

Meon Matters

*News, Views & Comment
from East Meon*



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Hallo Everybody,

A warm welcome to this issue, the thirteenth since we restarted. Here's a picture of all the Meon Matters lined up. Wow! So many contributions from so many of you.

This is also to say that I am stepping down from Meon Matters – very sadly – however I need to transfer energy, in some small way, to doing what I can to alleviate the highspeed train about to hit us. Namely, climate change! In East Meon – and other villages around the country – there is much to be done. (You'll be hearing from me no doubt, within these pages anon!) Huge thanks to the terrific Meon Matters Team – and everybody else with whom I've come into contact over the last three years. It's been great.

If you would like to join the editorial team you would be most welcome. And if you are new to the village, you would have a lot to contribute from your different perspective. On this note, it's lovely to have more young families now in East Meon and to see the Village Hall full of children!

Whilst digging out the past Meon Matters issues, it occurred to me that volunteers hold a village together. OK, the county council gets the bins emptied, the roads tarred, but when the bells ring out on a wild winter's evening, when this wee magazine drops through our letter boxes, when we dance at a Village Festival to live music, when we have coffee and cake at a village hall café, when East Meon Parish Council protects our rights and erects our kissing gates, these goings-on are all down to volunteers. It may be hard work but there is a lot of satisfaction and quite some fun in the doing! So, if you aren't, but would like to – do get involved!

Team MM wish everybody a very Happy Christmas. Covid-19 is still dragging its feet through our lives so keep well, safe and look after each other.

Sigi Goolden

NB. The deadline for contributions to the Spring issue 2022 is 21 March.

A heads up that the next issue will be a Green Special focussing on the environment! In this issue the Revd. Phil Good says it all – we must change our habits. I for one am going to make a wormery - thank you Phil!

Thanks too to Sam Marchant who has the East Meon Nature Facebook page up and running. Please feel free to post on it!

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

A double issue for this edition of Meon Matters, covering our September and November meetings. So, there's quite a bit to update you on.

First up, our long-standing councillor Marc Atkinson sadly resigned from EMPC in September, but by November his seat had been swiftly taken by Sarah Round, despite her being a former resident of West Meon! Sarah will take on some of Marc's duties, but we have also used her welcome arrival for a bit of a mini-reshuffle.

In other developments, EMPC has come to an arrangement with Harvest FC to use the football pitch and sports pavilion for their Saturday afternoon matches. More important than the welcome rental income, this team are making a substantial contribution to pitch and pavilion maintenance (as well as seeking a grant to improve pitch drainage). Our agreement with them covers commitments to car share and not to park in Workhouse Lane. And not only are Harvest FC interested in recruiting East Meon players, once settled in they are open to help with setting up junior football training sessions.

At our November meeting, we received a presentation from John Mackinlay, East Meon's Tree Warden amongst his many talents. He outlined the aims and objectives of the village's new Tree Working Group (affectionately referred to as TWiG), which in a nutshell are to anticipate and prepare for the impact of climate change on our trees and hedgerows. TWiG's overriding concern is that rising temperatures over the next 30 years will increase our demand for trees to create shaded public areas (as we are used to seeing in southern Europe), just as many of the tree species currently alive and well in East Meon are expected to be eradicated by global warming. Given the time taken for new more resistant trees to become established, time is really of the essence. John and TWiG are deadly serious, but not blind to the mindset changes needed to even begin to tackle this challenge. We can expect to hear much more in the coming months, but in the meantime EMPC gave John and his team our unanimous support.

TWiG is a bit of a tough act to follow, so let's start with another hot topic, namely speeding. You will recall, we have decided to abandon the hard yards and dismal returns of Speedwatch in favour of a technology led solution. So, in November, we agreed to follow our friends in Stroud by purchasing (thanks to the welcome help of a grant and some good budget management) an all-singing, all-dancing intelligent speed warning sign, that will not only indicate if vehicles are speeding but also automatically record car speed data that we can use in our continuing quest for a 20mph speed limit. Speaking of which, we will also be trialling a couple of "20 is Plenty" road signs around the school area. We also understand that HCC's previous resistance to 20mph speed limits may be softening.

Sticking with roads, we are pleased we were able to cajole Hampshire Highways into repairing the damaged curb on the bridge outside the George in time for the excellent Remembrance Sunday ceremony, but sadly we have had no success divining a more permanent engineering

solution to what has already become a perennial problem. And don't get us onto to the subject of the other bridge repair opposite Glenthorne Meadows, which remains in the hands of the insurers - enough said.

Since our last report, local residents have responded to SDNPA's and HCC's frustratingly slow progress in addressing 4X4 and motor bikes' abuse of our byways by forming BEAM (Byways Environmental Action Movement). This Langrish-led initiative, set up with our support, held a public open meeting at the beginning of November. BEAM is encouraging residents to lobby both of these authorities to protect these ancient drovers tracks and allow their peaceful enjoyment by all users. BEAM would also welcome any photographic evidence of byway damage.

Moving from roads to toads, you will be pleased to hear our highly active Nature Group continues to be so. In particular, expect lots of activity around bats and toads in the new year, including a bat walk and a call for volunteers to help with toad crossings. In addition to the activity around Coombe, toad crossing warning signs will soon be erected between Oxenbourne and Buriton. We should consider ourselves lucky to be surrounded by so many of these pest-controlling creatures.

It's not just toads the village is looking after. Clive Tillbrook and Maureen Carney's defibrillator fund raising team has been so successful at appealing to the village's natural generosity that they are considering locations for a third such device, for which the Parish Council is a willing supporter. As we are for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tea party on Sunday 5 June, where Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake and her team continue to advance their exciting plans. Our new EMPC notice board is certainly fit for the Queen, as will be our Workhouse Lane visitors noticeboard and strategically relocated bins (talk about attention to detail).

On the planning front, there is of course no let-up in activity. Whilst development at Coombe Road is approved in-principle as part of the Current Site Plan has been rejected by the SDNPA planning committee for a second time, an occasion which Rob Mocatta used to give an emphatic reminder of the overriding need for realistic sewerage and drainage solutions for this site. And back in September we received confirmation from EHDC that the Assets of Community Value nominations we made for both village pubs had been accepted - a big thank you to all involved.

On the money front, we have agreed a budget for 2022/2023, which does feel an awfully long way into the future. Thanks to agreements on the football pitch and alike, which underwrite many of our maintenance obligations, we are confident we can keep our Precept increase to a minimum, notwithstanding the current rates of inflation.

That's quite enough hot-air from us. But we shouldn't finish before wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

SPOT THE BALL

Almost 20 years since the demise of Roy of the Rovers, football is returning to East Meon, in the form of Harvest FC. Their first match was on 27 November. In fact, it was their reserve team who braved the arctic conditions, as we are still awaiting a pitch inspection from the Hampshire Football Association.

Supporters are most welcome on Saturday afternoons. And any budding Beckhams in the village should of course beat a path to Harvest FC's door.

There are several reasons why Harvest FC deserve our support:

- First, they are paying a vital contribution to the upkeep of the football pitch. And not just in rent, but in substantive help with pitch and Pavilion maintenance. In fact, they are applying for a grant to improve pitch drainage.
- Second, they are also committed to car sharing and not parking in Workhouse Lane.
- And finally, once they are settled in, Harvest FC are open to helping set up junior football training sessions.

CRICKET

East Meon and the Strokemakers XI celebrate sharing the honours following their drawn game. 5th September 2021.



BEAM: open meeting, November 1st, Ramsdean

Who's had a walk spoilt by an eroded track with muddy gouges or deep ruts made by motorbike tyres?

Who's been disturbed by the noise of off road motorbikes or 4/4s ?

