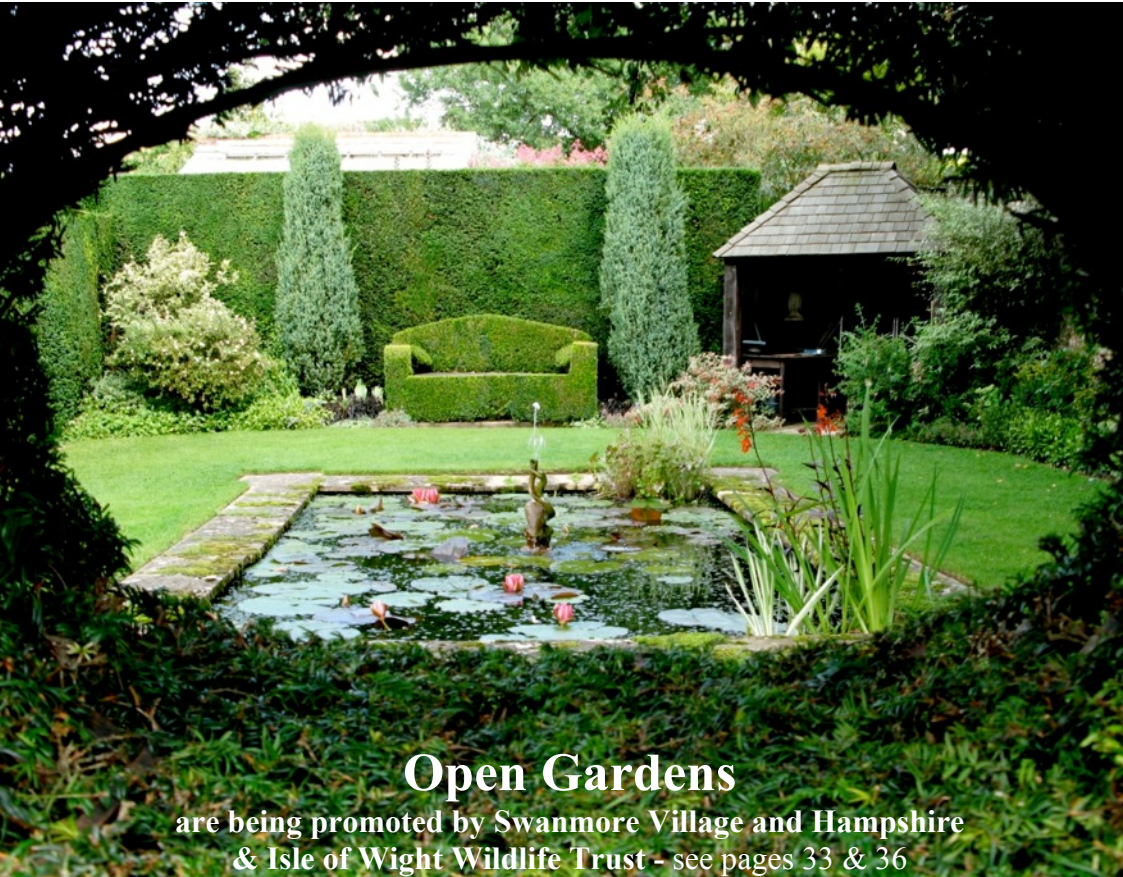


April 2011 May

THE BRIDGE



Open Gardens

are being promoted by Swanmore Village and Hampshire
& Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust - see pages 33 & 36

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A New Club Starts In Meonstoke - page 18

Meon Valley Active Retirement Associations - page 35

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The Bridge

April ~ May

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The Magazine for
**The Parish Churches of Droxford
 Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton
 & Preshaw**

RECTOR Reverend Stuart Holt, **01489 877512**
 The Rectory
 Meonstoke, SO32 3NF
 E-mail: revstuarholt@btinternet.com
 Note: The rector's day off is Friday.

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Reader emeritus Pauline Quarendon 877392
 Reader Jackie Brookfield 878765

DROXFORD

Churchwardens Elizabeth Stewart 877419
 Ann Symes 877643
 Secretary Janet Melson 878728
 Treasurer (& Gift Aid sec'y) Paul Harris 878622
 Organist John Martin 877385
 Sacristan Laura Jerosch 01329 231956
 Verger Norman Bell 877230

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwardens Joanna Buchanan 877737
 Dr Paul Buxton 877335
 Deputy churchwarden (Corhampton) Maggie Howard 877540
 Secretary Anne Morrice 878505
 Treasurer (& Gift Aid sec'y) Ewart Wood 877398
 Organists Dr Alan Hibbert, OBE (Meonstoke) 878564
 Richard Martin (Corhampton)
 Tel: 07590 042197
 Sacristan Pauline Quarendon 877392

Friends of Corhampton Church Telephone: 878674 (day time only)

EXTON

Churchwardens	Felicity Hindson, MBE	877673
	Bob Miles	—
Treasurer & Gift Aid sec'y.	Lin Mellor	878336
Organist	John Martin (morning)	877385
	Richard Martin (evening)	07590 042197
Sacristan	Jill Cassels	877469
Verger	Bob Miles	—

PRESHAW

Coordinator	—	01962 793356
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BENEFICE-WIDE

Pastoral secretary	Heather Buxton	877335
Bridge Parishes Administrator	—	

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic Church (Bishop's Waltham)

Father John Buckley	895889
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Methodist & United Free Church (Bishop's Waltham)

The Rev. David Moss, MA	01329 833518
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THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Editors	Reverend Stuart Holt	877512
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THE BRIDGE is delivered at the start of the month in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Ideally, copy should be sent by e-mail to *The Bridge* editor at the address shown above, preferably attached as an MS Word document. The page set-up (with 10 or 10.5 pt font size) should be defined as an A5 page – with 1.2 cm left and right margins. Typed or handwritten hardcopy is also acceptable. If you are responsible for village activities, diaries, and schedules, please note that material received after the copy date might not be included.

In April last year as rector and area dean, I was asked by the archdeacon to hold a service of thanksgiving for the deanery churches Kairos buildings plans. Kairos is a Greek theological word and it means God's time i.e. a time to act. This was a diocesan initiative by our late Bishop Kenneth. The Meon Bridge Benefice had not engaged in this process of assessing the church buildings for modern usage in changing communities. It was decided to form a group from within the benefice to look at our four church buildings and produce a report for the benefice following the guidance of the Kairos process. The Kairos team visited all churches in the benefice and met together on a regular basis to produce a draft report for publication to the parishes in early 2011. It was decided to make the plan available on the parishes Web site and to hold an open meeting in Droxford Village Hall in the first quarter of the New Year.

Following the open meeting in the village hall it was agreed that PCCs would consider the possibilities followed by meetings in each of our parish churches so that interested parishioners could come along and share in the discussions. These meetings will be well publicised over the next few months. I hope that you will read the report, which is on the Web site and join in the discussions about how best to use our buildings for the church and the wider community now and in the years to come. You may not wish to have anything done at all – a few people have expressed that view – or you may wish to radically change the way the buildings are furnished as some do. Surely everyone has an opinion, as these buildings are your churches to be a blessing now and for the generations to come. Some have suggested we have too many church buildings for our benefice and some should be closed.

These are opinions I have heard over recent months. We are aware, of course, that the economic situation is challenging and it is by no means easy to raise funds to maintain church buildings, but it never has been easy and somehow God's church has achieved the seemingly unachievable in the past and will I believe continue to do so. I have seen the wonders faith achieved in Africa amongst the poorest of people who gave me hope that nothing can take away.

If we can find at least some common ground on the need for disabled access and basic facilities for our buildings after our consultations then our efforts in response to Kairos would be on a good footing.

Faith is hoping for those things we do not yet see.

Toilets are an act of faith as we see we have nothing to go on !

Love Stuart

St Andrew's church green

The Green in front of St Andrew's Church in Meonstoke was an extension to Joan Cooper's cottage garden. In her will, Joan generously bequeathed the Green to St Andrew's and its upkeep has become the responsibility of the rector and the churchwardens. Last summer much work was done by volunteers to restore the Green.

The Green is for the benefit of all the community and we hope that as well as enjoying it there will be further offers of help with maintenance.

The rector and churchwardens, St Andrew's Church.

Message from Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a country of paradox. For example, in a talk in Meonstoke on Ethiopia, Kingdom of the Lion of Judah, I showed a recent picture of a man ploughing with a primitive wooden plough drawn by oxen, as used for many thousands of years, a mere 200 yards from a local airport used by modern turbojet planes.

Medical care also has contrasts, with good modern hospitals in some places while the majority rural population is dependant on health officers working from isolated clinics. There is little training available for them for them, so last November I went with Dr Chris Lovell, a consultant dermatologist and botanist* to set up the first dermatology training course for rural health workers.

