

THE BRIDGE

DECEMBER 2017- JANUARY 2018



*We wish all our readers
a very Happy Christmas*

The Parish Magazine for
Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton

The Magazine for the Meon Bridge Benefice of Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton (& Preshaw)

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The Bridge is delivered at the start of the month of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Ideally, copy should be sent by email to The Bridge editor at the address shown above, preferably attached as a Microsoft Word document. Typed or handwritten hardcopy is also acceptable. If you are responsible for village activities, diaries and schedules, please note that any material received late (after the copy date – see page 2) may not be included.

Cover Photograph: taken by Debbie Foster - Showing the footbridge at the end of the footpath from St Mary & All Saints, Droxford, being examined by one of a small herd of Jersey cattle that has strayed across the river from the field on the other side.

What's on the other side of this bridge, it seems to be wondering?

LIST OF ARTICLES

TITLE	PAGE	TITLE	PAGE
Parish Lists	1	Valley Pre-School	13
List of Articles	2	Friends of Meonstoke School	14
From The Rector	3	Letter to the Editor	14
Droxford Village Harvest Supper Report	4	Winchester City Councillors Report	15
Remarkable Brothers	5	Meon Valley Lions Club	16
Look-in & Book-out	6	Meon Valley Active Retirement Association	17
In the Garden	7	Meon Valley Carers Group	18
MV Garden Club	7	Meon Valley Community Bus Timetable	19
The Meon Hall Report	8	Local Services Information	20
Droxford Village Hall News	9	District Diary - December 2017	21
Forthcoming Events in Droxford Village Hall	9	District Diary - January 2018	22
Droxford Scarecrow Festival 2017	10	Droxford & District Community Care Group	23
The Royal British Legion	11	From The Registers and We Welcome	24
Droxford Junior School News	12	List of Advertisers	24

*An event for all Meonstoke
& Corhampton Diarists*

CAROLS IN THE BARN

**Sunday 10th December
starting at 5.15pm**

As part of the run-up to Christmas,
there will be the usual recipe of
carols and wine in the barn at Hill House

All Meonstoke and Corhampton residents
are welcome, particularly children.
(for whom there will be soft drinks)

Please bring your neighbours if they have not come before.

Make a note in your diary now, and we look forward
to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

Caroline and Richard Thynne and their families

Carols in the Square

DROXFORD

**Tuesday 19th December
at 7.00pm**

with mince pies & mulled wine



Don't miss this popular annual event!

**The COPY DEADLINE for the next issue of THE BRIDGE is:
MONDAY 8th JANUARY**

From the RECTOR



ON 6TH DECEMBER EACH YEAR, THE CHURCH CELEBRATES ST NICHOLAS, BISHOP OF MYRA, WHO DIED IN ABOUT 326.



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

Nicholas is the patron of our friends at Wickham and he is also the patron saint of Sailors, and of children. His legend speaks of him giving three girls a dowry to prevent them having to enter into destitution when their family fell on hard times. He delivered the gifts at night to avoid being recognised.

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

For the last two years, we have collected quantities of mostly nearly new toys for children, who spend their Christmases in women's refuges or in hostels, escaping violence and abuse, but with very little other joy. We are launching the same appeal this year at our 'Toy Service', where anonymous gifts of toys are collected. Please join in the generosity again this year and help us collect even more new, rather than 'pre-loved' toys. Bring some happiness to those children, and joy into your heart, by giving with willingness. Bring the toys to the Toy Service on **3rd December** at Meonstoke, or drop them into any of the benefice churches right up until **17th December**.

Almighty Father, lover of souls,
who chose your servant Nicholas
to be a bishop in the Church,
that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace:
make us mindful of the needs of others
and, as we have received, so teach us also to give.
Amen.

The Book of Ecclesiastes (1: 9) tells us:

What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.

And yet, the everyday event two thousand or so years ago



of the birth of a baby, in so many ways like millions before and millions since, changed the world forever. Before Jesus, there was profound longing expressed in the texts of the Hebrew Bible. The prophets especially were crying out, voicing the hope of the people, that God would not leave humankind abandoned, that He would give meaning to our lives, even beyond death.

On that first Christmas Day, a fragile, infant life was the response to those cries; God the Saving Son was revealed. This life was not a new thing, it had been there from before time itself. It was confirmation that the subject of the hope of generations was real. It was a proclamation that what had been prophesied and long awaited now was 'under the Sun' for us all.



God's infinite love and generosity was given freely into the world – the Word was made flesh.

We wish you all an expectant Advent, a joy filled Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. God bless you and all those you love.

Tony

Droxford Carol Service

at St Mary and All Saints Church

on Sunday 17th December

at 10.00am

We welcome readings chosen beforehand by anyone with a 'CHRISTMAS' favourite they would like to share.

There will be an invitation to vote for your favourite carols from those in our Bethlehem carol sheet.

There will be a space for a favourite you may have that is not in the booklet. If you have the words and music; you can either sing by yourself, with a group or all together.

Please contact Ros, Samantha or Cathy with ideas.

Refreshments afterwards.

DROXFORD VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

ON THE NIGHT OF THE 7TH OCTOBER, A FULL-TO-CAPACITY VILLAGE HALL WAS THE LOCATION FOR THE SUPPER. SOME NINETY ODD PEOPLE WERE IN THE HALL TO ENJOY A MEAL OF COTTAGE PIE, ACCOMPANIED BY A DELICIOUS SALAD FOLLOWED BY A MOST APPETIZING array of desserts made by ladies of the village and a glass of wine, or two!

Robin Appell gave a short talk about this year's harvest and then the fun began. The music was provided by the Pompey Pluckers ukulele band and what a rousing event this was. Song sheets were provided, but many were able to sing the familiar ones without these. All joined in heartily to create a truly festive occasion. As if this wasn't enough, spontaneous dancing followed, tables were pushed aside to create space and the sight of Peg dancing with the scarecrow of the Rector, much to his amusement, was only surpassed by Jeremy jiving. This was followed by Tony dancing most enthusiastically, together with most of the men in the Hall.

It was a real village occasion which brought people together to celebrate the harvest. Our thanks are due to Janet and Peter Melson together with Judit and Robin Appell for organising the event, from the proceeds of which a contribution was made to the Recreation Ground Equipment Appeal

Alan Hibbert

Corhampton Church

Is an incredible 1,000 years old in 2020



Let's have a wonderful, happy & meaningful
1,000 year "Birthday" Celebration
for Corhampton Church in 2020

*Are you willing to be part of a group organising
a very special commemoration of this wonderful
symbol of abiding community faith and worship?
What ideas do you have for memorable, appropriate
and imaginative celebratory events?*

**Let us have your thoughts by
Friday 15th December.**

Angela Peagram and Ruth Shipley
Churchwardens of Corhampton & St Andrew's Meonstoke

Tel: 01489 878725

Email: angela@angelapeagram.co.uk

St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

Patronal Festival & Toy Service

**Sunday 3rd December 2017
at 10.30am**

All Welcome. Join the fun and giving

*New toys for children in women's refuges can be
brought to the service or dropped
into any one of the benefice churches
Please give generously*

Grab a

Droxford Scarecrow Festival Calendar 2018

Do you remember the Scarecrow invasion?

There were over 100 of them
dotted around Droxford in September.

The £6 Calendar features all the Scarecrows
(excluding very late entries)

and the fantastic "Ode to the Scarecrows"
which had the crowd laughing at the Village Party.

Order from Jacqui's Productions on 01489 878624
All proceeds to Droxford Pavilion Refurbishment

REMARKABLE BROTHERS

A NUMBER OF DROXFORD VILLAGERS WILL REMEMBER BARBARA WADE AND MARY ALLCARD, LONG TERM RESIDENTS WHO for a time shared a house. From before the 1939 War Barbara taught generations of children and also adults to ride and was a great supporter of the church. She died in 2002 a day before her 87th birthday. Mary Allcard was also a stalwart member of the church; in 1973 the bells were rung as a farewell to Mary for her many years of service to the church and for being instrumental in the then four bells being re-hung and increased to five. Among her other activities she provided the Winchester Chronicle with weekly accounts of the Hunt's runs. She died in 2009, aged 96, and her ashes are interred in the churchyard. Both Barbara and Mary had remarkable brothers, the last of whom died this summer.

