

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

December 2024

A Sense of the Season

I am certain that almost everyone reading this knows about Advent Calendars and has perhaps already opened a number of windows, and possibly enjoyed a chocolate treat behind each one. Rather conveniently this year, the first day of Advent, Advent Sunday, falls on 1st December.

A few days later, on 6th December each year, the church celebrates St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who died in about 326.

Despite countless legends about him, Nicholas is something of a mystery. All that can be said for certain is that he was Bishop of Myra (in Modern Turkey) at the beginning of the fourth century. He was buried outside of his city, facing towards the sea. Legend has it that he was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution of 303/4.

Nicholas is the patron of our friends at Wickham and he is also the patron saint of Sailors and of children. His legend speaks of him giving three girls a dowry to allow them to marry when their family fell on hard times. He delivered the gifts at night to avoid being recognised – Nicholas is the original Santa Claus – Father Christmas.

Nicholas' determination to remain anonymous in his giving, even dropping the bag of money for the last daughter down the chimney, gives us something to think about. At this time of year, when our minds are preoccupied with Christmas shopping, presents and January sales, we can ask ourselves for whom we really do all this? Do we truly have others in our hearts?



The Lycian rock tombs at the Byzantine church of St Nicholas in Myra



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In past years in my previous parishes, we have collected quantities of mostly brand-new toys for children, who have to spend their Christmases in women's refuges or in homeless hostels - escaping violence and abuse, but with very little other joy. We are launching the same appeal this year at our TOY SERVICE where anonymous gifts of toys are collected. Please join in the generosity this year and help us collect some toys for children whose Christmas will be in the E C Roberts Centre in Portsmouth, rather than at home. Bring some happiness to those children, and joy into your heart, by giving with willingness. Bring the toys to the Toy Service on 8th December at West Meon, or drop them into any of the Benefice Churches right up until 16th December. Giving as Nicholas did, anonymously, will bring many homeless children such great joy, but for understandable reasons, no water pistols or other toy weapons.

On the topic of giving presents, many of us will know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas", with its litany of gifts from a true love. It is sometimes assumed that the twelve days of Christmas are those leading to 25th December, but this period is part of Advent, in which St Nicholas' Day also falls, rather than Christmastide.

However Christians in the west have traditionally kept Christmas as the season from 25th December until 6th January (the Epiphany). The church calendar today has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple ('Candlemas') on 2nd February.

Next to the yearly celebration of Holy Week and Easter, the church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the broader season of Christmas.

More than just Jesus' birthday, the Christmas season is a time for remembering and revelling in the nativity of Christ, the revelation of Christ to the shepherds (ordinary people rather than the political or elite), the revelation of Christ to the Magi (the Wise Men or the Three Kings from the gentile wider world), Christ's baptism by John in the Jordan, and Christ changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. In all these saving events, we know that "the Word is made flesh and dwells among us".

Certain significant saints' days follow Christmas Day itself and it is quite a challenge to celebrate as they deserve these saints of the Christmas season: St Stephen, on Boxing Day and mentioned in "Good King Wencelas", who first paid with his life for following the Lord in human flesh; St John (27th), the apostle and evangelist, patron of both West Meon and Langrish churches, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents (28th), who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest.

How can we keep Christmas not just as a day, but as a season? How about keeping the tree up (and watered!) and shining bright until the Baptism of the Lord 12th January in 2025) or even to Candlemas? Consider singing carols on more occasions and bible readings for each day of the Christmas season. Following the example of St Francis of Assisi, set up a model crib. A lovely thing is to light a candle (safely) next to it - or several all around it. When you light the candles, say the prayer of the angels:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people. Amen."

A blessed, joyous and peace-filled Christmas 2024 and a happy and healthy 2025 to you all.

Fr. Tony

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Snowdrop events at Warnford Church - open on Saturdays in 2025

The organisers have decided that the Warnford Snowdrop events, held on Sundays in February for more than 50 years in aid of Warnford church, will be closed in 2025. There will however be a limited ticketed event open on Saturdays.

For more than 50 years a wonderful team of local volunteers have welcomed visitors to enjoy the remarkable display of Snowdrops in the woodlands around the church. Throughout this time it has been possible to park all the visitors' cars on the site – however in 2023 and 2024 the event appeared widely on social media and the number of visitors brought the traffic on the A32 to a standstill and blocked the local lanes with parked cars.

