

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

October 2025

## **An Unlikely Saint and an Unlikely Local Hero!**

Leaving the still warm (well, warmish) days and dewy mornings of September behind, we enter into October when daylight hours are reducing and stunning changes in nature are evident. It is a time of thanksgiving and then much more. The pattern of the Church's year enriches us with the rhythm of its own seasons, punctuated by special days on which we celebrate or reflect. It reminds us of a biblical understanding of season and place, complemented by our scientific understanding of time and space.

Quite a few saints and saintly folk without that title are celebrated in October. In fact, on 1st October there are three commemorations (Gregory – Apostle of Armenia, Remigius – Apostle to the Franks, and Anthony Ashley Cooper). The commemoration of Bishop George Bell, who was born on Hayling island, falls on 3rd October, followed the next day by the feast day of the much-loved St Francis of Assisi.



*Stained glass window, St. Mary and All Saints, Drosford*

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Anthony Ashley Cooper is better known as the Earl of Shaftesbury, the great 19th century social reformer, who developed a deep sympathy with the suffering of poor and unwanted children, and his deep faith drove to seek the path of serving suffering humanity rather than pursuing personal pleasure. He believed that, 'Christianity is... essentially practical.' In the House of Lords, he was an early driving force for reform, being responsible for legislation aiding factory workers, women and children in coal mines, the mentally ill, chimney sweeps and poor children. He was unrelenting in his support of good causes, including the NSPCC.

Remarkable though he was, he is not the local saintly hero of the title. The local hero, or to be more accurate, the hero who acted remarkably in many places - one of which was the Meon Valley - was, like Anthony Ashley Cooper, of noble birth but from centuries before. I might be referring to Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons and scholar, whose capital was in Winchester and whose feast day falls on 26th October – a real contender for this article - but not this time.

Towards the middle of October, we celebrate Wilfrid of Ripon, bishop and missionary, who has a special connection to the Meon Valley as a missionary bishop. And it is his unlikeliness for sainthood that reminds us that it is often ordinary human beings, with flaws as well as strengths, who sometime do the most extraordinary things.

Wilfrid was a Northumbrian nobleman and an early disciple of the Celtic Church. Though a man of intense spiritual energy and commitment, he never relinquished his immense wealth nor the position in society given to him by birth. He was no St Francis!

Wilfrid's adolescent years were spent at Lindisfarne, most probably for educational reasons, and in 653 he joined Benedict Biscop on one of his frequent journeys to Rome. There he was greatly influenced by Gallic Christianity which was similar to the Celtic tradition, and he eventually sought to instil some of these principles into the Northumbrian Church. On his return from Rome, Wilfrid was somewhat dubiously ordained a dispossessed bishop of the West-Saxons. Noticing the rising influence of the followers of the Roman traditions, he became a spokesman for the Roman Church, rather than the Celtic Church, at the Synod of Whitby in 664, and soon after that he was appointed as Bishop of Northumbria.

Although the Church after Whitby was held to be united, Wilfrid considered ordinations performed by bishops from Scotland to be uncanonical, and so he journeyed to the warmer climes of southern Gaul to be installed. He stayed there for two years, far longer than was necessary, and on his return found that the King of Northumbria had grown tired of waiting and had installed another bishop in his place. Wilfrid used his influence and finally secured the powerful position of Bishop of Northumbria three years later.

Bede tells us that Wilfrid's career was then the subject of much turbulence and disagreement. In total he was deprived of his diocese three times, twice appealing to Rome for reinstatement. He disagreed with the Northumbrian kings and fell foul of the Archbishop of Canterbury. During one period of banishment, Wilfrid travelled south and sought the protection of the Christian king and queen of the South Saxons. In Sussex, he set about evangelising the population, who were, on the whole, pagan. Legend has it that while in Sussex a famine led to starvation among the people, so he taught them to fish and so fed them; and thus, he gained their trust.

