

THE BRIDGE



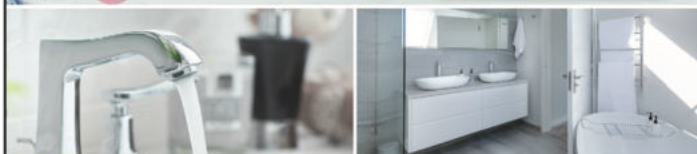
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and Meonstoke

October and November 2023

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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

THE BRIDGE TEAM

Editor: Ian Gilchrist 07785 951063
thebridgeeditor@gmail.com

Advertising: David Neale 01489 878541
bridge.advertisingmanager@gmail.com

Advertisement artwork:
i-DEASIGN 07891 149866

Treasurer: Diana Arthur 01489 877390

Proof-reading: James Morrice

Printing: Sarum Graphics 01722 324733

Our brilliant deliverers:

Lorna Allured, Diana Arthur,
Veronica Attrill, Jill Austin, Pauline
Bone, Phil and Chrissie Butler, Liz
Callegari, Hannah Carpenter, Janine
Casey, Steve Clayton, Lesley Daysh,
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**The COPY DEADLINE
for the December/January
issue of The Bridge is
WEDNESDAY
8th November 2023**

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Our cover photo shows Droxford teenager Carys Wigglesworth competing in the Junior International Roller Derby in France. She and her friend Charlotte Wright from Swanmore were selected for the UK team from over 100 contenders. And it's thanks to Wilfrid's Cafe for funding their travelling expenses, allowing them to compete at all. Report on page 9.

And congratulations, too, to Alastair Jones of South Hill, Droxford, and Andy Holt of New Road, Meonstoke, on their gruelling John O'Groats to Lands End cycle ride, in which they raised a total of £4,400 for research into heart disease and Parkinsons. See page 22.

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

THE BRIDGE is delivered free to 830 homes in Meonstoke, Exton, Corhampton and Droxford 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.

ASSISTANT CLERGY: Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert 878289

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

DROXFORD

Churchwarden:

Colin Matthissen 877867

Vice Chair: Jeff Hooper 877406

Secretary:

Audrey Dryden-Brownlee 877286

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

Harry Martineau. 877213

Organist: Position vacant 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. For Weddings, please contact the Weddings Co-ordinator, Sue Wells on sjwells@meonwood.co.uk or 01329 834130.

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ON REFLECTION



In 1993 Les Issac, a Church leader in London, asked himself three questions:

■ *If I believe that the good news of Jesus is practical as well as spiritual, what does that mean for the mission of the Church?*

■ *How relevant is the Church to our twenty-first century society?*

■ *How effective are Christians at engaging across cultures and with their local community?*

This line of thought led him to form the Street Pastor movement which, since 1993, has spread to many cities and larger towns across the country,

Portsmouth Street Pastors, for instance, was one of the earlier ones to be started in 2007, with volunteers drawn from a wide variety of Christian churches. Street Pastors patrol the Guildhall area — and sometimes Albert Road and Palmerston Road — on Friday and Saturday nights

The Christian work of the Street Pastors



between 10-30pm and 3am.

Their purpose is to provide support to those out and about and visiting the clubs and bars at that time of night.

Typically this includes simple conversations (faith or otherwise), helping those who have become separated from their friends, charging flat telephone batteries, helping those who have had too much to drink or have had their drinks spiked,

engaging with the homeless, and on occasions helping lone women get home safely.

The Street Pastors' motto is to offer reassurance, safety and support through listening, caring and helping.

Finally, a prayer by Frank Weston, Bishop of Zanzibar in the 1920s. I rather like it as it is short but thought-provoking.

Now go out into the highways and hedges where not even the Bishops will try to hinder you. Go out and look for Jesus in the ragged, in the naked, in the oppressed and sweated, in those who have lost hope, in those who are struggling to make good. Look for Jesus. And when you see him, gird yourselves with his towel and try to wash their feet.

Colin Matthissen
Churchwarden, Droxford

■ For more information about Street Pastors, or to find out how to become one, visit streetpastors.org/locations/Portsmouth.

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 the Church

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

Please be as generous as you can

From the Registers

Meonstoke

Committal of Ashes

29th June Albert 'Bertie' Norman Rings

Baptisms

6th August Eleanor Rose Bentley

6th August Hugh Alexander Bentley

Wedding

2nd September Mark Edward Dobson and Alice Laura Davies

Funeral

20th September Gregor Logan

Droxford

Funeral

12th September Frank Johns

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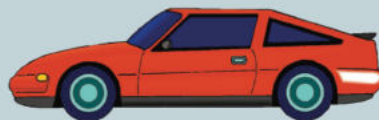
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Meet our new Headteacher

Hello! My name is Amy O'Toole and I am the new Executive Headteacher of the Meon Valley Federation. I am thrilled to be taking up a role that will allow me to work across two fantastic schools in the Meon Valley — Meonstoke Infants and Soberton/Newtown Infants.

Prior to taking up my current position I was the Headteacher at East Meon CE Primary for five years and Head at Rogate CE Primary for nearly three years before that, so I am very aware of how important the communities that surround small schools are.

With this in mind I plan to prioritise getting to know as many of you as I can as soon as possible. I intend Meonstoke Infant School to continue taking its rightful place at the heart of this community and a power for good in our local area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like the school to be involved in a local event or if you would like to come in and discuss how we can work with the village.

It has been an exciting start to the term at Meonstoke, the children are now all in, including our super Year R

pupils and they are all happy, settled and working hard.

In Barn Owls Class, (Years R and 1) the children have been extremely busy exploring their classroom and engaging in a variety of activities.

In the role play area, Miss Hatton has set up a Doctor's Surgery and the children have been doctors and nurses, using role play tools and equipment to assess their 'patients.'

Through this role play, the children also shared their understanding of the importance of hand washing. The class have also been creating family portraits using paint and other materials.

In Snowy Owls (Year 2) the class has been learning about place value, using multilink, numicon and other objects to show tens, ones and how we make a whole number, and using the equipment to look at different ways of making 20.

In Literacy the class has started reading the book *On Sudden Hill* by Linda Sarah and Benji Davies.

Inspired by the book, the children had amazing fun using giant cardboard boxes to make their own creations. There were some fantastic ideas including puppet shows, reclining



chairs and even surf boards!

In Collective Worship, children across the school have been thinking about the value of Courage and how important this is. We looked at the story of Noah and how much Courage he must have had to follow the instructions that God had given him. The children were asked to try and recognise Courage in one another and write Courage cards to their friends and loved ones that had shown bravery.

Over the coming term we will be doing lots more learning. We are all looking forward to our school Harvest service on Friday 29th September at St Andrews Church at 2.30pm. Please feel free to join our Harvest celebration; we would love to see you there.

Amy O'Toole
Executive Headteacher

Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair

Exton Church

Saturday 25 November

10.00 – 12.00

Christmas Gifts and
Decorations, Cakes and
all sorts of Wonderful
Produce, Superior
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Refreshments

Carol time is coming around again!

It may seem very early to be talking about Christmas events, but please make a note in your diary for Saturday 9th December for our village Carols around the tree evening.

Once again, we will be meeting at 6pm to sing a few Christmas Carols and enjoy a warming glass of mulled wine.

It would be fantastic to see you all on St Andrew's Church Green in December for a family-friendly, early festive get-together.

Becky Evans

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Congratulations to Carys and Charlotte, our Roller Derby heroes

Carys Wigglesworth from Droxford and her friend Charlotte Wright from Swanmore were able to represent Great Britain in the junior Roller Derby World Cup in August, thanks to a £200 donation each towards their travel costs from Wilfrid's Café, and a further £200 each from Swanmore Lyons Club.