Trevor Sidney Wade DFC AFC (1920 – 1951)



Trevor Wade left school at 18, joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and learnt to fly. His nickname 'Wimpy' came from a character in an American cartoon strip noted for his fondness for food. Early in his flying career Wade demonstrated an outstanding ability. During Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, and offensive operations over France, he flew

Spitfires and in 1941 was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The citation read:

"This officer has displayed great skill and determination in his numerous engagements against the enemy and has destroyed at least six of their aircraft. His efforts have contributed materially to the success achieved by the squadron".

In early 1942 Wade became an instructor at the Central Gunnery School, flying a variety of aircraft. Their number became even more remarkable when he became OC Flying at the Air Fighting Development Unit, where he even flew a captured German Focke Wulf 190 fighter. For this work he was awarded the Air Force Cross. In Canada and the USA during the last months of the war he tried out the latest American products and also captured Japanese aircraft.

Post-war Wade joined the Hawker Aircraft Company, becoming Chief Test Pilot. As if his flying had lacked variety, in February 1949, and in order to appreciate the

demands on naval aircraft, he undertook deck landings on the aircraft-carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. Hawker was developing prototypes of the Navy's Sea Hawk and the more advanced Hunter, both to become famous aircraft. In May that year Wade set a speed record between London and Paris in the Hawker P1052. Many test pilots were lost during the transition from propellor driven aircraft to supersonic jets and in April 1951 Wade was killed flying the Hawker P1081, an experimental aircraft and a further development of the P1052. He was married with three children one of whom is Laura Jerosch.

(see The Bridge, page 1)

Edward Allcard (1914 – 2017)

Edward Allcard was educated at Eton and served an apprenticeship in Clyde shipyards, qualifying as a naval architect. He learned to sail at the age of six. In 1939, Allcard sailed single handed from Scotland to Norway and back. Then in 1949 he crossed the Atlantic single handed. Two years later he became the first man to sail the Atlantic solo in both directions.



Between the years of 1957 and 1973, disliking post-war conformity in Britain, Allcard completed a protracted single handed voyage round the world aboard a 36-foot wooden ketch, which he had bought as a derelict hull for \$250. This included a year-long cruise along the coasts of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn. Whilst visiting his sister in Droxford, just after Chichester's one stop sail round the world, he remarked that this later voyage seemed rather pointless.

In 1968 Allcard married Clare Thompson, and the couple drove from England to Singapore in a Land Rover. The family, by then including a daughter, bought a 69ft gaff-rigged ex-Baltic trader built in 1929. Over the course of the next 30 years they restored the vessel whilst cruising aboard her. They voyaged, from the Caribbean to Europe, then to the Seychelles, spent four years in the Far East and sailed back to Europe. In 2006, at the age of 91, Allcard gave up his last boat and moved ashore to the mountains of Andorra. There he died at the age of 102. His many books are listed on the Internet.

DROXFORD DROP-IN

Everyone is welcome at the
Village Hall 'Drop In',
Every Tuesday morning
between 10.30am and noon

Come for a hot drink, biscuits and a chat.
Come for a few minutes or the whole ninety minutes.
A particular welcome is extended
to the hearing-impaired.
It is appreciated that acoustics in the Hall make
hearing difficult, but we do keep background
noise to a minimum and we have a silent kettle!

LOOK-IN!

Look-in for a chat and refreshment in the
spacious area in Meonstoke Church. You are
very welcome on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each month between 10.00am and midday.

All are welcome – the more the merrier!
December: 6th & 20th
January: 3rd & 17th

BOOK-OUT!

Please feel free to borrow books (fiction and non-fiction, thrillers and all other genres), jigsaws and CD's 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



The Meonstoke Baby & Toddler Group is back!

Alternate Thursdays in term time, **9:30-11:30am**
at **The Meon Hall, Pound Lane, Meonstoke, SO32 3NP**

Parents, grandparents and carers from across the valley and beyond all warmly welcomed with their under 5's for a fun time. Adult tea/coffee & biscuits and Toddler drinks/snacks provided. £2 per family.



Autumn Term 2017 dates:
December 14th

Spring Term 2018 dates:
January 11th & 25th

February 8th & 22nd • March 8th & 22nd

Summer Term 2018 dates:

April 26th • May 10th & 24th

June 7th & 21st • July 5th & 19th



For all dates, activities and more follow us at:
Meonstoke Toddler Group (@meontoddlers)



Meon Valley Playreading Group

"It's like being in a radio play"

- ◆ No lines to learn
- ◆ No acting on stage
- ◆ No commitment to attend each meeting
- ◆ You don't need to be the 'right age' for the characters you're reading (or even the same gender!)

Just a fun evening, reading a different play at each meeting.

A charge of £3 pays for rent, coffee, etc.

**We meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month
at The MEON HALL at 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 12th December
Tuesday 9th January**

For more details please contact:
Paul or Gerry Hayles on 01489 878589

IN THE GARDEN

December & January



AT THE TIME OF WRITING, MY GARDEN IS STILL FULL OF COLOUR, DAHLIAS, ROSES, FUCHSIAS, GAZANIAS, PENSTEMONS, AND Michaelmas daisies. This display is due to the very mild autumn, which does have its drawbacks as it means that many autumn clearing tasks have to be put on hold. A particular problem with later clearing in herbaceous borders is that spring bulbs are close to emerging, especially in these mild conditions, and they can be easily damaged unless great care is taken when working in the borders. One measure is to use boards about two feet square to spread your weight. This will also minimise soil compaction as well as protecting emerging bulbs.

Lawns also need attention as they continue to grow in the mild weather and it is a good idea to mow occasionally with the mower blade set fairly high. There is a lot of moss at this time of year, which can be treated with moss killer and raked out when dead, prior to mowing.

Even though most leaves will have fallen by the end of November, it is important to keep clearing any remaining leaves as they provide food and shelter to many unwanted pests and diseases.

Vegetables: Keep the vegetable plot free of weeds and debris and if you have not already done so you can still sow broad beans suitable for autumn sowing. Prepare the site for next year's runner beans by digging a trench and incorporating some well-rotted manure before replacing the soil. Where possible, it might be advisable to cover the prepared vegetable beds with weed control membrane to avoid weed growth and to help warm up the soil in spring. In January, you can make the first indoor sowings of early cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce such as Little Gem.

Fruit: Cut back newly planted bushes and canes of soft fruit such as raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and red currants. Do not prune established autumn raspberries before mid-February. Carry out winter pruning of established apple and pear trees. Do not prune stone fruits such as cherries, peaches, and nectarines, plums and damsons in order to avoid fungal attacks such as silver leaf and canker.

Trees and Shrubs: Prune deciduous trees to shape. Plant bare rooted roses, if you have not already done so. Cut back very tall buddleia, roses and lavatera by about a third to avoid wind damage over the winter months. Final pruning should be delayed until spring. Where shrubs have become seriously overgrown any renewal pruning should be left until spring.

In the Greenhouse: Take care of overwintering plants, keep them fairly dry, clear up all fallen leaves and dead flowers, and keep a constant watch out for pests and diseases, particularly fungal rot and mildew. January is the time to sow indoor tomatoes and peppers, which need a long growing season.

John Owen



THE AUTUMN PLANT SALE IN OCTOBER WAS WELL ATTENDED; LOTS OF PLANTS WERE FOR SALE AND THERE WAS AN opportunity for members to catch up over a cuppa. Thank you to everyone who donated plants and helped on the day.

We were to visit Exbury gardens in October but because of storm Brian it had to be cancelled, which was a shame for all those who were looking forward to the trip.

Next year's programme is now prepared, it is a mixture of talks, visits, and social events. I hope you will come to as many as you can.

The committee would like to thank all members for their support this year and hope this will continue into 2018. Here's to a successful gardening year.

If you would like to join the club, please contact our membership secretary, Phil Butler on 01489 877596 or email: philipbutler831@btinternet.com

Caroline Harris,
Secretary

More information can be found on the Droxford Village website.

DROXFORD HISTORY GROUP

Next meeting:

Thursday 25th January

in

Droxford Village Hall

at 7.30pm

Speaker: Anthony Gibson

'Will talk about the shops there used to be in the village.'



The Meon Hall's 200 Club Monthly Draws:

The most recent winners of the 2017 monthly £25 prize draws were: **October:** Susan Shaw, **November:** Ben Ingham

And probably before you will have read this, the winners of the £300, £150, and £100 prizes for 2017 will have been drawn at the Beetle Drive held on Saturday 25th November at the Meon Hall. Details of prizewinners will be published in the Meonstoke Stores and Post Office.

