

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

April 2024

Looking To The Light

It was just four short years ago that Easter had been cancelled as a celebration and churches had been closed. However, we gathered in the street to bang our saucepans in thanksgiving for the saving work of the NHS. We were looking forward to better times; reducing 'r-rates' put hope in our hearts, but still we feared the much discussed 'second spike'. There may be some Easter parallels here for the Christian - a tangible insight into the pain and joy of the Easter story, as we progress through the Easter season to Pentecost (Whitsun).

The first followers of 'The Way' and their leader Yeshua ben Yusef (Jesus), had faced many challenges, but they were as nothing when compared to the events of that first Good Friday. Early on the morning of the third day, many of the disciples remained despondent, they could not even dare to hope that Jesus was alive. However, as the reports of the resurrection found their way to them, several, and not least the women, became euphoric on hearing the news of Jesus' triumphant conquest over death itself, having given his life to save ours.

Despite the resurrection joy, those early followers remained fearful; frightened that they too might lose their lives. The fishermen among them returned to their homes. Despite the exuberance in the wake of the lifting of the first lock-down, we feared what could still happen to us. When we glimpsed signs of the efficacy of the vaccines, our spirits lifted, tentatively at first. The disciples' spirits gradually lifted as reports of Jesus' appearances increased in number.



Tomb: Adobe Stock



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Uncertainty remained for us even in the latter stages of the pandemic; uncertainty lay ahead of the disciples as Jesus warned them of his departure from their sight.

The effect of the pandemic cast an enormous, dark shadow over the whole world; the pain for so many has been quite unlike anything else that most of us have ever experienced. The death on the cross of Jesus also brought darkness. It must have shattered those who gave up their livelihoods to follow him; it must have brought utter despair to those who had been filled with hope by his teaching and by the way he treated even the marginalized; it surely enraged those who thought he would raise an army and cast the Romans out of Judaea; and it must have brought profound grief to those who loved him.

The horrific statistics of the pandemic were not the end of the CoViD-19 story – vaccinations, medication and wonderful care reversed the progress of this virus – the science and the humanity of our medical professionals brought us hope. For Christians, Good Friday is not the end of the story. Easter Day, and all that it commemorates, still brings hope, light, and life into our broken world. We should never take for granted the joy at the news that the stone had been rolled away of that 1st century tomb as it its occupant had risen.

It was not so long ago that communities, like ours, brought light, joy and comfort out of the darkness of the pandemic. We, and especially the youngest among us, are still building up our lives after the lasting effects of the pandemic, and how much better happens when we work to help one another.

New meaning can emerge after times of sadness, pain, and loss. There is the real hope of joy and companionship with each other before God at such times. Gratitude for the new light and the new life means that we remember what has been, but we remain hopeful and become strengthened for what lies ahead.

May all that we have learned in the pandemic about ourselves and each other, about hope and compassion, never be forgotten, just as God never forgets us, sending his own Son to suffer and die and rise again for us. Out of that suffering came The Light of the World, I pray for light and joy for every one of you and for all those that you love through the whole season of Easter this year and evermore.

Fr. Tony

Warnford Snowdrop Sundays

We have endured extremely wet weather but come February we were generously allowed by Andrew and Candi Sellick to open the gates on Sundays to visitors to enjoy Warnford Park and the glorious Snowdrops.

The ground was not forgiving but visitors came in huge numbers, and unfortunately, we were unable to open on the final Sunday due to ground conditions.

But...the generosity of the visitors over three Sundays brought in £6,901. An amazing amount of revenue which helps keep the pretty Warnford Church going.

None of this would be possible without the wonderful team of volunteers – car parkers, welcomers, organists, tea ladies, and sellers in the Church Shop and the Snowdrops. Without their continued support these glorious Snowdrop Sundays in February would not be possible.

Thank you all and we look forward to seeing you all in February 2025!

Angie Trenchard

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TIME IS SO
VERY PRECIOUS...

Trustees sought for East Hampshire based charity supporting children with Muscular Dystrophy across the UK

The Muscle Help Foundation (MHF) charity operates out of East Hampshire (Clanfield) where its vital work continues to deliver transformational interventions called Muscle Dreams for vulnerable children and young people (8–28yrs) living with Muscular Dystrophy across the UK. Its founder and CEO, Michael McGrath MBE DL, is seeking new trustees.