The 18-year-olds were selected from around 100 teenagers across the UK to travel to Valence in France to compete against six other world-wide teams, where they came fifth overall.

Wilfrid's chair, Margaret Wallace, said, "The sport doesn't receive any central funding through government or sports bodies, so their journey had to be completely self-funded.

"That's why we were delighted to help towards their costs, and they did brilliantly. They are two young people with a huge amount of determination,

"We couldn't have competed at all without Wilfrid's and Lyons' generous grants"

and we are very proud of them. Well done, Carys and Charlotte!"

Roller Derby is one of the world's fastest-growing high-contact sports which Carys describes as "like rugby on roller skates, in which you are the ball."

Training is arduous, sometimes involving up to six hours a day near to a tournament.

She told The Bridge, "We both spent



"It's like rugby on rollerskates where you are the ball!" says Carys, who is in the blue helmet.

three days competing which was a wonderful experience, but we couldn't have got to Valence at all without Wilfrid's and Lyons' generous grants, so we are really grateful to them."

After leaving Barton Peveril, Carys is now off to Bristol University to study biology, and Charlotte to Manchester to study English. Each university has a Roller Derby team, and Carys and Charlotte modestly say they "hope to be chosen for them."

FETE 2023 RESULTS

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces at this year's fete in Exton. Thank you very much for your support.

Aside from the fun and laughter we were able to raise over £6,700 for the churches of Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton, which really is appreciated.

Let's hope we can do as well next year on Saturday 6th July in Meonstoke. We certainly need your help to keep our beautiful churches in good repair and fit for purpose.

Richard Pepys

Droxford School Dig Day

I've set the date – Saturday 7th October – for our next Community Dig Day at Droxford School.

All are welcome between 9am and 3pm to do planting, weeding, trimming, painting, allotment work and general clearing, and everyone will be fed! Our new site manager, Mr Gary Parkin, will be helping too.

Matthew Dampier, Headteacher

And these were Wilfrid's other awards...

Wilfrid's Café achieved an £8,000 surplus to give back to the community in the form of grants, and in addition to the those to Carys and Charlotte we were delighted to be able to make the following awards:

- **Droxford Bellringers:** £500 for a new clapper and muffles.
- **The Scouts:** £1,200 towards replacing the roof on their hut.
- **Cricket Club:** £750 to replace their mower.
- **Friends of Droxford Church (FODC):** £1,000 for essential tree pruning in the churchyard; £500 towards a new church AV system; and £750 towards church maintenance.
- **Horace Chappell:** £200 towards his expenses in travelling to Ghana to help build a library.
- **Droxford PCC:** £1,450 towards church heating repairs and cleaning.
- **Droxford Village Hall:** £500 towards new curtains as part of the hall refurbishment.
- **The village book phone booth:** £200 towards repairs and maintenance,
- **Droxford Junior School:** £250 towards their STEM project The Drox.
- **Droxford Allotments:** £300 towards fencing.

Raising the money to distribute the £8,000 was all thanks to our brilliant volunteers and cake bakers, and to our loyal customers and supporters.

We wish each of the grant applicants all the best with their projects and we hope to bring you lots of updates on how they are progressing.

Margaret Wallace

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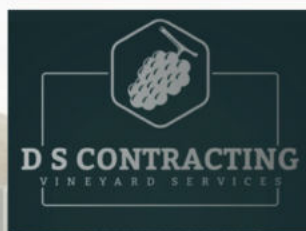
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In collaboration with Sarah Smith, who is a member of the Senior Operations Team at Wilfrid's Cafe, it was decided that a market dedicated to local makers, including all things handmade and hand finished locally, would be good way to raise money for the Village Hall.

An additional aim was to increase the footfall and spend at the Cafe by sending customers up to them with vouchers, and allowing them to buy hot drinks at a reduced price - perfect on a rainy day.

Likewise, those who had visited the Cafe, perhaps after a stroll along the railway line, were signposted to the Village Hall to check out the array of crafts and produce available.

Despite the drizzly rain, it was felt that the day was a success both by the stall holders and by happy customers (myself included, having bought a beautiful silver necklace from Gail Jones, a stunning print from Deborah Hemsworth, and a framed photo from Chris Horner... just don't tell my husband!)

There was a brilliant selection of goods to buy including handmade cards; sewing crafts; silver jewellery; delicious cakes and bakes; jams and preserves; stunning local

photography; dried flowers and scented candles and wax melts.

It really did demonstrate how industrious Droxford and the surrounding area is behind closed doors!

As always, a big thank you to the amazing people of Droxford for supporting the market and our talented residents.

As well as providing a community event, the market was a great platform for the makers to show us what they can do - and for us to buy gifts and produce of great quality right on our doorstep.

It is truly a privilege to live in our fantastic community, where we support each other like this.

■ By the time you are reading this, we will have already held our biannual book sale - reaching a whopping £1,000 in funds raised for the Village Hall since December last year - and the Toy Swap event, for which we received funding from the HCC Waste Prevention Team.

The Christmas Market is to be held



on Saturday 18th November so put the date in your diaries, and after a well deserved break we will be back in the New Year with another Makers Market.

So if you fancy having a table to sell, whatever you make or create, please do get in touch.

Ailsa Duckworth

The stallholders, pictured from top, are:

Deborah Hemsworth, artwork; **Sue Fullegar**, sewing crafts; **Nicholas and Christine Ruthven-Stuart**, cakes, breads and preserves; **Gail Jones**, silver jewellery; and **Michelle Curtis**, candles and wax melts.

Others who exhibited were:

Chris Horner, wildlife photography; **Jan Angell**, cards; **Nicky Higgins**, landscape photography; **Jacqui Ready**, silver jewellery; **Megan Davies**, animal artwork; and **Gail Pereira**, jams and preserves.



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Garden Club Annual Show proved popular once again

The Meon Hall was fragrant and awash with vibrant displays of flowers, together with vegetables, fruit, home bakes, jams and crafts, when the Meon Valley Garden Club held its 148th Summer Show.

Our records suggest that the show is even older than this but evolved into the 'Flower Show' in 1875 from its original name as the annual 'Potato Show.'

This year we had 62 entrants, a slight increase over 2022, and 473 entries, 80 more than the previous year. This indicates that people were each putting in more exhibits.

The only area which declined in popularity was the Childrens' section.

This was disappointing as we had targeted children via social media and WhatsApp messages to schools, as well as local WhatsApp groups.

Although there were so few children's entries they were delightful and we saw fantastic artwork and models. It would be great to have more children's entries next year.

The weather leading up to the show was wet and windy. This caused havoc with the gazebos which almost

Number of entries well up on last year

all blew away and had to be dispensed with despite the best efforts of Phil Butler and his excellent team of outdoor helpers.

Many of the classes proved popular, in particular the Meon Valley Nursery Trophy which this year was a dark leaved Tuberous Begonia named Bossa Nova with 17 entries.

In the Vegetable section, courgettes, French beans and cucumbers were the most numerous exhibits but there were no peas, chard or large onions submitted.

Overall, there were 83 vegetable entries and this year was much better than the last in terms of fruit. Over double the number of entries were



One of the winning entries in the 'Vase of three stems of flowering shrubs' class.

shown: 32 against just 15 in 2022.

