

THE BRIDGE

August – September 2015



The Parish Magazine for
Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton

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RECTOR Position vacant (see the churchwardens newsletter on page 2 for information about the interregnum)

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Reader emeritus Pauline Quarendon 877392
Reader Cathy Mathews 877804

CHURCH SUPPLIES Anne Wilkinson 877488

DROXFORD

Churchwardens: Ann Symes 877643
Sheila Matthissen 877867
Secretary: –
Treasurer & Gift
Aid secretary: Nicholas Ridge 899102
Organist: John Martin 877385
Sacristan: Laura Jerosch 01329 231956
Verger: Norman Bell 877230

EXTON

Churchwardens: Hugh Parry 878860
Richard Pepys 878035
Secretary: –
Treasurer & Gift
Aid secretary: David Frere-Cook 877838
Organists:
(Morning) Sarah Page 02392 257723
(Evening) Dr Alan Hibbert OBE 878564
Sacristan: Jill Cassels 877469
Verger: Bob Miles –

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic Church (Bishop's Waltham)
Father John Buckley 895889

METHODIST & UNITED FREE CHURCH

(Bishop's Waltham)
The Reverend David Moss MA 01329 833518

For information about weddings,
please contact the weddings
administrator:

Sue Wells: Tel. 01329 834130

**For information about baptisms
and funerals** please contact the
administrator for these services
Za Rowe: Tel. 01489 877732

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwarden: – 878684
Acting churchwarden Za Rowe 877732
Secretary: Sarah Page 02392 257723
Treasurer (& Gift
Aid secretary): Elizabeth Ridge 899102
Organists:
(Meonstoke) Dr Alan Hibbert OBE 878564
(Corhampton) John Martin (am) 877385
Sacristan &
Verger Joanna Buchanan 877737

PRESHAW

Coordinator Position vacant –

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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Cover picture by Jackie Hibbert

The photograph shows the newly-built foot-bridge to take people over the one time moat to Sandsfoot Castle, on the sheer and rocky shoreline at Weymouth.

This castle, lately restored under Joanne Hibbert's professional guidance, was a Henry VIII fortification to repel the invading French, if they tried to attack.

It is interesting to note that he saw fit to spread his fortifications so far westwards. Whilst the gardens around this castle provide an amenity for the locals, access to the castle for visitors has been made easier by this small wooden bridge.

THE BRIDGE is delivered at the start of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Ideally, copy should be sent by e-mail to *The Bridge* editor at the address shown above, preferably attached as an MS Word document. The page set-up (with 10 or 10.5 pt font size) should be defined as an A4 page – with 1.5 cm left and right margins. Typed or handwritten hardcopy is also acceptable. If you are responsible for village activities, diaries, and schedules, please note that material received late after the copy date may not be included.

From the churchwardens

Since the last issue of *The Bridge*, the churchwardens have met to maintain the pattern of services in our parishes and also to plan the licensing of the Reverend Tony Forrest as our priest-in-charge. We have to coordinate the requirements of the diocese, organize the printing of invitations and the order of service, and ensure that a very wide cross-section of those who serve the community are invited to the service. We also have to organize the catering for the post-service refreshments. Everything is, with two months to go before the service, apparently going to plan.

We have been very saddened by Hazel Newbold's decision to step down from the role of churchwarden owing to family health concerns. At this busy time we are very grateful that Za Rowe has agreed to be acting churchwarden for Meonstoke and Corhampton.

In common with previous years, during the month of August, there is only one Parish Communion service on each Sunday. The services we have arranged are as follows:

- Sunday, 2nd the Rev Canon Anthony Hulbert, at 11.00 am in Meonstoke
- Sunday, 9th the Rev Canon Anthony Hulbert, at 11.00 am in Droxford

- Sunday 16th the Rev Canon Anthony Rustell at 11.00 am in Corhampton
- Sunday, 23rd the Rev Jenny Gaffin at 11.00 am in Exton
- Sunday 30th (Still to be arranged)

Note: In addition to the above communion (CW) services, the last of the informal summer services in Droxford (in the Lady Chapel) will be held at their usual time of 10.00 am

Licensing of the Rev Tony Forrest as priest-in-charge

The licensing service will take place in St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke on Thursday, 3rd September at 7.30 pm. As well as all the people who will receive formal invitations to the service, every parishioner of *The Bridge* parishes is welcome to come to the service and to the refreshments in the Meon Hall afterwards. However, so that we have a good idea of the number for which to cater, it will be very helpful if you could let Richard Pepys know of your intentions to attend. Please could you let Richard know by email to rpepys@gmail.com not later than 15th August.

St Mary & All Saints Church Droxford

presents

A CONCERT OF BEAUTIFUL BAROQUE CONCERTOS

Cathy Mathews and members of the Havant Orchestras will perform well-known Baroque concertos, including:

Bach: Double Violin Concerto
Telemann: Viola Concerto

3.00 pm

Sunday, 13th September
in the church

Refreshments will be served and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the church restoration fund

A church fund raiser

A few months ago I commissioned an artist friend of mine to do a pen and ink drawing of Droxford Church, which I then had mounted and framed in order to collect some much needed funds.

For £2.50 people paid to guess the birthday of the artist in order to have a chance of winning it!

His birthday is 13th February and although no one guessed the correct date, the nearest by 6 days was Joe Dean, who is delighted to have won it. Thank you to all those who helped me raise £200.

Mary Hart

DROXFORD DROP-IN

Everyone is welcome at the Village Hall 'Drop In',



**Every Tuesday morning
between 10.30 am and noon**

Come for a hot drink and biscuits and a chat. Come for a few minutes or the whole time.

A particular welcome is extended to the hearing-impaired. It is appreciated that acoustics in the Hall make hearing difficult, but we keep background noise to a minimum – and we have a silent kettle!



NEW! Fun and friendly toddler group!
Starting Friday, 11th September 2015

Every Friday during term time
1.30 pm to 2.45 pm

Variety of activities on offer in light and airy new building; outside play in the garden, water and sand tables, ride-ons and lots more

0-5 year olds and parents/carers welcome
(changing facilities available)

Free parking in the school car park

£3 per family, including a drink and snack for children

The Valley Preschool, Meonstoke C-of-E Infant School, Chapel Road, Meonstoke, SO32 3NJ Tel: 01489 878019



Vacancy

The Bridge editor plans to retire at the end of this year. If you are interested in applying for this voluntary and satisfying role should write to thebridgeeditor@gmail.com

Meonstoke Toddler Group

We need your help at our community stay-and-play group for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers with their parents, grandparents or carers.

There's always something going on. If you're new to the area, or not been before, then why not give it a try?! And if you've been a few times, why not join our rota of volunteers to help?

Or even if you don't have pre-school age children, but some free time, we would be really pleased to welcome you onto our rota. Please contact Emily at: rp7631@gmail.com

Held at **The Meon Hall, Pound Lane, Meonstoke**
every Thursday during term time
from 9.30 to 11.30 am

£2 per family, including refreshments for all.



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 10.00 am and midday.

All are welcome – the more the merrier!

August: 5th & 19th

September: 2nd & 16th

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

FIR HILL GARDENS OPEN

The gardens will be open to the public on
Monday, 31st August from 2.00 until 5.30 pm

Visit the beautiful grounds of this historic house, including
the recently restored walled garden.

Featuring the Hampshire Regency Dancers, who will also perform in the gardens
(see www.hrd.org.uk)

Admission: £5 per adult (children under 16 free)
Tea, soft drinks and cake available for purchase (whilst stocks last !)
Net proceeds to benefit St Mary and All Saints Church, Droxford.



Fir Hill – for information about this beautiful house and its gardens, go to www.firhilldroxford.com

Photo courtesy of Paul Highnam

Hampshire superfast broadband progress report

Important details of Hampshire's superfast broadband Wave 2 upgrade programme are at www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com

This appears to show that **parts** of Droxford, Meonstoke and Exton will be upgraded in the period 2016 to 2018.

