

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

April 2022

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## Light Shines In The Darkness

In this letter I want to talk about shadows and mist, about darkness. I spoke about this on Shine Radio recently and these following words may be familiar.

Now, I very much dislike walking in the dark. Some people find it exciting, but I find it very, very nervy to be walking and not knowing what I am stepping into. I may even know the path very well, but when it gets dark my imagination takes hold. I would truly struggle to be blind. I have worn glasses from the age of thirteen and because of this sight is a sense which I have always valued highly.

Walking in misty conditions is difficult for me too. A path which one would normally scramble down quite happily takes a lot longer. I worry about tripping or slipping. I worry that the dogs will get lost in the mist and find something more interesting to do and not be able to find me again.

Jesus talks about darkness and the shadows as an evil. This is where evil lurks, where it grows. Certainly during lockdown the incidence of domestic violence between couples, and abuse of children grew as people were locked in together, with no light shining in their darkness.

Safety nets had been put in place, like schools and social workers visits. Neighbours keeping an eye out, but when all this stopped the evil grew. It grew from the shadows, from the mist and murk of the unseen.



*Knapsyard House at sunset (Photo: Adrian Annabel)*



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Now, we could claim that invading Ukraine came from the shadows. It came through the mist and murk of foreign policy and a lack of urgency by the governing powers. A lack of sight for the true picture and complacency on a global scale.

Covid gave a time of retrenchment, where we were not keeping our finger on the pulse of international doings, so wrapped up were we by simply surviving. We were living through a nightmare, a time of what seemed like inky darkness, and then the light of vaccines gave us hope and we stumbled towards it, not wanting to hear any other bad news. Feeling bruised and needing rest and joy.

We put out of our minds things we did not wish to hear. We consigned them to the periphery, to the murk of the sidelines where evil can flourish. In John's Gospel Jesus tells this to Nicodemus, a secret follower of his.

“And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

It is only by bringing things out into the full light of day that resolution occurs. Think of the #MeToo movement, calling out exploitation and injustice.

We ought to be pleased that this next generation is far better than we are about calling out wrongs; about highlighting oppressed minorities; about putting in place laws and guidelines which safeguard the vulnerable.

At the moment we seem to only see what is right in front of us and are surprised when things come to light which have been hidden. Take all the safeguarding spending which is now going on within Dioceses around Britain. This is to ensure that sexual exploitation does not occur within churches or the wider community of which we are a part, that people are more aware that it does happen, more aware of the dangers and can look out for the signs of abuse. People who have suffered can feel they are speaking to those who can help them to find justice, speak out, gain peace from the trauma and ensure it happens to no one else.

In the Ukraine, the trauma they are currently suffering will be felt throughout the next few generations - fleeing from and possibly losing their homes; seeing loved ones killed; terror. They might live with the horror for the rest of their lives. All oppression and abuse has consequences. Long term health inevitably suffers. What grows in the darkness, and thrives in the murk and mist of confusion must have the light of Christ shone on it, to bring healing, peace and justice.

Continue to be aware, continue to pray. Pray not just for the cessation of violence, but for an understanding of where evil can start so that even more can be done to ensure these things do not happen again.

*The Revd. Philippa Good*



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## Great Meon Valley Litter Pick 2022



On three separate Sundays over the last month, a number of high-vis clad, litter-picker-armed, conscientious Meoners cleared the verges of the A32 from Warnford (and beyond) all the way to the 'top of the hill', the road between West and East Meon, and the railway line twice (dog-poo-bags included)!

In no particular order, and apologies for anyone who took part without my awareness, a huge thank you and pat on the proverbial back for Hugh Morris, Tim Main, Pam Eastwood, Tim and Helen Hiscox, Duncan Stewart, Alan Bassil, Ingolv Urnes, David Jeffers, Peter Smith, Tim Wood, Rachel, Oscar and Hector Ulph. We were sorry that several people could not join us this year (and always welcome new support ..), but Jim Brooks-Hill was particularly missed. He has made 'over the hill' (on the A32) his speciality, so regrettably it was not tackled this time. Further appreciation to Alastair Wilson and the 'Privett Pickers', as well as Emma Gaisford and the East Meon Crew.

