

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

February 2026

## Valentine's Double

This time last year, I wrote about Jesus reading from a scroll of the Prophet Isaiah in the synagogue. The text he read out included the following:

*The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to comfort all who mourn,  
to provide the oil of gladness instead of sadness.*

The world today needs this message as much today as it did in 2025, in the time of Jesus and the time of Isaiah.

That ancient text still challenges us to show compassion to those with greater needs than our own. Sometimes a kind word is enough but let us allow ourselves to be stirred to further action according to our gifts and resources. On the global scale and in the smallest communities



*Photo: lupercal from an altar to Mars and Venus in the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme in Rome by Maire-Lan Nguyen*

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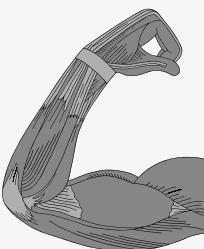
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the mediator, the problem-solver, the generous giver of time or money or warm clothing or a listening ear, and the practical person who fixes a broken gate or re-builds whole town. and the wise person who can help mend a broken heart or a rift between nations— all these people. and many others, play their parts when they step forward for a near neighbour or onto the world stage peace and gladness to others. These are not all other people – we can be counted among them.

In the Church calendar, the month of February opens with the Feast of the Presentation or 'Candlemas'. We recall that the child, Jesus, who, at his birth, was manifested to the humble shepherds of the region and to the wise men from the east is now recognized by old, wise and faithful Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is acknowledged as both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the salvation that he will bring must be won through suffering. His mother is told that her heart will be pierced. She will bear some of the price her Son will pay to redeem the world. His fulfilling of Isaiah's words brought joy to the world, but it was costly to him.

Even the story of Valentine's Day, celebrated in the middle of the month, has its roots in suffering. Confusingly, Valentine was not one but two separate people, who shared the same name and were both martyred in Rome. One was a bishop who was taken to Rome and martyred in 273. The other was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century but under a different emperor. There has been much speculation and misunderstanding surrounding these martyrs.

Although few facts can be gleaned for either Valentine, it can be said that truth exists in both their stories. Both Valentines serve as a reminder of the difficulty of living as a Christian in an era of persecution. That is certainly, still true today at certain times and in certain places. And yet, for many people Valentine's Day is a source of joy and a celebration of human love.

How did we get from martyrs in Rome to doves and love-hearts, elaborate greetings cards and chocolates? Perhaps, the change owes its existence to John Donne (poet and priest), who wrote a marriage song for Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of James I who married Frederick V, Elector Palatine, on St Valentine's Day in 1632. His marriage song merged the religious commemoration of Valentine with fertility symbolism. Possibly a pre-Christian festival and the promise of chicks in nests and baby animals emerging later in Spring also contribute to the modern celebration of the day.

As our thoughts begin to turn from Christmas to Easter, from long dark winter nights to the early signs of spring, my February message remains one of us all doing what we can to bring hope and joy to others by liberally sharing 'the oil of gladness' wherever we find sadness or need.

*Fr. Tony*

*St. Valentine painting by Matija Bradaška*



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## In loving memory of Martin Nettle 1954 - 2025



The Nettle family are saddened to announce the passing of Martin, who died peacefully on 21st December at the age of 71.

Martin was a much-loved Husband, Dad and Grandad and a long-time member of this community. Martin was a cornerstone of our village for 43 years.

A master builder by trade, his legacy is woven into the very fabric of our community, from the construction of the cricket pavilion to the many homes and buildings he worked on across the area. Beyond his craft, he was a man of immense kindness who helped countless residents over the decades. Martin was also a long standing member of the East Meon Golf Society, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

We will be holding a celebration of Martin's life in the spring, details to follow. If you'd like to make a donation in memory of Martin, please donate to the Rosemary Foundation.