Are you looking to make a difference? Perhaps you've had a successful career and now you want to give something back. Maybe you have time and skills. Perhaps you are looking to bring a fresh perspective as part of your career building aspirations. 2024/25 is a pivotal time for the charity as it celebrates its 21st anniversary. MHF is actively seeking new trustees to join its Board. The charity wants to hear from passionate people with the right blend of skills, knowledge and experience to support it as it moves closer to realising its 657 mission (one experience for every muscle in the human body). Reach out if you have skills in the following areas: Safeguarding, Hospice insight, Fundraising, Financial (supporting MHF's treasurer), PR/Press, Human Resources (recruitment, policy management), Corporate partnerships.

What's involved – Trustees have a legal duty, so it's not a role to be taken lightly. Put simply, charities that function well have good people who believe fundamentally in the cause but also understand the importance of oversight, governance, strategy and development. Having trustees with the right skills is invaluable.

More information – Head to: <https://www.musclehelp.com/vacancies/trustees-for-multi-award-winning-uk-charity>. **Contact** – If you are interested in learning more or wish to have an informal chat about this opportunity, please contact Michael McGrath MBE DL, founder and CEO of the Muscle Help Foundation charity. Email: michael@musclehelp.com. Website: www.musclehelp.com and www.michaelmcgrath.co.uk. *Michael McGrath MBE DL*

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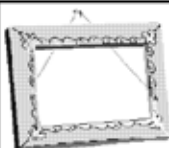
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Meon Valley Community Bus Association Timetable

£5 return, £2.50 single any journey.

SOBERTON TO PETERSFIELD

Every Wednesday

0900	Soberon Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brookbridge (The Hurdles)
0908	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0916	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0921	Corhampton
0924	Worford George and Falcon
0946	Petersfield Square
0950	Petersfield Tesco

Return:

1155	Petersfield Tesco
1200	Petersfield Square

No service on other days or Bank Holidays
Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion

Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free.

SOBERTON TO WINCHESTER

1st Friday of the month

0900	Soberon Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brookbridge The Hurdles
0908	Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
0915	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0921	Exton The Shoe PH
0926	Worford Village Hall
0946	Winchester Breakway
0953	River Park Leisure Centre

Return:

1155	River Park Leisure Centre
1200	Winchester Breakway

Bus will not wait after scheduled time
All enquiries to: mvd@1300@gmail.com

WEST MEON to FAREHAM

Every Monday & 2nd, 5th Friday of the month

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Worford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brookbridge The Hurdles
0930	Soberon Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0936	Soberon Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberon Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rooksbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0945	Hundred Acres
0957	Fareham Library
1002	Fareham Sainsbury's

Return:

1200	Fareham Sainsbury's
1205	Fareham Library

WEST MEON to HEDGE END

3rd Friday of Each Month

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Worford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brookbridge The Hurdles
0929	Soberon Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0935	Soberon Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberon Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rooksbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0945	Hundred Acres
1007	Hedge End Marks & Spencer

Return:

1200	Hedge End Marks & Spencer
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WEST MEON to WATERLOOVILLE

4th Friday Each Month

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Worford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brookbridge The Hurdles
0929	Soberon Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0936	Soberon Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberon Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rooksbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0957	Waterboville Watrose
1005	Waterboville Sainsbury's

Return:

1200	Waterboville Sainsbury's
1205	Waterboville Watrose

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday MAY 4th 10.00

Droxford Village Hall
Droxford High St. SO32 3PA

Plants, Produce and Home Baking for

MEON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

West Meon Primary School

Musicians from Y4 to Y6 joined with other small schools at Dunhurst on 28th February culminating in a performance for parents, which was very impressive.

As I write, the Owls are visiting the Science Centre in Winchester and later in the week Foxes are visiting the Living Rainforest. The week after Hedgehogs are visiting Portchester Castle.

The children dressed up for World Book Day as their favourite characters and focussed on reading activities, and later this week they are dressing in red to raise money for Sports Relief.

The end of term will see the traditional egg rolling and decorating, judged by Mr Major, as well as our instrumentalists performing in the church in the evening.

The Maths workshop for parents was well attended and there will be a follow up session. February parents' evenings were well attended and everyone was pleased with the progress being made by their children.

