

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

November 2026

How Often Do You Visit Your Church?

When did you last step inside your parish church?

Perhaps it was for a christening, wedding or funeral. Maybe it was to remember loved ones at All Souls, to honour those who served at Remembrance, or to celebrate Christmas or Easter. Perhaps you came to a concert, a village event, an August tea, or simply to admire the snowdrops. In our rural communities, harvest festivals remain a treasured opportunity to give thanks for those who produce our food and, for many, to give thanks to God for the beauty of creation all around us.

We often assume that the village church will always be there when we need it: for life's celebrations and sorrows, as a place of prayer and reflection, or simply as somewhere peaceful to sit for a few moments in a busy day. All three of our churches are open daily and everyone is welcome. Yet here in the Upper Meon we know that such things cannot always be taken for granted.





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If you have not visited recently, why not take a look inside? These churches belong to the whole community. They are places where Christians gather to worship, but they also serve all the local people of all faiths and none.

Recently, people from across our new benefice, together with members of the wider community, gathered to explore how our churches can flourish in the years ahead. We discussed how our buildings might serve our villages in new and creative ways, while remaining places of worship and welcome.

The strongest theme to emerge was remarkably simple: people matter most. We want our churches to offer a genuinely warm and personal welcome, and we want to ensure that what we do remains relevant to every generation. If our churches are to have a future, they must not only preserve their heritage but also engage children, young people, families and older generations alike.

As Rector, I have the privilege of sharing some of the most important moments in people's lives: baptising children, preparing couples for marriage, visiting the sick, supporting those who are struggling, and comforting the bereaved. But the work of the Church has never been the responsibility of one person alone. It depends upon many people offering their gifts, skills and time to serve others. Together we build community.

Of course, keeping beautiful historic buildings open, safe and weatherproof costs a great deal of money. Many people are surprised to discover that neither the Government nor the Church of England provides the funds we need to run our churches day to day. The responsibility rests almost entirely with local people.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who already supports our churches through volunteering, practical help and financial giving. Quite simply, without such generosity our churches could not remain open.

But we need your help too.

Think back to the last time you visited your church. What brought you there? How would our communities feel if that place were no longer available? We have already experienced the closure of one church in the Upper Meon. None of us wishes to see that happen again.

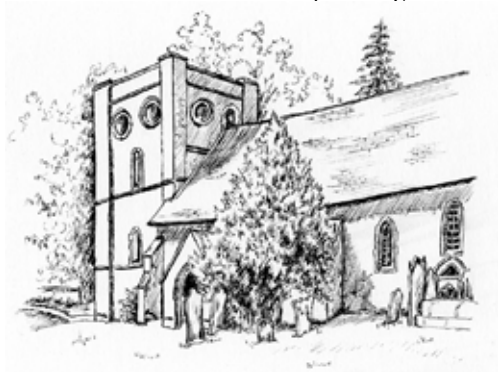
Apart from one Christmas during the time of Oliver Cromwell, and for a brief period during the pandemic, our churches have been open daily for centuries. They have served generation after generation through times of joy, sorrow, peace and uncertainty.

We want them to remain open for generations yet to come.

Whether you have ideas to share, practical skills to offer, time to volunteer, or feel able to make a regular gift, however modest, your support can make a real difference.

Our churches are here and open for everyone. Help us keep them that way.

The Revd Tony Forrest
Rector,
Upper Meon Benefice



Warnford Church © Jacqueline Annabel

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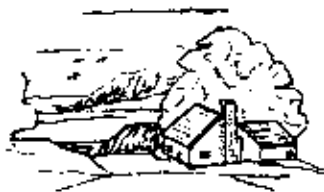
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West Meon CE Primary School

November feels like a calm month; we have survived the Pumpkin Festivities & Halloween revelries and have yet to enter the busy, almost frantic activities, that herald the Christmas Season. At West Meon School we take this time to consolidate our learning & challenge our pupils to expand their thinking. Our 'Challenge Week' is a week dedicated to enhancing our young people's experiences and encouraging them to try out new ideas. Children make use of the core values of Courage, Respect and Creativity when they take part in Sport's challenges, a Cookery Bake Off and a STEM activity to build a bridge. We have already enjoyed a beautiful walk along the Meon Valley Trail creating 'memory Sticks' and seeking out and classifying mini-beasts. What a great end to our first half term.



