

THE BRIDGM



December 2021 - January 2022

**Five year plan
for Droxford
Church: Page 9**

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merry Christmas and
a peaceful new year.*



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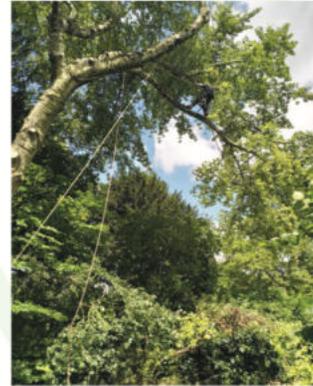
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The Magazine for the Meon Bridge Benefice of Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton with Preshaw

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**The COPY DEADLINE for
the next issue of
THE BRIDGE is
WEDNESDAY 5th
JANUARY**

In this issue

A Jubilee Street party next June? But it would need an organiser. Wanted: a volunteer to take it on!
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Ambitious five-year plan for Droxford Church.
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Useful information

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The Bridge has won an award!

Would you believe it, we've received a Certificate of Excellence in the annual awards presented by the Association of Church Editors.

Their feedback stated:

Great, bright colourful photos throughout and use of captions. Content well illustrated without being too busy. We liked your cover design masthead, and overall layout and structure, and good use of columns with consistent fonts.

We feel it could be improved by the inclusion of a bit more Christian material. Last year's Christmas edition, for example, had no references to the birth of Christ, although Santa Claus had a full page.

Overall a very high quality magazine with lovely paper and printing, and lots to interest the local community. Well done, and keep up the good work.

I would like to thank our team for helping us to win this prestigious award: **Justine Greenfield** who lays the pages out and does all the brilliant artwork; proof-reader **James Morrice**; printer **Paul Orsborn** of Sarum Graphics; treasurer **Diana Arthur**; advertising manager **David Neale**; and **David Archard** who designs the ads.

Thanks too, of course, to our advertisers, without whom the magazine couldn't be viable at all, and we wouldn't be able to continue delivering it free of charge to 830 homes. Our apologies to those on the waiting list, but more and more people are asking to take space.

Finally, our very grateful thanks to our 43 wonderful deliverers, and of course to everyone in our four villages for reading *The Bridge*, liking it, and contributing articles to it.



Ian Gilchrist, Editor
Tel: 07785 951063

Email: thebridgeeditor@gmail.com

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.

PARISH CONTACTS

Please note: local telephone numbers have the prefix 01489

RECTOR: Rev'd Tony Forrest,

The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Meonstoke, SO32 3NF
rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com 877422

Note: The Rector's rest day is usually Monday

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS: Reader: Cathy Mathews 877804

Reader emeritus: Pauline Quarendon 877392

ASSISTANT CLERGY: Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert 878289

DROXFORD

Churchwarden: Colin Matthissen 877867

Secretary: Position vacant.

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

Richard Baxter 877227

Organist: John Martin 877385

Sacristan: Laura Jerosch 01329 231956

Verger: James Matthissen 877867

3rd Sunday Services: Ros Collins 877782

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwarden: Angela Peagram. 878725

Secretary: (via Churchwarden)

Treasurer: Position vacant.

Gift Aid Secretary: Iain Gammell. 878162

Organists:

(Meonstoke): Position vacant.

(Corhampton): John Martin (am) 877385

Sacristan: Karen Ellis 878619

PRESHAW

Coordinator: Position vacant.

EXTON

Churchwarden & Secretary:

Richard Pepys 878035

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

David Frere-Cook 877838

Organist & Sacristan: Positions vacant.

Verger: Bob Miles

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic (Bishop's Waltham): Fr Bruce Barnes 890947

For information about Baptisms and Funerals, please contact the Rector.

For information about weddings, please contact Sue Wells 01329 834130 sjwells@meonwood.co.uk

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ON REFLECTION



Let's hear those carols!

I am certain that almost everyone reading this knows, and has perhaps already sung, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

It is often assumed, though, that the twelve days in the song are the ones leading to the 25th December, but in fact this period is the latter part of Advent, rather than Christmas.

However, Christians in the west usually keep Christmas as the season from Christmas Day to January 6th (the Epiphany). The church calendar today has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full 40 days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) on 2nd February.

Next to the yearly celebration of Holy Week and Easter, the church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

But more than just Jesus' birthday, the Christmas season is a time for remembering and revelling in the nativity of Christ, the revelation of Christ to the shepherds (ordinary people, rather than the political or Jewish elite), the revelation of Christ to the magi (from the gentile wider world), Christ's baptism by John in the



Jordan, and Christ changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. In all these saving events, we know that "the Word is made flesh and dwells among us."

Certain significant saints' days follow Christmas Day itself, but it is quite a challenge to celebrate them in the way they deserve in the 'busy-ness' of Christmas:

- St Stephen, on Boxing Day, and mentioned in 'Good King Wenceslas,' who first paid with his life for following the Lord in human flesh;
- St John (27th), apostle and evangelist, who was believed to have lived to a great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh;
- The Holy Innocents (28th), who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the

implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest.

How can we keep Christmas not just as a day, but as a season?

How about keeping the tree up (and watered!) and shining bright until the Baptism of the Lord (9th January in 2022) or even to Candlemas?

Consider singing carols on more occasions and reading the bible readings for each day of the Christmas season.

Or following the example of St Francis of Assisi, set up a crib, and a lovely thing can be to light a candle (safely) next to it – or several all around it.

When you light the candles, say the prayer of the angels:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! Amen.

Or:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Amen.

A joyous and peace-filled Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022 to you all.

Rev'd Tony Forrest
rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com

From the Registers

Wedding

Friday 24th September, St Andrew's Church, Lydia Sarah Kempster and Lance Farrell Madgwick.

Funeral

Friday 30th July, Droxford Church, Capt Jeremy Dreyer RN LVO, aged 86.

Baptism

Saturday 21st August, Droxford Church, Maisie Jean Hoff.

STEVE SUCH

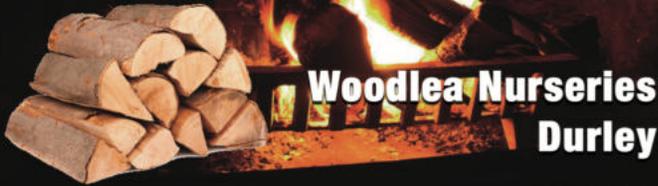
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Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council asks...

Who's up for another Jubilee street party?

Next year, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, Her Majesty The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of continuous service to the country.

It was back in June 2012 that a childrens' tea party was organised down the length of Meonstoke High Street in honour of her Diamond Jubilee, and various other events were held across our communities.

Would we like today's children to have a similar event to remember?

There is an 'oven ready' masterplan from last time lying on a bookshelf just waiting for an energetic and driven individual to take up the challenge and lead the way. The Meon Hall's booking

Let us know what you think

diary has been blocked out in anticipation.

We've already had a few offers of help, but without a willing volunteer to lead the charge our children may end up watching other peoples' events on television instead.



Villagers celebrate the 2012 Jubilee

If you'd like to be responsible for generating wonderful memories that will be cherished for generations, then please drop our Clerk an e-mail today on clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk

CCTV or not CCTV? That is the question!

After a couple of recent incidents around the Meon Hall there was a flurry of activity on the village WhatsApp group from strong advocates of CCTV as an effective deterrent.

The Parish Council discussed this again at its November meeting, having sought the experience of other Parishes and cost estimates of a possible scheme.

To give reasonable coverage would require a minimum of 4-6 cameras, with their associated power supplies. Monitoring could be conducted remotely using the Hall's broadband connectivity.

However, the scheme would have to be operated in accordance with the Home Office's mandatory Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, with its 12 guiding principles, and the Information Commissioner's Office Data Protection Code of Practice for such local authority installations under the control of a registered Data Controller.

Experience from Wickham and



Whiteley is that CCTV has never yet delivered 'anything useful when there is an incident... spiders across the cameras are a key issue.'

