

THE BRIDGE

The Parish Magazine for Corhampton
Droxford, Exton and Meonstoke

August and September 2023



All the fun of the Fairs
Pages 22 and 23

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

www.bridgechurches.org.uk

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Whitemore and Kate Williams.

**The COPY DEADLINE
for the August/September
issue of The Bridge is
WEDNESDAY
6th September 2023**

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Two brilliant fairs in the past month! Droxford celebrated their 85th Country Fair, while the Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton Fete drew the crowds as well. So much work by volunteers goes into organising these events, so our thanks go to them for their months of effort. You can see pictures of both events on pages 22 and 23.

A long-standing resident who has worked tirelessly for our four villages is Za Rowe, who has decided after more than 50 years here to take life a little easier, and to step down from her long-standing role on the Droxford and District Community Care Group. Earlier this year she retired after many years on the Parish Council as well, so we say thank you Za for all you have done for our community.

Ian Gilchrist, Editor
07785 951063
Email: thebridgeeditor@gmail.com

THE BRIDGE is delivered free 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 email your write-ups to the Editor. 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: The Benefice currently has a vacancy. Please contact the Churchwardens as necessary, until a new incumbent is appointed.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS: Reader: Cathy Mathews 877804
Reader emeritus: Pauline Quarendon 877392

ASSISTANT CLERGY: Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert 878289

DROXFORD

Churchwarden:

Colin Matthissen 877867

Vice Chair: Jeff Hooper 877406

Secretary:

Audrey Dryden-Brownlee 877286

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

Harry Martineau 877213

Organist: John Martin 877385

Sacristan: Position vacant.

Verger: James Matthissen 877867

Deanery Synod Representative:

John Symes 877643

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

Churchwarden: Angela Peagram 878725

Secretary: (via Churchwarden)

Treasurer: Position vacant.

Gift Aid Secretary: Iain Gammell 878162

Organists:

(Meonstoke): Position vacant.

(Corhampton): John Martin (am) 877385

Sacristan: Karen Ellis 878619

PRESHAW

Coordinator: Position vacant.

EXTON

Churchwarden & Secretary:

Richard Pepys 878035

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

David Frere-Cook 877838

Organist & Sacristan: Positions vacant.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

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

For information about Baptisms and Funerals, please contact the Churchwardens in the first instance.

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ON REFLECTION



Is someone you know being abused?

The Clewer Initiative* tells us that there will be someone being abused in every community.

You may think we live in a beautiful part of the world where nothing like that could happen, but perpetrators may particularly welcome the isolation of a rural setting. That is a very unhappy thought, but one for which we must be prepared.

Would you know how to respond, if someone who is desperate approached you ?

The church takes safeguarding very seriously, and so its senior leaders, those working with young people or vulnerable adults and PCC members are all trained, and re-trained at regular intervals.

Senior leaders are trained to a very high standard. Those working with

Why safeguarding is at the heart of our ministry

young people or vulnerable adults and PCC members are trained to have a minimum basic awareness of types of abuse – which can, sadly, be myriad, but include financial, emotional, trafficking and physical abuse.

They are also trained to respond in a non-judgemental way, to listen attentively, to record honestly and fairly, and to be caring and discrete.

However, they must make it clear to the vulnerable person that they need to take action, to protect the victim or survivor and take steps to support them, with the help of others.

The first person who will be contacted is our excellent Parish Safeguarding

Officer, Ali Pepper. Her email is: safeguarding@droxford.org and her number 01489 877928.

You will find on the Benefice website www.bridgechurches.org.uk a safeguarding page with contact details for out-of-hours and at weekends, as well as the names of people at the Diocese.

The Churchwardens, who have taken part in Safeguarding Leadership Training, have learnt how amazingly helpful the Diocesan staff can be, particularly where there can be an impact beyond the victim or survivor, such as to their wider family members and to the community.

There are some heart-breaking stories, but help is very much at hand.

Our churches hold fast to a spirit of welcome to all comers. We seek to be a church that loves, welcomes, protects, learns, serves, values, cares and believes.

We are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult.

But we must all be alert to signs of abuse and what might pose a risk. We must all care for the victims, the survivors and those who are the subject of allegations.

We must do all we can to make our worshipping communities and congregations safe and welcoming havens for everyone.

Any action, no matter how small, could change or save the life of somebody in desperate circumstances.

Please be aware and seek help.

Angela Peagram
Meonstoke Churchwarden

* www.theclewerinitiative.org

An uplifting moment...

It is my privilege to open St Andrew's church most mornings, and to my delight recently it has been a very heavenly experience.

As you enter the lych gate from the road there is a lovely bush to the right which has been invaded by a wild yellow honeysuckle and when the early morning dew descends upon it the whole area is engulfed in the most delightful fragrance - uplifting and breathtaking.

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Rob Medway

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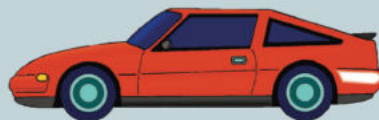
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Community award for Clare and Sue

Two Meonstoke residents have received a community award from the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Angela Clear, for their part in helping Ukraine refugees settle into new lives in Hampshire.

Clare Bohy-Smith and her mother Sue, who live at Rectory Lane, have been part of a team of ten volunteers working for the SNUG charity shop at Wallops Wood.

This was set up by volunteers just over a year ago to provide free clothing, furniture, toiletries, school uniforms, computers, fridges, pet food and much more, to over 100 families.

The Mayor's citation states that:
"As a result of the team's tireless work, many Ukrainians have now settled into safe comfortable

homes and become more independent. The Meon Valley community can be proud of this dedicated team for helping them to integrate, and to return to some kind of normality."

SNUG co-organiser Sam Dunlop told The Bridge, "Sue and Clare have both done so much for us, sourcing and transporting clothing and furniture, and helping out in the shop.

"Clare was so enthusiastic she practically lived here!"

Sue said, "Clare has special needs, so this was something positive and worthwhile for her to

do, and she was fantastic.

"As well as gathering items for SNUG from across Hampshire she also spent lots of time in the shop talking to the visitors and making them feel welcome."

Clare added, "I sometimes found I was delivering clothes and furniture to homes where people had absolutely nothing, and were sleeping on the floor.

"One lady was about to have a baby, and we managed to find her baby clothes, a pram and other essentials."



Clare (left) and Sue



Clare receives her award from the Mayor

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Hurrah! Our zip wire's back!

The much loved zipwire at Droxford Recreation Ground has been replaced and a new one installed by Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd.

Droxford Parish Council is happy to see it in use again by the young people in the village, particularly after school on sunny days.

The zipwire installation is part of a five year programme of improvements within the play area, which is partly funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocated to Droxford Parish Council by the South Downs National Park Authority.

CIL is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to support new homes and businesses.

Ailsa Duckworth
Clerk to Droxford Parish Council



Children enjoy the new zip wire. The frame is made from hardwood timber, there are steel ground anchors, and the runway has safety surfacing.

St Andrew's Church Meonstoke

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE and LUNCH

Sunday 1st October
All Welcome

10.30 am Harvest Festival Service
led by the Rt Rev'd Peter Hancock

12.00 noon Harvest Lunch in
Church

Contributions (tins and dried goods please) for those in need can be put in the FoodBank box in St Andrew's during the week before the service, or brought to the service on the day.

