Meon Matters

News, Views & Comment
from East Meon



£1.00
Autumn 2019
Issue Number 202
meonmatters.com

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Cover Picture: Adonis Ladybird, Helen Boyce

Welcome once again to another issue of Meon Matters, this being the fourth under the stewardship of the new team. As it marks our first year since the relaunch, perhaps we are no longer new but nonetheless hope that you continue to look forward to each issue and most importantly, we certainly appreciate your support so on behalf of everyone listed at the bottom of this page, we thank you!

We hope you like the beautiful Adonis Ladybird on the cover of this issue. It heralds a new initiative for East Meon. Those of you who attended Hugh Warwick's excellent talk on Hedgehogs will have already learnt from Debs Evans that a nature group is being formed by members of our community with a view to bringing together all the various efforts of those interested in being involved with nature and ecology. For my part, I have been asked to undertake the role of East Meon Parish Council's Biodiversity Liaison councillor which I very much look forward to.

News of the group's progress, meetings, open days, talks, reports, announcements and so forth will appear in this magazine and also on the Meon Matters website (meonmatters.com) so be sure to read all the latest updates.

You will also read about East Meon Primary School's new Eco School status elsewhere in this issue. Our congratulations to them for their success. Well done!

If this is a subject that interests you or you wish to be involved with the group in some way, please contact Debs Evans, or myself at eastmeonnature@gmail.com. You will be warmly welcomed. There will be many opportunities for hands-on involvement and no experience is necessary or required, just a good helping of willingness and enthusiasm. To the many parishioners who have made enquiries and suggestions as to ways to enhance and develop East Meon's rich biodiversity and habitat, this is your chance to contribute and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

From Meon Matters magazine and the website, it just remains to once again say thank you so much for your kind patience and loving support.

Marc Atkinson

The Editorial Team:

Editors: Marc Atkinson, Sigi Goolden, Andrew Hughes, Sharon Sillence

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SEPTEMBER
East Meon Garden Club
Visit to Sandhill Farm House, Rogate
Supper at The Three Horseshoes
Thursday -26 September @ 6.00pm - 9.30pm

Moviola – Village Hall -Fisherman's Friends
Friday 27 September – 7.30pm – 9.30pm

OCTOBER
Jane's Boys at the George
Wednesday 2 October @ 6.00pm

Harvest Supper - Curry in the Church
All Saints Church – Saturday 5 October @ 6.00pm – 8.30pm

England's Rugby World Cup campaign
LIVE big screen - Village Hall
England v Argentina Saturday 5 October @ 09.00am – 11.30am

East Meon Garden Club – Talk
Transforming Gardens – Village Hall
Monday 7 October – 7.15pm - 9.00pm

Women's Health and Wellbeing
by Lavinia Winch in aid of The Eve Appeal, Gynaecological Cancer Charity
Village Hall - Friday 11 October

Wedding – bell ringing
12 October @ 1.00 pm

England's Rugby World Cup campaign
LIVE big screen - Village Hall
England v France – Saturday 12 October @ 9.15am – 11.30am

Village Hall AGM
Village Hall - 14 October @ 7.30pm

Sage and Season – pop-up dinner
Saturday 19 October

Potts Pantry – pop-up bakery
20 October

Moviola – All is True – Village Hall
Friday 25 October @ 7.30pm – 9.30pm

West Meon and Warnford Firework Fest
26 October

NOVEMBER
Photography Workshop
(Beginners DSLR) – at the Lone Barn, Catherington – 3 November

Jane's Boys at the George
Wednesday 6 November @ 6.00pm

Parish Council meeting
6.30pm Monday 11 November

East Meon's Got Talent
(Variety Show!) – 16 November

Moviola – Yesterday
Village Hall - Friday 22 November

Sage & Season – pop-up dinner
Saturday 23 November

Winchester and Portsmouth Guild of Bell Ringers
23 November 2.15 – 3.45 pm

East Meon History Group
Farming the Valley Book Launch at One Tree Books – Thursday 28 November @ 6pm.

DECEMBER
The Lone Barn
Christmas Wreaths
evening workshop on 5 December,
morning workshop on 6 December,
morning workshop on 7 December.

Jane's Boys at the George – Wednesday 4 December @ 6.00pm

Moviola – The White Crow
Village Hall -Friday 6 December

The Lone Barn
Christmas Wood and Textiles
morning workshop on 8 December.

The Lone Barn
Christmas table decorations
morning workshop on 15 December.

Parish Council Update – September 2019

Since our last report, the Parish Council has met once more in July, and held a open Planning Committee meeting in August to discuss the Coombe Road South site (part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan) with the developers.

Turning first to our July meeting, this was very much a business as usual affair with the focus on play area maintenance, parking safety restrictions outside the school, Fiveways resurfacing and low level fencing to deter 4WDs and bikers from damaging undergrowth, and of course potholes! On the latter, do help us by reporting any potholes using the FixMyStreet app. (www.fixmystreet.com). And we are most grateful for the the positive feedback on new kissing gates, more of which are to follow. Sadly, we are having less success persuading HCC Highways of the merits of a 40mph slowing down zone approaching the village from Clanfield, but we will continue to make the case.

More positively, we are delighted that a local resident has generously offered to fund a replacement tree on Washers Triangle. And to update on our July meeting, the Lengthsmen have now been found and are doing an excellent job.

