

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

March 2025

## Lent and Joy to Come

Wednesday 5th March is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the most serious season in the Church's calendar: Lent. In the very early days of the Church Lent may have followed the Epiphany, which finishes forty days after Christmas. But Lent soon became attached to Easter, which was the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship, and for which Lent prepared both groups.

This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith during Lent, and as penitents prepared themselves through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which, over forty days, would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously



*East Meon All Saints' Church Tournai font © A Annabel*



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

to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays) so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare or Refreshment Sunday), which falls on the last Sunday in March this year, was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent. These breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Please join us at Warnford for our Mothering Sunday Family Service. There will be an opportunity to take communion, if you wish.

Notwithstanding some Feast Days, including the Annunciation, and the relaxation on Mothering Sunday, the tone of Lent is austere, so our emergence into the great joy of Easter Day feels all the more powerful. So it is not surprising that those candidates for baptism in the early Church were instructed in Christian faith during Lent and then all the baptisms occurred on Easter morning amid much celebration and singing of many an 'alleluia'.

We have had a spell of many funerals across our parishes when it has been right to celebrate the lives of those we are missing, but it has been sad. After our own sombre season, we, like the early baptism candidates at the end of Lent, are emerging into a season of joy, as we prepare for several baptisms over the weeks and months ahead.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The whole church community and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future.

The service, with many features of the earliest baptism services, paints many vivid pictures. Just as in Lent we began with the signing of the cross with ashes, in baptism our lifelong journey begins with signing of the cross with holy oils. The sign of the cross is our badge of faith in the Christian journey.

Water is a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism and of his resurrection to new life, so we too may have new life in him.

As a sign of that new life, we also have the Easter (Paschal) candle lit, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. It is from this that the baptism candles for the newly baptised are also lit. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Please consider praying for those who are to be baptised in our parishes as countless others have in the centuries before them, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

May your Lent, however you mark it, even if just noticing the beauty of the world as the days lengthen (the word Lent has a common origin in the word 'lengthening') fill your hearts with a profound sense of an expected joy, soon to come, just as it does for us as we anticipate Easter Day.

*Fr. Tony*



*West Meon St. John's Church font © Jacqueline Annabel*

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## New Church Electoral Rolls

As is taking place all over the country this Spring a new Church Electoral Roll is being prepared for both West Meon and Warnford parishes. This is a register of baptised members of the Church of England aged over 16. It gives lay members a voice in the synodical government of the church. This starts at parish level by those on the electoral roll electing the parochial church council and those members go on to elect deanery synods who elect both diocesan and the general synod. This gives members a role in making decisions that affect what goes on in your local church and ultimately in your national church.

Although the rolls are revised every year, every six years we have to make a completely new one and those on the old roll are not carried forward onto the new roll unless they fill in the application form. This form will be found as a centre page in this magazine and extra copies will be available in the shop and the churches.

As West Meon is holding its annual parochial church meeting on Sunday 27th April, application to West Meon's electoral roll can be made from 23rd February to 7th April. Please give completed forms to Louise Clay or leave in the box provided in West Meon church. For Warnford please contact Gerry Corden.

This data is collected legally under the General Data Protection Regulation. Any queries please to [lpclay13@gmail.com](mailto:lpclay13@gmail.com).  
*Louise Clay*

## Garden Club News – March 2025

On Thursday 13th March, in Warnford Village Hall at 7:30 for 7:45pm, do come and learn about “The Art & Skills of Wildlife photography” with Mike Read.

Mike is a freelance nature photographer specialising in birds, flowers, mammals and other wildlife as well as landscapes. He lives on the western edge of the New Forest National Park giving him ample opportunity to take a wide range of images of wildlife, traditions and views from this unique area.

But his work has taken him much further afield, all around the world in fact, including in New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands and the USA. To whet your appetite for the talk, please visit the gallery page of his website to see examples of his work: <https://www.mikeread.co.uk/galleries/>

Mark has promised to bring along greetings cards and fridge magnets for sale so do bring along a little extra cash.

