

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

November 2025

All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance

The month of November begins in our churches, and with others around the world, by marking All Saints and All Souls; these are days that draw us into remembering the whole cloud of witnesses and the names we hold in our hearts. That gentle interior and collective effort that we make to remember, also, prepares us for Remembrance Sunday (9th November 2025) and Armistice Day on (11th November), when the whole nation pauses to remember, give public thanks and to confess the cost of war and conflict.

All Saints' Day, the Patronal Festival of our neighbours in East Meon, invites us to celebrate the faithful who reflected Christ's love across time and place.

All Souls' Day, which has its origins in All Saints' Day, invites an honest acknowledgement of our sadness at the loss of those we love but see no longer. It also invites us into a deeper prayer for the living who mourn. It is a time in which we gain comfort from the Christian hope of forgiveness and eternal life. Remembrance Sunday also reminds us that thanksgiving and lament belong together and that memory takes both personal and shared forms.



Poppies. Photo © A Annabel

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Remembrance Sunday was instituted lest we forget the sacrifices of the First World War, wisely established on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities. Remembrance now embraces the service and sacrifice of men and women from many conflicts and in many roles, civilian and military, at home and abroad.

In 2025, as we mark the eightieth year since the end of the Second World War, we also acknowledge the long aftermath of conflict and duty in places of danger. This continues to affect service personnel and their families. So we gather not to glorify war but to honour those who served, to acknowledge grief and suffering, and to renew a resolve for peace.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) has long been a public champion of remembrance, supporting communities to mark anniversaries, providing learning resources for schools and organising events that help the nation say thank you. Alongside the Legion other military charities work steadfastly to support veterans, serving personnel and their families in practical, pastoral and medical ways. A twofold response of gratitude and care is appropriate: gratitude in our prayers and public acts of remembrance, and practical support for organisations which walk alongside those who bear the long after-effects of service.

Rural parishes, such as ours, provide a context in which remembrance can be intimate and local.

We shall remember all those we love but see no longer at All Souls by offering a short litany of names and an act of personal remembrance, in simple act of worship.

Our churches, as always, will remain open for quiet prayer during the day, inviting anyone to light a candle or make a written prayer request or simply offer silent, prayerful remembrance in a sacred space.

On Remembrance Sunday, we read aloud names from our own community, keeping the human scale of sacrifice and service visible.

Our collections will support the RBL.



Our remembering, individually and as communities, acknowledges all kinds of service and sacrifice, not least by those who served in uniform. The Christian pattern of Remembrance laments our brokenness and longs for peace, while honouring service and sacrifice for the sake of others.

Remembrance, like our commemoration at All Souls, has a time of silence at its heart. In our busy and noisy world and in contrast to battle, even brief moments of silence speak with uncommon eloquence. In our liturgy, may the silence be long enough for names to be held and for memory to settle. May our prayers pair thanksgiving with the plea for peace.

Many in our community carry fresh or hidden wounds, so we are here to support those who grieve and those who fear for the safety of loved one whose work places them in harm's way for the sake of others.

As we recall sacrifice, the Christian call is for a transformation of individual hearts and whole societies towards reconciliation, repair, and practical steps to prevent the re-occurrence of injustice and violence. May Remembrance-tide deepen our resolve for a more peaceful future and embolden us to work for peace, justice and hope in the world.

Fr. Tony

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*Angela Gifford, Managing Director,
Able Community Care Ltd.*

Rainfall report for September to mid-October

The second half of September continued wet for the next 3 days (16th, 17th and 18th) and then completely dried up until the 29th when we had a finale of 2.8mm, giving a total for the month of 92.3mms (3.69").

October to the 15th has been warm and for the most part sunny. The lowest Temperature to date has been 4.2C. The 2nd and 3rd had rain totalling 19.3mms and since then it has been dry until the 12th when we had 0.3mms giving a half monthly total of 19.5mms (1.16"). When you consider that to this date time last year we had had 886mm and this year only 592mm, 294mm less, approaching a foot of rain, then this begins to explain why the Meon is dry in West Meon.

