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The Parish Magazine for Corhampton
Droxford, Exton and Meonstoke
February and March 2024



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

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**The COPY DEADLINE
for the April/May issue of
The Bridge is
WEDNESDAY
6th March 2024**

In this issue

- British Legion Branch: talk by Lt Cdr Hugo Mitchell Hegg RN **27**
- Calling all handymen (and women) **13**
- Carol Services recalled **11**
- Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council report **17**
- Desert Island Discs: Stuart Attrill **18**
- Droxford schoolchildren play Santa **9**
- Droxford Scouts seeking new members **15**
- Friends of Droxford Church initiatives **23**
- From the Registers **27**
- 'Meon Fit' chase the sun **25**
- Meon Hall update **17**
- Meon Valley Food Bank seeking Trustees **29**
- Polling Day job vacancy **22**
- Pop-in **21**
- Quiz Night at Droxford Village Hall **27**
- The Shoe is named England's second best pub **24**
- u3a talk: Guy Liardet on India's religions **22**
- World Day of Prayer **15**



■ Meet Rev'd Andy Davis, our new Interim Priest-in-Charge **7**

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 Service directory **42**
- On Reflection **5**
- Urgent Treatment Centre **21**

We have a second major award to report for our villages!

In the last issue it was congratulations to the people of Droxford for their untiring voluntary work in the community, rewarded by being recognised as "Hampshire and Isle of Wight Best Small Village 2023" by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

Now we learn we have the second best pub in the whole of England, namely the Shoe in Exton. They have received the Silver award in VisitEngland's "Pub of the Year 2023," being pipped to the Number One Gold spot by the Blind Bull at Buxton.

Well done, Patrick and Annabel and the team! We're on a roll. What will we win next?

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
Vergers 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 or 01329 834130.

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ON REFLECTION



**What risks are you prepared to take?
Drink too much? Smoke too much?
Not take any exercise? Ignore your
troubled neighbour?**

I have been pondering on the issue of risk since Canon Anthony Hulbert read to us, a few weeks back, a poem entitled "God With Us" by Edmund Banyard, the charismatic minister of the United Reformed Church in Stowmarket.

The poem talks of the love of God "which risks all in reaching out to us" with a vulnerable baby born in a stable. "God came to break all barriers down."

If we Google "Jesus and Risks" we find Artificial Intelligence also has something to say about the risks Jesus took in his life, starting out as a carpenter, with "calloused hands whispering of sawdust and sweat," a "humble man who sparked a

Taking risks

revolution, not with weapons or pronouncements, but with something far more radical – love."

And loving fiercely meant taking risks: Befriending the ostracized – lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors – and whispering hope into their tattered lives; and sharing meals with Samaritans, the sworn enemies of his people, and blurring the lines of prejudice with every mouthful.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best-known passages of Scripture. Jesus tells us, through the parable, who our neighbour is. The neighbour, in the parable, is a Samaritan Jew who, believing in a different site which God chose for his dwelling, from that of the mainstream Jews, became the "sworn enemy" referred to by AI.

Nevertheless, the Samaritan came to the rescue of the stripped and beaten traveller, when others had ignored him. Our neighbour, we understand, is the person who comes to our aid, risking their own safety. Our neighbour is the person who cares for us and shares with us what they have, regardless of our differences.

Banyard implores us to respond to the love of God by taking risks "in reaching out to others. Risk being misunderstood; risk having our overtures rejected."

Can we love that neighbour who thinks differently from us? Are we prepared to take risks for a God, who loves us unconditionally? A God who will help us all to survive life's setbacks and hardships? A God who brings peace and hope to the world?

**Angela Peagram, Meonstoke
Churchwarden**

Thank you for your donations!

The Churchwardens of the Parishes of the Meon Benefice would like to say a huge Thank You to you all for your kind donations in 2023.

First, our thanks for all the wonderful toys which you collected for homeless children in the Portsmouth area.

These were blessed by the Bishop of Portsmouth at the Toy Service and Patronal Festival in St Andrew's Church in December (see Page 9) before being taken to the Roberts

Centre in Portsmouth to be distributed to the children.

You also donated £300 at this service to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, and another £470 to the Roberts Centre at the Carol Service on Church Green (page 11) by buying wooden ornaments for the lovely tree.

Thank you... thank you... thank you!

From the Churchwardens of Corhampton and St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke; St Mary and All Saints, Droxford; and St Peter and St Paul, Exton.

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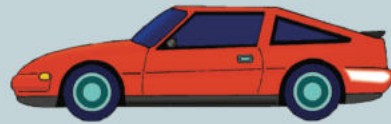
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We welcome Rev'd Andy Davis as our new Priest-in-Charge

Following the report in the last issue of The Bridge, the Rev'd Andy Davis has now arrived as the Interim Priest-in-Charge, to lead the new grouping of the Meon Valley Parishes of Swanmore, Exton, Meonstoke and Corhampton, Droxford, Hambledon, Soberton and Newtown.

Andy will be based in Swanmore but will spend time initially getting to know and understand how all the parishes work in all their different ways by working alongside Church wardens and PCCs.

Let's give Andy and his family a warm welcome and every support!

Andy writes:

I once spent some time as an Asda Chaplain, and wore a very bright lime-green jacket with a big badge saying, 'Happy to Help!'

That would be my simple message to everyone in the Meon Valley Parishes: it is not my style to give orders or tell others what they should be doing. I am simply "happy to help."

I am so looking forward to working with the clergy, Readers, PCCs, churchwardens and the many, many others who already serve so faithfully in all the parishes.

I aim to come alongside in friendship and mutual support, rejoice in what you are doing, and learn from all of you!

Initially, I will need to focus on taking services at Swanmore (because part of my role is being their incumbent) but that will be alongside those who have been faithfully ministering and taking services there in recent times and who will – I am sure – continue to be actively involved.

As far as the other parishes are concerned, I would prefer to (gradually!) come along and experience services (with the

Andy is a Meon Valley boy, born and raised in Shedfield. He went to Secondary School in Swanmore and did A Levels at Price's College in Fareham.

After being ordained in Portsmouth Cathedral he served as a curate in Alverstoke, as Rector in Bishop's Waltham and Upham, and as Vicar of Christ Church and Holy Trinity Church in Gosport before, most recently, being Priest-in-Charge of Bramley in the Guildford Diocese.

express agreement of the person officiating) so that I can get a feel for what you do, and honour those who are already leading your services.



But I would of course be very open to invitations to be involved with any particular parish services or events!

Rest assured, that I have no agenda, and there is no "secret plan." I am determined to honour all the churches and their particular traditions, and take plenty of time to get to know the customs (and quirks) of each.

I firmly believe that if our various church communities feel confident that their identities and traditions are being honoured, celebrated and strengthened, it becomes much more likely that they will be happy to work more closely together and benefit from sharing their strengths and struggles.

