

Soberton & Newtown

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

April - May 2021



Front cover design: Jonty Sherwill



Spring is in the air! Photos by Vicki Weston

www.sobertonchurch.org.uk

www.newtownchurch.org.uk

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

CHURCH SERVICES - suspended

For any enquiries, please contact either

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The Reverend David Morgan. The Vicarage, Church Lane, Hambledon. 023 9263 2921.
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St. Martin's Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN
Father Bruce Barnes (brucebarnes01@gmail.com) 01489 890947

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 are 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

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**Please e-mail copy for the June / July magazine to
gill.highcroft@btinternet.com**

NEXT COPY DATE - 17th MAY 2021

Foreword ... God alone suffices

A year ago, the patience of our esteemed editor was being put to the test as the emerging Coronavirus pandemic led to a whole host of last-minute changes to the magazine – including several re-writes of the Vicar's column. I imagine that few of us thought then that we would still be living with such significant restrictions a year later.

The amazingly rapid development of several highly effective vaccines has provided a 'light at the end of the tunnel', but it has been a long and at times very dark tunnel through which we have all been travelling. When I last wrote this column myself, back in the summer, it looked like things were improving – but as we all now know, that turned out to be only temporary. The darkness of the winter months has brought with it the darkness of many thousands of new cases, and sadly thousands of further deaths. Most of us reading this will know somebody who has been ill with Coronavirus; many of us will know somebody who has died with it. All of us have had our lives profoundly affected.

As regular readers will know, I have been away from active ministry for some months. What fewer of you will know is that it was due to quite serious mental ill-health. As well as the dark tunnel we have all shared, I have personally been in some very dark places. I am grateful to everyone who has sustained the life and work of the church in this benefice during that time, and I am pleased to

say that I am recovering well and am now returning slowly to active ministry.

During this difficult time, I have been particularly sustained by a prayer of St Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth-century Spanish nun and mystic theologian (here in a translation by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow):

Let nothing disturb thee,
nothing affright thee;
all things are passing,
God never changeth.
Patient endurance attaineth to all things;
who God possesseth in nothing is wanting;
alone God sufficeth.

As we hopefully now begin to emerge from the collective darkness of the Coronavirus pandemic, Easter reminds us that there is no darkness, not even the darkness of death, which cannot be conquered by the light of God. No matter how difficult life gets – and at times over the last year it has been very difficult indeed – there is the promise of light and life beyond all things. Sometimes that promise is all we have to keep us going, but if we hold on to it, then keep us going it certainly will. Sometimes, as for much of the last year, patient endurance is necessary; but if enduring is what is needed, then enduring is enough. When all else seems lost, God alone suffices. May he bless us all.

Fr David

Robin J. C. Wren 28th April 1943 - 10th February 2021

We are very grateful, appreciative and touched by the support and comfort received from neighbours and friends following Robin's death. The cards and flowers were a comfort at a very difficult time.

Robin spent most of his teenage years in Soberton. After some years we moved into Newtown in 1980 and then to the barn we converted in 1997. He enjoyed taking part in all village activities especially provision of the car park behind Rookesbury Hall and then the lottery funding to renovate the Hall. He also took an active part in helping with the Fete garden stall.

**Many thanks to you all,
Mary and family**

Local History ... lost and forgotten chapels

In Catholic England prior to the Reformation there were, at one time or another, several chapels in Soberton which have been almost completely forgotten except for a chance reference in some ancient document. That is with one very important exception, the chapel we know as St. Peters Church.

Soberton has a puzzling history. In 1086 the Domesday book treats Sudbertune in the same manner as Drokeneford (Droxford) also in the Hundred of Menestoeche (Meonstoke) but while Droxford, and other places in the Meonstoke hundred became separate parishes with their own parish church Soberton remained tied to Meonstoke. Although the 'church' at Soberton remained a 'Chapel of Ease' until 1897, it appears to have had rights that are associated with a parish church rather than a Chapel of Ease, including the right to bury the dead. However, the residents of Soberton would have been expected to attend the Mother Church at specific times of the church calendar. Even quite prosperous, and presumable educated, men like Richard Newport who died about 1435 seems to have some doubt on the status. He bequeaths in his will a sum of money to 'the parish church of Soberton, where he intended to be buried, and an annual sum to provide for Robert, the parish priest of Soberton and a single sum to John, the Parish clerk of Soberton.

Soberton, like Droxford, was not a compact 'parish' for the 'villages' are in the north close to the river and on the chalk soil. They stretched down to the boundary with Wickham parish until the 19th century. Residents of these scattered hamlets had considerable distances to walk to the mother church. The situation was partly relieved mid-19th century when the ecclesiastical parishes of Newtown, Swanmore and Shedfield were created.

Of the medieval chapels within Soberton parish it is known that there was one at East Hoo or Hoe in the late 13th century and that it was designated as a

Chantry Chapel. They were very popular the founders, in this case William de Hoo, provided income for a chapel and a chaplain to celebrate masses and pray for the souls of his family, a kind of insurance against purgatory. In 1292 there was a dispute between the parishioners of that chapel and the Rector of Meonstoke and Roger, son of William de Hoo. From the evidence we learn that the chaplain was to celebrate divine mass three times per week and that he was to be responsible for the upkeep of the chapel, for books, ornaments, vestments and roofing the chancel. It was also stated that the parishioners were to go to the Mother church of Meonstoke once a year on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

There is a field on Russells Farm known as Chapel Croft which suggests that the medieval sub manor of Russell Flexland had its own chapel. In the mid-14th century a lease by the Prior of Hamble to Richard Chamberlayne of the 'manor of Huntbourne' states that the Prior is to have a chamber and a chapel should he wish to stay on the manor.

Post Reformation the Returns from the Bishops Visitations show that in 1788 the only chapel in Soberton was one belonging to the Roman Catholics. This was the chapel attached to Southend Farmhouse and it is thought that Southend, tucked away as it is, may have been a refuge for Catholics from the 17th century. The mission closed in 1839 and the chapel was pulled down in 1959.