Peter Short

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West Meon Community Cinema Autumn Programme 2025

Friday 14th November 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

Tickets £7 available...



Online at
[ticketsource.co.uk/
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In the village shop
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Film starts at
7.45pm and the bar
opens at 7pm, selling
wine, beers, gin and
tonic, soft drinks,
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Rosemary Morrish

Fireworkfest 2025

What began as an initiative to clear fallen trees and branches around the village 11 years ago, has morphed into a brilliant celebration of what it means to live in the Meon Valley. The biennial pyre building process, with the help of the ever-willing Mac Edwards and his tractor, has become a highlight for some and an initiation into village life for all ages.

This year's dutiful loggers worthy of praise included Duncan Stewart, Ingolv Urnes (pictured 'King of the Pyre'), Andrew Mitchell, Chris Coyle and his daughter Josie, Zanna Jarrett, Mark Hammond, Arthur and Hector Ulph, Tim Main, Rachell Barnett, Dougal Christie and Alan Bassil with his two sons Josh and Toby, the latter being this year's recipient of the prestigious 'top-logger' prize for hard graft and challenging himself to consistently lift logs far larger than he is.



The following weekend 'team Ulph', with further assistance from Mac, all skipped church on the Sunday morning to clear a garden of logs that we were unable to handle on the first outing, and from that point on it was a matter of biting nails and crossing fingers as we watched and waited to see if Storm Amy would ruin all our plans...

Undaunted, the hardy folk of the Meon Valley continued to purchase tickets in advance, and we were all finally rewarded when Amy abated just a couple of hours before the event itself. Gazebo covers were omitted for fear of lift-off, but other than a tired string of fairy lights blowing the freshly installed high-voltage power supply shortly before it started, we were all entertained by the quite brilliant Key Lime Pi band from Alton, interspersed by the fantastically pagan madness of the Mary Rose & Royal George Morris dancers from Portsmouth. Pete Venables and Katie Rogers then performed a highly emotive 'song for Mary', ably supported



by Poppy and Daisy Russell and their assembled gang of girls, which was then followed by the fireworks, set once again to music and provided by the excellent Flashpoint Fireworks team, although the jury is out for me as to whether it made much difference having some of them deliberately 'quiet' ...

As always, we are very grateful to our sponsors, who essentially underwrite some of the cost of the fireworks: making their debuts Smiths Butchers and Compass House Nursery of West Meon; alongside regular sponsors Bowman Ales; The Thomas Lord and the Parish Council. Thanks also to Hortus Poeticus Florists of West Meon for providing two bouquets for the birthday girls on the day.

Further thanks are due to our 'Queen of the

BBQ', Angie Trenchard, able supported by Rory, Mary and the gang, not to mention Luke Smith from our excellent butchers, there celebrating his first anniversary in the village; Hector Ulph and his mates who gleefully accepted everyone's money on the gate; Rachel, Arthur and Oscar Ulph together with Tim and Helen Hiscox, and Chris and Suzy Brooker, who all worked the bar (in more ways than one!).

Another shout out is due to all those that assisted with the last-minute 'fest-build' on the day and 'de-mob' the following morning, which included many of those already mentioned with the addition of Tim Wood and Jerry Berry.

Gratitude is also due to Simon Coben for providing the hay-bales, the majority of which disintegrated as the evening progressed and the mass of children launched from one to another, and in particular to Michael and Claudia Langdon for once again generously hosting the event and for providing the ever-popular mulled-wine.

So, despite the rising costs and the slightly lower ticket sales (due I am sure to the patchy weather), we all managed to raise close to £4,000 again, which has been split between the village hall and our excellent village shop. A final thank you must go to our enigmatic manager of the shop Rachell Barnett, whose advice I am learning to listen to more often...

Until 2027.