At West Meon School, we encourage children to be advocates for others. Our School Council undertook to run the Macmillan Coffee Morning event with drinks available to take away for busy parents. The generosity of the school community continues to take my breath away, the Coffee Morning was a great success and well attended. Our thanks to all parents that contributed to the events – both the bringing & buying of cakes!

FOWMS have started their fund raising early with a 'Make Your Own Rules Day' which was very well supported – both children & adults took part! They continue their generous support for the school with a visit from 'Boffins Science' which was so successful last term and will be organising Pumpkin Festivities on the last day before half term. I hear they are plotting something special in December too.

As always, the autumn term brings a number of festivals that are celebrated jointly with St John the Evangelist Church. The Harvest Festival service was led by Foxes class and was enjoyed by all that attended. We also celebrated the 25 years of teaching at West Meon School by Mrs Burgess who continues to encourage and support the young people of West Meon. The generous contributions from the school community were distributed by Owls class to members of our older generation in the village. On November 11th, which falls on a Wednesday, Owls class will be leading a Remembrance Service at 10.45am – all are welcome.

At this time of year, we open our doors to welcome prospective parents and students. The Saturday opening in October was a success with our teachers engaging with parents to explain our ethos and the great provision we offer. If you have missed this opportunity, we have a further open morning on the 12th November from 10– 12pm; please contact the office to secure your place. These events are an opportunity to see our school close up, and visiting when the school is working help to give prospective parents a chance to observe the holistic approach we have at West Meon. We also offer individual tours by appointment.

We are currently supporting parents who wish to enrol their child for Reception Class in September 2027; please visit our website for additional information.

Julie Slamaker, Head Teacher

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West Meon Community Cinema November/December

Friday 13th November – there will be two performances of “**My Mother’s Wedding**”, starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlet Johansson. The plot follows three sisters who return to their family home to attend the third wedding of their twice-widowed mother, each dealing with their own personal problems.

At 12.30pm we will be serving a two-course lunch followed by the film at 1.45pm.

Tickets are £15 for lunch and film, £7 film only, available on line at Ticketsource or in the village shop – must be booked by Wednesday 11th.

Evening performance starts at 7.45pm, tickets available as above, plus on the door. Doors open at 7pm.

Friday 11th December – “**You’ve Got Mail**”, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

It tells the story of two people in an online romance who are unaware they are also business rivals. It marked the third pairing of Hanks and Ryan, who previously appeared together in Joe Versus the Volcano (1990) and Sleepless in Seattle (1993).

We will be offering a Seasonal Picnic Supper before the performance...

Tickets are £15 for film and supper – must be booked by Wednesday 9th December on line at Ticketsource or in the village shop.

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Rosemary Morrish



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Swift Report From The Garden Club

On 8th October there was a record turnout for our talk by Peter Renwick, a local conservationist from Meonstoke, who told us about the decline of swifts and how we can encourage them back.

In an informal lecture, where audience participation was encouraged and appreciated, it was fascinating to learn that the tiny swift in level flight is the fastest of all birds, reaching speeds of 70 mph. These monogamous couples eat, sleep and mate on the wing, stay in the air for 10 months of the year, eat as many as 100,000 insects a day and in a lifetime can fly 2 to 4 million miles, the equivalent of flying to the moon and back 8 times. While in flight they can turn half their brain off, in order to rest.



The only time they stop flying is when they “come home” to breed. Traditionally, swifts used to be reliant on gaps or holes in the eaves of houses but these are increasingly being filled in during renovation work so it’s important to find alternatives as swifts are red-listed: a species of high conservation concern.

