

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

May 2024

## The Great Fifty Days

From Easter Day we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of Jesus Christ - his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and even death itself. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

In May we celebrate two important festivals: Ascension Day and Pentecost or Whitsun, which mark two important events in the Easter story.

After forty days, on the 9th of May this year, we recall how Jesus left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers.

As the Bible records:

‘As [the Disciples] were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”’

Since that first Ascension Day, we have put our trust in his reign over all creation, and we have submitted to his kingly yet loving rule.



Painting © Jacqueline Annabel



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Ten days later, we arrive at Pentecost. The word Pentecost (from the Greek pentekoste, 'fiftieth' of fifty days of celebration) or Whitsun has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover.

On the fiftieth day of Easter, Christians remember and celebrate that God sent his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it; and he inaugurates his messianic community in the power of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical colour of white at the Ascension reflects Jesus himself but our use of red in church, reflects imagery of flame in the account of the first Pentecost in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles:

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.'

You may be aware that a Bishop's mitre is shaped to represent one of those tongues of flame.

Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. It was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season; only later, in the medieval West, did it become a new festival season of its own.

After the Easter Vigil, the time of Pentecost was a preferred occasion for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost also reflect this baptismal theme. Christ's disciples are born again of water and the spirit.

There is some evidence that the ascension was first celebrated on the fiftieth day of Easter, but it was soon moved to the fortieth day in faithfulness to Luke's chronology. Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked.

The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

*Fr. Tony*

## **Rainfall report for March/April 2024**

After a very wet February and an only marginally better March one would hope for a respite in April but sadly it hasn't happened yet. March gave us 121.6mms (4.8") and as yet April hasn't really improved much, so that by mid month we have had 43.15mms (1.69"). It surely can only get better! The evenings are lighter and it has got a bit warmer and some of us have even seen a swallow although why they bother to come here I sometimes wonder.

Rainfall for January 92.6mms (3.6")

February 182.7mms (7.19")

March 121.6mms (4.78")

April to the 15th 43.15mms (1.69")

2024 Rainfall to the 15th April 440.05mms (17.3"). Same date last year 366.3mms (14.4"). Nearly 3" more this year so far.

*Peter Short*

## **Railway embankment footpath**

The footpath in the village running alongside the Railway Embankment connecting the road opposite Meadowside House to Station Road will be closed for the week of May 13th for essential tree work. Apologies for the inconvenience.

*Catherine Younger*

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Petersfield Food Bank provides bags of food to families and individuals in difficulties, who are referred by various statutory and voluntary agencies working in the Petersfield area.

***If you would like to make a donation, we are currently low on the following items:***

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**Men's/women's deodorant**  
**Baby wipes**  
**Nappies sizes 5/6/7**  
**Tinned meat**  
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**Sweet extras – KitKats etc**  
**Biscuits**  
**Washing powder/liquid**

**WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE FRESH OR FROZEN/CHILLED FOOD**  
***All items should be tinned, dried or packaged, and in-date***

For further details about Petersfield Food Bank visit: [pactfoodbank.org.uk](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk)

We have various collection points around Petersfield, including supermarkets, churches and some banks and building societies. **Food is distributed from Petersfield Methodist Church on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30.** We are very grateful for all the donations that we receive.

*If you would like our support, or are aware of anyone in need of our help, please let us know. You can email our manager at [manager@pactfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@pactfoodbank.org.uk) or come to the Methodist Church on a Monday or Wednesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30.*

There are boxes for donations at the back of St Johns, West Meon, St John's, Langrish & All Saints', East Meon Church. Donations may also be left at Blackbee House, Warnford (behind the village hall).

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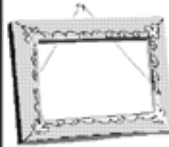
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## West Meon Wine Society

The Society is delighted to report that in the period since inception through to 31st December 2023 we have generated £47,000 of wine sales, £7,400 of events sales and an allocation of some £1900 of membership subscriptions. Our activities have allowed us to make a direct contribution to the bottom line of our village shop of £5,700, being approximately 10% of total sales.