Next year, we shall once again endeavour to spread the enthusiasm to the surrounding villages and indeed enlist more 'child-labour' on the quieter areas. Apart from the usual energy drinks cans, crisp packets and McDonalds bags, it was good to find an almost full packet of cigarettes (which we took to mean that someone had given up!), an extremely useful spray gun for weedkiller, and last but by no means least, a CD of 'Now that's What I call Music 104'. Worryingly, I remember the first one in 1983!

*Jim Ulph*

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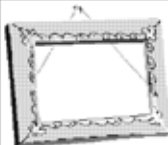
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## West Meon Churchyard Clearing Party 2022

The dates for this year are:

23rd April

14th May

18th June

23rd July

20th August

17th September. This date may be subject to change.

15th October

19th November

10th December

We still need more people to help so if you could spare time on the dates listed it would be greatly appreciated. There are so many jobs to do from strimming, cutting trees, pruning, grass cutting, tidying graves, path mending, the list goes on. All you need to do is turn up with whatever tools you have, select your preferred activity and hours to help!

The session will commence at 9 to 12 but you don't have to attend all the time, give what hours you can afford... the more people... the more we can do... it will make a great difference. We always have coffee, tea and array of fantastic cakes to keep us going!

So put those dates in your diary, come to the churchyard, and make a difference.

*Paul Willcox*

*Churchyard Working Party Coordinator*

## West Meon Boules

The Boules section of the West Meon & Warnford Sports Club is looking to build a small group of enthusiasts to engage in a programme of some training and practice sessions, and a few exhibition games, over the coming period from April to October 2022. If you are interested in joining this group, please send your email address and mobile number to Mark Hammond at meonboules@gmail.com. The next planned exhibition events are at a Sports Club Pavilion Open Evening on 9th April and the Platinum Jubilee weekend on 3rd and 4th June 2022.

As reported in the news section of its website, the West Meon Parish Council is in discussions with the Club regarding the possibility of it being granted a lease for an area of land to the south of the Pavilion. The Club's intention is to use this land for the development and operation of a Boules court. Should such approval be secured in principle, the related lease agreement will require the approval of the Parish Meeting before it can be executed. We hope that all this can be achieved by April 2022.

The process of preparing and submitting the planning application will be initiated immediately after the signing of the lease. If all goes well planning permission should be secured by Autumn 2022 and, if suitable contractors are available to deliver the project at an affordable price, the necessary construction works will be initiated immediately thereafter, with a view to starting Club operations in March or April 2023.

*Mark Hammond*

## **W.I. Report - April 2022**

We met at the Village Hall on Monday 14th March and our speaker for the afternoon was Clive Jones, who for many years had run a small private museum in Chichester. The title of his talk was 'Clive's Curios: Fossils, Bones and Crystals', and he had brought along many diverse artefacts. Clive said that he had had a lifelong passion for collecting interesting articles and started by showing us some examples of beautifully patterned fossilised rock called Stromatolite, the oldest of which came from Australia and was three and a half billion years old. He also showed us some samples of Geodes, which were also very beautiful, but not quite so old, which came from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Amongst the other varied curios which Clive had brought for us to see were ancient sharks' teeth, some of the teeth decorated with Scrimshaw designs, some patterned display wing feathers from the Himalayan Argos ornamental pheasant, which were amazing, some early memorabilia for Victorian lady cyclists, a book of romantic Edwardian postcards and a Woolly Mammoth humerus bone! The star of the collection was a lovely early Edwardian Edison clockwork phonograph with a very large wooden horn from the 1900 period, which Clive played for us. Clive, assisted by his wife Edith, certainly gave us a very interesting afternoon!

