

THE BRIDGE

August - September 2020



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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Organist: John Martin 877385
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Verger: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
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Organist: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
Sacristan: - -
Verger: Bob Miles -

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Canon Alan Griffiths 07760 220346

Methodist & United Free Church (Bishop's Waltham)

Rev'd Joseph Tembo 01329 833518

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Churchwarden: Angela Peagram 878725
Secretary: (via Churchwarden)
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Gift Aid Secretary: Iain Gammell 878162
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(Corhampton) John Martin (am) 877385
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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 Karen Ellis, of Meonstoke, this was Karen's winning entry in the photograph competition for the Corhampton, Meonstoke and Exton Church Fete. The title of the competition was: *What makes our villages special.* As you can see the photo was taken from a point on Corhampton Down looking over Meonstoke and the surrounding countryside.

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A NEW EDITOR FOR THE BRIDGE!

NORMAN BELL, WHO HAS BEEN EDITING *THE BRIDGE* SINCE 2004, HAS NOW LEFT THE AREA AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO continue as editor after this August-September issue. Applicants will be expected to take over *The Bridge* editor's e-mail id (thebridgeeditor@gmail.com) and be experienced in the use of MS Word DOC and DOCX files and Adobe Reader PDF files. The work involves choosing items from the articles, notices, reports, and other pieces submitted to the

editor by e-mail and editing them as necessary before passing everything to *The Bridge* typesetter, who will prepare the magazine for printing. It also involves, when necessary, consultation with the rector over church articles submitted from other parishes. Ideally, the new editor will be resident within *The Bridge* parishes. If you are interested in taking on this role, please e-mail the current editor at thebridgeeditor@gmail.com for more information.

**The COPY DEADLINE for the next issue of THE BRIDGE is:
MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER**

From the RECTOR



THIS TIME LAST YEAR I WROTE:
I WOULD LIKE TO START WITH THANKS FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL EVENTS WITH the schools and the communities in June and July: Messy Church, End of Term and Leavers' Services, the Droxford Country Fair and the Corhampton, Meonstoke and Exton Church Fete, the fine *Soirees on the Bridge*, to name but a few. How times have changed! But the gratitude is even greater in depth and to a wider range of people. Nevertheless, THANK YOU to everyone in the community who has been able to step up and look after others. THANK YOU to all those in the Meon Bridge Benefice who are key workers, not least those who work for, or in, the NHS. THANK YOU to all those who have kept any sort of community activity going, be it the shops delivering or online quizzes. THANK YOU to all those who have worked hard to get the churches ready in the latter part of June for their opening, to some extent, for private prayer and for gathered worship for the first time on the first Sunday in July – it was a gargantuan effort necessarily by a few. Many of the children managed to get back to school for a short time in the summer term, and we offer our very best wishes and prayers to all the children and young people, who are starting or changing school as well as those off to college. We pray for their happiness in their new surroundings and for success in all that they do. 'How is thy neighbour?' seems to have been a real theme of community life over the last four months. Long may our re-energised community spirit endure. People have made themselves aware of others nearby who are self-isolating and unsupported – there are still plenty cut-off, and others reluctant or unable to go out. Can you continue to help or befriend someone? Please continue to watch out for single people, and the elderly who are isolated from their families. A question that is only beginning to be asked is 'How is the younger generation?' They face an uncertain future. Education and training, employment and job security, and even employability, are all being changed. In some cases these are now under threat. Many of us are still facing additional emotional challenges and anxieties, including grief but the young are facing questions in their own minds about where life would have led them had there not been a pandemic.

Please pray for them, and in whatever way we are able, let us offer practical and emotional support. Can any of us who have gained life's experiences offer: mentoring a job-seeker; coaching for someone in a new and testing role; educational or emotional support at the education transition

points:

- Home to school
- Between schools at different stages
- School to university
- Education to employment.

There are many experienced and talented people in the area - how can you help the next generations to set off on life's journey securely - helping them to succeed and helping them to give back to society. We are all looking for certainty and trying to find answers to questions as restrictions begin to be lifted and new guidelines are announced. It feels that we are living in a form of limbo. We are not in complete lockdown anymore, but we are also not free to live our usual lives.

There is a verse in Hebrews that describes the hope we have in God's love for us as secure and certain as an anchor:

'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain' **Hebrews 6:19**

God promises to keep us securely linked to Him, just like an anchor is attached to a boat, although there are times when we feel like we are floating aimlessly, unsure of where we are headed. Perhaps there is a storm throwing your life into chaos, or you feel like you are drifting away from God. At a time when we are all looking for a sure footing and a definite direction, we are renewing our hope in God, and our promise, as the church, is to help you stay connected to Him as you care for yourself and others.

Tony

St Andrew's Church Meonstoke

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

**Sunday 4th October 2020
10.30 am**

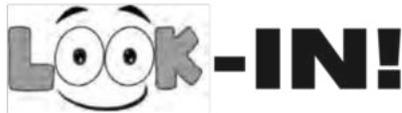
All welcome

Since the previous issue of *The Bridge*, when all these activities were on hold during the lockdown, restrictions are slowly being eased. It is hoped the restrictions will continue to ease, especially by September.

Contact Tim or Terry Crowfoot on 01489 877631(Droxford) and Hannah Carpenter (The Meon Hall) on 07414 122201 to find out if any of these events have been re-started.

DROXFORD DROP-IN

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



At the moment it is impossible to say when we shall be able to meet on alternate Wednesdays in Meonstoke Church due to health and safety rules, but let's hope that things will return to near normal in the autumn and we can look forward to coffee, cake, and chats again. I have missed the friendship and conversation and hope that all of our friends have kept well and safe during these strange times.

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



We usually meet on alternate Thursdays during term time
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.

Meon Valley Playreading Group

To meet, or not to meet... that is the question.
Whether it is more sensible to suffer
The restrictions on indoor meetings
Or to select plays from the library collection
And, al fresco, to enjoy them...

To talk, to laugh
Once more....

Anyway, you get the idea!

At time of writing, although we can again order plays, there are still no opportunities for our monthly meetings at the Meon Hall. (Although we don't meet in August as a rule)

We hope to have better news in the next issue.

Meanwhile, here's another selection from the plays that we have read since 2014.

Lend me a Tenor
The Winslow Boy
The Servant of Two Masters
On the Razzle
Pardon me Prime Minister
One Way Pendulum
Little Boxes
Ring Round the Moon

Some of these are definitely worth reading again at a future date.

Watch this space!

Paul or Gerry Hayles on 01489 878589



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

TO SAY THAT WE ARE IN A TOPSY-TURVY WEATHER SITUATION IS PERHAPS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. OVER THE PAST month the ground became parched for want of rain; flowering plants wilted in the heat; and even sturdy rose bushes began to look in need of a good drink. The lavender flowered copiously, emitted its lovely scent, and provided the necessary pollen for wasps and bees as they buzzed their way around the garden. The different butterflies arrived to increase the seasonal visitors, and summer's progress seemed set.

Suddenly everything seemed to change. The high temperatures disappeared, and down came the rain, and with the rain, unseasonal winds. Not surprisingly, the birds took cover from the wind and rain in the hedgerows; even the sturdy pigeons chose the comfort of hedge cover.

In spite of the vagaries of the English weather, and with no real extremes locally, unlike in other parts of the country, we should appreciate that nature will cope with the changes that occur. We may yet be facing in the later weeks of July, into August and September, record temperatures. We wait to see if that is the case.

The lockdown imposed on the population has now been lifted in different ways. I need not repeat what we all must now know. The village hall will function with extra care, extra cleaning and sanitizing, and with users always having the space of the large hall for any gathering.

The future use of the hall will have to be monitored as we go along. We can only hope that time will bring us some normality.

