

# THE BRIDGE

The Parish Magazine for  
Corhampton, Droxford, Exton  
and Meonstoke  
December 2023 - January 2024





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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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**James Keen**

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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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The COPY DEADLINE  
for the February/March issue  
of The Bridge is  
THURSDAY  
4th January 2024

In this issue

- Alison, 58, puts her running shoes on again 26
- Author Lucy Strange visits Droxford School 22
- Bellringers get new ropes 7
- British Legion talk 27
- Clara's cake sale to save polar bears 22
- Carol Services 11
- Coach Trip to Parliament 24
- Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council 17
- Deborah jumps out of a plane 24
- Desert Island Discs: Lorna Allured 18
- Droxford awarded 'Best village in Hampshire' 9
- Droxford Country Fair 27
- FOMS raises £3,393 15
- From the Registers 7
- Gregor Logan memories 13
- 'Jesus my Boy': a review 27
- Meon Fit 11
- Meon Hall: A strange happening 40 years ago 25
- Meon Ladies 21
- Meon Valley Garden Club 20
- Meon Valley Orchestra concert 25
- Meon Voices 20
- Neighbourhood Watch: Peter Riley steps down 29
- Park Place Pastoral Centre Christmas Bazaar 23
- Patronal Festival and Toy Service Harvest Festival 7
- Rector: latest moves to find a replacement 25
- School Christmas Fair 15
- Tractor run 13
- U3A events 22
- Waste Recycling: How the booking system is working out 28
- Wilfrid's raises £1,029 for Macmillan Appeal 23
- William Collins Trust 21

Regular items

- Bus timetable 30
- Church Services 29
- Community Care Group 21
- Droxford Village Hall update 27
- Events Diary 43
- Gardening tips 20
- Hugh Lumby 28
- Local Services 42
- Meon Hall update 17
- On Reflection 5
- Pop-in 24
- Urgent Treatment Centre 21

The enormous community spirit which is so evident in our four villages has been formally acknowledged by the two prestigious awards which have been bestowed on Droxford, as 'Best Village in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight' and runner-up in 'Best Open Spaces.'

The cover picture shows Parish Council Chair Janet Melson (right) and Clerk Ailsa Duckworth receiving the awards from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (photo by Nicky Higgins).

The judges listed no less than 16 different organisations and voluntary groups which had impressed them as examples of 'community pride and cross-community involvement in village life.'

Find out which they are on page 9, and congratulations to everyone!

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:** Position vacant  
**Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:**  
Harry Martineau 877213  
**Organist:** John Martin 877385  
**Vergar and Sacristan:**  
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: Richard Martin 07590 042197  
**Sacristan:** Karen Ellis 878619

### PRESHAW

**Coordinator:** Position vacant

### EXTON

**Churchwarden & Secretary:**  
Richard Pepys 878035  
**Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:**  
David Frere-Cook 877838  
**Organist:** Richard Martin 07590 042197  
**Sacristan:** Position vacant

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](mailto:sjwells@meonwood.co.uk) or 01329 834130.

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35; Steve Such	<b>DOMESTIC SERVICES</b>	TM Landscapes &	Simon Lawson	Services 34;	<b>SCHOOLS</b>
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Cramer Bespoke 41	Neat 35	<b>GLASS &amp; GLAZING</b>	Solicitors 10;	6; The Dog Room	Meonstoke Post
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# ON REFLECTION



A well-known atheist was recently interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he would be spending Christmas he said that he would be attending Midnight Mass at church.

'But you're an atheist,' his interviewer protested. 'Yes,' he replied, 'But what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told.'

This 'beautiful story' tells of a creator who sent his son Jesus to share the life of his creation, to be born as a helpless baby, but to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, and then to

**The most beautiful story ever told... and why its message is more important than ever today**

be executed by the authorities for bravely contradicting the traditions of the time.

Jesus' followers – who today number around two billion all over the world –

believe that he rose from the dead, and that by his resurrection he made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

It's a story that will be rehearsed over and over again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and in sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year will nevertheless turn up to hear it, and be touched by it.

And who can blame them? After all, this is a story of hope, of love, and of heaven touching earth. Of a tiny baby, laid in a feeding trough in a stable fit only for animals, who changed history and transformed our understanding of what it means to be human.

Yes certainly, 'the most beautiful story ever told.'

So as each of us celebrates the festive season in our own individual way, let's hope the New Year brings more love and peace into the world. It badly needs it!

**Richard Pepys**



The Churchwardens of the Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice would like to wish all those who support the life and work of the Church in so many different ways.

*A Very Happy and Joyous Christmas*

We would also like to say **a HUGE**

**"Thank You"**

to you for all You do

from

**Angela, Colin and Richard**

Corhampton and St Andrew's,  
Meonstoke; St Mary and All Saints,  
Droxford; and St Peter and St Paul,  
Exton

[www.bridgechurches.org.uk](http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk)

## *Patronal Festival and Toy Service at St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke, 10.30am Sunday 3rd December*

*We are delighted that The Bishop of Portsmouth, The Rt Rev'd Dr Jonathan Frost will be leading the service.*

*Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated toys, which will be displayed in the church until 10th December.*

*There is still time to buy and donate toys, which will be loved and appreciated by children who are homeless or in refuges this Christmas.*

*Boxes for the collection of new wrapped toys (securely labelled with age and, if appropriate, gender) will be in all our churches until 10th December.*

*Come and Meet Bishop Jonathan, and enjoy Cake, Coffee and Wine after the Service*

*Plus a Surprise for the Youngsters*

*ALL WELCOME*

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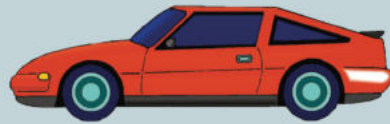
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# Children enjoy the parable of Peter, Mark, Luke... and Percy!

St Andrew's Church was packed for the visit of Bishop Peter Hancock, who used to be our archdeacon, to take the service of thanksgiving for the Harvest.

During the service his talk involved the children as he illustrated most effectively an up-to-date take on the parable of the farmer who had sewn seeds which had fallen in different areas.

We were introduced to three seeds - Peter Out, Mark Time and Luke Warm - who turned out not to have been much good, as they all failed to thrive. But Percy, whose surname turned out to be Vere, was much more successful.

The service was a particularly happy occasion, and the church was beautifully decorated with a wonderful assortment of gifts for the Food Bank.

Having to recruit three car-loads worth of drivers to take the contributions to the FoodBank was a wonderful problem to have. Many of the congregation stayed on for a delicious lunch afterward.

Many thanks to Angela Peagram and

her band of helpers for such a wonderful occasion.

There were activities for the children to do throughout the service e.g. taking up symbols of the Harvest such as oats and wheat, potatoes and swede, apples and pears. And a corner where they could colour harvest sheets, complete crosswords, and decorate pots of flowers.

**Richard Pepys**

*Angela Peagram adds:*

The donations everyone gave for Harvest were magnificent, thank you so much. As Richard says, three car loads



At Meonstoke School 's Harvest Service Nicola Hulbert uses Herumphy the camel to explain to children where different foods come from, and why we shouldn't take them for granted.

of your generous comestibles were taken down to the Meon Valley FoodBank on Monday and three of our drivers had their photos taken which you can see on [meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk](http://meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk).

## From the Registers

**Corhampton  
Funeral**

**27th September  
Jeffrey David Milward  
White, aged 90**

**Meonstoke  
Baptism**

**8th October  
Montague Walter Short**

## Droxford Bellringers get new ropes, clapper and muffles

We are thrilled to announce that as a result of our fund-raising efforts and with the addition of some very generous donations from Councillor Hugh Lumby, Wilfrid's Cafe, the Droxford Country Fair and personal donations, we have raised sufficient funds to reach our initial target.

This has enabled us to buy three new ropes, repair the tenor clapper and buy new muffles to quieten the bells on key occasions such as Remembrance Sunday.

Without the support of our whole community these essentials would

not have been possible, so very many thanks from all of us in the Droxford Bellringers Band.

**Mary Hornby-Patterson**



**Stuck for something to do? See the Events Diary on page 43**

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# Droxford is awarded Best Small Village in Hampshire

**Janet Melson, Chair of Droxford Parish Council, writes:**

In September, Droxford was awarded “Best Small Village of the Year, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight”. The competition is run annually by Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC), and after considering fully the number of community initiatives and many activities that take place in our village, the Parish Council decided to enter for the first time.

The entry form was submitted in July and the judging panel visited the village on a sunny Wednesday morning in August.

The Parish Council was subsequently invited to attend the awards ceremony, hosted by last year’s winning village of Odiham.

With no experience of the event, Ailsa, our Parish Clerk and I attended, more out of curiosity than expectation.

The first award to be announced was for “Best Open Space”. We were delighted when Droxford was announced as the runner-up for the improvements made to the heart of the village through the resurfacing of The Square and creation of the Garden of Reflection.

We immediately felt that our journey to the north of the county had been justified as we sat back to enjoy the remainder of the evening, gleaning ideas for future initiatives from some of the presentations given.

When the category of “Best Small Village” was announced and the opening words of our submission were read out, it was clear to us that Droxford was to be declared the winner!

I’m sure we had broad, but slightly shocked smiles on our faces as the rest of the county was treated to a summary of all that marks out our village and community.

As residents, we all know that there is much to love and enjoy locally, but to be assessed so highly after scrutiny by the judges gave independent confirmation.

