

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

July/August 2025

What you thought you knew about Mary Magdalene

On 22nd July each year the Church remembers Mary Magdalene, who is probably one of the most familiar saints, and yet about whom little is known for certain. Her popularity as a saint has led to both Oxford and Cambridge naming a college after her; her being the patron of almost 200 ancient churches in England, including one in our deanery; and, her universal appearance in church calendars throughout history, even surviving the English reformation and being remembered in the Book of Common Prayer.

Her close association with Jesus may explain her enduring popularity, but in her being both the patron saint of the contemplative life and of sinners, we also see something of the wide range of ideas about this scriptural woman, about whom legends and traditions abound.

In art, she is sometimes depicted with a jar of ointment, sometimes with her hair caressing Christ's feet, sometimes at the site of the crucifixion and sometimes in the scene of the resurrection. In these artistic representations we find some biblically accurate representations and some due to the confusion caused by there being so many Marys in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene was undoubtedly a dedicated follower of Jesus and probably the most important thing to remember is that she became, on that first Easter morning, the apostle to



Photo: Mary Magdalene (2018 film directed by Garth Davis)

Warnford Village Hall

**£7.50 PER
HOUR FOR LOCALS**

**Warm and homely hall
for hire.**

**Includes background heating,
lighting, use of well equipped
kitchen with dishwasher**

*Also tables, chairs, crockery and decorating
ladder for home use may be borrowed.*

Donations gratefully received.

For help and availability contact Amie Boyes

Telephone: 07887 946169

e-mail: warnfordvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Warnford Village Hall - Registered charity number 1078228

Friday 25 July

West Meon
Village Hall

**Strength training
workshop**

10.30am – 12:30pm

Movement class

9.00 – 10.00am

**Home based exercise plans for building
and maintaining muscle strength and
bone density at any age.**

How to:

- Build a program
- Address you own needs
- Progress your exercises
- Fit it into your life

yoga@molliemorris.com

molliemorris.com



West Meon Village Shop & Cuppacheeno Café

SHOP:

- Wide range of everyday essentials
- Daily delivery of fresh fruit and veg
- Artisan bread and pastries
- Gifts, cards and more
- Dry-cleaning service
- Pop-up Post Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

CAFÉ:

- Breakfast, lunch, coffee and cake
- Bike- and dog-friendly
- Sunny courtyard garden

Shop open:

Mon to Sat 7.30 am to 5 pm
Sun 7.30 am to 1 pm



Café open:

9 am to 3 pm
every day

Find us on:



High Street, West Meon. Tel: 01730 829310

West Meon Village Hall

**AN ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE.
IDEAL FOR ALL MEETINGS, CLASSES,
SOCIETY EVENTS AND PARTIES.
LARGE AND SMALL HALLS, WIFI, AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT
AND FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN.
VENUE OF THE MONTHLY COMMUNITY CINEMA.**

**ALL INFORMATION AT:
WWW.WESTMEONVILLAGEHALL.ORG.UK
OR CALL CAROLINE BUTCHER: 07770440561**

the Apostles – she was the one who told them that Christ had risen, although they failed to take her seriously.

Legends about Mary Magdalene abound; unsubstantiated suppositions about her are probably better known than actual biblical events. She is often assumed to have had dubious morals before following Jesus, but there is nothing in the Bible that backs this up. Frequently, people identify her with the sinful woman from the city that anointed Jesus' feet with expensive ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, sometimes conflating her with Mary, Martha's sister. However, there are no real clues in the Biblical text to the identity of that woman, and no reason to believe that it might be Mary Magdalene.

The Oxford Dictionary of Saints records a legend that she went with Jesus' mother and St. John to Ephesus. Some assume that her name "Magdalene" refers to Magdala, a town near Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, through which Jesus would have passed and where she may have lived, but we cannot know that for certain.

The most personal story about Mary Magdalene is in the Bible (Luke 8). She is identified in a list of women, who provided for Jesus and the disciples out of their resources. According to the text, Mary Magdalene was freed from seven demons, but it is not clear exactly what those demons were. Mental illness? Physical illness? Sinful behaviour? We shall never be certain. Mary was restored to health when she was freed. She was given new life in Jesus, but we just do not know what her old life was like.

So, what do we know?

We do know that she loved Jesus deeply and that she held an important place in his life and ministry, being present at Jesus' crucifixion, at his burial and at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. According to John, she was the first one to see the resurrected Jesus.

Though Mary Magdalene has been often misunderstood, she can, nevertheless, teach us about loving Jesus.

We can learn persistence from Mary Magdalene. Only Mary Magdalene remained at the site of the empty tomb. She could not give up; this persistent woman would not leave.

We can learn sincerity from her. When a man, who she assumed to be the gardener, asked what she was looking for, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." This woman said that she would do the right thing, even if it meant her carrying the body of Jesus back to the tomb herself. Mary Magdalene just opened her heart and sincerely said what she felt was right.