A meeting place for Methodists in Soberton was licensed in 1811. The religious census of 1851 noted that for the previous few years a bakehouse seating about fifty had been used as a chapel. This is believed to have been on the north side of what became Chapel Road. After the heath was enclosed a chapel was built in 1868 on the other side of the road. It was rebuilt in 1902 but due to lack of support it was sold in 2011 and is now a private house.

Goodbye and Hello!

Very sad to announce that the Parish Magazine is saying 'goodbye' to Anthony McEwen, our Advertising guru! Anthony has handled the Magazine's advertising for the last eight years, accepting the role with no handover after the sad and sudden passing of Diana Beadle in 2013.

With total commitment and enthusiasm, he quickly grasped the nettle and proceeded to update and streamline the records and processes involved. During his tenure the amount raised from advertisements has risen by a most creditable 50% with the majority of payment transactions now made electronically.

Anthony, our heartfelt thanks for all you have done, and we wish you all the best!

We are delighted to introduce Jo Nield to the magazine team, replacing Anthony. Welcome Jo!

Yours aye

List of Trees planted in the CHURCH MEADOW, HOLY TRINITY – in February 2021



As part of the development of the Garden of Healing these trees have been planted in the Church Meadow. We are aware that a number of people in the village have expressed interest in donating a tree in memory of a loved one so we thought it would be helpful to share this opportunity through the pages of the magazine.



These are the species available to choose from:

Tree	Common Name
Pyrus Chanticleer	Silver Pear
Quercus Riverbank	Riverbank Oak (<i>already donated</i>)
Prunus Padus	Bird Cherry
Ulmus hollandica Wredei	Golden Elm
Acer Campestre Green Column	Field Maple (<i>already donated</i>)
Tilis cordata Greenspire	Lime Tree
Crataegus monogyna Stricta	Upright Hawthorn (<i>already donated</i>)
Acer platinoides Crimson Sentry	Purple leafed Acer
Acer platinoides Crimson Sentry	Purple Leafed Acer
Fagus sylvatica Dawyck Purple	Copper Beech
Fagus sylvatica Dawyck Gold	Golden Beech
Malus baccata Fastigiata	Siberian crab apple
Cedrus Libani	Cedar of Lebanon (<i>already donated</i>)
Liquidambar Worplesdon	Liquidamber
Betula utilis jacquemontii	Silver Birch
Betula utilis jacquemontii	Silver Birch
Betula utilis jacquemontii	Silver Birch

For guidance the cost of donating a tree is from £35 with a plaque which would include the wording of your choice. Size of the plaque is 14cm x 9cm (not more than 90 characters please)

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the churchwardens.

Francis Wells: fwwells@meonwood.co.uk, 01329 834130

Barry Rowswell: rowswell.barryk@btopenworld.com, 01329 834671





Newtown Church Fete 2021
Saturday July 10th
Meonwood, Woodend, PO17 6JZ
to be opened by Penny Rowlinson @ 2pm

Following the government's recent announcement about the roadmap, we have decided to move our fete to July 10th. Can you imagine wandering around the beautiful gardens of Meonwood and sipping tea on the lawn as the Victory Brass Band plays? Or watching the Anchorage Dog Agility display as you munch on a burger, your basket full of home made cakes and produce? It feels like the stuff that dreams are made of after the year that we've all had!

We will have all the old favourites, including the auction of promises, the raffle, children's games, vintage cars, tractors, a working steam engine and stalls galore.

So please put the date in your diary and put aside any toys, books, clothes, bric-a-brac and tombola donations. Rest assured that we will follow all safety guidelines and the fete won't take place if there is any risk.

If you'd like to volunteer to help or to find out more please
contact: John Barfoot: 07974 232296
johnbarfoot1962@gmail.com
Sue Wells: 01329 834130 sjwells@meonwood.co.uk

Sourdough Surgery

One of the upsides to the Covid disruption and multiple lockdowns is that it has given lots of people the opportunity to explore breadmaking, and, in particular, the fine art of sourdough. Most who have tried their hand at sourdough have quickly come to realise that, although there are few ingredients, how you combine them to make that classic crusty boule with a honeycomb structure, is far from straightforward.

I'm often emailed with tales of woe and frustration so I thought I'd share some tips around common sourdough problems.

Problem #1: My sourdough comes out of the oven with the density of a brick.

Firstly, we've all been there! Achieving a good 'crumb' as it is called is down to multiple factors – these are some of the questions you should be asking yourself:

How active was my starter at the mixing stage?

Your starter is the lifeblood of your loaf. Feed it regularly and excite it before a mix. Keep it in a transparent container and allow it to double in size before use - try the rubber band trick! (more on starter maintenance in future surgeries)

How long did I leave you dough to prove?

Remember, with sourdough, time is of the essence. Really your bulk rise should be at least 5 hours (with intermittent stretch and folds). Once you have shaped your loaves, an overnight second prove allows the flavour to develop and the fermentation to slowly continue.

Did I introduce steam into my oven? Yeast is still active when you put the loaf in the oven. If a crust forms too quickly on your loaf, this will stop the bread from achieving its full final rise. Pop a tray of hot water in the bottom of the oven at the start of the bake and the steam will not only keep the surface of the bread soft for longer, but also give you a crustier final loaf. Alternatively try baking in a Dutch oven/casserole – keep the lid on for the first 25 mins of the bake and then remove for the last 20 mins. The reveal is spectacular!

Good luck and don't give up!
The journey is worth it.



Jeremy Miles runs Borderlands Bakehouse – a microbakery in Brockbridge specialising in sourdough and other artisanal breads.

www.borderlandsbakehouse.com

Children's Week 2021



We really hope to be able to hold Children's Week in the parishes this year. For those who may be new to the village, volunteers and parents from Soberton and Newtown traditionally organise a week of activities during the summer holidays for all of our children aged over six.

We've just started thinking about what might be possible this year, and we need to make plans that give us maximum flexibility to meet whatever Covid guidance is in place during the summer. It's very likely we won't be able to do things quite the way we usually do and holding a shorter event might be beneficial.

