Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

June 2023

The Big Help Out or not?

This is a tell it how it is article and a personal view. It's entirely up to you how you respond. I'm just saying.

West Meon and Warnford are fantastic places to live. Can you believe it? The Meon Valley, amazing. We have a butchers of renown, the pubs, the community shop and cafés, many businesses in farm buildings, two churches, a doctors surgery and the school. Did I forget anything? Then there are the clubs and societies - the sports club, the village hall committees, the rifle club, the WI, the allotment group, the Garden and Country club, the Care Group and the West Meon Players. These societies and clubs are often behind the annual fete, lots of events and happenings in the village halls, all the church services (we have no vicar by the way). Did you go to the quiz night in WM Village Hall in March or the Annual Parish Meeting in April? Maybe not, but next time hopefully. Finally, there is West Meon Parish Council and Warnford Parish Meeting: the elected administrators of the communities who ensure the play space is there, kept tidy and equipment is repaired, help fund aspects of village life and connect with the County Council and Winchester City Council. Wow, such a list and I'm sure I really have left things out. Sounds incredible, is incredible, for two small communities of less than a thousand souls in all.





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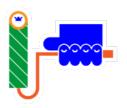
The trouble is that all those community things seem to be held together by about a dozen or so folk from the two communities. Most of them are old, some quite old...and they are not going to be here forever. Most started doing these things when they were young, with families, and working, in their twenties and thirties. Volunteering is part of living in a small community. If no one volunteers, things don't get done!! It's that simple. It's called playing your part. But what if you don't? Someone else will won't they? Well, no! I'm pretty confident in saying that if all those folk involved in all those community aspects above stopped tomorrow then nothing would happen. Their knowledge and skills would be lost. Look at West Meon Parish Council. Same faces for many years...ageing faces. If there is no parish council then all decisions about West Meon, planning, environment, play space, support for the shop, fighting for the bus service, dealing with pot holes or flooding and street lighting, will end. The responsibility will probably go to Winchester City Council and South Downs National Park. Will they be bothered with West Meon and your concerns? Probably not. Do you want that? No representation in decision making? No voice? They won't cut the recreation ground grass, think about new play equipment, repair and clean the war memorial, lobby on behalf of the school, provide support for the village shop and village hall or provide for allotments. If you want the churches to survive you have to help or there are no funerals or baptisms or weddings there. No fete. No Christmas services for the school or communities. Indeed, no Parish News. A very, very small number of people shoulder a significant financial burden to keep our churches open to all. The same applies to everything else; with the sports club, the village hall committees, the WI...all the things that make our communities vibrant, alive, active and enjoyable.

Perhaps you're not bothered. You won't mind living in a sterile place where nothing happens and spaces like the recreation ground, village hall, cricket pitch, tennis courts, shop and churches just fade away. If so, then perhaps you will witness it happening sooner than you think. If you care it's time to step up, especially if you are 30-50 years of age. This is your community. You live here. You may spend the rest of your life here. You need to take part and take responsibility. I'm afraid it's no use saying you don't have time or you have a family, because so did we but we still gave our all and still do. If you are reading this, it's because a volunteer brought it to your door for free. If you find this uncomfortable reading then so be it but unless these things are said your community will wither and then it has gone.

Make the choice today. Get involved. Anyhow, every way you can. Be a leader and a helper in your community. All the tools to be a part of making these communities survive are there; websites, Facebook pages, the parish news, chat in the pubs, butchers and shop.

Chris Waller







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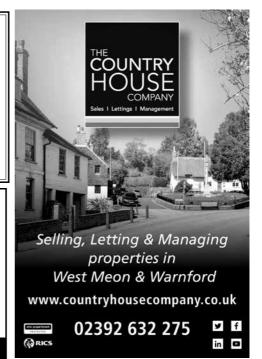
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WEST MEON CHURCH FETE

SAT 17 JUNE 2-4.30pm in the gardens of West Meon House

The following stalls all need support...

CAKES Can you bake cakes, biscuits, quiches, tarts etc? Can you make preserves? Please contact Zanna on 829425.

CREAM TEASCan you bake a batch or 2 of scones? Please contact Jane on 829489.

PLANTS Can you donate seedlings/plants either flowers or fruit/veg? Please label. Please contact Helen on 07973291528.

BOOKS Can you donate any books/CDs/DVDs in good condition? Please leave inside the church (on left by children's area) from Mon 5th June

BRIC-A-BRAC Can you donate any household items in good condition (no electricals)? Please contact Susan on 07941096308 from Mon 5th June.

