# Meon Matters

*News, Views & Comment from East Meon*



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Summer 2021
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meonmatters.com

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It feels quite a responsibility to be charged with the duty of writing the Meon Matters Editorial. What to say that will click with you, the Reader, and draw you further into the pages; I don't want to put you off by the end of the second sentence!?

This message comes off the back of our recent Editorial meeting, where our sturdy team of 7 hard-working volunteers review the next issue and put the magazine 'to-bed'.

We are an eclectic little team, from different working backgrounds and with different reasons for living in East Meon, but our motivation for being involved with MM is united by our hopes that we can pull together a fun and inclusive read, and honour Chris Brough's original starting point of keeping all members of the village informed with what is going on locally.

We are mindful to publish articles, events and news that you want to learn of and hear about, and it's important to remember that we are novice journalists... The essence of MM is that of a community forum not a political platform! So with this in mind, we would massively welcome any feedback from you, dear Reader, as to what you find useful or would like more or less of in the magazine.
As always please email us at meonmatters@gmail.com with your comments.

Whilst we are supposedly coming out of lockdown, we are trying our best to keep up to date with village events and what is or isn't permitted. At the time of writing, sadly, Berefest has been cancelled and the Cricket Party (26th June) has had to modify its plans. We will keep you posted of changes to other events on our zippy website www.meonmatters.com Fingers and toes crossed for any future events this summer.

Thanks as always for your support and please remember the following - as I'm looking out of my window at continuous torrential rain:
Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine!

CdeL.

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# Parish Council Update

Two reports for your reading pleasure this quarter.

First up, the Annual Parish Assembly, held on Zoom on 25 April with 21 parishioners kindly listening in. You received a sneak preview of the Chair's report in the last issue, so let's focus on the new news. Sadly for us, Suzie Brooker is moving on having received an excellent opportunity to extend her role at Churcher's College. Financially speaking, Suzie is leaving us in very good shape with cash reserves of £21k, and an agreed precept of £28k, which compares favourably to other parishes on a value for money basis.

Our Councillor, Rob Mocatta provided the APA with an overview of HCC's 4-year investment programme, including roads, integrated transport, building improvements and social services. Roads, traffic and speeding concerns are the main items landing in Rob's inbox. In addition, he's focusing on climate change projects and work with SDNPA to resolve the misuse of Fiveways etc. Attendees also quizzed Rob on sewerage, rainwater and recycling.

And as an APA finale, we enjoyed a slick and informative video from East Meon's continuously energetic Nature Group.

Our second report is for EMPC's AGM on 17 May. Whilst our AGM is inevitably process-heavy, nothing could detract from the pleasure of meeting face to face for the first time since March 2020. Safe to say, your councillors have diligently maintained their exercise regimes during lockdown, thus enabling us to race through all the statutory stuff.

Since our last report, we've also had a face-to-face meeting with EHDC's extremely helpful Traffic Officer, airing our lengthy list of road-related issues, including speeding, unobtrusive traffic calming, recurring damage to the bridge and commercial traffic cutting through Oxenbourne. We have been told the probability of achieving 20 mph is close to zero, although our chances might just be helped by EHDC's increasing focus on emissions. In the meantime, our expanding team of Speed Watch volunteers has received their speed gun training using borrowed equipment, and we are now looking for grant assistance to help finance our own kit. In parallel, we are hoping to upgrade our speed reduction sign.

Parking around the school is much improved, thank you and the refreshed yellow lines look very summery. We await confirmation of funding for lighting the school's multi-use games area, but our remaining s106 monies have now been successfully allocated to new tennis nets and play area safety-matting.

No report would be complete without mentioning the Pavilion. We have been pleasantly surprised to learn its structure is sound, so we will be organising a work party to carry out the necessary touch-ups. Our partial change of use planning application continues. We are also going to trial a gate by the Pavilion to prevent unwanted night-time vehicle activity.

EMNG are now turning their attention to obtaining automatic sewerage measurement for the River Meon. You can see EMNG's priorities set out in their shiny new noticeboard (recycled, of course) on the High Street.

We are pressing on with a ladder style notice board for the village car park, incorporating QR codes to link to further information for visitors. Similarly, Sue Williams will advise the Council on how parish land can be made more accessible for wheelchair user and those with a disability.

Planning applications have continued without controversy, as have our internal and external audit processes. And so we ended as we began, with a big thank you to Suzie.

**DIARY**

## July

Tuesday 13 July @ 7pm
She Stoops to Conquer at the Court House.
Sold Out SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN GOVT. REGULATION
Ring: 03306 600541 to go on waiting list ...

14 – 18 July @ 8pm
The Merry Wives of Windsor
West Meon Open Air Theatre. West Meon Cricket Ground.

20 – 25 July @ 2pm-5.15pm and 7pm-10.15pm
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Petersfield Shakespeare Theatre. Wylds Farm, Liss.

## August

Saturday 14 August @ 7pm.
Jazz All Saints Church. East of Meon.
Tickets £12.50.

Sunday 15 August @ 12.00 – 8pm.
East Meon Village Festival. Free.
See centre page.

21 – 30 August.
Jane Martin and John Mackinlay.
Hampshire Open Studios in East Meon.
(Brochures in pubs and Village Shop)

## September

9-12 September.
West Meon Music Festival.
Contact: Susanne Stanzeleit at westmeonmusic@gmail.com

Sunday 12 September.
Hampshire Country Sports Day.
Bereleigh Estate. In aid of the Countryside Alliance.
For tickets and more information go to
www.hampshirecountrysportsday.co.uk or enquiries: 07974141933

**A message from the Police of Hampshire Country Watch**

Living in a rural area does not mean we are immune from crime, hence some useful advice from Hampshire Country Watch:

A healthy level of suspicion is really beneficial to us – always put personal safety first and foremost but if someone comes across an incident they feel is suspicious, they could bear in mind the following:

• Consider evidence gathering – if safe and appropriate, use mobile phone to photo or video the incident or related persons/vehicles from a safe distance without making yourself obvious

• Consider evidence preservation – if something has happened, think about what the police might want to seize such as clothing or items used in the commission of the offence – if you can, avoid touching it with bare hands and place it in a plastic bag for police should it become relevant

• If an animal is involved, try and identify the animal in question and document (photograph) any injuries or marks present

• If you see something suspicious or you're not sure about – consider calling 101 (obviously 999 if a crime is being committed there and then) or reporting online via the Hampshire Constabulary website 'Report it' function – we may just be able to build up a wider picture of intelligence

• Share knowledge – sharing information or descriptions within the community might help safeguard someone else – or go to your local Country Watch officers for advice

I would always suggest having your mobile phone on you and charged up when out and about anyway, but photos can be gathered when there is no signal and then reported when you get to an area with signal potentially.