Westbury House is physically harder to misplace, and consequently EMPC, SDNP and EHDC all have the building firmly in their sights, not to mention the unfortunate local residents and the police who are frequently called out. Regrettably our listing application has not been successful. A speedy settlement therefore seems most unlikely, as a proper solution will require funding either from the owner or from any future buyers.

Happily this is not the case with the Coombe Road South development site where plans are gathering pace, although they have not yet formally been submitted to EHDC, SDNP or EMPC for approval. If you missed the meeting, please do study the minutes and drawings on the Parish Council website (https://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk/community/east-meon-parish-council-15063/minutes/). In summary, the architects have focused on designing (across the 2 clusters envisaged in the NDP) eleven 2-3 bedroom homes with a mix of rural styling and the minimum roof pitch to preserve views. As you will see from the minutes, the meeting's focus was on obtaining assurances around inter alia surface water run-off, sewage capacity, electricity supply integrity, ecology measures and traffic management during the build. We will continue to focus on these and other important matters as approval is sought, to ensure the developer adheres to the policies and spirit of the NDP. Assuming no delays (a big IF of course), work could start as soon as Spring 2020.

We will report on EMPC's September meeting in the next issue of Meon Matters, but publish minutes sooner.

EMPC

Useful Numbers

Police:
101 Or 01962 841534

Police Hampshire Country Watch
Anna Presswell 07469 562221

West Meon Surgery:
01730 829666

Out Of Hours Doctor:
111

East Meon Stores:
01730 823224

Citizens Advice Bureau:
03444 111306 / 0300 3300650

EHDC:
01730 266551

East Hampshire Councillor:
Rob Mocatta 01730 823908

East Meon Parish Council:
01730 262882 / 01730 776207

Hampshire County Council:
0845 603 5638

Vicar:
Jane Ball 01730 823221

East Meon Care Group:
0705 017 7505

East Meon Village Hall Bookings:
07956 783061

East Meon Garden Club

Gardens Open June 2019

Despite the overcast skies, the rain held off and members of the Committee were delighted to welcome a record number of visitors.

This year there were additional gardens to visit which was wonderful as each one was able to offer a new vista which gave new ideas of what could be achieved with a garden, either big or small, cottage style, formal or just… 'this is my garden'.

We welcomed Richard Brocklseby our 'unusual tools' gentleman to The Green. Again, he was selling implements ranging from old fashioned hand tools, shears, hoes and rakes to wall hooks.

As usual there were lots of plants on sale and these proved as popular as ever. A little reminder that, if you are going to be splitting plants this Autumn, perhaps you can do an extra one (or two) for next year's sale.

Tea and cakes were available in the Village Hall where visitors could relax after their 'walk-around'. The tea-ladies worked very hard and were rewarded with a good profit to benefit the Church. The Committee received many complimentary words on the delicious cakes that were offered. On behalf of the Committee, thank you' to everyone involved who helped to make the day happen.

To end a really lovely afternoon, visitors were invited to attend Evensong in the Church and this year, it was performed by Index Cantorum, such glorious singing was very much appreciated and rounded off another very successful 'Gardens Open'.

Pamela Peacock



East Meon Garden Club Annual Show

Founded in 1902, East Meon Garden Club held its latest Annual Show last Sunday and celebrated with a big increase in entries across the various classes.

There were entrants who had never entered before being Cup winners, but the stars of course were the fabulous floral displays, immaculate vegetables and the amusing 'wonky' and misshapen vegetable class.

The wonderful 'Produce and Preserves' loaded down the Show Table which included a delicious looking dessert under the category…make a dish using vegetables from the garden…which was a chocolate roulade, an ingredient of which included beetroot.

Last year there were three entries in the Photography Class, this year 51photographs were exhibited.

The Committee were delighted to welcome Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake and thanked him very much for handing out the Cups and Trophies as follows:

In the Vegetables Class the **Challenge Cup** was won by Alastair Dudley-Williams

The RHS Banksian Medal - presented to Alastair Dudley-Williams for gaining the highest number of points in the Vegetable and Flowers Classes.

Allotment Holder Award – Alastair Dudley-Williams

Novice Shield - For the person who has never won a Cup or Trophy in the Fruit, Vegetables and Flower classes was awarded to David Bailey.

Edgebourne Cup awarded to Jane Atkinson for gaining the most points in the Floral Arrangement Category.

Produce Cup awarded to Sue Atkinson for gaining the most points in the Produce and Preserves Category.

Photography Cup was awarded to David Harlow.

Best in Show (covering exhibits in the Vegetable, flower and Fruit Classes) exhibit was awarded to Julia Turpin for her Mop Head Hydrangea.

The Childrens Cup was jointly awarded to Henry Lions and Sofia Duncan

The John Davies Salver was awarded to three exhibitors in the Arts and Craft Class, namely Eleanor Marks/Margaret Marks and Sue Zirps.

The Committee was delighted to receive comments from the Judges on the high standard on display and how hard exhibitors must have worked to achieve such wonderful results. No show is complete without refreshments and the kettle never stopped 'singing' thanks to the tireless efforts of the ladies providing the tea and home made cakes. Hard work, but a fantastic day. A big 'thank you' for all your wonderful support, much appreciated.

