

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

June 2025

Reason to Race

Around the middle of the year there is often a great flurry of sporting activity being the end of the season for some and the start of the season for others. Sport can be big business these days and that can have the consequence of making it unaffordable for participants, for clubs and for major tournament organisers. There must have been great disappointment for many fans and competitors alike when they found that the 'Friendly Games', the Commonwealth Games, scheduled for next year, were without a host after the Australian state of Victoria withdrew because of the cost. For those who love sport, there must have been great relief when Glasgow stepped forward as a host city. I say a relief for those who love sport, but truth be told, those not usually interested in sports find themselves caught in the spirit of major events and children often find new sporting heroes to emulate.

St Paul, in his letters often likens the Christian life to a contest or a race, e.g. in 1 Corinthians 9, Galatians 2, Philippians 2, 2 Timothy 2. Although such metaphors should not be overly extended, they can help us to see some important truths about how we might live our lives and to remind us that there is a reward for those who 'run' faithfully. Interestingly, the New Testament imagery of the race is rarely about competitiveness, but rather successful completion. Even when the text is written in competitive terms (e.g. 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27), the emphasis remains on winning through and the suggestion is that all who persevere are 'winners'.

St Paul saw himself as being prepared well by God, who goes to great lengths to ready him



Photo: Chariots of Fire directed by Hugh Hudson 1981

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for his arduous ‘races’, his missionary journeys. Stories of moral courage and physical endurance come to light, when the ideals of the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games are being upheld or when athletes show great integrity as well as determination – then they are truly heroic figures. Eric Liddel, a devout Scottish Christian who ‘ran for the glory of God’ and Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who ran to overcome prejudice, were both immortalised in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

Jesse Owens, the African-American athlete, who won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games, stood up to racism at home and in Nazi Germany. There are many other accounts of personal sacrifice and determination inspiring others, and sadly some stories of cheating leading to disgrace and ignominy – the easy option does not bring glory.

There are probably a multitude of reasons why competitors set themselves the goal of competing in events from amateur weekend leagues to the Olympics and Paralympics, but all must go to extraordinary lengths even to get fit enough to take part, do well enough to be selected for the team, or to qualify, and then complete the event to the best of their ability as an individual and as part of the team.

In Hebrews 12, the author opens by identifying the need for ‘encouragement’ and urges us to consider Jesus, who endured the cross for our sake so we ‘may not grow weary or lose heart’ (v3). The chapter develops idea of being disciplined in our lifestyles, rather like athletes are, and for training as part of that discipline to yield ‘the peaceful fruit of righteousness’.

Serious athletes and fun-runners alike, are rewarded for their efforts by gaining respect and recognition, and just occasionally medals. For those who are running the race of a loving life, the reward is God’s love now and for ever. And, wherever we are in the course of that race, we can experience that fruitful love, especially when we do what we can to make life fuller and better for others too. We become Christian winners, not by cheating, or beating others, but by pressing on in the best and most unselfish way we can, loving God and serving others.

Go well and Godspeed.

Fr. Tony



Photo: Jesse Owens wins 4th gold medal in Berlin 1936

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Death of Mrs Joy Prideaux

The Revd Humphrey Prideaux writes:

'In 1993 Joy and I married. We both taught at Price's Sixth Form College, which became Fareham college. In 1994 we retired, and I was appointed non-stipendiary priest-in-charge of West Meon and Warnford. It was a big change for us. Our new married life was like a second innings. I could not have done the job without Joy. One person wrote, "Joy was one of those kind people who made you feel completely at ease." We are grateful for the support from people in the two parishes - the churches, the surgery, the school... Many of them have died and are now in the clearer presence of God. We are grateful for glad and sad memories. The new rectory was built. Someone said, 'Why the high wall? Are they going to have orgies?' The celebration of the Millenium was a great party. Joy helped with the Over Sixties, the Summer Fete, the Christmas Fair, and in village tragedies. We visited the Holy Land on a 'churches together' pilgrimage. Joy slept with £700 in shekels in her money belt. Betty Taylor rode a camel. Peggy Appleton swam in the Dead Sea. No Shorts allowed in The Church of The Beatitudes. Mines at the Syrian border. Storm on The Sea of Galilee. We also went to Ghana – visits to our link school, a hospital, a theological college, and a hot three-hour service. When Joy's arthritis started, we bought our



first caravan. In 2003 we retired (again) to Alverstoke, where I still minister. In 2017 Joy had a severe accident. In spite of pain and disability she continued gardening, crocheting, patch-work and caravanning. The family expanded. Last year she had three new great granddaughters. In January we celebrated her 90th birthday. On 26th March Joy was taken in an emergency to Queen Alexandra Hospital, and she died on 28th of heart failure. On 24th April we celebrated her life at her funeral in St Mary's Church, Alverstoke. God bless Joy and all of us, as we trust he does.

