

## List of Advertisers

Page numbers refer to the coloured advertising pages at front and back of the magazine, prefixed Ad

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	Farmhouse B & B 6
<b>ACCOUNTANTS</b>	RG Walker 8
<b>ANTIQUES</b>	Droxford Antiques 15
<b>BUILDERS &amp; BUILDING MATERIALS</b>	T R Chase 17; Elliotts 3
	R & G Gamblin 4; Peter Moore Handyman 6; Steven Hurdle 21
	Alan Reeves 26; Steve Such Prop. Maintenance 13
	Peter Garber Property Refurbishment 9
<b>CARPENTERS &amp; WOOD PRODUCTS</b>	SFH Carpentry 8
	JBS Fencing 28
<b>CATERERS</b>	Casey's Kitchen 25; Kenbury Catering 16
<b>CHILDCARE GROUPS</b>	Jo Jingles 7
<b>COMPUTERS &amp; INTERNET</b>	Bruisedapple 26; Punchedcard Ltd 9
	Chris Guenier ( <i>inside fr. cover</i> )
<b>DECORATORS, PAINTERS &amp; PLASTERERS</b>	Brian Mellor 25
	John Adams ( <i>inside fr. cover</i> ); Top Marks 32
	Droxford Interiors & Tiling 30
<b>DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, HEATING, &amp; PLUMBING</b>	
	Mark Oliver 2; Alan Shawyer 23; Syd Taylor (oil burners) 21
	RA Redman 29; B Eastman 14
<b>DOMESTIC SERVICES</b>	Pest Control 21; Cynthia Tester Curtains 22
	Curtains by Mary 28; Klean Sweep (chimneys) 20
<b>ELECTRICIANS &amp; ELECTRICAL SERVICES</b>	Jim Armstrong 18
	Derek Pilcher 3; Ray Burbidge 17; Richard Ayers 4
<b>ESTATE AGENTS:</b>	Taylor Garnier 30
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	Retirement Investment Solutions 21; Charles Stanley 29
<b>FUNERAL DIRECTORS &amp; MEMORIALS</b>	Langfords 22
	Co-operative (Fareham) 19; Nigel Chamberlain 24
<b>GARAGES &amp; CARS</b>	Taylor's Garage 1; Andrews Autosource 13
	Auto Brite 18
<b>GARDENS &amp; GDN MACHINERY</b>	Joe Ellerker 28; Garden Wonders 18
	Growmore Landscapes 16; Newleaf Landscapes 5
	Anita Foy Garden Design 20
<b>HAIRDRESSERS</b>	Peggy Abbot 23
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELL-BEING</b>	Foot Care 10; Fithyan & Saxby (optn's) 6
	Peter Franckeiss 10; The Spirit Within 12
<b>JEWELLERS</b>	Simon Lawson 8
<b>LETTINGS &amp; LAND MANAGEMENT</b>	The Country House Co 22
	Paddock Maintenance 8; Michael Peagram ( <i>inside fr. Cover</i> )
<b>PICTURE FRAMING</b>	Artworking 13
<b>PRINTING &amp; STATIONERY</b>	Meon Valley Printers 7; DAX Creative 18
<b>PUBS</b>	Bucks Head 31; White Horse 10; The Shoe 32
<b>RIDING &amp; EQUESTRIAN</b>	Merrie Stud 9
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	Valley Pre-school 3; West Hill Park 31
<b>SHOPS &amp; STORES</b>	Droxford PO 2; Meonstoke PO 14
<b>SOLICITORS</b>	Chamberlains 23; Biscoes 26
	Driver Belcher 11; Blake Laphorn ( <i>back cover</i> )
<b>SPORT</b>	Hazelholt Indoor Tennis Court 27
<b>STORAGE</b>	Blue Storage ( <i>inside back cover</i> )
<b>TRANSLATORS &amp; LANGUAGE TRAINING</b>	MBS 4
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Gamblin Cars 24
<b>TREE SURGEONS</b>	ARBORIA Tree & Landscape 5; TREETEK LTD 11
<b>UPHOLSTERY</b>	Newlook Upholstery 19
<b>VETS &amp; PETS</b>	Shield Veterinary Centre 20; The Dog Room 2
	The Village Cattery 9

## The Bridge

February ~ March 2010

### Contents

Parish List . . . . .	2
Rector's Newsletter. . . . .	4
Healing Through the Senses . . . . .	5
Preshaw Chapel . . . . .	5
Ethiopia – A presentation . . . . .	5
Look-in & Book out . . . . .	6
Thank you from Droxford PCC . . . . .	6
Thank you Flower Girls . . . . .	6
Droxford Lent lunch . . . . .	6
Churches Together Lent lunches . . . . .	7
Churches Together Quiet ½ Hours . . . . .	8
Thank you from Bridget Constant . . . . .	8
Droxford Drop in Centre . . . . .	8
The Meon Hall . . . . .	9
Droxford villagers to the rescue . . . . .	10
Droxford Junior School . . . . .	11
Meon Valley Garden Club . . . . .	12
Spring Show . . . . .	12
In the garden . . . . .	13
CAB . . . . .	14
Wisdom versus education . . . . .	15
Droxford Tots . . . . .	15
Farmer's quiz . . . . .	16
Safer Neighbourhoods Team . . . . .	17
West Hill Park School . . . . .	18
Royal British Legion . . . . .	19
Local services information. . . . .	20-22
Droxford Community Care . . . . .	23
The snow church . . . . .	23
Droxford Village Hall . . . . .	24
Droxford Village Hall events . . . . .	25
Alice Sings . . . . .	26
Exton Church Church Draw . . . . .	26
Brush up your Shakespeare . . . . .	27
Farmer's quiz answers . . . . .	27
Meon Valley Carers group . . . . .	28
Community First Responders . . . . .	29
Droxford annual parish meeting . . . . .	29
Hackney & BW deaneries link . . . . .	30
Droxford Country Fair AGM . . . . .	30
Hants mobile library service. . . . .	31
The World Day of Prayer . . . . .	31
Hants & IoW Wildlife Trust . . . . .	32
MV Lions . . . . .	34
Droxford Wives Group . . . . .	35
We welcome . . . . .	36
Messages of thanks . . . . .	36
District diary . . . . .	37-39
Church services . . . . .	40

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

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Meonstoke, SO32 3NF  
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**Note:** The rector's day off is Friday.

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**DROXFORD**

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

**MEONSTOKE & 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

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	Bob Miles	–
Treasurer & Gift Aid sec'y.	Lin Mellor	878336
Organist	Richard Martin	07590 042197
Sacristan	Jill Cassels	877469
Verger	Bob Miles	–

## PRESHAW

Coordinator	Philip Pink	01962 793356
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## BENEFICE-WIDE

Children's secretary	( <i>position vacant</i> )	
Youth co-ordinator	( <i>position vacant</i> )	
Worship secretary	( <i>position vacant</i> )	
Pastoral secretary	Heather Buxton	877335
Bridge Parishes Administrator	( <i>position vacant</i> )	

## 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

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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 ready to scan, typed (10 or 12 pt font size) to fit on A5 paper – but clear handwriting is always acceptable. Copy by e-mail, with or without MS Word attachments, is also accepted, but Word documents should be set up on A5 page size with 1.2 cm left and right margins. Contributors and those responsible for village activities, diaries, and schedules are reminded that material received after the copy date might not be included.

## The great leveller

The Rectory, December 2009

‘He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain.

The breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain. . . .’

So goes the old hymn we usually sing at harvest.

A friend of mine who moved to Spain told me he was doing it because of the weather. We have a national obsession with talking about the weather. It is not predictable as we are affected by the vagaries of weather fronts and we are grateful if we get a couple of weeks of sun on our holidays .

Snow became the headline news. It was going to stay and we hadn’t got enough grit, and salt. People queued in supermarkets ‘panic buying’ food. One assistant told me it was a nightmare as people were taking all the milk and bread for themselves. That, though, was the only negative thing I heard about the snow situation. There is much to learn about ourselves in extreme conditions; we don’t get them very often and we are tested by them.