Then there is the cost. Although the annual running costs would be relatively modest, our working estimate for installation, including the necessary groundworks, is in the region of £20k.

There also appears to be a tension between the advocates of such a scheme and those who would perceive its presence as evidence of the increasing urbanisation of the village

community – our own reflection of the Culture Wars?

Members noted that, having explicitly invited those interested to make their views known at the meeting through the WhatsApp group, nobody had attended specifically to discuss CCTV.

On balance, the PC voted not to commit to a scheme at this point but to revisit the issue in six months' time, informed by any further incidents in the meantime and the feedback of the community.

Jerry Pett, Parish Council Chairman

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Ambitious plans for Droxford Church

Continuing the ambitious restoration programme that began seven or eight years ago, and the installation of Wilfrid's Cafe in the new annexe, members of *Friends Of Droxford Church* are preparing a new five-year strategy.

Our long-term aim is to put the church right at the centre of Droxford life by developing it as a modern community hub, in addition to maintaining it as a place of worship.

The background to this initiative is increasing pressure from the Church of England for churches to 'pay their way.'

Where a church is deemed 'at risk' due to factors such as dwindling attendance or the high costs of maintenance, it faces the possibility of being closed and sold off for possible commercial use, or for housing.

Heritage

But before that happens, a careful local consultation should take place as to how resources are spent, the problems a church is facing, and its contribution to its local community and heritage.

It is in the last respect that we can help to ensure that the churches in our communities have a sustainable future.

Over the next five years we are planning to develop the church hub in

'We want it to become the centre of village life'

Droxford by providing the facilities necessary for the provision of a wider variety of activities and events.

However, members of FODC want to ensure that the evolution of the church and its role in the community are complementary to the facilities in the village, particularly the village hall.

We are first reaching out to those key stakeholders who currently manage these facilities and those who already provide community services, to gather their input into our strategic plan.

In order to achieve this mammoth task, it will require 'hands on deck' from all the stakeholders and interested



parties.

An all-day event is planned for Saturday 8th January where stakeholders will be invited to share their ideas and passions, and contribute to the five-year Strategic Plan.

Additionally, a questionnaire will be distributed to all Droxford residents to seek their views.

Later, on Saturday 5th March, we will invite all residents and interested parties to join a public consultation meeting.

A draft of the plan will be ready for the meeting, where there will be an opportunity for a final review.

Following that meeting, the sails will be set!

For more information, please see www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk

Tony Hoile, Chair FODC

WELCOME BACK!

It's good to see the welcome return of the Droxford Post Office.

It is now back providing all the usual counter services, and many different items in its well-stocked shop, as well as the daily papers and magazines, for those who have them.

Welcome back, Peter and Paul, we've missed you!

Jackie Hibbert

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Droxford 200 Club

The 200 Club winners for September and October are Jill Austin and Chris Hawkesford.

Films

We are sorry we can't at the moment reveal the titles of the films that will be

shown during December and January at Droxford Village Hall.

Moviola was not, at the time *The Bridge* went to press, able to tell us. So please keep an eye on the notice boards for posters.

Jackie Hibbert

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Beth runs 50 miles in one day.. and raises £1,800

In just 14 hours and in torrential rain, 23-year-old Beth Arthur from Exton ran a 50-mile marathon across the Brecon Beacons, and raised in the process an astonishing £1,800 for charity.

Here she tells her story:

I was due to fly to Australia in March last year, but two weeks before the flight was due to leave, we went into lockdown. At the time I was working at the West Meon Hut service station in the kitchen from 5am to 1pm every day to earn money for my travels. This meant that I had time to kill in the afternoon, and not a lot to do.

So having never run before, I started gentle runs along the railway track, which led to slightly more energetic runs up the Beacon and Winchester Hills.

After a few months my boyfriend Mikey bet me that I couldn't run a half marathon. I proved him wrong, and a

month later he bet the same thing, but with a full marathon. Never one to turn down a challenge, I ran 26 miles up and down the railway track.

Recently my godfather was telling me about a fantastic charity that he is a Trustee of called Educaid which raises funds to build schools and train teachers in Sierra Leone. I thought I could help the charity by raising funds myself, and decided to run an 'ultra-marathon' of 50 miles across the Brecon Beacons.

On Saturday 2nd October, the wettest day of the year to date, and in 60mph winds and temperatures of minus 1, I set off at 6.30am. After crossing three mountains with a total elevation gain of 2,370 and with lots of rocky climbs, I completed the 50 miles, soaking wet and exhausted, at 8.30 that evening.

I couldn't have done it without the



huge support from Mikey and my amazing parents who surprised me by travelling to Wales unbeknownst to me, and meeting me at the top of Pen Y Fan! I'm so pleased to say that I have raised £1,800 for Educaid.

This was a huge challenge for me personally as I don't really consider myself a 'runner,' and it's certainly not the Marathon De Sables that my dad managed a few years ago, but maybe sometime in the future I can tick that off too!

If anyone would like to donate further funds so I can reach £2,000, please go to my Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/2945a3f5>

Beth Arthur

Winter is coming: Is your heating oil system up to the job?



With winter near, the Environment Agency, Portsmouth Water and OFTEC are again encouraging people in parts of Hampshire and West Sussex to check and replace failing domestic heating oil tanks by offering a FREE inspection and 50% grant towards a replacement oil tank.

Simon Deacon, Portsmouth Water Catchment and Environment Manager, is part of the scheme.

"If your domestic heating oil tank is more than 20 years old, in poor

condition, single skinned, or with deteriorating pipework, then it's more likely to leak into the ground or local rivers and streams," he said.

"That leak can cost you more than £20k to clean up, and if it contaminates local drinking water, that can quickly escalate to six figures.

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of the free inspections, 30 of whom have gone on to receive the replacement works."

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SPORTING SUCCESS AT DROXFORD SCHOOL



Droxford's school children have been excelling themselves in sports events, winning several competitions across Hampshire.

■ Their Year 5/6 girls football team beat a tough Fair Oak side on penalties to win the South Eastleigh and Winchester Girls Football tournament. This is something Droxford Junior School has never achieved before.

■ A team of Year 3/4 girls and boys competed against four different schools in the Dodgeball Festival hosted by Wildern Secondary School, finishing unbeaten in first place.

■ Year 4/5/6 girls and boys also participated in the South Eastleigh and Winchester Cross Country Event, winning three firsts and several runners-up prizes. From this event five children have qualified to compete in the County event, which will be held in March.

A total of 59 children of all ages took part. The school's PE and Sports Coach **Duncan Banham** told *The Bridge*: "After a long time with cancelled and postponed events it has been fantastic to have sports competitions and festivals restarted, and we are so proud of the children's achievements.

"They are a recognition of the hard work of the children, staff and school community, and I would like to say a personal thank you to everyone for their contributions, as these opportunities wouldn't be the same without everyone's involvement.

"We always aim to get as many children taking part in a school sport, and the number of children that we get involved is something that we are very proud of. The skills which are embedded during sports lessons and



Four of the girls who made up the winning Cross Country team

clubs are then tested in a more competitive environment.

"As the coach at Droxford Junior I will ensure we continue to use PE and school sport as a driving force to develop children's competence,

confidence and happiness.

"We have got many more events planned across the remainder of the academic year, so I hope to be sharing more good news soon."



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New Pilates classes

A new Pilates class is starting up in January at Droxford Village Hall.

Instructor Charlotte Graetz, who has been running sessions in Soberton Heath, Swanmore, Hamble and Denmead for four years, is to hold hour-long classes every Friday at 9.15am starting on the 14th to be followed by coffee and cake at the Church. (First week's coffee is on Charlotte).

She says: "Pilates focuses on the large abdominal muscles to provide stability. This allows the smaller mobility muscles to do their job with more ease, which helps with posture and flexibility, promotes self-esteem, and provides a sense of wellbeing.