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From the Registers

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Committal of Ashes
29th June Albert 'Bertie' Norman Rings

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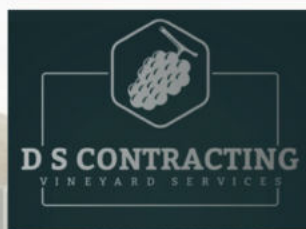
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Thank you, Za!

After 35 years supporting the Droxford and District Community Care Group, Za Rowe has retired.

As well as being Chair for many years, Za has undertaken many other activities that come under the umbrella of the Group, including welcoming newcomers to the village and driving people to medical appointments.

In addition, in more than half a century of living in Meonstoke, she has been chair of both the parish council and the school governors, alongside her work with the PCC as church warden.

As chair of the parish council she was

the prime mover behind the building of the affordable houses at Bridgemeed.

Za, pictured right, was presented at the AGM with an arrangement of white roses by David Keighley, the incoming chairman.

She said she hoped more local residents, particularly younger ones, will come forward and offer their services to the Care Group to ensure this very valuable contribution to village life continues in the future. If you are able to volunteer in anyway



even for just a couple of hours a month, we would like to hear from you. Please contact David Keighley on 07736 799262.



CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

We welcome Laura Northwood to the Parish Council, who took her place at the first meeting of the new municipal year at the end of May.

Laura generously put herself forward for election following the retirement of Patrick Rowe and Nick Riley before the last local elections.

We formally recorded our thanks to Patrick and Nick at the Annual Parish Assembly, but it's entirely appropriate to mark in The Bridge their long service to our villages, particularly Patrick and his wife Za who, between them, have contributed as members and Chair over many years.

There is still one vacancy on the



Council and our Clerk, Rosie Hoile, would be delighted to hear from anybody who lives in Corhampton or Meonstoke and who might be interested in being part of the team. Email clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk, or phone 07960 122699.

A correction: In the last issue of The Bridge I was congratulated

You will have noticed that the average speed cameras are now in place on the A32 between West Meon and East Tisted, and on the A272 between Bramdean and Langrish.

Parishes, District and County Councillors and our local MP have attended a meeting with the PCC, and as our HCC Councillor, Hugh Lumby, reports on Page 28, these are having a notable effect on reducing the excessive speed of some motorcyclists along this stretch.

High on our agenda now will be to learn the role, if any, that 'acoustic cameras' are playing in the scheme, and whether it will be possible to deploy these lower down the Meon Valley.

on organising the Coronation Day event in Meonstoke.

In fact I had very little input. The organiser was Laura Northwood who deserves all the credit for its success, supported by members of the Meon Ladies Group.

(Apologies, my mistake. Ed)

Jerry Pett



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Meonstoke F.C. joins a new League

The Meon Valley Sunday League, in which Meonstoke's own team has been playing for over half a century, is to close, retaining only its veterans league. This is due to a decline in the number of other clubs interesting in playing.

But it isn't the end of our club. On the contrary, it allows us to begin a new chapter in our illustrious history.

Our committee has decided to continue running the all-age village team by joining the **Winchester and District League** which is well-respected and well-run, with good discipline including an intolerance of swearing during play.

We are also looking to take on new members. At present we have a squad of 16 to 18 regulars, but another six are needed to cover for absences. We operate a roll-on-roll-off system, so that players can be taken on and off during a match, which gives everyone the best chance of a game.

The new committee is dedicated to providing this excellent opportunity for community sport, and acknowledges with gratitude the support of Mr James Morrice and the Meon Hall Committee, and Meonstoke Parish Council.

Also Liam at the Bucks Head; our

And we're looking for new members

sponsors *Bread and Butter* and *Godshill Cherry Orchards*; and all the very many villagers who have supported us down the years.

In readiness for the new season we also have a new strip in red and black (pictured).

This has been provided by Lewis



Our team playing against Waterloooville last year

Spreadbury, who runs the local catering business *Bread and Butter*. The club will continue to use the blue strip provided by Godshill Cherry Orchards as their away strip.

The committee now comprises:

Rob Medway, Chair
rob@godshillorchards.co.uk

Jo Jones, Secretary
jfooks@hotmail.co.uk

Rita Fooks, Treasurer
ritafools@sky.com

Shaun Spreadbury, Team Manager
shaunspreadbury@btinternet.com

Rob Medway

Retired and wanting to meet more people? Try u3a

Are you retired, and would like to meet others in a similar position to explore new ideas, skills and interests?

The Meon Valley u3a has around 80 members with a wide range of interest groups including Egyptology, Poetry Reading, Petanque, Strolling, Art Appreciation, and Book Reading, with three outside visits in the summer.

We also put on regular talks on a variety of other topics, usually held on the first and third Tuesday of the

month at 2pm at the Wickham Centre, Wickham. If you have a specialist interest of your own you might even like to give a talk on it yourself!

Guest speakers lined up over the next two months are:

- 5th Sept: Dr Lyndon Palmer on The Isle of Lewis historic chess sets.
- 19th Sept: Mike Hollis on Q ships.
- 3rd Oct: Jennie Burkett on Eye Disease.
- 17th Oct: Jim Busby on Historic Fareham High St.

We warmly welcome new members. Current annual membership is £12. Lectures by guest speakers cost £1 to attend, with those given by members being free.

Each talk lasts about an hour, followed by tea and biscuits.

There is a table containing books, DVDs and puzzles, which can be exchanged for donations going to charity.

Contact Lyndon Palmer on 07881 991763, or lyndonplmr@gmail.com
u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley



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Children say goodbye to their Head Teacher

Emma Howell, Head Teacher of the Newtown and Meonstoke Infants Schools, has stepped down for pastures new and to spend time with her family travelling.

It was eleven years ago that Emma joined Newtown Infant School as Head Teacher, seeing hundreds of children travel through the beginning of their educational journey and embracing them into their school life.

Three years ago, after the Governing bodies from both schools came together under the name of 'The Meon Valley Federation,' Emma took on the role of Executive Head Teacher across the two schools, embracing the two identities and all of their pupils.

One pupil from Meonstoke School has summed it up perfectly: "You never forget your first head-teacher. My Mummy remembers hers

After Emma's 11 years at Droxford, Meonstoke and Newtown Schools, pupils talk of her kindness

from her first school – Droxford – and I will always remember Mrs Howell's kindness and smiles."

Another, from Newtown, said: "Mrs Howell is so kind, I loved it when she taught me maths and did the assemblies."

We as a Governing Body would like to



Emma Howell

thank Emma for her dedication, loyalty and hard work to the children of our schools and communities, and we wish all the luck on her future adventures.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, you can do so via online: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3123871>.

Calling all Voices: Join our Community Choir in September

Are you looking for a way to connect with your community and explore your musical talents?

Look no further than our friendly choir, the Meon Voices.

Our diverse group of singers, ranging from beginners to experienced, and including soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices, come together to make beautiful music, build often lifelong relationships, and make a positive impact on those around us.

At Meon Voices we believe that music is not just a form of entertainment, but a powerful tool for self-expression and personal growth.

Whether you're shy or outgoing, young or mature, a soloist or prefer to blend your voice with others, our



choir is open to everyone.

Plus, there are numerous benefits of singing in a choir, such as reducing stress, increasing happiness, and improving overall mental health.

Everyone is welcome, and a particular call is for experienced tenor and bass voices, which are usually male. As with many performance arts, we have fewer male than female voices, and would like to improve the balance if

possible.

In addition to our weekly rehearsals we have exciting performances at Christmas and in the Spring.