I was honoured to be nominated as a Community Education Champion by Flick Drummond MP, who has visited the school on many occasions. I was invited to 10 Downing Street for a reception with Damien Hinds, Minister for Education on the 12th March and I discussed small



schools and funding with him. Flick also showed me around the House of Commons and Lords, and in June I will be taking the School Council up to London, so Flick can show them around as well.

The governors have been holding drop ins for parents and prospective candidates have been looking around the school for the post of headteacher, with interviews to be held just before the end of term.

We have welcomed a new child into the current Year R and we still have a few places for Year R in September. Please look at our website to see all of the activities we offer.

*Julie Kelly,
Headteacher*

Photo: Julie Kelly at No. 10 Downing Street supplied by J Kelly

West Meon Village Shop

As in recent years, through March and into April we stock an impressive selection of Easter fare in the Shop, including Easter eggs and chocolates, cakes and biscuits, along with an extensive range of attractive cards, fresh cut flowers and potted plants, much of which is showcased in our stunning Easter display.



Do please check to renew your 200 club raffle if you haven't already done so. Most of you have opted to use the standing order method but those who gave cheques or cash may need to renew soon, please check your statements. (One less job or us to do). It is a great way to support your community shop. The prizes are £40, £20, £10 and £5 in February, June and October; and £200, £100, £50 and £25 in April, August and December.

West Meon Village Shop Committee

Volunteering

As you probably know, our lovely Village Shop is owned by the Community, managed by the charismatic Rachell and employs very few paid staff. The rest of the team you see behind the counter are unpaid volunteers and undoubtedly without their help the shop would not survive.

We are currently looking for additional volunteers to join the team and contribute to this important work. If you can spare just two hours every fortnight pop in to see Rachell, or e-mail wmvsoffice@gmail.com, to learn more about this exciting opportunity and register your interest.

Jane Nicholson

Why do toads cross roads?

During breeding season frogs and toads naturally try to migrate back to the bodies of water where they originally spawned so they can mate and lay eggs. Unfortunately, manmade structures like roads and fences can provide difficult obstacles for wildlife to cross over, especially as they grow into larger adults and are unable to slip back through the holes they first came through. It is estimated that a staggering 20 tonnes of toads are killed on UK roads every year.

During February, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust rescued 170 toads and 7 frogs, thanks to the efforts of the Swanwick Lakes Education and Engagement team.

The team carefully collected and counted the toads and frogs, including mating pairs, from along a security fence line. They were then safely released onto the other side of the fence to continue their migration to their breeding grounds, and so are now able to spawn the next generation.



Photo: Common frog © Gemma Paul

Frogs are both predators and prey, which makes them an important part of the food chain. They provide a vital source of food for several species, as well as helping to control populations of others. They are also considered an indicator species as they are very sensitive to changes in their environment (both aquatic and terrestrial) and their permeable skin makes them especially vulnerable to pollutants. Monitoring populations of indicator species can be an important way to pick up on early warning signs of environmental changes or damage to natural habitats and ecosystems.

There are only four native species of frog in the UK of which two are toads. Toads are a type of frog but they have shorter legs, broader noses and drier (and bumpier) skin, which allows them to survive for longer in dry conditions compared to most other frogs. Toads also produce bufotoxin via their skin to defend themselves from predators. Unfortunately, toad populations in the UK have been steadily declining due to habitat loss, pollution and climate change. Because of this they are listed as a biodiversity priority species under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).

Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve is owned by NATS and managed in partnership with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Several amphibians call the reserve home, including three species of newt. They provide a vital source of food for other wildlife including herons, grass snakes and badgers, plus dragonflies and damselflies.



For more information about toads and frogs please visit: www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/amphibians.

Gemma Paul, Centre Assistant, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Rainfall report for February/March

February was a very wet month even by normal standards; we recorded rain on 24 out of the 29 days. There were 8 days with over 10 mms and only 5 days without any rain. The 9th was the wettest day with 32.3mms (1.27"). March has been marginally better with 5 rainless days out of the first 15 and has given 56.6mms. (2.23").

January 2024
92.6mms (3.64")

January 2023
139.5mms (5.49")

February 2024
182.7mms (7.19")

Total for January-February 2024
275.3mms

The first 15 days of March
56.6mms (2.22")

For those that say it has been the wettest winter for many years from our records it is actually number seven since 1974. The wettest 'winter', December 1st to end of February was 2013-14 with 717 mm, compared to our 420mm this 'winter'.

