

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

February 2024

---

## Woodlands Web

Anyone who drives north up the A32, crosses the traffic lights and then turns left towards Alresford will find themselves in the ancient hamlet of Woodlands. Now a community of 35 households with more than 100 residents, Woodlands is home to a Victorian model farm designed by architect George Crickmay (with whom Thomas Hardy practised, when he wasn't writing novels), a schoolhouse, a chapel and a coaching inn and store. Most of the original buildings still stand, apart from numbers 3 to 10 of the original 16 Woodlands cottages.

Woodlands lies within the Northbrook Farms estate, and the fields, mature trees and hedgerows, verges, thickets, coppices, ponds, gardens and disused chalk pits collectively offer



WOODLANDS WEB

WILDLIFE • ECOSYSTEM • BIODIVERSITY

---



**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gemma@gemmaholistics.co.uk)  
**07749 425 999**  
[www.gemmaholistics.co.uk](http://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](mailto:westmeonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk)

a rich variety of habitats for flora and fauna.

In spite of this, Woodlands, in common with national trends, has suffered biodiversity loss, with significant decline noted in the incidence of some species. Of particular concern to residents have been the decline in numbers of hedgehogs, swallows, swifts, house martins, cuckoos, bee, butterfly and moth species, amphibians and plants such as cowslip. As elsewhere in Hampshire, local beekeepers have struggled to keep their bees alive over the winter and all those who regularly walk the lanes are concerned by the way bracken is spreading along the verges at the expense of the smaller species which are more typical of chalk habitats. The likely causes of this loss are not unfamiliar and reflect the national conversation around such issues; climate change, habitat loss, herbicide/pesticide use and increases in road traffic numbers, unaware driver behaviour and speed along Woodlands' lanes have most likely all played their part.

As a result of their concerns, Woodlands' residents have joined together to address these issues and have established a 'constituted community conservation group' known as Woodlands WEB. The aims of the group focus on bringing the community together to enrich habitats and connectivity between them for wildlife, thereby enhancing the biodiversity and stability of this local ecosystem.

Initial efforts focused on bringing the community together and included the distribution of a colourful leaflet explaining the aims of the group, accompanied by a gift of wildflower seed donated by the Parish Pollinator Pledge project. Planting wildflower seed, especially for plants attractive to pollinators, has had encouraging results in terms of insect numbers in the short term. Next steps will involve surveying the abundance of flora and fauna already present in the area with particular focus on the 'notable species' identified by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. These are species that data suggests are in significant decline in Hampshire. All survey data will go into the Hampshire Living Record and will establish a baseline against which all future surveys can be measured – hopefully demonstrating uplift in numbers, though we are told that simply maintaining 2024 figures over time will be seen as success.

As part of this process, Hampshire Bat Group surveyed our 2023 bat population using Audiomoth detectors. Seven species were found to be present, including the globally rare Barbastelle. This was exciting news and means that it will be easier to focus on improving habitats for roosting, breeding and hibernating. Many residents have also been concerned about the decline in hedgehog numbers and so increasing connectivity between gardens and the provision of hedgehog 'homes' as well as signage notifying drivers of the risk of hedgehogs in the road are all ongoing projects.

Woodlands' verges and banks sustain at least 8 species of plant indicative of quality habitat but have become eroded and degraded by traffic over recent years. Woodlands residents aim to restore these by improving wildflower coverage, protecting vulnerable tree roots, enhancing food source availability for pollinators, improving access to food and habitat for our resident field voles, harvest mice, weasels and hedgehogs and creating a safe refuge for wildlife and pedestrians from drivers. Our local South Downs National Park ranger has offered some advice on how best to do this.