In time, Wilfrid moved on from Sussex to be the spiritual teacher of King Caedwalla of Wessex. He travelled to the Isle of Wight and became the first to bring the Christian message

*Continued p.5*

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to the people there. At some point after leaving Sussex, he made his way to the Meon Valley, preaching to the Meonwara tribes, who had long resisted any move towards Christianity. Hampshire historians report that he built a church at Titchfield and at Corhampton. He sent out missionaries from the church at Titchfield and in 682 founded our own church of Our Lady at Warnford, where we like to believe that he made his headquarters.

His final reinstatement to the position of Bishop of Ripon and Hexham was followed by three days of feasting. Wilfrid was a man of many allegiances. He had an intense and colourful image as a bishop, but on his travels back and forth to Rome, he included missionary preaching on the way. Not only did he greatly influence the kingdom of Sussex, the Isle of Wight and the Meon Valley for the gospel, but he even took the Gospel to Frisia in 679.

When Wilfrid died his once vast diocese had been reduced by the archbishop to that of his monastery at Hexham. Having retained his personal wealth as a nobleman, most of this he left to his family, but he bequeathed two shares to the abbots of Ripon and Hexham that they might be able to 'purchase the friendship of kings and bishops'. His colourful character allowed Wilfrid to gain a foothold for the gospel in areas that were otherwise inaccessible, and his spiritual energy should not be underestimated.

In theological terms, the saints remind us that there is a communion between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven and so as October closes we celebrate All Saints' Day on 1st November or on the nearest Sunday. All Souls, complements All Saints; where All Saints is a triumphant and joyful celebration of the communion of all the saints, All Souls is more reflective and a personal remembering of those whom we love but see no longer. It recognises continuing bereavement and loss. It gives us the opportunity, gathered together in the presence of God, to express our continuing bonds of love and affection.

The Annual St Wilfrid's Walk reached West Meon last year. Join us in the footsteps of Wilfrid for the final leg of the trail departing West Meon (near Coombe Lane) at 2.00 pm on Saturday 11th October and walking to East Meon.

*Fr. Tony*

## **August Teas**

A HUGE thank you to everyone for making this year's August Tea Sunday afternoons such a success! We raised a fantastic £1744 to be split equally between St John's Church, West Meon Care Group, the Rosemary Foundation and HomeStart. Whether you helped on the day, baked cakes or came to enjoy the delicious goodies in beautiful surroundings we couldn't have done it without you and we're so grateful for your involvement and support. Many, many thanks,

*Susan Berry on behalf of St John's PCC*

## **Rainfall August to mid-September**

After what looked like being a very dry August with only 3.9mms up until the 15th, it continued in that vein until the very last 5 days, which were all wet to some degree. The month ended with 35.5mms (1.4"). September has been pretty wet and unsettled but with a few warm and pleasant days. Up to the 15th of the month we have had 82.7mms (3.25"). The total for this year up to the 15th of September is 562.4mms (22.1"). In 2024 to the same time we had 739.1 (29.1") so we are 7" down on last year, at this time. No wonder our reservoirs are very low and hose pipe bans have been in force!

*Peter Short*

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SAVE THE DATE  
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Saturday 4th October

to raise funds for the village shop and village hall.

Generous sponsorship confirmed from the Parish Council, The Thomas Lord,  
Smiths of West Meon Butchers Shop and Compass House Day Nursery.

## West Meon Community Cinema Autumn Programme 2025

**Friday 10th October 7.45pm.**

**The Penguin Lessons** – disillusioned teacher Tom Mitchell (Steve Coogan) gets a job teaching English and Rugby in a school for rich kids in Buenos Aires. Tom is more interested in spending time on the beach than in either his pupils or the political situation. During a trip to Uruguay he rescues an orphaned penguin and smuggles it back into the school, little suspecting that it is the beginning of a personal and political awakening. Peter Cattaneo directs, striking a balance between the fluffy sentimentality of the story and its hard-edged political backdrop.