I hold you all in my prayers, and I look forward to (gradually!) meeting everyone.

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How our own children brought Santa to 22 less fortunate ones



Twenty-two children who had lost their homes just before Christmas had a slightly better Christmas Day, thanks to a large collection of toys donated by the people of Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton and Corhampton, with many of the donors being our own local children.

In total, when transported to the Roberts Centre in Crasswell Street, Portsmouth, the toys filled up half a Land Rover.

The Roberts Centre works with families, children, young people and vulnerable adults struggling with homelessness or family breakdown, and was able to pass the toys on to eight families who had been moved into temporary accommodation, after being forced to leave their homes just five days before Christmas,

CEO Carol Damper said, “We weren’t told their individual circumstances,



but they could well have been fleeing abuse, or had been evicted by bailiffs.

“Imagine the distress! So much loss, with the children not understanding why they have had to leave their home, nursery, school, family and friends, and all compounded by the fear and uncertainty of where they

TOP: A selection of the toys being blessed by Bishop Jonathan and his Chaplain, Rev Amanda Collinson, at a special service in St Andrew’s Church, Meonstoke, together with some of the local schoolchildren who helped collect them.

LEFT: Clive Bryant delivers the toys to The Roberts Centre.

will end up.”

She added, “We were astonished by everyone’s thoughtfulness and generosity in donated the gifts. It exceeded all our hopes. The Roberts Centre can only care because you do, so thank you all so very much!”

Meonstoke churchwarden Angela Peagram said, “It was lovely to end the year on such a heart-warming story of kindness and generosity from one community to another.”

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The Christmas festivities can seem a distant memory in February, but the Carol Services held in our villages were so well-attended and enjoyed they are remembered as one of the year’s most anticipated community events. Some of the villagers who helped organise them recall the highlights.



After a couple of years of inclement weather (rain and then sub zero temperatures!) we were finally blessed with a lovely mild and dry evening for Carols on the Green.

The afternoon was spent setting up the area at the back of St Andrew’s Church ready to warm the mulled wine and welcome neighbours, friends and visitors.

There was a lovely buzz as people started to arrive and chat to friends old and new. Then, supported by some enthusiastic choir members, we started our first carol around the tree.

It was fantastic to see so many people singing their hearts out by lantern and torch light, ending with a rousing rendition of “We wish you a Merry Christmas” followed by mulled wine.

As always, these events don’t happen

without the support of many people – in particular, Karen and Ian Ellis, Angela and Mike Peagram and Lorna Allured, Peter Renwick for cutting all the tree decorations and Mick and Sophie Baugh for helping to put the tree up.

The money raised for The Roberts Centre from the sale of the discs was just under £500, so a huge thank you for your generous donations and supporting this worthwhile charity.

Thank you all. Same time next year?!
Becky Evans

The annual candlelit carol service at Exton is always popular, and this year it was better attended than in any year in the past decade.

The service organiser, Heather Parry, together with the Choir leader, Lorna Allured, put together a service that combined all the strengths of previous services while letting go of those items which had been less well presented in the past.

Organist Richard Martin took the carols at a very good pace and the

congregation appeared to be universally uplifted by this act of worship.

Very many thanks to the organisers; the readers who had clearly been well rehearsed, and to James Pett for his wonderful solo verse of Once in Royal David’s City.

Richard Pepys



Over 80 people enjoyed the Carols in Droxford Church on the Tuesday before Christmas. Many thanks to Tamsin and the Orchestra, John Martin for announcing the carols, Richard Baxter and June Kershaw for organising the mulled wine and mince pies, also to Pradeep at Merringtons who with others provided mince pies, and to Danny for providing the Christmas tree each year.
James Matthissen

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Calling all handymen (and women)

You may have heard of ‘Men’s Sheds’ but do you know what they actually do?

Men’s Sheds (women are very welcome too, despite the name) is a movement that started 30 years ago in Australia to enable people to use their manual skills for the benefit of their local community.

For instance, a group in Bishops Waltham, using recycled pallets, has made bird boxes, trugs, and decorations for sale at local markets. Currently they are renovating an old phone box in Hoe Road.

To find out whether we might set up our own Men’s Shed here in Droxford, we have invited members of the Bishop’s Waltham group to give a talk about their work at **10am on Saturday 23rd March in Droxford Village Hall.**

This will be the first of a series of events to be run by Sustainable Droxford as we continue to meet the dual challenges of

climate change and making good use of finite resources.

Please come along to the meeting and help us decide whether we might create a Men’s Shed here in Droxford.



Parish Priority Statement

South Downs National Park Authority is encouraging parish councils to produce a Parish Priority Statement.

This will be a concise document that aims to set out what the community considers to be the most important issues locally and it will contribute to the South Downs Local Plan Review. It will also assist the Parish Council in assessing its priorities for allocation of resources.

The Statement may cover type and level of development residents would like to see (eg affordable housing) infrastructure needs, the natural environment etc.

The Parish Council is hoping to host a public session within the next few weeks, but input by email is equally welcome with suggestions to be forwarded to clerk.droxfordpc@gmail.com

Janet Melsom, Chair



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Adventures await you at the Droxford Scouting Group!

Calling all young ones in the Meon Valley eager for fun, adventure and learning new skills!

Here at the Droxford Scouting Hut, located next to Droxford's recreation ground and the beautiful South Downs, we hold Beavers sessions for children aged 6 to 8.

Sessions are held during term time on Wednesdays at 5.30pm to 6.30pm and are run by a team of wonderful local parents who give up their time and energies to provide great experiences for children.

If you are interested in attending a taster session please email us! We are delighted that the Cubs group is starting back up again for both girls and boys aged 8 to 10. Contact the email address below to register interest.

We also need a Treasurer and a Secretary!

We are so very grateful to Ian Withers of Droxford who has given up his time over many years to being the Scouting hut's Treasurer.

It is now time for him to pass this role on to another kind person - could this be you? Or do you know of anyone who can help?

We are also in need of a new Secretary for very minimal admin work! We would be delighted to hear from anyone who could help - please email:

volunteer@hampshirescouts.org.uk

A massive thank you to Ian from all of us!

**Joanna Selwood
Droxford Scouting Group**



Droxford Beaver and Cub leaders Rachel Rowlinson and Amy Baldwin with, left to right, Theo, Ivy, Alver and Freddie, on Remembrance Sunday.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Do come and join us at the World Day of Prayer service which is to be held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Bishops Waltham, SO32 1GX on Friday March 1st at 2pm.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical Christian organisation whose motto is informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Communities of women from over 170 countries annually and simultaneously join together across the globe to share their issues and aspirations.

This year we are invited by the Christian women of Palestine who have compiled the service, to reflect on the continuing extreme challenges faced by the people in that part of the world.

Please think about joining us for this enlightened and spiritually uplifting service and join us for afternoon tea after the service. We look forward to seeing as many women, men and children as possible.