The 200 Club winners are:

June: Jean Steele

July: Jean Holmyard

*Jackie Hibbert
Secretary*

Regular Activities at Droxford Village Hall

Circuit training

Mondays and Fridays 9.30 – 10.30am

Telephone Andy on 07521 692061

Pilates

Wednesdays 2.00 – 3.00pm

Telephone Hannah on 07928 067190

Email hannahp.pilates@gmail.com

Web: www.pilateswithaplomb.com

Yoga

Thursdays 6.00 – 7.15pm

Telephone Yvon on 07788 974447

Email: yvoneggen@hotmail.com

Since the previous issue of *The Bridge*, when all these activities were on hold during the lockdown, restrictions are slowly being eased. It is hoped the restrictions will continue to ease, especially by September. Contact Tim or Terry Crowfoot on 01489 877631 to find out if any of these events have been re-started.

Corhampton, Meonstoke and Exton Church Fete

Thank you to everyone who donated to, contributed to, or helped with this year's 2020 virtual fete on @MeonstokeFete's Facebook page.

It made upwards of £3,300 which is a tremendous achievement. It will certainly be a fantastic help towards Meonstoke's upkeep of Church Green.

The Mayor, whose masterful cutting of the red tape 'opened' proceedings, called the event "absolutely inspirational". Hugh (Danish Red) Lumby's magnificent role as Quiz Master had us mesmerized. Everyone will remember 'Heaven 17'. We hope you all enjoyed the fun and laughter and bought your Gold Bar reward at

Meonstoke Stores.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you so much again.

Take care and keep well.

*Angela Peagram and Richard Pepys
Churchwardens*



200 Club:

Winners of the 2020 £25 monthly prize draws were:

June: Peggy Skinner

July: Kevin Dodsworth,

and the winner of the 2020 Mid-Summer £50 prize was Suzanne Hall.

So what has been going on ? As explained in the June & July edition of *The Bridge*, The Meon Hall has been closed since March because of the Covid19 lockdown. Following the Government's start of easing of Covid19 restrictions in early July, the trustees met to discuss re-opening the hall, and what hirings might be possible. Our interpretation of the guidance showed that whilst there was a strong wish to re-open The Meon Hall to serve the villages, that sadly the hiring conditions to be imposed would make hiring use very difficult. Therefore the trustees decided that The Meon Hall would stay closed during July, and the situation would be reviewed again in early August.

Finances: The Meon Hall was awarded a Covid19 business rates leisure grant from Winchester City Council. This has been a huge help in buying in all the necessary PPE and cleaning needs for hirings after re-opening; and for paying for the costs of essential maintenance, which are usually funded by hiring income. So, The Meon Hall has managed to remain solvent and ready to go throughout this long lockdown, and at the same time a big programme of inside and outside refurbishment has been completed.

Repainting: We are all very grateful to Nicholas Casey who offered to spend his home lockdown time working daily and alone in The Meon Hall to carry out a substantial programme of much needed re-decoration work. Nicholas has worked through the foyer (not repainted for at least 25 years), the main hall (355 sq: metres of walls!), all the foyer toilets, and sports changing rooms – a big area ! The result of his careful painting skills is really very much appreciated, and Nicholas has now moved on to an estate job in Spain. Big cheer for Nicholas, who has been

rewarded for his work!!

Car park area refurbishment: Also just completed - the first week of July has seen a programme of groundworks repairs and improvements in The Meon Hall car park carried out by Schofields Ltd – lots of essential items to improve the appearance and safety of the car park area. Big cheer for Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council who were able to fund all this work from a grant they received from the South Downs National Park Authority from a levy scheme on new developments!! (And have you spotted the contribution of pawprints from one of our doggy friends in the new pathway concrete east of The Meon Hall?)

Recycling: Please keep recycling your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the yellow bin at The Meon Hall, which raises money for our Hampshire First Responders - trained and experienced local volunteers who turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency. Our aim is to raise £500 or more from our recycling in 2020 to help with their ability to respond to 999 calls. Thank you everyone.

Mindfulness Classes at The Meon Hall: The autumn term sees the continuation of Ali Lambie's *Mindfulness Hampshire* classes at The Meon Hall. Ali's classes in the Small Hall will be restarting after the summer holidays in September (provided the Covid19 hiring conditions have eased). Details of her Mindfulness and Self-Compassion training are at www.mindfulnesshampshire.co.uk.

Planning a family party ? Order all those extra tables, chairs, china, wine and champagne glasses, and cutlery for your entertaining from The Meon Hall. Please contact The Meon Hall Bookings Secretary, Hannah Carpenter, by email at meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk to discuss how we can help to meet your hiring needs

James Morrice

FROXFIELD CHOIR

All being well, and Covid-19 restrictions permitting, Froxfield Choir will be re-opening in September for rehearsals for our November concert. We plan to sing the Rheinberger Mass in E Flat (unaccompanied with a double choir) and some Whitacre anthems at our concert on 14th November. And of course there will be the Carol Service at Privett Church later in the year.

Until then we are doing what everyone else is doing: staying alert and gardening! There are also the virtual choirs, woodwork, and sewing projects and developing arcane new skills!

Fiona Harvey, Publicity Officer



Corhampton Saxon Church



**A final summary article, punctuating and illuminating
the long thousand years of our church's history**

NOTHING WAS GAINED BY ANY

CORHAMPTON WAS PART OF THE 'WHITE MANTLE' OF NEW STONE-BUILT CHURCHES COVERING EUROPE ABOUT the year one thousand. After Hastings there was a change of ownership and a mention in the Domesday Book – Quedementume* had 'one church' (mentioned in connection with Meon Stoke). Medieval lives were disrupted by the Black Death in 1348 but it's unlikely that Meon Valley natives took part in the 1381 Peasants' Revolt. After compulsory archery practice, perhaps Valley yeomen with their yew long-bows contributed to victory at Agincourt 1415. We are near two major seaports – during the late 15th and 16th centuries the world was circumnavigated, mapped and explored. In 1647 and 1651 both King Charles I and II made their famous escapes down the Meon Valley. In the late 16th and 17th centuries it's likely that the rectors of Corhampton Church had to bend their religious beliefs to accommodate the perilous doctrinal changes limned by both of the notorious Vicars of Bray. Corhampton Church played its part in fending off Catholicism during the 18/19th century wars with France and others, promoting a free-thinking Protestant self-belief that, with maritime power, agricultural advances and industrial revolution, made Britain 'Great' after 1815. In 1882 Droxford schoolchildren attended a Temperance Fete

in Corhampton Church as part of the Band of Hope movement founded in 1847 by the Rev Jabez Tunncliffe of Leeds. As shown by the diplomatic telegrams in the French record, the tragedy of the Great War was initiated by German military ambitions to re-shape Europe to her advantage amidst crumbling imperial power structures. Nothing was gained by any. As a consequence of which, this history concludes with the sad story of Private Charles Vivash, First Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment, buried in Corhampton churchyard. Superior research by Stuart Attrill corrects my account (in the June-July *Bridge*) and now shows that he also served in the Hampshire Regiment and his death was from complications following a German gas attack during the Battle of the Ancre in early April 1918.

But the history will continue.

Guy Liardet

* "The churches of Meon Stoke and Corhampton are little more than a stone's caste apart. The last-named place is invariably called Carmanton and is, perhaps, the Quedementume of Domesday". (Extract from *The Gentleman's Magazine* pp 372 dated 1845.)

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.

DROXFORD HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is on
Thursday, 24th September
at 7.30 pm
Droxford Village Hall

For a talk about **The Old Courthouse**, Droxford
by **Anne Pearson**

Non-members are welcome to join us,
for £3 (or join the group for only £10 per year)
(Meetings free to members)

Note that the meeting will be subject Covid-19 regulations at the time and these will be notified to members nearer the date.

IN THE GARDEN

August & September



MANY OF US HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF OUR EARLIER LABOURS IN THE GARDEN THIS YEAR THANKS TO unseasonably warm weather earlier. Whilst mildew (which paradoxically thrives in very dry conditions) has been a problem with plants such as acanthus this year there has, thankfully, been little evidence of blight on potatoes and tomatoes. For many of us gardening has been relatively unaffected by the lockdown and hopefully there will be adequate supplies of spring bulbs for planting this autumn.

