Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

October 2023

St Wilfrid

As we celebrate Harry Potter Book Day on the 12th October, spare a thought for our local hero of the Meon, St Wilfrid, on this, his feast day. Dating to the 7th Century he was one of the greatest English saints, a monk and bishop who was outstanding in bringing about close relations between the Anglo-Saxon Church and the papacy. He was also famous for converting that last holdout of paganism in England, the residents of the Meon Valley!

He was educated in Lindisfarne and even, a great wonder for the age, in Rome and was, for a time, Bishop of York. Exiled from there, he was offered protection by King Aethelwealh and Queen Eaba of the South Saxons and headed for the area now known as Sussex. Aethelwealh and Eaba were both Christians, but the rest of the people were pagans.

Aethelwealh granted Wilfrid an estate at Selsey, near the south coast, where he lived for the next 5 years. The 16th century mural below, now in Chichester cathedral, shows this happening. From here, he went out to christianise the South Saxons and the Meonwara.

Strong local tradition dates Wilfrid arriving in Warnford in 682 where he set up a church and established his headquarters while converting the Meon Valley pagans. This was likely either wooden or wattle and daub, and was replaced in the 10th or early 11th Century by a single celled stone church. Its location was, of course, directly under the present church, and





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is ewised by the community and run mainly by volunteers from the village. With a wide selection of everyday essential Fresh, daily deliveries of fruit & Vog. artisas heven, pastires & more. There is a 'pop up post office' Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can even drop off your dry cleaning!

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no you can sit inside or out.

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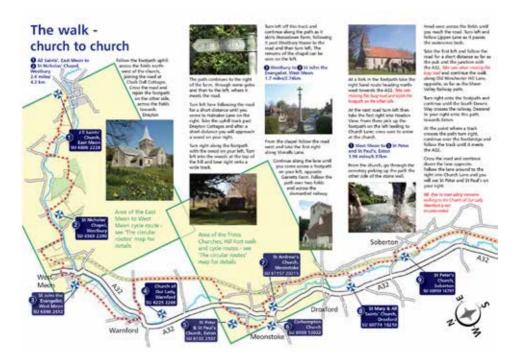
those who go will see that there are two physical remains of the stone saxon church in our present wonderful establishment.

From here he set about converting the Meon Valley, establishing churches from Titchfield to East Meon. He would have been greatly helped by the river itself as the Meon River was more substantial in the prehistory to the late medieval periods and was navigable by shallow draft boats to beyond Droxford.

Wilfred was aided by God in his mission with miracles, of course - at least according to his hagiography. This area was suffering greatly from famine when he arrived – there being a drought for 3 years. When he arrived, there fell a soft but plentiful rain; the earth revived, the fields grew green again, and the season was pleasant and fruitful. Thus the old superstition was cast away, and idolatry renounced. He also educated the poor backward people of the Meon, teaching them to fish in the rivers and sea – a skill apparently unknown to them apart from catching eels. And so, Wilfrid followed the teaching of Christ himself, as he first fed the people of the Meon Valley and then went on to tell them all about God's love and grace.

You too can walk in his footsteps on the Meon Valley Pilgrimage Trail, walking along the Meon Valley discovering the churches founded in the 7th Century by Saint Wilfrid.

Edwin Grimshaw



To see this map properly search online for Meon-Valley-Churches-Trail-print-friendly.pdf. You can also find further details on St. Wilfred at wilfrid-meon-pilgrimage.co.uk but their website certificate is expired so some search engines will advise caution.

N.B.No. 2 on this map St. Nicholas' Chapel at Westbury has now been more or less demolished.

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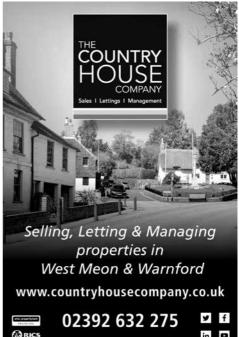
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West Meon Village Shop

Isle of Wight Tomatoes

We have a wonderful range of tomatoes locally sourced from Isle of Wight Tomatoes. IoW Tomatoes have been growing tomatoes in the rich fertile soils of the Arreton Valley for last 15 years. By combining age-old traditions with modern-day innovation, they produce tomatoes

that taste the way they should!

