

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

October 2024

Harvest Festival

Late September and early October see widespread celebrations of Harvest, even in a nation where most people are disconnected from when, where and how their food is produced. Living in our beautiful valley, we at least see crops and animals in the fields and I hope we do not forget our farming community and their labours. It is amazing how popular harvest festivals are, even in our cities. It is right to affirm our unity with nature and to remember that we are entirely dependent on the harvest from the land and sea.

It is sad to reflect that we still need to collect tinned and dried foods, amongst other things, for food banks in the 21st century, and that that is where harvest festival gifts now often go.

Today many fewer people are directly connected with the land, but in Victorian times whole villages turned their hand to the harvest. It is not surprising that at the end of the harvest, all that people wanted to do was to have a party - the 'Harvest Home', the origin of the harvest supper or lunch. Although many a rural parson may have understood why church attendance plummeted during harvest, they would have lamented the raucous nature of the celebrations.



Harvest photo © A Annabel



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There is something about the Harvest Festival that evokes a feeling of ancient, even pagan, celebration, so it can come as a surprise to learn that, in its present form, it is a Victorian invention. It was the Revd Robert Hawker, a rather idiosyncratic parson-and-poet, who dreamt up the idea, inspired by the ancient Saxon Lammass - Loaf Mass – celebrated at the beginning of August with bread made from the very first wheat cut from the fields.

On 13th September 1843, he put up a notice which read,

‘Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in bread of the new corn, that Blessed Sacrament, which was ordained to strengthen and refresh our souls’.

Eccentric though he may have been, the Revd Hawker, a profoundly spiritual man, is justly remembered for inventing the Harvest Festival.

The month of October ends with Halloween, All Saints and All Souls. Hallowe'en is the Eve of All Hallows, and pre-Christian superstitions, which had endured for centuries, became attached to this night. All Hallows is better known to modern Christians as All Saints Day. All Saints' and All Souls' Days today, like All Hallows, celebrate God's own gathering of people of every age, culture and walk of life into heaven. It is a time of glorious rejoicing.

The saints we remember are both those who enjoy the formal title of Saint – such as St John the Evangelist or St Mary. But saints are also all the people who, by their joyful service, have extended the love of God to others – many of whom you will have known.

The abundance of the harvest of souls should be as joy-filled as our celebrations of the gathering of the crops.

I mentioned harvest celebrations have ancient origins, so perhaps I should mention that ‘Trick or Treat’ is not entirely another Americanism that has made its way across the Atlantic, but its origins are Celtic and found their way to North America with Scottish and Irish settlers.

Although the practice of ‘Trick or Treating’ has pagan origins, we should remember that in Christ all things are made new. So, with or without pumpkins and ghoulish costumes, we can confidently ‘laugh at the devil’, who has lost his ultimate power over all God's beloved children.

Let's give thanks with joy for the harvest we need to sustain our bodies, and for those who have gone before us, gathered in by God who sustains us in body and soul.

Fr. Tony



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West Meon W.I. Report

We held our last meeting on 9th September when Angie Trenchard commenced by giving Rosemary Morrish's apologies for not attending due to her having a nasty accident - we all hope she will be fit and well soon. On 21st September the Village Hall are having a 60th birthday Diamond Jamboree and our members were asked to make cakes for the pop up cafe between 10.00 and 11.30am. Members were asked to put 2nd December in their diaries for the Christmas Lunch at The Flowerpots in Cheriton.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Tess Burrows and she spoke to us on Beautiful Tibet. Tess is an author and adventurer and with the aid of lovely photographs she was able to give us all an insight into a country that many of us do not know a lot about! Tess was able to talk about her travels and the project Climb for Tibet, which has raised funds of over £177,000 for educational and environmental projects, mainly to build much needed schools in Tibet. She talked about her journeys through Tibet, visiting monasteries, sacred mountains and the former palace of the Dalai Lamas. Climb for Tibet gathers Peace Messages on prayer flags to speak out periodically from the highest places on earth.