The generous donations at the lecture were used towards the cost of transport, accommodation and course materials, which made it possible for them to attend. With grateful thanks-

*Why is this significant?

Dr Paul Buxton

Look-in!

Do look in for a chat and refreshment on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month between 10.00 and midday in Meonstoke Church. **Everyone is welcome – the more the merrier!**

April: 6th & 20th

May: 4th & 18th

Book-out!

Please feel free to borrow books (fiction and non-fiction, thrillers and all other genres), jigsaws and CDs and return them when you have finished with them. There is no charge. **The Library in Meonstoke Church is available to everyone whenever the Church is open, which is from early morning until early evening.** Do come and have a browse in the peaceful surroundings.

Lorna Allured, 01489 877718

Meon Bridge Benefice ~ Kairos open meeting

24th February 2011

Summary of the meeting

Approximately 75 persons gathered in the Droxford Village Hall to hear the presentations from the Kairos team and to discuss the points arising. The following agenda was presented:

- Introduction to the Kairos mission Rev Stuart Holt
- The Process: Consultation and Action Colin Whishaw
- Our 2020 Vision: The Kairos Report John Symes
- Considerations: What is Sacred? Rev Stuart Holt
- The Four Churches Mark Mathew, Anne Wilkinson, & John Symes

Colin described the meeting as part of a process whereby we can all become involved to decide on improvements to our churches. The next step would be for each PCC to organise a session **in each church** when individual members of our community, whether regular worshippers or not, might discuss the suggestions put forward, so that all would have a clear understanding of the implications of the ideas for changes that had been put forward. Out of those discussions may come further suggestions as to how we can best place our church buildings to serve our community up to 2020 and beyond. As a group, we would certainly not wish to claim that we have thought of every possible idea.

Once those sessions had taken place in each church, the PCCs would consider the report, together with the views expressed at these meetings or by email to the Kairos team (kairos@bridgechurches.org.uk). Then the individual PCCs would consider taking steps to achieve such improvements as were generally agreed for the achievement of the 2020 vision.

John focused on the Report's Vision, Strategy, and Execution statement, which had been endorsed by the benefice PCC's. John spoke of the group's vision of the role our churches would be playing in our community by the year 2020, and illustrated his talk by reference to enhancements already completed at other Meon Valley Churches. He also reminded the meeting of the four recommendations of the Kairos Report (see the Downloads page at www.bridgechurches.org.uk). His presentation was also available on the same site.

Stuart discussed what is sacred and what is temporal in our church buildings and particularly focused on the meaning of fellowship and hospitality in our communities.

Mark, Anne, and John presented the highlights of the team's ideas for each of the four churches (5 minutes each). After a coffee break, this was followed by a questions and answers session with the Kairos Team

Time allowed only questions of a general nature. Interventions were generally favourable, and thanks were expressed to the report's authors, but concerns were also expressed about priorities and whether there is a need for some of the ideas for development. The importance of providing a welcoming environment was stressed, as also the importance of defining the role we want the church to play, and the worship

plans in each building. Concerns were expressed that raising funds for church improvements could detract, particularly in Meonstoke, from the Valley Pre-School which is also in need of development, but it was also remarked that it was potentially an opportunity for converged action. Other concerns were the potential overlap with the village halls, and the need to coordinate fund-raising so that individual churches did not compete. It was requested that future meetings should avoid school holidays. It was pointed out that the report did not cover bell-ringing and the contribution of bells to the church and worship. A clergyman, recently retired and now living in Meonstoke, offered his support and encouragement based on his experience in parishes that have successfully gone through similar development processes.

By request, Mr Norman Chapman, who helped organise the development fund and parish room recently completed in Soberton, addressed the meeting. Mr Chapman confirmed that the Soberton Room had been fully funded and over £300,000 was raised over ten years. There was currently no outstanding debt and the room is being regularly used for the benefit of the community.

John Symes, Coordinator, Kairos Group

Droxford & Exton Kairos meetings

The dates set for Droxford and Exton churches for the follow-on meetings to discuss the Kairos report (see above) are as follows:

St Mary & All Saints, Droxford:

- Friday, 15th April at 6.30pm
- Saturday, 14th May at 10.30am

St Peter & St Paul, Exton

- Thursday, 14th April at 7.00pm
- Saturday, 14th May at 10.30am

St Andrew's church Meonstoke – MEON CHURCHES - 2020 VISION KAIROS– WE NEED YOUR HELP

Part of Kairos aimed to stimulate parishes to make more effective use of their buildings. Following our benefice report, Meonstoke is now considering how to take things forward in St Andrew's. What worthwhile and acceptable changes can we make to the building to enhance its use by worshippers and by the Meonstoke community generally, in the context of other village needs, the recession, and realistic problems people can already foresee?

The plan is for the PCC to debate it, shortlist the options based on the benefit they will bring, to the church and community, and present conclusions at an open meeting in St Andrew's church **mid-June**.

Several new ideas have emerged since the report but if you can think of anything else we could do to increase the usage of St Andrew's or make things more amenable, please email Paul Buxton, Churchwarden St Andrew's at pkbuxton@doctors.org.uk by **Easter** so that we can consider it as well.

Peter Mosse

Vice Chairman, Meonstoke & Corhampton PCC



Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The Friends AGM will be at the Meon Hall, on Monday, **May 9th** at 7.00 pm, followed by wine and canapés, and a presentation by Peter O'Sullivan on the Oxford University's Woruldhord (old English *World Hoard*) project. Non-members are welcome to join us to hear about how your charity to support our historical and religious heritage is performing.

Membership & Volunteers. We are keen to increase our membership base and to involve more people from the Meon Valley as volunteers in our programmes. For more information contact Fiona Bennett on 01489 877513 or email: fionaben@btinternet.com

The 2011 Meon Valley Saxon community festival, supported by grants from Hampshire County Council and local business sponsorship, will be held on **Saturday, June 11th**. Let's have a good turn out again this year!

Peter O'Sullivan

MEONSTOKE, CORHAMPTON, & EXTON (bury the hatchet)

Street Party to celebrate spring and the wedding of

Prince William & Kate Middleton

LUNCH (12.30ish), 29th APRIL

After the ceremony

In Shoe Lane, Exton (between The Shoe Inn & Church Lane)

Bring chairs and

a dish to share (pot luck) drink; cutlery, glasses & gazebos

Tables will be provided

EVERYONE WELCOME

Problems 01489 877300

Interested in craftwork?

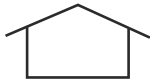
Come and join our friendly sewing/patchwork morning
Enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month
between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm
at Tithes, Allens Farm Lane, Exton

Next dates are:

Wednesday, 13th and 27th April

We will break for the summer and start again in September
For more information, contact Rosemary Frere-Cook: 877769



The MEON HALL

Meon Hall 200 Club Monthly Draws

Winners of the £25 monthly prize draws were:

February: Alison Munro **March:** Michelle Curtis

2011 200 Club: The monthly £25 prize draws are drawn on the first Saturday of each month. During the year there will be a £50 Midsummer Prize, and the special draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place at the 2011 Beetle Drive, which will be held at the Meon Hall on Saturday, 26 November – put the event in your diary now ! The 200 Club raises money to help with purchases of new equipment and other improvements for the Meon Hall. If you want to join this year's 200 Club and take part in the prize draws, please contact James Morrice (877916).

Thank you. to everyone who has joined the 200 Club in 2011 – by your support you have very recently helped the Meon Hall Management Committee to convince our Hampshire County Councillor, Felicity Hindson, to award a £500 discretionary grant to help purchase a set of portable stage lighting, which will be available for use at the Meon Hall and at other locations/events in *The Bridge* parishes.

. . . **and to** Paul and Gerry Hayles for donating 4 new Fresnel stage lights; with other help we have been able to renew all 12 of the Fresnel and spot lights on the front lighting bar. These new stage lights will be in use at the Riverside Players production of Bruno & The Patchman in April.

. . . **and to** our Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Councillors for awarding a grant of £500 to help with the cost of new double glazed windows, and to the South Downs AONB Sustainability Fund for a grant of £2194 to replace the old foyer exit doors with smart new hardwood double glazed doors; these are a great improvement, and the foyer has been much warmer as a result.

Planning a family party . . . ? Order those extra tables, chairs, china, wine glasses, and cutlery for your entertaining from the Meon Hall. Contact the Bookings Secretary, Rosie Minors on 877681 or meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk

James Morrice



There will be a **Bring & Buy Cake & Plant Sale** at Brook Cottage, High Street, Meonstoke on **Saturday, 14th May at 10.00 am**. This is an annual event in James and Anne's garden – so please come along for coffee and to buy what is on offer on the stalls. The proceeds from this year's event will go to the Community Care Group and the Valley Pre-School; and a special donation will be given to help with starting up the new MEONWARRA Ladies group.