We stock heritage beefsteak and heritage speciality varieties along with sweet vine and plum tomatoes as well as green chutney and cocktail vine tomatoes. Other fresh produce from the same supplier includes Padron peppers and aubergines. In addition, we



also sell a selection of IoW Tomatoes condiments such as Roasted Tomato Pesto, Oak-smoked Tomato Balsamic and Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Recipe - Stuffed Isle of Wight Tomatoes (60 minutes - serves 4)

Ingredients: 8 large Beefsteak tomatoes; 2 the olive oil plus extra for drizzling; 1 white onion, finely chopped; 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely chopped; 200g arborio risotto rice; 130g pancetta or 200g mushrooms, chopped; Small bunch of fresh parsley, finely chopped; Salt and pepper, to taste; 1 tsp sugar; and grated Parmesan and extra flat leaf parsley to serve.

Method: Preheat the oven to 200 degrees. Slice the top off the tomatoes, reserving the lid, and use a small sharp knife and a spoon to remove the flesh, juice and seeds into a bowl. Make sure not to scoop too close to the walls of the tomato otherwise they will collapse in the oven. Blitz the reserved tomato juice and insides in a blender. Pour into a measuring jug and add enough water or vegetable stock to make it up to 800ml. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan on a low heat and cook the onion and garlic. Cook until softened, stirring. Stir in the rice and cook for a minute and then add the blended tomatoes, a little at a time, stirring, until the liquid is absorbed. This should take 20-30 minutes. Meanwhile, cook the pancetta or chopped mushrooms in a frying pan with a little olive oil until golden brown. Stir the parsley, pine nuts and pancetta or mushrooms into the rice mixture. Have a taste and season as needed, the rice should still have a little bite at this stage. Place the tomatoes in a baking dish, nestling them quite close together. Season the insides with salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar. Fill the tomatoes with the rice mixture. Cover with the lids. Drizzle the tomatoes with oil and season well with salt and pepper. If you have any leftover filling, you can add it to the baking dish. Cook for around 20 minutes, checking after ten. Enjoy! Rachell Barnett

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Where to forage in Autumn

There's nothing quite like a delicious meal of free foraged food. As summer turns to autumn, hedgerow fruits ripen, providing a valuable food source for many species, including humans.

Probably the most familiar of our autumn fruits is the blackberry or bramble, but there's plenty more to tempt the palate: elderberries and rosehips in the hedges, chestnuts and hazelnuts in the woods, and bilberries on the moors. Think wild fruit jelly and jam, roasted chestnuts, and of course what winter would be complete without a nip of sloe gin.



Did you know that there are more than 300 very closely related species of blackberry in Britain, which can vary greatly in size, taste, and juiciness?

Tradition has it that brambles should only be picked before Michaelmas, after which they become unpalatable as the devil has spat on them... but it is very important that you make sure you know what you are doing. Many berries and nuts can make delicious food or drink, but others can be very poisonous, and often the two can look similar.

Remember to keep to public places and steer clear of private land, and avoid searching along the edges of large agricultural fields which have often been treated with chemicals. Similarly, watch out for popular dog walking routes.

A good forager is an ethical one. Remember it's not just you who might be hungry: make sure you leave plenty for the wildlife. Pick only the amounts you need to ensure plant populations remain healthy, and leave plenty for the birds and wildlife with whom we share our wild food.

The great thing about autumn foraging is that you don't need to visit a nature reserve, you can find autumn fruitfulness pretty much anywhere. Elderberries and brambles can be found in most urban areas including parks or overgrown gardens, while hedgerows almost everywhere are abundant with hazelnuts, sloes (blackthorn) and dog rose.



The golden rule is that if you're not 100% sure of a species, don't pick it. When carried out sustainably and respectfully, foraging is a natural and ethical way to source your food.

