

# THE BRIDGE

February – March 2016

The Parish Magazine for  
Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton

List of Advertisers

**ACCOMMODATION & EVENTS** Wallops Wood Cottages 28: Hill Place Events 35

**ACCOUNTANTS & TAX ADVISERS** RG Walker 26: Nicholas Ridge 37

**ANTIQUES** Droxford Antiques 31

**ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES** Engineering Architecture Ltd 33

**BUILDERS & BUILDING MATERIALS** R & G Gamblin 27: Steven Hurdle 30  
Peter Garber 38: Steve Such (Property Maintenance) 26  
JT Carpentry & Building 29: KJN Home Improvements 30  
Hillman Bldg. Services 35: Frontwood Ltd 37: E J Goodall (Thatcher) 40

**CARPENTERS & WOOD PRODUCTS** Paul Flint & Co 27

**CATERING** Clementine Catering 36

**CHILDCARE GROUPS** Jo Jingles 26

**COMPUTERS & INTERNET** Punchedcard Ltd 29: Andy Harris 40  
Chris Guenier (*inside back cover*)

**DECORATORS, PAINTERS, & TILERS** Top Marks 39: M & J Mason 30  
Oliver's Painting & Decorating 32: Droxford Interiors & Tiling 38  
David P Churcher 34: Ray Gent 37

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, HEATING, & PLUMBING** Mark Oliver 29: EAS 28  
Alan Shawyer (*inside back cover*): Adept Plumbing Services 40  
G Rixon Ltd (*back cover*): R A Redman 30: D & S Oil Tanks 33  
Hampshire Cooker Conversions 33: Harpers of South Boarhunt 36  
Droxford logs 38

**DOMESTIC SERVICES** Curtains by Mary 33: Grange Upholstery 37  
PestOFF Pest Control 26: Cynthia Tester Curtains & Blinds 36  
Chimney Sweep Christian Oliver 34: Barn Store for Storage 39  
Advanced Clean (Carpet & Upholstery) 39

**ELECTRICIANS & ELECTRICAL SERVICES** Derek Pilcher 30  
Ray Burbidge 37  
Assure Electrical Ltd (*inside back cover*): G Rixon Ltd (*back cover*)

**ESTATE AGENTS** The Country House Company 35

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIALS** Nigel Chamberlain (*inside front cover*)  
South Downs Funeral Services 36

**GARAGES & CARS** Taylors Garage 25: Andrews Autosource 27

**GARDENS & GARDEN MACHINERY** Judit Appel Plantswoman & Gardener 33  
Anita Foy Garden Design 39

**GLASS & GLAZING** Fareham Glass 34: Leydene Glass & Glazing 39

**HAIRDRESSERS** Gaudion's Hairdressing 32

**HEALTH, WELL-BEING, & OPTICIANS** Saxby's Eyecare 28  
Foot Care (Ann-Marie Elliott) 25: Foot Health Practitioner (Karen Jordan) 30  
Chiropodist (Graham Howes) 38  
Pilates with Aplomb 34: Damson Hill Pilates (*inside back cover*)

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS** Southwick Garden Offices 27: KJN 30

**JEWELLERS** Simon Lawson 37

**LETTINGS & LAND MANAGEMENT** Pimp My Paddock (*back cover*)

**PIANO TUNING** David Mathews Piano Tuner/Technician 35

**PRINTING & STATIONERY** Meon Valley Printers (DEK) 29  
Studio 6 (*inside front cover*)

**PUBS** White Horse 26: The Shoe Inn 40

**RIDING & EQUESTRIAN** Merrie Stud Riding School 25

**SCHOOLS; EDUCATION & LEARNING** Valley Pre-school 25  
Sustainability Centre 25

**SHOPS & STORES** Droxford PO & Stores 26: Meonstoke PO & Stores 28  
Swanmore Butchers 33: Christina's Shop in the Square 32

**SOLICITORS** Biscoes 35: Chamberlains 36: Blake Morgan (*back cover*)

**SPORT** Hazelholt Floodlit Indoor Tennis Court 31

**TAXIS** Gamblin Cars 38: Hambledon Cars (*inside front cover*)

**VETS & PETS** The Village Cattery 29: Shield Veterinary Centre 40  
The Dog Room (*inside front cover*)

# THE BRIDGE

## Contents

Parish Lists . . . . . 2

Rector's Newsletter . . . . . 3

Droxford church Lent Lunch . . . . . 3

Droxford church Easter offering . . . . . 3

Exton, M/Stoke & Corhampton church fête . . . . . 4

Droxford drop-in . . . . . 4

Meonstoke Toddler Group . . . . . 4

FOMS Pop-up coffee shop . . . . . 4

Thank you for Christmas trees . . . . . 4

Look-in & Book-out . . . . . 4

**Latest Bridge copy date** . . . . . 4

Droxford Parish Council . . . . . 5

Corhampton & Meonstoke annual parish meeting . . . . . 5

Droxford annual parish meeting . . . . . 5

St Andrew's & Corhampton churches . . . . . 6

Droxford Cricket Club . . . . . 6

Friends of Droxford Church AGM . . . . . 7

The Meon Valley Orchestra concert . . . . . 7

Friends of Meonstoke School . . . . . 7

In the garden . . . . . 8

Meon Valley Garden Club & Spring Show . . . . . 8

The Meon Hall . . . . . 9

Play-reading group . . . . . 9

Portsmouth Cathedral Choir . . . . . 10

U3A . . . . . 10

Women's World Day of Prayer . . . . . 11

RBL Poppy Appeal . . . . . 11

CPR Training . . . . . 11

Soirées on the bridge concert . . . . . 11

The Royal British Legion . . . . . 12

Home Start Christmas Hamper . . . . . 12

Meon Valley Lions Club . . . . . 13

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Co . . . . . 13

Droxford Junior School . . . . . 14

MV Active Retirement Association . . . . . 14

Hackney & Bishops Waltham Deanery . . . . . 15

3rd & 4th Sunday Services . . . . . 15

Droxford Village Hall news . . . . . 16

Droxford church project update . . . . . 16

Forthcoming events Droxford Village Hall . . . . . 17

Meon Ladies meetings . . . . . 17

District councillor's column . . . . . 18

Singing for Fun . . . . . 18

Sing & Tonic . . . . . 18

Meon Valley Carers group . . . . . 19

Droxford Stewardship campaign . . . . . 19

Local Services Information . . . . . 20

William Collins Charity . . . . . 20

Droxford & District Comm. Care Group . . . . . 21

Minor Injuries Unit, Petersfield Hospital . . . . . 21

The Valley Preschool . . . . . 22

Christian Aid Walk 2016 . . . . . 22

From the registers . . . . . 22

We Welcome . . . . . 22

District Diary . . . . . 23

Emily Matthews . . . . . 24

Grace Dumper at 99 . . . . . 24

Church Services Chart . . . . . 24



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

THE BRIDGE CHURCHES WEBSITE is at: [www.bridgechurches.org.uk](http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk)

**RECTOR** Reverend Tony Forrest E-mail: [rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com)  
The Rectory, Rectory Lane Tel: 877422  
Meonstoke, SO32 3NF  
Note: The rector's day off is Friday

**For information about baptisms & funerals, please contact the rector**

### LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Reader emeritus Pauline Quarendon 877392  
Reader Cathy Mathews 877804

**For information about weddings, please contact the weddings administrator:**  
Sue Wells: Tel. 01329 834130

**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  
Vergers: Norman Bell 877230  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Services: Ros Collins 877782

### 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  
Vergers: Bob Miles –

### OTHER DENOMINATIONS

**Roman Catholic Church** (Bishop's Waltham)  
Canon Alan Griffiths 07760 220346

### METHODIST & UNITED FREE CHURCH

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

### MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwarden: Position vacant –  
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 &  
Vergers Joanna Buchanan 877737

### PRESHAW

Coordinator Position vacant –

### THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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Hants., SO53 2FZ

### Cover picture

Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, by Guy Liardet

This bridge is still under construction and when completed will be the third bridge over the Bosphorus. Guy took this photo on Monday 12 October 2015 from the Swan Hellenic cruise ship, *Minerva*.

When completed, this third Bosphorus bridge will be the longest combined motorway/railway bridge in the world and the world's eighth-longest suspension 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 – see page 4) may not be included.

## From the Rector

The last edition of *The Bridge* neatly covered the four weeks or so of Advent and the 40 days of the Christmas season until Candlemas. Because of this year's early Easter, the February/March edition spans Lent and Easter. Just as there is never a dull moment in meteorological seasons, the Church's seasons change at a pace too.

