

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

September 2023

## The bells, the bells!

Bells have a long history in England and are a core part of Church life, calling us to worship, helping us in our celebrations and sounding in our mourning.

We are blessed in our two parishes to have two peals of bells, with six fine modern bells in Warnford and eight in West Meon.

The peal of bells presently in West Meon were originally six, cast in Whitechapel in London, and were hung in the new church ready for the consecration on 5th May 1846 in an oak frame.

In 1897 two bells were added to the original oak frame, the gift of Richard Earwaker and inscribed on the treble, “The gift of Richard Earwaker, Waker of ears, I speak Earwakers fame, one the gift’s office and the giver’s name”, and on the second bell, “Eu Experrectae clangor meus obstrepit auri qui dedit officium nominat usque meum”. West Meon could now boast a peal of eight, and these can be seen in the photo below.

After all this time ringing across the valley, I have to let you know that the bells are in a very poor condition. Two independent experts have recently reported that the wooden frame supporting the bells is no longer safe to support the strain of the bells being rung and needs replacing. In addition, all the bell fixtures and fittings need to be replaced, and the bells



*Bells photo provided by Edwin Grimshaw*



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**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!

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themselves need some remedial work.

There is a longstanding fixture being held to support the efforts to re-hang the bells at nearby Ropley, where a devastating fire destroyed the church and bell tower in 2014. Fundraising to re-hang the bells is still ongoing after nearly 10 years. West Meon will be rung with the other churches in the area in a tower open day in aid of fundraising for Ropley on Sunday 30th September at 17:30 -18:30.

Unfortunately this will be the last time we will hear the bells ring out in West Meon for some time. As we explained at our stall at West Meon Church Fete in June, this will cost approximately £150,000 to reinstate and put the bells in working order.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be meeting in September to consider how this large commitment to raise funds might fit in with other liabilities that are foreseen to maintain the fabric of the church. Unfortunately the church is run on a very tight budget and supported by a small group of donors. We were delighted to hear initial enthusiasm to raise money to repair the bells and would like to invite all those who are interested to join us at St John's Church on the evening of 30th September to hear the bells, to share refreshments and consider ideas for the future.

We are also short of ringers for the bells at West Meon and are always looking for new or returning ringers. Please get in touch if you are interested.

*Edwin Grimshaw*



## **Warnford Village Fete**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

**at 1pm**

**Warnford Playground**

**Entry is FREE OF CHARGE**

Contributions would be appreciated for the following stalls: -

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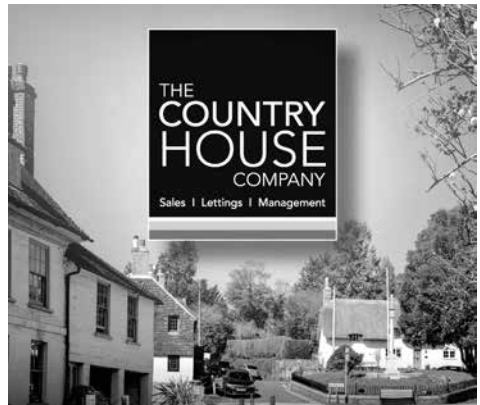
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## West Meon Village Shop

We are delighted to report that listed building and planning consent has been obtained to put solar panels on the lean-to roof at the rear of the shop. Moreover, we applied to Winchester City Council for a grant to help with the installation of the solar panels for the Shop and were thrilled to hear that our application for £5000 was successful.

August proved to be a trying month due to the road closures through West Meon for a couple of weeks which really impacted the shop's takings and foot-fall. Such a shame. The road works needed to be done etc. That said it is such a pity that so many people decided to drive to the West Meon Hut and not walk to the shop. The pub, shop and butchers were open as normal and all three of us suffered a significant loss of business. Just remember use it or lose it guys!!!

On a lighter note, the holiday makers to our village always comment on how great the



shop is which keeps our spirits high.