If you are interested in joining this friendly, uplifting choir, the Monday night practices will begin again in September from 7.30 to 9.30 at the United Free Church in Bishops Waltham, culminating in a Christmas concert.

Practice then starts again in January, rehearsing for a Spring concert, followed by a Summer break.

Please contact Phil on 01489 579078 or coundleypj@yahoo.com, or Jane on janevose@icloud.com.

Lizz Clarke

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200 Club continues to thrive

With the Meon Hall's financial year having ended on 30 June, it was good to see that reasonable progress has been achieved with bookings and income over the past 12 months.

The 200 Club is having another good year, too. Membership is now at 340, an excellent level of support!

The club helps the Meon Hall Committee to keep everything in the hall in good order. If you are new here and would like to join the 200 Club, please email me.

Solar panels: The Committee is investigating the feasibility of installing solar panels on the hall roof. We hope to be able to give an update in the next issue of The Bridge.

Mindfulness Classes: The autumn term kicks off with Ali Lambie's *Mindfulness Hampshire* classes in the Small Hall in September. Details of her Mindfulness and Self-Compassion training, and how to book are at www.mindfulnesshampshire.co.uk.

Folk Music Camp: Over the August

Winners of the 200 Club monthly draws:

June: Bob Solen

July: Paul Buxton

Winner of the 2023 mid-Summer prize:

Anna Lewin

Bank Holiday weekend the organisers of a private Folk Music Camp have booked the Meon Hall and the whole of the Recreation Ground.

There will, however, be normal public access to the Tennis Court and Exercise/Play area, and the Skateboard facilities.

Yoga: The Yoga group meets weekly in September on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am for an hour. Contact the



trainer, James Finucane, on 07855 337853 for details.

Recycling: Please keep recycling your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for Hampshire First Responders, the trained and experienced local volunteers who turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency.

Closed for maintenance: The Meon Hall will be closed during the first week of August, when annual maintenance and deep cleaning will be taking place.

No hirings will be taken for this period, so if you are thinking about hiring equipment for a family party, please arrange to book and collect before Friday 28th July by emailing meonhallbookings2@yahoo.com, or leaving a message on 01489 877916, to discuss how we can help to meet your hiring needs.

James Morrice
jamesmorrice99@gmail.com

LEFT: Charlotte Graetz holds her weekly hour-long Pilates classes in the Meon Hall each Wednesday from 9.15am, and at Droxford Village Hall each Friday from 9.15am and 10.30. Details from 07776 221077 or charlotte@mrrsgpilates.co.uk.





Desert Island Discs

6. The Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert

Canon Anthony Hulbert is 83. He moved to Meonstoke in 2010, having previously lived at Fir Hill in Droxford, the home his family bought almost a century ago, and then at The Mill.

At age 18 he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and found himself in charge of a platoon stationed in Cyprus and north Africa. Later he studied history at Cambridge before deciding to join the church.

After nearly fifty decades as rector in five different Benefices, church rules required him to retire at the age of 70. But, as he says, "once ordained, always ordained," and he received special permission to continue officiating, and still does.

Since Fr. Tony Forrest left the Benefice eight months ago Anthony has been taking our services, and also in Hambledon and Newtown where they are also without a rector.

Here he talks of his eventful and fulfilling life, and chooses the records that have accompanied him on his journey.



Anthony and Nicola

1. Jack Hulbert: Who's been polishing the Sun?

I am told I am very distantly related to the actor and singer Jack Hulbert, though I'm not quite sure in what way. We had this song on a 78rpm record which we were always playing on our 'gramophone,' as it was called in those days.

One of my earliest memories is when I was seven or eight, going to the Kings Theatre in Portsmouth to see him perform, because we knew he would be singing it. We met him after the show and my father kept in touch with him for some years afterwards.

2. Dvorak: New World Symphony

I met my wife Nicola in 1962 on a kind of blind date. I was at Cambridge and I had been asked to host a supper party as a way of enabling people to meet

and get to know each other.

Nicola was at Cambridge Technical College and was one of the guests who had been invited. We hit it off, fell in love, and married three years later when I was at Wells Theological College, and she had begun working in a local bank.

Being on a student grant I didn't have any money, and she kept me really, until I was able to earn properly. We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary in two years' time. and this has always been one of our favourite pieces of music.

3. Bob Dylan: Where have all the Flowers Gone?

I was ordained in 1966 and appointed curate at Fareham, and four years later became rector at Wickham. It was the time of the Vietnam War, and this song

reflects everything that was happening then.

The decision to serve in the church was a gradual one. At the age of 18 I and a friend had joined the Guards and had been posted to Cyprus during the EOKA emergency.

We were given a rough time, and the only person who helped us through it was the chaplain. It was my first indication that the church worked in a slightly different way to other organisations.

It was the fact that he had taken to the trouble to look out for us, when others had not.

Another trigger was when I joined a Cambridge mission in south London that was doing really wonderful things for the community: youth work, education, social action, that kind of

thing.

I measured that against what I had seen in the Officers' mess where there were some just interested in themselves.

Having been brought up as a Christian I began to seriously consider the church as a career. I didn't want to go into something that just made lots of money and live for myself, but to do something constructive for others.

4. Dave Bilbrough: Who can Separate us from the Love of God?

In 1979 I became vicar of a huge parish in Bedford with 600 on the electoral role, and with many of them attending church each week. It's hard to believe that now.

We recruited a team of young adults – interns you would call them today – who helped set up youth clubs and camps, a women's refuge, hospital visiting, the kind of things you don't often see today.

One of the team was an American called Keith Grogg. He played the guitar and sang this marvellous, evocative folk song to us, which I was to recall 30 years later in 2009 when Nicola suddenly developed bacterial meningitis.

Until then she had been completely fit, strong and active, but for eleven days she was unconscious and expected to die.

As she lay there I read to her the words of Dave's song, which come from Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8:

'For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

She recovered and told me that even while in a coma she had heard me reading it to her. It seemed a witness to the truth of the words.

5. Mendelsohn: How Lovely are the Messengers

After 13 years at Bedford I was appointed vicar at Leighton Buzzard.



Anthony shows of his puppetry skills during a Christmas morning service at Droxford last year. "The ox in the photo was made at my request by a lady in Bedford who was good at needlework. She also made a puppet of an ass, so in the pulpit I asked the two of them to tell me what happened at the Nativity, as they were both there! I then related the story, with interpretation, to the congregation, who seemed to enjoy it once they had got over their surprise."

It was a tough job because you had to look after three country villages as well as the town, which was expanding at an enormous rate.

The large, ancient and much-loved parish church with its magnificent spire was falling into disrepair, so we launched a major restoration project which received enormous support across the town and country.

It is a central church which has a massive part to play in the life of the community, with its coffee shop, health and healing centre, children's holiday club, and much more besides.

I spent ten years there, and when I left I was asked by the choir what anthem I would like them to sing.

It was a wonderful choir, top notch, and I asked for this by Mendelsohn: "How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace."

6. Halleluia Chorus from The Messiah

While my life has been very fulfilling, my only regret is disappointment that the Church of England has not managed to persuade a greater number of people than it has. It once played such a prominent part of our national culture, and it no longer does.

That's not to say, though, that its beliefs are not true or that parishes aren't doing constructive and useful things.

There is still a great need for a parish priest, and there is much that he or she can do to foster and enrich the community.

I think all the church can do is remain faithful to its calling and its gospel. The idea of a remnant of people - a small community - still keeping the Christian faith alive and well is a powerful vision, and it has been proved over the centuries that Christianity has always continued, and has never been squashed at any time.

