

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

January 2021

Let The Light Flood In

I am writing this on the 15th of December. It is very difficult to second guess what will happen next in, as they say, this unprecedented year! On the news this lunchtime headlines are “rash Christmas covid rules will cost many lives”, so it may very well be that our minimal plans may have been put on hold. We have all struggled, in one way or another, through the dark days of 2020 and so it continues.

Soon, however, the shortest day , the 21st of December, will be upon us, and that is a certainty. The lengthening of the days, even if only for a few seconds each day, is the cause of great hope... Spring will soon be with us.

Since the dawn of time people have looked towards the sun in hope. We see that longing embedded in our landscape in the landmarks of ancient societies. Several years ago, as a family, we travelled to Orkney and visited the Neolithic Maeshowe Chambered tomb. One of Europe’s finest tombs of this sort it was built some 5,000 years ago. It was quite a few years ago when we visited. Our boys were still at school and so we entered the tomb by being pulled along the 10 metre entrance tunnel on a wheeled car maintenance trolley. The entrance passage, we were told, is aligned with the setting of the midwinter sun so that the light at the winter solstice shines straight down the passage and illuminates the back wall of the central chamber. An engineering feat constructed by those who truly understood the importance of light and who yearned for the twilight dark of an Orkney winter to erupt into Spring.



Maeshowe Chambered Burial Cairn, Orkney. Photo: National Geographic



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Throughout the world cultures and religions note this time of darkness and yearn for the return of Spring; Jewish Hanukkah and Hindu Diwali, being two great celebrations of light at the turning of the year. In recent years Christingles have featured in our celebration of Christmas. I first came across Christingles in Labrador, northern Canada. At the time I was teaching and within our tiny village on the edge of civilization were Moravian Missionaries. These Norwegian missionaries had ministered to the people of the Canadian north for many many years. They had brought the Christingle with them, as it has its origins in the Moravian Church. It, in fact, dates back to 1747 when Bishop Johannes de Watteville started the tradition in Germany. I expect that many of you have witnessed a Christingle service and have heard of its symbolism: that the orange represents the world, the candle Christ, whom Christians believe is the Light of the World, the sweets, raisins and nuts represent God's bounty and goodness, and the band of red ribbon which encircles the orange represents the blood Christ shed on Calvary.

The story of the Christingle took on a new momentum in this country in the 1960's when John Pensom introduced it to support the work of The Children's Society, an organisation which supports vulnerable young people. In recent years there have been over 6,000 Christingle services up and down the country. It has become part of our celebration of Christmas not only in churches and church schools but in state schools. In addition to speaking of the Christ story it has become a means by which the most needy in our society are given much needed help. But sadly not this year...

There are moments when I feel overwhelmed by the need of the most vulnerable in our society and wonder if the little I am able to give will make a difference. It is then I remember the tiny flame of a candle and how a small bit of light can begin to change the darkness. Many of us have much to offer, and that is not just about monetary donations, it may be the gift of time which enlightens another's life, the gift of laughter or conversation shared, or the gift of prayer. Together we can make a difference in our place in this world. Think for a moment, if you have experienced the joy of a hundred tiny candles alight in a darkened church, just what a difference those flames make to a darkened church. In this world we can be a small light to lighten the darkest corners. What can you do to make a difference?

And so we look forward. Although Christingle is most often celebrated at Christmas in this country, it can take place at other times of the year... so perhaps come the 2nd of February, the Feast of Candlemas, that is what we will do. And beyond... well there are rumours round and about that there will be midsummer Christmas celebrations, this may mean that the mulled wine will be replaced by Pimms, but there will most definitely be a Christmas tree.

*Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021
Yours in Christ
Mary*

Church Notices

James Henderson and Rebecca Hurlock are due to be married at Warnford on 30th December.

Funerals have taken place for Jane Daniel and Bob Taylor.

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Help Wanted for Warnford Church Snowdrops

The snowdrops are already beginning to show in the woodland of Warnford Park and that means we have to start thinking about SNOWDROP SUNDAYS.

Every year since 1971 the owners of Warnford Park have very kindly allowed the public to visit on the Sunday afternoons in February to see the snowdrops, Church and surroundings. Over a £100,000 has been raised through donations, teas and sales.

All of this money has kept this beautiful historic 12th century Church open and in good condition.

Over the years Anne Corden and I have arranged a rota of locals to steward. The duties include car parking, giving out leaflets, collecting donations and helping with teas and the sales table.

