

THE BRIDGE

April - May 2020

Support available to all residents during the
Coronavirus outbreak - full details on page 19.

THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR DROXFORD, MEONSTOKE, CORHAMPTON & EXTON

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

THE BRIDGE CHURCHES WEBSITE IS AT: www.bridgechurches.org.uk

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Note: The Rector's rest day is usually Monday

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CHURCH SUPPLIES: *Position vacant; applications welcome*

For information about Baptisms and Funerals, please contact the Rector

For information about Weddings, please contact the Weddings Administrator:

Sue Wells 01329 834130 Email: sjwells@meonwood.co.uk

DROXFORD

Churchwardens: Sheila Matthissen 877867
Gill Edmunds 877705
Secretary: Gill Edmunds 877705
Treasurer: Richard Baxter 877227
Gift Aid Secretary: - -
Organist: John Martin 877385
Sacristan: Laura Jerosch 01329 231956
Verge: Norman Bell 877230
3rd Sunday Services: Ros Collins 877782

EXTON

Churchwarden: Richard Pepys 878035
Secretary: Richard Pepys 878035
Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary: David Frere-Cook 877838
Organist: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
Sacristan: - -
Verge: Bob Miles -

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic Church (Bishop's Waltham)

Canon Alan Griffiths 07760 220346

Methodist & United Free Church (Bishop's Waltham)

Rev'd Joseph Tembo 01329 833518

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwarden: Angela Peagram 878725
Secretary: (via Churchwarden)
Treasurer: Elizabeth Ridge 899102
Gift Aid Secretary: Iain Gammell 878162
Organists: (Meonstoke) *Position vacant; applications welcome*
(Corhampton) John Martin (am) 877385
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Coordinator: *Position vacant*

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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THE BRIDGE is delivered at the start of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Ideally, copy should be sent by email to The Bridge editor at the address shown above, preferably attached as a Microsoft Word document (Times 11 point font) or a PDF. 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 2) may not be included.

Cover photograph: Taken by the editor on a trip to Cambridge in 2015, is of the Mathematical Bridge over the River Cam and connects two parts of Queens' College.

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Cancellation of Events

As *The Bridge* was completed and ready for printing, a number of event cancellations began to arrive by e-mail.

It was too late to pull out these cancelled events and reorganise all the pages, so *The Bridge* has been left unchanged.

Please check that any event is still taking place before you go.

The Editor

'Thank you' to John Shaw

AFTER OVER 18 YEARS AS BOTH TREASURER AND CHAIR OF THE DROXFORD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY Care Group, the committee said a grateful 'Thank You' to John Shaw who is now stepping down. The incoming chair, Za Rowe, presented him with two bottles of fine wine.

John has been instrumental in providing structured support within our village communities, writing our constitution and accessing funding to enable us to continue to provide subsidised transport for those unable to drive to hospital or medical appointments.

None of this, of course, could be done without the volunteer drivers and others who are so generous with their time.

If you find that you have a few hours to spare – however occasionally, and would like to help, please get in touch with Za Rowe on 01489 877732.



**The COPY DEADLINE for the next issue of THE BRIDGE is:
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY**

From the RECTOR



THIS EDITION OF *THE BRIDGE* HAS BEEN PUBLISHED A WEEK OR SO BEFORE EASTER, ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE WAY THROUGH the Corhampton 1020-2020 commemorations (see inside for more details), and just over 3 months into the life of the wonderful community facilities in Droxford Church. This is truly a time of great celebration and joy. Last year, with the 75th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe (VE75) in mind, I wrote about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's last Easter reflections from 1944. Re-reading these was a salutary reminder of why we owe so many thanks to the wartime generation and so much gratitude for the 75 years of largely uninterrupted peace in Europe since 1945. So, on 12th May we shall meet together in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving for that hard-won peace. This Eastertide, I invite you also to reflect over a longer period: the thousand years, at least, of an enduring Christian presence in this area. You may have read about Edward the Confessor, saint and king, in the last edition of *The Bridge*, but the Saxon era yielded many saints.

As well as Wilfrid and the Venerable Bede, the Church remembers many great Saxon men and women, often as saints: Wulfstan, for example, who died in 1095. He had become a Benedictine monk after refusing the offer of a richly endowed parish church on the occasion of his ordination, settling in the small monastic community at Worcester Cathedral. In 1050 he became prior and in 1062 he was consecrated Bishop of Worcester. He combined his roles as bishop and prior with great success, being passionate and vigilant in both. Thorough and systematic in his pastoral care, he was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese.

Wulfstan was fully involved in the revitalization of monasticism in the second half of the eleventh century, building upon the work of Dunstan, Oswald, and Ethelwold before him. Wulfstan also facilitated the relationships between the Church and the State. He was the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and he remained one of the few Saxons to keep his high office to the end of William's reign. He was one of the most important church leaders of the eleventh century and the most renowned intellectual figure of the late Saxon Church.

Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, mentioned above, was born in Somerset in 909. Along with Oswald and Ethelwold, he was one of the chief architects of a monastic revival in the Church in the tenth century. Ravaged by Viking raids and the destruction of the monasteries, the Anglo-Saxon monastic community was further weakened by the loss of many monks who travelled abroad to spread the gospel. The English throne, too, was weakened by a combination of young kings and short reigns. The result

was instability and insecurity throughout the country. Dunstan joined the court of King Athelstan, but in 935 was expelled for studying "vain poetry, pagan writings and magic". In 940, he was the subject of intrigue and rumour, and was close to banishment before a hunting accident suffered by the then King Edmund led to his being appointed as Abbot of Glastonbury. In 955 Eadwig was proclaimed king and ruled England for less than four years, during which time he sent Dunstan into exile. The precise reasons for this are lost in history, although rumour suggests that it was to do with Dunstan reproving the young king for 'over-exuberance' at his coronation feast. In time, England North of the Thames rejected Eadwig and followed his brother, Edgar, who appointed Dunstan Bishop of Worcester in 957. In 959 Edgar, at the age of 16, became sole king of England, and appointed Dunstan as Bishop of London. A year later, in a highly irregular move, Edgar disregarded the election of Brihtric as Archbishop of Canterbury, and installed Dunstan instead. Edgar also appointed Oswald and Ethelwold to influential positions, revitalizing the Church in general. The stability brought to the throne by Edgar, and the reforming zeal of Dunstan, led to a significant reform of both Church and State until the king's death in 975. In 978, Dunstan enthroned Ethelred, before moving into retirement. The ceremony he devised on that occasion is said to have formed the basis for subsequent coronation rites.

Some 300 years earlier, St Etheldreda died. Etheldreda, sometimes referred to as Audrey, was the daughter of a Christian King of the East Angles. After two unconsummated marriages to powerful noblemen, she became a nun. Her second husband attempted to bribe Wilfrid to release her from her vow of chastity. Wilfrid refused and the marriage was annulled. She went on to found a 'double monastery' for both men and women at Ely. Etheldreda lived a relatively ascetic life there until her death from the plague in 678. The present Ely Cathedral occupies the site of Etheldreda's monastery. She became one of the most popular female Anglo-Saxon saints. Many churches were dedicated in her honour and Bede wrote a long hymn in her praise.

Even today we owe much to the Saxon church-leaders and monarchs and to the consequences of their collaboration and of their disputes. The lives of the many, great and holy men and women are not only the source of wonderful stories, but their examples provide much to inspire us.

Main Source: *Saints on Earth: A biographical companion to Common Worship* by John H Darch and Stuart K Burns.

Tony

DROXFORD DROP-IN

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

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

LOOK-IN!

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

All are welcome - the more the merrier!

April: 1st & 15th

May: 6th & 20th

LIBRARY BOOK-OUT!

Please feel free to borrow books (fiction and
nonfiction, 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



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

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

Summer Term 2020

April: 23rd

No meeting 9th April (Easter holiday)

May: 21st

No meeting 7th May



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



Meon Valley Playreading Group

"It's like being in a radio play"

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

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

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

**We normally meet on the second Tuesday each month
at The Meon Hall at 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 14th April
Tuesday 12th May**

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



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SPRING DAYS OF APRIL AND MAY SEEMS AT PRESENT TO BE WISHFUL THINKING. I QUOTE: "MARCH brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil", which is exactly what is happening around and about. Undaunted, other spring flowers have performed as ever, bright purple and yellow crocuses, hellebores and tiny garden cyclamen. Daisies have sprung to life on lawns and grassy areas.