**Friday 14th November 14th 7.45pm**

**Black Bag** – National Cyber Security Centre agent George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) is tasked with finding a mole in the agency. His list of five suspects includes four of his agency colleagues and the fifth is his wife Kathryn St. Jean (Cate Blanchett)

**Friday 12th December 7.45pm**

**Bridget Jones- Mad About The Boy** – a chance to catch this if you missed it earlier in the year!

More details with trailers on the website: [westmeoncommunitycinema.com](http://westmeoncommunitycinema.com)

Tickets £7 available...

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*Rosemary Morrish*

## Memorial Service for Mary Dawson – September 5th, 2025

### My Memories of Mary by Rosemary Morrish



I actually knew Mary's parents long before I met Mary. Rob and I moved to West Meon in 1975 and lived in a house backing on to the village Recreation Ground.

Every afternoon, as regular as clockwork, Margaret and Roger Weedon would walk round the Rec with their dog. I got into the habit of chatting to them and heard all about their daughter Mary who lived in South Wales and was involved in the theatre world. They were obviously extremely proud of her and I remember thinking that she sounded a really interesting person and I hoped I might meet her some day.

Fast forward a number of years and it was only when Mary and John married and moved back to West Meon that I finally got to know her and our friendship grew. We found we had quite a lot in common – we both had widowed mothers living in the village at various stages and often found ourselves

agreeing, “I don't think our mothers would have approved of that” or “I think our mothers would have thought that a good idea”!

And then in 1998 we started skiing regularly – sometimes it was just “the West Meon Ladies Ski Team” and on other occasions husbands were allowed to join us.

Mary was an intrepid downhill skier and we had enormous fun over the 25 years that we all skied together. Everyone has their own style of skiing – I can pick her out now in a bright red hat further down the mountain ahead of me, criss-crossing the piste amongst a melee of skiers and at every turn planting her pole oh so determinedly!

There was one very memorable occasion when a group of us were skiing in The Dolomites – a snowboarder crashed into Mary and she fell on a patch of ice, hitting her head (it was



in the days before we wore helmets). It was clear she had concussion so Helena and I were delegated to accompany her to hospital. As we set off down the mountain in a taxi Mary piped up “Where are we? What are we doing? Where are we going?” Helena in her very clear West Meon Theatre/Joyce Grenfell voice explained exactly what had happened – silence for a few seconds and then the same questions on repeat until we reached the hospital by which time she seemed to have recovered. It wasn’t so funny at the time and Mary could not remember a thing about the accident but we three did laugh afterwards about that journey down the mountain!

Eventually, it got to the stage where three of us – Mary, Linda and myself were convinced we would all manage to get to the ripe old age of 75, still be skiing and claim our free lift passes. It has to be said that Mary was just a little bit smug about the prospect of being the first to ski free as she was 2 years older than us. In the event none of us has managed it – the pandemic, a fractured shoulder and a knee replacement put paid to that.

Mary devoted a great deal of her time and energy to our village community over the past 35 years and I have been honoured to be involved on many occasions with her. She would willingly volunteer her help at any village event, either practically or with innovative ideas. She became a trustee of the Village Hall in 2011 and was voted Vice Chair in 2014. Her expertise in running meetings efficiently was invaluable when in 2023 she had to take on the role of Acting Chair for over a year. She expertly “kept the show on the road” at a time when the hall had some difficult issues to negotiate.

Most of you will know that Mary has been a regular volunteer in our community shop – in fact, for the past few years she and I have been covering Friday mornings between us. I am there from 9-11 and then she would come bounding in fresh from a Boxercise class in East Meon. I usually stayed on for a while so that we could catch up with each other and it was always very sociable as village friends dropped in for a chat. Of course, the two of us were quite convinced that having lived in the village for so many years we were supremely qualified to solve any problem, be it to do with the shop rota (well, Mary you’ve definitely blown that one today!), the Village Hall, the Recreation Ground, Highways, Planning or in fact anything else that comes to mind! We did however mostly keep these views to ourselves!

