Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

May 2023

God Save The King!

This month sees the great celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. He is the 42nd monarch (give or take the odd disputed title) since the Norman Conquest but of course there were numerous kings before that and, except for the unhappy experiment with Oliver Cromwell and his son, we have always had a king or queen more or less since the Romans left (and even before they arrived). Looking around the world, many countries abandoned monarchy years ago, sometimes with violence and sometimes peacefully, but we have stuck with it and there are great advantages.

Although we sing "Long to reign over us" of course our monarchs don't really reign any more – or do they? They no longer have the power to make our laws or decide how our taxes will be spent but they still exercise an extraordinary unifying power. Think of all those people who flocked to London to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They didn't have to do that. They came for one reason only - they wanted to show their respect and admiration for a remarkable lady and the wonderful thing is that nobody in the crowd knew, or had the slightest interest in, how the person standing next to them had voted in the last election. They were united in something which rose above all the squabbling of politics and for once we all had a common





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Out the back of the shop, there is a quaint little or Bike friendly & dog friendly. The perfect stop for coffee & cake, or maybe you'll go for a Pull Engish Breakfast.

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purpose. It is so different with an elected head of state when perhaps half the population do not support him or her and the unifying influence of a person who is everyone's monarch is lost.

Our Monarch is also the supreme governor of the Church of England or "Defender of the Faith" and the Coronation Oath, which King Charles will make on May 6th, places clear responsibility on him to maintain the Church of England. You might think that the title dates from the split from Rome but, rather surprisingly, it had actually been granted by the Pope to Henry VIII in 1521, nine years earlier. Then in 1530, when the Protestant Church was established here, Pope Paul III revoked the title (and excommunicated the King). However, thirteen years later Parliament passed a "Bill for the Kinges stile" which decreed that the King was "... defender of the Faith and of the Church of England ..." and so it has remained, with the Latin "Fidei Defensor" abbreviated to "Fid Def" or just "F.D." on our coinage ever since.

Thus in the Church too, Charles III "reigns over us" rising above political and other divisions as a unifying influence. In the past, the King has suggested that he might be "Defender of Faith" rather than "Defender of the Faith" in order to reflect our more diverse society and more recently he has said: "... I mind about the inclusion of other people's faiths and their freedom to worship in this country. And it's always seemed to me that, while at the same time being Defender of the Faith, you can also be protector of faiths." So here too our monarchy unifies us.

Long to reign over us, God Save the King!

Kit Power



New Carolean Age

an English Country Garden, the Arts, Crafts, Heritage and Environment

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May 2023 10am - 5pm



Cake Stall Donations

The Church fete is 17th June this year and I am running the cake stall. If you like baking, cakes, biscuits, bread, pies please think about baking something for the cake stall.

The stall is only as good as its produce and I already know we have some fabulous bakers in West Meon! Together we can make a great stall!

Please contact me for more info Susanna 829425 or 07970 280077.

Susanna Jarrett

Sports Club AGM

West Meon & Warnford Sports Club AGM will be held on Monday 15th May at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion.

Please join us for a drink and a catch up with what we have achieved over the past year and to let us know what you would like us to provide in the coming year. Mary Edwards

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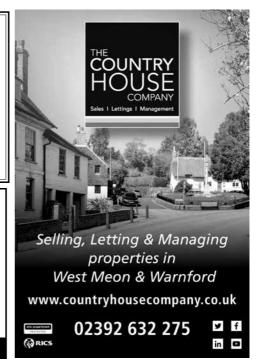
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West Meon Village Shop



West Meon Village shop has won the Countryside Alliance trophy for best rural shop in the South East. A BIG thank you to all who work, volunteer and shop in our village shop, we couldn't have done it without you. Catherine and Rachel will be going to The House of Lords on May 17th to receive their Trophy, and fingers crossed could come back as national champions.

