, we should?

Of course, some people have family close enough to do the job and of course some can afford to get a taxi but many can't, so need our help.

The system works like this; the patient gets the appointment and at once rings Virginia de Cosson (829362) or emails her (vdec@btinternet.com) asking for help; she then passes on that request to all her drivers and the one who can do it, says so and gets in touch with the patient to fix up pick-up times and so on; and, on completion of the trip, if they can afford it, the patient makes a donation to the Care Group; and the Driver gets mileage money.

So, please, think on it and then email Virginia saying "Count me in". It needn't be for ever, you could try it for a few months but do, please, have a go; or nudge someone else to do so.

Conrad Jenkin

(aged 97 and forever grateful to Care Group Drivers of which, once upon a time, I was one)

Get Involved!

If you love our recreation ground and wish to give nature a helping hand in our Parish, the Parish Council Biodiversity Team want to hear from you and share the latest thoughts, and gain your ideas to enhance the plans and implement any new biodiversity ideas.

If you would like to hear more, or get involved please email your details to our parish clerk at clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk and we will let you know when and how you can help.

Sadly, due to ash die-back, some ash trees will have to be felled in the village of West Meon, however we will be replacing them with disease resistant elm trees.

Future activities could include some of the following :-

1. monitoring of the flora, fauna and pollinators around the recreation ground (with associated training provided)
2. planting of snowdrops and native bulbs, such as English wild daffodils
3. developing chalk meadow embankments
4. creating bug hotels, log piles and other habitats
5. coppicing overgrown hazel
6. planting hedge plants
7. installing bird, bat and hedgehog houses
8. drinking tea and enjoying each other's company in a nature-rich environment!

So please send in your details to the parish clerk at the email above to register your interest so we can keep you in touch with our biodiversity plans, and we can let you know when activities are taking place.

West Meon Parish Council Biodiversity Group

Easter lilies for West Meon and Warnford churches

Easter is on 5th April and our flower arranging teams will prepare a wonderful display in both our churches beforehand. Both West Meon and Warnford will again be giving the opportunity for sponsorship to contribute to the beautiful floral decorations. If you would like to dedicate lilies in memory of loved ones, they will cost £7.50 each to sponsor. Please get in touch with Fi Beresford for Warnford (tel:829479 email: fi.beresford@gmail.com) or Louise Clay for West Meon, (tel:829235 email: lpclay13@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute. The closing date will be Wednesday 25th March.



Thank you,
Louise Clay

******* WEST MEON VILLAGE FETE *******

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2026 2– 4PM

We will have all the usual stalls and games –
Plants, Cakes, Bottles, Bric-a-brac, Books, Treasure Map,
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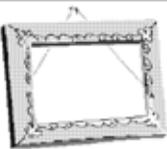
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A celebration of Martin Nettle's life

West Meon Village Hall
28th March 2026 2:00pm



We invite you to join us in celebrating the life of Martin Nettle. Everyone is welcome. To help us honor his memory, please send any photos or stories you'd like to share to Sally via email at sallynettle@gmail.com

Garden Club News

On a lovely sunny day in the middle of February, spring is clearly in the air. In fact, out of my window I can see daffodils bravely starting to bloom. So now it's time to think about gardens – either your own or visiting those of others.

To help you, on Thursday 12th March, in Warnford Village Hall at 7:30 for 7:45pm, do come and learn how to transform your garden from our first speaker of the year, Amanda Gomersall, talking about "From weeds to a show-winning garden". Amanda will be telling us about her extraordinary garden and the work she did to make it such a stunning success, winning the 2024 B&Q "Best use of a Small Space" category!" By all accounts it was incredible, and the gardener is just as fascinating as the garden! Amanda has done a wonderful job at totally transforming her garden, and she has crammed it full of amazing features! Pop it into your diaries right now!

A programme of our activities for the rest of the year is available on our website: <https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside/programme>. Any members who have not yet paid their fee for this year (still a bargain at just £5 for the whole year!) will be able to pay at this meeting. For visitors, the entry fee is £2. Please bring the exact amount in cash with you on the night (only £1 coins please or a £5 note),