*Sally Nettle*

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## Rainfall Report for December 2025 to Mid-January 2026

It rained heavily on the 17th December but nothing in comparison with the 18th when we had a massive 35.6mm (1.4"), it then stayed mostly dry and cold to the end of the year. December ended with 124.8mm. The rainfall total for 2025 here in Warnford was 901mm (35.5"). The summary month by month is:

Jan 149.5mm	Some statistics that you may find interesting since we started recording in 1974. Ten year averages:
Feb 92.1mm	70s 915mm,
Mar 6.2mm	80s 896mm
Apr 29.2mm	90s 930mm
May 23.4 mm	00s 1005mm
June 36.8mm	10s 1009mm
July 93.5mm	20s 1061mm
Aug 35.4mm	
Sept 95.3mm	The wettest year was 2014 with 1364mm and the driest was 2005 with 772mm, quite a range. 2025 was not particularly dry, the 18th driest.
Oct 100.6mm	
Nov 114.2mm	
Dec 124.8mm	Total 901mm.

*Peter Short*



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## West Meon School start into Spring

A flurry of snow at the start of our term meant playtime was extended and children had a fun-tastic time. The joy of a small school setting is that we can respond to changes in the environment without too much fuss. Hoglets, our group of reception children, took a snow walk and found enough covering to create snow-angels. They also investigated the vegetation trapped in ice and brought in examples to see what happened as they warmed up inside.

Our school values of Respect, Courage and Creativity all come into play when we look at our science curriculum. Hedgehogs class have been exploring habitats; as part of this we show respect for the world around us, ensuring small mini-beasts are replaced from whence they are found. Courage is found in various forms as children work together, investigate wooded areas and encourage each other to present their ideas. Invention and creativity are encouraged as children plan their own questions and begin to explain causal effects. Our science curriculum recognises that to understand our world we need to experience it so it is not surprising that a number of our tasks are caught on camera, rather than on paper. Owls are studying Space this term and this will include a visit to Winchester's Space Centre to view their amazing Planetarium and experience their workshop. We have also had a visit from 'The Hedgehog-man', who visits the school to share information about these shy creatures and give children a chance to observe them close up. Trips and visitors offer an enhanced experience for our learners and enable them to understand that 'learning' doesn't just happen in school.

Shortly after our February half term break, we will be taking part in World Book Day which takes place on Thursday 5th March. As a school, we will be organising a Book Week where we focus on reading and literature in the various forms it now presents itself. As we now have a school library, we will be setting up book challenges in this dedicated space. Our Extreme Reading Challenge will be in its second year and looking to become an annual event at West Meon Primary. Children capture an image of themselves reading in unusual places, or in the case of our budding gymnasts, in unusual positions. What a great way to celebrate the love of reading!

Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) have been thinking about ways to raise money to support the school so keep a look out for events coming up in the next month or so; their aim is to include the local community when possible. They raised a staggering £93.83 with the very popular 'Make your own Rules Day' at the end of term.

As you read this, we will be hoping to have arranged a visit to Warnford to view the snowdrops – what a great start to Spring!

*Julie Slamaker, Headteacher*

## It's snowdrop time again for Warnford Church in February

Here in the Meon Valley we are blessed with a wonderful display of Snowdrops in a secret garden spot on a private estate usually not open to the public.

You can book ahead and wander around Warnford Park's beautiful snowdrops on four Saturday afternoons this February (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th February 2026, 2-5pm).

Nestling in the valley, Warnford Park is a magnificent late 18th Century landscape park and pleasure grounds designed by Capability Brown as the setting for a country house and is the home of the Snowdrop Walk.

If you wish to be refreshed after your journey, wonderful tea and cakes await you in the Bell Tower of the Church, with music from the organ to entertain you. Snowdrop Saturdays contribute funds to help with the running of our historic Warnford Church.

Attendance is by pre-booked tickets only, to manage attendance and traffic carefully to ensure the best visitor experience possible. Tickets for the Saturday opening are available on the Warnford Snowdrops website <https://www.warnfordparkwalks.org.uk/>



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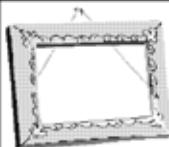
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## The Upper Meon Benefice

You will, I am sure, recall many of the discussions about the legal formation of The Upper Meon Benefice covering the current parishes of Warnford, West Meon, East Meon and Langrish. Many of you in Langrish especially, and East Meon too, will recall the meetings, discussions and heart-searching, over quite some time now, about the closure of Langrish Church for worship and the merger of the parishes of East Meon and Langrish.