Vegetables: Lift main crop potatoes and onions to avoid unnecessary pest damage. Make last sowings of radish, rocket and lettuce in early August. Now is also the time to sow spring cabbage, perpetual spinach and winter lettuce. Runner beans are now coming into their own, but remember to keep them well watered, and keep an eye out for blackfly. Treat with proprietary pesticide or soapy water as necessary. Spray brassicas against aphids and caterpillars.

Fruit: Keep a watchful eye out for pests and diseases such as gooseberry sawfly and leaf spot on black currant bushes and treat with proprietary pesticides. Plant out strawberry

plants that have rooted from runners, they will fruit next year. If you grow strawberries in containers be sure to treat the containers with proprietary vine weevil control.

Cut out summer raspberry canes that have fruited to allow next year's canes to develop, and if you have not already done so finish summer pruning of gooseberries, red currants, apples, and plums.

Herbaceous border: Continue deadheading and cut out tall or weak stems from plants that have finished flowering. Feed and deadhead dahlias and look out for aphids and blackfly and treat with soapy water or proprietary pesticide. Make sure tall plants are well supported.

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

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

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

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

John Owen



Corhampton 2021

With the support of The National Lottery Community Fund,
Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council



THE SAD EVENTS OF COVID-19 HAVE LED TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF OUR 2020 ACTIVITIES IN CELEBRATION OF 1,000 years of Corhampton Church. Our aim to foster inclusivity across our villages has had to be put on hold. Nevertheless, 2021 will be wonderful opportunity to keep alive the marvellous community spirit which has been a heart-warming feature of this sad time. So, here are a few new dates for the programme of activities, when we will do just that.

Saturday 19th June 2021: Celebratory Village Party at The Old Vicarage, Corhampton - drinks, dinner and dancing at 19.00

Saturday 3rd July 2021: Church Fete on Church Green from 12.30

Sunday 12th September 2021: The Four Marks Folk Band on Church Green at 15.00 with a cream tea and display of dahlias in St Andrew's Church.

Saturday 2nd October 2021: The Madding Crowd and Harvest Supper at 19.00 in the Meon Hall. The Madding Crowd are a local group which researches and performs church and secular music of the English village bands and choirs in the period 1660 to 1861.

Saturday 6th November 2021: Exhibition of art produced by local artists and display of locally found ancient artefacts at The Meon Hall from 12.00 to 20.00.

Corhampton Church is a living monument to our rich heritage and will have seen many a plague in its long history. Yet it has survived and is still much loved. Let us keep that spirit of love and survival alive.



Meon Valley Lions Club Newsletter

DESPITE BEING IN LOCKDOWN THE LIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND STILL continue with the day-to-day business of the Club. 1st June saw a 'Zoom lockdown' version of our annual presidential handover to our incoming President Eddy Barringer. True to form the Lions still managed to celebrate in a Zoom virtual meeting. The Club would like to thank Andrew Brown for holding the reins over what has been a very difficult time.



Mon Valley Lions Zoom meeting

Supporting the local community: With home schooling in full swing, families have been rushing to stock up on printers to help educate children at home. Meon Valley Lions Club was pleased to help a family who didn't have facility to print at home, with school work having to be delivered by a Homestart volunteer. No excuses for late homework now!!

The Foodbanks continue to provide essential supplies to many families in the Meon Valley. The generosity of our communities means this help can be delivered every week and of course, thanks to the volunteers of the Meon Valley Food Bank and the Waltham Chase Methodist Food Bank.

www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donate
www.chasemethodist.org/churchlife.html

Future events: Sadly, as with other public events, the 2020 Swanmore Fete has been cancelled but we're looking at other fundraising events that we might be able to hold once we are out of lockdown. We'll keep you updated on our website but in the meantime please add next year's Swanmore Fete to your diary on Saturday 10th July 2021.

Bishops Waltham House: The Meon Valley Lions Club had a request from the State run care home with 22 bedrooms, in Free Street, Bishops Waltham. As their gardens were looking a little sad, to help brighten up the gardens we donated planters to cheer up residents.

We need your help:

During the lockdown, all of the lunch Clubs we regularly take people to in our minibuses have closed. Also, all of the fetes and other fund-raising events we were to attend have been



cancelled. But as soon as things can be relaxed, we are ready to go! After the lockdown, if you are able to help by driving our minibus, or indeed would like to join the Club, we'd love to hear from you. Please see our website for contact details:

Donated planters for care home in
Free Street, Bishops Waltham

www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk



WEST MEON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020

**The festival will go ahead
...we hope!**

We feel in these difficult times music is more important than ever and are therefore hoping to run a reduced version of the festival in September that will comply with whatever official guidelines will be in force.

Depending on relevant changes to the Covid-19 regulations, to allow venues to reopen and host safely-controlled gatherings, the festival will take place as planned from Friday, 11th September to Sunday 13th. All concerts will be performed by members of the Primrose Piano Quartet in various combinations that feature our popular mix of favourite chamber music: from piano quartets to string trios; piano trios; duo sonatas and solos. Full programme details will be available shortly on the website at:

www.westmeonmusic.co.uk

but may be subject to alteration as official guidelines change, possibly allowing greater flexibility. Due to the uncertainty of the situation we have decided not to involve any of our guest performers this year and will instead move our planned tenth anniversary programme to 2021 when we will be joined by Michael Collins (clarinet), Stephen Stirling (horn), Maxim Calder (cello), Roman Kosyakov (piano), Laura Snowden (guitar) and several others. We very much hope to see as many of our friends and followers as we can safely accommodate this year, and we look forward to celebrating our tenth anniversary in style at next year's festival: **September 9th - 12th, 2021.**

Droxford Parish Council News...

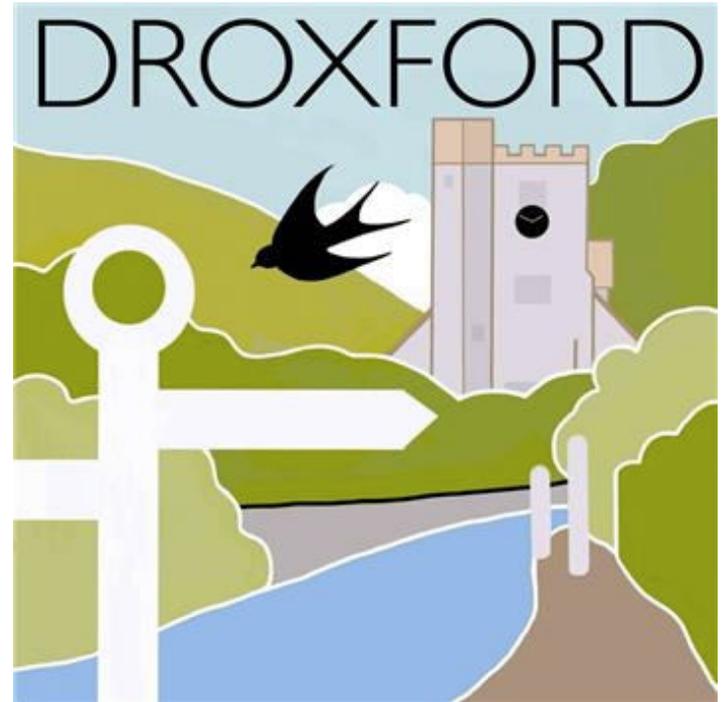
AMONGST THE MANY CHANGES TO LEGISLATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY COVID-19, AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL Government Legislation enabled parish council meetings to be held remotely and Droxford Parish Council has therefore continued to meet throughout the period of lockdown using Zoom. This has enabled us to monitor the impact of the pandemic within our community, continually assess whether parish council intervention was required in any way, and to continue with routine business and progress of planned projects.

A volunteer initiative to gather a support group of volunteers was established by Edd Heller and Sarah Smith in March and all households were provided with details of how to access help. Many people offered their services to the group's list of volunteers and there has been regular liaison with the parish council. This has proved not only to be of benefit to those self-isolating but has also shown the caring spirit within the village. Our sincere thanks are due to Edd and Sarah for spearheading this initiative and also to all those who not only assisted friends, neighbours, and strangers but strengthened our community during the strangest of times.