A couple of weeks later we invited the



village to join the Parish Council in a celebratory drink and it was great to be joined by so many local people whose input to the village contributed to the award, many of whom were unaware of the full scope of activities that take place.

The application upon which the award was made is now on our website for all to read in full and the final paragraph summarises why Droxford is special :

*“A settlement has existed in Droxford since Saxon times and its proud history is well documented. Droxford today is far more than a collection of buildings that have arisen over the centuries. The number and variety of the range of activities that take place are possibly*



**The Scarecrow Festival was among the many aspects of Droxford voluntary initiatives that impressed the award judges.**

*disproportionately large for the size of the population. The concept of community can be nebulous, but it is clear that Droxford has a thriving, supportive, inclusive and outward-looking community,deserving of recognition as a true Hampshire gem.”*

Thank you and congratulations to all residents and our wider supporters who give so much to our village.

**Janet Melson**

## Among the many aspects of village life highlighted by the judges in their citation were:

**The Country Fair  
Wilfrid’s Cafe  
Scarecrow Festival  
Christmas Market  
Coronation Street Party  
Secondhand Book Fair  
Bellingring revival  
Cemetery maintenance**

**History Group  
Royal British Legion branch  
Cricket Club  
Garden Club  
Allotment Association  
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme  
Meon Valley Community Bus  
Community Care Group**

**The judges commented: “This range of activities was noted as a huge undertaking in a small village of around 700 residents. The Parish Council and other organisations within the village frequently work together with a joined-up approach to make life better and more enjoyable for all in the village. It is for this reason we have given the award to Droxford.”**

## BODY CONTROL PILATES CLASSES

running on Wednesdays:

### Droxford Village Hall

1.45 - 2.50pm - Mixed Ability

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**Mondays: Meon Circuits 7.30pm**

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## *The Winter Solstice Walk*

**Friday 22nd December, 7am Meon Hall**

*For the third year running we will be walking up to the top of Old Winchester Hill to welcome in the sunrise on the shortest day of the year.*

*Everyone is welcome to join us, well behaved dogs as well, (they will need to be on leads at the top). Bring head torches, sturdy walking boots, warm clothes, and a flask of coffee to have at the top whilst we watch the sunrise.*

*It's a lovely way to see the Winter Solstice and enjoy the beautiful South Downs that we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.*

## **'The Grim'**

**Sunday 3rd December**

A group of us have taken on the challenge of 'The Grim'! Four miles of running through cold, wet and muddy conditions in the Army training grounds at Aldershot. Some of the group have never taken part in a running event, so it's a huge challenge for them. We are having training runs once a week and as the weather turns more wintry the training conditions are getting better! You're more than welcome to join us!

**Sarah Stuart 0794 1196587**

**Meonfit.com**

**@meon.fit (Instagram & Facebook)**

## All set for Carols on The Green

**It's nearly time... please join us with your family and friends on Saturday 9th December at 6pm starting in St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke, for Carols around the Christmas tree.**

In a bid to stay warm for as long as possible, this year we will meet in the Church at 6pm for a warming cup of mulled wine and a mince pie, before we move to the tree on the Church Green to sing some carols.

Afterwards we can return to the Church for more mulled wine and chat with friends and neighbours.

The decorations for the tree have been on sale at the shop for a little while now, so if you haven't managed to get one, now is your chance!

When you have finished being creative your decoration can be hung at your leisure on the tree that is going up on the Green on 4 December.

All donations for the decorations and money from donations on the night will go to The Roberts Centre In Portsmouth.

The centre ([www.robertscentre.org.uk](http://www.robertscentre.org.uk)) provides support for children, families, young people and vulnerable adults from across Portsmouth and the surrounding area.

Every year they are extremely grateful for funds that we donate. There will be a card reader available at the Church,

or a cash box if you prefer on the night.

It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible, so please bring your neighbours and get the Christmas season off to a festive start.

Thank you for all your wonderful support. See you on 9th December.

**Becky Evans**



## And in EXTON and Droxford...



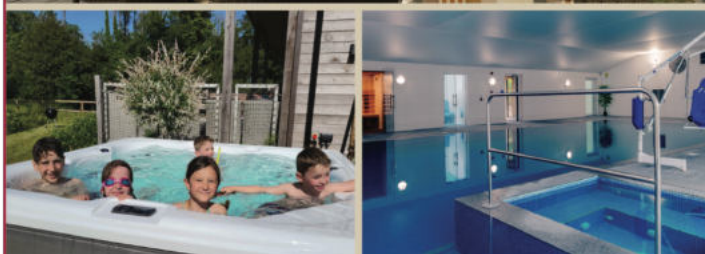
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# Gregor Logan: child prodigy who became a top financier

*Gregor Logan, who died suddenly in September aged 68, was described at his funeral as a 'lynchpin' of local church and village life.*

*Two of his closest friends were Meonstoke's Chris Ellis, and his Best Man at his wedding, Alasdair Douglas. Here they write about his life and remarkable achievements.*

Many will remember with fondness Gregor's vitality, and the enormous part he played in village life.

As the chair of Friends of St Andrew's and Corhampton Churches (FOSACC) and treasurer of the Parochial Church Council, he was always wonderfully helpful, and always on the lookout for ways to enhance our churches.

As well as getting everyone organised

to keep the Corhampton churchyard looking so good, he played a major part in the 1,000 year celebrations of this beautiful Saxon church.

Whatever Gregor was involved in, whether it be church life, art exhibitions, or the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations, he was usually to be found in the background quietly helping to make all these things



happen.

You couldn't fail to notice and admire his talent and energy for getting things done, helping out and helping people to help themselves.

**Chris Ellis**

## 'A relentless village organiser'

**Some will be unaware, though perhaps not too surprised, that Gregor had been something of a child prodigy.**

At the age of just 16 he was admitted to Edinburgh University to study law, where he had to wait until his second year before he could legally buy a beer (although that didn't deter him).

After graduating with an LLB he won a coveted apprenticeship at the prestigious Edinburgh law firm WJ

Burness before joining the world of finance instead, with the Boston asset management company Fidelity, eventually to become its European Investment Director.

On leaving the company 15 years later to join MGM Assurance, he was amused to find he had made it into the Times business pages under the headline "City of London shocked at Logan's departure from Fidelity."

Gregor met his wife Sue on a tennis holiday in 1991 and they bought The Barn in Meonstoke in 1995.

Over many years he and Sue supported countless village-related events, and many of us benefitted from his relentless organising of lunches, bridge sessions and tennis matches.

He was an enthusiastic cyclist as well, and he organised numerous group cycling expeditions here and abroad with cycling friends. Tragically, it was while cycling up Beacon Hill that he unexpectedly collapsed and died.

Gregor had a unique ability to make and keep friends, blind to background, rank or status, and gave freely of his time to help and support friends, and children of friends, with introductions, job experience and guidance.

He gave generously to local charities, and to the University of Edinburgh law faculty to help students who might, without financial support, have been unable to attend.

Those who knew him well, loved and admired him.

**Alasdair Douglas**



**Villagers turn out to watch the annual tractor run by the East Hants Young Farmers Club, this year raising money for Alzheimer's Society and Bowel Cancer UK. Photo by Nicky Higgins.**

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# FOMS raises £3,393 in just a year!

The academic year 2022/23 was a busy one for the Friends of Meonstoke School (FOMS), and the Committee would like to thank the whole community for helping us to raise an incredible £3,393.

We achieved this with events such as the Pub Quiz at the Bucks Head, and last year's very successful online Festive Prize Draw, for which we were lucky enough to have been supported by lots of local business generously donating prizes.

We also sold refreshments at events such as the Droxford Country Fair, school discos and 'dress down days'.



The money has been used to fund improvements to the extensive outdoor learning area at the school

including a new construction area, welly storage area and wildlife area (pictured right).

We were also able to subsidise school trips and provide learning resources for the classroom amongst other things.

**Our primary fundraising goal in 2024 will be towards refurbishing the school library to create a beautiful space where children can go to read and choose their next literary adventure, and this is where you can help.**

We have put together an Amazon wish list of some of our favourite children's books. If you would like to purchase one of them for our school you can scan the QR code (left) and it will show you which books we would love to have.



**Pupils of Meonstoke Infant School enjoy their new wildlife area**

You can purchase books directly from the list and have them delivered straight to school, and your name will be put into the book so that your generous gift is recorded for pupils now and in the future.

**Gill Parratt, Secretary FOMS**

## Prizes galore at the Christmas Fair

**The Christmas Fair is back! Join us at the Meon Hall on Saturday 9th December between 10am and 12.30pm for the chance to do some Christmas shopping, enjoy tea, coffee and festive cake, and, of course, to meet Father Christmas.**

We have a range of different stallholders joining us on the day, as well as some family fun planned with lots of different activities and games for the children to enjoy, and music from the Meon Valley Orchestra.

There will also be the chance to win some amazing prizes in our event festive raffles.

These range from a Christmas Tree in our Christmas tree raffle (donated by the Smith family at Four Acres in Droxford) to vouchers for Meon Valley Butchers and Westlands farm shop to use towards your Christmas lunch.

You could even win a Christmas Cake in our cake raffle. Whatever you need, our raffles and stall holders will have your

Christmas covered!

You will also be able to purchase your door wreaths at the Fair.

Entry to the fair is £2 per person, with children entering for free. Remember to bring plenty of cash on the day as opportunities to make card payments are likely to be limited.

