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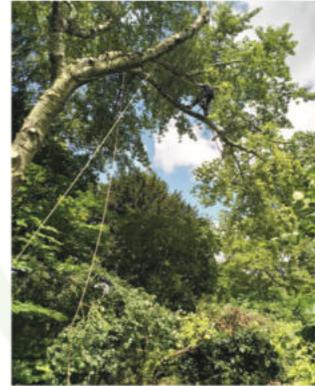
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**The COPY DEADLINE for
the next issue of
THE BRIDGE is
WEDNESDAY
4th MAY**

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Our front cover shows three Droxford children raising money for Ukrainian refugees: 7-year-old Mabel Mulcare in the centre, with (left) Rufus Brown, aged 7, and his brother Barnaby, 4.

After watching the distressing news reports they had decided they must do something to help, so Mabel made lots of appropriately coloured cup cakes, which they then sold to passers-by from the front garden of Yew Tree Cottage in the High Street. After that they went car-washing, and in total raised £265.

On page 7 our Rector has suggested other ways people can help with the fund-raising, such as hosting a coffee morning or a Lent lunch. And as The Bridge went to press an informal network was being set up on WhatsApp for villagers offering to take refugees into their homes. For more information about this please contact Gerry Northwood on 07952 866117.

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 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

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Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

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Organist: John Martin 877385

Sacristan: Laura Jerosch 01329 231956

Verger: James Matthissen 877867

3rd Sunday Services: Ros Collins 877782

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(Corhampton): John Martin (am) 877385

Sacristan: Karen Ellis 878619

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Coordinator: Position vacant.

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Richard Pepys 878035

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

David Frere-Cook 877838

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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



From time to time, I welcome on to the 'On Reflection' page a contribution from a member of our congregation, and I have received the following from Colin Whishaw. It provides a perfect setting for the teaching on the Resurrection, including Jesus' famous saying: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life.' Colin helps us to see that Jesus is depicted both as the one who brings resurrection, and the one who *is* the Resurrection. This is at the heart of the Easter message for Christians, bringing hope to us all in this troubled world. *Fr Tony Forrest.*

A mystery solved...

There are many little mysteries to be found in the Bible which can be solved with a little detective work.

Take the story of Lazarus for example, as told in the 11th Chapter of St John's Gospel.

Lazarus lived in Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha, and Jesus was an exceptionally close friend. Indeed, we are told several times that Jesus loved Lazarus.

When Lazarus became ill Mary and Martha, knowing of Jesus' ability to heal, sent word to Jesus saying, 'Lord, the one you love is sick.'

At the time however, Jesus was in Salim, some 40 miles from Bethany and a day's journey in Biblical times. So the disciples accompanying him would have expected him to make haste to return. But he didn't. He stayed where he was for two more days before making the journey.

Finally arriving in Bethany, Jesus was told that Lazarus had died and had been in his tomb for four days. Mary and Martha both said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.'

What faith! Of course, the people were aware of Jesus' ability to raise people from the dead. The daughter of Jairus and the son of the widow of Nain were examples,

however, on those occasions no significant length of time had elapsed following the death.

Jesus then ordered that the stone should be taken away from the entrance to Lazarus' tomb, but Martha was concerned that after four days the body would already be decomposing. Nevertheless the stone was removed, and in response to Jesus' command, Lazarus came forth from the tomb.

The story seems on the surface to be the recounting of just another of the many miracles performed by Jesus. However, everything done and said by Jesus was surely for a purpose, in which case, why did Jesus remain for two extra days in Salim before heading for Bethany?

Allowing one day for the journey by the messenger, two days staying on in Salim, and a further day for the return journey, a total of four days would have elapsed following the sending of the news of Lazarus' illness, and Jesus' arrival in Bethany. So he must have died very shortly after the message had been sent.

So why did Jesus not want to reach Bethany until four days had gone by?

I have done some research and discovered that at that time many Jews believed that the soul hovered near the

body for three days after death, hoping to return to it. So for those who believed in the departure of the soul only on the *fourth* day, Lazarus was *irrevocably dead*.

Yet Jesus restored him to life.

What better evidence could Jesus have given the people that they could truly believe in his own resurrection a short while later?

Happy Easter to all.

Colin Whishaw

From the Registers

Baptisms

Persephone Grace Pepys Woolner
The Church of St Peter & St Paul,
Exton
Sunday, 26th September 2021

Margot Susan Joan Horn
The Church of St Mary and All
Saints, Droxford
Sunday, 10th October 2021

Marriage

Shane Massey and Francesca
Elizabeth Hocquard
The Church of St Peter & St Paul,
Exton,
Sunday, 12th December 2021

Internment of Ashes

Evelyn Rose Smith
The Church of St Mary and All
Saints, Droxford
Saturday, 2nd October 2021

STEVE SUCH

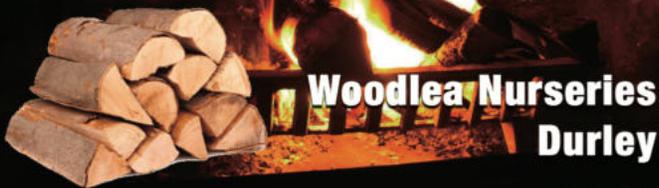
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Your event could be at a time and place to suit you, and all monies raised would be sent by the Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefices to the organisations helping the evacuees.

Please let the Churchwarden and/or myself know what you plan to do, and we shall try to

advertise it.

In addition, posters are available for you to print off and circulate - see opposite.

For your Coffee Morning it's
<https://tinyurl.com/UkraineCoffeeMorning>

And for your Lent Lunch it's
<https://tinyurl.com/UkraineLentLunch>

Please use social media as well, and any other means you have to advertise your event.

It would also help to know when you might expect to have collected the money you have raised, and we can advise on how to pay it in.

Rev'd Tony Forrest

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Mary Watts: a much loved contributor to village life

Mary Watts, who has died aged 93, had lived in Meonstoke for 60 years and was a well-loved and hard-working member of the community.

Many will remember her serving in the village stores where she worked for almost half her life.

She was also the bookings secretary for the Meon Hall, assisted at the village fetes either with the teas or on the white elephant stall, helped with the Darby and Joan Club, joined in school fundraising events, and took part in the beetle drives, the Christingle services, harvest lunch, and much more.

As her long-standing friend June Brooks said at her funeral, "The saying 'if you want a job done well, ask the busiest person around' was written for Mary. Her contribution to the village was enormous, constant and, more often than not, unsung."

Dedicated

"In her quiet and very dedicated way she was woven into the fabric of village life. She had a great sense of belonging and commitment to the community in which she had lived for so long."

Mary was born near Hambledon in 1929, and on leaving school went to work in the Hambledon Post Office. It was during this time that she met her future husband, David.

In 1960 the family came to live in Meonstoke, where she began working at The Stores and continued there until she retired.

David passed away in 1981, and a few years later Mary moved into her bungalow in St Andrews Green.

Her daughter Teresa told The Bridge, "On retiring she took up many varied jobs in the village from dog walking, house sitting and helping at dinner parties, but her favourite was looking after children, where she got to know and love some of the young people

'She had a great sense of commitment to the community in which she had lived for so long'

of the village."