As I looked out over the Hampshire Downs and the village, I realised how everything had been levelled, smoothed over and changed by the white blanket. Snow is a great leveller, not only of the topography but also of our humanity. There are opportunities to realise our common need and instinctively we look out for others. Little acts of thoughtfulness amount together into a warm feeling of community in our villages, and stories come in of kindnesses offered; the man who was offered shelter for the night in Droxford Village Hall who burst into tears declaring that he had never experienced such kindness. The people who were put up for the night by parishioners experiencing kindness which would perhaps change their outlook on life; the people who spent the night in St. Andrews church and who were served coffee by parishioners wrote ‘the best hotel’ in our visitor’s book; the elderly who have been cared for by neighbours; those with 4x4 cars who have offered to help out if people were stuck in the snow (like me!); the Corhampton stores, who’s efforts to get supplies to people were even mentioned on the radio; it was a joy to hear it in the morning ‘ Hey it’s our shop’ I excitedly told my wife. Thanks to Charlie and Sue and all who work there, and also those at Meringtons who were involved in helping stranded motorists. Those who went out in the dark with flasks of coffee for those stuck on the A32 and those who sent hot meals to an elderly gentleman whose heating failed and continued to look out for him.

We celebrated the fun of snow in skiing down the High Street in Meonstoke and children tobogganing and playing happily together. Even adults invented new toboggan designs which in one case involved an inflatable dingy. We enjoyed an all age snowman service in church which was attended by a good number and placed our snowmen in the font. They were still there the next morning at prayers!

But it melts. When it is long gone, remember the warmth of love and community we shared in God's snow. Remember also that some died because of it and keep these two extremes in balance as we remember that, despite all our modern comforts and technology, we can't control everything. That's one of the reasons I pray.

Love and warm wishes.  
Stuart

## **Healing Through the Senses**

### ***Workshop and Worship enfolded by music.***

28th February	Healing through Touch
25th April	Healing through Taste and Smell
27th June	Healing through Sight
25th July	Celebrating Wholeness.

These workshops will be held in the beautiful Corhampton Saxon Church from 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

### **Further information from Pauline Quarendon**

**Tel: 01489 877392**

*E-mail: [quarendon@clara.co.uk](mailto:quarendon@clara.co.uk)*

### **Preshaw Chapel**

Evensong Services are suspended in the months of  
**February and March.**

The next Preshaw service will be on Easter Sunday,  
4th April, at 4.00 pm.

You are invited to a presentation by Paul Buxton on

### **ETHIOPIA**

### **THE KINGDOM OF THE LION OF JUDAH**

An account of the historical and topographical features of this wonderful country, personal travels, and some contemporary projects  
on

Wednesday, 24 February at 6.00pm

At The Meon Hall. Light refreshments

Entrance free – donations for community projects in Ethiopia.

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## Look-in!

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

February 3rd and 17th

March 3rd and 17th

## 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

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## Thank you from Droxford PCC

The churchwardens and PCC of St Mary and All Saints Church would like to extend their sincere thanks to all who responded to the recent appeal for the funding of new prayer books. The generosity of many people has resulted in sufficient funds to cover not only the purchase of the 150 new books but also the new bookshelf in which they are stored. We are very grateful.

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## Thank you Flower Girls

We had a busy year in 2009 and you all came up trumps. We are also lucky to have generous gifts of flowers from Jeff Hooper; thank you Jeff. I think it must be near enough 20 years since Jeff started giving us flowers!

Thank you all for supporting me this past year and we look forward to helping our new 'flower chief', Sue Hincks.

Bobbie Garrod

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## Droxford Lent lunch

There will be a Lent lunch on

**Monday, 1st March at 12.30 – 1.30 pm**

**Droxford Village Hall**

Donations in aid of the bishop's Lent appeal.



CHURCHES TOGETHER in  
BISHOP'S WALTHAM AREA

## Lent lunches 2010

Friday, 19 February	Wickham, Church Hall
Wednesday, 24 February	Soberton Village Hall
Wednesday, 3 March	United Free Church, BW
Wednesday, 10 March	Memorial Hall, Durley
Wednesday, 17 March	Shirrell Heath Methodist Church Hall

Time: 12.30 - 2.00 pm

### Menu

Soup, bread and cheese, tea or coffee

Cost: Donations

Proceeds to be donated to:

**Streetwise** (local) &  
**The Stove Project in Kisoro, Uganda** (overseas)

### *Beneficiaries Local and Overseas:*

**Streetwise** is an organisation staffed by committed Christians, based in Southampton, and which it is hoped will start operating in the Meon Valley next year. Similar to Street Pastors, the staff engage with young people, aged from about 7 to 20, lurking on the streets and provide an environment where these young people can obtain refreshments, meet friends and, if wanted, take advantage of a listening ear with a Streetwise volunteer. More details can be found on [www.thebus.co.uk](http://www.thebus.co.uk).

### **Stove Project in Kisoro, Uganda.**

This project is being set up by Andy Mulley from Holy Cross Durley. Its objective is to train the people of rural Kisoro in Uganda to make their own energy efficient cooking stoves, which also will have health benefits.



CHURCHES TOGETHER in  
BISHOP'S WALTHAM AREA

## CHURCHES TOGETHER QUIET HALF HOURS

23rd February – Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Bishop's Waltham

30th March – Waltham Chase Methodist Church, Curdridge Lane

27th April – The Stables, Bishop's Waltham

25th May – Shirrell Heath Methodist Church

29th June – St Nicholas Church, Wickham

27th July – Corhampton Church

All held on Tuesdays, starting at 7.30 pm, lasting 30 minutes.

CTBWA is in association with Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

### Thank you

I am sure there are many in Meonstoke who would like to join me in expressing gratitude to the good neighbours who – courteously and selflessly – ferried us about in their four-wheel drive vehicles during the recent snowfalls. It was wonderful to know that help was at hand – enabling us to replenish our larders and keep hospital appointments.

Thank you.

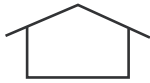
Bridget Constant

### Drop-in Centre at Droxford Village Hall

Just a reminder that Droxford Hall is open to anyone in *The Bridge* area every Tuesday morning from 10.30 am until noon, for a chat and hot drinks and biscuits. You might like to get stuck into a jigsaw; we have lots with a small number of pieces that can be completed in about an hour. Alternatively, you can try your hand at making a greetings card as we have some materials. Or you can just sit!

Come for five minutes or come for the whole session; you will be very welcome.

Terry Crowfoot & Sheila Tunnicliffe



# The MEON HALL

**The Meon Hall 2009 200 Club Prize Draw:** Drawn at the Beetle Drive in November, the winners of the 2009 big prizes were:

**£300** – Bill Dunn. **£150** – Michael Peagram. **£50** – Linda Rae.

**2010 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 2010's Beetle Drive which will be held at the Meon Hall on Saturday 27 November 2010 – put the date 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, contact James Morrice (877916).

**A huge “Thank you”:** to everyone who has joined the 200 Club in 2010 – you may win one of the prizes, but just as importantly you have helped the Meon Hall Management Committee to buy another 10 large folding tables, 8 small folding tables, and tablecloths. Thank you also to our county councillor, Felicity Hindson, who awarded a £500 grant towards these purchases from her Councillor's Discretionary Budget.

**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](mailto:meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk)

James Morrice

## Recycling at the Meon Hall, Meonstoke

**Please keep bringing your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles to the Yellow Bin in the Meon Hall car park, which raises money for our Hampshire Air Ambulance helicopter. Last year we collected over 5 tons of materials by our recycling, and raised nearly £1,000.**

**Our village pledge is to repeat this in 2010 from the sale of recycled materials from this bin, helping to fund two flights for people who are in urgent medical need.....**



## Droxford villagers to the rescue!

Droxford will not easily forget the night of 5th January. That was the evening of ‘The Snow’. The snow was falling heavily and by mid-evening, motorists passing through the village were stranded on the High Street (A32) in their cars, vans, and lorries. Many were by the Village Square as they couldn’t get up South Hill or the hill to the north. They were getting cold, frustrated, and despondent and many had long journeys ahead of them! Alerted by the residents on the High Street, the village hall was opened and the stranded motorists were told where the hall was situated and that it was being warmed up for them. Other residents appeared out of the blue (or rather the white!) with trays of steaming hot drinks for the stationary motorists.