We can learn enthusiasm too. Once she realised to whom she was speaking, her precious Rabbouni or teacher (John 20:16), and when he had told her to go share the news of his resurrection, nothing could stop her from running to tell all the other disciples. She could not keep her enthusiasm to herself; the best news she had ever heard was bursting out of her.

We can learn a lot from Mary Magdalene and her unique place in the history of Jesus. We can learn from her persistence in waiting for Jesus, her sincerity in searching for him, and her enthusiasm in telling others about him. Though she has acquired a dubious reputation through the centuries Mary Magdalene remains a true example of faith in action, even if we do not know her as well as we thought.

How can she make a real difference to how we think and act today?

Fr. Tony

MacDonald Oates LLP
SOLICITORS

Our Services:

Commercial

Employment

Family

Litigation

Residential Property

Wills, Probate & Trusts

Midhurst

01730 816711

Petersfield

01730 268211

www.macdonaldoates.co.uk

Oliver Chimney Sweep



Experienced member of the
Guild of Master Sweeps

Insurance approved certificates
issued with every sweep

Professional, clean
brush and vac system

02392 787967

info@oliver-chimney-sweeps.co.uk



R.G. GRAY & SON

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Four Continuous Generations

TELEPHONE:
07901 671972

Whinburgh, Portsmouth Road, Old Netley
Southampton, Hampshire SO31 8ET

THE
**COUNTRY
HOUSE**
COMPANY

Sales | Lettings | Management

*Selling, Letting & Managing properties
in West Meon & Warnford*

www.countryhousecompany.co.uk



01730 771222



Nourishing Hearts, Homes, and Health

When 86-year-old Margaret opens her door to Louise from Health and Independent Living Support (HILS), her face lights up. "I always look forward to the cheerful greeting from the delivery driver", she says. "Often, they are the only human contact I have in a day! And having a hot meal delivered is marvellous". Stories like Margaret's unfold across Hampshire daily as HILS helps people to stay happy, healthy and independent at home. As a not-for-profit charitable social enterprise, we brave all weather conditions to deliver Hampshire County Council's meals on wheels service 365 days a year.



Every meal is nutritionally balanced with options spanning Vegetarian, Kosher, Asian, Halal, and West Indian cuisines. Those with specific health needs enjoy gluten-free and reduced-sugar options. For residents with swallowing difficulties, our specially textured meals (levels 4-6) ensure nobody misses out on proper nutrition.

Between 11:15am and 2:15pm each day, our DBS-checked Community Team Members deliver more than just food. Carl, who has delivered meals for six years, recalls arriving to find Mr. Jacobs on the bathroom floor after a fall. "Finding him there meant that I could call for help and stay until it arrived", he says. "Goodness knows how long he might have been there otherwise". This combination of hot meals and wellbeing checks makes our service truly special. With no binding contracts, families appreciate our flexibility. Whether supporting someone through recovery or providing ongoing assistance, you can order just once or as regularly as needed. We're here for anyone who is vulnerable, young or old.



It's not just about nutrition; HILS supports hydration too – which is extra important as this warmer weather kicks in! As we age, our sense of thirst decreases, but our body still needs the same amount of fluid! Don't wait until you feel thirsty. Here are 5 tips from us:

Tip 1: Aim for 6-8 drinks a day. That's about 3 pints of fluid daily to keep your body functioning well.

Tip 2: Keep a water bottle or jug handy. A visible reminder helps you drink regularly.

Tip 3: Mix it up with different drinks. Juice, tea, milk and cordials all count! Tea and coffee are not dehydrating, but caffeine may increase bathroom visits.

Tip 4: Hydration isn't just about drinking. Eat fluid-rich foods like soups, stews, fruit in juice and meals with sauces to boost hydration

Tip 5: Drinking more doesn't mean more toilet trips! In fact, not drinking enough can irritate your bladder and increase urgency. If you notice more trips at first, your body should adjust quickly.

Fiona Mackintosh

G. RIXON LTD.

ELECTRICAL PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS



01329 834600 enquiries@g-rixon-ltd.co.uk
www.g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

We carry out small jobs such as attending to faulty light fittings and dripping taps, to larger jobs such as complete rewires and replacement bathrooms. We are disabled adaptation specialists and install level access showers and accessible kitchens.

G. RIXON LTD, Wymot Heath Road Soberton Hampshire SO32 3PQ

ADRIAN HOARE TREE SURGEON

07825 730687
www.aphtreecare.co.uk
info@aphtreecare.co.uk

**Tree Surgery
Hedge Maintenance
Site Clearance
Fencing**

Hampshire - Surrey - West Sussex



General Garden Maintenance • Mowing
Strimming • Hedge Cutting • Gutter Cleaning
Driveway Cleans • Roof Cleans • Render Cleaning

Call for a free quote: 07340 478406
Or email: the_lawnranger@aol.com

STUDIO 6

DESIGN & PRINT

High quality colour print at competitive prices
Professional graphic design • Business & private stationery
Leaflets & flyers • Posters, banners & signage

We deliver to the Meon Valley!