Jim Ulph



Stuck in the Tractor Run in Warnford on 18th October as the South East Hants Young Farmers raise money for Diabetes UK. Photo © A Annabel

Care Group AGM

The West Meon Care Group AGM will be on Wednesday 26th November at 6.45pm in the Sports Pavilion. Care Group are currently on the lookout for more drivers. Ann Noble has volunteered to help with the co-ordination. Her number is 07463191673.

Thank you, *Virginia de Cosson*



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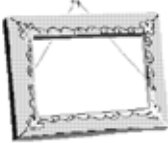
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Warnford, West Meon & Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club

Our October meeting was a great success with an excellent talk on 'Shrubs: the backbone of your Garden' by Geoff Hawkins. He advised starting with a good garden design, remembering that shrubs are there all the time, a constant through the changing seasons, so it is important "to get it right".

Our November lecture will be on Thursday 13th November at 7.30 for 7.45pm in Warnford Village Hall.

This time we are thrilled to host Martyn Cox, award-winning garden writer, TV presenter, and all-round horticultural enthusiast. Martyn will be sharing "Clever Ways to Grow Vegetables", full of tips, tricks, and inspiration for everyone from novice growers to seasoned veg plotters, even in the smallest of gardens.

The talk will be followed by our AGM when we will be taking subscriptions for 2026. Our annual membership fee is still a bargain at only £5.00 so please bring a fiver or pound coins.

As Warnford Village Hall is quite a small hall we strongly recommend booking in advance:

Email: clareswinstead@gmail.com or Phone: 01730 829059 (evenings)

Web: <https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside/upcomingevents>

Edwin Grimshaw



Let me introduce you to Meon Community Connect

The aim of this group is to enhance the social, recreational and cultural life of our community by organising a diverse range of activities and events for all ages and interests. You can join this group via our website www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk or at one of our events. Membership is £25 per adult pa which allows you to purchase tickets to events at discounted rates. Alternatively you can visit the website and simply sign up for email notification of news and events. The group is a non profit entity and we look to

simply cover the costs of any event that takes place. We are currently working on a programme of events for the next year so watch this space. Our next activity is quiz and coffee in Warnford Village Hall on 5th November 10am – 12pm. Please get in touch if you have any questions/ideas: meoncommunityconnect@gmail.com

Emma Barry

Services in the Upper Meon Parishes

Date	Day or Festival	Time	Service	Church
1 st Nov 2025	Saturday	18:00	All Souls' Commemoration	All Saints, East Meon
2 nd Nov 2025	All Saints' Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, East Meon
		10:30	PATRONAL FESTIVAL Eucharist	All Saints, East Meon
		15:00	All Souls' Commemoration	Our Lady, Warnford
4 th Nov	Tuesday	18:00	Compline	St John, Langrish
5 th Nov	Wednesday	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish & W. Meon
8 th Nov	Saturday		EM Arts Talk	All Saints, East Meon
9 th Nov	3rd before Advent Remembrance Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, East Meon
		10:15	East Meon Remembrance	All Saints, East Meon
		10:50	West Meon and Warnford Remembrance	St John, West Meon
		16:00	Langrish Remembrance	St John, Langrish
11 th Nov	Tuesday	09:30	EM School Remembrance	All Saints, East Meon
		10:45	WM School Remembrance	St John, West Meon
12 th Nov	Wednesday	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish & W. Meon
16 th Nov	Trinity 22 Safeguarding Sunday & 2 nd Sunday before Advent	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, East Meon
		09:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Our Lady, Warnford
		10:30	Service of the Word	All Saints, East Meon
19 th Nov	Wednesday	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish & W. Meon
23 rd Nov	Sunday Next before Advent Christ the King	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, East Meon
		10:30	Whole Benefice Eucharist	St John, Langrish
26 th Nov	Wednesday	09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish & W. Meon
30 th Nov	Advent Sunday YEAR A BEGINS	08:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, East Meon
		18:00	ADVENT LIGHT A Service of Readings and Hymns with Candlelight	St John, West Meon

Andrew Negus' History of Winchester

On 10th November 2025 there will be a new talk on Winchester at East Meon Village Hall.



