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February 2022 - March 2022



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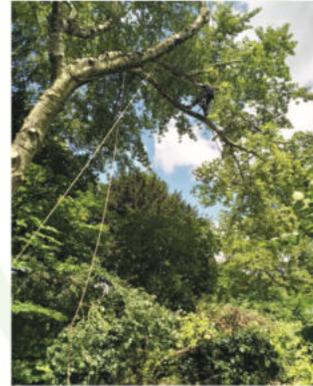
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THE BRIDGE is
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Cover picture

The photo of St Andrew's Church, looking from across the Green, was taken by professional Bishop's Waltham photographer Stephen Jeffery (www.sjimaging.co.uk).

If you have taken a photo of a local scene, why not submit it as a cover picture? Please note, though, it needs to be portrait size.

Ian Gilchrist, Editor 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.

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Please note: local telephone numbers have the prefix 01489

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The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Meonstoke, SO32 3NF
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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

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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

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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

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

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ON REFLECTION



As Mothering Sunday approaches... a time to reflect

The Church's season of Lent begins on 2nd March this year and the history of this, the strictest of the Church's seasons, and about which I have written before, explains its characteristic notes: self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

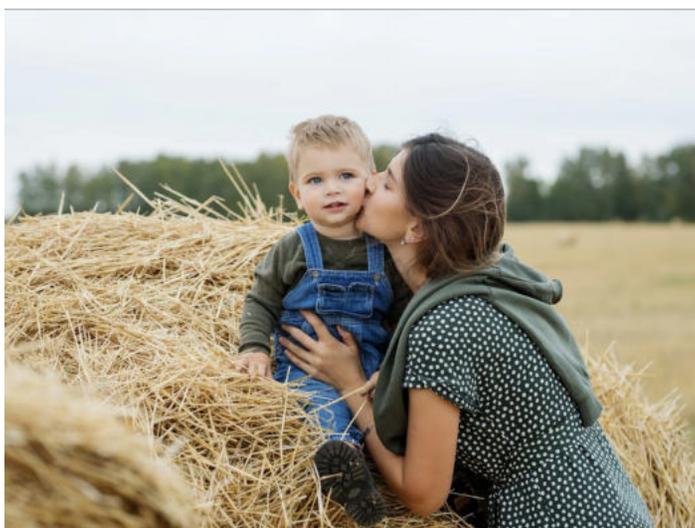
In less enlightened times, people may have been led into excessive and negative self-criticism in the name of self-examination. A cynic looking in may be forgiven for thinking that this was a means by which the Church kept the people firmly under its thumb and we should all remember that this runs counter to Jesus' message of redemption.

Although not one of us is perfect, and whilst it is good to face up to our shortcomings, it is worth remembering that self-examination should take place in the context of love. It can only really be done in moments of quietness, focussing on what has gone well as well as what could have been done better.

For Christians, it is about opening ourselves to God, the forbearing One, the just King, the fair judge, the One who sees our efforts, as well as our inconsistencies, and our struggles.

It may well be good for us of all faiths and none, to take time to reflect on where in our lives we have struggled, where we have thrived and where we have been nurtured or sustained.

In the days before refrigeration and rapid transport of food, the period after the winter would see food stocks running extremely low. Austerity was part of daily life at the time of



... and not least, on all those who have 'mothered' us in life.

year when Lent falls and so self-denial was a practical as well as a spiritual discipline.

Being sustained had a very literal connotation, but we need to be sustained in mind and spirit too. We need to be refreshed when mentally stale, or when we are hungry or our spirit is in a state of desolation.

It is not surprising that the Feast Day of St Patrick, when it falls in Lent, is a time of particular celebration even by those with a most tenuous connection to Ireland.

Even in mediaeval times, the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent. The Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent, and this was a time for clergy and those in religious orders to return to their 'Mother Church' or 'Mother House' to celebrate Mary accepting the role as the 'Mother of God.'

This was also often the one day in the year when children in service were allowed to return home to visit their mothers.

These breaks from austerity and the return to a place with the sense of home give us the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (27th March this year).

Through the month of March we might, for our spiritual and mental well-being, try to spend a few minutes each day reflecting on all those who have mothered literally, and also on those who have mothered in a broader sense.

We might also bring to mind those who have cared for us, or provided us with a home or nourishment; those who have shown patience towards us even when we have tested that patience; those who have loved us even when they have been drained, or have given us hope even when they were despairing; and all those who offer their service to others without limit.

We might also take time to reflect on how we too can offer 'mothering' wherever it is needed.

'Jerusalem ...[how] often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.' (Luke 13:34)

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

STEVE SUCH

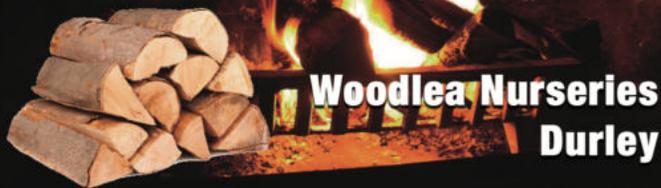
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The Jubilee celebrations are ON!

The whole community will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of continuous service to the country with a series of exciting events across our four villages from 2nd to 5th June.

More details will follow in the next edition of *The Bridge*, but for now, please put these dates in your diary, and start planning your bunting:

Thursday 2nd June

■ **An evening Thanksgiving Service** at St Mary and All Saints Church, Droxford, with some of the Queen's favourite hymns chosen by her over the decades, and prayers for Her Majesty and our community.

■ **9.15pm, Beacon lighting** at Pondsides Farm, Meonstoke, to coincide with the lighting of beacons throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

Saturday 4th June

■ 12.30-4pm, **Droxford Country Fair**.

Sunday 5th June

■ 10.30am: **A Service of Thanksgiving** for HM The Queen in the Church of St Andrew, Meonstoke.

■ Midday to 4pm: picnic and family event at the Droxford Recreation Ground.

■ Lunchtime: Meonstoke and



Villagers enjoying the 2012 street party, and below left, a patriotic skateboarder.

Corhampton residents are invited to bring a picnic to the Recreation Ground as part of the national **Big Jubilee Lunch**. Family-friendly activities, including a **fancy-dress competition and games**, will then take place, after which the Meon Valley Orchestra will accompany a celebratory cake being paraded to a street party on Meonstoke High Street.

A community celebration on this scale will be all the better for many helping hands. Please do get in touch if you'd like to help in any way. Many thanks!

Contact details:

Meonstoke and Corhampton: Pippa Heggie is co-ordinating events

(Pippa.heggie@yahoo.co.uk).