The West Meon Wine Society was established as an independently run division of the West Meon Village Shop in May 2020. Its purpose is to help our members discover new and interesting wines, have fun with a growing network of their friends and neighbours, and raise more revenue to help support and secure our much-loved village shop. The Society is being managed by the following team of local residents: Jerry Berry, Sue Fowler, Mark Hammond, Bernice Gibson-Ost, Nigel Haigh, Richard Middleton,

John Scholes, Sue Scholes and Graham Walker.

In April, we ran a successful Bordeaux wine tasting with guest speaker Roy Gillingham of Fareham Wine Cellar which was held in the West Meon Sports Pavilion. We are planning more events during the course of the year. Please visit [www.westmeonwine.co.uk](http://www.westmeonwine.co.uk) for more information on forthcoming events and membership, and to view and purchase our excellent selection of wines. Orders made online by a Wednesday are normally available for collection at the village shop on the following Friday or Saturday (in line with information given in a Society email after the order has been placed).

*West Meon Wine Society Management Team*

## Bake a cake

I am running the cake stall this year at the West Meon Village Fete on Saturday the 8th of May and would really like you lovely cake makers to help me. If you can spare the time to make any kind of cake, biscuits, scones etc I would really appreciate it. Zanna is a hard act to follow and I don't want to let the stall down. If you can help let me know please on [helen.ripper@outlook.com](mailto:helen.ripper@outlook.com) or 07973 291 528.

*Helen Ripper*

## West Meon Primary School

The Owls class enjoyed the visit to the Science Centre in Winchester and Foxes class loved the Living Rainforest. Also, Hedgehogs had a great time visiting Portchester Castle.



The children dressed in red to raise money for Sports Relief and at the end of term it was the traditional egg rolling and decorating, judged by Mr Major. I was very touched that the theme this year was Mrs Kelly and there were many great creations, including leading the Y5 residential, swimming and assemblies.

We reintroduced our Spring Music Evening in the church, which included children who play instruments at home as well as at school and the children were confident and eager to show off their talents.

Following on from my visit to Westminster; in June I will be taking the School Council up to London, so Flick Drummond MP can show them around as well.

This term, with hopefully better weather, we will have more sports events, with our traditional sports afternoon as well as the small schools football tournament, the girls' football tournament and the infants' multi-sports day.

Y4 this year are taking part in a workshop at Legoland as well as their visit to the Hawk Conservancy.

Y5 will be having their residential at Stubbington to observe the foxes and badgers from the hide and this year the whole school will go down on the first day to do activities such as pond dipping and seaside walks.

After SATS, Y6 have their residential at Fairthorne Manor, where they have a variety of activities including kayaking, abseiling and archery.

The governors continue to hold drop ins for parents and produce a termly newsletter, while they are busy behind the scenes preparing for the leadership of the school after I retire in the summer, after just over 13 years at this wonderful school.

We have a few places for Year R and across the school in September. Please look at our website to see all of the activities we offer.



*Julie Kelly, Headteacher*



## West Meon Village Shop

The Easter Raffle was won by Jane Waller and it made a total of £78 for the village shop. The winners of the 200 Club April prize draw were as follows: 1st Prize of £200 to Denise Dees; 2nd Prize of £100 to Rheba Cole; 3rd Prize of £50 to Barry Collins; and 4th Prize of £25 to Jenny Jenkins. If you are not already a member and wish to join, then applications forms are available from the shop. It is a great way to support your community shop. The prizes are £40, £20, £10, and £5 in February, June, and October; and £200, £100, £50 and £25 in April, August and December.



*Photo: Christopher Pledger - The Telegraph 05/23*

This year the shop will have to have a section of the roof removed and replaced. We have had to have emergency repairs with the recent downpours and now we must fix the roof properly. Additionally, we are obliged under the new lease to redecorate the exterior walls and woodwork by June of this year. These obligations are a continuation of those obtaining under the original lease being a “full repairing” condition. Happily, the shop is fortunately in a position to fund these major expenses partially thanks to a grant held over from Covid days and more particularly through the sterling efforts of the West Meon Wine Society and our stalwart customers. The shop needs as much support as you can give, both by using it and enjoining your friends to do so too.