Peter Short



Photo of road just past Vinnels Lane by Jenna Farminer

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 7th April

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 14th April

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 21st April

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.

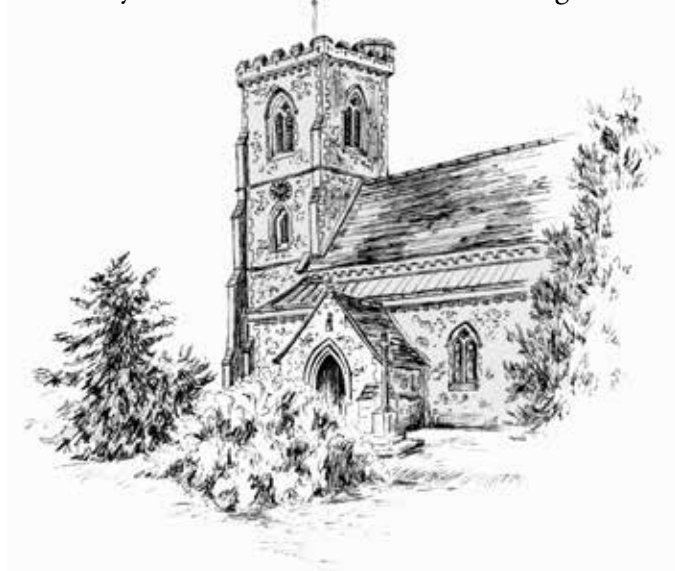
10.30am East Meon. Benefice Service of the Word - All Age Worship.

Sunday 28th April

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word
followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.50am.



The Great Mother's Day Litter Pick 2024 - Match Report



A fraction of the litter cleared on the day - photo supplied by James Ulph

The threatened rain stayed away on Sunday 10th March, and although our numbers were depleted by motherly duties, a well-experienced and motivated group of hardy litter-pickers from West Meon and further afield, cleared an impressive stretch of the A32 in both directions, as well as all the way up Station Road and from East Meon almost all the way to West. Had more people come forward to help, we would have made it to Loomies (for the first time!) and could have admired Zanna Jarrett's good work from the prior weekend, but it is encouraging to hear that a group from Woodlands and the 'Privett Pickers' are to head out by the time you are reading this to clear an area to the North of the lights.

Rich pickings this year included £30 (thank goodness for plastic notes), a broken mobile phone and a credit card on the A32, as well as a passport, driver's licence, credit card and earphones from Lippen Lane (which have been returned to their owner in Bishops Waltham!) A sodden mattress that has taunted us for several seasons, was finally removed by the East Meon/Drayton Collective and a pair of tights were found up Station Road (no known owner!)

When walking the dogs 'post picking', we found a pair of number-plates (pictured) at the old station, which seem to have come from a Honda - a worrying sign of more illicit behaviour in the village.

Special thanks to our regular pickers, in no particular order, representing West Meon; Hugh Morris, Tim Main, Ingolv Urnes, David Jeffers, Peter Smith, Emma and Simon Barry, Fi and Dom Duckworth and Jo Ringrose-Voase; representing Drayton Bridge; Melissa, Al and Luke Lacey (and friend Bina) with Anna and Al Coad; representing East Meon; Lou Bushell, Emma Gaisford and Clare de Lotbiniere; representing Meonstoke; Nick, Mollie, Tommy and Martha Masters.

James Ulph



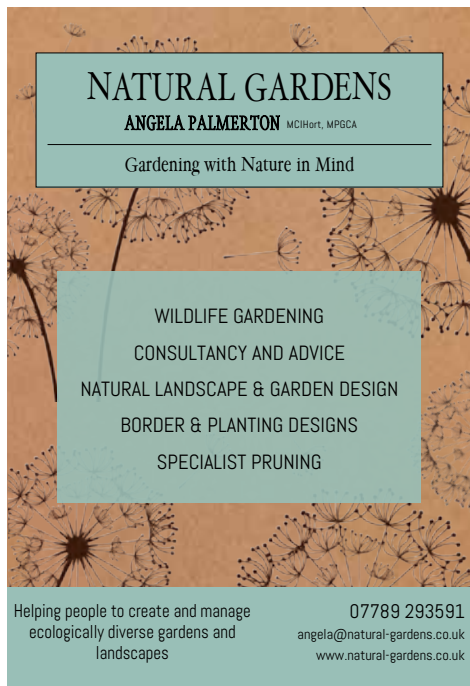
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W.I. Report April 2024

Our next meeting on 8th April 2024 at West Meon Village Hall will be our Annual General Meeting and it will be run by Kathy Winter from W.I. County Headquarters. We need nominations for Committee members and our present Officers who are standing again will need to be approved by our members. We are also having a flower arranging competition and the subject will be a small jug of flowers from your garden. We hope to have lots of entries and they will be judged by Kathy.