Droxford: Planning is being co-ordinated by representatives of the Parish Council, the Country Fair, Droxford School, St Mary and All Saints Church and the Village Hall. Contact Janet Melson (01489 878728) or Mary Hornby-Patterson (01489 878800).

Exton are in the process of formulating their plans.



Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to achieve a Platinum Jubilee... 70 years of devoted service which began on 6th February 1952 when she was just 25 years old.

The four-day Bank Holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will therefore provide a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together to celebrate this historic milestone, and I am sure that, like the Jubilee ten years ago, we will all enter into the spirit, to create lasting memories for adults and children alike.

As it happens there is no need to wait until then, because on 6th February we are holding a traditional Choral Accession Day Evensong in Exton Church at 6.30pm, when we can all reflect on the Queen's outstanding reign.

I look forward to seeing you then.

The Rev'd Tony Forrest

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Droxford Scouting in peril

Scouting is thriving in Droxford with the number of young boys and girls taking part across all age groups growing. But despite its idyllic location at the end of Park Lane the long history of Droxford having its own scout group is now under imminent threat.

This is because **Angela Knight**, the Group Leader of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, is sadly moving on, and as the Scouting Association cannot let us continue without the right quota of adults, the group's future is suddenly in danger.

We are therefore desperately in need of people who can give some of their time to join our friendly team of volunteers.

Scouting is flexible to suit all ages and abilities, including admin and executive roles, so it doesn't have to mean putting up tents and handling pythons!

Pythons? Yes, Siphon the Python was a 12-ft long guest at a recent meeting, brought along by a local exotic reptile enthusiast. Siphon spanned the full width of the Scout HQ, to the consternation of many, but thankfully turned out to be friendly.

Learning about Siphon was just one of many interesting pastimes enjoyed by the boys and girls over the past year.

...and it's not because of snakes!

When restrictions have allowed they have also hiked around the Meon Valley, made rope, erected tents and even learnt fire lighting - and although Cub camps have not been possible yet, they are prepared!

During lockdown periods, activities have been carried out either on line or via Zoom, and have included constructing spaghetti towers and cooking Scandinavian cinnamon pancakes.

So could you be the one to help us survive? You don't need previous experience, you don't have to be Bear Grylls, you don't need to wear uniform and you don't have to attend every week. If you are interested in a fulfilling role with us, please email volunteer@hampshirescouts.org.uk

We need you! So please help us save the Droxford Scout Group before it is forced into closure in the New Year,



9-year-old Maxim approaches Siphon with trepidation

which would be a huge loss to our community and future generations. With your help, we can avoid the next issue of *The Bridge* printing Droxford Scouting's obituary.

Joanna Selwood
Cub parent



'Pop In' at St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

It is with regret that 'Pop In' will remain closed for February 2022. We plan to start again in the Spring on March 2nd and 16th.

Linda Forrest 01489 877422

Thank you

Thanks to Danny and Nicki Smith for providing the Christmas trees for Droxford church and the Village Hall, and to Derek Osborn for the new tree lights.

Stuart Attrill



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Time to check your tools

The recent wet weather has meant that most of us are still behind with some of the winter jobs in the garden, but if you do venture out avoid treading on wet soil and lawns too much to prevent soil compaction. To limit soil compaction and damage to plants use boards of wood or chipboard to spread your weight.

Check over tools and equipment and get secateurs and shears sharpened and mowers serviced. In some gardens it is possible that soluble nutrients may have been washed away with all the rain. To compensate for this, an additional application of general purpose fertiliser may be applied in early March.

Vegetables: First outdoor sowings of broad beans, peas, carrots, parsnips and early salad crops may be made, and shallot sets planted. Cover with cloches or fleece to provide some protection against frost, mice and birds. Try pre-germinating broad beans in pots or trays before planting. Early potato tubers should be put in a light frost-free place to sprout before planting. Sow seeds of tomato, cucumber, peppers and chillies now for greenhouse cultivation.

Fruit: The canes of summer fruiting raspberries should be cut back to about 5 feet. Cut autumn fruiting varieties down to ground level in mid-February. If you have rhubarb, try forcing some by covering a strong crown with a large bucket or small bin.

Herbaceous border: Keep clear of dead leaves and complete any transplanting not done in the autumn. Plant roses and hardy lilies, plant gladioli after mid-march, prune roses and late-flowering shrubs. Top dress beds and borders with high potash and phosphate fertiliser to ensure a good flowering season.

Lawns: In March re-seed worn areas after first levelling the

ground, repair any damaged edges and aerate the whole lawn with an aerator or fork. At the end of the month apply lawn fertiliser (avoiding newly sown areas). If moss is a problem use a scarifier to get rid of most of it then apply moss killer to the remnants. When mowing the lawn in early spring set the mower blades high so that the grass is not cut too short.

Greenhouse: Constantly check over-wintered plants and cuttings for mildew, fungal attack and vine weevil grubs. Early sowings of summer bedding plants can be made to ensure an early show of flowers. Divide Canna lilies and start in pots, start tuberous rooted begonias and dahlias in trays of slightly damp peat or soil free compost. Dahlia cuttings can be taken from the new shoots when they are large enough to handle.

John Owen

After a year disrupted by Covid restrictions, hopefully the Garden Club programme will return to normality in 2022.

Forthcoming events 2022:

Spring Show: Saturday 19th March 1.30pm, Meon Hall

Spring Plant Sale: 7th May, 10am, Droxford Village Hall

We welcome entries for the Spring and summer shows from non-members. We have been delighted with the growing number of children's entries. Look out for details in the next Bridge or droxford web.co.uk

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



Lindsey Ockenden

SNOWDROPS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

The past few weeks can be summed up in three words: warm, wet and windy.

Unseasonably warm temperatures by day and by night have been accompanied by wet and windy conditions. Hardy people go out on the dry days, but the dog walkers brave the rain, as they must, whatever the weather.

The birds flutter in and out of bare hedgerows, pecking at seeds where possible, and finding food from empty flower beds. They respond to the sunshine and the warmth, and can be heard singing after a rain shower, unearthing grubs and worms.

One might say the real winter is still ahead of us, with February and March to come. By this time the days are longer, and we hope brighter. Snowdrops will be out, and they are always a welcome sight. These are followed by crocuses, then the

hellebores. At this chilly time of year it is appropriate to thank all the people who go out to deliver our magazine.

A seasonal rhyme which may or may not be appropriate.

February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.
March brings breezes loud and shrill,
Stirs the dancing daffodil.

From 'The Garden Year' by Sarah Coleridge

Jackie Hibbert



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Digging in at Droxford School

Droxford Junior School has received a wonderful donation of £275 from the organisers of the Droxford picnic. This will be used to buy spring bulbs to be planted in March, and we are working with the Butterfly Plant Nursery to select the right plants for the project.