Friday mornings in the shop will never be the same for me – Mary and I had developed a strategy to deal with the odd extraordinary query and her stock answer was always “I’m sorry I can’t help you with that – I’m afraid it’s above my pay grade!”

I may find myself using this riposte in the future!

When, like me, you come from a small family and have no siblings, one or two friends assume an enormous importance in your life and Mary was that person for me. I will forever treasure her friendship and I feel extremely privileged that I was able to support her during those very difficult last weeks, days and hours of her life.

Mary, I promise as long as I can still wield a pair of secateurs I will continue to prune your roses, but you can be sure I won’t let John anywhere near them.

*Rosemary Morrish  
for the Dawson family and trustees of the Village Hall*

Much loved wife of John (JD), sister, aunt, grand aunt, godparent and friend.



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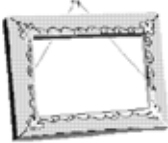
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## Keeping warm as the colder weather rolls in

The seasons are starting to change as the colder weather comes in HILS have some tips on how to stay warm in the winter.

1. Dress in multiple thin layers: Dressing in multiple thin layers is an effective way to stay warm in winter because the layers trap air, creating insulation that holds body heat. This layering system also allows you to easily adjust your clothing for varying temperatures and activity levels, ensuring you stay dry and comfortable.

2. Use Insulation and draught-proofing in your home: You could draught-proof doors and windows with seals and excluders, insulate your loft and walls, and use thermal curtains. Also, add rugs to hard floors, seal unused chimneys, and add radiator reflectors to prevent heat loss and keep your home cozy and energy-efficient.

3. Using hot water bottles or electric blankets, wearing thick socks and slippers can also significantly increase comfort and warmth.

4. Stay active indoors: engage in simple movements like walking around the house or doing chair-based exercises to generate body heat.

5. Eat Hot meals and drinks: To keep warm, eat at least one hot, hearty meal daily and have frequent hot drinks, as the act of eating and drinking them raises your internal body temperature and provides energy. A balanced diet with various fruits and vegetables helps maintain overall health, which is essential for keeping warm and fighting illness in winter. Hydration is also key and so hydrate with plenty of water rich beverages like a mug of hot chocolate, or a warm soup or stew.

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*Fiona Mackintosh*

# Services in the Upper Meon Parishes

## Sunday 5th October

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	East Meon
09:00 Mattins (BCP)	Warnford
10:30 Benefice Eucharist	East Meon

## Saturday 11th October

09:00 Walk (Steep 900)	Steep to East Meon
14:00 St Wilfrid Walk	West Meon to East Meon

## Sunday 12th October

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	East Meon
09:00 Morning Praise	Langrish
10:30 Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
10:30 Harvest Festival	East Meon

## Sunday 19th October

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	East Meon
09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	Warnford
10:30 Service of the Word	East Meon

## Sunday 26th October

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	East Meon
10:30 Benefice Eucharist	Langrish
10:30 Service of the Word	West Meon



## Assisted dying - do you want it?

Should terminally ill adults be assisted to die by doctors? This question, which is currently being debated in the House of Lords as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, is at the heart of the Annual fundraising lecture organised by Cardiac Rehab.

Dr Hugh Bethell, founder of Cardiac Rehab, has invited the outspoken writer and critic Theodore Dalrymple to share his opinions on the ethics and dilemmas behind the assisted dying debate. The Annual Lecture – which is one of the charities major fundraising events - is being held at Alton Maltings on Wednesday 22nd October at 19:00.

A retired psychiatrist, and prison physician Dalrymple is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and current Medical Editor of *The Oldie*. He has spent decades working at the intersection of medicine, human psychology and moral philosophy and written extensively about the human condition in a wide range of books, journals and newspapers.

The lecture will be preceded by wine and canapes. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from the Cardiac Rehab website, [www.cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events](http://www.cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events).