<sup>30</sup> My eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. *Luke 2: 30-32*

Candlemas (2<sup>nd</sup> February) ends the time when we remember Jesus' birth. However, through the Song of Simeon (see Luke 2), we also look forward to Jesus' rejection and towards the rapidly approaching season of Lent.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness. *Psalms 103.8*

Lent, our preparation for the sadness then joy of Easter, begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The story of Jesus's death on the Cross, his Passion, is read on the fifth Sunday, giving it its name of Passion Sunday.

In early church history, the *Pascha* was a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow – it included all the great Easter themes: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Today, by participating in the whole sequence of Easter services, we too can share in Christ's journey, from his triumphal entry into

Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Maundy Thursday has the key themes: humble Christian service (Christ washing the disciples' feet), the institution of the Eucharist, and Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?'), Thursday passes into Good Friday with the ancient veneration of the Cross - and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century *Devotion Meditations*. There is no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, rather consecrated bread from Maundy Thursday is given in communion. The church remains stripped and without liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the dead Son of God, other than silence and desolation. However, within the silence, a sense of peace and completion grows.

From earliest times, Christians have gathered through Easter night to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation to the resurrection. Thus, the Easter liturgy becomes an experience of new life in the passing from darkness into light. The Easter vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day – Alleluia! All the resources of the church – music, flowers, bells, colours – are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The *Alleluia*, absent throughout Lent, returns.

Now the queen of seasons,  
bright with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render.  
(John of Damascus)

Please look inside this copy of *The Bridge* and on our website at [www.bridgechurches.org.uk](http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk) for details of Lent and Easter services.

Tony

### St Mary & All Saints Lent Lunch

will be on

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> February**

at

**12.30 pm**

in

**Droxford Village Hall**

following the morning service

Donations at the lunch for  
Bishop Christopher's Lent Appeal.

### St Mary & All Saints, Droxford Easter Offering

As is customary, since collections at Easter ceased to be part of the rector's salary, St Mary & All Saints Easter Day collection will go to support the clergy. The offering is split equally between the Clergy Pension Fund and St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy. Through the use of honorary consultants, St Luke's helps minimise the time clergy are away from their parishioners for medical reasons. The charity also works with dioceses to strengthen the health of clergy, in particular the effects of stress. A new development is partnership with Burrswood Christian Hospital. This assists those in frontline ministry to receive therapeutic treatment in sympathetic and restful surroundings.





### Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton Church Fête,

An event for your 2016 diary: this year's Church Fete will be on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June** on the Church Green. A huge thank you to those of you who have offered to help with the fete after the momentum from 2015, but do start thinking about how you could help; new ideas and more help are very welcome. Don't hesitate to get in touch!

Natalie Lumby, Sarah Page, Za Rowe

### POP-UP COFFEE SHOP

FRIDAY 11 MARCH

THE MEON HALL,  
MEONSTOKE  
9.30 - 12 NOON

NOTE NEW  
OPENING TIME!

FRESH TEA, COFFEE,  
HOMEMADE CAKES

SUPPORTING MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE AND MEONSTOKE SCHOOL



### 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!

### Thank You !

Once again, we thank Danny Smith for kindly donating the Christmas tree for Droxford church.

Thank you, also, to Ray Dinage for providing and erecting the Christmas tree in Droxford Village Square.

### 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!**

**February: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

**March: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** (+ hot cross bun tasting to raise money for a charity)

Donations from the December blind tasting of mince pies raised £30, for which the Rowans are very grateful. Thank you to all those tasters. A local bakery came top!

### 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

### 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](mailto: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.



### Latest copy date for the

**April - May issue**  
of *The Bridge* is

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March**

## Droxford Parish Council

Meetings of the parish council are held in the village hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month (with the exception of August (no meeting) and December (when the meeting is brought forward by a week) and are open to the public. Minutes are published on the Web site and posted on the parish notice board (next to the bus shelter).

The parish council is made up of seven local volunteer councillors with responsibilities to make collective decisions on behalf of residents, and one part-time paid clerk who is responsible for implementing the PC's decisions. The members of the PC:

- Barbara Chandler, chair
- Colin Matthissen
- Pietro Acciarri
- Nick Fletcher
- Janet Melson, vice-chair
- Louise Withers
- Jason Toman
- Rosemary Hoile, clerk to the parish council  
Tel: 01489 877470  
Hours: Mon – Thurs, 9.00 am – 12 noon

We welcome comments, observations and questions from residents. We currently have several major projects underway for the benefit of the village: replacement of play equipment, extension to the recreation ground car park, to name but two. If you are interested in joining a working group to help

with a specific project, please contact either the clerk or myself for more details.

If you would like anything added to the Web site, including local businesses, news or events that would be of interest to the community, please email me at [bachand210@gmail.com](mailto:bachand210@gmail.com) or alternatively, [clerk.droxfordpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.droxfordpc@gmail.com).

The parish council is going to be part of the CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN event, which is being organized nationwide as part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebration on Saturday, 5th March. Come and join us at the pavilion on the recreation ground, at 10.00 am for a couple of hours. Further information is available on the parish Web site at: [www.droxfordweb.co.uk](http://www.droxfordweb.co.uk). Please note this replaces the original Big Tidy-Up arranged for 19th March.

See the notice below for details of this year's annual parish meeting.

Barbara Chandler



The village hall in Droxford Square



Note the date . . . .

### Corhampton & Meonstoke Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April

at 7.30 pm  
in

The Meon Hall, Meonstoke

Note the date . . . .

### Droxford Annual Parish Meeting

8.00 pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

in

Droxford Village Hall

preceded by a welcome drink at  
7.45 pm

## St Andrew's and Corhampton churches

The year 2015 ended with a very busy December, with all the celebrations leading up to Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who decorated the churches so beautifully, and Meonstoke School for their stunning Nativity scene. They were the backdrop to all our Christmas services and much admired.

At the beginning of December, we had a Toy service. Kind people donated a whole car boot full of toys for the children of women living in a Portsmouth Women's Refuges (3 centres and many individual houses). Then followed the traditional Christingle service, organised with Meonstoke School. On Christmas Eve, there was a Scratch Nativity – new to all of us, and a must for your 2016 diary. The simple message was conveyed by some budding actors – even a bemused Joseph, who found himself with two wives, rose to the occasion. St Andrew's was filled on Christmas Day with people wanting to celebrate the birth of Christ – it was a real and vibrant community celebration. At all these services collections were taken and people gave very generously to the Children's Society, Tear Fund and the Church Army – thank you all so very much.

Also in December, the newly formed Friends of St Andrews and Corhampton received their new constitution. It is hoped that this new organisation

will enable us to work together with our two communities to safeguard the fabric of both our churches. To celebrate this new organisation, the Friends organised a Christmas lunch at the Bucks Head for some of our elderly, their carers and some Community Care drivers. Our sincere thanks go to Nicky and her family, who looked after everyone so well. It is hope to have a mid-summer celebration, with the surplus of the community grant.

We are also looking forward to an early Easter and Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday thanksgiving.

At the next PCC meeting in March, we will choose a Planned Giving Scheme. We hope that our generous congregation will be able to commit enough money to cover the cost of our ministry. We also hope that the whole community will continue its invaluable support for all that we plan to do, not least have a full time benefice priest for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Our aim is to ensure that we can run our beautiful ancient churches for everyone with the funds we generate, so that our work and our buildings are here for the generations to come.

Meonstoke and Corhampton PCC

## Droxford Cricket Club

It is hard to imagine playing cricket at this time of year, with dark evenings and the wind and rain dominating, but the 2015 season was the best season for Droxford CC in many years, and we won more games than in any season since the 1980s. We played many of our regular opponents from the Meon Valley and surrounding areas, and gave a good account of ourselves in the majority of our games.

Records were broken too, with three centuries scored during the summer, and a large number of debutants turning out for the team, both from the village and from outside.

We played from April to September on Sundays, and also grew our programme of 20/20 evening fixtures, which was a great way of getting new people into cricket.

This year, we are recruiting for new players, and it would be fantastic if many of these could come from Droxford and the surrounding villages. We offer a positive spirit, alongside a competitive edge to our play, and we welcome people of all abilities, ages and experience to the club. After home games, we are to be found in the White Horse, and the social element of the club is very important.

The 2016 fixtures will be published in the next edition, and we have nets running at the Ageas Bowl in February and March, which offer a great opportunity to give it a go if you are interested.