We have earmarked Saturday 19th March 2022 for our big spring planting day, which will form part of an ambitious landscape project that is underway at our school.

Our overall plan is to transform the original grounds of purely sports field and tarmac into a wide variety of spaces and experiences for all pupils to enjoy all year round and in all weathers. So far, work has begun on three aspects:

Natural Play Area. Over the summer an area of Natural Play was created with help from the local Southwick Estate, and the children are now improving their physical fitness using play equipment that encourages all kinds of balancing and climbing.

Jumping

The design of the area was inspired by the idea that this would be the kind of play children would have if they were out spending time in nature, and jumping from tree stump to tree stump. It also creates the perfect place to sit and talk with a friend, or to gather as a class.

Dig Day. This is when we made a start on a wide corridor of native trees and shrubs to supplement and enhance the natural setting in which the school is set, and to further increase pollinator planting and biodiversity. A hard-working team of over 60 adults and children, many armed with chainsaws, hedge trimmers, trailers, wheelbarrows and other tools, arrived during the day to complete a staggering amount of work.

The day was a huge success with lots done including the creation of all the new planting beds in readiness for the Spring planting programme, the building of a new stag beetle hotel, and much, much more.

When we stood back and looked at

the result, I believe everyone felt proud of their achievements and what they mean for the school.

Thank you so much to all who helped or donated resources or equipment. Huge thanks too to **Joe Gordon** and **Steve Muscat** who came along with heavy machinery and saved us a lot of time and effort.

Den Building. Alongside these projects den-building has been introduced and is hugely popular with the children who are able to be creative with loose materials donated to the school during break and lunchtimes, along with team building, communication and tenacity skills.

Droxford Junior School's values are at the heart of all that we do in school both inside and out, and the vision "Equipping our children with the skills to navigate life successfully" could not be more tangible than the work currently going on in their grounds, and this is just the start!

Matthew Dampier
Head teacher



Portsmouth woodturner Mick Giles demonstrates his art to the children

THANK YOU!

The organisers of the Droxford Picnic would like to re-iterate their thanks to the residents who came along both to enjoy the afternoon in the sunshine, but also who contributed generously to the raffle and helped to raise the money given to the School for their project.



Sarah Smith
Ali Pepper
Margaret Wallace

Life at Windsor Castle



Your local RBL Branch invites you to a meeting on Monday 14th March at 7.00pm in Droxford Village Hall where Sir James Perowne KBE will speak to us about his time as Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, a post he has held since 2014.

There will be a cash bar from 6.30pm and the talk will be followed by a curry supper. If you would like supper (£10 payable in cash on the night), please email robmunroscott@aol.com by 10th March.



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Building a reputation since 2002

Carols on the Green raised £800

On a drizzly Saturday afternoon before Christmas, a hardened team of volunteers put the final touches to the twinkly lights for Carols on the Church Green in Meonstoke.

By 6pm the mulled wine was warming and the mince pies were waiting as more than a hundred people turned up, many armed with umbrellas.

Father Tony welcomed the throng as the team worried that we would run out of mulled wine! Thankfully this was not the case.

The carol singing was led by Peter Mosse and the church choir, who did a wonderful job keeping everyone together.

The beautifully decorated Christmas tree, adorned with the discs skilfully made by Peter Renwick was the focal point for the event. It seems this is becoming a village tradition.

A rousing rendition of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' ended the event as the last few glasses of mulled wine were polished off.

Many commented on what a fabulous community event it had been, with the



added feel-good factor of the donations we received for The Roberts Centre in Portsmouth. In total, more than £800 was raised for the charity.

As always, none of this would have been possible without the army of helpers: **Karen Ellis** and her amazing catering team, **Ian Ellis** and his electrical know how, **Angela** and **Michael Peagram**, **Peter Renwick**, **Peter** and **Sarah Mosse**, **Mick Baugh**, **David** and **Lydia Westwood**, and **Tors Corbett**.

And finally, those who supported the event on the night and made generous donations to a worthwhile charity.

A heartfelt thank you to every single one of you. And special thanks to my

husband Martyn for being so supportive. See you all again in December 2022!

Becky Evans

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Saturday 7th May
at 7.30pm
Quiz Night

John Martin will be our inimitable Quizmaster

Tickets £10 to include supper
Teams of 6
Licensed bar with real ale

Subject to any Covid restrictions in force at the time

Tickets from the Post Office

A chilli supper will be served, with a vegetarian option.

Tables of six will be required. You may have fewer than six, but no more. It is also hoped to run a musical supper evening in March at some point.

Unfortunately, the on-going Covid restrictions have meant no films in the Hall at the moment, but we hope to have them back in the Spring.

The 200 Club winner for December is Angie Vear.

Jackie Hibbert
Secretary

What a tremendous achievement it was and well done for sticking to your guns! The takings were indeed amazing but what I found so nice was the family atmosphere of the village, all letting their hair down and thoroughly enjoying themselves with their children in true Christmas spirit. Neither Covid nor rain was going to stop them, and wasn't it worth their while – delicious mulled wine and mince pies and the greatest catalyst to social exchange, singing!

Angela Peagram

Toy collection



The Rev'd Tony Forrest delivers a huge collection of toys to the Roberts Centre in Portsmouth, which were donated by parishioners at Christmas for children of homeless families.

Jennifer Bennett of the Centre said: 'On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you all very much for your generosity and thinking of the Roberts Centre in these very difficult times. I know it will make a huge difference to our families.'

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Greetings from the Cotswolds

Many will remember Peter and Pat O’Sullivan, who moved to the medieval market town of Winchcombe (pictured right) in The Cotswolds in 2019, after 25 years of living in Meonstoke.



Peter, now in his 70s, recently took part in the Pancreatic Cancer fund-raising campaign, raising over £1,000 with a sponsored 100-mile cycle ride.

We asked him to update *The Bridge* on his achievement, and on their new life in the Cotswolds.

I am grateful to Ian Gilchrist for inviting us to send greetings to our many friends in the Meon Valley.

This was in response to my 100-mile cycle ride starting at Rutland Water and ending at Scarborough, riding via the Humber Bridge, Hull, Bridlington and Flamborough.

The ride was in memory of my life-long friend Mike Stafford, whom some of you will have met. Mike died in October after a year-long illness battling pancreatic cancer, which is a horrible disease. I know this only too well, as over the last few years, four more of our friends have suffered a similar illness and early death.

Breakthrough

I was moved by a number of you who shared your own experiences of pancreatic cancer with me.

It is the tenth most common cancer in the UK, with over 10,000 people diagnosed each year, and I am very grateful for the generous donations from friends in the Meon Valley, which will help get closer to a breakthrough in early diagnosis and treatment.