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust organises lots of year-round wildlife guided walks to learn more. Visit https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events for more information.

Helen Skelton-Smith

Photo: Rowan berries (c) Richard Burkmar

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all welcome

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Tickets available from the Village Shop or email Clare to reserve claredelotbiniere@gmail.com

PLEASE RESERVE TICKETS BY MONDAY 2^{ND} OCT SO WE CAN SORT CATERING NUMBERS!

Donation bar - All proceeds from ticket sales and bar go to All Saints Church. *Entrance by pre-bought ticket only.*

Easton Return Friendly Boules Match 2nd October

Following a heavy defeat in our inaugural match away to Easton back in July, we held two boules coaching sessions at the Petersfield Petanque Court during September. The sessions were well attended and immensely enjoyable and informative. A big thankyou is due to the excellent tutelage provided by the coaches from Southern Counties Petanque Association. One common schoolboy/girl error that was put right during the first session was that both feet must stay within the circle and be touching the ground when throwing.



Mark Hammond demonstrating how not to throw during the Easton match.

We are confident of an improved performance in our return match against Easton. Not only due to the invaluable coaching sessions, but also to 'home advantage' that is the 'barnyard' in Floud Lane which has a terrain like no other and would make the late great Shane Warne look somewhat pedestrian.

Management Team - Mark Hammond, Richard Middleton, Sarah Poole & Graham Walker

West Meon Music Festival

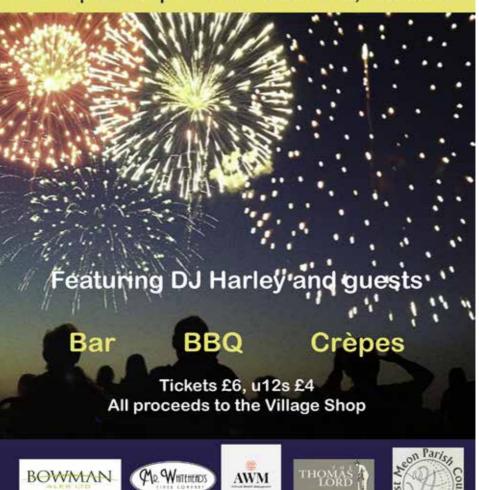
Successfully delivered for another year by the fabulous Primrose Piano Quartet and their array of guest artists. The quartet was formed in 2004 by four renowned chamber musicians and is named after the great Scottish violist, William Primrose, who himself played in the Festival Piano Quartet.

Their current project is said to be a disc of Fauré, Saint-Saëns and Chausson piano quartets but you can already buy CDs of music by Bridge, Howells, Hulstone, Quilter, Dunhill, Bax, Elgar, , Payne, Holbrooke, Bowen and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Their own festival here in West Meon is now in its twelfth year.



West Meon & Warnford FIREWORKFEST

Saturday 7th October 2023 Gates open 5.30pm Hall Place Farm, West Meon













Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 1st October

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

Sunday 8th October

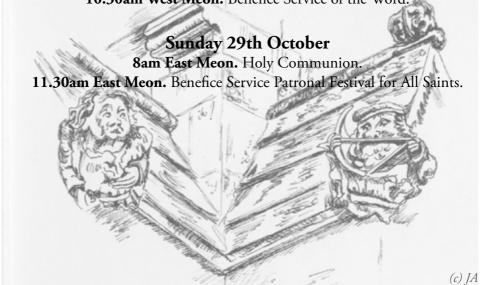
8am East Meon. Holy Communion.9am Langrish. Benefice Service of the Word.10.30am West Meon. Benefice Eucharist.

Sunday 15th October

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

Sunday 22nd October

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

We welcomed eight new children into Year R and they have settled in really quickly with their cover teacher Mrs Sok, while Mrs Marriott is on maternity leave. Next week we are also welcoming two children from South Korea and our Ukrainian child has returned from last year, which is all wonderful news.