Please contact Ed Wright at [ed.wright@baxterhall.com](mailto:ed.wright@baxterhall.com) or

Roger Denham at [rogerdenham@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerdenham@btinternet.com) for more information.





Friends of Droxford Church

[www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk)

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February

at

7.30pm

## Droxford Church

### Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Approval of minutes of 2014 AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Approval of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
6. Election of Officers.
7. Election of Auditor



## Grand Charity Concert

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March

7.30 pm

United Reformed Church

18 Osborn Road

Fareham PO16 7DG

An evening of popular, light classical music

with

The Meon Valley Orchestra

and

The Portsmouth Philharmonia

Tickets from Annabel on 01489 877130 or

[annabelarmstrong@btinternet.com](mailto:annabelarmstrong@btinternet.com)

£10, concessions £5

Proceeds to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

The Meonstoke Village Band began in 2007 as a group of friends playing together for pleasure. We have grown in numbers to over 35 players and become The Meon Valley Orchestra. We rehearse in Soberton Village Hall on Thursday mornings and welcome new players.

**Please come to hear us and support**

**Pancreatic Cancer Research**



Friends of  
Meonstoke School

The Meonstoke Christmas Fair was an enormous success. Thank you to everyone who helped make it so. Father Christmas was transported to his grotto in fine style in a sleigh pulled by Angus the red-nosed reindeer. Meanwhile the Meon Hall was transformed into a festive whirl of market stalls and Christmas activities. We made a grand total of £2,361 which really is a tremendous result.

Looking ahead, we'd like to draw your attention to two events taking place in March and April:

### Pop Up Coffee Shop – Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30 am until noon

On Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March FOMS will be running the Pop Up Coffee shop in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and Meonstoke School. We will be serving tea, coffee, and wonderful homemade cakes between 10.00 am and noon at the Meon Hall, Meonstoke. Do come and join us and help raise some money for some really good causes.



*The arrival of Father Christmas at the Christmas Fair*

### Quiz Night – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 7.30 pm

The big FOMS Quiz of the Year will take place at the Meon Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Quiz masters Paul Kalra, Seb Briggs, and Greg Clarke are back by popular demand. Bring your own food and drink and come and join in the fun. Tickets on sale in March from Meonstoke School Reception or Meonstoke Post Office.

Philippa Clarke





## In the garden

February & March

**D**affodils and snowdrops in December!! It has been another unseasonably warm December and for most of us very wet too. Unfortunately, these conditions are ideal for pests to overwinter successfully, so vigilance for aphids and snail/slug eggs is needed so that they can be dealt with appropriately.

As soon as the soil is workable, priority should be given to getting bare rooted trees, shrubs and fruit canes planted while they are still dormant. It is also time to give the vegetable plot a final dig over before preparing for sowing.



**Vegetables:** Early sowings of broad beans, peas, and parsnips may be made, and shallot sets planted. At this time, early sowings of spring onions and lettuce may also be made. A layer of fleece will provide some protection against frost, mice and birds.



**Fruit:** Shorten canes of summer fruiting raspberries to 5 feet and tie in to supporting wires. Newly planted canes should be cut back to between 4 and 6 inches. In mid-February, cut autumn fruiting varieties down to ground level. Prune gooseberries, white and red currants – cut back half of last year's new growth and trim side shoots to about 2 inches. Ensure that there are no crossing branches and that there is plenty of space for air to circulate in the bushes. Remove all wood 4 years old or more from black currant bushes (these stems will be very dark in colour). Sprinkle some balanced fertiliser around the base of fruit trees and bushes before applying a mulch of well-rotted manure.



**Herbaceous border:** Clean up dead leaves and stems which may harbour unwanted pests, and complete any transplanting not done in the autumn. Plant roses and hardy lilies; plant gladioli after mid-March; prune climbing roses and hardy shrubs. Do NOT prune forsythia and other spring flowering shrubs or spring flowering clematis such as montana, alpina, or armandii, otherwise there will be no flowers this year. Apply mulch of composted horse manure around shrubs.



**Lawns:** In March, re-seed worn areas after first levelling; repair any damaged edges and aerate the whole lawn with an aerator or fork. At the end of the month apply lawn fertiliser and after a few

## Meon Valley Garden Club

We completed the garden club year as usual with a Skittles evening at the Southwick Golf Club. This was a really enjoyable evening playing skittles, eating, drinking, and lots of chat! Thank you to everyone who made this an enjoyable evening.

The programme for 2016 has a good balance of talks, visits, and social events. Members are looking forward to the day visit to Kew Gardens in June. Other visits are to West Dean Gardens, Rymans, and Blackdown House. Our talks include some practical subjects on propagation and autumn gardening. We have two garden shows, one in the Spring and the main show in the Summer, both to be held at the Meon Hall. If you need new plants for your garden, come to our two plant sales held at Droxford Village Hall in May and October.

Happy Gardening, even if it is from your armchair at this time of year!

Caroline Harris, Secretary

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

## Meon Valley Garden Club

### Spring Show

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

at 2.00 pm

The Meon Hall

Show schedules available on the Web site at  
[www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk](http://www.meon-valley-garden-club.co.uk)

days lightly mow, remembering to set the mower blades high so that the grass is not cut too short. If there has been a build-up of perennial weeds and moss since the autumn use proprietary weed and feed with moss killer.



**In the greenhouse:** Sow tomato, sprouts, cauliflower and summer bedding annuals such as petunia, tagetes, asters and nicotiana. Start tuberous rooted begonias in pots or trays, start dahlias in trays of slightly damp peat or soil-free compost. Chit early potato tubers, eyes uppermost in shallow boxes of sand, ready for planting out in mid-March. Start watering dormant overwintered fuchsias and pelargoniums to kick-start them into growth.

John Owen



**The 2015 200 Club Prize Draw:** The winners of the 2015 prizes were:

**£300 :** Clare Martin

**£150:** Sian Holiday

**£100:** Ken Gatrall

**This year's 200 Club:** The £25 Prize draws are made on the first Saturday of each month. There is also a £50 summer prize, and the draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place at 2016's Beetle Drive at the Meon Hall on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November – put this event in your diary now! The 200 Club raises money to help with the purchase of new equipment and other improvements for the Meon Hall. To join this year's 200 Club contact James Morrice (877916). You may not win one of the prizes, but by being a 200 Club member you are helping the Meon Hall committee to make equipment purchases and general improvements to our important village asset.

**Wondering what to do ? Badminton ?** On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings play badminton at 8.30 pm at The Meon Hall – contact Liz Clements (877738) for information.

**Thank you** to Karl, *The Handy Hero*, for 4 days of recent leak-stopping repairs to the Meon Hall roofs, and clearing out all the autumn leaf fall from the gutters. And to Michelle Kempster of Soberton, for her work to blow The Meon Hall's car park clear of leaves during the autumn leaf fall.

**Meonstoke Village Archives:** A safe dry cupboard has been allocated in The Meon Hall's crypt meeting room for the temporary collection and storage of recent parish archives and historic information that is still relevant to the present day, before eventually being sent off to the County Records Office in Winchester. The collection thus far has come from offerings by residents, from various attics, cupboards, trunks, and desk drawers, etc, in their houses. The cupboard includes

- Significant parish council papers going back to the 1930's;
- Parochial Church Council papers about the restorations of Corhampton Saxon Church in 1990, and St. Andrew's in 2004;
- Church fête records back to the 1990's,
- The Women's Institute's branch minute book records from 1929 to around 1999;
- The minute books and accounts of the Meon Hut village hall in Meonstoke High Street from 1919 to 1976;
- Records and accounts of The Meon Hall building committee 1976 to 1981 with photograph albums and Ian Allured's book *From Hut to Hall*, 1981;
- Extensive digital records of materials and personal interviews of the village and people made by Marcia Gillespie and Liz Borrow from HM The

Queen's Coronation, Silver Jubilee 1977, and Diamond Jubilee 2012 celebrations

- The CD of Michael Kinsman's video *A Portrait of a Village - A Year in the Life of Meonstoke 1995-96*.

Also in the crypt meeting room is the large framed 1930's District Air Raid Precaution OS map scale 6 inches: 1 mile showing the Second World War village Fire Watch Zones and names of the villagers who volunteered in 1939-1942; the map shows our valley's ARP organization which was managed from the Droxford Union building.