Singing for Fun



Come and sing your favourite songs and learn some new ones.
No talent required. Refreshments

The Stables, Bishops Waltham

Friday, 1st April & 6th May,
2.00 - 3.30 pm
There will be a small charge.

The Meon Hall, Meonstoke

No session in April
Friday, 20th May

Further information from Annabel 01489 877130
or 07732 329792

JOINT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday, 27th April at 7.30 pm

The Meon Hall

This year, instead of three Annual Parochial Church Meetings, one meeting will be held in The Meon Hall, Meonstoke, which will cover all three parishes. There will be a joint meeting for all church activities in common and then the three parishes will split up to deal with individual activities.

To attend the Annual Meeting you need to be on the Church Electoral Roll. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, forms are available at the back of our churches. They need to be returned to the relevant church electoral roll officer, or the rector, at least 15 days before the annual meeting. The Electoral Roll is then available in Church for inspection.

Church Electoral Roll Officers are as follows:

Exton	Anne Morrice	878505
Meonstoke & Corhampton	Anne Morrice	878505
Droxford	Janet Melson	878728

Official notices on Church notice boards give full details.

SUNDAY 8th MAY IN DROXFORD
Annual Christian Aid Walk
at 2.00 pm (see page 16 for details)

Followed at 3.00 pm by **Maytime Ukulele Madness**
in St Mary and All Saints Church



Featuring the locally-renowned
Pompey Pluckers &
Children from **Meonstoke School**

Ukulele music from **George Formby** to **Amy Winehouse**
– something for all ages to enjoy and sing along to



at 4.00 pm

Ukulele teas will be served in
Droxford Village Hall

**No admission fee – bring your children,
friends, and grandparents for an afternoon of fun.**



Botley Choral Society
Spring Concert
Rutter ~ Mass of the Children
and a selection of music by
Upham Recorder Orchestra



Saturday, 9th April
The Meon Hall, Meonstoke
7.30 pm

Sunday, 10th April
Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham
7.30 pm

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions)

Tel: 01489 890007 E-mail: enquiries@botleychoral.co.uk

www.botleychoral.co.uk

Meon Valley Garden Club

By the time you read this, we will probably have had our Spring Show. I hope that you came, and even better if you placed an entry. You would be surprised how satisfying it is to be given a place in a class, and really anyone can do it. So now we look forward to the Plant Sale. We have some excellent plant people in the Club, so you can find quite unusual plants on sale for a fraction of what you would pay in a specialist nursery. Be sure to arrive on time – 10.00 am – because the best goes very quickly and we are often almost sold out by 11.00 am.

A tutorial session was arranged for March, but unfortunately only 4 people let me know that they wished to attend; so reluctantly, we had to cancel. Then in the last week several people phoned, and some turned up on the day unannounced. Which means that we would have had enough to run the session. I have been asked if we will be doing it again, and I know from past comments that it is an appreciated activity of the club, run by John Owen. So we might, but if we do, please let us know if you want to come in good time. We are gardeners, not mind readers!

The Gardeners' Question Time talk, with Chris Bird, was as useful, informative, and entertaining as ever. This has become a regular feature on our programme.

Olive Hathaway – Chairman

www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, 7th MAY

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

10.00 am

A wide range of plants at very low prices.

Refreshments

www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk

Droxford Village Market

- Vegetables, Cakes,
- Eggs, Dog Biscuits
- Cards and Books
- Flowers
- Jams, Chutneys, & Marmalade
- Refreshments

All at very reasonable prices

The emphasis is on homemade and local grown

in Droxford Village Hall

Every Friday 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

In the garden – April and May

Despite the earlier cold spell, gardens are well advanced now and many lawns have had their first cut. As the weather warms up be patient and harden off properly all tender plants and seedlings before planting them out. Catch up on any spring pruning that has not yet been done. As a general rule lightly prune large vigorous shrubs and hard prune smaller, less vigorous specimens.



Vegetables: Leeks may be sown into trays or directly into a prepared bed. Sow main crop carrots and peas and plant out onion sets. In May, sow beetroot and continue to sow salad crops of lettuce, spring onion, radish, rocket etc. Protect potato foliage from late frosts by earthing up or covering with fleece. Also in May plant out savoy and primo cabbage, cauliflower, and sprouts.

Fruit: Remove all dead and diseased leaves from strawberry plants, cutting as close as possible to the crown without damaging it. Feed with general-purpose fertiliser and put down a good layer of mulch. Put a cloche or polytunnel over early fruiting varieties to ensure earliest possible fruits. Spray apples when buds break to prevent apple scab.

Herbaceous border: Divide and replant perennials such as Michaelmas daisies, helianthus, and monarda. Plant tubers of gladioli and dahlias. Feed and mulch roses. Plant out sweet pea seedlings and sow annual seeds directly into the border. Prune buddleia and hydrangea paniculata very hard to produce strong new growth this year, remember these shrubs flower on the current year's growth, so they respond well to this treatment every year. Cut back dogwoods grown for their colourful stems, eg. Cornus Alba. During April hard prune sage, artemesia, brachyglotis and santolina and evergreen shrubs. Hard prune wall trained or hedging pyracantha. After flowering in late May, lightly trim back winter flowering heathers. Thin out mature bushes of deciduous berberis and cotoneaster by about one third.

Bulbs: Remember snowdrops and crocus need feeding, and now is the time to give them a feed with tomato or rose fertiliser. In April/May when the flowers on narcissi and tulips have finished feed them too in the same way. Remember to pinch out flower heads when they are over and to leave the foliage intact for at least 6 weeks so that the bulbs build up energy to produce flowers next year.

In the greenhouse: Cut back over-wintered fuchsias by about two thirds when the first buds begin to show and begin to feed and water them. If you started your dahlias in the greenhouse take cuttings of the new shoots and put them in pots of compost in the greenhouse until they take root. This way you can get three or four plants instead of one from one tuber. From mid-April bedding plants and tender vegetables like tomatoes and courgettes can be put outside on mild days to harden them off, but only do so on still days, as wind can damage tender young plants.

John Owen

Q I'm thinking about buying a second hand car, but I don't want to get ripped off with a dodgy vehicle. What are my rights?



A If you are buying a second hand car your rights will usually depend on where you bought it. If something goes wrong you will usually have more rights if you bought the car from a dealer than if you buy from a private seller or at an auction, but make sure you check the small print.

If buying from a dealer (in person or over the Internet), the car needs to meet certain criteria; it must:

- Match its description,
- Be of satisfactory quality (that is, in reasonable condition for its age, history, and price)
- Be roadworthy

But you should be very wary about signing any documents which state that you have examined the car and found it satisfactory in all respects or these rights will no longer be valid.

If you buy a car in person at a live auction, you should check the terms and conditions of the business holding the auction. You may have limited rights if the car turns out to be faulty; for example, they may state that your rights under the Sale of Goods Act are excluded. It will be your responsibility to check the car before you bid for it.

If you buy from a private seller, either face-to-face or online, you won't have the same rights as if you buy from a dealer but it is still a criminal offence for anyone to sell a car that is not roadworthy. Be very cautious of a seller who wants to meet you away from their private address, whose name is not in the logbook, or who is vague about answering your questions. Before you buy a used vehicle you can check to see if it's been stolen, written off or has any finance outstanding against it through the DVLA or private vehicle check companies.

For more information, contact your local **CAB** at Well House, 2 Brook Street, **Bishop's Waltham**, SO32 1AX, Tel: 01489 **896376**, open from **10.00 am to 2.00 pm** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. We also run an advice surgery at Wickham Community Centre (in Mill Lane) on Thursdays from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. If this is not convenient, try our **Thursday evening appointments-only** session (**from 4 to 7 pm**) at the Bishop's Waltham Bureau. You can also e-mail us at bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk. You can also go to our local Web site at www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk or you can go to the national Citizens Advice Bureau Web site at www.adviceguide.org.uk



Support and friendship
for families



Volunteers wanted

Can you spare 3 hours a week to help support a family with young children in the Meon Valley?

We are looking for volunteers with parenting experience to support families with children under 5 by providing emotional support, practical help and most importantly a listening ear. In return we provide you with full training and regular support. Our next two Preparation Courses will take place the weeks commencing 20th June 2011 and 19th September 2011.

If you would like to know more please contact Home-Start Meon Valley on 01392 835936 or e-mail us at organiser@homestart-meonvalley.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.



CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE
PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Jeremy Pett

Annual Parish Assembly – South Downs National Park

This year's Assembly will be on Wednesday, 20th April at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Meon Hall. The main speaker will be Councillor Barbara Holyome, a member of the South Downs National Park Authority who represents the Winchester parishes. The National Park formally comes into being on 1st April so this will be an early opportunity to find out how the creation of the Park will affect our villages, as well as get an understanding of the Authority's vision for how the Park should take shape in the years to come. Our Hampshire County and Winchester City Councillors will also be invited to report back to the community. All are warmly invited to attend and, as usual, there will be the opportunity for informal discussions over a glass of wine after we have heard from the speakers.

Parish Web Site

The Web site has taken rather longer than we had hoped to get up and running, largely due to unavoidable bureaucratic hurdles. By the time you read this, however, you should be able to visit www.candm-pc.gov.uk where we will now start to post links to useful local information, not just ongoing planning applications and other council business but all local services, with the ultimate idea that it should become a one-stop-shop for anything relevant to life in Corhampton & Meonstoke.

Captain Andrew Buchanan

The death of Andy Buchanan has deprived us of one of the community's true friends.

He had a very distinguished naval career. He commanded the diesel-electric submarine *Cachalot*, the nuclear-powered submarine *Courageous*, the frigate *Brighton* and the large guided-missile destroyer *Devonshire*. In 1982 he was selected because of his submariner's experience and personal qualities by the Task Force Commander, Admiral 'Sandy' Woodward, to be one of the two Group Warfare Officers controlling the campaign to recover the Falklands from the Argentine invasion. Sandy Woodward said that besides his confidence in Andy's competence, he knew that "should tempers grow ragged, he would know how to make the boss laugh – a talent that ought not to be underestimated in any walk of life". Time goes by and we forget the gross perils of that war eight thousand miles away, the casualties and sinkings on both sides and the sheer complexity of this first 'computer war'.

Andy and Jo-Jo came to Meonstoke in 1972. Andy's devotion to public life after his retirement from the navy in 1990 is remarkable. He was for more than ten years the secretary of the Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport, seeing the museum develop into a national institution with many historic acquisitions. From 1985, thus for twenty-six years, he has been the chairman of the Meon Hall Management Committee, leading that body with his familiar urbane good humour, wit, and wisdom. He was also a churchwarden of St Andrew's Meonstoke for 12 years, sometimes chairing the PCC with a necessary briskness. Andy was in at the start of the fundraising to restore Corhampton Saxon Church in December 1997 and had served on the Friends Committee of this charity ever since, watching over the fabric and supporting its events.

His cheerful presence, his interesting conversation and his universal ability to make friends will be much missed in this benefice. Our prayers and sympathies go out to Jo Jo and their distinguished sons.



Christian Aid Deanery Walk 2011 – fight poverty step by step!

This year, Droxford provides an ideal start point for a walk to appreciate the Meon Valley countryside in springtime, whilst raising money for a worthwhile cause.

As well as the usual five and ten mile circular routes, we have a new, shorter route (less than two miles) this year which will allow those with small children to take part too! Join us on **Sunday, 8th May at Droxford Village Hall** in time to make a prompt start at **2.00 pm** (registration from 1.30).

Please remember to bring along your sponsorship forms! They are available from your local church, or from Robin Boston (01329 832618 and w.boston@virgin.net)

Villagers of Meonstoke – Keep in touch!

Through the

2nd Wednesday Brunch Club

10:00 am – 12:00

A new monthly event

The first one will be kindly hosted by

The Buck's Head

Meonstoke

Commencing on Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

**Full breakfast menu
Coffee and Danish pastries
Or just coffee**

Please book in advance through

Bob Jones: 877620

Peter Riley: 877494

Pass the word to your friends. If all goes well we may plan another!

A CONCERT FOR PASSIONTIDE

In aid of Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity

&

St Peter's Church Bishops Waltham

Saturday 16th April

6.30 pm

St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham

An eclectic programme including Rossini, Barber, Simon & Garfunkel and
Eva Cassidy – perfect for the whole family!

£10 Adults

£5 Children under 16

Tickets include a glass of wine and nibbles



For tickets, call Katherine 07540 523400
or email kathers_arnott@hotmail.com



DROXFORD COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday, 4th June

12.30 until 4:00 pm

Make a note in your diaries so you don't miss this year's Fair. Following the success of recent years, and with your support, the Fair will again be held in **Droxford Square** and adjacent gardens of the **Manor House** and **Old Rectory**. (By kind permission of Mrs Denham and Mr and Mrs Martineau)

Refreshments: Barbecue, teas, Pimms, and ice creams

Musical entertainment: By the excellent Ferdies Friends

Swordsmanship Demonstration: And a chance to join in too!

Dog Show: See local posters for more information nearer the time. Entries should register at 1:30 pm and the dog show starts at 2:00 pm.

Photography Competition: Bring a digital camera to take interesting pictures of the day. Winning picture will be displayed locally.

Country crafts: Woodland skills demonstrations, bee-keeping, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Sustainability Centre, Llamas

Stalls: Offering a variety local produce, bric-a-brac, books etc. Contact Mary Hornby-Patterson to register interest 01489 878800

Games: A range of games for all ages including ferret racing, coconut shy, darts, splat the rat.

Raffle: Always a popular raffle with excellent prizes

Droxford School Event

Any queries please contact: Gary Collins 07803 115389
collins1000@hotmail.com

Meon Valley Community Responders

Is your bookcase running out of space?
We will be running a book stall again at Droxford Country Fair (see above). Any contributions can be delivered to us, or collection arranged, after 6th May. Please contact
Sue Robinson on 01489 878545 or
Charlotte Hewson on 01489 878193.

HM the Queen's diamond jubilee

Saturday, 2nd June to

Tuesday, 5th June 2012



On 6th February 1952, Princess Elizabeth had just returned to the Kenyan residence Sagana Lodge, accompanied by her husband Prince Philip, when word arrived of the death of Elizabeth's father, King George VI. Princess Elizabeth was duly proclaimed queen and on 2 June 1953 was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

Queen Elizabeth will be the second-longest reigning monarch to have been on the throne for 60 years. Queen Victoria managed an impressive 63 years 216 days and King George III almost managed it but only reached 59 years 96 days!

It is with the advent of this momentous event and in the making of history during our time, that Droxford Parish Council would like to invite all the residents and community groups in Droxford to join together to mark the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity, as history shows that it is a rare occurrence and unlikely to happen again even though we are all living for longer.

We would like to set up a committee of dedicated volunteers involving all interested parties who wish to plan and organise a truly memorable occasion for each and every one of us in Droxford.

Please contact me on 878741 or by email at bachand@talktalk.net. I look forward to hearing from you. The first meeting is planned for Tuesday, 17th May, at 7.30 pm, in Droxford Village Hall.

Barbara Chandler, Droxford Parish Council

South Downs Green Fair
The Sustainability Centre
East Meon

Sunday 8th May
11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Children activities include bushcraft, clay-sculpting and fancy-dress making. Sample locally produced food from a number of stalls; tuck into a healthy organic lunch; or enjoy a pint of locally brewed ale in the beer tent with live music. This is an opportunity to meet local volunteer and charity groups working towards a brighter, greener future and there'll be talks in the GreenShare forum in association with Permaculture Magazine. Explore renewable energy options for your home, see traditional crafts, and bring along your surplus seeds and plants to swap in the Seed Swap.

Entrance fee: Adult £5 Child £2

www.sustainability-centre.org

POST OFFICES

DROXFORD – High Street	878811
MEONSTOKE – Allens Lane, Corhampton	877374

STORES

DROXFORD STORES, High Street	878811
THE VILLAGE STORES, Allens Lane, Corhampton	877374
MERINGTONS STORES, Garrison Hill, Droxford	878043
DROXFORD ANTIQUES, High Street, Droxford	878800

PUBLIC HOUSES

THE BAKER'S ARMS, Droxford	877533
THE BUCKS HEAD, Meonstoke	877313
THE HURDLES, Droxford	877451
THE SHOE, Exton	877526
THE WHITE HORSE, Droxford	877490

GARAGES

MERINGTONS , Droxford	877431
TAYLORS GARAGE LTD, Droxford	877433

SCHOOLS

DROXFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL, Secretary	877537
MEONSTOKE SCHOOL, Secretary	877568
VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL	878019
SWANMORE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	892256

LIBRARY (Bishop's Waltham) 892871

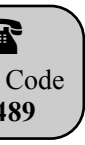
CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU (Bishop's Waltham) 896376
CAB e-mail bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

Corhampton & Meonstoke. Clerk: Mrs J Brooks	891660
Droxford. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile	877470
Exton Parish Meeting: Honorary Secretary: Paul Garner	877781

Despite costs rising to over 90p a copy, *The Bridge* still comes to your door FREE. Our margins are wafer thin, so donations are welcome and can be made to the Treasurer, or **Taylor's Garage, Droxford**, or the village Post Offices & Stores in **Droxford** and **Corhampton**.

al Services



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, Meonstoke

Bookings: Mrs Rosie Minors, 19 Pound Cottages, Pound Lane 877681
Meonstoke, SO32 3NP (No phone calls after 7.30 pm please.)
E-mail: meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATORS:

Droxford	Sheila Hilary	07977 096586
Exton	Jill Freemantle	877379
Meonstoke & Corhampton	Patricia Howe	877528

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you see anything suspicious, ring the Police immediately on 0845 045 4545, or, if you need advice, phone any of the following people straight away. If a vehicle is involved, it can help enormously if you can get its number.