Notwithstanding the lengthening days and lighter mornings, we have had locally so much rain that our river has swollen and found its way beyond its banks in different directions from the water meadows.

The birds sing at sunrise and sunset, many relying on the food we offer them. The sight and sound of the smaller birds on good days, when they are not sheltering from the rain, is a pleasure.

And pleasure, fun, and all-round entertainment is exactly what was offered at Quiz Night on Saturday, 8th February. The hall was once again packed to capacity, with teams as competitive as ever. John Martin was not able to be there, nor was our chairman, Tim Crowfoot, whose nasty cold kept him away. How very lucky we were to have our rector, The Revd. Tony Forrest to stand in for the absentees. And what a tremendous job he did, delivering John's questions perfectly. The highlight, and the last round, was the music round, when John's tape recorder decided to be awkward, which left Tony with no other option but to hum the tunes! What a tremendous sport he was. The assembled crowd were as one in their appreciation of his efforts, with loud applause all round.

Our film evenings will continue on the last Wednesday of each month, with *The Good Liar* on 29th April. Look out for notices for the May and June films.

Our AGM will take place in the hall on Monday 6th April at 7.30pm, when we would welcome your presence.

The recent winners of the 200 Club draws are:

February: Sheila Hillary

March: John Martin.

Forthcoming Events at Droxford Village Hall



The village hall AGM is on Monday 6th April at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 29th April

FILM NIGHT: *The Good Liar* (12A)

7.30pm (Doors open at 7.00pm) Tickets £6



Career con artist Roy Courtney can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish online. As Betty opens her life and home to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her, turning what should be a cut-and-dry swindle into the most treacherous tightrope walk of his life. With Helen Mirren the rich widow & Ian McKellen the conman.

Licensed bar and refreshments available

Wednesday 27th May

FILM NIGHT: *1917* (15)

7.30pm (Doors open at 7.00pm) Tickets £6



During World War I, two British soldiers -- Lance Cpl. Schofield and Lance Cpl. Blake -- receive seemingly impossible orders. In a race against time, they must cross over into enemy territory to deliver a message that could potentially save 1,600 of their fellow comrades -- including Blake's own brother. *1917* is tense, captivating, meticulous, horrifying, and stirring.

Licensed bar and refreshments available



TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS FROM POST OFFICE OR ON THE DOOR



200 Club:

Winners of the 2020 monthly £25 prize draws were:
February : Olive Hathaway March : Jenny Creese

A huge "Thank you"

to everyone who has joined The Meon Hall's 200 Club for 2020 – at the time of going to press 351 people have joined. This is a tremendous annual membership number for the 200 Club which was started some 40 years ago to raise money for The Meon Hall ! You may win one of the cash prizes during the year, but just as importantly, by joining the 200 Club you are helping the Meon Hall Management Committee to keep the Meon Hall up to date, and well equipped. With over £3500 raised so far this year we have been really

successful in demonstrating community support for The Meon Hall so that the Hall Committee can press on with making grant applications for urgent work and for purchases of new equipment.

Gardening work around the Meon Hall:

Many thanks to Barry Heard for his bush trimming and grass cutting (Barry has been doing this for over 20 years !); and to Michelle Kempster (over a similar timescale !) for her heroic work of clearing, from the car park and multi-use games area (MUGA) tarmac surfaces, the autumn leaf fall from the 67 trees that are around the Hall. Looking smart now !

Badminton:

If you want to play badminton at The Meon Hall on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, please contact Liz Clements 07773 927743. Junior session on Tuesdays.

Meon Hall car park and Recreation Ground access:

Advance warning ! Contract groundworks are being planned to take place soon to make repairs to the car park tarmac surface, paint new car park markings, improve the rainwater drainage, install cycle racks outside The Meon Hall, alter the MUGA access and install a footpath between the car park and the MUGA, and renew the concrete pathway at the east end of the main hall.

James Morrice



MEON VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY & HERITAGE GROUP AGM

TUESDAY 7th APRIL at 7.00 pm

The MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE, SO32 3NP

At the AGM for the group this year we will have two guest speakers:

1: Professor Tony King will review the 2019 excavations and also looking ahead to the excavations this summer.

2: Dr Nick Stoodley will review the Iron Age to Roman Landscape Project (Meon Valley): Phase III.

Everyone welcome (you don't have to be a member of MVAHG to come along).

DROXFORD HISTORY GROUP

Our next event is on
Thursday, 28th May

and will be a visit to the

D-Day Museum

in Clarence Parade, Southsea

Meet at **10.30 am** at the museum

Entrance fee £4 (subsidized for members)

Followed by lunch at the **Still & West** in Old Portsmouth

(www.stillandwest.co.uk)



THE D-DAY STORY
PORTSMOUTH



Corhampton 2020



“My Darling Clemmie” with Rohan McCullough

Corhampton Church, Saturday 2nd May at 6.30pm, followed by drinks.

Brilliant actress Rohan McCullough stars in this moving and entertaining portrayal of Winston Churchill’s devoted wife Clementine. Written by Hugh Whitmore and directed by Gareth Armstrong, this powerful one-woman show focuses on an extraordinary relationship that endured not only the immense pressure of Churchill’s rise to power and the fury of war but also his single-minded and often near-impossible behaviour. Yet largely through an astute understanding of his complex character and willingness to play the role of the dutiful wife she stoically made the sacrifices that their relationship demanded. It seems that perhaps Churchill understood this. He once described persuading Clemmie to marry him as “My most brilliant achievement.”



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CHAMBER CHOIR

**Sunday 17th May
in St. Andrew's Church at 7.00pm**

This concert by the Chamber Choir is part of the celebrations for a thousand years of Corhampton Church, and will be entitled *1000 Ages in thy Sight (are like an evening gone)*. We shall be treated to sacred music spanning the 1000 years of worship in Corhampton starting with the earliest known composition and finishing with something from the 21st century. The concert will also include some folk songs from around the world starting in the Meon Valley and the South Downs and travelling to Japan via Denmark!! There will then be an opportunity, over a glass of wine and other refreshments, to meet members of the choir.

The Winchester Cathedral Chamber Choir, conducted by George Castle, was started 10 years ago and is one of the voluntary choirs associated with the Cathedral. It consists of about 30 very talented singers who sing purely for pleasure and who have given concerts in a number of English cathedrals as well as in other places. They are widely travelled and are considered by many to be certainly as good as, if not better than, many full cathedral choirs so it is a real privilege that they will be singing to celebrate Corhampton's millennium. This is a rare chance to hear a cathedral choir singing in a rural parish church and will be a memorable and special evening. So please put this event in your diary.

Tickets at £10.00 each are available on www.eventbrite.co.uk or from Meonstoke Post Office.

Wildflower display

If you would like to produce a wildflower arrangement to celebrate the beauty and simplicity of our lovely Saxon Church, please contact Lorna Allured on 877718.

The flower display will take place over the weekend of **6th & 7th June in Corhampton Church.**

Flower arrangements can be placed in the church on the evening (5 to 8pm) of **Friday 5th June** and it would be best if there were no bought flowers.

Arrangements, please, in terracotta pots or glass jars - nothing too sophisticated!

On **Saturday 6th June** there will be suitable readings and music from 11am until midday and then **2.00pm until 3.00pm** while the flower display is being admired and refreshments taken.

The more the merrier and no previous flower arranging skills required.

THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE
(THE PARISHES OF CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE, DROXFORD, AND EXTON)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF
THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING) &
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (APCM)**

**Refreshments served from 6.30 pm and
the meetings start with Prayer at 7.00 pm prompt**

Parish	Corhampton & St Andrew, Meonstoke	St Mary & All Saints, Droxford	St Peter and St Paul, Exton
Date	Tuesday, 28 th April 2020	Tuesday 31 st March 2020	Tuesday 21 st April 2020
Venue	Corhampton Church	Droxford Church & Community Hub	Exton Church

Last day for amendments to the Parochial Church Electoral Rolls:

Wednesday, 1st April

Wednesday, 4th March

Wednesday, 25th March

Only those on the respective Church Parish Electoral Roll are entitled to attend and to take part in the APCM. The election of churchwardens will be conducted at a meeting of parishioners immediately preceding the APCM and in accordance with the provisions of sections 4 and 5 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001. All who are on the civil parish electoral roll or church electoral roll are also entitled to attend and to take part in the elections of Churchwardens for that parish.

The Church Electoral Roll will close on the **28 days** before the annual meeting and the new electoral roll of the eligible electorate (names only) for those meetings will be published no later than **15 days** before the meeting on the noticeboard nearest the main door of each church. There is no need for the current electorate to re-register in 2020.

Please consider standing as a Church Warden or a member of your Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Nomination forms will be available in each parish church **28 days** before the annual meeting.

These must be completed and returned to the Rector before the meeting is opened.

www.bridgechurches.org.uk

St Mary & All Saints Church Organ Pipes

Droxford PCC is now ready to dispose of organ pipes from the dismantled Victorian organ. There are thirty large metal pipes (2 – 3m long), which have been over-painted in gold lacquer. The smaller pipes, metal and wood, are currently stored in wooden crates in Droxford, and will be available for viewing by interested parties on
Saturday 2nd May, from 3.00pm until 4.00pm

Please register your interest with Gill Edmunds, the Droxford PCC secretary, by e-mail at gill.f.edmunds@gmail.com



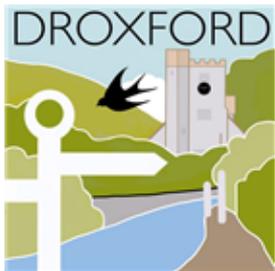
Corhampton & Meonstoke Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 15th April at 7.30pm
The Meon Hall

Under the chairmanship of Jerry Pett,
Chair of Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council

The purpose of the meeting is for the Parish Council to report to parishioners. The meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any concerns with the Parish Council and ask questions. The Annual Parish Assembly may by law discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them, although the resolutions may not be binding upon the Parish Council.

Refreshments will be available following the meeting.



Droxford Annual Parish Assembly

Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm
Droxford Village Hall

Chaired by
Janet Melson, Chair of Droxford Parish Council

Droxford Parish Council will hold its Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 23rd April. The purpose of the meeting is for the parish council to outline to residents its work of the past year and future plans. It is also an opportunity for residents of the parish to publicly express their views on anything that they consider to be important to the life of the parish.

Since the beginning of the year, the parish council has been working on plans for the centre of the village, with the intention of resurfacing The Square and improving both the parish and village green areas. An update on this project will be provided at the Assembly as well as reports on planning, highways, the recreation ground, the pavilion and the cemetery. All residents of Droxford who are on the Electoral Roll are invited to attend and offer relevant contributions to ways in which we can all enhance village life.

Welcome drink 7.15 pm

James and Anne Morrice invite you to their annual PLANT & CAKE SALE

Proceeds to go to :
*The Valley Preschool, Community Care Group,
Meon Valley Orchestra, Meonstoke Toddler Group*

10.00 am Saturday, 16th May

In the garden of BROOK COTTAGE HIGH STREET, MEONSTOKE

Donations welcome, please for

Plants; Cakes; Jams;
Toys; Books; Raffle;
This and That

Coffee, tea, soft drinks
Free entry to the garden
If wet, in The Meon Hall



Adults £2
Under 14's free



DROXFORD COUNTRY FAIR

*"A traditional Country Fair providing
old fashioned entertainment for every generation
and fantastic value for money!"*

Saturday 6th June 2020

12:30 – 4pm

ENTRY AT THE SQUARE

IN THE GARDEN

April & May



THE PROLONGED WET WINTER HAS MEANT THAT MANY JOBS HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD UNTIL THE SOIL DRIES OUT. ONE due to the mild winter has been an unprecedented show of early daffodils in many gardens. Bedding plants and tender plants, raised from seed, such as outdoor tomatoes and courgettes, can be placed outside on warm, still days to harden them off and keep them compact, but beware of leaving them out overnight or exposing them to wind, which can desiccate the young foliage very quickly and set back the plants by several weeks.

Vegetables: If you have not already done so, plant seed potatoes in well-manured trenches sprinkled with general purpose fertiliser. Leeks may be sown into trays or pots and planted later when large enough to handle, or they may be sown directly into a prepared bed. Sow maincrop carrots, purple sprouting broccoli and peas, and plant out onion sets. Runner beans can be sown in small pots towards the end of April so that they are ready for planting out as soon as the danger of frost is past. These plants should be gradually hardened off before planting out. In May, sow beetroot and continue to sow salad crops of lettuce, spring onion, radish, rocket etc. It is a good idea to cover newly sown seed with mesh or fleece until the seeds have germinated, as this prevents birds, cats, mice etc. from

disturbing the seeds. Protect potato foliage from late frosts by earthing-up or covering with fleece.

Fruit: Clear all debris and dead leaves from the base of trees and bushes and apply a handful of general purpose fertiliser around the base of each plant. Rake and water-in if the ground is dry and then apply a 3 to 4 inch mulch of well-rotted manure or compost to help conserve moisture as the weather warms up. If space allows, it is worth covering the areas between fruit bushes with weed control fabric and securing it with a layer of 25mm shingle. This will prevent weeds and will further help retain moisture in the soil around the roots of the bushes.

Herbaceous border: Feed and mulch roses. In April, prune hydrangea paniculata, spirea japonica, and buddleia very hard to produce strong new growth this year. Remember, these shrubs flower on the current year's growth, so they respond well to this treatment every year. In early April cut back, by about a third, Sage, Cistus, Lavender, and Santolina to prevent straggly growth.

In the greenhouse: Check all young plants on a daily basis, making sure that they do not dry out. Cut back overwintered fuchsias by about two thirds when the first buds begin to show and begin to feed and water them. Watch out for any signs of pests and diseases, particularly on young fuchsia shoots and treat with proprietary fungicide or pesticide as appropriate.

Lawns: Now is the time to lay or sow new lawns. Existing lawns should be scarified to remove moss and thatch, and then fed with a proprietary lawn feed. If weeds and moss are a problem in your lawn use a combined lawn weed and moss killer and leave for a week or two before scarifying.

John Owen



APRIL UPDATE

OUR FIRST TALK OF THE YEAR WAS BY RAY BROUGHTON ON *HERBS AND THEIR USES*. IT WAS A VERY POPULAR SUBJECT; MANY members braved the chilly evening to find out more about these very interesting plants. Ray gave us an amusing and informative talk with lots of hints and tips on growing a variety of interesting herbs. He also suggested the type and timing of fertilizers and pruning to keep herbs looking good all year round. Did you know that you can keep your secateurs clean and shiny by covering them with tomato sauce? When you rinse them off, they look as good as new! (Another tip from Ray).

Our talk in March was on planting for late spring and early summer by Roger Hirons. Many notes were taken as he suggested lots of new varieties of well-known shrubs and plants to extend colour in our gardens.

We have two fund raising events coming up; a coffee morning when members and their guests enjoy refreshments in one of our member's gardens.

Then, open to all, is our Spring Plant sale, which is on Saturday 2nd May at 10.00 am in Droxford Village hall. Do come along to pick up some bargains. It is these events that help us put on our very successful Spring and Summer shows.

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

Caroline Harris, Secretary
caroline_harris76@hotmail.com
www.droxfordweb.co.uk



News from the Meon Valley Lions Club



Providing local transport to the local community

The Meon Valley Lions Club started using their minibus to support another Club - Shedfield Seated Exercise Class run by MHA Winchester Live at Home. The class meets weekly on a Thursday at the Shedfield Study Centre

The minibus is now providing regular support to 7 different clubs and is in action on 65% of weekdays throughout the year. Further charitable support is provided by occasional free loans to Guides, Scouts, and others. In total last year, the minibus racked up almost 4,000 miles in free loans worth about £6,000 to these various charities. Lions usually drive but at times we cannot and additional volunteers give a helping hand so if you feel you could help out occasionally by driving the minibus, please contact John Sharpe on 01489-892750. Or, if you'd like to join Meon Valley Lions Club, please go to our website at: www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk.