In fact it was through Mary's babysitting that June Brooks, who then lived in Corhampton Lane, became a lifelong friend.

Now living in Winchester, June said, "She was my daughter Laura's babysitter for ten years, or as Laura put it 'Friday nights are Mary nights' and they became the greatest of friends."

"On babysitting evenings, as Peter and I were about to leave, we would barely get a second glance from them but that didn't matter because, as we closed the front door behind us, leaving the two of them snuggled up on the sofa, we knew that Laura was in the safest possible pair of hands."

"Mary was very much a people's person – she liked meeting people and contributing when she could to



any activity which involved bringing members of the community together. She wanted everyone to feel welcome and part of her village.

"She would look for the positive in everyone and everything and, as she treated everyone with kindness and courtesy, she expected the same in return."

"It's no wonder she was such a well-respected and much-loved member of the community."

"I will miss her, and when I visit Meonstoke it won't seem quite the same knowing that she's no longer around."

Alan Starkey

Joan Starkey would like to thank everyone who sent kind messages of sympathy on the death of her husband Alan on 28th December 2021.

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Gordon's history of Droxford reveals how we lived in olden days

Gordon Hope's book recalling 800 years of Droxford's history has now been reprinted, and is back on sale with the proceeds going towards the Droxford Churchyard maintenance fund.

The book tells the story of Droxford from the time of the Norman Conquest right through to the Victorian era, and was a labour of love for Gordon, who lived in Droxford for 50 years until he and Jane moved to Calne in Wiltshire last year.

He wrote the original book 40 years ago after spending five years rummaging in museums and record offices to examine ancient wills and details of house purchases.

Many were so old he had to use the Latin he learned at school to read them.

Now updated with enhanced photos the result is 54 pages crammed with fascinating stories of the great and the good who held important roles in Droxford at one time or another.

The most illustrious of these was

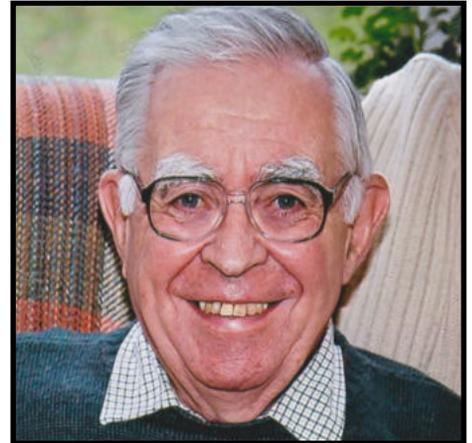
undoubtedly John De Drokenesford, born between 1270 and 1280.

Clearly a busy man, not only was he Rector of Droxford Church, he also held the roles of Chancellor of the Exchequer, Keeper of the King's Wardrobe, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Chaplain to the Pope.

Another dignitary, but one whose career ended in disgrace, was Droxford JP Peter Barfoot.

In 1799 he jailed a villager called John Knight for a week for disorderliness within Droxford Church, despite several witnesses saying it hadn't happened.

On his release Knight sued the JP, who responded by saying that if Knight didn't call off the action he would pull his house down. Undeterred Knight carried on and won the case, with the



Gordon Hope

jury awarding him £50 in damages - around £50,000 in today's money.

Barfoot was sacked as a JP and lived his days out in obscurity in Midlington until his death in 1840. He is buried near the swing gate in the south-west corner of Droxford churchyard.

Gordon's book also contains records of the occupiers of 57 old Droxford houses, culled from the 1841 census. These include the Rectory, the White Horse public house, the Mill, the Manor House, Stedham House, Fir Hill, and other homes along High Street and Union Lane.

He has included historic black-and-white photos of twelve of the houses, together with a colour reproduction of a painting of Droxford Mill by renowned artist William Evans who lived in Droxford in the mid-1800s.

Gordon's friend Stuart Attrill took on the job of reprinting the book which is entitled *800 Years in Droxford, Life in the Manor and Parish from the Normans to Queen Victoria*.

It is on sale for £5 at Droxford Post Office and Wilfrid's Café, or from Stuart Attrill (01489 87850) or email (stuart@attrill.co.uk).

As The Bridge went to press we sadly learned that Gordon had died suddenly while out walking. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Jane and their family. For more information, please contact Stuart.

Anne and James Morrice invite you to their
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2 Houchin Street, Bishop's Waltham SO32 1AR

Firefighter Jo joins the Droxford team

We have exciting news on the recruitment front, and are very pleased to report that FF Jo Studer has successfully completed her training Module A and is now ready to ride the Droxford appliance as our newest team member.

Jo is owner and manager of The Crest holiday let on Garrison Hill in Droxford,

Looking for a new challenge, she applied to join us last year and has managed to fit all the training preparation in around her other work and family commitments.

Jo threw herself into the opportunity, studied hard to pass the pre-course theory exam, regularly attended Tuesday drill nights at Droxford to gain practical experience and spent some time at Cosham fire station, fully immersing herself in the firefighter environment.

She also started intensive personal training sessions to maximise her fitness and ensure she not only completed, but also enjoyed the eight day training course at our Service Headquarters in Eastleigh.

During the course Jo was part of a squad of trainees from on-call stations

around the county, including the Isle of Wight.

Module A of the training programme covers the safe operation of essential pumps and ladders equipment, including drills for pitching rescue ladders over obstacles and in confined spaces.

These skills had to be perfected even with Storm Eunice doing her worst to disrupt proceedings.

The pumping aspects of the course included learning about the hoses and water distribution systems we carry on fire engines where trainees are required to unfurl length after length of red fire hose.

Hose running

No matter how long it has been since their initial training, every firefighter remembers hose-running day.

The course culminates in a combined drill, simulating a property fire where the squad are assessed on their ability to safely apply all the skills they have learned.

Jo, who lives in Soberton with her husband and two children, told The Bridge, "The training course has been, without doubt, the hardest physical endeavour I have taken part in, but the team at Droxford have supported me all the way.

"I would encourage anyone who is interested in being part of the team and who lives within six minutes of the station to pop along to find out more."

Jo is now fully equipped with a pager,



Jo Studer

ready to respond as part of Droxford's crew, whilst continuing her training journey with three future Modules to come, covering Breathing Apparatus, Road Collision Skills and Emergency Medical Care. We're really pleased to have her on board, well done Jo!

Droxford is one of Hampshire Fire and Rescue's network of retained fire stations, providing on-call cover for our local communities and across the county.

Follow @Droxford41 on Twitter for up-to-date information about what we're up to.

**FF Rolfe
Droxford 41**



Jo, on the left, learns about the pumping capabilities of the appliance





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Scouting Group is saved!

In the last issue, we reported that the Droxford Scouting Group worryingly faced closure but are delighted to announce that sufficient leaders have been recruited to continue to lead our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts forward into another year and so save the group from closure!

But we still need all kinds of help, such as behind the scenes admin and other fulfilling roles. If you can spare a little of your time now and again please do contact us at volunteer@hampshirescouts.org.uk

During winter, our new team of adult volunteers attended a training workshop in the Droxford village hall run by inspiring members of the Scouting Association, and then completed other courses such as first aid response and safe-guarding.