PSI 14753 Presswell
Country Watch Team,
Mob: 07469562221

This time of year often brings with it a rise in deer vehicle collisions. The following advice is what to do if you are involved in one, or become aware of a situation in which you might need to know what to do next.

STAY SAFE AND REPORT THE INCIDENT

If you see an injured deer on the roadside?

- Pull over at a safe place
- Call the Police.
- Giving as precise a location as you can (e.g. What3Words)
- They will deal with the situation and have access to specialists.
- Do not try to assist or move the deer as this can put you in danger.

If you hit a deer while driving, your priorities, in this order, are:
- Keep yourself and anyone with you as safe as you can
- Park your car in the safest place with hazard lights on.
- Call an ambulance if human injuries warrant it
- Call the Police

If the deer is alive and still visible at roadside:

- It is best not to approach it. Doing so may cause it to run across traffic causing another accident.
- Do not move or handle live deer, this needs a trained specialist. Do not attempt to place it in your car.
- Call the Police.
- Giving as precise a location as you can (eg What3Words)
- They will deal with the situation and have access to specialists.

For full advice, please visit
https://www.bds.org.uk/information-advice/issues-with-deer/advice-for-drivers/

Yours faithfully

The Countrywatch Team 14753

Anna Preswell (Police, Police Staff Investigator, Hampshire Countrywatch )

## Hampshire Open Studios

Hampshire Open Studios, an annual art trail, is on this year - 21-30 August 2021 - and lists more than 250 venues, and two of them are in East Meon!

Jane Martin and John Mackinlay will be opening their studios to the public with new works for you to feast your eyes on (and your bank accounts, too).

There is no need to book but they may not be open every day so please do check the website or brochure (which will be in the pubs or Village Shop) before you turn up!

https://www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk






# Open Air Theatre
# in the Court House's Stunning Garden
# on Tuesday, July 13th at 7pm - Sold Out*

*Ring: 03306 600541 to go on waiting list pending relaxation of Covid-19 regulations.

Here at last is an opportunity to enjoy live theatre in East Meon! The Bartletts are hosting a production of She Stoops to Conquer, an 18th century farce for all the family, by Oliver Goldsmith.

The Court House, East Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1NJ

"A reserved lover, it is said, always makes a suspicious husband."

Kate Hardcastle is a young lady fixed up to meet the eligible Marlow with a view to marriage. Marlow is a young gent who is tongue-tied with the upper classes and downright lecherous with commoners. So when Marlow is tricked into believing Kate's ancestral home is a country inn, and mistakes Kate for a lowly barmaid what could possibly go wrong?
Plenty!

Set against the increasingly chaotic proceedings of one very long night, She Stoops to Conquer is a delightful romantic romp filled with ludicrous misunderstanding, mischief and mayhem.

So pack your picnic, rugs and chairs, pop open some bubbly and sit back and relax in the summer sunshine, while we whisk you away to the time of big wigs, and even bigger dresses; where fops and foolery abound!

**Event Details**
Box office: 03306 600541 (10.30am – 7pm)
Doors Open at 6:00PM
From 7:00PM to 9:30PM

**Ticket price**
£7.00 – £15.00 - booking fee applies



# West Meon Music Festival promises an exciting return

After a "mini-event" last year because of Covid-19 restrictions, the West Meon Music Festival will return to normality in September with four days of concerts and master-classes. The festival's founders, the internationally renowned Primrose Piano Quartet, will also be joined by several of the high-profile musical guests who would have performed at the originally planned 2020 "10th anniversary" festival.

Highlights of the festival, which runs from the 9th to 12th of September, will include a performance of Brahms' stunning "Horn Trio Op.40" with leading horn soloist Stephen Stirling; Mozart's joyous "Piano Quartet in E flat"; and Schubert's final chamber work, the ever-popular "String Quintet in C major", when the Primrose strings will be joined by violinist Jonathan Stone, until recently a member of the acclaimed Doric Quartet and Kirsten Jenson, at present guest cellist in the Allegri Quartet.

In addition, there will be a recital by the exciting young guitarist Laura Snowden described as a "string sensation" by BBC Music Magazine and a performance by Roman Kosyakov, winner of the Hastings International Piano Concerto to include Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition".

Also planned are masterclasses for young musicians, various pre-concert talks, a folk music concert at a local pub, and a late-night concert of works by Bartok and Schoenberg.

In all there will be eight concerts over the four days and full details of all concerts and tickets can be found on the festival website: www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.

For more information about the
festival contact: Susanne Stanzeleit at
westmeonmusic@gmail.com



## West Meon Theatre

If lockdown road map continues on course West Meon Theatre are really looking forward to presenting the postponed The Merry Wives of Windsor this July on the West Meon Cricket Ground, in the open air and with enough room for social distancing.

The performance will take place in an open sided stretch tent covering the stage and some of the audience.

Bring your own chairs and rugs and picnicking is available for those who wish. The Thomas Lord will be offering Pre-Theatre Suppers as well as pre ordered picnic hampers.

The West Meon Sports Club will run the bar and free car parking is available in the Village Hall car park.
This production of The Merry Wives of Windsor, set in the 1950's, follows the exploits of Sir John Falstaff in his ill-advised attempt to seduce two married women! This leaves Sir John Falstaff in a heap of trouble. What follows is mischief, confusion, and ridiculous practical jokes; one of the most frenetic and hilarious of Shakespeare's comedies.

The fifties, an era of optimism, colourful fashion, teddy boys and the music of Buddy Holly, the Everly Brothers and Eddie Cochran and many more…….what's not to like!

The production is directed by Mary Dawson

Tickets go on sale on 31 May.

For full details go to
www.westmeontheatre.co.uk



## THROWLEY

I know it is hard to think back that far, but in 1984 my friend Mark Budden, and I set off for a brief working/playing adventure to Australia. In fact, it ended up being more of a working adventure as we both enjoyed becoming a part of a local community and getting to know the farming in the area, which is so different to ours.