Corhampton & Meonstoke:	Ian Gilchrist (chairman)	877238
Rectory Lane	Norah Burrage	878708
High Street	Janet Dobby	878657
Bucks Head Hill	Carol Jones	878560
Oxendown	Ian Gilchrist	877238
Warnford Road	Mike Camp	877180
Corhampton Lane	Charles Hall	877506
Pound Lane, W. of Meon Hall	Pearl Hazzard	877075
Pound Lane, E. of Meon Hall	Linda Foot	877763
Chapel Road & Fry's Lane	Marcia Gillespie	877472
New Road	Jenny Liardet	877583
Allen's Lane & St Andrew's Gn.	Lorna Allured	877718
Stocks Lane	Roger Howard	877540
Brockbridge Road	Frances Keppel	878774
Millside	Rosanne Weaver	877901

Droxford Gordon Hope 877751

Exton Joan Starkie 878698
Eleanor & Paul Garner 877781

POLICE (non-emergency calls) 0845 045 4545

NHS DIRECT (24 hour response) 0845 4647

Help on community safety and to report anti-social behaviour etc, ring 101

William Collins Charity

Can we help you? Our charity was set up to assist children and students from the Bridge parishes, requiring financial help for educational purposes (not fees). Call one of our trustees in confidence:

Ann Symes Droxford 877643

Jan Dobson Meonstoke 877672 Diana Arthur Exton 877390
 Julia Keitley Droxford 877414 Monika Thwaites Corhampton 877939

The Trustees of the William Collins Trust are delighted to announce that they were able to make awards allowing a number of Droxford school children to go away to residential camps. Other awards have been made in respect of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme fees and music lessons.

Good News Travelling Library

at

**The Paterson Centre
 Church Road, Swanmore**

Normally 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.30 am to 12.15 pm:

Next visits: 8th February and 8th March

Everyone welcome ~ refreshments served

Meon Valley Community Bus

Fares for all destinations: £4.00 Adult return
 Children: Under 16 half-fare: Under 5 free
 Winchester City Council bus passes accepted

For Minibus bookings ring: Roy Rager on 01730 829239 (or Bob (01730 829395) if Roy is away)

TIMETABLES:

MONDAY to FAREHAM

<i>Leaves</i>	<i>Return</i>
1001 Droxford Square	1314
1005 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1310
1007 Corhampton Stores	1308
1009 Meonstoke, Old Post Office	1306

WEDNESDAY to FAREHAM

1000 Droxford Square	1309
1003 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1306
1005 Corhampton Stores	1304
1007 Meonstoke, Old Post Office	1302

THURSDAY to FAREHAM

0911 Exton, The Shoe	1224
0912 Corhampton, The Butts	1223

THURSDAY to FAREHAM (continued)

0914 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1221
0916 Corhampton Stores	1219
0918 Meonstoke, Old Post Office	1217

FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH TO WINCHESTER

0925 Droxford Square	1246
0930 Meonstoke, Old Post Office	1241
0932 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1239
0934 Corhampton Stores	1237
0936 Exton, The Shoe	1234

SECOND FRIDAY OF MONTH TO WATERLOOVILLE

0935 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1250
0939 Droxford Square	1245

THIRD FRIDAY OF MONTH TO HEDGE END

0926 Exton, The Shoe	1220
0929 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1217
0932 Corhampton Stores	1214
0937 Droxford Square	1209

Droxford & District Community Care Group

The Group exists to provide support within the villages of Droxford, Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton.

Our main activity is the provision of private transport for essential purposes such as hospital and doctor appointments and we endeavour to keep our charges well below cost. We rely on the continuing support of volunteer drivers and are always keen to welcome new volunteers. **Donations towards the cost of operating the service are always welcome and we acknowledge with thanks the contributions that have recently been received.**

In addition to transport we provide a service to new arrivals in the villages with a visit and a Welcome Pack to assist them in settling in. **It is important to us that we welcome all newcomers but occasionally we are not made aware of new arrivals. If we have not been in touch please make contact on the telephone number below and we will be pleased to rectify the matter.** We can also provide assistance with the completion of forms and documents on a confidential basis and we may be able to offer assistance to those in need of specialised equipment to make life easier around the home.

If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please get in touch with the Chairman, Roger Howard, on 877540.

Events co-ordinator for all village and benefice events

Anita Foy, Meonstoke, is events co-ordinator for all village and benefice activities. Anita's role is to enable all village activities in Droxford, Meonstoke, Exton, and Corhampton to be coordinated so that clashes can be avoided. Please would all relevant organisations and committees e-mail or call Anita with details of their schedules so she can produce a monthly calendar of local village events. This will be sent to the relevant people electronically and regularly updated.

Eventually if this is a success we might consider putting it on a village Web site.

If you would like more information please contact Anita at anita@anitafoygardendesign.co.uk or on 878024 or Ann Symes at ann.symes@btinternet.com

Droxford Village Hall

Spring News



It is interesting to observe how much the Church calendar for high days and holidays affects the way we anticipate the change of seasons. When Easter falls in March, it is likely that we are only just leaving the winter weather behind. When it falls at the end of April, as this year, we can truly look forward to seeing our gardens and countryside full of spring flowers and blossom. The sun is higher in the sky, and more powerful, and this is a welcome boost to our spirits after chilly days and tiresome weather conditions.

We should, however, be doubly thankful for our climate here in southern England. Whilst the Japanese could also be welcoming the spring with the appearance of the notable cherry blossoms, life for many, as I write, hinges still on catastrophe and chaos, and there is little chance for them to observe this regeneration of nature as we are able to do. We are indeed the lucky ones, and must not forget it.

With regard to our events' calendar, we can look back proudly to another most successful Quiz Evening, run by our very competent quizmaster, John Martin.

The demand for tickets once more exceeded capacity, and there were sadly several people who could not participate. There was the usual mix of good humour, competitiveness, and excitement as the evening progressed, and the various teams racked their brains to find the answers to the challenging questions. The food was plentiful and of the usual high standard, and it can safely be said that this evening was enjoyed by all who were there. This event is our best fund-raising occasion and we thank all the helpers and participants for making it such a success.

The hall was once more filled to capacity on our film evening of 2nd March, when *The King's Speech* was shown. Accompanying 'shorts', including archive footage before the film, set the mood for this award-winning production. There is no doubt that the film was very much worth all its recent awards, and this showing was obviously appreciated by all who came to see it. It is pleasing to fill the hall for a film evening and to know that what we do there benefits the residents in *The Bridge* parishes. After the March showing of *Red*, we have two more films before our summer break. We hope that they appeal to you.

We sincerely hope that our AGM on Monday, 11th April at 7.30 pm. will be well attended by Droxford residents. Since our recent break-in, and subsequent damage in the kitchen, we feel that we would like to inform all those who use the hall about our way forward with security, and how we

have dealt with the shocking intrusion into the village's much used and valued facility. Please come along and offer your opinion and views, and make any suggestions for future events you may like to see at the hall.

Whilst three months have yet to elapse before the end of June, we already have a fixed date for our outdoor theatre in The Old Rectory garden. This year's performance by The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company, called Gentle Harry's Farm, will take place on Saturday evening, 25th June. We would urge you to make this your midsummer treat, put the event in your diary, and gather your party to come and enjoy yourself in Glyndebourne style, with picnic and friends in the garden.

The 200 Club winners were:

January: Gloria Woods

February: June and Des Singleton

March: John Symes.

Jackie Hibbert, Secretary

Forthcoming events at Droxford Village Hall

Monday, 11th April

Annual general meeting

at 7.30 pm

Please come along and have your say.
Report from 2010 and plans for forthcoming events

Wednesday, 27th April

From Time to Time

Film rated PG

A haunting ghost story spanning two worlds, two centuries apart. When 13 year old Tolly finds he can mysteriously travel between the two, he begins an adventure that unlocks family secrets laid buried for generations. Stars Maggie Smith.

Wednesday 25th May

Made in Dagenham

Film rated 15

A dramatization of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, where female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination. Stars Sally Hawkins and Bob Hoskins.