I have decided that 2021 will be my last year of co-organising this and I would like someone to learn the ropes, (assuming that we are able to open) so that they are ready to take over in 2022.

It is a very satisfying thing to do when you see how much people appreciate the beauty of the surroundings, a good walk followed by a cup of tea in the Church and listening to the organ being played.

Please ring Vera on 01730 829 285 if you feel you might like to help.

Vera Short



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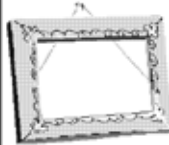
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Bishop Retires

THE Rt Rev Christopher Foster today announced that he is to retire as Bishop of Portsmouth.

Bishop Christopher, who is 67, had delayed his resignation to lead the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth through the Covid pandemic. He will now step down as bishop in April 2021.



He made the announcement on the same day as his wife, the Canon Sally Davenport, told worshippers at Holy Trinity and St Columba Churches in Fareham that she was also to resign as their Team Rector. The couple will retire together and live in Somerset.

“It has been a privilege to serve as bishop in this diocese for over a decade,” he said. “Because we are a small diocese with a family feel, our clergy and lay people have been able to collaborate effectively and respond quickly to changing circumstances – as the past year has shown.”

“Over the past 10 years, I have seen courage, generosity and resourcefulness as our congregations have faithfully shared God’s love, through prayer, worship and serving others. I look forward to working with those fellow disciples over the coming months to continue discovering what the post-Covid Church will look like as we renew our commitment to respond collaboratively in changing times.”

“It may seem surprising that I should make this announcement just before Christmas, but the timing means that the period that the Diocese of Portsmouth will be without a diocesan bishop will be as short as possible.”

“Thank you to all those who have prayed for us and worked alongside us over the past 10 years, in the churches and communities of south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Sally and I will be sorry to leave so many valued friends and colleagues.”

The Rt Rev Christopher Foster has been Bishop of Portsmouth since 2010. He had grown up in the industrial West Midlands and in Surrey before studying economics at Durham and Manchester Universities and briefly working as an economics lecturer.

He was ordained in 1980, served as a curate in Wolverhampton, and as chaplain of Wadham College, Oxford. He became vicar of Christ Church, Southgate, in London, in 1986 and then worked on the staff of St Albans Cathedral from 1994.

He was consecrated as Bishop of Hertford in 2001, one of two suffragan (assistant) bishops in the Diocese of St Albans. He married Sally, who is also ordained, in 2006 following the death of his first wife, Julia, in 2001. He has two grown-up children, Richard and Miriam.

Bishop Christopher became the ninth Bishop of Portsmouth in September 2010, succeeding the Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Stevenson. Shortly afterwards, the Rev Sally Davenport was appointed as team rector of Holy Trinity and St Columba churches, both of which are near their home in Fareham.

The bishop led the development of a framework for outreach and services in the parishes, chaplaincies and communities of south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – entitled Live | Pray | Serve.

He has supported initiatives where churches or other groups are seeking to support those in poverty, unemployment and need. Each year, he launched a Bishop's Lent Appeal which raised tens of thousands of pounds annually for charities involved in combatting food poverty, homelessness, debt and other issues.

He is Anglican co-chair of the conversations in England and Wales between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, and leads the ecumenical Churches' Funerals

Group. Previously he served as convenor/chair of Churches Together in England for four years, also bringing together Christians of different denominations.

He speaks nationally for the bishops on economic policy, benefits and welfare, and defence. In the House of Lords, where he was introduced as a Lord Spiritual in 2014, he speaks particularly on the economy and about welfare and benefit issues.

From March to July 2020 he live-streamed Sunday worship from his home in Fareham, alongside Sally, while parishes across the diocese were unable to hold services in church because of the Covid pandemic.

During one such service, he was surprised by his close colleague the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam, who unexpectedly joined the live-stream to help Bishop Christopher to celebrate 40 years since being ordained.

Information supplied by Rev. Jane Ball

Rainfall records for November to Mid-December

The second half of November was quite dry with only 13.1mms. Total for the month was 89.5mms (3.5") compared with 118.6mms in 2019.

December started with two fine dry days and by the 15th we have had 63.1mms (2.48"), last year we had 78.4mms (3.08") by mid month.

Interestingly the lowest temperature that we have recorded in December 2020 is -3C. In 2019 we got down to -6C on a couple of nights.

Total rainfall for 2020 to the end of November is 959.8mms (37.78").

Total rainfall for 2019 to the end of November was 857mms (33.7").