It would be helpful to include copies, please, of the following books by Meonstoke writers and historians if any copies are available : *Meonstoke and Soberton – some chapters in their history*, 1978, Frances Collins and Rev John Hurst ; *Personal Memories of Corhampton & Meonstoke between the Wars*, Elsie Munro, 2001; *The Life and Times of Edward Trigg, A Meonstoke Man 1917 - 2010*; and *Corhampton and Exton*, by Rev John Hurst 1980.

If you know of other original material about our village and its people that might be housed in the parish archive cupboard for safe keeping, please contact James Morrice 01489 877916 or jamesmorrice99@gmail.com.

**Finally – Are you planning a family party. . . ?** Can we help you ? Why not order those extra tables, chairs, champagne flutes, wine glasses, china and cutlery for your entertaining from the Meon Hall. Contact Anna Rolfe, the bookings secretary on: [meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk)

James Morrice

## 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 meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> February & 8<sup>th</sup> March**

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



# Concert

St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

by Portsmouth Cathedral Choir

Directed by Dr David Price  
Organist & Master of the Choristers



on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February

at 7.00 pm

Tickets: £10  
(includes refreshments)

Proceeds in aid of  
St Andrew's Church, &  
Outlook Expeditions

Tickets available from:  
Meonstoke Village Stores  
and  
Droxford Post Office

Enquiries to Sarah Page by email at:  
secretary.meonbridge@gmail.com

or by telephone to  
07753 198245



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The Meon Valley

For U3A members, 2016 got off to a flying start with a really fascinating talk by Ann Withers, chief of the Volunteer Guides of Winchester Cathedral. Entitled *Just Williams*, it told us about thirteen Williams, from William the Conqueror onwards, who were involved in the building, decorating, carving, refurbishing (and much else besides) of Winchester Cathedral. It was such an interesting talk that a couple of committee members afterwards asked Ann if she would guide a group of our members round the Cathedral as one of our summer outings. So, watch this space.

The next four talks, will be held as usual, at:

**Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, at 2.00pm.**

## Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February

*The Hospice Movement,* by Wendy Greenish, a Rowan's Ambassador

## Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February

*Yellowstone in Winter + Musk Oxen in Norway* by Doug Yelland, Wildlife Photographer

## Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March

*Louis Pasteur and Rabies,* by Tim Mason, University Lecturer

## Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March

*The Road to Agincourt,* by Geoff Watts, Local Historian

As ever, the other very important part of our Meon Valley U3A activities are the Small/Special Interest Groups, many of which meet throughout the year. Most meet monthly in members' homes. Current groups include Geology, Egyptology, Reading, Poetry, Art, Art appreciation, Classical Music appreciation, Bridge and Strolling.

Please note that the committee have agreed that it is not really practical to accept subscriptions, whether renewals or new ones, after end of December each year. Guests/visitors/potential new members are still very welcome to come along to talks: £2 each time. (New members can join for 2016-17 in August).

**Membership and other enquiries to:**

**Julia Field, Tel. 01489 891353**

**Web site: [u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley)**

## The Womens' World Day of Prayer

The Womens' World Day of Prayer dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Christian women of the United States and Canada joined together in prayer to support women's mission at home and in other parts of the world. Since then it has grown incredibly. Within twenty-four hours the service will have been offered throughout the world, beginning in Tonga, passing to New Zealand, then Australia and so on round the world.

This year, the Womens' World Day of Prayer falls on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March** and the service will be offered at **St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham at 2.00 pm**. The service has been compiled by the Christian ladies of Cuba and its theme is 'Receive Children; Receive Me'. The speaker at St Peter's will be Carrie Pither.

Please do come and support this special annual service: everyone is welcome – men, women, young people and children.

Afternoon Tea will be served in the Church Hall after the service.

The Womens' World Day of Prayer Committee looks forward to welcoming you all.

Anne Shotlander

## Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training

Would you know what to do if a person collapsed and there were no other people around to help?

**NHS Choices** explains that: "CPR is a first aid technique that can be used if someone is not breathing properly or if their heart has stopped. Chest compressions and rescue breaths keep blood and oxygen circulating in the body."

If you would like to find out what to do in such a crisis situation you might be interested in the series of basic CPR training sessions that will take place in the crypt at The Meon Hall. These sessions have been designed to teach you basic procedures until professional assistance arrives. You will not receive a qualification as the aim is to provide you with confidence in what to do should the situation arise.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions (maximum of 8 people per session), please phone Heather Buxton on **877335** to book a place. You can choose from the following Thursdays, each session starting at midday:

**February 4<sup>th</sup>**      **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Each training sessions lasts 1½ hours and costs £3

Rowena Hyder

## RBL Poppy Appeal

The 2015 Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal collection in Newtown, Soberton, Droxford, Corhampton, Meonstoke and Exton came to a total of £5448.73. This is the largest amount raised compared with the previous five years!

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank both the organisers and collectors who volunteer for the house to house collections and also the businesses who allowed a static collection. An additional thank you must go to the churches that held Remembrance Day Services in aid of the RBL; the congregations of Droxford, Soberton, Exton and Newtown all gave very generously towards the Poppy Appeal.

Susie Fletcher  
Poppy Appeal Honorary Organiser



## Soirées on the Bridge

Concerts in  
St Andrew's Church  
Meonstoke

The next event is:

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**

at 7.30 pm

An organ recital  
by **Richard Martin**

Entrance is free, with a retiring collection, when a glass of wine will be served.

Events arranged for April, May, and June will be on the fourth Thursday of the month.





## The Royal British Legion

Droxford & District Branch



At our first meeting of 2016, the Branch enjoyed a very informative and thought-provoking talk by Captain Paul Porter and Lieutenant-

Commander James Clarke from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL). Entitled *Robots, Lasers and print your own ship – is this the future of the Royal Navy?*, our visitors brought us up-to-date with the current role and capabilities of the modern navy. The role has changed little over time but, as a major trading nation and 5<sup>th</sup> largest world economy with 95% of our trade conducted by sea, the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 (SDSR 15) rightly refocused attention on Britain's maritime capability. This gives the UK flexibility, ranging from soft diplomacy (including foreign visits and cocktail parties!) through to counter-piracy and warfighting itself. Although small in comparison with the past – Admiral Cunningham had as many major warships at Matapan alone than in the entire Royal Navy of today – the UK Fleet still packs a powerful punch with the world-beating Type 45 destroyer and aging but powerful Type 23 frigate providing the main workforce of 19 escorts. With an already capable amphibious group to deploy 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines, our offensive capability will shortly be

## 75 years ago...

Between 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 1941, elements of the British Mediterranean Fleet commanded by C-in-C, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham (see note) flying his flag in the battleship HMS WARSPITE defeated an Italian force off Cape Matapan. British and Australian warships, and aircraft of the Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm sank 3 Italian cruisers and 4 destroyers for the loss of only one aircraft. Following the victory at Taranto in November 1940, this action led to the virtual elimination of the Italian surface fleet as a major threat to the Allies. 3 British aircrew and over 2,300 Italian sailors perished.

considerably enhanced by 2 large aircraft carriers, principally to operate the new Lightning F35B strike fighter. With these and many other vital equipment projects such as new maritime patrol aircraft; replacement frigates, submarines, and auxiliaries; development of unmanned ships, aircraft, and submersibles; robots and Laser technology, there is much to look forward to in the future. New concepts, such as cyber warfare and quantum technology, added a new dimension to all this. Worryingly, there were 2.5 million incidences of cyber crime reported in the UK during 2015, costing our economy some £27bn. This now ranks as a tier 1 threat along with terrorism, and often perpetrated by teenagers operating from their bedrooms. Do you know what your son or daughter is actually doing?! The implications for defence are quite alarming

Rob Scott



## Meon Valley charities combine to give Home Start Christmas hampers

Home Start Meon Valley has joined with the Meon Valley Lions Club and Swanmore Methodist Church to provide Christmas hampers to many of the families it supports (see photograph opposite with the Lions report).

Food was funded by Meon Valley Lions. Toys were contributed by the Methodist church, and hampers were delivered by Home Start Meon Valley volunteers.

Pictured (see page 13) when the hampers were assembled are Eddy Barringer of Meon Valley Lions and Sheila Campbell, chairman of Home Start Meon Valley trustees.

Sheila said: "This is a collaboration among charities, to bring a little extra joy at Christmas. And, it's all local to the Meon Valley."