We are looking forward to the solar panels providing more energy now that the weather is improving, and the sun begins to shine at long last. Additionally, our new milk chiller is helping to reduce the shop’s enormous electricity bills. *West Meon Village Shop Committee*

## Creeping Jenny, Fat Hen and the Town Hall Clock

Plants can have many names. An individual plant may be known by a common name (of which there may be several) along with its Latin name (which is unique to each plant). These names are frequently descriptive, and can also be quite simple or just totally bizarre.

A widespread and common plant with an amusing name is the Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*). This plant grows in gardens, arable fields, roadsides, hedgerows and many other habitats. It is so common that it is often considered a weed. The Fat Hen flowers from June to October with spikes of whitish flowers rising from diamond shaped leaves. Before the introduction of spinach, it was often served boiled and buttered alongside meat. These days, it is considered a good food source for birds and insects. Fat Hen also goes by several other obscure names, including Bacon Weed, Dirty Dick, Goose Foot, Lamb's Quarters (USA) and Pig Weed.

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) is a low growing perennial plant found in wetlands, riverbanks, ponds and wet woodland. Flowering from May to August and most prevalent in Southern England, the Creeping Jenny has a sunshine-yellow, cup-like flower crowning stalks that branch off a main stem. Its name derives from how the plant will 'creep' or spread through wet habitats with its spreading mats of long stems. A hardy plant with evergreen leaves and an attractive flower, it is a popular plant for gardeners to grow alongside a pond or water feature.

One of the strangest plant names is the Moschatel Town Hall Clock (*Adoxa moschatellina*).





Firstly, the 'moschatel' part comes from the flower's musk-like scent. As for the 'Town Hall Clock' part, that is in reference to how the flowers face out in four different directions 90 degrees to each other sitting on top of an erect, slender stem. Each stem has five flowers with fifth facing upwards. This plant can be seen flowering between April and May and is widespread through most of the UK. It prefers shaded, moist habitats and is often found in deciduous woodland.

Visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website to discover more species with unusual names: [www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer).

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

*Photos: Creeping Jenny (previous page) by  
Richard Burkmarr*

*Fat Hen (left) by Philip Precey  
Moschatel Town Hall Clock (below) by Mike Read*



# Services in the Upper Meon Benefice

## Sunday 5th May

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Mattins.

**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Sunday 12th May

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Langrish.** Benefice Service of the Word.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Eucharist.

## Sunday 19th May Pentecost

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**9am Warnford.** Benefice Holy Communion.

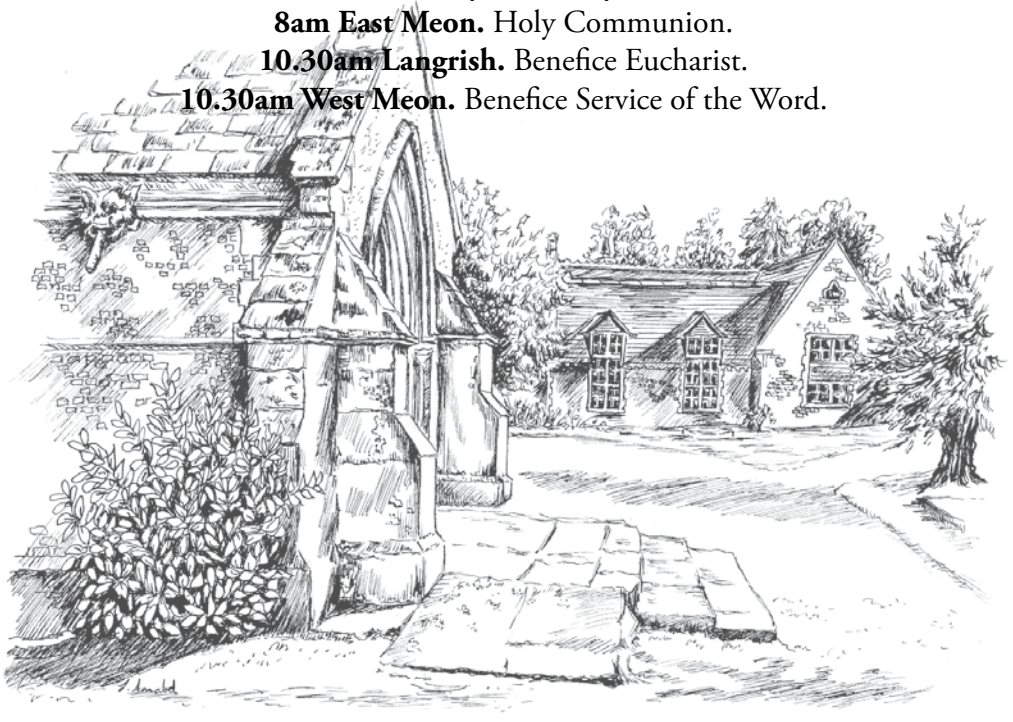
**10.30am East Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word - All Age Worship.

