

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

December 2025

Maranatha!

Last year, I wrote about keeping the spirit of Christmas alive for a whole season – and not just until 12th night – the eve of the Epiphany when we celebrate the Magi and their gift-bearing visit to the Holy Family – but right up until Candlemas (2nd February). But this year, which seems to have flown by, my mind is on the run-up to Christmas. Soon, we shall reach the Winter Solstice and slowly the hours of daylight will increase, but before the days lengthen very much at all, many of us will be getting ready for Christmas, as the supermarkets have been reminding us to do for what seems like months.

You may recall me writing about another ancient feast-day associated with gift-giving last year – the Feast of St Nicholas (Santa Claus), which falls on 6th December. One of the acts of care and kindness remembered about this ancient saint was his generosity to those in need and not least to children and young people.

You may also recall that we launched an appeal early in December to coincide with St Nicholas' Day asking for gifts of toys, wrapped and given anonymously for children whose



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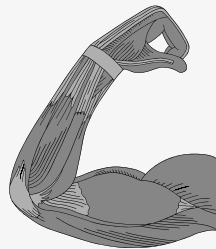
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Christmas can be pretty bleak. The response across West Meon and Warnford, with East Meon and Langrish, and from the two local village schools was incredible! Given that it was the first year of the appeal, the generosity was way beyond my wildest dreams, so much so that we needed two cars to transport all the gifts to Portsmouth.

I very much hope that similar Nicholas-tide generosity will become one of our local fixtures – a new tradition in the making. So, please join in the generosity again this year and help us collect more toys for children whose Christmas will be in the E C Roberts Centre in Portsmouth, rather than at home. Bring some happiness to those children, and joy into your heart, by giving with willingness.

The toys, mostly brand-new, were distributed to children, who would otherwise have to spend their Christmases in women's refuges or in homeless hostels - escaping violence and abuse, but with very little other joy. Last year we asked specifically for toys for children and that remains our main priority, but one or two people asked about small gifts such as hand-cream, I am sure that such gifts would also be appreciated. Please wrap your gift and label it only with an indication of the intended age-range of the toy, an anonymous greeting on the outside or on a label is also absolutely fine. We were also given some, generally larger, pre-used toys and these were given to the Roberts Centre itself for Children to use in the centre throughout the year.

As I mentioned last year, giving as Nicholas did, anonymously will bring many homeless children such great joy, but for understandable reasons, no water pistols or other toy weapons, which may bring painful memories to mind for some children or their mothers.

Please drop the gifts into any of the Benefice Churches right up until 16th December or bring them to any of our services between now and that date and please do tell others about our appeal – it makes a real difference to so many children. Thank you for your wonderful generosity last year and thank you again in advance for an even bigger response this year.

Keeping the run-up to Christmas in mind, the new church year begins four Sundays before Christmas Day on Advent Sunday, and although Advent Calendars often begin on 1st December, this year Advent Sunday fell on 30th November.

For Christians Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world as the baby Jesus, but also looks ahead to the end of time when all will be made perfect and at one with God's Kingdom. Our readings direct us towards Christ's birth, but they also challenge us to reflect and to turn away from all that harms us or indeed the world. But, the characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. Returning to my comment about supermarket advertising earlier, the anticipation of Christmas under commercial and social pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness. To be fair, supermarkets are far from alone in placing huge expectations on people at Christmas. So I hope church can be a haven from some of that pressure, while remaining a place of joyful expectant celebration. For us, the fundamental Advent prayer must remain 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Although church decorations are simple, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and so we can exploit the natural symbols of darkness and light throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath has been common practice in church and

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some homes since the 19th Century and now we also share in the Moravian custom of the Christingle too.

Do please join us on Christmas morning for traditional readings and carols, and to share in Christmas Communion if you wish. We would also love to see you over Advent, when we can look forward to Christmas and what it can really mean to us.

Maranatha!

Fr. Tony



West Meon Theatre and other Christmas Trees in St John the Evangelist 2015 © A Annabel

Rainfall report for October to mid-November

The second half of October was dry until the 19th when we had a downpour of almost an inch (24.03mms) It then rained every day for the rest of the month ending with 100.6mms (3.96"). By contrast November has been, with the exception of two days, wet, giving a total of 57.8mm (2.27").

This year rainfall in total to the 15th has been 723mm (28.5) and last year we had 970mm (38.2"), 247mm (9.7") more. On our 50 year average we would have had about 800mm (31.5") by mid November. On all counts it is a dry year and to highlight this the river has only just started to flow again in West Meon having been dry for almost five months, while through East Meon village it has just flowed all summer.