These questions and others were asked at an open meeting on November 1st in Ramsdean by a new action group, "BEAM", Byways Environmental Action Group.

The 70 residents of East Meon, Ramsdean, Langrish, Stroud, and further afield, who attended, said a loud "Yes" to these questions. Such was their concern that they had braved a cold evening to share their views and strong feelings about the severe and continuing erosion of the local "BOAT"s, Byways Open To All Traffic, by motorised vehicles, primarily off road motorbikes. They saw photos of damage done to the byways, described noise in their villages from bikes making a racing circuit out of the BOATs and local roads, described harm to dogs and were vocal about the impossibility of walking some tracks due to deep ruts gouged by motorbikes.

BEAM emphasised that individual motorcyclists are not the target of their campaign, but that the effects of increasing use by growing numbers of groups of motorcyclists from outside the locality, have led to unsustainable damage and danger. There was even one report of a walker ambulated from Limekiln Lane after a fall in a deeply rutted section of the track.

Urgent Action!

BEAM is calling on Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the South Downs National Park (SDNPA) to take urgent action to protect the BOATs around Butser Hill from further damage by motorised vehicles. BEAM is asking for HCC and SDNPA to impose year round Traffic Restriction Orders (TROs) on the BOATs, prohibiting motorised vehicles. So far these authorities have been reluctant to take action. BEAM aims to ensure that the beauty and tranquility of the area is preserved and that the tracks are safely available to walkers, cyclists, and horse riders who make up the vast majority of the people who use the BOATs.

BEAM was formed with the support of local parish councils: Langrish and Ramsdean and East Meon and in turn is supporting the councils in their work to protect the BOATS from further damage.

If, reading this, you too would like to join the growing number of residents who are taking action, you are encouraged to do so by writing a letter of complaint about the state of the particular BOATs known to you. BEAM invites you to email the group if you would like to receive further information about who to write to and how to write a letter that matches the policies of the HCC and SDNPA. BEAM believes that by acting together and by putting sustained pressure on the authorities to carry out the policies they profess, change can happen and the damage done to the National Park can be stopped. BEAM hopes that by taking a lead in our parishes, we can encourage other parishes to act too.

Write to beamhampshire@gmail.com to obtain guidance on how to make your complaints.





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CHRISTMAS COOKING!

Melanie Lewin moved into the village 6 years ago. She previously ran her own catering company specialising in corporate entertaining and cookery demonstrations. Below are some delicious ideas created by Melanie especially for our readers to rustle up this Christmas!

If, like us, you are looking forward to seeing family and friends this Christmas, here are a few tasty recipes that are quick and easy to prepare and which I hope you will enjoy.

CHEESY MUFFIN BITES

Tin of black pitted olives

230g grated cheese

3 tbsp mayonnaise

1 teaspoon of curry powder

Bunch of spring onions

8 muffins (white ones are best)

Makes 32 large or 64 small Oven temperature 180c fan, gas mark 4

Put the first 5 ingredients in the processor and lightly chop or mash together by hand. Half or quarter the muffins depending on the size you want. Spread the mixture onto the muffins. Place on a baking sheet and cook at 180c gas mark 4 for approx 15 mins, leave to cool for a couple of minutes before serving.

You can 'open' freeze these whilst uncooked then place in a container in the freezer ready for when guests pop round. Just cook a little longer from frozen.

SPICY HAM CRISPS

2 x 80g packets of Parma ham or prosciutto (6 in a packet)

Chilli flakes

Clear honey

Serves 6 (2 each) Oven temperature 160 fan, gas mark 3

Lay the ham on greased baking trays and sprinkle with the chilli (depending on your taste). Place in the oven at 160c gas mark 3 until crisp approx 15mins, but keep an eye on them! Remove from the oven and drizzle with honey, allow to cool before serving. Great as a canapé or served with a cheese board. Any left overs go really well with Boxing Day scrambled eggs but use maple syrup instead of honey.

APPLE AND MARZIPAN TART

280g ready rolled puff pastry

150g of natural marzipan (you won't need all of it,
but leftovers grated into mince pies are good)

3 eating apple

25g butter

2 tbsp of sugar

Apricot jam (warmed)

Oven temperature 200c fan, gas mark 6

Serve 6



Spread out the pastry and lay a dinner plate on top as a template, cut around it, place the pastry on a lined baking sheet.

Roll out the marzipan thinly to fit inside the pastry leaving a 2cm gap all around.

Peel, cut and slice the apples, then place them on top of the marzipan in a pretty pattern!

Dot with butter and sprinkle with the sugar, you can crimp the edge if desired.

Bake in preheated oven of 200c gas mark 6 until the pastry is golden and the apples are tender.

Brush with the warmed apricot jam.

Serve warm or cold. Freeze when cold.

This tart also works well with plums or apricots.

TURKEY AND HAM LASAGNE

This is one of our family favourites, using lots of Christmas leftovers.

700g approx of cooked turkey, chopped

1 onion sliced

100g of butter

500ml semi-skimmed milk

300ml stock (chicken or veg or leftover gravy)

140g approx of cooked ham, chopped

1 large red pepper, sliced

250g mushrooms, sliced

1 tbsp olive or sunflower oil

225g non 'pre-cook' dried lasagne sheets (about 20)

200g grated cheese (left over stilton crumbled over the top also works well)

You can also add leftover stuffing and pigs in blankets, just chop them up.

Serves 6-8

Oven temperature 180c fan gas mark 6

Heat the oil in a fry pan and add the onion, pepper and mushrooms and fry until crisp.

To make the white sauce melt the butter in a saucepan, add the flour and then gradually add the milk and enough stock and /or gravy until it thickens.

Add the turkey and ham and any other leftovers to the white sauce, season to taste.

Spoon a third of the turkey mixture into the base of a 3 litre lasagne dish (about 26 x 18cm) and top with lasagne sheets, thereafter layering with the red pepper mixture, turkey mix and lasagne, ending with a full layer of lasagne sheets.

Scatter over the cheese.

Bake in the oven 180c fan gas mark 6 for about 35mins until the pasta is tender and it is brown and bubbling on the top.

Can be frozen, or made at a later date if you freeze the turkey and ham etc.

All these recipes translate well into gluten and dairy/lactose free, just substitute where necessary.

YOUR CHRISTMAS FEAST!

What? No turkeys for Christmas! We are all good at giving a strong response to a shortage – as seen by the petrol nonsense - and now Turkeys are the subject of such threats! But, much like the fuel situation, there is no shortage of Turkeys. Every farm that rears these birds for Christmas had their poults on farm up to 6 months ago, in the same quantities that they always would have done. The issues that this year's Christmas dinner is dealing with, are in fact problems encountered in large processing plants, namely, the shortage of CO₂ gas, (and a lack of migrant workers – while we have plenty of British workers available, unfortunately they are possibly not so keen on doing this type of work).

The issues with the CO₂ supply actually relate directly to the price of gas. Gas prices, as we all know, have sky rocketed over the last few months and this has been a huge issue for the two major fertilizer plants in this country. Because the price went so high they stopped producing fertilizers.

What's that got to do with the gas supply and turkeys? Well CO₂, as you may well know, is a by-product of fertilizer production, which uses a lot of gas. The companies can't afford the gas at the current prices, so they have stopped production, which in turn means we don't have the supplies of CO₂ we would normally have. Large processing plants rely on this CO₂ in the killing process of poultry, including turkeys – so you see, the problem is not the availability of birds but the availability of CO₂, meaning large processing sites cannot kill their birds. This has also been seen in the pig industry, for the same reason.