Since the 1990s, ponds in protected landscapes such as the South Downs National Park have lost 25% of their specialist plant species which then has a knock on effect on the animals dependent on those plants. The Woodlands' pond is at least 150 years old and we believe it is one of a number of storm water retention ponds built along this western stretch of downland,

**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](http://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](mailto:yoga@molliemorris.com)

[molliemorris.com](http://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](mailto: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

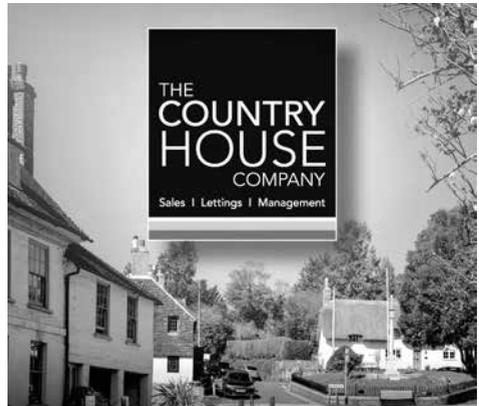
*We have new premises!*

PLEASE CONTACT US VIA PHONE OR E-MAIL

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

[www.studio-6.co.uk](http://www.studio-6.co.uk)

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



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

[www.countryhousecompany.co.uk](http://www.countryhousecompany.co.uk)

with propertymark



**02392 632 275**



assisting in flood prevention further down in the base of the valley where the A272 makes its way. South Downs National Park (SDNP) has offered support and is currently exploring commissioning a pond consultant to help us understand the current value of the pond and what can be done to enhance it.

Woodlands is home to a number of small thickets and copses which function as havens and stepping stones across the landscape for wildlife. Our enthusiastic and committed members hope to make improved provision for bats, our notable red and amber list bird species (little owl, mistle thrush, spotted flycatcher), dormice, hedgehog and harvest mouse, drawing on the expertise of Hampshire Bat Group, Hampshire Dormouse Group and Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust. Community nest box building workshops are planned for these birds and mammals. We intend to monitor the presence of various species with mammal footprint tunnels and trail cameras, with the aim of inspiring Woodlands' children and young people with a fascination and wish to care for the natural world.

Woodlands is linked to West Meon village by the 'parish path'. Through volunteers assisting Northbrook Farms with enriched parish path margin management, comprising wildflower planting (supported by the Parish Pollinator Pledge) and bee banks, we hope we may be able to improve habitat and food sources for pollinators along much of its length, making the parish path a joy to amble along on its route south towards Shutts Copse and West Meon, whilst at the same time creating a pollinator highway.

Whilst all of this will take time and energy, we know that the determination of our community to make a difference is equal to the task! Moreover, we intend to have fun (and eat plenty of cake) as we pull together on the various projects – truly appreciating our beautiful surroundings at the north end of West Meon parish.

*Hilary Otter and Hilary Hickmore*



# Summer Fete

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*WEST MEON VILLAGE FETE\*\*\*SATURDAY 8TH JUNE\*\*\*

For many years the annual fete has been organised and run solely in aid of our church. We have decided that, going forward, we will run it as a Village Fete with other village organisations also receiving a share of the profits.

We hope that, as a community event, as many villagers as possible will get involved on the day. We have made a brilliant start by having a great organising team and they will be calling for volunteers to fill all the different roles that make our annual fete so special. Please respond!

If you have any thoughts, suggestions or feedback from previous years then please let us know. Contact Susan Berry 829014 or [susanclareberry@gmail.com](mailto:susanclareberry@gmail.com).

*Susan Berry*

## G. RIXON LTD.

ELECTRICAL PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS

National Inspection Council for  
Electrical and Mechanical Contracting



APPROVED CONTRACTOR



01329 834600 enquiries@g-rixon-ltd.co.uk  
www.g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

We carry out small jobs such as attending to faulty light fittings and dripping taps, to larger jobs such as complete rewires and replacement bathrooms. We are disabled adaptation specialists and install level access showers and accessible kitchens.

G. RIXON LTD. Wymot, Heath Road, Soberton, Hampshire, SO32 3PQ



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.