Before we make any firm plans we'd love to know what you think, whether you would be interested in your children attending? would you like to help? How long should it be? We have a short Survey Monkey to capture your views and would love to hear from you whether you come every year or haven't been before. The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FFZ9XB7> or if you'd prefer, or have anything else you'd like to say not covered by the survey please email us at sncweek@gmail.com

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this summer.



2021

Rather than hold Soberton's Summer Fete on Saturday 26th June so soon after the expected lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, it has been decided to delay this year's fete until:

Saturday 11th September

This will deconflict from Newtown's Fete (which has been delayed until 10th July), give more time for the fete committee and stall holders to prepare without restrictions, and allow for any delay to the government's 'road map' out of lockdown.

The Fete Committee has reconvened, and regular stall holders and other participants will be contacted shortly by the appropriate committee member. In the meantime, anyone who would like to join the committee, assist with the fete, or has any ideas for new stalls or attractions, please contact the Chairman of the Fete Committee:

Wendy Prangnell wprangnell@aol.com

Soberton and some naval connections

It is not surprising that the area around Portsmouth would be affected by the dockyard which owed its development to the Tudor Kings. Henry VII ordered the first dry dock in Europe to be built there in 1495 and declared it a Royal Dockyard. His son, Henry VIII enlarged the dockyard and developed the navy. Ship building, with easy access to timber from the Forest of Bere, became important to the area.

From the time of the Dutch Wars at the end of the 17th century and right through the 18th century the country was almost continually at war particularly with France and Spain. The need for labour in the busy and expanding dockyard meant that the population increased rapidly with its attendant problems. High ranking naval officers did not wish to live in such conditions and moved out into the nearby towns and those with keen sporting interests into the villages. Soberton was no exception. It offered hunting, fishing and shooting and a short horse ride to Fareham where they could board a boat for the latter part of the journey. However not all of the villages got a naval vessel named after them.

One of the first and most famous of the Naval men to purchase not just a home but a whole estate or manor in Soberton was Admiral Lord Anson. (1744) He could afford it since he had just returned to Portsmouth after a four-year long circumnavigation of the world during which he had captured a Spanish Treasure ship. From a letter written to him by a friend it would appear that Soberton was bought for its proximity to Portsmouth and its sporting opportunities. Unfortunately, he did not lavish money on the Soberton Manor House but on his much loved family home of Shugborough in Staffordshire, still the home of the Earl of Lichfield.

Someone who had served under Anson as a young man was Scottish born John Knight. In 1788 Captain Knight built Woodend House on land enclosed from the Forest of Bere. Five years later he was Flag Captain in the Victory but at the time of the Battle of Trafalgar he was at Gibraltar. Admiral Sir John Knight continued to make Woodend his home and he died there in 1831 aged 83.

James Bashford who was at Trafalgar in 1805 and four years later in an operation which captured three Russian gunboats in the Gulf of Finland was to buy 'Upper House' in Soberton in 1826. This, we believe, was at the top end of Upper Street, now called School Hill. He died there in 1832 leaving a young family who left the village, but the property was not sold. An advertisement appeared in 1851 describing the six-bedroom house in grounds of about five acres and close to the church to be let at £25 p.a. His grandson Col. Charles Brome

Bashford, Aide-de-Camp first to Queen Victoria and then to Edward VII built Soberton Towers on the property.

They are just three of the more interesting early naval officers to have made a home in Soberton. Since then, and more so after the railway was built, a great many followed. Newcomers to the village in the early 1960's were pointedly asked if they were naval. It seemed a negative answer was met with a sigh of relief!!

But to the ship that bears the name of the village. HMS Soberton was built at the Fleetlands base near Gosport in 1956 one of a number of minesweepers of the 'TON' class all named after the villages whose name ended in 'ton'. They were intended to detect mines in the shallow coastal areas, estuaries and harbours. However, HMS Soberton, which was decommissioned in 1991, was used solely in the Fisheries Protection Squadron. This included the period of the infamous "Cod Wars" with Iceland. When HMS Soberton was at the squadron's home base in Portsmouth there would be contact with the village and sporting challenges offered. Villagers, including Soberton Newtown School children, received invitations to go on board.



HMS SOBORTON

PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE HISTORY SOCIETY BY LT CDR JONATHAN BAND RN OCT 1980 – CQ, AUG 79 – APR 81

Whilst the ship was awaiting its final curtain in Portsmouth Harbour the Soberton and Newtown Local History Society paid a visit arranged through one of its members, the late Brian Sparks. The crew literally prised mementos off the wall for us but the prized possessions had already been awarded. The ship's bell now hangs in St. Peters Church and the ceremonial lifebelt was designated for the school. There was a final farewell when most of the ship's company were present in the village and villagers were told that in the previous year HMS Soberton "made 25% of all arrests in the fisheries protection area and had covered 750,000 miles since 1958".

"A Life on Our Planet" – David Attenborough

It is not uncommon to recommend a book to a friend because they might enjoy it or because it covers an area of particular interest to them.

"A Life on Our Planet" by David Attenborough is different. It is a book which everyone ought to read.

David Attenborough, like the Queen, is someone I admire and trust. When he spells out what he has observed as the world has changed over his 94 years and what the consequences of our current behaviours could be I sit up and listen.

In this book, subtitled "a witness statement and a vision for the future" he describes in clear and unemotional terms how our exploitation of the earth's natural resources will lead, if we do not alter our behaviour, to catastrophe.



BLUE WHALE

The statistics are pretty horrific.

For example, in 1937 the world's population was 2.3 billion, the level of Carbon in the atmosphere was 280 parts per million and 66% of the world surface was "wilderness". In 2011 population had more than doubled to 7.0 billion, Carbon level was now at 391 parts per million and the remaining wilderness represented only 39% of the earth's surface.

The nature and effects of this change, which continues at an alarming rate, are described in detail. They are evident to all of us if we just open our eyes and ears. (When did you last hear a cuckoo in this area?) Wild creatures of almost all varieties, from tiny insects to enormous mammals, are becoming scarce. Many are now extinct and others are heading that way. We have been destroying major forests for so called agricultural purposes and in so doing removed an enormous proportion of the world's "green lung". Nature's balance, developed over millennia, has been dangerously altered and the world is now hurting.