We are also running an online Festive Prize Draw which will be drawn at the end of the Fair. Some of the incredible prizes donated by local businesses and individuals include:

- **6-months gym membership at DSX gym in Bishops Waltham**
- **£250 voucher towards a stay at Wallops Wood Holiday Cottages**
- **Four tickets to the T20 cricket at the Ageas Bowl**
- **Four Meon Fit Fitness Sessions**
- **Reflexology treatment**
- **£40 voucher for the White Lion at Soberton**

- **30-minute riding lesson (adult or child) at the Merrie Stud**

- **30-minute golf lesson (adult or child) at**

**Swanmore Golf Club**

- **£50 voucher for The Shoe Inn, Exton**
- **Hamper from Meonstoke Village Stores**
- **A bottle of Exton Park Sparkling wine**

To buy tickets online for this prize draw scan the QR code (above) or go online at [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/meonstoke-charity-festive-prize-draw](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/meonstoke-charity-festive-prize-draw).

**All proceeds from the Christmas Fair and Festive Prize Draw will go to support the organisers: Meonstoke toddler group Meonstorks, the Valley Preschool, and Friends of Meonstoke School (FOMS).**

**Jess Bassett**



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Thank you to Michelle Kempster for her work around the car park tarmac area keeping the autumn leaf fall from the Meon Hall's 62 trees under control! And to John Dobby for arranging to remove the bags and bags and bags of leaves.

When we planted the trees in 1980 and 1981 on the banks of excavated chalk and rubble from the Hall's building works, no-one could have imagined how good it all would look 43 years later.

**Recycling** Please recycle unwanted clothes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for the South East Area Ambulance Service First Responders.

Please note the signs on the bin saying what can be recycled, but no duvets or pillows please ! The aim is to raise money from our recycling in 2024 to help with funding this important local service.

**Planning a family party?** Order all

# Meon Hall news



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

When planning ahead, please contact the Meon Hall Bookings Manager on [meonhallbookings2@yahoo.com](mailto:meonhallbookings2@yahoo.com).

**If it is short notice and urgent, please leave a message for me on 01489 877916.**

**James Morrice**

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

**October: Rupert Walker**  
**November: Tina Blackmore**

...and before you will have read this the winners of the £300, £150, and £100 prizes for 2023 will have been drawn at the Beetle Drive held in November at The Meon Hall.

Details of prizewinners will be published in the Meonstoke Stores.

Looking ahead to next year's 200 Club, monthly £25 Prize draws will be made from February at the beginning of each month.

There will be a £50 Midsummer Prize, and the special draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place in November.

The 200 Club raises money to help with making improvements and buying new equipment for the Meon Hall.

## Lots of people to thank this month...

■ First, a public thank you to David Ablitt for generously giving his time to volunteer as a co-opted member of the Parish Council.

We can only function if there are sufficient willing volunteers to donate a relatively small amount of their free time to serve on *your* Parish Council. It is very easy to sit back and criticise; far more constructive to volunteer to help make change happen!

■ A second thank you to the roughly 10% of households who responded to the call for thoughts on the Parish Priorities Statement that we will be submitting to the South Downs National Park Authority on your behalf, to inform the Local Plan Review process.

There were many well-considered and



constructive suggestions that we have woven into the text of the document that is now available on the Parish Council website.

As part of this we have also had early discussions with the SDNPA towards developing a new policy that would allow limited, well-designed, small-scale, self-build properties in, or on the fringe of, villages such as Meonstoke that in planning terms are

regarded as 'countryside'. And an honourable mention to Laura Northwood who was instrumental in putting the document together for us.

■ Finally, a shameless plug for the Parish Council website at [www.candm-pc.gov.uk](http://www.candm-pc.gov.uk).

We have tried our best to be comprehensive in the range of links you will find there, from reporting missing bin collections through reporting suspicious activity to the police, to ideas for days out in our glorious countryside.

Increasingly the use of online links is becoming the only effective way of securing action from other authorities; it's already first choice for most of us in searching our leisure services.

Please make the best use of it.

**Jerry Pett, chair**



# Desert Island Discs

## 8. Lorna Allured

**Lorna and her husband Ian came to Meonstoke in 1976 and immediately immersed themselves in village life: the church choir, the 1977 Jubilee and the building of the Meon Hall, and have continued to do so until a few years ago when Ian began to develop Alzheimers. Here Lorna looks back over her life and chooses the six records that she would take to the mythical desert island.**

I was born in Bermondsey in 1946. The reason was that my father was a policeman and after the war the police were told to go and live and work in the poorer parts of London to help restore people's lives. I don't think my mother could stand it, so as soon as we were able we moved to Bromley.

Choosing six records has been very difficult because music has been such a huge part of my life - from the word go in fact. My father played the organ and music was his passion, and he would lullaby me to sleep by singing the beautiful melody from the slow movement of Beethoven's sixth symphony - the Pastoral. So that would be the first record to take to the island as it would remind me of a very happy childhood.

### 1. Beethoven's Sixth Symphony

I learned to play the recorder, clarinet, oboe and the piano. I also loved singing, especially in choirs. As a teenager I sang in an amazing youth choir called the Orpington Junior Singers, and one year we won the prestigious *Let the People Sing* international competition. We also sang at the Royal Albert Hall, and at Sir Arthur Bliss's birthday party in the Stationer's Hall. But the real highlight was singing Mahler's Third Symphony in the Festival Hall.

### 2. Mahler's Third Symphony

After school I had a gap year and worked at the BBC as a junior secretary

in the Engineering Department which was a very growing-up experience, after which I went to Christ Church College Canterbury to train as a teacher. There I studied music and education and sang in a chapel choir every day, hence my love of church music. I then taught in schools in Kent for two years and sang with the Monteverdi Choir in London.

When it comes to the kind of music I like I admit to being a bit of a square really. Early music and baroque are my favourites. Unlike Ian, I wasn't keen on pop music although I did like the Beatles and as a teenager I went to the Hammersmith Odeon to see them. Lots of girls fainted and kept the St John Ambulance people busy. I had to take the next day off from school due to a sore throat from screaming. I've chosen *Hard Day's Night* to remind me of my mad youth.

### 3. Hard Day's Night

Ian and I had known each other since we were 13 when he moved to Bromley from Norfolk. We were at the same youth club and Ian sang in our church choir. We went out together later on until he went to University to study history and I went to Canterbury.

We got together again after three years and things became more serious, and we married in 1972. I had to get used to a very different name which could be pronounced in lots of ways!

Ian had by now decided to go back to



University to study social work. His first job - child guidance in Leigh Park - brought us to Hampshire. We bought a house in Liss, and I taught in a primary school in Petersfield.

In 1973 we decided to put our careers on hold for two years. We let our house, bought a VW van, crossed the Channel and kept going, funding the trip mainly by grape picking in France at the start, before setting off through Europe, and then Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

We met some terrible weather as we neared Albania and our van had to have snow chains all the way to Kabul, where we had a bizarre experience. While people were living in terrible poverty due to war we were invited to a champagne evening of Tudor recorder music at the American Embassy. Enjoying such luxury when just a few hundred yards away people were suffering such awful misery made us feel somewhat guilty.

We drove down the Khyber pass and the temperature became increasingly hot through Pakistan, Nepal and India, where our van was hoisted onto a boat which took us to Penang. We had a wonderful time driving around Malaysia and Thailand, and when we arrived in Singapore the van was loaded on to



another boat, this one bound for Australia. When we arrived in Perth our van and all its contents had to be steam cleaned before we could set off for Adelaide. This included the cosy but extremely smelly Afghan coat I'd bought in Kabul.

After a five-day drive across a very rough Nullabor Plain we arrived in Adelaide where we stayed for nine months, Ian doing social work and me teaching, and we thoroughly enjoyed exploring Australia in our van. We loved Australian bush ballads and to remind me of this wonderful time in our lives I would like to take *Click go the Shears, Boys*, an 1800s sheep-shearing song.

#### 4. Click go the Shears, Boys

We sold the van to pay for the journey home and after a short holiday in New Zealand returned, much to our parents' relief, to Liss, where Rachel was born in 1975. We stayed in Liss for a while but as we needed more room, and Ian worked at Southampton General Hospital, we bought our lovely King's Farm at the top of the Buck's Head Hill. We loved Meonstoke and soon got involved in village life – the playgroup, Meonwara, tennis and music making – and Ian became secretary of the Meon Hall building committee.

Our son Ben was born in 1978 and life was great, with cats and a lovely Labrador called Smiley, and above all super friends and neighbours. Ian and I enjoyed singing in the Church choir. He had a good bass voice and in his youth had sung the solo part in the carol *Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar*, so I'd like to take that to the desert island too.

#### 5. Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar

I taught in several schools in Hampshire for many years, and organised choirs, recorder groups and orchestras before retiring so I could spend more time with my elderly mother who lived in Petersfield. My teaching skills came in handy six years ago when I was



delighted to be asked by West Meon Theatre to direct the singing for their production of the *Pirates of Penzance*.

This was quite challenging as I was faced with around two dozen people, most of whom had never sung a note in their lives, and I had to get them singing some quite tricky Gilbert and Sullivan songs in four-part harmony. One of them told me afterwards that he couldn't believe we'd managed it!

I have continued to sing in various choirs in Petersfield and played in a recorder consort with some local friends, calling ourselves the Ladybyrd Consort. An amazing experience was conducting a *Come and Sing the Messiah* in Meonstoke Church a couple of times. The church was packed, and the singing was fantastic on both occasions.

