

# Soberton & Newtown

PARISH MAGAZINE For all the community, delivered FREE to over 700 households

February - March 2017



Sheep grazing at Armsworth Lane - photo by John Earle

[www.sobertonchurch.org.uk](http://www.sobertonchurch.org.uk)

[www.newtownchurch.org.uk](http://www.newtownchurch.org.uk)

## SERVICES

at

St. Peter's, Soberton and Holy Trinity, Newtown.

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** Please refer to the inside pages

**Interim Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Canon Nick Fennemore**

(Sunday & Friday)

07919 547508 e-mail: [canonfennemore@btinternet.com](mailto:canonfennemore@btinternet.com)

### **ALL WEDDING & BAPTISM ENQUIRIES**

Please contact Norman Chapman on 01489877378 or email  
[norman@soberton.org.uk](mailto:norman@soberton.org.uk)

Licensed Lay  
Minister (Reader)

Mr. Norman Chapman, Meadow Cottage, West Street,  
Soberton

01489 877378 e-mail: [norman@soberton.org.uk](mailto:norman@soberton.org.uk)

**Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Roman Catholic Church, St. Martin's Street, Bishop's  
Waltham, SO32 1DN. Canon Alan Griffiths ([frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))**

**02380 273882**

6.00 pm. Saturday (First Mass of Sunday)

9.30 am. Sunday

There are Sunday evening services in Winchester and in Fareham.

For further information contact Anthony McEwen 01489 877448

**The Methodist Circuit. Services in the area as follows:-**

Shirrell Heath 10.30 am & 6.00 pm

Waltham Chase 10.30 am

Bishops Waltham 10.30 am

Swanmore 10.30 am & 6.00 pm

Hambledon 11.00 am & 6.00 pm

### MAGAZINE.

**Editor:** Penny Rowlinson 01489 877830 **Chairman:** Perry Abbott 02392 632338

**Advertising:** Anthony McEwen 01489 877448 **Treasurer:** John Rowlinson 01489 877830

**Circulation:** Pete Woodacre 01489 877768 **Secretary:** Annie Jacob 01329 832480

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**Front cover design:** Jonty Sherwill - [www.sherwilldesign.com](http://www.sherwilldesign.com) - 01329 835555

## "A new Start to a New Year 2017"

2017 began as usual on the first of the month, what we have not been used to was the fact that the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 was a Sunday and the day after New Years Eve and all the celebrations to mark the end of a year. A year in which there was much turmoil for many people, both individuals and families. Did you make a New Year's resolution? If you didn't many will ask why we should; the answer is generally because it's so hard to keep to such resolutions.

We in our churches had a wonderful celebration of Advent and Christmas, we have now moved on to the season leading up to Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and a period of penitential living as we look forward to the Resurrection and Easter – that great celebration.

As a Benefice we celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 the licensing by the Archdeacon of The Rev Canon Nick Fennemore as an interim Minister, he will be with us on a part-time basis (Friday and Sunday), until such time as decisions are made about the future of the Benefice.

Canon Nick has been with us in the Benefice assisting with our services for about two years, and we are grateful to him for his generosity in giving us his time. We welcome him and his wife.

I am particularly struck at the beginning of a New Year by the fragility of human life. Jo & I have attended many funerals in recent weeks and months and after those services we have met so many friends and acquaintances from the past, we all look different and many of us have aged! But the most important thing to remember is that we have lost loved ones. We pray especially for the families of those who died.

As I move around our villages, so many are expressing concerns about the future, not only the elderly but the middle aged and sometimes the young. Usually it's your homes – the house you live in is now too large to manage, sometimes the garden overtakes. The net result is that downsizing has to be considered, that usually requires a move from the village you have lived in and loved for many years; a new home to be found, the old one to be sold, new friendships to be found. We offer our gratitude to those leaving, for their friendship and love.

I want to reassure you all that our churches are here for you. The Calendar pages in each Magazine show the place date and time of our services, do join us if you can, particularly there are services for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. We look forward to welcoming you.

With good wishes to you all

*Norman*



## Women's World Day of Prayer 2017

This year, the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at 2pm in St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke.**

The Christian women of the Philippines have been responsible for compiling the service which is entitled 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Philippines are located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, close to the equator in the western Pacific Ocean.

The Women's World Day of Prayer began in the mid 1800's. It now encircles the world and has become a truly international Ecumenical Day of Prayer.

The world-wide offering of the service begins in Tonga, passes to New Zealand, then Australia and within twenty-four hours prayers will be said around the world. As our prayers encircle the world, so God encircles us with His love.

It is many years since the service was held in Meonstoke; please come and support us. There is plenty of parking in Meonstoke Hall and a mini bus will convey worshippers to St Andrew's Church from the hall.

The music will be played by the Meon Band and Afternoon Tea will be served after the service in the church.

*Anne Shotlander*

### *Soberton & Newtown Wives' Group*

December saw us start the festive season with Zoe Phillips helping each of us to create a felt Christmas tree to hang on the Christmas tree! We had a most convivial party in January to celebrate the New Year.

The meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February, with Tara Bond, will be held in the Church Room, St Peter's, Soberton. Tara and her family have lived abroad but now reside here in Soberton. Before coming back they took several months out to travel in the "Footsteps of Alexander the Great". Come and hear where they went and what they saw, how the boys were home schooled en route and what their transport was like.

In March we have changed the day to **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>** as David Williams will be leading us in wine tasting. This popular meeting will be in Glebe House, Soberton, where partners are very welcome.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Baptism**

Harry Gambie – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Soberton

### **Service of Thanksgiving**

Michael Edward Donegan – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at Soberton

## **SVH @ 50**

2017 sees the 50th anniversary of Soberton Village Hall. We plan to celebrate this milestone in September with an afternoon and evening of food, drink and entertainment for all age groups. More details of events, timings and ticket prices will appear in future editions of the Parish Magazines and posters round the villages. So for now keep Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 free in your diaries.

We are going to hold a photographic competition, with the possibility of producing a 2018 village calendar. The competition will be open to all age groups and all photo formats. The only rule is that the images should be taken in and be of the sights and people of the Parish of Soberton & Newtown. So, get out in the countryside with your cameras and smartphones and get snapping. We will publish more details of how to submit entries in the near future.

We are also looking for any photos you may have of the village hall being built, fundraising events to raise money for the construction or events at the hall. Please have a look through those old shoeboxes of photos that we all have stored away and see what you can find.

To keep up to date on all the latest information about the event please visit our website [www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk)

# FEBRUARY 2017

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	2000 Wives Group	Church Room
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1230 Lunch Club	Church Room
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent	<b>1000 Joint Parish Communion and Rocs</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	19.30 Newtown Fete Planning Meeting	Meonwood
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1000 SoberTots	Guide Hut
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1400 U3A	Wickham
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Meon Valley Garden Club	Droxford
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Local History Society	Church Room
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent	<b>0930 Parish Communion</b> <b>1100 Matins</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b> <b>St Peter's</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	<b>1000 Joint Parish Communion</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1000 SoberTots	Guide Hut
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1400 U3A	Wickham
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1900 Film Club	Church Room
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday next before Lent	<b>1000 Joint Parish Communion</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>

# MARCH 2017

<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1800 Holy Communion and imposition of Ashes</b>	<b>St. Peter's</b>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1230 Lunch Club	Church Room
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1400 Women's World Day of Prayer	Meonstoke
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2000 Wives Group	Glebe House(Soberton)
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> First Sunday of Lent	<b>1000 Parish Communion &amp; Rocs</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1000 SoberTots	Guide Hut
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1400 U3A	Wickham
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Local History Society	Church Room
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	1930 Meon Valley Garden Club	Meon Hall
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0930 Parish Communion</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Second Sunday of Lent	<b>1100 Matins</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1900 RBL	Droxford VH
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1800 Beetle Drive	SVH
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0930 Parish Communion</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Third Sunday of Lent	<b>1100 Parish Communion</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1800 MAGAZINE COPY DATE</b>	
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1000 SoberTots	Guide Hut
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1400 U3A	Wickham
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1000 Service for Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Fourth Sunday of Lent		
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	19.30 Ladies' Day	SVH
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	19.30 Ladies' Day	SVH
<b><u>APRIL 2017</u></b>		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	19.30 Ladies' Day	SVH
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1000 Passiontide Parish Communion &amp; Rocs</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Fifth Sunday of Lent		
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1000 SoberTots	Guide Hut
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1230 Lunch Club	Church Room
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1000 Service for Palm Sunday</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Palm Sunday	(Meet at 0945 for Procession with donkey in Soberton Village Hall)	
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10 – 12 Easter Workshop</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1900 Liturgy for Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Maundy Thursday		
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1400-1500 Liturgy for Good Friday (Stations of the Cross)</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Good Friday		
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1900 Service of Light with Readings</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Easter Eve		
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0930 Parish Communion</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>
Easter Day	<b>1100 Parish Communion</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2016 - NEWTOWN



We raised the magnificent total of **£841.07**. A big thank you to Steve Cooper, Emma Burton, Eileen Wiltshire, Karen Hartridge, Mandy Cleeve, Mary Wren, Charlies Wyle, our collectors, to the Travellers Rest and Newtown Soberton Infant School for their contribution and to all in the village who supported this worthy cause. The total for **the Droxford Branch was £5,152.19**. A wonderful result.