Any members who have not yet paid their fee for this year (still a bargain at just £5 for the whole year!) will be able to pay at this meeting. For visitors, the entry fee is £2. Please bring the exact amount in cash with you on the night. (Only £1 coins please or a £5 note.)

And just in case our dismal winter weather is getting you down, have a long look at the enclosed flyer to tempt you to take part in our Summer Show on Saturday 9th August.

*Clare Swinstead*

## The “Gallop” remains closed

The edge path around the field north of the West Meon recreation ground remains closed to walkers. Public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways marked on the Ordnance Survey map for this area, are unaffected.

*G Silk*

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## West Meon & Warnford Cricket Club 2025 Fixtures

For further information or to register an interest to play for this social and friendly team, please contact Stu Smith 07490 298309 or stuiesmith119@yahoo.com

Home matches are played at West Meon Recreation Ground with the bar open from 4pm.

### April

- 13 Stanstead (A)
- 20 Steep (A)
- 27 Milburys (A)

### May

- 4 Bedhampton (A)
- 11 Swanmore (H)
- 18 Raquetteers (H)
- 25 Shirrel Heath (H)

### June

- 1 Temple Sheen (H)
- 8 Lavant (H)
- 15 Hayling Island (A)
- 22 Bishops Waltham (A)
- 29 Bedhampton (H)

### July

- 6 The Moles (H)
- 13 Stansted Park (H)
- 20 Tichborne (A)

27 Cypos (H)

### August

- 3 Lynchmere (H)
- 10 Oundle Ramblers (H)
- 17 Tulls (tbc)
- 24 Broken Wanderers (H)
- 31 Lavant (A)

### September

- 6 Fernhurst (A)
- 14 Newport Inn (A)
- 21 Boxgrove (A)



## Hockey Club 2025 Fixtures

For further information or to register an interest to play please contact Jo Copsey 07786 830881 or jocopsey317@hotmail.com.

Home matches are played at Winchester Sports Stadium, Bar End, Winchester at 10.30am.

### March

- |       |             |     |
|-------|-------------|-----|
| 1     | Alton       | (A) |
| 11.30 |             |     |
| 8     | Romsey      | (H) |
| 15    | Southampton | (A) |
| 22    | Andover     | (H) |
| 29    | Winchester  | (A) |
| 10.15 |             |     |

*Mary Edwards*



## West Meon CE Primary School

The days of winter begin to recede as we enter the first spring month of March. At West Meon school staff no longer arrive and leave in the dark; we can stop for a while in the church grounds, breathe in the crisp early morning air, and take a moment to be grateful for the environment in which we work.

This month schools across the country take part in the highly popular World Book Day. At West Meon School, we organise a Book Week which includes activities all week based around reading and the enjoyment of books. This year we are introducing our 'Extreme reading Challenge' in which children are encouraged to capture an image of themselves reading in a very unusual position or venue. We are looking forward to sharing some of those on our website later this month.

February was a busy time for the children and adults at West Meon Primary. Owls class have been studying topological maps and investigating how that transfers to real life. They have explored the way hills and mountains are represented on an OS map and used that knowledge as they walked up Old Winchester Hill. From that vantage point, the students were able to make links between the countryside and their map – what a great use of our natural surroundings. Hedgehogs class, our youngest



members, took a joyful trip to the beautiful Snowdrop Walk at Warnford. A great excursion for these pupils and an occasion to experience an 'awe and wonder' moment. As a Church of England school, we seek out opportunities to immerse our children in the delights of the world around us and use those moments to reflect on our place in it. The children took part in some observational drawing and also investigated puddles – which was a great hit!

If you have links with our school (which in our village community many do) you may be aware we had our inspection visit from Ofsted this half term. At the time of writing we are unable to comment on the outcome, however I feel it should be acknowledged how amazing our pupils are. They were able to speak to the inspectors with authority about

their school while displaying our core values of Respect, Courage and Creativity throughout the two days of the inspection. As soon as we are able, we will happily share the final report.

An Ofsted visit does not stop the continued progress of the school and we are constantly arranging training opportunities and sharing good practice to enhance the provision we offer. The team at West Meon are dedicated to providing the best educational experience for children so that they leave us well prepared for their next step at secondary school.