By the time the hall was open and radiators fully on, residents seemed to be appearing from nowhere, arriving through inches of snow, and preparing hot drinks in the hall for the first arrivals. Others got involved in helping push the cars of motorists who opted to move on, up either South Hill or the High Street. There was considerable activity in the hall: many more motorists had arrived and residents from all directions were struggling through the snow to the hall with food. Yes food. For in the kitchen was a huge tureen of steaming curry and rice from The Baker’s Arms, plus soups, biscuits, bread, cakes, fresh fruit, chocolate, crisps, nuts, drinks of all descriptions, a box of wines.... you name it...it had been brought!

When it became obvious that some motorists would not make it out of the Village that night the word went around that sleeping stuff was needed...

It came! One would never have believed that there was this number of spare blankets in Droxford. But it didn’t stop there. There were sleeping bags, pillows, cushions and duvets. One resident even brought in an inflatable double mattress and proceeded to inflate it. Another



couple waded through the snow from way up Swanmore Road carrying huge bundles of blankets. No mean feat in the dark, let alone the snow. Overall there must have been forty or more people stranded in the village that night with a dozen people in the hall, some staying at the two pubs, while several were given beds in the homes of caring people.

That was a night of incredible teamwork from Droxford residents. The gratitude of the stranded motorists made it all worthwhile. For example, I received an e-mail from Derek Hart, in which he said:

*Whilst walking through The Square early on Wednesday morning I met a motorist reclaiming his car, abandoned the night before, and he recognised me as one of the people who had helped push his car clear of the road the previous evening. He shook me by the hand and asked me to thank, on his behalf, all the people of Droxford for “their amazing hospitality last night”. He added, “You really are fantastic people”.*

Terry Crowfoot



## An ICT double!

Droxford Junior School has had an outstanding Ofsted ICT inspection and has been awarded the national ICT mark from BECTA. Andy Boyden, the ICT manager, and children from the school received the award at the 2010 BETT exhibition at Olympia in London.

“The award is a fantastic recognition of the hard work and expertise of our school community. Children are growing up in a world where technology is developing at an increasingly rapid rate. They need to be confident, lifelong learners who can use varied and developing technologies to succeed in the world of tomorrow. We also want to inspire and motivate our children to be powerful learners in school”, explained Mr Irving, Headteacher.



*Matthew Shaw and Victoria Rogers holding the BECTA ICT mark certificate*

The Ofsted report that was published in January of this year confirmed that achievements, the quality of teaching, the effectiveness of leadership, the quality of the ICT curriculum and the use of ICT within the broader curriculum were all ‘outstanding’.

The school has a strong ‘village school ethos’ and a cutting edge curriculum for learning. Droxford Junior School has been involved in trialling new curriculum resources for the proposed national curriculum. This has included using ICT as learning tool to follow enquiry-based investigations. Essential skills for learning and life are central to the curriculum at the school; these include literacy, numeracy, ICT, and problem solving.

For more information about Droxford Junior School please go to the Web site <http://www.droxfordjunior.ik.org> or telephone 01489 877537.

## **Meon Valley Garden Club**

As I write this we have a lot of snow outside and the garden is looking very sad. I anticipate that we will have all lost a few shrubs or perennials as we have been lulled into thinking that we can get away with more tender plants. But to look on the positive side, it will provide us with gaps that we can fill with something new. One of the nicest things about gardening is that it is never static and is always giving us new ways to be creative. Hopefully the cold weather will have killed off some of our enemies. So as soon as this cold spell is over we can start sowing our seeds and planning for the coming spring and summer.

Don't forget to think about the Summer Show and what you might grow to enter an item. We are running a further tutorial, this time on vegetables, with a particular emphasis on tomatoes. Please let me know if you want to come along. John Owen runs these tutorials for us, and all who have attended in the past have given good reports of what they have learned.

[www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk/](http://www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk/)

Olive Hathaway, Chairman

### **SPRING SHOW**

**SATURDAY, 20th MARCH**

at 2.00 pm

in

**SOBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Entrance 60p Accompanied Children free

Schedules from the secretary 01489 878768

Refreshments - Raffle

## In the garden – February & March

The recent cold weather and heavy snow will result in mixed fortunes for most gardeners. Hopefully, it will have taken its toll on some pests, but inevitably there will have been varying degrees of damage, particularly to evergreen shrubs, which are prone to branches breaking under the weight of snow. In cases of severe damage, replacement will have to be the answer; however, in many cases it will be sufficient to just cut away damaged branches and allow the shrub to recover in its own time.



Many winter tasks will have been put on hold, so there will be a lot of catching up to do when the weather improves. Unless you own a well-heated greenhouse, it is best to defer indoor sowings of seeds as the seedlings will become leggy and weak if kept indoors too long. Outdoor sowings will almost certainly be delayed this year. People with raised beds and small vegetable plots can help to warm the soil by covering it with heavy duty black polythene as early as possible. This not only warms the soil by absorbing solar heat but also suppresses weed growth. Slits may be cut into the polythene to allow rain to pass through. If the weather warms up significantly then most of the following jobs can be undertaken from early March unless otherwise stated.

**Spring pruning:** At the end of February, cut down to about 6 inches dogwoods grown for their coloured stems such as *cornus alba Sibirica*. Cut buddleia back hard to an open framework of old wood. Take out tips of rosemary bushes to keep a bushy habit. Thin out dense clumps of kerria by removing the oldest and weakest stems. In March, prune roses back to outward pointing buds. Cut summer flowering spirea back hard to outward pointing buds. Cut back loose or untidy wands of self-clinging vines such as ivy, Virginia creeper and *hydrangea petiolaris* and remove stems from eaves and gutters.

**Vegetables:** First outdoor sowings of broad beans, peas, carrots, parsnips, and early salad crops may be made, and shallot sets planted. Cover with cloches or fleece to provide some protection against frost, mice and birds. Early potato tubers should be put in a light frost-free place to sprout before planting.

**Fruit:** If you have rhubarb, try forcing some by covering a strong crown with a large bucket or small bin when the first growth appears.

**Herbaceous border:** Plant roses and hardy lilies, plant gladioli after mid-March, prune roses and late-flowering shrubs. Top dress beds and borders with high potash and phosphate fertiliser to ensure a good flowering season.

**Lawns:** In March re-seed worn areas after first levelling, repair any damaged edges and aerate the whole lawn with an aerator or fork. At the end of the month apply lawn fertiliser and after a few days do the first spring mow, remembering to set the mower blades high so that the grass is not cut too short.

**In the greenhouse:** Constantly check over-wintered plants and cuttings for mildew and fungal attack. Early sowings of antirrhinums, aquilegia, begonias, dahlias, lobelia and verbena can be made to ensure an early show of flowers.

John Owen



**Q** Recently, my husband lost his job, and only has redundancy money for three months. I only have a part-time job which would not cover the cost of the mortgage. Is there anything I can do to make sure we don't default on our loan and face re-possession?

**A** Facing the prospect of repossession can be frightening, but losing your home is not the inevitable outcome of financial difficulties. Since January 2009, a number of different Government schemes have been introduced to prevent it happening, like Homeowner Mortgage Support, and for the most vulnerable households facing the immediate threat of repossession, there may be the potential option of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

Firstly, it's really important to get advice no matter what stage you are at. If you think you are going to have problems paying the mortgage, do contact your lender or visit your local CAB to talk through options of maximising your income – perhaps claiming Support of Mortgage Interest or renegotiating affordable payments for a period. Under the government's mortgage protocol, lenders are obliged to help and to make all reasonable attempts to help borrowers find a way through a difficult patch.

You should make mortgage your top priority. If you have other unsecured loans, creditors, or catalogues you might have to pay less towards them to make sure you can meet your mortgage payment. Get in touch with everyone you owe money to and let them know what's going on. You should also claim all the benefits and tax credits you're entitled to. This might take some time, so while you are doing it keep in touch with your mortgage lender to ensure they know what you are doing.

It is important to remember that lenders should show that they have exhausted every possible option before applying for a possession order. Even on the day of a possession hearing, there are things that can be done – around four or five repossessions can still be stopped if the households attend court and access free advice. To find out if your court has such a duty desk scheme go to [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk)

Finally, remember that concerned homeowners can get free, impartial advice from their local Citizens Advice or from [www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp), or from one of National Debtline's advisers on 0808 808 4000.