TOMBOLA Please donate unwanted new items into the box in the shop. Collection of items can be arranged.

We are also still in need of volunteers on the day. We will have no Hot Dogs, Strawberries or Ice Creams available this year without some extra help.

Please contact Susan on 07941096308 or susanclareberry@gmail.com.

There will also be a Kings & Queens Fancy Dress Competition at the Fete for the children so get creating.

Cake Stall Donations

Please don't forget the cake stall at the fête on the 17th June! If you would like to bake something you can drop it off at Bridge House or at the stall on the day or message me and I will collect it.

I have cake bags, ribbon and cellophane if you need them.

It doesn't have to be a cake, biscuits, sweets, bread and quiche are all just as popular.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Susanna Jarrett 07970 280077.

Susanna Jarrett

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The journey of lapwing nesting: a story of resilience and renewal



Fifty years ago, wandering across the lightly tilled agricultural land of rural Hampshire, a lapwing circling across the vista would have been a typical site in early Spring. Nowadays it is somewhat rarer but no less spectacular.

Lapwings are ground nesting birds found across much of the UK. In Hampshire, your best bet of seeing a lapwing is at the coast, especially at a grazing marsh site like Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve. These are birds of wide-open spaces, liking nothing better than a view of the surrounding area, unhindered by scrub and trees, allowing predators to be quickly identified.

On a sunny late February day, you will see them enacting aerial displays, and summersaults accompanied by their unique call. Territories are formed where males vigorously attack any intruder. Come the end of March, things are generally settled down and into April, you will see nests appearing. A female may be huddled down on three to four eggs. This is the most vulnerable stage for the young. Crows or buzzards are but a few birds that will take all the eggs within an afternoon. Foxes, badgers and even the cuddly hedgehog will make short work of the nest, so they are up against it. That is not to say that they are helpless. Lapwings are some of the bravest parents going. Any sign of an intruder, they will take to the air and bombard the wannabe egg thief mercilessly until it is deterred. The more lapwings there are with nests in the vicinity, the more likely it is that they will successfully see off a predator.

At the end of April and into May, the first chicks will arrive. These little fluff balls are immediately able to feed for themselves so the parents will take them to wet areas where they pick invertebrates off the surface of the mud. In these first few weeks of mobility, they are particularly vulnerable to avian predators. A crow flying over will exact a very specific alarm call from the adult. At this sound, the chicks will bolt for cover, whether that is a patch of rush or a hoof print in the mud, they are well camouflaged and if quick, may avoid detection.

Roughly four weeks later, the chicks will be taking flight and we breathe a sigh of relief as a few lucky birds make it to adulthood, hopefully returning in a few years to raise some young for themselves.

Jake Kendall-Ashton

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A Festival With Wide Appeal

This year's West Meon Music Festival, from 14th to 17th September, promises a wide range of classical music to appeal to all tastes: favourite chamber pieces, song and piano recitals, early music and composers from Monteverdi to Mahler, Schubert to Schoenberg.

The festival, now in its thirteenth year, opens with the event's founders, the Primrose Piano Quartet, performing Brahms' A major Piano Quartet as well as duo works by Mozart and Schubert. Friday evening sees a recital by Thomas Kelly – winner of numerous international piano competition prizes – followed by "Who's afraid of Arnold Schoenberg?", an informal late night concert by the Primrose exploring his work.

On Saturday 16th September the festival spreads out across the Meon Valley: in the morning the strings of the Primrose will perform a version of Bach's Goldberg Variations at East Meon's historic All Saints Church while in the afternoon the beautiful twelfth century Church of Our Lady at Warnford hosts the Gonzaga Band performing works from the "Age of Monteverdi".

On Saturday evening the Primrose are back at West Meon Church with Schubert's Trout Quintet followed on Sunday by a morning recital of French song with exciting young soprano Harriet Burns. The French theme continues for the "Festival Finale" in the afternoon with works by Fauré, Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Françaix and Bizet. Full details at www.westmeonmusic. co.uk and the box office opens on 1st June.

Sue Scholes



The church at Warnford Park seen from the ruins - Wikimedia Commons

W.I. Report

Our April meeting was the AGM where the Secretary, Treasurer and outgoing President all gave a report outlining the events of the previous year, the state of our finances (healthy) and plans for the following year. The County Adviser, Cathy Winter, then took over in order to run the election process. All committee members had agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected. Angie Trenchard was re-elected as President and could then continue to chair the meeting.