Also, a big well done to Ruby Christie who recently completed her Duke of Edinburgh volunteer section at the shop.

Ruby has asked to continue working here on a Sunday with Ray as she loves it so much.

*Rachell Barnett*

*The infamous bollards/barrier: A Annabel*

## More news from West Meon Village Hall

It has been an active time for the village hall in terms of new initiatives coming to fruition.

The Community Cinema ... work is now underway to set up and test the audio and visual equipment we were able to purchase with grant funding. The electronically operated screen which drops down in front of the stage is already up and running and is available for use by any hall hirer. We have a small group of volunteers who are working hard to put in place all the elements involved in running this new exciting venture. We hope to be able to launch in October with our first screening – more details to follow.

We are progressing the installation of WiFi in the hall which will be a much needed resource and we hope will also attract new hirers. The project has proved more complicated than we originally envisaged due to the height of the VH in relation to the nearest pole in Headon View. A new pole, costing just over £1000 was needed next to the hall to take the line. We were very lucky to secure a small grant from WCC which has helped to cover the installation cost. We are now expecting to have WiFi up and running in the very near future.

In our ambitions to reduce running costs and carbon emissions we are in the throws of applying for grants for solar panels, both via Winchester City Council and the National Lottery – more on this next month we hope.

*Village Hall Management Committee*

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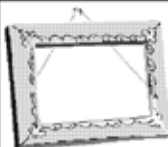
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## Magical moths

Photos: Hummingbird hawkmoth(c)Derek Moore, Elephant hawkmoth(c)Richard Burkmar

Moths are often described as the dull cousins of colour butterflies, but nothing could be further from the truth. The UK has about 2,500 moth species and their sheer diversity, in terms of their colour, size, form, pattern and intricacy of markings, and their varied and often remarkable ecology, is nothing short of astonishing.



Take the bizarrely named goat moth for example. Like all moths and butterflies, it has egg, larval and pupal stages. However, amazingly its caterpillar, or larva, overwinters for several years before emerging to spend a comparatively brief couple of months as an adult. Locally, this nationally scarce species is found in the New Forest. But why goat moth? Well, the caterpillars are said to smell of goats!

Interestingly, several of our moths are named after their caterpillars: the lobster moth and the elephant hawk-moth are good examples. They are reminders of a time before modern light traps made it easier to find the adults and searching out larvae was the main means of recording moths. Not all moths are night flyers. Several species are diurnal and fly mainly during the day. One of the most common day flying moths is the stunning Six-Spot Burnet. These are beautiful insects but are poisonous to anything wanting to eat it. Like butterflies a lot of moths drink the sugary nectar from flowers and feed on sweet tree sap.

Surprisingly for such small insects, some moths migrate here, travelling from Europe or further afield. One migrant that is commonly seen in southern England every year is the Humming-bird hawk moth, coming all the way from the Mediterranean or even north Africa. With numbers peaking in August and September now is the perfect time to spot this visitor in Hampshire. Unfortunately, like butterflies, moths have suffered a widespread decline. Ultimately this highlights wider environmental damage caused by our impact on the natural world. Moths play vital roles within food chains, being food for birds, bats and mammals and being an important pollinator of plants. Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation caused by urbanisation and intensive agriculture are linked closely to the decline. But while we have lost around 40% of our total moths, since 2000 we have gained several dozen new moth species, colonising over from the continent.



But there is hope! The Reddish buff moth - a rare moth species which is only found on one site in the UK - has recently been recorded for the first time in four years. Two individual moths were found during the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's annual moth survey programme, at a sanctuary site on the Isle of Wight. The last adult moth was found in 2019 and the new find helps raise hopes for the future of this endangered moth.

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

## Independent Chapel in Warnford seen from Australia



*Dr. Rockwell at the location of Dr. Shoveller's Chapel at the Wheely Down turning, Warnford*

I visited Warnford and West Meon from the 6th to 8th June in a whistle stop tour to uncover any interesting information about my ancestors...what ended up happening was extraordinary...