The group then reopened in March with fun sessions including the Beavers learning about aerodynamics (handling real jet engine parts), the Cubs learning knot skills and armpit fudge-making, and the Scouts demonstrating their teamwork skills to get out of an escape room.

Father Tony gave the children and adults an illuminating tour of St Mary and All Saints with it's thousand year history, plus the first cub camp since

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 eminent threat.

From the last issue of The Bridge

the pandemic went ahead. The cubs had a marvellous time cooking their meals in billy cans around the camp fire. We know you will be intrigued and possibly grossed out by the idea of armpit fudge, so here is our recipe for you to try!

Armpit Fudge:

- 4 oz (1/2 cup) icing sugar
- 1 tbsp butter (at room temperature)
- 2 tsp cream cheese
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp cocoa powder

Put all ingredients in a re-sealable plastic bag. Squeeze the air out of it and seal. Knead the bag until all ingredients are combined using your armpits (and even knees or hands) to smooth the bag. Open bag and eat with



Gross, but fun! Cubs Milo, Imogen and Isaac squish their armpit fudge

a spoon. Perfect to take on hikes over the South Downs for a quick energy boost!

The group is also busy planning its stand at the Droxford Country Fair. kids (of all ages) be prepared to test your mettle on our challenging assault course! Top tip: keep your bottom down whilst crawling under the 'barbed wire' and camo nets! We look forward to seeing you there!

**Joanna Selwood,
Droxford Scouting Team**

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Life now has an air of normality about it as the incidence of viruses continues to fall and people move around with less caution.

Activities such as Pilates and other exercise classes have begun again, and we hope to resume films in the autumn.

Meanwhile don't forget our Quiz Night in May (see opposite for details).

**Jackie Hibbert
Secretary**

Saturday

7th May

at 7.30pm

Quiz Night

John Martin will be our inimitable Quizmaster

Tickets £10 from the Post Office to include chilli supper or vegetarian option

Teams of 6. You may have fewer, but no more

Licensed bar with real ale

Pilates starting up again

My Pilates with Aplomb face-to-face classes are returning to at Droxford Village Hall after two years on Zoom. And there are spaces for new members to join our friendly group.

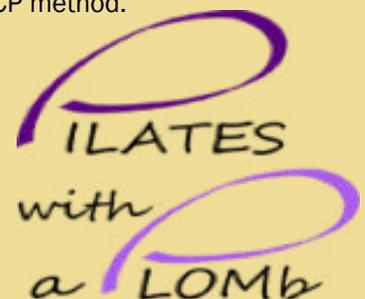
If you're new to Pilates, or returning after a break, I will be teaching a 4-week induction course starting Wednesday 4th May at 1.45pm.

These classes will introduce the history of Pilates, the principles of Body Control Pilates®, and the fundamental exercises that underpin the BCP method.

The course costs £68 and will be limited to 7 students.

To register your interest, please contact on droxford@pilateswithaplomb.com or 07928 067190.

Hannah Plom



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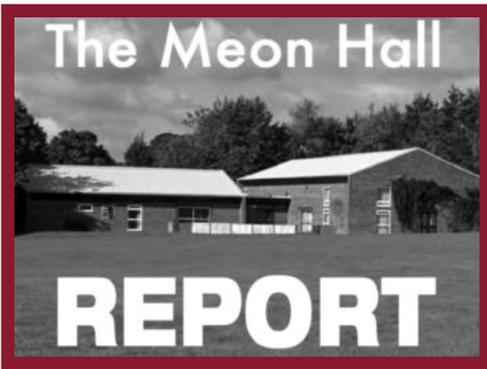
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Could you be the Meon Hall Bookings Secretary?

Are you interested in village matters, with suitable experience to help with managing a successful community facility ?

We are inviting someone to be the new Bookings Secretary for The Meon Hall.

If you fancy the role, and would like to know more about it, please contact James Morrice at jamesmorrice99@gmail.com or by phone message on 877916 for a chat.

200 Club goes from strength to strength

A huge "Thank you" to everyone who has joined The Meon Hall's 200 Club in 2022. So far 360 tickets have been sold!

Even if you don't win one of the cash prizes during the year, by being a member you will have helped the Meon Hall Management Committee to keep the Meon Hall up to date, and well equipped.

With £3600 raised so far this year we have successfully demonstrated community support for The Meon Hall so that we can apply for grants, and arrange for urgent work and purchases of new equipment.

During the recent two years of lockdown the evidence of this interest and support for the 200 Club (which started over 40 years

ago) has helped finance a refurbishment programme when the Hall was closed.

Now fully open again, the Hall is its usual well-kept self, with a busy bookings diary.

If you would like to join the 200 Club for 2022 to help The Meon Hall committee's work, please contact James Morrice on 01489 877916.

The winners of the 2022 monthly draws were :

February : Neil Brownlie
March : Sophie Lea

Brand new cutlery, thanks to Pauline's gift!

Thank you to Pauline Quarendon for a most generous donation with Gift Aid in memory of her late husband Captain Trevor Quarendon, RN, given specifically to help with the replacement of all the Meon Hall's cutlery.

Replacing that unattractive mishmash garnered over 40 years with elderly knives/forks/spoons etc, had been on the Committee's "to do list" for some time (and the teaspoons - oh dear - Jenny Creese lost count having identified well over 35 different types!).

Having achieved all that, it was quite easy to take the opportunity to buy 150 new dinner plates to replace the varied collection lurking in the kitchen cupboards.

The recent Hampshire Farmers Club AGM and Dinner at The Meon Hall with over 100 present had the first opportunity to use all this new cutlery and china - their guest speaker was Jeremy Clarkson's Land Agent - as seen on TV.

If you are interested in hiring The Meon Hall or hiring items to take away for home entertaining, please email to meonhallbookings2@yahoo.com or if it is urgent please leave a message on 01489 877916

Free food and drinks to warm up shivering power cut victims

When a power cut left Pound Lane and New Road without electricity for 18 hours during the February storms, SSE came to the rescue in more ways than one.

While repairing the fault they hired a mobile canteen to set up in the Meon Hall car park and supply food and hot drinks free of charge to dozens of residents who had spent the night shivering in their beds and were still without power at lunchtime the next day.

Linda Foot of Pound Lane told The Bridge, "It was amazing. You didn't have to pay for anything, and they were even offering to charge up people's mobile phones. I had a bacon butty, and there were egg butties and sausages as well. And if you brought a flask along they filled it up with hot water for you. A wonderful service!"



Cold and hungry residents welcome Russell's Mobile Catering van in the Meon Hall car park. Right, Alan Dobson receives his cheese burger.



MeonStorks, where it's often messy but always fun

Going from strength to strength the Meonstoke Toddler and Baby Group, known more simply as MeonStorks, throws open its doors every Thursday morning to local families and their under 5's.

With a new investment in toys and crafts, each session is filled with fun. We now have soft play for babies and toddlers to explore, a sensory table stocked with seasonal discoveries, and lots of messy arts and crafts are on hand each week.