The longest stay we had was on a farm in the Upper Hunter Valley in New South Wales called Throwley. We were drawn to stay so long on this farm, mainly due to the farmer, Ted Edwards who was an absolute caricature and whose farm was a picture. It stretched for about 6 miles to the end of the Valley with the lower, more level ground given over to growing oats and barley for stock feed and the upper slopes for grazing thousands of sheep and nearly as many kangaroos!

For the last 38 years I have done nothing but bang onto my wife, Sue, about what a fantastic time we had in Australia and in particular our experience at Throwley. To the point when in the summer of 2019, she finally had had enough and booked us both a flight to Oz with 3 weeks in a Winnebago. There was a secondary motive for the trip, catching up with our son Jack who was supposedly driving a header (combine) and not just bumming around on a beach.

Half way through our trip, having done some of the tourist stuff on the West Coast and in the centre, we found ourselves driving down the East Coast highway, avoiding Sydney because of the bush fires at the time. We were on our way to see Jack, crossing inland to take a diagonal route from Southern Queensland to just west of Melbourne (which is where Jack was). On a map, this route looked very easy but in reality it was a very long way to go in the Winnebago! But what it did mean was that we were within spitting distance of Throwley and the campsite in Merriwa, the local town, so off we went.

As we approached, I vaguely recognised the area called Brindley Park, a 1930's woolshed, described back in the day as the Largest Woolshed In The World. Now, an empty shell of a building which back in the 1930s would have had 100 shearing stands and been driven by a steam engine. Once past Brindley Park, the road got more familiar as we drove off the hardtop (tarmac) and onto the gravel road. Another 5km and I knew where I was but something had changed; the landscape was far more baron with a lot less gumtrees and there was a very large amount of cattle. As we approached the farm, I can't tell you the sadness and disappointment I felt as it became obvious that the area had been given over to a feedlot. The old farm sign 'Throwley' was just about visible through the faded paint but this was the only recognisable part of the farm; the rest was farming Armageddon. Cont.

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southdowns.gov.uk/takethelead

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- STICK TO THE PATH TO AVOID GROUND NESTING BIRDS
- DO NOT ENTER MILITARY LAND WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING



Huge feed barriers with electric fencing and a vast amount of cattle filled the landscape with dung strewn around the dusty ground and not feeding the pasture. It had been dry but once the rain came the dung would be washed straight into the stream that ran along the bottom of the Valley. 38 years ago, Mark and I would swim in this beautiful stream, unbeknown that the locals were calling us a pair of Pommy Idiots because it is where every venomous snake would go in the day time; luckily we never crossed paths.

Sue and I drove up to the house where we met the Manager of the feedlot, who told us that some years back, Throwley had been sold to a large cattle station and the land was now being used as the finishing yards. He was happy for us to take a look around, and I was able to show Sue all the remaining parts of the farm I remember, including the chamberlain tractor that was Ted's pride and joy, still standing but looking very unloved all these years later. We heard that Ted had retired to a house on the coast but sadly we couldn't catch up with him this time.

Now, don't get me wrong, the Aussies do some really good stuff in farming; their water conservation and land management being some of the best in the world. But feedlot farming gets a NO from me, especially when you see first-hand what it can do to the landscape. Instead of our farming loaders holding their heads in their hands and screaming 'Unfair Advantage!' we should be promoting the wonderful grass reared livestock we produce in our countryside and demonstrating to the feedlot farmers around the world how it SHOULD be done.

Given all that, if I had not had a life in this beautiful Meon Valley, the Upper Hunter Valley would still come a very, very close second.

By Nick Atkinson

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## Ash Dieback

Ash Dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) is a disease caused by a fungal pathogen. The disease has arrived in the UK after being present in Europe for the past 30 years. Originally the pathogen colonised Ash species in Asia where the impact is less significant. In the UK our species of Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) is expected to see a mortality rate as high as 97%, meaning we could see just a handful of resistant trees left in our Parish. Unfortunately, those trees that do show resistance may not been allowed to survive as trees are removed due to Health and Safety concerns, meaning priority is given to felling over retention.

It is of course important that hazardous trees are managed appropriately, but where possible if a tree is showing signs of resistance, they should be retained (where they are not likely to cause a hazard). Current research shows that open grown trees and those found in hedgerows are more likely to survive than those in a woodland settling.

The loss of so many individuals of one species will put strain on what is already an ecologically difficult time for many tree species and the Flora and Fauna that relies upon them. The need to protect our trees and replant where appropriate is more important now than ever. Please do consider replanting with trees that will withstand the future climatical changes that are expected.

If you see Ash trees being felled or worked in and around the parish do bear in mind the landowner has a duty of care for H&S. The costs are high, both in regards financing the work and ecologically. It is unlikely these works will be done without due consideration. Fingers crossed we can see the trees of the future growing in their place.

Nick Reed-Beale



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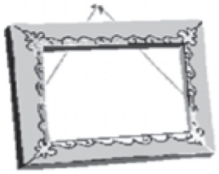
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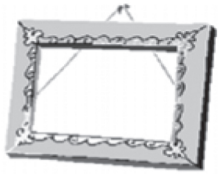
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## THE EAST MEON MUG

The mugs have been specially made, showing 3 photos of All Saints. They are fine bone china, & they are being sold to raise funds for All Saints Church.

Cost £12 each.

If you would like to see them, (and then hopefully buy one or more!) please phone me, 01730823385 & we can fix a convenient time for you to come to my house in Chidden Close to do so.

The mugs will also be for sale at the Village Festival on August 15th and on most Sundays after the 10.30am service.

Susan Hull
01730823385




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## Diary of a woolly hedgehog – Hedgehog Awareness Week

Day 1: My hide and seek trail began at the war memorial where I spent a bit of a windy day spreading the word about Hedgehogs and how far we little guys can roam. Our little legs can carry us quite a way and just a 13cm by 13cm hole is big enough for any hedgehog to pass through. This could be cut into a fence, a brick removed from a wall or even a tunnel dug underneath the boundary for a path through.

Day 2: Today could have ended in disaster as I wandered into the churchyard not knowing that it was time to trim the grass! After a close shave with a strimmer, I had to be dried out on a radiator for the night to recover. Today I wanted to talk about the food hedgehogs love to snuffle for, such as worms, beetles, caterpillars and those pesky slugs! But it also showed how risky it is creeping through the undergrowth so please always check before you cut.