## Sunday 26th May

**8am East Meon.** Holy Communion.

**10.30am Langrish.** Benefice Eucharist.

**10.30am West Meon.** Benefice Service of the Word.



## West Meon Cricket fixtures and Sports Club AGM

The date and time of the Sports Club AGM is to be held on Monday 20th May at 18:30 in the pavilion, West Meon.

Cricket fixtures for the next couple of months are:

5th May - GOBS (a) 2pm

12th May - Swanmore (a) 2pm

19th May - Racqueteers (h) 2pm

26th May - Shirrel Heath (h) 2pm

2nd June - Temple Sheen (h) 2pm

9th June - Lavant (h) 2pm

16th June - Milburys (a) 2pm

23rd June - Bishops Waltham (a) 2pm

30th June - Robins (h) 2pm



If you are interested in playing social Sunday cricket please contact Stu Smith whose phone number is now 07490 298 309.

*Mary Edwards*



*West Meon Village Hall with scaffolding. Photo: A Annabel*

## West Meon Village Hall

The village hall has now launched its own website – [westmeonvillagehall.org.uk](http://westmeonvillagehall.org.uk) – where you can find all the information you might need about the facilities offered by the hall.

The website includes a calendar and online booking system which is easy to navigate.

If you would prefer to continue booking with our secretary, Hazel Town on 01730 29584 or [westmeonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westmeonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk) these option is still available.

This is a positive step for the village hall and we hope that the new system will add to the general modernisation of the hall.

*Rosemary Morrish*



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## W.I. Report May 2024

Our AGM was held on Monday 8th April at West Meon Village Hall and on this occasion it was hosted by Kathy Winter, our Regional WI advisor. Carol Dees, our Treasurer, commenced by giving us her Treasurer's Report, in which she reported another good year with the bank balance being in a healthy state, which enabled us to make a donation of £500 to the Village Hall. Our subscriptions are now due and currently we have 31 paid up members, with one or two more in the pipeline.

Angie Trenchard, our Chairman, thanked Carol and said that following the success of the last year we are looking forward to another successful year with interesting and varied speakers and a coach outing to Woolbeding Gardens near Midhurst on 13th June 2024. We also have a £100 bursary from the W.I. which we intend to use to host a film show and lunch for our members.

Rosemary Morrish, our Secretary, said that we had a steady membership, who enjoyed the monthly talks and in particular a lovely evening outing to Warnford Park last June, where we all enjoyed drinks and canapes in the sunshine. Rosie said that the new tea rota will comprise of two people each month rather than three. Following our Resolutions lunch held in January, and throughout the W.I. network, the subject to gain the largest number of votes was 'Dental Healthcare'.

Angie then thanked the Committee for all their hard work, and in particular Rosie, for keeping her in order!

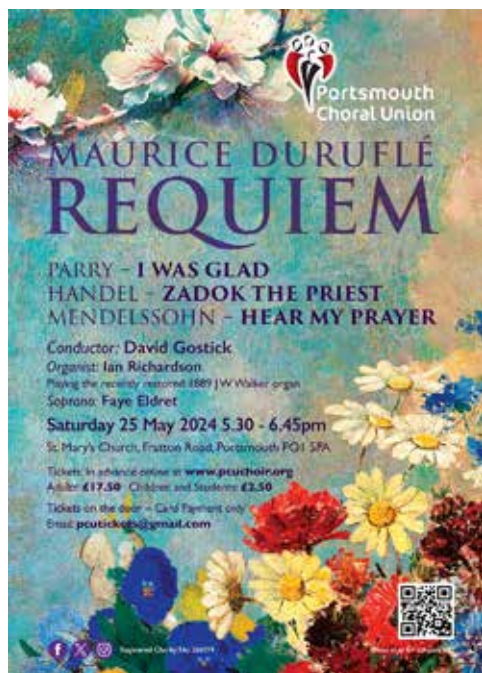
Our flower arranging competition was judged by Cathy Winter, and the winner was Jan Gavin who was presented with a Trophy.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Richard Murphy and the title of his talk was 'And now the good news', which provided a welcome antidote to all the dismal news we are currently immersed in!