Pamela Peacock





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Hampshire Open Studios

It's been a beautiful few weeks exhibiting in East Meon & Petersfield. After the success of a rainy launch party on the Friday night, the sun shone continuously until the closing day, bringing with it lots of lovely and interesting people visiting the area to see the local artwork of myself, Jane Martin & John Mackinlay for Hampshire Open Studios. Thank you to everyone that came along from the village, it was lovely to see friendly faces as well as making fresh introductions to some newcomers.

Amy Lague

Hampshire Open Studios has been going for some time and East Meon's artists are now beginning to take part with greater visibility. For the week leading up to the August bank holiday Jane Martin, Amy Lague and John Mackinlay have staged individual exhibitions in their respective studios. Having three Open Studios in the same village, which is also a good place for lunch, has made us rather a hot spot during this artists' week and punters from across the county have included East Meon on their art trails. We plan to do it again next year so if you would like to join us by opening your own space get in touch, the more Open Studios we have in the parish will make us an un- resistible hot spot again next year.

John Mackinlay



Jane Martin



Amy Lague



John Mackinlay

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The Book Bus – volunteering in Zambia helping children to learn to read.

This summer I was lucky enough to spend two weeks in Livingstone, Zambia with The Book Bus. This is a wonderful charity which helps children learn to read in Zambia, Malawi and Ecuador. It's 'about improving children's lives one book at a time.'

In Livingstone, each morning we travelled in Charlie, one of the Book Buses, to outlying schools where we were met by exuberantly enthusiastic children all jumping up and down at the prospect of being taught reading by us! Charlie carries a library of donated children's books, so we were able to share some beautiful books and stories with them, as well creating some fun arts and crafts. At the end of each morning we were treated to the sight of the kids streaming off all clutching paintings, incy wincy spiders or wearing ribbon bracelets!

I was blown away by the kids' sense of humour, brightness (they all talk at least two languages) and enthusiasm. And they are so active – cartwheels and karate high kicks are in!

If anybody is interested in volunteering – and having a life-changing experience – please get in touch with The Book Bus. www.thebookbus.org/volunteer or have a chat on 0208 099 9280 or email: info@thebookbus.org

All volunteers are welcome regardless of age or background, who have a love of books and stories and like working with children.
One of the volunteers, Ali made a short video of the project - here is a link to it:
https://youtu.be/H2nrrMeFG58

Photo below: Charlie the Book Bus with interesed bystander



Fastnet 2019

This year I joined Magic Moments, a 40 year old Sigma 33 yacht for the 2019 Rolex Fastnet Race. I was sure it would be a fun trip on the oldest and slowest boat in the fleet. I'd not sailed on a Sigma before but was not unduly concerned when the skipper told me she was a heavy boat to sail and a wet boat (meaning that she took on lots of water).

My first trip on her was a delivery from Ipswich to Cowes via the wind farms of the North Sea and the Thames Estuary and the Goodwin Sands. She was a great boat to sail in easy sailing conditions and the trip was not too wet.

The Fastnet Race is 604 nautical miles and our planning suggest 5 days at an average of 5 knots. There were 4 in the crew, basically 2 teams of double handed sailing. We started at 1pm on Saturday 3rd August and did a brilliant job getting her well past the needles in light airs before the tide turned against us. We spent the first night becalmed in the channel off Lyme Bay before the winds came in over 30 knots on Sunday evening while we headed out past Lands' End towards the Scilly Isles. The sea was rough, and we heard many boats retiring during section of the race. The run from Scillies to the Fastnet was slow in light winds but given our handicap we were keeping up with the fleet. Rounding the Rock is always a relief, and this was the first time I'd rounded it in daylight. By now we were tracking the storm coming across the Atlantic, forecasted to hit the UK on Thursday. Fortunately, we had good winds on the run back from the Fastnet to the Scillies and we were optimistic we could get back to Plymouth before the storm arrived. The calm before the storm arrived just after we'd past the Scillies and we spent the next 24 hours battling to keep the boat moving in very light winds. For the majority of the trip, we were heeled over and the water was determined to avoid the bilge pumps. The boat was very wet, twice we had to lift all the floorboards to get to the bilges to bail out the water. Everything on board was soaking wet.

By now most of the other boats were back in Plymouth enjoying well earned beers. Early on the Thursday, we passed the Lizard and in improving winds, we made progress towards Plymouth although for most of the day, visibility was poor with lots of coastal shipping to navigate around. We finally crossed the line about 18:00 on Thursday, after 5 days and 6 hours. We were greeted at the quay side by friends and fellow sailors determined that we got the last of the free beers from the competitors beer tent, as it happened, we were able to get free beer all night. The threatened storm arrived during Thursday night and it became clear that we couldn't sail the boat back to the Solent in those conditions, so after a good shower and breakfast, I took the train home for a well-earned rest.

George Thompson

Meon Dogs & Englishmen
The Book Title Dingbats

Thank you to everyone who took part and I hope that you enjoyed doing it.
£50 was raised for the Rosemary Foundation.

All those who got all answers correct had their names entered into a draw and the winner was Olivia Farnell who received a book token.

Hazel Rendle



Fastnet Rock Lighthouse

A night with Sage & Season

Back in July, I was taken out for dinner to a most unassuming location – aka – The Privett Centre, nestled under the towering steeple of the church... I didn't know what to expect other than a "she's incredible" and "don't eat too much during the day" and a "bring a warm jumper"... Triggering mild curiosity and a bit of anxiety about what to wear.

Upon arriving at the village hall, we were greeted with decorated tables on the lawn and a quintessentially English vista – green grass, blue skies dotted with white clouds and the soft sounds of birds, with the backdrop of the Privett church steeple.