In early June, just a couple of months back, I drove through Warnford from Sydney, Australia to investigate the birthplace and residence of my ancestors from the 18th and early 19th century. I

knew that looking for family names like Bignell, Shoveller, Eastman and Aylward from well over two centuries ago was likely to be a wild goose chase. But after finding the 'Church of Our Lady' in Warnford Park, the site of the marriage of my 3 times Greatgrandparents William Shoveller and Mary Bignell in 1789, my spirits lifted.

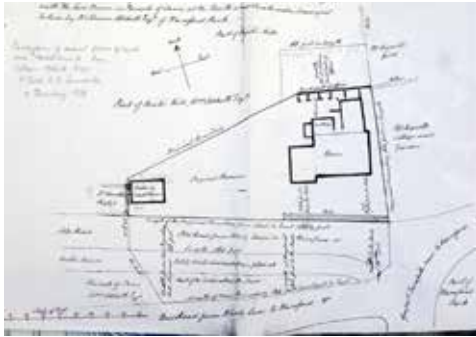
Young William Shoveller was apprenticed as a 'cutler' in London, and travelled back and forward on the old London Road as his family were residents of Portsmouth, where his father ran a successful ropery and ships chandlery. It was likely while passing through Warnford that he met his bride to be, Mary Bignell. William went on to become a silversmith in Portsea and later purchased a tannery at West Meon. They had two sons and three daughters, the eldest being John Shoveller (b.1789), who began the 'Kings House Academy' boarding school in Portsmouth, and he later gained a Doctoral degree in Law at Oxford. But the death of his mother Mary Shoveller (nee Bignell) in 1825, saw Dr Shoveller and his own family return to the Bignell family residence in Warnford. It was here through his devotion to God that an epiphany presented him with a mission to help the citizens of Warnford and West Meon, by becoming their independent minister.

On the 14th May 1827, just two weeks prior to the birth of his tenth child, he gave a speech at the laying of the first stone for the new Independent Chapels he had established at Warnford & West Meon (Hampshire Telegraph, 14th May 1827, p.4). The commemorative stone bore an appropriate latin inscription from the young gentlemen of his school, and the event was later reported, "A district in the centre of the county of Hants, containing upwards of 300 square miles, was without a dissenting chapel, till about eight years ago, a member of the Church at Portsea used his exertions to erect one at Westmeon, and subsequently another at Warnford. These two places form part of a cluster of villages, in which there is reckoned a population of 5,000 souls, within three or four miles of the chapels. Having been supplied by the students of the Missionary seminary, on their removal from Gosport, the people were on the point



of being left destitute, when John Shoveller L.L.D. from Portsea, fixed his residence among them, and as soon as the church was formed, received a unanimous call to become its pastor; which invitation, after having candidly stated his reasons for supposing that his residence in the neighbourhood might be only temporary, he consented to accept, and on Tuesday, October 6th, he was ordained over the people forming the United Independent Church of Westmeon and Warnford.” The Evangelical Magazine and Missionary Chronicle, Vol VII, London, 1829

By then Dr Shoveller had been 15 years married 1812 to Elizabeth Eastman (m.1812), but they sadly lost five of their nine children in squalid Portsmouth before moving to Warnford. Their tenth child however, Thomas Eastman Shoveller was born in Warnford in late May of 1827 and survived to later sail all over the Pacific and emigrate to Australia in 1851, where he eventually settled and married in Grafton, on the north coast of New South Wales. I am his great great grandson (through maternal lines)!



1838 Plan of Rev. Richard Hume Lancaster's residence at Warnford (showing Shoveller & Bignell). Cover image of the book *The Long Road To Grafton*.