Richard is an Actuary by profession, and on his own admission loves lots of statistics, which he used to illustrate his presentation. He likes his talk to be interactive with the audience. He covered subjects such as child mortality, poverty reduction, children's education, women in the workplace, food security and the basic standard of living. Climate change is a significant factor and power provided by wind power is vital going forward. Richard's talk was fascinating and amazingly thought provoking!

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 2pm when our speaker will be Peter Ashburn and the subject of his talk is 'Orchids, Wild and Beautiful'. Guest admission is £4, so do come and join us.

*Sue Kinlochan*



Portsmouth Choral Union

# MAURICE DURUFLÉ REQUIEM


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Portsmouth Choral Union 2024



# West Meon Community Cinema



Our film this month on Friday, May 10th is 'Next Goal Wins' – this is the story of the American Samoa soccer team, who suffered the worst defeat in World Cup history, losing to Australia 31-0 in 2001. With the 2014 world cup approaching, the team recruits a down-on-his-luck, maverick coach (Michael Fassbender) to help turn around their fate.



Tickets available...

On line at [Ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall)

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*Rosemary Morrish*







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**helenagomm40@gmail.com**

## **Garden Club News**

Over thirty people (both members and non-members) attended our April talk, "Birds of the Hampshire Coast", with Keith Betton, Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society. Keith kept us glued to our seats as he showed us slide after slide of birds, some familiar to all of us, some not so. An engaging lecture, punctuated by snippets of information about birds' migratory habits, among other topics. You probably knew that they follow the sun to navigate during the day. But did you know that at night they can recognise a star pattern to guide them to their destination? In one experiment, caged birds were taken to the planetarium, then, depending on what starfield was projected onto the ceiling, turned around in their cages to make sure they always faced their intended trajectory. Or that when the sky is overcast, some are able to use taste and smell to reach the sea?

In May our main event will be our Plant Sale and Supper on Thursday 9th May in Warnford Village Hall at 6:30pm for the Plant Sale, followed by Supper at 7pm with catering provided by Becky from the Cuppacheeno Café. If you haven't already booked, and to choose your preferred menu, please contact Clare Swinstead by Saturday 4th May (clareswinstead@gmail.com or phone in the evenings on 01730 829059).

Over the weekend of 11th and 12th May, do visit Larksfield Nursery in Warnford. Contact Laura at Larksfieldnursery@gmail.com. There may be a local garden visit at the end of May, to be confirmed. For more information visit our new website and go to *Upcoming events: <https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountrysidelhome>* or simply Google 'Warnford West Meon and Woodlands Garden and Countryside Club'.

*Clare Swinstead*

# **West Meon Parish Council & Warnford Parish Meeting News**

## **May elections**

May will see local elections taking place. These are for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the County Council representative for the Meon Valley Division. The latter is because the post holder Hugh Lumby has stood down. WMPC would like to thank Hugh for his hard work and caring attitude towards matters that affected parishioners and wishes him well for future years. Parishioners are reminded that they must take ID to the polling station in order to vote in person.

## **Repairs and projects**

WMPC is delighted with the new play equipment at the recreation ground and hopes parishioners will use the equipment for many years. The flashing 30 MPH signs on the A32 are due to be replaced by Hampshire Highways. WMPC has also approached Highways regarding a number of other speed and pedestrian safety matters in West Meon and we hope for a positive outcome. WMPC has requested that the steps leading to Storey's Meadow from Marlands Lane be repaired. Parishioners are reminded that they can report road issues including pot holes via the Hampshire Highways website.

## **A Frame and Banner Policy**

WMPC has now agreed the new policy. Those wishing to display banners at The Cross or use A frames for notices should read the policy, which can be seen on the WMPC website and in the parish noticeboard in West Meon.