Sports fixtures have already started and our Y5/6 took part in the Football Festival at Dunhurst on 13th September and on 20th September our U9 team from Y4 will join other schools at the next festival.

After school clubs have started well, as our teachers volunteer to run Chess, Upper School Art, Lower School Art and a new one this year, Girls' Football. Our paid clubs run by Aspire Sports and a French teacher also continue. 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.

Owls have already been out picking blackberries and making apple and blackberry crumble and Foxes and Hedgehogs are experiencing all sorts of new activities, including many more outdoor activities in the early years area.

Foxes are leading the Harvest Festival Worship in the church on Monday 25th September at 9.30am and you are very welcome to join us. The PCC are serving coffee from 9am.





Foxes and Owls held their Parents' Information Meetings and Hedgehogs have their's coming up, so they know the organisation and expectations for the term ahead.

FOWMS (Friends of West Meon School) are holding their Macmillan Coffee session from 2.30pm on Friday 29th September in school and you are very welcome to pop in.

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. We have an Open Morning coming up on Saturday 4th November 2023 from 10–12am and we would love to see you there too.

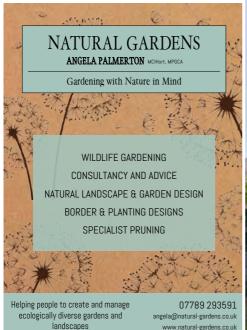
Julie Kelly, Headteacher
Photos supplied by J Kelly

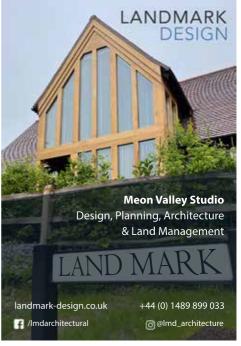




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Coming very soon to a cinema near you...

Yes, West Meon now has it's own Community Cinema in the village hall!

We are launching on Friday 13th October with the film adaptation of Rachel Joyce's acclaimed novel:

"The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry"



starring Jim Broadbent as Harold and Penelope Wilton as his wife. It details Harold's walk from his home in Devon to Berwick-on-Tweed to deliver a letter of condolence to his old friend Queenie who is terminally ill, leaving his hurt and confused wife at home.

Tickets £7 and are available either:
Online at TicketSource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall
(N.B. Booking fee applies)
In West Meon Village Shop
(Cash or cheque, no booking fee)
On the door (subject to availability).

Doors open at 7pm with a bar supplying beer, wine and soft drinks. Coffee, snacks and ice cream also available.

Film program starts at 7.45pm.

Enquiries to Rosemarymorrish@icloud.com

Rosemary Morrish

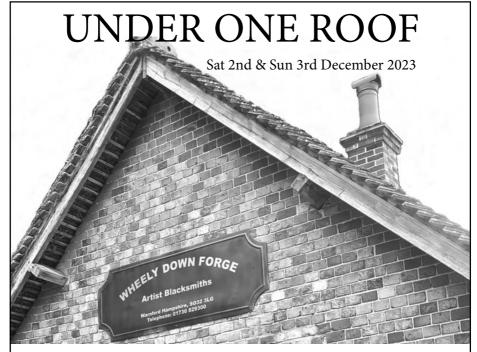
Ride and Stride

Stephen Short took part in 'Ride and Stride' on his bicycle to raise funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to Historic Churches for restoration work. He raised over £700, and says very many thanks to all for their generosity. Four were in the group and cycled 48 miles and visiting 18 Churches. Starting from Privett they visited East Meon, Hambledon, Idsworth, Clanfield, Buriton, Petersfield, Liss, Hawkley, Froxfield, amongst others. Half of the amount raised comes back to the Church of Our Lady, Warnford. If you would like to add to the total please email Stephen using short.stephen600@ btinternet.com.

