

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

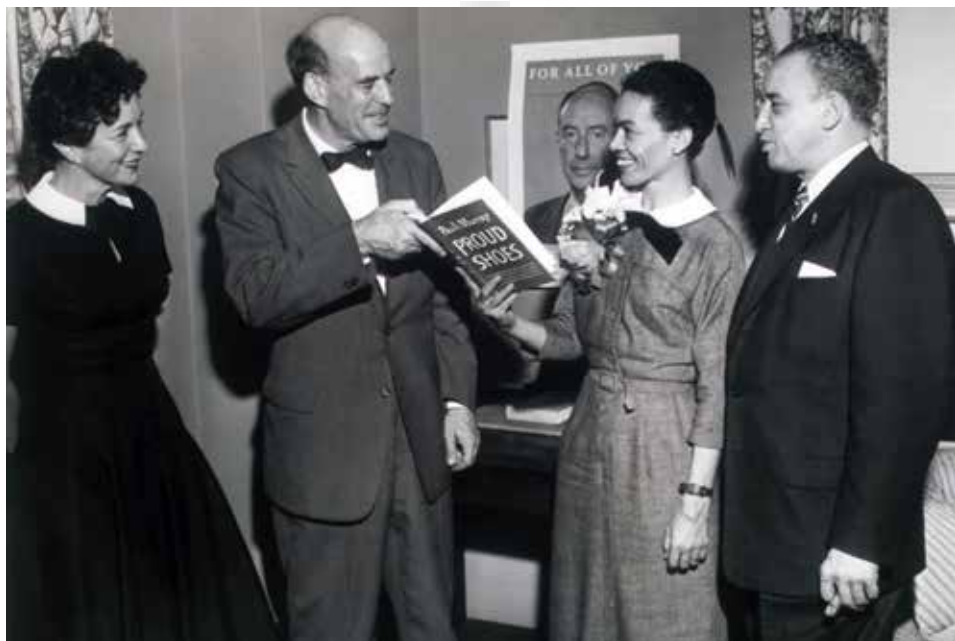
October 2026

Shared Stories

October brings two significant moments – one very local and one on of transnational significance. It marks the beginning of the Upper Meon Benefice, as West Meon, Warnford and East Meon and Langrish move forward together into a shared future. It also marks Black History Month, a time when communities across the UK pause to honour stories of Black men and women whose courage, faith, and creativity have shaped our common life. These two moments, though very different, invite us to reflect on how the Church can flourish when it draws strength from the diversity of its people and commits itself to collaboration across every kind of boundary.

The formation of our Benefice can go beyond being an administrative, structural change; it can be a spiritual invitation. Scripture reminds us that the Body of Christ is made up of many members, each with its own gifts, each indispensable to the whole. When parishes work together, they do not lose their identity. Rather, they can re-discover a more meaningful identity in relationship with others. Collaboration is a form of discipleship: a way of practising trust, generosity, and shared purpose.

Black History offers us powerful examples of this kind of Christian collaboration. Bishop



Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray presents a copy of Proud Shoes to Lloyd K. Garrison of the National Urban League (1956). Photo: Schlesinger Library, Harvard University.



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Wilfred Wood was born in Barbados and later became the first Black bishop in the Church of England. Throughout his ministry he worked tirelessly for racial justice, fair housing, and community cohesion. Bishop Wood understood that the Church must be a place where every voice is welcomed and every person's dignity is honoured. His leadership helped the Church of England recognise that its strength lies not in uniformity but in the breadth of its people.

Some time ago, I heard the name 'Pauli Murray' on Radio 4 – who was this person? It turned out that she was the first Black woman ordained in the Episcopal Church (the Anglican Church in the United States). And not just a priest, she was lawyer, a poet, and a civil rights strategist. She spent her life building bridges - across racial divides, between genders and within divided communities. Her conviction that "hope is a song in a weary throat" resonates with the Church's calling to be a people who carry hope and who work patiently towards ever greater understanding.

Bishop Wood and Dr Murray remind us that collaboration is more than an administrative device; it is our Christian vocation. So, this October, let us make a resolution to listen more attentively to others, make space for one another, and trust that God is at work in the gifts of all sorts of people.