The interactive postcode search provides detailed feedback and a chance to register your interest in superfast broadband.

The Web site states that details for the proposed roll-out of Wave 2 are due to appear in September 2015.

West Meon and Hambledon exchanges will be upgraded before the end of 2015 (although they registered fewer expressions of interest than Droxford) but despite the fact that we have a useable fibre running along the A32 it is understood that our upgrade will not arrive until **mid-2017**.

We need, therefore, to make our case as strongly as possible in the period before the timetable is crystallised. Only politicians can change things so now is the time to press our political representatives to fight for an earlier date.

Michael Peagram
broadbanddroxford@gmail.com



In support of the Hampshire & the Islands
Historic Churches Trust

Saturday, 12th September

On the second Saturday of September each year, 30 County Historic Churches Trusts organize a sponsored Bike Ride. The object of the day is to raise money for each Trust by encouraging cyclists and walkers to persuade friends to sponsor them to visit as many churches as they can. Initially, all the money raised goes to the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. The Trust retains half to enable them to make grants to churches (both Meonstoke and Corhampton Churches have received grants in the last ten years); the other half is returned to the cyclist's or walker's nominated 'home' church, Sunday School, or Youth Group.

Last year over 400 Hampshire and IOW churches took part, with stewards to welcome and sign in visitors and sometimes provide a cooling drink. It is a good family day out and the railway line will take you to a surprising number of churches. The more adventurous can brave the roads and tour the Bishop's Waltham Deanery and beyond.

For details of how to enter, safety advice and sponsor forms please contact me.

Thank you.

Dr David Ablitt
Tel. 878074 or go to:
www.hihct.org.uk/

Droxford Country Fair

WOW what a day!

Around 2000 people enjoyed all the fun of the fair on the 6th June, opened by Queen Victoria, beautifully played by Rachel Wells.

Everyone was entertained throughout the afternoon by Ferdies Friends; Sing and Tonic; Droxford Junior's choir; Punch and Judy; Terena and her lovely collie, Sweep; birds of prey; a ride on the steam train; vintage vehicles; country crafts; llamas; and our famous dog show - thank you Rita and Joy.

The children were kept busy with all the games and activities. Many stalls were selling a huge variety of goodies, from fresh produce and preserves and crafts to beautiful artisan creations.

Everyone was very well catered for with the delicious barbecue, afternoon teas, ice creams and strawberry and cream desserts. The ever popular Pimms and Bowman Ale bar was kept busy all afternoon.

The fair committee raised around £2500, the church £1500, and all the other charitable organizations that ran a stall £3000.

Don't forget that at the AGM in December any local organization can apply for a donation.

We are very grateful to everybody who dressed up and embraced the Victorian theme; everyone who helped setting up and on the day; all the stall-holders and sponsors; and to everyone who came along on the day and had a fabulous afternoon. And of course a special thank-you to Mrs Denham and Mr and Mrs Martineau - without their gardens the fair wouldn't be so special and unique .

THANK YOU!

Mary Hornby-Patterson and the Fair committee

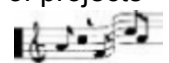
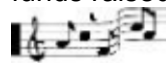
Soirées on the Bridge

Concerts in St Andrew's Church Meonstoke

Our 2015/16 season commences on
**Thursday, 24th September at
7.30 pm**

Sasha Matthissen
Acoustic contemporary songs and
ballads

Entrance is free, with a retiring collection, when a glass of wine will be served. Although the primary aims are social and cultural, the organisers plan to use any funds raised to support a range of projects in the church.



RNLI 2015 Collection

I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave their time to help with the RNLI house-to-house collection this year. Thank you to everyone who donated; your contributions, however small or large, are very much appreciated!

This year we raised £665.19p.

Joanne Somers

The April 2015 Earthquake in Nepal

An update from resident Alex Hands

I grew up and lived in Meonstoke for 18 years, but have been resident in Kathmandu since 2014 where I teach chemistry at The British School (TBS), which caters to both the international and local community and teaches students from age 3 to 18 years old. My brother Freddie is also currently visiting Nepal volunteering for a charity called The Umbrella Foundation (Web address <http://umbrellanepal.org/>).

As you will have seen on the news, in April we were hit by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake, which was followed by a series of similarly large aftershocks. Fortunately, most of my friends, colleagues, and students are all unharmed. The events have shaken everyone and now we are faced with the task of trying to rebuild our lives and return to normality.

The people of Nepal are warm, friendly, and humble, but many of them are very poor and live in remote communities that have been devastated by the earthquake. As a school, we know of three primary schools in the Dhading area that have suffered very badly, as well as 2 local schools that cater for sight impaired and disabled children. We have now re-opened our school so that our children can get back to as normal a routine as possible, particularly for those sitting exams, but the children in our partner schools are not so fortunate.

Many schools around the world, friends, ex-students and parents, former TBS staff and current families have asked how they might contribute to relief and aid for the people of Nepal. There are many charities who will provide immediate relief

assistance. What we would like to do is to continue to work with our current community projects because we can be assured that money pledged to our care will result in every single penny being spent on projects that TBS children, students, and staff can help with and see develop over time. We will be directing our efforts to helping school rebuilding projects for our Dhading schools, Bungamati DSA school (hearing and sight impaired children) and the Disabled New Life centre. The buildings have been devastated and they served large communities of people who needed them desperately. These projects will benefit children; are related to education; and we know they will give long term benefit to the children and people of Nepal. For information about the schools and the projects, go to The British School Web address given at the bottom of these two columns. If you would like to contribute, please, to our school's fund to assist the children of Nepal, use the Donate link on the Community Service page.

We will make sure every penny is spent on our charity projects, staff and students will donate their time voluntarily to administer these efforts and students will be leading on liaising with the schools and organizing the rebuilding process. (All monies will be fully accounted for and available for presentation to those who contribute on an ongoing basis).

We will also update people on progress with our TBS community projects, if they if they would like to send an email to: charities@tbs.edu.np

Thank you.

Alex Hands

The British School, Kathmandu:

www.tbskathmandu.org/extra-curricular/community-service-charitable-work/



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Meon Valley

The new season for 2015-2016 is starting in September so now is the chance to note the following events in your diaries. Our talks are held twice a month at **The Wickham Centre, 2.00pm.**

Tuesday, 8th September

Water, the Essence of Life, by David Roger--Jones, local enthusiast

Tuesday, 22nd September

My early Days in Horticulture - Part II by Brian Kidd, of Radio Solent and Portsmouth News.

Tuesday 6th October

Doodlebugs, by Dennis Boylan, writer and local historian

You will receive (by e-mail or post) a copy of the full programme of talks, together with a subscription form and other information for the 2015-16 season. I expect to be sending these out late July or early August – so, with luck, you may have received them before you read this! The subscription stays at only £10 (with the usual £1 fee per talk you attend). And of course there are all the small, special interest groups. Meanwhile if you have any membership queries, or if you are not currently a member and think you might be interested in joining, 'phone me, **Julia Field** on **01489 891353**.

Guests and visitors are very welcome to come along to talks (£2 each) and a free 'cuppa'.

For comment on the U3A, see the article on page 24 by Andrew Brown reproduced from *The Guardian* newspaper.



In the garden

August & September

Now is the time to enjoy the fruits of our labours in the garden. Despite a slow start everything was pretty much to schedule by early July. However, the summer has not been without its challenges. To date, it has been very dry and blackfly has been a real pest on flowers and beans and nowadays they seem resistant to many treatments. In dry periods it is very tempting to water everything, but watering should be restricted to vegetables and newly planted shrubs and flowers. Watering mature herbaceous and mixed borders can do more harm than good as it encourages roots to grow to the surface of the soil, which can quickly dry out.

Vegetables: Lift potatoes and onions to avoid unnecessary pest damage. Last sowings of radish, rocket, and lettuce can be made in early August. Now is also the time to sow spring cabbage, perpetual spinach and winter lettuce. Runner beans are now coming into their own, but remember to keep them well watered. Spray brassicas against aphids and caterpillars.