Smaller, local farms will not be facing this problem, as they do not use CO₂ to kill their birds, instead they use electrical stunners to ensure every bird is killed with as much care and as little pain as is possible at the point of death. These farms, like us at Hyden Farm, also tend to use local workers too. My family had produced Christmas poultry of all species here in the valley for 100 years, before finally retiring from the job. In all that time we relied on local families to assist us with this task, in fact several generations of one family worked with us for many years, and we were reliant on their loyalty and hard work, each year. Without their labour the job would not be possible. I know other local farms will have a similar support network of loyal helpers.

To ensure that you get your favourite Christmas bird it is always best to try and shop locally, supporting these smaller producers and businesses, who work tirelessly and with great care of their livestock to provide the best product for our big dinner! It is on these farms that the birds are kept in relatively small numbers (hundreds, not tens of thousands) and the care and welfare of the animals is under the control of the people who have reared them from day old chicks and poults. As a matter of pride, we all take great care of our birds to try and ensure they have the best and most 'natural' life as possible, with space to roam and peck and access to good pasture. As a result, we are rewarded with what we consider to be the best flavoured food.

Christmas poultry production is very stressful because it is so important to us, the producers, to give the most satisfaction for every customer – after all every business would like their customers to return next year, their futures depend upon it! It is essential to these small farms that they give the birds the best life they can, the least unpleasant death they can and the best product they can for their customers, after all none of us want to be disappointed on Christmas Day!

So, fear not, there are plenty of turkeys and to get the best, be sure to support your local farm or producer this yuletide and I am sure you will not be dissatisfied when you gather together for your Christmas feast. Merry Christmas!

By Richard Jones

Hyden Farm – Free Range eggs and meats are still for sale at the shop, please call 02392632683

Illustrations for Christmas Matters kindly done by Milly Goolden



From the Pulpit

As I write this COP26 has not finished yet. I am not sure whether to be hopeful or pessimistic about whether enough decisions and rules can be put in place by the World Leaders and Governments to make enough of a difference to save many islands and peoples from being submerged under water, or, alternatively for their land to become too hot and dry to be productive.

Autumn is definitely on it's way at last. Such a mild start, but then, with the clocks just changed, a beautiful blue sky, but a slight nip to the air, it really did feel like a change in the season. With the climate crisis it really needs to be our season to change, but can we change? Do we really want to? Should we?

I think of the latter there is no doubt. Although we in the UK only use 1 per cent of the global emissions, we are still a polluting country, and yet we have the means not to be. We pollute God's Earth, the rivers and the sky, simply so that we can keep our lifestyles in the way we wish to keep them.

Covid lockdown, as bad as it was, and for some the effects will be felt for years to come, both financial and mental, was a chance for us to stop and reflect. A chance that not many generations ever have. Surely, we can take some good from that?

Just as from little acorns, mighty oak trees grow, so from our small changes and positive actions can grow ways of living which can have huge consequences for the world.

I heard something cheering on the radio the other day. America saying it wanted to be in a race with China for being the most green. If they have to be in a race with China, let it be this one. Let it be one where money is poured into developing and making choices which will save the planet, save God's creation, so we are able to hand it to our children to take on the baton of safeguarding and nurture with a head held high, not one where we have to mutter apologetically for the mess we have created and somehow failed to mop up.

What we have achieved in terms of destruction in a century, doesn't equate to the worst oil spill ever, it doesn't equate to the worst disaster movie ever envisaged; it is truly catastrophic, so the reaction to it needs to be truly extraordinary. Only God is able to do this. To send the spirit of change into all those leaders, and our hearts, the spirit of humility and cooperation, and some healthy competition! It is much too big for us. However, this does not mean that we get to bury our heads, or do nothing but carry on as we are.

Like the oak tree which grows from the acorn we must put in place small changes in our daily lives, small changes in our thinking. Little by little these need to become habits. Habits are hard to break for the good as well as the bad. At the moment most of us are in lazy habits. We still reach for the plastic wrapped veg. We buy sandwiches wrapped in plastic instead of thinking ahead and making our own. We hop in the car when we could bicycle. We take easy ways, when with a little thought we could be easier on the planet.

In my family we have ditched our teabags. We have the teapots with the metal strainers in which you can lift out to empty, and I have a wormery, in fact two, because one wasn't enough. Especially in the winter when the worms do not eat through the veg peelings fast enough as it is cold for them and they are sleepy. Mostly they eat ground coffee, and tea leaves, shredded cabbage, chopped banana skin and bits of mushroom stalk. They seem happy enough. This summer there was a definite population explosion.

Our compost heap deals with the bits the worms don't like. Onion, garlic, acidic fruit peel like clementine and oranges. The dogs are happy to finish up the carrot peel, and tops and tails of the carrots.

When the council gave us a food bin so we could separate our food waste from the rest of the household waste, which is really only tissues and plastic wrappers now, it was a terrible bind. We grumbled. Life had to change. We had to actively think about where we put the waste. Two weeks on and it is almost routine. THAT is one the changes we need. Small doable steps. Make these new habits part of our routine. Yes, it isn't easy. But boy, we have to do something.

Don't leave it up to governments and leaders. Start planting those little acorns of good habits and ways. We can be our own leaders and in turn, we can lead the way to a more positive way of life. Get involved with local schemes, be they through your local school, church or community. Those which nurture, that which loves. That which shows God's creativity and care for nature, and for our fellow neighbours, both locally and in the wider world.

Rev. Phil Good



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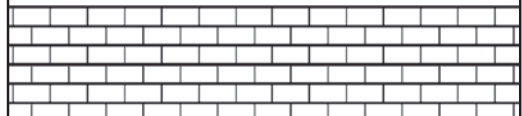
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8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer	8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer	8am HC BCP All Saints, East Meon A quiet and reflective said service from the Book of Common Prayer		8.00am All Saints East Meon Holy Communion BCP said.	No 8am
There will be no 9.00am service in the Benefice today	9.00am Church of Our Lady, Warnford. Mattins with sung responses. Join a tradition of morning worship that's been around for centuries.	There will be no 9.00am service in the Benefice today		9.00am Church of Our Lady, Warnford Holy Communion BCP	
10.30am St John's, West Meon Benefice Holy Communion with Advent hymns. Sing your hearts out, prepare for the coming season.	10.30am All Saints, East Meon Benefice Holy Communion CW Choir and bells. Advent hymns.	10.30am St John's West Meon Benefice Holy Communion. Last chance to celebrate Advent.		9.00am St John's, Langrish Parish Eucharist CW	
10.30am All Saints East Meon Parish Eucharist		10.30am All Saints East Meon Parish Eucharist	Please feel free to join with any of these services around the Benefice over the Christmas Season.	10.30am St John's, West Meon Family Service	Please do visit other Churches around the Deanery for a service today if you would like one.
12.30pm St John's, Langrish Service of the Word with Baptism. A more informal service.					
		4.00pm Church of Our Lady, Warnford Carol Service	4.00pm St John's, Langrish Scratch Nativity		
			4.30pm St John's, West Meon Crib Service		
		6.30pm St John's, Langrish 9 Lessons and Carols.			
			11.15pm All Saints East Meon Midnight Mass		
			11.30pm St John's West Meon Midnight Mass		

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Times are not easy for the Church of England and its various problems have reverberated down through every diocese in the country, affecting no less, the parish churches. There are different views as to why the Church is in financial straits, and the coronavirus pandemic has not helped. The deficit faced by the Diocese of Portsmouth has meant that it has ceased recruiting into parish posts until its wage bill matches what it can afford. When it has reached this level, it will fill posts on the basis of greatest need, with large urban parishes likely to be prioritised.