Thank you - Sue Wells

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2016 – SOBERTON



The intrepid collectors across Soberton raised a remarkable **£1039.97** thanks to the generosity of so many of our villagers and the patrons of The White Lion, The Hurdles and The Bold Forester. A special thank you to our newest collectors (the lovely ladies – you know who you are!).

Well done all - Anthony McEwen

## PiNS Report

As always, I would like to express a huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to the PiNS Christmas Card this year. We raised an amazing £595 which will be spent on improving the fabric of Newtown and Soberton. Some suggestions that you sent in with your donations were:- "keeping the footpaths clean" hopefully with the continued support of residents who kindly collect litter on their walks around the villages, we can keep on top of this issue. If we all take a carrier bag with us on a walk we can all help. "Cutting back the hedges to reveal the 30 mph signs" this is the responsibility of land owners and is constantly being addressed by the Parish Council. "A road sign for Martins Corner" I have passed this request on to Vicky Weston who will see what can be done. "Smartening up the telephone boxes" the Parish Council arranged for these to be repainted in recent years but BT have put signs in them that they will be removed unless a case can be made to keep them. Perhaps we all need to let them know how we feel. Perhaps converting to mini libraries or tourist information centres may be the way forward as the telephones are seldom used according to BT. "Another post box" I'm afraid I don't think PiNS can do anything about this one.

The suggestion that we can definitely do something about, apart from maintaining the Fingerposts, is to plant more bulbs around the villages. This will probably be best done next autumn and I would be grateful for any suggestions for planting places and volunteers to plant them when the time is right. Thanks again for these and any other suggestions you may have. You can always contact me on [jane.masterman@icloud.com](mailto:jane.masterman@icloud.com). I would also like to thank Liz Lewis for her help with the finances of PiNS over the last few years it is greatly appreciated and we will miss her and of course Gus.



SOBERTON  PLAYERS

# Ladies' Day



Tickets

£7

*A Comedy By Amanda Whittington*

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> March to Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April, 7.30pm



Soberton Village Hall – SO32 3PF

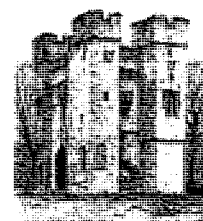
Pre-Theatre 2-Course Supper & Show Tickets: **£22.95**  
6pm at The White Lion • 02392 632 551

Box Office: 02392 632 551  
Email: [tickets@sobertonplayers.co.uk](mailto:tickets@sobertonplayers.co.uk)

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY BEECREATIVE.CO.UK • 01329 832993

## **Soberton & Newtown Local History Society**

The Local History Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m in St Peters Church Rooms. New members are always welcome – just come along!



Our 2017 programme starts on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February with the AGM, followed by 3 short talks on 3 houses in our villages – Porch House and Manor Farm Cottage in School Hill and Yew Tree Cottage in West Street.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March there will be a talk given by Peter Stoddard on “The History of Hampshire Constabulary” which should be interesting!

The meetings will finish as usual with Tea, Coffee and biscuits and a chance to have a chat.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **St Peter's Churchyard Survey**

As some of you are aware I am doing a churchyard survey at St Peter's as part of my coursework for my Archaeology A level. It has been great to see friends from the village who have stopped by while I have been working among the graves, taking measurements and trying to work out what the inscriptions say, and a few have been a little confused to see me there: not your normal place for a teen to hang out!

Over the past couple of months I have surveyed over 150 graves, making only half of the churchyard, so I have some time yet before I finish, but I have found some interesting stories behind the inscriptions: murder, mystery and many interconnecting families.

If you have any stories about the people beneath the headstones, please do get in touch, I would love to hear from you, and if you see me busy around the churchyard, do give me a wave!

Victoria Rogers (email: [ellesborough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ellesborough@yahoo.co.uk))

### **Meon Valley Garden Club**

### **Spring Show**

Saturday 25th April at 2.00pm

Meon Hall, Meonstoke

Schedules available on Droxford Village web-site under clubs and leisure.

## Soberton Races

Previous copies of the parish magazine have shown that the enclosure and subsequent ploughing on Soberton Down meant that the Hambledon Hunt Races lost their race venue and racing lapsed for ten or more years. However, the Hambledon Hunt were fortunate that William Henry Poulett had left the army in 1857 because rather unexpected deaths in his family meant that he was second in line to the Earldom. Always a keen sportsman the Sandhurst trained William had spent part of his army career in India where his interest in horses and horse breeding had been fostered. Looking for somewhere where he could develop his passion for horses and horse racing he decided to settle at what was to become 'Grenville Hall' in Soberton parish. It was not long before Captain Poulett was involved in local sporting activities and took over as Master of the Hambledon Hunt.

During the next few years Grenville was developed as a training establishment for his racing stud. By late 1865 the Earl was building a private race course and training ground and engaged Christopher Green as his trainer. Green had been a leading steeplechase rider and had won the Aintree Grand National twice before turning to training. However, he was also a farmer in his beloved Norfolk and building up his own training facilities so did not immediately take up the offer. It was Ben Land Senior who moved to Grenville. Ben Land, also a Norfolk farmer, had been a professional jockey but was better known as a trainer. William, now Earl Poulett, had three horses with great potential for Ben Land to work with Benazal, Cortolvin and "The Lamb". The first was winner of some 27 steeplechases, Cortolvin was second in the Grand National in 1866 and the Lamb with George Ede as jockey won the race in 1868. George Ede was born in Itchen, son of a wealthy Southampton landowner. George and his brother were also good cricketers and it is understood that George captained Hampshire from 1864 to 1869 and was connected with the Hambledon C.C. However he was better known as the jockey "Mr. Edwards" having some three hundred winners before a fatal accident in 1870.

Ben Land retired in 1870 and Christopher Green was persuaded to move to Grenville. The following year "The Lamb", a little grey Irish horse won the Grand National for a second time. The 1871 census gives an idea of the scale of the enterprise. The enumerator still refers to Greenfield (rather than Grenville) and what appears to be three separate establishments. The forty-three year old earl and his wife in one, whilst the main house was occupied by Christopher Green and his family with three servants. The Earl's servants and grooms lived "in a detached house of the stables" presided over by the housekeeper Sarah Palmer. They included a ladies maid, a footman, ten stable grooms and a jockey. The jockey was thirty year old Ben Land Junior. Ten years later Grenville Hall was in the care of two elderly servants. The stable grooms have gone including Thomas & Henry Adams the only two to have been born in Soberton. Ben Land junior became a tram driver and later an ostler in Islington. Cortolvin was sold to the Duke of Hamilton and did win the Grand National in 1867.



