

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

December 2023

Prepare for hope

I'm Rev'd Will Hughes, the Vicar of Petersfield and Buriton, and I'm delighted to be able to write something for the December edition of the Parish News.

Most of this month will be the season of Advent, which is my favourite season in the church year. I love it because it's a purple season (the robes and decorations in churches are purple), and purple is the colour of the dawn. It's a 'not yet' season of preparation and of anticipation, of the half-way point between night and day when we look forward to something we can only see in glimmers.

In the way of magazine articles, I'm writing this soon after Remembrance, which was especially challenging this year. Usually we reflect on the struggle of right against wrong, and this remains relevant - especially in the war in Ukraine, where there is a clear aggressor whose invasion and continuing barbarities must be stopped. But in the Middle East we are faced with a different and more complex reality. The actions of Hamas were monstrous and utterly indefensible and the resulting conflict is having a disastrous effect on the lives of innocent people. It is hard to imagine a good, safe and sustainable outcome for the people of that part of the world. It forces us to face the challenge that though all war is bad, not all peace is good.



What is Advent season: Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society



J. Gordon
Forestry and Arboriculture Ltd

Crown reduction/reshaping * Thinning/Deadwooding * Skilled tree removal * Fencing
Plantation maintenance * Hedges * Tree planting * Woodland management * Stump grinding

Professional qualifications * Insured in all aspects of forestry and tree surgery

For a personal and caring service contact **Joe Gordon**
tel 023 9263 2418 * mob 07712 808081
www.treedocjoe.co.uk



24 hour emergency call-out
Free quotations

DROXFORD ANTIQUES

Still buying & selling antiques of all descriptions.
Sourcing service, valuations & probates.
Repairs & restorations carried out in our own workshop.

Curtain Making

Beautiful hand sewn curtains, blinds, & upholstery made especially for you.

The Old Bakery, High Street, Droxford SO32 3PA
Telephone: 01489 878800 • Mobile: 07973 551519
mary or mark@droxfordantiques.co.uk

Call in or contact us for free, professional & confidential advice

HIGH QUALITY METALWORK

WILLIAM NORMANDALE
BLACKSMITH

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Curtain poles & finials | Gates |
| Handrails | Railings |
| Door knockers & latches | Well covers |
| Pergola | Window grilles |

TELEPHONE: **07515 775938**
Email: williamnormandale@gmail.com

Penn House, Wheely Down Forge, Wheely Down Road, Warnford SO32 3LG

West Meon Village shop & Cuppacheeno Cafe

This lovely little Village Shop is owned by the community and run mainly by volunteers from the village. With a wide selection of everyday essentials. Fresh, daily deliveries of fruit & Veg, artisan bread, pastries & more. There is a 'top up post office' Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can even drop off your dry cleaning!

Out the back of the shop, there is a quaint little cafe. Bike friendly & dog friendly. The perfect stop for coffee & cake, or maybe you'll go for a Full English Breakfast... There is also a courtyard garden so you can sit inside or out.

Opening times

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 7:30am-5pm |
| Saturday | 7:30am-1pm |

Shop Cafe open 9-3 everyday!

Find us on  



West Meon Village Shop, High Street, West Meon GU321J

Gemma Holistics
in Warnford

Complementary Therapies for Mind, Body & Soul

Reflexology • Reiki
Indian Head Massage

The therapies work alongside medical treatments
gemma@gemmaholistics.co.uk
07749 425 999
www.gemmaholistics.co.uk

West Meon Village Hall

Hourly rates for Parish residents:
MAIN HALL £13.00 • SMALL HALL £9.00

Fully Equipped Kitchen • Large Car Park
Tables, Chairs etc. can be hired out
Party and non-Parish rates on application

For information and bookings, contact

Hazel Town: 01730 829584
westmeonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

Peace without justice has many of the hallmarks of war - fear, intimidation, the oppression of dissent and debate, the dominance of strength, the loss of hope for the future and the erosion of the immeasurable value of each and every human life. The constant presence of war and crisis on our news and social media can lead to those hallmarks spreading far further than the conflict itself, until all our lives are oppressed by it, and we are blinded to the dawning hope which is everywhere around us. Life is complex, and while it's often tempting to pick a side, sometimes it's the sides which are the problem. For me this year Remembrance was a reminder of our obligation to work for a good peace, rather than simply the absence of war.

It will certainly be odd hearing readings about the peace of Jerusalem and singing about the stillness of Bethlehem while seeing all that is happening in that region now.

The birth of Christ happened, not in a land of idyllic peace, but in a very similar context to the Middle East today, of acts of unspeakable violence, invasion and occupation, fear, sickness and conflict in a political borderland between two world powers. The Christian story has such power and integrity because it does not try to explain away or fix the problems of the world. It does not exist in a idealistic bubble of perfection. It begins in all the grubby and painful reality of a broken world. Christ comes as Prince of Peace to offer the challenge of what real, true, deep peace looks like for each of us and for villages, towns and nations. He shows us what it looks like, and he shows us how costly it can be. A refugee baby in a stable reminds us that while the hallmarks of war can spread fear like a cloud, so the smallest glimmer of light can scatter the darkness and transform our lives.