Revd Humphrey Prideaux

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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 Crazee 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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Celebrating notable anniversaries

There will be some exciting anniversaries celebrated at this year's West Meon Music Festival – from well-known composers to Hampshire's own Jane Austen, with the 250th anniversary of her birth being marked with a major new work.

The festival, founded by the renowned Primrose Piano Quartet and now in its 15th year will be performing in Meon Valley churches from 11th to 14th September.

The opening concert on 11th September will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Dmitri Shostakovich, one of the most remarkable and popular composers of the twentieth century, with a performance of his Second Piano Trio. Completed in 1944, the work reflects on the horrors of the Second World War and is supremely moving.

On Friday the 12th September the attention will shift to the 150th anniversary of Maurice



Ravel's birth when upcoming star, pianist Clara Siegle, who made her orchestral début at the age of nine, will be featuring some of his solo piano pieces. The late night concert that evening will include Ravel's violin and cello sonata written in the 1920s and dedicated to Debussy, while his scintillating Tzigane for violin and piano also completes the line-up at the Coffee Concert on Sunday morning.

The Festival Finale on the afternoon of Sunday 14th September marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth with performances of some of her favourite works and readings from her note books and letters. Renowned tenor, James Gilchrist is making a return visit to the festival and will be joined by the Primrose Piano Quartet for an exciting premiere of a new work by Peter Salem, known for his extensive output of TV, film and theatre music (among them the ever popular "Call the Midwife").

Other festival highlights include a morning of Viennese string quartets in East Meon church and a programme of early French harpsichord music at Warnford church on Saturday afternoon. All other concerts are held in West Meon church.

For full or full details of all eight festival concerts visit www.westmeonmusic.co.uk. Ticket prices start at £15 and will be available via the festival website from 15th June.

For more information contact: enquiries@westmeonmusic.co.uk



The Primrose Piano Quartet, one of the country's leading ensembles, founded the West Meon Music Festival in 2011. Its acclaimed discography includes classical favourites as well as many unjustly neglected works by early twentieth century British composers. Their major commissions include piano quartets written for them by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Anthony Payne. The quartet appears regularly in London at Kings Place and the Conway Hall and has toured across Europe.

The quartet is a leading exponent of historically informed performance and its recording of the complete Brahms piano quartets, made in Vienna on authentic pianos of the period, was highly recommended on Radio 3's "Record Review".

Its latest CD of French nineteenth century piano quartets, also using an historic piano, was launched in April 2024.

Susanne Stanzeleit – violin, Dorothea Vogel – viola, Andrew Fuller – cello, John Thwaites – piano.

Sue Scholes



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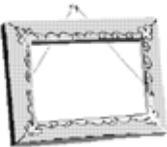
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West Meon & Warnford Cricket Fixtures

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

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)

StuartSmith



SUNDAY AUGUST TEAS

St John's Church, West Meon
We will be having teas again this summer in
the grounds of St John's
on the afternoons of
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

Cream teas, home-made cakes with hot &
cold drinks
Do come and join us in this beautiful setting!

We'd love some more helpers –
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Rainfall Report for April to May 2025

Rainfall reports are becoming almost unnecessary this year as we hardly get any!

In fact since we wrote the last one on the 15th April we have had 0.5mms on the day we wrote it, 2.2mms on the 19th, 2mms on the 21st, 15.6mms on the 22nd and that was it for the month, so April ended with 29.2mms.

May has so far produced 2.1mms on two damp days. The year to date has produced 282mm. For those of you old enough to remember 1976, by this time in that year we had had just over 100mm.

Drought?

Thames Water has said it is prepared and won't run out of water but there may need to be restrictions. Will Portsmouth Water be in the same situation?

Peter Short

Good Bye West Meon WI

Sadly, at our May meeting and in the presence of the WI County Advisor, after much discussion and a secret ballot of members it was agreed that the branch should be suspended.

Despite the continued best efforts of the committee since the pandemic to recruit younger members, our efforts have failed.