With spring tapping at the door, both children and adults feel revitalised and ready to learn in an environment that has so much to offer.

*Julie Slamaker, Headteacher*



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
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## **\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

### **Auction of Promises Saturday 6 September**

This is a joint fundraising event organised by the West Meon Church and the West Meon Village Hall. Our resident auctioneer, Jonathan Pratt, will be hosting the evening.

Do put the date in your diary to support our community and start to think about what 'promises' you might be able to offer – anything from holiday accommodation to dog walking and babysitting.

*Jerry Berry*

### **Gigantic hound spotted in Cheriton!**

From 2nd to 5th April Cheriton Players will be putting on a production of The Hound of the Baskervilles, a gloriously funny makeover of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most celebrated Sherlock Holmes story. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on his Dartmoor estate, with a look of terror etched on his face and the paw prints of a gigantic hound next to the body, the great detective together with his faithful sidekick Dr Watson are summoned to solve the mystery and investigate the ancient curse of the Hound of the Baskervilles. Can they prevent Sir Henry Baskerville from suffering the same fate as his uncle or will the hound claim its next victim?

Tickets are on sale now.

*Helena Gomm*



# Services in 2025

## **Sunday 2nd March**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon  
9am Benefice Mattins - Warnford  
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - East Meon

## **Ash Wednesday 5th March**

9am Morning Prayer - West Meon  
6pm Holy Communion - East Meon

## **Sunday 9th March**

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

## **Sunday 16th March**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon  
9am Benefice Holy Communion - Warnford  
10.30am Benefice Service of the Word - East Meon

## **Sunday 23rd March**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon  
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - Langrish  
6pm Evening Prayer - West Meon

## **Sunday 30th March**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon  
10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service  
& Eucharist - Warnford

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## APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred title (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**1: I declare that** (please tick only one box from options A or B)1A ☐ I am baptised, am a lay person, and am aged 16 or over1B ☐ I am baptised, am a lay person, and become 16\* on \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Those who become 16 in the next twelve months may complete the form and become eligible to be entered on the roll on their sixteenth birthday.*

**2: I declare that** (please tick only one box from options A, B or C)2A ☐ I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am a resident in the parish.2B ☐ I am a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, am not resident in the parish, [but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months] [and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because \_\_\_\_\_].2C ☐ I am a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, am also a member of the Church of England [and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months] [and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because \_\_\_\_\_].

*\*If you tick 2B or 2C in circumstances where a new Roll is being prepared, you must delete either the first set of words in square brackets or the second set. If you delete the first set, you must complete the second set by filling in the space at the end.*

**I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll of the parish.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## West Meon Community Cinema March/April Programme

Friday, March 14th 7.45pm – “Small Things Like These” based on the acclaimed novella by Clare Keegan, which tells the story of life in small town 1980’s Ireland where the local convent is one of the infamous Magdalene Laundries. It is an absorbing drama telling a tale of hardship and self-sacrifice starring Cillian Murphy, Eileen Walsh and Emily Watson.



Tickets £7 or £12 as a double bill with “Paddington in Peru” (see below).

And if you feel you would like to be cheered up after Friday evening we have scheduled two performances of “Paddington in Peru” the next day...

Saturday 15th March 2pm. Child and Parent Cinema with a break for a children’s picnic tea in the hall. Our normal bar will be open.

Tickets £10 per child to include tea, one parent free, under Twos free.

Saturday 15th March 7.45pm. Adults.

Tickets £7 or £12 as a double bill with “Small things Like These”.





And finally, the film you have all been waiting to see...

Friday 4th April 7.45pm – “Conclave”, a gripping drama based on Robert Harris’s best-selling novel about a papal election where Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope’s wake. We are planning to serve an Italian themed supper – details to follow.



Tickets available on line at Ticketsource, in the village shop (cash only), or on the door (except on occasions where catering is involved as we need 48 hours advance notice of numbers)

*Rosemary Morrish*

## **Turning over stones, one turnstone at a time**

The Turnstones are fascinating shorebirds which are easily recognisable due to their distinctive behaviour and striking plumage. The scientific name of the bird, *Arenaria interpres*, refers to its unique habit of ‘turning’ over stones and debris in search of food, so is of course, where the name ‘turnstone’ originates.