"It's a fantastic way to exercise, and it's changed my life. Before I took it up ten years ago at the age of 39 I was a nurse, always on my feet, and I often suffered with achy joints. Pilates gave me an improved posture and more strength in my core and back, which helped me enormously.

"And I love the concentration you need to apply the exercises correctly, leaving you at one with your mind and body.



Charlotte Graetz

"Sessions are suitable for all levels of fitness and with my background in nursing for over 25 years I think I have a sympathetic understanding and ability to modify the exercises depending on need."

Sessions are £7.50 each, and the equipment you need other than a mat is minimal. For more information about the new classes, contact Charlotte on 07776 221077 or: Charlottegraetz@yahoo.com



Hugh Lumby gets down to work in the churchyard

Thank you, clearer-upers

A warm sunny day greeted the annual churchyard clear-up at St Andrew's Green as we lopped, strimmed, weeded and edged, to complement the impressive work by the regular team of mowers.

The very grateful thanks of the PCC and Churchwarden go to all those who took part in whatever way, including those who took to the tip all the accumulated debris. It was an amazing achievement.

Angela Peagram

Meonstoke School seeks volunteers

Following the relaxing of Covid regulations, Meonstoke School is keen to invite members of the local community to volunteer to work with our children.

There are a number of ways you might be able to help. You could spend an hour or so listening to the children reading, or helping with their activities, supporting them with their learning in our wonderful outdoor facilities, assisting at lunchtimes, or supporting Admin.

The school has long held strong bonds with the local community, and volunteering will guarantee you many smiles, waves and "hellos" from our pupils.

If you are concerned about Covid we have procedures in place to protect both our volunteers and children from risk, and we will review the viability of having volunteers in school, should the local context change.



Helping the children with their gardening project

If you are interested in knowing more, please apply to the school on 01489 877568 for an application pack. Depending upon the kind of volunteering work that you do, it may be that a DBS check is required, in which case we will undertake this on your behalf.

**Angharad Heller
On behalf of the Governors**

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A week's hard labour for poaching a rabbit!



Justice was first dispensed from the Old Courthouse in Police Station Lane in 1858, and meted out by three of the village elders: the Squire, the Lord of the Manor, and the local priest... and they were not exactly soft on some of the miscreants hauled up before them.

The records of the Petty Sessions from those days, as revealed by **Anne Pearson** at a talk to the Droxford Historical Society, show that a man who stole watercress at Warnford was sent to prison for six weeks.

Another who poached a single rabbit received seven days hard labour.

If you were fined, you were expected to pay up immediately or face a week in prison.

In fact, the people of Droxford and surrounding areas must have been an particularly unruly lot, considering the police station next door required no less than 12 officers to deal with them.

Anne was a magistrate at the courthouse from 1977 to 1988, before becoming part of the South Hampshire Bench at Fareham, retiring in 2010.

Murder

She said that by the time she joined the Droxford court the cases had become much more serious, and were now involving child abuse and even murder.

She recalled some odd moments during her time on the Bench. "I was sitting in on a case when this young defendant suddenly leaps from the dock, springs right across the room and sprints out through the door. He was not found for six days.

"Another man turned up wearing a full native Indian head-dress of feathers. He must have been a bit disconcerted to find the magistrates making absolutely no comment, and treating him as they would a normally-dressed person.

Justice was hard in Droxford 163 years ago

"Some members of the Bench could be a bit strange too. One of the female magistrates regularly used to fall asleep after lunch in the middle of a case, and had to be woken up."

In 1988 the courthouse was closed due to local government changes, and for a time the court room became a public gym.

In 2015, the building, along with the adjacent police station, was bought by **Jo and Steve Willoughby**, who were moving from Surrey with sons **Alex and Oliver**. They have carried out extensive renovations, while retaining as many of

the original features as possible.

The building now comprises ten luxury family rooms. The courtroom itself, with the original wood panelling still intact, has been turned into a stylish living room; the police sergeant's office is now a study; one of the three prison cells has been converted into a wine store, but still with its original clanking iron door and key; and the prisoners' exercise area is now a mosaic-tiled jacuzzi-style spa.

Jo told *The Bridge*: "We knew we were taking on an unusual project, because not everyone wants a home with three prison cells, but we saw the potential in what it could become when turned into a family home.

"But we also wanted to be sympathetic in the renovation and retain all the original features which represent its character and history."



Left, one of the three original cell doors, which now leads to a wine store.

Below, the prisoners' exercise area has been transformed into a beautiful jacuzzi spa.



When Christmas was banned for 14 years

Christmas seems to have had somewhat of a chequered history.

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the 3rd Century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring Equinox, 25th March, popularising the belief that he was born nine months later on 25th December.

In about 400 AD the Archbishop of Constantinople encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Feasting, particularly by cooking a boar, was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas, an activity condemned by writers of the time who said that true significance of Christmas was being lost because of 'partying, drunkenness and promiscuity.'

By the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a further rejection of the many celebrations that attended Christmas.

In fact, after the execution of Charles I in 1649, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years.

Too much partying, drunkenness and promiscuity, they said

By the 1920s it was felt the significance of Christmas was still declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it.

His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance.

Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

And Santa Claus? Well, the name is a shortening of Saint Nicholas, who was



a 4th Century Christian bishop in what is now Turkey.

He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor, which is how, in Europe, Santa became the figure associated with the bringing of gifts.

However, in some countries, such as Latin America and Eastern Europe, the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents, and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

Whatever your beliefs, have a joyous Christmas, but maybe go easy a bit on the partying, drunkenness and promiscuity... otherwise someone may try to ban it again!

Edited from christianity.org.uk/the-history-of-christmas

...and don't go sliding about either, or you could be in trouble!

Some particular legal rules apply to activities on Christmas Day.

No writ, or warrant to enforce a judgment or order, is allowed. So you do not have to hide from a court officer wanting to evict you or take your goods.

There is no law to say you cannot work on the big day. The only law that protects shop workers is the Christmas Day (Trading) Act 2004, which prevents trading by large shops, which in England and Wales are defined as being over 280 square metres in size.

If you get bored on Christmas Day, you cannot go outside and shoot pheasants or any other game. The Game Act 1831 makes it illegal.

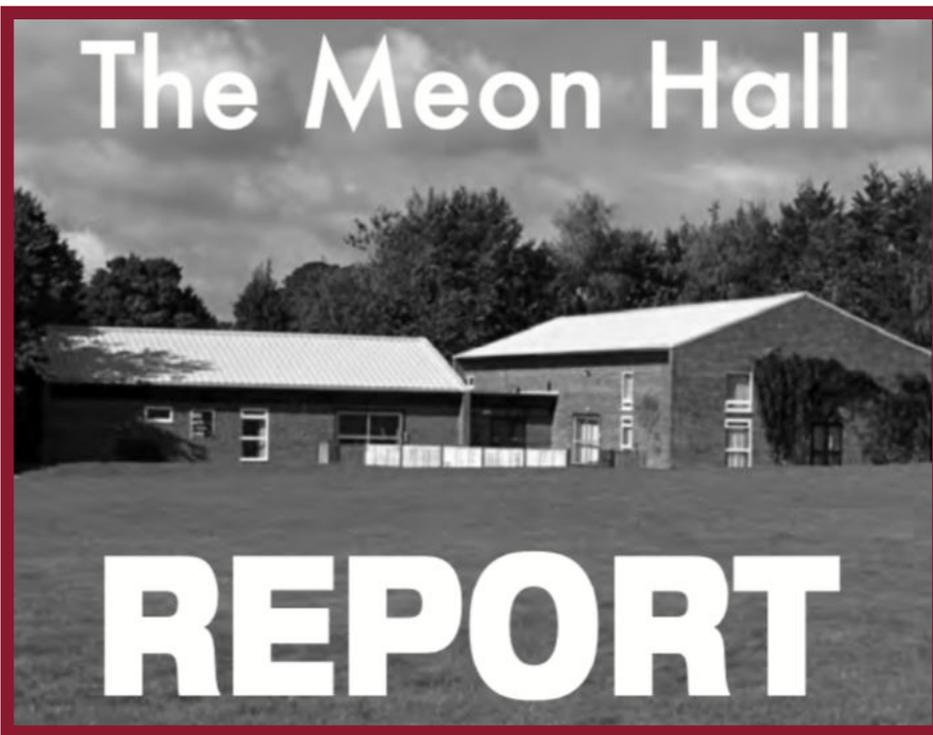
It is against the law to sell Christmas crackers to anyone under 12, because of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015.