The lockdown coincided with a prolonged period of exceptionally good weather which enabled those who could take their daily exercise outdoors the opportunity to enjoy our lovely countryside and also brought unprecedented numbers of visitors to the village. A number of residents have subsequently questioned the adequacy of parking in the village. The parish council has discussed this at length and a full explanation of our policy is on our website at www.droxfordweb.co.uk. A copy can be provided on request to the parish clerk for those unable to access the website.

New Projects...

The resurfacing of the village Square with a new, attractive, and permanent surface was scheduled to be our main capital project for 2020. It is now intended that this will take place in the early autumn. This will be the first of a 3-phase project to enhance the heart of the village. Phase two will be the replacement of the low wall and gates between The Square and the parish green (the area between the wall and the first line of graves in the churchyard) and phase three will see enhancement of the parish green as an area of tranquillity and reflection. Details of phase one of this project are also available on our website. We hope to schedule phases two and three as capital projects in future years. A further project has been the enhancement of the Village Green.



Pedestrian access from Mill Lane to The Square...

The recent installation of oak posts has created a continuous pedestrian access from Mill Lane to The Square. This enables children walking to school, wheelchair users and pushchairs that were previously being forced into the road due to the illegal parking of vehicles on the pavement to transit safely on the pavement. Combined with the removal of overgrown vegetation next to the bus shelter, laying of turf, restoration of the 'Churchill bench' and the trimming of trees at the Manor House this area is visibly improved.

The play area at the recreation ground will re-open when government guidelines allow and we will continue to review the appropriate time for opening of the refurbished pavilion. At the time of writing, the additional measures required to comply with the stringent measures required to meet government guidance for the re-opening of community spaces are onerous and this would not currently be cost-effective.

The last few months have presented us all with wide-ranging challenges. Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council have adapted their ways of working and implemented many changes at short notice. We have been kept well informed of their work and posted relevant updates on our regularly updated website. The impacts of Covid-19 are many and will be felt for years to come but we believe that we are fortunate to date as a village to have been well supported by local authorities and within our own community.

Janet Melson
Chair Droxford Parish Council
chair.droxfordpc@gmail.com



The Royal British Legion

Droxford & District Branch www.droxfordweb.co.uk



ON 15TH AUGUST 1945 EMPEROR HIROHITO ANNOUNCED JAPAN'S SURRENDER. ALTHOUGH SOME FIGHTING CONTINUED, the 2nd World War was finally over. Overshadowed by the war in Europe, Allied forces had fought a vicious and costly campaign to counter Japanese expansionism in the Far East. British Empire forces had focused on the defence of India and defeating the Japanese in the jungles of Burma; the US Army with Australian forces advanced up the Melanesian archipelago towards the Philippines; the US Navy and Marine Corps fought to tighten the blockade of Japan and secure the chain of Pacific islands captured by the Japanese. Meanwhile a high proportion of Japanese forces were still committed to operations in China. In the wake of VE-Day, further landings took place in the Philippines; US forces consolidated their positions on Okinawa – the last major island before Japan – and British forces were on the verge of defeating the Japanese in Burma. By 22nd June, Okinawa was in US hands with the Philippines liberated on 5th July 1945. Since securing airfields in Saipan and Guam in 1944, intensive strategic bombing of the Japanese mainland had been conducted. It is estimated that more than 500,000 civilians died in these raids (German raids on UK killed 70,000). Okinawa provided the Allies with a launch pad for the invasion of Japan. Plans for Operation DOWNFALL were prepared with 14 combat divisions earmarked for the invasion of Kyushu (the southernmost of the main islands) with 22 divisions to assault Honshu and the Tokyo Plain. Although supported by the British Pacific Fleet, the operation would be primarily American involving some 4.5 million men. It was estimated that at least 250,000 would be killed on Kyushu alone. It was planned for the operation to commence on 1st November 1945, supported by 3,000 ships and 2,500 aircraft launched from 66 aircraft carriers for the close support of ground forces. Despite these huge resources, the Americans would be outnumbered on the ground by ratio of at least 2:3 and it later transpired that the Japanese still had more than 12,000 combat aircraft at their disposal. The fanatical Japanese would have fought fiercely for their homeland with fatalities on all sides likely to exceed a million. Meanwhile, research continued to develop an atomic weapon and the first test took place in New Mexico USA on 16th July 1945. Having first entreated the Japanese to surrender unconditionally at the Potsdam Conference attended by Allied leaders on 26th July, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6th

75 years ago...



Japan signs the instrument of surrender onboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on 2nd September 1945

On 8th August, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and commenced a major offensive with 1,500,000 troops in Manchuria. Having received no response from the Japanese, a further atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on the 9th – killing 40,000. Although civilian fatalities at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were small compared to those inflicted by the ongoing conventional bombing campaign, the significance of such a death toll from a single weapon was not lost on the Japanese administration and the Allied powers were informed that Japan was ready to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration on the 10th. There remained some wrangling over the terms of surrender but finally a decision was made by the Emperor to surrender, one that ultimately would save millions of Japanese and Allied lives.

The 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day and the end of the 2nd World War will be commemorated on 15th and 16th August. Details of any local events will promulgated when known.



The Royal British Legion

Droxford & District Branch www.droxfordweb.co.uk



Local hero remembered 80 years on...

CAPTAIN BERNARD WARBURTON-LEE, ROYAL NAVY WAS AWARDED A POSTHUMOUS VICTORIA CROSS

following his gallant action commanding a destroyer flotilla during the 1st Battle of Narvik on 10th April 1940. Prior to this, he lived at Soberton Mill and his name is recorded on Newtown's war memorial. His remains are buried at the Ballangen New Cemetery on the banks of Ofotfjord, near Narvik in Norway with members of his ship's company.

Warburton-Lee had assumed command of HMS Hardy on 28th July 1939 as Captain (D) 2nd Destroyer Flotilla. HMS Hardy and elements of his flotilla were ordered to protect minelaying operations to hamper enemy shipping in the Norwegian Leads (Operation Wilfred). Germany relied on shipments of iron ore from north Sweden to maintain her prodigious output of war materiel. Although normally shipped via Lulea in the Baltic, this port iced over in winter and the nearest ice-free port was Narvik. Germany wished to secure her sea lines of communication via the Norwegian Leads (the Indreled) and the Baltic approaches. Unbeknown to British naval forces, Germany simultaneously launched Operation Weserübung on 9th April. This comprised 7 army divisions and 22 ships for the invasion of Norway, 10 of which were destroyers carrying 2,000 troops to secure the port of Narvik. Intelligence had suggested only a single ship and small landing force, so Warburton-Lee was ordered to sink the enemy ship and, if possible, recapture Narvik.

Warburton-Lee decided to take four destroyers from his flotilla: HM Ships Hardy, Hotspur, Havock and Hunter. He would later be joined by HMS Hostile. Having obtained further intelligence from Tranoy Pilot Station, the flotilla entered Ofotfjord at 0100Z (GMT) on 10th April and, in snowstorms and poor visibility, proceeded towards Narvik - arriving at 0415Z.

Of 23 merchant vessels at Narvik, eight were German carrying stores for the invasion and five were British already interned by the enemy. At 0430Z, Warburton-Lee in Hardy with Hunter and Havock entered harbour and engaged the German destroyers with guns and torpedoes, destroying two, setting one on fire and disabling two more. During a further sweep, now with Hotspur and Hostile in company, the flotilla destroyed six German merchant ships. Withdrawing under cover of a smokescreen, the flotilla proceeded back down Ofotfjord only to encounter five more German destroyers. These were much larger than



their British counterparts, newer, faster and with heavier armament. Warburton-Lee's flotilla increased speed to 30 knots and engaged the enemy. During the encounter, Hardy and Hotspur were disabled, and Hunter sunk whilst two of the German ships were damaged. Both sides withdrew at 0630Z but, on the way out of the fjord, Hostile and Havock engaged a German ammunition ship which ran ashore and blew up. Meanwhile HMS Hardy had sustained several direct hits, including one on the bridge which severely wounded Warburton-Lee.