For more information, contact your local **CAB** at Well House, 2 Brook Street, **Bishop's Waltham**, SO32 1AX, Tel: 01489 **896376**, open from **9.30 am to 2.30 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](mailto:bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk). You can also go to our local Web site at [www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk) or you can go to the national Citizens Advice Bureau Web site at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## Wisdom versus education

A self-important university student attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was virtually impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world—actually, an almost primitive one," the student said loudly enough for many of those nearby to hear. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon – our space probes have visited Mars! We have nuclear energy, ships, and electric and hydrogen cars; computers with high speed processing, and more."

After a brief silence, the senior citizen responded, saying: "You're right, son, we didn't have those things when we were young, so we had to invent them. Now, you arrogant little so-and-so what are **you** doing for the next generation?"

The applause from those around was deafening!

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## Droxford Tots

Droxford toddler group is a great place for parents, carers and child-minders to relax and chat together while babies and toddlers play alongside each other. We arrange a variety of activities for toddlers including singing, painting, and craftwork to help stimulate and nurture your toddlers learning capabilities.

Droxford Tots meets every Friday morning from 9.30 am to 11.30 am at **Droxford Village Hall**.

There is a nominal charge of £2 per visit to cover the cost of the hall and morning snacks.

For more information, please contact Lisa Benseman on 01489 877016

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*A rather uncommon sight these days when snow is fairly rare in these parts, this cottage was typical of all the buildings and dwellings in our villages during the recent heavy snowfall.*

## Farmer's quiz

At the Harvest Festival lunch at the Meon Hall last October, everyone enjoyed taking part in the Farmer's Quiz, compiled by Bruce Horn, Chris Martin, Roger Minors, and Dick Hall, with Bruce acting as quiz-master. Here are the questions the farmers posed (for the answers, go to page [27](#)):

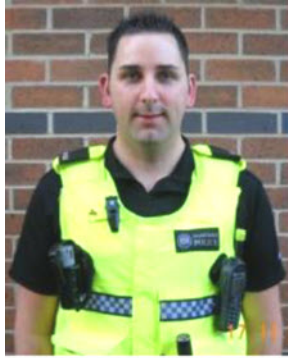
<p><b>1.</b> What area of the UK land mass is used for agriculture?  <b>A:</b> 25% <b>B:</b> 50% <b>C:</b> 75%</p>	<p><b>11.</b> The number of trees planted by farmers in the last ten years is about:  <b>A:</b> 30 million  <b>B:</b> 60 million  <b>C:</b> 90 million</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Which of the following is not made from wheat?  <b>A:</b> Plastics <b>B:</b> Carpets <b>C:</b> Bread</p>	<p><b>12.</b> Which of the following is not farmed in the UK?  <b>A:</b> Worms <b>B:</b> Ground Beetles <b>C:</b> Snails</p>
<p><b>3.</b> How much EU money is spent on agricultural projects to improve the environment?  <b>A:</b> £50m <b>B:</b> £150m <b>C:</b> £300m</p>	<p><b>13.</b> Approximately how many loaves of bread can be made from one ton of wheat?  <b>A:</b> 400 <b>B:</b> 900 <b>C:</b> 1300</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Which of these crops is not grown in the UK?  <b>A:</b> Hemp <b>B:</b> Maize <b>C:</b> Rice</p>	<p><b>14.</b> The average age of farmers in the UK is:  <b>A:</b> 45 <b>B:</b> 58 <b>C:</b> 64</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Where does margarine come from?  <b>A:</b> Oil seed crops <b>B:</b> Barley <b>C:</b> Cows</p>	<p><b>15.</b> How many pints of milk are produced per day in Britain?  <b>A:</b> 14 million <b>B:</b> 31 million <b>C:</b> 56 million</p>
<p><b>6.</b> How many tonnes of wheat do British farmers produce each year?  <b>A:</b> 9 million <b>B:</b> 15 million <b>C:</b> 25 million</p>	<p><b>16.</b> Which is the traditional day of the year that farms change hands?  <b>A:</b> 1st January  <b>B:</b> 6th April  <b>C:</b> 29th September</p>
<p><b>7.</b> The average price of a pint of milk in a supermarket is 28p; how much of this does the dairy farmer get?  <b>A:</b> 13p <b>B:</b> 18p <b>C:</b> 21p</p>	<p><b>17.</b> What do you get if you cross an Ayrshire with a Montbelliard?  <b>A:</b> Calf <b>B:</b> Piglet <b>C:</b> Lamb</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Which of these car manufacturers has never built a tractor?  <b>A:</b> Lamborghini <b>B:</b> Aston Martin  <b>C:</b> Lotus</p>	<p><b>18.</b> What is the gestation period of a cow?  <b>A:</b> 365 days <b>B:</b> 273 days <b>C:</b> 120 days</p>
<p><b>9.</b> On August 15th in Ireland, a world record was broken, for the most combine harvesters working together in the same field: they harvested 110 acres of wheat in just 13 minutes; how many combines were there?  <b>A:</b> 43 <b>B:</b> 87 <b>C:</b> 175            (The previous record was 56.)</p>	<p><b>19.</b> What does AI stand for in farming?  <b>A:</b> Artificial insemination  <b>B:</b> Avian influenza  <b>C:</b> Apple index</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Silage is:  <b>A:</b> The manure / waste from cows  <b>B:</b> Stored grass  <b>C:</b> A rock band with attitude</p>	<p><b>20.</b> Looking at all 139 species of wild birds, RSPB figures show that since 1970 there has been a:  <b>A:</b> 20% decrease in numbers  <b>B:</b> 10% decrease <b>C:</b> 5% increase</p>



## Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team Swanmore & Droxford



PS Dorian CHAPMAN  
0790 110 2292  
Dorian.chapman@  
hampshire.pnn.police.uk



PC Sam COUCHMAN  
0790 110 2259  
Sam.couchman@  
hampshire.pnn.police.uk



PCSO Sarah McCULLOCH  
0790 110 2509  
Sarah.mcculloch@  
hampshire.pnn.police.uk

### **We are your Safer Neighbourhood Beat Team**

You can contact us by:

- Posting a form in the “Your Community Your Voice” Suggestion box located at your Village Halls
- Posting a form in the “Your Community Your Voice” Suggestion box located at your Village Halls
- Visiting our regular beat surgeries – see Web page for details at <http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/localpolicing/central/winchester/east/1WBSNT1.htm>
- Talking to us at your local parish council meetings
- Sending an email to: [meon.valley.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:meon.valley.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or to the Officers direct on the email addresses above.
- By post, telephone. or in person to: Meon Valley Police Station, Hoe Road, Bishops Waltham SO32 1DS  
Telephone: 0845 045 45 45



## West Hill Park School and 857 Squadron

Following the success of West Hill Park School, Titchfield, raising over £37,000 for Help for Heroes at a star-studded Remembrance evening, the children decided to acknowledge our brave service personnel in their own way.

Thus, when their English teacher mentioned to one of her classes that her nephew, Lt Philip Clark, RN was going to Afghanistan last September for a tour of duty with the Fleet Air Arm, the 10 year old pupils decided to make contact with 857 Squadron at Camp Bastion and send them news from home. They were further emboldened by the fact that they were studying some aspects of Afghanistan in their class novel, *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis, which depicts the trials and tribulations of a young girl struggling to survive under Taliban rule.

Sixteen boys and girls wrote chatty letters to unknown recipients, detailing their hopes and aspirations, their daily school lives – Rugby and Hockey matches won and lost—and other minutiae designed to bring “home” closer to those serving out in Afghanistan. They illustrated their letters with computer graphics and sent a DVD of their Christmas show, as well as a big Christmas card, complete with signatures and group photograph.

857 Squadron greatly appreciated the children’s letters, which were distributed among them. Each letter began in a different way eg: Dear Hero or Dear Lt. Phil’s friend, and every single one received a thoughtful and lively reply, answering questions and giving information about their own homes in the U.K. The replies were very upbeat and no one mentioned the war, a telling revelation of the compartmentalising of emotions in a stressful situation.