Looking ahead to 2018's 200 Club.

Monthly £25 prize draws will be made from February, 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 in November 2018. The 200 Club raises money to help with buying new equipment and making improvements for The Meon Hall.

Recycling:

Please recycle your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for our Hampshire First Responders – trained and experienced local volunteers who turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency. Our aim is to raise at least £500 from our recycling in 2018 to help fund this important local service. (And we now have a new bright yellow bin!)

Planning a family party...?

Order those extra tables, chairs, china, champagne and wine glasses, and cutlery for your entertaining from the Meon Hall. Contact the Meon Hall Bookings Secretary, Anna Rolfe, by email at meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk to discuss how we can help to meet your hiring needs.

James Morrice



Christian Aid Sponsored Walk 2018 Sunday 20th May

THE WALK WILL BEGIN AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL, IN SOUTHWICK ROAD, WICKHAM PO17 6HP. CAR PARKING WILL be available in the church car park 100 yards on the left beyond the church or alternatively in and around the village.

There is a choice of walks, ranging from 10 miles, 5 miles and a Family Walk. Dogs are welcome as long as they kept on leads.

All walks will start at 1.45pm. Registration will be from 1pm. (No picnic is planned this year) Complimentary tea and cake at the end of the walk. Individual parish contacts can expect sponsor forms and posters at the latest by early February.

For more information please contact Anna Sketchley on 01329 847095, or email: anna.sketchley@gmail.com

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

WARNING DOOR STEP CRIME

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL HAS ADVISED MEON VALLEY PARISH COUNCILS THAT A GROUP HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS 'Nottingham Knockers' are operating in the Winchester area.

They are normally ex-offenders who claim that they are working with a pedlars certificate. Essentially, they work to a gang master who will bring a group to a specific area and drop off. The individuals then go off selling door to door before being picked up and taken to another area. While there are periodically allegations of abusive behaviour by those selling at the door if a householder refuses to buy goods, these incidents are the exception rather than the norm.

The advice is not to open the door to strangers or buy or sell on the doorstep. If a householder is abused or threatened on their own doorstep then they should be calling the police, on 101 or 999, if they feel particularly vulnerable by the intimidating behaviour.

Householders can also contact Hampshire Trading Standards on 03454 040506 or by going to the website at www.hants.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/aboutus/contactus

Rosemary Hoile
Parish Clerk



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

THE DAMP AND SUNLESS VIEW FROM THE WINDOW TODAY, ARMISTICE DAY, REMINDS US THAT AUTUMN STILL LINGERS IN THE wider landscape, and when the sun shines particularly, we are treated to what has been this year an abundance of colour in the countryside and in our gardens. These colours contrast greatly with the decorative Christmas exhibits in the shops, rather more vibrant than the gentler hues of autumn. Intermittent damp, rain and drizzle, and few frosts thus far remind us that we must expect shorter days and increasing chill as the winter months approach.

Our November events, with the last film of the season, Churchill, on November 29th, and the Christmas Market on November 25th, will already have taken place before the distribution of The Bridge. We hope the support for both events has been as forthcoming and generous as usual.

Film choices for the first season of 2018 are not yet with us, but we hope that our viewing public will continue to offer suggestions for suitably entertaining and appropriate films.

Carols in the Square will be on Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm. The hall will be available should the weather be inclement.

On Saturday, 19th December, we are once more hosting Forest Forge and Bumblefly Theatre who will give a performance of The Frog Prince. The cubs will be there with soft drinks and snacks for the younger audience and the usual drinks for adults will be available. Last year's event was very well received, so we hope for a large appreciative audience this year.

Our annual Quiz Evening this year is on Saturday 10th February. The tried and tested format will be followed; alcoholic and soft drinks will be available at the bar, with a chilli supper at the halfway stage. Please form teams of no more than six, or less. Please make sure the event is in your diary, and that you gather your team well in advance. We look forward to this rewarding fundraising event.

The 200 Club winner for October is Angie Vere, and for November is Jill Austin.

Jackie Hibbert
Secretary

Forthcoming Events at Droxford Village Hall



Saturday 9th December **CHRISTMAS PANTO** The Frog Prince

from
forestforge & Bumblefly theatre company

7.00pm

Licensed bar and refreshments available

The Next Film Night will be
Wednesday 31st January (details to follow)

TICKETS FROM THE POST OFFICE

Botley Choral Society *Christmas Concert*

Carl Orff ~ Carmina Burana & a selection of carols

Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm

All Saints' Church, Botley

Tickets - £12 (£10 concessions)

from: Parish Office, All Saints' Church, Botley, tel: 01489 782445
or online at: www.botleychoral.co.uk or call 07941 884419

ADVENT CONCERT

"Ne Timeas Maria"

A CAPPELLA GROUP

VOX LUCIS

PALESTRINA, TALLIS, VICTORIA,
DE WERT, PARSONS
& others

ALTON ABBEY

Saturday, 9th December 2017
at 2.00pm

Tickets: £7.50 (incl. refreshments)

Available from "Tickets" Friends of Alton Abbey
Alton Abbey, Abbey Road, Beech, Alton, Hants, GU34 4AP

Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Alton Abbey".
Please include a SAE and a telephone number and/or email address.

All proceeds to:
Friends of Alton Abbey
Charity No: 284876

An evening of wonderful music for all

Droxford Scarecrow Festival

SCARECROW KITS WERE SOLD MADE UP FROM DONATED STRAW, TIMBER, AND SACKING AND WE LEFT THE REST UP TO our very imaginative and fun villagers. On the last day, 130 scarecrows were counted and with a population of 270 households this shows the fantastic support by the village. The scarecrows certainly created a buzz in the village and everyone had something to talk/laugh/smile about. All age groups enjoyed it, older people enjoyed the changing scene while walking around the village, as did motorists slowing down to admire the new occupants.

The youngsters in particular enjoyed it and we heard that a minibus arrived with a group of children, wearing high-vis jackets as they were chaperoned around the village. We spoke with one man who drives through the village on his way to work every day, but had returned at the weekend with his wife and children to show them the scarecrows he had been telling them about. Other visitors were said to have never known Droxford had existed and were pleasantly surprised by the beautiful river, church, and pubs they found.

Nearby villages were heard to have “village envy”! On the last weekend of the festival, the pubs were fully booked, all village parking spaces taken and Christina had a busy weekend serving tea and cake in her garden to visitors.

The Scarecrow Festival made its way onto ITV Meridian

2017



News website and BBC Radio Solent did a feature, as did the Portsmouth Evening News. The Post Office sold out of the Hampshire Chronicle, which featured an article, despite having ordered extra copies.

Jacqui Publications has generously donated her time to produce a 2018 Scarecrow Festival Calendar with photos of all the scarecrows, together with Colin Martin’s hilarious poem, which was read out at the village party before announcing the winners. The weather for the party was sunny and we served tea and cake, which was enjoyed by all while sitting on blankets or camping chairs at the recreation ground. We also had a bar, bottle and chocolate tombola, children’s games and the Droxford Allotments group ran a produce stall.

All in, the festival raised an amazing £1,800. Plans are in hand for another Scarecrow Festival next year, with a twist! So watch this space.

Please ring 07875 499709 if you need any more information.

Photographs of the three winning entries



1st: Jack Sparrow



2nd: OutTWorking



3rd: Man on bike

The Royal British Legion

Droxford & District Branch www.droxfordweb.co.uk



100 years ago....

Between 20th November and 7th December 1917, the First Battle of Cambrai was fought. Initial British success came from the massed use of tanks, achieving surprise and overwhelming well prepared German barbed wire and entrenched defences.

After the triumph of the 1st day mechanical unreliability of the British Mark IV tank, together with accurate German artillery and robust infantry defence, took its toll.

After the 2nd day, less than half the initial force of 476 tanks were operational. Rapid reinforcement of the German lines then led to a massive counterattack, but the result of the battle was inconclusive with casualties on each side exceeding 40,000. Cambrai, however, remains significant as the first major all-arms engagement using massed tanks, artillery and close air support, together with infantry and mounted cavalry.