*This photograph of 'The Farmer's Cup was given to the Local History Society by Mr. Ken Cantle. The inscription reads "Hambledon Hunt Races 1866 Won by Mr. Habin". It is understood that Mr. Habin won the race for the Farmer's cup three consecutive years and was therefore allowed to keep it. The Haben/Habin family were very much part of the farming communities of Soberton and Hambledon during the 19th century.*

## **WINCHESTER CITY COUNCILLORS REPORT LINDA GEMMELL, FRANK PEARSON and VICKI WESTON - CENTRAL MEON VALLEY**

### **WINCHESTER DISTRICT A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

On 13 March 2016 Winchester was named the Best Place to Live in Great Britain by the Sunday Times poll. As well as factors around housing, health and employment, the article referenced the vibrant culture of the district, with its busy festival and events calendar and high standard of quality food and drink and local heritage and leisure opportunities.

On 17 December 2016 the 'Best place to Live in Britain' accolade was reiterated in a new survey conducted by Halifax, citing Winchester has having the 'the number one local authority for best quality of life'. As well as the 'outdoor spaces, 'community spirit' and the good health and sound average income of the residents, the article headlined the presence of 'the largest farmers' market in the UK, one of Europe's grandest cathedrals and dozens of upmarket shops and restaurants'.

On 19 December The Daily Telegraph followed up their coverage about the above announcement with a feature article named '10 reasons why Winchester is Britain's Best Place to Live'. The reasons were: 1. Ancient treasures 2. Good architecture 3. Easy to reach 4. Unique shops 5. Creative inspiration 6. St Cross Hospital (Keats Walk) 7. Jane Austen 8. Great places to stay 9. Thriving foodie scene 10. Wonderful walks.

In addition we are also very pleased to say that the City Council has yet again improved its score in the comprehensive and independent 'Best Companies to Work for' survey which provides staff with an opportunity to give detailed independent feedback on their employer.

Winchester District is a great place to live and work. The City Council, its staff and its elected Members, Parish Councils do their bit alongside many others to achieve help these results and we are proud of those efforts.

### **LEISURE CENTRE ON TRACK FOR BAR END**

The purchase of the Garrison Ground at Bar End by Winchester City Council is now complete. The City Council and Tesco have been working closely for a number of years and announced on 22 December that they have agreed fair commercial terms for purchase of the important site. The price is subject to a confidentiality clause in the contract. By purchasing the land the Council can now consider it as an option for the location of the city's new community sports

and leisure centre. The Garrison Ground is east of the existing running track and is the site preferred for a new leisure centre by many local residents and community groups.

### **OPEN MARKET SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME FOR WINCHESTER DISTRICT**

The City Council is exploring a pilot "Open Market Shared Ownership scheme (OMSO) This is a new scheme offered to local authorities where Councils can own a share of a private property with a household purchasing the rest of the property. This split is down to local determination but a 70:30 (purchaser / Council) split would be the broad expectation. **How the scheme could work** - The OMSO scheme works through the Council owning the whole property with the purchaser having a charge of up to 70% of the property. The purchaser would be able to buy any property in the District up to a maximum value set out by the Council. The purchaser would likely to be required to provide a 10% deposit, with a mortgage on 90% of their share (so a deposit of 7% of the house value and a mortgage for 63%). The Council would effectively own the remaining 30% of the property and it is proposed would charge a rent to the purchaser on this element to cover the costs of borrowing.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT RURAL PROJECTS**

Farmers, foresters, growers, rural businesses and rural communities can now bid for a share of a £1.6million fund across the South East Hampshire area. Grants are available for projects which meet the aims of Fieldfare's Local Development Strategy. The Fieldfare LEADER programme is a community led partnership that works closely with Winchester, Eastleigh, East Hampshire and Havant Councils and the South Downs National Park Authority. Further details about Fieldfare LEADER can be found at [www.Fieldfareleader.org.uk](http://www.Fieldfareleader.org.uk) For more information please contact Ken Brown, Programme Manager on 01962 848 588 or [kbrown@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:kbrown@winchester.gov.uk)

### **Your Councillors**

**Linda Gemmell 01489 895 023**

**[lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk)**

**Frank R. Pearson Tel: 01489 892 822 or e-mail: [fpearson@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:fpearson@winchester.gov.uk)**

**Weston Tel: 01329 835 161 or e-mail:**

**[vweston@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:vweston@winchester.gov.uk) .uk**

The Guide Hut Committee invite you and all the family to join us for a

# Beetle Drive



Friday 17th March  
Soberton Village Hall  
6pm – 8pm

Tickets: £2.50 to include cake and a drink.

Tickets from: Louise McEwen: 01489 877448 Caroline Rogers: 01489 877430  
Josie Cleeve: Newtown Soberton Infant School

Come and celebrate

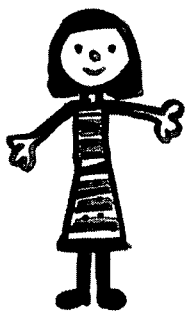
## Mothering Sunday

Sunday 26th March 2017

Holy Trinity Church, Newtown  
at 10 am

Collect a posy for your Mum

Refreshments      Sherry & Simnel cake





# SOBERTON AND NEWTOWN

## Conservation Group

### February-March 2017

Contacts: [phil.bergin@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.bergin@btinternet.com)

Richard Osmond 01489 896234

Nigel Johnson 01489 877324

#### **Our Spring programme....**

was still at the planning stage as this magazine went to press but will hopefully include some old favourites such as the village pond dipping session.

If you are keen to learn more about the natural environment around us, or help with some of the conservation jobs we get involved in, do let us know via the email above and we will add you to a mailing list which we use to keep everyone up to date with our activities.

In recent months we have busy with:

**Soberton Down** blackthorn and bramble clearance which is making a huge difference to this conservation area. A team of South Downs National Park volunteers joined us one Tuesday morning in October and made great progress. By the time you read this, we hope they will have paid us another visit. Six Dexter cattle from Mark Black Farming are also doing great work grazing the site. Go up and have a look – dogs on a lead, please.

**Water Voles in the River Meon** – an illustrated talk by South Downs National Park Ranger, Elaina Whittaker-Slark about a recent project to restock the River Meon with water voles was enjoyed in November by a capacity audience in the St Peter's Church Rooms.

At our **Family Workshop** in December we created a dozen or more wooden Hedgehog habitats to help these increasingly endangered animals survive in our area. David Salmon and his two grandsons kindly created the kits and the SoberNewts families had a lot of fun assembling and decorating them.

If anyone has noticed hedgehogs in their gardens or around the nearby countryside please let us know for our local environmental records. We also created lots of toad abodes from old plant pots.

**New Volunteers** – we need more help with the many practical tasks required to keep our local sites of environmental interest in good shape.

We have a core team of 6 or 7 people who work on Soberton Down on Tuesday mornings from 9am with occasional reinforcements when other members have time. But we also need volunteers for work parties to manage the village pond, help Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust with woodland management of East Bere Copse (Fay's Wood) and other occasional jobs. If you would be interested in helping, let us know by email – [phil.bergin@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.bergin@btinternet.com) - which days of the week or weekend you might be available.

**IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

## **NEWTOWN CHURCH FETE**

**Saturday 27th May 2017**

**at MEONWOOD 2pm**



Planning the fete is already in progress, if you are new to the village and would like to help at the fete, we would be so pleased to hear from you. It is always a very enjoyable occasion and provides a good opportunity to get to know people in the village. We would also be glad to hear from anyone with any new bright ideas! Please contact John or Sue or bring them to the

**Fete Planning Meeting: Monday 6th February 7.30 pm at Meonwood**

To find out more and keep up to date with Fete news you can visit our website <http://newtownchurchfete.org.uk/> or our page on Facebook

John Barfoot 07974 232296

email: [john.barfoot@solent.ac.uk](mailto:john.barfoot@solent.ac.uk)

Sue Wells 01329 834130

email: [sjwells@meonwood.co.uk](mailto:sjwells@meonwood.co.uk)

3Ps

### **'Wimbledon Warm-up'**

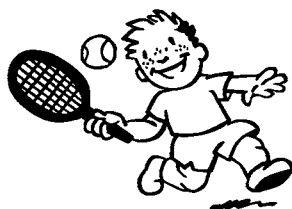
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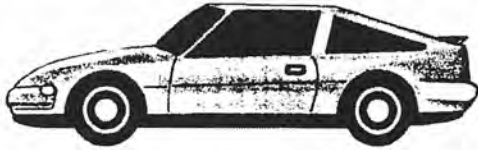
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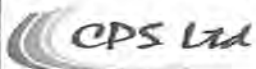
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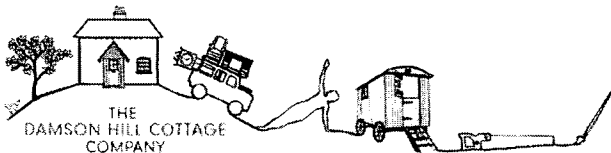
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Dear Villager,

## Water Meadows between West Street and Selworth Lane, Soberton

I hope that you are enjoying the New Year and enjoyed our local landscape in walks over the holidays.