We had a very different style of talk at our meeting on 11th March which was entitled 'The Body Through the Porthole' by Steve Herra, where we, the audience, played the jury at a murder trial! This was a true story set on the Durban Castle on a 15 day voyage to South Africa where one of the passengers, a young actress, disappeared from her cabin and one of the ship's stewards, James Camb, was accused of her murder, although her body was never found and it was assumed that her body had been disposed of through her cabin porthole. Steve asked each of the W.I. members present their opinion of whether James Camb was guilty or not and he certainly did not get a unanimous decision! In 1948 James Camb was tried in The Great Hall at Winchester, and the Jury were out for only 45 minutes before coming back with a Guilty verdict. He was sentenced to death, but this was changed to life imprisonment for 20 years after which he was released on licence. We all thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM on 8th April,

Sue Kinlochan

West Meon Village Fete Saturday 8th June



We need YOUR help!

To make our annual fete a HUGE success we need VOLUNTEERS to:

- help on stalls during the afternoon esp. cakes, plants, books and bric-a-brac
- organise parking (1 of 2 shifts)
- erect gazebos/set up tables in the morning & take down later
- help with children's activities
- man the gate to welcome visitors
- sell raffle tickets outside our shop on the 3 Saturdays beforehand

we also need DONATIONS of:

- cakes & scones, books, bric-a-brac, plants and bottles
- tombola (new/unwanted gifts please)
- Union Jack bunting (to borrow for the day)
- Gazebos (to borrow for the day)

Please respond and make this the best fete EVER!!

Susan Berry 829014/07941096308



susanclareberry@gmail.com

Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning Friday 19th April 10am-12pm



Photo: Helen's London to Brighton Cycle for Parkinson's UK

I will be holding a coffee morning and raffle in aid of Parkinson's UK at Grange Cottage, West Meon, on Friday 19th April between 10am and midday.

Come and enjoy a drink and chat with friends in my mum's beautiful garden whilst raising money for such an important cause.

If you are too far away to walk, please park in the village hall car park and walk across the main road.

I will be selling tea, coffee and cake. There will also be a small raffle.

On 16th June I will be taking part in the London to Brighton Bike Ride in memory of my dad, Mike Stribling, who lost his battle with the disease last year.

This cycle ride will be in aid of Parkinson's UK, to help raise funds for further research and

support for families living with this degenerative condition.

If you could spare a few pounds and would like to sponsor me, please visit my justgiving page which you can find here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/helensbigcyclingchallenge?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fhelensbigcyclingchallenge&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

Helen Fewkes

About the charity Parkinson's UK

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helenagomm40@gmail.com

West Meon Community Cinema

The Korean evening on 8th March was a great success – it was definitely a first for the village hall kitchen to host the preparation of a selection of authentic Korean dishes, all masterminded expertly by Sunny Haigh. Having enjoyed our Korean food we were then treated to a beautifully made film which tackled the universal topics of coming of age, love, career, marriage and life's dreams.

There has been a change of programme for the April film as the distributors have been unable to confirm the release date of "Napoleon". We will now be showing "One Life", a biographical drama based on the true story of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton as he looks back at his efforts to help Jewish children in German occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39 before the outbreak of WW2.

Tickets £7 available...

On line via [Ticketsource.co.uk/west-meon-village-hall](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-meon-village-hall)

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Film programme commences at 7.45pm.

Rosemary Morrish



West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

A-Frames for publicising events

WMPC has recently been made aware that the land at the post box (opposite the butcher's) belongs to Hampshire Highways and, therefore, if parishioners wish to display an A-Frame they will first have to obtain a licence from Winchester City Council (WCC). Please contact WCC on 01962 840 222 for further details of how to obtain a licence. WMPC will amend its A-Frame and Banner Advertising policy accordingly. Banners for display at The Cross will still need permission from WMPC and are permitted for a maximum period of two weeks.