The majority subject voted for by members of the Hampshire Group for the W.I. Annual Resolutions was 'Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD are not identified, are under diagnosed, misdiagnosed and under supported'. We have a packed programme planned for 2022 - 2023, beginning on Monday 11th April when our speaker will be Sophie Fryer and the subject of her talk is 'Hats off to Millinery - The History of the Making of Couture Millinery'. Members are asked to take the opportunity to wear their favourite hat, if they wish! Please note that our next meeting on Monday 11th April at West Meon Village Hall will start at the new time of 2pm. Members are also reminded that their annual subscriptions will be payable from April 2022.

*Sue Kinlochan*

## **West Meon Church Electoral Roll**

Each year the church electoral roll is revised in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This year the APCM will be on Sunday 15th May at 11.45 am after the 10.30am in St John's Church.

Once every six years there is a new roll. This happened three years ago so this year it is just a revision, including, for example, those who have moved into the villages, would like to join or have reached age 16. The roll will be revised during April.

If you would like to have your name added, please contact Louise Clay (829235). Having your name on the roll gives you a say in the future of the church.

*Louise Clay*

## **Cricket Pavilion**

To mark the occasion of the re-opening of the transformed Pavilion lower floor, the Sports Club is hosting a Wine & Cheese Open Evening 7 – 9 pm for anyone interested on Saturday 9th April.

*Please join us,  
Mary Edwards*



## Support our local Food Bank

Did you know? There is a donation box at the back of St John's Church West Meon to receive donations for the PACT (Petersfield Area Churches Together) Food Bank in Petersfield.

We all know that the cost of living is escalating and many families are finding it increasingly difficult to budget successfully. Please join us in donating and we will ensure that the donations are regularly delivered to the Food Bank

You can check online what items are particularly needed at any time at <https://pact.org.uk/pact-food-bank/>

West Meon PCC



## West Meon Theatre's Next Production...

A hilarious spoof of the best of the Agatha Christie traditions, a 'whodunnit' of twists and turns with side-splitting antics and ever-increasing merriment and confusion.

It is directed by Becky James, known for the many roles she has performed with WMT.

The play introduces the inept and bungling Inspector Pratt, who battles against the odds and his own incompetence to solve the murder of the house's owner. It soon becomes clear that the murderer isn't finished yet; will the miscreant be unmasked before everyone else has met their doom or will the audience die laughing first?

It all takes place in the drawing room of a country manor house in the 1930s.

Get your tickets on [www.westmeontheatre.co.uk](http://www.westmeontheatre.co.uk)

*Mary Dawson*

A theater poster for the play 'Murdered to Death'. The background shows a man in a brown trench coat and hat looking suspiciously to the side, and a woman in a dark uniform and hat standing next to him. A yellow and black striped banner across the bottom reads 'BUMBLING POLICE INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS'. The text on the poster includes: 'WEST MEON THEATRE', 'MURDERED TO DEATH', 'A Comedy by Peter Gordon', '20th—23rd April, 7.30pm', 'West Meon Village Hall', and 'Tickets: WWW.WESTMEONTHEATRE.CO.UK'.

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## West Meon C of E Primary School

The children brought in lovely flowers to put on the grave of our Founder Mary Touchet and Reverend Goode led them in prayer to remember her. The children were also very concerned about the plight of Ukrainian families and brought in toiletries, nappies and medicines; which we then took to a warehouse in Fareham, ready to be taken to Poland to support the refugees there.

The Hedgehogs visit to see the Snowdrops at Warnford was cancelled as we closed the school following the red storm alert, but they are venturing out more around the local area as part of their outdoor learning. The church has also been supporting us by clearing the vegetation in the Nature Station, which we are very grateful for. The start of the Y4/5 swimming was delayed because of the storm, but they are now half way through their swimming programme at Bedales and doing really well. World Book saw the Hedgehogs dressed in their pyjamas, reading books and drinking hot chocolate and other classes dressed up in pyjamas or as book characters and moved around the school to read with each other.