So, for the Upper Meon Benefice, the two vacant clergy positions present quite a challenge. On the plus side, we are very lucky to have been given the Rev Phil Good as interim vicar for a 6 month period through to next June. She is keen and enthusiastic and is committed to the working with the parishes to develop a sustainable United Benefice. But she is trying to fill two pairs of boots and this is a big challenge for someone who is in their first independent post. She needs all the help, support and encouragement we can give her.

A bigger challenge will come when she leaves. We may not be allowed to recruit when she goes if the diocese does not accept that we are a priority for their limited salary budget. If that happens, to take our service, we will need to rely on retired clergy and on such help as other clergy in the deanery can give us. But this will not cover the ministry into our church schools, the pastoral care of parishioners or the broader leadership provided by our priests and rectors in the past. This will require a bigger role of ordinary members of the church.

On top of this, the review that has been looking at how the Petersfield Deanery can manage with fewer priests is currently frozen until the new bishop of Portsmouth takes up his post. We do not know whether we will be teamed with a larger group of parishes or what level of ordained minister support we will be given. We can expect no quick answer to this question.

If all of this sounds a bit bleak, then there is also much from which we can take hope. The four parishes of the benefice have started working together in a way that has not happened in the past; there is goodwill and there is a sense that only together can we see our way through the next few years. A new bishop has been announced, Jonathan Frost, who comes highly spoken of, and he is a local man, having previously been Bishop of Southampton.

As churchwarden, I am supported by excellent and passionate people who are committed to maintaining the Christian community in East Meon. Not least, they have taken it upon themselves to arrange worship at 10.30 on the two Sundays when Rev Phil is committed elsewhere in the benefice; we agreed that it was essential to maintain a pattern of weekly worship every Sunday in addition to the 8 o'clock. And we have a thriving choir and team of bell ringers who enrich our services each week. We also have the Bible study and prayer groups. And then we have the recent initiative to bring arts and cultural events into our church with a couple of excellent concerts and a fascinating talk on one of the key figures of the Middle Ages and his connections to All Saints. None of this would happen without the committed enthusiasm of those who support these activities.

The PCC recognises that we must do more if we are to meet the needs of the benefice and make a credible case for the sort of rector we would like when Rev Phil moves on. We need to build further the relationships with our sibling parishes in the benefice, recognising that we can do more together than we can individually. And we need to look at how we can reach out to a wider cross-section of our community.

The churches across the Upper Meon Benefice and our own church in East Meon only have a future if they support and are supported by the communities in which they sit. The building will no doubt survive long into the future; it is a rare treasure of a building. But congregations across the benefice have dwindled. As Jane Ball used to remark, the challenge All Saints faces in an increasingly secular and material society, is to continue to nurture the spiritual side of those who live in the benefice and to remain there for all who need help as they make their journey through life - whether they are regular worshippers or people who look to the church at points of need.

Jonathan Iremonger

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The traditional solemn and respectful wreath laying service at the village memorial was led by our new vicar Philippa Good, with Neal Croft, plus Rob Mocatta and Susan Davenport representing the armed services and the village. The Last Post was performed by Kati Whitaker.





CLANFIELD-EAST MEON ROAD WORKS – the road really IS shut!

The village woke up recently to signposts dotted around the roads suggesting that the road to Clanfield was going to be shut for 4-months... FOUR MONTHS?! How could this be possible and why and who and when and, and, and...

There were multiple un-answered questions rippling around on social media and in the pubs and between walkers, disbelief that one of the main-artery-roads in-to and out-of the village could be closed for so long.

The date crept up on the village rapidly and in the beginning of November the signs stretched across the breadth of the road and declared the road officially CLOSED.

For 4-months, by the way.



This clearly caused a lot of concern, especially amongst those who live on that stretch of road, and also for the daily users of the road (myself included), and there was a sense of disbelief that it would actually be closed. The recent declaration of the road being closed when a water-mains had to be dug up (by Glenthorne) in fact was passable for cars, which lead to a lot of us thinking optimistically that the Clanfield road would just be “closed” (wink-wink, but not really closed-closed). But it was. Closed-closed. With a portacabin making it impossible to pass other than on a bike or on foot.

I needed to find out what was going on – mainly to stop my stupid brain from going around in circles with speculation and also because I’m nosy - I wondered up to the portacabin and halloo’d the chirpy-chaps who were on site. They were incredibly friendly and more than happy to talk about the project and how it all works and also gave me the reason as to ‘why’ this was going on. I thought it could be useful to share my findings with the rest of the village, since Southern Water and Clancy themselves weren’t that forthcoming with information (other than not-very-descriptive signage), and Luke and Joe really were.

1.) Please can you explain what the project is actually about (in simple language!)?

We are upgrading the water supply to the village on Clanfield Road. This is because the existing mains keep bursting, and the very old pipes need to be renewed. We are laying down a big-fat-plastic pipe which should last for years (centuries, even...).

2.) Do you have some pretty high-tech equipment? What?

We have a drilling rig which bores a hole from one launch pit (these are the big holes in the road) to the next, over a distance of 100-metres between each pit. The pipe is then dragged back through the hole (that connects the pits) – this saves a lot of time and saves having to dig up the whole road.

3.) How many different people work on this kind of job? What are all the different skills needed?

There are two of us on the job full time, plus there are different machine operators and dumper drivers; a clean water and hygiene inspector (who comes with very necessary qualifications) and finally a separate company is used for the actual drilling itself.

4.) What is the best thing about your job?

We enjoy the relationships with the public that develop over the course of the job.

The satisfaction of reaching targets and goals – especially EARLY!

We take great pride in our job.

It's also satisfying keeping people happy.

5.) What is the hardest thing about your job?

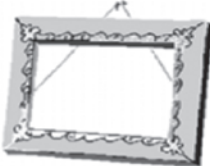
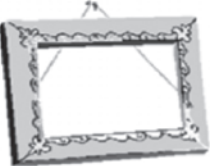
We have to work in ALL weathers!

We also have to work around dangerous utilities and often it is very physically demanding, and having to operate complex machinery is also mentally demanding.

Luke and Joe are realistic that this is a long term job but wanted to pass on the message to the village that they hope to have the road open over the Christmas week (from Christmas Eve, as they work right up to the last day). The road will then shut again early January to finish off the last section of the road which is between Paw Paddock and the Forge.

They didn't like to offer a guarantee of an early finish, but they didn't rule it out!

CdeL



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The Village Hall Café

Many of you will have seen the signs in the village and indeed visited the cafe.

Late in 2018, Diana Probyn, Jean Cooke and I got together to create the cafe. Diana and I both volunteered at the successful community cafe in Liss before we moved to East Meon and were keen to bring the benefits to our 'new village'.

So we sourced the required items - coffee machine etc, made sure we complied with health and hygiene regulations, twisted a few arms - not really, enlisted volunteers, baked cakes and on the 15th January 2019, hey presto, the cafe was born.

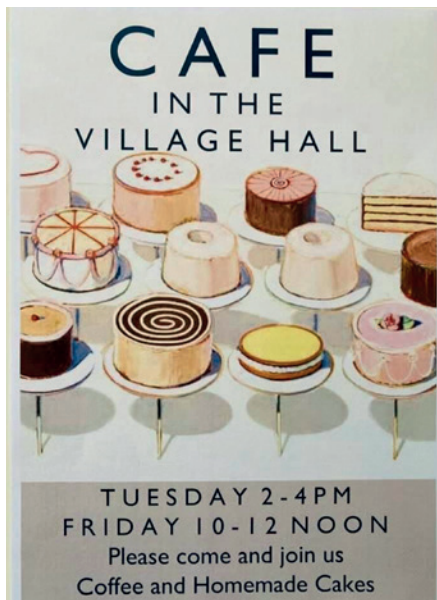
Thankfully the village hall was available and has proved to be the perfect venue and receives all the proceeds. The fresh flowers are mainly from our gardens and all the cakes (over 40 varieties) are baked by us and some of our lovely volunteers.