As the Upper Meon Benefice gets properly underway, let us take the opportunity the opportunity to practise this generous-spirited way of being Church: by honouring the traditions of each parish while seeking new ways to share worship, ministry, and mission; by learning from one another's strengths; and by building a culture where everyone, old friends and new, feels they have a place.



Thinking about Black History Month has reminded me, for one, that the Church flourishes when it celebrates all God's people. Thinking about our new benefice might just invite us to live that truth here at home. May this new season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' also be a season of growing trust, creativity, and a shared commitment to walk the way of Christ together.

Fr Tony

Bishop Wilfred Wood, The Church of England's first black Bishop. Wilfred Denniston Wood KA (born 15th June 1936) was Bishop of Croydon from 1985 to 2003.

Photo: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/bishop-wilfred-wood-the-church-of-englands-first-black-bishop/>

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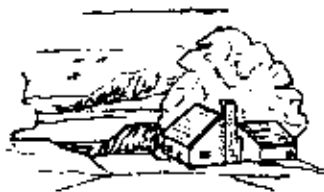
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Late summer start to the new school year

As the term begins, we are still blessed with warm weather that is enabling the children to use the outside spaces that surround our village school. West Meon School has settled into their new year of learning. There are many traditions for the autumn and winter months which draw us together and spread both light and joy through the school and community. Years 5 and 6 traditionally provide art work to support the West Meon Music Festival in September. Each year, Owls class listen to pieces of music by the composers that will be represented in the festival and use the compositions to inspire their art work.

Foxes class are preparing to deliver their Harvest Festival service at St John the Evangelist Church. This year we are also celebrating Mrs Burgess' 25 years of teaching at West Meon School. Mrs Burgess started here as a newly qualified teacher and has taught many members of the local community during that time. There is no doubt that this successful teacher inspires young people and we have one of her ex-pupils now working in our school supporting others. As part of our tradition linked with Harvest Festival, year 6 students will collect the contributions from the school and deliver them to some of our oldest residents of West Meon village. This is one of the many activities that link the school to the local community.

Pupil voice is an important part of our school ethos and every year 2 school councillors are elected from years 1-6. The first order of business this year was to vote for School Council badges or lanyards. A very eloquent school councillor, Georgie, told the group that teachers wore lanyards, and as school councillors were also important, they should have lanyards too. The lanyards won the vote! Pupil voice in action.

Our Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) are busy planning the Pumpkin Party to celebrate Halloween. This is a well attended event that brings joy to the children and raises money for FOWMS. The successful fund raising in the past led to the completion of our library space last year and they are currently exploring ways to enhance our outside play areas.

On Saturday 17th October, West Meon Primary will have an Open Day. This is the first of several opportunities to visit the school and explore our learning environment. On the day, there will be the chance to meet current parents and supporters from the local community and to find out more about our offer and ethos. Two further sessions will be arranged in November, during the normal school day. We also welcome 'one on one' visits during the normal school day, to give prospective parents a chance to see us in action.

On Wednesday 11th November, 10.45am, Owls class will be delivering their Remembrance Service which is open to all. This takes place at the church and also includes the memorial outside. Children have the opportunity to think of those who gave their lives during conflicts, and also to recognise the many people who put others first every day. Respect and courage are two of our core values at West Meon school.

While we still have this ambient weather, the children will be enjoying their outdoor activities and learning. We look forward to sharing future events with the wider community of West Meon.

Julie Slamaker



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West Meon Community Cinema Autumn Programme

Those of you who came to the cinema in September will be aware that, due to circumstances beyond our control there was a very last-minute change of programme so that you found yourselves watching “The Christophers” instead of “Tuner.” We hope you enjoyed the film and apologise if you had a surprise when no piano tuners materialised!