*Nicci Shepherd, Basingstoke & Alton  
Cardiac Rehabilitation Charity Ltd*



*Theodore Dalrymple photo from Cardiac Rehab Centre*

## Ladies have the last word

There will be no ladies football at West Meon this season as they have grown too big and successful for our facilities. Both the coaches and the girls were disappointed about the decision and the following are some of the comments from them:

"I'm so sorry to hear about the parting of ways between West Meon and Clanfield girls. I personally was so disappointed to hear about that."

"I just wanted to reach out and personally thank West Meon Sports Club for everything they did for the girls. I honestly believe they saved the girls teams and stuck to their guns with making sure it was girls only usage, which made a massive difference. I'm absolutely gutted that we've moved and I was dead against it. We really enjoyed having our presentation at your place last season too."

"We can't thank you enough for everything you guys have done for us! God knows where the girls would be if we didn't have West Meon over the past few seasons!"

"Thanks so much to you all for supporting us and the girls. Loved being up there and the girls are all disappointed not to be playing there too."

"A big thank you to everyone who supported us in this venture, which as you can see, made such a difference in the development of girls football and their sporting experience."

They may return for the odd match though.

*Mary Edwards*

## HAVE YOUR SAY

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Prize draw closes 26 October 2025 Ts&Cs apply. Open to all Hampshire residents, excluding Southampton & Portsmouth



## Helping Community Groups

Did you know there's a local charity dedicated to helping small community groups, village halls, and charities thrive across Hampshire?



Whether you're running a village hall, starting a community project, or managing a small charity, Action Hampshire offer practical support to help you succeed. From governance and training to grants and advice, Action Hampshire provides tailored guidance to help your group grow. They run workshops and events to build skills and connect with others doing similar work. They offer specialist help for community buildings, including funding, networking opportunities, and best practice guides. Action Hampshire works on behalf of all local charities to represent the sector's needs to local authorities and funders. Their regular e-newsletter contains useful updates and links to new funding opportunities as well as details about new project funds they are delivering. Their projects focus on tackling health inequalities, organisational development, poverty and cost of living, community led research, and rural affordable housing.

They are currently inviting applications for several community-focused projects, including funding opportunities for initiatives such as 'Healthwatch Hampshire Engagement', 'Safe and Warm Communities', and 'Let's Be Smoke Free'. Visit [www.actionhampshire.org.uk](http://www.actionhampshire.org.uk) or call 01962 854971 to learn more and see how they can support your group. *Anna Miles*

## Warnford Fete

This year's Fete took place on Saturday 30th August, and we were all relieved that the rain was delayed just long enough for a great community gathering and an excellent afternoon of games and fundraising.

Jeremy Barber, Barry Barber, Stephen Short, Nigel Cornelius and Andrew Sellick started the day setting up from 8am - two hours later all the stalls and tents were up and ready. The Playground was busy with people setting up their stalls in preparation for opening at 1pm. The Playground was looking its best, thanks to all the magnificent work that had been done by the Playground Committee.

Not only did everyone work hard on the day, but several, such as Books, Toys, Plants, Tombola, Teas and Cakes and Bric-a-Brac were preparing for days beforehand - also Jane who tirelessly does all fete paperwork months in advance. The attendance was good with lots of friends from West Meon and other Meon Valley villages, and some from as far away as Chichester! Announcements by Sally Matthews (Dog Show) and Amie Boyes made for a lively afternoon. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful site beside the river, with its adjoining swings and slides where children can let off their energy.

Many thanks to all those who took part in the fete, either as providers or customers. Due to the rain staying away until late in the afternoon and the generosity of visitors we raised a total of £2,630 including some generous donations from members of the community for which we are very grateful. Eighty percent will go to the Church and ten percent to the Playground and a donation made to the Village Hall, and so we are very grateful to everyone who has helped these three village assets. *Amie Boyes*

## West Meon CE Primary School

As the autumn weather gradually takes hold, West Meon Primary have settled into their new year of learning. There are many traditions for the autumn and winter months which seek to bring people together and spread both light and joy through the school and community. We were again privileged to provide art work to support the West Meon Music Festival. Owls class used the works by composers represented in the festival to inspire their visual interpretations.