We currently have some very tasty Isle of Wight tomatoes – no air miles and delicious with mozzarella, drizzled with olive oil served with a chunk of fresh bread. New seasons asparagus will be in any day, and fresh herbs are available to order by the bunch. To ensure you have more time to grab a tasty supper item the shops new opening hours are:-

Monday - Thursday 7am-5pm

Friday & Saturday 7am - 6pm

Sunday 8am - 3pm

4

Please check with the shop for the bank holiday opening times, and don't forget we can deliver – just give Rachel a call on 829310

We look forward to seeing you in your village shop very soon.

The West Meon Shop Committee

WEST MEON CHURCH FETE Sat 17 June 2 – 4.30pm

Please contact Susan if you can help on the day – we desperately need more volunteers

susanclareberry@gmail.com or 07941096308

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Strictly Come Courting



Great Crested Grebes perform sychronised courtship displays in Spring (c) Jon Hawkins_Surrey Hills Phottography

As mists rise from the water's surface on early spring mornings, love is in the air as great crested grebe pairs join together to dance. These graceful courtship rituals denote the start of the birds' breeding season as the grebes look to successfully attract a mate with their synchronised salsas. With orange and black head plumes spread wide, an elegant pattern of head shaking, bill-dipping, 'mewing' (calling) and preening culminates in the famous 'penguin dance'. The performance reaches an astonishing crescendo as a pair of great crested grebes will rush together, paddling their feet frantically to raise upright from the water. Then, standing chest to chest, they flick a beak-full of water weed at each other before one final shake of the head and the weed is dropped, and the deal is clinched. In time, a suitably enamoured pair will move into their nest, floating safely in the reedy margins of the lake shore.

You may stand a chance to observe this impressive display at any flooded gravel pits, reservoirs, lakes or canals where a pair of great crested grebes are residing. Locally, Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve in Southampton and Blashford Lakes Nature in the New Forest offer opportunities to see these grebes. All you need is a pair of binoculars and a little patience — and perhaps a flask of something warm while you wait to enjoy the show. If you're lucky enough to see that famous dance, then remember to pop a note in your diary to return in five weeks' time and you may be fortunate to witness the birds' stripy 'humbug' hatchlings riding on their parents' back.

The Great Crested Grebe was formerly a great rarity having been sought by milliners for its decorative plumage. However, the species represents a conservation success story. W.H. Hudson, a pioneer in nature conservation and author of Hampshire Days (1903), campaigned for the protection of grebes from the demands of the fashion industry. There are now estimated to be almost 5,000 breeding pairs in the UK.

Jake Kendall-Ashton

50 Year Old Lions

A pride of over 30 Lions, past and present, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Meon Valley Lions Club with a wonderful meal at New Place Hotel in Shedfield, who are also keen supporters of the Club.



A few local residents started the Meon Valley Lions Club in 1973, with Fareham Lions as our sponsoring Club to help get membership off the ground. Ken Brady was a founder member, President three times and Deputy District Governor. Another early member was Bob Higginbottom and the only one to reach the dizzy heights of District Governor. The Doney family, who used to run the garage in Newtown, were also very involved. Another early member was Harry Greenslade who ran a Teddy Bear tombola for many years at all local fetes until about 15 years ago.

So those early pioneers, Ken, Bob, Doney family and Harry used to meet at the Boar's Head Pub attached to the Ponderosa Club in Boarhunt for a meal once a month to sort Club business. Our first trailer was built by Ken on an old caravan chassis, which morphed into a sleigh for Santa collections. A Minibus was purchased not long after the Club was formed and to this day provides essential support for the elderly and community at large.

The Fishing Festival also started in the 1970's, an event with which we are still involved, Ron Wilson did many shifts over the years down on Southampton water. By the 1990s we had about 15 members, with average age of about 45 all helping to run Lions whilst working full time and raising families.

Fundraising - was a BBQ on half an oil drum – all around the Meon Valley, finally upgrading to gas in the mid 90s, plus Santa collection on Ken's trailer.