**Louise McEwen
Bishops Waltham Deanery**

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200 Club Prize Draw

Drawn at the Beetle Drive in The Meon Hall in late November, the winners were:

- £300 Norman Creese
- £150 Peter Riley
- £100 Dinshaw Printer

The 200 Club was created 43 years ago to help raise funds for the building of the hall.

The £25 Monthly Prize draws are made at the beginning of each month, February to November.

There is a £50 Mid-Summer Prize, and the draw for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place at 2024's Beetle Drive at The Meon Hall on Saturday 30th November – put the date in your Diary now!

The 200 Club raises money to help with purchases of new

Meon Hall news



equipment and other improvements for the hall.

By being a 200 Club member you are helping the Meon Hall Committee to make equipment purchases and carry out general improvements for our important village asset.

To join this year's 200 Club please contact me by voicemail on 01489 877916, or email jamesmorrice99@gmail.com

You may win one of the prizes!

James Morrice

Recycling Bins at The Meon Hall

A message from the Green Recycling Bins Fairy - PLEASE don't put polystyrene packaging and bags of "doggie do's" in the green recycling bins. Only recycle stuff listed on the bin contents notices, and please flatten your cardboard boxes.

Please note the hall bin area is not a general rubbish dump; it is managed by Hampshire County Council. If your black home waste bin is full, please book into HCC's website and take your rubbish to the HCC tip at Bishops Waltham.

And three big Thank You's...

To Jay Tucker of Hambledon for repairing the Small Hall floor after the flood in September 2023. To Michelle Kempster for keeping the Meon Hall's car park clear of leaves during the autumn leaf fall period. And to John Dobby and Don Fooks for bagging up and removing all the piles of leaves.

Why we've had to increase the Precept

The 'Precept' is that portion of the Council Tax collected by Winchester City Council that is passed directly down to the Parish.

We have, for the past few years, kept our total Precept 'ask' to £17,320, not least as we have been acutely aware of all the other financial pressures that everybody has faced.

In doing so we have so far absorbed the increased costs in grounds maintenance and other overheads by being as frugal as we are able to be.

Because the number of houses contributing has increased by a small amount, the sum that each individual household contributes has even, in some cases, slightly reduced.

After much discussion, however, we have voted to raise the Precept this year to £20,000, although this will only result in a few pounds



difference for the average Band D taxpayer.

The reason is largely the biggest single cost facing the Parish Council: the maintenance and renewal of the play equipment, both at the Chapel Road playground and at the Meon Hall.

Although we have been setting aside a reasonable sum each year to build up a renewal fund, rising costs of new equipment have far outstripped our ability to build that fund at a sufficient rate.

By assigning all of the increase to that renewal fund we should be able to keep pace with prices and,

Save the date

Corhampton & Meonstoke Annual Parish Assembly
7.30pm Wednesday 10th April

At the Meon Hall, Meonstoke

The annual Assembly is an informal meeting for residential electors of the parish to hear reports from parish, district and county council representatives, and to discuss items relevant to the parish which may be taken forward by common consent.

Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

over the course of the next few years, be ready to replace the larger pieces of apparatus before they become life-expired.

Jerry Pett, Chair



Desert Island Discs

9. Stuart Attrill

Stuart has done much for Droxford during his 66 years here with his wife Veronica, including membership of the Parish Council, 13 years as a Retained Firefighter at the Droxford Fire Station, serving on the Droxford Country Fair and Meon Valley Garden Club committees, being standard bearer for the Droxford and Soberton Royal British Legion branch, organising the team of 25 voluntary church cleaners, and generally helping to keep the church and its surroundings looking pristine.

It may though come as a surprise to learn that he also once worked indirectly for MI6 and signed the Official Secrets Act, although he feels sufficient time has now passed to be able to spill a few of the beans without being sent to the Tower of London.

Here he talks over his life, and chooses the six records he would want with him on the mythical desert island.



Stuart and Veronica

1. Blow the wind Southerly – Kathleen Ferrier

I first heard this in 1953 at my school in Brading, IOW, when I was 10. One day we were all herded into the school hall where they put on this record and said we had to listen to it. I've no idea why, but when it was over they said, right now back to your classrooms and that was it. No explanation given, but whenever I hear it now it brings back memories of that day.

I attended eight different schools, each for a few months at a time. This was because Dad was an Army Warrant Officer in the REME and after he came back from Germany in 1946 we were always on the move, Larkhill, then Wales, Shropshire, Brighton, and after leaving the Army in 1953 he could never settle down.

Never being in any school for very long and with each school teaching different things and the lessons overlapping I found it very confusing and wasn't learning anything. Because of this they thought I was, well, not thick, but just not very academic. 'Could do better' was what it usually said on my reports. So I thought there was no point in staying on for O Levels and I'd better

leave and earn my living doing something on the practical side.

In 1958 my parents moved to Droxford to work for Harry Martineau's Uncle Richard at the Old Rectory, and just before my 16th birthday I signed up for 12 years in the RAF, starting with a 3-year apprenticeship at RAF Locking in Somerset.

There we were taught Maths, English and other subjects, and I sailed through the final exams. I even had to write a thesis on radar technology. All this gave me the equivalent of three O Levels, so I had been quite academic all along.

2. Royal Air Force March

With all the RAF parades I've attended I've lost count of the number of times I've heard this piece of music.

One particular memory of it is at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court in 1961. I was 18, and I'd been 'volunteered' to look after the mascot pony and lead the parade out with it. It was a horrible little beast, very bad-tempered. As I came in through the big doors and the band started up it got frightened by the noise and reared its hind legs up, knocking my hat to the

floor. It was very embarrassing, particularly as the show was being televised live. I was lucky, though. A few inches the other way, and it could have taken my head clean off.

After my apprenticeship I was posted to Germany. This was the time of the cold war, and my job was as a technician, maintaining the Canberra bombers' radar and communications systems. We had two aircraft locked away in a compound, each armed with nuclear weapons, ready for an immediate take-off if necessary. Not many people knew that at the time.

3. 'A policeman's lot is not a happy one' from Pirates of Penzance

This reminds me of my brother-in-law John Westbrook singing this song with the Denmead Operatic Society. I'd been to school with him at Cowplain, and in 1970 I was stationed in Norfolk where he then lived, and I decided to look him up.

He introduced me to his sister Veronica and we hit it off, even though for a while we only saw each other at weekends. We were married in Droxford church in August 1972.

After leaving the RAF I started a job in Fareham as a technical author, that is to say writing the manuals that nobody

ever reads until something goes wrong. A lot of the work was for an MI6 unit based at the Aldermaston establishment, updating their manuals. Very hush hush stuff, official secrets act and all that, but I think it's safe to talk about it now. One of my jobs was to write the manuals for the surveillance equipment that was fitted to vehicles to enable intelligence agents to follow people they suspected of spying. I didn't do any of that sort of thing myself though.