Grace Dumper at 99; see also p24



## Meon Valley Lions Club

### Beware false Santas bearing buckets

On the fund raising front, it has been a busy period. Our Father Christmas collections in December raised a staggering £5,062.43, which is a record result and the first time we have cleared the magic £5,000 figure. Thank you to all those who donated and the many non-Lion volunteers who helped us this year, driving the van and pounding the streets in some very damp, unpleasant weather.

The figure could have been higher. We're very disappointed to report that while we were collecting in Wickham on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, a man dressed in a tatty Santa outfit and carrying a B&Q bucket, took advantage and pretended to be collecting on behalf of Meon Valley Lions. We believe he conned a number of residents in Manor Close into making donations, before he was challenged by one resident, who also brought the matter to our attention. Although we're not sure quite how much money was taken by this sad individual, we in turn brought the theft to the attention of the police. We apologise to any residents of Manor Close who were taken in by this deceit and gave money in all good faith, for what they thought was the Lions charity collection.

If you recall seeing a young man aged between 20 and 30, wearing a Santa suit (but without the beard) on that evening in Wickham, please help us identify the culprit and drop a line to the Contact Us page of our Web site. For future reference, all our collectors operate close to the Lions minibus and brightly lit Santa sleigh and wear hi-vis jackets clearly marked with *Meon Valley Lions*.

You may wonder what happens to all the money we collect. Over 80% goes to local needy groups and individuals. One organisation we support is Home Start, a national family-support charity, working in the Meon Valley with around 30 families who have hit a crisis, or are struggling to get by for various reasons. This year we funded Christmas food hampers, which we delivered to the families together with toys and other Christmas presents donated by other local organisations. If you'd like to see more, the *That's Solent* TV team has produced a short video that you can watch through Web site: go to [www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk](http://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk) and click the Service & Aid link.

#### Do you really need your Winter Fuel Payment?

We are championing an initiative that allows those in the Meon Valley who may not need their Winter Fuel Payment, to donate it to a fund set up by Meon Valley Lions. This fund will enable us to help those who may be having difficulty meeting their fuel bills.

The initiative is run in partnership with Citizens Advice, who will be helping us identify those in need of assistance. If you feel you wish to participate in this initiative, or know someone who is in need of assistance, please contact Meon Valley Lions via our Contact Us page and provide your details, so we can get in touch. Or call us on 0845 833 7812. A leaflet with all this information has also been distributed with the Meon Valley News.

Please let us know of someone who you feel would benefit from help with fuel payments. In fact, we'd like to hear from you if you know of any individual or family who needs support through a difficult period in their life, perhaps needing assistance to purchase specialist equipment to overcome a disability, or youngsters who need a helping hand on a specific project. We can help both financially and in other practical ways and any contact will be strictly confidential.

For picture details, see Home Start report opposite



### The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company's Visit in 2016

This year's visit by the RUDES is already on the calendar for **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July**.

Along with the overall organization, we shall need accommodation for 7 people on Saturday night. The village hall committee would welcome offers for B&B accommodation in the village for the six actors and the director. It would be helpful if volunteers could house one or two people. If you are able to make a commitment at this early stage, please contact:

Jackie Hibbert, 878564, or  
Peg Stevens 877142.

**Thank you!**





## Inspiring Children in Sport

This term, some of our Upper School children were lucky enough to take part in a visit to Chichester University. As always, we like to make the most of every learning opportunity and the children were keen to write about their amazing experiences in their blog when they got back to school. Here is what they had to say.

“At the university we found out what happens and how university works. For example, how you spend your first year in the university then you have to find your own house! During the rest of the day we found out what you can do at university and how, Mr Banham, came to become one of our teachers. By doing so we now know more about what happens at university. Here is what we did and how much fun we had.

“Our first activity that we participated in was bouldering – a type of climbing without a harness. Chris, our lecturer, helped us to experience bouldering on the indoor climbing wall. We learnt lots of different skill such as the Egyptian, a move on your side, and the different holds like the jug and crib. At the end of the session we even made a

human line on the wall - it didn't last for long, everyone soon fell off!

“After an adrenaline-filled climbing session, we went on a tour around the university. We visited: the running tracks (on which we had sprint races), the football pitches which the university plays with the rest of the country), the sports lab where players get their heartbeats tested and seen if they are in form (Cristiano Ronaldo even did a test there!).

“Then we came to the most exciting part of the day – handball! Our school pupils split into teams and played each other in the Dome –a sports facility - at this unique game (which is actually played in the Olympics). In fact, everybody loved it so much we have been inspired to play it at our own school.

“All of us loved this day so much; it was a privilege to go there as well as learning new skills.”

Sarah Jacobs, deputy head teacher

[www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk)



Regular events for the active in retirement include:

- Keep Fit Classes
- IT learning classes
- Spanish Lessons
- Table Tennis
- Scrabble Sessions
- Tai Chi, and
- New Age Kurling.

There are also separate pub lunches each month for ladies and gentlemen.

For details of times and places for all events, go to the association Web pages at:

<http://mvara.btck.co.uk/Activities>



*Pupils on the climbing wall at Chichester University*

## The Hackney and Bishop's Waltham deaneries link

Two Lively Days  
in November

The Bishop's Waltham deanery reaches from Botley to Hambledon. There has been a link of friendship between our deanery and Hackney for nearly twenty five years, as part of which we try to support activities in Hackney that reach out to homeless and rough sleeping men and women and to ordinary families struggling to cope with the costs of modern life in London.

One Friday at the end of November, a small mountain of food, clothes and bedding collected from our parishes was brought to Swanmore Village Hall for delivery to our link friends and the Hackney Winter Night Shelter the next day. If you can imagine providing a hot meal for twenty to thirty guests, some of whom would really welcome a warm coat or a pair of trainers or a sleeping bag or shaving kit or a toothbrush, you can see how much it would help to have items sorted, labelled and packed ready for use. Twenty five helpers from eleven parishes, together with ten students from Swanmore College and their teacher, pitched into the task. Every table we could find in the hall was put to use. Heaps of tins, packets of pasta, boxes of tooth-paste, anoraks, pants, hats and gloves were taken to the right corner. At one point Mrs Payne, the Swanmore College teacher rushed back over the road to bag some more boxes from the IT department which were ideal for our purpose.

By the end of the morning the mountain had been reconstituted as two sizeable hills. One was for St Saviour's Priory, Dalston and the other for St James' Church, Clapton. Later that afternoon Noble Argue, who has provided the van for transport for the past nine years, arrived at the hall and a small gang of chaps, again from several parishes, loaded it ready for delivery.

The next day, Saturday, we set off at 7.00 am with Noble driving, accompanied by Keith Wickert, soon to be assistant priest at Bishop's Waltham, and Norman Chatfield for the delivery to Hackney. Battling the traffic on the approach to the Blackwall tunnel we arrived at the Priory by 9.45 am and found helpers ready to unload led by Sister Moira who for many years has been running the Dunloe Centre, which provides a cooked meal and take away food and clothes for local men and women in need, and Sister Elisabeth who runs a project called the Sunday Stall which is mostly for young local families. Later that afternoon, Sister Libby wrote:

"What a wonderful delivery of useful things from Bishop's Waltham Deanery. Please convey our thanks to all concerned – the donors, collectors, knitters, sorters, packers, and the driver and his crew. We have spent the day unpacking such good quality stuff and all the kind of things that are most needed. Food, toiletries, bedding, warm clothes – all exactly right; and some beautiful knitting. 'A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE. We pray and give thanks for you regularly through the year at our mid-day prayers in chapel. With our

very best wishes from us all at St Saviour's Priory and the Dunloe Centre."

Next we delivered to St James' Clapton which acts as a distribution centre for other churches and the winter night shelter. There Burnett Brown the churchwarden and husband of vicar prebendary Rosèmia Brown, the new area dean of Hackney and a longstanding supporter of the Link, told us that their Saturday evening drop-in centre, which provides a meal and companionship, had nearly run out of stored food so our delivery came just in time. The aim of this article is to assure everyone who supports the link in any way that their help is deeply appreciated. Also, we benefit very much from sharing in the committed spiritual life of the Hackney churches, which is the driving force behind all their life and work.

For more information about the link contact our chairman, Nick Edwards [n.edwards8@btinternet.com](mailto:n.edwards8@btinternet.com), 02392 632024, your parish representative or Norman Chatfield 01489 891995 [chat.field@btinternet.com](mailto:chat.field@btinternet.com)

### 3rd & 4th Sunday services

#### Droxford on 3rd starting at 9.45

##### Opportunity knocks:

Do you like reading aloud, sharing an interest, singing, or playing an instrument? Last year over forty talented people aged between 3 and 81 provided Bible readings, information, prayers, sketches, and music accompaniment to old and new hymns from 10 o'clock in the Lady Chapel/Chancel area of St Mary and All Saints, Droxford.