Our year 5 and 6 footballers attended an early football festival at Bedales School where they met with other small schools in the area to try out the skills. We were particularly impressed with their good sportsmanship.

At the time of writing, Foxes class are preparing their Harvest Festival service which will take place at St John the Evangelist Church. After the service, our year 6 students traditionally collect the contributions and deliver them to some of our oldest residents of West Meon village. This is one of the many activities that link the school to the local community.

Pupil voice is an important part of our school ethos and every year 2 school councillors are elected for each year group. As part of the process they write a speech and make a presentation to their peers. Next the new school councillors are elected and attend regular meetings. Part of their remit is to support local charities and act as a voice for the children in their class. One of the first events they planned this year was the Macmillan Coffee morning, raising money for this well known charity.

Our Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) are busy planning the Pumpkin Party to celebrate Halloween. This was well attended last year and we hope for a similar, joyful event again. The events arranged by FOWMS last year raised money for our proposed library. Due to that amazing work, we have had the office converted into two working spaces and are now organising the decoration and furniture for the library space. We are looking forward to making use of this new space in the school.

On Saturday 11th October West Meon Primary will have an Open Day. This is the first of several opportunities to visit the school and observe us in operation. There is also the chance to meet current parents and supporters from the local community and to find out more about our offer and ethos. Two further sessions will be arranged in November, during the normal school day.

On 11th November at 10.45am Owls class will be delivering their Remembrance Service which is open to all. This takes part at the church and also includes the memorial outside. Children have the opportunity to think of those who gave their lives during conflicts, and also to recognise the many people who put others first every day. Respect and courage are two of our core values at West Meon school. So while the nights draw closer, the glow of quiet industry lights up our school, seeping out into the community around us, and bringing us all together to support the children in our care. We look forward to sharing our events with the wider community of West Meon.

*Julie Slamaker, Headteacher*



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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: 9am-10am

Dates: 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.

## Hampshire Highways – Salting Route Changes

Priority 1 salting routes have been updated for the upcoming winter season, with some roads being added and some moved to the Priority Two Community Network. The new Priority 1 routes can be viewed on the map in this link: <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwayssaltroutes/>

The Priority 2 and Community Network changes are in progress. Further information can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/severeweather/salting/saltingpolicy>

## Salt Bins

Currently, all the bins are inspected and refilled annually by an external contractor but from now on, the inspections will be carried out by the Highways Team and bins will only be refilled when they are less than half full. Requests from the public and parish/town councils to refill bins will still be fulfilled.

## Help Keep an Older Person Safer in 2025

Did you know? While cold calling itself is allowed, traders must respect “No Cold Callers” notices - it's actually against the law if they don't! As a dedicated home care provider since 1980, we've made it our mission to help protect older and disabled people in our community. We're proud to have distributed over 250,000 of these protective stickers since 2019.



Do you know of someone who would like to receive one of these? If so, simply email [Chris@ablecommunitycare.com](mailto:Chris@ablecommunitycare.com) or call us on 01603 764567. Rest assured, we keep privacy in mind - we don't store any personal information or share it with others. If you have a Newsletter, Magazine or FB page and would like to mention this offer, we are happy for you to do so.

With warm wishes from Able Community Care your live-in care specialists, based in Norfolk, but supporting families across the UK since 1980. [www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com)

## **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Information relating to WPM 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, 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 Autumn Parish Meeting will be held on 20th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. 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 2026-27 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.

The 2026 AGM will be held on 14th May 2026, time to be confirmed.