Day 3: Next was The Green. I got loads of attention from school children posing for selfies on their way to school. This was the day I wanted to share ideas of how you can help with our perfect habitat. Having a wild and interesting corner or two in your garden would make the world of difference, this would bring so much more wildlife for you to enjoy with all those butterflies and bees buzzing around. A log pile, a pond so I can pop in for a quick drink (but please leave a way for me to climb out!) and a bit of undergrowth for me to catch a tasty snack is everything we need on our night rambles.

Day 4: Thursday I had a lovely day in the sunshine at the school gate where I found the school's very own resident hedgehogs in their specially made habitat. Hearing the children play made me think of young hedgehogs called hoglets, little ones will leave the nest at around three to four weeks old to go on foraging trips with their mother.
Final Day: As the week came to a close, I wanted to up my step count and take on Park Hill. I just had to look over the village of East Meon where the community have come together to help us hedgehogs so much already. There was a great response with people sharing their sightings in their gardens. So many of you are making way for us which is such great news.



At the church

Hedgehog numbers have halved in rural settings since 2002, so it was great to hear so many are looking out for us little guys.

Please do contact East Meon Nature with your sightings, recording these as a collective is really helpful in ways of improving habitats and future projects.

Visit eastmeonnature.com to find out about more projects and come and get involved a little or a lot.
Sam Marchant – East Meon Nature – and owner of Woolly Hedgehog!



The top of Park Hill




We all know the expression…'where's there's muck, there's brass… and never has this been truer than in the case of the recent donation made to The Rosemary Foundation of £120. This lovely amount of money was raised as a result of a load of manure, very generously donated by George Atkinson (Lower Farm) to the Workhouse Lane Allotment Holders.

To show their appreciation, the keen gardeners were only too pleased to dip their hands into their pockets, particularly as The Rosemary Foundation is close to many people's hearts in East Meon. Many thanks to George for his kindness and Alastair for rallying the troops for the donation.

Alastair has recently received a lovely letter acknowledging the donation from the Charity.

East Meon Garden Club



## East Meon Open Gardens

We didn't want too many to come because of Covid restrictions, yet we wanted enough people to turn out to make all the work worthwhile. We didn't feel we could charge entry this year, yet we wanted to raise money for charity as usual. So - a fine balancing act - and would the weather cooperate?

In the end and under the circumstances, it all turned out very well and not only did our visitors have a chance to see the gardens, but also to meet each other again for a chat. We also raised £600 for the Rosemary Foundation and met many new people in the village. One person commented that he had met more people in one day than in the previous 18 months he has lived here (mostly in lockdown!).

Without everybody's contribution and hard work this would not have been possible, so it is with heartfelt thanks to you all that we were once again able to showcase the gardens and spirit of this great village.

David Lewin

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## Exciting times at the new Petersfield Museum

As you may already be aware: following its major £4 million expansion and refurbishment, the museum will be proudly opening its doors from Wednesday 9th June with innovative designs, engaging presentations and a fascinating range of information and artefacts waiting inside…

Housed in a Victorian Justice Centre (with police station, cells and courthouse) the museum has a range of unique collections including:
• Not just the social history of the town and surrounding villages, but also
• A national collection and study centre devoted to Edward Thomas – including over 2,000 books by and about the First World War poet
• Artefacts from one of the most impressive Bronze Age barrow cemeteries to have survived in south-east England which has been studied in detail in recent years
• Hundreds of works by Royal Academy watercolourist Flora Twort who had a passion for the town and local landscapes
• A collection of historic clothing, from the 1720s to 1950s, accumulated by Bedales School
• An archive of over 100,000 photographs by local press photographer Don Eades during the 1960s, 70s and 80s (a unique record of social life over three decades) and
• A courtyard area with a huge artwork map of the area (and café) which will be hosting a range of external events.

Early visitors have been very impressed and it's anticipated that the museum will become a significant cultural hub and visitor centre within the National Park.

Admission is currently by advanced online booking – using the 'Tickets' button at the top of the Museum's website www.petersfieldmuseum.co.ukhomepage.

The Courtyard Café will also open on the 9th June: open to everyone and serving teas, coffee, sandwiches and delicious cakes throughout the day.

Opening times for the Museum are: Wednesday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm (last entry at 4pm); Sunday: 11am to 4pm (last entry at 3pm).

I hope that you might be tempted to arrange a visit – and that you'll spread this news within your community, friends and contacts…

It's been quite a long road to get this far, inevitably extended by the Covid pandemic, but I think that you'll find that the outcomes are well worth the wait.

## Metal detecting in the Meon valley

Hello!

I am Matthew Jones, a resident and metal-detectorist within the Meon Valley. My family has resided within the Meon Valley (from what we have been able to trace on paper!) for over three centuries. My family have always been active members within our community, having close ties with Shirrell Heath Methodist Church and its construction. It was whilst researching my family's heritage, that my passion for local history and its preservation, began to blossom.

The maternal side of my family have resided in the Meon Valley for many generations, with my late Grandmother's (Melba Carnell) side of the family encompassing the Henstredge, Knight, Hoar and Munden families. They occupied many roles within the community from farmhands to market gardeners to farriers and more!

Whilst researching the local community, I became concerned at the scale of construction taking place within the Meon Valley, concerned that we were building all too hastily over land with unique heritage. Thus, I began to think 'How can we save our history from being buried by concrete? And how can this be preserved and shared with the community?' A friend introduced me to Metal-Detecting and the rest is now history!

My friend and I began to speak with local landowners about the possibility of gaining permission to metal detect their land. We are very fortunate and grateful to the local residents who have allocated us land to detect, as without their generosity, these finds would remain buried in the ground!

Our goal is to uncover and record as much history as we can within the Meon Valley from its Romano-British heritage to the introduction of the Saxons, Jutes and Angle tribes, to how the area would have been impacted by the Civil War in the 17th Century. (The Civil War in The Meon Valley will be my next major project!). Our goal is not to only uncover and record this history but to make it available for viewing by the local community.

If anyone has any land they'd like surveyed, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Here are just a few of our finds so far in the area:

Ampulla
This piece is due to be recorded with the Finds Liaison Officer in the coming months. A medieval (probably Norman) Ampulla. This ampulla would have been carried on pilgrimage to perhaps the shrine of St Swithun? This piece was found in Shedfield, just off the old Roman Road.



Roman Coin

This coin was found within the Meon Valley mid-2019. It is a silver Denarius of Emperor Domitian from the Flavian Dynasty. Dating between 83AD-93AD this piece was a little unusual in that it was minted within Germany – note the 'GERM' on the legend of the coin.