Fruit: Plant out strawberry plants that have rooted from runners, they will fruit next year. Cut out summer raspberry canes that have fruited to allow next year's canes to develop, and if you have not already done so finish summer pruning of gooseberries, red currants, apples and plums. With the latter it is a good idea to combine pruning with harvesting so that any damage caused when picking can be reduced.

Herbaceous border: Continue dead-heading and cut out tall or weak stems from plants that have finished flowering. Feed dahlias and look out for aphids and blackfly and treat with soapy water or proprietary pesticide. Take cuttings of alpines, penstemons, fuchsias, and zonal pelargoniums. Keep dead-heading border perennials and annuals to ensure a good succession of flowering.

Trees and Shrubs: Prune shrubs after they have finished flowering and pinch out new shoots of wisteria to about three or four leaves. Lightly prune or trim beech hedges, eleagnus, escallonia, hebe, holly, lavender, pyracantha and privet. Keep hydrangeas well-watered to extend flowering.

Bulbs: Order spring-flowering bulbs for planting this autumn. Divide clumps of autumn flowering crocus while they are still dormant.

Meon Valley Garden Club

The garden club has had two visits to gardens designed by famous gardeners. The first was to Bowood house, which stands in a Capability Brown parkland garden. It has wonderful views of a mile long lake and distant chalk downs, fragrant roses, clipped yew sculptures, herbaceous borders, and many specimen trees. Another unusual fact is that oxygen was discovered at Bowood, in the laboratory of Joseph Priestly on 1st August, 1774.

Next it was a visit to Manor House in Upton Grey. The garden here was designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1908 and it has now been restored by its owners into what is believed to be the most complete and authentic of her gardens. The formal garden has herbaceous borders with colours running from cool to hot. There are lots of scented roses and peonies. There is a wild garden, a nuttery, kitchen garden and orchard: a truly beautiful garden.

The club also visited Wisley in July where there is always something for everyone, including a great afternoon tea.

Caroline Harris, Secretary

Plant Sale

Droxford Village Hall

Saturday, 3rd October
10.00 am

Plants, produce, cakes and refreshments

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

Containers: Keep well watered and continue dead heading, especially petunias, and you will be rewarded with flowers for several weeks to come.

In the greenhouse – Reduce watering and feeding of tomatoes as the fruits ripen, but make sure the soil remains moist. If it dries out and you then over-water, the fruit will split. Be watchful for red spider mite and whitefly on cucumbers and spray as necessary or use sticky whitefly traps if pests are present.

John



The MEON HALL

The 200 Club: Winners of the recent 2015 £25 monthly prize draws were:

June: Gay Keegan

July: Benjamin Somers

The Meon Hall's Treasurer: The trustees have welcomed Charlie Fullegar as the new treasurer. We have been extremely grateful to Mark Mathews for all his knowledgeable care and attention in keeping The Meon Hall finances so well over the past 17 years. Thank you, Mark.

Recycling: Please keep recycling your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the yellow bin at The Meon Hall, which raises money for our Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance helicopter. The bin is supposed to be emptied every second week – this hasn't always happened recently, so it has been left full at least twice and I have asked the management company to review their collection cycle for The Meon Hall as we seem to be recycling more than the bin's capacity every two weeks – which is very good! Thank you everyone. Our aim is to raise £500 or more from our recycling in 2015 to help fund emergency flights of the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, which now has a night flying operation capability. Our yellow bin is funding at least one flight every year.

Planning a family party this summer ...?

Order your extra tables, chairs, china, wine glasses, and cutlery for your summer entertaining from The Meon Hall. Please contact Anna Rolfe on meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk to discuss how we can help to meet your hiring needs

James Morrice



**ATTENTION
ALL DOGS!**

**Please refrain from
dropping your
calling cards in
Meonstoke churchyard
THANK YOU!**

Play-reading group

"It's like being in a radio play"

- No lines to learn
- No rehearsals to attend
- No embarrassment of performing in public
- No dressing up

With a different play to read at each meeting, your local play-reading group could be that "something different" for you each month.

Come and join in for a relaxed social evening on the **second Tuesday** of the month at

The Meon Hall at 7.30 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, 8th September

A small charge of £2 covers rent, heating and coffee. If you would like more information, contact Paul or Gerry Hayles on 01489 878589

THE MEON VALLEY PILGRIMAGE TRAIL WALK 2015

Saturday, 10th October at 1.00 pm

Between 2006 and 2011 walkers from the villages of the Meon Valley met on the nearest Saturday to St Wilfrid's Day (12th October) to walk stages of the route possibly taken by St Wilfrid, Bishop of York, in the late 7th century, as he travelled the length of the river converting the Meonwara.

After a year's break we set out from Titchfield Haven on 12th October 2013 to repeat the exercise, and this year the walk will take us from Wickham to Droxford. If you enjoy an easy country walk, please join us as we start from St Nicholas church in Wickham at **1.00 pm on Saturday, 10th October**. After a 6-mile walk, with a chance to look round St Peter's, Soberton, we aim to arrive at St Mary and All Saints, Droxford by 4.30 pm for refreshments and a short service in the church.

This is a linear walk, and as there is no direct bus service you may need to consider car-sharing.

Copies of the guide booklet *In the steps of St Wilfrid* are on sale in some local churches. For any enquiries, please ring me:

Robert Goulson on 01329 832915

Fracking and the environment by George Hollingbery MP

Many people have expressed quite understandable concerns about the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). A couple of years ago, I made it clear to ministers that I would not support fracking in Hampshire if it endangered our water supply.

Since then, I have conducted a considerable amount of research and many of my fears have been reduced. My remaining concerns now centre on two issues: the integrity of well casings and therefore the inspection regime around them, and the disposal of waste water produced by the fracking process. I continue to seek information on these issues that are really about safeguarding the drinking water supply.

But there is no doubt that fracking could be of great benefit to the country. The government is very aware of its potential to lower energy bills, but not at any cost to the environment.

To help address concerns while making the technology practical, the recently passed Infrastructure Bill has changed the rules of trespass to allow energy companies the same rights as utility companies when operating under private land in an attempt to make the whole process actually work.

There has been opposition to this but it seems to me that if fracking pipes have to be moved sideward to extract gas then it seems reasonable and practicable that there is legislation that allows it, particularly in such a crowded island.

The proposals will only allow access to underground land below 300m (nearly 1000ft) and any hydraulic fracturing would actually only occur at far greater depths of 1.5 kilometres (around 5000ft) or more.

What was largely missed by the media were the added protections in the final bill, which go a long way to satisfy me about the safety of this process.

Energy companies will now have to carry out an environmental impact assessment prior to being granted permission to drill and rigorous, independent inspections and monitoring will be carried out.

Importantly, the bill also forbids fracking directly inside in some sensitive environmental areas like national parks, although fracking can take place underneath such places, if it started outside the boundary.

Does all this mean we are now 'ready to frack'? No, but it shows that a thorough regulatory framework is slowly being constructed.

Friends of Corhampton Church



Members of your committee have been meeting with representatives of St. Andrew's to plan the way forward so that we can have just one group of Friends within the same parish. Two separate Friends' groups would have been totally divisive, and it will be good to use the success of FOCC to benefit St. Andrew's and the wider community.

The constitution has now been rewritten to incorporate St. Andrew's, Meonstoke into the FOCC. All on the joint standing committee of the Friends are completely agreed that all the monies already within the Corhampton Friends fund will remain dedicated solely to Corhampton Church and that any future gifts, legacies, etc. may be left solely to Corhampton. However, we need to ensure also that anyone who wishes to leave any legacy, etc. to St. Andrew's will be equally free to do so.

However, we do need the agreement of the majority of the membership to be able to do this and this has to be done at a special EGM. So by the time you read this all Members should have received a communication from me which will include the rewritten constitution, and the date of the special EGM. Charity Commission rules and regulations always take time but we hope that we will have a good and successful combined Friends of St. Andrew's & Corhampton Churches up and running well before Christmas.