It's quite hard to explain what happened next without sounding too much like a child in a sweet shop, but I'll have a go. My party of 4 was sat on a table with another party of 4 who were locals to Bramdean – and while we were introducing ourselves to each other we were presented with a board heaving with the most good-looking starters. Amanda introduces the dish to the 3 tables, who have rapidly started tucking in... "...home-made falafel, butter-bean-humous, pickled cucumber, beetroot 4 ways, home-made bread..." and adds a post-script: "all the vegetables are home grown by my mum and dad in their allotment..."; at which point the East Meoners award a huge cheer, for we know who the crafty green-fingered allotment owners are... none other than Dave Wyatt (keeper of The Village Secrets, due to working in nearly every house in the community helping people with their decoration needs). The tables go quiet for a few moments while we get to work on the platters of beautifully presented food – so delicate yet robust. Nasturtium flowers (edible!) to garnish. It was satisfying knowing how much of it was locally sourced, too.

After about half an hour of munching and licking and dipping and making a lot of 'mmm' noises and politely offering last bits to others in the hope that they'll say 'no thanks, you have it', the sun dipped behind the great trees surrounding the hall and the temperature rapidly dropped. At this point Amanda came out once more to invite us to move inside the hall - it really was too cold to be eating outside now the sun had gone down. We pick up our glasses and bottles of wine and water, and head inside, where the room is set up with two long banquet tables covered with flowers, napkins, candles, plates... it looks gorgeous – fresh beech branches adorning the window ledges bringing a bit of the beauty from the outdoors, inside... cosy and natural.

The next course was based around a slow roasted mutton (slow roasting since 11am), which melted in the mouth, along with kale, vine leaves stuffed with sweet potato, and a punchy salsa. Again, the majority of the vegetables on the table were locally grown and Amanda made a point of describing the meat dish as mutton – not lamb... – which was seasonally appropriate. It was delicious. And there was so much of it. We couldn't quite believe that we could eat that much food, but there it was, in front of us, beseeching us to finish it off and polish the dishes clean. So, being the obedient bunch that we are, we did.

Could a person eat any more?
Why yes, I think they could.

After a polite break, where people chatted and drank and watched the sky grow dark outside... the cheese course. The cheese course! (Indicating there was also a pudding course to come...) Baked fetta with honey and home-made water biscuits... the sweetest softest more-ish cheese you could eat. Cheesy yet sweet. Not savoury. Not pudding. The perfect in- between.

We marvelled at the cleverness of this stepping stone between lamb and whatever lay on the other side of the delicious food-bridge of cheese.

Amanda has created a way of eating that brings such joy to the taste-buds that ones will-power to resist eating as much as possible is demolished.

We sat there in a cheese-bliss, transported to our happy places in our heads. At some point the friendly staff had cleared our plates and Amanda once again came to introduce the 4th and final course of the night: Eton Mess. Well, an Amanda-version, which was a home-grown-rhubarb-infused-creamy-meringue-light-yet-sweet-yet-somehow-balanced-to-perfection, which put a bullet in any hopes of maintaining distance from a night of pure gluttony. More lip-smacking and spoon-dipping and sighs of food-induced-exhaustion.

Coffee and chocolate-bon-bons to push us over the edge before loosening our belts, squeezing into our cars and heading home to process the experience and to digest.

We are lucky to live in a valley of plenty, and Amanda's premise is to use the food that is available locally and if not locally then seasonally appropriate and her welcoming open-armed spirit is something that I would love to experience again. You should all go. It's a proper delicious treat.

Cost: £40pp (BYO booze) Location: The Privett Centre
Website: www.sageandseason.co.uk Bread by: www.realbreadandfood.co.uk

Claire de Lotbiniere






Sarah Raisbeck - Master Baker

I originally had my own business called Potts Pantry which I started in 2006. I specialised in Desserts and Patisserie and sold to local pubs and farmers markets. When my first daughter was born in 2011, I slowly stopped Potts Pantry.

My love of baking meant that I had to do something and started to find a passion for Sourdough, so taught myself to make it. Being a full time Mum with three children I started to wonder how I could sell my Sourdough and sweet treats to people and came up with the idea of having a pop-up bakery from home.

I live in Ramsdean and over the last two and a half years my pop up has just grown and grown and seems to do better every month. I stop in the holidays and come term times I have a pop up once a month on a Sunday.

I very much focus on healthy products and using ingredients that are of high quality and nothing processed. Most of my sweet products are Refined Sugar Free, Gluten Free and Plant based. My aim always being that they taste and look delicious. I decorate some of my cakes with edible flowers which we grow in the garden. All my Sourdough is made from Organic Ingredients, on offer I have a selection of loaves, Focaccia and Ciabatta. I have won awards for my Sourdough with the World Bread Awards and am about to enter again this year.

Future Pop-up dates -
September 28th, Redford Sale 10.00-3.00pm, near Milland.
October 20th 09.30-11.00am. At 5 Pond Cottages, Ramsdean.



I advertise on Facebook and Instagram where you can see the pop up menu and then pre order if you want too, otherwise just turn up on the day. Always advised to turn up early; we also have a drip bar for fresh coffee. I do bake weekly where bread can be ordered and picked up or delivered if you're very local.
My website www.sarahraisbeck.co.uk

Sarah Raisbeck
Photo credit Sarah Sheldrake





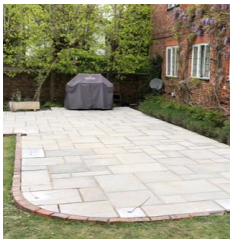
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What's the Perfect Harvest?