Socials - always a key component of the Club, involved Dinners, BBQs, America Suppers, Theatre Trips and a New Years Day walk, no matter the weather.

Welfare - back then was still about helping individuals, running the minibus for lunch clubs,

supporting Naomi House, Rose Road, Rowan Hospice, BW Gateway Club, Macmillan, Scouts/Guides/ Youth Clubs, all of which we still do today.

Of course over the years other local people joined from all walks of life, IBMers, Engineers, Finance and HR people, Navy, Dentists, Public Servants etc. There have been many adventures, friendship and people helped along the way, somethings are different, but many remain the same. A Club to this day famous for Santa Collections, Minibus and converting burgers into cash to help people in need.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those early Meon Valley Lions pioneers and of course it should not be forgotten the HUGE contribution by the partners of Lions members over the years, the true unsung Heroes of the Club; and of course the Lions friends, always on hand to help. It is a Club today with a wonderful group of people from all walks of life, whom we count as friends, who freely give their time to make a difference in the community AND of course part of the Lions Worldwide.

We're looking forward to many more successful years ahead!

Minibus Appeal - help us transport local people!

Our 15-year-old minibus has done us proud for many years but sadly its upkeep, running costs and reliability is starting to impact on our ability to help local people. The estimated cost of a suitable second-hand vehicle is circa £36,000. To date we have raised £18,000 but its taking too long and we are concerned it will impact heavily on the assistance we provide.

We are seeking support from a number of organisations but if you feel you can donate, no matter how large or small, it will go directly to the fund helping us achieve our goal. https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/.../MEON-VALLEY-LIONS...

Carole Dash



West Meon Village Hall Easter Fayre Table-Top sale and more.

On Saturday 1st April we held our Easter Fayre and Table Top sale. It was well supported and attendees browsed and shopped the sale while enjoying their freshly brewed coffee and delicious homemade cakes. The Cake Bake Off competition was great and the winners photos



You have probably read about 'The Big Help Out', a chance on 8th May for local communities up and down the country to get people involved to create a legacy of better-connected communities long beyond the King's Coronation. Whilst the Village Hall isn't running an event on that day, we do have a need for volunteers from time to time to do...well, whatever is needed at that particular time. If you might be willing to give a few hours to help out at some point in the future, please will you send a short email to our chairperson, Chris Town, at westmeonvh@outlook.com. We can't guarantee there will be something to do, but you might just be the person who could help us.

Community Cinema coming to West Meon!

We have been successful in securing a grant of £4370 from Winchester City Council towards the purchase of cinema equipment with a view towards setting up a community cinema in the village hall. This, together with two sums each of £500 generously donated by the Parish Council and WI and a small grant from our district councillor, will enable us to go ahead with the project. The equipment will not only add to community use of the hall, but also make it more attractive to potential hirers. The main items of cinema equipment have now been ordered so watch this space for developments!

The Village Hall Management Committee

Garden Club News May/June 2023

In April, Elaina Whittaker-Slark, Lead Ranger at the South Downs Park Authority, gave a fascinating talk about the history of the park and the implementation of their water vole project to a large and enthusiastic audience.

There will be no meetings in May so our next event will be our Annual Bring & Buy Plant Sale and Supper on Thursday 1st June in Warnford Village Hall.

The plant sale will start at 6:30 pm - all gardeners and non-gardeners are welcome (no need to book). Remember to bring along any spare plants or seedlings and have fun hunting down the specimen/s you'd love to take home with you. (You'll need bags or trays to transport them.)

Supper, at a cost of £15 per person, will be served at 7:15 pm. Catering will be provided by the ever-popular Becky from the Cuppacheeno Café.

Menu:

Cheese and caramelised onion quiche or coronation chicken skewer with new potatoes and salad;

A trio of desserts;

One glass of wine or one large glass of juice or one 50cl bottle of sparkling water;

Tea or coffee.

