

# Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

May 2025

## **Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Continuing our journey through the Church's seasons, we celebrated Easter Day in April and with some lovely baptisms in our local parishes and the lighting of the Paschal Candles, we have been truly reminded of the power of light and life.

On 8th May eighty years ago, Europe, sadly not the whole world, emerged from the darkness of war into the light of hope. All our local villages will be marking VE80. This includes bell ringing in Warnford and East Meon and a special Morning Prayer at Warnford at 9am.

On the Sunday before our parishes will combine and gather in East Meon to give thanks for the cessation of hostilities in Europe with a service based on the one used in Westminster Abbey at several points throughout the day in 1945, starting at 9am and the last being at 9pm. We plan to hold our service in the Vicarage Garden at 1030am, only retreating to the Church if the weather is unkind. Just as people from miles around travelled to London in May 1945, we travel a shorter distance but, like them, with thanksgiving in our hearts.

In April's edition, I wrote about the season of Easter. Despite the popular view that Easter is just a long weekend from Good Friday to Easter Monday, the season of Easter is fifty days long. Those of us brought up on the Book of Common Prayer were accustomed to The Great Forty



*Photo: BBC - Members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service driving through Trafalgar Square on VE day*

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Days from Easter Day until Ascension Day (29th May this year), followed by Ascensiontide, leading to Whitsun – more about that in June! Either way, 40 days or 50 days, Easter is not over!

There are a number of significant aspects of the agricultural year that the Church remembers, late in the Easter Season is 'Rogationtide'. The Rogation Days (from the Latin Rogare – to ask) are the three weekdays before Ascension Day. However, in practice, many churches have observed Rogation on the preceding Sunday (the fifth Sunday after Easter in the Prayer Book, the Sixth Sunday of Easter in Common Worship). The Book of Common Prayer Gospel includes the words of Jesus, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask for in my Name, he will give it you', words associated with the heavenly intercession of the ascended Christ.

Originally the Christian observance of Rogation was taken over from Graeco-Roman religion, where an annual procession invoked divine favour to protect crops against mildew. The tradition grew of using processional litanies, often around the parish boundaries, for the blessing of the land. These processions concluded with a mass.

The Rogation procession was suppressed at the Reformation, but it was restored in 1559. The poet George Herbert interpreted the procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship between neighbours with the reconciling of differences and of charitable giving to the poor. The tradition of 'beating the bounds', has been preserved in some communities. In more recent times the scope of Rogation has been widened to include petition for the world of work and for accountable stewardship and prayer for local communities, whether rural or urban. Our parish boundaries are rather extensive, so beating them is beyond many of us, but we shall set off at 3pm on 25th May on a shorter walk from Warnford Church to say prayers out in the fields for the growing crops, for farms and farmers and for all the other rural enterprises around us, returning back to the church for a welcome cuppa. This replaces our morning service at West Meon and all are welcome – dogs too! We return to the beautiful environs of Warnford Church for an outdoor service on Ascension Day (29th March) at 6pm. We shall recall how Jesus left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers - trusting in his reign over all creation and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, hearing the story of his parting, which includes these words of Jesus recorded in the Acts of the Apostles:

"John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. ... [You] will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.'

Do come and join us in our celebration.

A Happy and Blessed remainder of the Great Fifty days of Easter to you all!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Fr. Tony*



Photo: <https://threepires.wordpress.com/2016/04/25/rogation-sunday-walk/>

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## Garden Club News

On Thursday 10th April, Nik Knight, Chair of the Hampshire Bat Group and the Hampshire Bat Recorder gave us a fascinating talk on:

"Bats: Superheroes of the Night".

Did you know that bats can eat 3000 insects a night, that they are long-lived (up

to 30 years, with the record held at 40), that they can roost in crevices, holes and even in the bark of trees - when they've not slipped behind a displaced tile on your roof! - and most, but not all, are tiny, weighing no more than a few grammes.

You might think they only fly a few metres away from their roost site but one particularly intrepid traveller, "tagged" before its release from the rescue sanctuary where it had been cared for, visited three countries and crossed the English Channel twice in just one night's flight!

So what can we do to help?

Avoid using pesticides, invest in one or more bat boxes, build a pond to encourage more insects and keep your cat indoors at night.

For more information, please visit Hampshire Bat Group: <https://www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk/>

Our next event will be our Plant Sale & Supper which will be held at Warnford Village Hall on Thursday 8th May at 6:30pm for the Plant Sale, followed by Supper at 7pm with catering provided by Becky from the Cuppacheeno Café.