In the meantime on Sunday, July 12th we welcomed back the Athanasian Consort, led by Philip Drew, for their 15th annual service of full Choral Evensong -- on this occasion all the music being by William Byrd -- and the Friends were delighted to host the usual refreshments in the churchyard afterwards. Many present considered that this was the best yet and the combination of a proper full choral BCP Evensong and the lighter evening undoubtedly assisted this. Also, by the time you read this, Meonstoke school will have enjoyed another schools Saxon Day in and around St Andrew's church. It is very good to have this important link with the future generation!

Chris Maxse, chairman
E-mail: chris.maxse@btinternet.com



Programme for August and September

Secretary: Ann Joyce
email:
mvara@aejoyce.me.uk

Keep Fit Class: St. Peter's Church Hall Bishop's Waltham. **Note:** There are no classes on August 3rd, 17th or 31st or on September 21st or 28th. There is a waiting list for this class. Cost per individual session: members £2.00; non-members £2.50.
Contact: Chee Price Tel: 893140.

Tai Chi: Jubilee Hall (main hall). Wednesday mornings. There are two sessions: Beginners: 09:00 to 10:00 Experienced: 10:15 to 11:15 **Note:** The 26th August session will be in St Peter's Church hall. Cost per quarter: £45.00. Cost per individual session £4.50 for members; £5.50 for non members
Contact: Teri Morley on 895119

Ladies' Pub Lunch.
First Monday in the month: 3rd August and 7th September: **Contact:** Sandy Holden on 892136 by the previous Monday for venue and to book a place.

Gentlemen's Pub Lunch: The Barleycorn, Bishops Waltham. Third Thursday of the month: 20th August and 17th September 12:30 to 14:00
Contact: Richard Davenport for details on 891862.

New Age Kurling: Jubilee Hall, Ruby Room. Third Thursday of the month; August 20th and September 17th from 14:30 to 16:30. Cost per quarter: £8.00 Cost per session: members £3.00, non-members £3.50
Contact: Richard Holyhead on 893511

Table Tennis – Priory Park Clubhouse, Elizabeth Way, Bishop's Waltham: No sessions in August; restarts on 2nd September and continues on Wednesday afternoons from 14:00 to 17:00. Cost per session £3.50 for members and £4.50 for non-members
Contact: John Moorhouse on 896366

IT learning classes have now finished for the summer. Classes will restart on September 8th subject to demand. Cost will be £5 per session or £56 for the full course of 14 sessions.
Contact: Ian Wayne-Powell Tel: 01329 833254

Spanish Lessons
Tuesday mornings until end of August, held at a member's home. This class is now full. In September the classes will move to Friday mornings. A new beginner's class is planned to start on 4th September from 09:15 to 10:15, subject to demand.
Contact: John Moorhouse on 896366.

Scrabble Sessions: The Paterson Centre, Swanmore on Friday afternoons from 14:00 to 16:00. Please be prompt! No charge other than for coffee and a cake.
Contact: Lena Frost 894828

Note: The area code for all contact phone numbers is 01489 unless otherwise stated.



It's Never Too Late!

Jean Syms would like to share her experience of the IT class with the other members of the Meon Valley Active Retirement Association and anyone else who is interested.

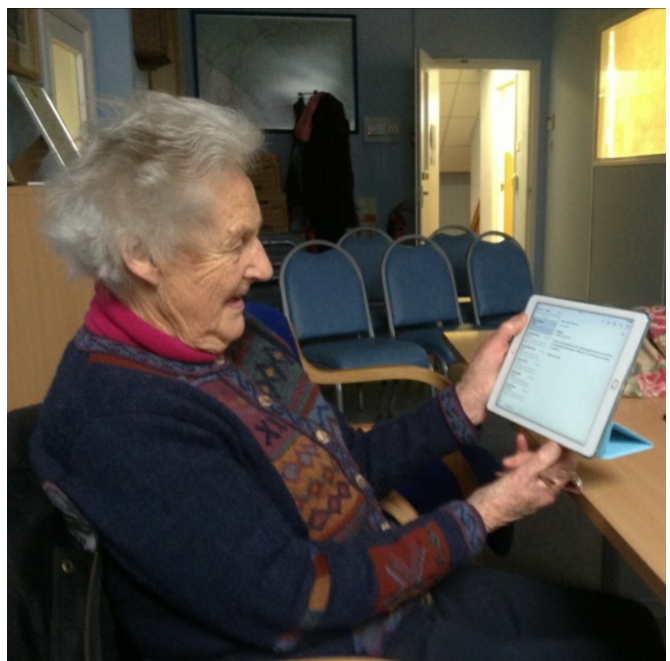
She is a remarkable 92 year old lady, who is learning how to use her iPad to best advantage. She has 54 grandchildren and great grandchildren! Jean was given an iPad for Christmas by her family who wanted to be able to improve communication with 'Garry', which is her nickname within the family unit.

Her family is spread all over the country and indeed the globe. She started her lessons immediately after Christmas and after only a few lessons has already got to grips with e-mail, i-messaging, and Facetime. She now receives regular photos from all members of her family and is able to save them into folders as well as forwarding them on to other members of her family.

It is fair to say that she is amazed at the capability of her little machine having been shown some of the more advanced features that she will soon know how to master.

Jean is the living proof that there is no need to be frightened of modern technology.

She had the class in fits of laughter when she showed us a German video of a couple misusing an iPad, and this video clip is now shown to all members who attend the weekly class.



Jean in the classroom with her iPad



Citizen's Advice Bureau

Q I have just been treated really well by my local GP surgery. However, a friend of mine has just had a very poor experience at the same practice – is there anyone we can speak to about our different experiences?

A Local Healthwatch is the 'consumer champion' for adult health and social care services. In some areas, local Healthwatch organisations will just be able to give general advice and support about complaints. In other areas, they will be able to act as an advocate when you have a formal complaint. Your local Healthwatch will provide information about what support they can give you and often ask for general feedback on the care services you have used. It can be helpful to send them your views, even if you have nothing to complain about and want to report good services.

Local Healthwatch organisations have the power to request information from care providers, who have a legal duty to reply in writing to reports and recommendations made by local Healthwatch within 20 days. In more complex cases, this time limit is 30 days. Information obtained in this way could help you make a complaint about adult social care although local Healthwatch don't investigate individual complaints.

Local Healthwatch organisations also have the power to enter and inspect premises, to observe how activities are carried on there. Some premises are excluded. For example, Local Healthwatch organisations don't have the right to enter and inspect premises if this would get in the way of providing services or would affect the privacy and dignity of anyone there. If you have serious concerns about care services, contact your local Healthwatch who may, in some cases, carry out a visit, but they don't investigate individual complaints. You can get more information about your local Healthwatch at www.healthwatchhampshire.co.uk.

You might find it useful to have an independent advocate to put your case. For example, if you have a severe learning disability or a mental health problem. Ask your local Healthwatch for contact details of local independent advocates.

Your local authority also has a legal duty to make sure that people who want to make complaints get practical help to understand the complaints procedure, or advice about where they can get this help. So you can contact your local authority if you want the help of an advocate to make your complaint and they may be able to help you or tell you where to get more help.

© Citizens Advice.

For more information, or contact details of your nearest CAB, see the details below, or go to the Citizens Advice public Web site at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Bishops Waltham office, Well House, 2 Brook Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1AX, Tel. No: 03444 111306
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,
From 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
or alternate Thursday by appointment only 4 – 7.00 pm

Or drop in at **Wickham Outreach**:
Merry Go Round Children's Centre,
Wickham Primary School, Wickham,
Thursday: 9.30 – 11.30 am drop in or by appointment
through Bishops Waltham office

Winchester office, The Winchester Centre,
68 St George Street, Winchester, SO23 8AH,
Tel. No: 03444 111306.