Over the last few months you may have noticed that the land which we have known as the water meadows, is being offered for sale by the Holywell estate. Over the past few years the public have enjoyed access to part of this land by permission. Strictly, the only access is the footpath which goes from West Street to the ridge west of the A32. Permissive access has allowed the public to walk across the top field and use a path that leads under the railway line to the High Street.

The asking price is £425,000. The land has little commercial value but huge conservation and amenity potential. It is of course in the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and as such enjoys some degree of protection against inappropriate use and development. The income it generates is from the fishing rights currently as a wild trout fishery with the well reputed Portsmouth Services Association, some State funding for "stewardship", although the future of this is uncertain at present, and potentially from grazing at suitable times of year.

The main concern is what will happen if any individual buys it. Enforcement of Planning Laws and control of unlawful use are time consuming and costly and frequently frustrated.

We now have an opportunity as a Village Community to preserve this land in a way that affords us protection from its misuse and would give us a significant say in how it is used and maintained in future.

The proposal is that we should create a Trust and fund the purchase through "Loans" from the village community. We may also be able to access public or charitable funds towards the purchase cost, capital costs such as fencing and the ongoing costs of looking after the land appropriately. The precise details of the scheme would be on advice from the SDNP, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, our Local Authorities and our Parish Council.

A nearby community, Twyford, has successfully set up a similar trust to protect conservation land in the village and we would obviously seek all possible advice and support from them.

The first step in any plan will be to form a group of committed volunteers to take the project forward. If you support the idea in principle and/or are willing to help with planning and fund-raising, please contact us over the next few weeks so that we can assess whether there is enough local interest to move ahead.

There would have to be widespread consultation across the parish to ensure that the interests of all local residents are taken into consideration, particularly issues around access, parking and visitor numbers.

We believe this is a chance to preserve for the benefit of the community an area of considerable environmental and recreational value right on our doorsteps. We hope enough people within the parish share this view and will be inspired to lend their time, possibly money and/or help with fundraising for this project.

Many thanks

Hugh Pringle, Philomena Bergin, Anthony McEwen

Contact us initially with expressions of interest via email: [sobertonmeadows@btinternet.com](mailto:sobertonmeadows@btinternet.com)

## Helpful Teens

This term we said Goodbye to Lucy Ward – as she finishes her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, and moves on to pastures new. Lucy has been a great help and has always worn a warm smile, whether washing up or painting zebras! She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best.

The Guides have been very busy in the lead up to Christmas, helping out different groups in the community. They have been Elves at Santa's Grotto in the Fareham Shopping, making sure the children got the right gifts and helping Santa check the naughty & nice list for Christmas.

They helped at the ROCs Christmas workshop: with the messy crafts, decorating the church, clearing up at the end of the session and helping out during lunch. If you saw the church during any of your Christmas visits I'm sure you will agree that it looked lovely. Then two brave Guides, a young Leader, a willing father and a tired Guide Leader, donned their hat and gloves on a cold Tuesday evening to help The Meon Valley Lions with their Santa Sleigh Collection. Great fun, and many stories to tell, not least one household thinking they were selling Lions!!

To finish off the term, some Guides joined the large cast for the Crib Service to start their Christmas celebrations with a cheerful hymn and a happy smile.

And who says we don't do anything at Guides?

This term we are working on a Canadian Challenge (compiled by a Meon Valley Guide to raise money for her international trip to...Canada.), celebrating Thinking Day and finishing our Go-for-it badge work.

If you would like to help us make adventures on a Monday evening (7 – 8.30pm) – we would be very grateful for the extra pair of hands.

Caroline Rogers & Karen Turnock  
Soberton & Newtown Guides  
Email: [sobertonnewtownguides@gmail.com](mailto:sobertonnewtownguides@gmail.com)

## Changes to St Peter's Rocs



### **Who are we?**

We are a group that meets once a month, our aim is to introduce children of all ages to Church, prayer and the Bible.

### **What do we do?**

We start our morning in the main body of the church where we join in with the first hymn. After a short prayer, we go in to the Church Rooms where through craft activities and play we enable the children to develop an understanding of the Bible. We always have a lot of fun!

### **Why 'Rocs'?**

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says 'You are Peter, the Rock; and on this rock I will build my church'. It's from here that we took our name 'Rocs'.

### **Who is Rocs for?**

Rocs is for children of all ages; we would love you to join us. We always have at least two CRB checked leaders and warmly welcome other adults to get involved – and, of course, THE MORE CHILDREN, THE MERRIER!

**When do we meet?**

**We now meet on the first Sunday of the month at 10.00**

**Next meetings: February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**



## Dancing Pixies, Sprites and Kelpies.

Guess what we did at Brownies last term?? Oh yes – the Dancers Badge. The Brownies learnt about 3 ballets: Swan Lake, The Nutcracker and Giselle. We read the stories, created tableaux and choreographed a 5-minute ballet in their sixes based on one of the ballets. Victoria taught us how to Irish Dance, and we ended the evening putting on a short performance for their parents.

They also completed the 'Think Resilient' a badge designed to build mental well-being and grow resilience.

We managed to squeeze in a few other activities: the pop-up coffee shop for Guide Hut funds, a campfire at Meonwood, a Beatrice Potter evening, Christmas crafts and a Christmas party complete with a short film. Phew, a fun-filled term, full of adventure.

Mandy is now taking a short break, to settle her latest girl into an evening routine, and hopefully will be back after Easter, so Parents are helping out during this time.

So what are we doing this term?... Well, just like the guides we are looking at Canada for our Canadian Challenge badge, and maybe just have one or two surprises up our sleeve. We'll let you know next time.

If your daughter would like to join our pack we currently have spaces available. Brownies are aged between 7 and 11, and we meet at The Guide Hut on Soberton Recreation Ground on a Monday evening 5.30 to 7pm (term time only).

Caroline Rogers & Mandy Cleeve  
Soberton & Newtown Brownies  
(contact email: [sobertonnewtownbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:sobertonnewtownbrownies@gmail.com))

## Meon Valley Garden Club

Our Garden Club year finished with skittles at Southwick Golf Club. The evening was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Even with the refurbished skittle alley and new balls some members still managed to score zero in some games!

Thanks to all who helped organise the event especially Janet and Lyn who organised the raffle and to those who donated prizes.

Our next major event is the Spring Show on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm at the Meon Hall, Meonstoke. The show is open to members and non-members. It would be great if you could find the time to enter, even if only in one class. There are Daffodil, cookery, handicrafts and children's classes to name a few.

The full schedule will be on the Droxford village web site under Clubs and Leisure nearer the time.

If you would wish to join the club, please contact our Membership secretary Phil Butler on 01489 877596 or [philipbutler831@btinternet.com](mailto:philipbutler831@btinternet.com)

Caroline Harris, Secretary

More information on Droxford Village web site

### Diary for Feb/March

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Carnivorous plants	Droxford Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Adventurous container gardening	Meon Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show	Meon Hall 2.00pm
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee morning (members only)	Ramblers, Corhampton 10.30am



Meon Valley

Does 2016 already seem a long time ago? To remind you, at our one meeting in December, we were entertained by a talk on the history of Westbury Manor in Fareham: when it was built and who by; subsequent owners and extensions; threat of demolition then the eventual happy outcome of public purchase for conversion into a museum devoted mainly to 'things Fareham' which is what it is today. Many members seemed to know the building well and were interested to learn more of its history and to contribute their own knowledge and experience of it. (Note, however, that the museum is now closed for several months for another upgrade/refurbishment.) After the talk the Xmas season was socially celebrated with a choice of *three* large and delicious Christmas cakes made by one of our members. Thank you Christine. Reports on the January meetings will appear in the next issue. Details of the February and March meetings are given below. The first three of the four are by U3A members. As usual they will be at:

**The Wickham Centre, Mill Lane; Tuesdays, at 2.00pm**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>  | <b>Theatres: Tudor and Stuart, by Kay Corke</b> |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> February</b> | <b>Power from the Atom, by Mike Hollis</b>      |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>     | <b>A History of London, by Alan Inder</b>       |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>    | <b>The Polio Story, by Tim Mason</b>            |

Members free. Guests/visitors are very welcome - £2 per talk.