This month is now your opportunity to see “**Tuner**” which we will definitely be showing on:

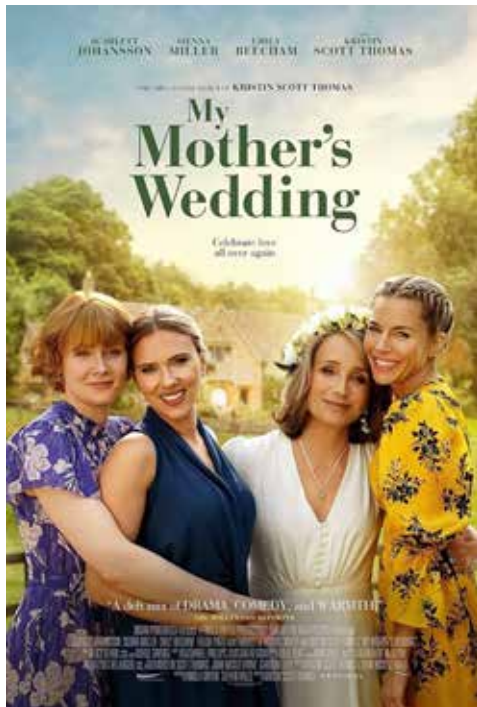
Friday 9th October at 7.45pm. Tickets £7 available on line at Ticketsource, in the village shop or on the door.

We have now booked the following films for:

Friday 13th November at 7.45pm “My Mother’s Wedding”, starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. Three sisters return to their home for the third wedding of their twice-married mother but they are all forced to revisit the past and confront the future.

Friday 11th December 11th at 7.45pm “You’ve Got Mail”, a 1988 American romantic comedy-drama directed by Nora Ephron and starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan; set in New York across autumn and through the winter holidays. We are planning to provide supper before the film so watch this space for details.

Rosemary Morrish



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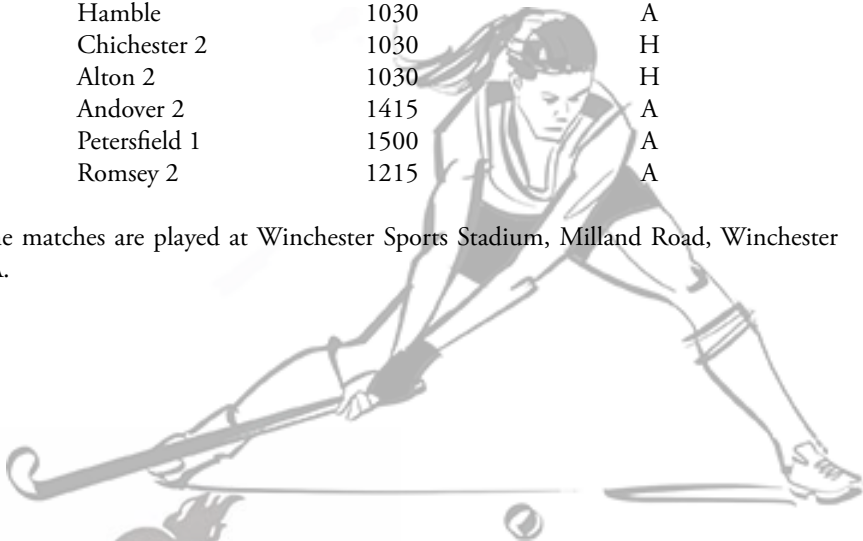
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West Meon Ladies Hockey Fixtures 2026/27

Date	Opposition	Time	H/A
03/10	US Portsmouth 1	1030	H
10/10	Winchester 4	1030	A
17/10	Aldershot & Farnham 2	1030	H
24/10	Basingstoke 4	1030	H
31/10	Wimborne Wayfarers 2	1030	H
7/11	Hamble	1030	A
14/11	Chichester 2	1030	H
21/11	Alton 2	1030	H
28/11	Andover 2	1415	A
5/12	Petersfield 1	1500	A
12/12	Romsey 2	1215	A

All home matches are played at Winchester Sports Stadium, Milland Road, Winchester SO23 0QA.