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm (phones from 9.30 am)
or Tuesday & Friday from 10.00 am–1.00 pm
(phones from 9.30)

Alternate Thursday by appointment only 4 – 7.00 pm
Alresford Outreach: The Alresford Surgery, Station
Road, Alresford. Mon 1.00 pm – 3pm, drop-in or by
appointment through Winchester office

The Meon Bridge Churches Web site

We are in the process of upgrading the Meon Bridge Churches Web site. We are hoping to collect photographs for the new pages: photos of the countryside in the Meon Valley, our churches, village scenes, etc, from *Bridge* readers in the area. If you have such photographs that you think might enhance the pages, please could you e-mail them to Ann Symes at:
ann.symes@btinternet.com



Meon Valley Lions Club

All fun and fund-raising!

For the second consecutive year, Meon Valley Lions took part recently in the charity Horse or Bike Ride, organised by the New Forest Rotary Club. The event attracted more than 300 entrants, including the four-man Lions bike team (see photo below) comprising Roy Cuthbertson, Dick Cowles, John (Duracell-bunny) Ormiston, and Ian Adams. Starting at Burley, riders had a choice of mainly off-road routes through the New Forest, enjoying some of Britain's most beautiful countryside en route. Beautiful weather and great organisation made for a highly enjoyable day, allowing the participants to raise lots of money for a variety of chosen charities. Meon Valley Lions once again supported The Rose Road Association charity, based in Southampton. Established in 1952, Rose Road works with over 400 children, young people and their families from across Hampshire and the surrounding counties. The young people who come to Rose Road have a range of disabilities including severe and profound learning difficulties, physical disabilities,

and autism. They're a really great bunch and the people who work for Rose Road do a fantastic job helping them to bring out their talents and realise their dreams and aspirations. The group is funded entirely by charitable donations. As we go to press it looks like our donations should just surpass the £1,000 mark which will go towards their future equipment needs and running costs.

In June of each year, the Lions club has 'change-over', when members assume new roles within the club. Sadly, as our current president, John Wooldridge, reaches the end of his tenure; he is not only stepping down as president, but leaving the club completely. Together with his wife, fellow Lion Sue, he is relocating to the Welsh Marches as part of a retirement plan. We'd like to thank John and Sue for their support and considerable contributions to the Meon Valley Lions club over the last few years and wish them well getting their tongues around Welsh place names and settling in their new home near Monmouth.



The intrepid cyclists - Roy, Dick, John and Ian with Sue Harbottle of Rose Road Association



Four up!

Half way through my tenure here at Droxford (that is, four years ago) I wrote a piece for *The Bridge* eulogising about the migrating birds in the village, warm summer days, and new school uniforms. I interviewed five new, wide eyed pupils and got their take on their new school and new beginnings. And like the social study programme *7 Up*, I decided to catch up with the children again to see how their time with us has had an impact on their learning. Unfortunately, two of the children, Ruby and Hannah, had moved to other schools so I caught up with the other three during the week. Interestingly, the children talked a lot about their recent experiences...

Lucy: SATs week was fun! The tests weren't that bad. I enjoy the way we learn at Droxford we learn lots of different ways.

Bradley: I have enjoyed learning about the local environment and taking part in sports tournaments. My favourite trip was Calshot but I enjoyed them all, I have to admit.

Lucy: I liked all the residential and I liked learning about the Anglo Saxons in our recent topic.

Although not around on the day of this interview, I did ask Charlie what he has enjoyed most and he replied, "I have made lots of new friends".

When I asked Lucy what she was looking forward to at her next school she answered...

Lucy: I'm looking forward to drama, dancing and cooking at The Petersfield School. I will be sad to leave but I will keep in touch.

And Bradley remarked...

Bradley: Most of my friends are going to Swanmore College which is good.

Lucy: It has been fun and enjoyable. I have made new friends with people from other schools.

Bradley: It was strange at first as Year 6 were big but now I am bigger I look to make sure the year threes are OK.

Lucy: I have really enjoyed my time here.

Bradley: My brother is coming here; he will have fun.

These three lovely, erudite and charming pupils have grown in stature over the last four years. But they are still both a tad shy, no airs or graces – just well-rounded happy, confident children. All members of staff who have worked with Charlie, Bradley, and Lucy should be extremely proud of the positive influence they have had over the past 4 years. These children have performed remarkably well recently and are a credit to themselves and their parents.

Finally, I am very proud to be writing this piece not as the deputy of the school – but as the head teacher! I am obviously delighted to be the new head teacher of Droxford Junior School and have been humbled by all the well-wishing. Honestly, I am thrilled to be staying!

This, however, could be my final article, as I feel the new deputy head teacher of the school can contribute, as I have for seven years, with continued enthusiasm. I fear I may have a few other tasks on my hands in the early stage of headship. However, I will always have time for this community and will always keep one eye on *The Bridge*.

www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk

Matthew Dampier, head teacher





Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust
Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.

National Marine Week 2015

by Tim Ferrero

(HIWWT Head of Marine Conservation)

Some 29 species of whales, dolphins, and basking sharks (the second largest shark in the world) – are regularly found in UK waters. Some can be found off the coast of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

However, some of these magnificent ocean giants are now in decline because of decades of damage, and unsustainable exploitation of the oceans. Whether it's collisions with ships, dolphins getting tangled in nets or accidentally caught, or pollution working its way through the food chain – our impact on marine life has been devastatingly clear.

Although the government has introduced protected areas in our seas, the reality is that the nutrient-rich places ocean giants like whales and dolphins need for feeding, breeding and socialising remain unprotected. Some species have global migration routes, taking in thousands of miles and need a network of protected areas specifically to support them.

Hampshire events

Mon 3rd Aug: Emsworth Marine Discovery Day
10am – 3pm Come along to a day of marine discovery with boat trips on the *Solar Heritage* from Emsworth jetty and sea-themed activities in Emsworth Methodist Church. **Booking required for the boat trips** which depart at 12.30pm & 2pm – call 01489 774426. **No booking required for church activities.** For families with children aged 4-11yrs. Children must be with an adult. Suggested donation £3 per person.

Tue 4th Aug: Pirate Party 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm
Ahoy Shipmates! Join Pirate Jess for some salty stories and seafaring games at Milton Locks Nature Reserve – a beautiful patch of seaside in Portsmouth. For families with children aged 4 to 7 – call 01489 570240. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Suggested donation £4 per child. **Booking by 31st July is essential.**

Fri 7th Aug: Wild Beach Taster Session 10.00 am – 12 noon. Wild Beach at Hurst Spit Beach, Milford-on-Sea. Would you like to learn how to build your own beach shelter? Design, make, and fly your own kite? Go paddling? Play games? Then you'll love Wild Beach! Come and try out a taster session. Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult. The event will be held outdoors, whatever the weather, so wrap up warm and don't forget your wellies! Contact Dawn to book: wildlifewatch@hiwwt.org.uk

For more HIWWT activities in August and September go to www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on and enter the date range you're interested in.

The wider health of our oceans is also really important for us, wherever we live. Over half of the oxygen in our atmosphere is produced by seagrasses, microscopic phytoplankton and seaweeds. The oceans also play an important role in regulating our climate by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide and heat.

National Marine Week at the start of August is a good time to reflect on our amazing marine habitats, and find out more about the creatures in our sea. In celebration, we have loads of events across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight throughout August, from seashore safaris and rockpool rummages to undersea explorers in a swimming pool, there are plenty of activities to choose from! Why not come down to find out what's beneath the waves, and what you can do to help.



Boat trip by Dan Osmond



Cuttlefish by Paul Naylor



The Royal British Legion

Droxford Branch

Our annual Summer Drinks Party was held in the garden of Wallops Wood House, by kind permission of John and Elizabeth Parker. The party was extremely well attended and was a great success.

Our next meeting will be on:

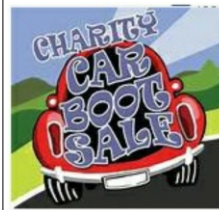
Monday, 14th September,

Speaker: Commander David Childs. RN, CBE

Commander Childs was the instigator of the National Memorial Arboretum, and he will speak to us on how his dreams and plans came to fruition.

As usual the meeting will be in Droxford Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm

Anyone who would like to attend, will be most welcome.