Also, strangely, it is against the law to make or use a slide from snow or ice in the metropolitan area, under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839.

These, of course, are light-hearted comments and if in doubt about what you can and can't do you should always take proper advice.



David Pickup, Solicitor



200 Club

Winners of the 2021 monthly prize draws were: *October: Freddie Bartlett*
November: Jenny Creese.

The winners of the £300, £150, and £100 prizes for 2021 were drawn at the Beetle Drive held on Saturday 27 November at the Meon Hall. Details of prize winners will be published in the Meonstoke Stores and PO.

Looking ahead to next year's 200 Club...

Monthly £25 Prize draws will be made from February at the beginning of each month. During the year there will be a £50 Midsummer Prize, and the special draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place in November 2022. The 200 Club raises money to help with making improvements and buying new equipment for the Meon Hall.

Meon Hall's Bookings Secretary

The Meon Hall trustees are very grateful to **Hannah Carpenter** for having been the Bookings Secretary for the past 3 years – it was not easy with all the Lockdown changes and disruption.

Hannah has stood down, and we would like to appoint her successor as Bookings Secretary. This is an opportunity for someone with an interest in village matters, energy, and

suitable experience to help with managing a successful and important community facility.

The Meon Hall is a registered charity. The bookings process is computer-based and The Meon Hall uses electronic banking, so home access to broadband is essential.

Personal control of the bookings process helps hirers to achieve their aims, and hirings generate the funds needed to keep the Meon Hall running successfully.

Being the Bookings Secretary of our village hall takes perhaps 2 to 3 hours a week, plus attendance at committee meetings every two months to review progress with other Trustees.

If you are interested in being the Bookings Secretary, and would like to know more about the role, please contact James Morrice at jamesmorrice99@gmail.com, or by phone message on 01489 877916.

Car Park

Thank you to **Michelle Kempster** for her work around the car park area, keeping the autumn leaf fall from the Meon Hall's 63 trees under control!

Recycling

Please recycle unwanted clothes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for the South

East Area Ambulance service, First Responders. Please note the signs on the bin saying what can be recycled (no duvets or pillows please!).

Our aim has been to raise at least £500 from our recycling in 2021 to help fund this important local service.

Planning a family party?

Order all those extra tables, chairs, china, champagne flutes, wine glasses and cutlery for your festive entertaining from the Meon Hall.

When planning ahead, contact the Meon Hall Bookings Secretary on meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk but if it is short notice and urgent, please ring James Morrice on 01489 877916.

James Morrice




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Event

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Service on Sunday 5th December
at 10.30am or drop them into any
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from 7th November
until 12th December.



Christmas Tree to light up again on The Green

After the fantastic success of last year, when we raised over £1,000 for The Roberts Centre in Portsmouth, there will be another Christmas Tree on St Andrew's Green this year.

Wooden discs will once again be available from our amazing Village Shop for a small (or large!) donation, and these can be decorated in any way you see fit.

The tree will be on the Green from Saturday 4 December for you to hang

your creations. A huge thanks to Peter Renwick for making the decorations.

And on Saturday 11th December please join us for carols around the tree by candlelight – all under the expert guidance of Peter Mosse.

There will be plenty of space so please don't feel worried about being too close to others. Most importantly, every single penny raised will go to charity.

Becky Evans



Last year's carol singing around the tree

Big turnout for annual Heavy Horse event



The winning ploughing team of Percheron geldings, Pierrepont and Gringo (Photo: Karen E. Piercy)

This year's Heavy Horse ploughing championship at Bushy Down Farm attracted 1,500 spectators and 14 horse teams from across the country.

Competition was closely fought between the Kerswell brothers from Buckfastleigh in Devon, with Martin taking the honours with his young team of Percheron geldings, and David and his Shires coming second.

The local hunt gave a display in the ring. There was also a fun family dog show, while the children were entertained with a traditional Punch and Judy Show and miniature fairground rides.

The Society will be donating £500 to the Air Ambulance, a very worthy charity that the Horn family, who kindly lent their land for the event, support.

Rowena McDermott
Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association



Droxford and District Community Care Group

DDCCG is a local community group, linked to the Good Neighbours Network, that provides transport to hospitals, doctors, dentists and other health specialists.

If you are unable to access your medical appointment, we have a team of volunteer drivers who are willing to help.

To access this service please phone one of our Transport Coordinators, who will do their best to find you a driver: Arthur Brown 07865 517484 (Meonstoke), or Rosie Hoile 07977 096586 (Droxford).

For further information about the group, please contact the Chair Za Rowe on 01489 877732.

Should you require urgent medical treatment for a minor injury or illness that is not life-threatening, the **Urgent Treatment Centre at Petersfield**

is available between 8am and 8pm, every day and all year round.

Please see its advertisement on Page 27.



A CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

*Come and Enjoy a medley of
music, readings, poems and
sketches in a well-ventilated
Meon Hall*

3.30-4.30 Sunday 5th December

Refreshments will be available – Wrap up warmly

*Free Entry, but cash donations welcome
Call 01489 877718 for more info*

Froxfield Choir at Privett

This year our much-loved Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is back once more and will take place on Sunday 19 December at 6.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Privett. We hope to see as many of you there as possible and remember to wrap up warm!

If you can't wait until then to hear a few carols, we will also be singing at the Gilbert White Museum in Selborne on Saturday 4 December at 12 noon. It is a very popular event so do ensure you arrive in plenty of time as space is limited.

A number of Meonstoke residents belong to the Choir, and we're always looking for new members, so if you're interested in giving choral singing a go in the New Year, either for the first time or as a returner, please contact Lesley Howe at lkhowe58@gmail.com who can provide you with more details. And we have BIG plans for 2022 – our 50th Anniversary!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @Froxfield Choir and on our website www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk

'Pop In'

at St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

It has been wonderful to open the church doors again for 'Pop In' these last few months, seeing so many new faces and old alike and meeting some of their four-legged friends.

In September Mrs Jean Curtis, who used to live in the area, came and celebrated her 93rd birthday with us and her two daughters - a lovely occasion to be able to share.

Everyone in the community is welcome. We provide all kind of beverages, including decaf, cake and biscuits, and an opportunity to chat, catch up with those you haven't seen for a while or make new friends.

The library situated at the back of the church is available for you to browse and borrow books at any time. There is a good selection of fiction and non-fiction, we just ask you to remember to bring the book back!

The church is open most days but it would be lovely to see you at 'Pop In'. So if you haven't been before or not sure what goes on, just 'Pop In', whether you are going to the shop, walking the dog or just out for some fresh air, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH
BETWEEN 10 - NOON.

*December 1st & 15th mince pie tasting!

Linda Forrest 01489 877422

CAROLS

IN THE BARN

Very sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic, we shall again be unable to have our annual Carols in the Barn.

Richard, Caroline and their families wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Caroline & Ricky

Thank You

Bob Miles wishes to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and gifts on his 90th birthday.

LIFE BEHIND BARS IN WINCHESTER JAIL



A grim picture of life behind the forbidding Victorian walls of Winchester Prison and Young Offenders Institute was revealed at a recent meeting of the Droxford and District branch of the Royal British Legion.