Each week we have been adding to our 'tree' (pictured below) on the foyer wall of the Meon Hall which we started as the autumn leaves were falling.

We've added owls, animals and snowflakes over the winter, and as the spring has arrived it has been transformed by spring flower crafts that the little ones have enjoyed making. Spring lambs might be making an appearance too!

We are already throwing open the



Hall's rear doors on to the sun-trap patio for the little ones to play on with the trikes and pushalongs.

A vital lifeline for the village and area, MeonStorks can often be the first place for a new family to meet other parents of little ones before their children graduate to the preschool or infant school.

Building these community and social bonds in children's early years, especially after the isolation of the pandemic, is hugely beneficial, not to mention great fun.

We don't forget the parents, of course! We are run by parent volunteers, who are an inclusive group and we love to



Saskia Ellis and Jonny Brzezicki enjoy a seesaw ride at MeonStorks

have dads, grandparents and new faces attending too. We also have a termly parents' social at the Bucks Head (after bedtime of course!).

As part of our community we ask Bridge readers to make sure people know about MeonStorks and help spread the word. We want to make sure every local new family knows we are here for them to meet other families.

Vicky Ellis

MeonStorks is a stay-and-play group for 0 to 5 years olds, and is open from 9:30-11:30, term time Thursdays at the Meon Hall. We normally have around 16 children, though it has been up to 23.

First time is free, thereafter it's £3 per family. That includes a healthy snack for the toddlers mid-morning, and teas and coffees for the adults (There are often cakes too - shh!).

We are also proud to support the annual Cake and and Plant Sale (May 14th, Brook Cottage, High Street, Meonstoke, 10-12am) which is our annual fundraiser. See you there!

Improve your tennis!

Meonstoke Tennis Club, now in its seventh year, has acquired the services of an LTA coach, Alex Forster, who teaches both beginners and improvers on Monday mornings on the Meon Hall recreation ground. Additional sessions will take place in the evenings once it is lighter.

The sessions cost £10 each. You don't have to book but we would like to know in advance if you wish to attend.

Free taster sessions are possible, but

ongoing attendance and use of the court will require an annual membership fee of £30 per family. Please indicate your interest by e-mailing me for further details on katecook60@btinternet.com

This summer the club will hopefully be offering taster courses for children from the local area, and they will not have to be a member to come along!

The club is primarily for residents living within The Bridge's circulation area, and so far over 80 families have

enrolled for 2022, meaning that more than 200 residents are now registered to play. Why not join them! It's a great way to keep fit and enjoy yourself.

We especially look forward to welcoming any newcomers to our villages.

For more details on how to join us: www.meonstoketennisclub.com

Kate Cook
01489 877050

Memorial for D-Day airmen

On 04 April 1944, 33 servicemen were killed during an airborne forces parachuting exercise in preparation for D-Day. 27 of these died when their Horsa Glider crashed in Warnford Park, and the other 6 in the Stirling IV 'tug' aircraft that crashed near Romsey.

78 years later, on 4th April, Rev'd Tony Forrest is to lead a service of remembrance near the site, and bless a memorial

stone honouring those who lost their lives.

Veterans and serving personnel will lay wreaths, names will be read by children from a local school, and the service will be supported by a bugler and a piper.

The event will be held from 10.30 to 12 beside the South Downs Way between Exton and Old Winchester Hill, a site which provides a panoramic view of the flight path and Horsa crash site. It is open for all who wish to attend.

Maj Will Pike PARA (retd) said, "This reminds us all of the ultimate sacrifice that so many

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TO REMEMBER 33 SERVICEMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN A PRE D-DAY AIRBORNE EXERCISE ON 04 APRIL 1944

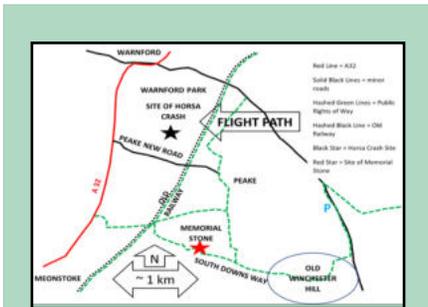
> WHAT: MEMORIAL UNVEILING SERVICE

> WHEN: 04 APRIL 2022 BETWEEN 10AM AND 12 NOON

> WHERE: AT THE NEW MEMORIAL STONE BESIDE THE SOUTH DOWNS WAY BETWEEN MEDNSTOKE AND OLD WINCHESTER HILL

On the night of 4th April 1944, as part of Exercise 'Drazer', Stirling IV L.J.442 of No. 196 Squadron RAF was towing 1 Horsa, Horsa glider L.699 containing two glider pilots and members of No. 3 Platoon, X Company, 7th Airborne Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers. Tragically the Stirling struck a tree in the East of Warnford Park. The Horsa glider crashed in the fields of Warnford Park, killing all 27 soldiers on board. The Stirling flew on with catastrophic damage and crashed near Romsey, also killing all 4 of the RAFVR & RAAF crew.

FIND IT USING THE WHAT3WORDS APP... letter.equity.revols.



The map shows the location of the memorial beside the South Downs Way, which can also be found using the What3Words app, with the three words: [letter.equity.revols](https://www.what3words.com/letter.equity.revols).

paid, on our behalf, in the two world wars and conflicts since, as well as the role the 'South Downs' and its communities played in the run up to D-Day".

Droxford Scarecrow Festival

10th to 24th September

Join us and create your own scarecrow and display in your front garden or business forecourt. There is no theme - your scarecrow could represent your job, business, hobby, current affairs or your home. Just enjoy making!

The Festival winds up at the Rec on Saturday 24th September at 1pm when the winners will be announced.

Get your £5 kit (straw, frame and sack) from me. But there's no obligation, you can source your own if you wish. Get the kids/grandkids to make it in their summer holidays.

Debbie Foster (07875 499709)
dc.foster@virgin.net



Get your home security checked with this free survey



The Blue Lamp Trust runs a free scheme called the Bobby Scheme, which provides home security visits, life-long smoke alarms and advice.

It is particularly devised for the vulnerable, the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse.

A full crime prevention and fire safety survey is carried out by a trained, police-vetted fitter, who will provide

both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety.

When appropriate the fitter will fix locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms, etc. This service is completely free.

The Trust can also supply and fit the Supra C500 Key Safe, an ACPO Police Accredited Key Safe. The cost to

supply and fit is £75 including VAT.

Trained Cyber advisors will also visit residents in their own home and give advice and guidance on basic IT security, and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime.

The service is open to those over 65, disabled (over 18) and victims of cyber crime.

It will cover such things as cyber crime, cyber and scam prevention advice, how to check privacy settings, signposting to other advice and resources, how to report issues and how to recognise scam emails and text messages. As with the Bobby Scheme the service is completely free.

As well as visits the team can do talks about both schemes to local community and social groups.

If you would like visit for either scheme or to arrange a talk, either go to our website:

<https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-choice/>

Or email the team at info@bluelamptrust.org.uk

Or call 0300 777 0157

Meon Voices prepare ambitious Jubilee-themed programme

The popular community choir, Meon Voices, has begun rehearsals for a special Jubilee-themed performance at 7.30 on Saturday 23rd April at St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham.