Photo from Historic Winchester <https://twotravelingtexans.com/historic-winchester-england/>

The history of Winchester, Part 3 of Andrew Negus's series of lectures, shows how and why the city of Winchester grew from a collection of Iron Age huts into the one time capital of England. Andrew is a local historian and popular speaker in the Winchester area and throughout Hampshire. He is also a Blue Badge Guide for central southern England. His talks often have a specific local focus; such as "Winchester: Bishops, Buildings and Bones" and one about Portsmouth called "Harlots, Dung and Glory"!

Andrew is well known among local history societies in Hampshire, often giving multi-part talks on the history of a specific city, so the audience will only have time to hear about a quarter of Winchester's rich history as he describes Part 3 confusingly as one of a 4 part trilogy.

The East Meon History Group was founded by the TV Producer, and former editor of the BBC's Tomorrow's World, Michael Blakstad who lived in East Meon before entering residential care and his relatively recent demise (in 2023). Amongst many other achievements he helped put together the 'Farming the Valley' project and accompanying book mapping the history of East Meon. The group maintain an interesting history archive of the area including articles on Woodlands and Westbury plus invaluable oral archives from former local residents such as Ray Stone and others. These can be found at <https://www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk/>

Upcoming talks include My Family Story by Thomas Harding on the 8th December 2025; The Vikings in Hampshire by Steve Whelan on 26th January 2026; The Civil War by Malcolm Arnold on 16th February 2026 and Neolithic Archaeology in East Hampshire by Manni Kirchner on 23rd March 2026. Talks are in the Village Hall; the bar opens at 7:00 pm and talks start at 7:30 pm. Members get free admission to all talks; visitors can pay £5 on the door.

A Annabel

Feathers that catch the winter sun

The glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) is a migratory wading bird, breeding in southern and southeast Europe before travelling great distances to overwinter here in the UK. Twenty-five years ago they were a rarity in the UK but in recent decades, sightings have grown steadily, including on the south coast - and particularly the Solent's rich network of wetlands and estuaries – which are an attractive stopover.

These exotic winter visitors have just started to arrive again at Solent's wetlands. Often gathering in small flocks, glossy ibis use gentle calls to keep in contact as they sweep across the wetlands together in search of food. With long, slender legs, an elegantly curved beak and feathers that glisten with iridescent greens and purples, this striking bird is easy to identify.

Climate change may be the reason why the glossy ibis is becoming an increasingly familiar visitor, mirroring an increase in their breeding population in southwest Europe. With summers in southern Europe become hotter and drier, and UK winters milder, we may see glossy ibis settling here more regularly.

Despite their exotic appearance, these birds are perfectly at home in Hampshire. Using their long, sensitive bills, glossy ibis probe through mud in search of invertebrates such as beetles and dragonfly larvae, though they'll also take the occasional frog, newt or even lizard. It's a feeding behaviour that makes them a key part of the delicate balance in wetland ecosystems.

What makes the glossy ibis so captivating is its beauty in motion. At first glance, it may look like a dark heron, but a shaft of sunlight reveals shimmering feathers in shades of copper, green and violet. When seen in groups - known as a 'stand' of ibises - they create a spectacle that feels almost tropical against the wintry skies of the Solent.

Ringed birds spotted in the UK have been traced back to wetlands in Spain's Doñana National Park and France's Petite Camargue, evidence of the incredible journeys these elegant travellers make each year. Many of the birds arriving now are young - sometimes just months out of the nest – embarking on their first migratory adventure.

The return of the glossy ibis is a reminder of how our local habitats connect with landscapes



Glossy Ibis forages on marsh. Photo © Nick Upton

far beyond our shores. For the best chance to see them, head to the coast. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust works to safeguard wild spaces, so that local wildlife and birds including the glossy ibis continue to thrive.