I can now report that the Church Commissioners considered our case at one of their committee meetings (5th November 2025) following a period during which representation could be made. At that meeting, the Commissioners agreed that the Scheme should proceed as drafted and period of time to allow for application for leave to appeal this decision followed.

By way of reminder, the draft Scheme provides for terminating the current interim arrangements (called a plurality) established for the three benefices of East Meon; St John the Evangelist, Langrish; and West Meon and Warnford. It provides for the formation of the Upper Meon Benefice out of the benefice of West Meon and Warnford (their constituent parishes to remain distinct) and the new single parish of East Meon and Langrish. It also covers the appointment of its first incumbent (Rector) and where that person shall live and who the patrons of the parishes will be. And finally, it states that the parish church of St John the Evangelist, Langrish is to be declared closed for regular public worship.

Although many of us will understand why Langrish Church has to close, it is still very sad. Our prayers should remain with the people of Langrish, some of whom have had connections with the church over many generations. We shall ensure that the final service there will be a joyous thanksgiving and that the Langrish community will be feel completely at home in the Church of All Saints. We have now had confirmation that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has received no application for leave to appeal against the Commissioners' decision to approve the scheme. Quite a lot of hard work remains to put everything in place for the merger of Langrish and East Meon, in particular, after which the Scheme will be made. This will be at such time as has been agreed by the Bishop, by me and by the officers of the PCCs representing the parishes. It is then and only then that its provisions come into effect.

So, we now know that the Upper Meon Benefice will come into being later in the year. Until then, Langrish Church will remain in use, but after that it will close for worship and responsibility for the building will fall to the diocese and the future use for the building will be determined. We all owe the officers of the PCCs a huge vote of thanks for their hard work and for the careful, thoughtful and sensitive manner in which they have gone about it. Any change can evoke strong emotions. Change, like ours, through unfamiliar and complex processes can be frustrating to say the least, and when that includes something held dear being lost, all these responses are heightened and tinged with sadness. We need to look out for and look after each other. Welcome and fellowship must our watchwords as encounter old friends and make new ones. Our ambition must be to be so welcoming that our new friends will include those who don't yet know that they want to join us. As we come together, let us do so in a spirit of Christian compassion and companionship, working together not only for our parish but shaping OUR new Benefice (designate). Let us renew our identity as God's people striving for the breaking in of his Kingdom among us all.

For your part, thus far, thank you all.

*Fr Tony*

# Services in the Upper Meon Parishes

1st February BCP Septuagesima CANDLEMAS  
08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon  
10:30 Benefice Eucharist East Meon  
15:30 Candlelit Evensong BCP Warnford

3rd February Tuesday 18:00 Compline Langrish

4th February Wednesday 09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

WARNFORD SNOWDROPS Saturdays in February – Booking Required

8th February BCP Sexagesima 2nd Sunday Before LENT  
08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon  
09:00 Service of the Word Langrish  
10:30 Benefice Eucharist West Meon

11th February Wednesday 09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

15th February BCP Quinquagesima NEXT Before LENT  
08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon  
09:00 Holy Communion BCP Warnford  
10:30 Service of the Word East Meon

18th February (No Gloria until Easter Day) Ash Wednesday  
09:00 Morning Prayer with Ashing West Meon  
18:00 Holy Communion with Ashing East Meon

22nd February LENT 1  
08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon  
10:30 Benefice Eucharist Langrish  
10:30 Service of the Word West Meon

25th February Wednesday Ember Day  
09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

1st March LENT 2  
08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon  
09:00 Mattins BCP Warnford  
10:30 Benefice Eucharist East Meon

3rd March Tuesday 18:00 Compline in Lent Langrish

4th March Wednesday 09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

8th March LENT 3

08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon

09:00 Service of the Word Langrish

10:30 Benefice Eucharist West Meon

11th March Wednesday 09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

15th March LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY

08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon

09:00 Mothering Sunday Holy Communion BCP

Warnford

10:30 Mothering Sunday Family Service East Meon

18th March Wednesday 09:00 Morning Prayer Langrish/West Meon

22nd March LENT 5 Passiontide

08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon

10:30 Benefice Eucharist Langrish

10:30 Service of the Word West Meon

School Easter Services

25th March ANNUNCIATION

09:00 Morning Prayer West Meon

29th March PALM SUNDAY

08:00 Holy Communion BCP East Meon

09:30 Liturgy of Palms West Meon

10:30 Benefice Eucharist and Liturgy of the Passion

Warnford

10:30 Liturgy of Palms Langrish Green

10:45 Benefice Eucharist and Liturgy of the Passion

Langrish Church

Morning Prayer with 'The Way of the Cross' and Compline Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week