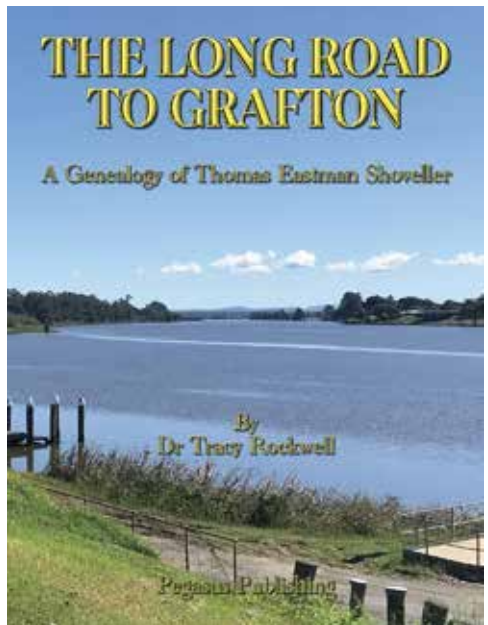
Warnford of “Dr Shoveller’s chapel” and “Mr. Bignell’s field” amongst other items. Regards, Andrew”.

So we organised a meeting for the next morning when I was introduced to Stephen Short who benevolently showed me around the village, explaining much... and helping to find the locations that Dr John Shoveller had helped to create. It was remarkable how a chance meeting at the church led to such an extraordinary series of connections, and even more wonderful to have walked in the footsteps of my direct ancestors.

Thank you Warnford and West Meon for being so welcoming and helpful, you are all so very lucky to reside in such a beautiful part of England.

*Dr Tracy Paul Rockwell*

It was after leaving the ‘Church of Our Lady’ however, that an amazing synchronicity occurred, when I ran into Andrew Sellick, the owner of Warnford Park. We had a very pleasant chat and I gave him my email in case any information ever came to hand. Then that very same evening I received this email, “Hello Tracy, Since I met you today, we have had the most extraordinary coincidence as we have just obtained an image of a property map from the late 1700s which identifies the location in



## Garden Club Summer Show



For the first time since the Covid pandemic began we held our Summer Show “live” on Saturday, 12th August at West Meon Village Hall.

Some of you may remember that we held online shows during lockdowns, where the emphasis was on fun and creativity rather than on following rules and regulations designed perhaps more for semi-professional competitors. This approach proved popular, so this show was simplified and streamlined,

eliminating those classes that appealed to very few exhibitors or none at all. Another innovation was “audience participation” in the Crafts and Fun sections. Visitors were encouraged to attribute “prizes” using an anonymous judging sheet, according to their opinions of the entries.

Although there were fewer entrants than in 2019 (but those who did enter ranged from 2 to 91 years of age) quality certainly made up for lack of quantity. Peter Short kindly presented all the prizes and congratulated all participants on the efforts they had put in to produce such delightful exhibits.

Steve Jones was the outright winner in the Vegetable sections, with Margaret Major winning in the Flowers category and Joanne Horn once more taking home the cup for Cookery. Stephen Short, Carol Rowlatt, Bob Miles and Liz English also acquitted themselves honourably. Finally, both Bob Miles and Anna Couldridge were awarded a Diploma for Excellence in Horticulture. Quite an achievement!

The standout winner was, though, Anna Couldridge, winning the F Burt Challenge Trophy for the best collection of vegetables, the President’s Challenge Trophy for the most points awarded in craft classes and finally the Stephens Challenge Trophy for the most points awarded to a member in the show.

The details of all the trophies awarded along with further photographs can be seen on the Garden Club website: <https://www.hugofox.com/community/west-meon-garden-club-18458/2023-summer-show/>

There will be no Garden Club events in September but in October we will be welcoming back Ben Pope, who will be talking to us about “Treading Gently Through the Borders”, on Thursday 12th October, at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall.



*Clare Swinstead* Photos by Edwin Grimshaw

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## Sunday 3rd September

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

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Mattins.