Extra drinks available, price to be determined.

For more information and if you'd like to join us for the meal, booking (preferably by mid-May) is essential. Contact clareswinstead@gmail.com or phone 01730 829 059 (evenings).

Clare Swinstead

Plant Sales from Church Lane

Just to inform people that any money from plant sales from my steps this year will be going to the school.

Jenny Jenkin

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 7th May

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.

10.30am West Meon. Coronation Eucharist with Bishop Ian Brackley.10.30am East Meon. Benefice Service of the Word - All Age Worship.12 noon. Warnford Coronation Service with Bishop Ian Brackley.

Sunday 14th May

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 21st May

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.9am Warnford. Benefice Holy Communion.10.30am East Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 28th May

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.10.30am Langrish. Benefice Eucharist.10.30am West Meon. Benefice Service of the Word.



West Meon C of E Primary School

Group 2 swimming was a great success and badges will be presented at our prize giving at the end of term. Sports fixtures are getting booked in, including tennis at the Kingsley Centre on 26th March for YR/1, Playleader training for Y4 on 26th May, a Small Schools Y4/5/6 Football Tournament on the 9th June on the recreation field and the Hampshire Games on 22nd June. Mr Storey is also restarting Y3/4 football practice on Friday lunchtimes, now swimming is finished and we have our own Sports Afternoon on 29th June.

Foxes walked down to the Nature Station and built homes for their worms and Comic Relief Day saw the children dressed up and raising money for others. We also celebrated with our traditional egg decorating and the eggs were judged by Michael Major for a prize for each year group and then there were prizes for the furthest rolling eggs.



The Christchurch Worship Group and Reverend Peter Sutton led in worship, including when the children brought in flowers for the Mary Touchet grave and we were joined by Barbara Shaw from the Touchet Trust to give thanks to the founder of our school.

Our Y5 Junior Road Safety Officers are taking part in virtual training so they can lead on road safety and Y6 are preparing for SATs week and then their week residential at Fairthorne Manor, which is a fantastic week.

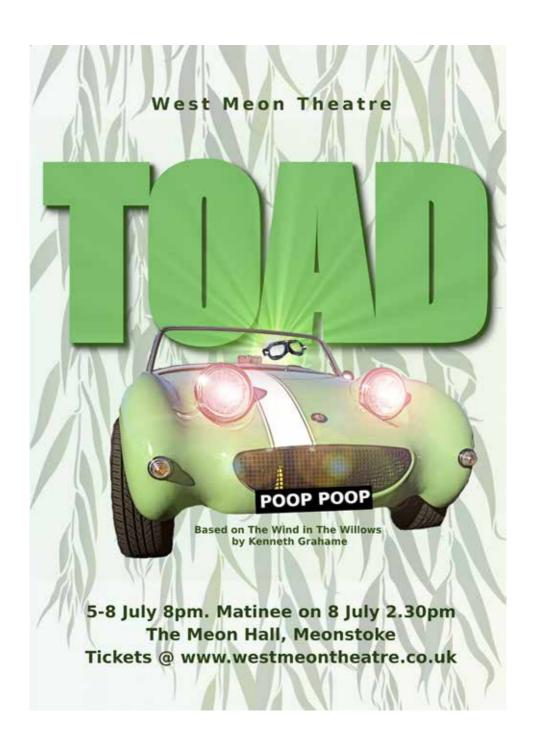
Y4 have activity days at the QE Park and Hawk Conservancy and Y6 have a wonderful week lined up at the Stubbington Study Centre.

After Easter, once places have been accepted, we will start to welcome our new Reception children in for their induction sessions.

You are very welcome to look around the school at any time and we welcome children from outside our catchment area as well.

Check out our new website which is under development.

Julie Kelly, Headteacher



TOAD

Tickets are now on sale for our 30 year celebratory production of TOAD, adapted by Helena Gomm from Kenneth Grahame's classic The Wind in The Willows.