Peter and Vera Short

Meditation Group

Are you interested in joining a small group to practice mindfulness meditation once a month 6.15-7.30pm on 2nd Monday of the month, starting 9th Oct. Mindfulness simply means becoming aware of our inner and outer worlds in any given moment, learning to be present to ourselves and others, and in turn, we naturally feel calmer and more peaceful. Beginners welcome! Venue is at my home in centre of West Meon. Do contact me with any questions or to reserve a place (max 8 people) susanclareberry@gmail.com or 07941 096308 Susan Berry



We are exibiting again this Christmas at a new venue. The Gallery, Wheely Down Forge, Wheely Down Road, Warnford, SO32 3LG.

A selected group of artists and crafts

people from the Meon Valley showing and selling their latest work. We will open on the 2nd and 3rd of December from 10am till 4pm. We hope that you will put these dates in your diary.

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West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News

Parish Council Vacancies - Have you recently moved to West Meon and feel you would like to get involved more in village life? Why not become a Parish Councillor to help look after the interests of the Village and its Parishioners. If you can spare some time and would be interested in joining the current Councillors then please contact the Clerk - Jo Tester (details opposite).

Hedges - A reminder that keeping hedges in control, especially along roads and pavements, is the responsibility of the property owner or hedge owner. Where a hedge borders a road, i.e. the A32 or Church Lane, then the owner must ensure the hedge does not pose a hazard to road or pedestrian users. It really helps if we all do our bit to keep hedges trimmed.

Village Design Statement - The consultation period for this document has now been completed. WMPC will be liaising with South Downs National Park regarding comments received and further details will be available in due course.

Lengthsman Visits - The Lengthsman is scheduled to work in the village on the following dates: 24th November and 31st January 2024. If any parishioner has knowledge of work that they feel needs to be done please advise a member of the PC. Their time is limited and work will be prioritised where necessary.

Temporary Speed Indicator - WMPC are intending to install a temporary speed indicator for a period of two weeks at the end of October. As directed by Hampshire Highways, this will be positioned outside of Meadow House on the East Meon road and will be visible to traffic entering the village from East Meon.

Parish Council Notice Board - Located next to the bus stop in the High Street, this board contains Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings together with other relevant information for the Village. There is a small amount of space available to display posters for local events and if you wish to use this space please contact a member of the Council. Please DO NOT affix posters to the woodwork of this notice board.

And Finally from West Meon – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3rd October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Please contact the clerk, Jo Tester (details opposite) 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.

Warnford Autumn Parish Meeting - To be held on 14th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Papers relating to it will be posted on the website nearer the time. Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant should follow the procedure set out on the website.

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

West Meon Parish Council

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

Mac Edwards, Vice Chair Finance, Highways, Environment macwmpc@gmail.com 07778 775486

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

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

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

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

Allan Thomson allanwmpc@gmail.com 07467 330322

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 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/warnford-village-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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W.I. Report

Our President, Angie Trenchard, commenced our meeting with the very sad news that Margaret Tosdevine, one of our long standing members had passed away and informed members that her Memorial Service will be held at All Saints Church, East Meon, on Wednesday 27th September at 2pm. All of us at the West Meon W.I. send our condolences and best wishes to her family at this sad time.

At our next meeting on Monday 9th October at West Meon Village Hall at 2pm, Lt. Col. Jeremy Prescott will be talking about "The Miracle Flower" and members were invited to enter a flower arrangement in a small milk jug with Autumn berries and foliage.

Angie announced that our Christmas lunch will be held on 5th December - the venue has yet to be confirmed.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Terri Robinson and her talk was entitled "The History, Scenery and Wildlife of Alaska" and it proved to be an interesting subject. Terri informed us that Alaska was purchased by the USA from the Russians in 1867 and became the 49th State of America. She had visited Alaska on three occasions by rail, by road and by cruise ship and she gave us lots of information on all of her trips. On her first trip she visited the Denali National Park, which covers 6 million acres, and is named after Mount Denali (formerly Mount McKinley). Her photos showed some of the wildlife in the Park, such as wild sheep, Arctic ground squirrels, bears, snow shoe hares and moose. These were shown on West Meon Village Hall's 'new state of the art' drop down screen, which will certainly prove to be a tremendous asset not only to the W.I. but to all other users of the village hall.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday 9th October.