Edwin Grimshaw

Services in the Upper Meon Parishes

MARCH

Week & Date	Day or Festival/ Lit Clr	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 1 01MAR26	LENT 2	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		09:00	Mattins BCP	Warnford
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist BANNS	East Meon
03MAR26	TUES	18:00	Compline in Lent	Langrish
04	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
Sunday 2 08MAR26	LENT 3	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		09:00	Service of the Word	Langrish
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
11	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
Sunday 3 15MAR26	LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		09:00	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
		10:30	Mothering Sunday Family Service	East Meon
18	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
Sunday 4 22MAR26	LENT 5 <i>Passiontide</i>	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist	Langrish
		10:30	Service of the Word	West Meon
25MAR26	ANNUNCIATION	09:00	Morning Prayer	West Meon
Sunday 5 29MAR26	PALM SUNDAY	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		09:30	Liturgy of Palms	West Meon
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist and Liturgy of the Passion	Warnford
		10:30	Liturgy of Palms	Langrish Green
		10:45	Benefice Eucharist and Liturgy of the Passion	Langrish Church
30	Monday in Holy Week	0900	Morning Prayer with <i>Via Dolorosa</i>	Langrish
		18:00	Compline	Warnford
		1830	Safeguarding Training	All Saints', Church Room
31	Tuesday in Holy Week	0900	Morning Prayer with <i>Via Dolorosa</i>	West Meon
		18:00	Compline	Langrish

APRIL

Week & Date	Day or Festival/ Lit Clr	Time	Service	Church
01APR26	Wednesday in Holy Week	0900	Morning Prayer with <i>Via Dolorosa</i>	East Meon
		18:00	Compline	West Meon
02APR26	MAUNDY THURSDAY	1100	Chrism Mass	Portsmouth Cathedral
		18:00	Holy Communion	East Meon
		19:00	Stripping the Altar	
		19:30	Vigil	
		22:00	Night Prayer	
03APR26	GOOD FRIDAY	09:00	GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS	Langrish to Warnford
		14:00	<i>At the Foot of the Cross</i>	Warnford
Sunday 1 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	Compline	Langrish
	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
Sunday 2 12APR26	BCP 1 st after Easter CW 2 nd of Easter	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		09:00	Service of the Word	Langrish
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	West Meon
Sunday 3 19APR26	BCP 2 nd after Easter CW of 3 rd 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	
25APR26	SAT	14:00 tbc	WEDDING	ASEM
Sunday 4 26APR26	BCP 3 rd after Easter CW of 4 th of Easter	08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
		10:30	Benefice Eucharist	Langrish
		10:30	Service of the Word	West Meon
29APR	WEDS	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon



West Meon CofE Primary School

As I write, we are heading for half term break; the first half of the Spring Term has been packed full of learning opportunities. The weather has not been particularly kind, however that has not stopped West Meon pupils from getting outside to explore and play. As winter continues to recede, we look forward to using our outdoor spaces more.

During this half term we have had a focus on safeguarding the children at our school. Safeguarding is not about child protection alone; safeguarding is preventing harm and promoting well-being for all children. At West Meon, the children are encouraged to look out for adults moving around our school without visitor tags and to let an adult know. I arranged for a 'stranger' to come to the school – she was armed with stickers and gave them out to all children that noticed her and told a teacher. It is testament to the ethos here that she did not get far before being challenged, both by children and adults.

In addition to this staged event, we had talks from Papaya (Parents against phone addiction in young adults; <https://www.papayatalks.com/>) for Foxes class and Owls class. These were well received and generated good discussions in the classes. At West Meon we do not allow mobile phones in school; if a child needs access to one for an afterschool event, the procedure is to leave it with the school office during the day.

This month schools across the country take part in the highly popular World Book Day. At West Meon School, we organise a Book Week which includes activities all week based around reading and the enjoyment of books. Our annual 'Extreme reading Challenge' has been launched. This encourages children to capture an image of themselves reading in a very unusual position or venue. We are looking forward to sharing some of those on our website later this month.

February was a busy time for the children and adults at West Meon Primary. Owls class have been studying Space and carrying out investigations. They have explored the way gravity affects meteors falling onto planets and whether there is 'life on Mars' through the investigation of micro-organisms.

Hedgehog & Hoglets class, our youngest members, took their annual trip to the beautiful Snowdrop Walk at Warnford. A great excursion for these pupils and an occasion to experience an 'awe & wonder' moment. Next half term the topic in Hedgehogs class is Animal Life and they will be visiting Marwell. Owls are hoping to visit Winchester Intech to consolidate the learning they have been doing about Space this term and Foxes plan to visit the British Museum to take in the Egyptian exhibition.

Enrichment excursions such as these are an important part of West Meon school life and support the broader curriculum, encouraging children to make links with the wider world. With spring, hopefully, bringing some brighter weather, both children and adults feel revitalised and ready to learn in an environment that has so much to offer.

*Julie Slamaker,
Headteacher*



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West Meon Community Cinema March/April

Due to the unexpectedly late release by Sony of “The Choral” which was to be our March film we will be showing the following...