# Spring Show

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## **Easter lilies for West Meon and Warnford churches**

In both our churches of West Meon and Warnford we will again be asking for sponsorship to contribute to the beautiful floral decoration at Easter. If you would like to dedicate lilies in memory of loved ones, they will cost £7.50 each to sponsor. Please get in touch with Fi Beresford for Warnford (tel:829479 email: fi.beresford@gmail.com) or Louise Clay for West Meon, ( tel:829235 email: lpclay13@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute. The closing date will be Wednesday 25th March.

*Louise Clay*

## **West Meon Allotment Society**

If one of your new year resolutions is wanting to eat more healthily or enjoy the benefits of gardening and growing your own food then perhaps you would enjoy an allotment. The West Meon allotments are located along the footpath at the top of Doctor's Lane. We have full and half plots available. No need for any previous experience of growing fruit and vegetables, part of the pleasure is learning from others plot holders and just having a go. It is a beautiful peaceful setting in the corner of the field with red kites regularly circling over head.

There are annual social events. We link up with the Gardening Club for talks, outings and the annual show. We have access to discounts for seeds and provide free manure. So everything you need to get started.

*Amanda Griffith, Chair of  
the Allotment Society*

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## West Meon Community Cinema

Our film this month is "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale". There will be two performances on Friday, 13th February. Two course lunch at 12.30pm followed by the film starting at 1.45pm. Tickets: £15 for lunch and film Film only £7. Please book by Wednesday 11th either in the village shop or on line at Ticketsource. Evening performance starts at 7.45pm, doors open at 7pm where there will be the usual bar. Tickets £7 available on line, on the door or at the village shop (cash only).

The last in the trilogy of Downton films, set in 1930's, bringing all the classic characters and joyful drama associated with the series and previous films, and a wonderful, entertaining watch.

Next two films are Friday, 13th March – "The Choral" and Friday, 10th April - "I Swear".

"ONE OF THE MOST GENUINELY HEARTWARMING FILMS OF THE YEAR!  
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Rosemary Morrish





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## Winter on the riverbank

Even in the heart of winter, rivers, streams, and ponds are teeming with life – including with one of our most endearing and much-loved mammals, the water vole.



Water vole photo © Terry Whittaker 2020VISION

Known affectionately to generations as “Ratty” from *The Wind in the Willows*, water voles are Britain’s largest vole, roughly the size of a guinea pig, with a rounded body, blunt nose, small ears, and a furry tail. Their thick, chocolate-brown fur often appears almost black when wet, and their whiskered faces give them a gentle, inquisitive expression. Unlike rats, which they are often mistaken for, water voles have shorter tails, smaller ears, and a much more compact shape. They are excellent swimmers and can often be seen paddling confidently through the water or perched on the bank nibbling vegetation.

Water voles were once a common sight along riverbanks and wetlands. Sadly, habitat loss and predation by invasive mink caused numbers to plummet. However, thanks to dedicated conservation work, these charismatic creatures are slowly returning to our waterways.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is helping water voles through the Watercress & Winterburns scheme. This partnership, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, focuses on restoring chalk streams, improving water quality, and managing riverbank vegetation to create safe habitats for water voles and other wildlife. Volunteers play a vital role in maintaining these habitats, monitoring populations, and controlling non-native predators like mink. The scheme doesn’t just benefit water voles – it supports a wide range of species, including fish, invertebrates, amphibians, and birds that rely on healthy, well-managed rivers.

Winter can be a surprisingly good season to spot them – if you know where and how to look. Even though they are less active than in spring or summer, their presence is betrayed by clear

signs along the banks. Keep an eye out for neat, nibbled patches of grass with characteristic 45° angled cuts, small burrows tucked into riverbanks, and tiny droppings along the water's edge. It's essential to keep dogs away from the water so these sensitive mammals aren't disturbed.