Often we think that personal difficulties, sickness or loss, or global events can spoil or diminish our Christmas celebrations. The truth is quite the opposite. Christmas exists to breathe hope and joy into those challenges and troubles, so that while they are still very real, and will require our best efforts, courage and strength, we do not face them alone. Christmas offers the hope that beyond them lies the brightness and wholeness we long for when the dawn breaks, and the

day comes. That hope turns the dark cold days of December into days of preparation which gives them purpose and energy. Every well chosen gift bought is an act of empathy and generosity. Every turkey in the freezer is the promise of friendship and feasting. Every strand of tinsel and ivy is the anticipation of our homes transformed. Without the preparations we would have no celebration, and without the celebration we would have nothing to prepare. So Advent makes Christmas happen, and Christmas makes the days of Advent before it ones of hope and anticipation.

May your Advent be hopeful, and your Christmas be joyful.

Rev'd Canon Will Hughes



Christmas Joy Ceramic Decoration: The Christian Shop

MacDonald Oates LLP SOLICITORS



Leading Client Service

Residential Property
Family Law
Mediation Services
Wills, Probate & Trusts
Litigation & Dispute Resolution
Employment Law
Company & Commercial
Commercial Property

Petersfield Office

Tel: 01730 268211 | Fax: 01730 261232
www.macdonaldoates.co.uk

**WEST
MEON
YOGA**

Wednesdays
6.30 – 7.45pm
Fridays
9.00 – 10.00am
West Meon Village Hall

PHYSIO LED YOGA SESSIONS

Friendly, relaxed & inspiring.
Suitable for complete beginners, people
with injuries & more experienced students.

Classes incorporate –
fitness • strength • flexibility
mindfulness • stress relief

Private sessions and sports massages available



yoga@molliemorris.com

molliemorris.com

ADAM & EVE GARDEN SERVICES

(Established 1990)

LAWN/HEDGE CUTTING - PRUNING - PLANTING
IRRIGATION - GARDEN CLEARANCE

Fully insured; references available

Mobile: 07712 677375

email: marksteer811@btinternet.com

STUDIO 6 DESIGN & PRINT

High quality colour print at competitive prices
Professional graphic design • Business & private stationery
Leaflets & flyers • Posters, banners & signage

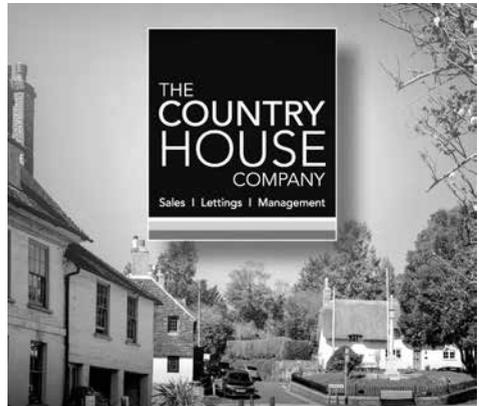
We have new premises!

PLEASE CONTACT US VIA PHONE OR E-MAIL

01329 832933 • print@studio-6.co.uk

www.studio-6.co.uk

THE
**COUNTRY
HOUSE**
COMPANY
Sales | Lettings | Management



*Selling, Letting & Managing
properties in
West Meon & Warnford*

www.countryhousecompany.co.uk

RICS



02392 632 275



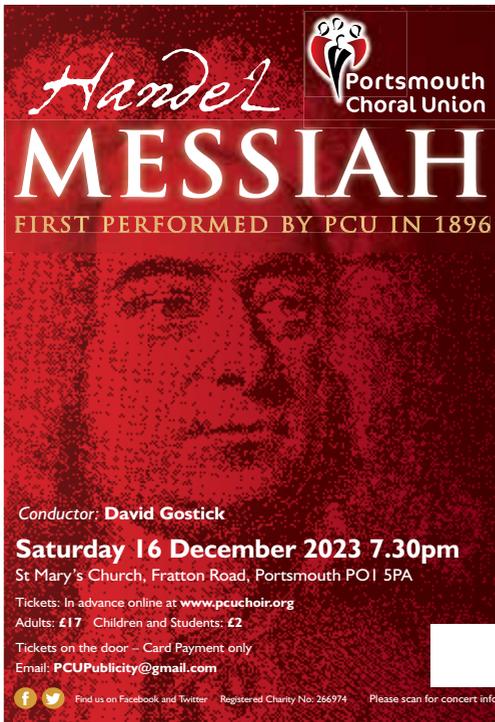
Rainfall report for October/November

The second half of October was extremely wet. As we reported last month we had 39.6mms in the first 14 days, we then had a respite for 3 days and then from the 18th until the end of the month it rained on every day giving us a total of 210.8mms (8.3"). This continued on into November which started very wet and by the 15th we have had 113.3mms (4.5"). However it has been very mild and I can only recall 1 mild frost so far this autumn.

Rainfall for the year to date:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| January | 139.5 mms | (5.4") |
| February | 8.3 mms | (0.33") |
| March | 158.6mms | (6.24") |
| April | 83.1mms | (3.27") |
| May | 47.6mms | (1.87") |
| June | 26.0mms | (1.02") |
| July | 134.6mms | (5.29") |
| August | 88.8mms | (3.49") |
| September | 66.1mms | (2.60") |
| October | 210.8mms | (8.29") |
| November (to the 15th) | 113.1mms | (4.45") |
| Total to mid November | 1076.5mms | (42.30"). |