Lt. Phil (ex-Portsmouth Grammar School) wrote: “I should like to say thank you to the Year 6 class at West Hill Park for the huge card you sent to the Squadron along with the photograph-it looks like you were having fun! It takes pride of place underneath the Squadron Christmas Tree!” He also sent a group photograph of 857 Squadron to every single child. They were delighted and proud to receive the letters and photographs and there is now a Camp Bastion display on their classroom wall, along with their Afghanistan-inspired poetry.

There are many children at West Hill Park whose fathers or mothers are regularly sent to war-torn areas for several months at a time and the school is very proud of these families for their courage and modesty.





## The Royal British Legion

### *Droxford Branch*

The speaker at our first meeting of the year was Commander James Pardoe, who spoke of his life as a midshipman in the early days of the war. Before the war, as he pointed out, a midshipman would move from Dartmouth to a training ship for a period of time. During the war, however, such a luxury was not an option, and he was thrown in the deep end, being sent to the battleship, HMS Duke of York, where he gained his first experience afloat.

The learning curve was a steep one. One has heard of the horrors of the Russian convoys, but James had the misfortune to be involved in one which has gone down in naval history as having been subjected to the worst weather these convoys had to face. And of course, not only were the ships subjected to sub-zero temperatures and gale force winds, but they were constantly being harassed by U-boats and being strafed by the Luftwaffe. In fact, on this occasion, more ships were lost to the weather than the enemy.

We heard also of the Duke of York's involvement in the hunt for the Tirpitz, and several crossings of the Atlantic, on one occasion transporting Winston Churchill, with of course the never ending battle with U-boats.

James entitled his talk Fun, Fear and Farce. Clearly, there was a great deal of fear, but the fun and farce also emerged in James's anecdotes. There was the moment when the ship arrived in America, and the pilot (a horrible little man!) came aboard, thrust out his hand to the captain, and said "Treacle". The bemused captain, not realising that the pilot was introducing himself, assumed that this was some form of local greeting, took the hand, and replied "Treacle", to which the delighted pilot said, "Well's there a thing, both of us with the same name!" and henceforth, to the great amusement of the other officers, insisted on addressing the captain as Treacle. We also heard of the captain who, after a rather good night out, dropped his safe keys into the sea. It was impossible to set sail without opening the safe, but fortunately one of his crew was a retired burglar and safe breaker who opened the safe with a nail file. And there was the remarkable story of the man on the Russian convoy, who was washed overboard by a giant wave, only to be picked up by the next wave and deposited back on the deck.

It was a fascinating talk, but as is so typical of James's generation, it was also a masterpiece of understatement. The horrors of war at sea, the appalling conditions and the imminent threat of a very unpleasant death were glossed over in a totally matter of fact way. One felt humbled and privileged to listen to this first hand account of life on a battleship during the war, and we hope that James will return to speak of his subsequent career as a submariner.

John Martin



**POST OFFICES**

DROXFORD – The Baker’s Arms 878811  
 MEONSTOKE – Corhampton 877374

**STORES**

THE BAKER’S ARMS, Droxford 878811  
 THE VILLAGE STORES, Corhampton 877374  
 TAYLOR’S GARAGE Ltd, Droxford 877433  
 MERINGTONS Stores 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 877431  
 TAYLORS GARAGE Ltd 877433

**SCHOOLS**

Droxford Junior School, Secretary 877537  
 Meonstoke School, Secretary 877568  
 Valley Pre-school 878019  
 Swanmore College of Technology 892256

**LIBRARY (BW)**

892871

**CITIZEN’S ADVICE BUREAU (BW)**

896376

CAB E-mail [bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk)

**PARISH COUNCILS**

Corhampton & Meonstoke. Clerk: Mrs J Brooks 891660  
 Droxford. Clerk: Mrs O Hathaway 878768  
 Exton Parish Meeting: Honorary Secretary: Paul Garner 877781

Despite costs rising to over 87p 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

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## 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	877089
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.*

<b>Corhampton &amp; Meonstoke:</b>	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

<b>Droxford</b>	Gordon Hope	877751
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<b>Exton</b>	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

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**Advertising in The Bridge:** This can be arranged, subject to space available, with the editors (*see page 3*). In principle, 'announcements' of local interest are free. Ask for our terms and details of rates for commercial advertisements.

## 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 date: **9th February & 9th March**

*Everyone welcome ~ refreshments served & Sale of Easter Cards*

## 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 with the benefit of grants from Hampshire County Council, our transport charges are well below cost.

We rely on the continuing support of volunteer drivers and are always keen to welcome new volunteers.

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. 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. We do for instance have a new electric bath seat which can be obtained by request to any of the three co-ordinators listed in the centre pages of this magazine

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



*The snow church at Townsend, North End Lane, Droxford circa 7th Jan 2010*

## Droxford Village Hall

Never were the residents of Droxford more justified in discussing that old British chestnut, the weather. You will read about what happened on the evening of Tuesday, 5th January elsewhere. That sequence of events, however, was not the only topic of snow conversation.



Nature twice yielded the most artistic of landscapes, with snow cover on every possible branch, twig, and leaf – breathtaking sights from all our windows, and beyond, on the surrounding meadows and downs. Human hand also demonstrated its artistic bent. With local schools closed, village youngsters were soon out and on the down with their sledges, and also set themselves the tasks of building grand snowmen and igloos. The largest and grandest snowman appeared in the driveway of Townsend, on the corner of the A32 and North End Lane. He was much taller than his builder!

A day or two later, the snowman had disappeared and in his place was a snow edifice – a church no less, complete with clock tower and stained glass windows (see page 23). These well-crafted structures certainly brightened up the days of the residents of these parts, who experienced great difficulty in getting their cars out and on to A32. Thank you Shaun, for the snow sculptures.



Returning to Village Hall matters, we have further events to look forward to in February and March. Our films will take place as usual on the last Wednesday of each month, and on Saturday, 27th February, we have an evening of humorous entertainment from Kevin Tomlinson, a highly recommended comedian. We all need something to lighten up the dark days of winter and lift our spirits, so why not come along to this evening's entertainment and be amused. Tickets will be on sale in the Post Office.

Some fifty adults and children attended the pantomime in early December. Whilst there is no doubt about the ability of Forest Forge Theatre Company to deliver a good performance, it is felt that these unique theatre pieces have diverged rather too much from the traditional pantomime pieces which we would like. For this reason, we have decided not to host the pantomime again next year.

On a final note, we are pleased to report that the committee's efforts to recruit more members for the 200 Club have met with great success. We have thirty new

members, which has taken our total to 157. This is the greatest number of subscribers we have ever had, and we thank all village residents and friends who have made this possible.

The January prize will be drawn at the Quiz Evening on 31st January.

December's prize winner was Ros Collins

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2010

Jackie Hibbert, Secretary

## Forthcoming events at Droxford Village Hall

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February**

### ***Julie and Julia***

A film rated 12A

Julie embarks on a year-long culinary quest to cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child's 1960s book *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Though separated by time and space, both women are at loose ends... Until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible.....

7.30 pm: doors open at 7.00 pm

Tickets £5

Licensed bar and Refreshments available

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**

### ***On the Edge***

***Comedy with the acclaimed  
Kevin Tomlinson***

From the Edinburgh Festival in 2003, On the Edge with Kevin Tomlinson has toured the world receiving

5-star reviews and standing ovations!

7.30 pm

Tickets £8

Licensed bar and Refreshments available.

**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

### ***Glorious 39***

A film rated 12a

Anne is a budding young actress who is in love with Foreign Office official Lawrence, but her seemingly perfect life begins to unravel when she stumbles across secret recordings of the pre-war anti-appeasement movement. As war breaks out Anne discovers the truth and flees to London when she is caught and imprisoned, only then beginning to discover how badly she has been betrayed.

Starring Bill Nighy, Julie Christie, and Christopher Lee.

7.30 pm: doors open at 7.00 pm

Tickets £5

Licensed bar and Refreshments available

**All tickets from Droxford Post Office**



Soprano Alice Farrow  
Accompanied by Nicholas Glead  
With Bedales Guests  
Performing Schubert, Rubbra, Wolf  
Howels, Rogers & Hammerstein  
& Gershwin

In aid of St Peter & St Paul, Exton  
Refreshments available

Tickets £7 each on sale at  
Meonstoke Village Store and Post Office,  
Droxford Post Office, or by post from  
C. Martin, Manor Farm,  
Exton, SO32 3NU  
Cheques payable to Exton PCC.  
Please enclose S.A.E.