PLEASE CONTACT US VIA PHONE OR E-MAIL

01329 832933 • print@studio-6.co.uk

www.studio-6.co.uk

Computer Problems Solved

We aim to efficiently
solve your home and
Business computer needs.



For a friendly, no obligation quote call:

Chris Guénier

01489 890738 or 07962 641796

<http://www.cps-ltd.org.uk>

info@computerproblemsolved.co.uk

DROXFORD ANTIQUES

Still buying & selling antiques of all descriptions.
Sourcing service, valuations & probates.
Repairs & restorations carried out in our own workshop.

Curtain Making

Beautiful hand sewn curtains, blinds, &
upholstery made especially for you.

The Old Bakery, High Street, Droxford SO32 3PA

Telephone: 01489 878800 • Mobile: 07973 551519

mary or mark@droxfordantiques.co.uk

Call in or contact us for free, professional & confidential advice

Architectural Interior Design,
Remodelling & Refurbishment

Contact Stephen Dick on
07976 723 425 or
stephen@residenceinteriordesign.com

RESIDENCE
INTERIOR DESIGN

The Old Stables, West Meon
www.residenceinteriordesign.com



Gemma Holistics in Warnford

Complementary Therapies for Mind, Body & Soul

**Reflexology • Reiki
Indian Head Massage**

The therapies work alongside medical treatments

gemma@gemmaholistics.co.uk

07749 425 999

www.gemmaholistics.co.uk



Rainfall for May to June

Rain is a fairly scarce commodity this year so since we last reported in mid-May we have only had 21.3mms to end of May and another 39.5mms (1.55") to the 15th June making a total of 60.8mms (2.39"). May ended with 25.0mms (0.98").

Watering has become a necessity nearly every day. The total for the year to the end of May is 310mms (12.18") and the total to end of May 2024 was 566mms (22.24") so we had 256mms more in 2024. *Peter Short*

West Meon Community Cinema

Following our summer break, the first film of the autumn season will be Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy on Friday September 5th. at 7.45pm. Tickets will be available on line at Ticketsource, in the village shop (cash only) or

on the door (cash or card). This is your chance to catch up if you missed it earlier this year! Films for the rest of the autumn have not yet been confirmed so please look out for information...

- on our website www.westmeoncommunitycinema.com
- in the village shop,
- village hall and, of course, the Parish News.

Rosemary Morrish



Photo: <https://collider.com/bridget-jones-mad-about-the-boy-cast-characters/>

Meon Valley Lions

EAST MEON COUNTRY FAIR

May has been a busy month for the Club and this was the first event. No cooking at this event but our 'Play your Cards Right' game was a great attraction.



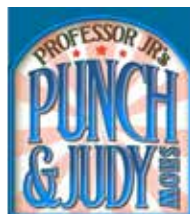
BISHOPS WALTHAM CHARITY FAYRE

As usual this was a really successful event raising funds to go towards the Club supporting local people.



NEWTOWN CHURCH FETE

This was a new event for the Club and it proved a great success. Some youngsters took time to fully appreciate their burgers...



SWANMORE VILLAGE FETE

Planned for Saturday 12th July from midday there will be loads of the usual attractions as well as some new ones, including a Dog Agility Display, Magic Jay the magician, plus Punch and Judy - please make sure you have the date in your diary.



WHY NOT JOIN US?

If you'd like to join the Meon Valley Lions Club, drop us a line via our website: Meon Valley Lions Club (CIO) - Feedback welcome. It's not all work, we have plenty of fun too, organised by our social committee.

If you'd like to help us run our minibus, you'll be able to transport local people to all sorts of events.

Carole Dash



New community initiative!

The demise of the WI has presented an opportunity to form a village organisation which would be open to all sections of our local communities and would be set up to foster social contact through a calendar of varied events. These might include daytime or evening functions such as talks/lectures, themed suppers, garden/house visits, quizzes, theatre trips, movies, lunches etc. – in fact anything the community suggests they would like to organise (within reason!)

Planning is in the embryo stages but so far a core of people with diverse skills has shown willing to progress this initiative.

Save the date!

The launch event will be a HARVEST SUPPER with entertainment by West Meon Theatre on Saturday 20th September in West Meon Village Hall – further details to follow.

Angie Trenchard: angietrenchard@gmail.com

Rosemary Morrish: morrishrosemary1@gmail.com

Rosemary Morrish

Cricket Fixtures for July

6th The Moles (H)
13th Stansted Park (H)
20th Tichborne (A)

Stuart Smith

Garden Club News

Our Annual Summer Show will be held on Saturday, 9th August, in Warnford Village Hall. If you kept the flier from the April issue of the Parish News, you will probably have already been preparing for the show and we're looking forward to seeing all your exhibits!