Peter Short

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West Meon Community Cinema Autumn Programme 2025

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



Photo Collage by Braylan Enscoe, Staff Photographer, The Panther

Tickets £7 available...

Online at ticketsource.co.uk/west-meon-village-hall

In the village shop (cash only)

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Film starts at 7.45pm and the bar opens at 7pm, selling wine, beers, gin and tonic, soft drinks, and ice creams. Cards accepted.

Rosemary Morrish

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

WEST MEON VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2026

We really need more help to organise this big event.
WE NEED YOU! All skills most welcome!

Initial planning meeting at Thomas Lord on Wednesday 10th December 7.30pm
Please come and join us or contact Susan (susanclareberry@gmail.com).

Susan Berry

Parochial Church Council Secretary

A New PCC Secretary is needed for St John the Evangelist Church, West Meon – could this be you?

You do not need to be a member of the church but may be co-opted onto the Parochial Church Council. We are a friendly but shrinking group of church folk who now need some extra support. The role involves the following...

- Liaising with the PCC chair to call meetings (usually 4/yr) and prepare the agenda; take minutes and then circulate for approval; record any resolutions; write any necessary letters; keep list of members.
- Preparing the annual report, give notice of APCM (annual meeting) and meeting of parishioners, take minutes. Liaise with Warnford PCC and share minutes.
- Receive communication from the deanery and diocese and respond as appropriate.

The PCC meetings are usually held on an evening in Feb, Sept and Nov on a Monday or a Wednesday to coincide with Fr Tony's availability. The APCM is held at the end of a Sunday service in April/May.

For more details and/or to express interest please contact Louise Clay at lpclay13@gmail.com.

Louise Clay



Meditation Group

I have been hosting a monthly meditation group for several years now, meeting early evening for an hour on the second Monday of the month at my home in the village. There are now eight to ten of us who meet regularly.

The benefits of meditation are well known – inner peace and calm, more compassion for ourselves and others, better sleep, a more responsive way of being rather than reacting to our thoughts and feelings. Comments from the meditation group include – an oasis of peace, a place to find stillness in a crazily busy life, calmness and tranquility, restorative, a time for reflection and rebalance...

Meditation is a simple way of paying attention to ourselves in the present moment and returning to an inner stillness but it requires practice and meditating in a group is a good way of supporting one another.

I am considering offering another day/time in 2026 if there is enough interest. Possibly on a Wednesday at 9am in the church.

Please get in touch if you would like to join us or know more. Contact Susan at susanclareberry@gmail.com.

Susan Berry

The Holm Oak - The Cross

A report by a professional Arboricultural Consultant has been sought with respect to options to address the visible damage and cracking that is being caused to the retaining boundary wall of the listed central monument and feature of “The Cross” by the Holm Oak root system. Circa 15 years ago the parish council helped to fund expensive renovations to the brick and flint wall, cap stones and railings which have to be maintained as a part of the listing.

As a result West Meon PC is planning to submit a planning application to have the oak replaced with a smaller native tree. It has rather unfortunately significantly outgrown its

location and is causing damage in addition to substantively changing and over dominating the central village vista, in a way that was not envisaged when it was originally planted as a much smaller tree in the 1970's.

Hannah Davies



Figure 53: Streetscene at The Cross in the 1960s.

Figure 54: The same scene today.

It is striking to note how tree and shrub growth has transformed this view over a relatively short period. Instead of forming a backdrop to a visually cohesive building group, as before, planting has now almost entirely obscured the cottages behind The Cross





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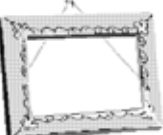
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Warnford, West Meon & Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club

On the 13th November Martyn Cox, award-winning garden writer, TV presenter, and all-round horticultural enthusiast, gave a very interesting and exciting talk about clever ways to grow vegetables.

He suggested a good selection of plants to enliven our gardens - from including them in your border as edible and decorative plants (chilli pepper “purple flash”) to good plants for containers or hanging baskets (tomato “hundreds and thousands”). He also informed us about how to maximise space in small gardens, such as with vertical gardening.

Looking forward to next year, our lively programme of events for 2026 includes a series of talks by engaging presenters through the year such as Amanda Gomersall on creating an award winning garden from weeds, our very own Stephen Short and his team, talking about their work as River Meon Conservation Volunteers and Edwin Grimshaw on life above and below stairs in the 19th Century. Our final talk will be by Ann Hughes, who will tell us how to make a Wildflower Meadow.