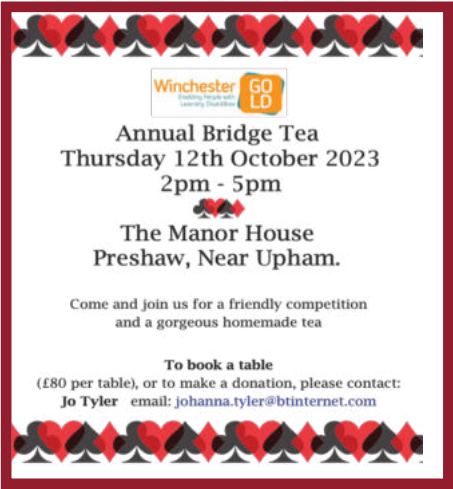
There were 153 Flower entries, well up on the previous three years. The most popular classes were the Flowering Shrubs, Vase of Mixed Summer Flowers and Single Blooms. Again, there were not as many roses on show, perhaps due to the hot weather in June, though there were still some beautiful examples.

Cookery was again popular with 80 entries across the section, and particularly for both of the classes where recipes were supplied. The judge had a tough job choosing between 16 Malt Loaves and 17 Brownies. Sadly, there were only two contenders for the Men's Cookery class which this year was Watercress Soup.

The many and varied talents of Club members were also displayed in the Handicraft Section and particularly the Photography Section which was very popular this year with some stunning photos of birds and single blooms.

The Meon Valley Garden Club would like to thank everyone involved in putting on the show, as well as all those who participated in entering the various categories of the show.

Lindsey Ockenden



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We want your ideas!

What are the priorities for our villages? This is something that the South Downs National Park Authority asks its towns and parishes every few years in order to inform its own Local Plan Review.

To support this, the Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council is preparing a Parish Priorities Statement which will aim to 'summarise the principal needs and prevailing views' for our local area, and to do it, we need your help!

- Would you like to see more affordable housing – lower cost rentals, social housing, starter homes?
- How about a reliable local bus service?
- An electricity infrastructure robust enough to support increasing electric car usage – and

everything else?

- Or pavements alongside the A32 through the villages? Maybe dual-use bins near popular walks to encourage good 'rubbish' behaviour?
- Is there something that you think would make our playgrounds or open spaces better? Is it important to you that we safeguard our village school, pubs, shop? Let us know!

Some of your suggestions may be things that can be addressed at a local council level while others will be included in our report. The



SDNPA is also particularly looking for ideas that could contribute to its priorities on Climate Action, Nature Recovery and a National Park for All.

You can email your suggestions to clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk. Or come to the Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council drop-in session 9-11am on Saturday 21st October in the Meon Hall.

All ideas are very welcome.

Laura Northwood
Parish Councillor

Services for Remembrance 2023

Friday 10th November

2.30pm Meonstoke School Act of Remembrance, St Andrew's Church.

Sunday 12th November

9.00am Holy Communion, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke.

9.30am Short Wreath Laying Ceremony, St Andrew's.

10.50am British Legion Service, Droxford Church.

6.30pm Evensong, Corhampton Church: Remembering our brave soldiers by reading out the names of all those on our War Memorials.

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Just a pin-prick hole in a pipe... but the damage it has caused!

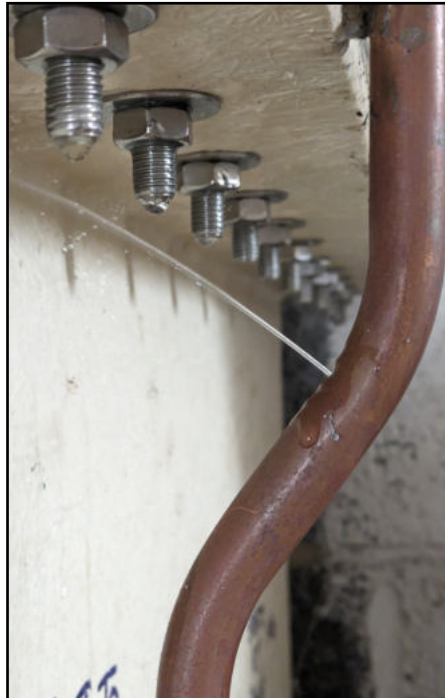
All Meon Hall future projects are now on temporary hold, due to extensive water damage from a pinhole leak in a 40 year old copper mains pipe.

It happened high up near the Storeroom header tank when the Meon Hall was unused over a weekend.

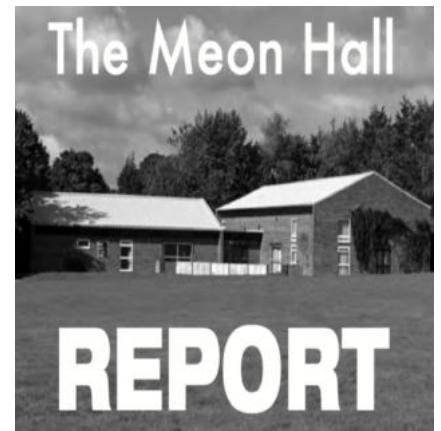
Damage resulted to the Storeroom, the Toddler Group's store cupboard, and the Sports passageway area. Many thanks to those who came to help clear up, and get the dehumidifiers working.

Discussions are in progress with our insurers.

Recovery from this situation may be lengthy, and puts delays on other planned projects affecting energy-saving works such as Solar Roof Panels and Main Hall LED overhead lights. Volunteer trustees can only achieve so much in the time available!



During the weekend this copper pipe released more than three cubic metres of water



**Winners of the
200 Club
monthly draws:**

**August: Rupert
Walker**

**September: Mark
Masterman**

Eyes down and get beetling!

The Meon Hall's *Social Event of the Year*, the annual 200 Club Beetle Drive and Supper, is to be held on **Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm**, together with the Draw for the Club's big prizes.

Please put this date in your diary, and start to practise the speed of your dice-rolling and honing your 'neat beetle' drawing skills!

There are prizes for the best dressed Beetlers who enter into the fun and pre-Christmas spirit of this annual event.

Please sign up for the Beetle Drive with James Morrice on 878505 or jamesmorrice99@gmail.com.

Planning a family celebration?

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

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by Weds 22 November, please, for catering.

Club members free, non-members £7.00

Recycling Please recycle your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for Hampshire First Responders. These are trained volunteers who can turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency.



Desert Island Discs

7. John Martin

John Martin has been playing the organ in our four churches for 47 years, and even at the age of 90 he sees no reason to stop.

He moved to Droxford in 1960 where, after 20 years, he was surprised to find he was suddenly living in Soberton. "When I came here, Station Road was in Droxford," he says. "I was very annoyed to wake up one morning to find they had moved the boundary, and I was now 100 yards into Soberton. I never asked to be in Soberton. I was quite happy living in Droxford!"

Here he talks about his life, and chooses six of his favourite records:

I was born in Southampton and I have very clear recollections as a small child of the war. During the blitz I would be dragged out of bed to go into the air raid shelter at the bottom of our garden.

Southampton would be ablaze, with planes roaming overhead, bombs whizzing down and exploding, and anti-aircraft guns blasting away night after night. Later I was evacuated to Bournemouth for a year, and lived with some very nice foster parents.

When it came time to choose a career I applied to work in the Public Health Laboratory at Winchester Hospital.

On the way to the interview I knocked on the wrong door, which was opened by the prettiest girl I had ever seen. I was bowled over. I found out who she was, and wrote to her asking her out. After a long courtship we married. Hazel and I have been together now for 67 years.

1. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5, The Emperor.

Choosing six records was a total nightmare, but I decided I must have Beethoven, and it had to be a big piano concerto. This was possibly the first piece of classical music I really appreciated. An uncle had a record of it and he played it, and I thought this really is a bit special. The start, for instance, with that great shower of notes coming down, and then the sublime slow movement.

One of my hobbies at the time was magic and I did shows for children. There was a GP in Southampton called Dr Sunak, and I did three consecutive annual shows for his son Rishi, who I must say was a very well-behaved little boy, and has done quite well for himself since.