Crotal Bells

These are some of my favourite pieces as I believe they quintessentially portray the area in which we dwell. Just imagine the ringing of the bells on livestock, around dew-covered ground on a cold foggy morn, or perhaps the collective jingle as a shepherd, herds his flock from field to field down narrow country lanes!



For Fishermans' Priest

This piece was most unusual. At first what appeared to be a piece of 'tat' turned out to be a most unusual purposed instrument. This was found on permissions in Lower Upham, just opposite an old stock pond. A Fishermans' Priest found its name as the instrument used to administer the 'last rites' for the fish.



Matthew Jones
mattjonesfx1993@gmail.com

# East Meon Village Festival – 12:00 Sunday August 15th – FREE event –

The East Meon Village Festival opens with the Bereleigh estate's cherry picker - which can lift you over 40ft in the air - carrying two mildly terrified East Meonites into the sky to photograph the villagers on the green.
The action starts at 12:00 with the Villagers Photograph, a historic moment – be sure to be there!!

This is not just any old pic…. It's a 100MB super clear image so wear your best and look the part, we're hoping the picture will be used for years to show our community in all its colour. You can see the picture on the day to check your profile, or hairline.

The idea of the Festival reflects the loss of our Country Fairs in 2020 and 2021 plus the uncertainty of the wretched Covid. That's why the Festival will be a smaller event focused on the village.

There'll be a hog roast, kids' activities, including a bouncing castle, and many village societies, clubs and village hall classes will show the fabulous range of activities and interests here in East Meon.

The bands will be a highlight, opening with Igloo a large local ukulele band, which should be fun. A barber shop quartet will perform, followed by East of Meon, a smooth latin jazz combo some will remember from the Church fete in 2020. Local band Nuthin Yet will be upping the tempo from late afternoon with a couple of sets designed to get people dancing.

We're planning a flag for each of the many nationalities and country connections we can boast, and there's talk of a cake from each nation to back this up.
As David Pepper, Chair of Village Hall said "With so much energy and achievement to celebrate in East Meon, we're sure a more focused event will be attractive to residents, allowing us to come together and share the different ways we all enjoy the village. We hope you come and join in".

East of Meon will also be performing on Saturday night (14th August) in All Saints Church. Tickets are available from the village shop at £12.50 or through Eventbrite (search East of Meon). The price includes a free drink and funds go to the church.

The Festival is supported by innumerable volunteers.

# You are invited to East Meon Village Festival

*A celebration of East Meon, by East Meon, for East Meon*

## Sunday 15th August 2021
## 12.00 till 8.00pm, Village Green

For details see June edition Meon Matters and www.meonmatters.com.
Contact info@eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk

**Village Photo**

featuring the death defying Bereleigh cherry picker

**Music**

• Nuthin Yet (rock) • East of Meon (jazz/latin quartet) • Igloo (ukulele combo)

Beer tent, Cakes, tea and coffee, hog roast, ice cream
and other food stalls, Children's races and entertaintment,
village clubs, societies, business stands, Village Hall class stalls PTO

The Festival opens with

## Jazz at All Saints Church
## Saturday, 14th August 7.00 pm

Featuring East of Meon. Tickets £12.50
to include complementary drink.

Tickets available from East Meon Stores

Events will comply with all Covid guidelines in force
at the time and are subject to cancellation if Government
advice bans such gatherings.

**Note:**
**Parking facilities are only provided for mobility impaired**

## A bit more normality at East Meon Primary School

It has been a busy few months at East Meon Primary School. Although we remain seperated into our class bubbles, we have been able to enjoy lots of learning and some exciting special theme days.

In May, both Adventurers class and Voyagers class enjoyed a themed day based around their topics.

Our adventurers children have been learning all about World War One and enjoyed a dress-up day full of activities designed to give them a flavour of the time. They had themed lessons and split up so that the girls experienced sewing while the boys did carpentry. We then gave them an opportunity the following week to have a go at the activity they would not have been allowed to do during 1914 and to appreciate the freedoms and choice that we have now!

The Voyagers enjoyed a World War Two workshop led by a special visitor, who brought lots of intriguing props to help them get into character and immersed them in a day learning all about aspects of the war.

Here you can see a few photos from these days and an article about each day written by one of the children from the class involved.

More recently, we are delighted to have revamped our Early Years outside learning area for the youngest children in the school. A team of volunteers including parents, teachers and some friendly local builders spent a Saturday transforming the space so that it now incorporates the gazebo providing more shelter and includes a gravel pit for the diggers and astroturf which makes a much more welcoming play space than the hard concrete. The children were delighted with their new area and are loving taking their learning outside!



Mrs Perkins





Outside area before work commenced



Outside area work complete






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## World War One Day In Adventurers Class

Last Thursday, it was World War One Day at school and we got to wear special smart clothes. It was different and odd because we had different lessons.

At the start we drawed a picture of ourselves in our war clothes but we drawed them with chalk and slate.

After we sanded wood with Mr Newman. We screwed the wood in to make the planters.

Then we looked for the huge British Empire and Mason helped. It was fun looking for the British Empire with Mason and we found lots of countries like France and India and lots more.

After we did drill, it was hard work. Everybody and me wanted a drink because it was hard work. Everybody was bored and tired. I'm relieved we don't do it anymore.

Then we learnt the songs that were in the war. It didn't take long at all. My favourite song was 'keep the home fires burning'. We had lots of fun learning and singing the songs.

Henry (Year 2)











## World War Two Day in Voyagers Class

As we entered the school grounds, we found black buckets filled with water standing upright on the patio. These buckets had fire extinguishers from the period of World War Two. Walking into the classroom, we were intrigued by what we could see out in the hall. As we entered the hall, we had a full 360 view of history: an Anderson shelter, a way of putting out fire bombs and some creepy mannequins.

We started off with a talk with this man whose name was Ian. He talked and explained what It was like as an evacuee child that had to be sent away from their home in East London because of the oncoming war. At the same time as talking to us, he did a bit of role play and it made it sound so much more fun.

Ian gave us a range of activities that we could do and one of the favourites was to create a super carrot poster, to trick German spies about why we could track the Luftwaffe planes in the dark (the reason was radar but the Germans couldn't know that back then).

Another one of our activities was because in World War Two there would be bombs that would get dropped and people would have to learn how to react to an air raid siren.