**Alice Sings**

7.30pm Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> March

Exton Church, Church Lane, Exton, Hampshire, SO32 3NU

### **The Exton Church Fabric Fund Draw**

The winners of the two £30 monthly prizes for January are as follows:

Adrian Crockford, Exton

Lin Mellor, Exton

Congratulations to our winners.

The draw raises over £1000 and goes towards maintaining  
St Peter & St Paul's.

**There are still more than twenty chances of winning prizes  
between now and the end of November, so please consider  
buying a ticket or two!**

Tickets cost £20 each, from Jill Cassels  
The Old Rectory, Exton. Tel: 877469

## Brush up your Shakespeare

(or even spring-clean your Shakespeare!)

### A concert by the Clifton Singers

at **St Mary & All Saints, Droxford**

on **Saturday, 17th April, at 7.30 pm**

(In aid of providing disabled access to the church.)

The programme obviously has a strong Shakespearian theme but please don't get the impression that it'll be rather same-y. Our bard has influenced so many composers of many nationalities down the centuries, including Purcell, Arne, Verdi, Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Schubert, Quilter, Finzi, Vaughan-Williams, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Bernstein & Cole Porter to name but a few! There will probably also be some music that has nothing whatsoever to do with W.S!

Accompanist for the occasion will be Richard Scott Copeland.

The Clifton Singers are a group of adult ensemble & experienced solo singers who are mostly pupils of Kate Morgan who teaches singing in Winchester & conducts the group. Programmes include choral pieces interspersed with solos, duets & small ensembles & sometimes poetry or instrumental music.

Tickets at £10 & £7(for students & seniors) will be available from 1st March at **Droxford Post Office & Stores;**

**Meonstoke Post Office & Village Stores**

& from **Mrs. Kate Morgan**, 9 Clifton Hill,  
Winchester, SO22 5BL ☎01962 867549  
kateclifsing@btinternet.com

### Farmer's quiz answers

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7. A - 13p            | 14. B - 58                    |
| 6. B - 15 million     | 13. C - 1300                  |
| 5. A - Oil seed crops | 12. B - Ground beetles        |
| 4. C - Rice           | 11. C - 90 million            |
| 3. B - 150 million    | 10. B - Stored grass          |
| 2. B - Carpets        | 9. C - 175                    |
| 1. C - 75%            | 8. C - Lotus                  |
|                       | 15. B - 31 million            |
|                       | 16. C - 29th September        |
|                       | 17. A - A calf                |
|                       | 18. B - 273 days              |
|                       | 19. A Artificial insemination |
|                       | 20. C - 5% increase           |

## MEON VALLEY



### Carers Group

Meon Valley Carers Group (MVCG) provides support for older people suffering with dementia and their carers. Through outings, activities, and social interaction it aims to portray and promote a positive way of living with dementia.

December was a very busy month for the group. Several new families joined in time to enjoy the Christmas activities which began with the lunch on 1st December. Our venue was The Forge, Shedfield, and everyone enjoyed a really good meal.

The Paterson Centre looked very festive for our next event on December 15th – the Christmas party! We were very pleased to welcome the choir from Swanmore Primary School, who started the afternoon with a selection of Christmas songs and carols. Andrew Knights, our regular music therapist, then entertained us with more songs and communal singing.

The covering of snow later that week helped keep seasonal spirits high as we set off on the coach to the pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Ferneham Hall, Fareham. In good pantomime tradition there was a good deal of audience participation and the performance was a lovely finale to the year's activities!

On 26th January the Princess Royal Trust for Carers gave an emergency planning talk to the group. Many carers are concerned about what will happen to their loved ones if something unexpected should happen and they are temporarily unable to fulfil their caring role. The Princess Royal Trust will help carers draw up an emergency plan which can be activated should an emergency arise. If you feel this service would be useful please call in to the Carer Link (details below) for more information.

The group works closely with Adult Services and is supported by local GPs. The booklet produced by MVCG containing information for carers is available from local surgeries.

### Diary Dates

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 9 February  | Pub lunch. The Forge, Shedfield, at 12 noon  |
| Tuesday, 23 February | Coping with behavioural problems: a talk by Sarah Mould. Activities, followed by paint a picture with Sally. The Paterson Centre 2.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 9 March     | Pub lunch. The Forge, Shedfield, at 12 noon  |
| Tuesday, 23 March    | Magic of the Movies. The Paterson Centre 2.00 pm   |

Why not call in and find out more about the group? The Carer Link office behind the Paterson Centre in Swanmore is now open:

Monday & Thursday, 9.00 – 1.00 pm in term time  
and  
Mondays only 9.00 – 5.00 pm during school holidays.  
Phone 01489 895444

E-Mail [meon-valley@btconnect.com](mailto:meon-valley@btconnect.com)

**MEON VALLEY CARERS GROUP PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SUPPORT  
AND GUIDANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS**



South Central Ambulance Service **NHS**  
NHS Trust

## ***CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK TO HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?***

***Community First Responders*** are required to help respond  
to medical emergencies in the **Meon Valley** area  
(Droxford, Hambledon, Meonstoke, Newtown & Soberton).

***No previous experience necessary***; full training provided in  
life support techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
(CPR) and use of automatic external defibrillator (AED).

*Applicants must be aged 18 or over, hold a full UK driving licence  
and have use of vehicle. **You choose times you can cover** –  
(days, evenings, weekends, etc).*

Contact Rob Scott (01489 877800) or the  
Community Responder Administrator at [cfr@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfr@scas.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 01962 898090



**For your diaries**

## **Droxford Annual Parish Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held on  
Wednesday, **14<sup>th</sup> April** in Droxford Village Hall at **8.00 pm**

## Hackney and Bishop's Waltham deaneries link

Once again the combined efforts of the parishes of the deanery produced a wonderful result for the Christmas gifts to the parishes of Hackney. In early December a great quantity of goods from every quarter was brought to Waltham Chase Village Hall and a team of volunteers, again from all our parishes, worked like Trojans to sort, label, and pack the gifts, which were then loaded on to Noble Argue's van for delivery the following day. The Sisters at The Priory and the congregation at St James' were thrilled with what was sent and especially for the care which people had taken to send items



*Packing the gifts in Waltham Chase Village Hall*

that were very much needed. As well as this we have had an especially generous response with gifts of money which will be divided between The Priory, the Nightshelter, and St James all of whom are in the front line of help for homeless and desperately needy people in East London. This report comes with the warmest thanks of the link committee.

## Droxford Country Fair Annual General Meeting 9th February at 8.00 pm in The Baker's Arms

The Droxford Country Fair Committee will be holding the next AGM in the Baker's Arms on 9th February. Please come along at 8 o'clock if you are interested in learning what we achieved in 2009 and our plans for 2010. We will also be interested to have any request for donations made available to the Chairman Gary Collins for local good causes which the committee can consider.

Gary Collins 01489 877808  
garycoll@microsoft.com





## Hampshire & Isle of Wight

### Family fun exploring wildlife

Young children seem to have a natural fascination for wildlife and their environment. Bugs and slugs, slow worms and glow worms, larks and sharks – these are often the things that they love to see, feel, or find out about. So what do you do with a child who is mad about frogs or bats? Wildlife Watch could be your solution.

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts. Since 1972 it has been encouraging children and families to discover their local wildlife and to get involved with fun, hands-on activities. There is a great Web site at

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk) where you can get information about hundreds of insects, birds, animals, and plants that you might come across in Britain. You can create your own spotter sheets to take out with you. You can also record your sightings, so if you spot a fox or a robin, you can write it on your very own nature diary and earn points.



Here in Hampshire you can really get involved by going along to one of the Wildlife Watch groups or just join the Wildlife Trust and get magazines, posters, and heaps of ideas for things to do. Groups currently meet near Andover, Basingstoke, Four Marks, Havant and Portsmouth, Gosport, Swanwick, Southampton, Totton, Ringwood, and on the Isle of Wight.