The Snowdrop Sunday events have never been advertised in the past however the advent of social media and visitors sharing information about their experience has created a level of interest that the current on-site parking arrangements cannot accommodate. The organisers have taken advice and have decided that the safest course of action to avoid the traffic problems that they have experienced is to close the Sunday events for one year.

Closing the Sunday events in 2025 will be disappointing news to everyone who has visited and supported the church in the past however there will be a limited opportunity to enjoy the Snowdrop display on Saturday afternoons in February using a ticketed system

with timed entry times. Details of how to purchase tickets for the Saturday opening will be available in due course on the Warnford Snowdrops website www.warnfordsnowdrops.org.uk - we would be grateful if you could share this information with your friends and family who have visited to see the Snowdrops in the past.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has visited our treasured Snowdrop Sundays in the past – we very much look forward to welcoming you on Saturdays in 2025.

Andrew Sellick

We are looking for volunteer stewards for both car parking and welcoming visitors. We ask for help for roughly one and a half hours on Saturday afternoons in February. If you are willing to help, please contact Angie Trenchard on 01730 829 545 or angietrenchard@gmail.com. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Angie Trenchard



Snowdrops © by J Annabel

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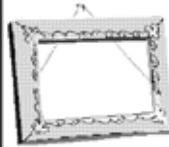
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Greetings from Humphrey and Joy Prideaux

It is 30 years since I started as Priest-in-charge at West Meon and Warnford. We have been retired in Alverstoke, Gosport, since 2003. We send our good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Joy and I were married in 1993, so West Meon and Warnford were the start of our new life together. We have good and precious memories. Joy will be 90 in January and I will be 89. Joy enjoys her crafts - 12 Christmas aprons for next Saturday's church Christmas coffee morning. I am still invited to preach occasionally. Our families have increased. Joy has three new great granddaughters born this year. We receive the Parish News and are glad to keep in touch with all that is happening.

God bless us all,
Humphrey



Warnford nativity decoration photo Stephen Short

The Friendly Altonu3a Winter Sale is now on!

Are you are finding these long, damp winter days are getting you down? Then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a?

There are now 65 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year: plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. We welcome all ages, and most groups meet in central Alton close to car-parking and bus-stops.

Reduced part-year membership rates of only £15 - £38 are available for January – August 2025, and you are welcome to have a free “taster” visit before joining (group size permitting). And, as we start to plan the 2025-6 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2024-5 “Blue Book” annual programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; or visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk

With Altonu3a you will “Learn, Laugh, Live!”

Denise Backhouse

West Meon CE Primary School

Autumn term is always a delight in the South Downs, there is a vast array of colours that meet you as you travel through the arches of trees lining our roads and bordering the fields. In school, it is a long term which enabled us to fit in a Challenge Week before our half term break. This was an opportunity for the whole school to explore their surroundings and take part in some team building and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) based activities. We had a superb walk along the Meon Valley Trail, and one of our activities was to create a 'memory stick' by picking up interesting leaves along the route that would remind us of the path we had taken.

There is no doubt that for some children their greatest strengths are not always apparent in the classroom. During Challenge Week children at West Meon School took part in a variety of activities that tested their Courage; worked with a diverse set of children and displayed their Respect; and used their Creativity to solve problems and design better outcomes. Challenge Week was about developing confidence by 'having a go', igniting curiosity by setting open ended tasks and, most of all, fun – you learn best when you are enjoying the experience!



The Remembrance Service at St John the Evangelist was beautifully led by Father Tony, who also regularly takes Collective Worship at the school. During the service Hermione and Tom represented West Meon School, placing a wreath to commemorate those who had fallen. In addition to the church service, Owls class led a Remembrance Service in church on the 11th of November, the wider community were invited and it was well attended. The wreath

on this occasion was laid by our oldest pupil, Freddie, and our youngest pupil, Naya.

The children at West Meon School are encouraged to be advocates for those less fortunate than themselves. In this, they are well supported by the Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) who held a very successful Macmillan coffee morning raising over £100 for this most deserving charity. Currently, the School Council are exploring local charities that serve children in order to lend our support with some fund raising over the coming year. This year we have supported Rotary Wessex shoebox project for disadvantaged and displaced children in eastern Europe and we will also be helping homeless and vulnerable children in Portsmouth to have a happy Christmas by supplying gifts for them. It has been said before - we are a small school with a big heart!