The other important part of our activities, the Small/Special Interest Groups continue: most meet monthly in members' homes, so there are inevitably limits to numbers that can be accepted. Current groups include Geology, Egyptology, Reading, Poetry, Visual Arts appreciation, Classical Music appreciation, Bridge and Scrabble, Strolling.

**Enquiries to: Julia Field, Tel. 01489 891353. Website: [u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley)**

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# RBL Droxford & District Branch

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Operation *Chariot*, often described as “the greatest raid of all”, was a huge boost to British morale at a dark time of the war and the *Tirpitz* and other heavy German surface units were denied a base from which to threaten Allied Atlantic convoys.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, RAdm Chris Parry entertained us with his views of UK’s future security prospects. Illustrating how ‘barking’ claims he’d made 10 years ago have since been vindicated, he regaled his audience with a humorous, fascinating and, at times, frightening glimpse into our future. Armageddon? No, but climate and demographic changes and a 3 billion rise in world population, together with enormous pressures on energy, food, water and mineral resources will cause imbalance and challenge future generations. Technological advances, particularly in computing and electromagnetic science will also create fresh threats to our security and prosperity.

The next RBL meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March when Lt Col Alan McComb, OBE, Royal Signals from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) will address future developments in the British Army. Entitled “*Whizzes, bangs and whispers*”, the talk will commence at 1900 in Droxford Village Hall and, as usual, non-members will be welcome to attend.

The RBL Droxford & District Branch is always looking for new members, both Service and civilian, to help keep remembrance alive and support our Servicemen and women, veterans and their families. For more information or to join us, please contact the Secretary – Cdr Rob Scott RN at [robmunroscott@aol.com](mailto:robmunroscott@aol.com) or 01489 877800.

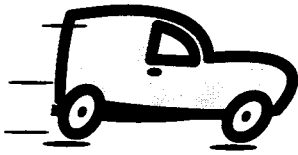
## 75 years ago...

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 1942, Operation *Chariot* was launched to destroy the *Normandie* Dock at St Nazaire in German occupied France. This was the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast large enough to accommodate the battleship *Tirpitz*. The assault force comprised 346 Royal Navy sailors and 265 British Army Commandos in an obsolete destroyer, *HMS Campbelltown* (ex-USS *Buchanan*) and 18 assorted motor launches (MLs), torpedo and gun boats (MTBs and MGBs). The assault was preceded by a raid by RAF Bomber Command. Having penetrated the Loire Estuary undetected but now under heavy enemy fire, *Campbelltown* rammed the dock gates at 0134 on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

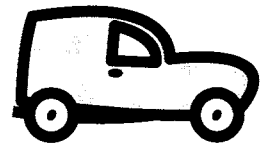
Meanwhile, commandos had been landed to destroy key installations and act as a diversion. *Campbelltown*, her bows packed with 4½ tons of delayed-action high explosive, eventually exploded at noon - killing 40 curious Germans who had boarded the ship and destroying the dock. 169 Britons and 360 Germans were killed, and 215 Britons captured. 223 men returned to Britain in the surviving MLs and 5 overland via Spain. Of 89 decorations awarded, 5 Victoria Crosses were won: by Cdr Robert Ryder RN and Lt Col Charles Newman, commanding the naval and land forces; Lt Cdr ‘Sam’ Beattie RN the captain of *HMS Campbelltown* and, posthumously, by Sgt Tommy Durrant and AB Bill Savage.



## Newtown & Soberton



# COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



### News from the verge!

That's where we 'Yellow Coats' often set up our Speed Indicator!

**WHO?** No we're not redundant Holiday Camp entertainers, we're Community Speedwatch volunteers. We all live in Newtown, Soberton or Soberton Heath, and we are all DRIVERS!

**WHAT?** Our group was launched following a residents meeting in March 2016 to address concerns about traffic volume, speed and safety in our villages. The coordinators are John Haskins and Robert Brown, and we operate under guidelines set by the Police and with the Community Police Support Officers. We monitor vehicles and pass on data to the Police.

**WHY?** Our aim is to educate drivers to observe the 30mph speed limit so that dog walkers, rambles, children on their way to school, cyclists, horse riders, drivers emerging from drive-ways etc. can enjoy our beautiful location safely.

**WHERE?** You will see us in lay-bys, driveways, on grass verges and other safe roadside locations authorised by the Police around our three villages, especially those with proven high volumes of traffic and percentages of speeders, and where the Speed Limit is 30mph.

**WHEN?** At different times of the day, and as often as volunteer availability allows.

**THE MORE VOLUNTEERS WE HAVE  
THE MORE ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE  
WE CAN BE**

Supported by:  
Soberton & Newtown Parish Council  
& Hampshire Police

### If you are concerned about SPEEDING through our villages please join the Speedwatch Group

To be successful the Speedwatch team needs more volunteers (any age from 18 upwards) to join the current group of approximately 45 people.

Bishops Waltham Police have been very supportive with training our team and loaning us equipment, now replaced with our own newly purchased equipment thanks to the generous support of local businesses, Soberton & Newtown Parish Council and local residents.

This awareness campaign is helping to tackle the problem of speeding in the Newtown, Soberton Heath and Soberton areas - you can be part of it!

**SPREAD THE WORD  
SLOW DOWN NOW!**

**30**

### Do something positive

You can help preserve our peace and promote responsible driving through our villages by being **part of the solution, not part of the problem.**

The recently completed survey reveals these disturbing facts:

**Number of cars: 3382**

**Number of speeders: 1193**

**% of speeders approx: 35%**

**Highest speed: 67 mph**

**The busiest roads are**

**Church Road & Liberty Road**

**Total number of surveying  
sessions completed: 62**

**Period: May-October 2016**

Many thanks to all those who waved their approval of our work as they drove past - your continued support is essential to the success of Speedwatch.

### Get in touch!

For more information or to sign up to be part of the team please email your name, address and telephone number to one of our local Community Speedwatch coordinators:

**John Haskins:**

haskins230@btinternet.com

**Rob Brown:**

wickhouse5@yahoo.co.uk

**Graham Smart:**

grahamgs@hotmail.co.uk



# SOBERTON FETE

**24 June 2017**

**WE NEED YOU .....**

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS  
HAVE FUN WITH OLD FRIENDS  
HAVE A LAUGH and...  
POLISH YOUR HALO!!**

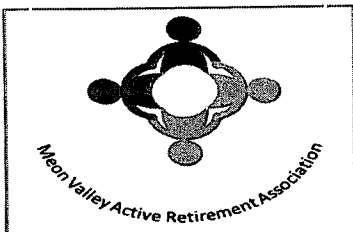
We desperately need more willing helpers to get involved with Soberton Fete. If you feel you can spare the time to be involved – we would ask anyone who would like to be on the committee, be involved with organising the Grand Draw, run a stall or just help on the day with a stall or game to get in touch with us!

There is no obligation to continue year after year – so don't be shy about volunteering for 2017 – if you enjoy it - you can continue.

Each year we raise much needed funds for the maintenance and upkeep of our lovely ancient church. Please consider being a part of this – whilst having a bit of fun at the same time.