Peter Short



Handel
MESSIAH
FIRST PERFORMED BY PCU IN 1896

 Portsmouth Choral Union

Conductor: **David Gostick**

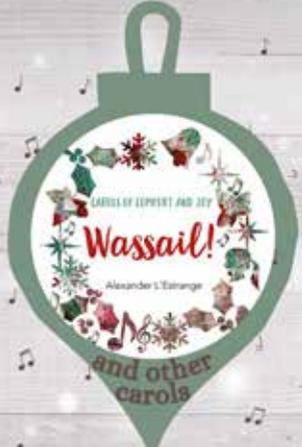
Saturday 16 December 2023 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA

Tickets: In advance online at www.pcuchoir.org
Adults: £17 Children and Students: £2
Tickets on the door - Card Payment only
Email: PCUPublicity@gmail.com

  Find us on Facebook and Twitter Registered Charity No: 266974 Please scan for concert info



BOTLEY CHORAL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

 **Wassail!**
CAROLS OF EXUBERT AND JOY
Alexander's Entrance
and other carols

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9th 7.30pm
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BOTLEY
Tickets £15 (under 16s free)

www.wegotickets.com/botley
botleychoralsociety@gmail.com 07387 274446

Reg Charity number 1046408

G. RIXON LTD.

ELECTRICAL PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS



01329 834600

www.g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

enquiries@g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

OIL, LPG AND NATURAL GAS FIRED BOILERS
WORCESTER BOSCH ACCREDITED INSTALLERS
DISABLED BATHROOM SPECIALISTS



THE LAWN RANGER

General Garden Maintenance
Mowing • Strimming
Hedge Cutting • Gutter Cleaning

Call for a free quote: 07340 478406
Or email: the_lawnranger@aol.com

Computer Problems Solved

We aim to efficiently solve your home and Business computer needs.



For a friendly, no obligation quote call:

Chris Guénier

01489 890738 or 07962 641796

<http://www.cps-ltd.org.uk>

info@computerproblemsolved.co.uk

Access Care

LIVE-IN CARE SPECIALISTS

We arrange the finest, experienced, private Carers to live with people in their own home in West Meon, Warnford and Hampshire.

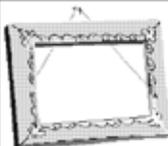
Call Tatty Buckley
01264 319 384

Architectural Interior Design | Furnishings
Listed Buildings | Remodelling
Refurbishment | New Developments

Contact Stephen Dick on
07976 723 425 or
stephen@residenceinteriordesign.com

RESIDENCE
INTERIOR DESIGN

The Old Stables West Meon GU32 1LU
www.residenceinteriordesign.com



Petersfield Framing Studios

Bespoke picture framing service.
All types of work undertaken.
Large choice of materials.
Tel. 01730 269926.
www.petersfieldframing.co.uk

ADRIAN HOARE TREE SURGEON

07825 730687
www.aphtreecare.co.uk
info@aphtreecare.co.uk

Tree Surgery
Hedge Maintenance
Site Clearance
Fencing

Hampshire - Surrey - West Sussex



Mark Hamilton - Carpenter

Repair • Maintain • Preserve • Made to order

No job too small
Painting • Sheds
Doors • Gates
Sliding sash windows
Property Maintenance



Tel: 01329 826862 / Mobile 07910 039572

The benefit of autumn leaves to winter survival

Carpets of colourful leaves are one of the signature signs of autumn, as deciduous trees prepare for the long winter ahead. Whilst they may be done with their leaves for the time being, other wildlife is busy taking advantage of this new leafy blanket.

Leaf litter (which is made up of fallen leaves, small twigs, seeds and other woody debris) provides a variety of species with a warm, safe place to shelter from the elements with. Hedgehogs use leaf litter to build their nests. They spend the winter hibernating, surviving off their fat reserves. During this time their breathing will slow, and the heart rate and body temperatures will drop, and leaf litter will provide essential warmth to help them survive the cold. Depending on the weather, hedgehogs will emerge from March onwards. Common toads also rely on leaf litter and will spend the majority of winter living under a blanket of deep leaf litter, conserving as much energy as possible. They re-emerge for the mating season in early spring, migrating back to the pond in which they were spawned to reproduce.

Whilst some species of butterfly, like the painted lady, may migrate here in summer, others stay with us year-round. They overwinter in their egg, caterpillar, pupal or adult form depending on the species. During winter, leaf litter provides the perfect place to remain concealed until the spring. The most common way for butterflies to spend their winter is as a caterpillar, some will even continue to feed whilst its mild, but as temperatures drop most will enter a temporary state of dormancy known as ‘diapause’.

As well as warmth, leaf litter also provides an important source of food for detritivore and decomposer species. Both are incredibly important as they help break down the leaf litter and recycle nutrients back into the soil. Detritivores, such as woodlice, ingest and digest decomposing plant matter such as fallen leaves. Closely related to crabs, lobsters and shrimp, woodlice are mainly active at night and breathe through their knees! There are thirty different species of woodlouse in the UK including pill, common rough and common shiny. Decomposers, such as fungi, directly absorb nutrients through chemical and biological processes. One of the most recognisable species to find at this time of year is the amethyst deceiver. These bright purple fungi should be easy to spot against the red and brown leaf litter that it loves to grow in.

Autumn is traditionally the time to tidy up your garden, but leaving your garden messy can have a range of benefits for nature and wildlife. Instead of sweeping up or burning fallen leaves, it's much better to let them decay naturally. This feeds the fungi and micro-organisms in the soil and recycles nutrients into the grass and trees. If you do clear areas of your garden, pile the leaves into heaps so they can decay naturally. These will also offer places for wildlife to hibernate. Don't be too tidy with your flowerbeds either. Dead-heading everything removes valuable resources; seed heads provide food for small birds and shelter for insects. Think ahead to the possibility of freezing weather – float a football in your garden pond to prevent it becoming totally frozen and allow oxygen to circulate.