That's why I have chosen the Halleluia Chorus as my final record because it is full of triumph, hope and positivity, and with the conviction that in the end all will be well, and that God's love and mercy will be revealed to us all.

■ How would I cope on the island?

I've been used to being on my own at times, and I'm not without inner resources and, of course, I have a prayer life which I hope would continue. I believe there is a God in Heaven who looks after us, and that I would be sustained on the island.

■ My luxury item?

A pair of really comfortable walking shoes as I love walking and would enjoy exploring round the island. And as I have always loved dogs, I would like to have a dog as well, to accompany me on the walks.

■ The book I would take?

The Oxford Book of English verse, as I have always loved poetry.

■ The one record I would save from the waves?

The New World Symphony. It soothes the spirit!

It's time for those final summer jobs

It has been a dry summer so far, so before going away on holiday ensure that all recent planting is well watered and mulched to minimise drying out.

In September aerate lawns and apply autumn feed, spike and rake bald or compacted areas and re-seed. Be sure to keep lawns clear of leaves as autumn approaches as this reduces the risk of pests and diseases.

Plant winter flowering heathers in September. Erica carnea and Erica darleyensis will do very well on chalk as long as they get plenty of sun and are not allowed to dry out after planting.

However, summer flowering heathers, calluna vulgaris, will not survive on



chalky soil.

Vegetables – Lift potatoes and onions to avoid unnecessary pest damage. Last sowings of radish, rocket and lettuce can be made in early August.

Now is also the time to sow spring cabbage, perpetual spinach and winter lettuce. Runner beans are now coming into their own, but remember to keep them well watered, and keep an eye out for blackfly. Treat with proprietary pesticide as necessary, or spray with a solution of soapy water.

Fruit – Plant out strawberry plants that have rooted from runners, and they will fruit next year.

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

With the latter it is a good idea to combine pruning with harvesting so that any damage caused when picking can be remedied.

Herbaceous border – Continue dead heading and cut out tall or weak stems from plants that have finished flowering. Feed and deadhead dahlias and look out for aphids and blackfly and treat with soapy water or proprietary pesticide.

Take cuttings of alpines, penstemons, fuchsias and zonal pelargoniums. Make sure tall asters and Michaelmas daisies are well supported. As lavender flowers fade cut back stems to new pairs of shoots using secateurs.

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

Keep hydrangeas well watered to extend flowering

Containers – Keep well watered and continue dead heading, especially petunias, and you will be rewarded with flowers for several weeks to come.

In the greenhouse – Reduce watering and feeding of tomatoes as the fruits start to ripen, but make sure the soil remains moist. If it dries out and you then over water the fruit will split.

Be watchful for red spider mite and whitefly on cucumbers and spray as necessary or use sticky whitefly traps if pests are present.

John Owen



Thanks for helping to fund our volunteering

On behalf of myself and 35 of my fellow Peter Symonds students, we can't thank everyone enough for the amazing kindness, generosity and support you gave us at the end of June, when we held two tea-and-cakes afternoons at Tinnisbourne, Beacon Hill Lane, to raise funds to do volunteer work in Uganda, as part of the Embabazi Project.

You donated a total of £1,102.30 over the weekend, which was beyond our wildest dreams.

It enabled us to spend two weeks in the poverty-stricken village of Kamuronko, helping to rebuild dormitories and toilet blocks which had collapsed in the recent floods.

Your fundraising also provided a variety of much-needed sports equipment for the children, including



Serving cakes and raising funds, left to right, students Phoebe Pryde, Imogen Nichols, Kai James, Lola Kingsland and Olivia Wakely.

football, netball and volleyball. We took 110 white T-shirts as well, with pens and paints for the children to decorate and use as their school uniform.

Our thanks again, and we hope you enjoyed your tea and homemade cakes.

Imogen Nichols, granddaughter of Jane and Trevor Chase

Droxford School bowls them over at the Ageas



Droxford School's U11 cricket team recently won their local cluster schools tournament in Fair Oak, beating some challenging teams.

This meant they were invited to play in the County finals at the Ageas Bowl where they made it through the qualifying stages (on an average run rate higher than the other schools) and qualified for the quarter finals.

The team rose to the occasion and in a tense match, won by 1 run! Without a rest, they were rushed into playing the semi-finals (a position Droxford hadn't been in before) but narrowly coming up short by just 4 runs!

It was a stirring effort for a team made up of Year 5 and 6 children. Although deflated in the end, the boys knew they had played extremely well and we were all so proud of them.

That's not the end of it. Having already won one trophy the team is aiming for more as they have qualified for the semi-finals of the Hampshire Schools U11 Cricket Cup with Sarisbury Junior School standing in their way for a cup final place.

Matthew Damper, Head teacher

85 years on... and the Droxford Country Fair is as popular as ever!

Wow, what a wonderful day! Visitors to the 85th Droxford Country Fair were treated to a fun-filled afternoon with plenty to do for all the family.

We were delighted to host falconry displays, magical Punch and Judy shows, pony rides, an art show of local artists, llamas, a fun dog show, a petting farm, a display of beautifully curated rare cars, and traditional games.

A huge variety of goodies were available from all our carefully curated stall holders, and we were thrilled to have you all with us. Our delicious, locally-sourced barbecue, and the Pimms & Bowman Ale bar, were kept busy all afternoon.

These, along with lunches and cream teas with strawberries and traditional ice creams, which were provided by the amazing Wilfrid's and Friends of

Droxford School, meant everyone was very well catered for.

We have so many people to thank. We could not possibly have managed it without the countless number of volunteers who gave their time, effort and creativity to plan and run the day. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your help and support, all given graciously with a smile.

Thanks must be given in particular to Mary and Harry Martineau, and Lindsey and Dave Shepherd, who so generously allow us to use their beautiful gardens, making our fair such a special and unique event.

Our takings have not yet been finalised, but we are hoping to have made a profit of around £3,500. These funds will be distributed at our AGM in January.

If you feel you are a worthy local cause do come along and pitch for a share. This is also a golden opportunity for you to get involved with next year's fair, when we look forward to welcoming everyone again.

Many thanks.

Mary Hornby-Patterson and all the Droxford Country Fair Committee.



LEFT: David Major's Punch and Judy proved popular with all ages.

RIGHT: Greeted by the beautiful sound of the church bells, the Fair was blessed and opened by Rev'd Anthony Hulbert.



Musical entertainment was provided by our local Sing & Tonic group, the Soberton Strummers and, pictured above, the Swanmore Wind Band.



LEFT: New this year was a marquee full of reptiles, many of them draped around children's shoulders.

RIGHT: a display of falconry.



Pictures by Nicky Higgins

And smiles all round in Exton too

The number of people who helped in so many ways to make the Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton Church Fête a delightful event was huge, and it was no surprise to me that everyone who visited seemed to be wearing a smile.

The BBQ and the Pimms and beer stalls both did a roaring trade; visitors were serenaded by two ensembles; ponies were ridden; gifts and toys were sold; faces were painted;

A vast number of bottles were so generously given, meaning that the bottle store was busy all afternoon.

The Bric-a-brac stall, the cakes, the ice creams and two different raffles, as well as the silent auction enjoyed a steady flow of custom, and the plant stall sold everything they had.

Two Exton ladies were wearing eye-catching fuchsia T-shirts, their skills proudly emblazoned 'The Exton Dodgy Jammers'!

An enormous quantity of jam was sold but they have kept some back for the August Bank holiday Bring and Buy sale and more importantly for the November Fair.

