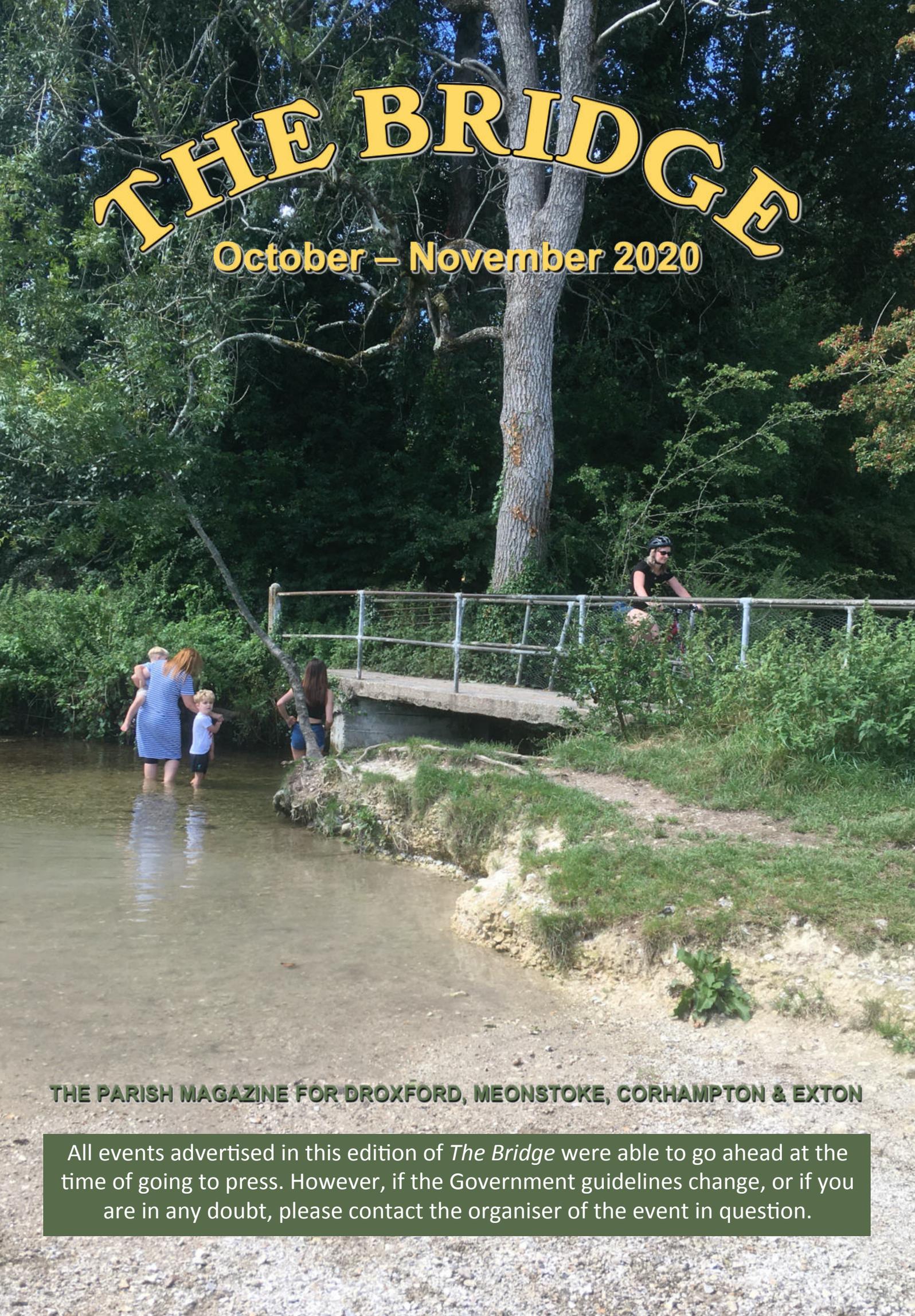


THE BRIDGE

October – November 2020



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR DROXFORD, MEONSTOKE, CORHAMPTON & EXTON

All events advertised in this edition of *The Bridge* were able to go ahead at the time of going to press. However, if the Government guidelines change, or if you are in any doubt, please contact the organiser of the event in question.

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

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

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Vergers: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
3rd Sunday Services: Ros Collins 877782

EXTON

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Secretary: Richard Pepys 878035
Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:
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Organist: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
Sacristan: *Position vacant; applications welcome*
Vergers: Bob Miles -

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Methodist & United Free Church (Bishop's Waltham)
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Cover photograph: *As your new editor, I would like to thank Norman Bell for his 16 years in the chair, and doing such a valiant job. I very much want to make the magazine as "local" as possible, and would welcome any suggestions for features about villagers doing interesting or unusual things. I do feel as well that the cover picture should be a view from one of our four villages. That shouldn't be difficult, given the amount of fantastic scenery we are blessed with. No reason why it shouldn't be a bridge of course, although there aren't many left that we haven't already used. The cover photo is one I took recently of the Smith family from Petersfield enjoying a paddle near the mill at Droxford, next to the bridge that my own children used to play Pooh Sticks on many years ago.*

Ian Gilchrist

THE BRIDGE is delivered at the start of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. If you are responsible for village activities, diaries and schedules, please send your write-ups to the Bridge Editor at the address shown above. Copy in Microsoft word is preferred, rather than PDFs which can sometimes present layout problems.

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**The COPY DEADLINE for the next issue of THE BRIDGE is:
THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER**

ON REFLECTION



It's been a hard six months but it's brought us together...

Although it feels to have been in another era, it was just in March that we were still going about most things fairly normally, but we had begun putting up signs about hand washing and using tissues; we were talking about the 'Contain Phase'; and the children in Droxford school were able to describe why the Coronavirus was so called.

By Mothering Sunday (22nd March), our churches were closed by the Government for the first time since the Puritans 'banned Christmas' in the 17th Century. Baptisms ceased, weddings, some years in the planning, were postponed and funerals were especially difficult – 'social distancing' does not help the grieving process.

Mothering Sunday celebrations were cancelled just a few days before. Easter was celebrated virtually! It was only in July that we made our limited and tentative steps back into our buildings.

For those of us who remained well or did not have relatives in a hospital or nursing home, we were fortunate. Even though the nation could only quietly and remotely celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on the moved Bank Holiday, we were reminded how blessed we were only having to put up with staying at home and daily walks, when 75 years before, the world had endured six years of bloody conflict.

The nation as a whole was blessed by so many altruistic and community-minded acts of generosity and service, and our villages were fine examples of looking after those who needed help. How do we keep that special Spirit alive? As the wartime generation discovered in the Blitz, so we discovered in the pandemic that shared hardship can bring a spirit of togetherness. Let's not lose it. The pandemic has posed significant challenges for individuals, charities, churches, and businesses around the world. The negative impact has, however, varied by area, ethnicity and wealth.

What did the church locally get up to? Or, the Ups and Downs of digital church...

Although many of the usual but hidden things had to continue, such as paying bills and maintaining ancient buildings, all churches had to temporarily suspend their activities, and find new ways of reaching out to congregations and the most vulnerable.

Around the world, churches expanded existing worship to online networks or established new services online using different forms of social media, websites, TV and radio.

Many of us reported the positive effects of 'going online' as an opportunity for creativity and the ability to reach audiences outside of the usual physical gatherings. I now can make mp4 videos and upload them to YouTube; and, even a dinosaur like me, has learnt to embed the html code in our website so that our simple online celebration of St George's Day was watched worldwide and our St Mark's Day service helped a lady in Canada begin a challenging day better prepared.

Notwithstanding the benefits of technology, a lack of internet connectivity, online services and smartphones also creates or exacerbates the sense of 'disconnect' that exists even here.

Some were unable to afford internet or mobile phone service because money was now needed for food. With mandated physical distancing, clergy, including me, have found it challenging to remain in contact with the elderly and people living alone.