Just for a change I worked during one Christmas period in Marks and Spencer in Hedge End, and then spent some afternoons working in our village shop, which was hard work but great fun. Ian had also retired, having had a long career in mental health, and as a Magistrate on the Fareham bench. He enjoyed playing tennis, watching football and cricket, and became a sidesman in Winchester Cathedral.

So life in Meonstoke for 47 years has been a very varied and interesting time, what with Jubilees, fundraising activities, drama and musical events, wild flower festivals and the 'Pop In' group. We now have four grandchildren who enjoy coming to

stay here. They particularly love the village shop and the recreation ground. We have all been very fortunate and privileged as a family to have grown up in this lovely place, and been part of such a vibrant and happy community.

About ten years ago Ian was beginning to show signs of Alzheimers. He set off for Norwich one day to see the Canaries play but came back very early because he had got lost – not like Ian at all. So just over four years ago we decided it would be easier for us to live in a more modern house, and we moved to de Port Heights.

With his Alzheimers having reached an advanced stage, Ian is now in Kitnocks House Nursing home in Curdridge, and we miss him so much. Something wonderful does happen occasionally though, when now and again he listens to music and his toes start tapping. It's very sad of course, but people have been really supportive and kind, so I'd like to dedicate my six musical choices to all our friends in the Bridge parishes and wish them all a merry Christmas.

#### 6. Monteverdi vespers 1610

My last record is the Vespers of 1610 by Monteverdi, which will remind me of all the fun we have had as a family on lots of holidays in France and Italy. One day I would love to hear this in St. Mark's in Venice.

**How would I cope on the island?** Well, having been in the Girl Guides I suppose I could try lighting a fire by rubbing two bits of wood together. We were also taught semaphore, so if a ship came passing by I could sign for help by waving palm leaves.

**What record would I save from the waves?** Definitely Monteverdi.

**My book?** I've always loved poetry, so it has to be the Oxford Book of English Verse.

**And my luxury item?** A solar-powered radio, and hope for sunny weather.

# The final jobs of the year

The wet autumn has delayed many garden tasks, such as planting bulbs, trees and shrubs. If you have bare rooted trees waiting to be planted make sure that the roots don't dry out, either by heeling them into the ground or potting them up until they can be planted.

Early December is the last chance to plant most spring flowering bulbs and you may still have to give the lawn a final cut.

Now is the time to have a final browse through the seed catalogues for next year before ordering, and in some cases, sowing seeds.

**Vegetables** Sprouts, leeks and winter cabbage can be harvested but keep the vegetable plot free of weeds and debris that can shelter pests. If you have not already done so you can still sow broad beans suitable for autumn sowing.

Prepare the site for next year's runner beans by digging a trench and incorporating some well-rotted manure and shredded paper before replacing the soil. This will retain moisture in the soil and hopefully avoid the need for watering when the crop is developing.

In January first indoor sowings of early



## December and January

cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce such as Little Gem can be made.

**Fruit** Cut back newly planted bushes and canes of soft fruit such as raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and red currants.

Carry out winter pruning of established apple and pear trees and soft fruit bushes, currants and gooseberries. But do not prune stone fruits such as cherries, peaches, and nectarines, plums and damsons in order to avoid fungal attacks such as silver leaf and canker.

**Herbaceous border** Now is the time when you can cut down the old flowered stems of perennial plants such as Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Michaelmas daisy, phlox and golden rod. Do not be

tempted to cut down penstemons as they can be vulnerable to frosts if the crown of the plant is left unprotected; leave it until late April to do this job. Divide and replant larger clumps of perennials.

**Trees and Shrubs** Prune Wisteria and shrubs grown for their foliage colour such as Sambuca and Cotinus. Prune deciduous trees to shape.

Plant bare rooted roses, if you have not already done so. Cut back very tall buddleia, roses and lavatera by about a third to avoid wind damage over the winter months. Final pruning should be delayed until spring.

Protect roots of tender perennials such as canna, dahlia etc. that have been left in the ground to overwinter with well-rotted manure or coarse compost.

**In the greenhouse** Take care of overwintering plants by keeping them fairly dry, clearing up all fallen leaves and dead flowers, and keeping a constant watch out for pests and diseases, particularly fungal rot and mildew. January is the time to sow chillies and peppers, which need a long growing season.

John Owen

## Calling tenors and basses

The Meon Voices, a vibrant and inclusive community choir, is particularly seeking talented and enthusiastic tenors and basses to join its supportive musical group.

There have been a record number of sopranos and altos joining this season, and whilst the choir has also welcomed new tenors and basses, it would be great to have more.

We perform a wide range of music, this term including a variety of carols, West Side Story, Handel, John Rutter, and Lennon and McCartney. As an SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) choir, the members create beautiful harmonies and our Christmas and Spring performances become more accomplished and popular each year.

Whether you are an experienced

vocalist or haven't sung since school, joining the Meon Voices offers you the opportunity to develop your skills, explore new repertoire and make lasting friendships.

If you are interested in joining this happy choir, the Monday night practices are held between 7.30 to 9.30pm at the United Free Church in Bishop's Waltham, culminating this term in a Christmas concert in mid-December.

Email Jane on [janevose@icloud.com](mailto:janevose@icloud.com) or contact Phil either on 01489 579078 or via email [coundleypj@yahoo.com](mailto:coundleypj@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Meon Valley Garden Club events for 2024



**Spring Show** Saturday 23rd March, 1.30pm Meon Hall.

**Spring Plant Sale** Saturday 4th May, 10am Droxford Village Hall.

**Summer Show** Sunday 21st July, 1.30pm Meon Hall.

**Autumn Plant Sale** Saturday 5th October 2024, 10am Droxford Village Hall.



## Merry Christmas from all at the William Collins Trust

We hope you have a very happy festive period. However, we are aware that the season can bring its financial worries. But while we can't help with Christmas we can help where there is financial need for educational purposes.

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

All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

The Trust has recently helped to fund trips to Calshot, Swanmore geography field trips, books for the Meonstoke School library, school uniform, equipment for college courses, and music lessons, to name a few.

Application forms can be found at the William Collins link at [www.bridgechurches](http://www.bridgechurches), or on the Meonstoke or Droxford school websites.

The next meeting is on **January 11th 2024**. Please consider applying if you or anyone you know would benefit and we can make things a little easier.

Sian Holiday

## Droxford and District Community Care Group

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

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

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

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

For further information, please contact **David Keighley** chairman, 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 every day and 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**

## Meon Ladies

The Meon Ladies is all about bringing people together and by the time you read this we'll have held a wine and cheese pairing event hosted by Petersfield's General Wine Company to stave off the gloom as the nights close in.

Following our Christmas Dinner social at The Shoe in December we will be looking ahead to 2024, kicking off with our annual curry and skittles night on Saturday 29th January at the Phoenix Inn, Twyford, at 7pm, with many more activities and outings to follow.

Want to join in? Have an idea of something fun to do? Or just want to see what we're up to? We'd love to hear from you.

Claire Ablitt 07712 221752  
Laura Northwood 07799 413351

# Clara's bid to save the polar bears

Seven year old Clara was so dismayed to learn at Droxford Junior School about the threat to polar bears due to climate change that she decided to do something about it.

She helped her Mum, Jess Bassett, to make cakes to sell from a table near their Meonstoke High Street home, and within two hours she had raised £180, which she has now donated to the World Wildlife Fund.

Clara explained: "Our teacher told us how climate change meant that once the ice has melted there will be nowhere for the polar bears to live, and they will become extinct.

"I don't want that to happen because I love animals, so I thought of a cake sale to raise money to stop it happening. Lots of people came by and bought them. It was really nice of them to give us so much money."



Selling like hot cakes! Clara at her table.



## Children's author wows our children

That wonderful author of children's books, Lucy Strange, (pictured left) met our children in a recent visit to Droxford School.

She shared her experiences of being an author, enthralled the delighted children with her new spooky stories, as well as signing many books for them.

■ And a big thank you to all those who attended our Dig Day (including children - over 60 people on site!). We achieved so much. Lots and lots of spring bulbs planted which we will see in February brightening the site; a huge amount of leaf and plant clearing; pruning of trees and shrubs and the willow dome; a complete clearance of the wildlife area and ponds; removal of lots of bindweed on the astro steps and in the courtyard; and lots of great work in the allotment including an amazing new compost bin!

Thank you all again - the site is looking amazing for the winter and will be ready for spring and summer plans.

Matthew Dampier, head teacher

### Good day all, and a rather premature Merry Christmas!

Once more I set about informing you of the December and January meetings of the MVU3A, which we hold on Tuesdays at 2pm in the **Wickham Community Centre**.

Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome. So come along, please!

Guests pay £2 towards speaker costs, and our annual subscription is now £15. We also have lots of books that we sell cheaply for charity.

■ On **Tuesday 5th December** **Professor Duncan Colin-Jones**, a



well-known local and expert lecturer, will be giving a **Beginners guide to DNA**.

■ On **Tuesday 19th December** our own **Glynn Edwards** is offering us a **Christmas quiz** as part of our

Christmas party.

■ January unfortunately brings us cold weather, but there's a really interesting talk on **Tuesday 16th** on the **History of the Meon Valley Railway Line** by **Edwin Grimshaw**. Edwin is a local authority on this subject.

Our meetings are always lively with lots of laughs. So why not come along and expand your knowledge of these topics.