Sue Kinlochan

Rainfall report for August/September 2023

August ended with 88.8mms and up to the 15th September we have had 12.4mms. It has been a dry and warm start to September with rain only falling on the 10th and 12th. No sign of a frost yet and we are still mowing the lawns.

September rainfall over the last 5 years looks like this:-

2019 132.3mms (5.2.")

2020 42.5mms (1.7")

2021 52.7mms (2.07")

2022 109.0mms ((4.29")

2023 12.4mms (0.49") to the 15th September

Peter Short

Garden Club

Autumn is just around the corner and the evenings are drawing in but it's never too late to do a little gardening and/or plan for next year. So on Thursday 12th October we will be welcoming back Ben Pope, who will be talking to us about "Treading Gently Through the Borders".

As usual, the lecture will be held at 7:30 for 7:45 pm in Warnford Village Hall.

Looking ahead to November, on Thursday 9th, Barry Norman will tell us all we need to know about "Growing in Raised Beds". The talk will be followed by our AGM.

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Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

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

Ceramics. We are delighted to welcome the Ceramicus group again. They are an established group of local potters based in Surrey and Hampshire. The Exhibition opens on Saturday 7th October - drop in for a meet-the-potters morning. They will be in the Gallery regularly throughout the show to answer questions. A wide range of handmade works will be available to purchase. FREE. Ends 5th November. While on the theme of ceramics, we are showing a film on that subject on Saturday 21st October, at 7pm. Details and tickets will be available online or in the Gallery nearer the time.

Half-Term Fun

A make-and-take clay pumpkin session on Tuesday 24th October. Details and tickets online or in the Gallery.

Halloween Pumpkin Trail from 24th -31st October - there is one also in the Curtis Museum. £2 per trail.

TALK

The Binsted Slides by Andrew Croom-Johnson. This talk introduces us to late 1800s glass slides, made by the then minister of Binsted, of the village and surrounding area. Thursday

Ceramicus or Ceramics Allen Gallery Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW 7th October - 5th Nove Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am - 4.00pm Entrance Fre

12th October at 7.30. FREE. Donations welcome. This talk has been arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery of whom more below -

The Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery help to promote and support both venues. Funds raised at local events have been used to purchase specific items for display, or to improve areas such as the Childhood Gallery in the Curtis and the charming Allen Garden. Friends enjoy a variety of activities including talks, visits to other venues and social gatherings. Invited speakers cover a wide range of subjects such as painting, photography, local wildlife, history and archaeology. Three informative newsletters are published each year, and annually an addition to the "Alton Papers" on local history. Meetings generally take place on the second Thursday of the month at the Gallery in Church Street. Details are in the Newsletter and on posters in the Curtis Museum, Allen Gallery, Library and Community Centre. Annual Subscriptions range from £14 (unwaged adult) to £25 (Corporate).

If you would like to help support these two important local amenities, come along to a meeting or chat to a volunteer, many of whom are Friends. We are always ready to welcome new Friends.

[ill Line]

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd October West Meon Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall.

Saturday 7th October Fireworkfest 5.30pm West Meon Hall Place Farm

Monday 9th October WI

2pm West Meon Village Hall. Lt. Col. Jeremy Alresford Watercress Line Farmers' Market Prescott "The Miracle Flower".

Thursday 12th October Garden Club 7.30 for 7.45pm Warnford Village Hall. Ben Pope "Treading Gently Through the Borders".

Friday 13th October

7 for 7.45pm Community Cinema West Meon Village Hall "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry"

Tuesday 14th November Warnford Autumn Parish Meeting 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall.

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

October

Sunday 1st Petersfield/Romsey Sunday 8th Winchester Saturday 14th Alton Sunday 15th Southsea Saturday 21st Emsworth Saturday 28th Ringwood Sunday 29th Winchester

every 1st Saturday of the month.



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: The Editor: Jacqueline Annabel Tel: (01730) 829023 westmeonparishnews@gmail.com

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