Commodore Angus Somerville RN, Rtd, who chairs the prison's Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) revealed that:

- *Because of overcrowding, over half the cells designed for one person are shared, with only a curtain hung up to screen the toilet.*
- *Almost every day sees attacks by prisoners on other prisoners and sometimes on staff, with even more incidents of self-harm by the men.*
- *During the pandemic, two thirds of the prisoners were locked in their cells for 23 hours each day, although some were Covid-isolating.*

The prison, he said, houses 500 males aged from 18 to 90, who include those on remand awaiting sentence, men on indeterminate tariffs, and sex offenders.

Drugs gangs

More than half of the prisoners have been diagnosed as mentally ill or clinically depressed.

The most difficult men to control, he said, are the 100 or so under-25s, many of whom have been involved in county lines drugs gangs.

"They know all about violence, and so are responsible for most of the assaults on prisoners and staff," he said.

"The sex offenders are in a separate unit. When they go out for exercise they sometimes get verbally abused from the windows of the other prisoners.

"Illicit contraband such as drugs and mobile phones is also a constant issue, despite new equipment that is successfully intercepting more items.

It's no holiday camp, says prison monitor

So it's far from being a holiday camp, whatever the newspapers may say."

He said the average length of stay was just 12 weeks which, coupled with the prison's poor design, made education and rehabilitation extremely challenging, with 60% reoffending within a year.

"In fact, if you asked me to design a prison which would be the most difficult in which to rehabilitate and return people to society as better individuals, Winchester is the design I'd come up with."

Volatile

He added: "I have to say, though, that the staff do a pretty amazing job. Every day they are at physical risk. It's precarious and volatile, because they just don't know if a situation that suddenly kicks off will turn into something bigger.

"But that's the world they live in, and you have to take your hat off to them, especially when they could earn more money in a supermarket stacking shelves."

The IMB comprises a team of volunteers from a variety of professional occupations who make frequent visits to the jail to check that prisoners are being treated "humanely, fairly and decently." They then send a weekly report to the Governor, and an annual one to the Prisons Minister, commenting on how the establishment

is being run.

Mr Somerville told the audience in Droxford Village Hall:

"Our work is always fascinating, occasionally horrifying, yet for the most part rewarding. But it isn't for the faint hearted, and you have to be resilient to do it.

"We have, though, had some major achievements.

"For instance, for four years in succession we stated in our annual report that in our view the segregation unit was inhumane, degrading and not fit for purpose.

"Now, at last, construction of a new building has begun, and the other main wings are being refurbished as well.

"It's successes like these that make the job worthwhile."

The IMB is currently looking for new members. If you are interested visit www.imb.org.uk to find out more.



The Valley Preschool

The popular Valley Pre-school Nativity Performance will be taking place on Wednesday 15th December at The Meon Hall starting at 2pm.



Two years on we're still here - and thriving!

We are nearing our second birthday of the Café! it's hard to believe we have been around that long!

Yes, on January 6th, Wilfrid's Cafe will be two years old.

Through all the ups and downs, the closures and the Covid restrictions, we have come through and are continuing to enjoy serving the local community - and further afield - who come along to taste our specially brewed coffee or tea and, of course, our legendary cakes, all made by our amazing cake bakers.

Our grateful thanks to them for their continued support and also to our brilliant group of volunteers who regularly turn up to give their time to

And it's all thanks to you our lovely customers, our amazing cake bakers, and our wonderful team of volunteers

the Cafe. Rumour has it that they thoroughly enjoy themselves!

We could not have built the Cafe to where it is today without that unflinching support - thank you all so much!

Margaret Wallace



SOUP KITCHEN

We have recently started our Soup Saturdays. A bowl of homemade soup and warm roll, served 12 to 2, while soup stocks last. Come along and have a light lunch with us - you're sure of a warm welcome and a tasty bowl of soup!



Coffee Morning raised £765

In September, we held our Macmillan Coffee Morning and between money raised on the day and the Macmillan fundraising page we raised a magnificent £765.

That is the most amazing community effort. A big thank you to our Wilfrid's cake bakers and those from the village who made such a brilliant range of cakes. We sold every slice!



This splendid sponge cake was made for the Macmillan Coffee Morning by Beverley Bryant

Treasure Trail

Each Saturday in December we have our Christmas Treasure Trail. This follows on from our successful Summer Treasure Trail, where local children enjoyed a Trail round our beautiful local area. Pick up your Trail information from the Cafe. Eddie, the mischievous elf, has gone into hiding and Santa needs to find him.



IN THE GARDEN

December & January



How climate change is starting to affect our lawns

Climate change has been getting particular attention in recent weeks and there is some evidence that even in our own gardens we have seen some small changes in recent years. For example, grass now continues to grow well into the winter months indicating milder winter temperatures.

Although this summer was not particularly hot or dry, things seem set to move in that direction in the coming years. Most gardens in the Meon Valley are on chalk, therefore free-draining, and could face problems in hot, dry summers.

We can't change the weather so we have to adapt.

■ Increased irrigation might be an answer, but hosepipe bans would inhibit that option.

■ Another option would be to rethink what plants we grow and the following will tolerate hot and dry conditions: Lavender, rosemary, cistus, broom (cytusus and genista), anthemis, echinops, sedum, eryngium, fritillaries, perennial geranium and winter flowering heather (Erica), to name but a few.

■ Grass can survive drought, but the micro-organisms that sustain healthy grass growth cannot. People with very large lawns might think about reducing their size.

Vegetables If you have not already done so you can still sow broad beans suitable for autumn sowing. Prepare the site for next year's runner beans by digging a trench and incorporating some well-rotted manure and shredded paper before replacing the soil. This will retain moisture in the soil and hopefully reduce the need for watering when the crop is developing. Vegetable growers will always need to water their crops but proper soil preparation in winter can reduce the amount of watering necessary. In January, first indoor sowings of early cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce such as Little Gem can be made.

Fruit Cut back newly planted bushes and canes of soft fruit such as raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and red currants. Carry out winter pruning of established apple and pear trees and soft fruit bushes, currants and gooseberries. Do not cut back autumn-fruiting raspberries until February.

Herbaceous border Now is the time when you can cut down the old flowered stems of plants such as Michaelmas daisy, phlox, perennial helianthus and golden rod, and where these are in large clumps they can be lifted, divided and replanted.

Trees and Shrubs Cut back very tall buddleias, roses and lavatera by about a half or more. This avoids damage from

wind rock over the winter months. Final pruning should be delayed until spring. More tender perennials such as dahlias are increasingly being left in the ground to overwinter; but as a precaution against an unexpectedly severe winter it might be advisable to provide some protection by applying a thick mulch of leaves, well-rotted manure or coarse compost.

In the greenhouse Take care of overwintering plants, keep them fairly dry, clear up all fallen leaves and dead flowers, and keep a constant watch out for pests and diseases, particularly fungal rot and mildew. Delay sowing tomato and cucumber seeds until mid to late February. Experience has shown that the delay in fruiting is negligible compared with seeds sown traditionally in early January. Peppers and chillies need to be sown in January as they have a relatively long growing season.

John Owen

The autumn leaves have gone, and it's time to shiver

Each season brings its own celebrations and its own weather complications, and we all have a favourite season of course.

Only a month ago the leaves had taken on their autumn colours and berries remained in hedgerows and on trees for the birds to make use of, a reminder that we should provide seeds for the birds over winter. Whilst we humans can keep ourselves warm and comfortable in our homes, the birds rely on us for their food and comfort.

There were days when garden jobs were possible and the birds sang happily without worrying about the approaching winter months. But of course, it wasn't to last. November began wet and windy, even to the extent of bringing down the electricity supply at one point, leaving many of us without lighting or heating for several hours.

A short seasonal verse, then, to match the time of year:

*On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;
The gale, it plies the saplings double,
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.*

From AE Houseman's 'A Shropshire Lad'

Jackie Hibbert

Trust helps provide activity trips for Droxford children



Droxford School can now take pupils on three residential trips to Calshott Activities Centre, thanks to a recent award by the William Collins Trust.