Find out how you can support conservation efforts by becoming a member of HIWW. Find joining information on the Trust's website: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today

Helen Skelton-Smith

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restoration fund, available from <http://ticketsource.co.uk/east-meon-arts> or at the door.

West Meon CE Primary School

The Autumn term is half way through and at West Meon Primary we have managed to fit in a number of events already. We have had a fantastic few weeks of fundraising; it always takes my breath away at the generosity of the school community. The Macmillan Coffee Morning, run by the School Council, was a great success and well attended. Our thanks to all parents that contributed to the events – both the bringing and buying of cakes.

FOWMS have started their fund raising with a 'Break The Rules Day' which was also very successful and a Pumpkin Party at the end of October.

The Harvest Festival service led by Foxes Class in St John the Evangelist church which was well attended. The contributions from the generous families of West Meon school were distributed by Owls class to members of our older generation in the village. The children were greeted at each residence with smiling faces, especially when visiting Mrs Ripper, a familiar face at West Meon School. On 11th November, which falls on a Tuesday, Owls class will be leading a Remembrance Service at 10.45am – all are welcome.

West Meon pupils are currently taking part in our 'Challenge Week'. This is a week dedicated to expanding our young people's experiences and encouraging them to try out new ideas. Children make use of the core values of Courage, Respect and Creativity when they take part in Sport's challenges, a Language Immersion afternoon, an Art Project and Music challenge based on 'BBC's 10 Pieces'. We have already enjoyed a beautiful walk along the Meon Valley Trail creating 'memory Sticks' and seeking out and classifying mini-beasts. The final day will be Science based with FOWMS sponsoring a visit from Sublime Science workshops.

Each year we spruce ourselves up and open our doors to welcome prospective parents and students. The Saturday opening in October was a success with our teachers engaging with parents

to explain our ethos and the great provision we offer. If you have missed this opportunity, we have two further open mornings on the 6th and the 20th November from 10–2pm; please contact the office to secure your place. These events are an opportunity to see our school close up, and visiting when the school is working helps to give prospective parents a chance to observe the holistic approach we have at West Meon.

Our new library shelves, sponsored by FOWMS, have arrived! We will be moving our books and seating over the next week or so. We are anticipating having a formal opening for our library during Book Week in March.

We are currently supporting parents who wish to enrol their child for Reception Class in September 2026; please visit our website for additional information.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher





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Majority of Hampshire Councils Unite Behind Plan for Local Government Reorganisation

11 councils across Hampshire have submitted a joint business case to Government proposing the creation of four new unitary authorities for mainland Hampshire. The submission, titled “Close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong”, sets out a vision for modern, sustainable local government that delivers better services while staying rooted in local communities.

The proposal is backed by an overwhelming majority of councils in Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Fareham, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Portsmouth*, Rushmoor, Southampton, Test Valley, and Winchester), representing more than three quarters of local authorities in the area.

The new structure would see four new councils formed, grouped around the major centres of Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester and Basingstoke. The Isle of Wight would stay its own island unitary authority, as it currently is. All three proposed options meet the Government’s criteria for reorganisation, with an average population size of 500,000, and financial analysis shows that all three options would deliver over £63 million in recurring annual savings, through streamlined services, reduced duplication, and more efficient governance.

Speaking of Winchester City Council’s submission, Council Leader Cllr Martin Tod, said:

“It makes sense to end the complexity of the current two-tier system – although this isn’t a process we’d have chosen or a timing we’d have chosen or the criteria we’d have chosen.

“Winchester City Council also stands alongside almost all the other councils in Hampshire in believing that – with the constraints set by government – it’s right to have four authorities on the mainland and to make sure the Isle of Wight continues to have its own council. This delivers councils close enough to deliver responsively and locally for our residents and big enough to protect and deliver the essential services we need.