We have a cross-generational cast of 27 and this new contemporary adaptation is full of fun and colour with original songs and music.

The production is directed by Mary Dawson.

We will be presenting the show in The Meon Hall Meonstoke, a large space making all things possible. The performance will take place on a specially created traverse stage across the centre of the hall with the audience in two banks of seats on either side. The band will be on the 'traditional stage' and the entrance to the theatre will be from the terrace outside.

There is free car parking on the recreation ground so why not come early, extend your evening and bring a picnic? Or treat yourself to a gourmet Pizza prepared and cooked by The Thomas Lord pub. There will be a pay bar serving Pimms, wine and beer as well as soft drinks and The West Meon Stores will be offering an array of sweets and ice creams, so everyone will be catered for.

TICKETS £18 or £16 for groups of 4 [online booking fee applies].

For tickets and more information go to www.westmeontheatre.co.uk or phone Ticket Source on 0333 666 3366 [a booking fee and additional £1.75 telephone service fee will be incurred when booking over the phone].

Mary Dawson

W.I. Report

Our April meeting and AGM was held on Monday 24th April, which is a little later due to the Easter period. Our speaker will have been Susan Howe, and the subject of her talk is 'The Indiscreet Revelations of a Tour Guide' (subtitled: Dealing with difficult clients and avoiding being eaten by a tiger!) Details of news from our AGM and our April talk will appear in our next report. Subscriptions are due in April. Our new Programme cards will be issued at our May meeting to allow for any Committee changes at the AGM.

Because of the Coronation Bank Holiday, our May meeting will be held on Monday 15th at West Meon Parish Hall at 2pm. Our speaker will be Gillian Taylor and the subject of her talk is 'A Garden Adventure in France'. Gillian is a very knowledgeable garden speaker who has a garden in the Meon Valley and one in France. She is also on the Committee of the Hampshire Gardens Trust, so we are looking forward to a lovely 'floriferous' afternoon!

Sue Kinlochan

Rainfall report for March/April

It rained every day bar one from the 15th March to the 31st March making a total for the month of 158.6mms (6.24"). Last year (2022) we had a total for March of 72.1mms (2.83") so there has been a marked increase in 2023.

The only year that we have had more rain in March since we started recording in 1972, was in 1981 when we had 177mms (6.9") so it has been a very wet time. The aquifers must be filling well so hopefully no shortage of water here in Hampshire for some time.

Total for the year to date is 361.5mms (14.2") compared with last year, same time, 226.2mms (8.90").

Peter Short



Monday 8th May 2023

West Meon Wine Society would like to invite everyone to our next wine tasting event, where we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

The event will take place in St John's church in the centre of West Meon from 2pm to 5pm. This is an opportunity to taste some new wines, enjoy some light snacks and meet some new people. We are planning a juice tasting for younger people and well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome too. Tickets need to be purchased in advance and will soon be available from www. westmeonwine.co.uk.

We hope to see as many of you as possible.

All profits from West Meon Wine Society go to support West Meon Village Shop.



Photo: A Annabel

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

Local Potholes - Hampshire County Council have received extra funding from Central Government to enable them to repair potholes. It is important, therefore, that these are reported online at: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes.

A-Frame & Banner Advertising - WMPC have clear guidelines regarding the use of A-frames and Banners, in particular on Parish Council land. A copy of the Policy can be found on our website at: www.westmeonpc.org.uk/community/west-meon-parish-council-134628/council-documents.

Flooding at East End - Our Winchester City Councillor, Neil Bolton, is in discussion with the Environment Agency regarding earlier flooding at East End. As soon as conclusions have been reached, local residents will be informed.

Local Crime - A small number of crimes associated with cars and garages have been reported. Please ensure that your property is secure at all times.