I also put on shows for adults in which I

pretended to have supernatural mental powers. For example I would ask someone in the audience to open a book at any page, and I'd tell them what word they were looking at.

What was interesting was how some people didn't realise it was a trick, and actually thought it was genuine. One lady said to me, "I didn't know you were a clairvoyant!" But then magicians often say that the more intelligent someone is, the easier they are to fool.

2. Mozart's Symphony No 41 in C Major.

I'd have to have Mozart on the island. Like Beethoven, his music is overpowering. It's got so much to offer. This is the longest and final symphony he composed, and it's difficult to describe its appeal. It's just breathtaking.

I did my National Service with the medical corps in Egypt where I was a sergeant in the Central Medical Laboratory, then worked at Porton Down, growing radioactive bacteria for use in warfare. For protective use, I should add. After that I worked in the pathology lab of Guildford Hospital, then for Pfizer, and then for the

pharmaceutical company May and Baker as Area Manager.

That was when I moved to Droxford in 1960, where I became very involved in local activities, becoming secretary, treasurer and then chairman of the Meon Valley Flower Show, secretary of the local British Legion branch, and treasurer of the village hall.

I was also recruited to the Droxford PCC where I became the Droxford representative on the Deanery Synod. I was also on the Churches Together Committee.

The idea was to try and get conformity amongst the various denominations – the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, the Baptists, Methodists and so on. It didn't work. After a short while it fizzled out.

3. Schubert's Impromptu No 3, Opus 90.

I'm very fond of Schubert's piano music. It's very melodious, very moving. I love it.

I began playing the organ in our churches after the rector, John Beaumont, said there was a vacancy, and as he knew I played the piano he asked if I would step in on a temporary



John and Hazel, married for 67 years.

basis until a permanent organist could be found.

That was nearly 50 years ago, I wish they would get a move on and find this new organist!

I had never played the organ before but I soon got the hang of it. It is a very satisfying instrument to play, though there are big differences between the ones in the four Benefice churches. The Exton one can be difficult because it's got what is called a tracker action. The more stops you pull out the harder it gets to press down the keys. By the time you've got a lot of stops out you can hardly press the keys at all.

The Corhampton one has no pedals, and it's very basic, more like a harmonium, but very good to play. The one at St Andrew's is really nice. They've got an all-round sound system with proper loudspeakers, whereas at Droxford, in their wisdom, when they did their renovation they got rid of the very nice pipe organ and installed an electronic one instead. It has just one free-standing speaker which was never designed for an organ, probably more for a disco.

Still, this is the organ I play mainly today, once a month, though I will play the others for special occasions if I'm asked.

4. Dove Sono from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro.

I thought I must have some opera on my desert island, and it had to be Mozart again.

This is my favourite of all his operas, and I've chosen the Countess's Aria from the third act, which I find very moving. But I could choose anything from any Mozart opera, and I'd be very happy with it.

Three years ago I nearly died from a very serious heart problem. I realised something was wrong when I was playing the organ at a memorial service in Droxford Church on a Saturday, and it all became a bit of a blur.

I was quite incapable of driving afterwards and had to be given a lift home. Hazel rang 111, and the doctor

came and decided that I was probably anaemic.

Fortunately, Hazel had a routine appointment with our regular doctor, Dr Morris, on the Monday morning, and there was no problem changing it to me. It was Dr Morris who promptly rang for an ambulance and shot me into hospital.

Apparently, practically all my organs had shut down. I was watching my



....and how they were.

blood pressure on the monitor getting slower and slower. At four o'clock the next morning the hospital rang Hazel and told her to get the family round straight away as I had just a few hours to live.

But I didn't die. What kept me going was my small grandchildren coming in, nattering away, and asking me lots of questions. A week later I asked the consultant "Was I really that ill?" His answer was "You were teetering" and he wrote it up as a miraculous recovery.

I know that, led by Rev'd Tony Forrest, a lot of people had been praying for me. Did that have an effect? It would be nice to think so.

5. Hallelujah Chorus.

I thought a piece of choral music would be nice to have belting out on the island, and you can't beat the Hallelujah Chorus.

A couple of years ago I was involved in a car accident. It wasn't my fault, but a young policeman made me take an

eyesight test there and then, and I mistook a P for a B, and that was it, I lost my licence. But later I had to have a cataract operation and afterwards my vision was absolutely fine.

I wrote to the DVLA saying my eyes were now perfect and asking for my licence back, but nothing happened. This went on for a year, with me forever ringing them and sending them letters and emails. Then someone in the village suggested I should contact our MP, Felicity Drummond. I did, and within 48 hours she'd got it all sorted and I'd got my licence back.

6. Lil' Darlin' from The Atomic Mr Basie.

This is a delightful jazz record. For a long time, probably into my thirties, I was very narrow-minded and thought classical music was it. Then I got friendly with a schoolmaster who was a great jazz fan and he sat me down, put on a track from this album, and said listen to these trombones, these clarinets, these trumpets.

He totally converted me, and I started going to the jazz club at the Dolphin in Botley where they had great American stars like Dave Brubeck and Buck Clayton. I was never really up to playing jazz myself because I always need the dots in front of me, so I have great admiration for people who can play without music.

One of the worst things about growing old is losing your friends. We used to know six couples, and we'd meet for lunch and so on, but now there are just four of us: me and Hazel, and a widow and a widower. One by one the others have all fallen off the perch. It's no fun growing old.

How would I cope on the island? I think pretty well. I was an only child and I would be quite happy with my own company.

The one record I would save from the waves: Beethoven, because it's such a majestic, towering work.

The book I would take: The collected works of PG Wodehouse. He was one of the finest humourists of our time, and one of the greatest users of the English language. The way he used words and language was sublime.

Luxury item: A solar-operated organ.

Planting for next year

One of the more pleasant tasks at this time of year is to leaf through the seed catalogues that have been coming in the mail, and to think about what to grow in the garden next year.

Vegetables: Plant winter and spring lettuce and spring cabbage as well as autumn sown broad beans and onions. Clear and dig over vacant ground in the vegetable plot and incorporate some well-rotted horse manure to improve the soil texture.

Keep winter vegetables free from weeds and any debris to avoid fungal disease and the accumulation of pests. In small gardens, areas to be left vacant till spring can be covered with weed control membrane. This prevents weeds growing whilst allowing rain to permeate into the soil. It also has the benefit of warming the soil up quickly in the spring.

Fruit: In November plant bare-rooted raspberry canes and soft fruit bushes, ensuring that plenty of well-rotted manure is incorporated under the roots, and that the roots are well soaked before planting.

Start winter pruning of fruit trees but do not prune cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums or damsons because the wounds heal slowly and



lay the trees open to diseases such as “silver leaf”. Do not be tempted to cut back autumn raspberries even when they have finished fruiting. Leave this until February.

Herbaceous border: Divide and replant clumps of perennials such as Michaelmas daisies, phlox, border campanulas, rudbeckia, Echinacea.

Trees and Shrubs: Plant bare-rooted specimens of trees and shrubs in November or even later, remembering to soak the roots for about an hour before planting. Lightly prune shrubs and roses when they have finished flowering and clear up all fallen leaves to reduce the spread of black spot.

Bulbs: Plant spring flowering bulbs, remembering to plant them deep

enough to protect against frost, mice and squirrels.

Lawns: Most lawns are recovering from the dry weather of early summer, but it is always good to scarify lawns at this time to get rid of thatch and moss before applying top dressing, and re-seeding any areas that have not recovered from the summer.

Do not allow fallen leaves to lie on plants or lawns as this will encourage fungal disease and provide shelter for unwelcome guests such as slugs and snails.

This is also a good time to carry out maintenance on fences at the back of borders before bulbs begin to appear. Use pieces of board to stand on when doing work in the borders as they help to distribute one’s weight, thereby avoiding soil compaction.