The ambitious programme has folk songs from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England, and a Jubilee Hymn written for Her Majesty's coronation in 1953.

There is something for everyone, with Will Todd's haunting *Stay With Me Lord*, thoughtful contemporary classics from Leonard Cohen and Gordon Sumner (Sting of The Police), and uplifting jollity with Guy Turner's Tequila Samba, and more Gershwin favourites.

There will be no need to book as it's not a ticketed event, and everyone is welcome – as your community choir, it belongs to you!

The choir has members from all local villages, and is formed from the four main vocal ranges: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, and is welcoming new members on to its waiting list, to join the happy throng.

For further information please contact Phil 01489 579078 or email coundleypj@yahoo.com or Jane on janevose@icloud.com



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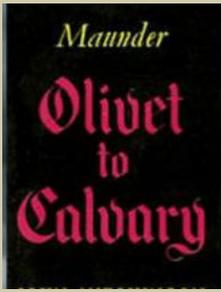
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St Andrew's



Olivet to Calvary is a sacred cantata written by John Henry Maunder well over 100 years ago, which recalls some of the momentous events in the last days of Jesus' life on earth, and is being performed a week before Easter in St Andrew's Church.

The first section depicts Christ's jubilant journey to Jerusalem and ends with the scene on the Mount of Olives (Olivet).

The second starts with the Feast of Passover with Christ's commandment to his disciples to 'love one another' and ends with the Crucifixion at Calvary.

The soloists will be David Cain (tenor), Celia Willis (soprano), and John Butt (bass), with organist Anthony Froggatt.

The audience will be invited to sing hymns reflecting on the various scenes. So do come along for what promises to be a very moving musical and spiritual experience.

Meon Valley Quilters to display their work

Meon Valley Quilters meet in Waltham Chase Village Hall on the second Saturday of each month and we have over 100 members.

At the end of April we are holding an exhibition of our members' beautiful work, as follows:

Rookesbury Park, Southwick Road, Wickham PO17 6HT: 10 - 5 on Saturday 30th April, and 10 - 4 on Sunday 1st May 2022.

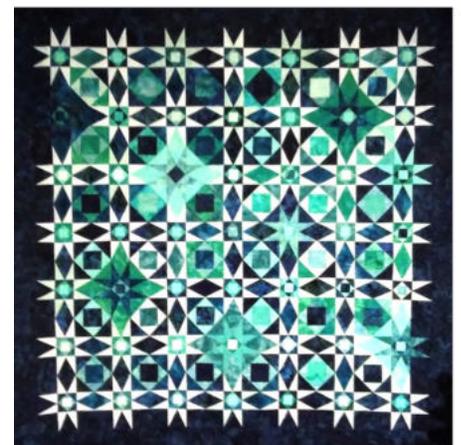
There will be a cushion raffle, a sales table of items made by members, refreshments all day with cakes and lunchtime snacks.

We will have a bag tombola, book sales and two traders. Admission is £3.50, children free.

There will also be a talk by international quilter, Joy Salvage at 2pm on Saturday 30th April, and entry to the talk will be £3. There is disabled access and plenty of parking.

There is so much to see, like the one below – so please come!

Rosemary Yeoman
Chairman, Meon Valley Quilters



"POP UP" DINNER - DROXFORD CHURCH
FRIDAY 13TH May 2022 - 7pm
Prepared by renowned chef - Nicholas Ruthven-Stuart

MENU

**Pressed Ham Hock & Parsley Terrine,
Chutney,
Pea Shoots, Herb Toast**

or

**Garden Vegetable Terrine, Sundried Tomato
Coulis, Pea Shoots, Herb Toast**

**Coq au Vin, Lardons, Shallots, Mushrooms,
Ratatouille, Dauphinois Potatoes**

or

**Chickpea & Butternut Squash Tagine,
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**Trio of Puddings
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£35 per head - Bring your own wine and glasses

**Bookings and Menu Choice available from
Christina's in the Village Square
01489 877172 from 18 April**

**All proceeds for St Mary and All Saints Church,
Droxford**

Meon Valley Playreading Group

Yes! We're back, with regular meetings on 2nd Tuesday of the month.

7.30pm at the Meon Hall.

NO experience needed

NO acting on stage!

NO 'screens' - for a pleasant change!

so ... NO excuse for not coming along!

Just £3 covers rent and coffee.

Next meetings: Tues April 12th and Tues May 10th.

**Questions? Just e-mail:
gerryhayles45@gmail.com**

Platinum Jubilee celebration plans...



There are just two months to go now until our whole community comes together to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of continuous service to the country, and plans are well underway for residents young and old to create lasting memories.

On Thursday 2nd June a **beacon** will be lit at Pongside Farm in Meonstoke to coincide with others being lit throughout the country, and there will be an evening **Thanksgiving Service** at Droxford Church.

Saturday afternoon, the **Droxford Country Fair** makes a welcome return after two years, while the Meonstoke Football Club will stage a **Football Match** at 2.30 on the recreation ground. Then in the evening the **Platinum Party concert** will be screened at the Bucks Head BBQ.

On Sunday, bring a picnic to the Meon Hall to take part in the national **Big Jubilee Lunch**. See Gill Horn's timeline highlighting key events in each year of the Queen's reign, as well as Meonstoke School displays, and more!

Then join the **Marching Band** parading Rita Fooks' fabulous Celebration Cake to the **Street Party** on Meonstoke High Street.

Meanwhile, **Droxford Cricket Club** will be inviting 6-a-side teams to take part in a competition at the Recreation Ground.

There will be plenty of **family-friendly activities** as well to round off the weekend with an afternoon of outdoor fun.

Who will win Droxford's best decorated house and garden?

Droxford always displays its party flags on the weekend of the Country Fair and this year it would be great to see the whole village "Decorate to Celebrate" the Jubilee weekend. Have you planned yours?

Make sure your decorations are up by midday on Friday 3rd June as judging will take place that afternoon to decide which house/garden has been decorated with the most flair and enthusiasm.

Janet Melson

Volunteers needed! RSVP by Monday 25th April

Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton residents will find a flyer inserted into their copy of The Bridge.

To help me plan the street party please complete the form on the flyer and return it to the Village Shop by Monday 25th April, or email me.

As well as confirming whether you plan to attend the Street Party (so we order the right number of commemorative mugs and make enough sandwiches and cupcakes), the form also invites you to consider how you might like to volunteer to be involved:

- Bake vanilla cupcakes (details to follow)
- Make sandwiches and decorate the cupcakes
- Do flower arrangements for the tables on the High Street
- Lay the tables
- Serve tea and coffee (a rota will ensure everyone gets to join in the party)
- Put up and take down bunting in Meonstoke
- Join the Marching Band
- Volunteer a teenager to be an official helper
- Loan Coronation or Jubilee photos or memorabilia for display at the Meon Hall

While this is a free event donations would be most welcome to help cover the costs. Cash – or cheques made payable to Pippa Heggie – can be placed in an envelope with your form. Or transfer funds by BACS (sort code: 20-47-34 account: 70895520).