Younger visitors bounced their afternoon away on the Bouncy Castle and many of all ages enjoyed a cream tea, with or without extra cake.

A huge thank you must go to all who helped set up, manage stalls, and more importantly, put everything away again at the end of the day: "THANK YOU!"

Richard Pepys



They come from Exton, call themselves Muddy Lanes (after the lane of the same name near the vineyard). Formed only recently, this was their first ever public gig. Singer Shannon Martin, singer and guitarist Mark Potter (in the centre), Pete Whittard on tambourine, plus guest guitarist Piers Clough from London, played acoustic pop from the 60s through to the 90s. They were joined later by two other musicians from Exton: Isaac Potter (drums) and Ray Crewe (guitar). The group is available for hire on 07908 016384.



Vivienne Shepherd, 7, becomes Spiderwoman, with the help of Meonstoke make-up artist Ana Lloyd-Jones.



Meon Valley MP Flick Drummond opened the Fete.



Dolly Parton, a 7-year-old cob owned by Exton stonemason Steven Hurdle, enjoys plenty of attention.



Folk dancing by Year 2 pupils from Meonstoke and Newtown Infant Schools. Below, the Meon Valley Orchestra.



Plant sale raises £2,320

The Brook Cottage Plant and Cake Sale held in May two weeks after the Coronation was an astonishing success — yet again!

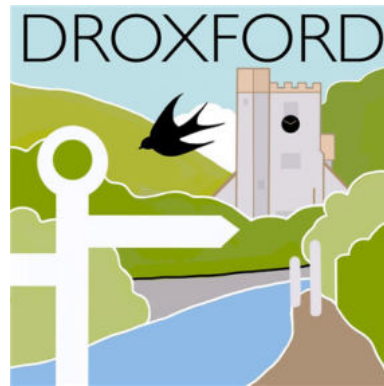
We raised the marvellous sum of £2,320 from tables of well-presented plants, cakes and jam, tea and coffee, toys, books, the raffle, and a wide selection of past treasures, plus some very generous donations.

We have been able to send financial help to the Preschool, the Community Care Group, the Meon Valley Orchestra, Meonstorks Baby and Toddler Group, the Badminton Club, the Garden Club and the Meon Ladies, to help their funds in support of what they do in our village community.

Thank you all so much for your efforts in getting contributions to the stalls, and for coming along and helping Anne and I to have a happy sunny time in our garden which really was crammed full of village friends. Well done everyone.

James Morrice

Climate Change: We now have a working group set up



Following a well attended Climate Cafe, held in St Marys and All Saints Church, and supported by Wilfrid's Cafe, a Working Group has been set up and named Sustainable Droxford.

We are supported by Stuart Mills, from WinACC (Winchester Action on Climate Crisis) and report in to the Parish Council, where we have held two meetings to date.

Sub-groups have also been formed, which include Biodiversity, Waste Prevention, Transport, Energy and Communications.

The group's concerns are being discussed, with ideas forming on how we can make a difference to where we live in beautiful Droxford.

To find out more about Sustainable Droxford or to

become involved with the group and its projects, please contact Cllr Chris Hawkesford, or the Clerk, Ailsa Duckworth, on 07720 092072.



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** 07901 978796 (Droxford).

But please note this is NOT an emergency service. To help us arrange a driver, please give as much notice as possible.

For further information, please contact **David Keithley** on 07736 799262.

Urgent Treatment Centre

The UTC at Petersfield 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, and is open between 8am and 8pm all year round.

We can help with problems such as:

- Sprains and strains • Suspected broken limbs • Minor head injuries • Minor scalds and burns • Skin infections and rashes • Feverish pain • Eye problems • Abdominal pain • Emergency contraception.

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 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

Another good year for Wilfrid's!

Wilfrid's Café has had a brilliant trading surplus this year.

After paying all our costs to the church for utilities and other costs involved in running a café we have an amazing £8,000 to distribute in the form of grants to the community.

This is entirely thanks to our large team of volunteers and cake bakers, the local donors who continue to support us, the local businesses who help us in different ways, and to our lovely customers from Droxford and further afield.

In the last financial year we have been able to make a donation to the village hall Christmas event, and given free or discounted coffees to community initiatives such as the litter pickers, the parish council Memorial Garden team and the graveyard clean-up team.

We have also provided coffees for the

Thursday church services (and received donations from attendees) and free coffees at the Droxford School carol service to enable them to raise much-needed funds.

We have offered discount coffees for villagers and other attendees at village hall events as well, with special offers for Droxford residents at our Wilfrid's Wednesdays. Residents just need to pick up a resident's card.

This year the response to our trading surplus has been wide-ranging, with applications received from 16 different organisations or individuals for funding to help with their projects.



In fact, we have received applications for approximately £17,000 of funding!

Successful applicants will be notified very shortly and we are delighted to be able to help so many different individuals or organisations. Our grateful thanks to you all for enabling us to put all that funding back into the community.

Margaret Wallace

In the last issue we met Louise Withers who, after joining Wilfrid's Cafe as a volunteer, was quickly promoted to Team Leader. Now we meet another volunteer, Jill Lee. Ali Pepper talks to her.

■ Tell us a bit about yourself.

We have lived in southeast Hampshire for most of our married life, and moved to Droxford in 2021 as we wanted to be in a more rural area. I retired from the NHS about 10 years ago after a career in nursing and then management.

■ How did you become involved in Wilfrid's as a volunteer?

I had seen all the publicity about Wilfrid's in The Bridge and how they were always looking for volunteers and felt it was something I would like to do. Then last June at the Platinum Jubilee I met Sarah Smith who told me all about it and recruited me onto the team!

■ What does your role involve?

I help to set up the café inside and out, take orders, give them to the barista, help them prepare the order, and then serve the

customers. At closing time, I help to clean up and put everything away.

I have learned a lot of new skills as well. How to take contactless payments for instance, how to serve food and drink in the right order for customers, and writing down orders correctly so they make sense to the barista and other volunteers. I have recently started training as a barista myself.

■ What do you enjoy most about being a volunteer?

Meeting the customers! I have met so many people and got to know so much about the village through working at Wilfrid's.

■ In your view, what is the most important way the cafe benefits the community?

It provides a community hub for people to meet and is an excellent



Jill Lee. Photo by Nicky Higgins

space for clubs, meetings, and activities. It brings together people in the village who want to volunteer for the good of the community and of course, it serves great coffee and delicious cakes!

■ What would you say to someone thinking of becoming a Wilfrid's volunteer?

Do it! You will meet lots of lovely people, have fun and learn so many new skills. You will get lots of training and support and if you're not sure, you can "shadow" experienced volunteers to find out if it is really for you.

Preschool seeks volunteers for its committee

The Valley Preschool in Chapel Lane, Meonstoke, is changing its charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which will give us more freedom in the day-to-day running of the school and relieve some of the pressure on our committee of volunteers.

As part of the move we will be looking for some new committee members from September. If you have one to two hours to spare a month and would be interested in supporting the preschool, either as a formal Trustee of the new organisation or as a committee member, please get in touch.

We're particularly looking for a new



Douglas, 3, enjoys himself in the Preschool's sandpit

treasurer role and a couple of new committee members to help us plan and run our regular fund raising events.

For a quick chat please drop me an email at the address below. Most meetings are held via Zoom in the evening and you don't need to have a child in our setting to support the work we do. It's a great way to give something back to the community, keep old skills sharp or perhaps develop new ones!