Both films start at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm)
Tickets £5 Licensed bar and light refreshments available

Tickets for the film nights available from Droxford Post Office



The Royal British Legion

The guest speaker at our March meeting was Dr Dominic Fontana, a lecturer in Geography at the University of Portsmouth whose subject for the evening was Tudor Mapping of Portsmouth. I have heard Dominic speak on two previous occasions and was once again spellbound as he brought to life what initially sounds to be rather a dry subject.

Dominic began by explaining that Portsmouth has been of huge significance in the defence of the realm for a very long time and how, during the Battle of the Solent in 1545, the kingdom came perilously close to falling to the French whose 30,000 soldiers were embarked in a fleet of vessels that vastly outnumbered Henry VIII's 12,000 militiamen. Partly as a result of this, the Tudors began mapping the port and surrounding area to assist in defence and military planning.

Through a series of maps dating from around the early 1500s right through to Georgian times, Dominic demonstrated how the use of maps evolved from simply being a means of illustrating stories to becoming the important military and intelligence documents that they remain today. The most significant advances came with the Tudor maps. The map of Portsmouth produced in 1545 was the first scale map of any town in England and was astonishing in both accuracy and detail. Not only were street patterns and significant buildings and features shown (eg the Round Tower and the Camber) but detail included doors and door posts of buildings and even internal divisions within.

The map has been compared in painstaking detail with the Cowdray engraving painted very shortly after the Battle of the Solent in 1545 and the comparisons verify the accuracy of the map. It also reveals much about Tudor life in a naval port with what might, from the modern perspective, appear to be an excessive number of breweries and bakeries until once considers that these were vital supplies to the militia. We were also shown detail from the earliest chart in the UK Hydrographic Office collection dating from 1620 and this further illustrated the incredible detail and accuracy of the Tudor maps.

Dominic Fontana is a true enthusiast with a deep knowledge and passion for his subject. His talk was appreciated by all present, and for those of us who are familiar with the port, the surrounding area and coastline of Portsmouth, it provided a wonderful insight into the role and importance of early cartography.

Janet Melson

The
Madding
Crowd



A choir in the Victorian tradition performing music and songs collected from the villages of Hampshire

7.30pm on Saturday May 7th

Tickets £8 from Meonstoke Post Office and The Shoe Public House

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, EXTON

Refreshments, wine and soft drinks

EXTON CHURCH FABRIC FUND DRAW

The February Draw was held in The Shoe on 18th February and the March Draw in the Village Stores on the 11th March.

The Winners of the £30 prizes were:

February:

Alan and Joan Starkey with No.19. Jo Somers with No. 28.

March:

Robert Miles with No. 37. David Whiting with No. 50.

Many thanks to those who support the Draw. Last month the Fabric Fund was able to pay for the repair of the two large holes at the back of the Church where the ceiling had come down.

There is still plenty of time to buy more Draw Tickets with more prizes to win throughout 2011.

Please get in touch with Jill Cassels on 01489 877469 if you are interested.



Are you caring for someone suffering from problems or dementia? Meon Valley Carers is a voluntary organisation supporting carers and provides an opportunity to mix socially along with their cared for with people in a similar situation on a regular basis. We aim to ensure that our members are aware of all the services and benefits available

and strive to keep abreast of current legislation and changes. We are a very welcoming and friendly group and provide a range of activities and talks to suit both carers and their cared for.

In February, a legal team from Warner Goodman, armed with cakes gave a talk to the carers on lasting power of attorney. This is very important, particularly when mental health is concerned. Leaflets are available from the office.

Meanwhile, Jean led the exercises for the cared for and found it invigorating. She believes that she has now found her true vocation! Then we were pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Matthew, who brought along his guitar and encouraged us in our singing. The Beatles would have been proud!

Then we all moved into the main hall for a talk on colour and style . It was most interesting listening to how to make changes to our looks by coordinating different items of clothing. Many of us went away determined to go through our wardrobes. A trip to the shops may be necessary and Jenny said not to forget charity shops, as often good quality clothing could be purchased at very small cost.

This month has seen a drop in numbers at the meetings due to illness. We wish all our members a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them again soon.

As the group has grown so have the costs and we rely heavily on grants and donations. In the current economic climate, many groups are applying for more limited pots of money and long term we need to think seriously about how the costs of the group are met.

The Alzheimer's Society are organising a memory course for our members beginning in March. This will run for four weeks and we hope that this will be beneficial to all those who go.

Last year the Old Jewellery Appeal by the Alzheimer's Society raised an incredible £175,000. This year they are hoping to raise even more. If you have any old jewellery, including costume jewellery, please send it to Freepost RRUL-HZKT-YHKG, Alzheimer's Society, Devon House, 58 St.

Katherine's Way, London E1W 1JX, or call into the office for a Freepost jiffy bag.

The Drop-in Centre, which opened in October 2010, is going well and it has been lovely to meet those that 'drop in'. We are always pleased to welcome people residing in the Meon Valley who feel they could have a memory issue. We are open Mondays and Thursdays between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Volunteers needed!

Are you a sociable person who enjoys meeting new people? We need caring volunteers at our meetings to stimulate people with dementia during activities and provide a listening ear to our carers. You will need good listening skills plus patience and empathy to interact with elderly people (those with dementia and their carers).

Diary dates

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12th April | Fish & Chip Lunch at the Paterson Centre Meet at 12.30 to eat at 1pm |
| 26th April | Group Meeting at the Paterson Centre 2.00 pm |
| 10th May | Pub Lunch at The Forge, Shedfield 12 noon |
| 24 th May | Group Meeting at the paterson Centre 2pm |

The Carers Centre for Memory Concerns, at the Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore, Monday & Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm,
Tel: 01489 895444
E-Mail: meon-valley@btconnect.com

Riverside Players

present

Bruno and the Patchman

A colourful comedy adventure for 5 to 95 year olds

The MEON HALL (Meonstoke)

Thursday, **14th** to Saturday, **16th April**
at **7.00 pm**

plus Saturday matinée at 11.00 am

Tickets: £6 (adult) and £4 (child)

Available from Corhampton and Droxford Stores



Lions and Rotary club together for Jack

Jack Layton, aged four, from Wickham, was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in May 2010. His Mum and Dad, Jules and Stuart have since learned that regular physical exercise is an important way to slow the onset of muscular dystrophy, so they decided to purchase a purpose-made trike to help Jack to keep active.

The British-engineered trike provides Jack with the freedom and mobility to get to school and travel around the town, whilst the special adaptations allow his parents to steer and control it remotely. Of course, all this technology comes at a cost, so the Rotary Club of Bishops Waltham and Meon Valley Lions Club, have come forward with a contribution of £500 each, to help provide Jack with his new wheels.

Jack absolutely loves his cool new trike and ironically it's now Jules and Stuart who are finding they are getting all the extra exercise, chasing behind him on the streets of Wickham!

Reeling in a bumper catch!

Dawn on Sunday morning 23rd January witnessed a hardy bunch of Lions setting up camp for the 36th annual charity Ford Sports and Social Club sea angling competition on Weston Shore, Southampton. At 7.00 am there were already a couple of dozen eager competitors to greet us in the car park, anxious to be at the head of the queue to ensure a good draw on the prime fishing pitches. Numbers were down on previous years with 135 in the adult section, but encouragingly the appearance of a record 12 juniors made for a fine day's sport and competition. Through a combination of the generous support of the Transport and General Workers Union at Ford, plus the entrance fees, this event has consistently provided a healthy source of charitable income for the Naomi House Hospice, which has been the beneficiary of the proceeds for many years. This year we anticipate raising over £1600, bringing the total since the event began to over £28,000.

Dion MacFayden was outright winner catching four flounder totalling 2lbs 8½ oz. with Philip Harrison securing heaviest fish with his 1lb 8oz catch. Brandon Stokes and Bradley Perrett were first and runner up respectively in the junior section.

Swanmore Carnival and Fete 2011

Thank you for your response to our previous appeal for support for the Swanmore carnival and fete 2011 – a couple of groups including the newly formed Swanmore cubs and beavers group have since come forward

offering valuable manpower. The carnival parade has always been a colourful feature of the day and although we have a number of groups and societies keen to take part, the issue is often one of transport. So if you have a flatbed lorry, or tractor and hay-trailer combination that could be used for the parade, we would really like to hear from you. Please call Martin Phipps on 01489 894932 or email: martin.phipps@btinternet.com

A concert for Good Friday

Mozart's Requiem

7.30 pm Friday, 22nd April

All Saints' Church, Botley

All Saints' Chamber Choir

Julie Bolton (soprano) Melanie Stephenson (alto)

Andrew Jackson (tenor) Phil Stokes (bass)

Mark Dancer (Organist) David Burgess (Conductor)

All Welcome ~ Admission Free



Prison Fellowship

Churches Together has organised a presentation on the work of the Prison Fellowship by Terry Brown, Regions Manager.