As usual, a delicious menu at just £15.00 per person:

Cheese and caramelised onion quiche  
or coronation chicken skewer with new potatoes and salad;

A trio of desserts;

One glass of wine or one large glass of orange juice or one 50cl bottle of sparkling water;

Anybody (not just Garden Club members) is welcome to join us for supper but booking is essential.

Please contact Clare Swinstead by Saturday 3rd May at the latest:

[clareswinstead@gmail.com](mailto:clareswinstead@gmail.com);

phone (evenings): 01730 829059.

*Clare Swinstead*





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# THE GARDEN SHOW

## AT BROADLANDS

Romsey, Hants

6 – 8 June 2025

Friday & Saturday 10am – 5pm (last entry 4pm) Sunday 10am – 4pm (last entry 3pm)



### Art, Design, Your Garden & You!

**The Garden Show at Broadlands** has moved into the prime gardening dates in June and is 'Set to Bloom' in the stunning parkland, surrounded by magnificent, leafy trees.

**This event offers a fantastic opportunity to discover new talent, designers, and artisans**, featuring over 170 stands showcasing the latest in specialist plants, garden and home accessories, art, design, sculpture, fashion, and a variety of delightful food and wines in the Country Food marquee. There's something for everyone, making it a perfect chance to support small businesses with unique items not found on the high street.

Beyond shopping, the show offers other exciting attractions. Gardening expert **Paul Slater** will be on hand daily to answer your plant-related questions and will present a daily talk on **'Small Space, Big Impact!'** demonstrating how compact gardens can thrive. **Richard Jordan-Baker**, Director of Establishment, Events and PR at Broadlands, will give a talk on Friday, **'Broadlands Then & Now but mainly Now'**, explaining his responsibilities as well as introducing his other role in RJB Services, a music consultancy for milestone events. On Saturday, entomologist **Dr. Ian Bedford** will host a **'Pest Clinic'** to help identify any bug samples you bring and provide eco-friendly solutions for your garden. He will also give a talk titled **'The Slimy Truth About Britain's Slugs'**, addressing the common misconception that all slugs are detrimental to our gardens. **Ben Cross** from Crosslands Nursery will return on the Sunday to share insights on the 'British Cut Flower Industry' and promote the message that **'British Flowers Rock!'**

**But it's not just about gardening!** The show offers a wealth of activities for the whole family, including a 'Giant Tombola' with fantastic prizes donated by exhibitors in support of the show's chosen charity, **Jane Scarth House** (<https://www.janescarthhouse.co.uk>). **Children can have fun** with entertainer Craze Haze, who will teach circus skills and present his hilarious Punch and Judy shows, along with toddler rides, a giant slide, and bouncy castles.

**Ongoing artisan demonstrations** along with musical entertainment from **'The Jazz Trio,'** who will serenade guests with nostalgic tunes. And don't miss the thrilling aerial displays from **Huxley Birds of Prey**.

**It promises to be a fantastic day out for the entire family. Life is wonderful in your summer garden!**

#### **Ticket Prices On The Gate**

Adults £12, Concessions £10, Child £5 (4yrs and under FOC), Family £32 (2A & 4C)

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## Under One Roof

Under One Roof was originally created to promote talented practising artists and designer makers local to the Meon Valley.

It is an introduction to themselves, their work and how to contact them.

The Spring Exhibition will be held again at the Wheely Down Forge Gallery.

There is ample car parking available.

We would like to invite you to meet the exhibitors and view their latest creations and get to know more about them.

Work will be available to buy at the venue, to commission or to hold in mind for the future.

*Ingrid Sparshott*

## West Meon & Warnford Cricket Club

West Meon and Warnford Cricket Club are looking for new players for the upcoming season.

We play matches on Sunday afternoons and we only play friendly matches so ability is most definitely not a requirement. Our players range from 14 to very late 70s so no one is too old.

If you would like to join a friendly bunch who enjoy their cricket and also enjoy socialising after the game then please contact Stuart on [stuiesmith119@yahoo.com](mailto:stuiesmith119@yahoo.com) or 07490 298309.