I attended the installation of the new Bishop of Portsmouth, Jonathan Frost, at Portsmouth Cathedral and then on 15th March he visited school to discuss with me the problems faced by small church, rural schools. We hope to welcome him back soon to a service in the church. We

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are preparing for Red Nose Day and also the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in the village and in school, as well as a fundraiser for Cancer Research in memory of Kathryn Davis, our EYFS Assistant, who we lost last term. The crocus bulbs Reverend Mary helped us plant in the churchyard in remembrance of Kathryn are now emerging as signs of new life.

The new FOWMS Committee are working hard and the children thoroughly enjoyed Cinema Club last week and they have many other events planned.

We still have a few places left for September 2022 for Year R and across a couple of year groups.

*Julie Kelly*  
*Headteacher*

## West Meon Village Shop

Once again, the shop is putting on a wonderful Easter display with an enticing range of Easter eggs and chocolates, cakes and biscuits, attractive cards, potted plants and much more. Easter opening hours are: Good Friday 8AM – 3PM, Saturday as normal, Easter Sunday 8AM – 1pm, and Easter Monday 8AM – 3PM.

Thank you to the Parish Council for the grant for extra cameras that will cover the footage outside of the shop up and down the high street. This will hopefully enable us to catch number plates, face recognition and



direction of getaway if needed after the village was targeted last month. The cameras and the grant were for the community; however, it was easier for these to be fitted to the existing cameras the shop has and therefore they will be powered by our housing units. Feel free to ask for footage at any time as these cameras are always recording.

The 200 club winners for April are yet to be drawn but well done anyway. Remember if you paid by cheque, you probably need to renew your subscription, if by bacs, we thank you for your standing order for another year. New in are MUD Pies, supplied by MUD Foods of Midhurst. The sweet and savoury ranges are a welcome addition to the shop so do please try them out and let us know what you think

This year, shop revenues have declined in the first couple of months which is not unexpected with easing of Covid restrictions. The shop, its staff and volunteers kept many in our valley supplied during the difficult times. Please keep shopping locally and supporting us as times are hard and quiet for all. It is worth remembering that for the shop to be there in the bad times it must be supported in the good (better) times.

We have a few volunteers off on their holidays or can no longer give their time to us. So, we are recruiting new volunteers who can spare 2 hours a fortnight. It's such a nice way to meet people in the village and feel part of the community. If you're not keen on using computers to serve customers your role could be cleaning, organising our ever-busy lending library, or just helping to unpack deliveries. Whatever your niche, please pop in and have a chat about your availability. Alternatively, give us a call on 01730 829310 or email us at [wmvsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wmvsoffice@gmail.com).

*Rachell Barnett*

## **Sunday 3rd April**

8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon

A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer.

9am St John's Langrish

Benefice Service of the Word with hymns and music. The start of Passiontide, where we hear about Mary anointing Jesus' feet.

10.30am St John's, West Meon.

Benefice Holy Communion with hymns. Common Worship. The start of Passiontide, where we hear about Mary anointing Jesus' feet.

10.30am All Saint's, East Meon.

All-Age Parish Service. With hymns.

## **Palm Sunday 10th April**

8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon

A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer

9am Church of Our Lady, Warnford.

Benefice Service of the Word. BCP Sung Mattins with hymns.

10.30am All Saint's, East Meon.

Benefice Eucharist with organ, hymns and bells. We hear the Passion and Palm Sunday Gospel readings. There will be a procession from the War Memorial in the village to church for the start of the service but you are very welcome to wait in church as well.

10.30am St John's Langrish

Parish Service for Palm Sunday with organ and hymns. CW

## **Easter week Monday 11th to Maundy Thursday 14th April**

7.30pm Compline (Warnford Monday, West Meon Tuesday, Langrish Wednesday).

Eucharist with foot washing, stripping of the Altars and Vigil until 10pm Maundy Thursday.