However, that wasn't the ultimate test, as while we were training as stretcher bearers we encountered a strange man. This strange man was asking for directions to the local bomb factory and spoke a German word! Have you guessed it? He was a German spy! Rightfully so, we gave him the wrong directions so that he couldn't bomb the factories or steal their products, it was a close one.



WWII Moving wounded people

At end the day, we made biscuits from the rations that people may have had in the shelters. The experience that we had was amazing and all the outfits fitted the theme perfectly. It was a good day for all of us.

Maisie (Year 6)



WWII Cookery

## Endings and Beginnings

When was the last time you took part in a tug-of-war? I must confess that this is not something that I've spent a lot of time doing so I'm not much of an expert. The last time was during a cadet camp when I was a chaplain with the Wiltshire Army Cadet Force. I'd forgotten quite how brutal it was and how violent the pulling back and forth. Sadly, I wasn't on the winning side, but I was left with an interesting question – which team was holding the beginning of the rope and which was holding the end? I wonder what those two teams would have said? The simple answer is that it all depends on your perspective.

On Sunday 23rd May I announced that I will be leaving in August to take up the position of school chaplain at Christ's Hospital in Horsham. This new role had come up sooner than I had anticipated but I was phoned by the senior chaplain, who wanted me to come and work with him. This was an incredibly difficult decision to make; both Jonathan and I have been extremely happy living here, I have loved serving as your vicar for the last 7 years and I wasn't looking for another job. To be headhunted was a new experience for me but this chaplaincy role includes outreach to local primary schools and bereavement support for the students, which is something I feel particularly called to.

Each time we have moved I have found myself inhabiting this strange world where there is a mix of excitement about what is to come sitting alongside a profound sadness about moving on. I don't think this is unique to me. I find myself thinking about the ends of that rope and the many situations that have that same sense of ending and beginning being tied up together. When I moved from Godolphin to be vicar here, I was incredibly excited. The decision to move had involved a lot of thought and prayer but even from my first visit I thought this would be the right move. I felt like I'd come home. I was quite shocked when, sitting in church saying morning prayer in my first week, I found myself crying – and not from joy. It was all so new and different and as I sat there on my own, I found myself longing

for the staffroom, for my old colleagues, my familiar study and pattern of work. Even the thought of writing reports seemed to take on an appeal that they had been distinctly lacking at the time! 'Why had moving here seemed like such a good idea when I could have stayed put?'

I'm glad to say that this didn't last beyond that first week. Some of my lovely parishioners started coming along to Morning Prayer, Jonathan and I were made to feel so welcome that we very quickly began to feel part of the community and the privilege of serving here soon reminded me why I had wanted to come here in the first place.

Facing the prospect of moving again has brought all those feelings to the fore but even more so. I was ready to move on from Godolphin and had already had a look at one parish. I hadn't begun to think about leaving here and the phone call from the chaplain was a bit of a bolt out of the blue. The contrast between the longing to stay and the excitement of a new role is a challenge. I didn't think it was possible to feel so conflicted and I was reminded of the two ends of that tug-of-war rope and the sense of being pulled backwards and forwards.

Every beginning marks the end of something and every ending marks the beginning of something. They are inseparable. And if they are inseparable, so are the feelings that go along with them. There might be particular events that make this more obvious but day by day this is part of life. If that is true, then it must also be true that we live with the feelings that go along with them; feelings of relief, sadness, excitement, anxiety, joy…I think there's quite a long list. It could be easy to feel overwhelmed in this emotional tug-of-war and very easy to just want to stay put. This definitely isn't a new thought. When Moses led the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land they spent a lot of time complaining that life was now even worse; 'At least in Egypt we had food to eat. Why can't we just go back?' There is safety in the familiarity of what we know.

To stay where we are, to avoid the push and pull of change, would be the easy option but somehow I don't get the feeling we're made for the easy option! As I think about the changes that I'm about to make I have some words ringing in my ears that give me hope and strength for whatever lies ahead. They are words that I would generally think of at the New Year, as they were quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast to the British Empire, but the poem called 'God Knows' or more commonly 'the Gate of the Year' by Minnie Hoskins, works just as well in the middle of the year:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

I pray that, in the push and pull of your endings and beginnings you, too, will find hope and strength in these words.

With love,
Jane

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# The Rev'd Jane Ball

by Chris Cobley & 10 parishioners

Jane Ball came to us from the Godolphin School, where she had been a much-loved chaplain to the girls. She was licensed as our Vicar and installed by Bishop Christopher Foster on 1 May 2014. Little did she, or anyone, know then that she was in for a baptism of fire: with the opening of the May Fair, 2 weddings, 3 big funerals, and considerable damage from an attempted break-in to the Church - all within her first 3 weeks. Needless to say, she took all this in her stride.

• At her first Christmas Eucharist in East Meon, she set a relaxed festive tone by appearing with a snowball bouncing on a spring on her hat.

Jane started some new customs.

A church bell would ring out over the village at 0900 daily to invite people to join her for her morning prayers, after which a small group would 'regularly go off-piste and set the world to rights', when she would sometimes quote from a favourite film - 'Life of Brian'.

The Church Treasurer notes that, since Jane's arrival, the spend on church candles has risen by 300%.

She started a brilliant way of getting to know people socially: until lockdown, 'Jane's Boys' would meet regularly in Ye Olde George for a pint and a chat.

She led a Good Friday walk of witness through the parishes - sometimes with more dogs than humans!

Jane would turn up in a highly fluorescent yellow top for a regular morning run with friends, one of whom says: 'she was much faster than me and reminded me of a shooting star on those cold dark winter mornings'.

• Her army training sometimes led her ambitions to get the better of her. She was seen hobbling into church for Morning Service wearing trainers to ease blisters, having tried to run and walk the South Downs Way in 24 hours; and later appeared on crutches at the Rogation service on the top of Butser Hill.

• And it was only bad weather that thwarted her attempt to walk 75 miles in 24 hours in aid of the Royal Marines Charity.

Church Services led by Jane are always uplifting and affirming, her relaxed style and gentle sense of humour shining through. Her sermons have always been thought-provoking, and delivered with great clarity - all without notes: a remarkable gift. Bible Study discussions led by Jane are challenging and informative

In addition to her duties in East Meon and Langrish, West Meon and Warnford, Jane was also appointed as area Dean, which is a clear indication of the esteem in which she is held by the Bishop and Diocese.