His last order to his flotilla (at 0555Z) was "Keep engaging the enemy". Now badly damaged and out of control, Hardy was run aground by Paymaster Lieutenant Geoffrey Stanning (son of the then Rector of Meonstoke) with her after 4.7-inch guns still firing. The ship was then abandoned, and 140 men made it to shore, including Warburton-Lee who died an hour later.

The Victoria Cross is the highest award for gallantry in the presence of an enemy and takes precedence over all other awards. Due to its exacting criteria, it's frequently awarded posthumously. Warburton-Lee's was the first awarded to only 181 recipients during the 2nd World War. The medal is cast in bronze (allegedly from Russian guns captured at the Siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War) with a plain purple ribbon. Its inscription simply reads:

For Valour



IT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL TO SEE HOW OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE PULLED TOGETHER THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY PAST FEW months and reassuring to those who have become more isolated, either through infection or the need to shield themselves from the increased risk of infection. The calendar has been changed, rather than wiped, and we've become used to virtual quizzes, church services, plant sales, raffles, performances and galleries, among many others. It is even possible that we will all enjoy longer term benefits from this time if this wonderful re-found community spirit remains imbued in us all.

But it has also not been lost on us that some perennial issues have become further exposed. One is the explosion in noise from the few inconsiderate bikers who insist on marking their emergence from lockdown by demonstrating the power of their illegal exhaust systems. We, and our District, County and Parliamentary representatives are working hard to promote changes in the law that can enable the police to impose more effective sanctions on the culprits.

And perhaps not unrelated in terms of the need to mark territory, another problem that seems to have worsened as we have all exercised more is the number of bags of dog "poo" that are being left dangling around our streets and surrounding countryside. The vast majority of dog owners have thoughtfully adopted the habit of bagging their pet's "business" and taking it with them. All the more incredible, then, that a very few seem to think it perfectly acceptable to hang the bag on a tree branch or gatepost for some other poor soul to dispose of at home or in one of the many bins for the purpose around our parishes.



It would be nice to think that none of our residents is responsible for this reprehensible practice. But at the very least it behoves all of us to challenge anybody we might happen to see engaging in this practice – it is after all, and this time without euphemism or apology, really "shit".

*Jerry Pett
Chair*

HMS HARDY



HMS HARDY WAS THE FLOTILLA LEADER FOR THE H-CLASS DESTROYERS, BUILT FOR THE ROYAL NAVY IN THE MID-1930S. during the Spanish Civil War of 1936–1939 the ship spent considerable time in Spanish waters, enforcing the arms blockade imposed by Britain and France on both sides of the conflict. Hardy was transferred to Freetown, Sierra Leone, in October 1939 to hunt for German commerce raiders in the South Atlantic with Force K. After returning to the United Kingdom in early 1940, the ship became flagship of the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla assigned to the Home Fleet. During the Norwegian campaign of 1940, Hardy participated in the First Battle of Narvik.

As we continue to live through this extraordinary time, it is important to remind ourselves 'Not everything' is cancelled:

- Sunshine is not cancelled
- The seasons are not cancelled
- Love is not cancelled
- Relationships are not cancelled
- Reading is not cancelled
- Rest is not cancelled
- Faith is not cancelled
- Prayer is not cancelled
- Music is not cancelled
- Dancing is not cancelled
- Imagination is not cancelled
- Kindness is not cancelled
- Conversations are not cancelled
- Hope** is not cancelled

The Trail From The Buried Horse

AS YOU DRIVE ALONG THE A272 BETWEEN WEST MEON AND CHERITON HAVE YOU SPOTTED THE TOMBSTONE JUST BACK from the Brockwood junction? Maybe not, because it is partly obscured, but in April on one of my lockdown cycle rides I stopped to investigate. The memorial is not to a person, but to a horse and beneath a pile of flints lies the body of Melksham that was buried where he expired in 1910. There are no details other than it was the horse of a Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, and so to while away some time I did a little research and discovered the fascinating story of a character who, in his day, acquired the heroic reputation of a military adventurer, scientist, and fearless intelligence agent, and who claimed to have been ‘licensed to kill’ – sound familiar?

There is, however, another side to the story of a man whom his contemporary T E Lawrence described as psychopathic and whose heroic claims have been found to be more Walter Mitty than James Bond. Richard Meinertzhagen was born in 1878 to a wealthy family and spent his childhood at Mottisfont Abbey. His father was a wealthy banker and his mother the sister of the Fabian, Beatrice Webb. After his education at Harrow, where he made the acquaintance of a young Winston Churchill, he eschewed a career in banking for a military life and found himself in exotic locations whilst also pursuing his passion for ornithology. He served as chief of the intelligence corps in East Africa and Palestine during WW1 and claimed recognition for the ‘Haversack Ruse’ when a haversack containing false British battle plans for the attack on Beersheba was ‘dropped’ from his horse during a hot pursuit by a Turkish patrol. His memoirs contained rich seams of derring-do, such as his rescue of a young British girl who had been abducted and was about to be sold into prostitution in Cairo; the rescue of a young lady who was dangling over a cliff from the remains of a major train derailment in Greece; and his meeting with Hitler in June 1939 when he regretted not having used the loaded pistol he had in his possession at the time!

Public sympathy was aroused by the tragic death of his second wife in 1928 from a shooting accident and his place in ornithology folklore was assured by his bequest of 20,000 bird specimens to the British Museum. So here we have a red-blooded colonial adventurer who in later life was much sought after as a ‘trophy-dinner’ guest and whose published memoirs set pulses racing. Or do we?



Tombstone of Melksham the horse

He was indeed a great raconteur whose books were used as source material by many contemporary historians and by which route he wormed his way into much of the historical detail of the period, but a large number of his claims have since been shown to be totally false. He did not plan or execute the Haversack Ruse, neither was he the chief of Intelligence. The embassy in Cairo has no record of him handing over a distressed maiden to the care of the wife of the British Consul; there is no record of a train derailment in Greece, and Hitler was in Berchtesgaden when Meinertzhagen claimed to have met him in Berlin. His wife’s death, although declared accidental only aroused deep suspicions in her family due to the trajectory of the bullet that entered her head from above as if fired by someone a foot taller than herself. Her husband, who was himself a foot taller than her, had become quite attached to his 17-year-old cousin Theresa for some time before the accident, following which he found great consolation in her company whilst also enjoying the inheritance of £113,400.

As for the bird collection, an inspection of his bequest in the 1990s revealed that much of it had been stolen from other collections and museums, but worse still he had altered the documentation, including discovery locations thereby rendering much of the accepted science totally wrong and setting the ornithological world back decades. There were those who raised doubts at the time (the British Museum had banned him for eighteen months for suspected theft), but such was his reputation and influence that they were dismissed as disgruntled radicals, yet all the while he was enhancing his memoirs with stories of wild fantasy or claiming the actions of others as his own.

David Neale

News from Droxford Fire Station

LIFE IS SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL FOR US AT DROXFORD 41. WE HAVE JUST RESTARTED MEETING ON-STATION FOR weekly training input, observing the current guidelines for social distancing, and wearing masks where necessary. It's a strange way of working but, along with the rest of the population, we're adapting. Although we enjoyed keeping in contact via video conference during the stricter lockdown period, remote working can't replace the practising of hands-on skills. It's very hard, for example, to visualise the process of creating space within a crushed vehicle to extricate a casualty without actually holding the spreaders and seeing how the bodywork of a car behaves when the tools are applied. We're all very pleased to be back!

The last few months have been different for everyone, giving plenty of opportunity for reflection – some optional, some enforced - about career choices. If you have more time available than you did before, or would like a new challenge, then have a serious think about a job as an on-call firefighter.

We have vacancies at Droxford, and although we're sometimes referred to as volunteers, on-call firefighters are actually paid, including during training. The syllabus covers almost all of the same modules, to the same levels of competence, as for a wholetime firefighter, and most of the initial training happens at the Academy in Eastleigh, shown in the photo.



How to Apply...

To apply you must be at least 18 years of age with a good all-round level of fitness. You'd need to be able to reach the station within a specified time when responding to the pager – for Droxford currently this is 6 minutes.