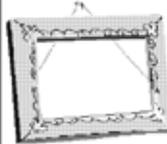
Call Tatty Buckley  
**01264 319 384**

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](http://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](http://www.petersfieldframing.co.uk)

## ADRIAN HOARE TREE SURGEON

07825 730687  
[www.aphtreecare.co.uk](http://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

## Rainfall December to January

December 2023 ended with 134.9mms (5.31") giving us a total for the year of 1249.9mms (49.2"). This was the third highest yearly rainfall since we started recording in 1974. I thought that you might like to see an interesting comparison of the wettest, driest, 50 year average and last year's rainfall as below.

January so far has given 61mms of which 33mms fell on the 4th. On this day the Environment Agency issued a flood warning for the river Meon between East Meon and Mislingsford. But we have had 11 days without rain and on the 16th and 17th January we recorded a minimum temperature of -8C.

*Peter Short*

## Cricket fixtures

West Meon and Warnford Cricket Club are looking for new players for the upcoming season.

We play matches on Sunday afternoons and we only play friendly matches so ability is most definitely not a requirement. Our players range from 16 to very late 70s so no one is too old.

We are running some winter nets at Dummer Cricket Centre on Monday 11th and 18th March from 7-8pm if you would like to come and have a go.

If you would like to join a friendly bunch who enjoy their cricket and also enjoy socialising after the game then please contact Stuart on [stuiesmith119@yahoo.com](mailto:stuiesmith119@yahoo.com) or 07803 807428.

14th April - Stansted Park (a) 1pm

21st April - Steep (a) 1pm

28th April - Grayswood a) 1pm

5th May - GOBS (a) 2pm

12th May - Swanmore (a) 2pm

	Wettest	Driest	50 yr
2023	2014	2005	Average
139.5	305.1	60.1	102
8.3	187.8	21.9	78
158.6	58.4	42.6	71
83.1	118.1	47.5	57
47.6	72.2	36.2	57
26	48.9	56.6	62
135	44.5	88.9	61
88.8	107.5	62.7	67
66.1	6.4	48.5	74
210.8	143.6	147.1	109
151.6	207.6	72.8	110
134.9	64.1	87.6	110
1250.3	1364.2	772.5	960
49.1	53.5	30.4	37.2

19th May - Racqueteers (h) 2pm  
26th May - Shirrel Heath (h) 2pm

2nd June - Temple Sheen (h) 2pm  
9th June - Lavant (h) 2pm  
16th June - Milburys (a) 2pm  
23rd June - Bishops Waltham (a) 2pm  
30th June - Robins (h) 2pm

7th July - Rowledge (a) 2pm  
14th July - Steep (h) 2pm  
21st July - Tichborne Park (a) 1pm  
28th July - CYPOS (h) 2pm

4th Aug - Rowledge (h) 2pm  
11th Aug - Milburys (h) 2pm  
18th Aug - West Chiltington and Thackenhams (a) 2pm  
25th Aug - Broken Wanderers (h) 2pm

1st Sept - Wimborne (h) 130pm  
7th Sept - Fernhurst (a) 1pm  
15th Sept - Newport Inn (a) 1pm  
22nd Sept - Boxgrove (a) 1pm

*Stuart Smith and Mary Edwards*



# The Exploits of Three Remarkable Victorian Steam Yachts

An illustrated lecture by

**Kit Power**

in the Meon Hall, Meonstoke, SO32 3NP

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 6.00 for 6.45pm

Tickets £12.50 (includes charity donation and a drink)

Some very wealthy late Victorians built themselves huge, lavish steam yachts, usually purely for pleasure cruising around Europe and the Mediterranean. But a few undertook much more serious voyages sometimes involving considerable danger, and Kit will describe three of these, each one a voyage with a very different purpose.