Searching for a pot of gold....

The team took on the gardens at the Rainbow Centre and despite the horrid

weather did a brilliant job tidying things up. They did manage to capture a rainbow in the photo but sadly there was no pot of gold at the end.



The Rainbow Centre was created over 30 years ago this year and provides neurorehabilitation using conductive education that takes a holistic approach to helping both children and adults achieve their maximum potential, regardless of their starting point. It is this positive and inclusive attitude that is at the heart of making the Rainbow Centre a special place and the Meon Valley Lions Club are always happy to help where we can.

Swanmore Fete 11th July

More fun and games in addition to

the usual stalls and attractions this year, we're really pleased to say we have booked the Mill Cottage Farm Experience, which specialises in taking a variety of farm and other animals out as a hands-on educational and recreational experience for all ages. They plan to bring two of each: sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, guinea pigs, rabbits and either donkeys or alpacas.

As an educational travelling farm experience, they help people to learn more about animals, and provide experiences such as wool spinning and egg candling, as well as learning about self-sufficiency.

Join in the fun!

If you have time on your hands and want to help raise funds for local charities, we'd love to hear from you. It is not all about fundraising, we have a great time attending social events (obviously all the money we raise goes to charity and we fund our entertainment) so if you'd like to do something worthwhile and have fun at the same time get in contact www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk



Meonstoke Tennis Club 2020

For anyone new to the villages, or who hasn't heard of the club, Meonstoke Tennis Club is a 'not for profit' organisation set up to provide a court for local families to play on.

The subscription is only £28 per year for the whole family – including any grandchildren! - plus a one-off payment for a court key.

Full details on how to join are on our website at www.meonstoketennis.com

Combined Villages Party

Save the date!

A Combined Villages Party to celebrate 1000 years of community life.

Sunday 27th June at 7pm

The Old Vicarage, Corhampton

Drinks, dinner, music and dancing



Tickets £10 (plus a donation of your choice) will be available at:

Meonstoke Post Office from 11th April

WINCHESTER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - Vicki Weston (Independent)



CENTRAL AND UPPER MEON VALLEY WARDS

Flooding Information

Below is a list the responsibilities of the relevant agencies.

- HCC is the lead authority in the area for flood prevention and major incidents.
- Southern Water is responsible for water infiltrating the mains sewage system and therefore should be responsible for providing temporary toilets if their system fails.
- HCC or private landowners are responsible for the ditches/pipes.
- HCC is responsible for the highways.
- Residents are responsible for their own properties and private sewage systems. They can purchase flood prevention measures like sandbags and pumps from appropriate suppliers.
- The Environment Agency (EA) manages the main rivers and provides flood advice.

Ditches and your responsibility as a riparian owner

As a riparian owner (a person who owns land bounding upon a river, lake, or other water course), you have responsibilities in relation to the watercourse flowing through or adjacent to your property. These are set out in law in the Public Health Act 1936, the Land Drainage Acts of 1991 & 1994, the Water Resources Act 1991 and some local Land Drainage Bylaws.

What is a watercourse?

Watercourses are any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows. Watercourses are classified as either ordinary watercourse or main river. Ordinary watercourses are watercourses that are not part of a main river and include streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages, through which water flows. Riparian landowners are responsible for maintaining ordinary watercourses.

Main rivers are typically larger streams and rivers, but some are smaller watercourses of local significance. Main rivers are nationally managed by the Environment Agency (EA). To identify whether your watercourse is a main river visit the EA's website and view their flood maps. A point to be aware of is that if you do not carry out your responsibilities, you could face legal action and may be liable for any damage that occurs as a result of your failure to maintain the watercourse.

See also www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/floodprevention

Winchester City Council News

The Liberal Democrats' financial plans for 2020/201 were adopted despite opposition, so council tax will be put up 3%; parking charges also will increase by 3% or to the nearest 10p, and residents will be charged for garden waste as wheelie bins are being introduced for garden waste. There will be a 3% increase on all fees (for example, planning fees).

The council has declared that it will commit £750,000 to support ambitious plans to become a carbon neutral council by 2024 and a carbon neutral district by 2030. This will include installing additional solar panels on council owned sites (Not sure if this includes a maintenance budget) developing a council-led flagship ultra-low energy Passivhaus housing scheme and investing an additional £1m per year on energy and water efficiency measures to council housing stock.

(Note: Passivhaus is a voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building)

You should all have received your **About Winchester** publication, and again there is a lot of information on the Climate Emergency but the budget lacked any concrete plans on how this is going to be achieved in the wider district, other than keeping rural visitors out of Winchester City with the increased parking charges, all our bin lorries going greener by being replaced with Euro 6 compliant vehicles, and planting trees. There are plans to introduce 32 new electric car charging points for the district, including 2 in Wickham, 2 in Bishops Waltham and 1 in Denmead. This is a start to help service the 100,000 electric cars expected to be on UK roads by 2021, with all new petrol and diesel cars phased out by 2035! The promise of an added doorstep collection for small electrical items collected at your doorstep will help to increase recycling rates for the council. For full details you can read the papers at: www.winchester.gov.uk and the Councillor and Committees link.

Draft Plans to be aware of:

- **Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020** – WCC's response to delivering the biodiversity aspects of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.

- **Draft Local Enforcement Plan 2020 - comments by 28th March 2020.** (Winchester District Only) SDNP have their own Enforcement Guide at www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNPA-Enforcement-Guide-Amended-Sep-2018.pdf

COUNCIL'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

To see the council's current consultations, go to <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/>

WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

Use the following links to find information about future events and festivals in the district:

www.visitwinchester.co.uk/whats-on

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Linda Gemmell email: lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk

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

Vicki Weston email: vweston@winchester.gov.uk

L. Ruffell email: lruffell@winchester.gov.uk

Hugh Lumby email: hlumby@winchester.gov.uk



Friends of Droxford Church

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk

Registered Charity No 284744

DECEMBER 2019 MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE CHURCH RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY HUB project. After six years of hard work and generous support by many members of the local community we are now able to celebrate the successful outcome – a newly restored church, an annex for the community facilities including kitchen, toilets and office space, and a new heritage display featuring the history of the church and village in Droxford. None of this would have been possible without significant grants received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Hampshire County Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, and South Downs National Park.

Wilfrid's Cafe

On January 6th 2020, Wilfrid's Cafe opened for the first time. Powered by a new team of volunteers under the auspices of Droxford Community Hub CIC, Wilfrid's is offering coffee, tea and cakes on three afternoons per week (Monday, Thursday and Friday). In spite of the adverse weather, trading in the first 8 weeks has exceeded our expectations.

The success of the Cafe will not just be in the trading results, but in the opportunities it provides for building our community in Droxford and the surrounding area; for the volunteers who say that they love working in the Cafe because they meet new people; for the visitors to the Cafe who enjoy having somewhere to come for a chat; for the dog walkers, bike riders & joggers who drop in for a cup of tea after their activity who like our 'muddy boots & dogs welcome' policy; for those that have begun to use the facilities for their Club or meeting; for those who are



interested in the history of Droxford who come to look at the Heritage display. Many different successes - all of them helping to build a sustainable community.

So a big thank you to the volunteers and cake-bakers team who have helped the Cafe to make such a promising start. As we move forward to summertime they are looking to extend the opening hours to fit in with the longer days, and are hoping shortly to open on Saturdays and also to extend our weekly opening times. If you think you might be interested in volunteering or baking for the Cafe please come and visit the Cafe, talk to any of the volunteers or contact Margaret Wallace on mandrw@hotmail.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Droxford Church and Droxford Community Hub CIC will hold their Annual General Meetings in Wilfrid's Cafe on Saturday 16th May starting at 11.00am.