However, all is not lost. Drawing upon lessons learnt around the world in places as diverse as Kenya, India, Costa Rica, Holland and even in UK, Attenborough charts a series of achievable routes back to a sustainable future. They merit attention.



GEMSBOK

Before we continue, lemming-like, towards our own extinction I recommend a reading of this seminal book. It may frighten you but hopefully it will also influence your thinking, and those of others, towards giving our children and their children a future.

Anthony McEwen

Editor's note

If you would like to share a book or a film review, please contact me. I would be delighted to make this a regular feature.

Soberton & Newtown Ladies' Group

We have had two well attended Zoom meetings. Chris O'Grady talked to us, from his home in Tewkesbury, about his achievement of walking the entire coast of England and Wales over many years. Continuing each trip from where he had finished previously.

In March Jeremy Nightingale gave us an interesting presentation, postponed from last year, about his time as an anaesthetist in the Falkland Islands

On April 7th Penny Wheat, from Stafford, will tell us about the process of Silversmithing from first ideas to hallmarking.

Liz Whales - Secretary - 01489 877712 lizwhales@aol.com

Colouring page



Soberton and Newtown Young Voices

Jokes

What do you call an Easter bunny that gets kicked out of school?

Eggs-spelled!

Where does Christmas come before Easter?

In the dictionary!

What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?

He cracked up.

Did you know...

Hampshire encompasses not one, but two of the UK's 15 national parks. The New Forest and South Downs are brimming with ancient woodlands and scenic coastal trails and are right on your doorstep!

Rocs Report

Rocs meets during the family service at St Peter's Soberton on the first Sunday of every month. New faces are very welcome when it is safe for us to have you.

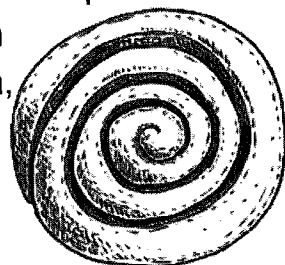
Diary dates

Sunday 28th March - open air Palm Sunday service at St Peter's Soberton, 10.00. Bring a branch!

Sunday 4th April - Easter service at St Peter's Soberton, 11.00. Keep your eyes peeled for churchyard activities!

Recipe: Pesto Pinwheels

1. With the help of an adult, preheat the oven to 180C. Unroll a 375g pack ready-rolled puff the pastry onto a lightly floured surface and roll it out to 40 x 32cm.
2. Spread approximately 4tsp pesto (any flavour!) across the pastry, leaving a 1cm border around the edges.
3. Arrange 100g wafer thin ham over the top, and top with 100g grated cheddar cheese.
4. Starting at one of the short ends, roll the pastry up as tightly as possible. Rest in the fridge for 10 minutes.
5. Carefully with a sharp knife and cut the roll into 12 slices, laying them flat on a baking tray. Bake for 15 minutes until puffed and golden.
6. Get creative with your fillings! Try classic pizza toppings such as mozzarella, sweetcorn or mushrooms.



Got a joke or comment to share?

Email them to:

luciehjones@btinternet.com.

We're Still Here and going strong

Hello everyone, I am very happy to say the Brownie and Guide Units are still very active. We have been meeting virtually for the past year and our numbers have even grown- just a little.

Meeting on alternate weeks, the Brownies and Guides has mastered the zoom meetings and are now very skilled at using the virtual whiteboard and screen sharing, while still working on badges, having fun and 'staying home'. In some cases, being online has meant that some members are still able to join us despite not being at home, and we have linked with some members from outside our normal area.

The girls and leaders have stayed strong and even our members that aren't keen on virtual meetings have been doing all sorts of activities, and earned badges from Grow your Own to Take Action Skills Builder and our new girls have taken their promises on screen. They have also taken part on virtual sleepovers and virtually toured the Guiding World Centres, and the leaders have learnt a new phase "you're on mute – No we can't hear you!". Who would have believed it was possible – I certainly didn't!

With restrictions being eased, we are hoping to have an in-person meeting during the holidays,

and then we hope to be holding some meetings at our refurbished guide hut during the summer term, but we will also be keeping up with some zoom sessions. So, if you see us playing games at the Guide Hut, do give us a wave. We are really looking forward to some smiling faces and hearing some the sound of laughter – unfiltered.

It has been a big challenge for the Leaders; how to adapt the activities, how to keep the girls interested and how to juggle everything going on and the changing rules. But they have all been brilliant and shown that we are adaptable and resilient. I am very proud of each and everyone of the team – Thank you to Mandy Cleeve, Grace Parker, Katie & Victoria Rogers and Katie Callaghan for all your support and enthusiasm over this difficult time.

We now move onwards and upwards – take care and stay safe

Caroline Rogers

Unit Leader for Soberton & Newtown Brownies and Guide and Meon Valley Rangers.

Can you Help?

We are looking for helpers for all our units across the Meon Valley

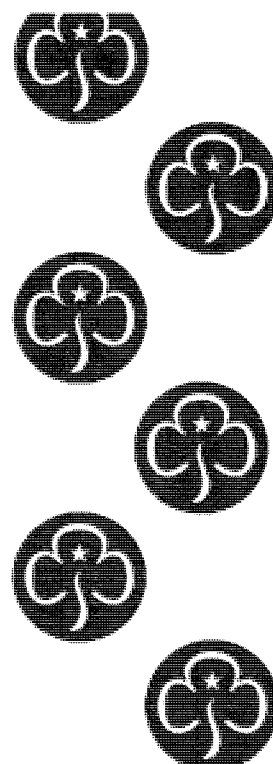
We have a variety of units for girls aged 5 to 18, who meet virtually and hopefully in person soon, to enjoy adventures through games, crafts and learning new skills.