New Play Equipment - WMPC have received proposals for new and additional play equipment at the recreation ground. These will be assessed over the coming months when a final design will be agreed. We would hope to commence work later in the year.

Registering for Winchester City Council Accommodation - WMPC would like to remind residents who have registered for WCC accommodation that they need to renew this registration on an annual basis in order to be kept informed when properties become available.

And Finally from West Meon – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk, Jo Tester at clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

Warnford Parish Meeting - Information relating to WPM can be found on its website (see opposite) which also has details of local facilities and services, village news and events. Please do sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc. The Chairman has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (e.g. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications). If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

Warnford Parish Meeting's AGM - Will be held in the Village Hall on 18th May, all parishioners welcome. Please give any agenda items to the Clerk. Papers relating to the AGM will be posted on the website shortly before 18th May.

Rights of Way in Warnford - If you are aware of any issues with rights of way in Warnford (e.g. they are becoming overgrown or obstructed), please email Derek Chapman at: ederekchapman@btinernet.com.

King's Coronation - Details of how Warnford will celebrate the King's Coronation on 6th and 7th May are being circulated around the village.

West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City & Hampshire C.C. Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

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Jane Nicholson Vice Chair, Finance, Communication janewmpc@gmail.com 01730 829303

Graham Silk grahamwmpc@gmail.com Environment, Planning 07887 611100

Chris Waller Environment, Planning, Highways chriswmpc@gmail.com 01730 829489

Mac Edwards macwmpc@gmail.com Highways,recreation Ground 07778 775486

Robin Gedye robinwmpc@gmail.com River Flooding, Neighbourhood Watch 07774 698958

Jo Tester Clerk to West Meon Parish Council clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk 02392 632106

West Meon Parish Council website www. westmeonpc.org.uk e-mail: westmeonpc2017@gmail.com

Warnford Parish Meeting

Mark Rogers Chairman chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk 07712 868858

Lucy Hutchinson Clerk warnfordclerk@gmail.com 07717 296610

Warnford Parish website www.hugofox.com/community/warnfordvillage-7802/about-us

Winchester & Hampshire Councillors

Winchester City Councillors Neil Bolton - 01962 771256 nbolton@winchester.gov.uk

Hugh Lumby – 01489 877444 hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor Hugh Lumby - 07738 289912 hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley

Flick Drummond 01962 679920 – Constituency Office flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk



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Apples in Winter

LynchPin Theatre brings the OFFIE nominated London production of the compelling, award-winning play Apples in Winter to Petersfield. This one-woman play set in a prison kitchen tells the story of an American mother whose son has been on death row for 22 years. In seven hours the state will execute him. As is the tradition, he is granted a last meal; he asks for his mother's apple pie. The story of how everything changed that night 22 years ago unfolds as the mother shows the audience how to bake the perfect pie. An OFFIE finalist for Best Solo Performance in a Play, Edie Campbell plays the mother in this moving play, directed by Claire Parker, which powerfully gives voice to the unheard mothers of offenders.

24th May at 7:30pm at Petersfield Museum, St Peter's Road, GU32 3HX For tickets: phone 01730 262601 or visit www. petersfieldmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/apples-winter.

Philip Parker



Edie Campbell. Photo Harry Elletson

Froxfield Gloria!

Following on from the success of the Choir's 50th anniversary year... we are preparing to go again on Saturday 17th June! This year Gloria! is the title of our Summer Concert and follows shortly after the King's Coronation Weekend. We'd love to see as many of you as possible there and expect it to be another wonderful evening in the stunning setting of Holy Trinity Church, Privett.

The concert begins at 7.30pm and there will be a bar serving refreshments beforehand and during the interval. The Choir is delighted to welcome back the West Forest Sinfonia and acclaimed soprano soloist, Alice Howell. The varied programme for the evening includes Vaughan William's 'Serenade to Music' as well as 'Two Folk Songs and a Shanty' by resident composer Michael Orchard, as well as a chance to hear again 'The Darkling Thrush' which was very much enjoyed at last year's concert. The second half, the main event, will be Poulenc's splendid and upbeat 'Gloria'.