Schedules and entry forms will be available in Corhampton and West Meon village shops from 21st July. These will also be available to download and print out from the Garden Club website: <https://edwin234.wixsite.com/wwwgardencountryside/upcomingevents>

Completed entry forms should be left at West Meon Village Shop by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th August. On Saturday, doors will be open for exhibitors at 8.30 a.m. and exhibits must be in place ready for judging by 10:30 a.m. It's a fun day and entering your produce, whether flowers, fruit, vegetables, photography, cookery or crafts, is really worth the effort. As last year, we will welcome "audience participation" where all attendees will be encouraged to vote for their favourite entries in the crafts, photography and fun sections. There are lots of cups to be won, great camaraderie to be had and, who knows, you could be a winner! Classes are open to non-members and doors will be open to the public from 2:15 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the fruit & veg classes, please contact Carol Rowlatt on 01730 829034 or 07736 690797. For any other enquiries about the show, please contact Clare Swinstead on 01730 829059.

Clare Swinstead



J. Gordon
Forestry and Arboriculture Ltd

Crown reduction/reshaping * Thinning/Deadwooding * Skilled tree removal * Fencing
Plantation maintenance * Hedges * Tree planting * Woodland management * Stump grinding

Professional qualifications * Insured in all aspects of forestry and tree surgery

For a personal and caring service contact Joe Gordon
tel 023 9263 2418 * mob 07712 808081
www.treedocjoe.co.uk



24 hour emergency call-out
Free quotations



All aspects of
interior decorating
as well as
Tiling • Plastering

SJM Decorating

Call Steve Mitten on
07818 061650
Stevemitten69@gmail.com

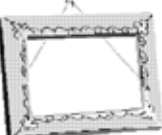
West Meon Sports Club Pavilion
Hiring Charge £11 per hour

Price includes lighting, heating and hot water. Fully equipped kitchen. 50 place settings.

Tables, BBQ, heating chafers, china, cutlery & glassware for hire.

Large tent for hire: 8m x 4m steel ridge frame (2m eaves)

For further details for hiring and bookings please contact
Mary Edwards **01730 829689** or email:
maryandorory@btinternet.com



Petersfield Framing Studios

Bespoke picture framing service.
All types of work undertaken.
Large choice of materials.
Tel. 01730 269926.
www.petersfieldframing.co.uk



RATED ROOFING
QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST

New tile roofs
New flat roofs
New slate roofs
New fascia's, soffits and gutters
All roofing and gutter repairs undertaken
Roof cleaning / moss removal
Free roof inspections
Fully insured
24 HOUR CALLOUT



TELEPHONE: 01730 859764 • MOBILE: 07881 276754
Email: info@rated-roofing.co.uk • www.rated-roofing.co.uk/west-meon



Local Treasures
where experience matters

Providing experienced, vetted,
local and insured...

👥 Companions 🌿 Gardeners
🔧 Handymen 👩 Cleaners
...and more

Contact Lou Bushell
0333 577 3301 - hellolou@localtreasures.me
www.localtreasures.me



Meon Springs Self Storage

Dry, secure and accessible Self Storage
just 5 minutes from West Meon.

To reserve a unit or find out more, visit
www.meonsprings.com
or call
01730 823249

Friends of the School's Thank You

Friends of West Meon School would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support at their recent fundraising event. Local business donations have made a meaningful difference and the event raised an amazing total of £1,081.72. The money raised will go to entirely restructuring our present library and creating a calm, yet vibrant and more focused space, along with an updated reading list to support our children's education. Friends of West Meon School are truly grateful for your participation and commitment to our school and enriching our community spirit.

The community has come together to rally around our children, teachers and parents and we are incredibly thankful and hope to continue to strengthen these bonds.

The Dell; The Thomas Lord; Aspire; David Lloyd; West Meon Butchers; Annie's Meadow; Joe Low Photographer; The Shoe; Helen Hiscox; The Fox Inn; Exton Park Vineyard; Wellbeing Clinic; Simon John Photographer; Yoga with Yvon; West Meon Community Cinema; Fawley Farm Feeds; Cuppacheeno Café; Yuliia Exercise Class; West Meon Kebab Van; Loomies; Anne Grove; Piper's Farm; Hambledon Cars; Sage and Salt Studios; West Meon Village Shop; Mollie West Meon Yoga; Totally About You; Jean Clarkson; Mrs Blogg; Helen Ripper; Garson's; Meon Hut Service Station; Petersfield Pool