To find out more:

Register on our GO system online at GirlGuiding.org.uk

or

Email meonvalleydivcommis@gmail.com



A Plea for the Humble Bumblebee

The plight of the bumblebee has prompted me to join the band of like-minded Parish Magazine nature article writers. For some time now I have been concerned about the decrease in the number of bumblebees and insects in the UK; particularly in the countryside where you might expect there to be good numbers. Not so, surveys show that Bumblebees are struggling to survive - mainly through lack of flowers, which provide nectar and pollen essential for all bees. Hang on, I hear you say, there are lots of flowers in farm fields in summer e.g. rape seed etc. Yes, true but this abundance only lasts a few weeks then the bees can run out of food and many will perish. We are on the verge of losing several species from the UK.

Bumblebees live on a knife edge, collecting pollen for their young uses a lot of energy and if the worker bees can't find enough flowers they will die which then can cause the loss of the whole colony. Some are already extinct, such as the Short Haired. Bumblebee nests are very vulnerable too, for example from disturbance by flooding, predators, parasites etc. Surveys studying bumblebees have shown that more nests can be found in gardens than in the wider countryside. Don't bother buying bee nest boxes - they are generally ignored by queen bumblebees! Most use old mouse nests; some will use tit nest boxes, if the old nest is still inside; others have been found under old wood or large stones.

Experimenting with various methods of planting, I have turned my front lawn into a wildflower meadow which flowers from early spring into autumn. It is small, 4m x 2m, but size doesn't matter. I cut it, usually in October, after the flowers have set seed. For this I use hand shears, which I personally find relaxing and means I can check for frogs and toads. If you need to use a mower or some other mechanical device my tip is to cut high first, check for frogs etc. then cut low but always remove the cuttings so as not to build up the nutrient level.

Great for me and my garden bees but what about the rest? Bee corridors, providing connections between sites, may well be the answer.

There are plenty of ways to set up corridors for bees.

When deciding on what to grow in your garden this year, I invite you to join me with a virtual cuppa and a wildflower catalogue - perhaps in your sitting

room, shed, tractor or garden and consider where you could support bumblebees and other insects. Could you plant plants that flower from early spring to late autumn? Or is there a piece of lawn that is not used much? For this there are a few options:

- Seed mixes (cheapest but not totally reliable)
- Ready planted turf (can be expensive but rewarding)
- Plug plants (cheap in bulk or grow your own from seed - easy to plant randomly in your lawn)
- Native flowers which thrive on low nutrient soil are best but any open flower that has a good pollen and nectar supply will do.

Many people are working hard to improve the habitat for bees in the UK. We can also help. Maybe there are 'waste ground' areas around the villages. These, with correct management, could become an attractive area for bumblebees and us. The bank of grassland in High Street, Soberton has in recent years been left to flower in summer, instead of being mowed at the time when the flowers could have been useful to bees. Areas such as this could be improved by using plug plants grown from seed to increase diversity especially if followed up with the raking off of the cuttings. Perhaps an interesting project to do together and improve our environment?

After reading the summary of a recent report by Dr David Goulson (SNPM Oct/Nov 2020 p. 34), I was pleased to receive a gift of his book 'A Sting in the Tail'. Dr Goulson, a major player in the bumble world and founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, writes about his interests in wildlife and in particular bumbles - I highly recommend it.

Organisations where help and advice may be found:

Sobernewts a group of volunteers from the villages who work when they can to manage our local wildlife sites such as Soberton Down www.soberton.org/sobernewts

Hants & IOW Wildlife trust
www.hiwwt.org.uk/search?search=bees

Southdowns National Park
www.southdowns.gov.uk/major-campaign-launched-save-bees-pollinators/

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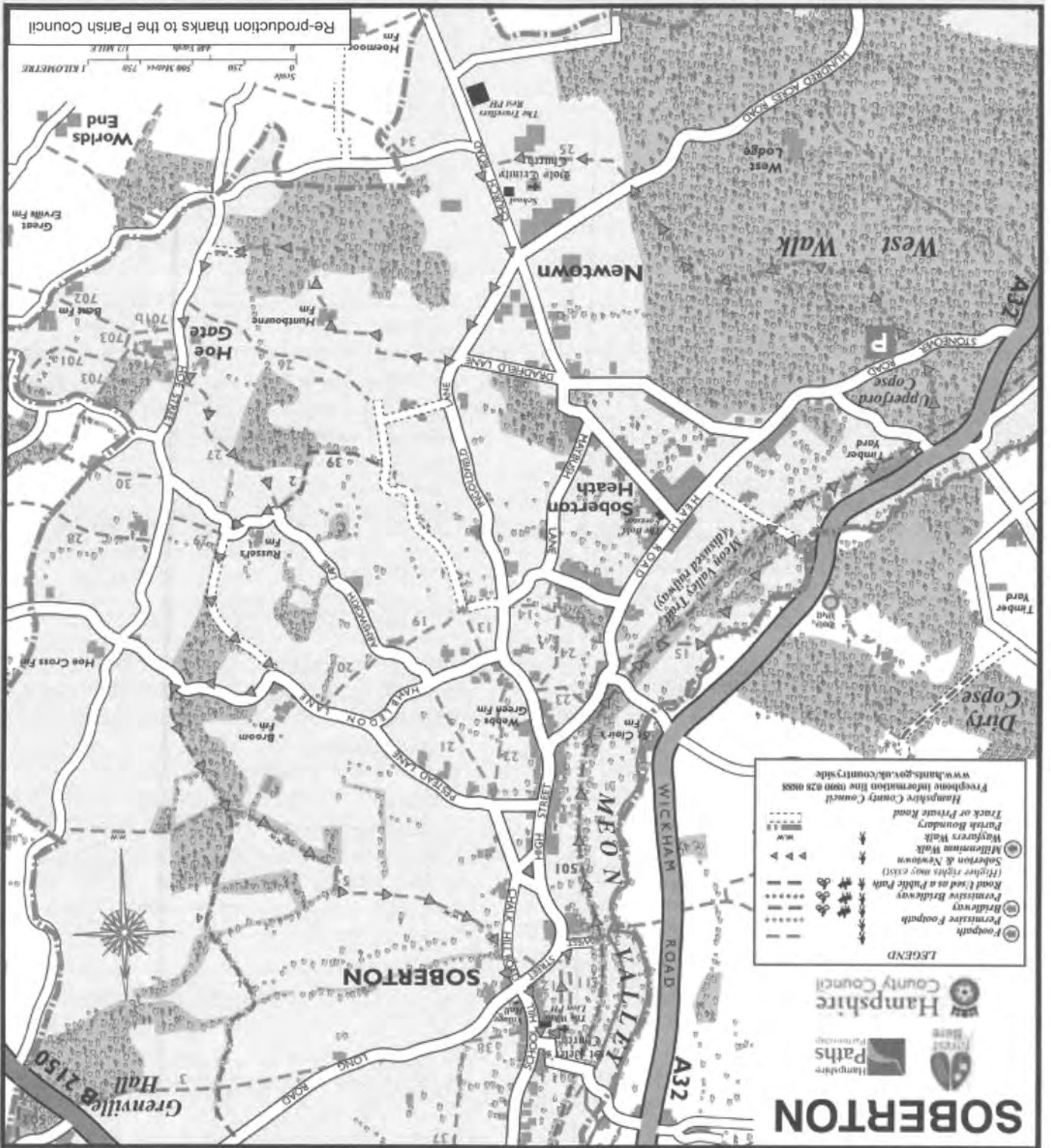
Barry Proctor (retired nature reserve manager)