A quick sense of humour is never far away. When the pilgrims she was leading met at Heathrow on their way to the Holy Land, Jane was asked if she had brought a Bible with her. She answered "No, but I have brought a bottle of gin!"

Being particularly good with children, she is very popular in our primary school. And the older children say that her confirmation classes were enormous fun - enlivened by watching the film 'Bruce Almighty' and eating Domino's Pizza: 'she is super cool'.

Jane's husband Jonathan has always been hugely supportive but, despite being a priest himself, has never interfered.

There have been many comments about her direct and practical style of Christianity. She has made time for everyone - not just churchgoers.

Jane has been the first female priest-in-charge of East Meon in almost 1,000 years. We hope not to have to wait that long for the next!

We have been exceedingly fortunate, here in East Meon, in having been led by Jane for the past 7 years. We are very sorry to be losing her, and we wish her the very best of success and happiness in her new appointment to the school of Christ's Hospital, Horsham - and in the years ahead.









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## A New and Practical Way to Tackle Loneliness

Dear Reader, this caught my eye – the idea of an older person sharing their home with a young person could be a great solution. Obviously, it is for the individual families to research and consider - and there are other home share schemes – but it seems a very good idea. Sigi Goolden

A New and Practical Way to Tackle Loneliness

The pandemic is challenging for many, but the experience of loneliness, anxiety and helplessness have been uniquely difficult for older people, people with disability, and especially as a result of the pandemic, people who are suffering from bereavement.

Thankfully, an innovative solution is making waves right now, and it is home-sharing between older and younger people. Two Generations are a pioneer in UK's homesharing movement.

What is homesharing?

In a homeshare, a homesharer, usually a younger person, lives in the spare room in the home of a person with a spare room. The homesharer offers friendship, overnight presence and practical support around the house.

There is no rent. Instead, the pair pays small monthly support fees to Two Generations, who are just a phone call away throughout the homesharing arrangement.

We are particularly proud of the ongoing relationships we have built with our homeshares. The staff that handles the case from an enquiry stage is usually the same person that takes care of the homeshares throughout, just like another friend!

It is a win-win situation: the householder receives support and companionship, while the homesharer also enjoys an affordable home and friendship.

Two Generations takes their vetting and safeguarding process seriously

Two Generations perform a thorough vetting process, including legal checks, referencing and help matching householders with the most compatible homesharers.

Two Generations also mediate and help the pair agree on the support needed. This ranges from food shopping to helping with technology so older people can stay in touch with their family and friends online.

Our new householder in Brighton has commented that "The whole process felt very safe with all the checks that were done and our main contact point at Two Generations has been fantastic all around, from careful research to answering all of our questions and making sure we had the best possible fit."



The family of this older lady contacted Two Generations as she needed an overnight presence and companionship so she could stay in her own home independently. We have checked in with her again a few weeks after the home-share began, and her feedback was positive, noting that: "My home-sharer is wonderful and she is like another member of the family."

Contact Two Generations now!

A friend, a housemate and a helping hand, human contact is essential for mental health, physical health and immunity.

Watch the BBC interview with an existing Two Generations' home-sharing match on our website: http://twogenerations.co.uk/. There is also more information and case studies available on the web-site.

Drop us an email:
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# Cricket Party 2021

The village received a break in the weather and a break from Covid 19 (and badly behaved politicians) on Saturday 26th June, when after what felt like a long time, the Cricket Sixes Party actually got the go ahead and people gathered... It had been touch-and-go, given the rising stats in the Delta variant, but after multiple phone-calls to EHDC and multiple risk assessment forms signed in triplicate, the cricket strip was cut to perfection (thanks Bunny) the sky was blue, 8 teams rocked up for some sharp cricket action, and the spectators set up their chairs and rugs around the boundary line.

It almost felt normal!

Apart from a lot of cricket, the aim of the party is to bring the village out and together, and after a 24-month break, the party vibes rolled in and a very happy atmosphere settled over the rec. Matt Atkinson cooked up some excellent hog roast and the cricket team laid on a variety of beers, ales, wines and Pimms... Absent from the usual shindig was a live band and the marquee, historically stuffed with sweaty dancers squeezing out their last drops of energy after 10 hours on the cricket pitch. Whilst it was a little sad to not have the live band, it didn't seem to deter from a little bit of socially-distanced hokey-cokey on the grass after the sun had gone down!

Due to the timing of the party and the timing of MM going to press, this write up doesn't have all the usual facts and figures – thinking back when we published stats on the numbers of empty bottles of Pimms and barrels of beer on Sunday morning (alarmingly / joyously high!). It wouldn't be surprising to hear that the party reached similar achievements this year... The need to be out and seeing old friends was very strong.

The cricket itself started at 9.30, with three East Meon teams, joined by The Mallards, Park Farm Raiders, DACD, Rogate, and Rich's VI. Sixes were hit, catches were caught (and dropped) bowlers trudged back to their marks – and the individual highlight of the afternoon was Chris Moor's perfect 5 ball retirement – 6, 6, 6, 4, 4 against DACD.

Thanks have to go to Andrew de Lotbiniere and his indefatigable team of helpers who spent a lot of time establishing if C19 was going to prevent the party again, and then cracking on with the task of bringing it all together. The team would also like to thank Harley the DJ and all the sponsors (Mandarine Kite, Country House, Hampshire Wine Tours, Wylds Farm and BCM). It's no small feat to host a party in these times!

It was great to see so many families out and about, smiles all around, a powerful moment of sunshine after what has been a very stormy 18 months; it's events like these that remind us what a special community we have on our doorstep.

CdeL.










We are very lucky in East Meon to have two fantastic Pubs on our doorsteps. Thankfully, after a tough and uncertain 18 months they have both reopened since lockdown. Here is a summary from each of our lovely pubs about what is currently on offer since they reopened this Spring:

Reopening in May after the latest lockdown Ye Olde George Inn has a new menu with lots of exciting dishes using a variety of high quality fresh ingredients; sourced locally where possible. The opening hours of the pub have returned to normal and are:

Monday to Friday 10:30am - 3pm, 5:45pm - 11pm
Brunch 10:30am - 11:30am
Lunch 12pm - 2:15pm
Dinner 6pm - 9pm

Saturday open all day - 10:30am - 11pm
Brunch 10:30am - 11:30am
Lunch 12pm - 2:30pm
Dinner 6pm - 9:30pm

Sunday open all day - 10:30am - 10pm
Brunch 10:30am - 11:30am
Lunch 12pm - 3:00pm
Dinner 6pm - 8:30pm

The 5 bed and breakfast rooms have had a bit of a makeover during the very long lockdown closure of the first months of 2021 and have already invited in many overnight guests!