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

## Sunday 10th September

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

**9am Langrish.** Benefice Service of the Word.

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

## Sunday 17th September

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

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

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

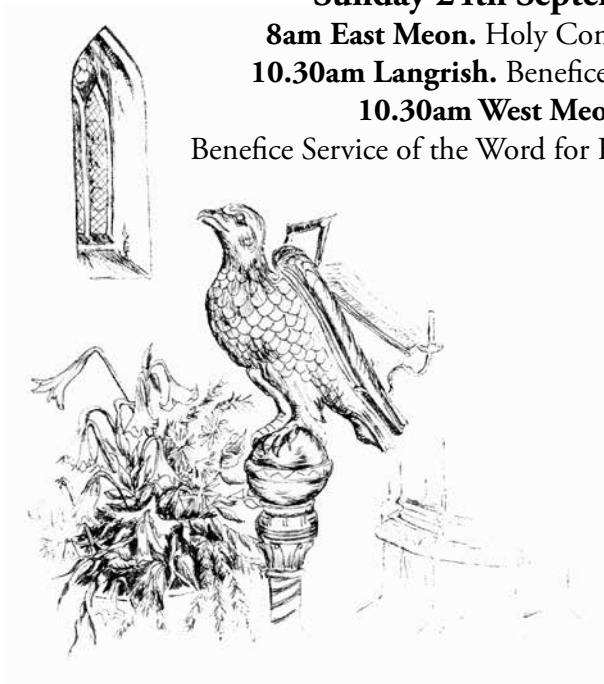
## Sunday 24th September

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

**10.30am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist.

**10.30am West Meon.**

Benefice Service of the Word for Harvest Festival.



## West Meon C of E Primary School

Following on from the Girls' Football Tournament this year, we now have a new football kit for a girls' team and a new girls' football club is starting, ready to prepare us for any matches this year. We will also run our mixed football tournament and Aspire Sports Club weekly.

Sports Day was very successful on the village fields and many cups were won, including the Bruce Wilson Cup presented by Hugh Morris to Charlie Underwood for his sustained commitment to sport during his seven years at our school. Charlie travelled from Medstead the whole time he was here and his parents used the before and after school club as they travelled past on their way to work.

Y5 had a wonderful week at the Stubbington Study Centre at the beginning of July, where they created rock pools on the beach, learned how to use compasses and watched the foxes and badgers from the hide at night. We love it down there so much, we are taking the whole school down for a day of activities at the beginning of next year's Y5 residential.

The Owls Summer Play 'Hoodwinked' was amazing and the acting and singing against the wonderful setting of the staging in the church created a very special event.

Y6 also met the Bishop again at the Leavers' service at Portsmouth Cathedral and took their drums to take part in the Ubuntu themed activity there.

The Y6 Leavers' Trip saw them together for bowling and a BBQ, then our Leavers' Service

and Prizegiving was our special farewell to them as they move onto secondary schools.

Our new Reception children attended story sessions and a change over afternoon which gave them a taste of their next class.

A reminder that we are open from 7.30am until 6pm with excellent before and after school care for working parents and for those who do not live in the village, but pass through on their way to and from work.

You are very welcome to look around the school at any time and we welcome children from outside our catchment area as well. Check out our new website which is under development.

We have an Open Morning coming up on Saturday 4th November 2023 from 10 – 12 and we would love to see you there.

*Julie Kelly, Headteacher*

*Photo: Stubbington Day 1*



**Autumn Plant & Produce Sale**

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### 3 Mums, 7 kids, 10 bikes, 5 days

After years of camping weekends, then last year a 5 day roadtrip in a battered, hired minibus to conquer the 3 Peaks, this intrepid, or foolhardy, local gang of 10 took off on a self planned cycle ride. Not just any little jaunt on pedal bikes – this one was Petersfield to Paris – 444km! Not much training (surely it's all downhill?), no knowledge of bikes (bike maintenance course was done by all – thanks Jez and Peter at The Bike Den, Petersfield), but lots of enthusiasm (well, the Mums anyway). We left Petersfield on Sunday 30th July, cycling to Brighton, where we collapsed overnight, before cycling onto Newhaven. We then caught the ferry to Dieppe and started making our way down France, for the most-part following the Avenue de Verte, culminating in photos at The Eiffel Tower on Thursday 3rd August... and a well earned tipples! On the way we had one simple to fix puncture, one not so simple puncture including outer tyre as well as inner tube, one gear change break, one scratched eye by some flying small object and all the younger boys falling off their bikes (lots of scraped knees!)