Fortunately, there are ways to help: avoid pesticides to protect the insect population and install swift nest boxes in buildings. Hampshire Swifts, the conservation company, has installed hundreds of nesting boxes across Hampshire meaning the swift population is now a little healthier after its dramatic decline and Peter encouraged us all to purchase highly affordable boxes from Hampshire Swifts <https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/>

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 12 November, in Warnford Village Hall, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm when Ann Hughes will tell us “How to make a wild flower meadow”, followed by our AGM.

Clare Swinstead

Ringling In Your Ears

Interested to know more about bell ringing? Already ring and would like to ring locally? We are a friendly band of ringers who practise most Fridays at 7.30. If you would like more information, including about our dedicated learner sessions, contact the Tower Secretary, Pam Barnsley, at pmbarnsley@hotmail.com.

Pam Barnsley

Alton u3a is now online!

Renewal/membership for the new year 2026-27 is now available on <https://alton.u3asite.uk/membership-intro/>

We have implemented online joining and membership renewals. Our existing manual, paper-based system is really no longer fit for purpose and was becoming a point of frustration for many of our members; whilst it is still available, online joining and renewals is now our preferred method of membership.

Colin Aiken



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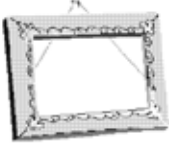
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parent of current year 1
"Staff have high expectations of what pupils can achieve"
Ofsted Jan 2025



Investigating the village



Doctor Who?



Thank you to all who attended the Meet the Doctor event on 14th October. It was so helpful to hear how changes imposed by the NHS services have impacted on people as we continue to work together with you in support of your healthcare needs.

Denise C Dees

Energy Alton AGM 2026

Energy Alton is a community charity that provides free energy saving advice. On 19th November we are holding our AGM at the Assembly Rooms in Alton at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Following the AGM, there will be a screening of the film POWER STATION.

POWER STATION follows two people who decide to try something extraordinary: turning their London street into an energy-generating community. It's a story about neighbours, money, ambition, setbacks, creativity and what happens when people start talking to one another about what might be possible.

For more information, please visit our webpage <https://energyalton.org.uk/power-station-film-community-evening-19th-nov/>

There will be light refreshments and time for discussion after the film. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Colin Aiken, Treasurer



Benefice Services and Events November and December

1st November 2026 ALL SAINTS DAY

- 08:00 Holy Communion BCP
All Saints': East Meon
- 10:30 Benefice Eucharist for All saints
- PATRONAL FESTIVAL, All Saints': East Meon
- 15:00 West Meon & Warnford Commemoration of Departed (All Souls')
Our Lady: Warford

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

- 18:00 Sung Traditional Compline
All Saints': East Meon Lady Chapel

8th November 2026 Trinity 23 & Remembrance Sunday

- 08:00 Holy Communion BCP
All Saints': East Meon
- 10:15 East Meon & Langrish Remembrance Service
All Saints': East Meon and the East Meon Village War Memorial
- 10:50 West Meon & Warnford Remembrance Service
St John's: West Meon
- 15:00 Langrish Village Act of Remembrance
Langrish Churchyard

15th November 2026 Trinity 24 and 2nd Before Advent

Safeguarding Sunday 2026: "Love Protects."

- 08:00 Holy Communion BCP
All Saints': East Meon
- 09:00 Holy Communion BCP
Our Lady: Warford
- 10:30 Service of the Word
All Saints': East Meon

22nd November 2026 Sunday next before Advent & Christ the King

- 08:00 Holy Communion BCP
All Saints': East Meon
- 10:30 East Meon and Langrish Parish Communion
All Saints': East Meon
- 10:30 Benefice Eucharist
St John's: West Meon

29th November 2026 ADVENT SUNDAY and YEAR B begins

- 08:00 Holy Communion BCP
All Saints': East Meon
- 18:00 Benefice Advent Service of Darkness into Light. Advent Carols and Lessons
All Saints': East Meon