Or perhaps you would prefer to just come along for coffee and a chat at **9.45** and just enjoy the service.

#### We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, 21st February

Contact Ros Collins, Cathy Mathews or Tony Forrest if you would like to take part (see – page 2 for contact details)–

#### Meonstoke on 4th starting at 9.30

Meonstoke also holds an All Age informal service, on the **4th Sunday** of each month.

Join in with the young band in songs and Bible stories and craft activities

Come along at **9.30 am** on  
Sunday, **28th February**  
to St Andrew's. Meonstoke.

## Droxford Village Hall News



All of a sudden, the weather has become very seasonal after weeks of unusually mild but also often damp and sunless days. Faced with overnight frosts it would be a pity to lose some of the garden blooms that have appeared early, or others that have simply not made a natural disappearance over winter. Who knows what to expect before the end of January, when *The Bridge* is published.

We can look forward at least to a cosy, welcoming Quiz Night in the village hall at the beginning of February. We hope to find the hall full to capacity, with quiz teams eager to flex their brains and pencils in the best spirit of fun, entertainment, and friendly rivalry. This, coupled with the delicious chilli supper, offers our very best village event of the winter.

The Christmas Fair in November was well supported by stall-holders and visitors alike, who came to buy from the many and various stalls. The soup and mince pie lunch was much appreciated and we are pleased to report that a substantial amount was added to our account. We are grateful to the many who helped both on the day and beforehand, and to those who contributed the delicious soups. We are indebted to Louise Withers for organising this event and ensuring its success.

Our autumn film season, for the most part, drew in respectable numbers of people and yielded a steady income. There are good ones to look forward to in the present season, and we hope for good audiences. Please see the notices opposite for the film programme.

We would like to have a sizeable audience for our cabaret evening (*The Hot Fingers*) on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March. We endeavour to choose music that will have an overall appeal to the audience, and feel sure that the description in our advert will encourage you to come along to enjoy the entertainment and the cabaret supper of cheese and biscuits and chutneys. Please come along to support the musicians and your village hall.

The February & January 200 Club winners will be chosen at the quiz. The most recent winner was:

**December:** Lynette Davis

**We wish everyone a healthy and happy  
2016.**

Jackie Hibbert, secretary

## Droxford Church Community Hub and Heritage project

### January update

What a start to the year! On the 4<sup>th</sup> January we were informed that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Grants for places of Worship) had been successful. A grant of up to £188,300 has been awarded, bringing the total contribution from HLF to the Hub Project to £222,200. Together with other contributions and our own funds we have now reached 50% of the estimated £600,000 capital cost of the hub project.

### What does the grant mean for Droxford Church?

The PCC can now plan to start work in April on the approved schedule of works for this phase of the project:

- To carry out the urgent restoration work to the church fabric and drainage system as detailed in the submitted application
- To install glazed screens in the North Chapel, with formal approval from Historic England for final proposals, to create a community room

- To develop a programme of activity to engage people with the heritage of the church, to include permanent displays and temporary exhibitions, a printed guide, curriculum-linked school resources, and walking and cycling trails.

Contractors have been appointed for the major works, which are expected to last 5 months. Fund-raising is continuing for the capital cost of an extension for a kitchen, toilets, storage and administration. As reported last month a grant application is in process with Hampshire County Council to the Community Buildings Capital Fund (CCBS grants) for a substantial proportion of the building costs.

John Symes  
Droxford Church Community Hub and Heritage  
Project

To keep up to date on the Community Hub project go to: [www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk)

For more information about events and services in Droxford Church go to [www.bridgechurches.org.uk](http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk)



## Forthcoming events at Droxford Village Hall

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Quiz night**

**With John Martin,  
our inimitable quizmaster**

7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (includes supper) – Teams of 6  
Licensed bar – Real ale!

Vocals from Cole Porter and Irving Berlin, crooners like Bing Crosby and Al Boley and novelty features and hokum from the likes of Cliff 'Ukulele' Ike' Edwards. Although just three in number, they will play nine different instruments during their show! See more at: [www.hotfingers.co.uk](http://www.hotfingers.co.uk)

7.30 pm

Tickets £10 to include supper – Licensed bar  
Courtesy of Hog the Limelight  
Hampshire County Council

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

### **Macbeth**

A film rated 15

Director Justin Kurzel's stunning version of the play, with Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard. "I think the bard would approve of this retelling, starting as it does with the three witches on the blasted heath, especially as the witches are not caricatures and as the landscape and skies reflect the sombre mood of a sombre Scotland. Superstition is the social currency of the day. Betrayal is afoot. The king is in danger. Lives are easily lost in bloody battle."



**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

### **The Lady in the Van**

A film rated 12a

This is the film of Alan Bennett's stage play, with Maggie Smith in the title role, supported by a wealth of UK treasures – not least Alex Jennings as Bennett himself and a roll call of rep players from other Bennett vehicles such as *History Boys*.

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March**

### **The Hot Fingers**

Led by Tom 'Spats' Langham, Hot Fingers welcomes you to an eclectic mix of vintage acoustic music, from red-hot 1920's jazz to 1930's swing, taking in the French Coffee House sound of Django Reinhardt; the early blues, the swing pioneers Eddie Lang and Oscar Aleman and much more.

> > >

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Everest**

A film rated 12a

On 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1996, climbers from two expeditions start their final ascent toward the summit of Mount Everest. With little warning, a violent storm strikes the mountain, engulfing the climbers in one of the fiercest blizzards ever encountered by man. Challenged by these conditions, the teams must endure blistering winds and freezing temperatures in an epic battle to survive against almost impossible odds. Based on a true story this is a spectacular outdoor adventure with a splendid cast. "A movie that's as stunning and as spellbinding as Everest itself."

**For all films:** 7.30 pm doors open at 7 pm and tickets are £5. Licensed bar & refreshments available.

Tickets for all events from the Post Office

## **A Meon Ladies Event** *Occasional Papercrafts*

presents:

### **A Card Making Evening**

Be creative using fabulous coordinating products. All materials will be provided for you to create three cards on the night to take home.

Learn new skills and embrace a new hobby for 2016. Paper crafting is great for home decor, wedding stationery, creating a beautiful party theme and much more. Do come along and give it a try!

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**7:30pm**

at The Meon Hall, Meonstoke

£3 Entry; No booking necessary. Contact [sarah.snowdon@live.com](mailto:sarah.snowdon@live.com)

or Libby Soar on 01489 878704 for more details

### **Forthcoming events for your diary:**

**21<sup>st</sup> April – Talk to be confirmed**

**19<sup>th</sup> May - Dambusters, a talk by Robin Miller**

**Both 7.30 pm at The Meon Hall**

## District councillor's column

### Report from Winchester City Council

#### New Year plans at the city council

At the first full council meeting of the year, each of the portfolio holders introduces their plans for the year ahead. I thought it worthwhile to give you their names and responsibilities. Of course, they all have their individual ward duties as well. Their contact details are all on the WCC Web site, or queries can be relayed through your District Councillor. Here is the list:

**Cllr Stephen Godfrey**, leader; major projects are River Park, Silver Hill and Station Approach, as well as developing a treasury management strategy to support increased capital spending.

**Cllr Mike Read**, built environment; providing housing at major development areas as planned; facilitating affordable and extra care housing; ensuring design and high quality places.

**Cllr Frank Pearson**, environment; health and well-being; working with partners, waste collection, encouraging sports and healthy activities, monitoring air quality and climate change.

**Cllr Steve Miller**, estates portfolio; medium term financial planning and best use of assets, increasing Guildhall performance.

**Cllr Caroline Horrill**, housing; managing community needs in the light of the Housing and Welfare bill, enhancing council stock, addressing homelessness.

**Cllr James Byrnes**, economy & arts, tourism, parking; promoting community cohesion, traffic management and parking.

**Cllr Vicki Weston** – Deputy Leader, Organisational Development, Services – improving customer service excellence, reducing bureaucracy.

#### The impact of electoral boundary changes

This year's May elections will see the introduction of the new boundary changes for Winchester City Council, and the whole district will have an election. The area covered by *The Bridge* parishes will remain (as it is now) in two wards, but each of these wards will cover a larger area and will have more than one councillor. Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton will be in Upper Meon Valley and will be represented by two councillors. Droxford will be in Central Meon Valley and will be represented by 3 Councillors. Cllrs Bodtger and Dibden are both stepping down in May, mainly for health reasons.