Our support crew of Jim and Chris stalked us en route, unbeknownst to the kids. They came into their own when we had the second puncture issue, sourcing and secretly delivering a new tyre for us to swap, we managed to still keep their presence in France a secret from the kids until letting them know once we were at the Eiffel Tower! After a day of sightseeing in Paris, we dismantled the bikes and piled them into the back of the support truck for them to return home via the ferry, whilst we came home on the Eurostar.

What an epic adventure, we had lots of laughs and fun, despite the seemingly constant rain and fierce wind – think we overpacked on the suncream! What to do next year...maybe a beach?

We were raising money for The 4 Cancer Group. <https://www.4cancer.org/>, they have an office based in Petersfield. They provide much needed mini breaks and holidays to families affected by cancer. Most people you talk to will have been touched by cancer in some way, and the work this little charity does is amazing. It gives families something to look forward to during all the tough times that go hand in hand with cancer treatments. Mark Brocklehurst at the charity kindly provided us with endorsed cycling jerseys and some sunnies so we could spread the word as we pedalled.



Currently we have raised over £4,500 and have been truly stunned by everyone's generosity and support – thank you! If you would like to sponsor us, please have a look at our Justgiving Team Page – Justgiving – Petersfield 2 Paris 4 Cancer.

*The Ulph's (Rachel, Bear, Osc & Hecty),  
The Brooker's (Suzie, Ben & Joe), The Hiscox's  
(H, Phoebe & Theo)*

# West Meon Music Festival

There'll be some exciting musical experiences to enjoy at this year's West Meon Music Festival (14th to 17th September) with brilliant award-winning young performers and a dramatic renaissance band joining the festival's founders – the internationally acclaimed Primrose Piano Quartet.



In all there will be eight concerts during the four-day festival and full details can be found at [www.westmeonmusic.co.uk/concerts-tickets](http://www.westmeonmusic.co.uk/concerts-tickets) where tickets (priced from £14) are also available.

Please do not drive up to Church Lane to the main venue in West Meon unless you are a Blue Badge holder or are dropping someone off at the church. Follow the signs in the village to Headon View and park on the Recreation

ground.

The pews in St. John's are a bit firm; though this might keep you awake after a glass of our excellent wine in the interval, but you may be more comfortable if you bring a cushion!

*Sue Scholes*

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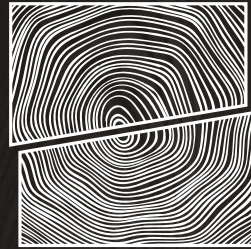
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## West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

**Parish Council Vacancies** - Have you recently moved to West Meon and feel you would like to get involved more in village life? Why not become a Parish Councillor to help look after the interests of the Village and its Parishioners. If you can spare some time and would be interested in joining the current Councillors then please contact the Clerk - Jo Tester (details opposite).

**WMPC Grants Policy** - Just a reminder that small Grants are available to assist in community projects. If you have a project that needs some extra funding, please see our website ([www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/grants](http://www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-13628/grants)) for further details. Any applications should be submitted to the Clerk.

**Vehicles at Village Hall** - Vehicles parked at WM Village Hall must be road legal. Please ensure if your vehicle is parked at the Village Hall it complies with these requirements. Those that are not could be removed by the Parish Council who are the landowners.