Tuesday 1st December 2026

- 18:00 Sung Traditional Compline
All Saints': East Meon Lady Chapel

6th December 2026 2nd Sunday of Advent

08:00	Holy Communion BCP All Saints': East Meon
09:00	Mattins BCP Our Lady: Warford
10:30	Benefice Eucharist All Saints': East Meon
13th December 2026 3rd Sunday of Advent	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP All Saints': East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist St John's: West Meon
18:00	East Meon & Langrish Carols & Lessons All Saints': East Meon
20th December 2026 4th Sunday of ADVENT	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP All Saints': East Meon
10:30	Service of the Word All Saints': East Meon
16:00	Warnford Carols and Lessons Our Lady: Warford
24th December 2026 CHRISTMAS EVE & NIGHT	
14.30	Nativity from Scratch St John's: West Meon
16:00	Scratch Nativity All Saints': East Meon
23:30	Midnight Mass All Saints': East Meon
23:30	Midnight Mass St John's: West Meon
25th December 2026 CHRISTMAS MORNING	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP All Saints': East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP Our Lady: Warford
10:30	Family Eucharist All Saints': East Meon
10:30	Family Eucharist St John's: West Meon
27th December 2026 St John the Evangelist	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP All Saints': East Meon
10:30	Patronal Festival & Benefice Eucharist St John's: West Meon

West Meon & Warnford Parish News

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

The Parish News is distributed to every household each month. It is funded by the two parish churches with a donation from each of the parish councils towards the running costs. However, we have been running at a significant loss for some years and need to do things differently. In order to do this, we really need your feedback. *Please fill in this questionnaire...*

- Do you read the Parish News each month? If so, what are you reading it for, eg.info re village life, church, tradespeople etc
- The magazine is currently delivered to each home in West Meon & Warnford free of charge. Would you pay a modest subscription for it or be willing to make an annual donation?
- Are you aware that you can read the Parish News online on the Parish Council website and if so, would you use that facility?
- Could it be offered bimonthly and still fulfil its function?
- Is there anything else that you'd like to see within it?
- The content of the Parish News is provided by anyone who wishes to contribute articles on any subject of local, business or personal interest. Please feel free to send in your material and let us know of other ways you can add to this parish resource.

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Photo: © Steamship Shieldhall

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www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk/volunteer-open-day-2026/

Lewis Folland

Rainfall Report for September/October 2026

We are still getting mostly very mild weather and the sun is still shining. September ended with 41.3mms (1.6") and so far in October we have had 16.3mms (0.64"). This year to the 15th we have recorded 659.1mms (25.9") while to the same date last year we had 582mm (22.9"), however we did have another 81 mm before the end of the month, get you umbrellas ready.

Sadly, even after the rain we have had the river is still dropping, it will be a while before the aquifers start to refill and the river to flow again through West Meon. And yet if you look into the river in East Meon, and I think you could say 'it's trickling'.

The drying up of the Meon in West Meon is nothing new. There was a letter written by Col George Greenwood of Brockwood Park in November 1864, in which he states 'The stream that usually runs through West Meon and turns the mill there, has for many weeks entirely disappeared, so that there is no running water between Westbury Pond and Warnford Pond, though above West Meon, in Drayton, East Meon and Fairfield the mills are still working, by spells as they say'. See the whole letter on the following page (18).

Peter and Stephen Short



Meon Community Connect News

Our aim is to enhance the social, recreational and cultural life of the community by organising a diverse range of activities and events. Whether you have recently moved to the area or have lived here for decades, our events are warm and welcoming, so if you haven't done so already check out our website and get involved! These events are for everyone members and non-members alike. Our annual membership fee from October 2026 will be £10 which affords you discounted rates on events for the membership year.

We are still working on our calendar of events for the next year. We took on board feedback from our recent members' event and hopefully will be able to fulfil some of the suggestions we had.

The next event will be a coffee and quiz morning in the Warnford Village Hall on Thursday 29th October 10-12pm. Please check our website out for ticket prices and purchase.