Our speaker was Susan Howe, a long-standing qualified London Blue Badge Tourist Guide. She explained that in order to gain the qualification she had trained for two years so that she has an in depth knowledge of London's main tourist highlights as well as of places off the beaten track. She regaled us with anecdotes and indiscreet revelations of incidents which had taken place during her long career - it seemed that Americans were often the most demanding clients!

On Monday 15th May we met at West Meon Village Hall and Angie Trenchard commenced the meeting by announcing that we had booked a lovely evening outing to Warnford Park on Monday 26th June between 5 and 7.00pm. What a treat! Guests are welcome and drinks and canapés will be served.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Gillian Taylor and she talked to us on "A garden adventure in France". Gillian was a local vet, who lives in Upham, and in retirement she volunteers for three charities - Perennial (the gardeners' charity), the Hampshire Gardens Trust (where she works with schools and organises their garden visits) and the Historic Houses Association. As if this does not keep her busy enough, she and her husband have a house and large garden in France. Their property is situated on the border of Normandy and Brittany in an area called The Mayenne. Gillian showed us beautiful 'before and after' photos of the house and garden, and in particular of the lovely orchard which her husband has created. She also showed us photos of the local Chateaux and scenic towns which they visit on a regular basis.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 12th June at West Meon Village Hall at 2pm. We are holding a flower arrangement in a tea cup competition, if possible using flowers from your own garden. Our speaker for the afternoon will be Ollie Butler talking on "Once a Wren always a Wren".

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Kinlochan

Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 4th June

8am East Meon. Holy Communion.9am Warnford. Benefice Mattins with choir.10.30am East Meon. Benefice Service of the Word - All Age Worship.

Sunday 11th June

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

Sunday 18th June

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

Sunday 25th June

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



Coronation Tea. Photo supplied by J Kelly

Hedgehogs tennis at the Kingsley Centre was a great event and the children loved playing in the huge sports hall.

Aspire are running a Girls' Football Tournament in Petersfield before we break up for half term and we are entering two teams.

The Small Schools' Y4/5/6 Football Tournament on the 9th June on the recreation field sees us entering three teams, which is great for such a small school and they are mixed teams of boys and girls. We are currently looking out for a friendly match for our Y2/3 children.

Playleader training for Y4 is on 26th May and the Hampshire Games on 22nd June, ending with our own Sports Afternoon on 29th June.

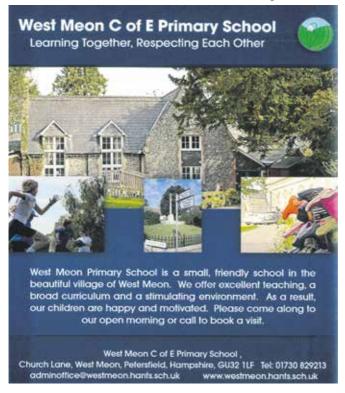
The Christchurch Worship Group and Reverend Peter Sutton have led us in worship and our parents' association FOWMS held a lovely Coronation Afternoon Tea for the children.

Our Y5 Junior Road Safety Officers took part in virtual training so they can lead on road safety and this week are discussing how we can influence parents to park in the village hall car park and not on Headon View.

Y6 worked so hard during SATs week and they were calm and happy as they looked forward to their residential week at Fairthorne Manor more than their score.

Y4 have activity days at the QE Park and Hawk Conservancy and Y5 have a wonderful week lined up at the Stubbington Study Centre at the beginning of July.

Visits are booked in to welcome our new Reception children and changeover afternoon



near the end of term gives them a taste of their next

A reminder that we are open from 7.30am until 6pm with excellent before and after school care for working parents and for those who do not live in the village, but pass through on their way to and from work.

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

Touchet Trust

If you are a resident of West Meon or Warnford the Touchet Trust may be able to assist with a grant towards your educational expenses.

- Full-time study at University or similar
- Full-time Sixth Form or similar (including travel)
- Grants for young people towards costs of lessons including dance/sport/music/school trips
 - Uniform grant for a child moving from primary to secondary school

Set up in 19th Century the Charity began by helping young people from West Meon embarking on apprenticeships by providing them with the tools of their chosen trades.

Get in touch for an Application Form.

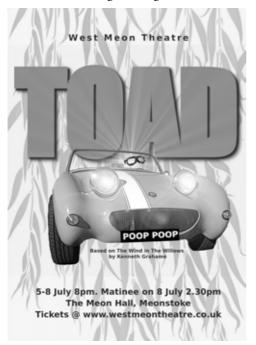
Please note that no awards will be made until places are confirmed.