The Valley Preschool has been offering pre-school childcare to children aged 2 and over in the Meon Valley for decades, with many of our children starting out together on a Thursday at Meonstorks Toddler Group, before leaving us to attend Meonstoke Infant School - building a wonderful community of children, families and friends as they go.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of our community who support our fundraising activities through the year.

Special mention goes to James and Anne Morrice for their continued



support via the Brook Cottage Plant sale, as well as to all of the members of our community who both donated bottles and had a go at winning them at the bottle tombola at Droxford Fair.

We would also like to thank the Langridge Family for their generous donation to the preschool this term, which will be used to buy a new play house for the children which will be called Langridge Cottage.

These donations allow us to continue to offer affordable, high quality and fun early-years care to all families in the Meon Valley.

I finish with a date for your diary: After a break of a couple of years the Meonstoke Christmas Fair returns this year!

Come along on Saturday 9th December, 10 -12, at the Meon Hall.

Proceeds will be shared between Meonstorks, The Valley Preschool and the Friends of Meonstoke Infants School, and will continue to support us in creating fun, educational settings for the children of the Meon Valley.

If you'd like to enquire about space at the preschool please email me at: thevallypreschool@btinternet.com.

Or email our Chair, Jess Bassett, at: j_tudorwilliams@hotmail.com

Lynette Davis



Keep popping in!



An amazing turnout for the June and July Pop-Ins! 21 and 20 villagers respectively – a record, even with some regulars away on holiday.

We also had several newcomers coming for the first time. Lots of village gossip and chat, plus coffee and cake enjoyed by everyone! A big thank you to all who came along.

Next Pop-In dates for your diary: Wednesday 2nd August and Wednesday 6th September, 10am to midday St. Andrew's Church Meonstoke. All ages welcome!

Linda Foot

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village hall is about to enter its quiet month during August where many of our regular activities are paused for the holiday season.

We will be taking advantage of this to redecorate parts of the hall ready for the Autumn and Winter seasons, and we hope you will like the new colour schemes. Various other smaller improvements are planned.

The Droxford Country Fair, held in early June, made good use of the hall facilities where the village school supporters offered refreshments and cream teas to

200 Club winners
June: Sue Smith
July: Nigel Spelman

the large number of people who attended.

I believe they were able to raise a good amount to support the school, and I would like to thank them and the Fair committee for using the hall and leaving it so clean and tidy after the event.

Tim Crowfoot

Droxford History Group

28th September
Droxford Village Hall 7.30pm

HAPPENSTANCE*

A talk by John Roberts

Reflections on how pure chance has changed the course of human history, illustrated with a few dramatic examples, including the 'Wrong turning' and the 'Five Minute Miracle.'

Soberton History Society

14th September
Soberton Village Hall 7.30pm

THE HISTORY OF THE RIVER MEON

A talk by Anthony McEwen

Monday 11th September
7pm Droxford Village Hall
'Inside Television'
A talk by television
producer Jeremy Mills,
former CEO of Lion TV

In a distinguished career Jeremy Mills has produced and directed an incredible range of award-winning television programmes, including news, documentaries, music



shows, studio quizzes and dramas. Among his credits are The Vet, The Doctor, Island Race, Airport, Castaway, Paddington Green, Homes Under the Hammer,

Playing It Straight and Horrible Histories.

There will be a cash bar from 6.30 and a curry supper after the talk for those booking by Thursday 7th September. The cost for supper will be £15 per head, payable in cash at the meeting. Please contact robmunroscott@aob.com.

■ *This year's RBL Remembrance Day service will be held at St Mary and All Saints Church, Droxford on Sunday 12th November at 10.50. All will be very welcome.*

Our next film...

7.30 Wednesday 27th September

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Rated 12A

Staring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton

When Harold (Jim Broadbent, pictured right) learns that his old friend and colleague Queenie has terminal cancer he impulsively sets out to visit her. Walking from his home in Devon to Berwick-upon-Tweed, he leaves his wife Maureen (Penelope Wilton) hurt and confused. The film has been adapted by Rachel Joyce from her own novel.



HAMPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hugh Lumby: Meon Valley Division

hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk



*How much longer
must we put up with
this, ask residents?*

From The Bridge four months ago

Splash Route update

You will recall the excellent recent article in The Bridge about four-wheel drive vehicles driving up the River Meon in Droxford by the mill at Droxford.

HCC have been looking into this and are assessing how to establish the impact on the health of the river bed, banks and water quality.

Various surveys are being done which should be invaluable in taking positive steps. They are also looking at what the legal position is.

And finally, in the interests of balance, they will be engaging with something called the Trail Riders Fellowship regarding their current usage of the river. I will need to Google them to find out what they are, but I can have a guess!

Household waste: Help reduce council bills by £200,000 by recycling thoughtfully

Next time you visit your local recycling centre with a bag of mixed items to go in the "Household Refuse – Will not be Recycled" container, you may be asked to open it for inspection.

But don't worry, this isn't some officious new action to shame you, or worse, fine you for throwing away perfectly recyclable material.

In fact it's a friendly service, designed to help all of us become more aware of what we can and cannot recycle, and there will be people on hand to answer any questions and offer advice.

The aim is for Hampshire County Council to save up to the £200,000 of taxpayers' money spent every year sending unrecyclable waste to landfill or incineration. A wide range of waste can be recycled at our centres so it's worth a check before you visit.

Most HWRCs in Hampshire will be able to recycle the following

materials:

- Garden and green waste
- Metals
- Wood
- Cardboard
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Batteries, printer cartridges, and light bulbs
- Furniture
- Clothing and textiles
- Paints, chemicals, engine oil and gas bottles.

So before you put items in the "Will not be Recycled" container, please take a few moments to make sure they aren't on the above list.

And if in doubt about which containers to use instead, the staff will be very happy to assist.

You can find out more about what is accepted, at your local Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Average speed cameras are now having an effect on bikers' behaviour

The Average Speed cameras along the A32 have already had a big impact, with a notable decrease in numbers of motorbikes and in antisocial riding styles.

There has also been some evidence of displacement, with bikers using other roads, notably towards East Meon. The police are stepping up their enforcement in the wider area, as promised.

The one area where progress is disappointing is in the deployment of 'acoustic cameras.' Jerry Pett has mentioned these on page 11.

This seems to be stuck in government studies. This is a shame, as these should be cheap, capable of being deployed across a wider area and should be a game changer.

So if you happen to see a local MP, or anyone else seeking your vote, don't forget to remind them to keep the pressure up.