## **Recreation ground bins**

WMPC is hoping to have larger waste bins placed on the recreation ground that will be emptied regularly by WCC.

## **Parish Design Statement (PDS)**

The new PDS will go back to SDNP after revisions in May. The National Park will then organise a final public consultation in the early summer.

## **Use of footpaths**

WMPC would like to remind users that designated footpaths in the parish should not be used by horse riders or cyclists, unless they have been given permission by the land owner. Bridleways are open to horse riders.

## **Parish Council Meetings**

Parishioners are always welcome at WMPC meetings. Here they can hear about the work of their Parish Council and raise issues during the allotted time for public participation. Parishioners can also raise questions with the Clerk by email or letter. Parish Council meetings are meetings of the Parish Council held in public but are not open public meetings or debating chambers. More open discussion with parishioners should happen at the Annual Parish Meeting, which is held in April each year.

## **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website, which also has details of local facilities & services, village news and events etc. Please sign up for Alerts so that you will be informed of forthcoming events etc. The Chair has an email distribution list for parishioners which is used to notify of Parish Meetings (there are two per year, in May and November) and other parish related matters. If you would like to be added to this list, please email the Clerk. The website Alerts system no longer covers local planning applications but, as explained on the website, you can register with South Downs National Park Authority to receive details of these by email.

The WPM AGM will be held on 23rd May, 7.15 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall, all parishioners welcome. Please send any suggestions for the Agenda to the Clerk. Papers relating to the AGM will be posted on the website in advance of the AGM.

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

### **West Meon Parish Council**

Jo Tester  
Clerk to WMPC  
clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk  
02392 632106

Angie Trenchard  
Chair, WMPC

Mac Edwards,  
Vice Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, WMPC

Hannah Davies, WMPC

Robin Gedye, WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Allan Thomson, WMPC

Chris Waller, WMPC

### **West Meon Parish website**

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

### **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Mark Rogers, Chair  
chairman@warnfordparish.co.uk

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk  
warnfordclerk@gmail.com

### **Warnford Parish website**

[www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village.7802/about-us](http://www.hugofox.com/community/warnford-village.7802/about-us)

### **Winchester & Hants County Councillors**

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

Jerry Pett 01489 877633  
jpett@winchester.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor  
Subject to by-election

Member of Parliament for Meon Valley  
Flick Drummond  
01962 679920  
[Flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk](http://Flick.drummond.mp@parliament.uk)



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## Garden open for heart charity

A private garden will open to the public for the first time in mid May, to raise funds for Alton heart charity Cardiac Rehab.

The gates of 3 Timbercroft Close, Four Marks, GU34 5BB will be open between 2pm and 5pm on Sunday 12th May, allowing visitors to enjoy this wonderful spring flowering garden, with ornamental features and village views.

Entry costs £7.50 to include a cup of tea and piece of cake, children go free.

Mature shrubs and vibrant colour from acers, rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias, on a quarter of an acre. Also peonies and diverse perennials. Plant stall. For details/tickets see: [cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events](http://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events)

**The charity also supports older people wishing to stay well, those recovering from cancer, strokes and people awaiting joint surgery.**

*Isobel Brotherton*



## West Meon Village Fete Saturday 8th June: We need your help

To make our annual fete a HUGE success we need VOLUNTEERS to:

- help on stalls during the afternoon especially cakes, plants, books and bric-a-brac
- organise parking (one of two shifts)
- erect gazebos/set up tables in the morning and take down later
- help with children's activities
- man the gate to welcome visitors
- sell raffle tickets outside our shop on the three Saturdays beforehand

we also need DONATIONS of:

- cakes and scones, books, bric-a-brac, plants and bottles
- tombola (new/unwanted gifts please)
- Union Jack bunting (to borrow for the day)
- Gazebos (to borrow for the day)

Please respond and make this the best fete EVER.

Susan Berry 829014/07941096308

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



Froxfield Choir

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**Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery** Open Tuesday to Sunday. Curtis 10am–4.30pm. Allen 10.30–4pm.

ALLEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS **Echoes of Iceland** - this group of four professional textile artists presented a most interesting and popular exhibition in 2023. Their current exhibition is in the Gallery until 12th May.