ALTHOUGH LEONARDO DA VINCI DESIGNED SOMETHING RESEMBLING A TANK IN 1482 AND H G WELLS WROTE HIS PROPHETIC novel *Land Ironclads* in 1903, it was Winston Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty who championed development of an armoured 'land ship' to help break the stalemate of the Western Front. Initially a naval project, the term 'tank' (the hulls resembled steel water tanks) was adopted for security purposes. The project utilised recent Royal Naval Air Service experience of operating armoured cars and mounting guns in steel hulls drew inspiration from centre batteries in pre-Dreadnought warships; this connection would continue with later development of rotating gun turrets.

After a few unsuccessful prototypes, the rhomboidal-shaped Great War tank (as pictured) evolved with His Majesty's Land-Ship (HML-S) Centipede beginning trials in January 1916. Also known as 'Mother', her trials were sufficiently successful to spawn an initial order for 100 Mark I tanks. Subsequently, these and later Marks were fitted out as 'male' or 'female' variants: the former mounted 2 six-pounder (57mm) naval cannon and 3 machine guns, and the latter 5 machine guns. Ironically, 'Mother' was re-classified as male! Each tank had a crew of 8 but, travelling at barely infantry pace (max 4 mph), they lacked the speed to fully exploit opportunities on the battlefield. Carbon monoxide

fumes were also a major problem for crews.

After the Great War, Britain reverted to her former role as a colonial power and tank development was largely neglected. The value of tanks had not been lost on the Germans however, who utilised their tactical mobility, armoured protection and firepower to create the formidable Panzer divisions of World War 2. With supporting air power and mechanised infantry, these would spearhead the Third Reich's conquests across Europe. The infamous Blitzkrieg or lightning war was born.

With modern UK's emphasis on light, readily deployable sea- or air-portable forces, tank development has again been relegated to the 'back burner' and the current Challenger 2 main battle tank (MBT) may prove to be our last. Any further developments may be limited to tracked or wheeled armoured infantry fighting and reconnaissance vehicles with air or surface launched missiles countering hostile MBTs.

On Monday 8th January 2018 at 1900 in Droxford Village Hall, Roger Crowley (naval historian and author) will be talking to us on Venice's maritime empire – a model for Pax Britannica. Non-members will be very welcome to join us. Please see the Droxford Website for further details of the Branch's programme for 2018.

The RBL Droxford & District Branch is always looking for new members, both Service and civilian, to help keep remembrance alive and support our Servicemen and women, veterans and their families. For more information or to join us, please contact the Secretary: Cdr Rob Scott RN at robmunroscott@aol.com or 01489 877800.



Droxford Junior School

Precious Places

WE ARE ALWAYS KEEN TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT AND, RECENTLY, HAVE BEEN LUCKY enough to work with the education team from The South Downs National Park. The team helped teachers to create the plan for the Year 5 and 6 Precious Places topic.

As part of this work, our intrepid staff and children set off on a 7 mile walk from Droxford to Old Winchester Hill and back, stopping for a picnic lunch along the way. The children returned to school tired but with a real sense of achievement.



On top of Old Winchester Hill

Cool Planet Week

Our theme for Cool Planet Week this year was 'Localities'. All the children across the school worked together. They researched different countries online, and through our library - going on to create country 'fact files'. Banknotes



were designed and an old bundle of airmail envelopes, from as far back as the 1890's, provided inspiration for the children - in drama to create the stories behind these letters, and in English to write their own letters and postcards.

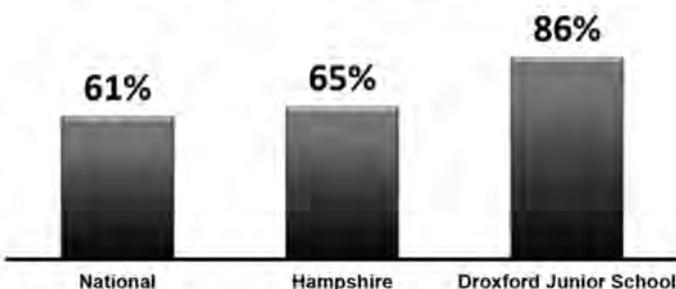
'The recent SATS results proved, yet again, that Droxford Junior School is one of the best junior schools in the country.'

Keston Williams, Chair of Governors

SATs Results 2017

Combined Reading, Writing, Maths

% of Pupils who Achieved the Expected Standard



Sports News

This term has certainly been an active one for DJS. We have participated in an under 10's and under 11's girls and boys football tournament at Berrywood School, and a year 5 and 6 cross country competition at Hamble, with 2 children qualifying for the county event. Also our table tennis team won their tournament at Wildern Secondary school and are through to the County finals!



We are also very proud of the Silver Kite mark we have recently been awarded, by Sainsbury's School Games, for our achievements in PE, 'healthy choices' and competitive sport.

An outstanding school with a constantly evolving, contemporary curriculum

APPLY NOW

For September 2018

A limited number of places are also available, for an immediate start, in years 3, 4, 5 and 6

To find out more and see us in action, please contact our school office

www.droxfordjunior.co.uk

t: 01489 877537
e: adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk

To inspire and educate for life



The Valley Preschool

WHEN YOU'RE AT THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL, STARTING A NEW TERM DOES NOT MEAN BEING COOPED UP indoors. As part of our preschool's embedded Norwegian Woodland forest school sessions, our children continuously embrace the outdoor classroom, going on expeditions along the Meon Valley trail, den building and making bug hotels are just two activities included in these sessions. We are privileged to have such outstanding beauty on our doorstep, and term began with the much anticipated visit to Hyden Farm, and to add to the excitement the children were taken by minibus.



Excited children boarding the Meon Valley Lions minibus for their visit to Hyden Farm.

Thanks to the Meon Valley Lions and Caroline Rodgers for making this happen. Beth from Hyden Farm was a fabulous host; the children were able to:

- ◆ Feed the pigs, and chickens,
- ◆ Hold a duckling,
- ◆ Collect eggs,
- ◆ Learn about how each egg differed.

To round the visit off the children had a tractor ride to visit some cows in a nearby field.

With the oncoming cold and wet weather our theme "All about me" continues with Staying healthy and "People who help us". The children will discuss what foods are healthy, what too much sugar can do to your teeth, and continue to partake in daily physical education sessions.

The fabulous Dr Langman came and visited us; during her visit we discussed staying healthy and looking after our bodies, checked our temperature and reflexes too. In our role play area the children have dressed up like doctors, taken one another's blood pressure, written prescriptions and cared for their patients. This all follows on from our



Educational fun at Hyden Farm

theme "All about me", and the children will continue to look at staying healthy and keeping active on a regular basis.

Looking forward to the festive season and all things glittery, the children will shortly begin to practice for their Christmas nativity: Our First Christmas Play. We are also hoping to continue with our annual theatre trip to the Berry Theatre to watch the performance of Santa's Little Trolls. In the New Year we will be introducing a weekly music and movement session with the lovely Miss Dawn from Boogie Groovers.

The preschool committee will be facilitating a craft stall at The Christmas Fayre in The Meon Hall on 2nd December 2017, we hope to see you there.

Keeping in touch

The Valley Preschool has a Facebook page and an updated Website at www.thevalleypreschool.org.uk; go there for all the latest news and local information. You can reach the preschool's Facebook page from the Website, please 'like' the page to stay up to date with all of the wonderful things that are happening locally.

Lynette Davis
01489 878019



Friends of Meonstoke School

present:

MEONSTOKE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 2nd December
10.00am - 12.30pm
at The Meon Hall

Entry: Adults - £1, Children - Free

Christmas Trees 🌲 Holly Wreaths 🎄

Local Produce 🍌 Christmas Crafts 🎁 Mulled Wine

Santa's Grotto 🧑🏻‍🎄 Children's Movie 🎬 Hot Dogs 🌭 Mince Pies

...and SO MUCH MORE!



FRIENDS OF MEONSTOKE SCHOOL

IT FEELS LIKE THE FIRST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WAS ONLY YESTERDAY WITH ALL THE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN THEIR SMART NEW uniforms and highly polished shoes, and yet somehow here we are well into the second half of the autumn term and turning our attention to Christmas already!

We have had a wonderful time in school helping the children with their designs for the fundraising Christmas cards – they are so creative and it always feels like a lovely start to the festive season. Many thanks to all the parents who have placed orders and supported our fundraising efforts.

It is all hands on deck for the FOMS committee members now, as we gear up for our biggest event of the year – the Meonstoke Christmas Fair!