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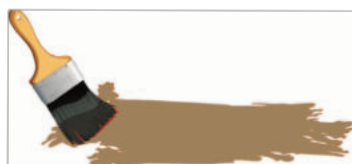
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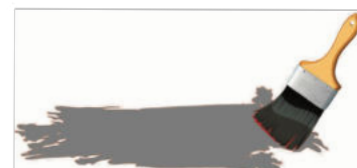
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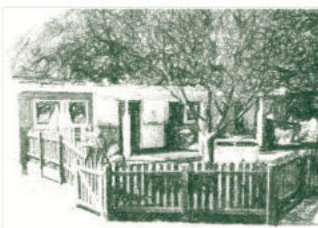
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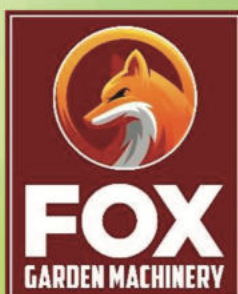
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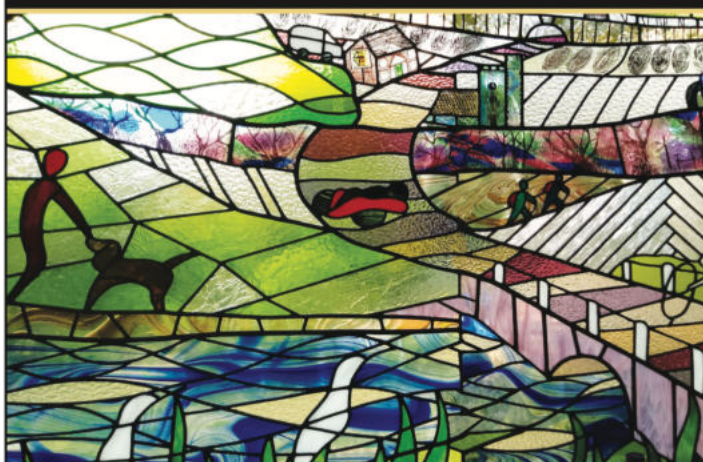
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Meon Valley Community Bus Services Timetable

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Mondays, 2nd and 5th Friday to FAREHAM 0900 West Meon Thomas Lord PH 0903 Warnford Village Hall 0908 Exton The Shoe PH 0910 Meonstoke PO & Stores 0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages 0921 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE) 0925 Brockbridge The Hurdles 0930 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0933 Webbs Green War Memorial 0936 Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond 0938 Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH 0940 Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0945 Hundred Acres 0957 Fareham Library 1002 Fareham Sainsbury's Return: 1200 Fareham Sainsbury's 1205 Fareham Library	3rd Friday Each Month to HEDGE END 0900 West Meon Thomas Lord PH 0903 Warnford Village Hall 0908 Exton The Shoe PH 0910 Meonstoke PO & Stores 0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages 0921 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE) 0925 Brockbridge The Hurdles 0929 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0933 Webbs Green War Memorial 0935 Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond 0938 Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH 0940 Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0945 Hundred Acres 1007 Hedge End Marks & Spencer Return: 1200 Hedge End Marks & Spencer	4th Friday Each Month to WATERLOOVILLE 0900 West Meon Thomas Lord PH 0903 Warnford Village Hall 0908 Exton The Shoe PH 0910 Meonstoke PO & Stores 0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages 0921 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE) 0925 Brockbridge The Hurdles 0929 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0933 Webbs Green War Memorial 0936 Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond 0938 Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH 0940 Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE) 0957 Waterloooville Waitrose 1005 Waterloooville Sainsbury's Return: 1200 Waterloooville Sainsbury's 1205 Waterloooville Waitrose																											
1st Friday Each Month to WINCHESTER 0900 Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE) 0904 Brockbridge The Hurdles 0909 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE) 0915 Meonstoke Pound Cottages 0919 Meonstoke PO & Stores 0921 Exton The Shoe PH 0926 Warnford Village Hall 0946 Winchester Broadway 0953 River Park Leisure Centre Return: 1155 River Park Leisure Centre 1200 Winchester Broadway	Wednesdays to PETERSFIELD <table><tr><td>Leave</td><td></td><td>Return</td></tr><tr><td>0900</td><td>Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)</td><td>Petersfield Tesco 1155</td></tr><tr><td>0904</td><td>Brockbridge (The Hurdles)</td><td>Petersfield Sq 1200</td></tr><tr><td>0909</td><td>Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)</td><td>Warnford George and Falcon 1221*</td></tr><tr><td>0916</td><td>Meonstoke Pound Cottages</td><td>Corhampton 1224*</td></tr><tr><td>0921</td><td>Corhampton</td><td>Pound Cottages 1229*</td></tr><tr><td>0924</td><td>Warnford George and Falcon</td><td>Droxford square 1236*</td></tr><tr><td>0945</td><td>Petersfield Square</td><td>Brockbridge (The Hurdles) 1301*</td></tr><tr><td>0950</td><td>Petersfield Tesco</td><td>Soberton Village Hall 1305*</td></tr></table> <p><i>Note: Includes all request stops up to and including West lodge (Church lane)</i></p>	Leave		Return	0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)	Petersfield Tesco 1155	0904	Brockbridge (The Hurdles)	Petersfield Sq 1200	0909	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)	Warnford George and Falcon 1221*	0916	Meonstoke Pound Cottages	Corhampton 1224*	0921	Corhampton	Pound Cottages 1229*	0924	Warnford George and Falcon	Droxford square 1236*	0945	Petersfield Square	Brockbridge (The Hurdles) 1301*	0950	Petersfield Tesco	Soberton Village Hall 1305*	<p><i>* Drop off only and approx dependent on passenger numbers.</i></p>
Leave		Return																											
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0945	Petersfield Square	Brockbridge (The Hurdles) 1301*																											
0950	Petersfield Tesco	Soberton Village Hall 1305*																											

No service on other days or public holidays. £5 return, £2.50 single any journey. Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free. Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion. Timings are strit, bus will not wait after scheduled time. All enquiries to mvcba1985@gmail.com Tel: 07300 425305.

Meon Bridge Benefice Services

August

September

Thur 3rd	10:00 HC	Droxford	Sun 3rd	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Meonstoke
Sun 6th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Meonstoke		18.30 Evensong	Exton
Thur 10th	10:00 HC	Droxford	Thur 7th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 13th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Droxford	Sun 10th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Droxford
Thur 17th	10:00 HC	Droxford		18.30 Evensong	Corhampton
Sun 20th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Corhampton	Thur 14th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Thur 24th	10:00 HC	Droxford	Sun 17th	09.00 HC (BPC)	Exton
Sun 27th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Exton		10.00 Informal Service	Droxford
Thur 31st	10:00 HC	Droxford		10.30 Mattins	Corhampton
			Thur 21st	10.00 HC	Droxford
			Sun 24th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Exton
			Thur 28th	10.00 HC	Droxford

We very much hope that we will be able to deliver this schedule, but the availability of priests to take services may make it difficult. Please keep an eye on the Meon Bridge benefice website, www.bridgechurches.org.uk or the weekly Pew Sheets for the very latest information.

West Meon Music Festival promises something to suit all classical tastes

This year’s West Meon Music Festival, taking place in venues across the Meon Valley from 14th to 17th September, promises a wide range of classical music to appeal to all tastes: favourite chamber pieces, song and piano recitals, early music and composers from Monteverdi to Mahler, Schubert to Schoenberg.

The festival, now in its thirteenth year, opens with the event’s founders the Primrose Piano Quartet, performing Brahms’ *A major Piano Quartet* as well as duo works by Mozart and Schubert. Friday evening sees a recital by Thomas Kelly – winner of numerous international piano competition prizes – followed by “Who’s afraid of Arnold Schoenberg?” This will be an informal late night concert by the Quartet exploring his work.

On Saturday 16th September the festival spreads out across the Meon Valley. In the morning the strings of the

Quartet will perform a version of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* at East Meon’s historic All Saints Church, while in the afternoon the beautiful 12th Century Church of Our Lady at Warnford hosts the Gonzaga Band performing works from the “Age of Monteverdi.”

On Saturday evening the Primrose are back at West Meon Church with Schubert’s *Trout Quintet*, followed on Sunday by a morning recital of French song with exciting young soprano Harriet Burns. The French theme continues for the “Festival Finale” in



The Primrose Piano Quartet is one of the country’s leading ensembles

the afternoon with works by Fauré, Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Françaix and Bizet.