As you read this we will be well under way with our Nativity rehearsals and performances. Our nativity performance is on Thursday 12th December. We are also hoping to arrange a Carols by Candlelight event for all to take part in.

As we head towards the festive season and the year end, I would like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a bright and happy New Year.

We are currently supporting parents who wish to enrol their child for Reception Class in September 2025 and those moving on from their KS1 (infant school) setting; please visit our website for additional information.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher

Shop All Spruced-up for Christmas



Under our Full Repairing Lease terms, we are obliged to paint both the inside and the outside of the shop and that work was due this year. Regrettably, a summer storm revealed the nail sickness of the slate roof, causing slipped slates and water to leak into the flat. Slates flying around in a storm are a serious health risk, so we had to have that section of the roof stripped off and reinstated as well as the required paint job. David Meeks, Neil Macleod and Tony Taylor, roofing contractor, with his men, have done a superb job of setting it all right.

There remains one rotten window to the flat to be replaced in its entirety. We are not quite complete but here is where we are as of now:

- Painting - £2617
- Roofing - £8326 (includes VAT £1371)
- Signage - £140
- TOTAL £11,083 (includes VAT £1371)

Work outstanding comprises one new window (pc sum - £600).

We have been able to cover these expenses with the better income during Covid, a Covid era grant and the significant contributions from the West Meon Wine Society.

Procter Hutchison



Spruce up for Christmas. NB. not on sale from WMVS. Photo from midulster garden centre.

Garden Club News

Our 14th November lecture was very informative. Roger Hiron, “The Plant Doctor”, told us all we needed to know about gardening on chalk. He suggested a good selection of plants to enliven our gardens from *Euonymus* to *Echinacea Purpurea* varieties via the excellent *Geranium Silver Cloak*. He also informed us about how to develop a long lasting garden and why not to plant related families of plants in succession.



After Roger’s talk we held our AGM. Our lively programme of events for 2025 was presented and includes a series of talks by engaging presenters through the year such as Nik Night on Bats, the superheroes of the night, and one on how to improve your wildlife photography.



Garden visits will be arranged for the summer period, and a bring and buy plant sale and supper is on the 8th May with catering by our always popular Cuppacheeno Café.

The culmination of the events in the year is the Warnford, West Meon and Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club’s Summer Show on the 9th August.

A programme of our upcoming activities is available on our website (and attached QR code):

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/west-meon-garden-club-18458/upcoming-events/>

Edwin Grimshaw

Ladies (and Gents) who lunch

Each month a group of Meon Valley Active Retirement Association (MVARA) members meet for lunch at a local hostelry. All are welcome, but for practical reasons, the number tends to be around twelve on a first come, first served basis.

We meet for 1.00pm every third Friday of the month and our venues are wide ranging, both geographically – including Fareham, Chalton, Bishop’s Waltham, Swanmore, Hambledon, Botley, Waltham Chase, Durley and in range – eating in restaurants, pubs and hotels. A Christmas venue will be organised for late December.

If enjoying good food in comfortable surroundings and with pleasant company appeals to you (and how can it possibly be otherwise?), the opportunity is here for you to partake. Just let us know, join MVARA if you are not already a member, and we shall be delighted to provide you with a warm welcome. If you are interested in joining us please contact Roy Stainton roystainton36@gmail.com.

The Ladies’ Lunch Group was one of the first group activities organised by MVARA. The accommodation offered at the various venues often limits the numbers able to attend but between twelve and sixteen members usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 12.30pm for 1.00pm, (Bank Holidays excepted). If you are interested in joining us please contact the Acting Organiser, Kay Corke kc.24@btinternet.com or on 01489 890727.

The Lunch Groups are open to MVARA Members only. Membership costs £5 per annum. For more details of MVARA Membership, Lunch Groups and other Activities please visit www.mvara.co.uk.

Roger Wingrove

Home-Start Hampshire supporting families in the Meon Valley

Home-Start Hampshire can offer support to anybody that has at least one child aged 0-11 years, or is expecting a baby.

We support families for a variety of reasons:

- They may be feeling isolated in their community, have no family nearby or be struggling to make friends
- They may be finding it hard to cope because of their own or their child's illness or disability
- They may be struggling with the emotional and physical demands of having several young children
- They may have complex needs that can impact on the children's' well-being, e.g. domestic abuse, debt, drug or alcohol misuse, poor living environment, etc

Who can make a request for support?