**Re:Connecting - Habitats, Wildlife, People** - an exhibition of work by ceramicist Bridget Macklin and photographer Alex Potts, delivered in partnership with The Friends of Blacknest Fields, Binsted Parish Council and Alton Natural History Society. Nature is infinitely varied, essential to our own survival and brings joy. But our wildlife is in steep decline. Vast areas of natural habitat have been destroyed, the vital connections between sites and species severed, and our own lives divorced from nature. We can and must act to reverse these trends, since we break the connections at our peril. This exhibition of specially commissioned ceramics and photography celebrates the restoration of a local site for nature and demonstrates the power and joy of community action in reconnecting habitats, wildlife and people. We hope it will inspire others to act, by showing that declines in biodiversity can be reversed when enthusiastic volunteers collaborate with experts, bringing benefits to wildlife and people. 15th May-23rd June. There will be a programme of events for local schools and the public, run in association with The Friends of Blacknest Fields and Alton Natural History Society, which will amplify the exhibition's messages within the wider community.

GALLERY WORKSHOPS **Raw Clay workshop** - Saturday 18th May, 2-4pm. Join ceramicist Bridget Macklin to create 'seedy beasties' using clay mixed with wildflower seed. Then take your creations home and leave them outside, where sun and rain will help the seeds to grow into a wildflower patch in your garden. Part of the programme of events to accompany the exhibition Re:Connecting – Habitats, Wildlife, People. Tickets £12 per participant, suitable for anyone aged 8+. Please book on the Gallery website.

**Street Stories** - woodwork and 2D/3D assembly workshop - Monday 27th May, sessions bookable from 10am-2pm. Join the Street Stories team and learn to make a character from a book, myth or legend that can be part of the exciting local Street Stories art project for Alton Arts Festival. £5, pay on the day. Email [streetstories@altonartsfestival.com](mailto:streetstories@altonartsfestival.com) to book a place.

**Moths at Night** - Tuesday 28th May, 8.45pm-10.30pm. An opportunity to explore the night life of the Gallery's Garden and learn how light traps are used to study moths. Led by moth expert Chris Piper. Free event, suitable for adults and accompanied older children.

**Marvellous Moths and Minibeasts** - Wednesday 29th May, 10.30am-12.30pm. Discover the wonderful mix of moths found flying in the Garden last night, then hunt for beetles and bugs, snails and slugs and all sorts of other minibeasts hiding among our pots and plants. Led by expert naturalists June Chatfield and Chris Piper. Free event, suitable for adults and children of all ages.

TALK - St Mary's Church - **Raising the Roof** - a talk by Chris Walker, arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery. Thursday 9th May at 7.30. FREE.

ALLEN GALLERY FILM NIGHT - May's film is **Past Lives**, a story of childhood, lost love and romance, in Korean and English. It was rated as a "must watch" with 95% on the Rotten Tomatoes review site. Saturday 11th May, tickets available online at the Gallery website.

*Jill Line*

## Diary Dates

**Thursday 2nd May Hampshire Polls** 7am-10pm West Meon Village Hall

**Tuesday 7th May West Meon Parish Council Meeting** 7.30pm West Meon Village Hall

**Friday 10th May West Meon Community Cinema** 'Next Goal Wins' 7pm (doors open) for 7:45pm West Meon Village Hall

**Saturday 11th May Meon Valley Garden Club Spring Plant Fair** 10-11:30am Droxford Village Hall

**Monday 13th May W.I. Meeting** 2pm Peter Ashburn: 'Orchids, Wild and Beautiful' West Meon Village Hall.

**Thursday 23rd May Warnford Parish Meeting Annual General Meeting** 7.15 for 7.30pm Warnford Village Hall

## Care Group Co-ordinators

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922  
Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

**Rector:** Fr. Tony Forrest

**Churchwarden for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829105

**PCC Secretary for West Meon:**

Louise Clay 829235

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Andrew Sellick 829161

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## May

Sunday 7th Petersfield/Romsey

Saturday 13th Alton

Sunday 14th Winchester

Saturday 20th Emsworth

Sunday 21st Alresford Watercress Festival

Saturday 27th Ringwood

Sunday 28th Winchester

The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.

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