What do us farmers want from the summer season? Very simple really. From the beginning of July till the end of August we simply require warm sunshine, dry conditions, gentle breeze, with a good drop of rain late August once our oilseed rape has been drilled. It can't be too hot because we have to store the corn when it is cool. We need it dry to avoid spending money on drying the grain before storing it. Oh, and we want everyone else in the country to be soaking wet so there is a shortage of crops which then drives the prices up.

The key to harvest is to get the crops cut as soon as they are ripe. If the crops are left standing into the back end of summer, the quality of the grain deteriorates and eventually the corn drops onto the ground and is then wasted and all our hard work and cost is for nothing.

The summer got off to a good start with the rape being harvested in early July during the warm dry conditions and we all looked forward to an easy harvest like we had last year. Unfortunately just as we had started the wheat in early August, it then rained…… and rained. We had one wet day followed by a dry day followed by a wet day and so it went on. This meant that we sat and watched our crops losing quality and value until the end of August when the sun remembered to come out. In the end we got all our crops in the store by the first week in September, but certainly we'd lost quality and the early high yields were gone. On top of that the commodity prices are not very exciting so no big bonuses this year.

Next year's oilseed rape is in the ground and if the slugs and flea beetles leave it alone it should all be up and away over the coming weeks. The ground is being prepared for the winter grown cereals and of course the shooting season has started, so off we go again. Fingers crossed for a dry few weeks interspersed with showers to get the crops off to a good start!



Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake

Churchyard

In order to help sustain and develop the wildflower meadow section of the churchyard, every year in late July or early August a small team cuts and collects the grass and other plants that have grown during the spring and summer. John Mackinlay has done the cutting for several years with his machine, and then a week later the collection team move in! This year the collection was done on 10th August and due to the wet weather during the week and forecast this year we made no attempt to make it into hay. George Atkinson brought a trailer to take it all away - and two trips with full loads were needed to remove it all. Once the job was done, Olivia Hickling provided the working party with refreshments - coffee and her trademark Rocky Road!

Graham Davenport







Loading up!
Left to right: Steve Ridgeon, Peter Lague, George Atkinson,
Andrew Hughes, Malcolm Farrow and Alastair Dudley-Williams.

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East Hants Villages Scout Group

☺ Looking for a new Beaver Leader ☺

Our Beaver Leader retired from Scouting at the end of the Summer Term and our Beavers are looking for a new Leader. Somebody who is fun, friendly and kind who can help them **explore** the world through games, stories and group work.

Does that sound like **you**? Do **you** want to help make a difference to a young person's life?

Our Beavers are the youngest members of our Scout Group, aged between 6 and 8 years old and they meet at West Meon Village Hall on Wednesdays during term time from 5.45 pm until 7.00 pm.

An opportunity to volunteer and make a difference....

…Here is what one of our leaders said about their role:

"I had never done any scouting as a child, was persuaded to become a Leader when my child became a Beaver, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The training was fun, and I have met lots of lovely, active people. It is really like joining a large, worldwide family! I am now a new Cub Leader and have found that my confidence and many other skills are being developed as I continue with scouting.

The children can encounter so many different life-enhancing experiences through scouting, in a fun and enjoyable way, and I am very glad to be able to facilitate that learning."
Emily – Cub Leader

The training isn't too onerous – you can do it online if you want to and you'll have lots of help from parents to run the sessions.

For more information contact: **Carolyn Torkington, Group Administrator/Group Treasurer**

Tel: **01730 829780** *or* **Mobile: 07922 116618**



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FARMING THE VALLEY
By Michael Blakstad

The glorious countryside and buildings of today's East Meon are the result of thousands of years of farming which was until recently the sole industry in the valley. In the Middle Ages this was the largest Hampshire estate of the diocese of Winchester, reaching to the Sussex border and beyond: the magnificent church and bishops' palace were the centres of religious and feudal control. Strip farming in communal fields made way to enclosed farms, oxen first to horses and then to machinery, natural tillage to artificial fertilisers.

East Meon History Group has researched the social, architectural and economic aspects of life in the Hundred of East Meon: the great houses and successful farms in contrast with the insecurity and poverty of agricultural workers; colourful figures including the legendary millionaire recluse, the Dowager Countess Peel, and the avaricious Victorian vicar, the Rev Thomas Cook Kemp; involvement in national events including the Black Death, the Civil War, Swing Riots and two World Wars. Over a dozen 'research reports' were produced on different periods, farms and topics, which can be seen at www.eastmeonhistory.net. We secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to commission a cartographer to produce fifty maps which plot the changes to life and work which underlie Farming the Valley, and some of you will have visited the exhibition which we mounted in the Hall at The Court House and at Petersfield Museum. We then raised another grant, from the Hampshire Archive Trust, which has enabled us to have the book designed and printed as a lavishly illustrated 'coffee-table' volume. It will be published in November (in time for Christmas …) and available at One Tree Books in Petersfield. The paperback edition will cost £25. The limited-edition hardback edition (with a slip cover) has largely been pre-sold to local residents.