Tess Burrows in North West Nepal <https://www.tessburrows.org/blog/books-of-gold>

Our next meeting on 14th October at West Meon Village Hall at 2pm is going to be very exciting as Lizzie Yarnold, who won Gold Medals for Britain in the skeleton at the Winter Olympics in both 2014 and 2018 will be coming to talk to us about her experiences. W.I. Members from other groups have been invited and we already know that there will be quite a crowd attending. Do come along and join us!

Sue Kinlochan

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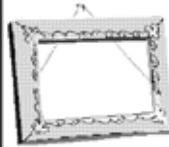
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Seeing red madly in East Meon

The Primrose Piano Quartet have performed some great concerts in the West Meon Music Festival but Suzanne Stanzeleit, Andrew Fuller, John Thwaites and Dorothea Vogel also deserve praise for their curatorial knowledge and expertise in putting together a top class set of guests in a range of local venues.

Music lovers had to get in early before the Last Night of the Proms offered stiff competition so the visit of the extravagant baroque quartet Red Priest at All Saints' Church East Meon on 14th September was more of a lunchtime matinee.

Featuring an extensive toolbelt of interchangeable recorders Piers Adams switched from tiny Garklein and soprano recorders to what looked suspiciously like a section of sawn off drainpipe and could also play two recorders simultaneously. He was matched note for note, if not in range of instruments, by violinist Julia Bishop as they took a tour around the audience in a series of "Grounds" which are like Baroque rounds. Angela East swung her cello sideways, at one point, like a bass guitarist and plucked the strings as well as bowing, was Angela East. The group was completed by new boy David Wright hiding at the back on harpsichord. But as the inscription "deeds prove the man" was inscribed in latin on the lid so his cadenza on Bach's Brandenburg Concerto was outstanding.



The concert was themed as Truly, Madly Baroque and included Bach's Adagio in B flat which was used as part of the theme music for Isle of Wight born Director Anthony Minghella's 1990 film Truly, Madly Deeply starring Alan Rickman and Juliet Stevenson about the love and grief of a widow missing her cellist boyfriend. Equally themed was the Madness of the violinist Arcangelo Corelli whose eyes were supposed to turn red in the fury of his performance. All I can say is Red Priest gave him (and a sellout audience in East Meon) a run for their money.

Photo and text by A Annabel

Summer of fun

Carnivals and fetes provided great entertainment for all the family. Droxford Country Fair, Bishops Waltham Family Fun Day, Colden Common Fete, Swanmore Fete, Knowle Village Picnic in the Park, were just a few of the events the Meon Valley Lions' BBQ and Games turned up to this summer. They helped provide a great day out whilst raising essential funds for those who need our help. It was so lovely to see so many people out enjoying themselves.



Photo: Bunny Racing



Photo: Dog Show Winners

In particular the Swanmore Fete, where the Meon Valley Lions organise the whole show, was such a fantastic day, despite the downpour. From the dog show, to racing pigs, traditional fairground attractions, over 40 stall holders, storytelling for the little one, music all day, beer tent and of course the BBQ - what a day. And a massive thanks to the many helpers, without whom we just couldn't put on the show.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

If you'd like to join our merry band of helpers or join us at Meon Valley Lions Club, drop us a line via our website: Meon Valley Lions Club (CIO) - Feedback welcome. It's not all work, we have plenty of fun too organised by our social committee.

If you'd like to help us run our minibus, you'll be able to transport local people to all sorts of events e.g. to and from the Taste of Wickham car park or members of the Open Sight Club to a lovely afternoon tea.



Photos Open Sight 2024 – permission granted

With the evenings drawing in we've started thinking about our Santa Run so, if you don't want to become a full member but would like to help out with our Santa Run, please get in touch.

Carole Dash

Steep 900 celebration concert: Saturday 9th November

Tickets are now on sale for a sparkling evening of music, artistry, and drama. The event is to launch a year of celebration for the 900th anniversary in 2025 of our beautiful church.