Shortly after coming to Droxford I happened to be selling a car to the man who was in charge of the Fire Station, when his pager went off for a test call. I was intrigued, and he encouraged me to apply to join the service. Being the oldest of the crew on the station I found the training quite arduous. You had to put on breathing apparatus and go into a room filled with dense smoke, with the temperature around 400 degrees, and follow a guide rope. And it was real smoke, mind you, not like today when they use imitation stuff.

One of the biggest fires I attended was at the timber merchants on the A32, the one that's now Sydenhams. A creosote tank had caught fire and the whole place went up. Another major incident was an oil tanker which ruptured a tank during discharge at Fawley and the hull had to be kept filled with foam to prevent an explosion. It was towed out into the Solent for round-the-clock pumping of foam. Nearly every fire station in Hampshire attended that one.

I was one of the founder members of the Meon Valley First Responders as well. We were trained by Hampshire Ambulance service to know what to do in medical emergencies such as heart attacks, broken limbs etc.

The training came in useful on occasions when I wasn't on call too. I was driving to Fareham and a car zoomed past me and there was a car coming round the bend the other way, head on. One of the cars spun out of control and went up the bank. By the

time I got there the driver was slumped forwards with his head back.

I was able to hold his head up until the ambulance arrived and they could put a collar on him. I probably saved his life, because no one who hadn't been trained would have known what to do.

I also joined the Parish Council but don't think I achieved much there. It was always a battle between us and



...and an unruly pony

Winchester City Council who always had their own way in the end. Nothing much changes.

I was also a member of the Village Hall Committee, eventually ending up - by default I think - as Chairman. Looking after the Hall was hard work as the solid walls were very damp and the paint was always peeling. Now it's totally improved with drylined walls and a decent heating system, thanks to all those who came after me and with the help of Lottery Grants which didn't exist whilst I was there.

4. Howard's Way theme – 'Always There' by The Simon May Orchestra

In 1985 the serial Howard's Way was on television, and we used to sit down religiously each week to watch it. It was particularly interesting to us because it was recorded at Hamble, which we knew well. We loved the theme tune, and we always used to sing along to it when it came on.

In the late 80s I was on the Droxford Country Fair Committee when they had

it in the park. I did that for five years. To think, it's been taking place now for 85 years, and it's still Droxford's number one event of the year.

5. Nimrod Variations

I'm very keen on local history and after Gordon Hope moved away to Wiltshire he passed on to me all the historical research he'd done on Droxford going back four centuries.

Using this material I have begun creating a Roll of Honour in the church to all the Droxford service men and women who have died. You'll see the first volume - of those who gave their lives in the First World War - if you go into the north door and turn right. It's in front of the War Memorial there. I am working on three further volumes to bring it up to the present day, hopefully to be completed by the Spring.

6. Jerusalem

This has always been my favourite hymn, and I definitely want it played at my funeral. And I want my ashes scattered off the top of the fire station as well, but Veronica says not on your nelly. She wants them scattered in the churchyard. So that's where they'll be.

How would I cope on the island?

Although I like people around me I would be quite happy by myself. I once tried rubbing two flints together and managed to make a spark, so I think I'd survive.

The book I would take: "My friends and other animals" by Gerald Durrell, written when he was living on Corfu. That was where Veronica and I spent our first foreign holiday after our honeymoon, so I know it well.

My luxury item: A large cask of warm and comforting cream sherry. I could sip it slowly while sitting there in the evening, watching the sun going down and reminiscing.

Which record to save? The Howards Way theme. It's light, airy, and jolly, and I could listen to it over and over.

It's goodbye from me

After more than twenty years of writing these gardening tips this is my final article for the Bridge.

What has changed over that period?

One might say very little. After all, gardening has been around for thousands of years, so what's new?

One thing does spring to mind, and that is the controlling of pests and diseases. At the end of the 20th century you could go to Warwick's in Wickham and stock up with a veritable arsenal of chemicals to control every

imaginable pest and disease likely to affect gardens. Few such potions are available today.

Control of pests and diseases is much more challenging these days, but is achievable and the following are just some techniques that can be helpful.

Horticultural fleece used

with supporting hoops is an extremely effective barrier against flying insects and birds. It is particularly effective against carrot fly, white fly, flea beetle and aphids as well as stopping pigeons stripping brassica leaves.

Everyday washing up liquid, when used as a spray can deter infestations of black fly on runner beans and broad beans.

Companion planting can be a useful deterrent against some flying insects.

For example, French marigolds have very pungent foliage and can be planted between tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers in the greenhouse.

Spring onions can be sown between rows of carrots in order to reduce carrot fly attacks.

Some diseases, such as black spot on roses are very difficult to control without proprietary fungicides. It is

particularly difficult on free draining chalky soil where nutrients are constantly leached away.

To have any chance of success with roses in the Meon Valley it is vital to keep essential nutrient levels topped up throughout the growing season and most importantly it is necessary to clear up and burn all infected foliage to prevent a build-up of spores in the soil.

Biological pest control has become much more prevalent in recent years. Basically it involves treating soil or plant material with millions of microscopic worms called nematodes.

There are different types of nematode and they can be used to target specific pests such as slugs and snails, leatherjackets and chafer grubs in lawns and vine weevils in pots and containers.

I hope that over the years my articles have been of some interest and may I take this opportunity to wish you all happy and successful gardening in the future.

John Owen

Grateful thanks for everything John. You'll be a hard act to follow. Ed.



February and March



Spring Show

Where:

Meon Hall
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When:

Saturday 23rd March 2024
13.30 - 16.00.

Displays of:

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For Schedule & entry forms for adults & children visit:

WWW.DROXFORDWEB.CO.UK





The Exploits of Three Remarkable Victorian Steam Yachts

An illustrated lecture by

Kit Power

in the Meon Hall, Meonstoke

Thursday, 21st March 2024

6.00 for 6.45pm

Tickets £12.50 (includes charity donation and a drink)

Some very wealthy late Victorians built themselves huge, lavish steam yachts, usually purely for pleasure cruising around Europe and the Mediterranean. But a few undertook much more serious voyages sometimes involving considerable danger. Kit will describe three of these, each one a voyage with a very different purpose.

Tickets from:

Meonstoke Post Office and Stores

and West Meon Village Shop

Or email steamyachtlecture@gmail.com for an application form. Or send a cheque (SAE appreciated) to Lecture, Blackbee House, Warnford, SO32 3LE and tickets will be posted.

In aid of Winchester & District Young Carers

Pop In

The December get-together in St Andrew's Church for villagers to meet and chat over coffee and cakes was extremely well supported.

We welcomed Linda Forrest, who came over to see us. We all enjoyed fruit cake (from Linda) and mince pies with our coffee.

A smaller group of villagers came along for our January meeting, which was lovely as we could all sit round the table and have a chat.