The Tournai Font
Below: detail from Tournai Font, temptation of Eve and dismissal from Garden of Eden

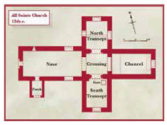
pay by the manor court but also the receipts and expenditure attributable to the bishop as lord of the manor. It was the job of the manor reeve to prepare annual accounts of receipts and expenditure, his '*computus roll*', and submit them to the diocesan treasurer in Winchester for transcription into the manor accounts. The manor accounts survive in the Pipe Rolls for most years of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, providing a rich source of detailed information about the manors.

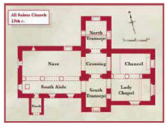
Menes Parish

The size and beauty of All Saints reflects its importance as the religious and community centre of the whole parish. Pevsner described it as '*one of the most thrilling village churches in the whole of Hampshire*'.

The original Saxon minster church was replaced in the eleventh and twelfth centuries by a simple church comprising today's central nave, chancel and a square tower, a process probably started by Bishop Walkelin, 1070-1098, who also





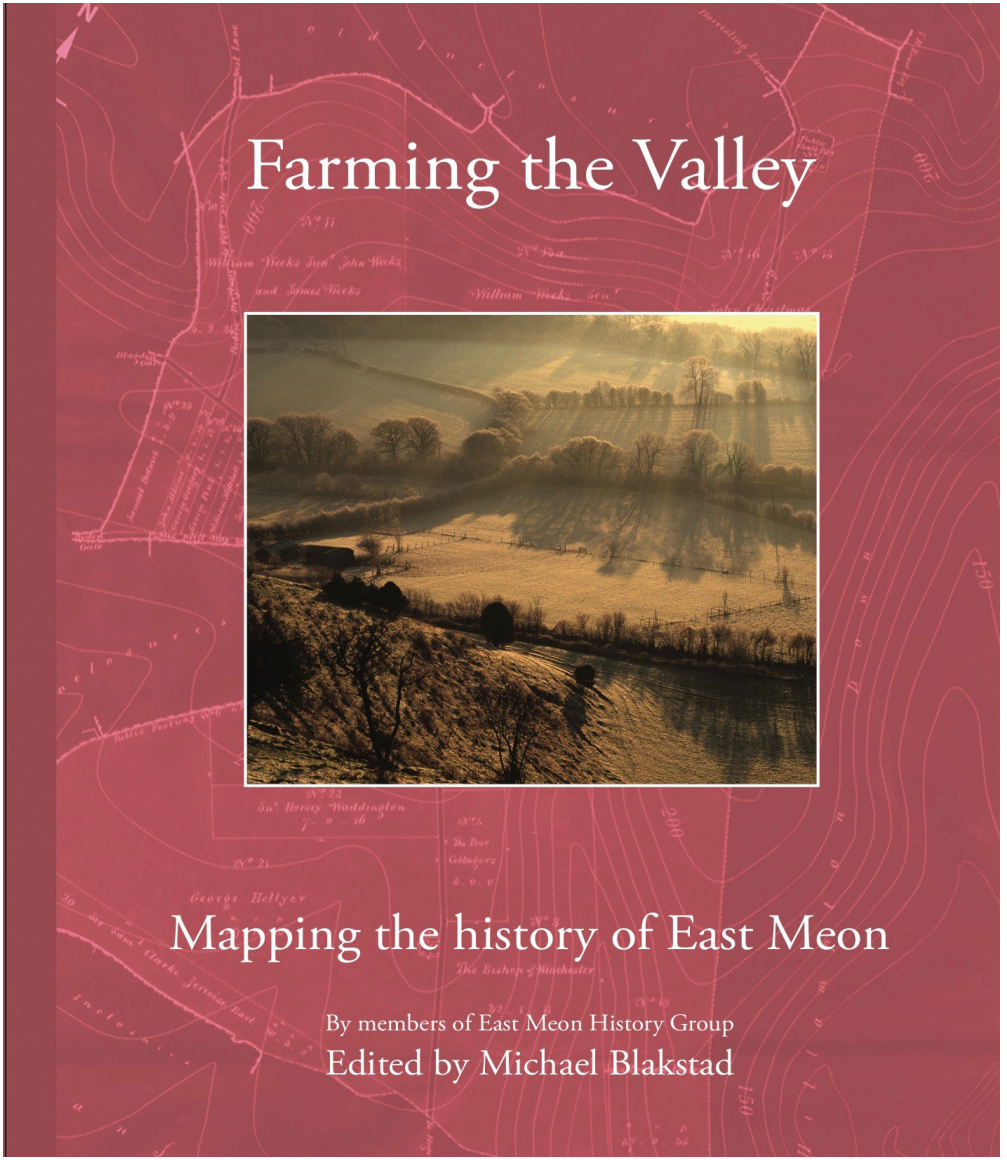


Floor plan (top) of All Saints, showing original construction eleventh and early twelfth centuries
Floor plan (bottom) showing additions to All Saints by Bishop Henry of Blois

rebuilt Winchester Cathedral, and completed by Henry of Blois who donated the Tournai Font, the church's greatest treasure, and one of only four in Hampshire.

In the thirteenth century the church was enlarged by Bishop Peter des Roches who added the south nave, transepts and the steeple. Many churches were expanded at around this time to allow for extra altars to accommodate the '*celestial bonehardcrowd*' of extra masses for the souls of prosperous residents who had left the vicar money for that purpose. In addition, populations were growing in the thirteenth and early fourteenth century which was another reason for the addition of extra aisles to many churches.