Friends of Alton Abbey

Having a good clear-out?
Bring your unwanted things
to our CAR BOOT SALE at:

ALTON ABBEY

Saturday, 8th August

2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Or come and buy more to fill the spaces!

Entrance £2 Teas £3 for tea (or coffee)
and a piece of cake

Cars £5 each to be booked in advance –
contact Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton Abbey,
Abbey Road, Alton, GU34 4AP.

Cheques should be made payable
to Friends of Alton Abbey.

Please include a telephone number, or an e-mail
address; and a SAE if you wish your place to be
confirmed. For more information email:

foaa@hurley.greenbee.net

or telephone 01420 562126



Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton Church Fête

A really big thank you to all those who made the Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton Church Fête possible on the church green on Saturday, 20th June. The Fete was opened by Rev Tony Forrest, our benefice priest-in-charge designate, and we managed to raise over £5,500 for our three local churches. It was a great success, the rodeo bull keeping some amused for a while! It would not happen, however, without a huge amount of help from so many of you all. In particular we would like to thank those who helped and/or contributed towards selling the raffle tickets in advance, the teas, pony rides, the Meon Valley Band, Meonstoke School and of course Hamish and his team of James, Alan, Darren and Paul, who helped move a vast quantity of items from and back to the Meon Hall.

Thank you also to those of you who have expressed an interest in helping again next year, we really appreciate it and welcome more volunteers! The planned date is Saturday, 18th June, 2016, on the church green again for your diaries!

Fête Team: Libby, Natalie, Sarah P, Sarah S and Za



Hamish's team of Fête removers



Some
Mad
Hatter
Hat
entrants

Droxford Village Hall News



Such a run of good summer weather is somewhat of a rarity in the United Kingdom. Indeed, how the weather is in southern parts rarely reflects how it can be in our most northern climes. We can be grateful, notwithstanding days of extreme heat and distinct chill, that we and the countryside have benefitted from long fine days and how we have been able to take advantage of outdoor living and enjoyment.

Such reliability was in force on the first weekend of July, when the Rude Mechanical Theatre Co. (the RUDes) visited Droxford again and performed for us, as ever, in the Old Rectory garden. This event has become a focal point of the Droxford summer calendar, and it was heartening to see so many people gathered once more to enjoy their picnics and the performance of this outstanding group of players.

Pete Talbot, the director, has toured this year with *The Comedy of Babi Babbett*, which is the first of his self-scripted shows. He had reworked this piece, but since we had never seen it in Droxford, we were truly delighted, amused and entertained by it. There is never a doubt about the talent of everyone involved, and this performance was no exception.

As ever the theatrical experience, along with the unique ambience and size of the Old Rectory garden, for which we owe the Martineaus our grateful thanks, provided the audience with a most enjoyable evening of entertainment.

Our film evenings have run on into July this year, so we hope that all regulars and newcomers will have enjoyed our choices. We have been very pleased with the size of our audiences thus far, and we hope that this support will continue into the autumn season, when more good films have been chosen. We know that many small venues locally are now having film nights, but we feel sure that the comfort of our hall, and what we are able to offer on these evenings, is second to none. Please save your viewings for Droxford's *Moviola*!

There will be a programme of events beyond films to look forward to in the autumn. Please consult the Bridge, and look out for the posters round the village.

The recent 200 Club winners were:

June: Keston Williams
July: Ailsa Duckworth

Jackie Hibbert, secretary

Forthcoming event at Droxford Village Hall

Wednesday, 30th September

The Second Best Marigold Hotel
Rated PG

Another pleasure-filled journey populated by a wonderful ensemble of what feels like old friends. Richard Gere and Tamsin Greig add to the established repertory. India looks ravishing: totally sanitised and with the locals showing proper deference to the Raj!

The colour and music are lovely.

7.30 pm doors open at 7 pm

Tickets £5

Licensed bar and refreshments available

Tickets from the Post Office



COMING TO A FARM NEAR YOU

Cheriton – 11th September

Droxford – 12th September

Film on a Farm is bringing cinema to the great outdoors. A unique opportunity for friends and family to enjoy an open air film with the stunning backdrop of the South Downs National Park.

With Jude's ice cream, Tyrrell's Poshcorn, a BBQ and the Topsy Goose Bar all creating a fun night out on your doorstep.

Tickets available at
www.filmonafarm.co.uk



District councillor's column

Report from Winchester City Council (WCC)

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission has released the final report on the boundaries for district council wards at WCC. Droxford has been put into the Central Meon Valley with Hambledon, Soberton, Swanmore and Waltham Chase in a 3-member ward. Exton and Corhampton & Meonstoke are in a 2-member ward called Upper Meon Valley which runs across to Durley. There will be elections in May 2016 for new councillors.

Major developments – Whiteley

An outline planning application has been submitted for North of Whiteley for up to 3,500 dwellings. The application includes details of the strategic roads through the site including connections from Whiteley Way to Botley Road. The application also includes a secondary school; 2 primary schools; commercial uses; 2 local centres; an extra care facility; affordable housing; public open space provision including sports pitches, allotments and large areas of open space. Whilst it doesn't affect us directly, it may mean more traffic generally in this part of Hampshire to add to that created by Waterlooville and what will come from Welborne.

Training for Small Businesses

Winchester City Council is offering small businesses the chance to perfect their on-line marketing. Digital Business Skills is a tailor-made suite of three training sessions in September, specifically designed to help small businesses develop their knowledge of the Internet, social media and the benefits of getting their business online. To find out more about the course content contact the Economy and Arts team at Winchester City Council at businessgrants@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Dibden
Councillor for Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon
023 9263 2696
caroline.dibden@btinternet.com
cdibden@winchester.gov.uk



Singing For Fun

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

**The Stables,
Free Street
Bishops Waltham**

**1st & 3rd Fridays (usually):
2.00 to 3.30 pm**

Next dates are:
5th & 19th June only
3rd & 17th July

Ages 50's to 90's, people with disabilities especially welcome.
Cost: £1 a session: Includes refreshments.
More information from Annabel on
01489 877130
or 07732 329792. Or just turn up!

www.singandtonic.org.uk

recruiting for September

the meon valley community choir

SING & TONIC

2nd & 3rd Weds 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Droxford Village Hall

**Latest copy date for the next issue
of *The Bridge* is**

Saturday, 12th September

Please submit copy early if you can!



Meon Valley Carers Group News

Promoting a positive way of living with dementia

The news for the Meon Valley Carers Group continues to be exciting and interesting. Sainsbury's during Carer's Week was such an eye-opener when talking to people who came to our table. The most important factor was that they are so courageous when faced with dire consequences of cruel illness, not only dementia but other life debilitating illnesses. It was also sad and frightening to learn just how many families are caring for loved ones living with dementia. Some have very little help from outside services and it does make one realise how important a group such as the Meon Valley Carers can be to those in such a situation. The grand total raised from Carer's Week at Sainsbury's was a few pence over **£500!** The volunteers for the group, who had all given their time so generously for the week, were thrilled and felt that the hard work was so worthwhile. We are hoping that we may be able to return to the store during the course of this year.

We are now making plans to attend the Swanmore Fête on 11th July and are busy collecting bric-a-brac to go on the stall together with publicity about the group. We're just hoping for a fine, sunny day.

It is very important that we reach out to local residents of the Meon Valley to offer them comfort and understanding. The carers who attend our meetings together with the people that they are caring for, say that, after they have received the devastating diagnosis of dementia for their loved one, by attending the Meon Valley Carers Group, they no longer feel isolated. As well as the information and signposting given, there is the companionship of being able to talk to others going through a similar caring role. Day to day normal activities and socialising particularly can become very difficult. Sharing that experience with others in a similar position brings a feeling of normality back to their lives and lasting friendships are often made.