## **Good Friday 15th April**

Short Open-Air Prayers at 9am Langrish to start the Good Friday Walk. Calling at East Meon and West Meon for prayers and a light Lunch. Ending at Warnford with refreshments at 2pm. 2.30-2.50pm before the Cross at Warnford.

## **Easter Sunday 17th April**

8am HC BCP

All Saints, East Meon

A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer

9am St John's Langrish

Parish Holy Communion with organ and hymns.

9am Church of Our Lady, Warnford.

Parish Holy Communion with organ and hymns. Book of Common Prayer.

10.30am St John's, West Meon.

Parish Holy Communion with organ and hymns. CW

10.30am All Saint's, East Meon.

Parish Holy Communion with choir, anthem, organ, hymns and bells followed by a blessing of the restored Lytch Gate. CW

## **Sunday 24th April**

8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon

A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer.

9am Church of Our Lady, Warnford.

Benefice Holy Communion with hymns. Book of Common Prayer. Come and enjoy the service. Guest Priest - The Revd. Peter Coley.

9am Church of Our Lady, Warnford.

Benefice Holy Communion with hymns. Book of Common Prayer. Come and enjoy the service. Guest Priest - The Revd. Peter Coley.

## Seagrass: The Solent's Superhero

Beneath the waves of the Solent are hidden underwater gardens of seagrass. These marine flowering plants are known for increasing biodiversity in our coastal waters. However, they are now beginning to gain widespread recognition for their potential to reduce the effects of climate change and what better time to celebrate this superstar marine plant than during Seagrass Awareness Month, which spans all of March.



*Seagrass bed © Paul Naylor*

Seagrasses typically occur along shallow, sheltered marine coastlines and estuaries, from the Tropics to the Arctic Circle. They have roots, grass-like leaves and produce flowers and seeds. Under the right conditions, these plants can grow to form flourishing, green underwater meadows which provide food and shelter for an array of wonderful marine life.

The seagrass meadows in the Solent are of international importance. They support rich biodiversity, including amazing species such as sea anemones, stalked jellyfish, sea slugs, pipefish and seahorses. They act as nurseries for commercially important fish species, such as cod and sea bass, the latter of which spend up to seven years growing in the Solent before joining the migratory adult population. Cuttlefish visit the seagrass meadows to breed as well, attaching their black eggs known as 'sea grapes' to the seagrass leaves. Seagrass also provides a major food source for brent geese, which make the 3000-mile journey from Siberia to the Solent every year for a milder winter.

Seagrasses are incredibly important allies in the fight against climate change. They absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the surrounding seawater and their long leaves slow the flow of water, which encourages settlement of carbon-rich sediment down into the seabed where it is then buried and locked away. This amazing plant also improves our water quality

and protects our shores from coastal erosion by slowing wave energy with their leaves and by stabilising soft seabed sediments with their roots.

Sadly, seagrass is disappearing. We've lost over 90% of our seagrass meadows in the UK over the past century. Disease, physical disturbance from dragging anchors and chain moorings, as well as human-induced threats such as pollution are putting seagrass under significant pressure. At Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, we're working to protect and restore our seagrass meadows. By monitoring and surveying existing seagrass beds and planting sustainably collected seagrass seeds, we hope to restore these amazing habitats towards their historic levels and create a wilder Solent, for both people and wildlife. To learn more and find out how to get involved, visit [hiwwt.org.uk/seagrass-restoration](http://hiwwt.org.uk/seagrass-restoration)

*Jake Kendall-Ashton*

## **Garden Club News**

West Meon Garden Club has had a slight makeover: it will now be called "Warnford, West Meon & Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club" or "WWW Garden & Countryside Club" for short. This had been decided at our AGM of November 2018 with the aim of widening the scope of our activities, potentially to appeal to a larger public. The name change was not implemented immediately, however, in order to avoid all the hassle involved with such a modification to our bank account. We are now in the process of changing our bank so as to incur fewer bank charges so we have started to use our new name. Otherwise, the day-to-day running of the club has remained the same.