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

*StuartSmith*

## Cricket Fixtures

### May

4th Bedhampton (A)

11th Swanmore (H)

18th Raquetteers (H)

25th Shirrel Heath (H)

### June

1st Temple Sheen (H)

8th Lavant (H)

15th Hayling Island (A)

22nd Bishops Waltham (A)

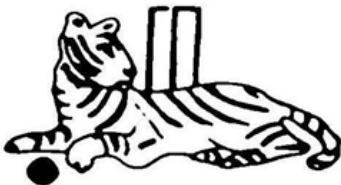
29th Bedhampton (H)

### July

6th The Moles (H)

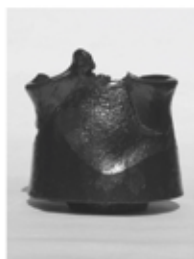
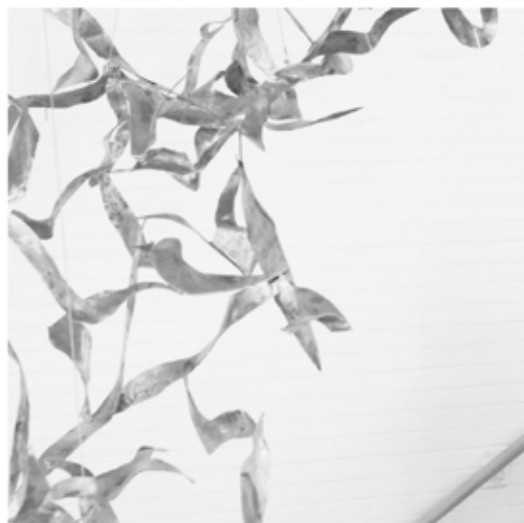
13th Stansted Park (H)

20th Tichborne (A)





# THE UNDER ONE ROOF COLLECTIVE SPRING EXHIBITION



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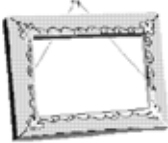
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# **The loss of the R101**

an illustrated lecture by  
**Kit Power**

**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 for 6.30pm,  
Meon Hall, Meonstoke, SO32 3NP**

(In aid of Winchester and District Young Carers. Charity no 1155854)

Tickets £12.50 (includes a £10 donation to the charity and a drink) from:  
West Meon Village Shop and from Meonstoke Post Office & Stores.  
or send a cheque to: Lecture, Blackbee House, Warnford, SO32 3LE and ticket(s)  
will be posted (SAE appreciated)

A hundred years ago many people thought the future of long distance air travel lay not with aeroplanes but with airships – huge aircraft lifted by hydrogen. The British Government embarked on a very expensive programme to build airships which would link the furthest corners of the Empire. The first to be completed made a successful return maiden flight to Canada in 1930, but the second, the R101, attempted a similar flight to India a few weeks later and crashed with the loss of almost everyone on board.

Kit will describe the reasons for what has been called “a terrible, predictable and totally unnecessary catastrophe”. The loss of the R101 was a national disaster and dealt a severe blow to Britain’s prestige and respect for its technical ability. The incident put a stop to all airship development in Britain, but the airship would have had no place in World War II and perhaps the release of resources was fortuitous.

## Blue Lamp Trust Free Ring doorbells for vulnerable residents

Ageas Insurance have been a long-standing supporter of the Blue Lamp Trust, a charity based in Hampshire which supports vulnerable adults to improve their home safety and security.

The Blue Lamp Trust and Ageas, through its Rias insurance brand, have been working together to supply and install Ring video doorbells in the homes of older or vulnerable customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. So far, the Trust have visited more than 130 Rias customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and, as well as installing the Ring video doorbells, have also carried a free crime and fire prevention survey at the property.

Ageas are now donating a stock of Ring video doorbells to the Trust to be used as a fund to support vulnerable residents in the community who could not otherwise afford to install these units themselves, but that are in clear need of them to improve their home security and give reassurance to them.

Chief Executive Officer Emma Burt said “We are incredibly grateful to Ageas for the support



*Photo: Mark Scovell, Bobby Scheme Safety Technician installing unit at RIAS customers property*

they have given us over recent years, and having this supply of Ring video doorbells that we can fit at our discretion for those most in need within our community is a real help. We often receive requests that we cannot fulfil due to the cost implications, so it will be wonderful to be able to say yes to those who really need our assistance.”

Ring video doorbells can be a great deterrent but can also be used to gain evidence in cases of domestic abuse or anti-social behaviour.

### **About the Blue Lamp Trust**

The Blue Lamp Trust is dedicated to safeguarding vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, providing them with the tools and support to live safely and independently. They offer free safety and security visits to vulnerable members of the community, providing practical solutions to help them live safely and independently.