Barbara Shaw barbara@cgshaw.co.uk

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

Rainfall report for April/May

April ended with 83.1mms (3.27") compared with April 2022 when we only had 21.4mms (0.84").

To the end of April this year we have had 388mms (15.25") while to the same time last year we had 227mm (8.92") making this a much wetter year so far.

Could this mean that we are in for a dry Summer? Who knows, I am so thankful that I am a reporter and not a forecaster. *Peter Short*







Learn, laugh and live with Alton u3a?

Would you like to meet new people and enjoy new activities? Would you like to share your particular hobby or subject with others? Would you like to set up a new group with friends?

Alton u3a is a friendly, peer-led community for those with some free time on their hands, and we always welcome new members and new group leaders. We run a wide range of different groups, both in-doors and out & about, plus arrange monthly coffee mornings, speakers & teas, day trips and concert outings.

There are over fifty different groups, with several options available each day, and annual membership costs only £20 - £55 (depending on the frequency and location of the activity). Choose from various art & craft, literary and other academic groups; music groups; bridge & table-top games; plus several out-door activities, and purely social events. We will be trialling some weekend activities too for the "MOTOs" (members on their own.) You need never feel lonely or bored again!

Alton u3a's new 2023/24 Annual Programme ("The Blue Book") will be published in early July, and will be available at The Allen Gallery, The Curtis Museum, The Library and Alton Community Centre (ACC); alternatively please request a copy via alton.u3a.members@gmail. com.

If you would like further information about any of the groups please contact the group leaders who are listed in the programme, or come and talk to us at upcoming summer events in the Public Gardens and Anstey Park. Postal membership applications are welcome as soon as possible (and some groups do have limited numbers), or register in person at our open afternoon from 2pm on Saturday 12th August at the ACC. Activities will run from September through to next May.

We look forward to meeting you!

Denise Backhouse



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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

West Meon Annual Parish Meeting - This meeting was held at the Sports Pavilion on Thursday 27th April. Thanks to everyone who attended and for those who were unable to make it the introduction made by the Parish Council's Chair Person is below:

West Meon Parish Council appointed a new Clerk in September 2022. Jo Tester is an experienced Clerk, has embraced the WMPC work and has proved to be efficient and knowledgeable. We thank her for her continued sound advice and commitment.

We have awarded a number of grants in the 2022/2023 financial year as follows:

Totalling	£2,950
WM Fireworks 2023	£500
WM Village Hall - Projector Screen	£500
WM Village Community Shop – Roof Repairs	£500
Citizens Advice Service	£200
Parish News	£500
Home Start Hampshire	£250
The Queens Jubilee Organising Group	£500

We welcome applications from eligible groups for grant consideration and details of how to apply can be found on our website.

We saw the completion of the Metis Homes development, now known as Northfields. We welcome the new residents and look forward to their involvement in village life.

The consequence of this development gives the Parish a CIF payment which the PC is looking to use to enhance the Children's play equipment at the recreation ground. At present quotes are being sought and further information will be published in due course.

The New Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment is very close to completion and special thanks go to Chris Waller, Paul Andersen and Duncan Stewart for their work in drafting and compiling this for the village. The document will be available to all later this year following formal adoption by WMPC and final consultation with SDNP.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their continued support and work for the PC.

We have vacancies on the Parish Council and would welcome new people to come forward should they be interested in joining us. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

And Finally from West Meon – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th June 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 Chair 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.

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

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

West Meon Parish Council

uncil Warnford Parish Meeting

Angie Trenchard Chair, Planning chairmanwmpc@gmail.com or angiewmpc1@gmail.com 01730 829545

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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

Jerry Pett – 01489 877633 jpett@winchester.gov.uk

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

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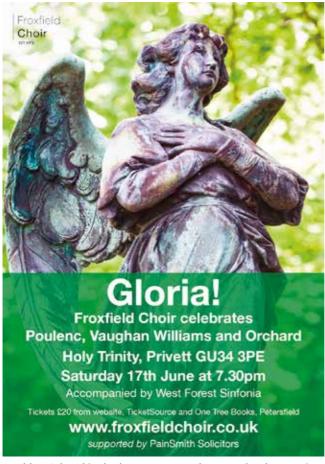
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Froxfield Gloria! Saturday 17th June 2023



With just a couple of weeks to go, all the preparations and rehearsals are coming together nicely. 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'.