The economic impact is already changing the face of the church as an institution as well as for the congregations. As congregations are affected by loss of livelihood, churches also face financial instability. Our benefice income has dropped dramatically at a time we have wanted to do more and support others all the more. According to an international survey of churches, the pandemic 'highlighted and heightened existing inequalities and injustices among church members, among congregations and among churches worldwide'. The crisis invites and obliges all churches to rethink and prioritise their ministries. Many in need are turning to the church and other charities for support but are now able to contribute less.

How can we respond as a church community AND a wider community, together?

It is easy for us as the Church to fall into the trap of only focussing on the immediate stress and uncertainty that we all face, becoming absorbed in the immediate challenges.

However, we must try to answer the stronger calling for the church: to respond to human need by loving service; to transform unjust structures of society; to challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation; and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Reverend Tony Forrest
Rector

Goodbye Norman, and many thanks from us all

We are deeply sorry to have to say goodbye to our Bridge editor Norman Bell, who has left for a new home in Surrey. For the last sixteen years, among all his other contributions to our community life, Norman has edited *The Bridge* with the same level of enthusiasm, attention to detail, care and creativity that he commits to everything he does.

He has built a small but important team around him to look after advertising, finances, design, printing, proof-reading, delivery and so on, and the result is the magazine that all the communities covered by the Benefice love and find invaluable, all made possible through Norman's hard work and determination. Chasing articles for tight deadlines six times a year is a significant job in itself, but that is only when the real work begins! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Norman, of course, but also his loyal team.

So while we are so pleased that Norman has been able to sell his house in Droxford and move to Surrey, and to be closer to members of his family and to other dear friends, we shall miss him enormously. He, alongside his late wife, was a full and active participant in Droxford life, not least as key figures in the running of Droxford Church.

After losing his beloved Jane, Norman carried on supporting the community, even beyond Droxford and the Benefice, in many ways. He got things done! Every community needs 'a Norman' working tirelessly and attentively and carefully, and often unseen. It is only when people such as he move away or step down that their contribution is truly noticed, sadly by its absence.

Norman, farewell, and thank you for all that you have done for the church and the community. We shall miss you as our editor and our friend, but we also wish you many more happy and healthy years in your new home near your family and among your other community in Surrey, where I know you are already well-known and much-loved. We know that you will not be a stranger lost to us, but a friend who is never far away – you can always read *The Bridge* on-line!

A big welcome to Ian...

It is with great pleasure we hail our new editor for *The Bridge*, Ian Gilchrist.

Ian has been a community-minded resident of Meonstoke, for 35 years, and is a former journalist. Many of you will know Ian from his involvement in community activities including acting in and producing plays with the Riverside Players for many years, and until last year, his 20 years

chairmanship of our local Neighbourhood Watch group.

He has already met with Norman to benefit from his great experience and insights, and would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for the magazine, so please do contact him through the official email thebridgeeditor@gmail.com. I am sure you will join me in thanking Ian for answering the call for a new editor and in welcoming him into this vital post.

Tony and the Church Wardens of the Bridge Benefice

And a final word from Norman...



After 42 years it is with much sadness that I have left the village in such strange circumstances, and am not able to say goodbye to friends and neighbours. I was in Surrey when the Covid-19 lockdown started and was notified by the NHS that I was to remain indoors for 12 weeks, and it has been a difficult few months.

I moved into Windyridge, Droxford on 8th March 1978 from Cowes with my family, Jane and 3 year-old Richard; a year later Anna was born. When Robert Medd retired as Bridge editor, I became editor in partnership with Paul Cantlie, and continued in this shared role until Paul retired in 2004. I continued as editor until my final edition for August-September 2020, during which time *The Bridge* went through a few changes. The first was to change the regular pen and ink drawing on the front cover for a photograph; the second to move to the present A4 size.

I retire with mixed feelings that I shall miss it, and Droxford Church and everyone.

Norman Bell

Our Beautiful Churches Need Your Help

Please sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme

The ravages of time have meant that our two beautiful and cherished churches at Corhampton and Meonstoke are struggling financially to make urgent repairs and pay their way.

In addition, because of Covid-19, once-generous giving by parishioners has been reduced to kind, but small, contributions. All this has turned the normal steady income of the churches into chaos.

But there is a solution. You can really help to put these two things right by signing up to the new Parish Giving Scheme, which the Meonstoke and Corhampton PCC has now registered with. The scheme offers a convenient, elegant and secure method for donors to make regular donations to our two churches through protected direct debit guarantee.

Firstly, we need a steady income to be able to budget and do necessary work (material and spiritual). Secondly you, our generous donor, can opt to accept an inflationary uplift. Your participation in the Parish Giving Scheme will improve our cash flow and secure our ability to serve our wonderful community. We need to do that.

Let me give you some examples of the costs of material work we are currently funding.

Dear Corhampton Church needs new lightning conductor matting at a cost of £900, and recent roof cleaning and gutter clearance there has cost £1,320. At St Andrew's, of course we would love better heating, but at the moment we are hoping to repair the churchyard wall, before it collapses, at a cost of £950. The Church Green is another major expenditure for us, with the new fencing on the Bucks Head Hill side alone costing over £1,000, not to mention the righting of the fallen willow tree at £400. These are just a few examples of expenditure over and above our normal running costs.



St Andrew's Church urgently needs over £2,000 for repairs to its crumbling churchyard wall, and new fencing around The Green

Looking at our 2019 accounts, our running costs were £3,500/month. In three months of Covid our income didn't quite reach £3,500. This is worrying.

Did you know, too, that the CofE, in common with other denominations of the Christian Church, doesn't enjoy a national subsidy? But we still want to treat our clergy more fairly than they were in the 1950s and give them a reasonable level of stipend and housing. I am sure you would want to support that. And you can do so by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

If you would like some thoughts on how much you might give, the General Synod, like other charities, recommends 5% of post-tax income. Imagine if you earn £6,000 a year, this would equate to £25 a month. If you earn £30,000 a year this would equate to £125. But you may give whatever feels right for you.

God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

Going back to the matter of inflation, of course you don't have to tick the box to opt in to the inflationary uplift, and you can remain anonymous to the local church. But just look at these figures. They astounded me. If your giving had kept track with inflation since the year 2000, it would have increased by over 75%. So, £40 gifted in 2000 might now be £70. Did you know that? But, whatever you decide, you will be in total control over how much you give.

We'll be telling you more about how you can help in the months ahead and we will also be writing to some of you. I do so hope you will feel able to respond to our need. Your positive response would be so welcome.

Angela Peagram, Churchwarden



Corhampton Church needs a similar amount to pay for urgent equipment and roof cleaning

Linda Coumbe Retires

For those of you who don't know, following her 60th celebrations last year, Linda Coumbe retired at the end of August this year. She has spent an incredible twenty-four years in Hampshire Schools and twenty-two of those at Meonstoke, the last ten as our Head Teacher.

She has seen somewhere in the region of 600 children pass through the school and as such is so very well known to so many readers of this magazine and all the communities it and the school serve.

She has touched the lives of so many and will be sorely missed. She has guided the school over the last ten years through four Chair of Governors and kept it at the forefront of our communities.

Tanya Titmus also retired towards the end of last year and so we have two new members of staff to introduce you to. Elaine Kendall, who has over ten years teaching experience

and has, in her family tree, ties to our local area. We welcome her as our year 1 teacher and are very happy to have secured her after a very competitive field of candidates.

Some of you will have met and know Emma Howell our Interim Head Teacher. Emma is the current Head Teacher of Newtown Soberton Infant School and we are grateful to her for stepping in as Interim Head whilst the Governors look to the future and what that means for the school in the brave new world we live in.



Linda Coumbe

Nick Carter
Chair Of Governors

My, how we've grown!