“The only alternative to four mainland authorities that’s on the table, which merges the Winchester district – including our southern communities such as Denmead, Wickham, Southwick and Whiteley – in with Basingstoke and Aldershot, isn’t acceptable. I know the communities in the north don’t support it and it’s not right for us either.

“Our preferred option includes a mid-Hampshire council comprising Winchester and its neighbours in Test Valley and East Hampshire. We believe our proposals for the other three councils on the mainland also make sense – economically, practically and geographically – with all of them well-placed to better deliver services and give local communities a voice.

“After today, the process goes over to the government. They decide which options to consult on and they will decide what option to go ahead with. Throughout the process, we will continue to work with our colleagues in other councils to argue for the best possible way forward for our residents and for the residents of Hampshire as a whole.

“And it’s important to remember that none of this will work unless the black hole in county finances gets sorted out. Their forecast deficit is bigger than any savings offered by any of the proposals being put forward including their own. That needs fixing before any reorganisation goes ahead.” The submission will now be considered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), who are expected to run a public consultation on the proposals later this year. *This is an evolving situation and this text from the Winchester City Council website was last updated on Friday 26th September 2025.*

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

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

Chair: Toby Drought, warnfordchair@gmail.com 07788 715707

Lucy Hutchinson, Clerk, warnfordclerk@gmail.com 07717 296610

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

Meon Valley Active Retirement Association at Buckler's Hard



Although the weather forecast looked full of foreboding, the seventeen MVARA members were all hoping for the best as they set out on their visit to Buckler's Hard in the New Forest.

Luckily, on arriving, the rain had stopped and the clouds had lifted. We were given a very interesting and informative, one hour tour which included the Buckler's Hard

Museum, the Village Street, the Shipwright's Cottage and St. Mary's Chapel. Our guide, dressed in 19th century costume, described all aspects of the village, including its origins, development and the building of dozens of oak ships over the last two centuries.

The exhibits included photos of the families living at Buckler's Hard during the past 150 years, as well as reconstructions of the ships that were built there. The displays in the historic cottages really gave an understanding of what daily life could have been like for those working in the shipyard.

There were two venues for lunch and both were sampled. The Henry's Bar in the Master Builder's House hotel was particularly recommended.

During the afternoon, there was a thirty minute cruise along the Beaulieu Estuary, with much additional information being given, during the cruise, about how the ships had left Buckler's Hard to be completed in Portsmouth, and also about the varied wildlife in the estuary.

Just as the boat was docking, light rain started but did not deter everyone from visiting the Gift Shop on the way back to the bus. It was a most interesting day, and the cruise was a lovely end to the afternoon. Many thanks to Linda for organising a fabulous trip and amazingly good weather.

The next MVARA Members' visit is to the Vyne on 4th December 2025, for the Christmas Decorations (and a Festive Lunch).

Roger Wingrove



Terrific teas cap ‘The Tigers Summer of Love’



Cricket teas are a forgotten art. A quintessential must of village cricket, Covid, generational trends and, on occasions sheer laziness, have chipped away at the prestige of what should be the highlight of any players afternoon.

Sharing a meal with friend and foe alike, nothing quite beats the distinct feeling of a warm summer breeze , a hot cup of sugary tea, a flake of puff pastry drifting away into the ether. Have no doubt, this previously endangered beast made an outstanding resurgence this year.

It would be a heinous dis-service to each and every contributor to home teas at West Meon and Warnford Cricket Club in 2025 to select just one as newsworthy. Supported by the wonderful (and often show-stealing) baking of Mrs Jeanette Clarke in sweet affairs, savory dealings have been just as delectable all-round. Week-on-week, visiting sides have been utterly beguiled by our spread.

To that end , today we feature the best away tea we received in this fantastic season of 2025 – Tulls. Sadly all too often in away games, efforts have been further below par than Chris Waller's batting average! Spuriously sourced quiches. Suspiciously stale sandwiches. Curiously crunch-less crisps. Terribly turgid tomatoes. None would be found at Tulls.