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As the weather improves, don't forget the circular 10 mile Soberton and Newtown Millennium Walk.

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Thanks to Meg Sparks for suggesting we share some walks – great way to remind all villagers, new and old, what is on our doorstep!



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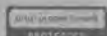
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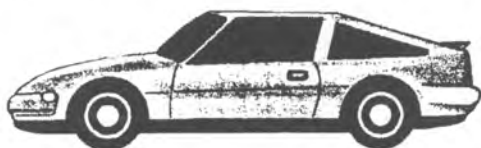
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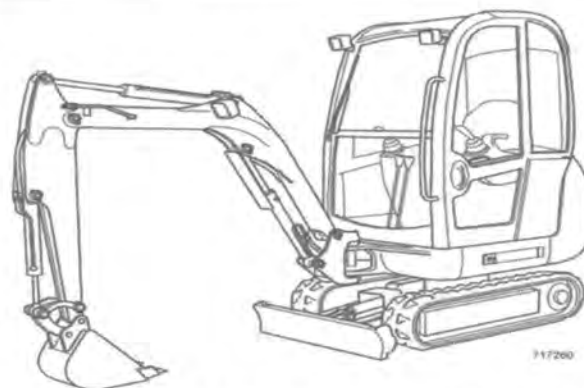
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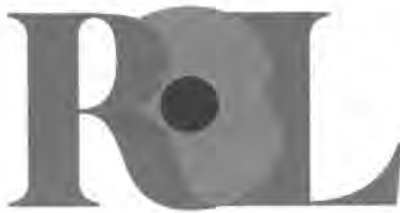


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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Droxford & District Branch

(founded on 26th March 1920 as Comrades of the Great War)



POPPY WREATH LAID BY THE BRANCH AT THE MENIN GATE, YPRES IN 2018

This is a pretty special year for your local Droxford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Whilst the Legion as a whole will be celebrating its 100th birthday, your local branch is even older! It was founded on 26th March 1920, meeting in the White Horse Hotel, Droxford, as "Comrades of the Great War". We are thus a year older than the British Legion which commemorates its centenary on 15th May 2021, becoming "Royal" in 1971 to mark its 50th anniversary. The Royal British Legion remains the principal national champion for Remembrance, Comradeship and Support for Service men and women, veterans and their families.

It is a matter of record that over 6 million men and women served in the armed forces of the British Empire during the Great War (1914-18). Of these, nearly one million were killed and two million returned with wounds. More than half of these required lifelong care and support. The rapid transition to peace resulted in considerable hardship for many who had served and fought "for a new world". By 1921 unemployed in the UK had reached 2 million out of a population of only 37 million and homelessness was endemic. There was no welfare state or national health service in

The Centenary (plus 1)!

those days, and it was therefore up to Service and other charities to step up to help.

Field Marshal the Earl Haig – Commander-in-Chief British Expeditionary Force (1915-18) - was one of the founders of the British Legion and served as its president until his death in 1928. Lord Haig also instituted the Haig Fund which sought to raise funds for ex-Servicemen and their dependents by offering artificial poppies to be worn by the public in exchange for donations. Growing in abundance on the ravaged battlefields of Europe, the poppy had become a potent symbol for remembrance, new life, and hope. The Haig Fund is now called the Poppy Appeal and is a major source of funding for the RBL. £106,000 was raised in 1921 and £50 million in 2019. Unsurprisingly due to the pandemic, there is likely to be a smaller collection for 2020.

Once limited to former Servicemen, membership of the Legion grew to a height of 3 million by 1950. As veterans from both World Wars declined in number, membership was extended to serving personnel and civilians with or without Service connections. There remain 235,000 RBL members but, reassuringly, the Droxford & District Branch has remained steady at about 100. Many are ex-Service but there is also a healthy mix of male, female and civilian members. Last year the RBL helped some 100,000 Service personnel, veterans, or family members in a variety of ways. Of these about 1,300 who received financial assistance live in Hampshire while many others, including some within our local parishes, have been given other forms of support.

The next RBL meeting will be held on Monday 10th May. The talk is entitled "The New World Order or Disorder" by Doctor Chris Parry CBE PhD, historian and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Swansea. Non-members are always welcome to attend our meetings and details of these are at www.soberton.org/rblweb



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 or 01489 877800. www.soberton.org/rblweb.

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

including Newtown, One Hundred Acres, Hoegate, Soberton Heath, Kingsmead, Brockbridge and Soberton

2020/21 Annual Report – presented at the Annual Parish Meeting of 16th March 2021.

Introduction:

Soberton Parish Council (SPC) is non-partisan, the lowest level of local government, meeting monthly, with all meetings being open to the public (with a standing agenda item to hear members of the public).