Peter Short

West Meon Church Fete 2021

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 12th June

Detail to follow when we have a clearer idea of likely Covid19 restrictions



Archdeacon of the Meon to become Bishop of Dorchester



The Venerable Gavin Collins, who has been Archdeacon of The Meon in the Portsmouth Diocese since 2011, said: “I am thrilled and humbled to have been invited to serve as the next Bishop of Dorchester and look forward to joining the Diocese of Oxford in the New Year.”

He was educated in Law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He then worked as a solicitor in the City of London before training for ministry at Trinity College Bristol. Having grown up in Sussex, Gavin is a life-long and active supporter of Brighton and Hove Albion, which he says, proves he is a person of great faith!

He was ordained in 1997 and served his curacy in Cambridge, then was vicar of Christ Church, Chorleywood from 2002 and was also rural dean of Rickmansworth from 2006, before becoming Archdeacon of the Meon nine years ago. He will be consecrated on January 28.

The Dorchester episcopacy covers all of Oxfordshire, apart from the City of Oxford. It extends from the Cotswolds in the west to Bicester in the east down to Henley-on-Thames.

Abridged from Diocese of Portsmouth Anglican website.

Meon Valley Lions



A special delivery for the foodbanks

Let's face it - it's been a really, really naff year and sadly the Foodbanks in our area are being used more than ever before. The Meon Valley Lions Club were pleased to make a special delivery to the Foodbanks just to bring a little extra smile for those receiving deliveries this Christmas. So there really is NO naughty list - this year at least!!



More help for the little people

Meon Valley Baby Bank go from strength to strength - and it's only their second month. Below are a just a tiny sample of all the excellent quality clothes that they have.

They are also trying get in the draw for Ecclesiastical's 12 days of giving - and your nomination



could be the one that helps them win. £1,000 will make a real difference to the work they do. Go to their Facebook page (2) Meon Valley Baby Bank | Facebook for details and also to see the work they do and how to use their services.

Christmas collections

Sadly, Santa and his elves are unable to help this year, but we arranged a number of street collections for people to make donations. We're really heartened by the generosity we've seen - thank you to everyone for your support.

Do you or anyone you know need help?

If you, or someone you know, needs help please get in touch on 07443 753780 or go to our website https://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk/_contact.html

If you'd like to donate:

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PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
As always thank you for your support.



Dates for your diary

Swanmore Fete 2021 - We'll keep you updated on our website but in the meantime please add next year's date to your diary: Saturday 10th July 2021.

Annual Ford Charity Fishing Festival 2021 – We're sorry to report this has been cancelled for 2021.

Carole Dash



West Meon Village Shop

Many thanks to all our customers for their on-going support throughout this difficult year, and to our many volunteers for all their hard work in 2020. We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

200 Club Prize Draw Winners

The lucky winners of the December prize draw were the following:

1st Prize of £200 to Lisa Stoner

2nd Prize of £100 to Angie Trenchard

3rd Prize of £50 to Jane Marshall

4th Prize of £25 to Pat Stribling

For those of you who paid the annual fee by cheque for 2020, you will need to pay the £25 subscription for the next six draws. All those who paid by standing order have been automatically renewed with our thanks. If you are not already a member and wish to join in the fun, then applications forms are available from the shop.

It is a great way to support your community shop. The prizes are £40, £20, £10 and £5 in February, June and October; and £200, £100, £50 and £25 in April, August and December.

Our lending library has seen tremendous use during the recent lock down and we greatly appreciate all your donations. Do remember that we also lend out DVDs suitable for both children and adults, so please feel free to drop in and swap them at any time.

New Year Shop Opening Hours

New Year's Eve **7am – 4pm (with deliveries)**

New Year's Day **8am – 12 midday (with deliveries)**

Saturday 2nd January **7am – 4pm (with deliveries)**

West Meon Community Shop Committee

New Year's Greetings From West Meon Wine Society

"If it isn't fun, it shouldn't be done."

Dear Neighbours,

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. We had to try to dodge the virus. We had to cut ourselves off from many of our loved ones. We had to manage our finances in difficult circumstances. We had to worry about Brexit and its future impact on our lives.

But 2020 created special moments as well. The Hampshire countryside in spring and summer was at its most beautiful and best. There were fewer cars and motorcycles – almost none for the duration of the first lockdown! We tended our gardens even more lovingly than usual and had time to reflect on our priorities for life beyond Covid 19.