Ian also asked me to offer an insight into life in our new home in Winchcombe. We became familiar with the town after our son Ben and his family moved here 10 years ago.

It is a thriving community with an extensive choice of cultural and other activities which we look forward to appreciating more when COVID allows.

These include U3A, History Group, Film Society, Probus Club, Rotary, WI and Churches Together. I am again enjoying cycling, and also rugby (of the

The O’Sullivans enjoy their new life in idyllic Winchcombe

walking genre) with Tewkesbury Rugby Club, coached by women internationals from Gloucester Rugby.

Being regarded as the regional capital of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia, Winchcombe has its own history of course, including *Belas Knap*, a Neolithic chambered long barrow; the Abbeys of Winchcombe and Hailes; Sudeley Castle, the resting place of Catherine Parr, the wife who survived Henry VIII; and Winchcombe Pottery.

In addition to this, last year we were the destination of what is now known as *The Winchcombe Meteorite*, fragments of which date back to the birth of our solar system and are

exhibited in The Winchcombe Museum and the National History Museum.

We have fond memories of our 25 years in Meonstoke, and 10 years in Swanmore before that, and are grateful for the friendship and opportunities offered to our family and ourselves.

I enjoyed visiting in the summer to celebrate John Snow’s graduation ceremony at Winchester Cathedral, and catching up with friends.

It’s also good to be able to keep in touch via Christmas and New Year greetings, The Meon Bridge website with its excellent Bridge magazine, Alison Smalley’s Meon Valley Archaeology and Heritage newsletter, Corhampton 1000, and Sarah Snowdon’s community communications.

Pat and I wish you peace and happiness in 2022, and joy in your lives.

Peter O’Sullivan



HOW TO SUPPORT PETER’S CAMPAIGN

If you would like to donate to help research into pancreatic cancer, and support Peter in his campaign, please visit:

pcam.pancreaticcancer.org.uk

For other options, please contact Peter at peterosullivan@hotmail.com, or phone him on 07710 035722.

BRRR... BUT A GREAT WAY TO KEEP FIT!

On December 21st the Winter Solstice took place marking the shortest day of the year.



A group of around 30 people managed to leave their warm cosy beds and head to the cold and dark Meon Hall car park armed with head torches and walking boots, plus a few dogs!

We all headed off at 6.30am to join the South Downs Way, to walk up to the top of Old Winchester Hill.

Everyone chatted away, meeting old friends and making new ones; dogs whizzed around doing the same. The journey up was dark, creating an amazing torch light trail snaking up the hill.

When arriving at the top, hot tea, coffee, mince pies and cookies were shared around while everyone enjoyed the sunrise and the amazing views

that the South Downs has to offer.

We welcomed in the shortest day of the year, with excitement for longer, sunnier days ahead. It seemed that even the teenagers agreed the sunrise was worth getting up for!

It is not often we change our daily routines to do something like waking up early to see the sunrise, or do an extra bit of exercise but I hope everyone who joined the solstice walk can agree it really helped us appreciate how beautiful the area we live in is, and helped to boost our energy for the day ahead.

It was certainly a great way to start the day, to be able to get out and walk together. Walking, or any form of

exercising together does absolute wonders for your physical and mental health, so it was lovely to see so many come together.

I will be organising a Summer Solstice Walk, perhaps to see the sunset as the sunrise could be particularly early! So if you missed out on this one, don't worry.

If you would like to become involved in more regular exercise then please get in touch with me on 07941 196587 or go to @MeonFit on Facebook or Instagram, and hopefully soon a new website!

Hope to see you soon.

Sarah



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 41.

Carols in the Churchyard

This year, Droxford's Carols were held in the Churchyard, rather than the Square.

Over 50 villagers enjoyed singing by the church, accompanied by around 16 members of the Meon Valley Orchestra, and sampling mulled wine and mince pies.

A thank you to all who came along to make the event so enjoyable.

Sheila Matthissen

Droxford History Group

'Droxford Shops Remembered'

A talk by Rachel Dean

31st March at 7.30 pm
Droxford Village Hall
Visitors welcome - £3

Rachel is a Droxford village resident and this should be a very interesting talk. We know that there were many shops in the village at one time, now very much depleted.



Beetle Drive 200 Club Prize Draw

Winners of the 2021 prizes at the Beetle Drive in November were: £300 **Ros Masterman**, £150 **Kevin Dodsworth**, £100 **Helen Harvey**. With 70 attenders and the usual noisy cheerful atmosphere, Beetle Drive prizes were awarded for highest scores to **Tina Dodsworth**, and **Emily Kinsey**; the lowest Beetle score was achieved by **Peter Mosse**. The Beetle Drive raised £355 for Meon Hall funds.

"200 Club" in 2022

The £25 Prize draws are made on the first Saturday of each month. There is a £50 Summer Prize, and the draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place at 2022's Beetle Drive at the Meon Hall on Saturday 26 November – put the date in your Diary now!

The 200 Club raises money to help with purchases of new equipment and other improvements for the Meon Hall. To join this year's 200 Club please contact James Morrice (jamesmorrice99@gmail.com or 01489 877916).

You may win one of the prizes, but by being a 200 Club member you are helping the Meon Hall Committee to make equipment purchases and general improvements to our important village asset.

Meon Hall's Bookings Secretary

The Trustees are inviting someone to be the new 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; 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

CELEBRATING 1000 YEARS OF CORHAMPTON CHURCH

The celebrations continue:

Sunday 13th March: 18.30 St Andrew's, Meonstoke - Athanasian Consort - "A Meditation for Lent" featuring readings and musical offerings. With refreshments courtesy of FOSACC.

Sunday 10th April: Palm Sunday – 19.00 St Andrew's, Meonstoke – Maunder's Olivet to Calvary. Come and Join Local Singers! Rehearsal 16.00. Refreshments will be served

Come and be part of our special celebration

Please keep a look out on the website

www.bridgechurches.org.uk/C1000 for any changes and further activities in our programme.



jamesmorrice99@gmail.com or by phone message on 01489 877916 for a discussion.

Car park

Thank you to **Michelle Kempster** for her work to keep the Meon Hall's car park clear of leaves during the autumn leaf fall, and to **John Dobby** and **Don Fooks** for removing bags and bags of leaves.

Planning a family party?

Why not order those extra tables, chairs, champagne flutes, wine glasses, china and cutlery for your entertaining from the Meon Hall.

Email to

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James Morrice



Artists reveal their talents

Celebrating 1000 years of Corhampton Church

'Amazing' 'surprising' and 'outstanding'... these were just three of the many congratulatory comments by villagers attending an exhibition of 115 paintings by 30 local artists at The Meon Hall.