Dates for your diary: Wednesday 7th February and Wednesday 6th March from 10am to midday.

Linda Foot

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: **Chrissie Butler** 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.

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- 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

What the religions of India can teach us all

Since retiring from the Navy in 1989 I have made six prolonged visits to India with Jenny, and have become fascinated by the different religions in the country, and later this month I will be giving a talk about them to the Meon Valley u3a (University of the Third Age),

Alphabetically, there's **Buddhism**, which is not so much a religion as a demanding ascetic way of life requiring a denial of frivolous pleasure and a rigorous mental discipline. The Buddha delivered his First Sermon near Varanasi in about 530BC.

Christianity flourishes, particularly in the deep south where a credible Saint 'Doubting' Thomas founded several churches, he having sailed on the monsoon wind accompanied by traders whose Roman coins have been found in several places.

Hinduism is India's principal religion, its chief characteristic being a polytheistic mindset which sees the sacred in everything; its philosophical weight has universal application. It is also the source of the extraordinarily decorated towering *gopuram* temples, the triumvirate of Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the



The Shiva Nataraj Temple at Chidabaram

Destroyer, guiding Hindu lives through an innumerable pantheon.

Islam twice controlled most of the sub-continent – under the Delhi Sultanate in the 13th to 14thC and the Moghuls in the 17th and 18th, leaving a wonderful architectural heritage of which the Taj Mahal is the exemplar.

I will also be discussing the rigours of **Jainism** with its obsession about not killing anything, and the beliefs of the warrior caste of **Sikhism** with their Punjabi-trousered women and turbaned men.

With its cultures, climates, landscapes, languages, tribes, politics, India's religions are also expressive of the complexity and charm of this wonderful country.

My talk will take place at 2pm on 20th February at the Wickham Community Centre. Guests pay £2, but you also get a free cup of tea! I hope to see you there.

Guy Liardet

JOB VACANCIES

Poll Staff for Winchester City Council elections on Thursday 2 May 2024

The Returning Officer for Winchester City Council has vacancies for poll staff and we welcome applications from members of the public to be part of the team of casual election staff on polling day. Hours and pay vary dependent on role.

No prior experience is required for the majority of roles. Full paid training will be provided.

If you'd like to find out more and get involved follow the link to [complete our online form](#) or email ElectionStaffing@winchester.gov.uk

Creating a hub

Ten years ago the future of St Mary and All Saints Church was in question.

With fewer people attending church services regularly, the church was facing significant financial struggles which resulted in a deterioration in the restoration and upkeep of this historical building.

A small group of people then came together to form the Friends of Droxford Church, otherwise known as FODC.

The trustees of this non-religious, charitable organisation aimed to be the driving force behind finding a solution to making the church building viable.

With unwavering commitment to their vision they succeeded in completing a major refurbishment of the church, as well as building the extension which houses Wilfrid's Cafe.

With continuous revenue provided by the cafe, and the dedication and innovation of volunteers, FODC is, and will be, able to achieve its overarching aim to create a hub for the wider community.

Following a consultation with stakeholders in 2022, FODC formulated a strategic plan centred on its three constitutional objects:

- To maintain, repair, restore and enhance the fabric of the church building,
- To advance the public's understanding of the heritage of the church and the local area,
- To promote and provide activities in the interest of social welfare, for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the wider community of Droxford and beyond.

A recent review and evaluation of

FODC's plan to make the church building more viable

that plan shows that there is much to celebrate in the progress made over the past two years.

The success of Wilfrid's Cafe and its band of volunteers has been instrumental in increasing visits to the building.

As well as customers who visit the cafe, there has been an increase in community use as a result of a range of events and activities organised by the Parochial Church Council, Wilfrid's Cafe, and FODC.

Trustees have also focused on promoting the heritage of the church and local area by initiating the Droxford Digital Heritage Project. This involves a Wiki site where people are invited to share stories and information about the houses they live in, as well as knowledge they may have about other buildings.

The aim is to build a picture of life in and around Droxford, both past and present. The Wiki site is currently being trialled and will be accessible shortly.

Another initiative is FODC's collaboration with Winchester Heritage in promoting the 200 year anniversary of Hampshire Swing Riots - an uprising by agricultural workers across Southern England in which many Hampshire villages, including Droxford, played a part.

While all this is very encouraging,



there remains much to do.

Trustees and volunteers of FODC have worked hard to keep on top of the unceasing repairs and maintenance. At the same time - in order to make the building fit for the purpose of worship and other community events - its priorities for enhancing the building have been focused on improving the audio/visual experience.

Whilst good progress is being made with this project, the rapid deterioration of the heating system means that replacing it with an energy efficient system has now become a main priority.

This, of course, will require a serious fundraising campaign involving hard work, resilience and determination.

But FODC trustees are not daunted; their past achievements have come about through the support and generosity of the community, and once again they will be looking for the opportunity to work with people in creating a community hub that will benefit all.

Our AGM takes place Droxford Church on Tuesday 20th February at 6.30pm followed by drinks and canapés at 7.15. Everyone is welcome to attend.

To keep up to speed with all of the above matters please visit our website:

friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk

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

We've got the second best pub in England. And that's official!

The tourism authority VisitEngland has awarded The Shoe a Silver Medal for Excellence in their 2023 "English Pub of the Year" Awards.

They handpicked the pub from 48 finalists, giving the first place Gold Award to the Blind Bull in Derbyshire.

Their citation reads, "Situated by the South Downs Way with views of Old Winchester Hill, you can enjoy the riverside garden's relaxing atmosphere, comforting food sourced from local suppliers, roaring fires during the cold months, great wine, real ales, and coffee made using their own Hampshire Pantry coffee beans."

VisitEngland particularly praised the English-French cuisine, which ranges from beer-battered haddock with mushy peas (£17.50) to slow-roasted Hampshire lamb shoulder with celeriac puree, garlic and mint-roasted new potatoes and buttered beans (£20.95), with starters including crispy Asian pork with plum salad, and Stornaway black pudding with poached Lycroft Farm hens eggs.

Patrick Young and his wife Annabel took over the pub 14 years ago and are naturally delighted with the Silver Award.

Said Patrick, "It's a real honour to win it. We've always tried to excel here but to be recognised for something as prestigious as this, and against so much competition, is wonderful.

"Our philosophy is simplicity. Just keep a good clean beer and have a welcome smile for everyone... just the basics; you can't go wrong if you do the basics."

Annabel added, "We knew we had been nominated, but it was a complete surprise to win. It makes all the effort we've put in worthwhile.

"It's not just the beer. One of the other key things is our bakery. We bake our



The Shoe team, left to right: assistant manager James Lumby, trainee chef Harvey Hickman, Shoe co-owner Patrick Young, general manager Camilla Jackson, head chef and business partner Jon Hunt, site general manager Luke Smith, and chef Luke Hare. Co-owner Annabel Terry was not available for the photo but is pictured on the next page.

own multi-seed bread on the premises each morning, and we give it out before the meal.