During the winter months, these medium-sized waders are a common sight along the shores of Hampshire, particularly in places like Langstone Harbour, the Solent, and along the Isle of Wight’s coast.

Despite weighing only around 100g, the turnstone is a remarkable migrant, traveling incredible distances during its seasonal migration. Originating from breeding grounds in northern regions such as Lapland, Greenland, and even as far as Canada, these waders make long, arduous journeys - sometimes covering up to 1,700 miles - to reach their wintering sites.

*Turn over for more!*

The UK serves as a crucial stopover on their migratory route, a pit stop to rest and refuel before continuing their journey further south to Africa. These passage migrants rely on the UK's coastal habitats to sustain them during this critical phase of their migration. Although a migrant to the UK, it can also be seen all year-round as different populations arrive throughout the seasons.

The birds seek out the rocky shorelines, tidal mudflats, and sandy beaches where they feed primarily on small invertebrates, crustaceans, and molluscs, often flipping over small rocks and shells with their strong bills to uncover hidden prey.

The turnstones striking plumage changes with the seasons. In summer, their feathers are rich with orange, black, and white tones, making them particularly noticeable against the backdrop of coastal scenery. In winter, their plumage becomes more muted, offering them better camouflage among the pebbles and rocks they scavenge.

They are widely recognised by different names across countries due to their unique habits and widespread distribution. In addition to turnstone, it is also sometimes called the 'sea quail' in coastal communities, referencing its stout build and patterned plumage. In North America,

there is also a second species, the 'black turnstone', which lives on the Pacific coast.

Their long-distance migration is a testament to the turnstone's resilience and adaptability. The birds offer a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of global ecosystems and the importance of preserving coastal habitats for migratory species.

Conservation efforts are essential to protecting their habitats and ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the sight of these fascinating birds in the wild.

Find out more on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: [hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone](http://hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone).

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

*Turnstone © Tom Marshall*





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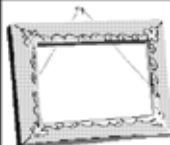
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## West Meon Parish Council

**Parish Council Hub** - Drop-in, support your community and have your say. Location: Cuppacheeno, The Village Shop, West Meon. Time: 9-10am. Dates: Saturday 5th April, Wednesday 2nd July and Saturday 4th October 2025. It's a casual opportunity to ask questions and meet some of your Councillors. Whilst you're visiting the wonderful amenities of the village, please pop in for a chat.

**West Meon Parish Council – New Members. Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk** - I moved to West Meon seven years ago with my husband, Dan. When we were looking for somewhere to live we had a few things on our list: a small village with access to great country walks, a shop and a pub! West Meon ticked all the boxes but we soon discovered that it offered so much more. The first person we met was Charlie Tuck. He was walking by when we were viewing what would become our home. He gave us a warm welcome and told us how friendly everyone was here, and he was right! West Meon has turned out to be a better place to live than we'd ever hoped for, and a large part of that is because of the vibrant and supportive community. Since living here we've got involved with the wine society, the village fete, the boules, dog walking with our new friends and so much more. I've particularly enjoyed volunteering for the Wine Society and helping them organise events and maintaining their website. Taking on the Parish Clerk's role felt like a natural step forward to contribute more to the community. I've spent most of my life in business, either working for large companies, or more recently setting up my own business. I feel I've got a lot of transferable skills that will make me a useful addition to the team. Throughout my career I've got the most joy from collaborating and building relationships with people. I'm really looking forward to getting to know more of our community and supporting our magnificent village.

**Jacqueline Humphreys, Councillor via co-option** – I am delighted to join West Meon Parish Council and to have the opportunity to support our wonderful community. Having lived in the village all my life, I am committed to preserving and enhancing what makes West Meon such a special place. For 25 years, I have been actively involved in managing Compass House Nursery in the village with my family, caring for many local children and building strong connections with families. I have a keen interest in improving facilities for local children, providing safe, engaging spaces that support learning, development, and well-being. Being part of the Parish Council allows me to be actively involved in shaping and enhancing these aspects of village life, ensuring West Meon remains a welcoming and accessible place for everyone. I look forward to working with residents and hearing your ideas on how we can continue to support our community.