Garden visits will be arranged for the summer period, and a bring and buy plant sale and supper is on the 21st May with catering by our always popular Cuppacheeno Café. The culmination of the events in the year is the Warnford, West Meon and Woodlands Garden & Countryside Club's Summer Show on the 8th August. A programme of our upcoming activities is available on our website (and attached QR code):

<https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside/programme>

Edwin Grimshaw



Photo: <https://www.theamblingpath.co.uk/the-walks/westmeonandwarnfordfamilywalk>

Services in the Upper Meon Parishes in the Advent and Christmas Seasons

Please see our Pew Sheets and notice boards for more services and school and village events around Christmas.

Each Sunday at 8 am

Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) at East Meon

7th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9 am Mattins BCP - Warnford

10.30 am Advent Procession with optional Eucharist - East Meon

14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9 am Service of the Word - Langrish

10.30 am Family Eucharist with Toy Collection - West Meon

Thursday, 18th December

6 pm Carols in the Churchyard - West Meon

21st December – 4th Sunday of Advent

4 pm Traditional Carol Service - Warnford

6 pm Traditional Carol Service - Langrish

24th December – Christmas Eve and Christmas Night

4 pm Scratch Nativity - Langrish

4 pm Nativity from Scratch - West Meon

11.30 pm Midnight Mass - East Meon

Please not that this is the Midnight Mass service for the whole Benefice

25th December – Christmas Day

9 am Christmas Eucharist - Langrish

9 am Holy Communion BCP- Warnford

10.30 am Family Eucharist - East Meon

10.30 am Family Eucharist - West Meon



28th December – The First Sunday of Christmas

10.30 am A Guided Contemplative Service with a simple communion - West Meon

4th January 2026 –Epiphany Sunday

9 am Mattins BCP- Warnford with blessing of the Plough and Seed

10.30 am Benefice Eucharist- East Meon

6th January–The Epiphany

6 pm Compline - Langrish

11th January – The Baptism of Christ and First After the Epiphany (Plough Sunday)

9 am Service of the Word – Langrish

10.30 am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon

At today's services there will be the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th -25th January 2026

18th January – Epiphany 2

9 am Holy Communion BCP- Warnford

10.30 am Service of the Word - East Meon

25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

10.30 am Benefice Eucharist- Langrish

10.30 am Service of the Word - West Meon

1st February – Candlemas and Septuagesima (BCP)

9 am Mattins BCP- Warnford

10.30 am Benefice Eucharist- East Meon



Rustles in the leaves

As autumn brings misty mornings and crisp evenings, one of our most familiar garden visitors - the European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - is preparing for its long winter sleep. These round, brown mammals, famously covered in around 7,000 yellow-tipped spines, are a much-loved feature of Britain's wildlife and an important part of our natural heritage.

Often called the gardener's best friend, hedgehogs are expert nocturnal foragers. They emerge at dusk to snuffle through long grass, flowerbeds, leaf litter, and vegetable patches in search of worms, beetles, slugs, and other invertebrates, making them natural pest controllers. Hedgehogs have a keen sense of smell and a remarkable ability to remember the location of abundant food sources.

Mostly active from April to October, they thrive in a variety of habitats, including woodland edges, farmland, parks, and suburban gardens, wherever shelter and food are plentiful. Solitary creatures for most of the year, they roam several miles each night in search of food and mates, coming together only during the breeding season in late spring and early summer.

By this time of year, hedgehogs are busy feeding as much as possible to build up fat reserves before hibernation begins. As temperatures drop in November, they retreat to sheltered spots such as under sheds, log piles, or dense shrubs, creating a nest of leaves and twigs known as a hibernaculum. Inside, their heartbeat slows dramatically and their body temperature drops, allowing them to survive for months without food.

Sadly, the familiar hedgehog is now facing real challenges. Once a common sight in gardens across the UK, numbers have declined sharply over recent decades. Habitat loss, pesticide use, and busy roads have all taken their toll, leaving hedgehogs struggling to find safe places to feed and hibernate.

Fortunately, small actions at home can make a big difference. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust recommends leaving areas of long grass, creating safe corridors between gardens, and avoiding harmful chemicals, all help provide the refuge hedgehogs need. Every connected green space can become part of a larger, life-saving network for this cherished species. With a bit of care and community effort, we can help ensure hedgehogs remain a welcome part of our gardens for generations to come.

Find out more about hedgehogs on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/mammals/

Helen Skelton-Smith



Hedgehog. Photo © Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography



Burns Night Supper

Meon Community Connect invites you to a Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh on 24th January 2026 to be held in West Meon Village Hall. The evening will start at 6pm for a 6:30pm dinner of traditional Scottish fare and will start with the Address to the Haggis!