I Swear: Robert Aramayo and Maxine Peake © Graeme Hunter

Friday 12th March: “I Swear” – the true life story of John Davidson, diagnosed with Tourette’s at 15, targeted as insane by his peers, he struggled with a condition few had witnessed. He campaigned for Tourette’s as an adult and was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 2019.

Friday 10th April: “The Choral” – it is 1916 in Ramsden, Yorkshire and the Chorus Master and most of the men from the local Choral Society have volunteered for the front so under the direction of the demanding Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) the society recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. The film presents a different take on wartime by acknowledging the sadness of ongoing conflict but also offering a hopeful interlude through its practicality and light humour.

Tickets are available either in the village shop (cash only), on line at Ticketsource or on the door £7. The performance starts at 7.45pm but the bar is open from 7pm with a selection of beverages and ice creams.

Rosemary Morrish





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The winter life of the wren

One of Hampshire's most familiar birds is also one of its smallest. The wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) may be tiny, but during the winter months this charismatic bird proves that size is no barrier to survival. In fact, the wren is the most common breeding bird in the UK, with an estimated 8.6 million breeding territories - a remarkable success for such a small species.

Barely larger than a ping-pong ball, wrens are instantly recognisable by their warm brown plumage, delicately barred wings and tail, and their habit of holding that short tail cocked upright. Look closely and you'll spot a fine, pale eyebrow stripe and a slim, slightly curved beak, perfectly designed for probing into crevices for insects.



Wren © Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography

Despite their modest appearance, wrens have one of the loudest songs relative to body size of any bird in the UK - a surprisingly powerful burst of sound that can be heard on crisp winter mornings. Their sudden bursts of song are thought to help maintain territories and may also play a role in strengthening pair bonds ahead of the breeding season.

Wrens are found across a wide range of habitats. They favour places with plenty of cover, including hedgerows, woodland undergrowth, scrub, gardens, reedbeds and even coastal habitats. In winter, dense vegetation becomes especially important, offering protection from cold winds and predators. You might also spot wrens around log piles, compost heaps or garden sheds, where insects and spiders shelter from the frost.

Winter is a challenging time for wrens, but they have developed remarkable survival strategies. On the coldest nights, they may roost communally, huddling together in old nests or sheltered spaces to conserve warmth. Historical records describe dozens of wrens squeezing into a single nesting box - an extraordinary sight for such a fiercely territorial bird during the breeding season. Nests are also distinctive structures: domed and carefully woven from moss, twigs and leaves, with a small side entrance that helps retain heat.

It's diet in winter consists mainly of small invertebrates, including spiders, beetles and larvae. Wrens are relentless foragers, constantly flicking through leaf litter, moss and bark to find food. Their fast metabolism means they must eat almost constantly during daylight hours, making short winter days especially demanding.

Helen Skelton-Smith, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Meon Community Connect

What is MEON COMMUNITY CONNECT and who is it for?

Meon Community Connect aims to enhance the social, recreational and cultural life of our community by organising a diverse range of activities and events for all ages and interests. That means it's for YOU, your family and friends. It is open to ANYONE and EVERYONE in the local community.

Where can I join and what are the benefits of being a member?

You can join this group via our website www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk

Annual Membership is £25 per adult per year. Membership allows you to purchase tickets to events throughout the year at discounted rates. Some events will have membership priority purchase. There will also be exclusive member only opportunities.

Do I have to join?

No, but you won't enjoy the above benefits. If you wish you can visit our website and simply sign up for email updates on our events.

Where do I find out about future events?

www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk – you will get email flyers for future events if you join as a member or sign up for email contact.

Updates also on Facebook and in the Parish News

Who is on the committee?

Emma Barry, Caroline Butcher, Sue Fowler, Edwin Grimshaw, Rosemary Morrish, Lucy Savage, Angie Trenchard and Chris Waller.

How do I get in touch if I want to get involved?

Email: meoncommunityconnect@gmail.com

We are always looking for people to help and for new ideas.

Please email if you want to get involved.

What events are coming up?

Mac's quiz night – 28th February 7pm ** ALMOST SOLD OUT**

The Crafty Chocolatier – 9th March 2pm

West Dean Private Garden tour (transport available to members who book early) - June
– Date tbc

Many more events planned for the rest of the year including a family treasure hunt and an autumn supper. Suggestions welcome.

Emma Barry

West Meon Parish Council

Report a Problem

In light of recent issues with potholes and surface water affecting roads and footpaths, we wanted to remind residents that they can report problems online to Hampshire County Council: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

HCC will inspect the site and advise whether work will be scheduled.

Update on Court House Water Meadows

On behalf of the West Meon community and WMPC, we are very pleased that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIoWWT) are in the final stages of acquiring the Court House Water Meadows.