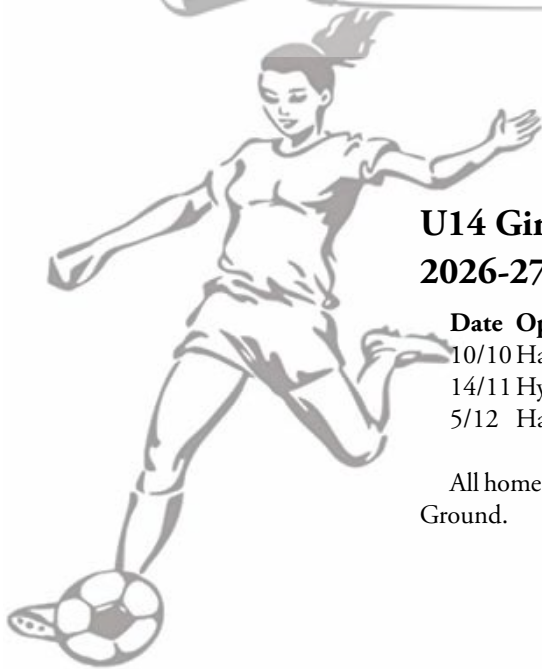


U14 Girls Football Home Fixtures 2026-27 – Valiente FC

Date	Opposition	Time
10/10	Havant & Waterlooville U14 Lions	1000
14/11	Hythe & Dibden U14 Bobcats	1000
5/12	Hamble Club U14 Lionesses	1000

All home matches are played at West Meon Recreation Ground.

Mary Edwards





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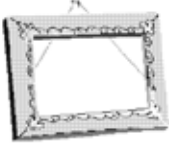
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Meon Community Connect

MCC recently hosted a free members' event in the Thomas Lord, both to thank its current members and to get feedback to help shape events for the year ahead. Non-members were also encouraged to attend to see what we are about. We have some exciting ideas for future events and these should be published in the next Parish News and on our website soon.

Our aim is simple – to enhance the social, recreational and cultural life of the community by organising a diverse range of activities and events. Whether you have recently moved to the area or have lived here for decades, our events are warm and welcoming, so if you haven't done so already join up and get involved! Our annual membership fee from October 2026 will be £10 which affords you discounted rates on events for the membership year.

Our next event is the **Harvest Hoedown on 17th October** 7pm in West Meon Village Hall. Join us for a social fun filled evening of food and dancing. The evening will comprise of a two course supper including a BBQ feast followed by dessert catered by Mary and Rory. A cash bar will also be available courtesy of WM Sports Club. Afterwards join in the fun of line dancing led by a professional caller who will guide dancers of all skill levels through step-by-step country classics. Tickets are £18 for members/£22 for non-members and must be purchased in advance by 9th October 8pm.

Visit www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk for more information.

Emma Barry

Garden & Countryside Club

After our wonderful Summer Show, we are delighted to start our autumn talks with Peter Renwick on "The Decline of Swifts and how we can encourage them back" on Thursday 8th October at 7:30 for 7:45pm in Warnford Village Hall.

These beautiful and charismatic birds, perfectly adapted to a life in the air, have declined across Hampshire and the UK by around 70% over the past thirty years. This decline has been caused entirely by loss of nest sites in our homes.

Peter is a local conservationist from Meonstoke and will tell us more about these wonderful birds and how all of us can help them survive and grow again!

This is such a beautiful bird species that needs everyone's help to recover – did you know they are the fastest birds in level flight, with an impressive top speed of 69mph!

Put it in your diary now!

Edwin Grimshaw



Services and Events

4th October

08:00 Holy Communion BCP
10:30 Special Benefice Inauguration Service

18th Sunday after Trinity

East Meon
East Meon

6th October

18:00 Sung Traditional Compline

Tuesday

East Meon Lady Chapel

10th October

10:00 to 15:30 The Upper Meon Benefice - Shaping our future
Warnford Village Hall



Saturday

11th October

08:00 Holy Communion BCP
09:00 SoW (East Meon & Langrish)
10:30 Benefice Eucharist (Wilfrid)

19th after Trinity - Wifrid

East Meon
East Meon
West Meon

(Bring a packed lunch if you would like to walk afterwards)

13:00 Wilfrid Pilgrimage

West Meon to East Meon

18th October

08:00 Holy Communion BCP
09:00 Holy Communion BCP
10:30 Service of the Word

20th after Trinity Luke the Evangelist

East Meon
Warnford
East Meon

25th October

08:00 Holy Communion BCP
10:30 Benefice Eucharist (Bible Sunday)
10:30 Parish of East Meon and Langrish Parish Eucharist (Last After Trinity)