Tuesday, 17th May, 7.30pm

**in The Shedfield Study Centre,
St. Johns Church, Shedfield.**

All welcome, refreshments served afterwards.

Prison Fellowship help local Christian communities respond to the needs of prisoners, young offenders, their families, and communities through local groups, training and programmes in prisons, and seeks to restore all those affected by crime through prayer, practical action, and values based programmes.

This should be an enlightening talk; for more information, go to the

Prison Fellowship Web site at www.pfew.org.uk



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Wildlife Trust *Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people*

Open Gardens

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are coordinating a programme of open gardens throughout spring and summer 2011. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of gardens as a resource for wildlife and to let people know how they can get involved with the Wildlife Trust.

So how can you get involved? The size of your garden and the number of people you can accommodate does not matter because even the smallest garden can be an excellent resource for wildlife and will inspire people to

make a difference for wildlife in their own gardens. You may even decide that you only want to open your garden to family and friends and hold a fundraising BBQ! You could also choose to organise your open garden on a day when you will be working in your garden and putting in a new wildlife friendly feature –



Open Garden by Patrick Daniell

who knows, your visitors may even lend a hand!

There are currently 25 gardens opening as part of the programme, taking place in Hampshire, details of which can be found on our Web site at www.hwt.org.uk, so please come along and support the Wildlife Trust at an open garden near you. If you would like to find out more about opening your garden to the public and raising money for the Wildlife Trust's 50th anniversary, please contact Natalie Rogers, Wildlife Information Officer, at natalier@hwt.org.uk. Your support gives us vital funds to protect wildlife and wild places in your local area.

Gardens are extremely important for wildlife; not only can they provide food and shelter for a huge range of plants and animals, but they can also form a natural 'bridge' between built up and open areas, which allows wildlife to move

between them relatively easily. Gardens can also provide particular habitats that might be missing in your local area such as ponds and suitable hibernation or nesting sites. There are lots of simple things that you can do to encourage wildlife to your garden and you can find some great ideas in our fact sheets that you can download from our Web site.

If you can demonstrate that your garden is a haven for wildlife you might want to apply for your Wildlife Friendly Gardening Award. A wildlife friendly garden can come in all shapes and sizes – it just needs to be good for wildlife! You will be awarded with a certificate, a weatherproof plaque that you can display in your garden, and you may also feature on our Wildlife Gardening winners Web page.

Check out our Web site at www.hwt.org.uk for full details or give me a call on 01489 774400.

Natalie Rogers, HWT

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust events

April:

Sunday, 10th at 5.30am. Dawn Chorus Walk and Breakfast: Join us for a walk, led by Pete Potts, HCC Senior Ranger for The Moors Nature Reserve, to hear the dawn chorus, followed by a cooked breakfast. The walk is over muddy terrain, so wellies or waterproof boots are essential and a warm jacket is recommended. Meet at the Cricklemede entrance to The Moors Nature Reserve (Map ref. SU 557 153). Please book in advance by contacting Jane Gentry on 01489 890961. Cost £5 adults, £2.50 children, including breakfast.

Sunday, 17th at 2.00 pm: River Hamble Walk . Join us for a walk along the upper reaches of the Hamble to see birds at low water and woodland plants, followed by a lunchtime drink or lunch at the pub. Meet at the Horse and Jockey, Curbridge (Map ref. SU 527 118). For further details, please contact Jane Gentry on 01489 890961. Please wear stout footwear. Suggested donation £2.50 children free

For details of more events, go to www.hwt.org.uk/events.php

Droxford Wives

We launched our new program and the year got off to an excellent start with an American Supper. Liz English's holiday in Egypt last year provided the subject for the February meeting, a really interesting and enjoyable evening. We then looked forward to an insight into the mysteries of bee keeping in March.

Topics coming up during the year include Chocolate (not to be missed!), Locker Hooking (you need to find out what this is!), A Walk Around Emsworth Sea Front (a lovely evening last year), a Gloss Party (intrigued?!) and Bare Necessities (?!). Phone Pauline Bone on 01489 878518 to find out more. All welcome.



Active Retirement Association

This month we are taking the opportunity to briefly review our work as we start a new financial year with our first annual programme and in anticipation of our first **AGM** which is on **Thursday, 28th April**

starting at 1400 in St Peters Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham.

During late 2009 and in early 2010 Hampshire County Council was pressing for the development of an older persons forum in the southern parishes of Winchester. A failed attempt by HCC and WCC in Wickham in early 2009 convinced the present leadership of MVARA that such a scheme could not work in our scattered communities and that only by providing activities for older people on the lines of our gentlemen's pub lunch, new age curling, and singing for fun could there be any hope of older people becoming involved. Tai chi and an exercise class have now been added.

As a result of this policy membership at the time of writing is 112. This seems to support the concept and as members indicated their other interests on joining there are many further opportunities for expansion into a thriving community organisation *if only, and only if*, organisers come forward.

As recorded last month Hampshire County Council identified once again that older people's main concerns were communication, information, and transport. MVARA has also identified the serious lack of IT skills in our older population as a factor in these matters and is attempting to find solutions with possible partners by providing training and IT facilities. This would help older people to communicate in ways that remove isolation, and give them access to information and support that would help them to remain independent. In the current economic climate we cannot expect statutory services to fund and organise new services, and communities need to respond themselves. It therefore seems to be now appropriate to cordially invite all local groups who support older people to join with us in the development of a fully fledged community association for our rural area. We look forward to receiving expressions of interest, and have no preconceived ideas of who should be involved or how. Contacts billdrake@talktalk.net or telwilson@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteers are required in the following areas:

- Someone with ability to play a keyboard for Singing for Fun. This happy group really enjoys singing and you could make a really worthwhile contribution. Contact Annabel on 01489 877130.
- IT training. Although these are early days and much work remains to establish and fund a full programme, the following abbreviated message from Age Concern Hampshire reflects their willingness to work with MVARA and other partners in the development of IT training and IT facilities in the southern parishes of Winchester. "Age Concern offer an eight week structured course to give one to one tuition to learners. We are now looking for tutors to work in

Bishops Waltham. You don't need any qualifications to volunteer but need to be computer literate. Volunteers are paid travelling expenses and will require CRB check at no cost to the tutor. Please contact Bill Drake on 01489895706 or billdrake@talktalk.net; or Malcolm Roberts on 02392 519578 or malcolm.roberts73@ntlworld.com..

MVARA Events for April & May

Event	Dates	Start - End	Place	Contact
Exercise class	April 4th	1000 - 1030	St Peter's Hall	Chee Price 01489 893140
	April 11th		Free Street	
	April 18th		B/Waltham	
	May 9th			
Tai Chi	April 6th	1030 - 1130	Jubilee Hall in	Pat Wilson 01489 895742
	April 13th		the main hall	
	April 20th			
	April 27th			
	May 4th			
Men's Pub Lunch	April 21st	1230 - 1430	The Barleycorn	Bill Drake 01489 895706
	May 19th		B/Waltham	
New Age Kurling	April 21st	1430 - 1630	Jubilee Hall in	Bill Drake 01489 895706
	May 19th		the small hall	
Singing for Fun	April 1st	1400 - 1530	St Peter's Stable	Annabel 01489 877130
	May 6th			

SPRING OPEN GARDENS DAY

Swanmore

Sunday 10th April

1.00 pm to 5.00 pm

A number of gardens in and around Swanmore village will be open in aid of St Barnabas Church building fund.

Tickets £4 from the Paterson Centre next to the Church; accompanied children under 14 free.

Teas in the Paterson Centre and at Hill Farm House.
Shuttle bus operating from the Paterson Centre (50p fare)
Parking opposite the Paterson Centre

From the Registers

Baptisms

Droxford 13 February *Andrew Christie*

Weddings *None*

Funerals

Wessex Vale 18th March *Colin Andrew Fownes Buchanan, age 75*
(Thanksgiving Service on Friday, 8th April, St Andrew's Meonstoke.)

Wessex Vale 22nd February *Charles Berrow, age 79*

Portchester 14th March *Shirley Anne Jablonski, age 75*

Portchester 3rd March *Freda Christmas, age 93*

Meonstoke *John Delmar Purnel, interment of ashes*

We welcome. . .

Cheryl and Brian Jensen, who have come from Southampton and Port Solent to 14 Oxendown, Meonstoke.

Corina and Ian Voller, who have come with Michael and Jacques, from Hambledon to the Old Forge, High Street, Meonstoke.

Simon Gammon-Hardway, who has come from Waltham Chase to 14 Millside, Corhampton.