The world and womens' lives have changed markedly since the inception of the organisation which has been reflected in falling membership.

Advice has been taken from Hampshire WI and the option to revive the branch in West Meon remains should there be interest and people willing to take on officer roles etc.

Further information is available from WI House, Eastleigh, Hants.

Rosemary Morrish

Reorganisation within our four Churches

The Church Commissioners are proposing to issue a Pastoral Measure whereby:-

- a, Langrish Church will be closed.
- b. The parish of Langrish will be incorporated into that of East Meon to form the parish of East Meon & Langrish.
- c. The churches of East Meon & Langrish, West Meon and Warnford will be united to form The Upper Meon Benefice.

Copies of the formal Notice and of this Proposal are displayed on each church notice-board, with details of how to respond to the Church Commissioners before 23rd June. If anyone has any comments or queries, they are asked to contact either Louise Clay (West Meon) or Gerry Corden (Warnford) by then.

Louise Clay, Gerry Corden (PCC Secretaries)



Home-Start Hampshire supporting families in the Meon Valley

Home-Start Hampshire can offer support to anybody that has at least one child aged 0-11 years, or is expecting a baby. We support families for a variety of reasons:

- They may be feeling isolated in their community, have no family nearby or be struggling to make friends
 - They may be finding it hard to cope because of their own or their child's illness or disability
 - They may be struggling with the emotional and physical demands of having several young children
- They may have complex needs that can impact on the children's' well-being, e.g. domestic abuse, debt, drug or alcohol misuse, poor living environment etc.

New Group Support in the Meon Valley

We have a family support group at Wickham Community Centre on Monday mornings – get in touch if you would like to or know of someone who would like to come along to our group.

Anybody can make a request for support to their local Home-Start Hampshire office as long as the family being referred has agreed to the request being made. Families are also able to request support themselves by making a self-referral.

To make a referral please email familysupport@hshants.org.uk or visit our website Referrals | Home-Start Hampshire <https://home-starthampshire.org.uk/referrals/>

Could you support a family with young children for 1-2 hours per week or even fortnightly? Would you like to make a difference and volunteer in your local community? Home-Start Hampshire in The Meon Valley are currently recruiting volunteers, if you would like to learn new skills and do something rewarding please get in touch on 0330 124 2095 or email us familysupport@hshants.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Margaret Moane

Services in Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 1st June

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

Sunday 8th June

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
9am Eucharist - Langrish
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon

Sunday 15th June

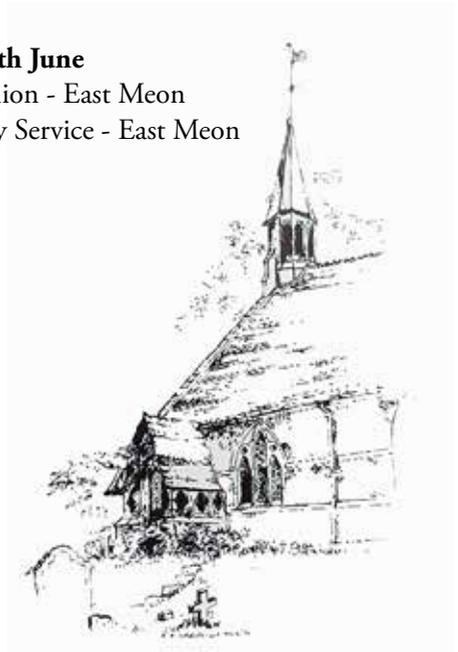
8am Holy Communion - East Meon
9am Benefice Holy Communion - Warnford
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - East Meon

Sunday 22nd June

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

Sunday 29th June

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
10.30am Outdoor Family Service - East Meon



There's no growth on a dead planet

-Yet Part 3 of the Government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill threatens to tear up decades of environmental protection under the illusion of fuelling economic growth, despite warning from the Office of Environmental Protection of undermining existing environmental safeguards, constituting a dangerous regression in law. The Bill proposes a radical shift. It wants to replace the existing system of nature protections with a series of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs). These would be funded by a Nature Restoration Levy paid by developers to offset their impact on nature. On the surface, this sounds like a win-win – money for nature and faster planning decisions. But in reality, it's a reckless gamble that could devastate our natural world.