We are very grateful to PainSmith Solicitors for their continued sponsorship and patronage as our main sponsor this year, as well as The John Jenkins Shop at Nywood for their continued support as a sponsor also. And of course not forgetting several local businesses in Froxfield and Steep for advertising prominently in our programmes in this and our November concert.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at One Tree Bookshop on Lavant Street, Petersfield or online via our website through TicketSource at www.ticketsource.co.uk – search for Froxfield Choir.

Put it in your diary, invite some friends to join you, buy your tickets and join us for another wonderful summer's evening.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @Froxfield_Choir and on our website https://froxfieldchoir.co.uk.

Sarah Rush





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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

As part of its ongoing project to Rediscover the Allen Gallery, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Hampshire Cultural Trust is continuing its research programme to uncover the stories behind the Gallery's specialist ceramics collection and will be sharing the first stages of this work at an exhibition from late July to early September. Alongside this there is an extensive programme of workshops, activities and events that will be running throughout the summer.

Fostering exhibition 10th June – 23rd July. Over a series of eight workshops, children aged 4 to 17 and their fostering families have been working with professional artists around Hampshire. The children have learned new skills in ceramics, textiles, mark making and colourful collage to create their own unique pieces representing their aspirations, things they enjoy and what makes them happy. This exhibition, which is touring the County in 2023-4, alongside the #openyourdoor campaign, has been made in partnership between Fostering Hampshire Children and Hampshire Cultural Trust to celebrate these creative and inspirational children and young people. Entry is FREE.

Project Thrive! This summer we will be delivering a FREE weekly gardening and creative programme for young people, in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority. This is a small group project based in the historic setting of the Allen Gallery garden and with additional sessions working with wardens in the South Downs National Park. Spaces are limited, please email the Gallery for details: allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk.

Botanical Canvases 10th June. During this 3-hour workshop with artist Jennifer Fynn, you will explore uses of pattern and colour to create your own canvas inspired by the gallery's permanent collection. Age16+. £30 per person. https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/botanical-canvases.

Brighter Futures - Celebrating Summer Creative Wellbeing Series 30th May - 20th June. For those aged 18+, living in Hampshire, who believe their mental health and wellbeing will benefit from attending creative courses for adults. In this four-week course led by Becki Clark, you'll be encouraged to celebrate nature with a range of mindful workshops on seasonal creativity and wellbeing. These workshops will include floral painting, nature journaling, calligraphy, crafting with clay, collaging and notebook making. These sessions are relaxed, fun and the perfect way to pick up and share tips and tricks and are suitable for beginners. FREE. Brighter Futures - Needle Felting for Wellbeing 11th July - 1st August. This four-week course is suitable for complete beginners as well as those with some experience in the therapeutic craft of needle felting. Using special barbed needles and beautiful British wool you will learn the basic techniques as well as lots of tips and tricks. Your tutor Carol will help guide you to create a Handsome Hare 3D sculpture. FREE.

Alton Regency Week. 17th – 25th June The Gallery will be hosting various events, including: Tea and Promenade to Evensong at St Lawrence Church. 18th June, 4.15 - 6.30 pm.

Local Heritage Walk 21st June, followed by picnic lunch at the Gallery provided by Dill cafe, with Regency games and tours of the collection in the afternoon. (Some activities are bookable in advance via the Jane Austen Regency Week website.) 22nd June. Evening talk by Sue Dell on Jane Austen in North-East Hampshire.

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 6th June West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30 p.m. West Meon Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk.

Monday 12th June WI Meeting: flower arrangement and talk 2pm West Meon Village Hall

Saturday 17th June West Meon Church Fete 2pm to 4.30pm in the gardens of West Meon House.

Saturday 17th June 2023 Froxfield Gloria! 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, Privett.

Monday 26th June WI evening 5-7pm Warnford Park.

Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th July TOAD West Meon Theatre 8pm. Matinee 8th July 2.30pm The Meon Hall, Meonstoke.

Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922 Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector: Vacant

Churchwarden for West Meon: Michael Johnson 829105 PCC Secretary for West Meon: Louise Clay 829235

Churchwarden for Warnford: Andrew Sellick 829161 Verger for Warnford: Peter Short 829285



Hampshire Farmers' Markets in June

Sunday 4th Petersfield/Romsey Saturday 10th Alton Sunday 11th Winchester Saturday 17th Emsworth Sunday 18th Southsea Saturday 24th Ringwood Sunday 25th 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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