**Stephen Hickmore, Councillor via election** – I have lived in Woodlands for 36 years, after growing up in London. I qualified as a civil engineer, before working in the construction industry on projects including hospitals, hotels and supermarkets. When my children attended West Meon School I was promoted to house husband and local “handyman”, at this point becoming more closely involved in parish life. I used to drive for Lance Poole's taxi service so grew to know more members of the parish whilst getting them to school or the airport. For some years I ran a variety of stalls at our village fete, with old favourites like “bash the rat” and some novel ones, for example “guess the combined weight of the turkey and mother-in-law”! A favourite with villagers involved our family's pet ferrets. However, I suspect I am probably

best known for my roles in West Meon Players as the pantomime dame – I don't seem able to shake that one. Perhaps in time I will come to be known as a devoted parish councillor, serving his community with compassion, care and consideration.

**Sue Fowler, Councillor via election** – I moved to West Meon in August 2001 and, from our very first weekend here, my husband Peter and I knew this was our forever home. Since retiring, I've supported a charity in Liphook and volunteered in the village shop. Just before lockdown, Peter also retired, and together we became part of the key team for the West Meon Wine Society, organising events and sourcing wines to support the village shop. After Peter passed away, the support from the community during this deeply emotional time has been outstanding. A couple of years have passed and now I have the time and energy to give back to this wonderful village - engaging with the community, tackling ongoing and new challenges to protect and improve our community and village projects.

**Tim Main, Councillor via co-option** – After 30 years of living in the centre of West Meon, it's a pleasure to try and give back to village life. Aiming to contribute, if only in a small way, to help to enhance, protect and grow the fabulous area in which we all live. I can often be seen walking Truffle, whilst also understanding a thriving community needs to balance the beauty and protection of the Meon Valley with employment, new businesses and opportunity growth for the next generation.

## Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website 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.

WPM has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.) If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk. The AGM will be on 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## West Meon, Warnford, Winchester City and Hampshire CC Contacts

### West Meon Parish Council

Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk to WMPC,

[clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk)

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Robin Gedy, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Jacqueline Humphreys, WMPC

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

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

### Winchester & Hants County Councillors

#### Winchester City Councillors

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

01962 771256

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

877633

#### Hampshire County Councillor

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

### Warnford Parish Meeting

Chair: Vacancy, [warnfordchair@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordchair@gmail.com)

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk,

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

### Member of Parliament for Winchester

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



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## Legacy Action Week

Winchester is home to many charities, and Legacy Action Week (7–13th April 2025) is the time of year when we smaller local ones come together to remind people that we're as equally deserving as the larger, more well-known charitable organisations.

You may know some of us and what we do from personal experience. Others you may not have known existed at all. Together, our charities help people from the moment they're born all through their life to the moment of their passing – a whole life cycle. And each of us plays a vital part in helping the people of Winchester and the surrounding communities live better lives.

Once you've taken care of your own loved ones, you may want to consider donating a tiny fraction of the value of your home as a gift; and that gift, if only a little, can mean such a lot. Small local charities use legacies in a very impactful way.

During Legacy Action Week, you'll find access to events where you can get free practical advice on will-making, probate and legal matters. So, if you're thinking about leaving a donation in your will to a deserving cause, you've reached the right place. Just go to [www.legacyactionweek.com](http://www.legacyactionweek.com), click on a partner logo and make a gift that makes a real difference, one that will be valued for generations.

You can't take it with you. But you can do amazing things with it before you go. Let's be remembered for good.

*Iain Steel, Richard Steel & Partners*



## Petersfield Youth Theatre News

We are delighted that our much-loved Easter Holiday Activity is back this year! We are offering children and young people the opportunity to take part in a fun and creative experience this Easter. Participants will spend four days working with a team of Directors and Musical Directors, staging songs alongside professional Musical Theatre performers. On the fifth and final day, two performances will take place with a live band for friends and family to

enjoy. It's the perfect opportunity to meet new friends, gain confidence and perform in a fun and creative atmosphere. All details and booking on our website [www.pyt.org.uk](http://www.pyt.org.uk).