We shall hold two launch events. The first is at One Tree Books on Thursday 28th November at 6pm, when sponsors can pick up their hardbacks, and paperbacks can be purchased in time for Christmas. On Monday January 20th we invite everyone to attend our local launch event in the Village Hall, 7.30 pm, at which those of us most involved in researching and producing the book will talk about our work, so we hope you will have read it by then! Wine and refreshments will be provided at both events.



CURRY IN THE CHURCH

A HARVEST CELEBRATION FOR EVERYONE



When— Saturday 5th October, 6pm
Where— All Saints Church
Supper— Mild chicken curry and seasonal apple pudding, vegetarian option available
£5 for an adult
£3 for children
Donation bar available
Tickets can be bought from the village shop or reserved at claredelotbiniere@gmail.com

This harvest we invite you to put on your baking hats! We are going to have an apple pudding bake off. Bring your apple pudding to the supper and it will be judged by Jane. For entry details please contact Clare.



A DATE FOR THE DIARY

On Friday 8th May 2020 (UK Bank Holiday) there will be a celebration in East Meon to mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW2.

Details of the afternoon have yet to be finalised but there will be a Tea Party on the Village Green and all are invited.

If you would like to help or have any ideas or suggestions do let me know.

Please put this date in your diary and help us to make it a day to remember.

Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake
ptdrake@bereleigh.co.uk

Village Hall AGM

The annual general meeting of the Village Hall will take place on October 14th October 2019. Everyone is welcome to join our review of 2018-2019. The review will include finances, major items of hall maintenance, country fair and village hall events . We will update you on the initiatives that the committee is working on and the current plans for next year. The committee will be pleased to answer all your village hall related questions.

We have a number of vacancies on the committee including secretary and treasurer as well as needing general support organising events. Please consider joining the committee and contributing to our community.

The AGM will start at 7:30 pm followed by refreshments.
George Thompson, chair@eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk






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WORLD CUP
JAPAN 2019
England's games live
on the Village Hall big screen
England vs Tonga
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11:15
England Vs Argentina
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09:00
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Moviola
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Friday 27 September
Fisherman's Friends - 12A cert, 109 mins

A feel good and upbeat British comedy set in the Cornish fishing community. Ten fishermen who are fond of singing a sea shanty or two achieve a surprising top ten hit when they are 'discovered' by a music executive and signed by Universal records. Based on a true story, and starring Daniel Mays, this is a tale of how coastal close-knit communities function and the importance they place on keeping their historic traditions alive.

This film has proved a great success when shown at other Moviola villages and is likely to be a very popular one here too.

Friday 25 October
All is True - 12 cert, 102 mins

Directed by Kenneth Branagh, written by Ben Elton and starring Judy Dench and Ian McKellan this is a behind the scenes look at the later life of William Shakespeare. Set in 1613 when he is already acknowledged as the greatest writer of his time, Shakespeare is devastated when his beloved Globe Theatre burns down and he returns to Stratford where he faces a troubled past. Haunted by the death of his only son, Hamnet, he struggles to mend the broken relationship with his wife and daughter and is forced to examine his failings as a husband and father.

This is a fascinating and meditative portrait of the Bard in his twilight years.

Friday 22 November
Yesterday - 12 cert, 116 mins

In this glowing tribute to the Beatles and their music, we are drawn into the fantasy world of a mysterious global blackout from which everyone emerges with no knowledge that the Beatles ever existed - all except one person, a struggling singer/songwriter Jack Malik played by Himesh Patel. Jack was involved in a freak accident at the time of the blackout from which he recovers with his knowledge of the Beatles still intact. This leaves him with a very complicated problem and moral dilemma!
Written by the inimitable Richard Curtis and directed by Danny Boyle (of Slumdog Millionaire fame) this wonderful comedy/musical/drama which also stars Lily James and Robert Carlyle is a real crowd pleaser and ensures that the musical legacy of the Beatles lives on.

Friday 6 December
The White Crow - 12 cert, 124 mins

With a hypnotising performance by newcomer Oleg Ivenko, this is the story of the famous Russian ballet dancer's rise to fame in his home country before a life-changing visit to Paris makes him seek asylum in France. The many ballet sequences have been described as stunning and, under the direction of Ralph Fiennes who also plays a major role, the film has gained rave reviews.

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The Good Causes Fund

Did you know that the village has a 'Good Causes Fund', which is there to respond to applications from village organisations requiring funds for particular projects?
Since 1999, when the fund was set up, donations have been made to village organisations such as the almshouses, Cubs, the school, village hall, Toddlers group, Garden Club and History Group.
Donations are modest and will be made to projects that benefit our village community. Applications for possible funding should be made to Jane Cobley at janecobley66@gmail.com

EAST MEON'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Come along and enjoy a 'Coffee, Cake & Chat' at the Village hall

on

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&

Fridays 10.00am – 12.00am

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East Meon C of E Primary School are out to make a difference!

Throughout the summer term, each class has been exploring the sea through various topics including Under the Sea, Our Oceans, Riding the Waves and The Great Barrier Reef. As part of this, the children have been learning about the problems of plastics in the oceans.

July saw the entire school head out en mass to Southsea to take part in beach clean and learn a little more about the creatures of the deep.

We spent a jam packed day taking part in various workshops at the Blue Reef Aquarium where we learned about sharks, spider crabs, starfish and an array of other creatures.