We hardy band of players of the Meon Valley Orchestra began rehearsing again in early August in the Meon Hall, the first local musical ensemble to begin playing once the lockdown restrictions had been eased. It was great to be playing again, even under the regime of sensible distancing with the doors and windows open.

The MVO had its humble beginnings ten years ago in Meonstoke when seven or eight local amateur players got together to form a band under the musical direction of professional Meonstoke violinist Cathy Mathews, to play mainly folk tunes in Annabel Armstrong's home in Stocks Lane.

Under the name of the Meonstoke Village Band the group gradually became proficient enough to be asked to play at summer fetes, flower shows, Christmas events and the annual Women's World Day of Prayer. As the numbers of instrumentalists increased, the band soon outgrew Annabel's home. At the same time, with Cathy's other commitments increasing, she handed over the baton to viola player Lorraine Masson from Wickham.

The band continued to grow, moving to The Stables in Wickham, then to Soberton Hall and now the Meon Hall. It now has up to 40 members, with all sections of the orchestra represented. To acknowledge the increasing numbers of musicians coming from a wider area, the band was renamed the Meon Valley Orchestra.

In 2014 the group put on its first major charity concert in Fareham with The Portsmouth Philharmonia, raising over £1,000 for the Ninewells Cancer Campaign, and receiving a letter of gratitude from the charity's patron Lady Fiona



The Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsing in the Meon Hall while maintaining at least a one-metre distance between players, and with doors and windows open, to comply with Covid-19 rules.

Fraser. Since then we have raised many thousands of pounds for Pancreatic Cancer, the Southampton Immunology Centre, the UK Gout Society, Parkinson's UK and the Solent Diabetes Association. It has received letters of support and encouragement from the late actor John Hurt, local civic dignitaries, the Attorney General Suella Braverman MP and Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage.

Over the years the MVO has come of age musically too. We now play light classical and more advanced popular material. New players of any ability are welcome to join. Rehearsals are from 9.00 - 12.00 on Thursday mornings in The Meon Hall. If you would like to come along and try us out, please contact Annabel on 877130.

Stuart Reed
Violinist and Publicity Officer



WILFRID'S CAFE

The home of good coffee, tea & delicious
home-baked cakes

What a long time ago it seems since that opening in January! So much has happened in the interim that it's almost hard to remember those heady first twelve weeks of opening.

But now it's time to look forward again - a small bit of normality perhaps.

It really has been quite a story! From the long road to the annex being built and the formation of the Community hub and its Cafe. Finally to opening the Cafe - and then a global pandemic hits the world and we all go into lockdown. If you wrote a story about it all, it would be difficult to believe.....

However, we haven't been out of action altogether, as for just over a month we have been open on a couple of days a week on a takeaway basis only and with our volunteers carefully protected and our customers socially distanced.

Now we are looking and planning forward and in the middle of September, government- and Covid-willing, we will be opening the doors of the Cafe again. All safety procedures will be in place for both our wonderful volunteers and our Cafe customers. Hope to see you all soon!

Margaret Wallace

Think you might like to volunteer?

Our volunteers thoroughly enjoy themselves when they serve coffees, teas and cakes in the Cafe - chatting to the other volunteers who help alongside them and those that come in to use the Cafe. It's a great way to meet people! Contact me (*Margaret*) through our website for more details

We have new & extended opening hours

Check out our website (wilfrids.org) or our Facebook page for opening hours or scan the QR code with your smartphone.





200 Club

Winners of the 2020 monthly £25 prize draws were:

August: Colin Whishaw **September:** Stephen Casey

Grant Award

The Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Michael Lane, has awarded the Meon Hall trustees a grant of £282 to help with improvements to the external security of the building for insurance purposes. The grant has been made from the PCC's Covid-19 Keeping Communities Safer fund. Part of this project will involve changing the front door lock, and issuing new keys to groups and hirers using the Meon Hall – the present lock is over 14 years old, is getting a bit wonky, and at a guess has probably been locked & unlocked at least 21,000 times!

Looking ahead

The Meon Hall's "Social Event of the Year", the annual 200 Club Beetle Drive and Supper is planned to be held on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm, together with the Draw for 2020's 200 Club big prizes. Please put this date in your diary, and start to practice the speed of your dice-rolling and honing your "neat beetle" drawing skills! Ever the optimist, I am hoping that we can find a way through the tangled swamp of Covid-19 restrictions to be able to achieve something that will be fun to attend, even if it is a shadow of the usual Beetle Drive event. More news will appear about this! There is a prize for the best dressed Beetler who enters into the fun and pre-Christmas spirit. Please sign up for the Beetle Drive with James Morrice on 878505 or jamesmorrice99@gmail.com – 200 Club members go free, non-members £7.00 each. Emerging details of how we will achieve the 2020 Beetle Drive will be published on Facebook and WhatsApp as the situation develops.

Hirings of The Meon Hall

If you want to plan an event, a family occasion, child's birthday party, or something as a regular village group, please get in contact with the Bookings Secretary, Hannah Carpenter, at meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk

The Hall's trustees as committee members know that there seems to be a daunting list of things that hirers must comply with for Covid-19 Keeping Safe requirements, but we as the Hall managers are trying to keep a sense of proportion about it all and will do our best to help you achieve things that are important. Early contact and discussion will help us to help you.

Thank you to.....

Karl Fenton of Swanmore for his work at the Meon Hall with gutter clearance work. And to Rixons, plumbers of Soberton, for their work in refurbishing more of the Meon Hall's header tank and pipework arrangements, to help achieve water use economies - a significant improvement in the long-term drive to reduce the Meon Hall's energy use towards the Winchester District target of zero carbon use, only 10 years away.

Recycling

Please recycle your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for Hampshire First Responders – trained and experienced volunteers who turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency. Our aim is still to raise at least £500 from our recycling in 2020 to help fund this important emergency service. Please be patient with the bin emptying timescale – the recycling company has had to lay off staff during the summer's lockdown, and are doing their best to manage collections.

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

James Morrice

THE MEON HALL's 200 CLUB

INVITE YOU TO THEIR ANNUAL

BETLE DRIVE

in The MEON HALL, Meonstoke

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2020

AT 7.30 pm

DRAW for the £300, £150, and £100 PRIZES

RAFFLE - SUPPER - PRIZE DRAW - BETLE DRIVE

Tickets: James Morrice 01489 878505 or jamesmorrice99@gmail.com

by Weds 27 November, please, for catering

Members free Non-Members £7.00

Please note - the traditional Meonstoke Beetle Drive arrangements are likely to be changed by Covid-19 safety needs

Carols in the Barn

Very sadly due to the ongoing risk of Covid-19, we shall have to cancel Carols in the Barn for the first time since 1958 but we look forward to seeing you all next year!

Caroline and Ricky Thynne and their families

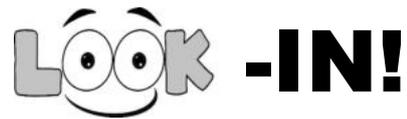


We usually meet on alternate Thursdays during term time at **The Meon Hall, Pound Lane, Meonstoke, SO32 3NP**

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

For the most up-to-date information and dates see the Facebook page

"Meonstoke Toddler Group" @meontoddlers or Facebook message the team through our page.



&



ON HOLD

Because of the pandemic there will be no Wednesday Look-ins in Meonstoke Church until further notice, and the church Library is also out of action. If you have books to give or return would you mind hanging onto them until normal life returns. Many thanks and looking forward to reopening our Wednesday coffee and cake when the time is right.

Lorna Allured - 877718



St Peter and St Paul, Exton Christmas Fair

Refreshments, Cakes & Preserves,
Christmas gifts and decorations, Raffle

Saturday 28 November

10.00 a.m. – Noon

At Exton Church

Covid restrictions may apply



Meon Valley Playreading Group

"It's like being in a radio play"

**'Once more unto the Bridge, dear Friends, once more
Or close all this scrawl with the plays that we've
read...' Enough! Enough!**

Although the Meon Hall is now 'open for business' a quick survey of some of our regular playreaders suggests that two hours of wearing masks while play reading would not be conducive to a relaxed atmosphere.