Geographically Soberton Parish stretches from the southern end of Church Road Newtown to Brockbridge, the northern part of Station Road Soberton. The Western boundary is the River Meon and to the East the Parish includes Hoe Gate and Wallops Wood. The Parish is made up of the two main centres of Soberton and Newtown and includes a series of settlements, Soberton Heath, Hoe Gate, Kingsmere, One Hundred Acres, Grenville and Brockbridge. The Northern and Western area of the Parish is within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and the South-Western corner includes part of The Forest of Bere. Generally, the Parish is rural and its development linear, that is, that it follows the roads and lanes.

This report seeks to outline the work and activities of SPC during this past year and look forward to the forthcoming 12 months.

In line with Parish Councils throughout the nation Soberton Parish Council has re-organised its committee structure to improve efficiency and focus the work of its members. We now have two main sub-committees; those being one dealing with 'Policy' to be chaired by Neil Findlay and one dealing with 'Action' with the chair to be voted in. Policy deals with planning (applications, enforcement, strategy and the emerging VDS). Action looks after live projects and maintains Parish amenities such as the Recreation Ground etc. These committees will meet three times per year with four full council meetings (the dates of these meetings are all published on the council website). The full Parish Council meeting will hear reports from the sub-committees, agree budgets, precept etc. and debate strategic matters.

Since her appointment in September 2019 Mrs Jenny Clarke, as Parish Clerk and Proper Officer of the Parish Council, has appointed an internal

auditor and made audit submissions to the Government office to establish approval of its working practices for the year 2019 /2020.

Andy Andrew, Tony Collins, Rachel Hicks and Vicki Weston resigned as Parish Councillors in 2020 and we thank them for their time and effort working on our behalf. Kevin Lamport, Roger Lunn and Sam Marland were appointed to the Parish Council in January 2021 and we look forward to their contribution in the future. Two former Parish Councillors died in the past few months, Eve Ludbrook and Robin Wren, they will be remembered with great respect and affection, our condolences go to their families.

Parish Council Activities 2020/21

Open Spaces:

There are many areas of open space with public access in the Parish, these being: the Recreation Ground, its Pavilion and Children's Play Area on Heath Road; the Village Pond on Chapel Road; the bank on the High Street; and the Chalk Pit, Soberton. These are maintained either via a grounds maintenance contract which is reviewed regularly or with the help of the SOBERNEWTS conservation group. Other areas of open space such as the Meon Valley Trail, Church Green Soberton, Hoe Gate Common, Bere Forest and many kilometres of bridleways and footpaths which crisscross the Parish are maintained by their owners with whom the Parish Council is in contact.

Last year I reported that the football pitch at the Recreation Ground has become un-playable due to badgers digging up the grass, this has persisted. We have contracted specialist contractors to treat the pitch and bring it back to a good playing surface. As part of this work the introduction of a badger proof fence around the pitch is becoming necessary, this fence will be timber with stock proof mesh dug into the ground. Gates and maintenance gates will allow full access to users. It is our hope that after a few years the fence may be able to be removed. This work is ongoing and we hope to hand the pitch back to Soberton United and a new children's football coaching team for next season. The Parish Council is looking to create a 'multi use games area' which will create a hard-surfaced area similar to that at the Meon Hall for games such as netball,

basketball, tennis and five a side soccer when funds allow (grant applications will be made as we need outside funding to progress this idea).

SPC is planning drainage works, digging of ditches etc. around the Recreation Ground and Children's Play Area which will be undertaken by a contractor this summer; all who may be affected by these works will be contacted directly.

War Memorials:

In April 2020, the Parish Council planted 5 trees at the Recreation Ground, Children's Play Area and on the bank in the High Street, Soberton, to commemorate 75 years of peace in Europe. Plaques will be placed by the trees this spring.

The Lych Gate at Holy Trinity Church Newtown has been set on a new foundation and the slates are due to be replaced in April. The paving around the war memorial on the High Street, Soberton will be reviewed this year.

The Parish Lengthsman Scheme:

This is a grant funded scheme from HCC where funds are provided for parishes to contract out general tidying and maintenance items throughout the Parish. David Salmon runs the scheme for Soberton Parish plus the schemes for several other Parishes for which we are all very grateful. The Lengthsmen do make a real impact around our villages.

Planning:

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee in the planning process and is consulted by the Planning Authority on all planning applications. The Parish Council's Planning Group (as part of the policy committee) reviews all applications and discusses these regularly with all Councillors. As previously noted part of the Parish is within the South Downs National Park (SDNP), applications made for sites within the National Park are determined by the SDNP Authority. Applications made in the remainder of the Parish are determined by Winchester City Council (WCC). That said WCC administer all the applications and the planning enforcement team. There are a number of live planning enforcement actions on going which are too detailed to cover in this report. Further information may be sought from the Clerk.

Relevant planning activities other than applications include reviewing policy documents which could have an impact on the Parish. Currently the most significant Policy matter is Winchester City Council's Local Plan Review which is out for consultation until 12th April. The Soberton and Newtown Village Design Statement (VDS) is also being reviewed and a questionnaire which begins this review process will be included in the April/May Parish Magazine and on the Parish Council's website and we would urge everyone to engage and make comment. The VDS is a vital document to assist us guide the type and quality of development or redevelopment in the Parish into the future.

Drainage (surface water and foul water):

We are a rural Parish and we are all responsible for our surface water and foul water drainage. The latter is dealt with by either small treatment plants, septic tanks or cess pits, all require constant maintenance and it is illegal not to do so. Surface water drainage differs across the Parish, on the chalk generally soakaways allow clean run-off to percolate into the aquifer. In any event, it is the landowner's responsibility to permit water to flow across their land via a ditch, culverted pipe or winter borne swale. The Parish Council has successfully assisted many residents in addressing long standing issues. It is an ongoing initiative.

Finance:

In 21/22 the Parish Council will receive a precept of £35,000, this represents about £4.50 a month for a band 'D' property (an increase of approximately 17p per house per month). The parish Council produce a comprehensive budget annually, major financial commitments are the Recreation Ground and the Children's Play area.

Thank You

Personally, and on behalf of the members of the Council, I would like to thank all those who have can been seen picking up litter on a daily basis whilst out for a walk, thank you. We are also indebted to many of you who assist in many ways using your skills and experience to help us manage and maintain this beautiful environment in which we enjoy.