**Lyndon Palmer, Chairman**  
07881991763

lyndonplmr@gmail.com  
u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley



# Crumbs! Every last slice goes as Wilfrid's cake sale raises £1,029 for Macmillan appeal

Another successful Macmillan event took place in September at Wilfrid's Café. when local residents and others from the surrounding area produced an amazing array of cakes and a steady stream of people came to buy them.

We had carrot cake, Dorset apple cakes, chocolate and raspberry mini cakes, lemon drizzle, courgette cake and many more besides. Every single cake down to the last crumb was consumed.

We had people who came along to buy for friends in the village who had COVID; a stable owner who bought cake for her staff; and some who had one piece of cake in the café then came back for more to take home.

This year we held a raffle too. Prizes were generously donated by The Bakers Arms, The Flower Pedlar, by local artist June Kershaw, by Nicky Higgins our famous local photographer, and by Beverley Bryant, one of our regular star

bakers, with the offer of a Christmas cake at the appropriate time. And of course we couldn't let the occasion go without donating some of our vouchers for free drinks at Wilfrid's.

Beverley also made a beautiful 'Guess the number of daisies' cake for which people donated to Macmillan and then made their guess. Not surprisingly, all those who won prizes were delighted.

The fabulous total sum of £1,029 was raised for Macmillan, most of it on the day, but some through our Macmillan fundraising page.

Our grateful thanks go to our amazing volunteers who ran the day so



Wilfrids volunteer Louise Withers serves up the delicious cakes made by local residents

smoothly; to the lovely cake bakers who generously donated their cakes; to everyone who came along; and to all who gave so freely to support such a worthwhile cause.

Margaret Wallace

## Help us raise funds for this spiritual retreat with our Christmas Bazaar

As Chair of the Friends of **Park Place Pastoral Centre** in Wickham I'm helping to organise a fundraising Christmas Bazaar, and we would love you to come along and support us.

Park Place is a beautiful Georgian house, set in 18 acres of beautiful grounds, and is run by a small community of Franciscan Sisters.

They work in a voluntary capacity to provide support and education for adults and children across Ethiopia, India and Tanzania who are living in circumstances we cannot imagine, such as having been abandoned, parentless or being a destitute widow.

The Centre also extends a warm welcome to people of all beliefs – or who may have no traditional beliefs, but still have an interest in spiritual reflection –

with short courses, retreats, days of prayer, and training.

Our role as Friends is to raise money for the Sisters' valuable work and their charities, and also support them in the upkeep of the infrastructure of their lovely building.

But even if none of this floats your boat, you might still like a fun trip to an exciting bazaar.

So why not come along between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 2nd December? We look forward to seeing you.

Rita Newman



# ‘I was terrified!’

It’s not everyone who would want to jump out of an aeroplane three miles up... and at age of 62, and *especially* when you are scared of heights. But that’s what jewellery maker Deborah Hemsworth, of Midlington Road, Droxford, decided to do in order to raise £1,300 for charity.

Would she do it again? Find out from this account she’s written for The Bridge.

I got the idea of doing a sky dive after watching the footballer Graeme Souness talking on television about a 14-year-old Scottish girl suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa, which is a rare and incredibly painful condition causing the skin to tear or blister at the slightest touch.

I was in tears because it was so moving, and I told my husband Robert I was going to do a skydive to raise funds for Debra, the charity that carries out research into it. (I had to admit that the name rather appealed to me too!).

He said, “But you don’t like heights. You get a nosebleed just walking up the stairs!” Nevertheless I signed up with the Salisbury company GoSkydive, and persuaded Robert to do it with me.

The training began with a simulation in which we put on a jump suit and harness, and were then hoisted up into the air to be told this was how it would feel like while we were doing it for real. It didn’t!

When the time came I was strapped to my instructor, a Spanish guy called Miaz, who told me not to worry as he’d done this over 3,000 times before.

That still didn’t help my nerves. You’re

## Deborah, at 62, jumps out of a plane for charity

sitting there in the plane, you know it’s coming and you’ve got yourself all prepared. Then suddenly the door opens, he gives you a push and that’s it, you’re out, freefalling.

That first 30 seconds was the scariest part because it was noisy and windy and you could see the ground coming closer towards you.

Then he taps you on the shoulder and you put your arms out, and he opens the chute. And that’s when you are supposed to relax and enjoy the experience. But honestly, I couldn’t wait to get to the ground.

Landing was quite simple. You just lift your legs up and come in at right angles. I didn’t think with these old bones of mine I’d be able to lift them high enough, but I managed it.

Then, after being unstrapped, Miaz did a high five with me and asked how I felt and would I repeat the experience? I said not a chance in hell! Robert, though, loved it and said he’d happily do it again.

The mid-air photos on this page were



THE FEAR as Deborah goes into freefall...



And THE RELIEF after she lands safely

taken by Miaz with a camera fastened to his wrist, and I thought I’d put them on Facebook to give everyone a laugh. But honestly, it was terrifying. Between Robert and I, though, we managed to raise £1,375 for Debra.

That was only thing that got me through it, knowing we were helping towards research into finding a treatment and a cure for what is a dreadfully cruel disease.

Deborah Hemsworth

**DEBRA UK is a national charity which has invested over £20 million researching a cure for Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), and supporting people living with it. To donate, visit [www.debra.org.uk](http://www.debra.org.uk).**

### Coach trip to Parliament

It is very important that local people have the chance to visit the heart of our democracy and understand how it works.

This is why I organise regular trips to Westminster for constituents to see both Houses of Parliament, to enjoy the history and grandeur but, most importantly, to get a flavour of how MPs do their work and how our laws are passed.

**Monday 15 January 8am–6pm**

**Venue**  
Pick-up point, Waterlooville Town Centre, PO7 7EH

**To reserve your seat**  
0207 219 8018  
rick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk

*Hosted by Flick Drummond MP*

I have teamed up with local coach company Lucketto to offer these trips. This is something I make no profit from and the cost of £20 is great value. The coach that has a toilet will leave at 8am from Bishopscote with the return journey from London beginning at 3.30pm. After the tour you will have some free time in London before heading back. Demand for the tours has been high following the pandemic so if you are interested please contact me at: [rick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk) to book places.

## Next Pop Ins

The October and November Pop-In coffee mornings in St Andrew’s Church were both very well supported and enjoyed by local villagers.

We welcomed a visiting couple to the November get-together who had past links to Meonstoke, and a

Soberton villager who had walked to join us for coffee and cake. It was lovely to see them all, and to chat and share local news.

**Next Pop Ins: 10am to noon, Wednesday 6th December and Wednesday 3rd January.**

Linda Foot



# What happened 40 years ago when 75 'not very good' artists displayed their work in the Meon Hall?

It was December 1983 and my wife Gerry and I had recently set up the Riverside Players amateur drama group in Meonstoke. We had a play in preparation, but we needed to raise money to buy better lighting for the Meon Hall stage.

Gerry had a friend called Vernon, who could best be described as a "Sunday painter." While the subjects of his paintings were not necessarily to our taste, it was obvious how much pleasure his art gave him.

I naively asked him if he had ever exhibited his work. "Good Lord no," he said, "I wouldn't do that, they're not very good!"

So we thought, how about an exhibition for artists like him? And that was how the *Not Very Good Artists Exhibition* was born.

After widespread publicity (posters, adverts, an interview on Radio Solent, etc (remember, this was the pre-digital era!) we attracted some 75 artists from a wide area, their work including 234 paintings, 16 pieces of sculpture and

other 3D work.

As the exhibits arrived at the Meon Hall on the day before the 'great event,' producing an Exhibition Catalogue was a very last-minute activity involving typing stencils, then turning the handle of a Roneo duplicator for hours on end – anyone remember that? No time to sleep that night!

The artists were invited to contribute a note about their work for inclusion in the catalogue, and many did, often 'tongue in cheek.'

Here's just one description from John Beaumont, the Rector at the time: *"In conventional works of art the experienced critic can see the essential message conveyed. In this Wire Sculpture he is able to see right through the work to the very core of 'nothingness' which exists in*



Gerry and I surrounded by some of the 250 exhibits

*the mind of the artist."*

To their great surprise some of the artists were able to sell their work, while others offered their art for auction in the late afternoon, with local Southern Television director Steve Wade acting as auctioneer.

Vernon, on seeing his artwork displayed, said, "I can't believe this! It makes me feel proud of my paintings!"

But then as someone once said, *"if it's on a wall in a gallery, it's art."*

And the best news was that the profits from the event enabled the Players to install four lighting gantries on the walls of the Meon Hall's auditorium, and to convert the sturdy display boards into rostrum units to be used as tiered audience seating for the Players' 1984 production of 'The Prince, the Wolf and the Firebird.'

Paul Hayles

## A step closer to having a new Rector?

In June I outlined the plan that had been made to equip the seven Meon Valley Parishes (MVPs) which are currently in vacancy, or 'enjoying' an interregnum, with priests... these parishes being Meonstoke and Corhampton, Exton, Droxford, Hambledon, Newtown, Soberton and Swanmore.

I was then of the opinion that no-one was certain when things might start to be put into effect.

Well, it's good news! The Rev'd Andy Davis has been appointed to the living at Swanmore. After being licensed on 19th February the search for non-stipendiary or self-supporting priests, who might live in Hambledon, Meonstoke or Soberton, can start.

We all love change in the Church of England, don't we! I think we ought to realise that we are unlikely to be able to go back to the model of the past where we had a priest whom we could describe as 'our own'.