Anybody can make a request for support to their local Home-Start Hampshire office as long as the family being referred has agreed to the request being made. Families are also able to request support themselves by making a self-referral.

To make a referral please email familysupport@hshants.org.uk or visit our website <https://home-starthampshire.org.uk/referrals/>

Volunteering opportunities with Home-Start Hampshire



Could you support a family with young children for 1-2 hours per week or even fortnightly? Would you like to make a difference and volunteer in your local community?

Home-Start Hampshire in The Meon Valley are currently recruiting volunteers, if you would like to learn new skills and do something rewarding please get in touch on 0330 124 2095 or email us familysupport@hshants.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Margaret Moane





Services in the Advent and Christmas Seasons

“The Churches of Our Lady Warnford and St John West Meon wish all readers a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2025”.

Please see our Pew Sheets and notice boards for more services and school and village events.

Each Sunday at 8am Holy Communion from the Book Common Prayer (BCP) at East Meon

1st December - Advent Sunday

9am Mattins BCP - Warnford
10.30am Benefice Eucharist with Advent hymns and procession

8th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9am A Service of the Word - Langrish
10.30am St Nicholas - Toy Service – West Meon. There will be the opportunity to remain for communion immediately after the family Toy Service, if you wish.

15th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9am Holy Communion (BCP) - Warnford
10.30am Service of the Word - East Meon

22nd December – 4th Sunday of Advent

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon
4pm Carol Service - Warnford. A service of traditional carols and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
6pm Carol Service - Langrish

24th December – Christmas Eve and Christmas Night

4pm Scratch Nativity – Langrish – the Christmas Story brought to life for all the family.
4pm Nativity from Scratch - West Meon – bring the Christmas Story to life – come dressed as your favourite character. With Brass Group

accompaniment.

11:30pm Midnight Mass - East Meon

11:30pm Midnight Mass - West Meon



25th December – Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP) - East Meon

9am Parish Eucharist - Langrish

9am Holy Communion (BCP) - Warnford

10.30am Family Service with optional Christmas Communion - East Meon

10.30am Family Service - West Meon

29th December – Feast of St John to be celebrated on 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Patronal Festival Eucharist for Langrish and West Meon - West Meon

5th January 2025 – The Epiphany

9am Mattins BCP - Warnford

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - East Meon

12th January – The Baptism of Christ and Plough Sunday

9am Service of the Word – Langrish -Plough Sunday

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon – The Baptism of Christ

19th January – Epiphany 2

9am Holy Communion (BCP) - Warnford

10.30am Service of the Word - East Meon

26th January – Epiphany 3 and the Conversion of St Paul

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - Langrish

10.30am Service of the Word - West Meon

2nd February – Candlemas

9am Mattins BCP - Warnford

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - East Meon





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‘Ride and Stride’ HIHCT fund raising

A huge thank you to all those 70 or so people who sponsored my Ride and Stride effort this year. My total this year is a little over £1300 and that will be shared 50/50 between the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust and Warnford Church. HIHCT give grants to Historic Churches in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. For the record I did 40 miles on my trusty almost 30 year old bicycle.

If anyone has ever thought about taking part a search for ‘Ride and Stride’ will take you to the HIHCT website and tell you all you need to know. It is an annual event and always happens on the second Saturday in September. The idea is to cycle, run, walk, drive around as many churches as possible, a well planned route will take you to some amazing Churches and hopefully those that provide good refreshments.

Stephen Short

West Meon Community Cinema

Friday 13th December – “Vindication Swim”, the inspirational story of Mercedes Gleitze who was the first British woman to swim the channel in 1927 except somebody else claimed to have done it faster. That proved to be a hoax but the incident gives the film its title in a biopic of an extraordinary life.

The bulk of the swimming sequences were shot off the coast of Newhaven in Sussex with additional scenes filmed in the waters off the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. Everything was done for real. No CGI in this film!

Tickets are £7 and available online from Ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall or from the West

Meon Village Shop (cash only) or on the door – cash or card machine – we will NEVER turn anyone away on the door!



Kirsten Callaghan and Mercedes Gleitze Vindication Swim: Thetimes.com film review

Rosemary Morrish (with additional text by A Annabel)



Following the huge success of last year's event, Petersfield Youth Theatre are delighted to be bringing A Musical Christmas back to Petersfield this year. A different collection of songs and performances, but matched with the familiarity of last year's coziness.