Open Gardens and events in aid of Cardiac Rehab

Shalden Park House, in Shalden, is running a fundraising open garden in support of local charity Cardiac Rehab on Sunday 13 July. Visitors will be able to explore the beautiful four-acre garden with herbaceous borders, rose beds, a kitchen garden, arboretum and a wildlife pond. Tickets cost just £5 (in advance) and refreshments are available. <https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/shop/event-tickets/open-garden-shalden-park-house/> Alton charity, Cardiac Rehab, have invited Peter King CBE, former CEO of British Cycling, to give their annual Summer Lecture at the Cardiac Rehab Centre on Thursday 17th July. Mr King was British Cycling's chief executive from 1997 to 2008 and played an instrumental role in positioning the organisation as one of the most successful sport governing bodies in the UK. His achievements were recognised with a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) awarded to him in the Queen's New Year's Honours list of 2009. During the lecture at Cardiac Rehab on Chawton Park Road in Alton, Peter will share his highs and lows of a fantastic career which saw Team GB Cyclists competing successfully around the world. Tickets cost just £15 and include a glass of wine. Please pre-book. <https://bit.ly/43wrmDI>



Nicci Shepherd

Touchet Trust

If you are a resident of West Meon or Warnford the Touchet Trust may be able to assist with a grant towards your educational expenses. For example, full-time study at University or similar, full-time Sixth Form or similar (including travel), costs relating to dance/sport/music/school trips or the uniform grant for a child moving from primary to secondary school. Get in touch for an Application Form from janewaller54@gmail.com. Please note that no awards will be made until places are confirmed.

Jane Waller

Services in Upper Meon Benefice

Sunday 6th July

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

9am Benefice Mattins - Warnford

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - East Meon

Sunday 13th July

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

9am Service of the Word - Langrish

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon

Sunday 20th July

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

9am Benefice Holy Communion - Warnford

10.30am Service of the Word - East Meon

Sunday 27th July

8am Holy Communion - East Meon

10.30am Benefice Eucharist - Langrish

10.30am Service of the Word - West Meon



Sunday 3rd August

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
9am Benefice Mattins - Warnford
10.30am Outdoor Lammastide Service - East Meon

Sunday 10th August

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
9am Service of the Word - Langrish
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - West Meon

Sunday 17th August

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
9am Benefice Holy Communion - Warnford
10.30am Service of the Word - East Meon

Sunday 24th August

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
10.30am Benefice Eucharist - Langrish
10.30am Service of the Word - West Meon

Sunday 31st August

8am Holy Communion - East Meon
10.30am (tbc) Langrish Outdoor Service on Butser Hill



Meon Valley Active Retirement Association – Summer Update

Annual General Meeting

The Meon Valley Active Retirement Association (MVARA) held a successful AGM at Peter's Church Hall on Thursday 8th May. Some 30 members were in attendance,

After members had received reports on the previous year's activities and the healthy state of the finances the following Officers were elected:

Chair and Treasurer: Les Craddock

Secretary and Membership Secretary: Kenrick Fell

The following Committee Members were elected:

Kay Corke, Linda Doswell, Lydon Palmer, Roy Stainton, Sue Stainton and Roger Wingrove.

The following Activity Organisers were noted and thanked:

Sue Coombes - Advanced French Conversation, Kay Corke - Theatre Visits and Ladies' Lunch, Les Craddock - Table Tennis, Linda Doswell - Tai Chi and Visits, Lorraine Hansford - Book Club, Alison Hume - Scrabble, Lydon Palmer - Singing Group, Roy Stainton - Members' Lunch, Sue Stainton - Keep Fit and Roger Wingrove - Bridge, Language Classes and Newsletter.

The Chairman was pleased to report that 2024/25 had been a very successful year for MVARA with a significant increase in membership. The Association has now taken total control of its website (www.mvara.co.uk) which in addition to having an up-to-date calendar of events and activities, now has regular news updates. Although anyone wanting to find out more about the activities on offer can phone or email Committee Members direct, the most efficient way of making contact is via 'Contact Us' page of the website.

Activities

The full range of MVARA Activities is listed above and continues to expand. The very successful Book Club and the Singing Group are new additions this year. In addition, a programme of visits to places of interest has been reintroduced: at Christmas a party went to Hinton Ampner and enjoyed the Christmas decorations. More recently members enjoyed the sunshine and blooms at Exbury Gardens. Later this year a visit is planned to Bucklers Hard. Last December a number of members participated in an IT Course run by WorkAdvisor Ltd on behalf of Winchester City Council and in February we had the opportunity to play Petanque, courtesy of Shedfield Petanque Club – not quite the South of France, but great fun

A number of MVARA activities have waiting lists but we would very much like to welcome new members to Intermediate Spanish, Scrabble and the Book Club

Membership of MVARA costs only £5.00 for the year and so please feel free to enquire and join. You will be most welcome.

The Constitution

The AGM agreed amendments to the Constitution – all a bit technical but showing that the Association whilst, "firmly believe(ing) that an active lifestyle is key to enjoying good health during retirement age...aim(ing) to provide regular opportunities to get out and about and keep fit, meeting with friends and trying new experiences to make life fun and worthwhile" and therefore focuses on the over 50s, looks always to move with the times.

Donation

The Association is donating six laptop computers to Homestart Hampshire to support its very valuable work in the community.