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

John Owen

Our grateful thanks...

Very many thanks to so many people - too many to name - for all the care, kindness and amazing generosity over Lucy Fletcher’s ghastly outcome of a stroke following her orthopaedic knee surgery last year.

She is making encouraging progress, and remains determined and so grateful for everyone’s kindness and support.

From Mike and Yvonne Hutchinson and the family.

Make a homeless child happy this Christmas

It will soon be time for the annual **Toy Collection** at St Andrew’s Church, Meonstoke.

Boxes for the collection of new wrapped toys (securely labelled with age and, if appropriate, gender) will be in all our churches from early November.

Let’s see a wonderful display of your generosity ready for our **Patronal Festival and Toy Service** on Sunday 3rd December at 10.30 am.

We are delighted that the the **Bishop of Portsmouth, The Rt Rev’d Dr Jonathan Frost** will be leading our service. Come and meet him



Cake and Coffee
ALL WELCOME



'Friday Boy' Frank loses his battle with cancer



Frank Johns sadly succumbed to cancer last month, a disease he had already beaten to become one of the world's longest-surviving pancreatic cancer patients.

He had lived in Chestnut Rise Droxford with Jean Steel for 14 years. Jean told The Bridge, "I and the family would like to thank neighbours and friends who have sent cards, letters and offers of support since Frank's death.

"Everyone has been so kind and caring, which has been greatly appreciated."

It was eight years ago that Frank was diagnosed with non-operable pancreatic cancer, and told he had just four months to live. But a new drug was being tested at the Royal Marsden Hospital, and he was given the chance to join 100 others in a world-wide trial.

It was completely successful, and he was given the all clear.

Alas, in late 2021, having cleared that hurdle, he was diagnosed with an unrelated colon cancer. Although given a prognosis of only 18 months, he was determined to beat it again, or if that wasn't possible, to work hard raising funds for cancer research.

So, as a member of the 'Friday Boys' - a group of 12 locals who meet up socially to cycle each Friday - he persuaded them to do sponsored rides, and in just one year they had raised over £15,000 for research into the disease.

His friend and co-cyclist David Neale told The Bridge, "When Frank's colon cancer spread in July he spent a month in QA Hospital, before being moved to Rowans Hospice.

"It's extremely sad that having battled and won the fight with pancreatic cancer, the colon cancer crept up on him and overtook his determination. He was inspirational and we'll all miss him."

Donations in his memory can be sent to Rowans Hospice, or via www.steelsfunerals.co.uk.

Could you be our Administrator?

Do you like helping others and would like to do something significant for our community?

Our small but beautiful active parishes are looking for a Benefice Administrator to work with people of all ages and backgrounds. We would like to employ someone who is discrete, efficient, motivated and self-reliant; someone who can co-ordinate and support a broad range of activities, particularly meetings, marketing and social media.

If you are interested please apply by email to: Angela Peagram, Churchwarden of Corhampton and St Andrew's Churches, for an application form, on angela@angelapeagram.co.uk, or phone 01489 878725 to find out more about the post. Deadline for applications is 27th October 2023.

Many thanks.

St Andrew's Churchyard clear up

**Saturday 14th October
from 10.00am until TIDY!**

**The Churchwarden and PCC will
be very grateful for any help
Refreshments will be served.**

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



Need a taxi? Find one on Page 4, and say you saw them in The Bridge

So many hills... we cycled nearly twice the height of Everest!

Alastair Jones of South Hill, Droxford, and Andy Holt of New Road, Meonstoke, spent two weeks during the hottest June on record cycling the length of the country to raise money for, respectively, the British Heart Foundation and Parkinson's UK.

Alastair has written his account of the journey for The Bridge:

With five of our close friends we completed the ride from John O'Groats in Scotland to Land's End in Cornwall in just 14 days, covering 1,014 miles and 16,800 metres of climbing – that's nearly the height of Everest, twice!

With just under 80 hours of time in the saddle, and 310,000 pedal strokes, you can imagine the sores!

A couple of our accompanying friends got heat stroke as well, but we all rallied round and pulled together. After a year and a half of planning and training there was going to be no question of giving up!

It was an incredible adventure, in which we experienced wonderful views and landscapes, including the Lochs and Munros of the vast Scottish Highlands, the Lake District, and the endless interconnecting canal networks of North West England.

Then there were the Welsh Marches and their beautiful market towns, the

dramatic winding road through Cheddar Gorge, and the rugged Cornish coastline.

The hardest part was the Lake District with its steep climbs, where we had to take a 20-mile detour because one of the mountain passes was closed.

A really special moment was to find several of our family and friends at the end waiting to greet us, including our wives, Beth and Alice. We couldn't



ALMOST HALF WAY: Taking a well-earned breather in the Lake District.



WE MADE IT! Andy and Alastair by the famous signpost, as family and friends greet them at the end of their journey.



THE START: Left to right, Andy, Alastair, and three of the friends who did the ride with them

have done it at all without their support.

Looking back, it seemed a crazy undertaking, but it was all in aid of two special causes close to our hearts.

I raised over £3,000 for research into heart disease in memory of my father, Rhys, who passed away suddenly in 2020, while Andy raised £1,400 for research into Parkinson's, in memory of his grandfather Philip who suffered from this awful disease.

Andy added:

We had previously done a few days cycling to Plymouth, and needed something even more challenging, which is why we decided to do this.

The hardest part was towards the end, with the hills in Cornwall. The most enjoyable was going through Cheshire when I stopped off in Northwich where I was from, and to see my old school and the house I was brought up in. A real trip down memory lane.

Would I do it again? If I did, I would like to do it the other way round, south to north. But that will have to wait because at the moment I've got my hands full with our baby boy. Maybe one day...

To donate to either or both of their charities, go to justgiving.com and search:

Alastair Jones British Heart Foundation

Andy Holt Parkinson's UK

News from Kyiv

After living in Droxford for 18 months and making many friends here, Ukraine refugees Angela and her husband Volodymyr, and their teenage children Viktor and Valeria, have had to return to Kyiv somewhat sooner than planned.

Angela is a technical assistant in the country's agricultural industry, and in June the Ukraine government requested her to return in order to coordinate a study into the state of the irrigation system after the destruction of the Kakhovka dam.

She has now written to The Bridge from Kyiv to thank the people of Droxford and surrounding villages for welcoming her and her family so warmly, and helping them to settle here after their traumatic experiences at the start of the war; and also to thank Lyndsey and David Shepherd for hosting them in their Manor House annex.

My dear British friends!

It will soon be two months since our family returned home to Kyiv. The decision to return was not an easy one for us. However, back here in Ukraine, there are relatives who need our presence, as well as my work, which was impossible to do remotely.

Kyiv, at first glance, looks like a completely safe and pre-war city... the shady parks, many children, a sea of delicious fruits and vegetables, summer cafes and restaurants full of visitors, traffic jams - such a dear and beloved Kyiv.

And sometimes I catch myself thinking that there is no war, and all our trials are just a bad dream.

But the periodic air raid sirens, loud air defence work (Glory to our air defence!), the huge Dnieper River without a single ship (navigation is prohibited because of the war), soon bring us back to reality.

Then there's the military on the streets, the sight of young guys with prostheses, the constant news that Ukrainian civilians are again being killed, and that not all Ukrainian cities are reliably protected from shelling, rocket and drone attacks... it doesn't add optimism! However, life goes on and we must learn to live with the new realities.

I remember watching the receding white cliffs of Dover from the ferry. They're really beautiful, and I miss



Now back home, Angela writes from her wartorn city to thank the people of Droxford for their warm welcome

England, the ocean, the lovely cities, but the main thing is you, my English friends.