Ten local men and women used part of their free time during 2020 to set up the West Meon Wine Society. This involved a lot of meetings – some in person and some by Zoom – and a lot of hard work. We had to develop a financial plan for the society; design the policies and procedures that we would have to manage; build and test the website and financial systems



Welcome to the West Meon Wine Society

Supporting West Meon Community Village Shop



that would enable us to market, sell and account for our services and wine sales. In July 2020 we launched the new Society and by early 2021 we had generated a lot of local interest and sold wines and memberships to create over £1600 of surpluses for our wonderful West Meon Village Shop.

Of course, the best bit was the tasting of the wines! Our team has met regularly, sometimes on Zoom or in smaller sub-groups, to taste a diverse range of wines with the sole aim of identifying the vital few that we can personally recommend with confidence to our customers as being both great to drink and good value for money. We hope that all of you will choose to buy our wines throughout 2021 and, thereby, enjoy great wine whilst supporting your local community. Also, once some form of normality has returned, we will be running wine-related social events for our members to enjoy within the valley.

If you want to try some of wines, please go to www.westmeonwine.co.uk and order a few, for collection at the shop. If you want to be on the priority list for future wine tastings and similar social events, please become a member by subscribing on our website.

Yours ever, Graham Walker
Chair - West Meon Wine Society

West Meon C of E Primary School



The Reverend Mary recently came into Foxes and told them the story about the Advent Wreath and to light the first candle.

Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming”, with which Christians associate the coming or birth of Christ celebrated at this time of year.

The Advent Wreath or Advent Crown is a tradition that symbolises the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is an evergreen wreath with four candles.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a bible reading, devotional time or a prayer. An additional candle is lit on each subsequent Sunday until, by the last Sunday of Advent, all four candles are lit.

Our Hedgehogs class have been learning about health and safety by writing to Mother Goose and asking

her advice.

They have chosen a nursery rhyme and asked Mother Goose how characters in the rhyme could be safe. For example, Mother Goose said that had Humpty Dumpty sat in a chair instead of on a wall he wouldn't have fallen!

Miss Hocquard has been teaching our Foxes children all about money as part of their





maths learning.

The children have had to set up a special shop and if they need a pencil or rubber they have to buy it with money given to them by Miss Hocquard.

They have been learning how much things cost and how much money they can spend as well as how much change they will have.

This has been a really fun way of maths learning and the children have really enjoyed themselves!

The children have been learning all about two dimensional shapes.

They also made their very own 'Oi Frog' book and as part of the Hedgehogs group two dimensional shape learning, they have been painting and then making their paintings into jigsaws (see below).

*Ed. on behalf of Julie Kelly,
Headteacher*



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Open Art Exhibition 2021 in the Allen Gallery

Showcasing the best of local amateur and professional artists' work, this exhibition displays a fantastic range of artworks in a variety of mediums. Visitors are invited to vote for their favourite in the Peoples' Choice Award. Proudly sponsored by Alternative Packing Solutions. 9th January – 20th February

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Jill Line

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

West Meon has 2 vacancies for councillors - If you would like to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council, please e-mail the Clerk, Diane Heppell, at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk with a copy to the Chairman at angiewmpc@gmail.com

Please include brief details as to why you would like to join the Parish Council and what skills you offer together with full contact information.

Neighbourhood Watch - West Meon has a recently created a Neighbourhood Watch scheme intended to keep us safer. Anyone wishing to join should go to the national Neighbourhood Watch site via their internet browser and join the scheme for West Meon. Robin Gedye, the scheme coordinator, will include you on the existing WhatsApp group for NW when he receives your application.

Damage to West Meon Recreation Ground - If you have walked your dog or taken children to the recreation ground you will know that the surface has been badly damaged by rooks. This is the third year in a row that we have had this damage but this year it is catastrophic. The damage covers most of the football pitch, the western end of the cricket outfield and part of the square and also areas of the small pitch and around the swings. The rooks are after chafer grubs which they get by digging up the grass surface. Our fear is that unless we can prevent the rooks digging up the surface adult sport will not be able to be played for the foreseeable future and school use of the small pitch will also cease. WMPC and West Meon Sports club have sought appropriate scientific and horticultural advice. There is no safe chemical licensed for use that can be used to kill the chafer grubs. The rook scarer we have used only protects part of the cricket square and other methods of scaring the rooks have failed. Other sports fields in the area have also suffered. WMPC have determined that the only way now to try and drive the rooks away is by an old tried and tested country practice, that of shooting a small number of rooks and hanging the dead birds on posts within the main football pitch. The area will be fenced off and notices put in place. In addition we will also employ further artificial deterrents. This treatment will ONLY apply to the main football pitch. Once the weather warms the soil we can introduce nematodes into the grass-these microscopic creatures will kill the chafer grubs. This is expensive but can only be used once the soil temperature is warm. We hope that using the nematodes will make sure the grass will grow back in the spring.