We are transforming the Festival Hall into a warm and magical environment full of festive cheer. A Musical Christmas is an immersive event, rather than just a show - audiences will be seated on a variety of different chairs and sofas, all grouped around small tables. It's going to be cosy and enchanting!

During the first 45 minutes there will be live music, along with games should you wish to get involved. Drinks will be on sale, and complimentary nibbles & treats will be available to all. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and family.

After an hour of settling in, members of Petersfield Youth Theatre will perform a selection of Christmas songs, along with an eight-piece band.

Performances are on 20th, 21st and 22nd December. Tickets will be available from Monday 11th November online at www.pyt.org.uk or in person at One Tree Books.

Charlotte Godfrey





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Winchester City Council News

Christmas Park & Ride Services

Many choose the festive period to Visit Winchester City Centre including the popular Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market. We're putting extra Park & Ride services in place from Tuesday 19th November until Monday 23rd December 2024.

From Monday to Saturday, buses will run at least every 10 minutes until 6pm. The last bus back from The Broadway to South Park & Ride is 7.29pm and the last bus back from The Broadway to East Park & Ride (St Catherine's/Barfield) is 7.45pm.

On Sundays, we've added a free Sunday bus shuttle to The Broadway from East Park & Ride (St. Catherine's & Barfield) car parks on 24 November, 8, 15 and 22 December 2024.

All of our Park & Ride locations take coin, debit/credit card, and RingGo as methods of payment.

For more information, head over to our Christmas Park & Ride web page.

New Digital Support Drop-in Sessions

We recently expanded our monthly Digital Drop-ins with a new session now taking place at Makins Court in Alresford on the first Friday of every month 10am to 12pm!

There'll also be a new one at our City Offices on Colebrook Street, starting 5th December 12.30 to 2.30pm, running every first Thursday of the month.

Our digital drop-ins are all about helping you with everyday digital tasks such as navigating the internet, setting up apps or devices or completing online tasks.

Iris, an attendee at our recent Alresford drop-in, said: "I came with two specific problems that I was having, and both have been rectified just by the session so it's been so productive and so, so helpful".

Free Trees and Hedgerow Plants

If you're a local resident, parish councillor, business, teacher, landowner, land manager or farmer with land that'd be perfect for tree planting, Hampshire Forest Partnership, run by Hampshire County Council, would love to hear from you.

The partnership still has trees available to plant this winter, including disease-resistant elms, community orchards and a wide variety of UK native species - they're planning to beat last winter's total of 34,000 tree and hedgerow plants given to 120 different sites.

Gallops closed

The field north of West Meon recreation ground stretching in the direction of Marlands and known locally as the Gallops will remain temporarily closed so we can still control the pigeons. As before, the designated footpaths and bridleways will remain open and a further update will be issued next month..

Thanks everybody for your patience.

Graham Silk

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. WPM 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.

We are currently looking for a new Chair. Anyone who might be interested in this role should contact the Clerk to find out what it entails.

West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City and Hampshire CC Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

Vacancy, Clerk to WMPC
clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

West Meon Parish Council website
www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Warnford Parish Meeting

Chair: Vacancy
warnfordchair@gmail.com

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk
warnfordclerk@gmail.com
07717 296610

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

Winchester & Hants County Councillors

Winchester City Councillors

Neil Bolton
nbolton@winchester.gov.uk
01962 771256

Jerry Pett
jpett@winchester.gov.uk
01489 877633

Hampshire County Councillor

Malcolm Wallace
malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk
07739 050224

Member of Parliament for Winchester

Dr Danny Chambers
danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk
01962 868586





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Santa is on his way...



The Meon Valley Lions Club is busily preparing Santa's sleigh for his trip around the Meon Valley throughout December. Extra Elves are being approached to help him, plus drivers for our minibus and sleigh. If you would like to join in the fun, please get in contact. The rewards are great, not only seeing the faces on the children who stay up to meet him, but the Elves are also known to drop into a local hostelry at the end of a busy shift. (evenings).

If you'd like to join the 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.

Carol Dash

Rainfall report for October/November

The final rainfall for October was 95.5mms (3.75"). This compares with October 2023 when we had a staggering 219.9mms (8.6"); so a massive improvement.