Afterwards Squinty McGinty's Band will entertain with ceilidh music for you to dance to. A caller will talk through the Scottish dances so no previous experience is required! A full bar will be open all evening selling beers, wines and soft drinks.

Tickets are available from www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk and must be purchased before 12th January 2026. Go to the events tab on the website for more details.

If you require the vegetarian option please make sure you select the vegetarian ticket

when you book.

Ticket prices are as follows: Members £30, Non members/guests £35.

Members have the option to pay £15 deposit and the balance at a later date.

Menu

Dram of Whisky to toast the Haggis

Haggis or Vegetarian Haggis

Served with neeps, tatties and a whisky sauce

Cranachan

Meon Community Connect



West Meon CE Primary School



After a restful half term, West Meon Primary is back to a very full schedule. Before we broke up, the children enjoyed a week of challenges. During the week we worked both in classes and House Teams which allowed children to work with school mates from across the year groups. This helps to foster the great community spirit we have here. The Art Captains in particular benefitted from the experience and two, fairly shy young people, rose to the challenge, standing up to demonstrate and instruct younger learners in an art

activity they had created. Members of the community joined us for a 'Linguistic Afternoon', where children were given the opportunity to learn about a different culture and hear and try out several different languages including Afrikaans and Arabic.

Our grateful thanks to FOWMS who organised the fantastic science day as part of our Challenge Week. Sublime Science led a super workshop that engaged all our learners and enabled them to encounter science in a spectacular, hands on approach. The hard working FOWMS team also found time to organise a Pumpkin Party that was a great success.

As I write, we are taking part in Anti-bullying Week. This week is a reminder to all of the need to be kind and mindful of the feelings of others. The focus of the week this year is 'Power for Good'; empowering children and young people to use their Power for Good to speak out, support others, and build a world where kindness wins. As a start to the week, children were encouraged to wear odd socks to school - two different socks from different pairs! Each sock represents an inner superpower (what they're already good at) and their action superpower (how they can help others). At the end of the week we are welcoming back Flip Theatre who do some great work empowering young people, building self-confidence and self-awareness. They will be leading workshops for all our classes through-out the day.

With our strong community and church links, it is no surprise that representatives from the school joined the Remembrance Service at St John the Evangelist. One of our Head Pupils, Vanessa, helped hand out orders of service and laid the wreath on behalf of the school. We also had our own Remembrance Service on the 11th led by Owls class when the wreath was laid by our oldest pupil and one of our youngest – this is a tradition at West Meon Primary.

We are now heading towards one of the best times of the year to be in school. Christmas time, when working with children, can be quite magical. We have a number of events organised including the Nativity, Christmas Jumper Day and a Secret Visitor in the last week of term.

As we head to the end of our Autumn term, we would like to thank all our volunteers and supporters from the community of West Meon who help to give the children of our school an enhanced experience and a true feeling of belonging. Wishing you all very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher



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The fight to protect the South Downs for future generations



Last month more than 200 organisations wrote to the government urging them not to weaken or remove a legal duty to support National Parks and their nature and landscapes and, following a meeting with Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the National Park Authority, Winchester MP Danny Chambers presented a petition with over 1,200 signatures to the government. It came after it was mooted that the government was considering amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that could water down the duty, downgrading consideration for National Parks among partners and developers. On 13th October, it was confirmed that the government was not pressing ahead with the idea.



Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the National Park Authority, said: “As our very first National Parks look toward a celebration of 75 years since their designation next year, repealing such a hard-fought duty now would have been completely out of step with Government’s ambitions for nature recovery, climate resilience and wider 30by30 targets. “It is vital that such proposals remain off the table and the duty can continue to enable partnership, collaboration and cross-government working throughout these cherished landscapes.” And Vanessa added: “This is a galvanising moment – an opportunity to reflect on the purpose of the strengthened duty. In legal terms it should influence how public bodies approach planning applications in Protected Landscapes. But really, the dream is

something much more fundamental than that. It should be a catalyst for deeper, more positive partnership working between Protected Landscapes and the public organisations that operate within them. “We need to keep pushing for these designated areas to be recognised as the vital environmental assets for the nation that they truly are. Places delivering essential ecosystem services and nurturing growth that’s measured not in profit, but in natural capital. A holistic approach that benefits both people and nature.”

The current government has declared the protection and enhancement of National Parks to be vital to its mission to restore nature and boost the nation’s health through access to green spaces.