Beginning with a champagne reception at 7pm, we are offering a programme of wide appeal, with performers of both national and local fame. The evening's programme at 7.30pm will be hosted by Frank Gardner (of BBC News renown) and Simon Kingsley-Pallant (Head of Drama at Bedales' Dunhurst prep School).



All Saints' Church Steep <https://friendsofsteepchurch.co.uk/history-of-church/>

Amongst the performers will be the widely-renowned Tippett Quartet with local composer Damian Montagu; the Bedales Jazz Band; Alexandra Peel – an outstanding solo violinist who grew up in Steep; the Steep 900 Camerata – a twenty strong choir; and actors from the Petersfield Shakespeare Festival.

This unique evening has been arranged by the Friends of Steep Church (FOSC). All proceeds will support projects to maintain and improve All Saints' church and its surroundings. Over its nine years of existence, FOSC has raised funds through membership subscriptions and running an impressive range of community events. This has enabled the Friends to make nearly a dozen project grants to the Parochial Church Council ranging from the regilding of the weathervane cockerel to the recent installation of a completely new lighting system for the church, a broadband service and the acquisition of an electronic rehearsal piano – improvements which support the church as a place of worship and enhance its role as a treasured asset for the Steep community. FOSC is actively supporting a pipeline of future projects with the PCC to which the proceeds of this concert will contribute.

To enable as many people as possible to join this initial celebration, we are grateful to Bedales for agreeing to host the event in its new Performance Space within the school. Tickets priced at £35 each (plus a small booking fee) are available from One Tree Books in person at 7, Lavant Street, Petersfield or by telephone (01730 261199) or by email (mail@onetreebooks.com). Tickets can also be booked directly online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/onetreebooks although this will incur a standard TicketSource booking fee.

Christina Lydon

Steep



Champagne Reception & Celebration Concert

6.45pm, Saturday 9 November 2024
at Bedales School, Steep, Petersfield

Damian Montagu with the Tippett Quartet
and the Stewart Prosser Brass Trio
Steep 900 Camerata Choir
The Bedales Jazz Band
Alexandra Peel *violin*
Robert Sword *piano*
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Compères
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Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk (search *Steep 900 Concert*)
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Funds raised will go towards continued maintenance
of All Saints' Church, Steep in its 900th year.



Concert presented by Friends of Steep Church, registered charity no: 1192838

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 6th October

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins.

10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist for Harvest Festival.

Sunday 13th October

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word Harvest Festival.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 20th October

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.

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

Sunday 27th October

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.

10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word.



Garden Club News

The Garden Club's next talk will be on Thursday 10th October at 7:30 for 7:45pm in Warnford Village Hall. Our speaker will be our very own Edwin Grimshaw. His talk is entitled "Warnford Park: its People and its Gardens". Have you ever wondered about the famous opera singer who lived there and perambulated through the Capability Brown Gardens? Or about Wulfric Cepe - our first recorded owner, who lived in Saxon England? If so, this talk is for you! For visitors, the entry fee is £2. It's free for paid-up members. Please bring the exact amount in cash with you on the night. (Only £1 coins please.) A programme of our activities for the rest of the year is available on our website: <https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside> Edwin's last talk was so popular we nearly had to turn people away at the door so booking is essential: clareswinstead@gmail.com or phone evenings: 01730 829059.

Clare Swinstead



Photos supplied by Edwin Grimshaw



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West Meon Community Cinema Programme

Coming to a cinema near you...

Friday 11th October The Fall Guy starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt – what more to say – it's just great fun!

Monday 28th October The Miracle Club with Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney – your chance to see it if you missed it last year.

Friday 8th November Rudy, set in rural Warwickshire, a poignant insight into love, loss and moving on. A bonfire-night supper will be available to purchase at this event.

Friday 13th December Vindication Swim, the inspirational story of Mercedes Gleitze, the first British woman to swim the channel.