In fact it was a really pleasant month with only one frost and that very minor, not even enough to blacken the leaves of the Geraniums. We saw the sun regularly and it never felt cold, but the latter part of October and the beginning of November's anticyclonic gloom was a different story.



Photo BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/clpywr9zq0lwo>

November has been amazingly dry so far. We have measured just 0.6mms up to the 15th of the month and it is still mild. The temperature did just drop to zero overnight on the 12th but otherwise averaging around 8 ° C. I am sure the farmers are crying out for some frost to break up the soil.

Peter Short



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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.

December/January events

Saturday 7th December, Curtis Museum: get creative at our **Textile Creatures Workshop**, 11 - 12.30, age 12+ £15/£12, please book online.

Saturday 14th December, Allen Gallery: **Paper Ornaments Workshop**, 11 - 12.30, age 8+ £15/£12, please book online.

Tuesday 17th December: **Plant and nature drawing** at the Curtis Museum, 10.30 - 12.30, (adults) £25/£20, please book online.

Saturday 21st December: **Toy workshop** at the Allen Gallery 10.30 - 12.00, age 6+, £18/£15, please book online.

If you are unable to make online bookings please contact us on 01420 82802 and we may be able to assist you (subject to availability).

30th November - 1st January: **Made and More**, our exhibition of artworks and craft by local artists and makers. Find unique gifts to buy - all items will be available to purchase on the spot.

Drop-in trails and other activities at the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery:

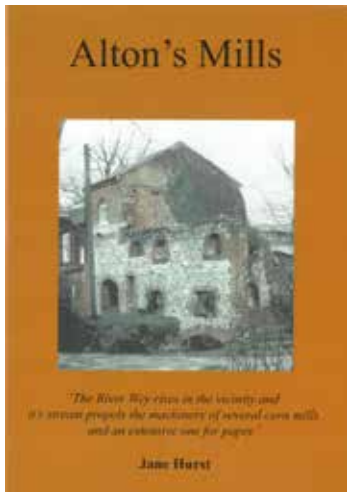
14th December - 5th January: special seasonal trails at the Allen Gallery & Curtis Museum, FREE (donations welcome)

14th December - 5th January: **Crafty Cards & Decorations**, make and decorate your own card or decoration with a theme inspired by the Allen Gallery & Curtis Museum Collections. Templates and kits will be provided, £2 per kit, drop in.

14th December - 5th January, Curtis Museum: Alton Natural History Society presents a mini display of **Christmas Plants & Intriguing Mammal Skulls**, FREE.

On 12th December the Friends will be holding their annual **Christmas Social** - come and chat over a mince pie/mulled wine. 7.30pm, FREE

In February we will be holding the ever-popular **Museum by Torchlight**. Watch this space for date.



STOP PRESS: Jane Hurst's latest book on aspects of Alton History - The Mills of Alton - is now available. £3 from the Museum, or if you prefer Jane to post it, an extra £1 p & p. janehurst1@gmail.com.

Sadly buildings associated with all the Alton mills except for Anstey Mill have now gone but the businesses were a very important part of the life of the town and two of the sites were probably in use by 1086. Fulling was a part of the local cloth making industry and the paper mill was set up in the mid-1700s, - not closing until 1909. Together with brewing, the mills remind us how important water was to the development and prosperity of Alton and the surrounding area.

Jill Line

Diary Dates

**Monday 2nd to
Thursday 5th
December: A Child's
Christmas in Wales -
West Meon Theatre on**

tour The Pub With No
Name Priors Dean, The
Hangar Oakhanger (twice) and The Flower
Pots Cheriton



**Saturday 7th December: Meonstoke
Christmas Fair** 10am-12:30pm Meon Hall
Meonstoke

**Friday 13th December: West Meon
Community Cinema – “Vindication Swim”**
West Meon Village Hall

**Friday to Saturday 20th, 21st and 22nd
December: Musical Christmas - Petersfield
Youth Theatre** Petersfield Festival Hall

Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922
Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector: Fr. Tony Forrest
The Vicarage, Church Street, East Meon
642 115 (usual working Sun to Wed)

Vergier 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

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December

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Romsey - Sunday 1st
Alresford - Saturday 7th
Winchester - Sunday 8th
Alton - Saturday 14th
Southsea - Sunday 15th
Emsworth - Saturday 21st
Romsey - Sunday 22nd

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