New play equipment at the Recreation Ground

WMPC is pleased that the new play equipment is being installed and hopefully will be ready for use in April. More news will be found on 'We Are West Meon', on completion. WMPC is still deciding the future of the existing small children's play area.

Report from the West Meon Safe and Sound Working Group

WMPC was pleased to receive a report from the traffic and speed group. WMPC members will read this report. The item will be on the agenda for the April/May WMPC meeting. The Chairman and Clerk thank the group for their ongoing work.

Traffic speed monitoring

Related to the item above, WMPC are investigating the installation of a moveable speed monitoring device that can be installed at differing locations in the parish to gather data on vehicle speeds. This is part of WMPC's response to parishioners' concerns about traffic flow and speeds across the parish.

Stagecoach bus service 67 and the Meon Valley Community Bus

Parishioners will know of the threat to the 67 bus service after April 2025. WMPC is continuing to lobby HCC to maintain their support for this service. WMPC is also considering how it can work with other parish councils in the Meon Valley and on the route of the 67 bus to maintain the public bus service or make increased use of the Meon Valley Community Bus.

Flooding in West Meon

Parishioners know that the amount of rain this year has brought weeks of road and property flooding, especially at East End. WMPC is moving to employ a hydrologist to investigate the flood risk and make recommendations for reducing risk and actions riparian land owners can take to alleviate some flooding.

West Meon Village Hall Car Park

WMPC is applying to SDNP CIL funding for monies to help increase the size of the car park at the Village Hall. This would involve removing the existing small children's play area and relocating it to provide new car parking space. This process would not happen immediately as planning permissions and plans etc would need to be drawn up. However, WMPC is aware of the pressure on the car park and is looking to take action.

New WMPC members

The Chairman and Clerk are delighted to welcome two new parish councillors to WMPC. They are Cllr Hannah Davies and Cllr Virginia Burke. WMPC is very pleased that we now have representation from Woodlands West Meon on the Parish Council.

Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website, which also has details of local facilities & services, village news and events etc. Please sign up for Alerts so that you will be informed of forthcoming events etc. The Chair has an email distribution list for parishioners which is used to notify of Parish Meetings (there are two per year, in May and November) and other parish related matters. If you would like to be added to this list, please email the Clerk. The website Alerts system no longer covers local planning applications but, as explained on the website, you can register with South Downs National Park Authority to receive details of these by email.

The WPM AGM will be held on 23rd May, 7.15 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall, all parishioners welcome. Please send any suggestions for the Agenda to the Clerk. Papers relating to the AGM will be posted on the website in advance of the AGM.

West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City and Hampshire CC Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

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clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk
02392 632106

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Chair, WMPC

Mac Edwards,
Vice Chair WMPC

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Allan Thomson, WMPC

Chris Waller, WMPC

West Meon Parish website

www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Warnford Parish Meeting

Mark Rogers, Chair
chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk
warnfordclerk@gmail.com

Warnford Parish website

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

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Winchester City Councillors
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nbolton@winchester.gov.uk

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Froxfield Choir

Duke Ellington – Sacred Concert at Holy Trinity, Privett on Saturday 15th June 2024.

Fresh from the success of our latest concert in Lyminster, Froxfield Choir is now rehearsing for our annual summer concert in Privett. The March concert was our first away from home for some time. The summer concert is going to be another exciting departure from the norm, as we foray into the world of jazz with Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert. Ellington called this 'the most important thing I have ever done'. He said many times that he was not trying to compose a Mass. The critic Gary Giddins has characterised the work as Ellington bringing the Cotton Club revue to the church. We will be singing alongside the brilliant Brass Breakout Jazz Orchestra. Please save the date - Saturday 15th June, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Privett. Tickets: £18 available from One Tree Books, Petersfield or Ticketsource.

We continue to encourage singers to join our amateur choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings at Froxfield Village Hall between 7.45-9.30pm and newcomers are welcome to come along any week for a taster session. Please contact Lesley Howe at lkhowe58@gmail.com for more details. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter, @Froxfield Choir and on our website www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk.

Nico Jackson

Garden Club News

On 14th March, on a wet and windy night, over two dozen members and visitors braved the weather and the new Warnford Village Hall 'pond' to attend the lecture entitled History of the National Garden Scheme & Hampshire Gardens to Visit given by Mark Porter, Regional Chair for S.E. England NGS.