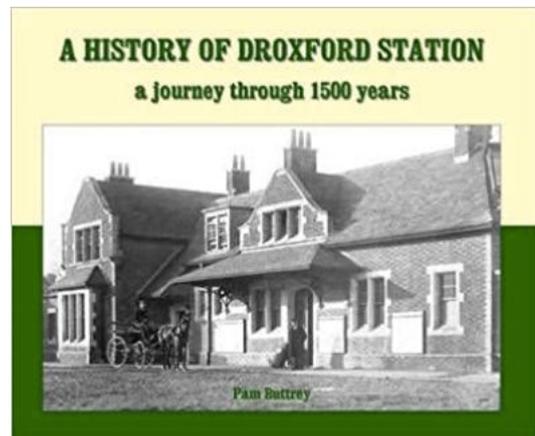
It's a great job that can be worked around other roles, enabling you to join a fantastic team and support your community. More information is available from www.oncallfire.uk or, just swing by the station on a Tuesday evening and have a chat. Our most recent incident of interest since the last edition of The Bridge was the fire at the stables adjacent to The Towers in Soberton. Quick action from crews stopped the fire spreading to neighbouring garages. Maybe next time we go to something similar you could be on the truck too??

Droxford is one of Hampshire Fire and Rescue'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 6.30pm, come down and see us then if you want to know more. You can follow @Droxford41 on Twitter for up-to-date information about what we're up to.



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE**

FF Rolfe
Droxford 41DR



Tony Williams, the current resident and owner of the old station, is selling the last remaining copies of Pam Buttrey's history of the station at the reduced price of only £5 (retail price £19.95)

**To obtain a copy, contact Tony at:
tony.williams@olddroxfordstation.com**

Droxford Junior School Report



What Would One Write in a Log Book?

I HAVE OCCASIONALLY WONDERED WHAT I WOULD WRITE IN A SCHOOL LOG IF IT WERE STILL A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT (A requirement that ended for headteachers in the mid-1980s). After the 1870 Education Act, all schools receiving grants had to keep a note of the schools activities in the school's log book. The headteacher had to write in the log book each day, recording absence, sickness, and any other important incidents. The log books had to be accurate and up-to-date because they were inspected by the Local Education Authority (LEA) inspectors and played a role in the entitlement of grants. The most repetitive account in the log books is the record of the daily pupil attendance. This number was one of the requirements for a grant. This explains the level of attendance detail in Droxford Junior School's log book(s) compared to a diary of events. However, they are fascinating at times and occasionally open windows on the past. For instance, there is much detail about the condition and welfare of children (which did affect attendance); for instance, on 22nd May 1930, the headteacher wrote...

"...Just as school is settling down to work, a large percentage of children were excluded for weeks with chicken pox, measles and scarlet fever..."

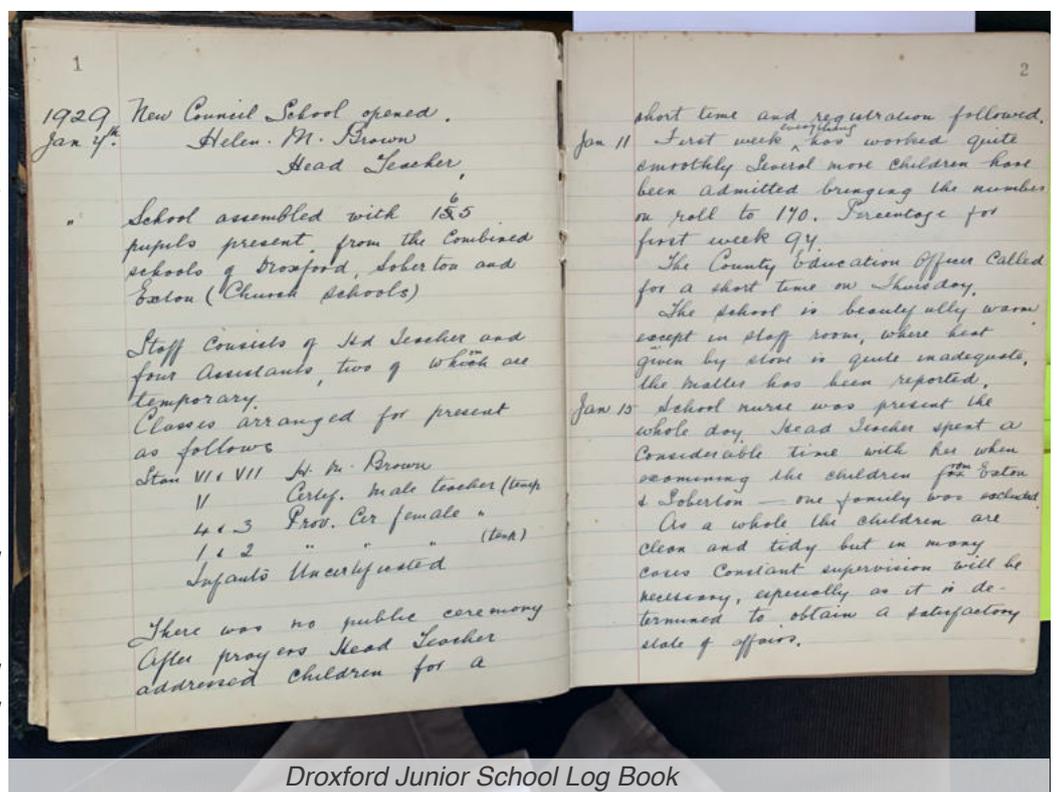
But there was little detail to major events such as the school opening its doors for the first time or to the start and end of the Second World War. The only mention of the war on September 11th 1939 says...

"...owing to the outbreak of the war, the school did not re-assemble as intended today..."

However there is mention of the evacuee children from Gosport in October 9th 1939...

"...The whole of the evacuated children from Gosport were "cleaned up" by two nurses with the help of several helpers and the trouble of dirty heads should now be at an end..."

So what of this year's events? A lot could be recorded for posterity. There is no requirement to log attendance in the same way but surely the events of the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge effect it has had on our school could be recorded. But what would one write? Perhaps I would, using chronology, diarise the 100 plus days of school closure (nothing like it has been experienced since the Second World War). Back in late February early March 2020, we began to realise something unprecedented was going to happen with schools and education. Safety of children and staff being paramount. Eventually, with short notice, on March 20th we were told we were told to close. Well, not completely: on Monday, 23rd March we were open for children of key worker families. We had two days to plan it all, with no support or guidance, which was very challenging! In the early days of lockdown things were very different – in the psyche of the nation and what you saw on the streets and heard from the Government. Parents were already concerned about COVID-19 and were pulling children out of school – not necessarily because we were a risk (far from it) – we already had an extremely tight hygiene regime in place with soap and sanitisers all around the school through necessity – but because families were hunkering down. Locking themselves down. We know that many were. Remember the lack of items in the supermarkets? The streets, parks and roads were empty. I



Droxford Junior School Log Book

have been in work every day since March 23rd (bar a few days at Easter and half-term) – it has been some journey to get to where we are now. I have seen and heard many changes. So no support or guidance and people were worried, protective, and vulnerable in the early days. As a school we put a rota system in place to lessen the exposure in school. So no support or guidance and people were worried, protective, and vulnerable in the early days. As a school we put a rota system in place to lessen the exposure in school. We were and are teaching and caring for children whose parents are, and certainly were, at greater risk of infection. A number of staff had to shield themselves and self-isolate and it is possible two members of staff were taken ill with COVID but as there was no available testing we aren't sure. I took no risks – had the building deep cleaned, contacted Public Health England and the Local Authority. They were all very kind and said I had done the right thing; not to panic; said many others had been in the same predicament – keep calm: carry on and stay open. Everything was shared with the governors and reported to parents in my, now weekly, newsletter, and we carried on. We stoically continued to Easter, staffing at bare minimum levels but still managed to provide home learning for all our age ranges of children at home, providing the child care in school and keep parents connected and up-to-date with everything happening. We also set up a laptop loan scheme for families who needed help with technology and organised a food parcel scheme for free school meal families. With the unpredictability of supermarkets, I wanted a healthy solution for families to make meals at home together. In April and May, we welcomed back more key-worker children, whilst continuing to provide work at home and then we were told that from June 1st we had to have children from Year 6 back in school. This was much publicised as it meant we had to teach children of no more than 15 per class (as