The 300-year-old Trust has also provided help to Droxford parents experiencing financial difficulties to buy uniforms, a laptop for College use, and funding towards College transport.

The Trust meets to decide its next awards on March 4th 2022.

Please apply if you, or anyone you know, would benefit. Application forms can be found at the William Collins Trust link at www.bridgechurches.org.uk, or on the Meonstoke or Droxford School websites.

Alternatively please contact any of the Trustees:

Rev'd Tony Forrest 01489 877422
Sian Holiday 07966 487762
Vicky Hill 07801 372860

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

"We couldn't have managed without you"

The following was written to the William Collins Trust by a grateful parent who benefitted from a recent grant:

Covid hit us hard, because suddenly we found ourselves unable to work.

With a house, kids and the usual things to deal with financially, and also that my daughter was going to be home and needing 'live lessons' we wondered how this was manageable without an available device.

Then, in a group chat, someone mentioned the William Collins Trust and said they could help if devices were needed.

A little embarrassed at having to ask, my pride was not keen but I

gave it a shot with a simple email very briefly explaining my situation, but not expecting to be 'qualified' at all.

Well, within less than 48 hours a cheque arrived for a laptop, which meant my daughter could continue her education from home.

No personal questions, no judgement, and total discretion. I could not have been more humbled!

We are so grateful to William Collins for helping us when things got tough for a while!

**Saturday 15th January
10am
at Wilfrid's Café**

Please come along with your ideas and offers of help to run next year's Droxford Country Fair.

This will be part of Droxford's weekend of events celebrating the Platinum Jubilee.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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It's a very equestrian affair as Lydia and Lance marry in style



Meonstoke-born Lydia Kempster arrives for her wedding in St Andrew's Church in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage, after having had to postpone marriage twice in the past year because of Covid.

Lydia and her husband, Lance Madgwick, are both professionally involved in the world of horses, having met while trail hunting in 2014. Lydia is an equestrian groom, while Lance is a ground worker.

A Reception was held at The Meon Hall. They are now living in Warnford.



How scam aware are you?

90% of UK adults use the internet, so it means millions of us are at risk from email and phone scams every day. In fact, it's estimated that over £650m is lost annually by victims of the most common frauds.

Presenting a talk organised by Droxford Neighbourhood Watch, Chris Holt of Hampshire Cyber Aware said there is still much we can all do to minimise the chances of being caught. For example:

- ◆ Unusual or unexpected emails should be regarded with suspicion. If one contains an offer that seems 'too good to be true,' then it probably is, and could be likely to be from someone trying to steal our money.
- ◆ Or you may be may threatened with an imminent loss of service if you don't immediately follow the caller's instructions to rectify what they claim is a technical fault on your computer.
- ◆ Other methods include the scammers posing on the phone as the police or Government officials or bank staff, to get you to reveal your

password or other information.

In the latter case, if you tell the caller you are suspicious, they may ask you to put the phone down and call the bank back - on its correct number.

But when the "bank" answers, it will be by another of the scammer's team who, unknown to you, has kept the line open, so you will still be talking to them.

If you can, call your bank from a different phone. Or where that's not possible wait for at least 10 minutes before you make another call.

Chris offered further advice to protect ourselves from becoming victims:

- Don't use the same password for everything.
- Never give away passwords, pin numbers, or private financial



information.

- Back up your computer, phones and tablets.
- Keep devices at the latest software levels.

He added: "When paying for something, don't transfer money to anyone you do not know, and use a credit card - or PayPal if feasible - as these offer a higher protection against fraud.

"And if you have been subject to fraud, the banks have recently set up an action help line: dial 159."

Colin Richardson
Chair, Droxford Neighbourhood Watch

Urgent Treatment Centre



The Petersfield Minor Injuries Unit recently changed to an **Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC)** to meet the new national standards. This means the service is able to treat a wider range of conditions and is open between 8am and 8pm every day and all year round

The UTC is an alternative to the Emergency Department for both children and adults. It provides treatment for minor injuries and illnesses that are urgent, but not life threatening.

We can help with problems such as:

- Sprains and strains
- Suspected broken limbs
- Minor head injuries
- Minor scalds and burns
- Skin infections and rashes
- Eye problems
- Feverish illness in adults and children

- Abdominal pain
- Emergency contraception

Accessing the service:

Patients are encouraged to call 111 first before arriving at the UTC as they will be able to take note of your symptoms and advise you on the best service to help you. If you need to be seen at the UTC, please book an appointment via [NHS 111](https://www.nhs.uk) as this will reduce your waiting time on site.

Patients who go directly to the UTC without calling 111 will be clinically assessed by a triage nurse or other health professional, and will only be prioritised for treatment over booked appointments when clinically necessary.

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Spring: 27th April - 21st July

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Well, play reading actually, with your local group. We resumed meetings in September and attracted 10 readers; in October this went up to 12 with two new members joining us.

If you're looking for something different to do on one evening a month, do please join us on the 2nd Tuesday at
THE MEON HALL at 7.30pm
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Tuesday 11th January

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For more details contact Paul Hales
gerryhayles45@gmail.com

HAMPSHIRE AND WINCHESTER COUNCILLOR'S REPORT *Hugh Lumby*



Winchester
City Council

MEON VALLEY DIVISION, CENTRAL AND UPPER MEON VALLEY WARDS

Our green journey

With the recent COP-26 conference very much in everyone's minds, I've got a green theme this month.

It is clear that a great deal needs to be done to address the issue of climate change and that we all have a vital role to play, both in our own homes and through lifestyle choices. As a result, it is a major focus for both Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council.

HCC recently issued an overview of its current work on climate change. Key areas include reducing transport emissions, making homes energy efficient, generating local renewable energy and protecting our natural environment.

■ **Transport** is a difficult one in communities like ours. Cars are a vital mainstay for many of us and buses often do not provide a realistic alternative. Changing to electric cars can assist, and more charging points

are being installed across the area, for example in Bishops Waltham. However, such cars are still expensive to buy, even after taking government grants into account.

■ **The Greening Campaign.** This is an interesting project by which communities, for instance in nearby Hambledon, are being helped through a step-by-step process of reducing their carbon footprint. The first steps include simple actions at household level, such as reducing energy and water usage, and being more energy efficient.

■ **Renewable energy.** Both HCC and WCC are focused on actions to generate more local renewable energy. We are, perhaps fortunately, not in a suitable area for wind turbines, but solar power is likely to be more common. HCC have a scheme to help residents buy solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage, so as to benefit from reduced prices through bulk buying. It is also working with

Community Energy South to build a network of community energy projects around the county.

■ **Natural environment.** This clearly has a critical role to play in helping to alleviate the impacts of climate change. Protecting our countryside is really important, as well as initiatives like tree planting, and improvements to pollinator habitats. This will be one of the keys locally.

So, a lot is happening on green issues at all levels of government. But we are still at the beginning of a journey and there will be much more to come.

Hugh Lumby
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

Winchester City Council covers planning, housing and bin collection. Hampshire County Council deals with roads, education and social services. City Councillor contact details can be found on Page 42.

Picnic raised £275 for the School!

A big thank you to all residents for supporting the Droxford Picnic so generously and helping to make it such a good day.

The £275 we raised is going to an environmental project that Droxford Junior School is running, to make their grounds a varied habitat. We are specifically helping towards planting bulbs. The money will also go towards an outdoor classroom and places for the children to play and explore.