With leafless trees and shorter vegetation, riverbanks and wetland edges are more visible in winter, making it easier to spot burrows, tracks, and signs of feeding. Quiet walks along streams, ponds, and winterbournes – particularly in early morning or late afternoon – offer the best chance of glimpsing these secretive mammals.

For more information, visit the Trust website: [hiwwt.org.uk/watercress-and-winterbournesabout](http://hiwwt.org.uk/watercress-and-winterbournesabout)

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

## **Meon Community Connect**



Meon Community Connect aims to enhance the social, recreational and cultural life of our community by organising a diverse range of activities and events for all ages and interests. You can join this group via our website [www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk](http://www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk) or at one of our events. Membership is £25 per adult pa which allows you to purchase tickets to events at discounted rates. Alternatively you can visit the website and simply sign up for email notification of news and events. The group is a non profit entity and we look to simply cover the costs of any event that takes place.

Events that we have held so far include several quizzes with refreshments in Warnford Village Hall; our launch event was the Harvest Supper in September – the West Meon Village Hall was packed and everyone enjoyed hearty fare with entertainment after dinner provided by West Meon Theatre; In December we collaborated with West Meon Cinema affording our members reduced price tickets for the December movie and we provided refreshments at the Carol Service at St John's Church; and to kick off the New Year we celebrated Burns Night with a supper of Scottish fare followed by a ceilidh.

So why not come along to one of our upcoming events which include:

### **Mac's quiz on Saturday 28th February at 7pm in West Meon Village Hall**

Come along and test your knowledge and enjoy a fun evening. Charcuterie platter included. Bar available. There will also be a raffle to support Breast Cancer Now

Tickets are £66 for a table of 6/£12.50 for single tickets. Purchase tickets at [www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk](http://www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk)

### **The Crafty Chocolatier on Monday 9th March at 2pm in West Meon Village Hall**

Discover the magic of chocolate making with a hands on demonstration and tasting. Refreshments provided afterwards. Tickets will be available to purchase soon at [www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk](http://www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk) £12.50 for MCC members and £15 for non-members.

We are also working on a programme of more exciting events for the year ahead – details to follow on the website, Facebook and in the Parish News. Do get in touch if you have any questions/ideas. [meoncommunityconnect@gmail.com](mailto:meoncommunityconnect@gmail.com)

*Emma Barry*

# West Meon Parish Council

## Hampshire County Councillor Grants Open!

The County Councillor grant scheme is now open for 2025-26. Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short-term project-related costs. More details are available on the County Council website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

The 2025/26 County Councillor grant scheme is open until 28 February 2026.

## Have your say: Third Woodlands entrance sign

The proposed location for the third Woodlands entrance sign is:

<https://w3w.co/turkey.passively.crystals>

Please send any questions or objections to: [clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

## Sharing country lanes

Please remember that horses and riders are vulnerable road users. When you see a horse:

- Slow right down (around 10mph)
- Give plenty of space – at least a cars width
- Don't rev your engine or sound your horn
- Be patient and pass only when it is safe
- Cyclists – alert the rider early – let them know you are there (e.g. call out "Hi, is it

OK to pass?"

A calm, considerate approach helps keep riders, horses and drivers safe. Thank you for taking care.

# Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website which also details local facilities and services, village news and events. Please sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc.

WPM has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.) If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

The 2026 AGM will be held on 14th May 2026, time to be confirmed.

# **Warnford, West Meon, Winchester, Hampshire and Parliamentary Contacts**

## **West Meon Parish Council**

Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk to WMPC, [clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Jacqueline Humphreys, WMPC

Parish website [www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

## **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Chair: Toby Drought, [warnfordchair@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordchair@gmail.com) 07788 715707

Clerk: Lucy Hutchinson, [warnfordclerk@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordclerk@gmail.com) 07717 296610

Parish website [www.warnfordparish.gov.uk](http://www.warnfordparish.gov.uk)

## **Winchester City Councillors**

Neil Bolton, [nbolton@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:nbolton@winchester.gov.uk) 01962 771256

Jerry Pett, [jpett@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:jpett@winchester.gov.uk) 01489 877633

## **Hampshire County Councillor**

Malcolm Wallace, [malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk) 07739 050224

## **Member of Parliament for Winchester**

Dr Danny Chambers, [danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk) 01962 868586

## **HCC tells Government: 'Elections should go ahead this May'**

Following a special meeting of Hampshire County Council on Monday, and then its Cabinet today (15th January), the Authority has now written to Government to tell them that the county's 1.4 million residents should continue to have their say at the polls this year – particularly as central Government already postponed 2025 elections in areas like Hampshire to enable work to go ahead on delivering 'fast-track' devolution.