It all started at our art class when **Karen Ellis** said that the Corhampton 1000 (then Corhampton 2020) art subcommittee thought that it would be a good idea to run an art exhibition as part of the celebrations. I agreed to do the hanging of the pictures, but then it morphed into me actually running the show!

Then, having got the flyers and advertising set up and the stands organised, with just three months to go we were delayed by a year because of the pandemic.

On restart I discovered that the stands were no longer available. Panic! After a great number of emails and telephone calls a friend of a friend of **Guy Liardet**, Jeannie, very generously lent us her stands, as did St Peter's Church in Bishops Waltham, which Gregor Logan and team then erected.

Artifacts

Then the artworks started arriving and the buzz kicked in! All these people arriving and chatting and looking at each other's exhibits!

Janet Dobby, **Karen Ellis** and I set about hanging them, and at 12 noon the visitors began arriving.

Meanwhile **Alison Smalley** with help from husband **Malcolm** had set up an exhibition of ancient artefacts found by the Meon Valley Archaeology and Heritage Group's detectorists, **Mike Gaines** and **John Whittaker**.

A video and slides of the work of the MVAHG, which ran on the hall screen, was enthusiastically compèred by **Alison**, **John Snow** and **Joan Terry**.

Meanwhile, in the small hall, a digital show of photos of 1930s Meonstoke scenes, lent by the Parish Council, had been arranged by **Mike Peagram**.

And the result? Commented Guy Liardet: "The beauty of our local

landscape was well-featured and there were some stunning portraits. Still Lifes and floral paintings abounded, while several attractive impressionistic works needed a moment or two of introspection. Overall, an absolutely astounding celebration of local talent – a riot of colour, imagination and skill."

Angela Peagram and her daughter **Elizabeth** managed the sale of pictures, artists' cards, postcards and Corhampton 1000 memorabilia. A dedicated team led by **Marcia Grose** and **Libby Soar**, provided refreshments until closing at 8 pm.

We were asked several times if it could be an annual event. At the time I thought no, but with a bit of time having passed I started thinking that, as we all know what to do now, and have the contacts, maybe we could do it again sometime!

A big thank you to all of you who helped on the day and in the preparation. Also, in the clearing up the next day. Without you it could not have been such a success!

Margaret Collins



Two of the paintings in the exhibition.

Above, the bridge at Droxford mill, as depicted by Droxford artist **Jeff Hooper**.

Below, a view of St Andrew's Church by **Barry Miles** from Fair Oak.



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The cemetery is transformed!

Our cemetery at the junction of Cut Throat Lane and Sheep Pond Lane now deserves to be called 'beautiful.'

After 16 months, several working parties and many hours of discussion involving trading on the expertise of those who know far better than I, we have managed to transform this somewhat bleak location into an area of peace, tranquility and colour!

The bank facing the entrance was always a bit of an eyesore as weeds had taken residence in a big way.

We tried several times to tame this area but finally resorted to levelling, covering the area with a weed suppressant membrane and planting bushes, shrubs and small trees, all of which had been donated by members of the community.

The bank is also home to a badger sett and we have been very mindful of making sure that Mr and Mrs Brock have a safe habitat. Their home is higher up the bank and in an area that has been undisturbed.

The final working party then created an area dedicated to the interment of ashes: a Memorial Garden that is surrounded by a low yew hedge.

The centrepiece is a lovely Mount Fuji flowering cherry tree, surrounded by wildflower turf, both of which gave the area a colourful display earlier in the summer not previously known at the



It's now an area of peace, colour and tranquility

cemetery.

We look forward to more colour next Spring as 100 daffodil bulbs have also been planted.

None of the above could have been achieved without the incredible support and knowledge of many volunteers.

The community, Droxford Allotment Association and the Meon Valley Garden Club should all be applauded for their unwavering support and enthusiasm.

We must also thank the families whose loved ones lie in the cemetery, as they too have supported the project wholeheartedly. (I am sure you can imagine it was an interesting sight watching people with spades over their shoulders walking into the cemetery!)

It is not too late to get involved. You may have missed out on the mulled wine and mince pies at the last working party, but we still need more plants and bushes for the bank.

There is room for more, so if in early Spring you have any shrubs you think may be suitable, then do please get in touch.

Di Shepherd
di.droxfordpc@gmail.com
07738 077166

Meon Valley Playreading Group

It was unfortunate that our December and January meetings had to be cancelled. The wearing of masks and the need to 'distance' ourselves around the room was not conducive to an ideal play reading session, especially for those of us with hearing problems.

However we hope that our meetings at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 8th February** and **Tuesday 8th March** will be able to go ahead. For a mere £3 you get an evening's entertainment... and coffee!

If you would like to join us, please contact me nearer the time for confirmation. Paul Hayles 01489 878589



Hard at work!
Volunteers Alastair Palmer, Dave Berry and Michael Profit.

Milk fresh from the cow

Meonstoke Village Store has joined with a local dairy to set up a 24-hour outdoor milk station selling fresh free-range milk to the rural community.

They decided to set up the milk station after residents took to WhatsApp to complain about their regular national service.

Stores owner Nell Gibson told The Bridge: "I formed a partnership with Meonstoke Dairy, run by Sam and Anna Martin, which is just outside the village, to purchase a machine which people could access at any time, day or night.

"We launched in mid-January and it is already becoming very popular, with people saying how much tastier it is than their usual milk. We also sell syrups which can be added to the milk which make delicious milkshakes, the favourite one so far being salted caramel."

Anna said: "We milk the cows at 3.45am, whereupon it is gently pasteurised, unhomogenised and delivered straight to Nell's store by 7.30am.

"The cows are raised on a very extensive grass system which we feel is reflected in the quality of the milk. Also, because it hasn't been highly processed, it retains its flavour, tastes amazing and of course is super fresh."



Nell (left) and Anna by the new milk machine.

After sampling the milk at the launch of the machine, Chrissie Butler of Millside, Meonstoke, said: "It is extremely delicious, and it's very entrepreneurial of Nell to set the vending machine up. We'll certainly be using it from now on."

The partnership has also decided to donate the machine's first month's profits on empty bottle sales to three local schools - Meonstoke, Droxford and Soberton/Newtown - to fund various classroom projects.

Memorial to 33 airmen whose glider crashed in Warnford Park 80 years ago

A commemorative service is to be held on 4th April to remember 33 servicemen who lost their lives in an air crash over Warnford Park, during a pre D-Day exercise.

The men were members of the 7th Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers.

On 4th April 1944 they were part of a large glider exercise to train parachutists.

Their route from East Sussex to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire took them over East Meon and Warnford. The night was dark with low cloud, and the pilots of the

Stirling 'tug' were forced to fly low.