**THANK YOU.**

Nigel Whales 01489 877712 [Nigelwhales@aol.com](mailto:Nigelwhales@aol.com)  
Louise McEwen 01489 877448 [louise.mcewen@btinternet.com](mailto:louise.mcewen@btinternet.com)  
Wendy Flynn 01489877197 [flynn.wendye@gmail.com](mailto:flynn.wendye@gmail.com)  
Michelle Ettridge 01329 834770 [michelleettridge73@gmail.com](mailto:michelleettridge73@gmail.com)



## MEON VALLEY ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION Programme February and March 2017

**Exercise Class** – St. Peter's Church Hall Bishop's Waltham Every Monday from 10:00 to 11:15 **NB: No class on 20<sup>th</sup> February** Cost per individual session: members £2.00, non-members £2.50 Please note there is a long waiting list for this class.  
Contact: Chee Price 01489 893140.

### **Ladies' Pub Lunch.**

Mondays – February 6<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup>

Contact Sandy Holden on 01489 892136 by the previous Monday for venue and to book a place.

**IT learning classes** - The Silver Room, Jubilee Hall, Tuesdays Classes will restart on January 10<sup>th</sup> subject to demand, and run for 12 sessions for a one off fee finishing on 28<sup>th</sup> March– cost to be advised.

Contact: Ian Wynne- Powell on 01329 833254

**touchtennis** Sessions in the New Year to be advised.

Contact: Ann Joyce on 01329 232099

**Tai Chi** – Jubilee Hall – Gold Room. Wednesday mornings. There are two sessions: Beginners/less experienced: 09:00 to 10:00 Experienced: 10:15 to 11:15. Cost per individual session £4.50 for members; £5.50 for non-members

Contact: Teri Morley on 01489 895119

**Table Tennis** – Priory Park Clubhouse, Elizabeth Way, Bishop's Waltham Wednesday afternoons from 14:00 to 17:00 These sessions are now closed to non-members (other than a taster session) due to demand. Cost per session £3.50 for members, £4.50 for non-members.

Contact: John Moorhouse on 01489 896366

**Gentlemen's Pub Lunch:** The Barleycorn, Bishops Waltham. Third Thursday of the month: February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00 for 12:30

Contact Richard Davenport for details on 01489 891862.

**New Age Kurling** - Jubilee Hall – Ruby Room Third Thursday of the month: February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> Sessions run from 14:00 to 16:00. Cost per individual session: members £3.00, non-members £3.50

Contact: Geoff Matthews on 01489 890434

**Spanish Lessons** Classes held on Friday mornings at The Stables, Free Street, Bishops Waltham.

**NB: Classes on 24<sup>th</sup> February will be held in St Peter's Church Hall.** Spanish for Beginners is now full; a new class will start in September 2017 subject to demand. Spanish II sessions run from 10:15 to 11:00 and Spanish III from 11:15 to 12:00. Cost £3.50 per session.

Call John Moorhouse on 01489 896366 to discuss

**Scrabble for Fun:** Sessions on Friday afternoons in the small room at The Paterson Centre, Swanmore from 14:00 to 16:00. Cost £1.50 per session. Beginners very welcome. Please be prompt!

Contact: Lena Frost on 01489 894828

**Theatre/Cinema visits:** Visits are organised throughout the year. Please note the theatre visits for winter/early spring are now full and no further bookings can be taken.

For information on theatre/cinema visits contact Kay Corke 01489 890727

## Singing for Fun

Come and sing your favourite songs and learn some new ones. No talent required.

**The Stables, Free St, Bishops Waltham**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 2.00 to 3.30pm 2017**

Ages 50's to 90's, people with disabilities especially welcome.

Cost £1 a session, includes refreshments.

Further information from Annabel 01489 877130 or 07732 329792. Or just turn up.

## **The GOOD NEIGHBOURS Scheme**

In our village, a collection of dwellings strung out over five miles on the eastern bank of the river Meon, there is a powerful sense of community. The settlements of Soberton, Webbs Green, Soberton Heath and Newtown are hardly likely to form a cohesive group. However a number of residents have formed a group with the title of 'Good Neighbours'. They exist to help elderly residents to have access to surgeries in Denmead, Wickham and Droxford as well as out-patients to the main hospitals in the area: Southampton, Portsmouth and Winchester.

In the absence of a viable public transport service, residents who are out-patients or have appointments with their GP can be confident they will be collected and taken to the surgery on time.

I am no longer able to drive my car. I dare not leave my wife Sylvia on her own without her carer being present.

The scheme is co-ordinated by Mrs. Sue Musselwhite and Mrs. Philomena Bergin. They have a team of motorists who are able to devote their time to wait whilst the surgeries and hospital appointments take place. Without this scheme I would be unable to be a patient since I have suffered a stroke.

I cannot praise and thank these wonderful people enough. I hope this letter will act as a token of my appreciation for their marvellous devotion to the community.

Denis May

## **MEON VALLEY PLAY READING GROUP**

### **"It's like being in a Radio Play"**

- No lines to learn
- No acting on stage
- No commitment to attend each meeting
- You don't need to be the 'right age' for characters you're reading (or even the same gender!)

Just a fun evening, reading a different play at each meeting.

A charge of £3 pays for rent, coffee, etc.

**We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Meon Hall, Meonstoke**

**Next two meetings are 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**14<sup>th</sup> March**

**More details? 'Phone Paul or Gerry Hayles (01489 878489)**

## **FILM CLUB**

On Thursday 23/2 at 7pm. by popular demand we show **BRIDGE OF SPIES** with Tom Hanks, preceded by a Norman supper. I have seen it and it is an excellent suspense film set in the Gary Powers cold war period. We have 22 booked so far. Usual price £10. BYO drinks.

Further dates are 27/4 and our Gala evening on Saturday 15/7. I have ordered **SULLY** which is an excellent film, again with Tom Hanks. By the time I know its delivery date it will probably be the Gala evening film.

Please book through me as usual, [lyndonpalmer@me.com](mailto:lyndonpalmer@me.com)  
07881991763 or 01489896862

## **The dates for Children's Week 2017 will be Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

Children's Week is an activity week for children (from yr1 to yr7) who live in Soberton and Newtown Parishes, and is supported by the local churches: Holy Trinity, Newtown and St Peter's, Soberton.

All details and the application form will be in the June edition.

To make the week a success we need lots of adult help: supporting children's teams, setting up the activities, washing the paint brushes, making the drinks or moving the giant models. So whether it's just a specific task, a couple of days or the whole week, we would love to hear from you.

Our email address is: [sncweek@gmail.com](mailto:sncweek@gmail.com)

## **WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY**



## **SAXONS IN THE MEON VALLEY**

A Talk by Dr. Nick Stoodley, FSA  
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30PM

Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL

All are welcome to attend the talk (£2.00 for non WHS members – no need to book), followed by refreshments.

For more information go to: [www.wickhamhistory.org.uk](http://www.wickhamhistory.org.uk)



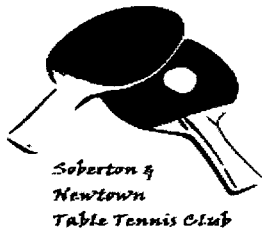
# SoberTots!

Our favourite and much loved Croissants and Coffee playgroup has been relaunched as SoberTots!!

We meet at the Guide Hut  
on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 10:00-11:30.

We have a wide selection of toys for both babies and toddlers. For the Mothers, we still have our freshly baked warm croissants served with butter and jam, washed down with a lovely cup of tea or coffee. Come and relax on our two large sofas and have a natter with fellow village mums, dads, grandparents and carers. AND THE BEST BIT!!..... unlike other playgroups, we are still open during half term and holidays. That's the time when Mums need us the most! Older siblings are also most welcome! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Any queries, please contact Mandy Cleeve on [mandy.cleeve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandy.cleeve@hotmail.co.uk)



**Strong individual performances get  
the season off to a great start.**

**Now well into its fifth year (Where did the time go?) the Soberton & Newtown Table Tennis Club continues to prosper with the A team enjoying an outstanding start to the 2016/17 season and the newly promoted B team steering clear of the relegation zone in what is proving to be a far more competitive division of the Portsmouth League.**

At the season's halfway stage, all five members of Pete Woodacre's A team have an average (games won) in the Portsmouth League of over 66%. They held the Division 1 runners up to a creditable draw while narrowly losing to the eventual winners of a year ago. At the time of writing the A squad remain unbeaten in the Fareham & Gosport League as they do in the two handicap competitions.