Each class also took time to go and comb an area of beach to collect as much rubbish as possible. They were shocked to discover that even a beach that at first glance looks clean contains several bin bags full of rubbish when you look closely. We took all the rubbish we collected back to school to use in some art work to remind us of our day.

We have now broken up for our summer holidays but every child has been challenged that if they visit a beach during the break, they should spend a few minutes collecting some of the rubbish they find to make the world a better place. Maybe you could join in our challenge too!



Steph Perkins


bluereef
AQUARIUM





A green flag has flown proudly over East Meon School since 2015 and it flies still for two more years

The Eco Schools assessor arrived on 11th July to see if the school had sustained its high standard of eco activity for the past two years. There was a lengthy questioning of the Eco Team and a tour of the school covering the projects of energy, water, grounds, waste and recycling, healthy living and transport, with the Team taking the lead, providing information and answering even more questions. The assessor left and then kept us waiting an agonising 24 hours and then a phone call and so many smiling faces.

Some people have expressed surprise at the rigour that is demanded of the young people. The Team has pupils from year 4 - 6 while the Eco Warriors are from all years 1 - 6. They are expected to work on at least 5 of the 10 project areas at any one time and our school is now close to covering all 10. When term starts they will have to choose new projects from biodiversity, oceans or global citizenship. Furthermore, it is not sufficient to develop systems of measurement of say, energy or water, as well as planning and running events, but it is expected that they monitor and evaluate everything they do. They produce an environmental review each year, have regular meetings, with all decisions feeding into a detailed action plan.

In addition, all the school must be fully involved and there must be effective communication with governors, parents, carers and the wider community.

There is much to be proud of in this school and the way this Eco Team handled the assessment and the assessor with knowledge, confidence and maturity – should make us all proud.

The picture tells the whole story with the Eco Team leading, supported by the Warriors and the whole school behind them involved and committed.

To achieve it takes time – you can pretend for a while that you have arrived – but not really, however, now we can say with confidence – We are an Eco School!
Ron Ingerson



Eco Warriers



Raising the flag



The Eco Team

The Cricket Sixes Beer and Music Festival (village party!)
29 June 2019

The sun was out, the cricket teams were out and what felt like the entire village was out – it was the quintessential summer's day and East Meon was ready for a party.

With the bbq lit to provide bacon butties from 9.30am, the cricket pitch was primed to perfection... The wicket looked mighty fine - even to those who don't know what a wicket ought to look like, and the music system blared joyously every time a run was scored giving the field the feeling of fiesta-come-sport energy.

The Cricket Sixes is the most important day of the year for the East Meon cricket team – for on this day they raise funds that keep the team afloat for the rest of the year... So there is always a sense of apprehension in the build-up to this big event: Will it rain all day? Will the villagers come out and watch? Will there be enough teams? Will the marquee fall down in a gale? Will the beer be drunk? Will the band get the crowd on its feet?

But when we opened our curtains on that Saturday morning we knew none of these fears would be realised and the day unfolded under the balmy June skies: much merriment was had by all – both cricketers and visitors.

8 teams took part this year and once again the triumphant team was Ali Hales' Park Farm Raiders who successfully defended the title they won in 2018 when they defeated Rogate in the final. Bravo Ali!

Other stats that you need to know? Well, the top scorer was "Dizzy" aka Paul Gillespie, and the top wicket taker was Sam Meyer – no mean feat when looking at the blazing sky and the amount of beer drunk through the day!

But other and also very important figures to consider were the numbers of villagers who came, watched, supported, ate the pizza, drank the beer, popped prosecco and danced till midnight...



For example, over 700 pints of beer were drunk! Of which there were 6 different types to choose from with beer coming from Cheriton Brewery, Triple F brewery and Bowmans along with Mr Whiteheads cider (and thank you to Sam for camping the night before and taking on the role of security guard...).

480 bottles of beer downed; 5 litres of lethal rum punch (thanks to Dampney's Remarkable Drinks) and gallons of Pimms! It was an absolute smasher (and I suspect there were a lot of smashed people...) and a record for the party in recent years.

The pizzas and bbq also did brilliantly with their sales and East Meon FEMS came away with a fantastic sum for their piggy bank. Anna Tebbutt from FEMS: "The cricket club very kindly maximised our profits by funding the meat for us as a donation". Last year FEMS funds were used to help children take part in various workshops in and out of school, as well as buy a new hen coop! This year they are thinking it could contribute to updating the ICT equipment.

Plus the cricket team donated a tidy packet to the East Meon Care Group, where the money continues to be used to fund the longer drives to hospital, and also to take the older clients to a local theatre production this Christmas – Mary Hales said the committee were delighted to receive the extremely generous cheque, many thanks.

The cricket team can't do this without the help of a number of wonderfully generous local sponsors – and they would like to thank them all - including the Country House Company, Wylds Farms, Hampshire Tours, Mandarin Kite, Smart Parking, BCM and Kaluma Travel.

Putting together a party for over 400 people that starts at 9am and ends at 1am the following day is not a small task, and many hands were involved in the production – so a big thank you to everyone who put up tents, tidied up empty bottles the next day, handed out flyers, flipped burgers, pulled pints – it is a real show of solidarity and a reminder of the kind of village that we are!

Andrew de Lotbiniere





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Hawkweed seed head, photo by Helen Boyce