Paying a simple levy to fund nature restoration sounds efficient but by allowing developers to simply 'pay to pollute,' the Bill dismantles three core pillars of effective environmental governance: the precautionary principle, the mitigation hierarchy (where harm should be avoided first before resorting to offsetting) and the polluter pays rule. It risks undermining essential protections for irreplaceable habitats and species, it creates loopholes, relying on vague 'improvement tests' and it shifts decision making towards political discretion instead of being science-based.

Drawn up by Natural England, EDPs are proposed as the mechanism for streamlining and delivering strategic nature recovery. However, these plans lack legal requirements to be based on up-to-date scientific evidence, provide no clarity on what constitutes success, and no guarantee they will deliver genuine improvements for nature. The consequences could be catastrophic.

The irony is painful. At a time when UK nature is so desperately depleted, and with just five years to meet critical national targets to halt biodiversity decline – the Government risks making things worse. Natural England have been starved of resources for decades - piling such critical new duties on them creates a system doomed to underdeliver. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust doesn't oppose development, and we agree there are ways of streamlining delivery. We have proven that smart, efficient environmental mitigation systems can work: from the Solent Waders and Brent Geese Strategy to our Nutrient Neutrality programme. But these work within strong environmental frameworks, not by tearing them down.

Nature isn't a barrier to growth – it's the foundation of it. Thriving, biodiverse landscapes are critical to our food security, health, economy, and climate resilience. Ignoring this is dangerously short-sighted. We are calling on MPs to pause and rethink Part 3 of this Bill. Government must recognise that a healthy economy cannot exist without a healthy planet. There's no quick fix, and there's certainly no growth on a dead planet.

To help protect nature, contact your MP using the template available on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website. For more details, visit: hiwwt.org.uk/blog/debbie-tann/part-3-planning-and-infrastructure-bill-disturbance

Debbie Tann MBE, Chief Executive, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

New nesting tower gives swifts and house martins a lifeline

A specially designed nesting tower has been installed at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve to support struggling populations of swifts and house martins. Swifts and house martins have experienced significant population declines in recent decades, due to habitat loss and a reduction in suitable nesting sites. The UK breeding population of swifts have declined by 66 per cent between 1995 and 2022, while house martins have declined by 44 per cent.



Swift and House Martin tower being installed © Chris Fairchild

Standing five metres tall, the tower features 23 swift boxes and 12 house martin cups, offering much-needed breeding opportunities. It incorporates ventilation to keep the nests cool during warmer months and is equipped with solar panels and speakers to play pre-recorded bird calls, attracting young birds searching for a nesting site to settle into.

Swifts and house martins migrate from sub-Saharan Africa to breed in the UK, depending on suitable nesting sites and an abundant insect population. Historically, swifts have nested in the roofs of older buildings, but modern renovations are sealing up access points, leaving them without suitable breeding spaces. The new tower mimics natural nesting conditions, offering a secure, predator-free location, giving these birds a vital lifeline. Jack says: “Swifts and house martins are remarkable birds that complete incredible migrations from Africa each year. By providing secure nesting spaces at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve, we’re giving them a fighting chance to stabilise and recover. It’s fantastic to see this conservation effort come to life.”

The tower also provides easy access to a rich supply of insects, their primary food source. The wetlands, reed beds, and woodlands at Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve create perfect conditions for insects to flourish, ensuring the birds have the resources they need to thrive during the breeding season. Bringing this vision to life required a combination of expert knowledge, skilled design, and generous support, as Jack explains: “I’m incredibly proud of this project and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made it a reality. A special thank you goes to Hampshire Ornithological Society for their generous funding, Hampshire Swifts for their expert advice and guidance, and to Peak Boxes for their craftsmanship. “This tower represents a huge step in our ongoing conservation efforts to protect these vulnerable species, and we couldn’t have achieved it without the support of our partners and the dedication of so many involved.”

Helen Skelton-Smith

West Meon CE Primary School

Our Summer term at West Meon School began with lots of activities in our glorious outside spaces. The whole school took to the field to play rounders as a reward for a great week of learning – this could only happen at a small school such as ours! We are also looking forward to our Sports Day on Thursday 12th June.

Students in Foxes and Owls classes are getting ready to go on their residential trips. These trips are an opportunity for children to reinforce friendships, and to challenge themselves to take part in activities they would not normally try. Our school value of Courage will be very much in use as children are encouraged to go just that little bit higher on a climbing wall, or just a little bit further on a trail. We are looking forward to hearing about their amazing adventures when they return.