Photo: Garden hedgehog (c) Tom Marshall

Helen Skelton-Smith

West Meon W.I. Report

Angie Trenchard, our President, commenced our meeting by setting out the arrangements for our Christmas Lunch at The Flower Pots Inn in Cheriton on Wednesday 6th December. Everyone was reminded about the Christmas Fair being held at West Meon Village Hall on Saturday 2nd December and members were asked to make cakes for the Cake Stall which is being manned by the W.I.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Jonathan Jones and his talk was entitled 'Confessions of an AmDram Tart', which we thought was a curious title! But as Jonathan had spoken to us before, we knew it would be excellently presented, and so it proved to be. He explained the definition behind the title which outlined his approach to his amateur dramatic career. An AmDram Tart is an amateur actor who takes on parts from various amateur dramatic groups, rather than only doing roles for one company, although Jonathan commenced his acting career with The Bourne Players, based near Farnham, and his first job was opening the curtains! He then told us about his various experiences (often very amusing) in his 20 years of acting on the Farnham area AmDram circuit.

In January we have our Resolutions Lunch which commences at 12.45pm with a lunch provided by the Committee. This will be followed by our speaker, Dr Sam Kelly, who is an ecologist on 'We're all doomed... or are we?' Further details in our next Parish News.

Sue Kinlochan

West Meon Fete June 2024

There will be an initial planning meeting in the Thomas Lord on Monday 4th December at 7.30pm. Please come along if you're interested in helping out with next year's fete. We need all the help we can get! Contact: Susan Berry 829014/07941096308 susanclareberry@gmail.com

Susan Berry

Garden Club News

Our 9th November lecture was a resounding success. Barry Newman told us all we needed to know about raised beds, from how to build them, at what height – the higher the better if advancing years means you're not as supple as you once were – and of course what to put in them and when and how to tend them. We learned how to keep slugs at bay and why wheelbarrow access is vital. After Barry's talk we held a lively AGM with a refreshing flow of comments and suggestions from our newer members. One of these recommendations, based on the experience of the "Woodlands Web", was to take part in the "Parish Pollinator Pledge":

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/parish-pages/parish-pollinator>

Did you know there are around 1500 species of insect pollinators in the UK? Unfortunately, they are in decline so local communities are being invited to help enhance their local environment for pollinators and raise awareness of how important they are. Funding is available to help groups achieve this aim.

We resolved to gather more information so if anyone is interested in finding out more (you don't need to be a Garden Club member), please contact Clare: clareswinstead@gmail.com or phone evenings: 01730 829 059.

A programme of our upcoming activities will be available shortly on our website:

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/west-meon-garden-club-18458/upcoming-events/>

Clare Swinstead

West Meon Community Cinema

Another successful film evening took place in November with the showing of “Barbie” – it attracted an audience across all age groups and judging by the comments seemed to have been appreciated on a number of levels! The highlight of the event was definitely “the best dressed Barbie and Ken competition”, which some people had taken very seriously – Steve Dick won “Ken” and Tilly Titheridge made a delightful “Barbie” – the Stetsons clinched it on both counts!

The next film night is on Friday, December 8th., when we will be running:

“What’s Love got to do with It?” – a charming cross- cultural comedy and the first feature

film written by Jemima Khan – great chemistry between the two leads played by Lily James and Shazad Latif, plus Emma Thompson at her best as Lily James eccentric mother.

And finally, to brighten up what can often be rather an anti-climax after Christmas we will be running a film suitable for all the family on the afternoon of Friday 29th December:

“UP” (PG), which as many of you will know is a Pixar animated comedy, a perfect blend of visual designs and imaginative storytelling. Doors open at 2pm, film starts at 2.30pm Refreshments available – Tea/Coffee, Cakes and Icecreams. Tickets available in the Village Shop, via TicketSource or on the door subject



West Meon
CINEMA

What's Love got to do with it?

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH 8PM
WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL

BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
OTHER REFRESHMENTS-ICE CREAMS, POPCORN ETC
TICKETS £7 AVAILABLE FROM:
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/WEST-MEON-VILLAGE-HALL
WEST MEON VILLAGE SHOP
ON THE DOOR (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)
ENQUIRES:ROSEMARYMORRISH@ICLOUD.COM

SUPPORTED BY
WINCHESTER City Council WEST MEON PARISH COUNCIL WEST MEON WI

to availability - £7/adult, £5/child under 12. Children under 12 to be accompanied by an adult.

Watch this space for the January – April film schedule. Tickets £7/adult £5/child under 12.

Rosemary Morrish

Theatre cheques inn

The Thomas Lord pub in West Meon has handed over a cheque for £1,050 to West Meon Theatre. West Meon Theatre were delighted to have the Thomas Lord involved in their sell out production of TOAD in July this year. They not only provided the gourmet pizzas enjoyed by so many of the audience, but very generously donated all the profits to West Meon Theatre, making it a true community project!



Toad cast and production team as director Mary Dawson receives cheque from David Butcher, Director of Upham Inns and Iain Relf, Manager of the Thomas Lord.

Mary Dawson



Happy Birthday West Meon Theatre

Last week West Meon Theatre celebrated 30 years with a splendid party in the Village Hall so thank you Mary and your team for organising that.