Last after Trinity & Bible Sunday

East Meon
West Meon
East Meon

28th October Simon & Jude, Apostles

09:00 Morning Prayer

West Meon

31st October Saturday All Souls

18:00 Commemoration of Departed

East Meon

THE UPPER MEON BENEFICE - SHAPING OUR FUTURE

By Fr Tony Forrest



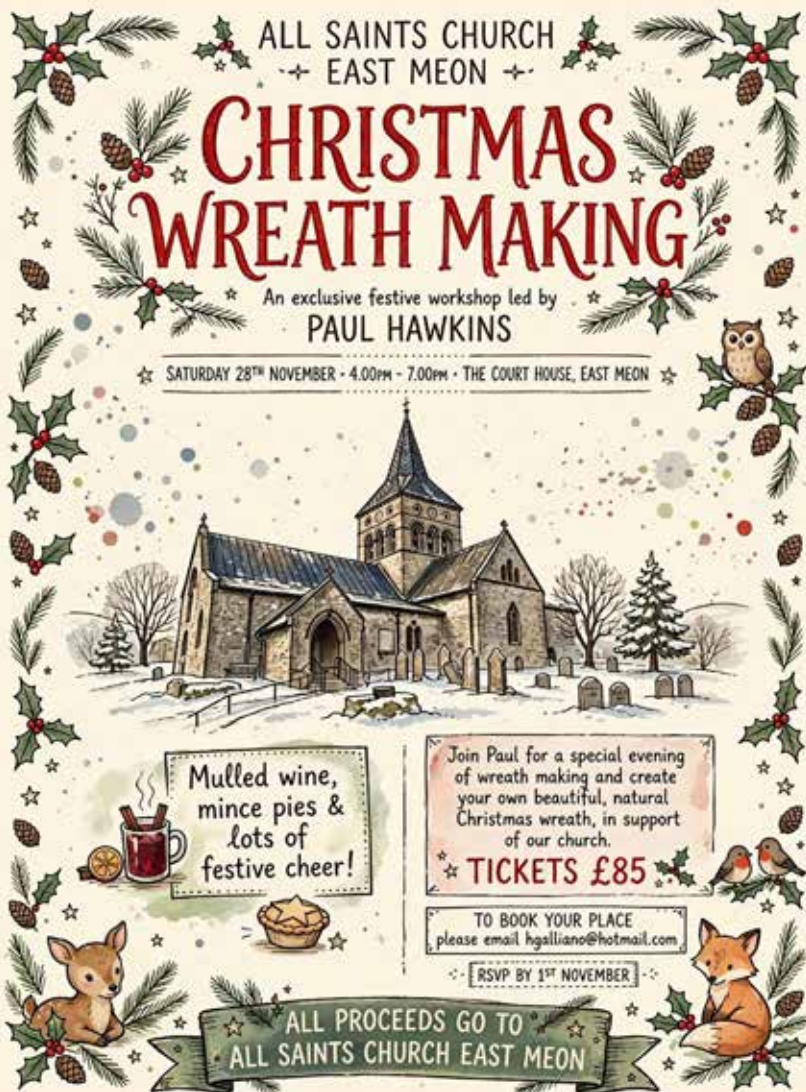
10 Oct · 10:00
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Warnford



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-upper-meon-benefice-shaping-our-future-tickets-1999389780656>

Places are limited, and a sandwich lunch will be provided, so please book as soon as possible. Attached is both the booking link and QR code.

Emily Rich



Dementia Festival

Friday 30th October, 10am – 1pm at the Auditorium, Churcher's College, Petersfield, GU31 4AS. The Dementia Festival is run by Dementia Friendly Petersfield, supported by EHDC, and will have over twenty stalls providing information and support for people living with dementia, their families, and carers. Winton House will provide a café for drinks, cakes and biscuits and there will be presentations including one by Admiral Nurse, Rob Benham, on Living with Dementia – A Carers Perspective. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information regarding these or the Dementia Festival.

Thank you, Audrey - Dementia Friendly, Petersfield 079666759929

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The West Meon Music Festival 2026



Photo: Adrian Annabel

This year's West Meon Music Festival was the sixteenth and was enjoyed by residents and visitors to Warnford, West Meon and East Meon. After an opening concert in St John's in West Meon, attended by a mix of people that had booked and those that showed up on the night, the Primrose Piano Quartet played Brahms, Mendelssohn and Dvorak followed by a celebration amongst the Festival Supporters.