An almost faultless performance by the B team's Russ Anderson (he has an average of over 85%) and a solid contribution by Mike Vogado (40%) have helped steer the squad away from the bottom of Division 3. With two wins and three draws under their belt, the B team have made a more than respectable start in their higher division.

The Soberton & Newtown Table Tennis Club runs practice sessions most Sunday afternoons (4-6pm) and an adult fun coaching session on Friday mornings (10.30-12), both at Soberton village hall. Membership remains popular. Shortly before Christmas we were delighted to welcome Alejandro from Spain who has moved to Soberton for a period of time. For more information about joining in, please contact either Pete Woodacre ([petewoodacre@gmail.com](mailto:petewoodacre@gmail.com); 01489 877768) or Adrian Hunt ([adrianhunt8@gmail.com](mailto:adrianhunt8@gmail.com); 01489 878141).

## ROOKESBURY HALL - BOOKINGS

Please note that after many years of service, Joan Cleeve has handed over the task of Bookings Secretary to Jenny Doney.

For bookings, please contact Jenny on 01329 834392 or email: [Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk](mailto:Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk)

For any other enquiries please contact Maggie Epps on 01329 832539 or email: [info@rookesburyhall.co.uk](mailto:info@rookesburyhall.co.uk)



### A bit of seasonal give-and-take

December was a hectic period for the Lions. Most evenings saw us out fundraising with our Santa Claus trips through the local villages, an effort that raised a total £4175.85! Thanks to everyone who supported us again this year.

At the same time, we were actively distributing support and charity to those in need at Christmas. We donated £300 to the Bishop's Waltham Foodbank and funded ten Christmas Hampers for distribution by the local charity, Homestart Meon Valley, an organisation we work very closely with throughout the year. This fantastic voluntary group based in Wickham Community Centre, provides local support services for families whose members are, for whatever reason, going through tough times financially or emotionally.

Lion Sheila Campbell has a close relationship with Homestart and purchased the groceries included in the hampers from a local Sainsbury's. Not only did the supermarket discount the foodstuffs, but also added ten tins of chocolate sweets free of charge, which was a great gesture that was really appreciated. Sheila had the pleasure of delivering two of the hampers personally and on wishing the recipient "A happy Christmas", was delighted to get the response, "It will be now!"

In November, Meon Valley Lions members had attended the 'Toy Service' at Swanmore Methodist Church and took receipt of several boxes of toys for distribution to children who may not normally enjoy the gifts and presents that many children come to expect at Christmas time. We again worked with local charity organisations to find places for these toys and put a smile on a few young faces. Our thanks go to Mavis Daniels and all those at the Methodist Church for their generosity and support again this year.

One of the donations we received in the autumn, was a beautiful, hand-made dolls' house. We have been searching ever since for a local family in need, who would appreciate this wonderful toy and were unable to place it in time for Christmas. It comes complete with furniture and would surely make some deserving child very happy – can you help us find a home of it? Use the contact-us page on the Meon Valley Lions' website and we'll do the rest.

### Concert

**4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30**

**In The United Reform Church, Fareham**

(18 Osborne Road, Fareham PO16 7DG)

**Portsmouth Philharmonic & Meon Valley Orchestra**

In aid of

**Solent Diabetes Association**

Tickets £10 (£5 for students & children) from 07760 176687

Earlier this year, we turned our children into human batteries! Parent John Parker, came in to spend the day teaching fun and engaging hands-on workshops to all of years 3 and 4 on electricity. Throughout the day, our children learned all about how jet engines are powered, made batteries out of lemons and even calculated how many lemons it would take to fuel a jet. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this real-life science experience and as a result, we may have some aspiring engineers among us.



One child said: 'The best bit was when he turned us into human batteries. I got to hold the voltmeter. It was cool.'

A great day was had by all and we are keen for John to come back soon. As he left, he did mention something about measuring the speed of light with just a bar of chocolate and a microwave so watch this space...

### 'Bake Off' Comes to Droxford

As part of their Design Technology topic, the Years 3 and 4 children had an amazing 'bread day'. The day began with them learning the process of making bread before they went on knead their own dough. As the bread was proving, the children looked at different types of bread from around the world before designing the shape of their own loaf. Whilst waiting for their bread to cook, the children wrote some high quality instructions for making bread. The day was rounded off with a visit by Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry (who looked suspiciously like Mr Banham and Miss Jacobs!) The children learned a lot about bread-making and hopefully, we have inspired some budding bakers in the process.



If you are interested in visiting our school, especially as we have five places in Year 4 available, then contact our school office on 01489 877537.

# Make a Home Dementia Friendly

Simple changes in design can help those with dementia stay in their homes for longer.

If you or someone you care for is living with dementia, you may be wondering if there are some practical things you can do at home which will make life easier.

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## Things you can change at home:

- Let in as much natural light as possible
- Minimise shadows as some people don't go near dark places
- Purchase an alarmed automated pill box
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- Consider labelling switches for on/off
- Mark the edge of each step or sharp edge with a contrasting tone as some find it difficult to establish depth

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## Important things to remember:

- Not all the changes will work for everyone
- Involve the person with dementia as much as possible
- Don't make unnecessary changes
- Don't wait until the last minute
- Seek advice

For more information please call Soberton and Newtown local Village Agent David on **01329 835122**

Village Agents are volunteers supported by Age Concern Hampshire to help older people to find information and services in their local community.

## Meon Valley Community Bus Association

### **Mondays to FAREHAM**

0920 West Meon, Long Priors  
0923 West Meon, Thomas Lord PH  
0924 West Meon, Doctor's Lane  
0928 West Meon, Meonwara  
0933 Warnford Village Hall  
0940 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0942 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages  
0945 Meonstoke Triangle  
0950 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)  
0954 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0957 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
1001 Webbs Green, War Memorial  
1005 Soberton Heath, Chapel Road pond  
1007 Soberton Heath, Bold Forester PH  
1009 Sob' Heath, Liberty Rd / Heath Rd post box  
1025 Fareham Library  
1030 Sainsbury's, Fareham

#### **Return:**

1230 Sainsbury's, Fareham  
1235 Fareham Library

### **Wednesdays to FAREHAM**

0940 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0942 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages  
0945 Meonstoke Triangle  
0950 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)  
0954 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0957 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
1001 Webbs Green, War Memorial  
1005 Soberton Heath, Chapel Road pond  
1007 Soberton Heath, Bold Forester PH  
1009 Sob' Heath, Liberty Rd / Heath Rd post box  
1025 Fareham Library  
1030 Sainsbury's, Fareham

#### **Return:**

1230 Sainsbury's, Fareham  
1235 Fareham Library

### **Thursday to FAREHAM**

0920 West Meon, Long Priors  
0923 West Meon, Thomas Lord PH  
0924 West Meon, Doctor's Lane  
0928 West Meon, Meonwara  
0933 Warnford Village Hall  
0937 Exton, The Shoe PH  
0940 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0942 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages  
0945 Meonstoke, Oxendown  
0949 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0952 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
0956 Webbs Green, War Memorial  
1001 Newtown, Liberty Road  
1004 Newtown, Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
1008 Hundred Acres  
1025 Fareham Library  
1030 Sainsbury's, Fareham

#### **Return:**

1230 Sainsbury's, Fareham  
1235 Fareham Library

### **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each Month to WINCHESTER**

0900 Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)

0903 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0907 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)  
0912 Meonstoke Triangle  
0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages  
0917 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0919 Exton The Shoe PH  
0923 Warnford Village Hall  
0928 West Meon, Long Priors  
0931 West Meon, Thomas Lord PH  
0933 West Meon, Doctor's Lane  
0936 West Meon, Meonwara  
0955 Winchester Broadway  
1000 River Park Leisure Centre

#### **Return:**

1155 River Park Leisure Centre  
1200 Winchester Broadway

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each Month to WATERLOOVILLE**