The AGM, was followed by tea, cakes and a very interesting talk by Lyndon Palmer on “How St Swithun lost his Head” More talks on topics of interest to follow later in the year

Exbury Gardens Visit

On a fine day in May, 16 members of MVARA saw Exbury Gardens at its finest, with a glorious array of azaleas and rhododendrons, as well as a whimsical steam railway, this area sees nature at its best.

The visit started with an informative Meet and Greet session with one of the garden's experienced guides. This helped us in deciding which areas of the gardens to visit at this time. The azaleas were in full bloom and large banks of them were grouped together to offer an amazing range of colours, from pale cream, yellow, orange pink through to deep reds.



But, not to be overlooked, was a huge and exquisite wisteria in full bloom, cascading over a classical pergola, and the railway, pulled by a miniature steam engine, gave whole new perspectives across the valleys and woods, as it wound around the estate. “The Exbury trip was great. Bus was full and everyone loved it - not surprising as the azaleas etc were at their peak. It is truly a beautiful place. Even had a quick chat with the Rothschild's elderly granddaughter! Perfect weather – well done MVARA and thank you Linda”.

Roger Wingrove

West Meon CE Primary School

June was a particularly busy time in the school calendar. With the warmer summer weather, and end of Key Stage 2 exams out of the way, West Meon Primary looked forward to residential and school outings.

It is widely acknowledged that learning outside the confines of the classroom can have a positive effect on children's development. Outdoor pursuits give children the opportunity not only to investigate their surrounding environment, but also to develop their self-awareness and explore what they can achieve physically. What greater fun than to challenge yourself to traverse the climbing wall, perhaps reaching a little further every time?

During the summer term, years 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in residential visits. The activities are 'adventurous'; some involve water such as raft building or Kayaking; most involve working as a team to solve challenges and build resilience such as 'Low Ropes' and 'Earthquake'. Children's leadership qualities begin to emerge as the supervising adults observe those who ensure everyone is included and offer encouragement to their peers. Courage is displayed as individuals are supported to go that little bit further, to extend themselves beyond their comfort zone.

Year 6 enjoyed a week of adventures and challenges at Fairthorne Manor and years 4 & 5



spent time at Stubbington Study Centre. Both these well-established centres provide a great experience for our young people and were huge success. Stubbington Study Centre is well known for its local badger population and in the evening the children were able to observe the nocturnal creature from the centre's hide.



End of the spring term saw Friends of West Meon School (FOWMS) hold a Charity Bingo Night at the village hall which was a great success. They hope to make this an annual event. Local businesses rallied to support their local school by providing raffle prizes that thrilled the winners and displayed

the fantastic diversity of talents and small business ventures that abound in and around West Meon. The event was well attended by local residents, pupils, parents, staff and families. One of the top prizes was won by a supporter from overseas who will be flying in from the USA to make use of his roast dinner at the Thomas Lord pub. The Thomas Lord also delivered pizzas on the evening to the participants enjoying the evening out.

Even though years 4 and 5 were on residential, West Meon was still able to field a football team to take part in the West Meon Football Festival arranged by Aspire Sports. Local small schools took part to make a very exciting day and gave the participants the opportunity to display their good sportsmanship and team spirit. Next up will be our Sports Day which again gives pupils at West Meon the opportunity to shine out of the classroom.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher



The Alresford Accountants

- Full range of **Accountancy, Taxation & Payroll** services tailored to suit your needs
- Licensed to provide non-contentious Probate services by the ICAEW
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Tax Return & CGT Residential Return help
- Farming and Equine Specialists
- Small business consultancy & business start up
- Auditing services available through Butler & Co Audit Limited

Please contact us:

T: 01962 735544

E: infobutler@butler-co.co.uk

Butler & Co Alresford Limited,
The Old Stables, Sutton Manor Farm, Bishop's
Sutton, Alresford, SO24 0AA
www.butler-co.co.uk

CHAMBERLAINS

FAMILY SOLICITORS

We can help you with a wide range of legal services including
Residential Conveyancing, Probate and Wills,
Lasting Powers of Attorney, Commercial Property

**RED LION STREET (Off High Street)
BISHOP'S WALTHAM TEL: 01489 896141**

info@chamberlainslaw.co.uk



CHIMNEY SWEEP

- ◆ Professional & comprehensive service
- ◆ Stringent dust control methods observed
- ◆ No mess guarantee
- ◆ Nest guards & weather cowl fitted
- ◆ Shaft inspection & airflow testing
- ◆ Multi-fuel (MF) appliances repaired
- ◆ MF stove accessories fabricated
- ◆ Calls taken seven days a week

**01962 734029 (Home)
or 07721 458067 (Mobile)**

WATER SOFTENERS

— AMS LTD —

Water softener repairs (all makes)
No call-out charge
Can fully recondition with a guarantee
New softeners supplied and installed
10 years guarantee

E-mail: info@amsmayfair.co.uk

Tel: 01256 768171 • Mob: 07836 247694

DON'T BE STUNG BY WASPS OR PRICES!!