Tragically the Stirling struck a tree to the East of Warnford Park and the glider crashed in the fields killing all 27 soldiers on board.

The Stirling flew on but having suffered catastrophic damage, crashed near Romsey, killing the six crew.

The service will be conducted by our Rector, the Rev'd Tony Forrest. A memorial stone will be blessed, and the names of those who died will be read out. Permission is being sought for a fly past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.



Horsa glider being towed by a Stirling bomber - from www.hugofox.com

The two-hour event is being organised by a group of current and retired RAF personnel on Peake Farm, Warnford, a mile from the crash site. It will begin at 10am and will be open to all.

Major Will Pike (PARA Retired)

Here's to our third successful year!

After a slightly extended Christmas break due to Covid precautions, Wilfrid's Café re-opened its doors at the start of the year. It's amazing to think that, despite the ups and downs of lockdowns and restrictions, we celebrated our 2nd birthday on 6th January.

And so we move forward into our third year of trading.

Its success is due to the number of mostly Droxford residents who give up their time to help in the Café, to bake amazing cakes and, of course, to those ever-increasing numbers of customers who come along to enjoy a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

Soup-er Saturdays are now a regular feature, with our home-made soup (why would it be anything else but home-made? This is Wilfrid's) and a warm roll, served 12-2.00pm while the soup lasts. We're also now open on a Tuesday morning too, so our current hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 10am-12.30pm and Saturdays 10am-4.00pm.

We are now able to offer our facilities to individuals, groups or organisations who may want to book the cafe either on a regular basis or for a one-off occasion. This may be for a club or activity meeting, for example a flower club or reading group, or for hosting a private function such as a lunch or

supper party.

Not only can we offer the use of the cafe seating area (which can be set up to suit your purposes) but can also offer kitchen facilities for food and drink preparation.

If you are interested in making either a regular or one-off booking, please contact the Booking Secretary on wilfridscoffee@gmail.com or complete the enquiry form on our website contact page. Our booking policy and charges (plus more detailed Terms and Conditions) are available to view on the website.

We are truly a Community Café in all senses of the word, and fully accessible. All are welcome: those on their own or in a group, walkers, Pilates and fitness groups, or cyclists, and of course we are dog-friendly with a treat or two for our four-legged friends.

All our profits go back into the community to local groups who might need extra help with specific projects, for instance the evening in November when 90 people enjoyed a sit-down



Enjoying the atmosphere and great food in the café.

meal in Droxford Church listening to the wonderful band Shantyhead. This event raised an amazing £845. See page 26 for a report on the evening.

Think you might like to volunteer?

Our volunteers thoroughly enjoy themselves when they serve coffees, tea and cakes in the Café, chatting to the other volunteers who help alongside them and those that come in to use the Café. It's a great way to meet people!

Contact me through our website for more details, wilfrids.org, or check out our Facebook page.

Margaret Wallace

More sporting success for Droxford children!

South Eastleigh and Winchester Year 5/6 Dodgeball Festival

14 children participated in the South Eastleigh and Winchester Dodgeball Festival. The children played against 9 different teams and finished first! Congratulations to everyone involved.

Swanmore Cluster Year 5/6 Girls Football Tournament

Huge congratulations to the girls' football team who won the Swanmore Cluster football tournament, winning on penalties against Bishop's Waltham. This is the second tournament the girls have won this year, a fantastic achievement, well done girls, we are all really proud of you!

Matthew Dampier
Head teacher

Delicious food, and great foot-tapping music from the brilliant Shantyhead



What an evening that was! On 27th November Droxford Church was filled with music, people and laughter for a fundraising event, raising money for local organisations.

The Church was set up with seating for 90 around the Church, in Wilfrid's Café, the north and west aisles and into the Lady chapel, leaving the central pews for watching the live entertainment.

Buffet zones enabled people to get food easily and without much queuing, and a delicious spread was laid on with homemade quiche, home-cooked ham, salads, a fish and a meat platter and much more besides. Droxford bakers made an array of tasty desserts, while a bar made sure no-one went thirsty.

The ever-popular Shantyhead gave their time and energy playing a variety of music for the enjoyment of those listening. They soon had people tapping their feet with their various songs, and Stewart Pepper made sure that when they weren't playing, the Church was filled with more music.

It was lovely to see the Church full of people enjoying themselves. A great many people got together to put the event on, and my grateful thanks go to all those who contributed to the event, and in particular to Ali Pepper and Sarah Smith who gave unstintingly of their time, to Colin Matthissen of the PCC, and Peter Richardson of the FODC,



Shantyhead entertains in the church

who worked with me to ensure plenty of help before, during and after the event.

My thanks also to all the Droxford cooks who produced such a fine array of food and to the people who came along to shift furniture, to help set out and decorate the Church, making it look so inviting.

A very successful event, raising £845 for various projects in the village.

Margaret Wallace

How's your stitching?

We are looking for new members to join our enthusiastic group that we call 'The Corhampton Broderers'.

We meet twice a month at my house in Meonstoke, usually on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, to embroider canvases that will eventually be made into kneelers to sit in front of the alter rail in Corhampton Church.

We are currently working on five canvases, which will serve as a lasting legacy of the Church's 1000 years in our community for future generations.

You don't have to be an expert embroiderer. Enthusiasm is more important. So please get in touch if you would like to come and see what we do with a view to joining us stitchers.

**Karen Ellis
01489 878619**



One of the canvasses the group is currently working on.

Droxford Church needs your help!



St Marys and All Saints Church in Droxford is very much a centre for getting together with friends to attend services and events, meet up with friends for a coffee or hire space for community and private events.

But it needs volunteers to ensure its long-term health.

Ongoing small scale maintenance is the key to reducing the risk of expensive large scale repairs.

Regular monitoring for tell-tale signs, such as blocked gutters, damp patches and slipped slates can easily be done by the congregation and the community.

There are also many small(ish) maintenance jobs that need to be carried out regularly, such as repointing, carpentry, gutter clearance, grass cutting, general

repairs etc.

We are also looking for a Secretary for the PCC and for other PCC members, so please do contact me if you would like more information.

The more volunteers we have the less for each of us to do. So if you have skills to offer and would like to help, with supervision, please get in touch so that we can have a register of people we can call on for these tasks.

Thank you.

Pauline Tilt
01489 877548

...and a new date is arranged for the Church's 5-year strategy meeting

The postponed all-day event to discuss the long-term future of Droxford Church will now take place on Saturday 19th February,

The strategy meeting of stakeholders was to have taken place on 8th January, but was called off because of the Omicrom situation.

Our thanks to the 30 or more people who had confirmed their attendance.