We are hoping to organise further quizzes over the next year – dates and venues tbc along with visits to the D-Day museum and Woolbeding Gardens. Keep an eye out in the Parish News, on Facebook and on our website : www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk

Emma Barry

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Our Springs, Streams and Wells (a view of climate change from 1864)

The stream which usually runs through West Meon, and turns the mill there, has for many weeks entirely disappeared, so that there is no running water between Westbury Pond and Warnford Pond. Though above West Meon three mills are worked - Drayton Mill, East Meon Mill and Fairfield Mill, these mills are worked "by spells", as they say - that is as often they can get water enough in the mill-ponds. But below Drayton the water sinks away into "swallow-holes". I have observed two of these swallow-holes just below Westbury Ponds. Probably the water reappears at Warnford Pond, around and just below which the springs are strong enough to form a river at once. These springs may be said to tap Old Winchester Hill and the Beacon Hill. The two highest springs above East Meon, are the Oxenbourne spring, and the other "Spring-head", above Fairfield Mill. We may almost consider them as tapping Butser Hill, which is the highest of the South Downs. I imagine however, that both these springs are just dying off, and all the springs and wells above Warnford and West Meon may probably go dry.

There is a common belief that wind makes the springs rise. But in an equally porous subsoil like chalk, nothing can be more simple than the history of the springs. They are caused by the rain soaking down until it is checked by the chalk marls or the gault between the greensands. The whole area of the upper chalk being then saturated with water, the springs burst out at the foot of the hills. Consequently the springs are strong or weak directly as the quantity of rain, provided that the rain has had time to soak down to them. As the past drought has caused our present low springs, so after very rainy seasons, what we call our Lavants (Labens) run, or, as they say, "the springs are out". That is, springs burst forth in the valleys many miles above what are considered as the perennial springs. This happened here last after the very rainy winter of 1852-3.

Thus springs or streams, whether they are so weak that they must be ponded up before they have the power to turn a Hampshire mill, or of such strength and volume as the Ganges and Mississippi, and thrusting deltas out from continents into the ocean of thrusting deltas out from continents into the ocean of thousands of square miles in extent, in all cases are simply rain returning to the sea.

How long a time is required for the rain to soak down to our springs, is, I imagine, very little known. Doubtless, if continued rain were to happen now, it would be many weeks before it would soak down to the springs. So that we may be very badly off for well water yet; and we should look well to the runs into our ponds. The springs about Bishop's Sutton, Bighton and Hinton Marsh, which are among the earliest sources of the Itchen, have been for some time dying off of springs to progress down the valley towards Winchester.

At Riplington and Drayton Bridges are large Druid sandstones, which, doubtless, in ancient days, formed stepping stones, or perhaps miniature cyclopean bridges.

Yours,
George Greenwood, Colonel,
Brookwood Park, 5th November 1864

(Taken from a letter to the Hampshire Chronicle found by Edwin Grimshaw and submitted to the Parish News by Stephen Short. Some spellings and placenames have been modernised by the Editor.)

West Meon Parish Council

Preparing for Winter – Keeping West Meon Safe

As winter approaches, West Meon Parish Council encourages residents to take a few simple steps to prepare for potentially challenging weather conditions.

The UK Government and Met Office have highlighted the possible impact of a significant El Niño event this winter. Between October and December, there is a slightly increased likelihood of strong westerly winds, heavy rainfall, storms and flooding. During early 2027, colder northerly or easterly winds and sudden temperature drops may become more likely, bringing the possibility of ice and snow.

These are seasonal risks, not confirmed forecasts, but preparation is particularly important in rural communities like ours.

Preparing Your Home

A little preparation can make a big difference:

- Clear gutters, downpipes and private drainage channels of leaves and debris.
- Secure garden furniture, bins and other loose outdoor items.
- Check trees for damaged or dangerous branches and seek professional advice where necessary.
- Insulate exposed water pipes and know where your stopcock is located.
- Prepare for power cuts with torches, batteries, charged phones and essential supplies.
- Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, particularly during severe weather.