Tickets from: Meonstoke Post Office and Stores and West Meon Village Shop

Or email: [steamyachtslecture@gmail.com](mailto:steamyachtslecture@gmail.com) for an application form. Or send a cheque (SAE appreciated) to Lecture, Blackbee House, Warnford, SO32 3LE and tickets will be posted.

**In aid of Winchester & District Young Carers (Charity no 1155854)**

## W.I. Report

On Monday 8th January we had our 2024 Resolutions Meeting, the subjects of which we discussed at length and then voted individually upon, followed by a delicious lunch prepared and served to us by the Committee. We had to choose between the following subjects, which was hard to do as they were all very worthwhile:

- Chronic shortage of NHS Dentists
- Impacts of poor housing conditions
- Say 'No' to gambling advertising
- Improving outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice System

The votes from the West Meon W.I. Members will be collated and forwarded to Regional Office, and eventually one item will become the W.I. campaign subject for 2024.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Dr Sam Kelly, who is an ecologist and she gave us her views of the current state of the natural world, and whether we can save it, which did not always make for comfortable listening! With the aid of beautiful photographs she gave us a talk which was very thought provoking and she said that climate change was the biggest threat that modern humans have faced. Sea levels are a major issue, and the poorest people in the world are going to be the ones to suffer most. The UK is losing biodiversity at an alarming rate and it is the young people who are going to feel the effect. Sam then gave us some brilliant examples of what we can do, even at a small level, to 'do our bit' for the community to help stem the tide. We also need to spend more time in nature, inspire others to do more, read beautiful poetry, listen to beautiful music, notice beauty everywhere and be kind and generous to others. What good thoughts, at the beginning of a new year!

Our next meeting is on Monday 12th February at 1.45pm at West Meon Village Hall when our speaker, John Richards, will be talking on "The German Occupation of Guernsey".

John is an excellent speaker, so we know we are in for a treat.

Do come along and join us!

*Sue Kinloch*



*A Luftwaffe officer speaking to a British policeman in St. Helier: Forces Net*

## Is it a waxwing winter?

The waxwing is an undeniably beautiful bird. It's a touch smaller than a starling, with a pleasingly plump body. Its silky feathers are soft hues of grey, brown and apricot, with some stylish accessories. There's a bright yellow band across the end of the tail, white and yellow dashes on the wings, and a black patch on the throat and above the beak, which sweeps back through the eye and up, like the perfect winged eyeliner.



*Waxwing (c) Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography*

Waxwings are winter visitors, travelling here from Scandinavia when the food supply there runs low, typically residing here until early spring. Another big part of their appeal is that their arrival is never guaranteed. Some winters, we might only see a handful across the country. In others, there can be flocks of hundreds of birds. An influx like this is called an 'irruption'. These years are known as 'waxwing winters' and they don't come around very often.

It all comes down to berries. Waxwings love them. Poor berry crops in Finland and Sweden have apparently pushed waxwings much further than usual this year, and with a berry bonanza reported across the country this autumn, Britain looks set to enjoy its biggest 'Waxwing winter' for at least a decade.

In Hampshire, waxwings are not seen every year, they are a rare visitor. One of the largest irruptions in Hampshire was in the winter of 2010 when over 2,000 birds arrived. However, when they do turn up, it might not be where you'd expect.

One of the waxwing's endearing quirks is that they regularly turn up in urban areas, particularly the car parks of supermarkets and shopping centres. These commercial areas are often planted with ornamental trees with aesthetically pleasing, berry-laden fruit trees – and

these always prove popular with hungry waxwings.

But it seems not all berries are equal in the eyes of a waxwing. Red ones appear to be the most in-demand, including cotoneaster, viburnum, hawthorn and particularly rowan. As stocks of these are depleted, they'll settle for orange or yellow berries, or white berries like mistletoe.

Waxwings are chatty and their pleasant high-pitched trills, which they use to call to each other with, provide one of the best ways to help detect them. Fittingly for a winter visitor, the sound is often likened to soft, jingling sleigh bells.