Regrettably, therefore, we will need to postpone our meetings until possibly early next year.

PS: Apologies to anyone who arrived for a meeting on 8th September. Unfortunately we forgot to cancel this booking in The Bridge diary.

Paul Hayles - 878589

CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UPS

The Churchwarden and PCC will be very grateful for your help



Meonstoke Churchyard

October 17th from 10am

Droxford Churchyard

November 21st from 9.30am

Please bring your own garden tools, saws, wheelbarrows, tree loppers, strimmers etc.

Refreshments will be served if circumstances permit.



Stuart Attrill, who looks after Droxford churchyard, is seeking an odd job person to take over from him at the end of the year, duties to include strimming, general tidying and looking after the mowers.

Please contact Stuart on 878500



St Andrew's Church Meonstoke
Sunday 4th October 2020
10.30am

Harvest Festival Service

All Welcome

Contributions (tins and dried goods please) can be delivered to Bakerswell, Bucks Head Hill during the week before the service.

Please put them in the box behind the tall wooden gate.

Please be generous!

St Andrew's Church - Patronal Festival

10.30 am, Sunday, 29th November 2020

Come and celebrate the beginning of Advent and the Feast day of the Patron of St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

A friendly service of prayer with option to stay for Holy Communion

Advent Carols & Lessons

A Beautiful Sung Service of Advent Carols and Lessons

Recorded in Droxford Church and Streamed from

6.30 pm, Sunday, 29th November 2020
at www.bridgechurches.org.uk/pandemic

We're back....and Covid safe

After six very long months we are all excited, nervous, relieved, anxious, happy and many more adjectives, that the school has now finally opened fully with COVID safety precautions in place to keep our children and staff safe.

We have different drop off and pick up times, bubbles, distancing, one-way systems, more handwashing, gallons of sanitiser, mountains of wipes and many more policies and precautions to follow.

I have every confidence in the way the staff have prepared the school for the return of our children and I know that they have done everything they can to keep them as safe as possible. So please do follow the rules and guidance they are issuing. Throughout this time the Governors have continued their duties overseeing the school and have come to terms with regular Zoom meetings rather than our traditional face to face ones.

It was at the end of March when the school was suddenly told it was to close, and then reopen to care for keyworker children. The Governors took the decision to pool our resources and join forces with Newtown Soberton School.

With Emma Howell at the helm we formed the Meon Valley Hub School to look after the keyworker children from both schools. This was done on the Newtown site and it was great to watch the staff from both schools work so well together to keep the children safe.

When the schools were then told to reopen to Year 1 children, we moved back to the Meonstoke site. In those first few months parents and teachers had a steep learning curve of how to tackle home schooling. During this time, it has been heart-warming to see all our communities coming together to help with this and all the aspects of lockdown.

May I take this opportunity to thank every single member of staff for all they have done since the end of March. They have dealt with this unprecedented pandemic of modern times in the most professional manner possible in such difficult circumstances, whilst they all juggle their own family situations and balance the school's and children's needs with their own and that of their own families. Please do be patient with them as they lay down the rules for you and your children, as I know some of it will seem irritating, but it is all to protect the children and the staff.

Through the course of the past year there have been many improvements to the school including updating the outside playground areas, adding an outdoor schooling area next to Year 1 and 2 classrooms, modernising the reception and administrative processes, new website, new IT equipment, classroom furniture and more. As always, we are forever grateful to the help and support that FOMS has provided to

the school towards some of these and to other projects.

I hope when the next magazine comes out in December that we can still report that the school is open and will continue to be so. Please stay safe and please follow the rules. I am sure we are all enjoying seeing the schools full again and hearing the children playing and working together.



Nick Carter
Chair Of Governors
Meonstoke Primary School

Tribute to our school caterers?

Overheard outside the Stores in Meonstoke, two mothers talking to each other.

Said one: "My daughter was asked by her school to write down what she enjoyed most about lockdown, and what she most disliked. Top of the dislike list was "I can't wait to get back to school because my Mum's lunches are rubbish!"

6th Annual Toy Service
in conjunction with Meonstoke School

Sunday 6th December at 10.30 am
St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

Come and celebrate the feast day of the first 'Father Christmas'
St Nicholas

Bring joy to children in refuges and places of safety in Portsmouth who would have a meagre Christmas without your help and the wonderful work of the E C Roberts Centre.

Please bring your wrapped toys as you have so generously done over recent years.

A friendly service of prayer with option to stay for Holy Communion

William Collins Trust

Applications invited for awards

In this time of financial hardship for many, the William Collins Trust may be able to help children of The Bridge area. The Trust was set up in the 17th century in Corhampton to provide for the education of the children in the parish. William Collins was the Rector at the time and bequeathed money to help fund the education of children of Corhampton, Meonstoke, Droxford and Exton in a school attached to the vicarage.

Four centuries on the William Collins Trust is still here to make education a little easier for young people.

This year it has helped to provide visits to Calshott for Droxford School pupils, as well as geography field trips to Swanmore. It has also supplied local young people with books for university courses, equipment for college courses, and music lessons, to name a few.

Education may look very different now, but the need is still there and his legacy is still helping children today who need financial assistance with an aspect of their education. The original endowment now provides an annual income which is managed by a group of locally recruited trustees to provide financial help for the children of the Meon Bridge Benefice.

The Trustees are next meeting on the 16th October to make new awards. Application forms can be found at the William Collins Trust link at www.bridgechurches.org.uk or on the Meonstoke or Droxford school websites or email WilliamCollinsCharity@gmail.com

The only stipulations are that applicants are under 25, live in Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton or Exton, that there is genuine need, and that the money will be used for a named aspect of their education.

Please consider applying if you, or anyone you know, would benefit. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Corhampton: Janice Hooley, 878098

Droxford: Rachel Dean, 878779

Exton: Diana Arthur, 877390 and Vicky Hill, 07801 372860

Meonstoke: Sian Holiday, 07966 487762



Many of us who have enjoyed the acclaimed West Meon Theatre productions at West Meon Village Hall and our own Meon Hall, will be wondering when the next one will be. Well, alas, because of the virus, the answer is not for a few months yet, as chairman Mary Dawson reports:

I had hoped by now that things would be more settled and we could look forward to putting on some live theatre by the end of the year. But I fear not!

In fact we should by now be starting rehearsals for a revival, by popular demand, of our 2015 sell-out Supper Theatre performance of Dylan Thomas' nostalgic *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

Unfortunately, although the government is currently allowing live theatre performances with social distancing for audience and performers, this is an intimate piece of physical theatre which simply can't work that way. And then there's the singing! So as it ideally needs to be performed around Christmas time, it will be another 12 months before we can stage it.

The Merry Wives of Windsor, postponed from July, is now scheduled for July 2021, and the panto *Sleeping Beauty* which was due to be performed next February will now also be 'bumped on' a year. Oh, yes it will!

So not a cheering update I'm afraid, but we will all be raring to go as soon as we can, so roll on 2021.

Stay sane!

Meonstoke thespian Mick Keegan in West Meon Theatre's 2015 production of A Child's Christmas in Wales.



IN THE GARDEN

October & November



We have enjoyed a good summer, despite some heavy rain and winds in August and it is evident that our summers are getting drier, so we might consider what can be done to avoid unnecessary watering in the summers to come.

For example, vegetable plots and borders that are new or to be replanted can be prepared for drier conditions by digging out as deep as possible (40-50cm) and incorporating a deep layer of well-rotted manure and giving it a good soaking before replacing the soil. This serves to retain moisture and improve the texture of the soil over time. This practice is particularly advisable for raised beds, which dry out quickly and then become very attractive to ants for making their nests.