Tickets are on sale from 5th May and can be purchased at One Tree Bookshop on Lavant Street, Petersfield or online through TicketSource at www.ticketsource.co.uk – search for Froxfield Choir. Put it in your diary, purchase your tickets and join us for a wonderful summer's evening. We will also be singing in a short thanksgiving service on Sunday 28th May at 5.30pm at the close of the Privett Flower Festival to which everyone is very welcome. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @Froxfield_Choir and on our website https://froxfieldchoir.co.uk.







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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm ALLEN GALLERY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Borderlands

In early May we will be hosting an Exhibition by the Borderlands Artists, a group of professional contemporary artists who live on the borders of Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex. The group includes painters, printers, sculptors and ceramicists. This exhibition will showcase each artist's work and is an eclectic mixture of large and small, in a variety of media. It will be displayed in the main Gallery area.

Exhibitions in the café area

A display of our creative project with Dementia Friendly Alton and St Lawrence School, which takes a slightly different look at the Coronation as we explore themes around nature, home and memory loss. 1st - 13th May. Free.

This will be followed by Alton Climate Action Network's travelling exhibition Listen to the Children". ACAN will also be delivering workshops for young people, more information to follow in the coming weeks.

As part of the Big Help Out we will be holding a special event to mark His Majesty The King's Coronation. 8th May.

CURTIS MUSEUM

Dolls' House Weekend

Saturday 22nd July 2023, from 10.30am until 4pm and Sunday 23rd July 2023, from 10.30am until 4pm. The Curtis Museum is opening its doors again to dolls' houses large and small to view and play with. There will be a themed trail for everyone to follow as well as miniature items for sale. This year the main event will be on Saturday 22nd July and the Museum will be joined again by the North East Hants Miniatures Group. In addition, there will be local exhibitors to support the day's activities. On Sunday 23rd July the dolls' houses will still be out for play along with various activities for children to enjoy. This event will be attractive to all those interested in dolls' houses and their accessories. For more information please contact the Community Manager on 01420 82802. Free. Donations welcomed.

Rediscovering the ceramic collection at the Allen Gallery

Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) is undertaking a major research project to expand and re-claim information about the nationally and internationally significant collection of ceramics hosted at the Gallery. This activity is part of a year-long project, Rediscovering the Allen Gallery, to unearth the untold stories of the collections, develop more volunteer opportunities and forge new and develop existing relationships with community groups and local partners. The long-term goal of the project is a capital works redevelopment of the building. Funding for the first year of the project has been received from National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The team will showcase objects with significant stories throughout the process and share them in venue, via the trust's digital publication Culture On Call and on the HCT collections website. The collections include an impressive and varied selection of pottery, porcelain and tiles dating from 1250 to the present day. Hampshire Cultural Trust will soon be launching an appeal to raise funds to realise the refurbishment of the Allen Gallery to showcase the ceramics. *Jill Line*

Diary Dates

Thursday 4th May local elections West Meon Village Hall

Saturday 13th May MVGC Spring Plant Sale 10am Droxford Village Hall

Monday 15th WI Gillian Taylor A Garden Adventure in France 2pm West Meon Parish Hall

Monday 15th May West Meon & Warnford Sports Club AGM 7pm West Meon Pavilion.

Tuesday 16th May West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

Thursday 18th May Warnford Parish AGM 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall.

Saturday 17th June W Meon Church Fete

Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922 Virginia de Cosson 829362

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Hampshire Farmers' Markets in May

Sunday 7th Petersfield/Romsey Saturday 13th Alton Sunday 14th Winchester Saturday 20th Emsworth Sunday 21st Alresford Watercress Festival Saturday 27th Ringwood Sunday 28th Winchester

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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