We did not expect the British to be so open, kind and hospitable. You are the most beautiful people in the world (after the brave Ukrainians, of course!).

During our year and a half of living in England, we found new wonderful friends and relatives. It turns out that this happens in life, when completely unfamiliar people become as close and dear as native people.

Dear Lindsey, David, Elliot and Eve Shepherd, our hosts, you are the best relatives that could be dreamed of. I cannot put into words all my feelings and great gratitude. I only dream that we will often meet, hug, and see how our children and grandchildren have grown.

I can't help but write about Father Tony too.

It was the first month of our stay in England when we came to the church

service, and from that moment it was such a huge support for us.

Father Tony did everything to make us feel at home. He included prayers in Ukrainian, and at the end of the service there was always the anthem of Ukraine.

I would like to write more about the dozens of people who supported us while we lived in Droxford. My dear Yvon, yoga instructor, you are the best. My husband's colleagues also became his best friends. They are constantly in contact. The guys are worried about us.

I cannot fail to mention as well the excellent Swanmore College, which took our children in and provided them with full support and the best conditions for education.

Dear sweet Droxford, your green fields, tall trees and the clear waters of your streams will always be in my heart. It was here I first saw fields of snowdrops, it was beautiful.

My dears, everyone who knows and remembers us, THANK YOU so much for your support and kindness. Take care of yourself, take care of your loved ones, take care of the blessed land on which you live. And most importantly, believe in our Victory, because it cannot be otherwise; we are on the side of good. We'll definitely see you again! We strongly embrace you all.

From your Ukrainian/Droxford family: Angela, Volodymyr, Valeria and Viktor.

Angela will welcome hearing from her friends in Droxford. You can email her on anzhela.v.sharapova@gmail.com or keep in touch on WhatsApp with +380505488887.

New chair appointed to Droxford and District Community Care Group

David Keighley (pictured) has taken over from Za Rowe as chairman of the Group. He has written the following for The Bridge:

Dear friends in the villages,

I write as the newly elected chairman of the Droxford and District Community Care Group (DDCCG).

My thanks for your confidence in electing me to a post which is going to be hard to fill following the retirement of Za Rowe after 35 years supporting the group, most recently as Chair.

It is a superb achievement for which we are all very grateful and appreciative.

After 40 years as a rural parson with no further full-time commitments to the church, it is refreshing to be able to serve our communities in other pastoral ways.

I am also the Safeguarding Advisor for the DDCCG and I do the security DBS checking of new drivers and volunteers.

Recently I have also been appointed a police Chaplain for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, based at Waterlooville police station, which is giving me an

interesting new outlook on how communities work.

You have a very hardworking committee and dedicated band of volunteer drivers to meet the transport needs of the parishes on their journeys to hospital, dentist and doctor's appointments, and other venues where there are appropriate reasons.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Transport Co-ordinators (at a suitable time please) if you need a lift to your next appointment.

The more notice we have the better able we are to find a driver for you, so please no emergencies. And sorry, we don't do airport runs!

We hope to sign up some more drivers, as the more we have the less we need impose on a few to cover the demand.

I hope some of the younger members of our communities might consider joining and get to know some of our village members.

I also hope the committee will be considering additional services,



and I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the future.

David Keighley

The DDCCG is a local community group which is linked to the Diocesan Good Neighbours Network, and funded by Hampshire County Council.

*To access the service contact either Meonstoke Transport Co-ordinator **Arthur Brown** 07865 517484, or Droxford Transport Co-ordinator **Rosie Hoile** 07901 978796.*

*For any further information: **Rev'd David Keighley**, Chairman 07736 799262*

Petersfield Urgent Treatment Centre

The Urgent Treatment Centre 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.

The Centre 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
Tel: 023 8231 9000

Make new friends, learn new things

Somebody told me the other day that they did not know what U3A stands for. In fact it stands for the *University of Third Age*.

The Meon Valley u3a branch meets twice monthly during the Autumn, Winter and Spring lecture seasons at the Wickham community centre.

It is the opportunity to meet friends new and old across a cup of tea, gain new knowledge on all sorts of subjects, and it gives elderly people a friendly "club" to attend regularly.

The university part of the acronym is learning from talks, and the opportunity to join small groups such as reading, art appreciation, petanque, country strolling, scrabble and even Egyptology.

We also organise three outside visits of an educational nature during the Summer.

So what age groups are eligible? Well, as far as I know we do not ask members' ages. However, the 'third age' rather gives it away, allied to the fact that we meet during the day, which rather suggests suitability for the retired.

Our forthcoming talks (starting at 2pm) are:

Tuesday 3rd Oct: Dr Jenny Burkett on Eye Diseases. Jenny tells me that she will be concentrating her talk on



macular degeneration and cataracts.

Tuesday 17th Oct: Jim Busby on the History of Fareham High Street. Find out the secret history of the naughty ladies of Union St, just off the High Street.

Tuesday 7th Nov: Jane Salmon on the History of Shedfield.

Tuesday 21st Nov: Joe Marsden on Defence and Life in the Falklands after the Conflict.

Guests are very welcome to try us out. Why not give it a whirl? You may well be pleasantly surprised and wish to come again!

So come along. You will get a warm welcome and a cup of tea! (Guests pay £2 to help pay for outside speakers).

We also offer a preloved book and table games stall.

Lyndon Palmer, chairman

Tel: 07881 991763

lyndonplmr@gmail.com.

u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley

Pop-ins getting more popular!

Another two successful Pop-Ins at St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke, with 17 villagers on Wednesday 2nd August, and another 17 on 6th September. We shall need a bigger table soon!

Lots of chat and village news (I got told off for calling it gossip!) Lovely to see so many folk from the villages. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Next Pop-In dates for your diary: Wednesday 4th October and Wednesday 1st November, 10am to 12am. All ages welcome.

Don't forget the communal library at the back of the church as well, with books and jigsaws to borrow.

Linda Foot

Froxfield Choir concert

If you haven't already heard of us, we're a choir of around 30 to 40 Hampshire-based singers, a number of whom live locally.

We will be performing with Amanda Cook who is a well known local and internationally acclaimed classical guitarist on Saturday 18th November at St Peter's Church, High Cross, Froxfield, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets will be available via our website and through One Tree Books, Lavant Street, Petersfield.

Sarah Rush

Coordinator sought to help us teach children life-saving skills

Meon Valley Heartstart delivers training in schools to equip young people with life-saving skills, so they can be more confident when faced with an emergency medical situation.

We are seeking a volunteer School Liaison Coordinator who will help us reach more schools and schedule in training courses for their pupils and staff (and sometimes parents too), as well as continuing communications with our existing schools, so that we can deliver refresher training on a regular basis.

If you have an understanding of schools, can be proactive, have good



organisational and communication skills, and can offer around 1-3 hours a week, we'd love to hear from you!

This is a home working opportunity with regular contact with other Heartstart Team members through email and telephone and occasional face to face meetings as required.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity or send a letter of application, please email info@heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk or telephone David on 07730 148920 or visit heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk.

Hear the Navy ring our bells!

Droxford Bellringers are delighted to have received a request from a visiting band, the Royal Naval Guild of Bellringers (RNGB) to ring at St Mary and All Saints, Droxford on Saturday 21st October, as part of their Trafalgar weekend celebrations.

We are expecting about 30 ringers from the RNGB whose bellringing group was founded in 1914.

After arriving by coach and enjoying the delicious refreshments on offer at Wilfred's café, they will ring from 3.15pm for 45 minutes.

The local community, particularly those with a naval connection, are warmly invited to come and listen to the RNGB ringing, and we would recommend listening outside the church, as the sound of the bells is much clearer there.