Mary Hornby-Patterson





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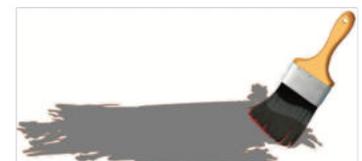
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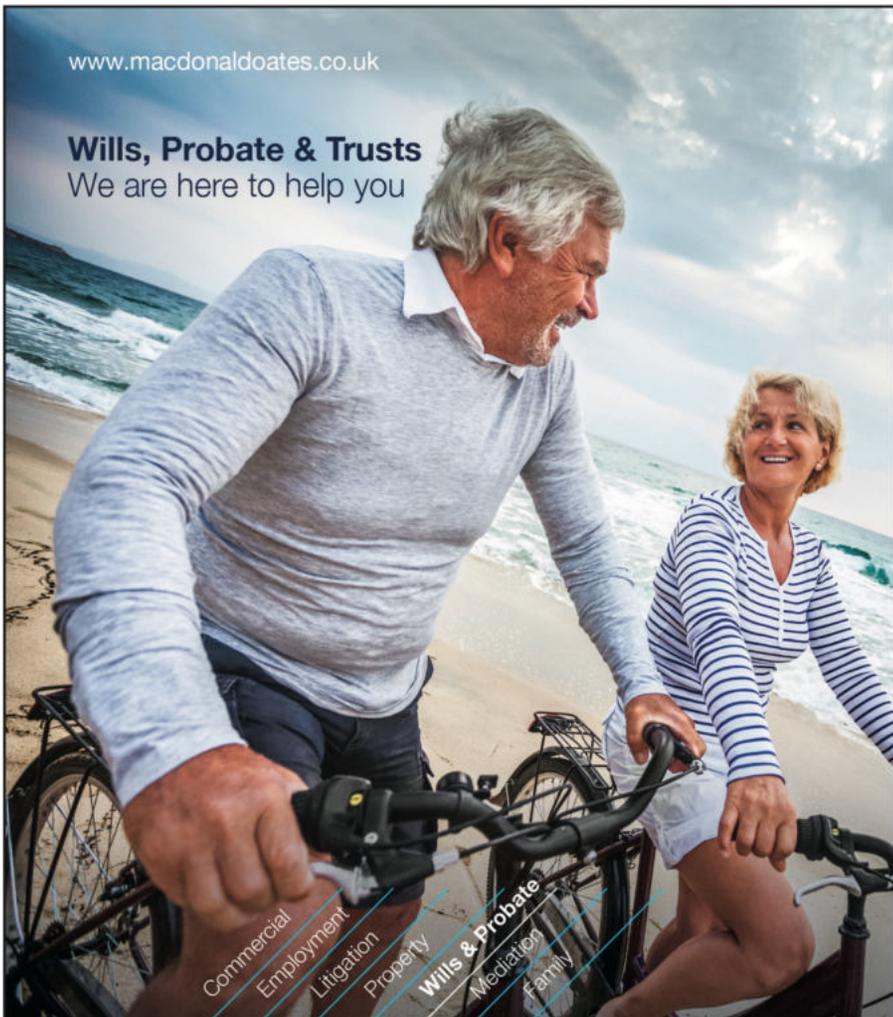
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W: www.shadesofsweetpea.co.uk

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A new hairdressing business in Chapel Road, Swanmore. We specialise in cuts and colours, also wedding and occasion hair.

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Opening Times:-

Tuesday: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Wednesday: 9.00am - 6.30pm
Thursday: 10.00am - 8.00pm
Friday: 9.00am - 7.30pm
Saturday: 8.30am - 3.00pm



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Meon Valley Community Bus Services Timetable

Because of the pandemic the Meon Valley Community Bus is continuing to run to a restricted timetable as follows:

Monday and Wednesday to FAREHAM

- 0908 Exton The Shoe PH
- 0910 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0919 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
- 0923 Brockbridge The Hurdles

Arrives:

- 0955 Fareham Library
- 1000 Fareham Sainsbury's

Return:

- 1200 Fareham Sainsbury's
- 1205 Fareham Library

1st and 3rd Friday each month to WINCHESTER

- 0900 Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
- 0904 Brockbridge The Hurdles
- 0907 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
- 0913 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0917 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0919 Exton The Shoe PH

Arrives:

- 0944 Winchester Broadway
- 0951 River Park Leisure Centre

Return:

- 1155 River Park Leisure Centre
- 1200 Winchester Broadway

4th Friday each month to WATERLOOVILLE

- 0908 Exton The Shoe PH
- 0910 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0919 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
- 0923 Brockbridge The Hurdles

Arrives:

- 0955 Waterloooville Waitrose
- 1001 Waterloooville Sainsbury's

Return:

- 1200 Waterloooville Sainsbury's
- 1205 Waterloooville Waitrose

2nd and 5th Friday each month to PETERSFIELD

- 0904 Brockbridge The Hurdles
- 0907 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
- 0913 Meonstoke Pound Cottages
- 0917 Meonstoke PO & Stores
- 0919 Exton The Shoe PH

Arrives:

- 0945 Petersfield Waitrose

Return:

- 1200 Petersfield Waitrose

There is no need to book.

Please note that you will be required to wear a mask covering your nose and mouth while you are on the bus, to make sure the service is safe for you and our volunteer drivers.

CHURCH SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2021 and JANUARY 2022

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Week	Date	Time	Venue	Service/ Event
	Thursday, 2nd December	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
1	Sunday, 5th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	8 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Exton	Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 9th December	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
	Saturday, 11th December	6pm	Church Green, Meonstoke	Carols round the Christmas Tree
2	Sunday, 12th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	8 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Corhampton	Taizé and Advent Prayer
	Tuesday, 14th December	7 pm	Droxford Square	Carols in the Square by Torchlight
	Thursday, 16th December	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
3	Sunday, 19th December 4th Sunday of Advent	9 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Corhampton	Mattins with Carols (BCP)
		6.30 pm	Exton	Traditional Carols and Lessons – <i>see notices for details</i>
	Thursday, 23rd December	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
3.00 pm		Droxford	Informal 'Nativity from Scratch'	
	Friday, 24th December	11.30 pm	Meonstoke	Midnight Mass
	Saturday, 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	8 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am		Meonstoke	Family Service + Holy Communion (CW)	
11 am		Droxford	Family Service + Holy Communion (CW)	
4	Sunday, 26th December St Stephen	10.30 am	Exton	Said Eucharist (CW)
	Thursday, 30th December	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Week	Date	Time	Venue	Service/ Event
1	Sunday, 2nd January Epiphany Sunday	8 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Exton	Epiphany Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 6th January The Epiphany	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
2	Sunday, 9th January The Baptism of Christ (Epi 1) Plough Sunday	8 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 13th January (Hilary)	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
3	Sunday, 16th January Epiphany 2	9 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Corhampton	Mattins (BCP)
	Thursday, 20th January	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
4	Sunday, 23rd January Epiphany 3	8 am	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Exton	Sung Eucharist (CW)
	Thursday, 27th January Conversion of St Paul (25th)	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
5	Sunday, 30th January Epiphany 4 Candlemas	9 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP) (Epi 4)
		10.30 am	Meonstoke	All Age Candlemas Service, followed by an optional informal HC

Events Diary

Wednesday 1 December: 'Pop in' to St Andrew's Church for coffee, cake, mince pie and a chat, 10am to 12noon.

Thursday 2 December: Meonstorks Toddler Group, The Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30.

Sunday 5 December: Patronal Service at St Andrew's Church, 10.30am. Bring new wrapped toys for children of homeless families.

Sunday 5 December: 'A Christmas Countdown' - music, readings, poems and sketches. The Meon Hall, 3.30 to 4.30. Phone 01489 877718 for more details.

Tuesday 7 December: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Tuesday 7 December: Yoga with James Finucaine, The Meon Hall, 9.30am to 11.

Tuesday 7 December: Badminton at The Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday 9 December: Meonstorks Toddler Group, The Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30.

Saturday 11 December: Carols on St Andrew's Church Green, 6pm onwards.

Sunday 12 December: Mindfulness Retreat, The Meon Hall, all day.

Tuesday 14 December: Carols in Droxford Square by torchlight, 7pm.

Tuesday 14 December: Yoga with James Finucaine, The Meon Hall, 9.30am to 11.

Tuesday 14 December: Meon Valley Arts Society talk 'A Right Royal Christmas', The Meon Hall, 10am to 12.