This year will see another Christmas market-inspired event with local produce, crafts and festive refreshments served up with twinkling fairy-lights and a dose of Christmas magic.

The FOMS team (and Father Christmas) look forward to seeing you at the Meon Hall on Saturday, 2nd December from 10.00am – 12.30pm.

In a separate note, we have been very touched by the concern the children have shown for those affected by the devastating Atlantic hurricanes this autumn. They were very keen to somehow raise funds to help with the relief effort, so FOMS have coordinated a 'silver Smarties' appeal. We provided a tube of Smarties for each child and in return they tried to fill it with small change. We are delighted to announce that the appeal raised over £300 which we will be sending to the UNICEF hurricane relief fund.

More details of all our events can be found on our Facebook page – search FOMS Meonstoke for news, event updates and useful school information.

The FOMS Committee 2017



DROXFORD SCOUT GROUP

New Team Members Wanted

- Leaders and Assistants
- Occasional or specialist helpers for activities and badge work
- Work with our growing group of enthusiastic young people
- Help needed for all age groups
- Beavers (6 - 8 years)
- Cubs (8 - 10½ years)
- Scouts (10½ - 14 years)
- Great facilities in open countryside
- No experience needed

I volunteered – can you?

Call for a chat:

Alison Thomas on 07725 023043

Life is an adventure, live it!

Letter to the editor

APPRECIATION OF DROXFORD SCARECROW GENIUS!

Dear Editor,

We would like to register both admiration and gratitude for the brilliant traffic calming, clever and highly amusing plethora of imaginative Scarecrows recently displayed the length and breadth of Droxford. We drove around admiring a bridal Couple, a female builder's bum gardener, Darth Vader, various sports persons, Mini Mouse, a friend on stilts, Damsels, farmers and so many more, not least the prison garbed cat burglar in the act, half way up a drain pipe, to name but a few.

Well done all concerned for the concept, imagination, skill and resistance, somehow, to rain. Apart from being a great project it brightened up our already cheerful life.

Mike and Yvonne Hutchinson

Christmas Tree Festival & Mini-Market

at West Meon Church

Sat 16th & Sun 17th December

11.00am to 4.00pm each day



followed by a **Carol Service**

on **Sun 17th** at 4:15pm



Come and see Christmas Trees decorated by local schools, clubs and businesses.

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



FIRSTLY WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW Year.

FLY-TIPPING

Winchester City Council has demonstrated its zero tolerance approach to fly tipping following another successful prosecution in October maintaining its 100% success rate in bringing offenders to account. Please report all fly tipping as soon as you notice it and do not touch anything, as it may be vital evidence that can result in prosecution. We hope that we are sending a clear message to others who think they can flout the law: Winchester will not tolerate fly tipping in its district. We will, wherever it is appropriate, take those we have evidence against through to prosecution.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND HAVE YOUR SAY BEFORE THE 11 DECEMBER.

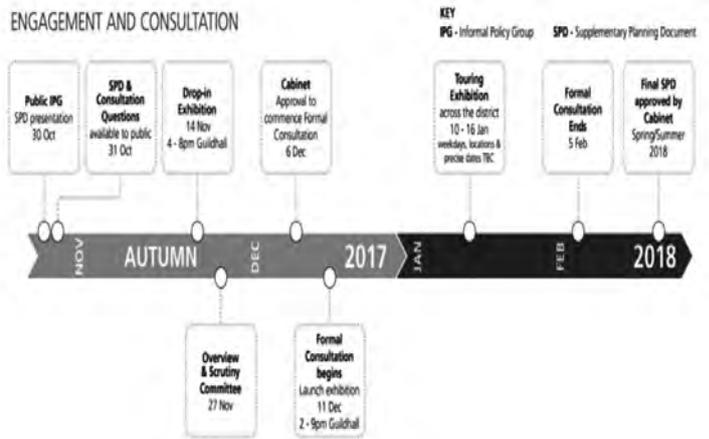
A hard copy of the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) proposed changes for the Winchester District could be viewed by visiting the Winchester City Council Reception on Colebrook Street, or you can have your say and view the proposals online by visiting the website at: www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6488

PLAN FOR CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION GETS BROAD APPROVAL FROM PUBLIC MEETING

The plan for the regeneration of central Winchester received broad support when a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the area was presented to Winchester City Council's Informal Policy Group (IPG) and over 100 members of the public.

The initial draft SPD is available on the Council's website at: www.winchester.gov.uk/projects/5744/central-winchester-regeneration and hard copies can also be collected from the City Council's reception in Colebrook Street which is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am until 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am until 4.30pm.

TIMELINE



THE WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE.

This has a new look and is hopefully more user friendly. To view the website go to www.winchester.gov.uk. It is divided up with all blue icons being online tasks like reporting Fly Tipping, Missed bins, Pot Holes, Drain Problems, Noise and Light issues and many more and all the red icons services.



Remember to **RECYCLE RIGHT** especially with the all the packaging that we need to dispose of over Christmas. For more information on what can be recycled go to: www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/recycling-collection

COLD CALLING

We have had reports of cold call selling in the Meon Valley. The advice from the crime prevention team is that whenever you get an unexpected knock on the door, please check to see who is on the other side of your door before opening it. The advice is not to open the door to strangers or buy or sell on the doorstep. If a householder is abused or threatened on their own doorstep then they should be calling the police, on 101 or 999, if they feel particularly vulnerable by the intimidating behaviour. Please keep in mind that if cold callers don't get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return.

YOUR WINCHESTER CITY COUNCILLORS

Linda Gemmell email: lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk

Frank R. Pearson email: fpearson@winchester.gov.uk

Vicki Weston email: vweston@winchester.gov.uk

Laurence Ruffell email: lruffell@winchester.gov.uk

Amber Thacker email: athacker@winchester.gov.uk



Meon Valley Lions Club



FUNDRAISING for a great cause!

THE MEON VALLEY LIONS BARBEQUE WAS BUSY AGAIN THIS OCTOBER AT THE bi-annual Wickham charity beer festival. As well as raising over £700 from the sale of burgers and sausages, we took the opportunity to organise a bucket collection and dedicate the fundraising at this event to a specific project – a special Duet-bike for Ella!

Ella who lives in Shirrell Heath is 10 years old and suffers from Rett Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder resulting in severe mental and physical disability. There is no known cure. The specially adapted bike costs £7,334 and will allow the whole family (including her twin sister) to enjoy time together going on cycle rides, whilst she still has some awareness of her surroundings. The family, with donations from Rotary Club and the Pindar Trust, had already raised £4,419. The Lions intend to make up the remaining £2,915 from the Beer festival BBQ takings, the generous £168 donated in our collection buckets by the drinkers, plus the balance from our charity funds. This means that Ella's family should be able to order the bike in time for Christmas – which is a great result.

Christmas is coming, Santa needs to lose some weight! Unbelievably, we already find ourselves on the downhill run to Christmas! The Lions are well advanced with planning the annual tour of the Meon Valley villages with Santa and his Sleigh, which has been brought out of storage to be given a wash and a lick of paint for this year's fun!

Santa and the Lions will be out and about throughout the month of December, with visits to all the villages from East and West Meon at the top of the valley, to Wickham, Boarhunt and Knowle at the bottom. He will also be on duty on the Saturday mornings running up to Christmas at Wickham Square, Bishops Waltham High Street and Swanmore Village Store. It takes a lot of time and effort helping Santa over the three-and-a-half-week period and we are grateful for the support of other local groups such



The duet-bike we are funding for Ella

as the Scouts and Guides, allowing us to put enough feet on the ground. If you are able-bodied and fancy helping us out as a volunteer, we would be grateful to hear from you. Use the "contact us" facility on our website.

The full Santa sleigh schedule will be published on the special Santa page on the Lions' website. (Just "google" Meon Valley Lions Santa.) We raised over £4,100 last year – let's see if we can surpass that this time!

Lions Swanmore Fete 2018

While we are in forward mode, dreaming of Santa and wishing away 2017, spare a thought for the organising committee who are already working on plans for the Lions' Swanmore fete 2018. We want to make it as big and fun as previous years and will be publishing the programme through our news updates and on our website. Put the date in your diary NOW – Saturday July 14th 2018

Zone Champion!