*Charlotte Godfrey*

## Rainfall report for January to mid-February

January rainfall ended with 156.4mm (6.15"). February has been a relatively dry month so far giving just 12.8mms (0.5"). The total for the year to mid February is 169.2.mms (6.58"). This compares with 165.7mms (6.52") in 2024.

If you wonder why things are growing very slowly this year, in February last year the average maximum temperature was 10.9C and the average minimum was 4.2C while this year they are so far 6.8C and 1.1C and the average soil temperature last year was 7.1C and this year only 4.2C, actually colder than this January. It can only get warmer, hopefully. Another statistic: the average rainfall this February per day is 1.0 mm and last year it was 6.9mm. *Peter Short*



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# The Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

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

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum), [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

## Allen Gallery

AN UPDATE FROM HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST

The proposed start of the next phase of the project, whereby the Allen Gallery will close for refurbishment, has been delayed. The Gallery will therefore remain open for the time being.

The project will showcase the ceramics collection, create a dedicated community space and make a significant contribution to the culture, economy and life of Alton. It is fully supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders locally, including East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council. This is a temporary delay and the project will get underway later in the spring.

## 318 Ceramics Exhibition

A welcome return for 318 Ceramics, a community of makers who create and teach from their studio in Farnham. They will be presenting a range of new work for their 2025 show. 1st to 28th March. Free entry, works will be available to buy. Members of the group will be in the Gallery each day to answer any questions.

## Spring Garden Saturdays

1st and 8th of March. Take a peaceful stroll round the lovely Gallery garden, which will be in all its Spring glory. Some of the dedicated team of Gardeners will be on hand to chat. FREE, a donation would be much appreciated.

## Talk - The Work of Hart Wildlife Rescue by Robyn Leslie.

Thursday 13th March 7.30 pm. This talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, and entry is FREE. Donation welcome.

## Curtis Museum



One of the upstairs rooms has been cleared and newly carpeted, to be used for workshops and talks when the Gallery is closed for its refit. There is a new item on display - a crocheted Coral Reef. The coral reef was a project by Creating Crafts and Blooms CIC, a local enterprise bringing together people who crochet and craft. Their main project (Giving the Gift of Warmth) is making “granny square” blankets which are gifted to people who may be vulnerable in the community. The Coral Reef was displayed at Alton College for Alton Arts Festival and has been reinstalled at the Curtis Museum with help from Alton Men’s Shed. It has an environmental message, showing how damage can be done to this important habitat, but also how it can be restored. It is also an amazing feat of crochet art! See <https://www.facebook.com/CreatingCraftsandBloomsCIC/>

*Jill Line*



## Farmers' Markets

Petersfield - Sunday 2nd  
Romsey - Sunday 2nd  
Alton - Saturday 8th  
Winchester - Sunday 9th  
Emsworth - Saturday 15th

Alresford - Sunday 16th  
Southsea - Sunday 16th  
Ringwood - Saturday 29th  
Winchester - Sunday 30th

## Festival Dates

Hamble Spring Festival - Saturday 3rd May  
Alresford Watercress Festival - Sunday 18th May  
Emsworth Summer Festival - Saturday 21st June  
Southsea Food Festival - Saturday 5th July  
Hamble Harvest Festival - Saturday 4th October

### Thursday 13th March 7.30 for 7.45pm

**Garden Club** - Warnford Village Hall, "The Art & Skills of Wildlife photography" with Mike Read.

### Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th April

**7.30pm Cheriton Players** - Cheriton Village Hall, "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

### Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th April

**West Meon Youth Theatre** - West Meon Village Hall, "The Pied Piper".

**Thursday 15th May Warnford Parish Meeting AGM 7.30pm** - Warnford Village Hall.

## Care Group Co-ordinator

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922  
Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

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

### **Verger for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829 105

### **PCC Secretary for West Meon:**

Louise Clay 829 235

### **Churchwarden for Warnford:**

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

### **Verger for Warnford:**

Peter Short 829 285

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