Rarely have we seen such a well-structured presentation that targeted our audience to perfection. Both funny and informative, with an engaging supply of anecdotes, Mark spoke with great enthusiasm, which led to a highly entertaining evening.

Our next talk, Birds of the Hampshire Coast, will be on Thursday 11th April at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall. Our speaker will be Keith Betton, media trainer, PR consultant, writer, County Bird Recorder and Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society.

At the April meeting we will also be taking bookings for our Plant Sale & Supper which will be held at Warnford Village Hall on Thursday 9th May at 6:30pm for the Plant Sale, followed by Supper at 7:00 pm with catering provided by Becky from the Cuppacheeno Café.

Clare Swinstead

Petersfield Youth Theatre

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

It's the perfect opportunity to meet new friends, gain confidence and perform in a fun and creative atmosphere. Age 5 to School year 8, Monday 8th to Thursday 11th April. All details on our website www.pyt.org.uk.

Charlotte Godfrey



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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery Open Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am–4.30pm. Allen 10.30–4pm.

ALLEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS **Echoes of Iceland** - this group of four professional textile artists presented a most interesting and popular exhibition in 2023. They are returning to the Gallery in April - watch the website for dates.

Penny Peters - A beautiful exhibition of work by this local quilter - till 30th March. FREE

TALKS **George Wither, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot?** A talk by Barrie Lees. George Wither was born and bred in Bentworth. He had a penchant for upsetting people with his writings, and was jailed 4 times as a result. He also surrendered Farnham Castle to the Royalists without a shot being fired. Truly an interesting subject! Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm. FREE

ACTIVITIES Our major new programme of **pottery workshops** for young people aged 11-17. Supported by The Murray Parish Trust, these country-wide workshops are intended to promote positive mental health and provide regular, long-term opportunities for young people in Hampshire to use creativity to build their well-being. The high-quality workshops are delivered by professional artist Jill Maguire. Every Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm until 1st June. (No session on 6/04). For more details and booking, please see www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones.

EASTER for children and families: **Make and Take: Seasonal pottery session**. Join our popular holiday clay adventure where you can make and take home your own seasonal project! Cost £5. Please pre-book online via the gallery website. Saturday 6th April 10.30-11.15am and 11.30am-12.15pm. **Easter Trail** round the Gallery and garden from 26th March to 19th April. Can you find the Easter items hidden in our Gallery collection? Drop in and pick up a trail (There will be a trail around the Museum as well.)

ALLEN GALLERY Film Night. We will be presenting another movie in May - details tba. For further information of any of our events please email allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or see the website.

CURTIS MUSEUM Pre-loved dolls house items needed. The pre-loved dolls house items range is very popular with collectors of all ages at Dolls House Day. With stock now low if you have any pre-loved items relating to dolls' houses and would be happy to donate them to The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery for this year's Dolls House Weekend (27/28th July) please contact Caroline Taylor, carolineanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk. All profits from the sale of these items will contribute to supporting these venues.

The future of the Museum. Many of you will have heard about the financial constraints affecting the County Council - a shortfall of £132 million. Hampshire Cultural Trust, which operates the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, is severely affected. The Gallery is safe, thanks to the ambitious new project Rediscovering the Allen Gallery. The Museum, alas, is under threat of closure in 2026. We who are involved - management, volunteers and visitors - are hoping the Museum can be saved. It is an important repository for the area's history - from ancient fossils, Anglo-Saxon treasures, Civil War artifact to Jane Austen and the Brewing industry. You can register comments to HCC on their webpage by 31st March at www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation. The Museum collection also represents a slice of East Hampshire history - you may want to contact the District Council. www.easthants.gov.uk/contact-us.

Jill Line

Diary Dates

Monday 8th April WI AGM West Meon Village Hall.

Tuesday 9th April West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall

Friday 19th April Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning 10am-12pm Grange Cottage, West Meon

Friday 19th April West Meon Community Cinema 7.45pm West Meon Village Hall One Life

Saturday 4th May Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Plant Fair 10-11:30am Droxford Village Hall

Thursday 23rd May Warnford Parish Meeting Annual General Meeting 7.15 for 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall

Care Group Co-ordinators

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Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

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Churchwarden for West Meon:

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PCC Secretary for West Meon:

Louise Clay 829235

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Andrew Sellick 829161

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