During lockdown a constant greeting was "when is the cafe reopening?" which only served to show how much it was needed. When we reopened, what a treat it was to see our loyal customers again who have been coming since we began. It made it all worthwhile. A virtual hug to them.

It has been a rewarding experience meeting so many villagers and visitors. If you would like to volunteer (it is not a requirement to bake) please contact Jean Cooke on 01730 823363 or email dandjcooke@btinternet.com.

Looking forward to serving you at the cafe,

Connie Caudrey





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EAST MEON CINEMA

Excellent films on your doorstep

Welcome to the new and, we think, very exciting films for the New Year. We hope you agree! All the films are screened in East Meon Village Hall. The doors and bar open at 7pm, the programme begins at 7.30pm with trailer and shorts, followed by a short interval for refills and delicious Jude's ice creams. The feature film starts at approx. 7.50pm.

Tickets are £6.50 each and there are 4 different ways to buy them:

- at East Meon Village Stores (cash or cheque only)
- on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-meon-cinema (small booking fee applies)
- reserve by emailing eastmeonmoviola@outlook.com for collection and payment on the door
- buy on the door on the night (subject to availability - cash or cheque; we hope to have contactless payment option set up soon)

Friday 28th January - THE COURIER - (Cert 12A, 112 mins)

The true story of British businessman Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Forming an unlikely partnership in the hope of preventing a nuclear confrontation, Wynne and Soviet officer Oleg Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze) work together to provide the crucial intelligence used to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis.

A gripping thriller and one of our top British actors.

Friday 25th February- NOWHERE SPECIAL - (12A, 96 mins)

Inspired by a true story, Nowhere Special features James Norton as thirty-five-year-old window cleaner John, who has dedicated his life to bringing up his son Michael (Daniel Lamont), after the child's mother left them soon after giving birth. When John is given only a few months to live, he attempts to find a new, perfect family for his four-year-old son, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation.

It's sad without being depressing. It's deeply touching and the relationship between John and Michael is beautifully played.

Friday 25th March - STILLWATER - (Cert 15, 139 mins)

With more than a nod to the Meredith Kercher affair, Stillwater follows Bill Baker (Matt Damon), an American oil-rig roughneck from Oklahoma who travels to Marseille to visit his estranged daughter (Abigail Breslin), in prison for a murder she claims she did not commit. Confronted with language barriers, cultural differences, and a complicated legal system, Bill builds a new life for himself in France as he makes it his personal mission to exonerate his daughter. It's not just a thriller, it's also a very human story about family relationships and cultural differences.

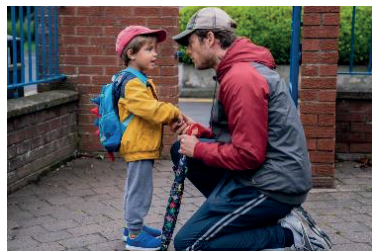
Friday 29th April - THE FRENCH DESPATCH - (Cert 15, 108 mins)

From the director of The Grand Budapest Hotel, and sharing its idiosyncratic visual and narrative style, The French Dispatch is a portmanteau film. It brings to life a collection of stories from the final issue of a fictional American magazine published in Ennui- Sur-Blasé, a fictional 20th-century French city. Starring a host of Anderson regulars - Adrien Brody, Tilda Swinton, Léa Seydoux, Bill Murray, Saoirse Ronan.

It's an eccentric delight which received a 9-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival.

We look forward to seeing you again or for the first time. Spread the word – tell your friends, bring your friends! Best wishes

The East Meon Cinema Team



Little Steps at Homestart Butser

I thought that the many people who supported me in getting Homestart Butser's Little Steps in East Meon off the ground may wish to know how the Parent, Baby and Toddler group is developing. The numbers vary but we have a regular group of about 8 to 10 mothers and little ones from 3 months to 4 years.

It is well known that the very early years in a baby's life are so important and many people think that this is so, having benefited from a loving family life supported by family and friends if living nearby but, of course, they are not always available.

The opportunity to explore with one's toddler is part of the learning process during which support, encouragement, mixing and participation with others, and love are developed. This is particularly important where restrictions and pressures in today's fast moving world present challenges to traditional home life. Local family support charity, HomeStart Butser, helps this process in providing a warm friendly supportive environment enabling this to take place.

Little Steps opened on Monday 13th September and has met each Monday from 9-30 to 11-30am in our village hall. The cost is £ 1-00 per family or a donation. To ensure safe guarding, which is so important, we have HomeStart Butser's Family Group leader, Emily Rankin, supported by two trained volunteers who set up the hall with a wonderful variety of toys, little tables and chairs, as well as comfortable chairs and floor cushions for little bodies and mothers to nestle into for stories or just a cuddle and have a quiet moment together.

Watching the little ones explore the hall under the safety of their mother's eye, including playing with various toys together with other little ones is a rewarding experience, particularly after the restrictions over the last 18 months. Some have never met another little person face to face before. The children are given a healthy snack at 11.00 am whilst all sitting at a table; their eagerness to see what is on the menu of the day, is a joy to behold.

Parents, carers and grandparents are well supplied with tea and coffee. The refreshments are prepared by several ladies from the village who love to be part of the morning's activities. To see the little ones gaining in confidence in so many ways and to see the mothers all chatting amongst themselves in a warm cosy relaxing environment is very rewarding.

I am so grateful for all the support, both financial and voluntary work in the kitchen, that has been given. This has covered the cost of hiring the village hall for one year, which amounts to £2,000.00, and has been achieved in this first year by kind and generous contributions from the those who live in our village.

The team at HomeStart Butser would also like to express their gratitude at the tremendous support they have received, both financial and practical, to help make Little Steps East Meon such a success, supporting local families.

Thank you from Little Steps who with the Staff from Homestart Butser wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Sue Croft

Winter Talks Programme 2021 - 2022

Monday 13 December 2021

Edwin Grimshaw: The history of the Meon Valley Railway

Monday 17 January 2022

Rob Mocatta: The 1939 Register of England & Wales

February 2022 visit

Mike Critchley: D-Day Map Room tour at Southwick House

Monday 21 March 2022

Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake: The history of Bereleigh

Plus: A short guide to the Chalke Valley History Festival (nr Salisbury) 20-26 June 2022

Richard & Lesley Dampney

Subscriptions restarting for 2021 - 2022 season of talks

Membership: £20 per person. Non-members: £5 per talk

Bar opens in Village Hall at 1900, all talks start at 1930 (except February 2022).

Subscriptions go towards maintaining the
EMHG Archive www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk

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Carols at the Court House

Saturday 18 December @ 7 pm.

Mince pies to be delivered
beforehand - and much appreciated!

Charity this year is
Save the Children's work in Afghanistan



SAVE THE DATE

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2nd June – 5th June 2022
Commencing with The Beacon Bash Thursday 2nd June culminating
on Sunday the 5th June with Games on the Green followed by
the East Meon Village Street Party.

More details of events to follow.

We look forward to welcoming our village friends and families.

Thoughts for Autumn

For the first year since I joined the Bereleigh farming team, we have had an autumn which has allowed us to get all of our winter drilling done which has been a joy. As a result, the winter rape, wheat and barley are looking really good over most of the farm. We farmers are rather anxious about the fertilizer prices which have nearly doubled from around £400 per ton to over £700 per ton but hopefully that will drop over the winter. Some may be delighted that we will not be able to spread fertilizer.