Residents in flood-prone areas should consider flood protection measures and sign up for free Environment Agency flood warnings at www.gov.uk/check-flooding.

Staying Safe on Our Rural Roads

Heavy rain, fallen branches, wet leaves and icy conditions can make our narrow lanes particularly hazardous.

Please reduce your speed, allow extra stopping distance and never attempt to drive or walk through floodwater.

Hampshire County Council treats priority roads during freezing conditions, but not every village lane or footpath will be salted.

Community salt bins are provided for use on public roads and pavements, not private driveways. Please report bins when they are less than half full.

A Gentle Reminder About Considerate Parking

Please park thoughtfully and leave pavements, dropped kerbs, driveways and access points clear. Vehicles parked partly on pavements can force pedestrians, including people using wheelchairs, mobility aids or pushchairs, into the road. When parking on narrow village roads, please also ensure there is sufficient room for passing traffic and emergency vehicles. A little consideration helps keep our village safe and accessible for everyone.

Reporting Highway Problems

Residents can report the following directly to Hampshire County Council:

- Empty or damaged salt bins
- Blocked roadside drains and gullies
- Flooded roads and standing water

- Fallen trees and dangerous branches
- Potholes, damaged pavements and other highway hazards

Report non-emergency problems online:

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem

Please provide an accurate location and photographs where safe.

Emergency Highway Problems

For urgent hazards such as fallen trees blocking roads, dangerous flooding, collapsed drains or other immediate risks to public safety:

Monday–Friday, 8.30am–5pm: 0300 555 1388

Outside office hours: 101

If there is an imminent threat to life or serious injury, call 999.

Please do not attempt to remove dangerous obstructions yourself.

Deer on Our Roads – What to Do Following a Collision

Deer are common on our surrounding country roads, particularly around dawn and dusk. They may travel in groups, so if one crosses the road, others may follow.

If you hit a deer:

1. Stop somewhere safe, switch off your engine, activate your hazard lights and check for injuries.
2. Call 999 if anyone is in danger, seriously injured or the road is dangerously obstructed.
3. If the deer is injured, contact the police on 101 for assistance. Do not approach or attempt to move it.
4. If the deer has died, report the carcass to Hampshire County Council if it is on the public highway. Do not attempt to remove it yourself.
5. Even if nobody is injured, you may report a deer collision to the police on 101.

Remember, swerving suddenly to avoid wildlife can put you and other road users at greater risk.

Looking Out for One Another

West Meon's community spirit is one of our greatest strengths. During severe weather, please consider checking on neighbours who may need additional support, particularly those living alone or with limited mobility.

Useful Contacts

- Met Office weather warnings: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- Flood warnings: www.gov.uk/check-flooding
- Environment Agency Floodline: 0345 988 1188
- Power cuts: 105
- Police non-emergency: 101
- Emergency services: 999

By preparing early, reporting hazards promptly and looking out for one another, we can all help keep West Meon safe this winter.

West Meon Parish Council wishes everyone a safe and healthy winter.

Warnford Parish Meeting

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

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

The Autumn Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th November 2026. All parishioners welcome. Please email any suggestions for the Agenda to the Clerk. Papers relating to the meeting will be posted on the website nearer the time. WPM will set its budget for 2027-28 at the meeting, including deciding what grants to make. Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant should follow the procedure set out on the website, please note in particular that applications must be sent to the Clerk and copied to the Chair (preferably by email) at least two weeks before the meeting.