All being well we are looking forward to working with everyone on the new date, and sharing a vision for the sustainable future of our church.

Later we will be inviting all residents and interested parties to join a public consultation meeting.

Please contact me if you have any questions about either event.

June Kershaw
Friends of Droxford Church
vintagetrouble1@gmail.com



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HAMPSHIRE AND WINCHESTER COUNCILLOR'S REPORT *Hugh Lumby*



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Best wishes for 2022 from myself and your local Councillors Frank, Laurence, Linda and Vicki.

I would like to return in this edition to the subject of roads. Climate change means that we are experiencing more storms and what are referred to as extreme weather events. We are all aware of the damage this does to our road network, creating potholes and damaging verges.

Hampshire County Council is responsible for dealing with this and does a lot. For example, last November 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drainage were cleared, and 7,295 potholes were fixed.

In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

We have had some very cold weather and so road gritting is on my mind at the moment. When we do have freezing temperatures forecast, the Hampshire Highways' fleet of salting lorries focus on the main roads first. If you're driving behind a gritter please

keep well back and be patient as they do their job to help keep you on the move. You can see the priority salting routes at <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwaysaltroutes>

Many of our roads and lanes are not on the priority routes but you will be aware of the blue grit bins provided by HCC across the area.

These are filled with salt for community use throughout winter. They're particularly useful for smaller roads or on the pavements.

A small amount of salt from these can make a big impact on frozen and icy surfaces. One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface.

If you spot grit bins that are empty or running low, do contact Hampshire County Council for replenishing. This can be done either online at www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk

General road problems all year round

should be reported online at www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems

Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Another useful link is for reporting fallen trees - go to www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge

As I have said before, please don't assume that someone else has reported issues.

The online reporting system works well, as it ensures that it is recorded and reaches the right person. But, as ever, if you don't see issues being addressed, do please let one of us know.

Hugh Lumby
hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

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roads, education and social services.
City Councillor contact details can be
found on Page 42.**

CORHAMPTON CHURCH CLEANING

For those of you who love Corhampton Church there is a chance to help out.

The lovely team who help with the cleaning are looking for volunteers to join the group. Are you available three times a year, two weeks in a row, to spend maybe a couple of hours cleaning and polishing this very special place?

It would suit someone on their own, or a couple. Let me know and I can put you in touch with Phil and Chrissie Butler, the team leaders, who really love doing it.

Angela Peagram, Churchwarden
01489 878725





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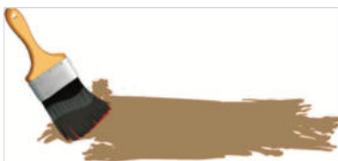
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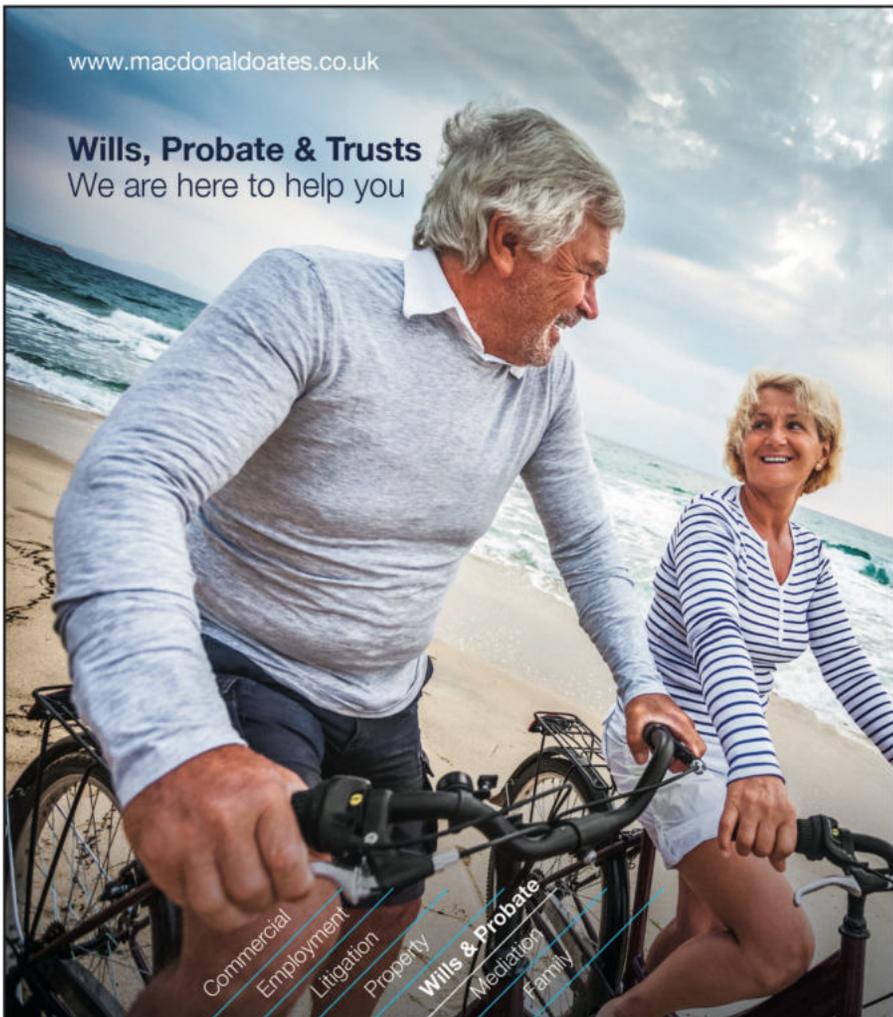
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M: 0788 52 83 036 T: 023 92 63 20 37

E: jay.tucker16@yahoo.co.uk

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debbie@shadesofsweetpea.co.uk', and 'W: www.shadesofsweetpea.co.uk'. The background is a dark, blurred image of a hair salon interior."/>

T: 01489 893646
E: debbie@shadesofsweetpea.co.uk
W: www.shadesofsweetpea.co.uk

Debbie and her team would like to welcome you to Shades of Sweetpea hair salon.

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

Please pop in and pick up a price list, or why not book a free of charge consultation, so we can assess your hair and advise you on the right style for you and your hair! All the family are welcome!