We are delighted to announce that we are now offering "real-life" events rather than virtual ones. Our first lecture will be held at Warnford Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April at 8:00 pm for 8:15. Our speaker will be Simon Cooper who will tell us his 'Otters' Tale'. Those of you who attended his previous talk, 'River Meon from Source to Sea', will remember that it was a resounding success. As before, Simon will be selling signed copies of his books after the talk, an opportunity not to be missed.

Booking will be essential so please contact Clare Swinstead to order your ticket: [clareswinstead@gmail.com](mailto:clareswinstead@gmail.com) Members free. Non-members £2.

*We look forward to seeing you there, Clare Swinstead*

## **Warnford Snowdrops**

At last the wonderful snowdrops in Warnford Park were able to be viewed on Sundays in February after two years of Covid lockdown. We started with a lovely dry Sunday then a very wet Sunday, the next was blustery and drab but finally the sun shone on the final Sunday.

The total amount raised was amazing - just shy of £5,000.

Sincere thanks go to Andrew and Candi Sellick for allowing the park to be open on those Sundays, and for all their input into the open Sundays.

We appreciate the time given by the Car Parkers, the Welcomers, the four Organists, the Tea Ladies and the Sellers in the shop and Snowdrop stall. And finally all the visitors who came and contributed. Such a very important source of funds for Warnford Church. I hope we see you all in 2023.

Many thanks to you all and the Team behind the Scenes who make this wonderful experience possible.

*Thank you, Angie Trenchard*

## West Meon Wine Society

We're celebrating Iberia this time, with Spanish and Portuguese wines. As well as some really good everyday wines, we'll highlight a number of brilliant older red wines going back to 1999. These are real treats and certainly not to be found easily elsewhere. A few of them are available only in limited parcels, so it'll be a case of trying them and then diving in quickly. Some of the grapes might be new to you too, especially in the Portuguese wines, but they demonstrate a refreshing appetite amongst winemakers (and drinkers!) to bring back indigenous grapes to prominence: Arinto, Trincadeira or Jaen anyone?

In our latest discounted mixed six case we're offering Whites: 12 Linajes Verdejo 2019 from Rueda in Spain – a fresh and lively wine to get your palate moving, but with enough weight to drink through into a meal; Altano Branco 2018 from the Douro in Portugal – a little more weight, and softer riper fruit, very quaffable; Quinta da Fonte Souto Branco 2019 from the Alentejo in Portugal – a gorgeous mouthfilling creamy wine, one to savour on into the cheese course. Reds: Quinta do Ataíde Tinto 2016 from the Douro – a typical Douro field blend, lightly oaked, well-structured and long; Jimenez-Landi El Corralón 2019 from Mentrída in Spain – a robust but well-balanced Garnacha based blend; Calzadilla 1999 from Castilla y Leon in Spain – a fabulous, perfectly mature Tempranillo based blend at its refined peak.

If you'd like to buy our wines, or become a member, please go to [www.westmeonwine.co.uk](http://www.westmeonwine.co.uk)  
*West Meon Wine Society Management Team*

### WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

As per our advertisement  
from April there is an  
increase in hire fees.

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## West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting

**West Meon Parish Council - Lengthsman visit March 2022** - The March visit has just been completed. The Lengthsman cleaned most of the street signs in the parish, cut back vegetation above the tennis courts and the pavement between White Cottages and Mulberry House. They also cleared around the East End bus shelter and the public seats the parish council owns across the parish. The moss affecting the pavement near the bus stop on the A32 near Pheasant Cottage could not be removed but will be so on a dry day during their next visit. The work of the Lengthsman is funded by HCC and covers small repair and maintenance work in the parish.

**Annual Parish Meeting** – This Years Annual Parish Meeting is Thursday 28th April, at the Sports Pavilion. Arriving from 7.00pm to enjoy a drink before meeting commences at 7.30pm. All Parishioners are welcome.