Tuesday 14 December: Playreading Group The Meon Hall (small room), 7.30pm.

Tuesday 14 December: Badminton at The Meon Hall (main room), 7.30pm.

Tuesday 14 December: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Wednesday 15 December: 'Pop in' to St Andrew's Church for coffee, cake, mince pie and a chat, 10am to 12noon.

Wednesday 15 December: The Village Pre-school Nativity Play in the Meon Hall at 2pm.

Thursday 16 December: Meonstorks Toddler Group, The Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30.

Tuesday 21 December: Yoga (pictured) with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.



Tuesday 28 December: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Tuesday 28 December: Winter Plus Ultra Marathon Run HQ at The Meon Hall, 6am to 6pm.

Tuesday 4 January: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Wednesday 5 January: 'Pop in' to St Andrew's Church for coffee, cake, mince pie and a chat, 10am to 12noon.

Thursday 6 January: Meonstorks Toddler Group, The Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30.

Friday 7 January: Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am to 10.15 (07776 221077).

Monday 10 January: Talk by Commodore James Fanshaw, RN: 'A route to zero emissions – autonomous shipping.' Droxford Village Hall, 7pm. Event organised by Droxford British Legion branch, but open to non-members. Free entry, email robmunroscott@aol.com a week ahead to pre-book an optional White Horse curry for £10.

Tuesday 11 January: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Tuesday 11 January: Yoga with James Finucaine, The Meon Hall, 9.30am to 11.

Tuesday 11 January: MV Arts Society talk 'The Art of J.M.W. Turner' The Meon Hall, 10am to 12noon.

Tuesday 11 January: Playreading Group, The Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 11 January: Badminton at The Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 14 January: Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall. 9.15am to 10.15 (07776 221077).

Saturday 15 January: Droxford Country Fair AGM, Wilfrid's Café, 10am. Bring your ideas for the 2022 Fair (Mary Hornby-Patterson 07815 562424).

Tuesday 18 January: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Tuesday 18 January: Yoga with James Finucaine, The Meon Hall, 9.30am to 11.00.

Tuesday 18 January: Badminton at The Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 19 January: 'Pop in' to St Andrew's Church for coffee, cake and a chat, 10am to 12noon.

Friday 21 January: Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am to 10.15 (07776 221077).

Monday 24 January: Mindfulness group, The Meon Hall, 9.45am.

Tuesday 25 January: Yoga with James Finucaine, The Meon Hall, 9.30am to 11.00.

Tuesday 25 January: Yoga with Yvon Eggen, Droxford Village Hall, 6.30 to 7.15.

Tuesday 25 January: Badminton at The Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Friday 28 January: Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am to 10.15 (07776 221077).

Thursday 27 January: Meonstorks Toddler Group, The Meon Hall 9.30 to 11.30.

...and further afield

Friday 3 December: 'Cinderella' by Curdrige Amateur Drama Group, The Reading Rooms, 7.30.

Saturday 4 December: 'Cinderella' by Curdrige Amateur Drama Group, The Reading Rooms, 2.30 and 7.30.

Saturday 4 December: Carols led by the Froxfield Choir, Gilbert White Museum, Selborne, 12noon.

Thursday 9 December: Christmas Concert by the Meon Voices Choir, folk songs, contemporary classics and a Gershwin medley, St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham, 7.30 (01489 579078).

Sunday 19 December: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols led by the Froxfield Choir, Holy Trinity Church, Privett, 6.30pm.



SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please note: local telephone numbers have the prefix 01489

POST OFFICES

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

STORES

Droxford Stores, High Street 878811
Corhampton Village Stores 877374
Meringtons Stores, Garrison Hill, Droxford 877284
Droxford Antiques, High Street, Droxford 878800

PUBLIC HOUSES

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The Bucks Head, Meonstoke 877313
The Shoe, Exton 877526
The White Horse, Droxford 877490

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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/RFO: Rosie Hoile clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk 07960 122699
Droxford
Clerk/RFO: Ailsa Duckworth 07720 092072
Exton Parish Meeting: Secretary: Jill Hignett 878450

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Central Meon Valley

Linda Gemmell lgemmell@winchestergov.uk
Frank Pearson fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
Vicki Weston vweston@winchester.gov.uk

Upper Meon Valley

Laurence Ruffell luffell@winchester.gov.uk
Hugh Lumby hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot 877631

THE MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

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LOCAL SURGERIES

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

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS:

(Please ring only between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm)
Droxford: Rosie Hoile 07977 096586
Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: Arthur Brown 07865 517484

URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE

Petersfield Community Hospital, Swan Street, 023 8231 9000
Petersfield GU32 3LB.

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

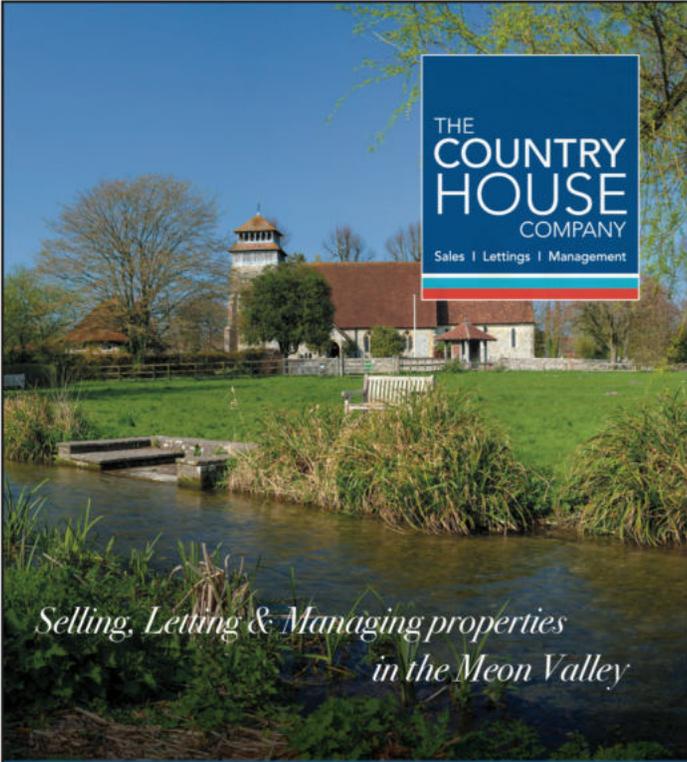
Stocks Lane	Peter Riley (Chair)	07702 863954
Rectory Lane	Sally & Mike Fithyan	07809 516669
High Street	Annie Ward	877831
Warnford Road	Jerry Pett	877633
Corhampton Lane	Janine Casey	877561
Pound Lane, west	Patrick Monger	877161
Pound Lane, east	Linda Foot	877763
Fry's Lane	Charlie Fullegar	07876 524457
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 droxfordnhwchair@btinternet.com

High Street	James Matthissen	07914 638082
Sheep Pond Lane	Matt Avison mattavison@hotmail.com	
Dundridge Lane, east	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Midlington Hill	Claire Francis claire.francis1209@gmail.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



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There is no legal obligation to hold a funeral service at all plus it's not an easy topic of conversation, but most families should have a discussion, at some point, to decide on what sort of funeral they would prefer. It might be a very brief conversation at the pub 'I would rather be buried or cremated'... or even 'I really don't care, I won't be around' but at least it's a start.

Do not underestimate how many times we hear from bereaved families that they have been left no instructions. Funerals, broadly speaking, fall into three categories of religious, less religious and non religious. Whatever your religion, the customs and traditions of a familiar structured service can offer great peace of mind in your place of worship. Non or 'less' religious funerals have edged away from the 'very traditional' emphasising the life of the person. Either service has flexibility to add personal touches such as musical or spoken tributes.

For more information on low cost funerals, Green Funerals, Burials at Sea and advice on the many crematoriums available throughout the South of England please contact us for impartial no obligation advice.

Tel: 01329 842115 or Email: mail@ahfreemantle.co.uk

James Keen

Managing Director
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