## Singing For Fun

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

**The Stables,  
Free Street  
Bishops Waltham**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays:  
2.00 to 3.30 pm**

Next dates are:

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February  
4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March

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](http://www.singandtonic.org.uk)

*recruiting — all welcome*

*the meon valley community choir*

# SING & TONIC

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds 7.30 – 9.30 pm*

*Droxford Village Hall*

A boundary review for Hampshire County Council is also in progress, but the proposal is that *The Bridge* area will remain in the Meon Valley division.

*Cllr Caroline Dibden*  
Councillor for Droxford, Soberton and Hambleton  
023 9263 2696  
[caroline.dibden@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.dibden@btinternet.com)



## Meon Valley Carers Group News

*Promoting a positive way of living with dementia*

In December, we held our Christmas lunch at the Old Forge Inn, Shedfield, followed by our last meeting of the year when we had a very jolly Christmas party, where the members were entertained by Bishops Bells, a local group of hand-bell ringers. The hand-bells added to the atmosphere of Christmas and tea was kindly provided by Sainsbury's, Hedge End, with mince pies, biscuits and cakes. We do thank them for their continued kindness and generosity to us.

And now, as we are already a month into 2016, our focus is on making sure that we reach out into the community to make carers aware of us. We are a group formed to help make life easier by showing that there can be a life whilst one is caring for a loved one living with Dementia. We witness the difference in the outlook of Carers as they become established members of the Meon Valley Carers Group. Not only do they lose the feeling of being isolated and unhappy but gradually establish lasting friendships.

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. 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 who are in a similar situation, while their cared-for are able to be with them and are encouraged by volunteers to take part in stimulating activities, such as art, games, and musical events. We endeavour to compile a programme that will provide interesting speakers and also include two to three outings a year. The generosity of the Meon Valley Lions Club means that members who are without transport are collected by minibus and brought to the meetings and taken safely home afterwards.

Our volunteer helpers 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

The group's new programme up to June 2016 is now available and if, on reading about us in your parish magazine, you think this is just what you are looking for, please do contact us. Messages are always acted upon and emails always answered. We are developing a Web site that is taking shape and very soon we shall publish its address.

Our office is open each Monday from 9.15 am until 1.15 pm throughout the year, apart from Bank Holidays, at:

**The Paterson Centre,  
Church Road, Swanmore, SO32 2PA.**

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. Our e-mail address is:

meon-valley@btconnect.com .

### Events for your Diary:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br>12 noon    | Lunch at the Old Forge, Shedfield  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb<br>2.00 pm   | Group meeting, The Paterson Centre,<br><b>Age Concern Hampshire</b> present<br>Art for Cared For with Rosie Blay                                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March<br>12 noon  | Lunch at the Old Forge, Shedfield  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March<br>2.00 pm | Group meeting, The Paterson Centre<br>Talk: <i>A Day in the Life of an Iranian Housewife</i> , Sandra Simmonds<br><b>Easter Bonnet Competition</b> |

## Droxford Stewardship Campaign A Success

Droxford's recently completed Stewardship Campaign has been pronounced a success by Tony Forrest. He commented: "We are extremely grateful to those parishioners who have agreed to support the church in various ways, including the Parish Giving Scheme. This regular monthly income enables us to continue the vital work in the church, and is the first step in a programme that will be designed to reach out to the wider community in the village".

The result of the campaign has been a 25% increase in regular monthly donations, an extremely satisfactory result. This, together with the wider work on the fabric of the building itself, heralds a new and exciting era for Droxford, and one which promises a bright future for the church.

Jeff Hooper, Droxford PCC



**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 0300 555 1387

**CITIZEN’S ADVICE BUREAU (Bishop’s Waltham)**

Well House, 2 Brook Street 03444 111306

CAB e-mail: [bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk](mailto: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 Norma Bodtger 878048  
 & Meonstoke

**DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

**THE MEON HALL, Meonstoke**

Bookings: Mrs Anna Rolfe by e-mail at: [meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone at 878284  
 Go to [www.candm-pc.gov.uk/the-meon-hall](http://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](http://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
<b>Droxford</b>	Gordon Hope	877751
<b>Exton</b>	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

**Exton:** Diana Arthur, 877390

**Corhampton:** Monika Thwaites, 877939

The trustees will meet next on the **16<sup>th</sup> March** 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.

John Shaw, 877564  
Chairman

### Jill Freemantle & Norah Burrage retire



Norah and Jill with their bouquets and chairman John Shaw

### 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.

Jill Freemantle from Exton and Norah Burrage from Meonstoke have given over 40 years between them to the Droxford and District Community Care Group, both as committee members and practical support to those in need of help within our community.

Both ladies have said how their roles have changed over the years. In the past, lack of mobility often meant shopping and household help. Today, most of the requests are for transport to and from medical appointments; the lack of public transport has no doubt contributed to this need.

To note the occasion of their retirement from the DDCCG committee, the chairman John Shaw presented each of them with a bouquet of flowers.

If you would like to find out more about what we do, please phone John Shaw 01489 877564



## Every child matters

A year ago the Valley Preschool took the decision to broaden its accessibility and welcome two year olds through its doors, lowering the minimum age from two years and five months. In the second part of our series exploring areas of staff specialism, we talk to the preschool's two year-olds coordinator, Charlotte Chappell.

Charlotte has worked at the preschool for two years, has five years' experience in childcare and has completed the NVQ Level 3. She lives in Droxford with her partner and two children, has grown up in the Meon Valley and knows the community well. She enjoys mountain biking, cooking, travelling, uninterrupted sleep (rare!) and going on walks with her dogs, preferably with a country pub en route! Charlotte tells me that she enjoys working at the preschool as she feels part of a really dedicated and caring team of staff, and "that each day brings a completely different challenge". Those who know Charlotte describe her as a very positive person and this comes across in her energy for involving the children in creative activities such as cooking, singing, and dancing.

Charlotte is currently taking part in the Government's DITTO initiative – *Drilling into Terrific Twos Outcomes*, created in response to the government agenda for supporting early education needs of vulnerable two year olds. Charlotte tells me, "The DITTO programme is about childcare settings working in partnership across a local area to ensure that the two year olds within our care are well supported." Since the admission of two year olds, the staff have adapted the curriculum and environment to ensure that the youngest children are learning, progressing, and being nurtured in the same way as the older children: Charlotte's role is at the centre of this child-focused approach.

As part of the DITTO programme Charlotte tells me that she observes and collects Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and development data on the two year old children, which is then anonymised and shared with childcare partners. Through the sharing of data and examples of best practice, staff work towards

the gold standard of helping vulnerable two year olds to acquire communication and language skills, and on supporting their physical, personal, social, and emotional development; the aim being that all children make rapid progress in their learning.

The two year olds have enjoyed returning to preschool this term into the colourful world of *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*, from the popular series of children's books created by David McKee. They explore a variety of Elmer-themed activities – baking cakes with Elmer-coloured decorations, recycling plastic milk bottles to build elephants, and using Numicon to explore numbers and patterns within the Elmer shape. The teachers have also been focusing on the uniqueness of Elmer and asking the children to talk about what makes them different and special.

Charlotte says, "It's so noticeable with our two year old children how much progress they make with social skills after starting preschool. Interacting with other children of the same age and aspiring to learn the skills of the older children, are both hugely beneficial. Language development can progress really quickly, with young children moving from an environment where they only have to make themselves understood to people who know them well, to having conversations with new people – they immediately try harder!"

*Thank you to Charlotte for sharing this special area of interest with us.*

### Fundraising thanks

Many thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers. The proceeds have been used to purchase two robust new balance bikes, several tractors, and a toy vacuum cleaner. We are sure the children are going to have hours of fun with them.

For more information about The Valley Preschool go to [www.thevalleypreschool.org.uk](http://www.thevalleypreschool.org.uk), contact Sarah Winter-Page (the preschool supervisor) on 01489 878019, or email: [info@thevalleypreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@thevalleypreschool.org.uk).

Sophie Wills

### From the registers

*No entries to report in this issue*

#### Lent Courses

Lent courses will be held this year this year in Droxford and Meonstoke.

Droxford's courses will be held on Thursday afternoons at 2.00 pm, beginning on 11<sup>th</sup> February, led by Mary Hart.