Who should cut the Celebration Cake?

Should it be the oldest person in the community? Or someone whose unsung help over the pandemic has made a real difference?

We'd love your thoughts, so please email me your suggestions with the subject line 'Cake cutter nomination'

Pippa Heggie 07794 102406
pippa.heggie@yahoo.co.uk



The 2012 Marching Band

Join the Marching Band!

There is going to be a village Marching Band to parade Rita Fooks' cake from the Meon Hall to the street party in the High Street on Sunday 5th June at 2.30pm.

We would like everyone who can play or sing to join in. Walkers welcome too.

Any ability and any instrument, saucepans and spoons included!

The tune will be London's Burning. Competent musicians can play it as a round. "Fire fire" only requires one note to be played over and over!

Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to play in the band, and if you would like to receive the sheet music.

Annabel
annabelarmstrong@btinternet.com

Wild Flower Display

Remember the amazing display of wild flowers in Corhampton Church last year? We hope to repeat the display again.

This isn't a flower arranging contest, just an opportunity to show the beauty of wild flowers in the ancient surroundings of our lovely Saxon Church where simplicity and peace are tangible.

If you contributed an arrangement in 2021 please do it again, and if you weren't able to last year now's your chance!

It's all so simple... just fill a jam jar or simple container with wild flowers (legal ones) and bring your arrangement to Corhampton Church on Friday 3rd June between 6.30 and 8.00 pm. Unless reclaimed on Monday 6th, I will dispose of the flowers and containers.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if you'd like to take part. Many thanks.

Lorna Allured 01489 877718

Big Screen and BBQ at the Bucks Head

If you didn't get tickets to the Buckingham Palace Platinum Party on Saturday 4th June in the public ballot, don't worry, the Bucks Head's big screen will be back so we can enjoy the concert together while tucking into a BBQ.

Tickets (£10 per person) will be sold in advance to ensure the pub has enough BBQ to meet demand.

Save the date...



Elizabeth R

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It's fertiliser time!

The winter rains will probably have leached out nutrients from many gardens that have chalky soil, so early April is a good time to restore the deficit by generous application of a balanced fertiliser such as blood fish and bone or growmore throughout the garden, particularly mixed and herbaceous borders.

It is also important to feed areas with daffodils and tulips because long after the flowers are gone the foliage continues to photosynthesise, and it needs essential nutrients to promote healthy bulbs for next year. It will still be necessary to apply specialised fertilisers for roses in addition to this as they contain additional nutrients to the basic NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium).

Bedding plants and tender plants:

Those raised from seed, such as outdoor tomatoes and courgettes can be placed outside on warm, still days to harden them off and keep them compact, but beware of leaving them out overnight or on windy days until they are fully hardened off. Wind is particularly damaging to young plants as it desiccates the foliage, which can set back growth or even destroy the plants.

Vegetables: Plant seed **potatoes** in well-manured trenches sprinkled with general purpose fertiliser. **Leeks** may be sown into trays or pots and planted later when large enough to handle. Sow maincrop **carrots**, purple sprouting

broccoli and **peas** and plant out **onion sets**. A second sowing of **broad beans** can now be made. It is also a good idea to sow **runner beans** in small pots so that they are ready for planting out as soon as the danger of frost is past. In May sow **beetroot** and continue to sow **salad crops**. It is a good idea to cover newly sown seed with mesh or fleece until the seeds have germinated, to protect against birds, cats, mice etc. Protect **potato foliage** from late frosts by earthing up or covering with fleece.

Fruit: Clear all debris and dead leaves from the base of trees and bushes. Apply a 3 to 4 inch mulch of well-rotted manure or compost to help conserve moisture as the weather warms up. Keep an eye open for gooseberry sawfly (any sign of leaves being completely eaten) and if present, spray with proprietary insecticide.

Herbaceous border: Feed and mulch roses. In April prune hydrangea paniculata, spirea japonica and Buddleia very hard to produce strong new growth this year, remember these shrubs flower on the current year's growth, so they respond well to this



treatment every year. In early April cut back by about a third Sage, Artemesia, Cistus, Lavender and Santolina to prevent straggly growth. Hard prune wall trained or hedging Pyracantha. In late May, lightly trim back winter flowering heathers.

In the greenhouse: Check all young plants on a daily basis, making sure that they do not dry out and watch out for any signs of pests and diseases, and treat with proprietary fungicide or pesticide as appropriate.

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

John Owen

Oh, to be in England...

If the present weather is an indication of what lies ahead, we can expect a mixture of all kinds. Over recent weeks we have seen hailstones, lots of rain, sometimes lasting all day, and wind which has been frightening in its ferocity. On such days, the daylight seemed in short supply.

The gardens have once more come to life, with the arrival of snowdrops, hellebores and crocuses. As the snowdrops decline, primroses and violets appear.

Such dainty flowers seem unaffected by the wind and rain. Catkins have appeared on the trees, and blossom, though not on fruit trees. Daffodils are in bloom in gardens and

*Oh to be in England, now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf,
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bow,
In England now.*

*And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!
Hark, where my blossomed pear tree in the hedge*

present a welcome sight. We can look forward to the brighter colour of tulips before too long.

The smaller birds like goldfinches and sparrows are grateful for the seeds hung in feeders, whilst the larger birds peck away at the ground.

A poem written by Robert Browning, on his return from a second trip to Italy in 1845, written with great feeling for his home country. It was a year before he made another trip to Italy, taking with him Elizabeth Barrett as his wife.

Jackie Hibbert

*Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops, at the bent sprays edge.
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice
over,
Lest you think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!*

*And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
The buttercups, the little children's dower,
Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!*

More trips for Droxford children, thanks to William Collins Trust

The William Collins Trust has made a financial award to enable children from Droxford School to take trips to three Hampshire activities centres. They will be able to enjoy a range of exciting activities at:

- The Calshott Activities Centre which, located on the shores of the Solent, is one of the largest outdoor adventure centres in Britain, with many water and land-based activities.
- The Runways End Outdoor Centre, which sits beside the Basingstoke Canal and offers a wide range of environmental and adventure activities on land and water.
- The Portsmouth Watersports Centre, where the children will be able to enjoy, under instruction, sailing and kayaking.

The grant will also provide funding towards the running of after school music and sports clubs.

The Trust was set up in Corhampton in the 17th Century by the then Rector, William Collins, to provide financial help for the education of the children of the parish.

The original endowment, alongside recent very generous bequests, now provides an annual income which is managed by a group of locally recruited trustees.

Education may look very different now, but the need is still there and his legacy is still helping children today who need financial assistance with an aspect of their education.

So please consider applications 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.

The Trustees meet three times a year and consider applications in strictest confidence. The only stipulations are that applicants are under 25; live in Droxford, Meonstoke, Corhampton or Exton; there is genuine need; and the money



Fun on the water at Runways End

will be used for a named aspect of their education.

The next meeting to decide grants is on 2nd September.

Please contact: Rev'd Tony Forrest 01489 877422, Sian Holiday 07966 487762, or Vicky Hill 07801 372860.