**Ukraine conflict** - Information is available from both Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council if you would like to help people from Ukraine. The links can be found below:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine>

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2022/feb/cllr-lucille-thompson-leader-of-winchester-citycouncil-has-responded-to-the-news-of-developments-in-ukraine>

**Parish Council Website** – Don't forget you can sign up to receive e-mail alerts on our website. These alerts inform you of upcoming events, news items and new planning applications. If you would like any events or local businesses promoted, please e-mail details to the Parish Council and we will be pleased to include them on the website.

**Walks Booklet** – WMPC have produced a walks booklet containing 10 local walks of varying lengths. This can be purchased from the Village Shop for £3.00.

**And Finally from West Meon** –The next WMPC meeting will be on Tuesday, 12th April in the Sports Pavilion commencing at 7.30 p.m. and all Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**Warnford Parish Meeting** - Information relating to WPM can be found on its website (see opposite). The website also has details of local facilities and services, village news and up and coming events.

**Warnford Parish Meeting's AGM** will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 19th May, all parishioners are welcome. Please send any Agenda items to the Clerk. Papers relating to AGM will be posted on the website shortly before 19th May.

**Rights of Way in Warnford** – If you are aware of any rights of way in Warnford that are becoming overgrown or are otherwise obstructed please e-mail Derek Chapman at: [ederekchapman@btinternet.com](mailto:ederekchapman@btinternet.com).

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

### West Meon Parish Council

Angie Trenchard  
Chair, Planning  
chairmanwmpc@gmail.com or  
angiewmpc1@gmail.com  
01730 829545

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

Chris Waller  
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01730 829489

Cheryl Adams  
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01730 829346

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Neil Wortley  
neilwmpc@gmail.com  
Environment

Diane Heppell  
Clerk to West Meon Parish Council  
clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk  
02392 571720

### West Meon Parish Council website

[www.westmeonpc.org.uk](http://www.westmeonpc.org.uk)  
email: [westmeonpc2017@gmail.com](mailto:westmeonpc2017@gmail.com)

### Warnford Parish Meeting

Mark Rogers  
Chairman  
[chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk](mailto:chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk)  
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson  
Clerk  
[warnfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordclerk@gmail.com)  
01730 829598

### Warnford Parish website

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

### Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors  
Laurence Ruffell - 01962 777236  
[lruffell@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:lruffell@winchester.gov.uk)

Hugh Lumby – 01489 877444  
[hlumby@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:hlumby@winchester.gov.uk)

Hampshire County Councillor  
Roger Huxstep – 01329 833884  
[roger.huxstep@hants.gov.uk](mailto:roger.huxstep@hants.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond  
01962 679920 – Constituency Office  
[flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk)

## APC Meeting

St John's West Meon - Sunday 15th May

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11.45am after the 10.30am service in St John's Church.



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## Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

OPENING TIMES Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm. [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum) and [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery). Please phone 01420 82802 or see our websites for the most up-to-date news.

### ALLEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

**Viva La Still Life.** An exhibition of work by artists Vicki Nigoumi, Jane Chadbon and Chris Sercombe. 26th March – 24th April. FREE

**Sylviane Thomas exhibition.** Sylviane divides her time between Hampshire and France, often using the Sea and sea creatures as her inspiration for works in oils or pastels. 2nd April – 15th May. FREE

### FAMILY FUN

**Judith Venn Family Easter Workshop.** £6 per (accompanied) child. Pre-bookable through the Gallery. 11th April 11am – 1pm.

**Make a LEGO Dodo.** Suitable for ages 6+. 14th and 21st April, 11am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm. £3.50 per kit.