After collaboration over several months with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in conjunction with local River Meon Conservation Volunteers (RMCV) it became very clear that the HIoWWT as a registered charity have the expertise and resources to protect, enhance and best manage this critical chalk stream habitat.

You have likely seen their recent door drop leaflet, and we would encourage parishioners where practical and possible to support via tax efficient Gift Aid donations towards this excellent local cause.

The River Meon is neither a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) nor a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Itchen is both and the River Test is a SSSI. Therefore, the River Meon will need to rely on community volunteers, local landowners, beneficiaries, and organizations like the HIoWWT to help to enhance and protect the River Meon for future generations. Understanding it has shaped the beautiful landscape and environment that we all enjoy living within, going all the way back to the Meonwara Tribe in Anglo Saxon times.

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.

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.

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



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The Curtis Museum

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

Object of the Month: While the Allen Gallery is closed for refurbishment, the Curtis Museum will showcase each month a highlight from the ceramics collection in the Hampshire Cultural Trust stores. Throughout March, the Museum will display a coronation mug designed by Dame Laura Knight. The artist also painted key scenes recording moments from early 20th century life, such as women workers during WW2.

In celebration of **International Women's Day** (Sunday 8th March), there will be a trail through the Museum - **Women in Art & History** - find the hidden heroines of Alton and Hampshire's history and discover their connections with the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery collections. This trail will be running throughout March, Women's History Month.

Natural History in the Curtis Museum.

Do you know the difference between a stoat and a weasel? Which owl is this?

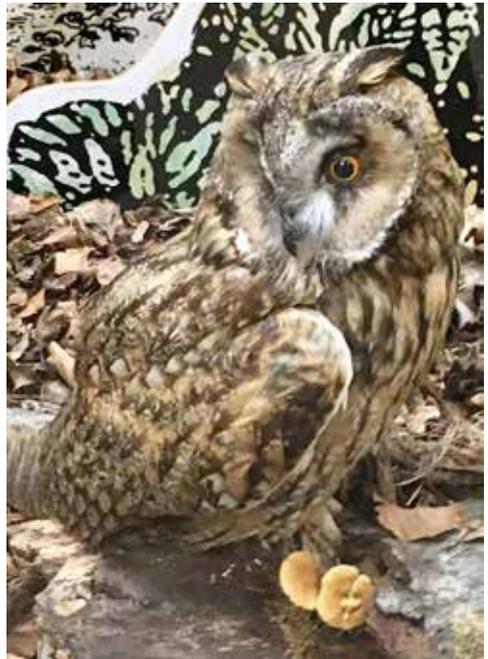
Visitors (not only the younger ones) are often interested in the Museum's extensive collection of local flora and fauna. They will now be able to identify the creatures on display more easily. A small team of volunteers and staff have prepared illustrated guides for each case. These "keys" hang beside the cases. Although some items are obviously old, taxidermy having largely gone out of fashion, appropriate labelling/identification was long overdue. We are grateful to various specialists in their field and assistance from Alton Natural History Society. (PS it's a long-eared owl, and the stoat is larger than the weasel and has a black tail-tip. Come and see.)

Talks - Change of Venue

The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery have a full programme of talks during 2026. Friends talks will be held in **Room 7 of the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN**. Alton Community Centre is located on one side of the car park in Amery Street (sat nav GU34 1HN). <https://www.altoncomcen.org.uk>, telephone number 01420 85057.

The 12th March talk will be given by **Tim Craven**, local representative of BAFM - the British Association of Friends of Museums. It is entitled **Capture the Castle - The Story of Castles through Artist' Eyes**.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30. FREE, donations welcomed.



Jill Line



Monday 9th March

The Crafty Chocolatier 2pm West Meon Village Hall

Friday 12th March

I Swear 7.30 for 7.45pm West Meon Community Cinema, West Meon Village Hall

Monday 16th March

Warnford Village Hall AGM, 7pm Warnford Village Hall. The hall is held in trust for benefit of Warnford and West Meon Parish, please come along and have your say.

Saturday 28th March

A celebration of Martin Nettle's life, 2pm West Meon Village Hall

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

March Farmers' Markets



Sunday 1st 10-1300 Romsey
Sunday 1st 10-1400 Petersfield
Sunday 8th 09-1400 Winchester
Sunday 8th 10-1400 Whiteley
Saturday 14th 10-1400 Alton
Sunday 15th 10-1400 Alresford
Saturday 21st 09-1300 Emsworth
Saturday 28th 10-1400 Ringwood
Sunday 29th 09-1400 Winchester



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

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