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

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
- 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

Arrives:

- 0955 Waterlooville Waitrose
- 1001 Waterlooville Sainsbury's

Return:

- 1200 Waterlooville Sainsbury's
- 1205 Waterlooville Waitrose

2nd and 5th Friday each month to PETERSFIELD

- 0904 Brockbridge
- 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 FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022

Services in February 2022

Week	Date	Time	Venue	Service
1	Sunday, 6 th February 4 th Sunday before Lent (Proper 1) Accession Day of HM The Queen	8 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Exton	Choral Evensong (BCP) (Accession Day)
	Thursday, 10 th February (<i>Scolastica</i>)	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
2	Sunday, 13 th February 3 rd Sunday before Lent (Proper 2) (<i>Septuagesima</i>)	8 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 17 th February	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
3	Sunday, 20 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent (Proper 3) (<i>Sexagesima</i>)	9 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Droxford	Informal All-Age - <i>new</i>
		10.30 am	Corhampton	Mattins (BCP)
	Thursday, 24 th February	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
4	Sunday, 27 th February Sunday next before Lent (<i>Quinquagesima</i>)	8 am	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Exton	Sung Eucharist (CW)

Services in March 2022

Week	Date	Time	Venue	Service
	Wednesday, 2 nd March Ash Wednesday	6.30 pm	Corhampton	Holy Communion
	Thursday, 3 rd March	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
1	Sunday, 6 th March 1 st Sunday of Lent	8 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Exton	Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 10 th March	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
2	Sunday, 13 th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	8 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW)
		6.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong (BCP)
	Thursday, 17 th March St Patrick	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
3	Sunday, 20 th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	9 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.15 am	Droxford	Informal All-Age - <i>new</i>
		10.30 am	Corhampton	Mattins (BCP)
	Thursday, 24 th March (<i>The Annunciation from 25th</i>)	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
4	Sunday, 27 th March 4 th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	8 am	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Exton	Sung Eucharist (CW)
	Thursday, 31 st March <i>John Donne</i>	10 am	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)

Events Diary

Please note: some events may be affected by Covid restrictions.

Sunday 6th February: Choral Accession Day Evensong to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Exton Church, 6.30pm.

Tuesday 8th February: Playreading Group meeting, Meon Hall, 7.30pm, £3.

Saturday 19th February: Droxford Church Stakeholder Strategy Development, Village Hall, 10.30am to 3pm, buffet lunch.

Wednesday 2nd March: Pop In, St Andrew's Church, 10am to 12am.

Tuesday 8th March: Playreading Group meeting, Meon Hall, 7.30pm, £3.

Wednesday 9th March: Meonstoke and Corhampton Parish Council meeting, Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Sunday 13th March: Athanasian Consort performs 'A Meditation for Lent,' featuring readings and musical offerings. St Andrew's Church, 6.30pm.

Monday 14th March: Droxford British Legion presents a talk by Sir James Perowne KBE 'Life at Windsor Castle,' Village Hall, 6.30pm. Cash Bar. Curry supper afterwards, £10.

Wednesday 16th March: Pop In, St Andrew's Church, 10am to 12am.

Saturday 19th March: Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Show, Meon Hall, 1.30pm.

Sunday 27th March: British Summer Time begins at 2am.

Thursday 31st March: Droxford History group presents a talk by Rachel Dean 'Droxford Shops Remembered.' Village Hall, 7.30pm, £3.

Wednesday 13th April
Corhampton and Meonstoke Annual Parish Assembly, small hall, The Meon Hall, 7.30pm.



Curdridge Amateur Dramatic Group

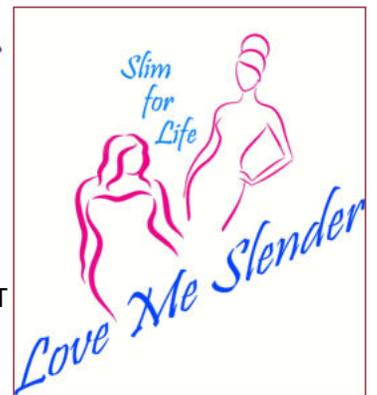
You can count the calories and still enjoy our Spring comedy presentation of "Love me Slender".

Siobhan was Slim for Life's 'Slimmer of the Year' - the ideal leader of the local group! BUT her autocratic rule is achieved through shaming and condescension.

New members join and they're not prepared for this level of devotion, and Siobhan's theology, and mind, begin to unravel. It's the triumph over discipline and sacrifice that every woman wants to see! Let's hear it for the girls... and biscuits!

Productions, at 7.30pm at The Curdridge Reading Rooms, are planned for 31st March, 1st and 2nd April, with a 2.30pm matinee in addition on 2nd April.

But please check our website for any updates: www.curdriddgedrama.co.uk and tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk



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/111) 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.

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

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

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/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

Bookings: Position vacant.
meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk (preferred)
or, if not on email, by phone 01489 877916
For details of charges and general information see
www.candm-pc.gov.uk/the-meon-hall

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

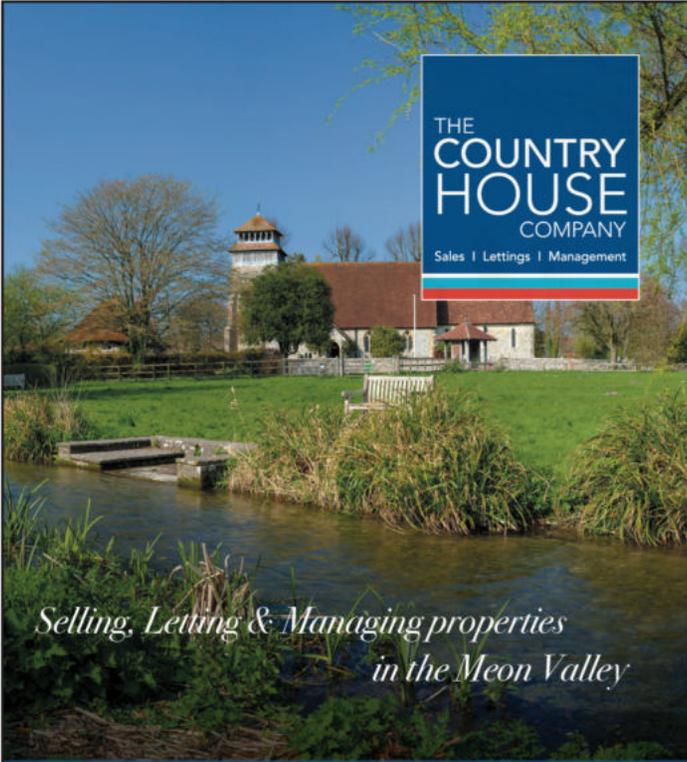
Stocks Lane	Peter Riley (Chair)	07702 863954
Rectory Lane	Sally & Mike Fithyan	07809 516669
High Street	Annie Ward	877831
Warnford Road	Jerry Pett	877633
Corhampton Lane	Janine Casey	877561
Pound Lane, west	Patrick Monger	877161
Pound Lane, east	Linda Foot	877763
Fry's Lane	Charlie Fullegar	07876 524457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

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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