Tickets for these films are £7 and available in the following ways:

Ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall

West Meon Village Shop (cash only)

On the door – cash or card machine

Enquiries : rosemarymorrish@icloud.com

Rosemary Morrish



Rainfall report for August/September

The month of August finished with 41.4mms (1.65”) of rainfall. September to the 15th has had only five days without any rain and we have had 49.2mms (1.93”) up to the 15th. We have had no rain since the 12th and we are told that we are in for a dry warm spell. The early mornings are beginning to feel Autumnal with a chill in the air and the first frost can't be far off. Total rainfall to mid-September 2024 is 739.6mms (29.1”) compared with 698.9mms (27.5”) in 2023. **Year to date:**

January	92.6mms.
February	182.7mms.
March	121.6mms
April	80.9mms
May	80.7mms
June	20.4mms
July	70.1mms
August	41.4mms
September	49.2mms

Total to date:

739.6mms (29.1”).

Peter Short

Gold medal acting awards for two girls from West Meon and Warnford

Sarah Williams [aged 18] and Lorien Boyes [aged 19] both achieved Gold Medal with Distinction [which requires a mark of over 90%] in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art [otherwise known as LAMDA] acting exam qualifications.

I have worked with them for several years and am much rewarded by this outstanding performance.

Sarah and Lorien worked together on duologues and their final exam entries were scenes from the following dramas:



- Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor,
- Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit
- a modern adaptation of Antigone.

They also had to hold a detailed discussion with the examiner on the process involved in developing their roles for performance within the context of the play.

Both girls were praised for their 'vibrant, thoughtful and mature performances' and their ability to 'command the stage throughout'.

Congratulations you two! It's been a privilege to get you here!

Mary Dawson



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West Meon Parish Council and Warnford Parish Meeting

A - Boards for publicising events

WMPC reminds parishioners that they should not be displaying A - Boards on the land at the post box or by Pheasant Cottage as this land belongs to Hampshire Highways. In order to display an A - Board, parishioners will have to obtain a licence from Hampshire Highways, via application to Winchester City Council. Further details on how to obtain a licence can be found on the WMPC website. Banners for display at The Cross will still need permission from WMPC and are permitted for a maximum period of two weeks.

Lengthsman visits

The next visit by the Lengthsman will be in November. They can carry out minor works and trimming and strimming of footpaths. Please let the Clerk know if any footpaths need such work.

Traffic speed monitoring

The new flashing 30MPH signs are now installed. Although they only show the speed and not a graphic, WMPC hopes that these will be more reliable than the previous model. Currently, we are waiting for the hedges around the signs to be cut back but at least the visual reminder of the 30MPH zone has been restored.

Stagecoach bus service 67

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. Parishioners should note that a decision about the service will be announced in October this year.

Parking in West Meon

This is a complex matter and WMPC has strategic plans to increase the size of the car park by the Village Hall in the future. To try to minimise inconvenience to others, please park as considerately as possible around the village. Vehicles in the car park must be fully road legal. It helps enormously if those with more than one vehicle per household can arrange parking/storage away from the car park and narrow roads. Vehicular access onto the Recreation Ground is prohibited other than for emergency vehicles and those that require access to carry out maintenance work or deliver/collect goods and equipment. Please contact the Clerk for details and/or to request permission.

Grants from WMPC

WMPC still has funds available for grants of up to £500. Please see the grants policy on the WMPC website or contact the Clerk.

Winchester District Local Plan - consultation now open

This consultation can be found on the Winchester City Council website and concerns future housing needs, affordable housing and other matters. The consultation runs until 13th October.

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, planning applications in the area etc. The Chair has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.) If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

The Autumn Parish Meeting will be held on 7th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Papers relating to it will be posted on the website nearer the time. Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant should follow the procedure set out on the website.