*Emma Burt*

# Services in Upper Meon Benefice

## **Sunday 4th May**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

10.30am Combined Thanksgiving Service for VE80 - East Meon

## **Thursday 8th May**

9am Morning Prayer for VE80 - Warnford

## **Sunday 11th May**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

9am Service of the Word - Langrish

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon

## **Sunday 18th May**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

9am Benefice Holy Communion - Warnford

10.30am Benefice Service of the Word - East Meon

## **Sunday 25th May**

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - Langrish

3pm Walk and prayers for Rogation - Warnford

## **Thursday 29th May Ascension Day**

6pm Outdoor Eucharist - Warnford





## The vanishing call of Britain's lapwing

Spring in the British countryside once echoed with the distinctive, trilling call of the northern lapwing (*Vanellus Vanellus*), a striking black-and-white bird with a shimmering green back and a wispy crest. Also known as the peewit - after its haunting call - lapwings were once a common sight but today, their numbers are in serious decline.

Lapwings are an unmistakable part of the UK's natural heritage. Their dramatic, tumbling flight displays in early spring are a spectacle, as males perform acrobatic dives to impress potential mates. But while they may be bold in the air, they are incredibly vulnerable on the ground.

As ground-nesting birds, lapwings lay their well-camouflaged eggs in simple scrapes in mud or sand, on short grassland and arable land. This makes them highly susceptible to disturbance from people, livestock, and, crucially, off-lead dogs. A single frightened bird taking flight may not seem particularly noticeable, but if lapwings are repeatedly disturbed, they abandon their nests - leaving eggs or chicks exposed to predators and the elements.

Habitat loss has already pushed lapwing numbers into steep decline. Since 1967, the UK population has decreased by 55 per cent, earning them Red List status as a species of conservation concern. Loss of mixed farming, spring coppicing and the intensification of grassland management have all contributed to their struggles.

Many nature reserves managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust provide nesting areas for various species of ground nesting birds, including Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve, near Southampton, which is home to breeding lapwings.

As a nation of dog lovers, we all want to enjoy the great outdoors with our furry companions. But we must also remember that we share these spaces with wildlife that depends on them for survival.

One of the biggest challenges is how difficult these nests can be to spot, even for trained eyes, in open locations where you would expect to see them. Their natural camouflage makes them blend seamlessly into their surroundings, increasing the risk of accidental disturbance.







Lapwing photos © Mark Hamblin 2020Vision

By keeping dogs close by and under control during the ground-nesting bird season, which lasts from now until late summer, we can help protect vulnerable birds and other species. Small changes in our behaviour can make a big difference, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in our beautiful landscapes.

For more information on lapwings and how to help protect ground-nesting birds, visit [hiwwt.org.uk/news/paws-thought-dog-owners-urged-play-their-part-protecting-wildlife](https://hiwwt.org.uk/news/paws-thought-dog-owners-urged-play-their-part-protecting-wildlife)

*Helen Skelton-Smith*

## Rainfall report for March/April 2025

This is probably the easiest Rainfall report we have ever had to compile as there hasn't been any! Not quite true but it has been a remarkably dry spell. March ended with 6.4mms and to the 15th of April we have had another 8.9mms making the years total to 15th April 260.2mms compared



with 441.3mms in the same period in 2024. The only year I have recorded anything like as little rain in March was 1990 with 8.6 mm whereas March 1981 was the wettest with 177mm. *Peter Short*

## West Meon CE Primary School

As I write this, it is sunny weather and we are heading towards the Easter weekend. We have been lucky with a number of events recently that have benefitted from the good weather which enables us to take our learning outside. The children at West Meon have worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks and are very much looking forward to their well earned Easter Break.

The end of the Spring Term was filled with events to celebrate Easter. Our annual Egg Decorating competition had a 'space' theme and was judged by Michael Major, who has a long-established connection with the school. He was able to pick a champion from each year group and the winner received an Easter egg. We also gave prizes to the children who had taken part in our Reading Bingo, completing 12 different reading activities to complete their challenge.

In the afternoon, the whole school visited the recreation ground to take part in the West Meon Egg Rolling Challenge. This event has strict rules, which I will not bore you with, but which enables a clear winner to be found for each year group. At the end of each 'round', a teacher is given the task of catching all the used eggs in a bin; each successful catch was rewarded by a cheer from the participating children.



The weather was with us, and the children enjoyed an amazing afternoon of Egg Rolling and making use of the great recreational facilities of West Meon.