**Easter Trail.** 12th – 24th April. £1 per trail.

### TALKS

**The Social History of the English Civil War Soldier by Alan Turton.** Alan is a military historian, who specialises in the English Civil War and the period up to the mid-18th century. From 1987-2011 he was the curator of the English Civil War site of Basing House (once the largest private house in Tudor England), which underwent the longest siege of the English Civil War. Thursday 14th April at 7.30 pm. FREE, donations gratefully received.

**A Talk on Gilbert White the Gardener by David Standing,** Formerly Head Gardener at the Gilbert White Museum, Selborne, (now retired). Gilbert White is best known as the author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, first published in 1789 and still in print, but he was also an enthusiastic and skilled gardener who developed over 40 years an intricate and extensive garden behind his house in Selborne. This talk summarises 38 years of detective work to track down the original layout and planting of this garden. Thursday 28th April at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.50 bookable in advance from the Gallery.

*Jill Line*

## Rainfall records for February/March

February ended with 91.3mms (3.59”).

From the 15th when we last reported, it rained every day up to the 25th, we then had 3 days without rain and then 8.7mms fell on the 28th February.

March started damp with 13.8mms in the first 4 days, then a spell of 7 days without rain ending on the 11th with 14.5mms.

March up to the 15th: 37mms (1.45”).

Year to end of February: 133.9mms (5.27”).

Same date last year: 172.8mms (6.8”).

*Peter Short*



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## West Meon Viaduct

One of the major engineering works on the Meon Valley Railway route was the crossing of the Meon Valley itself just north of West Meon Station. The valley was made wide and deep at this point. The original design called for an 8 arch concrete viaduct. There is photographic evidence of the foundations being dug across the valley, but before construction started something changed their minds. At the same time the London and South Western Railway were involved in the construction of the Lyme Regis branch from Axminster which also involved a valley



West Meon Viaduct being dismantled March 1957. Photo: Newton Abbot Railway Studies Collection

crossing. A concrete viaduct was constructed (it still stands to this day) but before the line was opened a problem was encountered that required one of the arches to be strengthened. The design for West Meon viaduct was changed to that of a much shorter steel structure consisting of three spans necessitating longer and higher embankments on either side. Although the route was only single track, except through stations, the viaduct and other structures were designed to accept double track.

*Ron Stone*

*By 1956 dismantling of the disused section of line had begun in earnest and this included the demolition of West Meon Viaduct. The huge iron bridge had a high scrap value and thus was one of the first structures to be taken down. It is fair to assume that if it had been built from concrete as originally planned it would probably still be standing. During the viaduct's demolition, it was found to be suffering from corrosion in several places which would have needed extensive and costly repairs in the near future if the railway were to remain open. This was seen as a further justification of the closure by some at British Rail.*

*Wikipedia*

## Diary Dates

### Monday 4th April

**Memorial Unveiling Service** 10.00am South Downs Way, between Old Winchester Hill and Meonstoke

### Tuesday 12th April

**West Meon Parish Council meeting** 7.30pm Sports Pavilion. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

### Wednesday 13th April

**Warnford, West Meon & Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club** 8.00pm Warnford Village Hall Simon Cooper's "Otters' Tale".

### Thursday 28th April

**Annual Parish Meeting** 7.00pm Sports Pavilion. All Parishioners are welcome.

### Sunday 15th May

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** 11.45am after the 10.30am in St John's Church.

### Thursday 19th May

**Warnford Parish Meeting's AGM** 7.30pm Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome.

## Parish Directory

### Rector :

Vacant

### Associate Rector:

The Revd. Philippa Good 07538 595537

### Church Wardens for West Meon:

Helena Gomm 829741

Michael Johnson 829105

### Church Warden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 829161

### Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829285

## Hampshire Farmers' Market April dates

10am-2pm

(except Winchester 9am-2pm,  
Romsey 10am-1pm)

Sunday 3rd Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 9th Alton

Sunday 10th Winchester

Saturday 16th Emsworth

Sunday 17th Southsea

Sunday 24th Winchester

Saturday 30th Ringwood

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

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922

Virginia de Cosson 829362

**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:

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