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts in Great Britain, all standing up for the natural world. Together they are the nation's most active and influential nature conservation partnership, protecting wildlife in every part of the British Isles. Each Trust works within its local community to inspire people and bring about change. With the invaluable support of volunteers and members the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust manage over 60 nature reserves. They also work with other organisations and landowners to protect and connect wildlife sites across the county and inspire local communities and young people to care for wildlife where they live.

Managed nature reserves in our area include Chappetts Copse and Shutts Copse - both barely a mile from the centre of West Meon.

Chappetts Copse is home to an impressive variety of rare plants and fungi including the narrow-leaved helleborine, bird's-nest orchid, silver-washed fritillary and speckled wood butterflies and a healthy population of dormice nestled beneath ash and beech trees. Chappetts Copse was given to the Trust in 1981 by Edith Whitehead and can be found up Coombe Lane at OS Map reference SU 653 234.



Shutts Copse is a broadleaved woodland with ancient hazel coppice at Brockwood Bottom. It was given to the Trust in the late 1980's as a gift in the Will of the late Honourable Miss Joane Dutton. The reserve is scattered with mature oak trees and during the spring it is carpeted with primroses and bluebells. Great

spotted woodpeckers can be heard and occasionally seen with the coal tits, tawny owl and mistle thrush. There are also dormice here. You can find it off Polly Glover's Lane at OS Map Reference SU637261.

*Additional photo and text: A Annabel*

# Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

## Sunday 4th February

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

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

**4pm Warnford.** Snowdrop Service.

## Sunday 11th February

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Sunday 18th February

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Holy Communion.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Wednesday 21st February

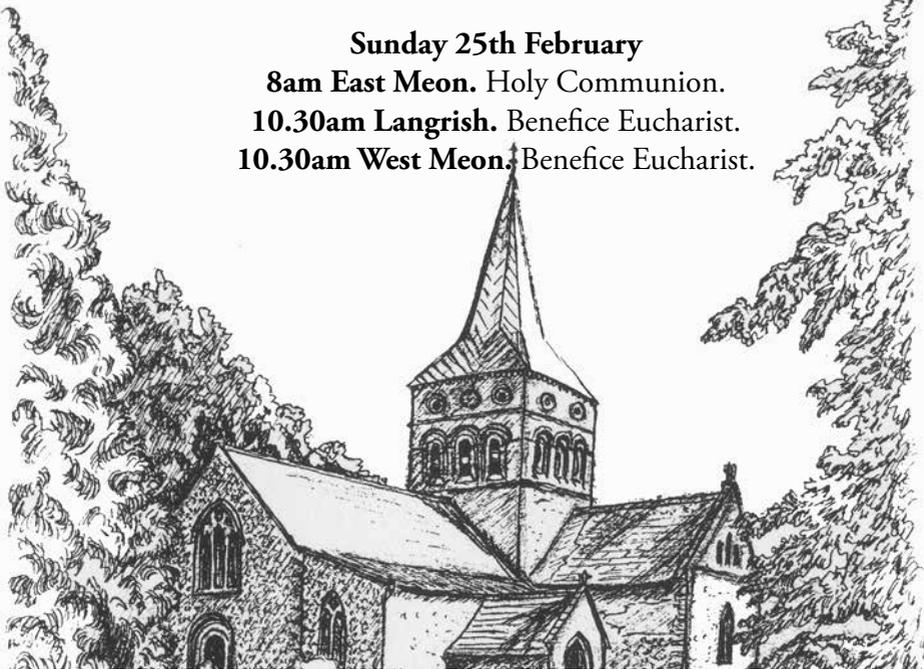
**6.30pm East Meon.** Licensing of Fr Tony Forrest to all our benefices.

## Sunday 25th February

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.30am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.



## Generosity abounds in the Meon Valley

Christmas is all about giving and thanks to the support of the people who support us, we have been able to help many different people and organisations this year by spreading a little cheer.