WASP NEST DEALT WITH

in this area

£30

Discount rate for 2 or more nests
Discount rate for OAPs

Call: APOLLO PEST CONTROL

01420 489144 / 07703 515567

We also deal with fleas, mice, moles, rats, cockroaches,
rabbits, pigeons, fox and deer control etc



Leydene Tree Care

All aspects of Tree Work Undertaken

Tree Removal | Reductions | Stump Grinding
Hedgecutting | Planting

07443 589 659

alexwill12@icloud.com

RICHARD
STEEL
& PARTNERS

THE FAMILY OWNED
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Incorporating Nigel Chamberlain & Partners

BISHOPS WALTHAM

ALRESFORD (01489) 892640 WINCHESTER (01962) 862333
(01962) 798789

Available 24 hours

www.steelsfunerals.co.uk

West Meon Parish Council

Let's Keep Our Village Accessible

A friendly reminder to help keep our village safe and accessible for everyone, especially those with limited mobility.

Please leave the disabled parking bay free (opposite village shop) for blue badge holders.

If you have a hedge bordering a pavement or junction that may impair visibility, it would be greatly appreciated if you can check it's not overhanging - even small obstructions can be tricky for everyone but especially those with mobility scooters, pushchairs and young children trying to cross the roads.

Problems reported to Hampshire Highways

1. Re-marking of the pedestrian path white line between The Thomas Lord and Doctor's Lane.
2. Restricted view whilst crossing the A32 from The Cross – requested a safety review with consideration for mirrors and crossing warning signage.

Anyone can report a problem or hazard they have seen associated with Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Highways through this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/report>

It's possible that the more reports we submit, the more likely we will get action.

Woodlands Entrance Signs

In response to traffic concerns raised by parishioners in Woodlands, to the north of the village, the Parish Council proposes to install two entrance signs to let road users know they are entering a populated area. The signs will read "Woodlands, Parish of West Meon" and will be located on the two lanes leading to Woodlands from the A32. If you would like to see the proposed location of the signs, or to comment on this proposal, please email the Clerk on clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk by 22nd July 2025.

Biodiversity Strategy

The Parish Council are developing a biodiversity strategy and would like to hear your views. More information on where to meet and when will be posted on our website and the village notice board.

Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website which also has details of local facilities and services, village news and events. Please sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc.

WPM has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.) If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

The WPM autumn meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th November and next year's AGM will be on Thursday 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

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

Adder's-tongue among the grasses

As summer unfolds, Hampshire's meadows come alive with a tapestry of flora. Among these is the elusive Adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), a plant that, despite its modest appearance, boasts a remarkable natural history.

Belonging to one of the oldest lineages of ferns, the Adder's-tongue is often termed a 'living fossil.' Its name derives from the distinctive spore-bearing spike that protrudes from its singular, tongue-shaped leaf, resembling a snake's tongue. This unique structure sets it apart from more familiar fern species.

Much of the Adder's-tongue's life is spent beneath the soil as a rhizome. Its underground phase relies on a symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi, which provide essential nutrients. This subterranean lifestyle allows the fern to persist for years without producing above-ground leaves, emerging only when conditions are favourable.

Remarkably, the Adder's-tongue fern holds the record for the highest number of chromosomes among known plants. While humans have 46 chromosomes, some species within the *Ophioglossum* genus possess up to 1,260 chromosomes, highlighting its unique genetic makeup. Adder's-tongue has also held a special place in human history and culture. In the past, it was believed to have magical properties, with some people carrying a piece of the plant to protect against snake bites. It was also used in traditional medicine to treat wounds and inflammation. There are two other closely related plants, the small adder's-tongue fern and the least adder's-tongue fern, both of which are much smaller and rarer, and are only found at a few sites around the south-west of England.

In Hampshire, Adder's-tongue thrives in ancient, unimproved grasslands and meadows - areas untouched by modern agriculture. Management practices, including careful grazing and habitat restoration, support the delicate ecosystems that these ancient ferns depend upon. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust plays a pivotal role in preserving these habitats, ensuring that species like the Adder's-tongue continue to flourish.

Adder's-tongue ferns typically appear in late spring and early summer, so now is the perfect time to keep an eye out for them. The fern is unusual as along with growing on grasslands and meadows, it also grows on hillsides, along woodland rides and on sand dunes. It can typically be found alongside common spotted-orchids, quaking Grass and devil's-bit scabious.

It is considered a good indicator species of ancient meadows. Their presence is a sign of ancient, undisturbed grasslands - an encouraging reminder of the richness and resilience of Hampshire's natural heritage.

Helen Skelton-Smith



Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's tongue fern) © Bruce Shortland



Wessex Sculptors from Brockwood exhibit with Hampshire Open Studios

*Unit C1A, The Black Shed, Brockwood
Barn, Bramdean SL24 0LQ*

An extensive and varied mix of traditional and contemporary sculptures for both indoor and outdoor display using a wide variety of methods and materials from a group of local sculptors of all levels of experience. Refreshments available.