Wildlife Watch groups are organised by registered volunteers – people who enjoy working with children and are enthusiastic about wildlife and the environment. They come from all walks of life and may not be experts on birds or bugs but learn alongside the children. If you would like to get involved in this way, please contact Di Smith on 01489 774430 or email [dianas@hwt.org.uk](mailto:dianas@hwt.org.uk).

Most groups meet for a couple of hours, once a month, and are suitable for children from 5 to 14 years. Children under 8 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Older children may become junior leaders. Lots of parents stay and join in because it's so much fun, making these really great family events. Going regularly to one of these groups helps children to make new friends and have fun whilst learning about the natural world.

A typical Wildlife Watch meeting might start with a short game then get stuck in to pond dipping, shelter-building, making nest boxes, or maybe planting a hedge. They might learn about compost, mini-beasts, tracks and signs or wild food. Indoor activities include crafts, clay models, and games. Sometimes there might be a night walk to listen for bats and owls or an overnight camp. The list is endless and the children often help to plan the meetings around things that interest them.

At Wildlife Watch meetings, you are allowed to get muddy! You can find details of all the groups and what they are up to on the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Web site at [hwt.org.uk](http://hwt.org.uk).

## **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust events**

### **February:**

Wednesday, 17th: **Discover the Meon Valley** at 7.30pm. An illustrated talk by Cat Robinson, Meon Valley Partnership Officer, about the wildlife of the Meon Valley and the historic land and river uses that have helped shape this beautiful area. In St.Wilfrid's Church Hall, Padnell Road, Cowplain, PO8 8DZ. Parking available to the rear of the church. For more details, contact John Vigay on 02392 592 647. Admission (including refreshments) £2.50 . Non-members welcome.

Monday, 22nd: **BW Woodland and Orchids** at 7.30pm. A presentation by Richard Hedley, on woodland habitat and orchids to cheer up a dark February evening. In the Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. Parking is available at the library next door. For more details, contact Jane Gentry on 01489 890961. Admission (including refreshments) £2.50. children free.

### **March**

Wednesday, 17th March: **The Naturalness of Chichester Harbour** at 7.30 pm. A talk by Judi Darley about the effect that natural forces have had in shaping the shoreline in the past and in modern times and how, over time, the actions and attitudes of people have influenced and affected the shape of the shoreline we see today. In St.Wilfrid's Church Hall, Padnell Road, Cowplain, PO8 8DZ. Parking is available to the rear of the church. For more details, contact John Vigay on 023 9259 2647. Admission (including refreshments).£2.50.

Friday, 19th: **Walk from Denmead to Scotland – and Back** 10.00 am–2.00 pm. Join us on a walk of around 6 miles to explore the downland north of Denmead to see what early spring wildlife we can find. Bring a snack. Meet and park in the car park at the corner of Kidmore Lane and Hambledon Road. For more details, contact John Goodspeed on 02392 221 361. Suggested donation £3

Monday, 22nd: **Birds of Prey** at 7.30 pm. A presentation on birds of prey by Dean White, from Swanmore, and if possible he will bring a bird with him. A chance to learn more about these wonderful birds. In the Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. Parking is available at the library next door. For more details, contact Jane Gentry on 01489 890961. Admission (including refreshments) £2.50. Children free.



## Slip sleigh-ding away...

The annual Lions' Christmas collections were certainly not without incident this year, as we visited the villages and hamlets of the Meon Valley during December. The Newtown area run witnessed some of the most atrocious wet weather conditions we have ever worked in, forcing

Santa to don goggles and snorkel and Roger Morfill to smugly comment "I was really glad it was my turn to drive!" Meanwhile the Corhampton and Exton evening brought the equally unwanted pleasures of sub-zero temperatures and black ice. Roger got his come-uppance that evening, being the fourth of Santa's helpers to slip and land flat on his back with his legs in the air. At this point we decided to call it a night as we were at risk of spilling from our collection buckets money generously given by members of the public. Our apologies go also to the children of Soberton and Hambledon, because on December 16th a complete Santa-sleigh systems failure deprived us of both our flashing sleigh lights and music. Disaster!

Amazingly then, when we finally counted everyone's donations, we were surprised to discover we had collected a **record** of £4,152 over the month. And all this in the depths of a financial depression! It just goes to show that despite hardships, the people of the Meon Valley truly understand the spirit of Christmas and are prepared to dig deep to support local charities and people in need. So "thank you" to everyone who supported us so generously again this year – your money will be put to good use.

On the social side, our Christmas dinner at the Brickmakers in Swanmore, proved a great hit, with the pub's new hosts putting on a veritable feast which impressed everyone. In a kind of calorie offsetting scheme, Lion Andrew Brown and his wife Pam did their best to ease everyone's conscience by hosting the New Year's Day walk a week or so later.

This time of year is extremely busy for the Lions because in addition to the Christmas collections we also supported the Winchester Young Carers' Bauble Hunt in the Forest of Bere, by laying on a barbeque. A barbeque in December is not as daft as it sounds, because this time the weather worked in our favour, attracting cold and hungry people from miles around in search of the smell of sizzling sausages. In all we raised over £500 for the Young Carers and through a similar Boxing Day barbeque at the Hampshire Bowman were able to elicit a further £235 from people who remarkably still had some room for burger and onions the day after their Christmas Day feast.

Ahead of us lies the Annual Fishing Festival which we help organise with the Ford Fishing club, and through the kind support of the Transport and General Workers Union. Despite all the recent bad news at Ford's Transit plant in Southampton, the event is going ahead again this year and aiming to raise another £2,000 for the Naomi House charity based in Winchester. More of this follows in our next update.



*Santa at Swanmore stores with Pauline Wilson (left) and Chris LeVoi (right)*

## **Droxford Wives Group**

A Happy New Year to all. Christmas and the New Year celebrations seem long ago now!

The mystery fun evening in November was indeed fun and challenging. A big thank you to Lynne Gutteridge for hosting the evening. The Christmas meal at The Bat and Ball was really festive and the food excellent.

We launched the 2010 programme at our American Supper AGM on the 25th January. A sample of evenings coming up includes: 22nd February, a talk about a recent fund-raising trip to Africa: 29th March, an opportunity to make bead jewellery: 26th April, an interesting insight into growing up in Droxford in times gone by. Lots more to come in the following months. Our meetings are usually on the last Monday of the month, so if you are interested in seeing the full programme and joining us, please phone

Pauline Bone on 878518.

## ***From the Registers***

### ***Weddings***

*Corhampton* 21st November *Peter Mellor & Claire Allen*  
*Meonstoke* 5th December *David Miles & Abigail Flanagan*

### ***Funerals***

*Portchester* 24th December *Hariette Emmet, age 100*  
*Corhampton* 31st December *John Nunn, age 84*  
*Meonstoke* 14th January *Bruce Faulds, age 69*

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### **We welcome. . .**

Annie and Chris Jones, who have come with Lottie, from Barnes to Walnut Cottage, Frys Lane, Meonstoke.

Ann Jefferson and Roland Wilkes, who have come from Camberley, Surrey to 26 Mill Side, Corhampton.

Rachel and Quentin Whitfield, who have come from London, to Heathfield House, Warnford Road, Corhampton.

Nikki and Ian De Kretser, who have come with Oscar, 1, (and one on the way in February) from Richmond to Diamond Cottage, High Street, Droxford.

Philip Creighton and Andrea Napper, who have come from Burseldon to Swiss Cottage, Mill Lane, Droxford.

Estelle Sandles, who has come from from Bramshott to 1, St.Marys Close High Street, Droxford

Sharon Ashley with Keeva and Harvey Brown (11 & 4) from Knowle Village, Wickham to White Horse Cottage, Droxford.

Terry Wood with Ciara(10) from Newtown to 4, High Street, Droxford.

Nigel and Margaret Swanston, who have come with Daniel (14) from Winchester, to South Hill Cottage, South Hill, Droxford.

Community Care.

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### **Messages of Thanks**

Thank you to the Soberton & District Nursing Association for their Christmas gift of biscuits and to the Royal British Legion for the lovely Christmas hamper, from a very grateful Pearl Hazzard.