South Downs National Park



**PLEASE COME WITH YOUR
FRIENDS TO OUR MACMILLAN
COFFEE MORNING**

**TO BE HELD AT ROOKESBURY VILLAGE
HALL ON FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026
FROM 10.30 TO 12.30**

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS
FANTASTIC CHARITY!**

A MVARAllous Christmas

Meon Valley Active Retirement Association (MVARA) Members

Visit to Mottisfont Abbey to view the house and grounds dressed for Christmas, on Thursday 4th December. The theme this year will be Cinderella, and the route through the house will reveal the whole magical story, amidst the usual impressive Mottisfont decorations.

The Ladies' Lunch Group Christmas Lunch will be on Monday 8th December and the ladies will be returning to last year's highly successful venue – The Black Dog at Waltham Chase.

The Members' Lunch Group Christmas Lunch this year will be held at the Bat and Ball, Hambledon on Friday 21st December. This will be a first time visit for Members to the home of English Cricket on Broadhalfpenny Down. The Members' Lunch Group has been meeting on the third Friday of the month throughout the year, sampling the offerings of a whole range of local hosteleries.

Theatre Visits to Chichester Festival Theatre take place throughout the year, with spaces selling out to members quickly and waiting lists being held in case anyone has to drop out. There are no plans to take in a pantomime, but immediately after Christmas, on Tuesday 6th January, a party will be going to

see Inspector Morse – House of Ghosts, with Tom Chambers starring as Morse. This may not be a Christmas Ghost Story, and the 'Ghost' may be something in the Inspector's past: A chilling and sinister story.

MVARA Winter Musical Soiree, featuring MVARA's very own Singing for Fun Group, the MVARA Minstrels. From small beginnings, the group has grown to 25+ in number and meets fortnightly at the Stables in Bishop's Waltham. The group, led by David and Henry, will be supported at the soiree by Andy's electric guitar, Jill's keyboard and Ian's unique musical input. There will be

continues over

a supper and a charity raffle. Enjoyable, with added 'audience' participation, will take place at St Peter's Church Hall on Thursday 12th February, and will help to dispel any post-Christmas blues.

And post-Christmas, brings us neatly to resolutions: not a MVARA Member?

At MVARA, we are always happy to welcome new members and to support new activities. It makes joining MVARA a resolution that's easy to keep.

Roger Wingrove

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 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

Neil Bolton, nbolton@winchester.gov.uk 01962 771256

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 Lions

WICKHAM BEER FESTIVAL - The Meon Valley Lions Club served burgers and sausages at the Wickham Beer Festival where we had a brilliant reception from the revellers ... and to top it off we'd really like to thank the organisers of the Festival, for their kind donation. Without the public support none of this would be possible, so a big thank you to all the kind people who supported the October Beer Festival for making this possible.



LOCAL YOUTH DONATIONS - The Meon Valley Lions are constantly looking for good causes to support and recently donated funds to enable the Newton and Soberton Guides Company, to purchase new challenge books to obtain badges. The books contain numerous challenge badges, and the new books include the latest challenges, and how to earn them – good luck and let's see everyone wearing those uniform sleeves with pride.

SANTA COLLECTIONS - Meon Valley Lions Club are busy organising the Santa Collections throughout December so look out for updates in our social media for routes and dates.

Carole Dash

What happens to the money you donate?

EVERY SINGLE PENNY we collect from donations or profit from our fund-raising events is used to help others. Unlike many other organisations, we use absolutely **NONE** of the money for salaries or administration. (Please note, in some instances a third party may charge a small administration fee for receiving donations on our behalf).

Geography we serve includes:

Corhampton, East Meon, Exton, Meonstoke, Warnford and West Meon.



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on

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helenagomm40@gmail.com

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](#).

Curtis Museum 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.

Jill Line





Tuesday 2nd December

West Meon Parish Council - 6.30pm West Meon Village Hall

Friday 12th December

West Meon Community Cinema - "Bridget Jones - Mad About The Boy" 7.30 for 7.45pm West Meon Village Hall.

Thursday 18th December

Carol Service - 6pm St John the Evangelist. All welcome - we hope to be outside so wrap up! Refreshments provided.

Saturday 24th January 2026

Burns Supper - 6 for 6:30pm West Meon Village Hall

Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

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

Verger for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

Hampshire Farmers' Markets - December

Romsey - Sunday 7th
Petersfield - Sunday 7th
Alton - Saturday 13th
Winchester - Sunday 14th
Whiteley - Sunday 14th
Emsworth - Saturday 20th
Ringwood - Saturday 20th
Southsea - Sunday 21st
Alresford - Sunday 21st
Romsey - Sunday 21st



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

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

The Editor: Jacqueline Annabel
Tel: (01730) 829023

westmeonparishnews@gmail.com

Advertising: Questions regarding advertising should be addressed to:
Helena Gomm

Tel: 07899 780830

helenagomm40@gmail.com

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