Lions is the largest volunteering organisation in the world and there are hundreds of Lions clubs dotted around the UK, with thousands of members. We have a network structure to provide support and communication to and from the centre, organised into Districts and Zones. So, it was with great pleasure that Roy Cuthbertson from the Meon Valley Lions Club, received recognition for his contribution as the best Zone Chairman during 2016-17. He was presented with an award, following a visit from the out going District Governor, David Taylor. Well done Roy!

Ian Adams
Publicity Officer



Meon Valley Active Retirement Association

Regular events for the active in retirement

Programme - December 2017 and January 2018

Exercise Class -

St. Peter's Church Hall, Bishop's Waltham.
Every Monday from 10:00 to 11:15am

NB: NO classes on December 4th or December 18th.

Cost per individual session: members £2.00, non-members £2.50

Please note there is a waiting list for this class.

Contact: Chee Price 01489 893140

Ladies' Pub Lunch -

First Monday of the month
December 4th - 12:30 for 12:45pm

Organiser Chriszena Strachan 01489 893719

Contact Organiser by the previous Monday for venue and to book a place. Please note that there may be a waiting list

IT Learning Classes -

The Silver Room, Jubilee Hall,
Tuesdays mornings.

Subject to demand, IT sessions may start in the New Year so if you are interested please call or email.

Contact Ian Wynne-Powell on 01329 833254 or by email: Wynnepowell@btinternet.com

Touchtennis -

Tuesday mornings from 11:00 to 12:30pm.

Active Academy Tennis introduces sessions based on the philosophy of touchtennis with smaller courts, net, racquets and a slower ball enabling easier movement to reach it.

Contact: Sam on 07759 811194

French Conversation -

Meetings held on second and fourth Tuesday afternoons from 2:00pm in a member's house for a chat in decent French.

This is a new activity and there is still room to join. Just one meeting this month on December 12th.

Contact: Lyndon Palmer on 01489 896862

Table Tennis -

Priory Park Clubhouse, Elizabeth Way, Bishop's Waltham.

Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm

These sessions are now closed to non-members (other than a taster session) due to demand.

Cost per session £3.00 for members, £4.50 for non-members.

Contact: John Moorhouse on 01489 896366

Tai Chi -

Jubilee Hall, Gold Room. Wednesday mornings.

NB: There will be one class on December 20th from 09:30 to 10:30 but NO class on December 27th.

There are two sessions: Beginners/less experienced: 9 to 10am. Experienced: 10.15 to 11.15am. Cost per individual session £4.00 for members; £5.50 for non-members

Contact: Cherry Wynne-Powell on 01329 833254

New Age Kurling -

Jubilee Hall, Ruby Room.

Third Thursday of the month: October 19th and November 16th
Sessions run from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Cost per individual session: members £3.00, non-members £3.50.

Contact: Geoff Matthews on 01489 890434

Spanish Lessons -

Organiser Linda Jones 01489 895599 Classes held on Friday mornings at The Stables, Free Street, Bishops Waltham.

Spanish I for Beginners: a new class will start on October 6th, from 09:15 to 10:15am. Spanish II will restart on October 6th and will run from 10:45 to 11:45am.

Term finishes on December 15th and new term starts on 5th January 2018.

Call John Moorhouse on 01489 896366 to discuss.

Scrabble for Fun -

Sessions on Friday afternoons in the small room at The Paterson Centre, Swanmore (next to the church) from 2 to 4pm.

NB: NO sessions on December 22nd or December 29th.

Cost £2.00 per session. Please be prompt!

Contact: Lena Frost on 01489 894828

Theatre/Cinema Visits -

Visits are organised throughout the year.

For information on theatre/cinema visits please contact:

Kay Corke 01489 890727



Love and Respect

OUTSTANDING PRACTICE IN THE MEON VALLEY

WILL YOUR CHILD BE STARTING MEONSTOKE INFANT SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2018/2019?

Did you know the Infant School has a Preschool set in their grounds?

The Valley Preschool offers a warm, secure, and welcoming environment with excellent transition to the Infant School.

We offer an exciting range of activities everyday: messy play, crafts, cooking, music, dancing, gardening, phonics, sensory and outdoor play, whatever the weather!

The Valley Preschool is registered for up to 24 children aged 2 to rising 5 (per session).

For full details visit the preschools website at:

www.thevalleypreschool.org.uk

or contact the preschool supervisor,

Lynette Davis

Tel. 01489 878019

or email: **thevalleypreschool@btconnect.com**



MEON VALLEY CARERS GROUP NEWS

Promoting a positive way of living with dementia

THE MEON VALLEY CARERS GROUP IS A VOLUNTARY GROUP SUPPORTING CARERS AND FAMILIES DEALING WITH DEMENTIA.

An informal pub lunch is held on the second Tuesday of each month, which provides carers with the opportunity to relax and socialize. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, a group meeting is held at the Paterson Centre in Swanmore, which provides members with enjoyable events in which to participate. It also provides an opportunity to hear a variety of talks on relevant themes, and volunteers provide activities for the cared for to allow their carers a little time off.

A team of voluntary qualified drivers is able to transport members to and from their homes; this service is available thanks to the generosity of the Meon Valley Lions who own the minibus. We also try to incorporate other

activities and outings into the programme during the year and in December this will include a panto visiting the Paterson Centre.

Sadly, we have had to find a new venue for our monthly pub lunch due to The Forge closing down. In October and November our members enjoyed lunch at the Black Dog in Waltham Chase and we will hopefully be using the same venue for our Christmas meal. Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members best wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year. If you would like any more information regarding the group then please contact the office, details below.

December 2017 & January 2018 Programme

5th December

Christmas Lunch

at The Black Dog, Waltham Chase - 12 noon

12th December

Christmas Panto

at The Paterson Centre - 2.00pm

9th January

Pub Lunch

at The Country Inn, Waltham Chase - 12 noon

23rd January

Group Meeting

at the Paterson Centre, Swanmore - 2.00pm

Meon Valley Carers Group, at the Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore Mon 9.15 am – 1.15pm,

Tel: 01489 895444. email: meon-valley@btconnect.com

'Superfast' broadband coming to Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton & Exton



BT-Openreach's 'SUPERFAST' fibre broadband is planned for most (not all) homes & businesses in our villages, **SOON*** - www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com

*The timescale for Openreach's 'Superfast' is under review; an update & details will be in our December newsletter



An alternative WIRELESS solution is being developed by local company

'Meon Valley Internet' <http://meonvalleyinternet.co.uk>

To ask if/when it will be available to you, email team@meonvalleyinternet.co.uk



Some residents have opted for an (interim?) option offered by VODAFONE and others are exploring EE's mobile broadband. An option for you? More information in December newsletter.



To be added to our local mailing list - for more details & updates on these faster broadband options please send an email to Peter O'Sullivan, Meonstoke – TPeterOSullivan@hotmail.com
We advise that you do not make long term decisions before seeing these details

Meon Valley Community Bus Association Timetables for 2017

Fares (all destinations): **Adult:** £5.00 return.
Children Under 16: ½ fare: **Under 5's** - Free
All concessionary bus passes accepted
For private hire please call Richard Blackburn: Tel: 877391

Mondays to FAREHAM

09:40 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:42 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages
09:45 Meonstoke Triangle
09:50 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
09:54 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH

Wednesdays to FAREHAM

09:40 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:42 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages
09:45 Meonstoke Triangle
09:50 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
09:54 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH

Thursdays to FAREHAM

09:37 Exton, The Shoe PH
09:40 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:42 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages
09:45 Meonstoke, Oxendown
09:49 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH
Note: All Fareham trips return from:
12:30 Sainsbury's, Fareham
12:35 Fareham Library

1st & 3rd Friday of each month to WINCHESTER

09:03 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH
09:07 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
09:12 Meonstoke Triangle
09:14 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
09:17 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:19 Exton, The Shoe PH

Return from:

11:55 River Park Leisure Centre
12:00 Winchester Broadway

2nd Friday each month to WATERLOOVILLE

09:37 Exton, The Shoe PH
09:40 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:42 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages
09:45 Meonstoke Triangle
09:50 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
09:54 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH

Return from:

12:30 Waterlooville Sainsbury's
12:35 Waterlooville Waitrose

4th Friday each Month to PETERSFIELD

09:03 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH
09:07 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
09:12 Meonstoke Triangle
09:14 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
09:17 Meonstoke PO & Stores
09:21 Exton The Shoe PH

Return from:

12:00 Waitrose, Petersfield



Singing for Fun

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

**The Stables, Maypole Green,
Free Street, Bishop's Waltham SO32 1PW
from 2.00 to 3.30pm**

Next Meetings:

**December - 1st & 15th
January 2018 - 5th & 19th**

Ages 40's to 90's, people with disabilities
especially welcome.