In May, across the country, year 6 children were preparing for, and sitting, Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). This rite of passage was made more bareable (and dare I say, enjoyable) by the addition this year, of a Year 6 breakfast Club. Each morning, breakfast was laid on for our oldest students in a relaxed setting which made a great start to their day. This was a chance to chat to friends and allay any minor worries they may have had about the approaching challenges. At West Meon School, we view SATs as one small part of a child's educational journey. While SATs provide valuable insight into academic progress, they do not define a child's abilities, potential, or future success. Every child has unique strengths—creativity, kindness, resilience, and problem-solving—that cannot be measured by a single test. We remind children that effort and a love for learning matter far more than any single exam result. Our goal is to nurture confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the future in many ways beyond test scores.

As part of our work exploring habitats and the local environment, Hedgehogs class welcomed some very interesting visitors – ducklings! It was great to see the children so carefully handling these tiny creatures, and treating them with respect. All the children enjoyed their time with their fluffy companions.

The first half of the summer term passed quite quickly as the West Meon team have been very active implementing new systems. Although we have been working for much of the year on altering our catering and wrap-around-care provision, both have come to pass now. Due to the imminent closure of Hampshire Catering Service, the school have been pro-active in sourcing a new partner to provide our catering needs. From the beginning of this month, Hungry Moose will be supplying amazing school dinners for West Meon.

In order to offer a more comprehensive after-school facility, we have teamed up with ActiveMe360 who will be able to provide a variety of activities and will complement our in-house Breakfast Club. Both these new partners will enhance our offering in this beautiful village setting.

As I write, Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) are gearing up for their big event, a Charity Bingo and Raffle taking place in the village hall. We will be able to report how the evening went in the next Parish News. Our thanks to the many local businesses that contributed fantastic prizes for the raffle – more information on these in the July issue.

*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: Wednesday, 2nd July 2025
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 County Council – Report a problem & have your say

Problems like littering, planning breaches, rights of way, etc. can be reported directly to Hampshire County Council. Please use this link to report a problem, have your say or to see the full list: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/report>

Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

It's called My Home Made Better, and it offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades, to switching to new energy-efficient technologies.

Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable.

This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

For more information go to myhomemadebetter.org

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.

Warnford, West Meon, Winchester. Hampshire and Parliamentary Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

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

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

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

Warnford Parish Meeting

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Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk,
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Parish website www.warnfordparish.gov.uk

Winchester City Councillors

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

Hampshire County Councillor

Malcolm Wallace, malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk, 07739 050224

Member of Parliament for Winchester

Dr Danny Chambers, danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk, 01962 868586

Everyone can “Learn, Laugh & Live” with altonu3a



With over 700 members we are probably Alton's largest “club” – and yet most locals still don't know who we are! Here in Altonu3a we now have over 75 different groups & activities available including art & crafts; movement from Line-dancing to Latin; literary, history & other study groups; music-making & appreciation; backgammon & other table-top games; out-door activities such as bird-watching & rambling; purely social events; and monthly talks, concerts and outings. Or with our help you can start the group you would like to be in?!

And an annual membership for all this only costs £10 - £65 (depending on the frequency and location of the activities you choose). Meetings are nearly all in central Alton and are accessible to all. So if you would like to meet new people and enjoy new activities; if you would like to share your hobby or subject with others; and/or you would like to set up a new group with friends, Altonu3a is where you need to be!

Altonu3a's new 2025/26 Annual Programme (aka the Blue Book for historical reasons) is published in early July, and will be available online at alton.u3asite.org Alternatively pick up a printed copy from Alton Community Centre (ACC), or the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Assembly Rooms. You can join immediately online or by post; or come to our Registration Day on Saturday 9th August at the ACC where you can meet most of the group coordinators too. There are no age restrictions - but please don't delay as some groups do have limits on their numbers. Honestly, you need never feel lonely or bored again – because we really look forward to you joining us.

Denise Backhouse

Petersfield Youth Theatre Summer Season

We have a very exciting Summer Season this August for young people with three projects running at the same time for the different age groups.

Summer Fun! offers a week full of fun and creative activities for children currently aged 5 to School Year 8. From Monday 11th – Friday 15th August at Bedales School. All information and booking details on the website www.pyt.org.uk

And a chance to take part in one of our full productions this summer:

For Years 6, 7 and 8, Disney's Newsies JR. - a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film; and for Year 9+ - Guys and Dolls JR. - a 60 minute adaptation of the show considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy. Both productions run from Monday 11th August to Saturday 23rd August. This is a great opportunity for any young people to come and be part of a production - both productions will be auditioned in early June so don't miss out and head over to the website for all the details www.pyt.org.uk

Charlotte Godfrey





Free, impartial, home energy advice from a local charity

A new Hampshire-wide home energy project is providing free, independent advice on how your home can be made more energy efficient and low carbon.