The plan now is for there to be four priests, plus a youthworker, who will all

work across the seven MVPs.

Most of us, in our working lives, play to our strengths, and it is no different for priests. So it might be that one of the four will be more gifted working with young people and others with older folk.

Similarly, one may be happier leading less conventional worship, and another more closely wedded to the Book of Common Prayer.

We will have to wait and see, but in the meantime may I ask you to pray for Andy Davis as he faces the next step in his ministry, and to be prepared for things to evolve?

Richard Pepys, Exton Churchwarden

## Christmas Concert

The Meon Valley Orchestra is holding an informal Christmas Concert at the Meon Hall on Thursday 7th December from 11am to 12 noon (come at 10.30am for coffee and mince pies!)

A mixture of seasonal music, sing-a-long tunes plus some light classical pieces.

The concert and refreshments are free - everyone is most welcome.

# Alison, at 58, gets her running shoes out again

If you've ever fancied running a marathon, or even a half one, and dropped the idea because you thought you're too old, take heart from Alison Bailey's experience.

At age 58. Alison, who lives in Pound Lane, Meonstoke, decided to get back into training for a half marathon, even though it was eight years since she'd run her last one. She succeeded, and raised over £2,000 in the process.

In April this year my sister suggested that we should run the London Parks Half Marathon in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, which supports those affected by bone marrow cancers as well as conducting vital research into their treatment.

It's a charity close to our hearts because without this research our brother Nick wouldn't have lived with Myeloma for as long as he did. He tragically died last year and we miss him dreadfully.

It seemed a good idea at the time. I've completed three Great South Runs and two London Marathons so felt this was achievable. I could jolly my sister Joss along and, as the seasoned runner, would give her advice re training etc.

How wrong I was! I'm twenty years older than I was for my first marathon and it's been eight years since I ran the last one. I swore never again, and yet here I was, starting the painful process of training on the rolling South Downs.

My sister pulled out, citing injury and a lack of enjoyment in the training (I know how she felt), but I ploughed on.

I'm not a natural runner, never have been, built for comfort not speed and with a little more comfort around my waist than I should have. However, I started training in the summer and gradually my legs remembered what running was about and my woefully slow pace started to pick up.

When I say pick up, a small child could have easily out run me at any time!

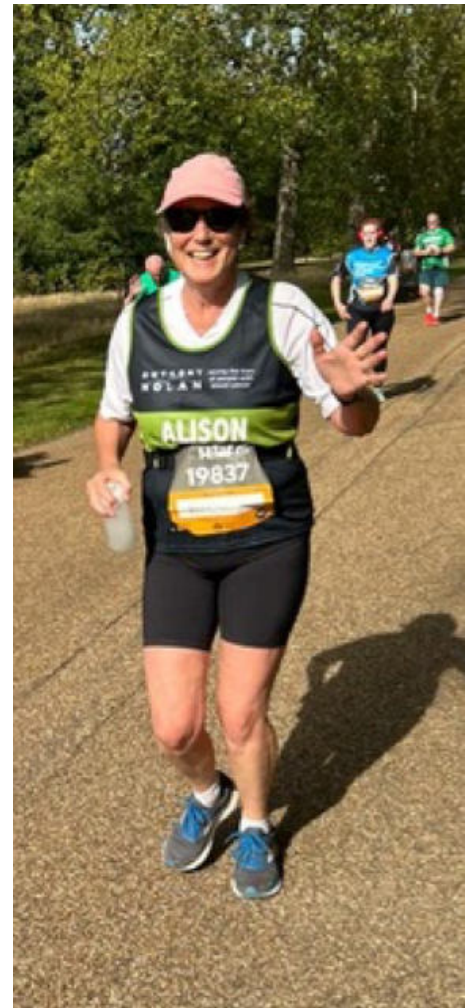
The longest training run was from

Cheesefoot Head along the South Downs Way back to Meonstoke. I have to confess there was a little walking, some of the hills were just killers but having completed ten hilly miles in under two hours, I felt ready for the big day.

And so, in October, came the big day. The one thing that I hadn't factored into my training was a mini heatwave in October. Whilst my son Fergus was muttering darkly about climate change, I was wondering how an earth I was going to get round in 24 degree heat. It was roasting and at times I wasn't sure I would be able to finish, or at least finish before the end of the day.

The route takes you out of Hyde Park for the first four miles before bringing you up the Mall, Constitution Hill and back into the Park. It's very special to run up the Mall, as well as being nice and shady.

Once back into Hyde Park the route wound back on itself, which made it easier for supporters to see you more than once. I was very lucky to have my partner, daughter, son and sister-in-law cheering me on. Without them I would have struggled so much more



than I did. My time was terrible – three hours – but I did it!

My only gripe was there weren't enough water stations for such a hot day, but the organisation and the crowds who came to cheer us all on, were just fantastic.

The Anthony Nolan Trust had suggested a fundraising target of £350. I am so pleased and proud to say to date the total raised is £2,100.

This is most *definitely* the last run which has the word marathon in it that I will be doing. Thank you to anyone who donated. I am so very grateful.

**Alison Bailey**

*If you would like to donate to the Anthony Nolan Trust, go to Alison's page at [justgiving.com/fundraising/alison-bailey23](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alison-bailey23).*

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



# DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The redecoration and refurbishment of the village hall has continued apace during the half term break when the hall is less used.

The inside of every room (apart from the store cupboards) has been repainted with a new colour scheme which makes the hall lighter and brighter.

New curtains have been made by **Mary Hornby-Patterson** and have been fitted on new curtain poles.

The toilets and the kitchen now have new LED lights (bring your sun glasses) which should reduce the running costs a little.

We hope you like the new colour scheme in the hall.

The next job, probably for next summer, is to have the floor re-finished.

I would like to thank committee members **Jane Dulson** and **Nigel Butler** for a lot of hard work installing the new lights and helping

## 200 Club winners

**October: Richard Baxter**  
**November: Trevor Hodgkinson**

with the decoration. Particular thanks to **Jane Glencross**, our decorator who, with her daughter, worked very hard to get the work done with minimal disruption to our users, for which we apologise to our Pilates classes, the Yoga team and to our bell ringers..

Watch out for the tickets to the 2024 Quiz Night to be held in February with our usual Quiz Master **John Martin** who, now into his ninth decade has lost none of his talent for setting us challenging and interesting questions!

On a more concerning note attendance at our monthly film nights has reduced substantially since the pandemic and we are wondering whether we can continue to offer films on a regular basis in the hall

**Tim Crowfoot**

## Friends of Droxford Church's inaugural play is a huge success



**Mick Keegan as Joseph: photo by Nicky Higgins**

**When the development of Droxford Church was being planned, one fund-raising idea envisaged was to hold plays in the church.**

The first such play, *Jesus my Boy*, performed by Mick Keegan, exceeded that vision.

The combination of John Dowie's award-winning one-man script and Mick's delivery, together with the atmospheric scene, was sublime.

This was the story of Joseph, an ordinary down-to-earth man with appalling carpentry skills, accepting a son who wasn't his and supporting his family through humility, vulnerability and humour.

The monologue was delivered with great professionalism and wit by Mick, in spite of wonky carpentry benches and troublesome microphones.

The intimacy of the stage and lighting increased as the evening developed, with the chancel growing dark and the rain hammering down outside... and with the message being poignantly reinforced by the current geopolitical tensions in Israel and Palestine.

It was another successful innovative fund-raiser, contributing over £700 to the much-needed AV Fund. The Friends have now raised over two thirds of the amount needed for the first part of the audio-visual installation, which it is hoped will be completed in 2024.

**Sally Sturt**

## British Legion talk

The Branch's next talk is at 7pm on **Monday 8th January** when **Admiral The Rt Hon The Lord West of Spithead** will speak on **National Security**. The bar opens at 6.30.

It is open to both RBL members and non-members, and followed by our popular curry supper (a non-curry meal will be available) provided by the former landlord of the White Horse at £15, payable in cash on the night.

Please email Branch Secretary Rob Scott at **robmunroscott@aol.com** at least a week beforehand to check there have been no changes, and to book supper.

**We look forward to seeing you. In the meantime our President, Chairman, Committee and members wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.**

## DROXFORD COUNTRY FAIR Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 13th January  
10am at Wilfrid's Café**

**Local organisations are invited to attend and pitch for a share of the 2022 Droxford Country Fair profits.**

**All are welcome to come along with any feedback and offers of help for next year's fair.**

**Any questions? Please feel free to contact me.**

**James Keen 07815  
562424**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hugh Lumby: Meon Valley Division

[hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk)



# Recycling: how the booking system is working out

I get a fair amount of correspondence about rubbish disposal. Winchester City Council has been running a survey on recycling habits across the districts. It has now closed but it will provide interesting information as they and Hampshire County Council plan for the future.

We have a slightly odd structure in Hampshire, in that the district councils collect the rubbish whilst the county council disposes of it.

Personally I think that a more joined-up approach would be more efficient and cost effective. In any event, the amount that can be recycled at present is limited by the facilities available.

However, a new recycling plant is being built in Eastleigh which should open up a whole range of opportunities not currently available.

I'm often asked about the need to book visits to the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Bishops Waltham and elsewhere.

The booking system was introduced during Covid to manage safe distancing. It enabled access to be smoothed, avoid queuing and keep visitors a safe distance from other. Broadly it was a success although the booking was not so good.