Thirty years is a long time but I remember going to the first meeting Mary organised 30 years ago to see if there was interest in starting a Theatre Club. As the years have gone by (I don't know where) those of us who joined have had many happy times, acting or working behind the scenes being part of the many productions of all sorts in many different places and mixing with many friends.

None of this would have happened without a huge amount of work from Mary, well supported by others as the years went by and the whole time by John who was always there behind her.

And it is not only the members who have benefited. What about all the villagers who have enjoyed the very professional productions over the years without having to venture too far?

So I am sure I speak for all of us when I say, "Thank you Mary for all your hard work giving us such pleasure, and GOOD LUCK for the future".

Jenny Jenkin

West Meon C of E Primary School

Owls led our Remembrance Worship in the church with the PCC serving coffee and it was very moving, with great respect shown by the children. Some also wrote notes to remember family members they have lost for the Remembrance Tree in the church. After the service the two eldest children and the two youngest children in the school laid a wreath at the war memorial outside the church.

FOWMS (Friends of West Meon School) ran a very successful Halloween Disco and this week they are running the popular Popcorn Club. They also organised designing Christmas Cards by the children, which produced some great results.

The Y6 Parents evening helpers and Open Morning Ambassadors on the Open Morning were a credit to the school and it was one of our busiest weekend mornings to date.

The children are keen to support other children and they put together wonderful Christmas gift boxes for children overseas in difficult circumstances and as I write they are preparing to hold a Be Bright Be Seen Day to raise funds for Children in Need, as well as to raise road safety awareness.

Year 5 complete their Bikeability training this week as part of their road safety education and some younger children are taking part in a craft afternoon at Sheet Primary School.

Hedgehogs class has already started practising for their Nativity, which will be performed in the church at 6pm on 12th December and you are very welcome to join us.

The whole school are going to see the Pantomime Cinderella at the Theatre Royal in Winchester on the 13th December and FOWMS will be leading a wreath making workshop in the church on the evening of the 14th December.

Families continue to visit during the day as they consider Early Years places for next September, but we also have new children coming into Y3 and Y4 this year.

Please look at our website to see all of the activities we offer.

*Julie Kelly,
Headteacher*



Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 3rd December

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins.

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

Sunday 10th December

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 17th December

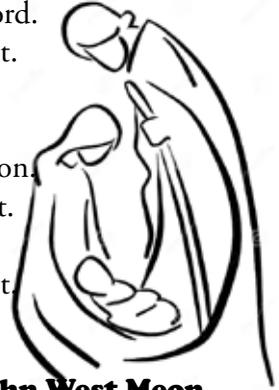
8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 31st December

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.



The Churches of Our Lady Warnford and St John West Meon wish all readers a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2024

Sunday 17th December

4 pm Carol Service at Warnford led by Archdeacon Kathryn, a service of readings and carol followed by traditional refreshments



Monday 18th December

West Meon Outdoor Carols. Join us 6 pm outside St John's Church accompanied by brass group and seasonal refreshments; inside church if weather unsuitable.



Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

Scratch Nativity Service at 4 pm in West Meon Church. Children please come dressed as your favourite character in the Nativity story... or the star! There will be live animals to set the scene and refreshments for all afterwards

Midnight Eucharist Service at 11.30 pm at West Meon Church. Celebrate the holy night with a special candlelit service with carols and Communion

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

9 am Holy Communion at Warnford,
a traditional service with carols

10.30 am Christmas Day Service at West Meon,
family friendly informal service for everyone with carols
and readings.



Meon Valley Minibus

The Meon Valley Lions Club served burgers and sausages at the Wickham Beer Festival where we had our best year ever... and to top it off we'd really like to thank the organisers of the Festival, for their kind donation towards our replacement minibus. Without the public support none of this would be possible so a big thank you to all the kind people who supported the October's Beer Festival for making this possible.

We are well on the way towards achieving the funds necessary to replace our minibus but unfortunately have had a prospective sponsor drop out recently; so this is great timing... thank you Wickham Beer Festival.

If any of you do know of an organisation or individual who may be willing to help us out please let us know. We hope to be running around the streets of the Meon Valley in our replacement by Easter next year.

Carole Dash

West Meon Village Hall

Christmas FAIR

VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS!

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND 10-12
WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL**

CAKE STALL
CHILDRENS TOYS & GAMES
SECOND HAND BOOKS
CRAFTS
JAMS & CHUTNEYS
TEA & COFFEE
BACON BAPS

LIVE MUSIC!

follow us on Facebook & Instagram @west.meon.village.hall

Gallops

The field edge paths known locally as 'the gallops' will be closed from 8th December for 2 weeks. The public footpaths from Marlands or Marldell Farm to School Lane will remain open.

Graham Silk



Home-Start Hampshire

in Gosport, Fareham & Meon Valley

Home-Start Hampshire is a volunteer led charity providing support to families with children aged 0-11 years old who, for a variety of reasons, are finding life tough.

To find out more about our services, or how you could get involved as a volunteer please contact info@hshants.org.uk or call 0330 124 2095

Helping families in your local community turn tough days into brighter tomorrows.