AGE CONCERN - working through the wonderful Wickham Village Agents, Hilary and Jane, we ensured 12 local households were remembered with a little Christmas box of essential goodies. One delighted lady said, 'How wonderful someone is thinking about me'.

HOME-START - work with families in the Meon Valley through their volunteers, no judgement just compassionate, confidential help and expert support. We were proud to be able to help 4 of those families with all the food they needed for Christmas - without Home-Start and your support, it wouldn't have happened.

MEON VALLEY FOOD BANK - are well known to many and provide essential support to families really struggling. In the run up to Christmas they helped over 270 people - we made a contribution of 60 tubs of Celebration Chocs just to brighten up Christmas a little for those families.



*Hampers for the foodbank: Meon Valley Lions*

Age Concern, Home-Start and Meon Valley Food Bank all provide essential support in our community and we are proud to support their work. We will also shortly be giving an update about the £2000 of support we also provided to Young Carers, Rowans, Friends of PICU (paediatric intensive care unit) from our Santa collections.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Sunday 28nd January - Fishing Festival 10.30am until 3 pm at Western Shore near Netley with booking in from 9am. The monies go to support the wonderful work at Rose Road Association Southampton.

Saturday 13th July 2024 – Swanmore Fete - We had a record year again last year and we're hoping to beat our own record this year.

*Carole Dash*



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:angela@natural-gardens.co.uk)  
[www.natural-gardens.co.uk](http://www.natural-gardens.co.uk)

## LANDMARK DESIGN



### Meon Valley Studio

Design, Planning, Architecture & Land Management

## LAND MARK

[landmark-design.co.uk](http://landmark-design.co.uk)

+44 (0) 1489 899 033

/lmdarchitectural

@lmd\_architecture

## West Meon Community Cinema

Our film this month is “The Great Escaper”, starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson (her last film) – two epic acting careers coming to an end hand in hand! In 2014, Bernie Jordan is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by his wife Rene, he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, whilst reminiscing about his wartime experiences.



We are scheduling two screenings on Friday 9th February at 2pm and 8pm:

2pm. Preceded by a two course home-cooked lunch at 12.30pm. Lunch and film £15. Film only £7 Please book lunch by Monday 5th February. Tickets (with menu details) available at West Meon Shop (cash only).

8pm. Bar open as usual from 7pm. Tickets £7 available from TicketSource, West Meon Shop (cash only) or on the door subject to availability (cash or card).

Any enquiries to [Rosemarymorrish@icloud.com](mailto:Rosemarymorrish@icloud.com).

*Rosemary Morrish*



# Spring Show



## Where:

Meon Hall  
Pound Lane  
Meonstoke, SO32 NP.

## When:

Saturday 23rd March 2024  
13.30 - 16.00.

## Displays of:

Flowers, Vege, Cookery & Crafts.

## Products:

Plants  
Vegetables  
Fruit  
Home bakes



For Schedule & entry forms for adults & children visit:

[WWW.DROXFORDWEB.CO.UK](http://WWW.DROXFORDWEB.CO.UK)

# 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:

**maryandrory@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**

## **Salt Bins**

A gentle reminder that WMPC and WCC have provided salt bins in West Meon. These are for use on public pavements and roads ONLY and not for personal use on private footpaths. If you notice that a salt bin is empty, please inform the Clerk by email.

## **Traffic speed in West Meon High Street**

Though exceptional, the very nasty smash in the High Street prior to Christmas Day is a reminder to all that they should ensure they drive slowly in WM High Street and be aware of pedestrians.

## **Flooding in West Meon**

The WM Flood Group is active and pursuing further measures to reduce flooding, especially at East End. Further information can be found via the Clerk or Councillor Robin Gedye.