### **Warnford, West Meon, Winchester. Hampshire and Parliamentary 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 Gedye, 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)

#### **Warnford Parish Meeting**

Chair: Toby Drought, [warnfordchair@gmail.com](mailto:warnfordchair@gmail.com) 07788 715707

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

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

#### **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

#### **Member of Parliament for Winchester**

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

## In the footsteps of Kings and Queens



Following on from a very successful visit to Exbury Gardens in May, Meon Valley Active Retirement Association (MVARA) members were treated to something closer to home, with a private tour of Bishop's Waltham Palace ruins and visit to Bishop's Waltham Museum led by Roy Staintion, the Chair of the Museum Trustees. Roy's introductory remarks set the Palace in its context as:

- one of the finest residences of the

Bishops of Winchester;

- a key factor in the medieval economy of Bishop's Waltham;
- a significant disrupter of the lives of the population.

Members were asked to imagine how much 'waste' was created when Henry VIII, with his thousand + followers met Charles V, with an equal number of retainers, in July 1522 for the signing of the Treaty of Waltham – and they only stayed for a week! Roy also explained how the Palace was not built in one go. A succession of bishops from Henry of Blois in the 1130's through William of Wykeham in the 14th century and Henry Beaufort and Thomas Langton, built, added to (and knocked down) and adapted the Palace to suit their comforts and the fashions of the time. Largely destroyed by Parliamentary forces and fire during the Civil War, the Palace continued its influence on the town – mainly as a source of building materials.

And a little titbit, which may be true. William of Wykeham had a liking for pink stone and used it extensively in his 'upgrading' of the Palace. The stone was imported from France and transporting and working the stone became a significant local industry. Unfortunately, the dust, over time changed the colour of the workers' skin. They became PINK – hence a local family name! Following the tour of the ruins, during which Roy was able to point out the solid evidence, including former roof lines, of the evolution of the site, as well as evoking a real feel of what it must have been like to 'use' the buildings during the Middle Ages, the party explored the Museum with its collection of artifacts from the local area. This year the museum commemorates the 200th anniversary of the first passenger train with a major exhibition on the Bishop's Waltham to Botley Railway, including a display of 70







*Photos supplied by Roger Wingrove*

year old model locomotives and rolling stock, some of which actually still worked (some of the time!)

The Museum is open 12.00 – 4.00pm at weekends during the summer months. For more visit [www.bishopswalthammuseum.com](http://www.bishopswalthammuseum.com). The visit concluded with a convivial lunch at the Crown, before the heavens opened and everybody got just a little wet. Even Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, when they visited the Palace couldn't control the weather.

The next visit is to Bucklers Hard in September. For more information about MVARA and its activities visit [www.mvara.co.uk](http://www.mvara.co.uk). MVARA welcomes new members (membership is just £5.00 per annum) and new ideas. There are vacancies in the following MVARA activities: Intermediate Spanish – please contact Roger Wingrove [rogersjw634@gmail.co.uk](mailto:rogersjw634@gmail.co.uk) and Scrabble – please contact Alison Hume [hume.alison76@googlemail.com](mailto:hume.alison76@googlemail.com).

*Roger Wingrove*

## **Garden Club Shrubs: the backbone of your garden**



After a break from lectures over the summer, our next meeting will be on 9th October at 7.30 for 7.45 pm in Warnford Village Hall when we will welcome back Geoff Hawkins who this time will be telling us all about “Shrubs: the backbone of your Garden”.

A man of many talents, Geoff used to manage the 30-acre estate of a private house in Alton, looking after the greenhouses, ponds, shrubs and trees. He talks about how different species of shrubs can be mixed with not only other shrubs but with herbaceous plants and bulbs to give the garden different moods, interest and colour, all year! Pop it into your diaries right now!

*Clare Swinstead*



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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 Ceramicus

The Allen Gallery is delighted to welcome back Ceramicus from October 4th to 31st. This talented group of local potters is based in the Surrey and Hampshire area. They come together to exhibit their work, which covers a wide range of throwing, hand building and sculpting methods with various types of clay. Followed by a spectrum of glazing and firing techniques - wood burning kilns, “raku” methods and traditional gas and modern electronically controlled kilns. Come and browse, perhaps choose some early Christmas presents! FREE entry.