On that slightly controversial note, the farming fraternity are delighted to see that the Environment Agency (EA) have been pulled up by Government for not tackling the water companies who dump raw sewerage into our rivers whenever there is heavy rain. For many years farmers have been blamed for leaching nitrogen into rivers (which certainly used to happen), causing pollution, but many of us believe that now this is far more to do with sewerage pollution than farming run-off.

Many people, particularly in the press, continue to hound the farming community for decimating wildlife, cutting down trees, spraying bees with insecticide and generally causing pollution and harm to the natural environment. There are, of course, small pockets of farmers who may be guilty of this behaviour, but to my mind, the vast majority of the farming community across the whole of the UK, care for the environment and as such, look after it extremely well. Certainly within the East Meon community, all the farmers in the area should be extremely proud of how well we keep our local environment.

Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake



Leveret



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STOP PRESS!

South Down National Park Nature Recovery Initiative

The South Downs National Park has launched a Call for Nature Sites with a deadline of 17 January 2022 for expressions of interest. The appeal is inviting farmers, land managers, communities and conservation groups across the National Park to put forward possible sites where new wildlife habitat could be created, contributing to nature recovery in the South Downs National Park. Proposals of any size or scale will be considered and could include, for example, creating wildflower meadows, new hedgerows, more natural rivers, planting trees, creating heathland, or installing dew ponds. Village greens, road verges and allotments may also have potential. The Parish Council could support applications where appropriate. For much more information visit: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/call-for-nature-sites/> or contact Parish Councillor Steve Ridgeon (stevenridgeonempc@gmail.com).

Have a say on water company's 25 Year Environment Plan.

A unique draft 25 year Environment Plan written by South East Water now needs feedback from local residents on its strengths and weaknesses before it is published.

South East Water is the first UK water company to produce such a plan, following an intensive period working with its customers, employees and other environmental organisations to shape it. The appeal for feedback from local communities is the final stage before it is published in early-2022.

Not only does the plan set out how the company will limit its own impact on the environment, but more importantly, how it will improve the overall health of the environment and increase its resilience to the effects of drought, flooding and growing demand for tap water. Supplying drinking water to 2.2 million customers across the south east, the company maintains 83 water treatment works and 9,000 miles of underground pipes – enough to stretch from the South East of England to Australia - as well as 33 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two local nature reserves, Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve and numerous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The water supplier also works with farmers, landowners and other water users to protect the quality and quantity of the rivers and underground aquifers which are used to produce an average of 520 million litres of tap water each day.

The company is now looking to expand the work of its in-house team of environmental experts to work with other local companies and individuals to improve the environment within a generation.

The consultation runs from 29 November to 7 January. Read the plan and have your say on South East Water's website - corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/25YP.

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FESTIVE OPENING HOURS 2021

Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st December
Closed

Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd
December

Open 11am-3pm, 6-11pm
Food served 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December

Open All Day
Open 11am-11pm
Food served 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm
Join us for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine 6-8pm

Christmas Day

Closed All Day – Merry Christmas!

Boxing Day

10:30am-4pm, Closed in the Evening
Open for coffees and pastries from 10:30am,
Boxing Day Lunch Menu served 12.00 -
3.00pm

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th
December

Closed

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th
December

Open 11am-3pm, 6-11pm
Food served 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm

New Year's Eve

Open All Day Open 11am-Late
Food served 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm.

New Year's Day

10:30am-4pm, Closed in the Evening
Open for coffees and pastries from 10:30am,
Food served 12-3pm

CHRISTMAS DINING MENU 2021

Available from 1st December until 24th December
- Booking required

STARTERS

Smoked duck breast salad with crumbled feta, toasted
hazelnuts and fig jam

Pumpkin velouté with poached Granny Smith apple, toasted
almonds and white truffle oil

Goat's cheese bon bons with a beetroot tartare and banana
shallot dressing

MAINS

Roasted breast of Hampshire Turkey served with chestnut
stuffing, pigs in blankets, cranberry and orange sauce, duck
fat roast potatoes and roasted winter roots

Belly of Berkshire pork with creamed mash, cauliflower
puree and red wine reduction

Miso glazed wild cod loin with Dashi broth, shitake mush-
rooms, scallions and chilli oil

Pear and shallot tarte-tatin with baby watercress and a
walnut and stilton salad

All served with sautéed sprouts with pancetta, finished with
double cream

DESSERTS

Ye Olde George Inn Christmas pudding served with
brandy and orange jus and clotted cream

Warm apple and almond tart with Madagascan vanilla ice
cream and a brandy snap

Selection of English cheeses served with oat cakes, fig jam,
grapes and celery

To follow:

Fair-trade coffee or tea served with a mince pie £4

TWO COURES £25 THREE COURES £30

If you have any dietary requirements or allergies, please
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BOXING DAY LUNCH @ YE OLDE GEORGE

Home marinated Kalamata and Green Queen pitted olives £4

Pork scratchings served with apple sauce £4

Warm sourdough loaf with Neverend butter or olive oil and balsamic £6

STARTERS

Goat's cheese bonbons with a beetroot tartare and a banana shallot dressing £8

Baked whole Camembert infused with garlic, thyme and olive oil,
served with red onion marmalade and toasted sourdough croutons, to share £15

Salt and pepper squid with a tahini, lime and coriander aioli £8

Pumpkin velouté with poached Granny Smith apple, toasted almonds and white truffle oil £8

MAINS

Roasted Sirloin of Hampshire Beef with horseradish sauce and roasting juices.
Served with Yorkshire pudding, Duck fat roast potatoes, buttered seasonal greens, cauliflower cheese,
roasted carrot, shallots and baby beets £19

8oz Chateaubriand Fillet steak served with confit of cherry tomatoes,
fat chips, ale battered onions and a peppercorn cream jus £32

Pan roasted Goosnargh chicken breast with potato puree, baby spinach, toasted pine nuts and a red wine jus £17

Miso glazed wild cod loin with Dashi broth, shitake mushrooms, tender stem broccoli, scallions and chilli oil £19
Thai red curry with Udon noodles, tempura battered baby vegetables with lime and coriander £14

Berkshire brisket beef burger served in a toasted brioche bun with fresh herb mayonnaise, Wookey hole
cheddar and smoked bacon, served with red onion marmalade and salted fries £16

Beer battered haddock and chips with mushy peas, tartare or curry sauce £16
Smoked duck breast salad with crumbled feta, toasted hazelnuts and fig jam £14

Posh fish finger sandwich served in a brioche bun with baby gem lettuce, tartare sauce and salted fries £11

SIDES £5

French beans with garlic and sea salt

Buttered baby spinach

Fries or triple cooked chips

Parmesan and white truffle fries

Garden salad with vinaigrette

DESSERTS all £7.50

Warm chocolate brownie and brandy snap served with salted caramel ice cream

Sticky toffee pudding with Madagascan vanilla ice cream and warm toffee sauce

Apple and blackberry crumble with homemade clotted cream custard

Bailey's crème brûlée served with a hazelnut biscotti

Handmade ice creams from Forest of Bere Dairy served with homemade shortbread £6

Local cheese plate with Isle of Wight Blue, Tunworth, cave-aged Wookey Hole cheddar, grapes and oat cakes £9.50

All our food is cooked on the premises by our chefs using free range, local and quality ingredients.

From stocks and meat preparation to making our desserts and bread. If you have a food allergy, please speak to your server

What's happening at East Meon School?

It's been a busy start to the year as we look forward to enjoying a year of normal face-to-face teaching (fingers crossed!)

This year, we are looking at giving our pupils' more of a voice about the things that matter to them.