Congratulations, then, to the Droxford Bellringers, whose continued success is helping to raise the profile of Droxford within the Portsmouth Diocese and beyond, attracting ever more visitors to the Church and Wilfred's café.

Claire Francis

**Friends Of Droxford Church Presents**

**A COMEDY ABOUT
FATHERS EVERYWHERE**



**a one man show starring
mick keegan**

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER

TIME: 7.30 - 10.00pm

WHERE: ST MARY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
DROXFORD

TICKETS: £12 to include a glass of wine
ON SALE AT WILFRID'S CAFE AND ONLINE
<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/jesusmyboy>

Droxford History Group

7.30 Thursday 30th November
Droxford Village Hall

THE HISTORY OF PORTSMOUTH 1870-1930

This is the third and last talk by Andrew
Negus on the history of Portsmouth

Soberton History Society

7.30 Thursday 12th October
Rookesbury Hall, Church Road, Newtown

BISHOPS WALTHAM'S TUDOR AND JACOBAN HOUSES

A talk by Penny Copeland



**Saturday, 18
November**
Droxford Village Hall
10.30am to 3pm

Some wonderful Christmas gifts can be found at our popular market with its wide range of stalls run by the many talented crafts people in and around Droxford. Please bring cash as not all stallholders will be able to accept contactless payments and remember to

SAVE THE DATE!

All proceeds for the Village Hall.

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

After having worked on the Village Hall committee for over 32 years, Alison Thomas has now stepped down to spend more time with her growing family, her six grandchildren, and other family members, many of whom now live as far away as the Lake District and Edinburgh.

As the longest-serving member of our committee she has seen the Hall through many stages, including its near bankruptcy in the early 90s, and the much-needed refurbishment with a lottery grant in 2000.

She organised many fundraisers for the village hall – Halloween discos for the adults, bingo nights and race nights – events that were inclusive of the village as a whole.

She ran the playgroup and then RATS – the youth group for the children of the village in the Hall; also the Cubs and Beavers who enjoyed running the tuckshop at the Christmas pantomimes.

All this has been in addition to holding all her children's parties, her grandchildren's

■ ***The refurbishment of the hall continues, and painting of the two halls and the toilets will commence in October.***

This is being done for us by Jane Glencross who used to sit on the committee before she moved away.

New curtains are also being made for us by Mary Hornby-Patterson. As you can see, we are trying to keep as much of the work near or within the village as we can.



Alison Thomas

parties and christenings, and her husband David's after-funeral service at the Hall.

Alison's energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed, but she has promised to help behind the scenes as usual at the annual Quiz Night and to run the raffle, so we will still have the pleasure of her company and experience, even if only in a smaller way.

A big thank you Alison for your sterling work for the village over so many years. Enjoy the grandchildren!

Tim Crowfoot

Our next films...

7.30 Wednesday 25th October

The Day of the Jackal

Rated PG

Starring Edward Fox and Delphine Seyrig



It's 1962 and Algeria has gained its independence from France. A group of disgruntled army officers has banded together and formed an organisation called the OAS, with the aim of killing President Charles de Gaulle.

7.30 Wednesday 29th
November

Oppenheimer

Rated 15

Starring Gillian Murphy, Emily Blunt and Matt Damon

Based on the 2005 biography *American Prometheus*, Christopher Nolan's eagerly awaited feature is the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, "the father of the atomic bomb," an enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.

Tickets at £6 are available from the Post Office, and subject to any restrictions in place at the time.

Licensed bar and refreshments available.

200 Club winners

**August: Julie Cruickshank
September: Louise Withers**

HAMPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hugh Lumby: Meon Valley Division

hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk



Potholes: we're making record progress

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. The weather has been rather changeable, and my fingers are crossed at the time of writing for the harvest as well as our local wine makers.

The rain and storms we have had remind me of the damage caused to our local roads earlier in the year by the deluges then.

Hampshire County Council has been making progress in dealing with these across the county. It has pledged to spend an additional £7.5m a year over the next three years to fix thousands more potholes.

This is on top of the £13.5m currently spent a year on reactive pothole and road defect repairs. In fact road defects are being fixed at a record rate. In May and June alone 19,697 potholes and other problems were repaired, and

But much more is still needed

33,671 square metres of surface design and micro asphalt were laid.

We need to see more progress locally though. Lately the Morestead Road in particular was going from bad to worse, as anyone who has had a puncture there would attest. Having made a lot of fuss about this I am pleased that many of the potholes have now been repaired.

Cycle access routes

Two unrelated bits of road news. First, the county and city councils are working together to develop a local cycling and working infrastructure plan (called an LCWIP).

There will be a consultation later in the year on the plans. From a look at some initial proposals, the railway line (sorry, the Meon Valley Trail) will probably feature strongly but we need to make sure the access routes are kept open



and not overgrown with nettles or impassable in winter.

Separately, HCC are promoting tree planting beside highways, as part of its tree-planting programme to plant one million trees by 2050.

The project's slightly dubious name is "Shoots along the Routes." More details can be found at hants.gov.uk/hampshireforestpartnership.

Hambledon are looking at working with the council on this on one of their approach roads. Worth a look if you are considering this.

I am pleased that no schools in Hampshire have had to be closed over RAAC concrete safety fears. In fact, only Cranbourne College in Basingstoke has been identified as being at risk, and temporary works have been undertaken to make sure it is safe.



Another chance to register for the Council's solar panel bulk buying scheme

A reminder that residents can join in the bulk buying of solar panels or batteries for their homes, which both reduce energy bills and boost local renewable energy generation.

A new round has opened and residents have until 27th October to register their interest online, free of charge and without obligation. For details visit hants.gov.uk/solartogether.

Meon Bridge Benefice Services

October

Sun 1st	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Meonstoke
	18.30 Evensong	Exton
Thur 5th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 8th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Droxford
Thur 12th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 15th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Corhampton
Thur 19th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 22nd	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Exton
Thur 26th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 29th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Droxford

November

Thur 2nd	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 5th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Meonstoke
	15.30 All Souls Com.	Exton
Thur 9th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 12th	9.00 HC	Meonstoke
	10.50 RBL Remembrance	Droxford
	18.30 Evensong	Corhampton
Thur 16th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 19th	10.00 Informal Service	Droxford
	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Corhampton
Thur 23rd	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 26th	10.30 Sung Eucharist (CW)	Exton
Thur 30th	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.



14th & 15th October
21st - 29th October

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Meon Valley Community Bus Services Timetable

Meon Valley Community Bus Association

An all volunteer service

Mondays, 2 nd and 5 th 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

4 th 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	Waterlooville Waitrose
1005	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
Return:	
1200	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1205	Waterlooville Waitrose

1 st 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

Leave	Wednesdays to PETERSFIELD	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*
Note: Includes all request stops up to and including West lodge (Church lane)		* Drop off only and approx dependent on passenger numbers.

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 strict, bus will not wait after scheduled time. All enquiries to mvcba1985@gmail.com Tel: 07300 425305.