"We use the bread for our sandwiches as well and we sell the actual flour in packets so that people can make it at home if they wish.

"We also make our own ice cream and sell it in the garden in the summer. We've got the usual flavours, chocolate, strawberry and vanilla, but

more exotic ones as well, such as tiramisu. In fact, virtually everything we sell is made here, and sourced locally.

"Mostly we use Buckingham's, the local butcher from West Meon, who provide us with the burgers, pork and the chuck steak that goes into the steak pie.

"But we also like to use other local
Continued next page



We climbed to see the Winter Solstice sun rise and when we got to the top... no sun!

In the cold early morning darkness of 22nd December a group of 17 eager members of the Meon Fit group embarked on a unique adventure... to climb to the top of Old Winchester Hill to watch the Winter Solstice sun rising, and to raise a toast (well, a cup of coffee and a mince pie anyway) to the first official day of the new season.

At the early hour of 7am we set out on an ascent to the summit, the journey illuminated by the soft glow of our head torches, to create an enchanting atmosphere as we navigated our way to the top.

And when we got there, guess what? The sunrise which should have been so magical to witness, was entirely obscured by heavy cloud, and we never saw it!

But despite the lack of a sunrise still we still had a really enjoyable



time, with conversations flowing as we trekked alongside both familiar faces and new acquaintances, to create lasting memories... and with the promise of sunnier days ahead!

By the way, if you feel you would like to get more exercise, why not join one of our Meon Fit classes?

We meet at The Meon Hall where, at 7.30pm each Monday, we do circuits, while on Thursdays there are two classes: lower impact at 9am and high intensity interval

training at 7pm.

With a focus on diversity and maintaining good technique, the classes are designed to keep things exciting, eliminate the risk of monotony, and ensure a comprehensive full-body workout. All you need to do is put your trainers on, show up, and have a blast!

If you would like to know more, please contact me on 07941 196587.

Sarah Stuart

Hampshire products, like Hampshire rapeseed oil."

The couple met when Patrick was the chef at his parents' pub, the Bush at Ovington, and Annabel was working there as a student.

Taking over The Shoe has brought Patrick round full circle, because when he was 14 years old his parents leased it for three months while waiting for a pub in Wiltshire to finish being renovated for them to take over.

Since running the Shoe Inn he and Annabel have made the three main rooms into one and erected a covered outside area at the front, all of which



Shoe co-owner Annabel Terry. She told The Bridge, "It was a complete surprise to win. It makes all the effort worthwhile."

has doubled the seating capacity.

And if that wasn't enough, four years ago they took over the Bucks Head pub in Meonstoke as well.

"It was Patrick's decision," said

Annabel. "He's always been ambitious and is ever looking for more things to do.

"We've deliberately kept the Bucks Head very different from here, because there would be no point in competing for the same market.

"There our speciality is pizzas made in a special oven, and we also offer bed and breakfast for the many people who visit us from afar.

"Here our customers are mainly local retired people, though in the summer it's more of a mixture. Because of our proximity to the South Downs Way we get quite a lot of cyclists and walkers."

Double, double toil and trouble... murder most foul is coming to Droxford School



I cannot believe we are moving in to another Spring Term already! Time goes so fast. 2024 marks the 10th year of my headship at this great school; 17 years in total!

In December we held our FODS (Friends of Droxford School) Christmas Fair, pictured right.

It was highly successful and great fun. The children and parents devised and ran the stalls themselves and raised over £1,100!

This is so impressive and all should be proud of their contributions to

our school community and how this money can enrich and inspire the education in school.

For instance it can be used, alongside other funds, to 'buy in' famous children's authors to visit the children; gardening equipment; new plants and trees; new books for our library; and IT equipment.

It will also go towards funding the Young Shakespeare Company's visit in December when they will be performing Macbeth, a play our children have studied. It'll be great fun, with witches, ghosts, and

gruesome Shakespearian murders... and we are promised lots of audience participation!

■ *After speaking to members of the village community it was agreed we need to publicise our community events better and more far-reaching.*

Therefore, I will put posters up advertising our Easter Fair and Spring Dig Day and will share information in the next edition of The Bridge. Hopefully we will see you then.

**Matthew Dampier
Headteacher**

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

Droxford Village Hall events

No films in February or March, so here's advance warning of our next one, and what a brilliant one it is!



Wednesday 24th April

The Great Escaper (rated 12A)

starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson

In 2014, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by wife Rene (Glenda Jackson), he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

7.30 pm doors open at 7 pm

Tickets £6

Licensed bar and Refreshments available

*7.30 Saturday
10th February
Quiz Night*

With John Martin as
our Quizmaster

Tickets £15 to include
a chilli supper, on sale
now.

Monday 18th March

Royal British Legion

7pm: Talk by Lt Cdr
Hugo Mitchell Heggs
RN on "Rowing the
Atlantic in HMS
Oardacious"

Droxford History Group

Thursday 29th February

Talk by Tony Kippenberger:
"Henry V11 and the Waltham
Treaty"

Droxford Village Hall 7.30pm

Soberton History Society AGM and Talk

*Thursday 8 February
2pm at Rookesbury Hall,
Newtown*

The AGM (only takes about 15 minutes) followed by a 'from the archives session' with Ann Pendred and interesting items we have in storage, as well as information about these.

*Thursday 14 March
2pm at Rookesbury Hall,
Newtown*

A talk on Southampton Vaults by Geoff Watts. This is an 'add on' to our walk around Old Southampton in July, when these vaults were mentioned to us.

200 Club winner
December: Sheila Matthissen

From the Registers

Wedding

Droxford Church

Saturday 9th
December

Jolon Hoile and Kate
Holland

HAMPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hugh Lumby: Meon Valley Division

hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk



We need your views!

There seem to be endless consultations locally these days and the cynics amongst us might conclude these are just a box-ticking exercise.

However, Hampshire County Council has launched a major consultation on budget reductions which could affect all of us locally in one way or another, from recycling centres to buses, community transport and traffic wardens.

Please do respond and say what you think.

The reason for the consultation is that the county council is required by law to produce a balanced budget.

Councils up and down the country are facing higher costs and demand pressures without the resources being provided to pay for this.

Hampshire is in a better position than many councils, but is still facing the prospect of making major savings over the next two years so it can continue to provide critical services for those who need its help the most.

I touched on one example in the last edition of The Bridge. The government has required that local councils cannot make charges to dispose of DIY waste.

All well and good, and this change took affect at our household waste recycling centres (including in Bishops Waltham and New Alresford) from 1st January.

But the cost of this change to the county's council taxpayers is £2m, which needs to be found from somewhere.

The consultation covers 13 separate areas, all of which are important. I wanted to flag a few of these to you.