West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City and Hampshire CC Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

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Angie Trenchard, Chair WMPC

Mac Edwards, Vice Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, WMPC

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West Meon Parish Council website
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Warnford Parish Meeting

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Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk
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Warnford Parish website
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Winter Fuel Payment

Ally Chatterley, Operations Manager at Citizens Advice Winchester District gives advice on changes to the Winter Fuel Payment, and how to access it.

“I’m a pensioner and am really worried about how I’m going to pay my energy bills this winter, especially now the Winter Fuel Payment is only going to people on certain benefits. I don’t currently receive any benefits, but my income is limited and I’m wondering if there’s anything I can do.”

Previously the Winter Fuel Payment, which is worth up to £300, has been given to all pensioners regardless of income. However, this winter you’ll now only get the payment if you or your partner get certain benefits, including Pension Credit.

Pension Credit is one of the most underclaimed benefits there is – in Hampshire alone an estimated £2.5million of Pension Credit goes unclaimed each year. If you’re of pension age and on a low income, then it’s worth applying for Pension Credit even if you don’t receive any other benefits.

If your application for Pension Credit is successful, then as well as receiving a monthly boost to your income, you’ll also be able to access other support including making a claim for the Winter Fuel Payment.

You have until the 21st December to apply for Pension Credit and still receive the Winter Fuel Payment if successful. To find out more about the eligibility for Pension Credit and how to apply you can go to the national Citizens Advice website.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income/pension-credit/>

To speak to one of the advice team at Citizens Advice Winchester District, call us for free on 0808 278 7861, email us via our website (www.citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk) or visit us in Winchester or Wickham.

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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis Museum 10am–4.30pm. Allen Gallery 10.30–4pm. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum and www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery.

In keeping with its *raison d'être*, the Allen Gallery is hosting several ceramic-based events this October.

Ceramicus is excited to be returning to Alton after six successful exhibitions since 2014. The exhibition will run from 5th October until 3rd November.

Ceramicus is a group of eleven locally based potters, including one sculptor, who are delighted to return to the beautiful Allen Gallery. They each have their individual approaches to creating and firing clay objects. The diversity in styles of artistic expression provides visitors the opportunity to enjoy (and perhaps purchase) a unique work of art. All purchases may be taken away on the day.



318 Ceramics have a Handmade Ceramic Terracotta Tiles Workshop on Saturday 19th October in their Farnham premises. There will be an Introductory Session in the Gallery on Saturday 5th October. Please see our website for booking details.

Make and Take - a Pottery session with a Halloween theme on Tuesday 29th October. From 10.30 am for about 1 hour. £6 per session. Suitable for accompanied children.

The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery talk this month will be given by Alexandra Walker, of Hampshire Wardrobe. The talk is headed "Creating character through costume with reference to Jane Austen productions, and Bridgerton". In the Allen Gallery, Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm. Free, donations welcomed.

There will be Autumn Pumpkin Trails running from 19th October to 3rd November in the Allen Gallery and the Curtis Museum. Pay once (£2) for both trails.

Jill Line

Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st October: West Meon Parish Council 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall

Thursday 3rd October: Care Group AGM
6.30pm West Meon Sports Pavilion

Thursday 10th October: Garden Club
Warnford Park – its people and its Gardens:
talk by Edwin Grimshaw 7.30pm Warnford
Village Hall

**Friday 11th October: West Meon
Community Cinema** The Fall Guy West
Meon Village Hall

Monday 14th October: W.I. Lizzie Yarnold
Winter Olympics Gold Medals 2pm West
Meon Village Hall

**Thursday 7th November: Warnford Parish
Meeting** 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall

Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922
Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector: Fr. Tony Forrest

Vergers for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

PCC Secretary for West Meon:

Louise Clay 829 235

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Vergers for Warnford:

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& LOCAL

October

Alresford - Saturday 5th

Petersfield - Sunday 6th

Romsey - Sunday 6th

Alton - Saturday 12th

Winchester - Sunday 13th

Emsworth - Saturday 19th

Southsea - Sunday 20th

Ringwood - Saturday 26th

Winchester - Sunday 27th

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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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)