My Home Made Better will offer free and impartial advice relating to home energy, from insulation and heating right through to switching to new technologies, helping householders to:

- Save money - reduce energy bills
- Feel more comfortable – a well-insulated home stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- Do your bit for the planet – lower your carbon footprint

The project is supported by Hampshire County Council and is not connected to installers or any commercial organisations.

With many residents wanting to make their homes warmer and cheaper to run, but not sure where to start, My Home Made Better will help householders understand which options might be best for their unique circumstances. Experienced energy advisers will be on hand to dispel myths and simplify complex information.

Alongside a dedicated project website, My Home Made Better will provide one-to-one advice, case studies, videos, online resources, open homes, events and webinars, all designed to help householders make more informed decisions about their properties.

To find out more and to book a free advice call visit myhomemadebetter.org

The My Home Made Better project is run by a partnership of four local charities - Winchester District is covered by Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) who also have lots of useful information about home energy at www.winacc.org.uk

Stuart Mills



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droxfordweb.co.uk

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, www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Allen Gallery

JANE AUSTEN 250. Throughout Alton's Regency Week (20-29th June) we are thrilled to be displaying an original silk "pelisse" coat, one of few surviving items that belonged to Jane Austen. 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.

Talk: Jane's Silk Pelisse 25th June, 3.00pm (1 hour) by Dr Alex Walker of Hampshire Wardrobe on the process of making a replica costume item. One of the most precious items in Hampshire Cultural Trust's collection is a beautiful brown silk Pelisse, which once belonged to Jane Austen. The team at Hampshire Wardrobe have been hard at work creating a replica of the pelisse, doing as much as possible by hand, and discovering the good, the bad, and the ugly of Regency outerwear. Join Dr Alex Walker as she introduces you to the replica, explains exactly what a pelisse is, and tells the story of how Janes' came to be in the care of HCT.

Regency Pastimes and tea in the garden. Wednesday 25th June. 12.30 till 4pm. Gallery tours at 3pm and 4pm FREE.

Snowdrop Pottery (see below) will run a slip-casting workshop.

Exhibition/Classes Lisa Stevenson Ceramics (Snowdrop Studio, Medstead) Lisa's exhibition will include a "work in progress" residency. Sculpted pots will be made and displayed at the Gallery. There will be workshops and demos on Saturdays including special activities for Alton's Regency Week. Subjects included will be - Pinch pots, Coil pots, surface design and Lucie Rie influences. Lisa will run a



morning demonstration on Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June, 11.30 -12.30. Followed by pottery classes the same afternoons from 1.30 - 3pm. Book through our website.

Curtis Museum

TRAILS. There will be 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.

NEW BOOK. Jane Austen: Family Connections with Alton & Chawton, by Jane Hurst.

This is a timely publication in the year of general JA celebrations. It consists of articles Jane Hurst wrote for the Jane Austen Society Annual Reports. You can read about different local families who were involved with aspects of Austen life; descriptions of the background events in the area such as Christmas "Goodying" in Chawton; about the last years and death of Cassandra, Jane's beloved sister. Price £3 at the Curtis Museum.

Jill Line



Hampshire Farmers' Markets



June

Petersfield – Sunday 1st

Romsey – Sunday 1st

Winchester – Sunday 8th

Alton – Saturday 14th

Alresford – Sunday 15th Southsea – Sunday 15th

Emsworth Summer Festival – Saturday 21st

Ringwood – Saturday 28th

Winchester – Sunday 29th

Other Festival Dates

Southsea Food Festival

- Saturday 5th July

Hamble Harvest Festival

- Saturday 4th October

Sunday 8th June 11am-3pm Warnford Makers' Market - Warnford Village Hall

Wednesday 2nd July 9-10am Parish Council Hub - Cuppacheeno, The Village Shop, West Meon

Sunday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st August pm Teas - St John's Church, West Meon

Thursday 11th September 7.30pm to Sunday 14th September 3.30pm West Meon Music Festival - Various venues. Box Office opens in June.

Care Group Co-ordinator

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Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

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