For more information on opening times and for the Agenda for the AGMs please visit

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk and

www.wilfrids.org

John Symes

Award for Years of Hard Work and Perseverance

We are delighted to report that John Symes, chair of Friends of Droxford Church, has been successfully nominated for one of the prestigious Mayor of Winchester's Community awards. This is in recognition for the years of hard work and perseverance to bring about the restoration of the endangered Droxford Church by securing a National Lottery Grant for Places of Worship; co-ordinating the team that planned and oversaw the works; supporting the heritage project that was a condition of the grant; and, bringing about the successful building of the annexe and community room/café, which was the response to the community requirements of the grant. This was an enormous undertaking and pulled many parts of the community together to achieve the marvellous outcome.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS TO JOHN SYMES and all those who have supported and assisted him over the years.

The Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Bell, has expressed her desire to "celebrate the selfless activity that brightens the lives of residents, and makes our district such a wonderful place to live". Each Mayor presents Community Awards annually to people and organisations that have made a real difference in the Winchester district. We are very pleased to report that John is among them and receiving a well-deserved public thank you for making such a difference.

Rev Tony Forrest
on behalf of Droxford Parish

Bishop's Waltham Festival Concert 2020



Saturday 9th May
at 6.30 pm



St. Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham

The first event of this summer's activities, the programme will include pieces from musicals such as South Pacific and Grease, up-beat songs such as The Rhythm of Life, classical items such as Non Nobis Domine and also some traditional pieces.

Tickets are £5 per adult (includes refreshments). Available from Best Wishes in Brook Street from mid-April.

www.bwfestival.co.uk

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM HAVE A CHAT WITH US!

NEW YOUR FAMILY YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER

HAMPSHIRE ALERT

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY 101

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PCSO Sarah McCulloch is the neighbourhood officer for Swanmore and Bishops Waltham and will be holding a Beat Surgery at Meon Valley Police Station on **Saturday 9th May 2020 between 10.00 - 11.30am.**

This will be an opportunity for members of the public to come and have a chat with regards to any concerns they may have. This is *not* an opportunity to report crime. Please report crimes via 101, or 999 if it is an emergency. Alternatively you report crime online via the Hampshire Constabulary website www.hampshire.police.uk/report



Singing for Fun

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

**The Ruby Room, Jubilee Hall,
Little Shore Lane
Bishops Waltham SO32 1ED**
1st & 3rd Fridays from 2.00 to 3.30pm

Next Meetings:

April: 3rd & 17th

May: 1st & 15th

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

**Cost: £2.00 a session
includes refreshments**

Further information from Annabel
on 01489 877130 or 07732 329792.
or – just turn up!

The Meon Valley community choir

SING & TONIC

www.singandtonic.org.uk 01489 891904 / 07775 802668

Midweek Stress Buster

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

Droxford Junior School Report



The Wonderful World of Books

AT DROXFORD, WE NURTURE A LOVE OF READING AND THIS IS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE CURRICULUM. STAFF are encouraged to be good role models when it comes to reading, so in the library we have our Droxford Reading Tree



The Droxford Reading Tree showing staff's favourite childhood books

Tree which has pictures of staff holding up their favourite childhood books. We also discuss with the children the books that we are currently reading.

In English, our lessons are all text driven so our writing, reading skills, and grammar are based around the texts we are reading. Additionally, we annually celebrate World Book Day.

The day is dedicated to book-based activities and staff and children can dress up as characters from books. This year, the theme was *Comic Book Characters*, which ties into a visit we will be having by Neill Cameron, a cartoonist and writer, later in the month.



Staff dressed as Comic Book characters for World Book Day

Running with this theme, Year 3/4 children rotated across classrooms throughout the day with several activities. They designed their own comic strip, created their own superheroes and had to act out being a reporter interviewing a superhero about an event. As always, we were impressed with the children's imaginative ideas.

Year 5/6 spent the morning watching a live streaming of the Royal Shakespeare Company performing *Macbeth* (which they have previously studied).



Year 5/6 watching a live streaming of Macbeth

In the afternoon, children read some more of the class text *Floodland*, by Marcus Sedgwick and began to plan their own stories- telling what would happen in the next chapter. At the end of the day, children met in assembly for World Book Day awards and an opportunity to listen to some poems and stories. We also launched the Share a Million Stories campaign where we are encouraging children to share a range of stories including poems, comics, and many more with someone else. It has been found that reading for pleasure is in decline and only 29% of 0-13 year olds read for pleasure daily.

Throughout World Book Day, children were asked what they liked about reading. These were some of their responses:

'You get to use your imagination. It makes pictures in your mind.' (Jess Y6)

'It's fun and it takes you to a different place.' (Horace Y5)

'It calms me down. I love getting my head into a book.' (Amy Y4)

'My mind just sinks into a book. I don't think about any other things.' (George Y4)

'It describes everything for me.' (Tobias Y3)

We couldn't agree with them more!

Jenny Smith - Deputy Headteacher

News from Droxford Fire Station

DID YOU KNOW THAT BEING AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CAREER PROGRESSION WITHIN THE fire service? Since the last edition of The Bridge, two of our team have successfully completed the challenging process of interviews and subsequent Pathway to Progression (P2P) drills to become Crew Managers at Droxford. This is a massive achievement, and we're really pleased for our newly promoted CM Morgan and CM Hewson who've earned not only the admiration of the team and Crew Manager stripes, but also coveted CM pegs for their kit!

We were called to a chimney fire in Meonstoke in January which required additional support from an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) appliance to allow better access to the roof. There are several of these specialist vehicles within Hampshire Fire and Rescue, with the one attending the Meonstoke fire coming from St. Mary's in Southampton. Certainly an interesting bit of manoeuvring to get such a large truck into Bridgemead!



We've attended a number of other local incidents over the past couple of months including a kitchen fire in Warnford and a fire in an outbuilding at The Hampshire Bowman pub. A crew from Droxford also attended the serious road traffic collision (RTC) on the B3035 in February. When the pager goes off we have no idea what we're being called to, and rely so much on friends, family, and employers who enable us to respond, as well as support us when we get home again. Huge thanks to our extended team.

And finally, another reminder about parking in front of the fire station: in short, PLEASE DON'T. Although there are

certainly times the station looks quiet, and the perfect place to leave the car while you pop up the road to collect from school, there's always the possibility that five, six, or seven cars are about to pitch up and block you in. Please help us to help the community by keeping the forecourt clear and finding a safe place to park somewhere else.

Droxford is one of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services's network of retained fire stations, providing on-call cover for our local communities and across the county. We have a crew of 10, from a variety of backgrounds, supported by a Watch Manager. Our training nights are Tuesdays at 6.45pm; do come down and see us then if you want to know more. You can also follow @Droxford41 on Twitter for up-to-date information about what we're up to.



Anna Rolfe
FF Droxford 41





Meon Valley Active Retirement Association

Regular events for the active in retirement

Hon Sec: Ann Joyce e: mvara@aejoyce.me.uk t: 01329 232099

Programme April - May 2020

Exercise Class: St. Peter's Church Hall Bishop's Waltham. Every Monday from 10:00am to 11:15am. **NB: There will be no class on 13th April or 25th May.** Cost per individual session: members £2.00, non-members £2.50. Please note there is a waiting list for this class. Contact *Chee Price 01489 893140*.

Ladies' Pub Lunch: Mondays – 6th April and 4th May 12:15pm for 12:30pm. Contact *Chriszena Strachan 01489 893719* by the previous Monday for venue and to book a place. Please note there may be a waiting list.

IT Learning Classes: The Paterson Centre, Swanmore. Classes will start again in September if there is sufficient demand. Sessions will be held in the Paterson centre. The limited spaces available will be filled on a first come first served basis. Contact *Ian Wynne-Powell Tel: 01329 833254 or email wynnepowell@btinternet.com*

French Conversation: Meetings held on second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month from 14:00 in the home of a member. There are now vacancies in these sessions. Contact *Lyndon Palmer on 01489 896862*.

Tai Chi: Jubilee Hall Gold Room. Wednesday mornings. There are three sessions: Beginners/less experienced: 9am to 10am Experienced: 10:15am to 11:15am Intermediate 11:30am to 12:30pm. Cost per individual session £4.00 for members; £6.00 for non-members. Contact *Cherry Wynne-Powell on 01329 833254*.