On a scorching Sunday afternoon, after batting first, The Tigers trudged into the pavilion not knowing what to expect. Hot with anticipation, it is difficult not to be excited about the quality of sustenance likely to be offered by an opposing team whose collective inherited wealth would make most Gulf States blush! What followed can only be described as heavenly. A variety of sandwiches more extensive than most gastro pub menus. Still-warm , organic sausage rolls in abundance. A bounty of brownies. Cold Cola. A selection of crisps spanning widely, gloriously, proudly, across the flavour spectrum. A simply outstanding smorgasbord of treats that enabled guests to stroll out for the second innings with their bellies full, but also their hearts, knowing that the craft of the Cricket Tea was alive and well.

Tulls were the most gracious hosts, even enabling The Tigers to defend a moderate total on a pitch prepared by a supposedly impartial groundsman... but on this occasion the cricket was secondary. Teas won the day.

Ainsley Howard, batsman, bowler, fielder wicket keeper and Club man personified!

Chris Waller



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

Allen Gallery

The Allen Gallery in Church Street, Alton was successful in receiving funding from multiple sources, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council for a redevelopment. The redevelopment project started in May 2025 and the project team at Hampshire Cultural Trust are now planning for the scheduled capital works to begin in early 2026.

This ambitious project will transform the Allen Gallery into a more welcoming, accessible and inspiring space for everyone, with new displays, a dedicated community area, and a programme of ceramics-inspired creative workshops and activities for all ages.

The schedule of capital works being undertaken will mean a period of closure for this work to be carried out which will be as follows:

- End of December 2025: The Allen Gallery closes to the public
- Throughout 2026: work is carried out at the venue
- Early 2027: The gallery will reopen to the public.

During the closed period there will be a range of community programmes and creative activities, much of which will take place at the Curtis Museum and other local venues. These will include family workshops, volunteering opportunities, and special events designed to bring people together and celebrate Alton's heritage.

To find out more about this programme and to keep up to date with the project please visit [Allen Gallery | Hampshire Cultural Trust](#).

Volunteer opportunities

Now the nights are drawing in and outdoor pursuits don't seem quite so attractive as they did during the long, hot summer, why not become a volunteer at the Curtis Museum? It's indoors, you meet some really nice people, and you can learn a bit of local history at the same time. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing Allen Gallery Project (see above). Training will be given for helping to pack, move and catalogue the collection. And eventually to re-site the artefacts once the Gallery is up and running in its new form.

Once a week, once a month or just occasionally, - we would love to hear from you. For more details, please contact manager Ian Grierson on 01420 82802 or ian.grierson@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or drop in and have a chat with the volunteers on duty.

Talk sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery.

Mediaeval Women, by Caroline Stapleton, 13th November, 7.30pm, Allen Gallery.

FREE. donations welcome.

Next year, talks will be held in the Community Centre.

Curtis Museum

Saxons v 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. 4th November - 29th November 10am - 4.30pm.

Jill Line



Wednesday 5th November Meon Community Connect quiz and coffee - 10am to 12pm Warnford Village Hall

Thursday 13th November Garden & Countryside Club - 7.45pm Martyn Cox "Clever Ways to Grow Vegetables" Warnford Village Hall

Friday 14th November West Meon Community Cinema - "Black Bag" 7.30 for 7.45pm West Meon Village Hall.

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

Wednesday 26th November West Meon Care Group AGM - 6.45pm West Meon Sports Pavilion

Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector: Fr. Tony Forrest, The Vicarage, Church Street, East Meon GU24 1LH (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

November dates

Romsey - Sunday 2nd
Alton - Saturday 8th
Winchester - Sunday 9th
Whiteley - Sunday 9th
Emsworth - Saturday 15th
Southsea - Sunday 16th
Alresford - Sunday 16th
Ringwood - Saturday 29th
Winchester - Sunday 30th



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

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