■ **Household Waste Recycling Centres** will have a reduced budget; options under discussion include reducing opening hours and closing centres.

Two under threat of closure are Bishops Waltham and New Alresford. If you want to save this, use the consultation to say so.

■ Another area is **passenger transport**. The council has legal obligations to provide certain services but chooses to support other services in addition, for example subsidising unprofitable bus routes and providing funding to community transport such as Dial-a-Ride.

These can provide vital lifelines for non-drivers in rural communities such as ours. An option under consideration is removing these discretionary services.

■ Our **roads network** needs constant maintenance.

Major efforts have been aimed at reducing the scourge of potholes and this is ongoing (an additional £22.5m has for example been allocated for pothole repairs over the next three years).

However, proposals to reduce long term maintenance plans are being looked at together with changes to which roads are gritted in winter.




Future Services Consultation

Tell us your views on ideas for changes to some local services

Have your say by 31 March 2024

hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

The consultation is running until 31 March 2024.

To have your say, type www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation into your browser, or search for Hampshire Council Future Services Consultation. Please do share your opinion, to support what matters to you.

Vaping clampdown on shops selling to minors

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes.

The survey shows that experimentation with vapes increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13.

Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13.

The Council is therefore continuing its clampdown on shops selling vapes illegally to underage buyers.

Test purchase operations took place in December 2023, with visits to 17 different premises with teenage volunteers helping officers by going into the businesses to attempt to buy a vape.

Meon Bridge Benefice Services

February

Thur 1st	10:00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 4th	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Meonstoke
	18.30 Evensong	Exton
Thur 8th	10:00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 11th	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Droxford
Wed 13th	19.00 Ash Wednesday: HC and Imposition of Ashes	Corhampton
Thur 15th	10.00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 18th	09.00 HC BCP	Exton
	10.00 Family Service	Droxford
	10.30 Mattins	Corhampton
Thur 22nd	10:00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 25th	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Exton
Thur 29th	10.00 Said HC	Droxford

March

Sun 3rd	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Meonstoke
	18.30 Evensong	Exton
Thur 7th	10.00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 10th	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Droxford
Thur 14th	10.00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 17th	10.00 Family Service	Droxford
	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Corhampton
Thur 21st	10.00 Said HC	Droxford
Sun 24th	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Exton
Thur 28th	10.00 Said HC	Droxford
	14.30 School Easter Service	Meonstoke
	19.00 Sung Eucharist	Corhampton
Fri 29th	12.00 Good Friday Devotion	Exton
Sun 31st	10.30 Sung Eucharist	Meonstoke
	10.30 Family Communion	Droxford

We are very dependent on securing the services of retired and other priests for many of our services. Please check on the website www.bridgechurches.org.uk and the pew sheets for any late changes to this schedule.



The Meon Valley Foodbank seeks new Trustees

We are looking for candidates who are servant-hearted followers of Jesus and share our concern for those suffering from food poverty in the Meon Valley area. Our Constitution stipulates that trustees must be committed members of local churches.

What are we looking for? After a period of consolidation, following the disruption of Covid, our move to the Wickham Centre and Mike Salter’s retirement as Chair, we are looking for individuals who will strengthen and broaden our impact as a charity.

We particularly seek people with financial expertise; strong IT skills; HR or team-management experience; and those who may have worked in the charity sector or in social services.

What does the role involve? The trustees meet up to six times a year. We are committed to maintaining the Christian ethos of the charity and are also advocates for the work of the Foodbank in the community.

Interested in applying? Please visit our website www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk for information on our work as well as the full role description and details of how to apply.

If you would like to see the food bank in operation either on a Monday or a Tuesday morning at the Wickham Community Centre, you would be welcome and current trustees are clearly happy to discuss the role ‘without obligation’. We look forward to hearing from you.

We are also looking to appoint a (potentially paid) Operations Manager. Please visit our website, as above.

Annie Thomas, Meon Valley Food Bank
Registered charity no 1190417

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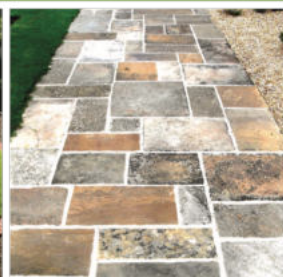
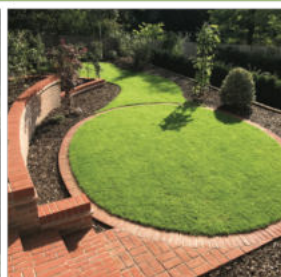
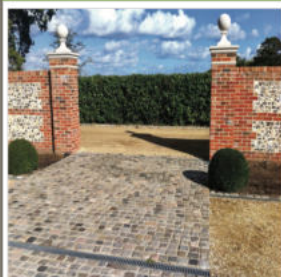
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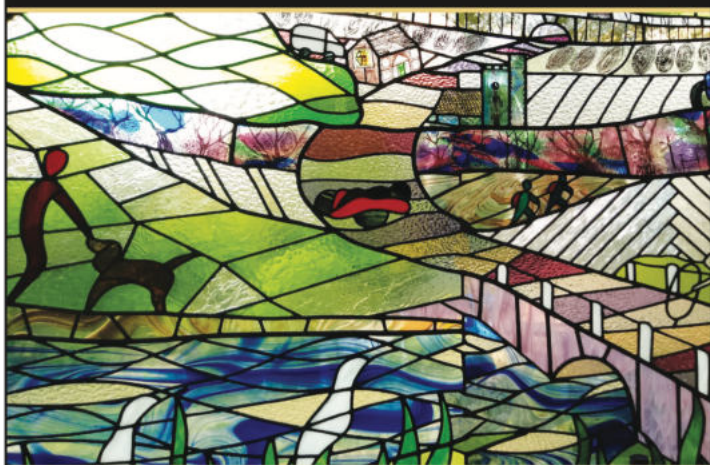
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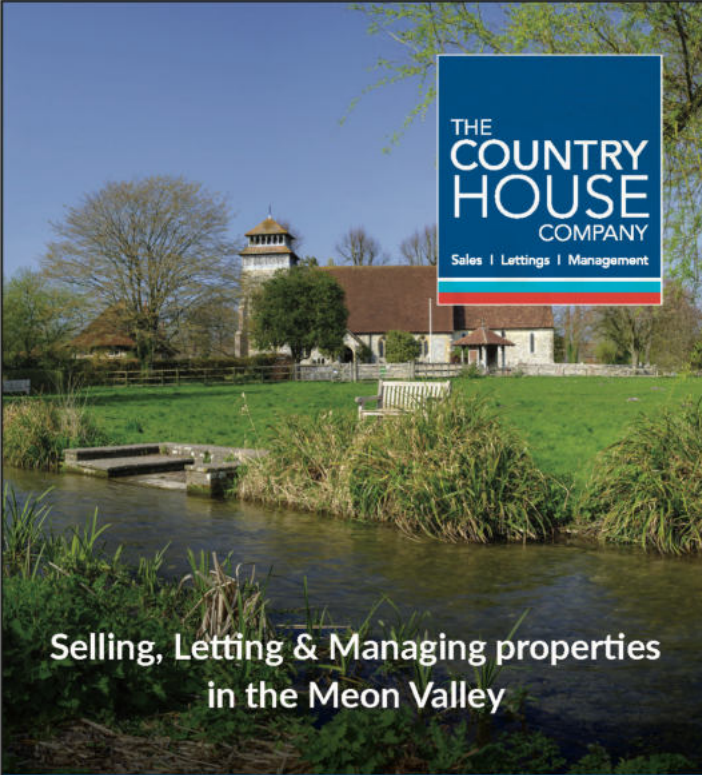
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Droxford, High Street	878811
Meonstoke Post Office, Warnford Road, Corhampton	877374