We kickstarted the year by looking at our rather neglected garden and the children all shared their design ideas which were reviewed by the school's Green Fingers Club and the favourite ideas were combined into a vision for the future. The vision for our garden includes a wildflower area, a reflection space where we can take our class collective worships outside, or simply enjoy a moment's peace by yourself, pick your own growing area for fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers, revamping the existing ponds and a seating area to enjoy socialising with your friends. We are delighted to be supported by the East Meon Gardening Club with this project who are offering us lots of advice and have donated us some bulbs to get us started. We have also had kind offers to help rebuild our pond, tidy up the trees and build us some much needed compost bins from several parents. If you are interested in helping us out in any way, then please let us know by contacting Mrs Perkins on stephaniet@eastmeonprimary.co.uk

The school council has been elected and are already hard at work with a number of key targets they have set themselves. They have embraced our school value of love and decided they would like to have some friendship benches where children can sit if they are looking for someone to play with. They researched how much they would need to purchase two benches and organised a mufti (non-uniform) day and a bake sale to raise the money. It was a huge success and they smashed their target raising a total of £276.11.

The charity work continues with our Christmasathon for Naomi House which is being held on 10th December. The children will be collecting sponsors for a day of non-stop Christmas activities including wearing Christmassy clothes to school, making Christmas crafts and Christmas bakes. So look out for the sponsor forms and if you'd like to sponsor the 'school' in general then let us know!

FRIENDS OF EAST MEON SCHOOL

Christmas Fayre



SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER

10AM - 2PM

East Meon C.E Primary School

RAFFLE * BOUNCY CASTLE * GAMES * CHRISTMAS STALLS

FACE PAINTING * MEET SANTA * FOOD & DRINKS

AND MUCH MORE...



East Meon CE Primary And East Meon Village Food Drive!



What is it? As a community we are working together to **collect food** for families and individuals who do not have enough. Volunteers from the local community will put together food parcels and deliver them to those people who need it most but we need your help!

When is it happening? Monday 13th December

Where is it happening? The Lodge, East Meon CE Primary School

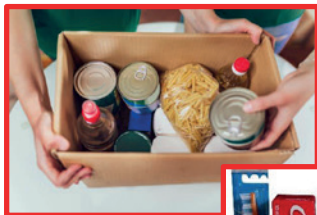
What do you need?

Long life foods: Soup, pasta, rice, crisps, jars and cartons of cooking sauce, condiments, cereals etc

Toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, nappies, sanitary towels, flannels, sponges, nappy cream, bubble bath etc

Extras: biscuits, crackers, chocolates etc

We would also like to ask for 1 more present. This can be a present for a person of any age that may not otherwise receive anything this year. These small gifts will be added to the food parcels. They do not have to be anything big. Colouring books and colouring pencils, reading books, small toys etc are perfect for children, while small fragrance sets or handkerchiefs would be wonderful for elderly residents that will receive a parcel.



The other highlight this term for us was welcoming The Village Nursery to East Meon. We are delighted to have a nursery in the village and are already establishing strong links with them. Our youngest pupils made cakes and cards which we took down on their first day to welcome them to the village. We're particularly looking forward to performing this year's Nativity alongside them later this term. Check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/The-Village-Nursery-1960100617601645/?ti=as>

Lastly, we are getting ready for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 11th December. So please come and join us in getting into the festive spirit. There will be carol singing, mince pies, and a wide variety of stalls.. the perfect opportunity to do your Christmas shopping! We look forward to seeing you there!

Steph Perkins



Izaak Walton's new hosts making their mark

Many in the village have already met David and Nicola Lucas, who took over the Izaak Walton from Roger in September. The Izaak is a village institution and many of us have been keen to hear their plans for the pub. Their vision is to keep the pub as a proper traditional village venue with a short and simple menu of freshly cooked good food and drink, but to add a café element for daytime village users and the walkers and cyclists coming through the valley. They are supporting the quiz night and the traditional role of the pub as the venue for many village activities and dinners.

There is a new emphasis on local suppliers and they are sourcing all they can in the valley, including meat from Buckingham's in West Meon and village farmers, and local vegetables. Beer from Three Flowerpots (Cheriton) has been added to the bar selection and Bowmans is retained. Their makeover of the pub has included softening the furnishings with the addition of large and comfortable sofas in the bar and new tables and chairs in the dining area, plus refreshed paint and bar fittings.

David and Nicola were living in Stroud for the last thirteen years until the East Meon move. Nicola is a web designer and DJ, and used to work at the 151 club in Chelsea. David's career has been in consulting and support for early stage businesses. They both wanted a change in lifestyle and had been looking for a suitable pub for some time before they found the Izaak was available just a few miles up the road. They are delighted with the welcome they have had. Misty the working cocker (David shoots) has settled in and is comfortable. They look forward to maintaining the Izaak's role as a thriving community pub.





Misty the dog with Nicola and David



THE IZAAK WALTON

Christmas Menu

STARTERS

King Prawn Cocktail with home-made sauce (gf)
Homemade Chicken Liver Paté and Melba toast
Roast Field Mushroom with a herb and garlic crust (vg, gf)

MAINS

Roast Turkey or Roast Beef (gf)
Steak & 'Flowerpots Ale' Pot Pie
Lentil, Butternut & Cranberry Roast (vg, gf)
Served with all the homemade trimmings -
Pigs in Blankets, Sage & Apricot stuffing,
Roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, Red cabbage, Honey-roast Parsnips,
Bread Sauce, Cranberry & Clementine Sauce, and Gravy

PUDDINGS

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Warm chocolate brownie with Vanilla ice cream
Chocolate Mousse (vg, gf)
English cheeseboard

Two courses £24.95 - Three courses £29.95

Pre-booking is essential, with a deposit of £10 per head

vg - vegan; gf - gluten-free





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Village Hall Report

A lively and well attended Village Hall AGM on 2nd November included the committee setting out their reasons for supporting the Nursery move into the hall, especially the value to children in the community of better pre school education and the way this would help the school enrolment numbers. The income it would generate would also correct the significant deficit the hall is running, despite government COVID grants. Lots of good questions were asked and (the committee felt) good answers offered. More details - the Chairman's report, the financial report and background to the Nursery decision - are on the hall website (www.eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk)

The committee were re-elected. David Pepper, Chair, was presented with a gift to thank him for all his hard work on the hall and the Festival. Sarah Round was elected to join the committee, focusing on outreach. Diana Probyn gave a heartening update on the Village Café, which has now raised over £3,000 since launch, and ran a well attended Macmillan charity event in late October which raised over £300.

A discussion on events included AGM attendees showing their preference for a village focused festival rather than the larger country fair format that was run in earlier years. Comments on this are welcomed (email comms@eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk). The committee noted that the hall is available for village events and the committee will support community events – but that events need volunteers as well as ideas. Offers to the above address are welcomed. A meeting for those interested in contributing will be held in the new year.

Andrew Hughes



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East Meon Defibrillator fundraising – a community success!

A series of fundraising events in August and September, and very generous donations from so many people in this village, has raised over £6,500 for lifesaving equipment and charities. Our fundraising started with a GoFundMe page www.gofundme.com/east-meon-defibrillator and “Dom’s Big Brunch” at the Izaak Walton on 7th August. This fantastic event was a massive success, organised by Laura Carney and Elizabeth McNaughton, which saw them cooking a hearty breakfast for around seventy very happy and hungry villagers.

This was followed by another full house at the Izaak Walton for the Pub Quiz, hosted by Chris Smith, which proved to be a fun and entertaining evening, and another fantastic fundraising success, with the winning team scooping the first prize of a case of sparkling wine from East Meon Vineyard courtesy of George & Clare Bartlett.