Vegetables: Plant winter and spring lettuce and spring cabbage as well as autumn-sown broad beans and onions. Clear and dig over vacant ground in the vegetable plot and incorporate some well-rotted horse manure to improve the texture of the soil. Clear weeds and debris from winter vegetables as they create hiding places for pests.

Fruit: In November plant bare-rooted raspberry canes and soft fruit bushes, ensuring that plenty of well-rotted manure is incorporated under the roots, and that the roots are well soaked before planting. Start winter pruning of fruit trees but do not prune cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums or

damsons because the wounds heal slowly and lay the trees open to disease such as "silver leaf". Do not be tempted to cut back autumn raspberries even when they have finished fruiting. Leave this until February.

Herbaceous border: Dahlias survive quite successfully in this area if left in the ground over winter, and do not need to be moved unless the plants are becoming congested. In this case lift the tubers before the first frosts, let them dry for a week or two, and dust with sulphur to avoid them rotting. They can then be labelled and overwintered in boxes of dry peat or compost. Divide and replant clumps of perennials such as Michaelmas daisies, phlox, border campanulas, lysimachia etc. Clean up rose beds, in particular remove all fallen leaves (especially those with black spot) and in November cut out unwanted or damaged stems to minimise wind rock.

Trees and Shrubs: Plant bare-rooted specimens of trees and shrubs in November or even later, remembering to soak the roots for about an hour before planting.

Bulbs: Plant spring flowering bulbs, planting them deep enough to protect against frost, mice and squirrels.

Lawns: In these times of mild winters grass continues to grow for many more weeks than it did in years gone by. This means that mowing may well be necessary until well into November, but remember that the growth is relatively weak so don't forget to raise the level of the mower blades so that unnecessary scalping does not occur.

In the greenhouse: Clear out all the plants such as tomato and cucumber. Wash the inside with a diluted solution of Jeyes Fluid, and ensure that the glass is thoroughly cleaned. Bring in plants that need protection over the winter.

John Owen

...and a seasonal thought from Jackie

September has seen a peculiar mixture of weather which has given us the warmth of summer on some days, and on others the distinct feel of autumn. Dull days have made the shortening of the day most noticeable.

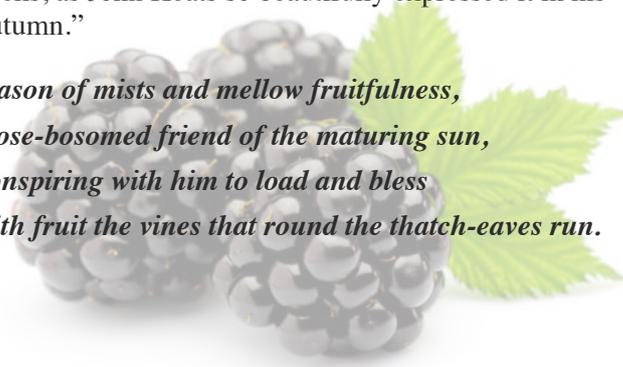
It would seem that we must now accustom ourselves to these variable weather conditions, and learn to adapt accordingly. From dry, parched earth and grass when many plants were wilting for lack of water, and lawns barely needed mowing, the sudden regular downpours have given the earth what was needed.

Along with the rain however, have come very strong winds, which brought the fruit off the trees, and sent the birds to the hedgerows for shelter. Those same hedgerows in gardens and roundabout are providing the birds with the berries necessary for their food as autumn approaches. Hips, haws, blackberries and elderberries all have their

food value for our wildlife, as do the windfalls of the fruit trees which have not yet ripened sufficiently for us to eat.

Poetically, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" gives the lie to the weather as we have experienced it over recent weeks, as John Keats so beautifully expressed it in his "To Autumn."

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close-bosomed friend of the maturing sun,
Conspiring with him to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run.*



Jackie Hibbert

Spotted a hedgehog? Report it!

Your help is needed! The hedgehog has been classified as vulnerable to extinction, and in villages such as ours this is a particular concern. In fact, over the past 20 years we've lost a third of these loveable creatures.

But while this is sad, there are things we can all do to help protect the hedgehog and help them thrive again.

Hedgehogs need access to gardens to survive, and that's where we can all come in. People with gardens, and that's pretty well everyone in our villages, are being asked to report on a special website www.bighedgehogmap.org any sightings of hedgehogs.

The website contains a map on which you can pinpoint your sightings, and thereby help conservationists to discover where hedgehogs are in the UK, and the areas they are missing from. There is no need to log multiple hedgehogs in your garden, or to do so every night, but please continue to log each month or year if it's the same location, so that we can see if they are still coming back.

As well as the map, the website has a number of tips and suggestions on how we can all adapt our gardens to attract the hedgehog back. Please visit www.bighedgehogmap.org to take part in the campaign.

Generally speaking, living in the beautiful countryside of the Meon Valley is a privilege, but one which is perhaps taken for granted by some. Yet what might seem like timeless beauty is now under a growing threat from development, climate change, and loss of habitat for our precious wildlife.

One only has to look around to see agricultural land being lost to commercial use, sometimes without planning consent, or relying on 'retrospective' permission. This is an increasingly attractive route as a fast track solution to avoid the input from neighbouring residents who would otherwise have the right to object or suggest improvements to a scheme.

Even if what's happening a mile down the road from your house might not impact on nature, and even though the correctly processed consent is likely to include mitigation of habitat loss, in reality this is often a token gesture.

We urgently need better legislation and enforcement from a more agile planning authority to curb this trend, or pressure will grow for rural planning to be overseen where the local knowledge and commitment resides.

Life in a rural village has always relied on the mutual support of friends and neighbours, but nowadays even more care and commitment is needed to support those that we often take for granted: the wild creatures around us that have enriched our lives during the lockdown, but will only continue to be out there if we help them in these increasingly challenging times.

So... please get spotting, and report your sightings!

Vicki Weston

All Souls' Commemoration

6.30 pm on Sunday, 1st November 2020
St Peter & St Paul, Exton

Join us for a moving
Service of Prayer & Light
in commemoration and thanksgiving for the
lives of those we love but see no longer.

Remembrance

Sunday

*We will
remember them*



Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 8th November.
Due to Covid restrictions, which may change, the outline plan is to hold appropriate RBL commemorations in both the Bridge parishes at St Mary and All Saints, Droxford and at St Peter's, Soberton. There will also be short services at village war memorials at which members of the community are encouraged to attend. There will also be church services in Meonstoke, Droxford and Exton, as follows:

Meonstoke Church

A Short Outdoor Parish Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial
09.30 am

Droxford Church

Benefice and Droxford Parish Remembrance Service
supported by members of the Royal British Legion
10.50 am

Exton Church

Evening Prayer (BCP) with
Parish Act of Remembrance
3.30 pm

A Streamed Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
A 1945-2020 Requiem
from 10.30 am

Challenging time for our Droxford fire fighters



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE**

It's been a very busy summer for our station. The hot and dry spell in August created ideal conditions for fires in the open, including a number of large forest fires. These are difficult to extinguish, with arduous working conditions for fire fighters, requiring long hours of sustained effort.

Crews from Droxford made multiple trips to the blaze at Ringwood Forest, spending several hours tackling hotspots, as shown in the photo, before returning home to our day jobs and responsibilities.

As always we are grateful to our families, friends and employers who support our ability to respond, and put up with us coming and going at odd hours. Protracted multi-day incidents like this also highlight the fantastic work done by the crews at Fire Control in Eastleigh, who need to plan crew rotation whilst ensuring fire cover across the county is not compromised, as well as handling 999 calls too.

We've also been out to a variety of other calls, including a combine harvester, fire alarms, an RTC and a property fire on the Preshaw estate. Plus competency assessments for emergency care and breathing apparatus skills. There's always something happening!