Droxford Junior School Year 6 Classroom

socially distanced as possible in school – see picture of classroom) but to the exclusion of all the other year groups – bar key worker children. This was greeted with a mixed reception. Staff were concerned and needed to know how. Year 6 families were also concerned and everyone else upset their children couldn't return to school. Having two young boys myself, one in Year 4 and one in Year 7, I totally empathise. It has been so difficult for families. Home learning has happened but not always; not to the standard of schools, but it has happened and parents need a medal and a break! Parents have been amazing! June 1st came and two thirds of Year 6 (30) returned and the school was buzzing again with children. There were 60 spread across the school with key worker children with the feeling of getting back to normal. The staff at the school have been amazing. They have only wanted to be safe; teach the best they can in really challenging circumstances; keep in touch with families; and get back to normal business. Unfortunately, for the school log I would have to also detail all the extra events we have had to cancel. The enrichment we use to enhance the children's learning here at Droxford. The school trips; author visits; residential for Years 4 and 5; and the summer camp for Year 3. We were unfortunate, for the school log I would have to also detail all the extra events we have had to cancel. The enrichment we use to enhance the children's learning here at Droxford. The school trips; author visits; residential for Years 4 and 5; and the summer camp for Year 3. We were even going to have a school from Gosport come and camp on our grounds as part of our South Downs National Park Ambassador School Project (more of that in the next issue). We also missed lots of opportunities to raise funds in enjoyable ways such as our Easter Fair; joining in at the Droxford Fair; book events and our Summer BBQ. Lots of lost revenue! We have just had an in house sports day and will have some Year 6 leavers' events taking place behind closed doors. It has been lovely having more children back. Seeing them learn. Talking to them and having fun. Striking up the positive relationships. They are happier: we are too! With the announcement that schools are to return in September – with all children back – a new chapter is being written. I am currently working on the plans for this but it will be business as usual - with the caveat that we must remain safe; maintain those aforementioned hygiene regimes and be careful and responsible until we are told otherwise and a vaccine is in place. I'm not sure what else I would have written in the log book. They are not personal accounts. They do not detail feelings and emotions. Perhaps I have covered enough with this account; my weekly newsletters; the home learning, and the daily tweets. That is probably enough for the time being. Time for a break. Stay safe.

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher



New Chairman

JULY HAS BEEN A TIME OF CHANGE AT MEON VALLEY HEARTSTART WITH SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS STEPPING DOWN AND two new people coming on board. Two people who have been stalwarts of the organisation since its inception have decided it is time to step down. Current chairperson, The Hon Mrs Virginia Lovell, has been a member of the committee since 2001 and has chaired the committee since 2016. A former national president of St John Ambulance, Mrs Lovell has brought a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to leading Meon Valley Heartstart. Local scheme coordinator and founder, David Williamson said:

“Ginny has been a wonderful to me and our team. She has always been available to offer wise advice and to help



The Hon Mrs Virginia Lovell

many health related and voluntary organisations in the local area and has contributed greatly to the continued growth of the Meon Valley Heartstart. Earlier this year the committee also said farewell to John Stream and John Price who served respectively as treasurer and secretary.

“Our retiring committee members will be sorely missed by us all”, said David. “They have all been great enthusiasts for our work and, in no small way, have helped Meon Valley Heartstart to be the success it is today. We understand their reasons for moving on and wish them all well for the future”.



New Chairman Gary Ford

The Heartstart committee is very pleased to welcome on board Gary Ford as its new chairman. Gary moved to Bishop’s Waltham 20 months ago and after a long and successful career with JP Morgan Chase, has recently set up his own

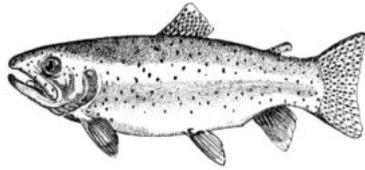
consultancy business. Gill Cooper, Heartstart committee member who led the recruitment process said: “Gary brings with him strong organisational management and governance skills which will be of enormous benefit to us as we move forward. We look forward to working with Gary in the months and years ahead”.

On her retirement Mrs Lovell said “It has been a great privilege to be associated with Meon Valley Heartstart over the years. It provides such an important service to the community and to local schools. I am confident that it will go from strength to strength under Gary’s leadership.

On taking up his new role, Gary said “I have very big shoes to fill; Ginny and Jean have made such an important contribution and I feel very honoured to be selected to follow in their footsteps. I am very much looking forward to working with the team as we move forward. Over the coming months we will be developing a strategy for our future growth, including ways that we can offer our training on-line, so I am hopeful we will have some exciting announcements to make in the not too distant future. We may also be looking for new people to join our committee – so watch this space”.

For more information about Meon Valley Heartstart go to www.heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk or contact David Williamson at info@heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk

OUR RIVER - THE MEON



Part 2 - Pollution

AS I WRITE, THE RIVER HAS OVERFLOWED ITS BANKS AND THE FIELDS ABOVE CUTTS ARCH LOOK MORE LIKE A LAKE than a meadow. Perhaps a hint of what it must have been like when the water meadows were being actively managed and the ‘drowners’ were at work keeping them covered with a gently moving film of water which, being warmer than the winter air, encouraged early growth of good grazing for the sheep and cattle. So, it is perhaps an appropriate time to think about pollution of our precious river which, as you remember, springs from deep down in the chalk. Some will remember the heating oil leakage from one of the homes in Soberton Towers. Great care was taken to monitor how far and how deep the oil had moved in the ground. Such cases as this can cause pollution of the aquifer, even when the leak appears to be a fair way from the watercourse itself, and hence reappearance in our beautiful river. And please don’t forget that some water companies are offering to subsidise tank replacements if yours is a little elderly. A sewage tanker accident, as recently occurred near Fontley, could kill all life in the river downstream of where it topples in. Not a pretty thought. Fortunately, the tanker near Fontley did not leak on this occasion and all was well – but it was a close-run thing! Likewise manure from animals does not improve riverine life but perhaps this is not as dangerous as the insidious silting up that they cause by wading in and out of the river. Silt can suffocate the eggs of both fish and invertebrates but also holds pollutants in place increasing their effect. What is needed is a good variable flow in the river. This will provide a healthy mix of clean gravel and a bottom with some areas of silt. The former supports spawning fish and some insects whilst the latter helps selected invertebrates to live and breed. The balance is vital. Such causes are reasonably obvious to even the untrained eye, but do you remember when, as one walked near a cowpat in a field, a swarm of orange flies flew up in annoyance? This no longer occurs. Those flies had a place in the balance of nature and they seem to have disappeared. It interests me that these flies can still be found on the farm of a friend who rears organic sheep. As a layman, I have no direct evidence but I suspect this is because our grazing animals are now being treated with medicines that avoid infections but also prevent such flies from breeding (or at



least living on their traditional – if smelly - homes). In that case the evidence is there for us to all to see – or rather NOT see. I wonder how many more species of tiny insects are being wiped out or reduced by modern medicines and their inadvertent transfer to the watercourse or aquifer. As these little critters disappear, we may not notice but the food chain is being irreversibly altered. Professor Dave Goulson of the University of Sussex recently reported for the national Wildlife Trusts: “We can’t be sure, but in terms of numbers, we may have lost 50% or more of our insects since 1970 – it could be much more. We just don’t know, which is scary. If we don’t stop the decline of our insects there will be profound consequences for all life on earth [and] for human wellbeing.” Another quiet polluter is phosphorus. Many household cleaning products contain this powerful chemical element and, in our valley, where cess pits, septic tanks, and soakaways are plentiful, it can leach back into the soil and then down to the chalk aquifer. Phosphorus is the basis of many fertilisers and of course traces run off the fields sometimes going almost directly into the river. Think of the runoff in bad weather from Chalk Hill down West Street or from the High Street down the track past Staddlestones. On reaching the river, these chemicals upset its natural balance and, particularly in warm or sunny weather, cause the uncontrolled growth of algae. This in turn uses up the water’s oxygen smothering native plants and posing another danger to our fish and insect life. Some cleaning products do not rely upon phosphorus for their effectiveness – worth thinking about for your home.