**Lengthsman Visits** - The Lengthsman is scheduled to work in the village on the following dates: 24th November & 31st January 2024. If any parishioner has knowledge of work that they feel needs to be done please advise a member of the PC. Their time is limited and work will be prioritized where necessary.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - A reminder that we have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Meon. Apart from providing a forum where people can exchange information regarding security issues in the village, there are regular monthly updates from our local police teams on where and what kind of crimes are currently prevalent. If you would like to sign up go to the national website of NW and follow the links to West Meon.

**And Finally from West Meon** – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk, Jo Tester (details opposite) if you wish to attend.

**Warnford Parish Meeting** - Information relating to WPM can be found on its website (see opposite) 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.

**Warnford Autumn Parish Meeting** - To be held on 14th 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.

**Warnford's Parish Priorities Statement (PPS)** - How do you see the future of the village? Have your say and share your views! The SDNP Authority is inviting each parish to submit a PPS, saying what its priorities are for the future. Papers relating to the PPS are on the website. This is a great opportunity to consider Warnford going forward. Please do take a look and, if you have not already done so, let the Chair have your views (details of how to do this are on the website) by 8th September.

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

### **West Meon Parish Council**

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Planning, Communications  
chairmanwmpc@gmail.com or  
angietrenchard@gmail.com  
01730 829545

Mac Edwards, Vice Chair  
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07778 775486

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Allan Thomson  
allanwmpc@gmail.com  
07467 330322

Jo Tester  
Clerk to West Meon Parish Council  
clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk  
02392 632106

### **West Meon Parish Council website**

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

### **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Mark Rogers  
Chairman  
chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk  
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson  
Clerk  
warnfordclerk@gmail.com  
07717 296610

### **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  
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 - 07738 289912  
[hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk)

### **Member of Parliament for Meon Valley**

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## **W.I. Report**

We have enjoyed several varied meetings during the summer months including a visit to Warnford Park on a beautiful June evening. Members and their guests started off the event with wine and delicious home-made canapés in the atmospheric setting of the ruins of St. John's House. Our generous host, Andrew Sellick then gave an interesting talk on the history and development of the parkland and its remodelling by "Capability" Brown in the 18th. century. He also showed us how the engineering works to control the flooding of the water meadows and supply to the Bath House had been uncovered.

The speaker at our July meeting was Robert Mocatta who has done a great deal of research on the history of Westbury House which was originally built in the Palladian style but rebuilt in brick after a fire in 1904. He gave us an in depth account of the various families who have been involved with the house over the centuries. We were able to welcome Jane Manners back as a long-standing member of our WI branch but more importantly in this instance as a fount of knowledge about the house where she and her family lived for many years when they ran a prep school on the premises. A highlight of the meeting was the unveiling of the new electric screen which the WI had helped the village hall to purchase via a generous donation.

We look forward to our autumn meetings beginning on Monday 11th September when Terri Robinson will entertain us with a talk on 'The History, Scenery and Wildlife of Alaska'.

If anyone is interested in joining the WI please do contact either Rosie Morrish (Secretary) on 01730 829266 or Angie Trenchard (President) on 01730 929545. We welcome prospective members as guests to a meeting so that they may get a feel of what the WI is about.

*Rosemary Morrish*

## **Rainfall report for July/August 2023**

It is the 15th of August as we write the rainfall report for July/August, the harvest month in the UK and the month when many are having their annual holiday and hoping for some hot and dry weather. The sun is actually shining but that is a rare occurrence so far this month. It has rained on all but 3 days so far in August and the harvest has been slow and spasmodic. Fields of corn which were looking pristine back in June then suffered a battering from the rain in July, all 134mms of it, and then when farmers were looking for a break and some respite to get on with their harvest it got worse! So far in August we have measured 55.8mms(2.19").

August rainfall over the last 5 years looks like this:-

2019 58.6mms (2.3")

2020 117.9mms (4.6")

2021 71.0mms (2.79")

2022 33.7mms ((1.32")

2023 to the 15th 55.8mms (2.19").

*Peter Short*

## **Plants thanks**

I would like to thank those kind and generous people who sometimes I am sure don't have the right change when they buy plants and leave the extra anyway. It is very good of you and much appreciated. I am usually around somewhere and you can always come to the house to try.