Gloria Tomsett and Irene Philpot would like to thank the ladies who produced a most enjoyable lunch for us all at Droxford Village Hall on Sunday, 29th November. We're sure everyone enjoyed the occasion very much — we certainly did! Also, Irene and Mick Philpot say 'thank you' for all the wonderful help received, during the snow, it was really like wartime spirit — everyone wanted to help.

# DISTRICT DIARY 2009

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## February

- |          |   |                        |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| Tue. 2   | U3A: The Manor of Wickham; an illustrated talk by Brian Barrett<br>at Wickham Community Centre: Guests welcome<br>MV Flower Club: AGM & Floral Handbag demonstration by<br>Heather Kille, The Meon Hall | 2.00 pm<br><br>2.15 pm |
| Wed. 3   | Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council meeting, The Meon Hall  | 7.30 pm                |
| Sun. 7   | <b>Second Before Lent</b>   |                        |
| (1st)    | Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford  | 8.00 am                |
|          | Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke  | 9.30 am                |
|          | Christingle Service, Meonstoke  | 4.00 pm                |
|          | Evensong, Exton   | 6.30 pm                |
| Tue. 9   | Droxford Country Fair AGM, The Baker's Arms   | 8.00 pm                |
| Thu. 11  | Holy Communion, Droxford<br>MV Garden Club: Talk on Vegetable Growing by Kevin Mason,<br>The Meon Hall  | 10.00 am<br>7.30 pm    |
| Fri. 12  | Denmead Cubs at The Meon Hall - first day   |                        |
| Sat.. 13 | MV Garden Club: Vegetable Tutorial, Droxford Village Hall<br>Denmead Cubs at The Meon Hall - second day   | 10..00 am              |
| Sun. 14  | <b>Next Before Lent</b>   |                        |
| (2nd)    | Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton  | 8.00 am                |
|          | All Age Service, Meonstoke  | 9.30 am                |
|          | Holy Communion (CW), Droxford   | 11.00 am               |
|          | Denmead Cubs at The Meon Hall – last day  |                        |
| Tue. 16  | U3A: The Hobby of Metal Detecting: presentation by John Forster<br>at Wickham Community Centre: Guests welcome  | 2.00 pm                |
| Wed.17   | Ash Wednesday Ashing Service, Corhampton  | 7.00 pm                |
| Thu. 18  | Holy Communion, Droxford<br>Droxford Parish Council meeting, The Fire Station   | 10.00 am<br>7.30 pm    |
| Fri. 19  | HH Pony Club prize giving, The Meon Hall  | 7.00 pm                |
| Sat. 20  | Riverside Players Dinner, The Meon Hall   | 7.30 pm                |
| Sun. 21  | <b>First of Lent</b>  |                        |
| (3rd)    | Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke   | 8.00 am                |
|          | Family Communion, Droxford  | 9.30 am                |
|          | Holy Communion (CW), Exton  | 11.00 am               |
|          | Evensong, Corhampton  | 6.30 pm                |
| Tue. 23  | U3A: Reading Groups: telephone: 01329 833384 for details  | 2.00 pm                |
| Wed. 24  | Film night: Julie and Julia at Droxford Village Hall (see page 25)  | 7.30 pm                |
| Thu. 25  | Holy Communion, Droxford  | 10.00 am               |
| Sat. 27  | Comedy: On the Edge with Kevin Tomlinson, Droxford Village Hall   | 7.30 pm                |

# DISTRICT DIARY 2009

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Sun. 28	<b>Second of Lent</b>	
(4th)	Holy Communion (BCP), Exton	8.00 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Droxford	9.30 am
	Matins, Meonstoke	11.00 am
	Healing Through Touch , Corhampton, (see page 5)	4.00 pm

## March

Mon. 1	Droxford Lent lunch, Droxford Village Hall (see page 6)	12.30 pm
Tue. 2	U3A: The Earls of Southampton: illustrated talk by historian John Watts: at Wickham Community Centre: Guests welcome	2.00 pm
Wed. 3	MV Garden Club: Gardeners Question Time; with Chris Bird in Droxford Village Hall	7.30 pm
	Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council meeting, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Thu. 4	Alice Sings, Exton church concert (see page 26)	7.30 pm
Sun. 7	<b>Third of Lent</b>	
(1st)	Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford	8.00 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke	9.30 am
	Evensong, Exton	6.30 pm
Fri. 12	Friends of Meonstoke School Quiz evening, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Sun. 14	<b>Fourth of Lent &amp; Mothering Sunday</b>	
(2nd)	Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton	8.00 am
	Family Communion, Meonstoke	11.00 am
Mon. 15	<b>Latest date for copy for Feb / March Bridge</b>	
	Royal British Legion branch meeting: Upland Park Hotel. Speaker Cdr. Julian Malec on Portsmouth Historic Dockyard	7.00 pm
	Meon Hall Management Committee, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Tue. 16	U3A: The Crown Jewels: talk by Norman Jackson, former Chief Warder of the Tower of London. at Wickham Community Centre: Guests welcome	2.00 pm
Thu.18 to Sat 20:	Riverside Players in various performances: The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
	Droxford Parish Council meeting, The Fire Station	7.30 pm
Fri. 19	Meonstoke Cricket Club AGM, The Meon Hall,	8.00 pm
Sat. 20	MV Garden Club: Spring Show – Soberton Village Hall	2.00 pm
Sun. 21	<b>Fifth of Lent</b>	
(3rd)	Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke	8.00 am
	Family Communion, Droxford	9.30 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Exton	11.00 am
	Deanery Kairos service (Venerable Peter Hancock), Exton	6.30 pm

# DISTRICT DIARY 2009

Tue. 23	U3A: Reading Groups: telephone: 01329 833384 for details MV Flower Club: Variations on a Theme; a demonstration by Jan Meloy, The Meon Hall	2.00 pm 2.15 pm
Sun. 28	<b>British Summer Time Starts - clocks go forward one hour</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	2.00 am
(4th)	Holy Communion (BCP), Exton	8.00 am
	Holy Communion (CW), Droxford	11.00 am
Mon. 29	Meonstoke Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Tue. 30	U3A: Marwell–its Animals: a presentation by Bill Hall, Animal Information Liaison Officer; Marwell Animal Park at Wickham Community Centre: Guests welcome	2.00 pm
Wed. 31	Film Night: Glorious 39, Droxford Village Hall, (see page 25)	7.00 pm

## April

Thu. 1	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Holy Communion & vigil (Common Worship), Corhampton	7.00 pm
Fri. 2	<b>Good Friday</b> All Age Worship, Meonstoke Service of Meditation, Droxford	10.00 am 2.00 pm
Sat. 3	Easter Eve Vigil, Corhampton	7.30 pm
Sun. 4	<b>Easter Day</b> Holy Communion (BCP), Exton Family Communion (CW), Droxford Family Communion (CW), Meonstoke	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am

Remember to visit The Bridge parishes Web site for information about who's who and church services: [www.bridgechurches.org.uk](http://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, which is advertised on page Ad 8.

Have you been on the St Wilfrid Pilgrimage walk?  
Don't even know about it?  
Go to [www.wilfrid-meon-pilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.wilfrid-meon-pilgrimage.co.uk) and find a wealth  
of information about the  
Meon Valley Pilgrimage Trail



## THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE

### REGULAR SUNDAY & WEEK DAY CHURCH SERVICES

**See the District Diary for details of variations, such as Mothering Sunday on 14th March, and all the Holy Week services beginning with Palm Sunday on 28th March.**

Type of service	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Fifth Sunday
<b>BCP <sup>1</sup> Holy Communion</b>	8.00 am Droxford	8.00 am Corhampton	8.00 am Meonstoke	8.00 am Exton	
<b>CW <sup>2</sup> Holy Communion</b>	9.30 am Meonstoke	11.00 am Droxford	11.00 am Exton	9.30 am Droxford	
<b>All Age</b>		9.30 am Meonstoke			
<b>Matins</b>				11.00 am Meonstoke	
<b>Family Communion</b>			9.30 Droxford		
<b>BCP * Evensong</b>	6.30 pm Exton		6.30 pm Corhampton		
<b>Evening Service</b>	5.00 pm Preshaw				

<sup>1</sup> BCP – Book of Common Prayer

<sup>2</sup> 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**