0920 West Meon, Long Priors  
0923 West Meon, Thomas Lord PH  
0924 West Meon, Doctor's Lane  
0928 West Meon, Meonwara  
0933 Warnford Village Hall  
0937 Exton, The Shoe PH  
0940 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0942 Meonstoke, Pound Cottages  
0945 Meonstoke Triangle  
0950 Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)  
0954 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0957 Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
1001 Webbs Green, War Memorial  
1006 Newtown, Liberty Road  
1009 Newtown, Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)  
1025 Waterloooville Waitrose  
1030 Waterloooville Sainsbury's

#### **Return:**

1230 Waterloooville Sainsbury's  
1235 Waterloooville Waitrose

### **4<sup>th</sup> Friday each Month to PETERSFIELD**

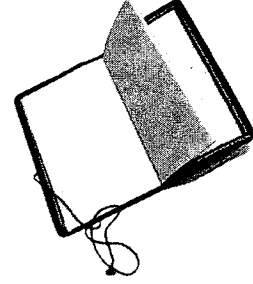
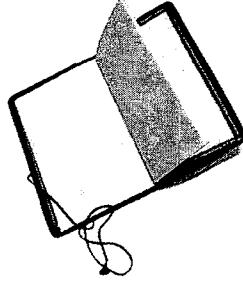
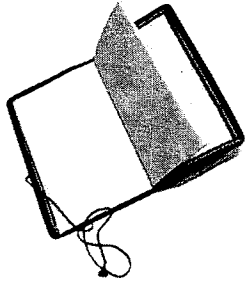
0900 Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)  
0903 Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH  
0907 Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)  
0912 Meonstoke Triangle  
0914 Meonstoke Pound Cottages  
0917 Meonstoke PO & Stores  
0921 Exton The Shoe PH  
0925 Warnford Village Hall  
0945 Petersfield Waitrose

#### **Return:**

1200 Petersfield Waitrose

#### **NOTES:**

1. The bus does not run on Christmas Eve, New Years Eve or Bank Holidays.
2. Fares to all destinations are £5 adult return / £2.50 adult single. Concessionary passes accepted. Children under 16 pay half fare and under 5s free.
3. Request halt operates at Station Road lay-by between Brockbridge, The Hurdles PH and Soberton Village Hall.
4. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1128 the bus will take passengers at Sainsbury's to Fareham Library and at 1132 from Fareham Library to Sainsbury's.
5. Timings for all trips are strict and the bus will not wait after scheduled time.
6. For the return journey, priority will be given to returning passengers over "one way only" passengers.



# Advance Planner 2017

MONTH	DAY/DATE	EVENT	VENUE
April	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wives Group Film Club Jumble Sale	The Bowery Church Room Rookesbury Hall
May	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 22 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wives Group Magazine Copy Date Newtown Church Fete	Church Room - Meonwood
June	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wives Group AGM Wives Grp Progressive Supper Wimbledon Warm-up finals Soberton Village Fete	West Cottage - Meonwood Green
July	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Film Club Gala	Church Room
July	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Children's week starts	Recreation Grnd

## **St. Peter's Luncheon Club**

The club meets in St. Peter's Church Rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 12.30pm to enjoy a 2-course meal, plus tea or coffee. Cost £5.

Transport can be arranged within the Soberton/Newtown area if that would be helpful.

Please come and join us for good food and fellowship!

(Let us know if you wish to attend by the preceding Tuesday, please)

Contact:

Sandra 01329 832043

Norman 01489 877378

Denise 02392 632338

[barry596@btinternet.com](mailto:barry596@btinternet.com)

[norman@soberton.org.uk](mailto:norman@soberton.org.uk)

[denisesolman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denisesolman@hotmail.co.uk)

## Local Information

<b>POLICE</b>	EMERGENCY	999
	Non-emergency	101
<b>Beat Surgeries</b>	Rookesbury Hall	Alternate Fridays 10:00 to 12:00
<b>DOCTORS' SURGERIES</b>	Droxford	01489 877588
	Wickham	01329 833121
	Denmead	02392 239630
<b>Good Neighbours</b>	Mrs Sue. Mussellwhite	01489 877282
	M/s Philomena Bergin	02392 632551
<b>Baby Clinics</b>	Wickham Comm.Centre	1st Wed 2.00-3.00
	Waltham Chase Village Hall	4th Wed 10.-11.30
<b>N.H.S. Direct</b>		111
<b>Social Services Direct</b>		0845 600 4555
<b>Hants Carers Helpline</b>		08457 221122
<b>Soberton Hall Booking</b>	Mrs.Rosemary Taylor	01489 877256
<i>sobertonvillagehall@googlemail.com</i>		
<b>Rookesbury Hall Booking</b>	Mrs. Jenny Doney	01329 834392
<b>Guide Hut Booking</b>	Mrs. C. Rogers	01489 877430
<b>CHURCHES</b>		
<b>Church Wardens (N)</b>	Mr. Fra Wells	01329 834130
	Mr. Barry Rowswell	01329 834671
<b>Church Wardens (S)</b>	Mrs. Louise McEwen	01489 877448
	Prof. Duncan Colin-Jones	01489 877237
<b>PCC Minutes Secretary(N)</b>		
<b>PCC Secretary(S)</b>	Mr Norman Chapman	01489 877378
<b>Capt. Of Bells(S)</b>	Mr.Noel Evans	01489 877271
<b>Churchyard Keeper (Sob)</b>	Mr John Lester	01489 878557

<b>District Councillors(N)</b>	Mr.Frank Pearson Ms.Vicki Weston	01489 892822 01329 835 161
<b>District Councillor(S)</b>	Ms Linda Gemmell	01489 895023
<b>Brownie &amp; Guide Leader</b>	Mrs. Caroline Rogers	01489 877430
<b>CAB</b>		01489 896376
<b>Children's Soc.(N)</b>	Mrs. Sue Wells	01329 834 130
<b>Children's Soc.(S)</b>	Mrs. Liz Whales	01489 877712
<b>Film Club</b>	Dr Lyndon Palmer	01489 877174
<b>Local History Chairman</b>	Prof. Duncan Colin-Jones	01489 877237
<b>Soberton Football</b>	Mr. Keith Moran	01329 834 897
<b>Soberton Players</b>	Mrs. Susan Hyland	01489 878724
<b>Soberton Hall Cttee.</b>	Mrs Jane Salmon	01489 878659
<b>Table Tennis Club</b>	Mr Pete Woodacre	01489 877768
	Mr Adrian Hunt	01489 878141
<b>Village Agents</b>	Mr. David Smith	01329 835128
<b>Village P.A.System</b>	Mr. Norman Chapman	01489 877378
<b>Wives Group</b>	Mrs. Liz Whales	01489 877712
<b>W.R.V.S.</b>		01962 852329
<b>SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Chairman</b>	John Hyland	01489 878724
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Vicki Weston	01329 835161
<b>Finance</b>	Gus Lewis	01489 878382
<b>Planning</b>	Tim Pickford	01489 877602
<b>Open Spaces</b>	Debbie Thomas	01329 832502
	Barry Henderson	01329 832043
<b>Roads &amp; Lengthsman</b>	David Salmon	01489 878659
<b>Footpath &amp; Transport</b>	Robert Stranks	01489 878270
<b>Grant Applications</b>	Graham Smart	01329 609742
<b>Clerk &amp; Proper Officer</b>	Norman Chapman	01489 877378

**Please e-mail copy for the Magazine to  
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*For copy date, see Calendar pages*

## From the Archives.....



**Above** -The Forge (Circa 1910) and its adjacent shop in High Street Soberton, which was connected for many years with the Stubington family in the 19thC. In the 1851 Census, John Stubington is listed there as a blacksmith. Jeremiah Stubington is listed in the Trade Directories of the 1850's as a Grocer, Baker & Postmaster. The shop building was still standing in the 1960's but was demolished around that time. A well, originally outside is now within the house due to building extensions. Now The Old Forge and a private house. **Below** - Map is from the 1892-1905 series showing the same area, with The Forge marked as a Post Office. (Map courtesy of The National Library of Scotland)



(from the Archives of the Soberton & Newtown Local History Society) any additional information is always welcome.  
Please Contact [duncan.colinjones@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.colinjones@btinternet.com) or [petewoodacre@gmail.com](mailto:petewoodacre@gmail.com).