Please visit our website for up-to-date photographs of the rooms and the latest menu. A great big thank you to all our customers who have continued to support us throughout these tough and unknown times, it's been great to see you all again!

www.yeoldegeorgeinn.net

Tel: (01730) 823 481

Here at the Izaak we have had a long year but at last we can see the light at the end of the tunnel!

New decor has appeared as if by magic over the last lockdown with thanks to a fabulous team of locols who pulled together to make the heart of the community have a new lease of life. Roger and Sue can't thank those involved enough!

Our opening hours have returned to almost normal and we also run a take-away service during all food service times:

Tuesday - Saturday 12 till 2 and 6 till 8.30.

Sunday 12 till 6

(Roast dinners are available pre order is preferred the day before)

May we also take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for supporting us week in week out. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

The Izaak Walton Team.

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## West Meon W.I.

We thought we would give you an update on what West Meon W.I. is doing as Lockdown progresses! Along with everyone else, we cannot wait to all get together and return to our usual format of meeting up once a month, and going forward, it is looking more positive with the very successful vaccine rollout and the fall in the number of Covid cases.

During the last year we have had various initiatives to keep in touch, one of them being a monthly walk with groups of six. Obviously we have had to curtail this since the beginning of the year, but we have now started again and we had a lovely circular walk up over the Downs on Friday 7th May, which started from East Meon Car Park and Sue Croft was congratulated by the participants for the excellent arrangements.
Berry Preece, our President, has written to all the members enclosing a Programme of Events for

the second half of 2021. Our first meeting will be on 12th July at 2.30pm with tea in the garden at Old Down Farmhouse, East Meon, GU32 1PL. On 9th August we hope to have our first meeting in West Meon Village Hall at 2.15pm and our speaker, Sylvie Dare, will be talking about 'The story of my family and my miraculous survival during the War'.

An Autumn highlight of our programme will be an outing to Hambledon Vineyard, where we will have a tour and a wine tasting, which should be great fun! If you would like any further information about West Meon W.I., or would like to join us, please contact Berry Preece at berrypreece@gmail.com or by telephone 01730 823488.

Sue Kinlochan



West Meon WI Walk

## Free-flight around East Meon

I've been flying a paraglider around the Meon Valley for 7 years now - not very long by some standards, but by now paragliding has become such an important part of my life I can scarcely remember how I lived without it. Unpowered flight offers unique challenges and tantalising rewards unlike any other pursuit I have encountered.

Anyone who has watched the buzzards and kites soaring overhead will know these birds are circling in a column of rising air, caused by the sun heating a sheltered or dark-coloured patch of land. This warm air then rises, acting like an invisible elevator which we can exploit to gain thousands of feet in altitude.

If one can get there, flying at cloudbase is a truly magical experience. From here you can see for miles in every direction, in glorious isolation. The cool air, and the almost eerie lack of sound combine to create an ethereal experience as you fly around beautiful formations of cloud which bubble above in swirls and tendrils – with our glorious countryside stretched out like a carpet beneath.

From here we fly towards the next thermal - taking cues from the clouds, the landscape and the birds, to try to stay up while crossing the ground. In the UK, the airspace is complicated, so we use navigation aids to ensure we don't stray into controlled airspace.

Hang gliding and paragliding are both examples of foot-launched, unpowered flight. Wind direction and speed are crucial to this free-flight, as we exploit 'ridge lift', the upwards deflection of wind, to stay in the air while we search for thermals.

Hang gliders have been flying in the Meon Valley since the 1970s, and even feature on the Millennium Tapestry in All Saints Church in the village. Our local club, Sky Surfing Club, was founded in 1976 by around 30 hang glider pilots. Initially the club was only able to fly from Butser Hill. Mike Atkinson of South Farm and Owen Broadway of Harroway Farm kindly gave permission for their fields to be used as landing areas.

Cont.



Photo of East Meon from the air, credit: Jan Henslow

In the early 1980s Nick Butler of Whitewool Farm gave permission to fly Teglease Down (the East face of old Winchester Hill), and Wilson Atkinson of Lower Farm allowed hang gliders to launch from his property, using Wether Down as a launch point and the fields below for landings.

Flying continues from these sites to this day through the generous support of the Butler and Atkinson families. You will likely see paragliders and hang gliders at Wether Down and Teglease down when the wind is Easterly. With favourable conditions, flights may last for hours, and cover many kilometers. Before airspace restrictions increased across southern England, some pilots flew from Wether Down as far away as Poole, Dorset and Abergavenny, S. Wales.

We are a small, friendly club - if you are interested in finding out more about paragliding or hang gliding, please feel free to approach us on the hillside - most of us love to share our passion with others.

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## Local Peals Unlocked

Our local band was allowed to resume ringing again following the lockdown partial relaxation on 17th May. The first opportunity to ring was therefore on the normal Friday Practice night, 21st May.

The following Sunday saw the first ringing for the service.

However, they have to comply with the same restrictions as everyone else. So, for the time being there are only 6 ringers (the rule of six indoors) spaced around the 10 bells. Hand sanitiser is of course available. Adequate ventilation must be maintained and for this purpose they have the tower door open together with three of the trapdoors which at one time gave access to the roof but which now give access to the underside of the roof inside the church thus providing ventilation through each of the four tower walls.

Ringing is currently limited to 45 minute sessions. So, on Sundays the ringing is from 9-45am until 10-30am (which is normal for them anyway) but on Fridays ringing is from 7-45pm until 8-30pm rather than the normal 7-30pm until 9-00pm.

Terry Collins reports that the ringers are very happy to be permitted to ring again but it is of course, in the nature of things that when there is a long interval of enforced inactivity one or two members have drifted away and so the band will be even more pleased than usual to see anyone who would like to have a go, or to find out more about this fascinating art.

Terry makes the plea that we don't believe all of the wildly inaccurate mis-representations of it that you see on TV. Come along on a Friday evening and see what it's really about.

Ron Ingerson



Access to ring chamber

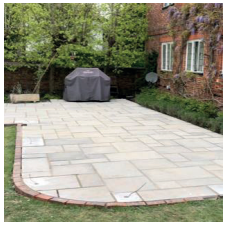
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