Chris Smith and Jane French also organised an amazing Big Raffle later that week in aid of the Defib Fund. Jennie Ham (Co-ordinator of SCAS Meon Valley Community First Responders) and I started selling raffle tickets at the SCAS stand at the East Meon Festival where we were also demonstrating how to use a (training) defibrillator. To help someone who is in cardiac arrest effectively, a defibrillator needs to be found as quickly as possible. For every minute it takes for the defibrillator to reach someone and deliver a shock, their chances of survival reduce by around 10%.

Chris and Jane went on to mount a gargantuan effort, collecting incredible prizes and selling thousands of raffle tickets, which raised well over £1,000. The raffle had around sixty prizes, including a dinner cooked in your home for six people by Laura and Elizabeth, a flight over the South Downs from Goodwood, Whisky barrels, original art and handicrafts, including Diana Probyn’s beautiful “Defib Bunny”, and lots of bottle of wine, hampers, Popski hats and more! During both the quiz and the raffle, Anne Malone was also raising money selling handbags at the Izaak generously donated by Lily & Bean.

Last but not least it was time for our East Meon Charity Bike Ride on 11th September. Despite the recent challenging weather, it was a perfect day when the riders headed off from the Izaak Walton. This bike ride has been a feature of East Meon fundraising for many years, raising a total of £38,492 for the RNLI.



The ride takes place every two years, although due to Covid the last outing was in 2018. Back then, one of the regular riders was Dominic Carney, just about the nicest East Meon resident anyone could wish to meet, and who many of us knew and miss dearly. Dom was a big supporter of the RNLI and is the reason some of the funds raised will still go to the RNLI this time around, but Maureen and the rest of Dom's family have been the main driving force behind getting the defibrillator into the phone box.

It was great that Laura, Luke and Tom Carney, along with some of their good friends were at the core of the group of riders, which also included Andrew Pettipher, Denis Embleton, Dick Williams, Dylan and Tracie Giles, Gaye and Richard Bartlett, George Rattray, Howie Sizer, James Donaldson, Jenny Ertle, Joe Lloyd, John and Elizabeth McNaughton, Karl Giles, Mark Probyn, Paul Leach, Nick Mayhew-Sanders, Paul Rafferty and Simon Tillbrook.

The ride took in a hilly but scenic route around East Meon with stops at the White Lion at Soberton, the Bat and Ball at Hambledon, the Red Lion at Chalton, the Five Bells at Buriton, then back home to Ye Olde George, and finally for a dinner at the Izaak Walton. Yes, there were a lot of pubs involved as always, but the able Support Crew of Maureen Carney, Gary Flynn, Jane Webber, Jo Waddell, Jo Tillbrook, Diana Probyn, Lesley Hussell, Caroline Scott, Chris Smith and Jane French made sure we stayed (mostly) in the saddle, and with home-made cakes to give us energy halfway round.

At the time of writing (October), East Meon Parish Council have already 'adopted' the phone box from BT, who have removed the telephone. Chris Smith and I have agreed to maintain the box, which will be getting a new coat of paint in the spring. The defibrillator has been ordered along with its security box and this has now been fitted. The next step will be to organise a series of awareness sessions via the South Central Ambulance Charity to explain and demonstrate how to use a defibrillator – it really is easy to use and could help save a life - so please do look out for details of those sessions coming soon.

Without doubt, this has been a fantastically successful fundraiser, a true community effort and success, helping to save lives and is an achievement that everyone in East Meon can be very proud of. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Clive Tillbrook



The Village Nursery

The Village Nursery has been a huge success since our move to the village in October half term.

From the moment it became our new 'home,' we have been truly welcomed with open arms. Every effort has been made to ensure that the needs of the nursery and the children have been met. In particular, we would like to thank David Pepper and Emily Rich for all they have done.

About Us:

The Village Nursery evolved from Clanfield Nursery School, which was bought by myself in 2017. Prior to that it was well established in Clanfield for over 40 years with an excellent reputation which it still maintains.

The Village Nursery comprises 4 members of staff who are fully qualified and myself, a qualified teacher with 20 years experience. We also currently support an apprentice in achieving her childcare qualification. I am proud to work with a dedicated, caring team who always have the needs and welfare of the children at heart.

What we do:

Each day starts early with the setting up of the nursery. We choose and discuss which activities will enhance the children's learning and develop them as individuals.

The children are provided with activities which are fun, challenging and encourage them to learn how to share, take turns and socialise with each other. The personal and emotional needs of the children are addressed as well as the academic expectations. All of these essential skills are needed as part of the process of getting ready for school.

Our aim is that when the children leave us, they are happy, confident and proud individuals.

Each child is assigned a key worker, a staff member, whose role it is to work closely with parents, carers and the child, to develop a strong relationship of trust and care. We pride ourselves on the excellent rapport we have with all our parents. We have an 'open door' policy, as developing communication between us is in the best interests of the child and the key to our practise.

We recognise that children learn in different ways, they are all on the same path, but start at different places along that path. Our job is to meet them where they are at and guide them along to fulfil their potential and prepare them for school.





The Village Nursery

Christmas Fair



Sunday 5th December.
12.00 – 2.00 p.m.

East Meon Village Hall

**Boozy
Box**

**Mince pies
cakes and
coffee**

**Teddy
Tombola**



**Look forward to
seeing you!**



Who Can Go?

The Village Nursery operates during term time only for pre-school children 2-4 yrs old. 9:00am - 3:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

9:00am - 12 midday on Tuesday.

However, we are extremely flexible and understand the daily stress on parents of going to work and school runs, so these times can be discussed to meet your needs.

Every child receives 15 hours of universal free funding from the government the term after their third birthday. Children from low-income families might be entitled to 2 year old funding.

To find out if you qualify for funding visit www.gov.uk/ and search "2 year old funding." We take children from age 2 years and over at an hourly fee of £5.25. This includes two snacks and milk if wanted.

What's Next

As a main feeder setting to the village school, we view this as an absolute privilege. This is a chance to develop a strong working relationship so that when the time comes for the children to transition to school, it is as smooth as possible.

We have already had Reception Class over to celebrate our first day, to welcome us with cards and cake. The children spent a lovely afternoon playing and learning together.

The Village Nursery will also be participating in the school's Nativity. We are extremely excited to be invited to do this and look forward to our 'starring role'.

We will be holding our Christmas Fair on Sunday 5th December from 12 to 2pm. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and mince pie, the chance to win in the raffle, the Boozy Box, stalls and arts and crafts for the children. Any monies raised go back into the pot to support the children's learning.

The staff and children of The Village Nursery thank all of East Meon for letting us have this opportunity. Since moving here the children have had so much fun exploring the amazing outside space. They have gone for daily walks, played in the park and been able to have the freedom to learn and grow in a safe environment. Long may it continue!

Joann Baker

Owner of The Village Nursery, 2021.

OPEN MORNING for parents to drop into the Village Hall to enquire about a place for their child. 10.30 - 12 on Saturday 15th January 2022.

Nursery Funding – How to Claim

You may be entitled to government funding for a place in the Village Nursery, which is now based in East Meon Village Hall.

A nursery place is good for children's education and might free you for your own work, rest or play.

All families can get 15 universal hours for three year olds during school term times.

If the family is on benefits or low income, single parents, they can claim for 15 hours 2 year old funding.

Parents can look themselves on the gov.uk website for guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

This is the claim process
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare>

Jo Baker runs the Nursery and is happy to advise.
Her contact is CNSplay@outlook.com

Alternatively, the Village Nursey offers places for children 2 years and above at £5.25 per hour if they want to attend privately.



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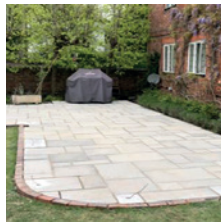
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