Full details of all concerts are at www.westmeonmusic.co.uk and the box office opens on 1st June. The West Meon Music Festival is a registered charity, no. 1185082

For more information contact: enquiries@westmeonmusic.co.uk

Events Diary

August

Tuesday 1st to Saturday 5th Meon Hall closed for maintenance.

Wednesday 2nd Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Wednesday 2nd 'Pop In' at St Andrew's Church, 10am to midday.

Wednesday 9th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Wednesday 16th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 16th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Friday 18th Pilates with Charlotte Great, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am.

Wednesday 23rd Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wednesday 23rd Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Friday 25th Pilates with Charlotte Great, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am.

Wednesday 30th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Friday 25th to Tuesday 29th Folk Music Camp stay in Meon Hall & Recreation Ground.

September

Friday 1st Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am.

Tuesday 5th Yoga with James Finucane, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 5th Yoga with Yvon Eggar, Droxford Village Hall 6pm.

Tuesday 5th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 6th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 6th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Wednesday 26th 'Pop In' at St Andrew's Church, 10am to midday.

Thursday 7th Meonstorks Baby & Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to 11.30.

Friday 8th Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am and 10.30.

Sunday 10th Harvest Thanksgiving Service, 10.30 Droxford Church, followed by Celebration Lunch.

Sunday 10th Athanasian Consort, 6.30 Choral Evensong, Corhampton Church.

Monday 11th Royal British Legion talk by Jeremy Mills: "Inside Television," Droxford Village Hall 7.00.

Tuesday 12th Meon Valley Arts Society lecture: "The Importance of Being Earnest," Meon Hall 10.40.

Tuesday 12th Yoga with Yvon Eggar, Droxford Village Hall 6pm.

Tuesday 12th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 13th Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 13th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Wednesday 13th Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Thursday 14th Meonstorks

Baby & Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to 11.30am.

Friday 15th Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am and 10.30.

Sunday 17th Winchester Velo Club cycle rally, Meon Hall all morning.

Monday 18th Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to Noon.

Monday 18th Scottish Reels Club, Meon Hall 8.00pm to 10.00pm.

Tuesday 19th Yoga with James Finucane, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Tuesday 19th Yoga with Yvon Eggar, Droxford Village Hall 6pm.

Tuesday 19th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 20th Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Wednesday 20th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Thursday 21st Meonstorks Baby & Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to 11.30am.

Friday 22nd Pilates with Charlotte Graetz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am and 10.30.

Monday 25th Meon Hall Management Committee meeting.

Tuesday 26th Yoga with James Finucane, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Tuesday 26th Yoga with Yvon Eggar, Droxford Village Hall 6pm.

Tuesday 26th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 27th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Wednesday 27th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1,45.

Wednesday 27th Film: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" Droxford Village Hall 7.30.

Thursday 28th Droxford History Group, talk by John Roberts: "Happenstance," Droxford Village Hall 7.30.

Thursday 28th Meonstorks Baby & Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to 11.30am.

Friday 29th Mindfulness Retreat Day, Meon Hall 10am to 3.30pm.

Friday 29th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall, 9.15am and 10.30.

Further afield...

Tuesday 5th September Meon Valley u3a, Talk by Dr Lyndon Palmer: "The Isle of Lewis Historic Chess Sets," Wickham Centre, Wickham 2pm.

Thursday 14th September Soberton History Society, Talk by Anthony McEwen: "The River Meon," Soberton Village Hall 7.30.

Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th September West Meon Music Festival (see opposite page).

Tuesday 19th September Meon Valley u3a, Talk by Mike Hollis: "Q Ships," Wickham Centre, Wickham 2pm.

SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please note: local telephone numbers have the prefix 01489

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Meonstoke Post Office, Warnford Road, Corhampton	877374

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Corhampton & Meonstoke	
Clerk/RFO: Rosie Hoile clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk	07960 122699
Droxford	
Clerk/RFO: Ailsa Duckworth	07720 092072
Exton Parish Meeting	
Secretary: Juliet Reed julietreed@outlook.com	878450

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

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Children's Services	0845 603 5620
The above are open Mon to Thur 8.30am to 4.30pm	
Out-of-hours number:	0845 600 4555

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Malcolm Wallace mwallace@winchestergov.uk
Frank Pearson fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
Danny Lee dlee@winchester.gov.uk
Upper Meon Valley (including Meonstoke, Exton, Corhampton and Preshaw):
Neil Bolton nbolton@winchester.gov.uk
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Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: Arthur Brown.	07865 517484

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DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Local events and activities:
www.droxfordweb.co.uk

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

Well House, 2 Brook Street, Bishop's Waltham	03444 111306
bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk	0845 603 5620

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Crime Reporting

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, preferably, use www.Hampshire.Police to report crimes that are not in progress, suspicious people or vehicles and non-urgent reporting such as anti-social behaviour, suspected drug use or damage to property.

AFTER contacting one of the above, please ALSO contact any Corhampton & Meonstoke co-ordinator, or any Droxford street co-ordinator, with details of the report. Their numbers are listed below.

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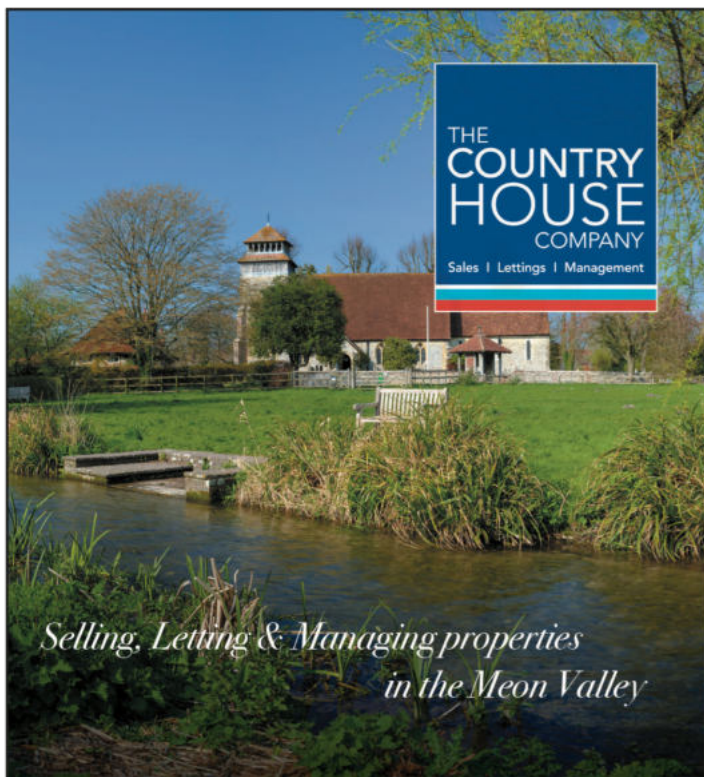
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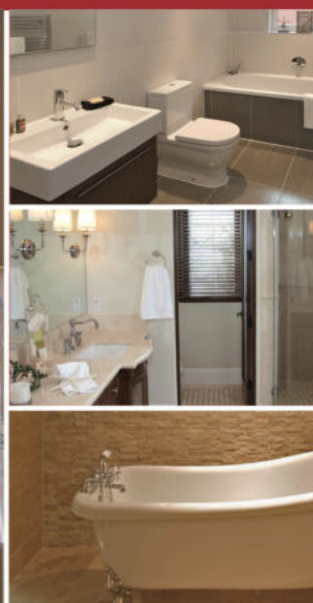
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