Registered Charity: 1144661



FirstOak CAPITAL

GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH BUSINESS FINANCE & LOANS FOR:

- Cars
- Commercial Vehicles
- Machinery
- Working Capital
- Invoice Discounting
- Property



LOCAL EXPERT ADVICE

For a quote or to arrange a visit contact Guy on:

T: 0800 066 3677

M: 07789 719924

E: GUY@FIRSTOAKCAPITAL.CO.UK

NATURAL GARDENS

ANGELA PALMERTON MCIHort, MPGCA

Gardening with Nature in Mind

WILDLIFE GARDENING

CONSULTANCY AND ADVICE

NATURAL LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN

BORDER & PLANTING DESIGNS

SPECIALIST PRUNING

Helping people to create and manage ecologically diverse gardens and landscapes

07789 293591
angela@natural-gardens.co.uk
www.natural-gardens.co.uk

LANDMARK DESIGN



Meon Valley Studio

Design, Planning, Architecture & Land Management

LAND MARK

landmark-design.co.uk

+44 (0) 1489 899 033

/lmdarchitectural

@lmd_architecture

How Dare You Move Those Seats?

In 2003 I was an apprentice blacksmith at Wheely Down Forge and assisted my father in making and installing a public art seating system at Eastleigh Bus Station.

The brief was to design seating that would encourage the public to rest whilst waiting for a bus or after shopping but to deter sleeping. The materials were to be robust and of the highest quality for longevity. My father responded with an elegant solution of sweeping stainless steel arms and wooden slatted seats that fitted well into the surroundings.

As we installed the seating I remember a few people accused us of wasting taxpayers' money.

Roll on 20 years, my father Charles is now retiring and I have taken over the running of the Forge. I was contacted by Eastleigh Borough Council to renovate the seating system as part of the general refurbishment of the Bus Station. The seating has survived extremely well but needed cleaning, polishing and missing sections replaced.

Over 2 days we carefully removed the seating and brought it back to the Forge so we could work on it safely. Once again we were accosted by shoppers demanding to know where the seating was going and saying how much they loved it. One man shouted at me "How dare you move those seats - the old people need them!" I assured him they would be returning but I'm not sure that he believed me.



The seating system is all back in place looking as wonderful as it did when we put it in 20 years ago.

William Normandale

Top tips on how to save money on your energy bills

'I am a single parent with two kids and I'm really worried about how I'll afford to pay my energy bills when I start putting the heating on, using lights more now winter is here. At the moment I just about have enough money to cover my bills but there is nothing left over. The thought of getting into debt keeps me awake at night but the idea of my children being cold and possibly unwell as a result is just unbearable. What can I do?'

You are not alone - a record number of people came to a Citizens Advice service with energy debt in the first four months of 2023 (32,400) - a 112% increase on the same period in 2020 (15,200).

There are things you can do to feel in control when it comes to your energy bills including some simple tips to help save money on your energy bills. They won't cover all the extra costs, but they can make a difference:

- Check your thermostat: A room temperature between 18°C and 21°C is ideal for most people. Try turning your thermostat down by one degree within this range – it could save you around £115 a year. If a medical condition means you need a warmer home, ask your GP what room temperature you should aim for.

- Keep the heat in: Check your home for any gaps in the doors, windows and floors. Blocking any holes where you could get a draught could save you around £30 a year. It is important to allow for some ventilation as without it mould and damp can form.

- Turn off anything you're not using: Turning your appliances, like TVs and washing machines, off instead of leaving them on standby could save around £60 a year. Turning off lights when you're not using them – even if it's just off for a few seconds - could save around £25 a year.

- Consider using LED lightbulbs, which cost less to run.

- Watch your water usage: Cutting your shower time by just one minute can make a difference. If everyone in a four-person household with a water meter did this, they could save around £75 a year.

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you might be able to get support from the government or your energy supplier. The first step is to contact your supplier to find out what they can offer. You may be eligible for benefits including the Warm Home Discount, Cold Weather Payments or the Household Support Fund. You can find out more about these on the Citizens Advice website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk).



To speak to a local adviser at Citizens Advice Winchester District, call 0808 278 7861 or visit our website for other ways to contact us www.citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk.

*Ally Chatterley,
Operations Manager,
Citizens Advice
Winchester District*

PRIVETT Montessori

Ofsted Good Rated Childcare for

1 - 5 years old:

- set in a rural and beautiful location with good facilities
- strong & varied curriculum
- Montessori trained staff
- flexible pick and drop off
- home to home feel
- highly rated by customers

veronica@privettmontessori.co.uk
01730 828405

Privett Village Hall, Privett, GU34 3NU



SILVERBROW

KITCHENS AND INTERIORS

01264 334111

silverbrowkitchens.co.uk

Designing and installing beautiful kitchens since 2001

Hampshire's leading kitchen specialist



SJM Decorating

All aspects of
interior decorating
as well as
Tiling • Plastering

Call Steve Mitten on

07818 061650

Stevemitten69@gmail.com

West Meon Sports Club Pavilion Hiring Charge £10 per hour

Price includes lighting, heating and hot water. Fully equipped kitchen. 50 place settings.

Tables, BBQ, heating chafers, china, cutlery & glassware for hire.