The Telegraph singled out British pianist Amiri Harewood, playing the following night, for the "huge variety of colours he conjures from the piano, and a sheer delight in music-making". This was followed by an enthusiastic outing for all things Hungarian. Suzanne Stanzeleit was outstanding on violin and she welcomed her brother Martin on second cello, who flew all the way from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to be in West Meon. He arrived on time, thankfully, despite taking the train from Southampton!

On Saturday, some British Britten and Bridge was the prelude to travelling back in time , four hundred years, to European Cathedrals and Courts with a concert of Flutes and Lutes at Warnford. Beth Stone started on the Renaissance flute before playing the Baroque flute, with Daniel Murphy on lute before revealing the massive theorbo (seen in the photograph above). Mark Eden and Christopher Stell played acoustic guitar at East Meon on Sunday before the Primrose Quartet wrapped everything up on with all things Schubert. Full details can be found at www.westmeonmusic.co.uk and we look forward to 2027!

Adrian Annabel

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Bring your friends - everyone welcome!

Warnford Fete success - come rain or shine

This year's Fete took place on Saturday 29th August, and we were all relieved that the local community came out in reasonable numbers to support us even though it was a very wet morning and only marginally drier afternoon.

The Playground looked good, easier to mow than usual after the minimal rain and several heatwaves over the last four months!

The usual setup team were Andrew, Barry, Jim and Stephen and joined this time by Josh, Justin and Harry to add some younger blood.

We had the usual range of stalls run by a great team of those from the village and further afield. Teas, Books and Tombola were in the Village Hall, meaning people could enjoy a cup of tea and delicious Ivey cake in the dry. For all the other stalls it was a matter of braving the weather, luckily we had the church gazebos and several stall holders bought their own.

Not only did everyone work so hard on the day, but all stall holders were preparing for weeks beforehand - once again we give huge thanks to Jane for tirelessly doing all the paperwork over the months before the day.

Announcements by Sally, and the cheers for the boat races as Naia and Harry waded down a slightly lower than usual river, made for a lively afternoon. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful site beside the Meon, with its swings and slides where children can play. Very many thanks to all those who took part in the fete, either as stall holders, helpers or customers.

We raised a total of £2,227 which, after last year's £2,630 in rather better conditions, was quite amazing. Eighty percent will go to the Church with the rest being divided between the Playground and the Village Hall. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped these three priceless village assets.

Until next year - rain or shine!

Fete Committee: Amie Boyes, Sally Matthews, Jeremy Barber & Stephen Short



Rainfall Report for August/September 2026

At long last the weather has changed and we have had some very welcome rain. August was hot and very dry with the first rain falling on the 18th and that a meagre 1.4mms. From then we had 35.8mms (1.4") ending with a total of 37.2mms (1.46"). September to the 15th we have had 31.4mms (1.23"). The year to end of August's total is 605mm (23.8"), thanks to the very wet January and February before all those dry months, last year we had had 466mm (18.3") and in '24 we had 702mm (27.6") respectively, the 10 year average is 581mm to the end of August so surprisingly we are above average. Harvest is over, but not forgotten, in quick time and with relatively poor yields generally reported.

Peter Short

West Meon Parish Council

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who continues to give their time to our village and wider parish. Whether it's helping with local groups and events, looking after our shared spaces, supporting neighbours or simply picking up a piece of litter while out for a walk, it all contributes to making West Meon the lovely community it is.

The Parish Council continues to work on a number of issues affecting the parish, including road safety, clearing drains, highways, maintenance of our public spaces and the various day-to-day matters that perhaps aren't always very visible, but nevertheless require our attention. As ever, we will continue to raise concerns with the relevant authorities and push for action where we can.

With autumn approaching, please also keep an eye on hedges and vegetation bordering roads, pavements and footpaths. Keeping these clear makes a real difference to visibility and accessibility, particularly as daylight hours reduce.

We are always keen to hear from parishioners. If there is something you think the Parish Council should be aware of, please get in touch or come along to one of our meetings of the Parish Council Hub. You don't need to wait until something becomes a major problem — and equally, we are always pleased to hear positive ideas for the parish too.