Table Tennis: Priory Park Clubhouse, Bishop's Waltham. Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm. New members welcome. Cost per session £3.00 for members, £4.50 for non-members. Contact *Leslie Craddock on 07941 300545*.

The Other Lunch: A monthly lunch on the third Friday at a local pub 12:15pm for 12:30pm – any member welcome. **Lunches on 17th April and 15th May.** Please contact *Geoff Matthews on 01489 890843* by the previous Friday for venue, menu and to book a place.

Spanish Lessons: Classes held on Friday mornings at The Stables, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. **New term starts on 17th April and ends on 22nd May. Please note there are no classes on 8th May.** Cost £3.00 per session. Spanish I for beginners runs from 9.15am-10.15am and Spanish II from 10.45am-11.45am. Call *John Moorhouse on 01489 896366* to discuss.

Scrabble for Fun: Sessions on Friday afternoons in the small room at The Paterson Centre, Swanmore (next to the church). Cost £2.00 per session. **NB: No session on 10th April or 8th May.** There is now a waiting list for this activity. Please book with Lena to confirm location and be prompt! Contact *Lena Frost on 01489 894828*.

Theatre/Cinema visits: Visits are organised throughout the year. For information on theatre/cinema visits contact *Kay Corke 01489 890727*.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Meon Valley

Meon Valley U3A hold twice monthly meetings at the Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, usually on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Occasionally there may be an extra meeting. We have a varied programme of meetings with speakers from our own membership and guest speakers. Visitors are welcome at our meetings for £2. Free tea and biscuits after the meeting. Membership costs £12 per annum from September 2020, this is currently reduced to £6 for the remainder of the session. We welcome new members.

If you are retired or semi-retired, new to the area and would like to join Meon Valley U3A please email or telephone the Secretary or enquire through the website below.

We are looking for new speakers and subjects for our talks for the next year from September to May 2021. If you can help please contact our programme organiser, Brian Barrett at bwbarrett@hotmail.com or telephone 01329 833384.

We currently have ten special interest groups and are looking to encourage more to be set up. These usually meet in members' homes monthly.

They are: Reading Groups 1, 2 and 3, Poetry, Visual Art Appreciation, Egyptology, Geology, Mindfulness and Meditation, Strolling and Nostalgia.

31st March

A District Officer's Life in N. Rhodesia in the 1950s

Julia Field, Branch Member

7th April

The Test Valley, Source to Port

Jill Daniels, Local Speaker

21st April

The Brunels, Engineering Greats

Brian Barrett, Branch Officer

5th May

AGM followed by Aspects of the RNLI

Brian Master, RNLI Presenter

We resume meetings in September 2020.

General enquiries to: **Betty Hiscock, Secretary**

Tel: **01489 894807**

Email: mvu3asec@yahoo.com

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley



Corhampton 2020



ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF THE MEON VALLEY

CORHAMPTON CHURCH IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN 1020 AND HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE FOR THE LAST 1000 years. It is a living monument to our rich heritage. In celebration the community is planning a series of cultural and community events with the help of The National Lottery Community Fund, Winchester Council and Hampshire county Council. The aim is to foster inclusivity across our villages.



Sunday 5th April

Local singers/ choir will perform Olivet to Calvary (by J H Maunder) from scratch at St Mary's Portchester at 16.30

Saturday 9th May

Rohan McCullough will perform "My Darling Clemmie" in Corhampton Church at 18.30

Sunday 17th May

Winchester Cathedral Chamber Choir will perform at St Andrew's Church at 19.00, followed by a wine and finger buffet.

Saturday/Sunday 6th and 7th June

A wildflower display with musical performances at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm each day in Corhampton Church, and roses and herbs displayed in St Andrew's Church from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Saturday 13th June

Quiet Day 10.00-4.00 pm in Corhampton Church with use of Meonstoke Church facilities

Saturday 27th June

Celebratory Village Party, The Old Vicarage, Corhampton; drinks, dinner and dancing at 7.00 pm

Saturday 4th July

Church Fete on Church Green with from 12.30 pm sale of commemorative mugs designed by local arts group.

Sunday 12th July

Athanasian Consort choir at Corhampton Church followed by refreshments at 6.30 pm.

Sunday 19th July

Bishop's visit and walk from church to church; Eucharist at 08.00 am at Exton, refreshments on Church Green at 09.30 am and Blessing of the new Icon at Corhampton at 11.00 am.

Spirituality in the Meon Bridge

Opportunities for Peace and Reflection

Enjoy some time in quiet reflection and prayer in the beautiful surroundings of the Meon Valley. Each of the events is based in Corhampton Church and the full day events also make use of St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke and Church Green by the side of the River Meon. Make some space in your busy life to explore prayer and reflection – consider what it means to be on a journey through life, in your head, in your heart or even on your feet.

Tuesday 5th May, 7.30 – 9.00pm – *A Thousand Ages in thy Sight* (Free)

Corhampton 2020 with the Guild of Servers

Prayer and Reflection on 1000 years of Christian Worship in the Valley

Saturday 13th June – 10am to 4pm (£5)

A Quiet Day of Guided Prayer - Footsteps out of the Wilderness

Short keynote talks on the significance of wilderness in scripture.

Activities include: Holy Reading, Prayer Walks, Reflection on desert-times, Tracing your Journey with God (using art materials), Writing a poem or psalm, imaginative prayer. The day will begin with refreshments. Lunch is not included in the price. You are welcome to bring your own, to visit a local pub.

In conjunction with the Diocese of Portsmouth

Saturday 11th September 2021 – 10am to 4pm

Spirituality Day in Corhampton and Meonstoke

Save the Date – Details to Follow

Meon Valley Community Bus Association

TIMETABLE

ALL SERVICES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Coronavirus restrictions

Confined to home? We can help!

- 1) Nell and her team at the village shop are doing free home deliveries. Orders can be placed, preferably by email, to info@meonstokepostofficeandvillagestores.co.uk or by text or WhatsApp on 07813 691150 by phone on 01489 877374
- 2) There are people in Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton who have supermarket home deliveries who are happy to let others share and add things on to their orders.
- 3) Anyone who needs help with their mobile phone or computer to install things like WhatsApp, Skype, and Facebook, to make it easier to communicate (and see friends and family on screen and possibly their doctor) can contact us and someone will phone you back and talk you through how to do it.

Contact information (phone or text):

Hugh: 07879811426 / 01489 877444

Sian: 07966 487762

Jess: 07971 047906

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MeonstokeCorhamptonExton

Email: sc@splendidmedia.co.uk

WhatsApp: Email your mobile number to: sc@splendidmedia.co.uk

STOP PRESS: Help similar to above is being arranged for DROXFORD too. If you'd like to be included, please email your name, mobile number etc to: Edd Heller: mreddheller@gmail.com

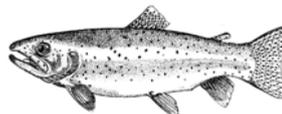
OUR RIVER - THE MEON

Did you know that our river, the lovely River Meon, is a rarity? There are only 200 chalk streams in the world and we have one in our midst.

The River Meon is one of the most untouched of all the southern chalk streams, with a wilder feel than its two big sisters the River Itchen and River Test. The river has a steep gradient, falling approximately 120 metres from source to sea, so is one of the fastest flowing chalk streams

in the country. It gives our lovely valley its character. Yet while many of us worry about the environment and endangered species like the rhino and elephant we have our own little gem in our midst and it faces a variety of threats which are often overlooked. What is more astonishing is that, unlike its big sisters, it has no statutory protection.

The next issue of The Bridge will include a full article on The River Meon and the threats to the life within it.



SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POST OFFICES

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

STORES

Droxford Stores, High Street 878811
 Meonstoke Village Stores, Warnford Road, Corhampton 877374
 Meringtons Stores, Garrison Hill, Droxford 878043
 Droxford Antiques, High Street, Droxford 878800

PUBLIC HOUSES

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

GARAGES

Meringtons, Droxford 877431
 Taylors Garage Ltd, Droxford 877433

SCHOOLS

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

LIBRARY (Bishop's Waltham)

Free Street, Bishops Waltham 0300 555 1387

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU (Bishop's Waltham)

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

PARISH COUNCILS

Corhampton & Meonstoke. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 07720 092072
 website: www.candm-pc.gov.uk
 Droxford. Clerk: Mrs R Hoile 07720 092072
 website: www.droxfordweb.co.uk
 Exton Parish Meeting: Secretary: Jill Hignett 01489 878450

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

email: lgermell@winchester.gov.uk
 email: fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
 email: vweston@winchester.gov.uk
 email: luffell@winchester.gov.uk
 email: hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

Bookings: Hannah Carpenter by
 email: meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk or by phone at 07414 121201
 Go to the website at: www.candm-pc.gov.uk/the-meon-hall
 for details of charges and general information

LOCAL SURGERIES

Droxford 01489 877588
 Wickham 01329 833121
 West Meon 01730 829666

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS:

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

DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE:

www.droxfordweb.co.uk

For more information on local events and activities

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services 0300 555 1386

Children's Services 0845 603 5620

The above numbers are open Mon. to Thurs. 8.30am - 4.30pm

The out-of-hours number is 0845 600 4555

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Reporting Crime

ONLY CALL 999 - if a crime is taking place, or has just happened; if you have immediate concern for someone's safety, including a medical emergency; if you see a traffic collision involving injury or danger to other road users, or if you see something suspicious that requires immediate attention. The more information that you can provide, the better.

CALL 101 or use the internet, to report crimes that are not in progress; suspicious people or vehicles, and non-urgent information such as anti-social behaviour, suspected drug use or damage to property.

AFTER contacting one of the above, please **ALSO** contact your street coordinator with details of the report. If not available, try any other coordinator including the Chairman.

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE

Stocks Lane - Peter Riley (Chairman) 07702 863954
 Rectory Lane - Sally & Mike Fithyan 877839
 High Street - Janet Dobby 878657
 Warnford Road - Jerry Pett 877633
 Corhampton Lane - Janine Casey 877561
 Pound Lane, West - Patrick Monger 877161
 Pound Lane, East - Linda Foot 877763
 Chapel Road & Fry's Lane - Charlie Fullegar 07876 524457
 New Road - Jenny Liardet 877583
 Allen's Lane - Lesley Daysh 877327
 St Andrew's Green - Lesley Daysh 877327
 Brockbridge Road - Frances Keppel 878774
 Millside - Phil Butler 877596

DROXFORD - Gordon Hope 877751

EXTON - Sue Robertson 878545

DIAL 111 - if you are worried about an urgent medical concern.

Check if you have Coronavirus symptoms at 111.nhs.uk

WILLIAMS COLLINS TRUST

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

Corhampton: Janice Hooley, 878098
 Droxford: Rachel Dean, 878779
 Exton: Diana Arthur, 877390 & Vicky Hill, 07801 372860
 Meonstoke: Sian Holiday, 07966 487762
 or by email from: WilliamCollinsCharity@gmail.com

The trustees will next meet on the 16th October to make awards. Please send in your applications before this date.

DISTRICT DIARY

APRIL

- Wed. 1 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am
 Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00
- Thu. 2 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
 MV Orchestra Rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00 - 12 noon
- Fri. 3 Singing for Fun, The Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham 2.00 pm
- Sat. 4 MV Garden Club: Coffee Morning, (members only) 10.00 am
 Coombe Place Cottage New Road, Meonstoke

Sunday 5 – Palm Sunday

- Mon. 6 Holy Week Reflections, Droxford Church 7.00 pm
- Tue 7 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am
 Yoga Group, The Meon Hall 9.30 am
 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00
 Scriptural Stations of the Cross, Meonstoke 7.00 pm
 MV Archaeology Society AGM, The Meon Hall 7.00 pm
- Wed. 8 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am
 Traditional Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa), Exton 7.00 pm
- Thu. 9 **Maundy Thursday:** Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
 Holy Communion with Foot Washing, Corhampton 7.00 pm
 Vigil, Corhampton 8.30 pm
- Fri. 10 **Good Friday:** Walk of Witness Droxford 09.30 am
 Corhampton 11.00 am
 Meonstoke 11.30 am
Good Friday: An Hour at the Cross, Exton 1.45 pm

Sunday 12 – Easter Day

- Tue.14 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am
 Yoga group, The Meon Hall at 7.45 am & 9.30 am
 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00
 MV Arts Society: *What have the Huguenots ever done for us?* by Vivienne Lawes, The Meon Hall 10.40am
 Play-reading Group; The Meon Hall 7.30 pm

- Wed.15 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am
 Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00
 Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly, The Meon Hall 7.30pm
- Thu. 16 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
 Droxford Parish Council Meeting, Droxford Village Hall 7.30 pm
- Fri. 17 Singing for Fun, The Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham 2.00 pm

Sunday 19 - Easter 2 (Low Sunday)

- Tue. 21 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am
 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00
 Yoga group, The Meon Hall 9.30 am
- Wed.22 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am
- Thu. 23 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00–12.00
 Meonstoke Toddler Group, The Meon Hall 9.30-11.30 am
 Droxford Annual Parish Assembly, Droxford Village Hall 7.30 pm
- Sat. 25 Freedom Dance Academy, The Meon Hall 1.30 - 6.30 pm

Sunday 26 – Easter 3

- Tue. 28 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am
 Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00
 Yoga group, The Meon Hall 9.30 am
- Wed.29 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am
 Film Night: *The Good Liar*, Droxford V. Hall 7.30 pm
- Thu. 30 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am
 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00–12.00

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL

Date	Time	Service	Church
5 th Palm Sunday	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Eucharist with Palm Procession Evensong with Froxfield Choir	Droxford Meonstoke Exton
12 th Easter Day	7.30 am 8.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Bringing in the Easter Light Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service & Holy Communion Family Service & Holy Communion	Exton Exton Droxford Meonstoke
19 th Easter 2 (Low Sunday)	8.00 am 9.45 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal All-age Service Matins (BCP)	Exton Droxford Corhampton
26 th Easter 3 (St Mark)	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) All-age Service ... Unwrapped Eucharist (CW)	Corhampton Meonstoke Exton

DISTRICT DIARY

MAY

<p>Fri. 1 Singing for Fun, The Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham 2.00 pm Start of 3rd Stubbington Brownies stay at The Meon Hall ends Sunday 3rd</p> <p>Sat. 2 MV Garden Club: Spring Plant Sale, Droxford 10.00 am Village Hall <i>My Darling Clemmie</i>, starring Rohan McCullough 6.30 pm Corhampton Church (see page 7)</p> <p>Sunday 3 – Easter 4</p> <p>Tue. 5 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am Yoga group, The Meon Hall 9.30 am Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00 <i>A Thousand Ages in thy Sight</i>; Prayer and 7.30-9.00 pm Reflection on 1000 years of Christian Worship in the Meon Valley (see page 18)</p> <p>Wed. 6 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00</p> <p>Thu. 7 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am Polling Station for Local Government elections 7.00 am-10pm The Meon Hall</p> <p>Fri. 8 Public Holiday: VE day 75th Anniversary</p> <p>Sat. 9 Portchester Rainbows sleepover at The Meon Hall</p> <p>Sunday 10 – Easter 5</p> <p>Tue. 12 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am Yoga group, The Meon Hall at 7.45 am & 9.30 am Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00 MV Arts Society, talk: <i>Paintings of JMW Turner - 1775- 1851</i>; The Meon Hall 10.40 am Play Reading group, The Meon Hall 7.30 pm</p> <p>Wed.13 Morning Prayer, Corhampton 8.30 am</p>	<p>Wed.13 MV Garden Club; Talk: <i>War Gardening – Behind the Lines</i>, by Anne Powell; The Meon Hall 7.30 pm</p> <p>Thu. 14 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00–12 noon</p> <p>Fri. 15 Singing for Fun, The Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham 2.00 pm</p> <p>Sat. 16 Plant & Cake Sale, Brook Cottage, Meonstoke 10.00 am</p> <p>Sunday 17 – Easter 6 (Rogation Sunday)</p> <p>Sun.17 Rogation Day Walk leaving Corhampton Church 1.30 pm Concert by Winchester Cathedral Chamber Choir, Meonstoke Church (see page 7) 7.00 pm</p> <p>Mon. 18 Meon Hall Management Committee meeting; 7.30 pm The Meon Hall</p> <p>Tue. 19 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00</p> <p>Wed.20 Morning Prayer, Corhampton (for C2020) 8.30 am Look in for coffee & chat, Meonstoke Church 10.00–12.00 Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council AGM and meeting; The Meon Hall 7.30 pm</p> <p>Thu. 21 Ascension Day: Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am Ascension Day Eucharist, Corhampton, 7.00 pm MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00–12 noon Meonstoke Toddler Group, The Meon Hall 9.30-11.30 am</p> <p>Sunday 24 – Easter 7</p> <p>Tue. 26 Morning Prayer, Exton 8.30 am Drop-in coffee morning, Droxford Village Hall 10.30–12.00</p> <p>Wed 27 Morning Prayer, Corhampton (for C2020) 8.30 am Film Night: <i>1917</i>; Droxford V. Hall 7.30 pm</p> <p>Thu. 28 Holy Communion, Droxford 10.00 am Droxford History Group meeting, Droxford VH 7.30 pm</p> <p>Sunday 29 - Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</p>
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SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