On the 27th March, children at West Meon CE Primary school took part in a dedication service for Mary Touchet who is the founder of our school. Children were invited to bring in a flower to lay on her grave. The response was incredible! We were joined for our dedication by two Touchet Trustees, Barbara Shaw & Fr Tony. Fr Tony led the walk down to Mary's grave and led the children in song as they laid their flowers. Two of our year 6 children read out the prayer.

Children at West Meon Primary are encouraged to think of others. During the Spring Term the school council took part in Comic Relief activities including a cake sale. Altogether they raised £210.67, quite an achievement for our small school. Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) have also been busy raising money to support a new library venture. Having already arranged a well supported 'Make the Rules' day, this hard working group of parents are now organising a main event for the summer term. They have organised a Charity Event at West Meon Village Hall on Saturday, May 17th in collaboration with local businesses.



As we enter the Summer Term, there are some changes to our staffing. Those of you who know Mrs Marriott will be interested to hear she has moved on to a new aspect in her career. While we are sad to lose her, we wish her all the best in her new position. With our team in place for the final school term, we know it will go just as quickly as the previous 12 weeks. We are looking forward to lots of challenges and opportunities to learn using the glorious outside spaces that a setting within the South Downs gives us. Let's hope some of the good weather continues.

*Julie Slamaker, Headteacher*



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# West Meon Parish Council

## Parish Council Hub

Drop-in, support your community and have your say.

Thank you to the Parishioners who dropped by to have their say. Concerns over parking and speeding in various locations in and around the village are shared concerns and under review within the Council and local agencies.

## Hampshire Highways

Report a problem.

Problems like potholes, faded road markings, damaged signs, tree roots and many more can be reported directly to Hampshire County Council Highways. Please use this link to report a problem or to see the full list: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

## Home Energy Efficiency Opportunities

Hampshire County Councillor, Malcom Wallace, shared these home energy efficiency opportunities to the Council in his latest report. To see his full report, please visit our website [www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk) and click on the 'District/County Cllrs News' tab.

The following offers advice and support but please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- Energy Saving Trust – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties.  
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/reducing-home-heat-loss>
- Great British Insulation Scheme – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D in England.  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme>
- Thermal Imaging Cameras – A thermal imaging camera, under the right conditions, can reveal where heat is being lost from your home. Your local Community Action Group (for example, SWaCS – Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore) may have one you can borrow. If not, you can reach out to Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) at [homes@winacc.org.uk](mailto:homes@winacc.org.uk) to find out more.

## 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 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 with drinks beforehand. All parishioners welcome. Papers relating to the AGM will be posted on the Warnford website in advance.

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

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



**I'm worried about my debt and rising bills**, and I want to know what support is available. Do you have any advice on managing rising costs and what to do if you fall into debt?

With energy, water and broadband bills on the rise, it's getting increasingly difficult for many people to cover their expenses. It's important to know you're not alone and that financial support might be available to help ease the burden.

### **Checking benefits eligibility**

A significant number of eligible people don't claim the benefits that are available to them, so it's important to understand what you're entitled to. You may be able to claim benefits if, for example, you're at working age and on a low income, you're sick or disabled, are of State Pension age with a low income or no income, or if you're a carer. The Citizens Advice website ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)) has lots of useful information about benefits.

### **Reducing outgoings**

If you claim benefits or are on a low income, you may be eligible for a reduction in Council Tax. Discounts can also be given to students, those living with a carer, or people who live alone. If you have children and claim certain benefits, or are on a low income, you may qualify for free school meals, transport to school, or support with the cost of uniform. To reduce other expenses, you may be able to switch to a cheaper broadband deal, get a water meter fitted, or access discounted travel options.

### **Creating a budget and prioritising bills**

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website ([www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)) can be very useful in helping you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month. If you're behind on bills, you should prioritise paying rent, mortgage payments, Council Tax and energy bills, as these are known as 'priority' debts which have the most serious consequences if missed.

Once you've got priority debts under control, you should look at credit card or store card debts, missed Buy Now Pay Later payments or payday loans. Whatever debt you're dealing with, it's important to speak to the person or company you owe money to as early as you can.

If you feel you need support with debts or rising costs, your local Citizens Advice can help or contact another organisation like StepChange.