Finally, as we head towards the colder months, please keep an eye out for neighbours who may need a little extra help. West Meon has a wonderful community spirit, and sometimes the smallest gesture can make the biggest difference.

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

Location: Cuppacheeno, The Village Shop, West Meon

Time: 9am-10am

Dates: Saturday, 3rd October 2026

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

Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to Warnford Parish Meeting 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.

Warnford Parish Meeting 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 Autumn Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th November 2026. All parishioners welcome. Please email any suggestions for the Agenda to the Clerk. Papers relating to the meeting will be posted on the website nearer the time. WPM will set its budget for 2027-28 at the meeting, including deciding what grants to make. Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant should follow the procedure set out on the website, please note in particular that applications must be sent to the Clerk and copied to the Chair (preferably by email) at least two weeks before the meeting.

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

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Amanda Griffith 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

David Ablitt david.ablitt@winld.org.uk

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

Hampshire County Councillor

Anne Small anne.small@hants.gov.uk 07889 960698

Member of Parliament for Winchester

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

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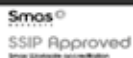
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Curtis Museum

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm 01420 82802 www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

The Ghastly Funfair

Family Fun, Games, Prizes - from the team who brought you the Museum by Torchlight.

On Halloween night, the Curtis Museum transforms into a marvellously macabre funfair, filled with ghostly games, frightful fun and mysterious surprises around every corner. Collect your tokens and try your luck at our spooktacular fairground stalls. Test your skill, win gruesome goodies and remember...it's a prize every time! Meet peculiar characters, discover curious treats and enjoy a delightfully eerie evening as you wander through the museum by torchlight. Whether you're a daring ghost, a wicked witch, a mischievous monster or a brave explorer, there's fun for all the family at this hauntingly entertaining Halloween event.

Get your tokens, try your luck and see what lurks around the next corner...if you dare! Suitable for families and children of all ages. Fancy dress warmly encouraged!

31st October, 4.30 -7pm. Free entrance

Mediaeval Monster Hunt

Autumn Half Term - 24th-31st October.

Track down dragons, unicorns, manticores and other medieval monsters in this family-friendly hunt through the Curtis Museum! £2.75 per Monster Hunter Pack, with a reward on completion.

Do you have what it takes to become a Medieval monster Hunter?



Object of the Month

We continue our display of objects from the Allen Gallery Collection. October's piece is a brown 18th Century Bellarmine 4-gallon salt-glazed stoneware bottle which belonged to WH Allen himself. There will be a Collections Study Day looking at similar works, with Nigel Jeffries, leader of the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) ceramics team.

Wednesday 14th October. £23 per person, to include a light lunch. More details and booking form on our website.

Dotty the Dodo has a new Autumn Facts Trail to follow. Until 28th November. FREE.

Talk: Fire Safety In The Home

The Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery present a talk by Josh Grant, Alton Fire Station Watch Manager. Thursday 8th October, 7 for 7.30pm in Room 7, Alton Community Centre. Free to Friends, £2 for guests. Tea/coffee provided.

Jill Line

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3rd October Parish Council Hub
- Drop-in, support your community and have your say 9am-10am Cuppacheeno, The Village Shop, West Meon.

Thursday 8th October Garden & Countryside Club: The Decline of Swifts
 by Peter Renwick, 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall.

Friday 9th October West Meon Community Cinema: Tuner 7:45pm (bar open 7pm) West Meon Village Hall.

Saturday 10th October The Upper Meon Benefice - Shaping our future, 10:00 to 15:30 Warnford Village Hall.

Saturday 17th October Harvest Hoedown
 7pm West Meon Village Hall.

Care Group Co-ordinator

Ann Noble 07463 191 673

Parish Directory

Rector:

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

Verger for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

Farmers' Markets

Sat 3rd 10-3 Hamble Harvest Festival
 Sun 4th 10-1 Romsey, 10-2 Petersfield
 Sat 10th 10-2 Alton
 Sun 11th 9-2 Winchester, 10-2 Whiteley
 Sat 17th 9-1 Emsworth
 Sun 18th 10-2 Alresford
 Sun 25th 9-2 Winchester
 Sat 31st 10-2 Ringwood



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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Printers: Studio 6, Woodside Court, Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7LH

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

studio-6.co.uk

ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)

ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)