## **Hampshire County Council Consultation on bus services**

HCC propose to withdraw their subsidy from the 67 bus that serves West Meon between Petersfield and Winchester. They propose to withdraw support for ALL services excepting the morning and afternoon school bus. This would mean that the parish would lose any service during the late morning and early afternoon, thereby stopping use of the bus by Bus Pass holders and those wanting to travel to either Petersfield or Winchester or Alresford. If you value this service, please take part in the consultation on the HCC website at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation> and scroll down to Passenger Transport or write to Hugh Lumby (Hugh.Lumby@hants.gov.uk) our County Council member. The consultation closes on March 31st 2024.

## **Winchester Hospital Consultation**

Parishioners may have heard that there is a proposal to consult on a new hospital for Hampshire together with changes of service at Winchester Hospital, our nearest hospital. It is very important that parishioners look at the proposals, which will affect us all. You can find details at <https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/> or at WM Community Shop. The consultation is long and detailed and you need to be aware of the implications. The booklet at the WM Community Shop is the Easy Read version and very helpful. This affects us all. Please do take part. The consultation closes on March 17th 2024.

## **New Play Equipment at WM Recreation Ground**

After some years WMPC has completed its consultation (undertaken by a parishioner some two years ago at the start of the process) and review of the proposals for new play equipment at the Recreation Ground. A preferred bidder has been selected and more news will be forthcoming in February.

## **WMPC Contacts**

Would parishioners note that contact with WMPC should be made through the Clerk via [clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk) This is to ensure that clear lines of communication are maintained.

## **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website 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 etc. The Chair has an email distribution for parishioners relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications in the parish (you can no longer get these via the website's *Alerts*). If you would like to be added to the list then please email the Clerk.

## **West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City and Hampshire CC Contacts**

### **West Meon Parish Council**

Clerk to WMPC  
Jo Tester 02392 632106  
[clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

Chair, WMPC  
Angie Trenchard

Vice Chair WMPC  
Mac Edwards,

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Allan Thomson, WMPC

Chris Waller, WMPC

**West Meon Parish website**  
[www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

### **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Mark Rogers, Chair  
[chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk](mailto:chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk)

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk  
[warrfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:warrfordclerk@gmail.com)

**Warrford Parish website**  
[www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village.7802/about-us](http://www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village.7802/about-us)

### **Winchester and Hampshire County Councillors**

**Winchester City Councillors**  
Neil Bolton 01962 771256  
[nbolton@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:nbolton@winchester.gov.uk)

Jerry Pett 01489 877633  
[jpett@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:jpett@winchester.gov.uk)

**Hampshire County Councillor**  
Hugh Lumby 07738289912  
[Hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament for Meon Valley**  
Flick Drummond 01962 679920  
[Flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk)

## **Snowdrop Sundays**

The Parochial Church Council of Our Lady of Warnford invite visitors to Warnford Park 2-5pm 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February.



### 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](mailto:infobutler@butler-co.co.uk)

Butler & Co Alresford Limited,  
The Dean, Alresford, SO24 9BH  
[www.butler-co.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@chamberlainslaw.co.uk)

## MARK WYATT

Quality Decorating  
All aspects of interior  
and exterior decorating

07830 819300

[markwyattqpd@gmail.com](mailto: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



## West Meon Primary School

Owls have started their swimming lessons at Bedales and there will be more sporting opportunities coming up including our small schools' football tournament and the girls' football tournament, both run by Aspire. We have fulfilled the criteria for the gold sports award, so will



be aiming towards the Platinum award again. We achieved the platinum award over the last two years and this year will include a study of our girls' football club and team.

This week we also have artists spending the morning at Dunhurst and musicians are joining with the other small schools there later in February.

During our first week back Aaron Phipps, Paralympic wheelchair rugby player came back for a visit, his third to the school since 2012. His messages were very motivational for



the children and he showed them his gold medal and his trek up Mount Kilimanjaro on his knees! He is going to keep in touch and if successful in joining the GB team in September in Paris, he will do a video link with the school to update us on his progress.