West Meon Parish Council AGM Meeting – Will be held on 27th January at 7.30pm via skype, all parishioners are welcome to join in. If you would like to be present please contact the Clerk clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

Warnford Parish Meeting - Information relating to WPM, local facilities and services, village news and up and coming events can be found on its website. Please sign up for email alerts. In this time of lockdown/restrictions, any residents needing help with shopping, meals, collecting medication, problems due to isolating for a prolonged period etc. should contact the Clerk. There are a number of volunteers ready to help as and when they can. **Rights of Way in Warnford** - If you are aware of any rights of way in Warnford that are becoming overgrown or are otherwise obstructed, please email Derek Chapman on ederekchapman@btinternet.com

And Finally wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021 from WMPC and WPC.

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

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07774 698958

Diane Heppell
Clerk to West Meon Parish Council
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023 9257 1720

West Meon Parish Council website
www.westmeonpc.org.uk
e-mail: westmeonpc2017@gmail.com

Warnford Parish Meeting

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chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk
07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson
Clerk
warnfordclerk@gmail.com
01730 829598

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

Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors
Laurence Ruffell - 01962 777236
lruffell@winchester.gov.uk

Hugh Lumby – 01489 877444
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor
Roger Huxstep – 01329 833884
roger.huxstep@hants.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond
01962 679920 – Constituency Office
flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk



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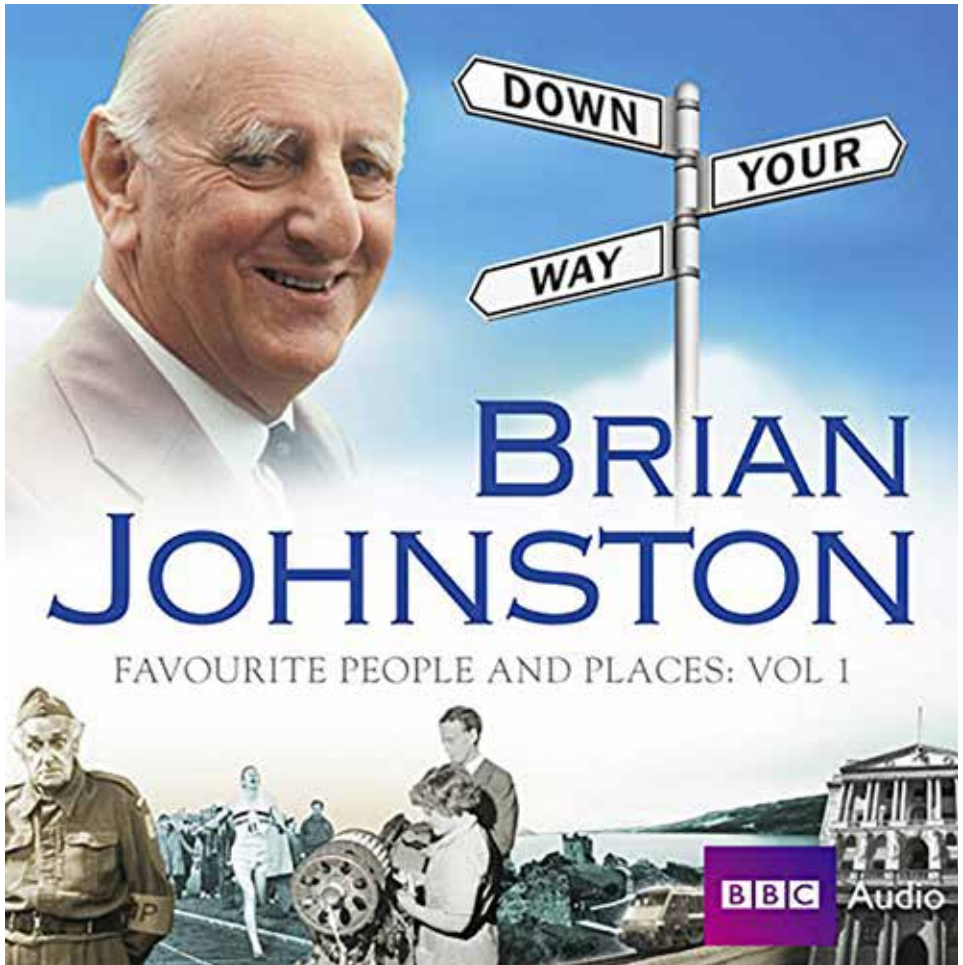
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“Down Your Way” ...again

Delving into the archive from 3rd April 1980 we find the following article:

There was an air of expectation over West Meon at around tea-time on Sunday when “Down Your Way” introduced by Brian Johnston, the cricket commentator, went out on BBC Radio 4.