**Cost: £1.00 a session
includes refreshments**

Further information from Annabel
on 01489 877130 or 07732 329792.

or – just turn up!



Midweek Stress Buster

If you like singing and meeting lovely people
you are most welcome to join us. We meet on
the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month at
Droxford Village Hall at 7.30pm. We are very
much a community choir and explore the
lighter side of the repertoire. We range from
experienced singers to those who have never
sung in a choir before. To find out more go to
our website at: **www.singandtonic.org.uk**

SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POST OFFICES

Droxford – High Street 878811
 Meonstoke Post Office Warnford Road, Corhampton 877374

STORES

Droxford Stores, High Street 878811
 Meonstoke Village Stores, Warnford Road, 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)

Free Street, Bishops Waltham 0300 555 1387

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU (Bishop's Waltham)

Well House, 2 Brook Street 03444 111306
 CAB email: bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

Corhampton & Meonstoke. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 07720 092072
 Website: www.candm-pc.gov.uk
 Droxford. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 07720 092072
 Website: www.droxfordweb.co.uk

Exton Parish Meeting:
 Honorary Secretary: Position vacant –

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

email: lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk
 email: fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
 email: vweston@winchester.gov.uk
 email: lruffell@winchester.gov.uk
 email: athacker@winchester.gov.uk

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

Bookings: Mrs Anna Rolfe by
 email: meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk or by phone at 878284
 Go to www.candm-pc.gov.uk/the-meon-hall for details of
 charges and general information

LOCAL SURGERIES

Droxford 877588
 Wickham 01329 833121
 West Meon 01730 829666

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS:

(Please ring only between 9.0 am and 6.00 pm)
 Droxford: 07977 096586
 Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: 07795 928065

DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE:

www.droxfordweb.co.uk
 for more information on local events and activities

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services 0300 555 1386
 Children's Services 0845 603 5620
 The above numbers are open Mon. to Thurs. 8.30am - 4.30pm
 The out-of-hours number is 0845 600 4555

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you see anything suspicious that requires immediate police attendance, ring the emergency number 999. If it is important to report it, but not urgent, ring 101.

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, West Patrick Monger	877161
Pound Lane, East Linda Foot	877763
Chapel Road & Fry's Lane Charlie Fullegar	07876 524457
New Road Jenny Liardet	877583
Allen's Lane and St Andrew's Green Leslie Daysh	877327
Stocks Lane Peter Riley	877494
Brockbridge Road Frances Keppel	878774
Millside Phil Butler	877596

Droxford

Gordon Hope 877751

Exton

Joan Starkie 878698

POLICE (non-emergency calls) 101

NHS 111 (for fast help but not 999 emergency) Call 111
 For help on community safety and to report
 anti-social behaviour, etc, Ring 101

WILLIAMS COLLINS TRUST

Can we help you? Our charity was set up to assist children and students from The Bridge parishes requiring financial help for educational purposes including residential school trips, books, and travel. Call one of our trustees in confidence to request a form:

Corhampton: *Monika Thwaites*, 877939
Droxford: *Ann Symes*, 877643 & *Julia Keitley*, 877414
Exton: *Diana Arthur*, 877390
Meonstoke: *Sian Holiday*, 07966 487762

The trustees will meet next on the
 Thursday 15th March 2018 to make awards.
 Please send in your applications before this date.

DISTRICT DIARY**DECEMBER 2017****Fri. 1** Singing for Fun, The Stables, Bishops Waltham 2.00pm**Sat. 2** FOMS Christmas Fair, The Meon Hall 10.00 - 12.30pm**Sunday 8 - Advent 1**Advent Carols & Lessons service followed by 6.30pm
mulled wine and mince pies in Droxford Village Hall**Mon. 4** The Meon Hall gutter cleaning All day**Tues. 5** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am

Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00

Wed. 6 Morning Prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am

Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00

Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm

Thur. 7 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am

Droxford Parish Council meeting, Droxford VH 7.30pm

Fri. 8 Singing for Fun, The Stables, Bishops Waltham 2.00pm4th Lee-on-Solent Brownies staying at The Meon Hall
until Sunday, 10th**Sunday 10 - Advent 2**Carols in The Barn, Hill House, Meonstoke 5.15pm
(for Corhampton and Meonstoke residents: see page 2)**Tue. 12** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am

Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00

MV Arts Society: talk: 'Prague - City of the 10.40am

Winter Queen, The Meon Hall

Play-reading Group, The Meon Hall 7.30pm

Wed. 13 Morning Prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am

Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm

Thur. 14 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am**Thur. 14** Meonstoke Toddler Group, Christmas Party, 9.30-11.30am
The Meon HallMV Garden Club: Skittles evening; 7.00pm
at Southwick Golf Course**Fri. 15** Singing for Fun, The Stables, Bishops Waltham 2.00pm**Sat. 16** CADENCE Marching Band stay at The Meon Hall to Sun. 17th**Sunday 17 - Advent 3****Tue. 19** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am

Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00

Carols in the Square, Droxford 7.00pm

Wed. 20 Morning Prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am

Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00

Meonstoke School Nativity Play, The Meon Hall All day

Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm

Thur. 21 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am**Sat. 23** Scratch Nativity, Droxford Church 2.00pm

Scratch Nativity, Meonstoke Church 4.00pm

Sunday 24 - Advent 4 - Christmas Eve**Tue. 26** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am

Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00

Wed. 27 Morning Prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am

Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm

Thur. 28 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am

Second Wind running group's 7.30am-6.00pm

Marathon runs at The Meon Hall

Sunday 31 - Christmas 1**SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2017**

Date	Time	Service	Church
3rd Advent 1	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion(CW) & Toy Service Advent Carols & Lessons	Droxford Meonstoke Droxford
10th Advent 2	8.00am 10.30am 3.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (CW) Evening Prayer with Carols	Meonstoke Droxford Corhampton
17th Advent 3	8.00am 10.00am 10.30am 4.30pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal Carol Service Matins with Carols Family Carols (beginning on the Green) Carols by Candlelight	Exton Droxford Corhampton Meonstoke Exton
24th Advent 4 Christmas Eve	8.00am 10.30am 11.30pm 11.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (CW) Midnight Mass Midnight Mass	Corhampton Exton Droxford Meonstoke
25th Christmas Day	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Christmas Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service then Holy Communion Family Service then Holy Communion	Exton Droxford Meonstoke
31st Christmas 1	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Corhampton

DISTRICT DIARY**JANUARY 2018**

- Tue. 2** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am
Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed. 3** Morning prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am
Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00
Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm
- Thur. 4** Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am
- Fri. 5** Singing for Fun, The Stables, Bishops Waltham 2.00pm
- Sat. 6** CADENCE Marching Band stay at The Meon Hall to Sun. 7th

Sunday 7 - Epiphany 1 - The Baptism of Christ

- Mon. 8** **Last copy date for Feb - Mar issue of The Bridge**
- Tue. 9** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am
Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
MV Arts Society: *Faber and Faber*. The Meon Hall 10.40am
Play-reading Group, The Meon Hall 7.30pm
- Wed. 10** Morning prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am
Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm
- Thu. 11** Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am
Droxford Parish Council meeting, Droxford VH 7.30pm

Sunday 14 - Epiphany 2

- Tue. 16** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am
Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00
- Wed. 17** Morning prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am
Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00
Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm
Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council 7.30pm
Meeting: in The Meon Hall

- Thu. 18** Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am
- Fri. 19** Singing for Fun, The Stables, Bishop's Waltham 2.00pm

Sunday 21 - Epiphany 3

- Mon. 22** The Meon Hall Management Committee Meeting 7.30pm
in The Meon Hall
- Tue. 23** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am
Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed. 24** Morning Prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am
Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm
- Thu. 25** Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00am
Droxford History Group: '*Droxford Shops*' 7.30pm
a talk by Anthony Gibson, Droxford Village Hall
- Sat. 27** CADENCE Marching Band stay at The Meon Hall to Sun. 28th