Autumn is now well underway, so this is a good time for a reminder about making sure your chimneys are swept, and that any bonfires are kept under control. You can find more information about fire safety from www.hantsfire.gov.uk/keeping-safe

Although we're a small station at Droxford, we're always aware that we're part of one much bigger team. And, as mentioned in the last edition of The Bridge, we do have vacancies for firefighters. If you'd like to join us, just call in to the station on a Tuesday evening to find out more.

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.

FF Anna Rolfe
Droxford 41DR



A Droxford firefighter team helps tackle the Ringwood blaze

Tony and Jo to leave their stunning station home... to move just 100 metres



Tony and Jo's £1.5m historic home

The old Droxford railway station, which played such a vital role in the village's wartime history, is up for sale, although the owners, Tony and Jo Williams, won't be moving too far. They have bought the former restaurant The Hurdles just across the road and they are busy converting it into what will become their new five-bedroom home. Tony talked to Ian Gilchrist about their plans.

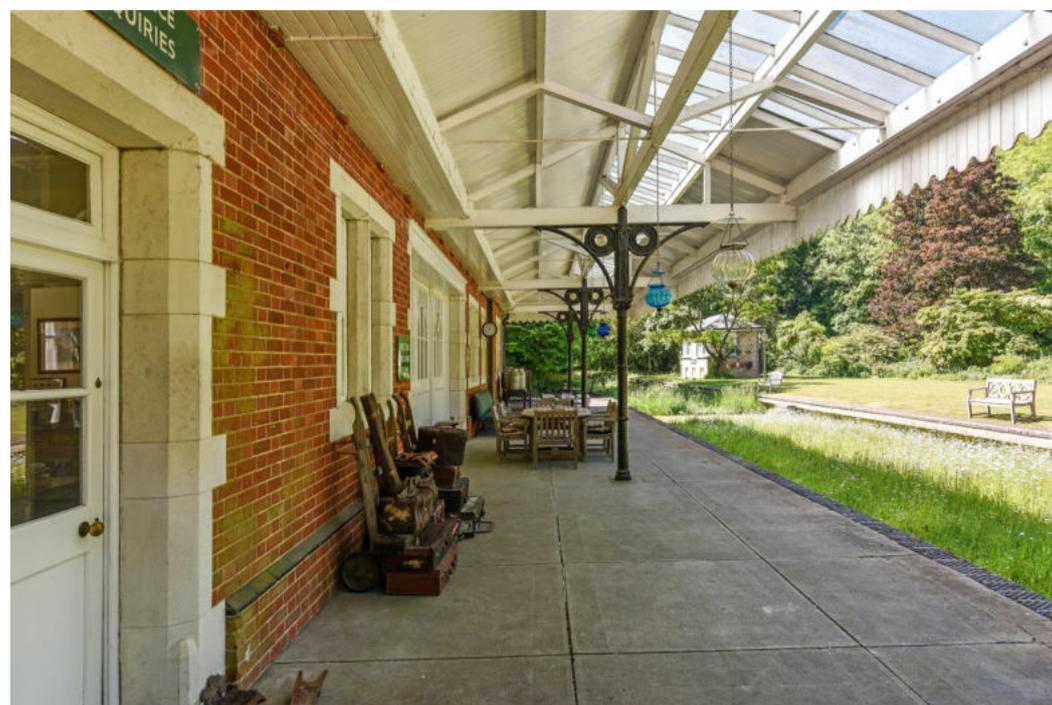
"We've enjoyed it immensely here," Tony explains, "but we've never stayed in one place for more than ten years. So we've put the station on the market and bought The Hurdles, and that's to be our new project, to refurbish it and live there instead. We've done most of the work on the inside, and have now started on the exterior."

The couple arrived in Droxford from Liss in east Hampshire where they owned Lyss Place, a large farmhouse dating back to the 14th century.

Tony, who runs a London management consultancy company, says, "When the time came to move on from Liss and we saw the station we completely fell in love with it and had to buy it. It was too good an opportunity to miss. But although it may appear otherwise I'm not a railway enthusiast as such; I look upon us as being the caretakers."

The station of course is best known for Winston Churchill's three-day occupancy of a royal train carriage in a siding 100 metres down the line in June 1944. This was his base for the preparations for the Normandy landings, and where he met several allied leaders including General de Gaulle and South African Prime Minister General Smuts.

The people of Droxford were sworn to secrecy, a request they complied with admirably, despite rumours flying



around the village that the great man had been spotted having a tittle in one of the local pubs.

The station's platform looks little changed from how it must have appeared before the line became unviable and was closed to passengers in 1955, and finally in 1962. To the left are four original British Railways trolleys laden with battered suitcases that might well have been luggage carried by passengers travelling on the line between Fareham and Alton. To the right are three milk churns, each around three feet high, of the kind that would have been transported to and from nearby farms.

These, and many other genuine railway artefacts have been donated by friends and local residents over the years, or in some cases are the result of Tony's explorations on Ebay to locate items to further enhance the station's authenticity and appearance.

Inside the station the couple have spent the last ten years creating a unique and stylish four-bedroom family home, while ensuring that as much as possible remains the same as when the station was built in 1903.

The ticket office is now a study, but retains the booth and cabinets from its operating days. The main station waiting room has been transformed into a drawing room, but still with its original oak-panelled vaulted ceiling. The fireplace which many a passenger must have huddled over on a cold winter's night is still there, though now with the addition of a log-burning stove. The ladies waiting room (the sign is still on the platform) has become another family room.

Outside, the signal box has been rebuilt to its original exterior design, although the levers and other railway equipment have been removed to form a two-storey annex home. The couple have also created a magnificent 2.5 acre garden complete with two paddocks, an orchard, and flower beds on raised railway sleepers. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed walking around it when Tony and Jo opened it to the public for three successive years from 2014 as part of the National Gardens Scheme, and in the process raising some £15,000 for the charity.

With the station now on the market for £1.5m, the couple say they aren't worried if there are no immediate offers. "There's plenty of time while we do up the new home," says Tony. "We don't know what kind of person will eventually buy it, but whoever they turn out to be we hope they will enjoy it and look after it just as we have done."

Tony and Jo, we wish you all the best in your new home when the time comes!



Tony Williams

Watch out, Sid's about!



We will shortly be deploying a new Speed Indication Device, or SID, on the A32 between the Corhampton mini-roundabout and the end of the 30mph restrictions towards Exton.

The County Highways Department has approved several sites where it can be deployed and we are now clearing the last few bureaucratic hurdles before SID can commence duty.

Evidence shows that these signs, which show an oncoming driver's speed and warns them to 'SLOW DOWN' if over the 30mph limit, lose their effectiveness if deployed for more than two weeks in any particular spot. SID will therefore appear for a fortnight's duty in one location before resting for a few weeks prior to his next stint.

When trialled for a short period one Sunday afternoon in August it was heartening to see just how effective he was in making drivers slow down as they approached him. Whilst he can't stop bikers accelerating sharply and noisily on exiting the 30mph limit, we hope SID may have some effect in ensuring all traffic passes through our villages at an appropriate speed.

*Jerry Pett
Chair*



SID, keeping our roads safer



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Things are starting to improve

Since the last piece in *The Bridge*, there has been some relaxation on the rules as to how we may use the hall. Certain groups have returned to using it. As I write this, the Art class has started up again, as have Yvon Eggen's Yoga classes. Outside groups have used the hall as well, among them Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, who held a dog training session.

The film evenings will continue on the last Wednesday of the month, with no more than 30 people being allowed to attend. Likewise, if the hall is booked for a party, this too must be limited to 30 people.

All users of the hall will be required to read and understand the conditions of use, and notices will be posted around the hall to this effect. There will be hand sanitiser available as well. Users will be expected to leave the hall in a clean and tidy state.

The Christmas Market is being planned but in view of the current situation it will depend on how many people will want to take part.

Our village continues to benefit from the community spirit within it, and that is much appreciated.