It turned out to be an all-male affair with three men from East Meon and two from West Meon contributing their knowledge and their reminiscences as a prelude to the choice of a piece of music. Requests ranged from “Don’t

cry for me Argentina” through “Western” to the concluding “Toccata” by Vidor; but local interest was bound to be centred on the dialogue rather than the music.

Capt. David Bailey, R.N., the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. “Mercury” sketched the history of the Signal School since it moved to Leydene from the Naval Barracks at Portsmouth in 1941; and Mr. Wilson Atkinson, who farms 1100 acres at Lower Farm, East Meon, recalled the King’s Own Scottish Borderers being camped on his land. Thus “Scotch on the Rocks” played
continued on page 23



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by the pipes and band of the Black Watch, accounted for his choice of music.

“Lloyd George Knew My Father” was one of the successful plays, written by the Hon. William Douglas Home at Drayton House since he came to live there in 1954. He pointed out Henwood and the shelter it had provided for Sir William Waller prior to marching the Roundheads towards the Battle of Cheriton in 1644. Henwood is reputed to be haunted and, apparently, no birds take cover there.

On the Recreation Ground Mr. Johnston saw an ingenious device of weights and pulleys which enables the tug-of-war team to practice pulling against 16cwt. Mr. Don Tutt spoke of the team’s initial contest which had resulted in a hiding at the hands of Mr. Atkinson’s team from East Meon. Those days were past and revenge had been sweet. West Meon are now members of the Winter League and, last year, finished third of nine. An 18 ½ stone anchorman is a considerable asset.

The Captain of West Meon’s bellringers, Mr. Ray Stone, is also an authority on the old Meon Valley Railway and recalled the part which the line had played during the 1939-45 war. In 1944 the L.M.S. Royal Train had come through West Meon on its way to Droxford where, for 2 ½ days, it accommodated the Prime Minister and members of the War Cabinet during the final planning stages of the Normandy invasion. Mr. Johnston also asked about Thomas Lord’s connections with the village. Lord came to live in West Meon in retirement in 1830, and died rather less than two years later. In 1955, to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth, the M.C.C. restored the stone slab over his grave. Elsewhere in the churchyard is the Burgess family grave into which, surrounded

by much secrecy, the ashes of Guy Burgess were placed when they were returned from Moscow.

Mr. Johnston brought his own cogent observation to bear when he commented on the amount of traffic passing through the village; and Mr. Stone, a member of the Parish Council, said how disappointed the Council had been when the County Surveyor’s proposals for a by-pass were turned down by Whitehall. A relief road remains a clear objective and the Council continues to pursue it.

Thus West Meon’s moment of national exposure came to an end; but two items of interest which were not brought out by the broadcast are worth a note. The Harvest Festival evensong at the Parish Church was put back by half an hour in order to lessen the problem of divided loyalties. Likewise, West Meon lives on in the annals of cricket by virtue of the fact that, when Thomas Lord’s tomb was restored, a piece of the original stone was taken back to London eventually to provide the material for the memorial tablet to H.S. Altham in the museum just behind the Pavilion at Lord’s. Harry Altham, a great cricket historian and so much involved in the game in Hampshire, would surely approve.

West Meon news archive



Diary Dates January 2021

Church Services

Dates and arrangements will be advertised on Facebook, locally displayed posters and by word of mouth (for further details contact the Rector - see below).



Wednesday 27th January

West Meon Parish Council Meeting – at 7.30pm via via skype. All parishioners are welcome to join in. If you would like to be present please contact the Clerk via email at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

Thursday 20th May 2021

Warnford Parish Meeting - details of how to join will be on the village website nearer the time. Any matters for the Agenda should be emailed to the Warnford Parish Clerk.

Parish Directory

Rector :

The Reverend Jane Ball 823221

Assistant Rector:

The Reverend Mary Jepp 829670

Church Wardens for West Meon:

Helena Gomm 829741

Michael Johnson 829105

Church Warden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 829161

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829285

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Sunday 17th Southsea
Saturday 30th Ringwood
Sunday 31st Winchester

Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922

Virginia de Cosson 829362

The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.

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