The sight of a discarded plastic bottle bobbing its way down the river may cause temporary amusement to some but if it becomes stuck in the banks and gradually become microplastics.

*Anthony McEwen
March 2020*

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: lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk
 email: fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
 email: vweston@winchester.gov.uk
 email: lruffell@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: CORHAMPTON, MEONSTOKE, EXTON & DROXFORD

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 medical attention. The more information 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 another coordinator including the Chairman.

CORHAMPTON, MEONSTOKE & EXTON

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	<i>Vacant; applications welcome</i>	
Millside	Phil Butler	877596

EXTON

Sue Robertson 878545

DROXFORD

High Street	James Matthissen	07914 638082
Sheep Pond Lane	Matt Avison	mattavison@hotmail.com
Dundridge	Colin Richardson (chairman)	07711 058744
Middlington Hill	Charlotte Treloa	charlottetreloar7@hotmail.com
Swanmore Road	Sarah Smith	878008
Middlington Road	Deborah Hemsworth	07719 987758
South Hill, West	Tony Hoile (dep. chairman)	07506 849443
Union Lane	Bonnie Rankin	07977 022363
The Park	Jen Hillman	jensam.jw@gmail.com
The Park	Pennie Brown	878726
Northend Lane	Colin Richardson (chairman)	07711 058744
Chestnut Rise	John Whittaker	877788
Mill Lane	Sally Sturt (dep. chairman)	07767 301095
South Hill, East	Sally Sturt (dep. chairman)	07767 301095

DISTRICT DIARY FOR AUGUST 2020

- Sunday 2** Trinity 8 (Lammas)
- Sunday 9** Trinity 9 (Transfiguration)
- Sunday 16** Trinity 10
VJ Day 75 Anniversary of Cessation of Hostilities
 Thanksgiving Service: Church Green, Meonstoke 3.30 pm
- Sunday 23** Trinity 11 (St Bartholomew)
 All-age Service.....Unwrapped.
 Meonstoke Church Green 9.30 pm
- Sunday 30** Trinity 12 (John the Baptist)

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST (GATHERED)

Churches are open for public worship.

The programme of gathered services will include some, or all, of the following:

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday, 2 nd (Lammas)	10:30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (CW)	Meonstoke (Outdoors)
Sunday, 9 th Trinity 9	10:30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (CW)	Droxford
Sunday, 16 th Trinity 10 (VJ-Day 75)	10:30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (BCP)	Meonstoke
	3:30 pm	VJ Day Thanksgiving Service	Meonstoke (Outdoors)
Sunday, 23 rd Trinity 11	10:30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (CW)	Exton
	9.30 am	All-age Service....Unwrapped	Meonstoke (Outdoors)
Sunday, 30 th Trinity 12	10:30 am	Harvest Festival (CW)	Exton (Outdoors)

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST (STREAMED)

The following online services will be available at www.bridgechurches.org.uk as follows:

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday, 2 nd Trinity 8	10.30 am	Sung CW Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Meonstoke
Sunday, 9 th Transfiguration	10.30 am	Sung CW Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Droxford
Sunday 16 th The Blessed Virgin Mary	10.30 am	Sung CW Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Corhampton
Sunday, 23 rd St Bartholomew	10.30 am	Sung CW Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Exton
Sunday, 30 th John the Baptist	10:30 am	Sung BCP Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Exton

DISTRICT DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Wed. 2 MV Garden Club: Visit to Weir House, Old Alresford 1.30 pm
Meet in Droxford V. Square

Wed.16 MV Garden Club: talk: *Smell the Roses*, Droxford VH. 7.30 pm

**Exercise Class, Each Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
in The Meon Hall: times on WhatsApp**

Thu. 3 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00 am –12.00

Sunday 6 – Trinity 13 (The Blessed Virgin Mary)

Mon. 7 Last copy date for the Oct-Nov issue of The Bridge

Tue. 8 Yoga group: (1st session) The Meon Hall at 7.45 am

Yoga group: (2nd session) The Meon Hall at 9.30 am

MV Art Society: talk: *The Interiors of Jane Austen's heroines* The Meon Hall

Play Reading group: The Meon Hall 7.30 pm

Wed. 9 Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council Meeting,
Time & Place to be published on Thursday, 3rd Sept
on www.candm-pc.gov.uk

Thu. 10 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00 am –12.00

Sunday 13 – Trinity 14 (Holy Cross Day)

Tue.15 Yoga group: The Meon Hall 9.30 am

Thu.17 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00 am –12.00

Droxford Parish Council Meeting:

Time & Place to be published on Friday, 11th Sept.

www.candm-pc.gov.uk

Sunday 20 – Trinity 15 (St Matthew)

Tue.22 Yoga group: The Meon Hall 9.30 am

Thu.24 MV Orchestra rehearsal, The Meon Hall 9.00 am – noon

Droxford History Group: Talk: *The Old Courthouse* 7.30 pm
In Droxford Village Hall

Sunday 27 – Trinity 15 (St Michael & All Angels)

Sun. 27 All-age Service.....Unwrapped. Meonstoke 9.30 pm
Church Green

Mon. 28 Meon Hall Management Committee: The Meon Hall 7.30 pm

Tue .29 Yoga group: The Meon Hall 9.30 am

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER (GATHERED)

Churches are open for public worship.

The programme of gathered services will include some, or all, of the following:

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday, 6 th Trinity 13	10:30 am	Morning Service (CW)	Meonstoke
Sunday, 13 th Trinity 14 (<i>Harvest</i>)	10:30 am	Harvest Festival (CW)	Droxford (Outdoors)
Sunday, 20 th St Matthew	10:30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (BCP)	Meonstoke
Sunday, 27 th St Michael & All Angels	10:30 am 9.30 am	Morning Service plus Holy Communion (CW) All-age Service....Unwrapped	Exton Meonstoke (Outdoors)

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER (STREAMED)

The following online services will be available at www.bridgechurches.org.uk as follows:

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday, 6 th The Blessed Virgin Mary	10:30 am	Patronal Festival Service from Droxford Lady Chapel	Streamed from Droxford Lady Chapel
Sunday, 13 th (<i>Holy Cross Day</i>)	10:30 am	Sung Festal Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Corhampton Church
Sunday, 20 th Trinity 15	10.30 am	Sung Festal Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Meonstoke
Sunday, 27 th Trinity 16	10:30 am	Sung CW Eucharist with Spiritual Communion	Streamed from Exton

Droxford & District Community Care Group

We aim to support our local community by:

- Providing transport for visits to hospital, dentists, doctors and other health specialists. 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, its 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, MCVFR Coordinator at: robmunroscott@aol.com
or Community Responder Administrator at cfr@scas.nhs.uk
or call 0800 5870207

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



VJ Day Commemorations

15 August 2020

VJ Day marks the end of hostilities in World War 2. At last families around the globe could start to plan for and enjoy the benefits of international peace.

Under current COVID 19 Guidance the following are planned:

Saturday 15th August

Short services of commemoration at War Memorials conducted by respective Rector (Bridge Parishes) and Vicar (Soberton & Newtown) as follows:

1100	Droxford
1120	Exton
1145	Meonstoke
1210	Newtown
1230	Soberton



Sunday 16th August

A service of thanksgiving and commemoration:

1500 The Church Green, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke. Conducted by Rector of the Bridge Parishes, assisted by Hon Chaplain to the Royal British Legion.

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 (ibc): 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:
FUNERAL DIRECTORS	A.H. Freemantle Funeral Directors (ibc): Nigel Chamberlain Funerals 26: Southdown Funerals 27:	SHOPS & STORES	Meonstoke PO & Stores 28: Wickham Wool Shop 29:
GARDEN & LANDSCAPING	Judit Appel 33: Meon Valley Mowers 35: Greenbuild Landscapes 40:	SPORT	Hazelholt Floodlit Indoor Tennis Court (ifc):
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.