Date	Time	Service	Church
3 rd Easter 4 <i>(Philip & James)</i>	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Eucharist Evensong	Droxford Meonstoke Exton
10 th Easter 5	8.00 am 10.30 am 3.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Eucharist (CW) Thanksgiving for VE-Day 75	Meonstoke Droxford Meonstoke
17 th Easter 6 <i>(Rogation Sunday)</i>	8.00 am 9.45 am 10.30 am 1.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Informal All-age Service Sung Holy Communion (BCP) Blessing of Farms & Businesses	Exton Droxford Corhampton Dep Corhampton
Thursday, 21st <i>Ascension Day</i>	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Holy Communion (CW) Sung Festal Eucharist (CW)	Droxford Corhampton
24 th Easter 7 <i>(Sunday after Ascension)</i>	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) All-age Service ... Unwrapped Eucharist (CW)	Corhampton Meonstoke Exton
31 st Pentecost <i>Whit Sunday</i>	8.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Eucharist (CW) & Thanksgiving for Completion of Works	Meonstoke Droxford

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. To arrange transport please contact our transport coordinators on the following telephone numbers:

Droxford - 07977 096586 and Corhampton, Meonstoke & Exton - 07795 928065

- Giving assistance with completion of forms and documents on a confidential basis, for example, claim forms, application forms for blue badge and benefit forms.
- Resolving both internal and external problems with land line telephones for the elderly when they are not working properly. Openreach must repair all external faults within two working days.
- Helping frail and elderly persons with BT telephones to register for a priority repair scheme. This is especially important for those with an emergency alarm connected to their telephone. (Note: A form signed by the person's GP must be provided.)
- Advising people to help them find the support or assistance they need
- Providing every newcomer, a welcome card with details of useful web contacts, a named person to assist, and/or point people in the right direction.

New volunteer drivers needed

- To support the local community by providing private transport for essential purposes such as hospital, dentist and doctors' appointments.
- You decide when you drive, it's a very flexible commitment.

Please note that all mileage costs are covered at 40p per mile and personal insurance cover is also provided. If you are willing to give a little time and volunteer as a driver please contact our transport coordinators Droxford - 07977 096586 and for Corhampton, Meonstoke & Exton - 07795 928065 or our Chairman on 01489 877732.



Droxford & District Community Care Group is part of The Good Neighbours Network funded by Hampshire County Council which is a unique and valuable asset to local communities in Hampshire, providing practical neighbourly help in a caring, people focused and safe way. **Za Rowe** Chairman

Tel: 01489 877732

Petersfield Hospital

Swan Street, Petersfield GU32 3LB
Tel: 023 8231 9000

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Open 8.00am to 6.00pm 365 days a year

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

Cuts & Abrasions

Burns

Ear & nose injuries

Eye injuries

Foreign bodies

Head Injuries

Minor Fractures

Nose bleeds

Splinters, Sprains & Strains

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

These can include:

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

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



Community First Responders

Are required to help respond to medical emergencies in the Meon Valley area.

No previous experience necessary; Full training provided in life support techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of automatic external defibrillator (AED). Applicants must be aged 18 or over, hold a full UK driving licence and have use of vehicle.

You choose times you can cover (days, evenings, weekends).

Contact Rob Scott, MVCFR Coordinator at: robmunroscott@aol.com
or Community Responder Administrator at cfr@scas.nhs.uk
or call 0800 5870207

and maybe, **HELP SAVE A LIFE!**

Droxford Church handbells recovered

Following my request in the previous issue of *The Bridge*, the bells were located in Meonstoke and have now been returned to Droxford. At present they are stored in old woollen socks which are decidedly moth eaten and really need some cotton or baize bags to replace them.



Stuart Attrill

DROXFORD CHURCHYARD Mowing/Maintenance

We have lost one of our mowing team now that Michael Chandler has left the village and I will be giving up mowing and churchyard maintenance at the end of this year.

We urgently need some volunteer replacements. If you would like to join the team please contact me or a churchwarden.



Stuart Attrill

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

ACCOMMODATION	Wallops Wood Cottages 28:	HEATING & PLUMBING	R A Redman (ifc): G Rixon (bc): B. Eastman Plumbing & Heating Ltd 26: Adept Oil Fired Heating 28: Mark Oliver Plumbing & Heating 29: Harpers 36:
ANTIQUES	Droxford Antiques (bc):	HOME IMPROVEMENTS	Luxury Wetrooms & Bathrooms 25: KJN Home Improvements Ltd 27:
BUILDERS	R & G Gamblin 27: THS Builders 34: Peter Garber 38: Master Thatcher 29:	JEWELLERS	Simon Lawson 37:
CARPENTERS & WOOD PRODUCTS	Cramer Bespoke Carpentry (ibc):	LEGAL SERVICES	Hackett & Dabbs Barristers 35: Chamberlains Solicitors 36: MacDonald Oates Solicitors 38:
CATERING	Clementine Catering 36:	MOTOR SERVICES	Autosmart Bodywork Repairs 26: Andrews Autosource 27: Taylors Garage 31:
COMPUTERS & INTERNET	Punched Card 29: MJ2 Computer Services 37: Computer Problem Solved 40:	PAINTING & DECORATORS	Mark & June Mason 30: Droxford Interiors 32: Olivers Decorating 32: Ray Gent Painter & Decorator 37: Top Marks Decorating 39:
DOMESTIC SERVICES	Cleaner Chimneys 30: Steve Such Property Maintenance 30: Curtain Making & Alterations 33: D&S Oil Tanks 33: Logs & Hedge Cutting Services 34: Olivers Chimney Sweep 34: PestOff 35: Cynthia Tester Curtains & Blinds 36: Grange Upholstery 37: Advanced Clean 39: The Barn Store 39: Alan Shaywer Domestic Appliance Repairs 40:	PRINTING & STATIONERY	DEK Graphics 29: Studio 6 Design & Print 30:
ELECTRICAL SERVICES	Ben Tibbetts Electrical 25: Chase Farm Electrical 33:	PUBLIC HOUSES	Bowman Ales Ltd 31: The Shoe Inn 31:
ESTATE MANAGEMENT	Lister Trees (ifc): The Country House Company (ifc): Pimp my Paddock (bc):	RIDING & EQUESTRIAN	Merrie Stud Riding School 35:
FINANCIAL SERVICES	John Tavender Wealth Management 25: Nicholas Ridge Accountant 37:	SCHOOLS & EDUCATION	Sally Keighley Music Tuition 30: Valley Pre-School 32:
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GLASS & GLAZING	Fareham Glass 34: Leydene Glass & Glazing 39:	TAXIS	Hambledon Cars 30: Gamblin Cars 38:
HAIRDRESSERS	Shades of Sweet Pea 40:	TRAVEL	The Travel Counsellors 25:
HEALTH	Saxbys Eyecare 28: The Toe Business 33: Painful Feet? 32:	VETS & PETS	The Village Cattery 29: The Dog Room 30: Shield Veterinary Centre 35: Highview Hounds 36:

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