The whole process was reviewed after the pandemic and it was decided to leave it in place. The main reason was to smooth visits – there were times

when large numbers would arrive at the same time (I spent a long time pre-pandemic queuing at BW), and other times that were dead.

So the main aim has been to remove the queues and this has worked. Major steps have also been made to improve the booking system.

The key developments are same day and repeat visits, as now you can book straight away if there is availability. It only takes moments and you can return. It's not quite at the position before the pandemic without queues but it's as close as they can get it. And although it's not necessarily cheaper than before, it is a lot more efficient.

Others have asked whether the need to book has led to increased flytipping. The evidence is actually that this has reduced, although I'm a little sceptical.

What certainly happened was that as we started to open up after Covid, building activity started in earnest and more building waste was dumped.

What may also have had an impact is WCC bringing in charges for garden waste bins in place of those green



bags, although I'm not sure the bags are much missed.

The government has now announced it will be abolishing charges for using recycling centres. This may help flytipping a bit but will remove another source of income for underfunded local authorities. The lost money will have to be found somewhere else and that may mean service reductions. So we shall see.

### Droxford bellringers

You may remember the wonderful article in the Bridge earlier in the year about the Droxford bellringers. I gave a county council grant to help with restoration, and I'm glad to report that with all the funds raised they were able to buy three new ropes, repair the tenor clapper, which was only completed in October, and buy new muffles to quieten the bells on key occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. The sound of the bellringing has been amazing

### Happy Christmas!

Finally, a happy Christmas to you all! Sat here in November, it feels much too early to be offering festive greetings, although I have tucked into a sneaky mince pie. By publication, it will be much nearer, so on behalf of all your local councillors best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

## Useful links and phone numbers

With the weather worsening I thought it might be useful to set out some handy links and numbers to report issues that can arise, and where to get help.

- For problems involving potholes, trees and hedges, pavements and rights of way, visit [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk).
- Loss of supply or damage to the

electricity network contact SSEN by dialling 105.

You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's Power Track website.

- For assistance in the event of flooding or drainage visit the HCC website, or phone 0345 988 1188, or text 0345 602 6340.



# Meon Bridge Benefice Services

## December

Sun 3rd	10.30 HC	Meonstoke
Thur 7th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sat 9th	18.00 Carols	Meonstoke
Sun 10th	10.30 HC	Droxford
Thur 14th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Fri 15th	14.20 School Service	Meonstoke
Sun 17th	09.00 HC (BCP)	Exton
	10.30 Matins	Corhampton
	18.30 Carol Service	Exton
Tues 19th	18.30 Carols	Droxford
Thur 21st	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 24th	10.30 HC	Exton
	23.30 HC	Droxford
Mon 25th	Christmas Day	
	10.30 HC	Meonstoke
	10.30 Family Service	Droxford
Thur 28th	10:00 HC	Droxford
Sun 31st	10.30 HC	Corhampton

## January

Thur 4th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 7th	10.30 HC	Meonstoke
	18.30 Evensong	Exton
Thur 11th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 14th	10.30 HC	Droxford
Thur 18th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 21st	10.30 HC	Corhampton
Thur 25th	10.00 HC	Droxford
Sun 28th	10.30 HC	Exton

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](http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk) or the weekly Pew Sheets for the very latest information.

# Neighbourhood Watch: all change as Peter steps down

As members of Corhampton and Meonstoke Neighbourhood Watch are aware, I stepped down as Chairman at the end October 2023. Raija and I now wish to give more time to broadening our dancing interests.

Requests were made for a replacement on our various reporting facilities but, regrettably, no-one has come forward.

Therefore, I as Chairman, and the Corhampton and Meonstoke co-ordinators, have stepped down from our roles, and I would like to thank them for their excellent service, with special thanks going to those who helped to found the Group all those years ago and who have remained as co-ordinators throughout.

The services provided - emailing and Facebook - ended on the 31st October, but the NW WhatsApp site will continue as before but under the title CM&E Crime-Watch, serving as a facility for residents to exchange information about suspicious behaviour and criminal activity, but please keep postings strictly to the subject matter to avoid clutter.

I will remain as administrator of the WhatsApp site for the time being. To join the group, please text me on 07702 863954.

A piece of good news is that Exton NW, with which we have been closely



associated, will continue as before with Sue Robertson at the helm.

I do believe that, although the focal point for matters of criminality will be lost, it should be borne in mind that since the establishment of NW here some 38 years ago, the world has changed greatly: news is provided at the touch of a button, or tap of a screen, with mobile phones being a significant spreader of news, hence the decision to keep the WhatsApp site alive.

Additionally, we are fortunate to live in an area where people talk to each other, assisting in the spread of news. Information about crime hereabouts can be found at Hampshire Constabulary, where you can also report crime.

With best wishes and thanks for your support over the years.

Peter Riley



# Meon Valley Community Bus Services Timetable

## Meon Valley Community Bus Association

*An all volunteer service*

Mondays, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Friday to FAREHAM		3rd Friday Each Month to HEDGE END		4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Each Month to WATERLOOVILLE	
0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH	0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH	0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Warnford Village Hall	0903	Warnford Village Hall	0903	Warnford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH	0908	Exton The Shoe PH	0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores	0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores	0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages	0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages	0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)	0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)	0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles	0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles	0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0930	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)	0929	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)	0929	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial	0933	Webbs Green War Memorial	0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0936	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond	0935	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond	0936	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH	0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH	0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)	0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)	0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0945	Hundred Acres	0945	Hundred Acres	0957	Waterlooville Waitrose
0957	Fareham Library	1007	Hedge End Marks& Spencer	1005	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1002	Fareham Sainsbury's	<b>Return:</b>		<b>Return:</b>	
1200	Fareham Sainsbury's	1200	Hedge End Marks& Spencer	1200	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1205	Fareham Library			1205	Waterlooville Waitrose

1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Each Month to WINCHESTER		Wednesdays to PETERSFIELD	
0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)	0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brockbridge The Hurdles	0904	Brockbridge (The Hurdles)
0909	Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)	0909	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0915	Meonstoke Pound Cottages	0916	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Meonstoke PO & Stores	0921	Corhampton
0921	Exton The Shoe PH	0924	Warnford George and Falcon
0926	Warnford Village Hall	0945	Petersfield Square
0946	Winchester Broadway	0950	Petersfield Tesco
0953	River Park Leisure Centre		
<b>Return:</b>		<b>Note:</b>	<i>Includes all request stops up to and including West lodge (Church lane)</i>
1155	River Park Leisure Centre		
1200	Winchester Broadway		

Return	
Petersfield Tesco	1155
Petersfield Sq	1200
Warnford George and Falcon	1221*
Corhampton	1224*
Pound Cottages	1229*
Droxford square	1236*
Brockbridge ( The Hurdles)	1301*
Soberton Village Hall	1305*
<i>* Drop off only and approx dependent on passenger numbers.</i>	

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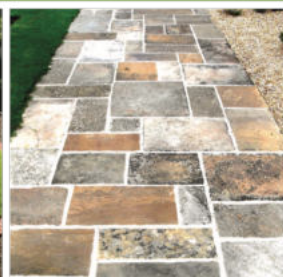
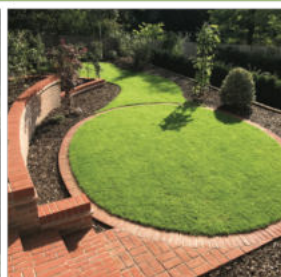
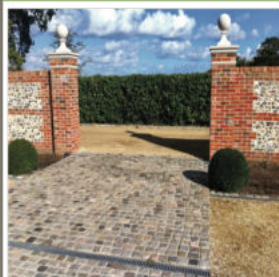
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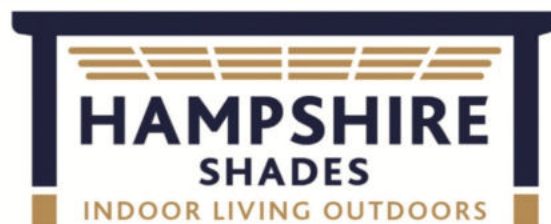
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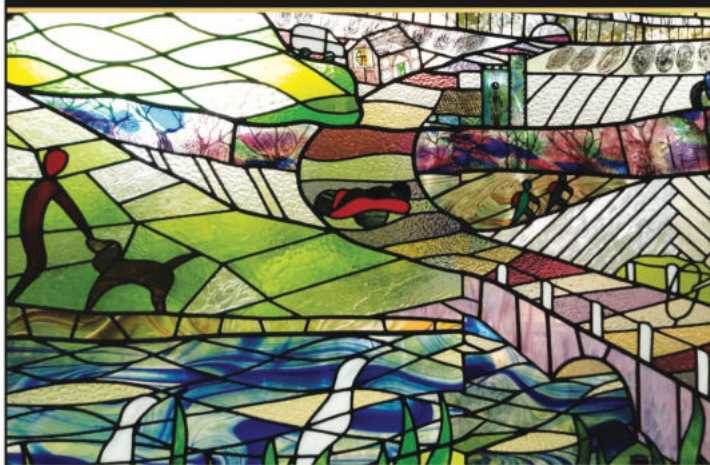
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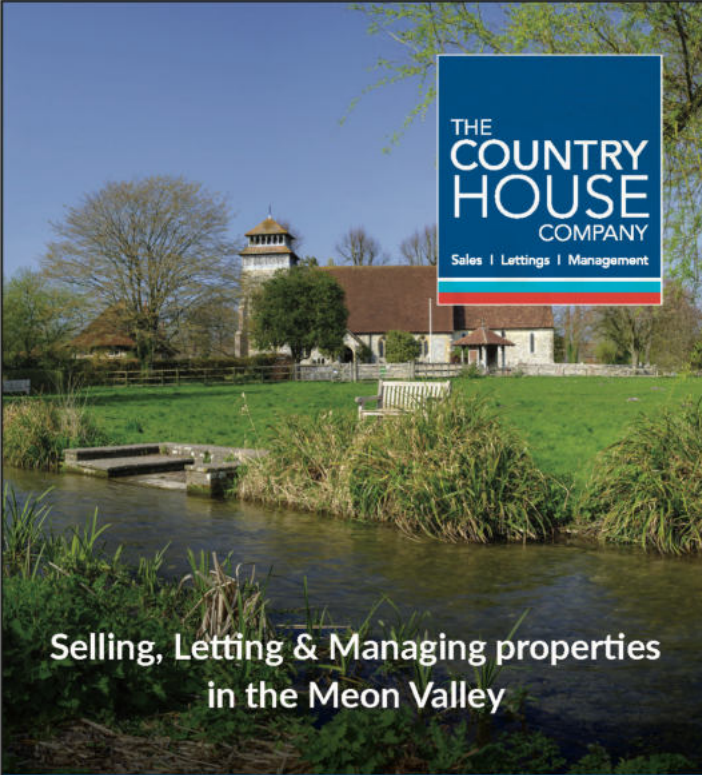
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# SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please note: local telephone numbers have the prefix 01489