Large tent for hire: 8m x 4m steel ridge frame (2m eaves)

For further details for hiring and bookings please contact

Mary Edwards **01730 829689** or email:

maryandrorry@btinternet.com



CUTTING EDGE
JOINERY

A Modern Take on Traditional Design

 07733075371

 info@cuttingedgejoinery.co.uk

 www.cuttingedgejoinery.co.uk

 @cuttingedgejoinery

 /CEJoinery

Oliver Chimney Sweep



Experienced member of the
Guild of Master Sweeps

Insurance approved certificates
issued with every sweep

Professional, clean
brush and vac system

02392 787967

info@oliver-chimney-sweeps.co.uk



West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

Parish Council Vacancies - Have you recently moved to West Meon or the surrounding Parish and feel you would like to get involved with the local area? Why not become a Parish Councillor to help look after the interests of the Village, the Parish and its Parishioners. If you can spare some time and would be interested in joining the current Councillors then please contact the Clerk - Jo Tester (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, i.e. 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.

Parish Council Notice Board - Located next to the bus stop in the High Street, this board contains Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings together with other relevant information for the Village. There is a small amount of space available to display posters for local events and if you wish to use this space please contact a member of the Council. Please **DO NOT** affix posters to the woodwork of this notice board or the information board on the other side of the bus stop. Additionally, please do not affix posters to any part of the bus stop.

Pavements, Footpaths & Roads - As winter approaches bringing with it slippery pavements and footpaths together with the possibility of snowfall, can we all think of our neighbours who may be elderly and/or less mobile and ensure that paths are clear and they have essential supplies. Salt bins are available for use on the highways but not for personal use and please take care when walking around the village during the winter months.

Local Events - Don't forget that the Parish Council can promote local events on their website. Just e-mail details (date, time, contact, cost etc) attaching a poster if available, to the Council's e-mail address opposite

Neighbourhood Watch - A reminder that we have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Meon. Apart from providing a forum where people can exchange information regarding security issues in the village, there are regular monthly updates from our local police teams on where and what kind of crimes are currently prevalent. If you would like to sign up go to the national website of NW and follow the links to West Meon.

And Finally from West Meon – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk, Jo Tester (details opposite) 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.

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

West Meon Parish Council

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

Mac Edwards, Vice Chair
Finance, Highways, Environment
macwmpc@gmail.com
07778 775486

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

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

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

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

Allan Thomson
allanwmpc@gmail.com
07467 330322

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

West Meon Parish Council website

www.westmeonpc.org.uk
westmeonpc2017@gmail.com

Warnford Parish Meeting

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

Lucy Hutchinson
Clerk
warnfordclerk@gmail.com
07717 296610

Warnford Parish website

www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village-7802/about-us

Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

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

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

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

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond
01962 679920 – Constituency Office
flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk



The Alresford Accountants

- Full range of **Accountancy, Taxation & Payroll** services tailored to suit your needs
- Licensed to provide non-contentious Probate services by the ICAEW
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Tax Return & new CGT Residential Return help
- Farming and Equine Specialists
- Tax planning for furnished holiday accommodation
- Auditing services available through Butler & Co Audit Limited

Please contact us:

T: 01962 735544

E: infobutler@butler-co.co.uk

Butler & Co Alresford Limited,
The Dean, Alresford, SO24 9BH
www.butler-co.co.uk

Leydene Tree Care

All aspects of Tree Work Undertaken

Tree Removal | Reductions | Stump Grinding
Hedgecutting | Planting

07443 589 659

alexwill12@icloud.com



CHIMNEY SWEEP

- ◆ Professional & comprehensive service
- ◆ Stringent dust control methods observed
- ◆ No mess guarantee
- ◆ Nest guards & weather cowls fitted
- ◆ Shaft inspection & airflow testing
- ◆ Multi-fuel (MF) appliances repaired
- ◆ MF stove accessories fabricated
- ◆ Calls taken seven days a week

01962 734029 (Home)

or 07721 458067 (Mobile)

WATER SOFTENERS

AMS LTD

Water softener repairs (all makes)

No call-out charge

Can fully recondition with a guarantee

New softeners supplied and installed

10 years guarantee

E-mail: info@amsmayfair.co.uk

Tel: 01256 768171 • Mob: 07836 247694

CHAMBERLAINS

FAMILY SOLICITORS

We can help you with a wide range of legal services including

Residential Conveyancing, Probate and Wills,
Lasting Powers of Attorney, Commercial Property

RED LION STREET (Off High Street)

BISHOP'S WALTHAM TEL: 01489 896141

info@chamberlainslaw.co.uk

MARK WYATT

Quality Decorating

All aspects of interior
and exterior decorating

07830 819300

markwyattqpd@gmail.com

DON'T BE STUNG BY WASPS OR PRICES!!



WASP NEST DEALT WITH

in this area

£30

Discount rate for 2 or more nests
Discount rate for OAPs

Call: **APOLLO PEST CONTROL**

01420 489144 / 07703 515567

We also deal with fleas, mice, moles, rats, cockroaches,
rabbits, pigeons, fox and deer control etc



Altonu3a winter sales?

If you are finding these dull, damp winter days are getting you down, then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a? Reduced membership subscription rates of between £12 - £35 are available for January - May 2024, and you are welcome to take a “taster” before joining (group size permitting). There are now more than 55 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year; plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. And, as we start to plan the 2024-5 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2023-4 “Blue Book” programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk; or contact the Membership Secretary Colin Aiken for more details altonu3amembers@gmail.com. With Alton U3A you will “learn. laugh, live!”

Denise Backhouse



A Musical Christmas with Petersfield Youth Theatre

As the nights draw in and the temperature begins to drop, we're planning the perfect cosy treat for the week before Christmas. A Musical Christmas is exactly that - Christmas songs performed by a cast of 100 along with a live band in a specially created magical environment. Tickets on sale at One Tree Books or online, so get your friends together and come and join us!