Are you or someone you know caring for a person experiencing memory difficulties? Have they been newly diagnosed with dementia and is the previously secure way of life suddenly filled with fear of the unknown? Meon Valley Carers Group is a voluntary organisation supporting the carers and their families. The pub lunch at The Forge, Shedfield, on the second Tuesday each month, provides all carers with an opportunity to relax and socialise with others just like them. We have a team of qualified drivers who will collect and return members to and from their homes in the mini-bus, thanks to the generosity of The Lions Club. The group meeting is held at The Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore on the fourth Tuesday each month. On a regular basis, carers are able to mix with people in a similar

situation, whilst their cared-for are able to be with them and are encouraged by volunteers to take part in stimulating activities. We endeavour to find a programme that will provide interesting speakers and also include two to three outings a year. Each year there is always a Christmas party and Christmas lunch. The group is also aiming to build craft, art, and musical events into the programme as it progresses through the year.

The volunteers attend the meetings and pub lunch and always provide a warm welcome to any new comers. Please do come and see for yourself how this extremely friendly relaxed group of people will lighten your worries and help you in any way they can.

Our office is open each Monday from 09.15 until 13.15 throughout the year, apart from Bank Holidays, at The Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore. There is a clear sign and a bell at the entrance to the centre. The answer phone is switched on so please feel free to leave a message should you require assistance, telephone number: 01489 895444. If using sat-nav to find us, the post-code is SO32 2PA

The Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore

Events for your Diary: August & September

- 11th Aug: Pub Lunch at the Forge, Shedfield, at 12 noon.
- 25th Aug: Group Meeting at the Paterson Centre at 2.00 pm: Heather Waterton from The Princess Royal Trust to talk about the provision of emergency plans for carers & ongoing support.
Cared-for: Arts & Crafts.
- 8th Sept: Pub Lunch at the Forge, Shedfield at 12 noon.
- 18th Sept: **Charity Coffee Morning 10.00 – 12 noon The Stables, Parish Centre, Free Street Bishops Waltham. Cakes for Sale – call in before or after shopping! A warm welcome awaits you**
- 22nd Sept Group Meeting at the Paterson Centre at 2.00 pm: Jenny Walker from Driver Belcher Solicitors to explain Lasting Powers of Attorney.
Cared-for: Games and Art

**Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting
27th October: 1.45 arrival for 2.00 pm start
at The Paterson Centre**

Some local services & useful telephone numbers

POST OFFICES

Droxford – High Street 878811
 Meonstoke – Allens Lane, Corhampton 877374

STORES

Droxford Stores, High Street 878811
 The Village Stores, Allens Lane, Corhampton 877374
 Meringtons Stores, Garrison Hill, Droxford 878043
 Droxford Antiques, High Street, Droxford 878800

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Baker's Arms, Droxford 877533
 The Bucks Head, Meonstoke 877313
 The Hurdles, Droxford 877451
 The Shoe, Exton 877526
 The White Horse, Droxford 877490

GARAGES

Meringtons, Droxford 877431
 Taylors Garage Ltd, Droxford 877433

SCHOOLS

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

LIBRARY (Bishop's Waltham)

Free Street, Bishops Waltham 892871

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU (Bishop's Waltham)

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

PARISH COUNCILS

Corhampton & Meonstoke.
 Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 877470
 Droxford. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 877470
 Exton Parish Meeting:
 Honorary Secretary: Position vacant –

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Droxford Caroline Dibden 02392 632696
 Exton, Corhampton & Meonstoke Norma Bodtger 878048

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, Meonstoke

Bookings: Mrs Anna Rolfe by e-mail at: 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 WEB SITE:

www.droxfordweb.co.uk

for more information on local events and activities

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services 0845 603 5630
 Children's Services 0845 603 5620
 The above numbers are open Mon. to Thurs. 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
 The out-of-hours number is 0845 600 4555

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

Corhampton & Meonstoke:

Ian Gilchrist (chairman)		877238
Rectory Lane	Norah Burrage	878708
High Street	Janet Dobby	878657
Bucks Head Hill	Carol Jones	878560
Oxendown	Ian Gilchrist	877238
Warnford Road	Mike Camp	877180
Corhampton Lane	Charles Hall	877506
Pound Lane, West	Jenny Creese	877219
Pound Lane, East	Linda Foot	877763
Chapel Road & Fry's Lane	(To be decided)	
New Road	Jenny Liardet	877583
Allen's Lane and St Andrew's Green	Leslie Daysh	877327
Stocks Lane	(To be decided)	
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

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 including residential school trips, books, travel etc. Call one of our trustees in confidence to request a form:

Droxford: Ann Symes, 877643 & Julia Keitley, 877414

Meonstoke: Jan Dobson, 877672

Exton: Diana Arthur, 877390

Corhampton: Monika Thwaites, 877939

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

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 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, 877564
Chairman

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Petersfield Hospital, Swan Street

Petersfield, GU32 3LB ☎ 01730 263221

Open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm 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 9.00 am to midday. Waiting times vary, but most patients are seen, treated and discharged within an hour.

Meon Valley Community Bus

Fares (all destinations): **Adult:** £5.00 return.

Children: Under 16: ½ fare: Under 5 free

All concessionary bus passes accepted

For private hire, ring **Stuart Attrill:** 01489 878500

TIMETABLES

Leaves	MONDAY to FAREHAM	Returns
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		
0926	Exton, The Shoe	1239
0927	Corhampton, The Butts	1238
0929	Meonstoke, Pound Cottages	1236
0931	Corhampton Stores	1234
0933	Meonstoke, Old Post Office	1232
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



'Leaving the Pond'

How the Valley Preschool helps to make starting school = no worries

The Valley Preschool offers many things as standard, and their already generous curriculum continues to grow with subjects such as French being added from September. The wonderful staff, a bright and airy new building, the huge variety of activities (including cooking; gardening club; arts and crafts; messy play; music: nature and woodland activities; sand and water sensory play; many taking place every day so that no child misses their favourite) is only part of the story.

One of the things that this preschool does exceptionally well, but very quietly, is the smooth and seamless transition to school. In this case, 'transition planning' isn't a box to be ticked with a quick school visit in the summer term. For this preschool, preparing children for school is something that is embedded in everything they do and is a process that is gently begun from the moment your child is welcomed in.

The Valley Preschool is the largest feeder into Meonstoke C of E Infant School, so making friends at preschool that progress on to school with each other is a natural process. I remember clearly the joy my daughter felt when she returned to preschool after the summer holidays to begin her second year, and found that she had grown from being a 'tadpole' into a 'frog'. This step up was a huge confidence boost to her at that time, whilst still giving her a year to grow accustomed to the fact that she would be next to leave the safety of the 'pond'. Children can easily identify who is a fellow frog and will be moving on to school at the same time as them. My daughter had watched older friends moving on and playing happily in the field next door, and looked forward to playing with them again.

Reception class teachers visit the preschool regularly to meet the children and learn about them before they

even step foot in school. Break times during the summer term are spent mixing with the school children and visits to the reception class take place regularly, culminating with a special teddy bear's picnic; all of these things mean that getting ready for school has been a gradual process of building confidence and curiosity in this new adventure.

For a child like my daughter (who thinks about things very deeply), this process has made a change that could have been unfamiliar and frightening into a natural progression in her school life. We wave to her reception teacher in the car on the way home, school children call hello to my daughter as we go into preschool – all of these little things make a huge difference to feeling like we're not leaving anything behind, we've just taken another step along the way.

When Amelia arrives for her first day at school there won't be anything unnerving or strange, and I'll know that a strong foundation has been laid by the Valley Preschool to make the start of her school journey an exciting and positive one.

For more information about The Valley Preschool, go to the Web site at www.thevalleypreschool.org.uk, contact Sarah Winter-Page, the preschool supervisor, on 01489 878019, or send an email to: info@thevalleypreschool.org.uk.

Sophie Wills

From the registers

Baptisms

Meonstoke 28th June Alice Maria Venn

Weddings

Exton 4th July Joseph Stephen Carpenter & Sophie Nicola Rowsell

Droxford 11th July Edward Christopher Heller & Angharad Mary Fairles Thomas

18th July Robert Charles Wallace & Iona Harriet Duke

Meonstoke 13th June Jonathan Bruce Campbell & Isobel Keppel

25th July Charles Freddie Hatfield & Daisy Elizabeth White.