"Local Government Reorganisation will see strong, high-performing essential services broken up and redistributed across Hampshire and the Solent area - things like social care to protect children at risk of abuse or neglect, the complex care of our older residents, as well as the maintenance of our network of over 5,000 miles of roads. This is an inevitable consequence of reorganisation. But any extra capacity to deliver LGR should come from delaying reorganisation, and not at the cost of residents having their say at the ballot box."

Central Government will make the final decision whether or not elections go ahead.

*HCC*

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on

**07899 780830**

[helenagomm40@gmail.com](mailto:helenagomm40@gmail.com)

# The Curtis Museum

## OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday

10am – 4.30pm

01420 82802

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum)

### Upcoming events for February

Step into the past and bring history to life through your own creativity! Join us for a week-long celebration of traditional crafts, where each day explores a different historical era and its unique artistic techniques. From ancient patterns to medieval motifs and beyond, you'll create your own piece of patterned fabric as the week progresses, building a personal collection to take home as a lasting memento. Discover, design, and immerse yourself in the artistry of ages gone by. Perfect for craft enthusiasts, history lovers, and anyone curious about the stories behind the stitches. Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st February, 10am - 4.30pm.

We'll also be running Craft Club on the Thursday of half term (19th), 11am - 3pm, £2 per craft with your 5th craft free.

Stepping Stones Young People's Programme, Saturday 14 February - Saturday 21 March, 10.30 - 12.30. Regular free Saturday workshop supporting wellbeing for young people aged 11 - 14. Spaces need to be booked in advance. Please visit the website for details - <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum>

Sewing workshop for adults (age 16+) with local artist and maker Sachiko Mason, Saturday 21 February, 11am - 1pm. Stitch a beautiful toile de jouy style fabric bag, inspired by the Allen Gallery Collection. Book online at <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum>

### Museum by Torchlight

Our ever-popular exploration of the Curtis Museum by the glow of your torch returns during half-term. Tuesday February 17th, 5.30 to 7.30pm. Follow the trail and win a prize. £3.75 per (accompanied) child, adults free.

### Talks - Change of Venue

The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery have a full programme of talks during 2026. Friends talks will be held in Room 7 of the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Alton Community Centre is located on one side of the car park in Amery Street (sat nav GU34 1HN). <https://www.altoncomcen.org.uk>, telephone number 01420 85057.

The first talk takes place on Thursday 12th February, when Tony Cross will speak about Aspects of Alton's History. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start. FREE. Donations welcome from Guests.

Trails are always on hand in the Curtis - please ask at Reception for the latest.

*Jill Line*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th February**  
Snowdrops 2–5pm Warnford Park.

## Friday 13th February

### West Meon Community Cinema

“Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale” lunch and evening performances West Meon Village Hall. Next two films are Friday, 13th March – “The Choral” and Friday, 10th April - “I Swear”.

## Saturday 28th February

Mac's quiz 7pm West Meon Village Hall

## Monday 9th March

**The Crafty Chocolatier** 2pm West Meon Village Hall

## Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

### Rector:

Fr. Tony Forrest, The Vicarage, Church Street, East Meon 642 115 (usual working Sun to Wed)

### Verger for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

### Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

### Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

## February Farmers' Markets

Sunday 1st Romsey  
Sunday 1st Petersfield  
Sunday 8th Winchester  
Sunday 8th Whiteley  
Saturday 14th Alton  
Sunday 15th Alresford  
Saturday 21st Emsworth  
Sunday 22nd Winchester  
Saturday 28th Ringwood



The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.

Contributions by the 15th of the previous month please to:

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**Printers:** Studio 6, Woodside Court, Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7LH  
Tel: 01329 832933. Email: print@studio-6.co.uk

**ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)**

**ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)**