Mrs Marriott will be returning from her maternity leave after Easter and we wish Mrs Sok good luck in her new job, as we were very lucky to have her excellent cover while Mrs Marriott was off.

Mrs Blogg also received an 'outstanding' for her final observation, and governors who come into observe in school regularly will be producing a termly newsletter to chart the great practice that they see across the school.

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*





## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 EXHIBITION

Our inaugural Artist in Residence, the award-winning young Irish artist **Camilla Hanney**, presents her first full exhibition in the Gallery. She has provided a creative response to the outstanding collection of ceramics housed here. Camilla's solo show invites new ways of viewing the Gallery's Wedgwood porcelain collection as well as the history of the Gallery and garden, formerly the property of the Curtis family. Through the medium of clay, including a range of delicately constructed porcelain works, Camilla's work explores fragility, nature and the cycle of life and death. Alongside works that are a playful reference to the figures captured in traditional porcelain ornaments, the show also highlights the work of William Curtis the botanist and his studies of the natural world. Saturday 3rd February - Sunday 4th March. FREE Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of our project, Rediscovering the Allen Gallery.



*Camilla Hanney: No20 Arts*

## TALKS

**Hampshire Memorials** by Tony Cross, former Curator at the Curtis and Allen. Thursday 8th February at 7.30. FREE.

Margaret Macfarlane's Legacy - The Allen Gallery collection of Ceramics. A talk by Jackie Breakspear. Thursday 14th March at 7.30. FREE

## ACTIVITIES

To launch **Inspire Days**, our pottery programme for teens and young people, we are running a drop-in session of clay activities. Wednesday 14th and Friday 16th February. FREE

**Snowdrop Saturdays** 10th and 17th February. Come and wander round our lovely, peaceful garden and view the galanthus flowers. For children there will be a New Trail round the Gallery and garden, with a creative activity at the end! Tuesday 6th - Friday 23rd February.

For further information of any of our events please email [allen.gallery@hampshirculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:allen.gallery@hampshirculturaltrust.org.uk) or see the website

## CURTIS MUSEUM

### FOUND AROUND ALTON

A **new display of finds by a local Metal Detectorist** (and volunteer) from the Alton area. This interesting selection ranges from Roman dress pins to medieval musket balls and coins, to a beautiful seal matrix. Some items are a puzzle - any help with these will be welcome. Upstairs in the Curtis till Easter. FREE

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**Museum by Torchlight** - Tuesday 13th February. 5.30–7pm. Bring a torch and explore The Curtis Museum at night at our family-friendly event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £3 per child (adults free). Last entry 7pm but we will be open until 7.30pm.

There will be a New Trail round the Museum starting on the 6th February.

*Jill Line*

## Diary Dates

**Sundays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February Snowdrop Sundays** 2 to 5pm Warnford Park.

**Tuesday 6th February West Meon Parish Council Meeting** 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

**Friday 9th February West Meon Community Cinema** 2pm and 8pm West Meon Village Hall. The Great Escapers.

**Monday 12th February WI** 1.45pm West Meon Village Hall. The German Occupation of Guernsey talk by John Richards.

**Wednesday 21st February** 6.30 pm All Saints' East Meon. Licensing of Fr Tony Forrest to all our benefices.

**Thursday 21st March** 6 for 6.45pm Meon Hall, Meonstoke. The Exploits of Three Remarkable Victorian Steam Yachts - talk by Kit Power.

**Saturday 23rd March** 1.30-4pm Meon Hall, Meonstoke. Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Show

**Thursday 23rd May Warnford Parish Meeting AGM** 7.30pm Village Hall.

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922  
Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

**Rector-elect:** Fr Tony Forrest

**Churchwarden for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829105

**PCC Secretary for West Meon:**

Louise Clay 829235

**Churchwarden for Warnford:**

Andrew Sellick 829161

**Vergers for Warnford:**

Peter Short 829285

**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@studio-6.co.uk

**ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)**  
**ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)**