The bus shelter and the village square are tended by Peg Stevens and Terry Crowfoot, and present an attractive picture for our visitors. Our grateful thanks to them.

The recent 200 Club winners were:

August: Julian Moore,

September: Lynette Davis.

Jackie Hibbert
Secretary

jackaline@live.com
878564

Forthcoming Films at Droxford Village Hall



Wednesday 28th October

1917

Film rated 15

At the height of the First World War, two young British soldiers, Schofield (George MacKay) and Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) are given a seemingly impossible mission. In a race against time, they must cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will stop a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers, Blake's own brother among them.

Wednesday 18th November

HARRIET

Film rated 12A

Based on the inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, Harriet tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

Wednesday 25th November

THE PERSONAL HISTORY
OF
**DAVID
COPPERFIELD**

Film rated PG

From birth to infancy, from adolescence to adulthood, the good-hearted David Copperfield is surrounded by kindness, wickedness, poverty and wealth, as he meets an array of remarkable characters in Victorian England. As he sets out to be a writer, in his quest for family, friendship, romance and status the story of his life is the most seductive tale of all.

Films begin at 7.30 pm, and tickets are £6. A Licensed bar and refreshments will be available. All are subject to the Covid-19 regulations and guidance in force at the time, with the audience limited to 30 people.

Please be sure to buy your tickets in advance from the Post Office – when they are gone they are gone!

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

Droxford History Group

Thursday 26th November
Droxford Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Talk given by Andrew Negus on
Portsmouth from 1100 to 1790

This will hopefully be the first of a series of talks about Portsmouth's fascinating history.

The meeting will go ahead depend on sufficient people wanting to attend. It is a very interesting local subject, so if you wish to attend please let me know. Covid-19 precautions will apply, and the Hall will be able to accommodate all members even with social distancing.

Non-members welcome, cost £3

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!

Droxford Christmas Market

Saturday 14th November
in
Droxford Village Hall

Craft stalls, books, cakes and jams plus all sorts
of home made gifts for Christmas

Hot soups teas and coffees

Free entry

*Subject to the Covid-19 restrictions
in place at the time*

Thank you all!

The Editor and all contributors to The Bridge would like to thank our volunteer deliverers, without whom the magazine could never reach your door: Lorna and Ian Allured, Veronica Attrill, Jill Austin, Norah Burrage, Phil and Chrissie Butler, Liz Callegari, Hannah Carpenter, Janine Casey, Lesley Daysh, Jane Dulson, Karen Ellis, Sally Fithyan, Linda Foot, Camilla Gardner, Val Gilham, Audrey Hall, Paul and Gerry Hayles, Jill Hignett, Sheila Hilary, Mary Hornby-Patterson, Gill Lean, Harry Martineau, Sheila Matthissen, Claire Mellor, Lyn de Mestre, Helen Mitchell, Anne Morrice, Kate Osborne, Richard Pepys, Za Rowe, Margaret Scriven, John Shaw, Sarah Shepherd, Sue Smith, Peg Stevens, Ann Symes, Helen Thompson, Cynthia Towns, Pauline Walters, Cynthia Westbrook and Angie Vear.

DROXFORD RELAUNCHES ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Earlier this year, there was a drive to reinvigorate the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Droxford which had been less active of late through the flagging energies of a few stalwarts, and then Covid-19 descended before we had made much progress!

Turning to the future, as the lockdown measures have started to ease we have officially re-launched the Droxford Neighbourhood Watch and are looking to use this valuable resource to benefit our community. Indeed, we are looking to leverage how we, as a village, really pulled together during the lockdown facilitated by the Droxford Notice Board and 'Droxford Chat' WhatsApp Groups and other support resources.

Droxford Neighbourhood Watch aims to provide accurate and timely information predominantly about crime and risks in our village; thereby reducing undue fear of crime and so promoting a sense of cohesion and security across our community.

To be clear, reporting any emergency should still be via 999 or 112. Non-emergency matters, such as reporting a stolen car or damage to property, call '101', or report online at www.hampshire.police.uk. After contacting one of these, please ALSO contact your Area Co-ordinator and/or the Droxford Chairman or one of the Droxford Deputies.

A summary of this reporting process can be found on the parish website at www.droxfordweb.co.uk/community/droxford-village-community-7711/neighbourhood-watch/ together with contact details for Droxford Neighbourhood Watch.

The Droxford Chairman or one of the Droxford Deputies will then disseminate the matter to the other residents. Accordingly, if you wish to receive information of relevance, please note the following routes of communication and/or join the respective groups:

Facebook - 'Droxford Village Community' page

Email - send your email address to 'droxfordnhwchair@btinternet.com' to be added to the email database (please ensure such emails don't go into your spam box)

WhatsApp - send your mobile number to Sally Sturt (07767 301095) and you will be sent an invite to the Droxford Notice Board Group

Phone call - phone your Area Co-ordinator, Chairman or Deputy to report anything relevant or to receive communications should none of the above options be available to you.

You may be aware of some but not all of these routes, so choose which one, or ones, is best for you and let us know!

The Droxford scheme is now officially recognised within the wider Neighbourhood Watch programme and as we bed ourselves in we will, in

the future, look to pass on the relevant proactive information and news alongside the notification of incidents and warnings.

Thank you from the Droxford Chairman, Colin Richardson, the Droxford Deputies Tony Hoile and Sally Sturt and the Area Co-ordinators; contact details of whom can be found on page 21.



Winchester District Councillor's Report

Leisure Centres re-opened

River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester and Meadowside Leisure Centre in Whiteley have reopened their doors for people to enjoy activities and sports once again.

Advice on flooding

As you will know, flash flooding affected Winchester causing significant disruption, and could happen elsewhere. For advice on managing the risk of flooding, go to:

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/sandbags

The South Downs National Park Peoples and Nature Network plan

The detailed masterplan, called The People and Nature Network (PANN), has been produced in partnership with a range of organisations, including dozens of local authorities across Hampshire and Sussex, the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, The Woodland Trust, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

The People and Nature Network report can be read here:

www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/partnership-management/people-and-nature-network-paan

Sign up to receive the SDNP newsletter by email every month! Catch up on the latest South Downs news, stories, ideas for days out, competitions, to hear about our rangers and volunteers' work and much more. To sign up visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/join-the-newsletter

Vicky Weston

(Independent, Central Meon Valley)

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 877537
 Meonstoke School 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
bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk

PARISH COUNCILS

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

Droxford
 Clerk: Mrs R Hoile www.droxfordweb.co.uk 07720 092072

Exton Parish Meeting: Secretary: Jill Hignett 878450

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Central Meon Valley

Linda Gemmell (Con) lgemmell@winchestergov.uk
 Frank Pearson (Con) fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
 Vicki Weston (Ind) vweston@winchester.gov.uk

Upper Meon Valley

Laurence Ruffell (Con) lruffell@winchester.gov.uk
 Hugh Lumby (Con) hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

Bookings: Hannah Carpenter
meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk (preferred) 07414 121201
 or, if not on email, by phone
 For details of charges and general information see
www.candm-pc.gov.uk/the-meon-hall

LOCAL SURGERIES

Droxford 877588
 01730 829666
 West Meon 892288
 Bishop's Waltham 01329 833121
 Wickham

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS:

(Please ring only between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm) 07977 096586
 Droxford 07795 928065
 Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton

DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

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

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 (Chair) | 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 |
| Fry's Lane | Charlie Fullegar | 07876 524457 |
| Bridgemead | Charlie Fullegar | 07876 524457 |
| Chapel Road | Gemma Radcliffe | 877276 |
| 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 |