Sunday 28 - Epiphany 4

- Tue. 30** Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30am
Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed. 31** Morning prayer, Meonstoke 8.30am
Evening Prayer, Droxford 5.00pm
Film Night: '*tbd*,' Droxford Village Hall 7.30pm

**SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2018**

Date	Time	Service	Church
7th Epiphany 1 The Baptism of Christ	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Eucharist (CW) Evensong	Droxford Meonstoke Exton
14th Epiphany 2	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (CW) Choral Evensong	Meonstoke Droxford Corhampton
21st Epiphany 3	8.00am 10.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal All-Age Service Matins	Exton Droxford Corhampton
28th Epiphany 4 Presentation of Christ in the Temple	8.00am 9.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal All-age Service Holy Communion (CW)	Corhampton Meonstoke Exton

Droxford & District Community Care Group

We aim to support our local community by:

- Providing transport for visits to hospital, dentists, doctors and other health specialists: for these visits, contact our transport coordinators on the following telephone numbers: Droxford Area:- 07977 096586; Corhampton, Meonstoke & Exton Areas:- 07795 928065
- Giving assistance with completion of forms and documents on a confidential basis
- Resolving both internal and external problems with land line telephones of the elderly when they are not working properly. BT Openreach must repair all external faults within two working days.
- Helping to register frail and elderly persons whose telephone is an absolute lifeline – especially those with an emergency alarm connected to their telephone for the priority repair scheme. (Note: A form must be signed by the person's GP.)
- Providing a service to new arrivals in the Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton, and Exton areas with a welcome note and later a visit to assist them in settling in. If you have recently arrived in one of the local villages and we have not been in touch, please make contact with the new arrivals coordinator, Za Rowe on 01489 877732.

New volunteer drivers needed

- To help support the local community
- With a very flexible commitment – you decide when you drive
- To provide private transport for essential purposes such as hospital, dentist and doctor appointments
- Your mileage costs are covered at 40p per mile
- Over 50 local people have been taken to various hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists etc, in the past two years.
- If you are willing to give a little time and volunteer as a driver, please contact our transport coordinators or the community care group chairman.

John Shaw Chairman. Tel: 01489 877564

Petersfield Hospital

Swan Street, Petersfield GU32 3LB
Tel: 01730 263221

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Open 8.00am to 6.00pm 365 days a year

As a dedicated Minor Injuries Team, we can treat many minor injuries for all ages including:

Cuts & Abrasions

Burns

Ear & nose injuries

Eye injuries

Foreign bodies

Head Injuries

Minor Fractures

Nose bleeds

Splinters, Sprains & Strains

If we cannot treat your injury, we will refer you to another member of our multi-disciplinary team.

These can include:

- **Accident & Emergency Department**
 - **Dentist**
 - **Fracture Clinic**
 - **General Practitioner**
 - **Ophthalmic Optician**

We have X-ray facilities Monday to Friday from 9.00am to midday. Waiting times vary, but most patients are seen, treated and discharged within an hour.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ROBIN AND JUDIT APPEL, PETER AND JANET MELSON ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DROXFORD'S VILLAGE HARVEST Supper raised £525 for play equipment at The Recreation Ground. Our sincere thanks to all who supported this event.

Next year's supper will be held on Saturday, 13th October.



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**. 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, MCVFR Coordinator at robmunroscott@aol.com or Community Responder Administrator at cfr@scas.nhs.uk (0800 5870207) and, maybe, **HELP SAVE A LIFE!****

From the Registers

Baptisms

Droxford 29th October - Eden Maria Martineau

Weddings

Droxford 30th September -
Olivia Curtis and Christopher Savory

Blessing of Marriage

Droxford 2nd September -
Charlotte(nee Symes) and Tom Fleming

Funerals

Droxford 13th October -
Winifred (Win) Ethel Westbrook, age 93

Interment of Ashes

Droxford 6th November - Joyce Audrey Salt, age 87

We welcome to our Parishes.....

Melissa Greenwood and teenage daughter Siena, who have come from Godalming, Surrey to 17 Millside, Corhampton

Dave Durrant and Haley Forbes, who have come from Southsea to 6, Park Villas, Union Lane, Droxford.

James and Kate Keen, who have come from Titchfield with Max 5 and Thalia 8, to Stedham House, South Hill, Droxford.

Stacey Quar, who has come with Lily (age 8) and Summer (age 6) to 16 Bridgemoor.

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

ACCOMMODATION & EVENTS	Wallops Wood Cottages 28: The Mill at Droxford 33: Hill Place Events 35:	GARAGES (SERVICING) & CAR SALES	Taylor's Garage 25: Andrews Autosource 27:
ACCOUNTANTS & TAX ADVISERS	Nicholas Ridge 37:	GARDEN & LANDSCAPING	Lister Trees 27: Judith Appel Plantswoman & Gardener 33: Hedge Cutting 34: Meon Valley Mowers 35: Anita Foy Garden Design 39: Greenbuild Design & Construction (inside back cover):
ANTIQUES	Droxford Antiques 31:	GLASS & GLAZING	Fareham Glass 34: Leydene Glass & Glazing 39:
BUILDERS & BUILDING MATERIALS	R & G Gamblin 27: JT Carpentry & Building 29: Steve Such (Property Maintenance) 30: KJN Home Improvements 30: Hillman Building Services 34: Frontwood Ltd 37: Peter Garber 38: E J Goodall (Thatcher) 40:	HAIRDRESSERS	Gaudion's Hairdressing 32:
CARPENTERS & WOOD PRODUCTS	JT Carpentry & Building 29: Hardwood Logs 34:	HEALTH , WELL-BEING, & OPTICIANS	Foot Care (Ann-Marie Elliott) 25: Mindfulness Hampshire 26: Saxby's Eyecare 28: Foot Health Practitioner (Karen Jordan) 30: Chiropodist (Graham Howes) 35:
CATERING	Clementine Catering 36:	HOME IMPROVEMENTS	KJN 30:
COMPUTERS & INTERNET	Punchedcard Ltd 29: Chris Guenier (inside back cover):	JEWELLERS	Simon Lawson 37:
DECORATORS, PAINTERS, & TILERS	Droxford Interiors & Tiling 25: M & J Mason 30: Oliver's Painting & Decorating 32: Ray Gent 37: Top Marks 39:	LETTINGS & LAND MANAGEMENT	Pimp My Paddock (back cover):
DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, HEATING, & PLUMBING	EAS 28: Mark Oliver 29: R A Redman 30: D & S Oil Tanks 33: Hardwood Logs 34: Harpers of South Boarhunt 36: Adept Plumbing Services 40: Alan Shawyer (inside back cover): G Rixon Ltd (back cover):	MUSIC TEACHER	Sally Keighley Tuition 40:
DOMESTIC SERVICES	PestOFF Pest Control 26: Cleaner Chimneys Chimney Sweeps 30: Curtains by Mary 33: Chimney Sweep Christian Oliver 34: Cynthia Tester Curtains & Blinds 36: Grange Upholstery 37: Advanced Clean (Carpet & Upholstery) 39: Barn Store for Storage 39:	PRINTING & STATIONERY	Studio 6 (inside front cover): The Printroom 29:
ELECTRICIANS & ELECTRICAL SERVICES	Chase Farm Electrical 33: Ben Tibbetts Electrical 35: Ray Burbidge 37: Assure Electrical Ltd (inside back cover): G Rixon Ltd (back cover):	PUBLIC HOUSES	The Roebuck 38: The Shoe Inn 40:
ESTATE AGENTS	The Country House Company 35:	RIDING & EQUESTRIAN	Merrie Stud Riding School 26:
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIALS	Nigel Chamberlain (inside front cover): South Downs Funeral Services 27:	SCHOOLS; EDUCATION & LEARNING	Valley Pre-School 25:
		SHOPS & STORES	Meonstoke PO & Stores 28: Christina's Shop-in-the-Square 32:
		SOLICITORS	MacDonald Oates 26: Biscoes 35: Chamberlains 36: Blake Morgan (back cover):
		SPORT	Hazelholt Floodlit Indoor Tennis Court 31:
		TAXIS	Hambledon Cars (inside front cover): Gamblin Cars 38:
		VETS & PETS	The Dog Room (inside front cover) The Village Cattery 29: Shield Veterinary Centre 40:
		WINE MERCHANT	Barton Vintners 36:

If you would like to put a trade advertisement in *The Bridge* then please contact the Advertising Manager, see page 1 for details.