Warnford, West Meon, Winchester, Hants & Parliamentary Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk to WMPC, clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Amanda Griffith WMPC

Parish website www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Warnford Parish Meeting

Chair: Toby Drought, warnfordchair@gmail.com 07788 715707

Clerk: Lucy Hutchinson, warnfordclerk@gmail.com 07717 296610

Parish website www.warnfordparish.gov.uk

Winchester City Councillors

David Ablitt david.ablitt@winld.org.uk

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

Hampshire County Councillor

Anne Small anne.small@hants.gov.uk 07889 960698

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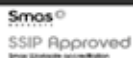
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ALLEN GALLERY UPDATE

The Allen Gallery in Alton has been closed for redevelopment since December 2025 and will reopen in early 2027 with revitalised galleries, a welcoming community space and fresh ways to experience the nationally and internationally important ceramics collection. The project has included behind-the-scenes work to repair and restore a significant number of objects to ensure they can be enjoyed for generations to come. As part of the project, Hampshire Cultural Trust is pleased to offer a range of volunteer roles at the gallery, from welcoming visitors to the venue and supporting cafe and front desk operations, to offering guided tours of the collections or helping with community workshops and events. To find out more about these roles please email alton.museums@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk. This major redevelopment is managed by Hampshire Cultural Trust and made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, as well as East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council.

CURTIS MUSEUM UPDATE

Over the summer Alton Town Council and East Hampshire District Council have confirmed interim funding support for the Curtis Museum, our town's dedicated local history museum. The venue was placed at risk of closure following a significant cut in funding to its operator, Hampshire Cultural Trust. A community campaign, led by the Curtis Museum Community Partnership, was the catalyst for conversations which ultimately secured £30k of interim funding for the Museum. A new Joint Management Committee has been formed, which brings together representatives from the two councils, alongside the Curtis Museum Community Partnership, Friends of the Curtis Museum, Hampshire County Council and the Alton Assembly Rooms, alongside operator Hampshire Cultural Trust. This group meets regularly to support the development of a long-term plan for the future of the Curtis Museum. The JMC launched a community survey in September, which has gathered just under 600 responses, sharing local views on the importance and potential of the Museum. The results will be available by the time you read this. Thank you to everyone who took part. A consultation workshop was set up in mid-September, bringing together councillors for the town, local groups, organisations and residents to consider the future of the Curtis Museum. Informed by initial results from the survey, the workshop developed a wide range of potential ideas to make the Museum more attractive to visitors, more relevant to the local community and to increase funding. We look forward to keeping you updated as our work progresses.

ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER

For younger visitors - **Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons**. We're travelling back 2000 years to the Roman invasion of Southern Britain. Our resident Roman, Marcus, and our resident Briton, Cedric, are recruiting. Choose your side and train with them if you have what it takes. Continues throughout the Autumn term. **Dotty the Dodo** has a new Autumn Facts Trail to follow. Until 28th November. FREE. TALK organised by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery - **The Importance of Mediaeval Women, Part 2**. Continuing Caroline Stapleton's fascinating talk. Thursday 12th November. 7 for 7.30pm in Room 7, Alton Community Centre. Free to Friends, £2 for guests. Tea/coffee provided.

Jill Line



Friday 30th October Warnford Pop-Up Pub
Warnford Village Hall 6-9pm

Tuesday 10th November Care Group AGM
6.30pm Sports Pavilion.

Thursday 12th November Garden Club - Ann Hughes "How to make a wild flower meadow" followed by AGM Warnford Village Hall 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

Thursday 12th November and Thursday 3rd December West Meon Primary School Open Days 10-12pm

Friday 13th November West Meon Community Cinema "My Mother's Wedding" 12.30pm lunch followed by the film or 7.45pm West Meon Village Hall.

Care Group Co-ordinator
Virginia de Cosson 01730 829362

Parish Directory

Rector:

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

Verger for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

November Farmers' Markets

Sun 1st 10-1 Romsey,
10-2 Petersfield
Sun 8th 9-2 Winchester,
10-2 Whiteley
Sat 14th 10-2 Alton
Sun 15th 10-2 Alresford
Sat 28th 10-2 Ringwood
Sun 29th 9-2 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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Printers: Studio 6, Woodside Court, Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7LH

Tel: 01329 832933. Email: [print@](mailto:print@studio-6.co.uk)

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ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)

ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)

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