STORES

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

PUBLIC HOUSES

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

GARAGES

Meringtons, Droxford	877431
Taylors Garage Ltd, Droxford	877433

SCHOOLS

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

PARISH COUNCILS

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

Central Meon Valley (including Droxford):	
Malcolm Wallace mwallace@winchester.gov.uk	
Frank Pearson fpearson@winchester.gov.uk	
Danny Lee dlee@winchester.gov.uk	
Upper Meon Valley (including Meonstoke, Exton, Corhampton and Preshaw):	
Neil Bolton nbolton@winchester.gov.uk	
Jerry Pett jpett@winchester.gov.uk	

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Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot	877631
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LOCAL SURGERIES

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

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS

(Please ring only between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm)	
Droxford: Rosie Hoile	07977 096586
Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton: Chrissie Butler	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

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 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, please contact your local Neighbourhood Watch, as detailed below.

► DROXFORD		droxfordnhwchair@btinternet.com
High St.	James Matthissen	07914 638082
Sheep Pond Ln.	Matt Avison	mattavison@hotmail.com
Dundridge Ln. E	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Midlington Hill	Claire Francis	claire.francis1209@gmail.com
Swanmore Rd.	Ruth Butler	ruthb635@gmail.com 07818 404177
Midlington Rd.	Louise Hudson	hudsonlouise111@gmail.com
South Hill W.	Tony Hoile (dep. chair)	07506 849443
Union Ln.	Lynne Dumbrell	lynnedumbrell@yahoo.co.uk
The Park	Sally Clarke	sallyclarke@icloud.com
Northend Ln.	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Chestnut Rise.	John Whittaker	877788
Mill Ln. and S.Hill E	Sally Sturt (dep. chair)	07767 301095

► MEONSTOKE, CORHAMPTON and EXTON

To exchange information about suspicious or criminal behaviour in Meonstoke, Corhampton or Exton, please use the **CM&E Crime-Watch** WhatsApp group. If you are not already a member and wish to join, please text the Administrator, Peter Riley, on 07702 863954.

Residents in Exton can also report incidents to their co-ordinator, Sue Robertson, on 878545.

Events Diary

February

Fri 2nd Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Tue 6th Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

Tue 6th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Tue 6th Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Wed 7th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wed 7th Pop In, St Andrew's Church 10am to midday,

Wed 7th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Thur 8th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Frid 9th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Sat 10th Quiz Night, Droxford Village Hall 7.30pm

Tue 13th MV Arts Society lecture "Paintings of Stanley Spencer," Meon Hall 10.40am

Tue13th Badminton 7.30pm.

Tue 13th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Wed 14th Pilates Group. Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wed 14th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Fri 16th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz,

Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Mon 19th Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.45am to Noon.

Tue 20th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Tue 20th FODC AGM Droxford Church 6.30pm.

Wed 21st Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Thur 22nd Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am

Thur 22nd Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Fri 23rd Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Tue27th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Wed 28th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Wed 28th Lent Lunch, St Andrew's Church, 12.30.

Thur 29th Droxford History Group talk by Tony Kippenbergeer "Henry VIII and the Waltham Treaty" Droxford Village Hall 7.30pm.

March

Fri 1st Mindfulness Retreat, Meon Hall, 10am to noon.

Fri 1st Pilates with Charlotte Greatz,

Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Sat 2nd Hamper Scottish Reels.

Tue 5th Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am

Tue 5th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Wed6th Pilates Group, Meon Hall 9.15am.

Wed 6th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Wed 6th Pop In, 10am to midday, St Andrew's Church..

Thur7th Meon Valley Orchestra. Meon Hall 9.00am.

Thur 7th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Thur7th Hampshire Farmers Club AGM & Dinner 7.30pm.

Fri 8th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Sat 9th Cubs 24-hour sleepover at Meon Hall to Sunday Noon.

Tue 12th MV Arts Society lecture "Bruegel, Seasons, World", Meon Hall 10.40am.

Tue 12th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Tue 12th Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Wed 13th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wed 13th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Wed 13th Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council meeting, Meon Hall 7.30pm

Thur 14th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am

Thur 14th MV Garden Club meeting, Meon Hall 7.30pm.

Fri 15th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Mon 18th Mindfulness Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Mon 18th Scottish Reels Group, Meon Hall 8.00pm.

Mon 18th RBL talk by Lt Cmdr Hugo Mitchell Hegggs on "Rowing the Atlantic in HMS Ordacious" Droxford Village Hall 7pm.

Mon 18th Meon Hall Management Committee, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

Tue 19th Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Tue 19th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Tue 19th Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm

Wed 20th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wed 20th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Thur 21st Talk by Kit Power on "The Remarkable Exploits of Three Victorian Steam Yachts" 6pm for 6.45.

Thur 21st Meonstorks

Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Fri 22nd Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Sat 23rd MV Garden Club Spring Show, Meon Hall.

Sat 23rd "Men's Sheds" talk, Droxford Village Hall 10.30am.

Tue 26th Yoga Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Tue 26th Yoga with Yvonne Egen, Droxford Village Hall 6.16pm.

Tue 26th Badminton, Meon Hall, 7.30pm.

Wed 27th Pilates Group, Meon Hall, 9.15am.

Wed7th Pilates with Hannah Plomb, Droxford Village Hall 1.15pm.

Thur 28th Meonstorks Toddler Group, Meon Hall 9.30am.

Fri 29th Pilates with Charlotte Greatz, Droxford Village Hall 9.15am.

Sun 31st CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 Hour – British Summer Time.

Further afield...

Tue 20th February u3a talk by Guy Liardet on "Indian Religions" at Wickham Community Centre 2pm.

Fri 1st March World Day of Prayer Service at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Bishops Waltham, SO32 1GX at 2pm.

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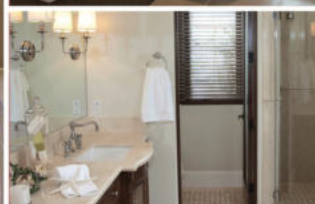
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