...and only now discovered, the Trust's coat of arms

While tidying the pews of St Andrew's Church recently the Rector came across an unusual kneeler he had not noticed before.

As well as depicting on it William Collins' coat of arms (they were obviously a family of means) the stitcher cites the bequest, specifically: *William Collins in 1669 bequathed messuage and monies for the Parish School.*

Fr Tony comments: 'Messuage is a legal term for a dwelling, and in



this case the bequest provided lodgings for the teacher.

'How wonderful it is that Collins' seventh century act of philanthropy is still helping children and young people who live in the Bridge Benefice with some of their educational costs, other than school fees.'

Support your Churches: Volunteers needed!

We would welcome your stepping forward to help in a number of roles in our churches. How about being Churchwarden in Meonstoke, for example? Chat to Angela Peagram (01489 878725) or Fr Tony (01489 877422) about what's involved in being part of the happy team.

Even if you don't feel ready for a major role just yet there may still be some small way in which you could support us, so do come forward, It would be very much appreciated.

Give a Swift a home!

Swifts fly back from Africa to the same nest box year after year. But their numbers are plummeting.

You could help stop the decline by providing a a swift nest box (which I'll provide) on your house.

If you're interested in helping save these wonderful birds please call Peter Renwick on 01489 877772.

And from the Swifts a huge "Thank you."

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.



We have a new fence!

Walkers through the Droxford churchyard will have seen our superb new East and South boundary fences.

These replaced on the East, a very broken down wire fence that allowed weeds to encroach from the field and generally looked unsightly, and on the South an old rusty metal railing fence.

The fencing cost just over £3500 and just over two thirds of the money was donated by eight parishioners.

Our very grateful thanks to them.

Stuart Attrill



Pop In



St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

We are up and running again, providing beverages, cake, biscuits and an opportunity to chat. The library situated at the back of the church is also available for you to browse, bring and borrow books. There is a good selection of fiction and non-fiction, we just ask you to remember to bring the book back!

So 'Pop In' between 10 am and noon on any first or third Wednesday of the month.

Next dates April 6th & 20th and May 4th & 18th

Everyone is welcome!

Linda Forrest 01489 877422

Explore Petersfield's History

Droxford History Group is organising an outing to Petersfield, with a guided walk around the town.

Thursday 26th May 2022

Meet at Petersfield Museum at 10.30

Parking in Tesco's Car Park or at the Festival Hall.

Cost of the walk is £5, to be followed by lunch (at your expense).

Non-members welcome. Please let me know if you wish to come so that I can give numbers for the walk and lunch.

pylewell@gmail.com

Olive Hathaway, Secretary

Six trees and hundreds of plants for Droxford School

By the time you read this our Spring Dig Day will have already happened. As some of you may be aware, we wish to encourage more wildlife and pollinators into the school grounds and the Spring Dig day is the planting phase, to help this vision come true.

Prior to this, during the weekend before the storms, I came in to school to plant six trees with the help of Andy from the Butterfly and Bee Nursery (who supplied them) and Barry Proctor (local allotmenteer).

These trees form part of our contribution to a 'Green Canopy' and are the first of the aforementioned plants that will help to create a nature corridor down to the wildlife area. We will be planting hundreds of

pollinating plants all around the school grounds over the next year.

On the Dig Day we will have had the South Downs National Park and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in attendance, as well as Mick Giles who will help children make bird boxes.

I will update all in the next edition of The Bridge.

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

How Portugal came to rule the waves

A talk by best-selling author Roger Cowley

Droxford Village Hall

7pm Monday 9th May

Droxford and District Royal British Legion Branch invites you to hear Roger Cowley present *Conquerors – how the Portuguese opened up the Middle and Far East in the 15th and 16th Centuries*.

Roger will relate the epic story of how a small, poor nation came to enjoy a century of maritime supremacy thanks to the daring and navigational skill of its explorers which few other countries could match.

He will explain how Portugal's discovery of a sea route to India, its campaign of imperial conquest over Muslim rulers, and its domination of the spice trade, forever disrupted the Mediterranean and built the first global economy.

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 5th May.

The RBL Droxford & District Branch is always looking for new members, both Service and civilian, to help keep remembrance alive and support our Servicemen and women, veterans and their families. For more information or to join us, please contact the Secretary, Cdr Rob Scott RN, at robmunroscott@aol.com or 01489 877800. www.soberton.org/rblweb



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HAMPSHIRE AND WINCHESTER COUNCILLOR'S REPORT *Hugh Lumby*



Winchester
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MEON VALLEY DIVISION, CENTRAL AND
UPPER MEON VALLEY WARDS

A32 speeding bikers beware! We're on the case

The exciting news is that after years of pushing, the Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed to install average speed cameras on the A32 and the A272 to help tackle antisocial motorbikes in the area.

This is a very big investment, sufficiently large in fact that it made it into the Sunday Times recently!

The cameras will be installed around the West Meon Hut, running on the A272 from Bramdean to Langrish and on the A32 from East Tisted to West Meon.

Installation is likely to take place later this year.

The hope is that by placing them in the middle of the affected area, it will deter bikers from the area.

Police coverage

There have been concerns that this may just displace the issue but the police have assured us that there will be additional police coverage in the wider area, using the spare capacity freed up by the cameras.

In addition, if the area covered turns out not to be sufficient, we have been assured they will look at extending this to a wider area.

Finally, there is a renewed push for acoustic cameras to be brought in as well: these measure noise from bikes.

There are some issues with these at present but if approved, they could be another game changer.



...and 20 is plenty in our villages too!

In separate news, Hampshire County Council are looking again as to whether there should be 20-mph zones in residential areas.

These clearly have environmental, noise and safety benefits. However, some may feel this is too slow on

larger roads. The result of the review is expected later this year.

If you have any particular thoughts on this, please do let me know.

Be aware of others

We have had a number of recent collisions and accidents on our lanes and on the railway line, involving cars, bikes, animals and walkers.

So a reminder to everyone, whatever your preferred mode of transport, to be aware of others, especially on corners.

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.



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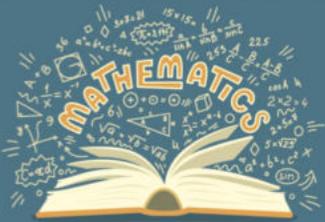
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debbie@shadesofsweetpea.co.uk', and 'W: www.shadesofsweetpea.co.uk'. The background shows a dimly lit hair salon interior."/>

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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 APRIL & MAY