Thanksgiving Services

Droxford 11th June Sue Mitchell, aged 57



We welcome. . .

Liz Callegari, who has come from Perthshire, to No.5 Oxendown, Meonstoke.

Lynne and Tim Dumbrell, who have come from Kings Worthy to 1, Park View, Union Lane, Droxford.

Brian Fitzgerald, who has come from Epsom, Surrey, to Kilnsey Cottage, Police Station Lane, Droxford.

District Diary

August

Note: In common with previous years, during the month of August, there is only one Parish Communion service on each Sunday (at 11.00 am)

- Sun 2 **Trinity 9**
(1st) Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke 11.00 am
4th Waterlooville Brownies stay at the Meon Hall
- Tue. 4 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed. 5 Look-in for coffee and chat, 10.00–12.00
St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke
- Thu. 6 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
- Sat. 8 6th Portsmouth Brownies stay at The Meon Hall
- Sun. 9 **Trinity 10**
(2nd) Holy Communion (CW), Droxford 11.00 am
- Tue.11 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Thu.13 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
Future of Droxford church, open Meeting 7.00 pm
- Sat. 15 MV Garden Club: Droxford Gardens open
from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm
Followed by Barbecue at Fir Trees, 4.00 pm
Swanmore Rd, Droxford (Norma & Peter Moore)
9th Catisfield Brownies stay at The Meon Hall
- Sun.16 **Trinity 11**
(3rd) Holy Communion (CW), Corhampton 11.00 am
Informal Summer Service, Droxford 10.00 am
- Tue. 18 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed 19 Look-in for coffee and chat, 10.00–12.00
St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke
MV Garden Club: Garden visit to Hill Hse, 2.00 pm
Old Alresford. Meet in Droxford Square
- Thu.20 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
- Sun.23 **Trinity 12**
(4th) Holy Communion (CW), Exton 11.00 am
1st B/Waltham Brownies stay at The Meon Hall
- Tue. 25 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Thu.27 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
The Meon Hall closed for annual floor maintenance
- Sun.30 **Trinity 13**
(4th) Holy Communion (CW), Corhampton 11.00 am
- Mon. 31 Fir Hill Droxford Gardens open: 2.00–5.30 pm
see page 5 for details

September

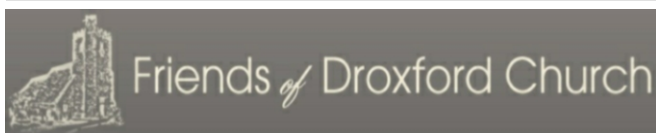
- Tue. 1 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
- Wed 2 Look-in for coffee and chat, 10.00–12.00
St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke
- Thu. 3 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
Licensing service for Rev. Tony Forrest in 7.30 pm
Meonstoke Church (see page 3)
- Fri. 4 Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham 2.00 pm

- Sun 6 **Trinity 14**
(1st) Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford 8.30 am
Holy Communion (CW), Meonstoke 11.00 am
Harvest Festival, Exton 3.30 pm
- Tue. 8 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
MVDFAS: Talk: *Turner's watercolour technique*. The Meon Hall 10.40 am
U3A: Talk: *Water, the Essence of Life*, by 2.00 pm
David Roger-Jones, local enthusiast (see p.7)
- Wed.9 Sing and Tonic, Droxford Village Hall 7.30 pm
Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council 7.30 pm
meeting, The Meon Hall
- Thu.10 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
MV Garden Club: Garden visit: *Fairbank*, 2.00 pm
Old Odiham Rd, Alton. Meet in Droxford Sq.
- Sat. 12 **Latest copy date for Oct–Nov Bridge**
- Sun.13 **Trinity 15**
(2nd) Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke 8.30 am
Holy Communion (CW), Droxford 11.00 am
Concert of Baroque music in Droxford 3.00 pm
church: see page 3 for details
Evensong, Corhampton 6.30 pm
- Mon.14 RBL: Talk: *Creating the National Memorial Arboretum*. By Cdr David Childs 7.00 pm
- Tue.15 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
Special EGM for FOCC & St. Andrew's 7.00 pm
The Meon Hall (small hall)
- Wed 16 Look-in for coffee and chat, 10.00–12.00
St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke
Droxford PCC meeting in the church 7.00 pm
Sing and Tonic, Droxford Village Hall 7.30 pm
- Thu. 17 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
The Meon Ladies: The Meon Hall 7.30 pm
Droxford Parish Council mtg, Droxford VH 7.30 pm
- Fri. 18 Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham 2.00 pm
- Sun.20 **Trinity 16**
(3rd) Holy Communion (BCP), Exton 8.30 am
Matins, Corhampton 11.00 am
- Mon.21 SDNPA Local Plan consultation 3.00–8.30 pm
meeting for western parishes, The Meon Hall
- Tue.22 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
U3A: Talk: *My early Days in Horticulture - Part II*; by Brian Kidd, of Radio Solent 2.00 pm
MV Flower Club: The Meon Hall 2.00 pm
- Thu.24 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
MV Garden Club: Talk: *The Gardens of Iceland*: by Mr Wilf Simcox 7.30 pm
- Fri. 25 Pop-Up Coffee Shop in for Macmillan 10.00–Noon
Cancer Relief, The Meon Hall
- Sun.27 **Trinity 17**
(4th) Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton 8.30 am
All Age Service, Meonstoke 9.30 am
Holy Communion (CW), Exton 11.00 am

Mon.28 The Meon Hall Management Committee 7.30 pm
meeting, The Meon Hall
Tue. 29 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00
Wed 30 Film Night: *The 2nd Best Marigold Hotel*, 7.30 pm
Droxford VH (see page 17 for details)

October

Thu. 1 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
Sun 4 **Trinity 18**
(1st) Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford 8.30 am
Harvest Festival, Meonstoke 11.00 am
Evensong, Exton 6.30 pm
Tue. 6 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH 10.30–12.00



For information about events, and for update on the restoration and community hub project go to the Friends Web site at:

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk

Among others on the Web site there is a link under Membership on how to *Become a Friend* and also some useful links to the Meon Bridge churches and Droxford Parish Council Web sites.

In praise of ... U3A by Andrew Brown from *The Guardian*

The U3A or University of the Third Age, which now provides courses to as many as 350,000 pensioners, doesn't look anything like the model of a modern university. It costs almost nothing to attend and does nothing for your prospects of future employment. There may be other universities that do as little to enhance the economic value of their students, but they don't boast about it, whereas U3A is designed for people who – unlike humanities graduates – have no need to earn money later in their lives.

It neither gives nor recognizes any qualifications. Some of the teachers may be weighed down with doctorates but there's no demand for any qualifications. Its students come there for the delight of learning alongside other people driven by the same need.

There is no campus; each local group is independent, and the administrators are not paid. If there is research it is not evaluated. No one has to pretend that it adds anything at all to Britain's economic competitiveness. It has no place in league tables and the fees come to less than the participants might spend on coffee. The price of attendance is time and commitment. No wonder it is growing: the U3A is, in some senses, the only **real** university left in Britain.

THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

See the District Diary for details of any changes from these regular services

	Benefice Holy Communion (BCP) ¹	Family and other services	Benefice Holy Communion (CW) ²	Evensong & Taizé worship (BCP) ¹	Matins
First Sunday	8.30 am Droxford	–	11.00 am Meonstoke	6.30 pm Evensong Exton	–
Second Sunday	8.30 am Meonstoke	–	11.00 am Droxford	6.30 pm Evensong Corhampton	–
Third Sunday	8.30 am Exton	–	–	6.30 pm Taizé Corhampton Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct only	11.00 am Corhampton
Fourth Sunday	8.30 am Corhampton	9.30 am All Age Service, Meonstoke	11.00 am Exton	–	–

¹ BCP – Book of Common Prayer

² CW – Common Worship

Weekday services:

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