Contact: wessexsculptors@gmail.com, www.wessexsculptors.co.uk, [@hampshiresculptors](https://twitter.com/hampshiresculptors)

Two miles east of Bramdean turn south off A272 signed to Brockwood. After approximately 1/2 mile the venue is on the left after a 90 degree left hand bend. Open 16-17th, 21st-25th August 11am-5pm (except Thursday 4-7pm). Level access but stoney car park at rear of barn.

Isabelle Garway-Templeman



PLASTERING & RENDERING

**Lime Render
Specialist in render painting**

Lime Brick Pointing

Skim Plastering
Cement Rendering

Call O'Brian on
07970417552



**Taylor's Garage
Droxford**

Hampshire SO32 3QL

Tel: 01489 877433

CAR and MOTORCYCLE MOTs

Service and repair to cars light commercials and horse trailers

Air conditioning - service & repair

Competitive prices on tyres batteries and exhausts

Collection & delivery or loan car available subject to availability

**PRESTIGE
PLUMBERS**

*Terry Hack - local, friendly and expert plumber
with 38 years experience and covering
Warnford, West Meon and surrounding areas
No job too small - Senior citizen discount
Call 01730 606510*



Mark Hamilton - Carpenter

Repair • Maintain • Preserve • Made to order

No job too small

Painting • Sheds

Doors • Gates

Sliding sash windows

Property Maintenance



Tel: 01329 826862 / Mobile 07910 039572

H.E.
BUILDING & INTERIOR SERVICES

**Trusted Expert Local Builders
30+ Years Experience**

- Home Renovations
- Loft Conversions
- Bathroom Specialists
- Extensions
- Barn Conversions
- Structural Knock Throughs

**CALL HARRY ON 07802 647565
OR EMAIL OFFICE@HEBUILDING.CO.UK
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



HEBUILDING.CO.UK

To advertise in this box
please contact Helena Gomm

on

07899 780830

helenagomm40@gmail.com

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 – contact Susan 07941096308 susanclareberry@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

Ancient Woodland: A celebration of place (19th July - 20th September).

Local artists Mary Waltham and Jackie Amies respond to the surrounding ancient woodlands of East Hampshire.

Ancient woodlands are the richest land habitat in the UK and home to many threatened species. These distinctive and often small tracts of woodland have been largely untouched by humans since before 1600 and cover just 2.5% of the UK.

Undisturbed soils and decaying wood create conditions that encourage species diversity of plants, invertebrates, fungi, birds and mammals. Ancient woods are also a living record of centuries of interaction and interdependence between man and woodland, they often contain remnants of archaeological features such as wood banks, pits and charcoal kilns. No surprise then that these woods are also home to rich and diverse myths and folklore.



The artists will be hosting workshops during the summer and a poetry and art event in September, as part of the Allen Gallery Project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Further details on the Gallery website www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Etching on Somerset paper - Jacqueline Amies

Talks sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

These start again on 11th September, at 7.30, with Mike Grey telling us **How the Victorians Died**. Later talks will include **Bees** (October), **Mediaeval Women** (November) and to round off the year, our **Social Evening** (11th December). Talks will continue to be held in the Allen Gallery until it closes for its refurbishment at the end of December.

Curtis Museum

Dotty the Dodo's Summer Fact Hunt - a free Family Trail running till 31st August. Find some Cool Facts about our wildlife.

The Time Detective Agency

We will also have a series of free Family Spotter Trails throughout the summer, based round the Time Detective Agency. Travel to a different time period each week.

Jill Line





Hampshire Farmers' Markets



July

Southsea Food Festival

- Saturday 5th July

Petersfield, Romsey – Sunday 6th

Alton – Saturday 12th

Winchester – Sunday 13th

Emsworth – Saturday 19th

Alresford, Southsea – Sunday 20th

Ringwood – Saturday 26th

Winchester – Sunday 27th

August

Petersfield, Romsey – Sunday 3rd

Alton – Saturday 9th

Winchester – Sunday 10th

Emsworth – Saturday 16th

Alresford, Southsea – Sunday 17th

Ringwood – Saturday 30th

Winchester – Sunday 31st

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

Sunday 6th July East Meon Church Fete 2-4pm - Cross Keys Garden

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

Saturday 30th August Warnford Village Fete 1pm - Warnford Playground

Thursday 11th September 7.30pm to Sunday 14th September 3.30pm West Meon Music Festival - Various venues.

Care Group Co-ordinator

Nina Byles 829028/07778 679922
Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

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

Verger for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

PCC Secretary for West Meon:

Louise Clay 829 235

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Verger for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

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

Printers: Studio 6, Woodside Court,
Sparkford, Somerset BA22 7LH
Tel: 01329 832933. Email: print@studio-6.co.uk

ISSN 2755-3280 (Print)

ISSN 2755-3299 (Online)