Sunday, 3 rd April 5 th Sunday of Lent Passiontide Begins	8.00	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
	6.30 pm	Exton	Evensong (BCP)
Monday, 4 th April	10.30	Old Winchester Hill	Consecration of war memorial and Act of Remembrance
Thursday, 7 th April	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday, 10 th April Palm Sunday	8.00	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW) Start in Churchyard
	3.00 pm	Corhampton	Evening Prayer (BCP)
	7 pm	Meonstoke	Olivet to Calvary
Monday of Holy week	5.00 pm	Exton	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday of Holy week	5.00 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer (CW)
Wednesday of Holy week	5.00 pm	Meonstoke	Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 14 th April Maundy Thursday	9.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
	11 am	St Thomas' Cathedral, Portsmouth with Bishop Jonathan Frost	Chrism Mass and reaffirmation of vows
	7 pm	Corhampton	Sung Eucharist with optional foot washing
	8.30 pm	Corhampton	Vigil readings and Silence
Friday, 15 th April	9.00	Starting at Droxford	Walk of Witness
	1.45 pm	An Hour at the Foot of the Cross	Exton
Sunday, 17 th April EASTER DAY	8.00	Exton Churchyard	Vigil and Paschal Candles
	9.00	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am	Droxford	Family Service + HC
	10.30	Meonstoke	Family Service + HC
Thursday, 21 st April HM The Queen's Birthday	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
Friday, 22 nd April	1.00 pm	Meonstoke	Wedding
Sunday, 24 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	8.00	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Exton	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Thursday, 28 th April	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday, 1 May 3 rd Sunday of Easter	8.00	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Meonstoke	Sung Eucharist (CW)
	6.30 pm	Exton	Evensong (BCP)
Thursday, 5 May	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
Saturday, 7 May		Meonstoke	Baptism
		Droxford	Wedding Blessing
Sunday, 8 May 4 th Sunday of Easter	8.00	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Droxford	Sung Eucharist (CW)
	6.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong (BCP)
Thursday, 12 May	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday, 15 May St Mathias 5 th Sunday of Easter	9.00	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP) (Matthias)
	10.30	Corhampton	Mattins (BCP)
Thursday, 19 May	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday, 22 May 6 th Sunday of Easter	8.00	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Exton	Sung Eucharist (CW)
Thursday, 26 May Ascension Day	10.00	Droxford	Said Holy Communion (CW)
	7 pm	Botley	Deanery Sung Eucharist with 'massed' choirs
Sunday, 29 May 7 th Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)	9.00	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30	Corhampton	Family Liturgy of the Word + optional Sung Eucharist

Events Diary

April

Monday 4th RAF Airmen Memorial Service, Warnford Park 10am – 12am (see page 19)

Tuesday 5th Wilfrid's Cafe are holding a 'Bake for Ukraine' cake sale.

Wednesday 6th Pop-in, 10am to 12am St Andrew's Church

Sunday 10th Olivet to Calvary 7.30pm St Andrew's Church

Tuesday 12th Meon Valley Arts Society talk *18th Century Artists* 10.40am Meon Hall

Tuesday 12th Play Reading Group, 7.30pm Meon Hall

Wednesday 13th Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Assembly Meeting 7.30pm Meon Hall

Thursday 14th MeonStorks toddler Group 9.30am Meon Hall

Thursday 21st MeonStorks toddler Group 9.30am Meon Hall

Tuesday 26th Meon Valley Heritage & Archaeology Group AGM 7.30pm Meon Hall

May

Wednesday 4th Pilates with Aplomb, 1.45pm Droxford Village Hall

Wednesday 4th Pop-in, 10am to 12am St Andrew's Church

Thursday 5th Local government elections, Polling Station all day, Meon Hall

Saturday 7th Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Sale 10am Droxford Village Hall

Saturday 7th Quiz Night, 7.30pm Droxford Village Hall

Monday 9th Royal British Legion talk by historian Roger Cowley, 7pm Droxford Village Hall (see page 27)

Tuesday 10th Meon Valley Arts Society talk *Art, Craft and Social Justice*, 10.40am Meon Hall

Tuesday 10th Play Reading Group 7.30pm Meon Hall

Friday 13th Pop Up Dinner, 7pm Droxford Church (see page 21)

Thursday 12th MeonStorks toddler group, 9.30am Meon Hall

Saturday 14th Plant & Cake Sale, 10.00am, Brook Cottage, High Street, Meonstoke (If wet, to be held in the Meon Hall)

Wednesday 15th Pop-in, 10am to 12am St Andrew's Church

Monday 23rd Meon Hall Management Committee, 7.30pm Meon Hall

Thursday 26th MeonStorks Toddler Group 9.30am Meon Hall

Thursday 26th Droxford History Group outing to Petersfield Museum, 10.30am (see page 26)

And further afield..

Saturday 23rd April Meon Voices concert, 7.30 St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham

Tuesday 26th April Meon Valley Carers Group, 2pm to 4pm, Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore SO32 2PA

Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May Meon Valley Quilters exhibition 10am - 5pm (4pm on Sunday) Rookesbury Park, Southwick Road, Wickham PO17 6HT



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

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- 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.

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

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

STORES

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

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PARISH COUNCILS

Corhampton & Meonstoke	
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Droxford	
Clerk/RFO: Ailsa Duckworth	07720 092072
Exton Parish Meeting	
Secretary: Jill Hignett	878450

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Central Meon Valley	
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Frank Pearson fpearson@winchester.gov.uk	
Vicki Weston vweston@winchester.gov.uk	
Upper Meon Valley	
Laurence Ruffell lruffell@winchester.gov.uk	
Hugh Lumby hlumby@winchester.gov.uk	

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Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: Arthur Brown.	07865 517484

URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE

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DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Local events and activities:
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HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services	0300 555 1386
Children's Services	0845 603 5620
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Out-of-hours number:	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.

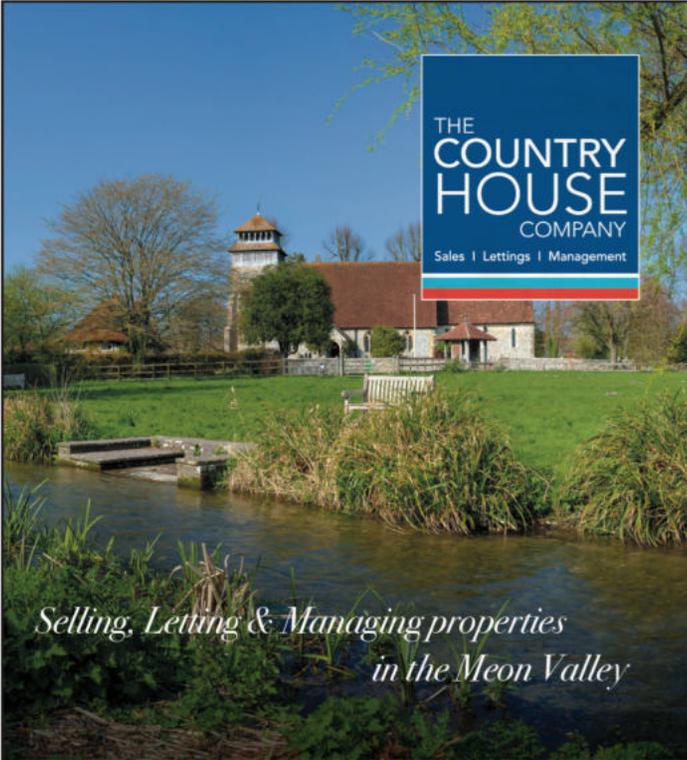
AFTER contacting one of the above, please ALSO contact your street coordinator with details of the report. If not available, try any other coordinator including the Chairman. Their numbers are listed below.

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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 05874
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
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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.

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