POST OFFICES

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

STORES

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

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Baker's Arms, Droxford	877533
The Bucks Head, Meonstoke	877313
The Shoe, Exton	877526

GARAGES

Meringtons, Droxford	877431
Taylor's Garage Ltd, Droxford	877433

SCHOOLS

Droxford Junior School	877537
Meonstoke School	877568
Valley Pre-school	878019
Swanmore College of Technology	982256

PARISH COUNCILS

<b>Corhampton &amp; Meonstoke</b>	
Clerk/RFO: Rosie Hoile <a href="mailto:clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk">clerk@candm-pc.gov.uk</a>	07960 122699
<b>Droxford</b>	
Clerk/RFO: Ailsa Duckworth	07720 092072
<b>Exton Parish Meeting</b>	
Secretary: Juliet Reed <a href="mailto:julietreed@outlook.com">julietreed@outlook.com</a>	878450

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services:	0300 555 1386
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

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

<b>Central Meon Valley (including Droxford):</b>	
Malcolm Wallace <a href="mailto:mwallace@winchester.gov.uk">mwallace@winchester.gov.uk</a>	
Frank Pearson <a href="mailto:fpearson@winchester.gov.uk">fpearson@winchester.gov.uk</a>	
Danny Lee <a href="mailto:dlee@winchester.gov.uk">dlee@winchester.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Upper Meon Valley (including Meonstoke, Exton, Corhampton and Preshaw):</b>	
Neil Bolton <a href="mailto:nbolton@winchester.gov.uk">nbolton@winchester.gov.uk</a>	
Jerry Pett <a href="mailto:jpett@winchester.gov.uk">jpett@winchester.gov.uk</a>	

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot	877631
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THE MEON HALL, MEONSTOKE

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or if not on email, by phone	877916
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LOCAL SURGERIES

The Park, Droxford	877588
Doctor's Lane, West Meon	01730 829666
Lower Lane, Bishop's Waltham	892288
Houghton Way, Wickham	01239 833121

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS

(Please ring only between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm)	
Droxford: Rosie Hoile	07901 97879
Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: Arthur Brown	07865 517484

URGENT TREATMENT CENTRE

Petersfield Community Hospital, Swan Street, Petersfield GU32 3LB	023 8231 9000
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DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Local events and activities: [www.droxfordweb.co.uk](http://www.droxfordweb.co.uk)

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Wellhouse, 2 Brook Street, Bishops Waltham	03444 111306
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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Crime Reporting

**CALL 999** only for the following reasons:

- 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](http://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.

**ALSO, after contacting one of the above, for Droxford** please contact any Droxford Street Co-ordinator (listed below) with details of the report. For **Exton** call Sue Robertson. For **Meonstoke and Corhampton**, see below.

► MEONSTOKE and CORHAMPTON

The system for exchanging information about suspicious behaviour and criminal behaviour, or anything else connected to Neighbourhood Watch in Meonstoke and Corhampton, has changed.

**Meonstoke and Corhampton** now run a separate NW WhatsApp group under the title **CM&E Crime-Watch**, which is also open to Exton residents. It replaces all the previous C&M NW reporting facilities. If you are not already a member and wish to join, please text the Administrator, Peter Riley, on 07702 863954.

**For a fuller explanation of the changes, and the reasons for them, please see the report on Page 11.**

► EXTON

**Exton** remains co-ordinated by Sue Robertson on 878545.

► DROXFORD

[droxfordnhwchair@btinternet.com](mailto:droxfordnhwchair@btinternet.com)

High St.	James Matthissen	07914 638082
Sheep Pond Ln.	Matt Avison	<a href="mailto:mattavison@hotmail.com">mattavison@hotmail.com</a>
Dundridge Ln. E	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Midlington Hill	Claire Francis	<a href="mailto:claire.francis1209@gmail.com">claire.francis1209@gmail.com</a>
Swanmore Rd.	Ruth Butler	<a href="mailto:ruthb635@gmail.com">ruthb635@gmail.com</a> 07818 404177
Midlington Rd.	Louise Hudson	<a href="mailto:hudsonlouise111@gmail.com">hudsonlouise111@gmail.com</a>
South Hill W.	Tony Hoile (dep. chair)	07506 849443
Union Ln.	Lynne Dumbrell	<a href="mailto:lynnedumbrell@yahoo.co.uk">lynnedumbrell@yahoo.co.uk</a>
The Park	June Kershaw	07540 238240
Northend Ln.	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Chestnut Rise.	John Whittaker	877788
Mill Ln. and S.Hill E	Sally Sturt (dep. chair)	07767 301095



# Events Diary

## December

**Sunday 3rd** Patronal Festival and Toy Service, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke 10.30am

**Tuesday 5th** Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Tuesday 5th** Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

**Wednesday 6th** Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Wednesday 6th** SDNPA Western Parishes meeting Meon Hall 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Wednesday 6th** Pop In, St Andrews Church, 10am to noon

**Thursday 7th** Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am, followed by informal Christmas concert 10.30am to noon

**Thursday 7th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Saturday 9th** Christmas Sale 10am to noon – Meon Hall

**Saturday 9th** Carols on St Andrew's Green 6pm

**Monday 11th** Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am to Noon

**Tuesday 12th** MV Arts Society lecture *Medieval Pomp, Feast, Revelry*, Meon Hall 10.40am

**Tuesday 12th** Badminton 7.30pm

**Tuesday 19th** Carols in Droxford Churchyard 6.30pm

**Wednesday 13th** Meonstoke School Nativity celebration Meon Hall 8am to 3 pm

**Wednesday 13th** MV Garden Club meeting Meon Hall 5pm to 8pm

**Thursday 14th** Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am

**Thursday 14th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Thursday 14th** Preschool Nativity Celebration, Meon Hall 2pm to 5pm

**Sunday 17th** Carols by Candlelight, Exton Church 6.30pm

**Tuesday 19th** Carols in Droxford Churchyard 6.30pm

**Thursday 21st** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Friday 22nd** Winter Solstice Walk, starts Meon Hall 7pm

## January

**Tuesday 2nd** Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Wednesday 3rd** Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am

**Wednesday 3rd** Pop In, St Andrew's Church 10am to noon

**Thursday 4th** Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am

**Thursday 4th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Monday 8th** Royal British Legion talk on "National Security"

**Tuesday 9th** MV Arts Society lecture "Science & Art in English Gardens", Meon Hall 10.40am

**Tuesday 9th** Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

**Wednesday 8th** Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Wednesday 10th** Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council meeting Meon Hall 7.30pm

**Thursday 11th** Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am

**Thursday 11th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Saturday 14th** Droxford Country Fair AGM at Wilfrid's Cafe 10am

**Monday 15th** Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Monday 15th** Scottish Reels Group, Meon Hall 8.00pm

**Monday 15th** Coach trip to Parliament (see page 24)

**Tuesday 16th** Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Tuesday 16th** Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

**Wednesday 17th** Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Thursday 18th** Meon Valley Orchestra.

Meon Hall 9.00am

**Thursday 18th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Tuesday 23rd** Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Tuesday 23rd** Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

**Wednesday 24th** Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

**Thursday 25th** Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am

**Thursday 25th** Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

**Saturday 29th** Meon Ladies Curry and Skittles, Phoenix Inn, Twyford 7pm

## Further afield...

**Tuesday 5th December** u3a talk *Beginners Guide to DNA*, Wickham Community Centre 2pm

**Tuesday 19th December** u3a Christmas Party, Wickham Community Centre 2pm

**Wednesday 3rd January** u3a talk *History of the Meon Valley Railway Line*, Wickham Community Centre 2pm



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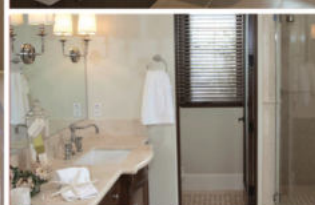
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