Meonstokes courses will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10.45 am, beginning on 11<sup>th</sup> February, led by Pauline Quarendon.

For more Information, go to the church Web site.

### We welcome. . .

Hannah and Jerry Carpenter, who have come with Daniel, from Clanfield to High View, New Road, Meonstoke.

Ellie Vine, with teenage daughters Amelia and Yasmin Bratchley, has come to 2 New Cottages, Corhampton, from Cornwall

**This year's Christian Aid**  
sponsored walk will be held on the afternoon  
of **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May**, starting from  
Southwick.



## District Diary

### February

Tue. 2	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH MV Flower Club AGM and meeting The Meon Hall	10.30–12.00 1.00 pm
	U3A: Talk: <i>The Hospice Movement</i> , by Wendy Greenish, the Wickham Centre (see page 10)	2.00 pm
Wed. 3	Morning Prayer, Meonstoke Look-in for coffee and chat, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke	8.30 am 10.00–12.00
Thu. 4	Holy Communion, Droxford CPR Training, The Meon Hall (see page 11)	10.00 am 12 noon
Fri. 5	Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham Cathedral Choir concert, Meonstoke church	2.00 pm 7.00 pm
Sat. 6	Quiz Night, Droxford Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sun. 7	<b>Next before Lent</b> (Education Sunday) (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford Holy Communion (CW) Meonstoke Evensong, Exton	8.30 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm
Tue. 9	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH MVDFAS Talk: <i>Thomas Hardy's Wessex</i> , in The Meon Hall	10.30–12.00 10.40 am
	Play reading group, The Meon Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 10	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Morning prayer, Meonstoke Holy Communion with Ashing, Corhampton MV Garden Club: Talk, <i>A Strange History of Vegetables</i> , Droxford Village Hall Friends of Droxford Church AGM, in church	8.30 am 7.00 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm
Thu. 11	Way of the Cross & Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
Sat. 13	CADENCE Youth Marching Band stay for the w/e in The Meon Hall (Sat & Sun incl)	All Day
Sun. 14	<b>Lent 1</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke Holy Communion (CW), Droxford followed by Lent Lunch in village Hall Evensong, Corhampton	8.30 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm
Tue. 16	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH U3A: Talk: <i>Yellowstone in Winter</i> , by Doug Yelland, the Wickham Centre (see page 10)	10.30–12.00 2.00 pm
Wed.17	Morning prayer, Meonstoke Look-in for coffee and chat, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke Sing and Tonic, Droxford Village Hall	8.30 am 10.00–12.00 7.30 pm
Thu. 18	Holy Communion, Droxford Droxford Parish Council meeting, Village Hall	10.00 am 7.30 pm
Fri. 19	Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham The Hot Fingers, cabaret, Droxford Village Hall	2.00 pm 7.30 pm
Sun. 21	<b>Lent 2</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Exton All-age Family service, Droxford Matins, Corhampton	8.30 am 9.45 am 11.00 am
Tue. 23	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH	10.30–12.00
Wed 24	Morning prayer, Meonstoke Film Night: <i>Macbeth</i> , Droxford Village Hall	8.30 am 7.30 pm
Thu. 25	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am

Sun. 28	<b>Lent 3</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Corhampton All-age Worship, Meonstoke Holy Communion (CW), Exton	8.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am
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### March

Tue. 1	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH U3A: Talk: <i>Louis Pasteur &amp; Rabies</i> ; by Tim Mason, the Wickham Centre (see page 10)	10.30–12.00 2.00 pm
Wed. 2	Morning Prayer, Meonstoke Look-in for coffee and chat, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke	8.30 am 10.00–12.00
Thu. 3	Holy Communion, Droxford CPR Training, The Meon Hall (see page 11) MV Garden Club: <i>A Talk on Propagation</i> by Chris Bird, The Meon Hall	10.00 am 12 noon 7.30 pm
Fri. 4	Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham	2.00 pm
Sat. 5	Droxford's CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN, (see p. 5) Charity Concert, Fareham URC (see page 7)	10.00 am 7.30 pm
Sun. 6	<b>Lent 4</b> (Mothering Sunday) (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Droxford Family Communion & posies (CW), Meonstoke Evensong, Exton	8.30 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm
Tue. 8	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH MVDFAS Talk: <i>Horse and Horseman</i> in The Meon Hall Play reading group, The Meon Hall	10.30–12.00 10.40 am 7.30 pm
Wed. 9	Morning prayer, Meonstoke Sing and Tonic, Droxford Church Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council meeting, in The Meon Hall crypt	8.30 am 7.30 pm 7.30 pm
Thu. 10	Holy Communion, Droxford Organ Recital by Richard Martin, Meonstoke	10.00 am 7.30 pm
Fri. 11	FOMS Pop up Coffee Shop, The Meon Hall	9.30 am
Sat. 12	CADENCE Youth Marching Band stay for the w/e in The Meon Hall (Sat & Sun incl)	All Day
Sun 13	<b>Lent 5</b> (Passion Sunday) (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Meonstoke Holy Communion (CW), Droxford Evensong, Corhampton	8.30 am 11.00 am 6.30 pm
Mon. 14	RBL: <i>Shackleton - Feats of endurance</i> ; by John O'Reilly, the Shackleton Exhibition	7.00 pm
<b>Latest copy date for Apr – May Bridge</b>		
Tue. 15	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH U3A: Talk: <i>The Road to Agincourt</i> ; by Geoff Watts; the Wickham Centre (see page 10) MV Flower Club: Meeting in The Meon Hall	10.30–12.00 2.00 pm 2.00 pm
Wed 16	Morning prayer, Meonstoke Look-in for coffee and chat, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke Sing and Tonic, Droxford Church	8.30 am 10.00–12.00 7.30 pm
Thu. 17	Holy Communion, Droxford The Meon Ladies meeting, The Meon Hall Droxford Parish Council meet, Droxford V H	10.00 am 7.30 pm 7.30 pm
Fri. 18	Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham	2.00 pm
Sun. 20	<b>Palm Sunday &amp; Beginning of Holy Week</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Holy Communion (BCP), Exton Benefice Family Communion, Meonstoke – meet on the Church Green	8.30 am 11.00 am

Mon. 21	Way of the Cross, Corhampton	7.00 pm	Sat. 26	<b>Easter Eve vigil:</b> Bringing in the Light, Corhampton	6.30 pm
Tue. 22	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH	10.30–12.00		<b>Start of British Summer Time</b>	
	Way of the Cross, Droxford	7.00 pm	Sun. 27	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	
Wed 23	Morning prayer, Meonstoke	8.30 am	(4 <sup>th</sup> )	Holy Communion (BCP), Exton	8.30 am
	Look-in for coffee and chat,	10.00–12.00		Bringing in the Light & Communion, Meonstoke	9.30 am
	St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke			Bringing in the Light & Communion, Droxford	11.00 am
	Way of the Cross, Exton	7.00 pm	Tue. 29	Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford VH	10.30–12.00
Thu. 24	<b>Maundy Thursday:</b>		Wed 30	Morning prayer, Meonstoke	8.30 am
	Holy Communion, Droxford (note time change)	<b>9.00 am</b>		Film Night: <i>The Lady in the Van</i> , Droxford VH	7.30 pm
	Holy Communion, Corhampton,	7.00 pm	Thu. 31	Holy Communion, Droxford	10.00 am
	The Watch, with quiet readings, Corhampton	9.00 pm		CPR Training, The Meon Hall (see page 11)	12 noon
	Compline by candlelight, Corhampton	10.30 pm			
Fri. 25	<b>Good Friday</b>			<b>April</b>	
	Walk of Witness from Exton, Corhampton,		Fri. 1	Singing for Fun, The Stables, B/Waltham	2.00 pm
	& Meonstoke to Droxford: walks start at	9.30 am	Sat. 2	MV Garden Club Spring Show, The Meon Hall	2.00 pm
	Distribution of Holy Communion, Droxford	1.45 pm			

### Emily Matthews

Emily passed away peacefully, ten days before her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Her Service, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, was attended by over 100 family and friends – 80 of whom gave her a good send off at the Bakers Arms, Droxford. Emily was interred, with her late husband Arthur, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

The family would like to thank the care staff at Westholme, Winchester and Green Meadows, Denmead, for their compassion and commitment. The family also extend special thanks to all friends of Emily for their many cards, kind thoughts, and good wishes.

### Grace Dumper

On the 15<sup>th</sup> January, Grace celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday with tea at her home with all the friends who have helped her over the past few years.



### THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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