EXTON

Sue Robertson 878545

DROXFORD

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| High Street | James Matthissen | 07914 638082 |
| Sheep Pond Lane | Matt Avison | mattavison@hotmail.com |
| Dundridge Lane, east | Colin Richardson (chair) | 07711 058744 |
| Midlington Hill | Charlotte Treloar. | charlottetreloar7@hotmail.com |
| Swanmore Road | Sarah Smith | 878008 |
| Midlington Road | Deborah Hemsworth | 07719 987758 |
| South Hill, west | Tony Hoile (dep. chair) | 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 (chair) | 07711 058744 |
| Chestnut Rise | John Whittaker | 877788 |
| Mill Lane | Sally Sturt (dep. chair) | 07767 301095 |
| South Hill, east | Sally Sturt (dep. chair) | 07767 301095 |

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2020

All subject to change under the prevailing Pandemic Regulations and Guidance.
Please check the website for details of informal and mid-week services.

| Date | Church Calendar | Time | Service | Church |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---|-------------------|
| Sunday, 4 th | Harvest | 10:30 am | Harvest Festival then Holy Communion (CW) | Meonstoke |
| | Trinity 17 | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) | Streamed |
| Sunday, 11 th | Trinity 18 | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Droxford |
| | St Wilfrid & St Edward the Confessor | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) [C2020] | Streamed |
| Sunday, 18 th | St Luke | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (BCP) | Meonstoke |
| | | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) | Streamed |
| Sunday, 25 th | Informal Service | 9.30 am | ...Unwrapped | Droxford (tbc) |
| | Last Sunday after Trinity | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Exton |
| | Alfred the Great | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) [C2020] | Streamed |

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

All subject to change under the prevailing Pandemic Regulations and Guidance.
Please check the website for details of informal and mid-week services.

| Date | Church Calendar | Time | Service | Church |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Sunday, 1 st | All Saints' Day | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Droxford |
| | | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Meonstoke |
| | | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) | Streamed |
| | All Souls' | 6.30 pm | A Service of Prayer & Light in commemoration and thanksgiving for the lives of the departed | Exton |
| Sunday, 8 th | Trinity 22 (BCP) | 8 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Meonstoke |
| | Remembrance | 9.30 am | A Short Outdoor Parish Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial | Meonstoke |
| | | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) 1945-2020 Requiem | Streamed |
| | | 10.50 am | Benefice and Droxford Parish Remembrance Service supported by members of the RBL | Droxford |
| | | 3.30 pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) with Exton Parish Act of Remembrance | Exton |
| Sunday, 15 th | Trinity 23 (BCP) | 8 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Exton |
| | 2 nd before Advent | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Meonstoke |
| | St Martin of Tours | 10.30 am | Sung Sarum Rite [C2020] | Streamed |
| Sunday, 22 nd | Next before Advent | 8 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Meonstoke |
| | Informal Service | 9.30 am | ...Unwrapped | Droxford (tbc) |
| | Christ the King | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Exton |
| 10.30 am | | Sung Eucharist with Spiritual Communion (CW) | Streamed | |
| Sunday, 29 th | Advent Sunday | 8 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Droxford |
| | Advent and Patronal Festival | 10:30 am | Morning Service then Holy Communion (CW) | Meonstoke |
| | Advent Sunday | 6.30 pm | Sung Service of Advent Carols and Lessons | Streamed |

DISTRICT DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2020

Thu 1 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9.30 to noon

Sun 4 Trinity 17 (Proper 22)

Harvest Festival, Meonstoke Church 10.30am

Mon 5 Meon Hall Management Committee, place and time TBC

Tue 6 Yoga group. Meon Hall 9.30am

Thu 8 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon

Sun 11 Trinity 18 (Proper 23)

Tue 13 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Meon Valley Art Society talk: "The Voice of Street Art" –
Zoom, 10.30am

Thu 15 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall 9am

Sat 17 Meonstoke Churchyard clear-up

Sun 18 St Luke the Evangelist

Tue 20 Exton Annual Church Meetings, Exton Church and/or Zoom,
6.30pm

Yoga group, Meon Hall 9.30am

Wed 21 Droxford Annual Church Meetings, Droxford Church and/or
Zoom, 6.30pm

Meon Valley Garden Club meeting, Meon Hall, 7.30

Thu 22 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church
Meonstoke & Corhampton Annual Church Meetings,
Meonstoke Church and/or Zoom, 6.30pm

Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon

Sun 25 Last after Trinity (Proper 25)

British Summer Time ends, clocks go back at 2am

Tue 27 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Wed 28 Film "1917", Droxford Village Hall, 7.30pm

Meon Hall Management Committee AGM, Place and time
TBC

Thu 29 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am

DISTRICT DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Sun 1 All Saints' Day

Tue 3 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Thu 5 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Copy deadline for the Dec/Jan Bridge magazine
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon

Sun 8 Remembrance Sunday

Tue 10 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Meon Valley Art Society talk: "Iran – Land of Kings, Shahs
and Ayatollahs", Zoom, 10.30am

Thu 12 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon

Sat 14 Droxford Christmas Market, Village Hall

Fundraising marathon feed station, Meon Hall, all day

Sun 15 2nd Sunday Before Advent

Mon 16 Film "Harriet", Droxford Village Hall, 7.30pm

Tue 17 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Thu 18 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon

Sat 21 Meon Valley Garden Club meeting, Meon Hall, 7.30pm
Droxford Churchyard clear-up, 9.30am

Sun 22 Christ the King

Mon 23 Meon Hall Management Committee meeting, place and time
TBC

Tue 24 Yoga group, Meon Hall, 9.30am

Wed 25 Film "The Personal History of David Copperfield",
Droxford Village Hall, 7.30pm

Thu 26 Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am
Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to noon
Talk by Andrew Negus on Portsmouth's history, Droxford
Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sat 28 200 Club Beetle Drive, place and time TBC

Exton Christmas Fair, Exton Church, 10am to noon

Sun 29 Advent Sunday with St Andrew Patronal

Thu 3 Dec Said Holy Communion and Coffee, Droxford Church, 10am

Sun 6 Dec Advent 2 with St Nicholas

From the Registers

Funerals

Meonstoke: 21st July

Ann Veronica Gittins, aged 73

Meonstoke: 25th August

Daniel Terence Tobias 'Toby' Dove,
aged 73

Interment of Ashes

Meonstoke: 5th August

John Keith Foot, aged 85

Weddings

Meonstoke: 28th August

James Andrew Bowker and Kate
Laura Paddock

THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE
(THE PARISHES OF CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE, DROXFORD, AND EXTON)
SUBJECT TO CANON LAW, AND
ECCLESIASTICAL & CIVIL REGULATION RELATING TO GATHERINGS AND COVID-19
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING) &
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (APCM) &
FIRST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS (PCC)**

PREVIOUSLY POSTPONED FROM MARCH AND APRIL 2020 DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Meetings start with Prayer at 6.30 pm prompt
It is with regret that no refreshments can be served

Exton Church
Tuesday,
20 October 2020
and/or
Zoom

Droxford Church
Wednesday,
21 October 2020
and/or
Zoom

Meonstoke Church
Thursday,
22 October 2020
and/or
Zoom

For Zoom meetings, see below and REGISTER IN ADVANCE. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

EXTON AMP & APCM

Register in advance at
<https://tinyurl.com/y6k3782q>

DROXFORD AMP & APCM

Register in advance at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y52bzpud>

**CORHAMPTON and MEONSTOKE
AMP & APCM**

Register in advance at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yyd4go4a>

Please note that legal authority has not yet been granted to hold these meetings virtually, but it is under review at the time of publication of this notice.

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.

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). In either case, you must be over the age of 16, eligible to serve as a trustee of a charity, and be an actual communicant.

Nomination and GDPR forms must be completed and returned to the Rector before the meeting is opened.

www.bridgechurches.org.uk

The Reverend A W Forrest, Rector

New Parochial Church Electoral Rolls Published:

Monday, 5 Oct 20
Mrs Jane Pepys

Tuesday, 6 Oct 20
Mrs Rachael Dean

Wednesday, 7 Oct 20
Mrs Karen Ellis