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Love Your Yoga with Yvon



Yoga classes in your local community

Tuesday 6pm- 7.15pm
Droxford Village Hall

Wednesday 9.15am-10.30am
Warnford Village Hall

Love to join ?
Contact Yvon on
www.loveyouryogawithyvonn.com
07788974447

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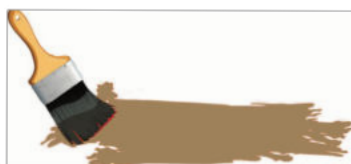
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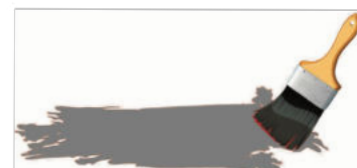
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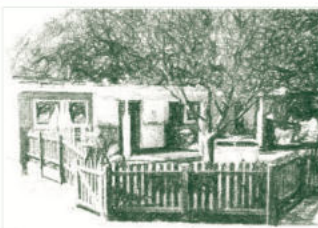


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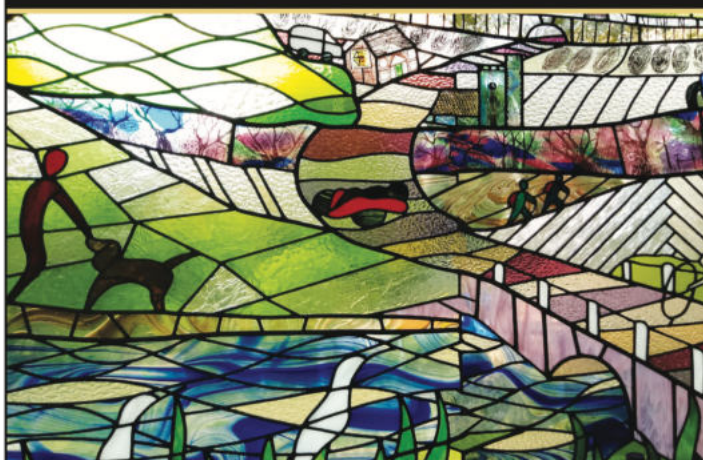
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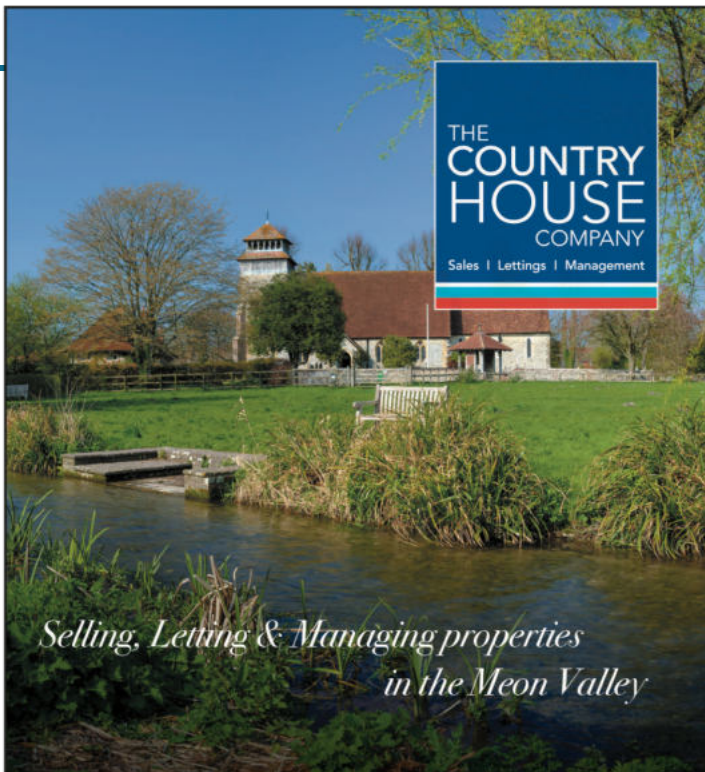
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Droxford	
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Exton Parish Meeting	
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CALL 101 or, preferably, use www.Hampshire.Police to report crimes that are not in progress, suspicious people 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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Phil Butler	877596
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Midlington Road	Louise Hudson	hudsonlouise111@gmail.com
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October

Sunday 1st Harvest Service 10.30am followed by lunch, St. Andrew's Church.

Tuesday 3rd Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 3rd Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 4th Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 4th Pop-In, St Andrew's Church 10am-1pm.

Thursday 5th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Friday 6th Talk by Flick Drummond MP: "Fraud and Scams" Community Forum, Meon Hall 5-7pm.

Saturday 7th Autumn Plant and Produce Sale, Droxford Village Hall, 10am to noon.

Saturday 7th Droxford School Dig Day, 9am to 3pm.

Tuesday 10th Meon Valley Arts Society lecture *Nikolaus Pevsner and the Buildings of Hampshire*, Meon Hall 10.40am.

Tuesday 10th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 11th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Thursday 12th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Thursday 12th Meon Ladies, Meon Hall 7-9pm.

Saturday 14th *Jesus My Boy*, one-man show by Mick Keegan, Droxford Church 7.30.

Saturday 14th Churchyard Clear up,

St Andrew's Church 10am.

Monday 16th Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to Noon.

Monday 16th Scottish Reels Group, Meon Hall 8pm.

Tuesday 17th Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 17th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18th Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Thursday 19th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Saturday 21st Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council drop-in session, all are invited to give your views, Meon Hall 9am to 11am.

Tuesday 24th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 25th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wednesday 25th Meon Hall Management Committee AGM, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 25th Film, *The Day of the Jackal*, Droxford Village Hall 7.30.

Thursday 26th Meon Valley Garden Club "Quiz Time," Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Tuesday 31st Meon Valley Arts Society study day "Art in Venice - The Lion of the Sea," Meon Hall 10am- 3pm.

Tuesday 31st Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Events Diary

November

Wednesday 1st Pop-In, St Andrew's Church 10am-1pm.

Wednesday 1st Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Thursday 2nd Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 7th Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 7th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 8th Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 8th Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council Meeting, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Thursday 9th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Friday 10th Meonstoke School Act of Remembrance, St Andrew's Church 2.30pm.

Sunday 12th Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church at 9am, with Wreath Laying at 9.30am.

Sunday 12th Royal British Legion Remembrance Service, Droxford Church, 10.50am.

Sunday 12th Remembrance Evensong, Corhampton Church 6.30pm.

Monday 13th Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 14th Meon Valley Arts Society lecture "William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, a

Friendship of a Lifetime," Meon Hall 10.40am.

Tuesday 14th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 15th Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Thursday 16th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Saturday 18th Bishops Waltham Dance Academy, Meon Hall all day.

Saturday 18th Droxford Christmas Market, Droxford Village Hall 10.30am to 3pm.

Sunday 19th "Roly's Run Marathon" HQ, Meon Hall 8am to 6pm.

Monday 20th Scottish Reels Group, Meon Hall 8pm.

Tuesday 21st Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 21st Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 22nd Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Thursday 23rd Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Friday 24th Royal British Legion Bingo Evening, Droxford Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday 25th 200 Club Beetle Drive, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Sunday 26th Bishops Waltham Dance Academy, Meon Hall all day.

Monday 27th Meon Hall Management Committee, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Tuesday 28th Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tuesday 28th Badminton, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Wednesday 29th Pilates, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wednesday 29th Film, *Oppenheimer*, Droxford Village Hall 7.30.

Thursday 30th Talk by Andrew Negus on History of Portsmouth, Droxford Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday 30th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

December

Sunday 3rd Pastoral Festival and Toy Service, St Andrew's Church 10.30am.

Saturday 9th FOMS Christmas Sale, Meon Hall 10am to Noon.

Saturday 9th Carols on St Andrew's Church Green, 6pm.

Further afield...

Tuesday 3rd October U3A Talk on "Eye diseases" by Dr Jenny Burkett, Community Centre, Wickham, 2pm.

Thursday 12th October Annual Bridge Tea, Manor House, Preshaw 2pm-5pm.

Tuesday 17th October U3A Talk on "History of Fareham High Street" by Jim Busby, Community Centre, Wickham, 2pm.

Saturday 18th November Froxfield Choir concert, St Peter's Church, High Cross, 7.30pm.

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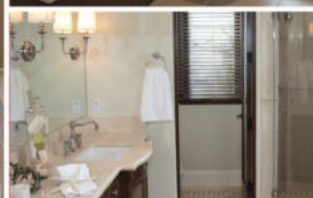
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