To speak to an adviser at Citizens Advice Winchester District, call 0808 278 7861 or visit [www.citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk)

*Liv Thomlinson*



## West Meon Community Cinema May 2025

On Friday 9th May we will be hosting a special evening to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

The ticket price includes a celebratory supper followed by a screening of the 2015 film “A Royal Night Out”, a romantic comedy drama set on VE Day in 1945 when Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret manage to get out of the palace to join the celebrations. It is a night full of excitement, danger and the first flutters of romance. There is great period detail in the sets, costumes and make-up plus a soundtrack which captures the times brilliantly.

We have employed a certain amount of culinary license with the menu – there was not a great deal of enthusiasm for either “Spam Fritters” or “Guernsey Potato Peel Pie” (as immortalised in the 2018 film of that name).

Tickets £18 to include supper and film – vegetarian and gluten-free options available. Must be booked by Tuesday 6th May. Tickets available on line at [Ticketsource.co.uk/](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/) West-Meon-Village-Hall or in the village shop (cash only).

Tickets for film only £7 are available online, in the village shop or on the door. Prizes for the most authentically dressed lady and gentleman.

We are pleased to announce the recent launch of our cinema website...

[www.westmeoncommunitycinema.com](http://www.westmeoncommunitycinema.com) where you will be able to find all up-to-date information about our events. We will be having a pause during the three summer months but will post the autumn programme as soon as it is available.

*Rosemary Morrish*

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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

EXHIBITIONS **Consuo Textile Art**. Taking their name from the Latin for ‘to sew together’, Consuo Textile Art comprises alumni from textile courses at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham. Their latest exhibition continues until Sunday 25th May. FREE entry

The Allen Gallery and Curtis Museum are working with Alton Art Society at Chawton House to run landscape art and painting activities as part of a new parklands exhibition in the barn. 19th May to 1st June - details on website.

TALK Thursday 8th May, 7.30 pm. Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery AGM, followed by **Memories of the Palace Cinema**, a talk by Abbé Fletcher, the author of the book about this Alton landmark. (Available in the Museum at £12.99.) FREE, light refreshments.

**JANE AUSTEN 250**. (The 250th Anniversary of her birth.) Look out for Austen themed events in both venues between 20th May and 1st July. These will include a Regency Pastimes/ Tea and Conversation afternoon, the latter in the Gallery garden, together with free Gallery tours. **Jane's Silk Pelisse**. Throughout Alton's Regency Week (20th to 29th June) we are thrilled to be displaying an original silk “pelisse” coat. Donated by a descendant of Jane Austen and now in the collections cared for by Hampshire Cultural Trust, the author's silk pelisse coat is one of a handful of items surviving today that belonged to Jane and can be traced directly back to her.

TRAILS - Jane Austen/Regency themed trails in both venues, including one based round Jane Austen's landscape and the animals she referred to in her writings.

CRAFT at half term. Tuesday 27th May 11am: Clay Make & Take at the Allen Gallery. £6 per person. Book by email at [allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)

## Curtis Museum

We are delighted to continue displaying the **Crocheted Coral Reef** by Creating Crafts & Blooms CIC in the Curtis Museum for a few more months. There will be associated craft and textile workshops over the spring and summer.

Family Half Term Workshop/Science event. Wednesday 28th May 11am. This drop-in event was very popular the last time we ran it, so we may ask you to queue. *Jill Line*

Photo: <https://teainateacup.wordpress.com/tag/jane-austens-pelisse-coat-replica/> from Australian Jane Austen festival. Come and see the real thing!





**Thursday 8th May 6pm (for 6.30pm)**  
**The Loss of R101 by Kit Power** - Meon Hall, Meonstoke.

**Thursday 8th May 6.30pm Garden Club Plant Sale & Supper** - Warnford Village Hall.

**Friday 9th May 7pm West Meon Community Cinema for VE80 "A Royal Night Out"** - West Meon Village Hall

**Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th May 10am-4pm Under One Roof** - Wheely Down Forge Gallery, Warnford.

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

## Farmers' Markets

Hamble Spring Festival – Saturday 3rd  
Petersfield – Sunday 4th  
Romsey – Sunday 4th  
Alton – Saturday 10th  
Winchester – Sunday 11th  
Emsworth – Saturday 17th  
Alresford Watercress Festival – Sunday 18th  
Southsea – Sunday 18th  
Winchester – Sunday 25th  
Ringwood – Saturday 31st



## Other Festival Dates

Emsworth Summer Festival  
- Saturday 21st June  
Southsea Food Festival  
- Saturday 5th July  
Hamble Harvest Festival  
- Saturday 4th October

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

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

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