Marianne and Keith Trevors, who have come from Fair Oak to 9 Millside, Corhampton.

Joan Terry, who has come from Brighton to Millside, Corhampton

Jane Shaw, who has come from Swanmore to Sunnyside, Exton.

Philip and Gillian Keoghan, who have from Denmead to 16 Chesnut Rise, Droxford.

Helen Harvey, who has come from Meonstoke and formerly Winchester to Droxford.

Lisa, Bradley and Connor Goodman, who have come from Netley Abbey to 9A The Park, Droxford.

Lorraine and Jessica King, who have come from Bishops Waltham to Corner Cottage, The Park, Droxford..

Community Care

Congratulations

to

Trevor and Pauline Quarendon

&

Alan and Joan Starkey

on their **Diamond Wedding Anniversaries**

Thursday, 24 March

60

60

DISTRICT DIARY

April

Sat. 2	Churchyard clean-up, St Andrew's, Meonstoke	10.00 am
	MV Garden Club: Spring Show, Soberton Village Hall	2.00 pm
	Riverside Players rehearse all w/e, Stage & Main Hall, Meon Hall	am&pm
Sun. 3	Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday	
(1st)	Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford	8.30 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke	10.00 am
	Evensong, Exton	6.30 pm
	Riverside Players rehearse all w/e, Stage & Main Hall, Meon Hall	am&pm
Tue. 5	U3A: Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, talk by Jane Lawrence	2.00 pm
	Wickham Community Centre. Guests welcome	
Wed. 6	Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Thu. 7	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
	Bishops Waltham Deanery meeting, The Meon Hall	7.00 pm
	Royal British Legion: Grand National Draw, Upland Park Hotel	7.00 pm
Sat. 9	MV Garden Club: Coffee morning, Ramblers, Warnford Rd, M/S	10.30 am
	Botley Choral Society: Concert, The Meon Hall (see page 11)	7.00 pm
Sun. 10	Lent 5	
(2nd)	Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke	8.30 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Droxford	10.00 am
	Evensong, Corhampton	6.30 pm
	Riverside Players: Rehearsals, The Meon Hall (see page 26)	10am-4.00 pm
Tue. 12	Riverside Players: Dress rehearsal, The Meon Hall	5-10.00 pm
Wed. 13	Meonstoke Brunch Club, The Buck's Head, Meonstoke	10.00 am
	Craftwork (sewing/patchwork), Tithes, Exton	10.30 am
	Riverside Players: Dress rehearsal, The Meon Hall	5-10.00 pm
Thu. 14	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
	Riverside Players: Bruno & the Patchman , The Meon Hall	7.00 pm
	St Peter & St Paul, Exton; Kairos church meeting	7.00 pm
Fri. 15	Riverside Players: Bruno & the Patchman, The Meon Hall	7.00 pm
	St Mary & All Saints, Droxford; Kairos church meeting	6.30 pm
Sat. 16	Riverside Players: Bruno & the Patchman, The Meon Hall 11am &	7.00 pm
	Concert for Passiontide, St Peter's B/Waltham (see page 17)	6.30 pm
Sun. 17	Palm Sunday	
(3rd)	Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton	8.30 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Exton	10.00 am
Tue. 19	MV Flower Club: Demonstration / workshop, The Meon Hall	2.15 pm
	U3A: AGM followed by talk by Adrian Thomas: The Lady Pensioner and her Toy Boy. Wickham Community Centre.	2.00 pm
Wed. 20	Droxford church spring-clean	10.00 am
	C'hampton & M'stoke Annual Parish Assembly, The Meon Hall	7.00 pm

DISTRICT DIARY

Thu. 21	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, Droxford Communion & vigil, Corhampton Droxford Parish Council meeting, The Fire Station	10.00 am 7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Fri. 22	Good Friday All Age Service, Meonstoke Service of Meditation, Droxford	10.00 am 2.00 pm
Sat. 23	Easter Eve Vigil, Corhampton	7.30 pm
Sun. 24	Easter Day (4th) Holy Communion, (BCP), Exton Holy Communion (CW), Droxford Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke Farnham Ramblers, The Meon Hall car park	8.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
Wed. 27	Craftwork (sewing/patchwork), Tithes, Exton Film Night: Droxford Village Hall (see page 25) Joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Meon Hall (see p.10)	10.30 am 7.30 pm 7.30 pm
Thu. 28	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
Fri. 29	Royal Wedding: Public Holiday Exton Street Party – See page 8 for details	
Fri. 29	to Mon. 2nd May 3rd. Stubbington Brownies: Pack holiday, The Meon Hall	
May		
Sun. 1	Easter 2 (1st) Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke Evensong, Exton	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm
Wed. 4	Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Thu. 5	All Day: Local Government Elections plus AV Referendum: The Meon Hall and Droxford Village Hall Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
Fri. 6	Lecture: Gallipoli 1915; The Meon Hall, in aid of Winchester Young Carers: ring 892130 or e-mail lecture1915@gmail.com	6.30 pm
Sat. 7	MV Garden Club: Plant Sale, Droxford Village Hall The Madding Crowd Concert, Exton Church (see page 27)	10.00 am 7.30 pm
Sun. 8	Easter 3 (2nd) Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke Holy Communion (CW), Droxford Evensong, Corhampton Hampshire Hilly 100 Miles Cycle Rally: The Meon Hall Christian Aid Deanery Walk, starting Droxford Village Hall	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm 9.00 am - 12.00 Noon 2.00 pm

DISTRICT DIARY

Sun. 8	Ukelele Concert, Droxford church	3.00 pm
Mon. 9	Friends of Corhampton Church AGM, The Meon Hall	7.00 pm
Wed. 11	Latest copy date for June / July Bridge	
	Droxford Annual Parish Meeting, Droxford Village Hall followed by Droxford Parish Council meeting	7.30 pm
Thu. 12	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
Sat. 14	Cake & Plant Sale, Brook Cottage, Meonstoke	10.00 am - 11.30 am
	St Mary & All Saints, Droxford; Kairos church meeting (see p.7)	10.30 am
	St Peter & St Paul, Exton; Kairos church meeting (see p.7)	10.30 am
	Team Axiom Cycle Race HQ - Wheelydown and Milburys	8.00am - 6.00 pm
	The Meon Hall	
Sun. 15	Easter 4	
(3rd)	Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton	8.30 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Exton	10.00 am
Mon. 16	Royal British Legion: Upland Park Hotel: John Rowlinson talk	7.00 pm
	Meon Hall Management Committee, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Tue. 17	HM the Queens Diamond Jubilee Committee meeting, Droxford Village Hall (see page 19)	7.30 pm
Fri. 20	Singing for Fun, The Meon Hall	2.00 pm
Sat. 21	MV Garden Club: RHS Gardens, Wisley visit; meet Droxford Square	10.00 am
Sun. 22	Easter 5	
(4th)	Holy Communion (BCP), Exton	8.30 am
	Matins (CW), Corhampton	10.00 am
Tue. 24	MV Flower Club: Demonstration by Lisa Lewis, The Meon Hall	2.15 pm
Wed. 25	Film Night: Droxford Village Hall (see page 25)	7.30 pm
Sun. 29	Easter 6 (Rogation Sunday)	
(5th)	Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke	10.00 am
Sun.29 to Fri. 3rd Jun:	1st B/Waltham Brownies Pack holiday, The Meon Hall	All week

June

Wed. 1	Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Sat. 4	MV Garden Club: Coach trip to Savill Gardens - from D'ford Sq. Droxford Country Fair (see page 18 for details)	10.00 am 12.30 pm

Remember to visit *The Bridge* parishes Web site for information about who's who
and church services: www.bridgechurches.org.uk

You will also find there brief histories of the four parish churches.

The Web site was designed and implemented, and is hosted by, the local Internet
services company, Wizbit, Corhampton Lane Farm, Corhampton, 01489 872980.

THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE
REGULAR SUNDAY & WEEK DAY CHURCH SERVICES

See the District Diary for details of variations.

	Benefice Holy Communion (BCP¹)	Benefice Holy Communion (CW ²)	Evensong (BCP¹)	Matins
First Sunday	8.30 am Droxford	10.00 am Meonstoke	6.30 pm Exton	
Second Sunday	8.30 am Meonstoke	10.00 am Droxford	6.30 pm Corhampton	
Third Sunday	8.30 am Corhampton	10.00 am Exton	–	
Fourth Sunday	8.30 am Exton	–	–	10.00 am Corhampton

¹ **BCP** – Book of Common Prayer

² **CW** – Common Worship

Weekday services: 1. Morning prayers daily (Monday to Friday) in St Andrew's, **Meonstoke at 8.30 am**
2. Holy Communion (Common Worship) each Thursday in St Mary & All Saints, **Droxford at 10.00 am**