**Adult Well-being Workshop.** FREE but booking essential See website. **Calligraphy and Origami** Tuesday 22nd October 10am - 4pm Age: 18+.

Talks sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery. **Bees** by Lesley Ann Morris. 9th October, 7.30pm. **Mediaeval Women**, Caroline Stapleton, 13th November, 7.30pm. All talks are in the Allen Gallery. FREE. donations welcome.

**Curtis Museum** As a follow-up to our recent Anglo-Saxon theme -

**Saxons vs Vikings** - Follow our activity trail with two routes, Saxons or Vikings? Choose a side and join its boot camp on this fun family trail.



**Make a Shield** to blend in with your chosen team. Only £2 per shield with craft materials provided. 2nd September - 24th October 10am-4.30pm. 4th November - 29th November 10am - 4.30pm.

**Half-term Fun in the Curtis and Allen: The Curious Case of the Haunted Exhibits.** Can you uncover the mystery of the Haunted Exhibits this October half-term? Join us on this spooky self-led activity trail around the Curtis Museum. There is a mission for our younger visitors - we have clay ghosts hidden around the Museum, can you find them all?

**Pumpkin Spotter Trail** - can you find all the hidden pumpkins round the Allen Gallery? **Communal Craft: The Ghostly Gathering** - you can decorate and add a ghost to our communal mural! 25th October-1st November 10am-4.30pm (drop in). £2 per trail, to include Hallowe'en prize.

**Clay Ghost Workshop** (Allen Gallery). Make your own spooky (or silly) ghost from air-dry clay. All ages welcome. 28th October 11am-3pm. (drop in) £2 per child, 5th craft free. **Make your own Ectoplasm.** Slimy gooey fun with our own Museum “ectoplasm” mix. (Curtis Museum) 30th October 11am-3pm (drop in) £2 per child, 5th craft free.

**Museum by Torchlight** (Curtis Museum) Keeping the creepy theme, dare you come on the Hallowe'en torchlight trail? Spooky storytelling, Hallowe'en challenges. 31st October, 5.30pm-7.30pm (drop in) £3.75 per child, adults free. **Spooky Film Night** (Allen Gallery) Family-friendly Hallowe'en film. 6pm, 29th October. Ticketed. Details on website or at venue.

**Dotty the Dodo's Autumn Fact Hunt** - a free Family Trail. Dotty has hidden some more facts from the natural world around the Curtis Museum. Can you find them all and earn your Dotty the Dodo sticker? 2nd September - 29th November.

*Jill Line*



Saturday, 4th October 9am-10am **Parish Council Hub Drop-in** - Cuppacheeno, West Meon Village Shop

**Saturday 4th October - Fireworkfest 2025**

**Thursday 9th October Warnford Village Hall Garden & Countryside Club** - Geoff Hawkins "Shrubs: the backbone of your Garden"

**Friday 10th October 7.45pm West Meon Community Cinema** - "The Penguin Lessons"

**Thursday 20th November 7.30pm** Warnford Autumn Parish Meeting - Warnford Village Hall

## Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

## Parish Directory

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

**Vergers for West Meon:**

Michael Johnson 829 105

**Churchwarden for Warnford:**

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

**Vergers for Warnford:**

Peter Short 829 285

## Hampshire Farmers' Markets

Hamble Harvest Festival -

Saturday 4th October

Petersfield – Sunday 5th

Romsey – Sunday 5th

Alton – Saturday 11th

Winchester – Sunday 12th

Emsworth – Saturday 18th

Alresford - Sunday 19th

Southsea – Sunday 19th

Ringwood – Saturday 25th

Winchester – Sunday 26th



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

Contributions by the 15th of the previous month please to:

**The Editor:** Jacqueline Annabel

Tel: (01730) 829023

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**Advertising:** Questions regarding advertising should be addressed to:

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