Further details and tickets information- visit our website www.pyt.org.uk

Charlotte Godfrey



Taylor's Garage Droxford

Hampshire SO32 3QL

Tel: 01489 877433

CAR and MOTORCYCLE MOTs

Service and repair to cars light commercials and horse trailers

Air conditioning - service & repair

Competitive prices on tyres batteries and exhausts

Collection & delivery or loan car available subject to availability

Meon Springs Self Storage

Dry, secure and accessible Self Storage
just 5 minutes from West Meon.

To reserve a unit or find out more, visit

www.meonsprings.com

or call

01730 823249

RICHARD STEEL & PARTNERS THE FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Incorporating Nigel Chamberlain & Partners

BISHOPS WALTHAM

(01489) 892640

WINCHESTER

(01962) 862333

ALRESFORD
(01962) 798789

Available 24 hours

www.steelsfunerals.co.uk

PRESTIGE PLUMBERS

*Terry Hack - local, friendly and expert plumber
with 38 years experience and covering
Warnford, West Meon and surrounding areas
No job too small - Senior citizen discount
Call 01730 606510*



Andy's Toolbox

HOME & GARDEN ENHANCEMENTS

Property Maintenance & Building Work

Bespoke Garden Sheds & Studios

High Pressure Hot & Cold

Jet Washing - ideal for Patios,

Drives & high-reach to Gutters

Hire me with 3 Ton Tipping Trailer

Please call for an estimate



Andy Walker at Warnford: 07733 038945

WEST MEON CARPENTRY LTD.

Complete Carpentry Service

Renovation • New Works

Pinfarthings, Coombe Lane, West Meon GU32 1NB

Tel: 01730 829380 • Mob: 07590 996858

Warnford Village Hall

£7.50 PER

HOURLY FOR LOCALS

Warm and homely hall for hire

Includes background heating, lighting, use of
well equipped kitchen with dishwasher

*Also tables, chairs, crockery and decorating ladder for
home use may be borrowed. Donations gratefully received.*

For help and availability contact Amie Boyes

Telephone: 07887 946169

or e-mail: warnfordvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Warnford Village Hall - Registered charity number 1078228

MEON VALLEY Mowers SERVICE AND REPAIRS

Specialist in all types of mowers
and garden machinery

jimmeonvalleymowers@gmail.com

Call James on **077 83 93 72 12**
or **01489 878085**

Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am–4.30pm. Allen 10.30–4pm.

ALLEN GALLERY

EXHIBITIONS

Allen Gallery Main Exhibition Space: An exhibition by Alton College Graphics and Photography A Level students. Continues until 31st December. FREE

Allen Gallery Cafe area: Contemporary Needlework - a display of work by local textile artist Hilary Kimber. Until 10th December, FREE.

TALKS

There is no talk in December or January, but the February talk on Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm will be given by Tony Cross, sometime Curator at the Curtis and Allen, on the subject of Memorials. FREE. Tony says, "This presentation will be of interest to anyone engaged in local history and aims to provide an awareness of memorials and their importance in commemorating the lives and achievements of notable people with connections to Hampshire. A selection of these and their associated stories are included."

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Christmas activities up to 30th December include: a Festive Trail in both venues, Patterns on Paper - a drop-in session for making simple paper decorations (decorations £2 per sheet) and a Make-and-take activity on small seasonal clay items on Tuesday 19th December (£5 per session, 10.30am-11.15am or 11.30am-12.15pm.)



Memorials to Lord Nelson and pioneering plastic surgeon Sir Harold Gillies

Please book via the website. <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery>.

Film Nights in the Allen Gallery

It's a Wonderful Life (16th December)

Lunana - or A Yak in the Classroom (20th January).

Films start at 7.00pm, and the cafe will be open for wine and soft drinks from 6.30pm. Our small and friendly screenings (only 32 tickets per film) are a nice way to see films in the centre of Alton. Tickets bookable via the website.

CURTIS MUSEUM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Until 30th December A Link to the Past - Help us create the longest paper chain, moving through the years in our museum. FREE.

Create a Cracker – Come and buy, build and fill your own cracker. Cracker 50p, fill it with a hat, joke, snapper and tie, buy a prize to go inside.

Jill Line

Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd December Christmas Fair
10am-12 noon West Meon Village Hall

Tuesday 5th December West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

Friday 29th December Community Cinema "UP" 2.30pm West Meon Village Hall

23rd May 2024 Warnford Parish Meeting AGM 7:30pm Warnford Village Hall



Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922
Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector: Vacant

Churchwarden for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829105

PCC Secretary for West Meon:

Louise Clay 829235

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 829161

Vergar for Warnford:

Peter Short 829285

Hampshire Farmers' Markets

December

Sunday 3rd Petersfield Christmas Festivities & Romsey

Saturday 9th Alton

Sunday 10th Winchester

Saturday 16th Emsworth & Ringwood

Sunday 17th Southsea & Romsey

Alresford Watercress Line Farmers' Market
every 1st Saturday of the month.



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:

The Editor: Jacqueline Annabel

Tel: (01730) 829023

westmeonparishnews@gmail.com

Advertising: Questions regarding advertising should be addressed to:

Helena Gomm

Tel: (01730) 829741

helenagomm40@gmail.com

Printers: Studio 6, Woodside Court,

Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7LH

Tel: 01329 832933. E-mail: [print@](mailto:print@studio-6.co.uk)

studio-6.co.uk

ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)

ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)