*Jenny Jenkin*



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## Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm  
ALLEN GALLERY

**All Fired Up** - The exhibition detailing the rediscovery of the Allen Gallery with help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continues until 12th September. FREE

**'China's Influence on English Ceramics'** - A talk by Professor Nigel Wood presenting a fascinating insight into how Chinese export wares helped to drive the development of ceramics. Local potters' responses to Chinese export wares have helped to drive the development of Eurasian, East Asian and South East Asian ceramics since the ninth century CE, with a common pattern of importation and imitation, closely followed by innovation. English ceramics are no exception to this principle. They show a particularly rich response to imported Chinese wares in areas as various as design, material, technology and organisation of production. The Allen Gallery's collection illustrates this story well, with its important holdings of Staffordshire red stoneware, tin glazed earthenware, white porcelain and twentieth century studio ceramics of the 'Leach School' -- all of which draw on Chinese originals for their particular characters. Wednesday 6th September, 7pm - £6 bookable in advance from the Website.



*Staffordshire red stoneware teapot*

**Alton's 20th Century Market** - A talk by Jane Hurst on the changes to the Market brought about by wars, foot-and-mouth disease and the replacement of large animals by small; the "dead stock" auctions; the families whose records and photographs form an invaluable guide to the Market's history. Thursday 14th September at 7.30. FREE - sponsored by The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery.

**Allen Gallery Cinema** - On Saturday 23rd September we will be showing Love and Friendship (PG), a witty adaptation of Jane Austen's novella Lady Susan. There will be a short introductory talk at 7pm followed by the film. The café and garden will be open for drinks from 6.30pm. Tickets £9.50 standard; £6.00 concessions, available online or from the Gallery.

**Family Drop-in Craft sessions** - Wednesday and Saturday mornings, starting in mid-September. £5 per child. Please visit the website for details. <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery>

### CURTIS MUSEUM

There is a small exhibition about the (old) Alton Sports Centre Health and Fun Club. It was formed in 1979, and offered a wide range of activities to anyone from the surrounding area who was over 50. The then manager of the Centre, Bob Tedder, was instrumental in the early days. The club featured as a role model for the National Sports Council's 50-plus campaign, and inspired other sports centres to set up similar schemes. The exhibition is on the first floor of the Museum.

**Museum Trail** - We regularly have a free trail for children to follow while exploring the Museum - this Autumn's is called Match the tree to the leaf. Unscramble the letters on the clues to find which leaf matches which tree, and discover some fascinating facts. *Jill Line*

## Diary Dates

**Saturday 2nd September Warnford Village Fete** from 1pm. Warnford Playground.

**Tuesday 5th September West Meon Parish Council Meeting** 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

**Monday 11th September WI 2pm West Meon Village Hall.** Terri Robinson "The History, Scenery and Wildlife of Alaska."

**Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th September West Meon Music Festival.** Details of times and venues available at [www.westmeonmusic.co.uk](http://www.westmeonmusic.co.uk).

**Thursday 12th October Garden Club 7.30 for 7.45pm Warnford Village Hall.** Ben Pope "Treading Gently Through the Borders".

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922  
Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

**Rector:** Vacant

**Churchwarden for West Meon:**  
Michael Johnson 829105

**PCC Secretary for West Meon:**  
Louise Clay 829235

**Churchwarden for Warnford:**  
Andrew Sellick 829161

**Verger for Warnford:**  
Peter Short 829285

## Hampshire Farmers' Markets

### September

Saturday 2nd Hamble Food Festival  
Sunday 3rd Petersfield/Romsey  
Saturday 9th Alton  
Sunday 10th Winchester  
Saturday 16th Emsworth  
Sunday 17th Southsea  
Saturday 23rd Ringwood  
Sunday 24th Winchester

**Alresford Watercress Line Farmers' Market**  
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**ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)**  
**ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)**