**John Hyland
Chairman**

Following on from John's kind words of thanks to all the amazing litter pickers, Terry Crowfoot had already asked for one to be specifically mentioned – we know there are others!

Litter picker extraordinaire

Although we actually live in Droxford, my husband and I spend two or three hours each day tending our llamas in Ingoldfield Lane. Our journey to and fro takes us along Dradfield Lane, Maybush Lane and Forester Road. Along this route we regularly see an unsung hero accompanied by a small terrier. I refer to **David Porter** who is to be seen every few days with a carrier bag and a long litter

picker, picking up cans, food wrappings, crisp packets and anything else that thoughtless people have mindlessly discarded.

It must be a thankless task. It must be disheartening to know that within a few days the verges will be litter-strewn again. And yet David carries on week after week, year after year. That's what I call a Saint. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the people living in this part of Soberton when I say a huge THANK YOU to David.

Terry Crowfoot

Current and Open Planning Applications (correct at time of going to print)

21/00341/HOU

Lake House, Ingoldfield Lane

Replacement of existing outbuilding with new to comprise ground floor garaging and storage, first floor gym and cinema room

SDNP/21/01377/HOUS

Brockbridge Cottage, Brockbridge

Replacement garage with office and first floor bedroom. Partial demolition of existing kitchen and replacement, new back door porch

Soberton and Newtown Village Design Statement Review 2021

How would you like Soberton and Newtown to look and feel over the next 20 years? There's a chance to have your say in this questionnaire.

The Parish Council is drawing up a Village Design Statement (VDS) to update the previous version from 2002. It will set out the views of local people on the character of their home area. It will be adopted by Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority and then it will become the part of the guidance used to shape future planning decisions.

Creating the VDS starts with this questionnaire. The Parish Council will then follow up with focus group meetings on particular subjects to hear more about your views.

So please take moment to say whether you agree or disagree with these statements.

If you are able, please complete the electronic version of this questionnaire which can be found by adding the below URL into your browser:

<https://forms.gle/15FDcRqtnapmJB8C7>

If you do not have access to a PC or internet, please tear out the paper version of the form, complete your responses and then send your completed questionnaire to:

Jenny Clarke, Clerk to the Parish Council,
Oakdene, High Street, Soberton SO32 3PN

Please ensure your responses are returned by **Friday 7th May 2021.**

There is further information at the bottom of the questionnaire about how to get more involved.

Landscape and Nature Conservation – VDS (page 1 of 4)

The landscape defines the character of the villages and settlements *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

The undulating form of the landscape provides views and glimpses which should be retained and where possible enhanced *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Woodlands, copses, hedgerows and trees are key landscape elements which should be retained, managed and enhanced *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Conservation of natural linking elements such as hedgerows and other green infrastructure should be retained, managed and encouraged *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much



Buildings, Sustainability and Infrastructure – VDS (page 2 of 4)

The built character is of clusters of individual buildings set within the landscape *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

The scale of housing is single and two storey housing with some attic rooms *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Agricultural buildings are of small scale, proposed modern larger buildings need careful siting *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Uses which increase traffic, services, surface water run-off have a negative impact *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Renewable energy generation and properly insulated homes are to be encouraged *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much



Amenities – VDS (page 3 of 4)

The amount and variety of village amenities, such as the churches, village halls, recreation and open spaces meets the needs of the residents *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

The quality and location of local schools meets the needs of the residents. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Transport links in and around the villages are acceptable. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Services such as waste collections, infrastructure and highway management are acceptable. *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not very	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very much

Significant items you feel have been missed:

Any further comments you would like to make:

If you would like to help and be involved in the focus groups please provide your name, contact telephone number and email address:

Name:	Tel no:	E-mail:



WINCHESTER CITY COUNCILLOR NEWS

(CENTRAL MEON VALLEY)

The proportion of council tax paid to Winchester City Council will increase by three percent which means that, from April 2021, a Band D property will pay an extra £4.25 per year.



Winchester City Council clamps down on fly tipping across the district

Fly Tipping – Winchester CC takes action

The stickers let the public know when a fly tip has been reported for removal and also ensures that potential fly-tippers are informed that 'hot spot' locations are being monitored by the city council's Neighbourhood Services team. The council is placing signs at locations across the district to encourage the public to record and report any incidents of fly tipping that they witness and act as a deterrent to offenders

The council has taken action against 13 offenders in the past 9 months.

Light pollution is a big issue. It not only wastes energy, costs money and impacts on wildlife, it can even affect our health – for example by disrupting sleep. It also stops people from enjoying the night skies. As well as affecting breeding of moths and other nocturnal creatures. The South Downs National Park Authority is calling for people to show their support for tackling this problem by taking a **Dark Skies Pledge**.

I think this commitment should be adopted across the entire Winchester district – Vicki



(Data and graphic taken from WWF and Environment agency publications)

Have you ever considered what volume of untreated sewage is being discharged into the environment every day?

Sewage pollution is a hidden problem but we often smell it but is curious how everyone appears to ignore it. Is that because there is

very little information in the public domain, so public awareness is low?

Here are some facts:

- 2016 State of Nature Report showing 56% of species in the UK in decline
- Four out of five rivers (80%) in England and Wales fail to achieve 'good ecological status'.
- Pollution from wastewater is one of the top three management reasons for failing to meet good ecological status - the other two are pollution from rural areas and physical modification.
- Factors contributing to sewage pollution incidents include shortcomings in monitoring, management and risk assessments, operational practice and staff culture.

- Natural England research found that many septic tank systems do not function properly –
 - being either incorrectly sited (too close to a river),
 - improperly maintained
 - too small for the household – this can have a significant local impact e.g. up to 700% increase in downstream concentrations of phosphorous⁶⁶.

Just 16% of our waters (14% of rivers) meet the criteria for 'good ecological status', the same percentage as in 2016. As population growth, land use and climate change are having a significant impact on our water environment, the data shows we are running to stand still.

Environment Agency data on reasons for not achieving good ecological status in waterbodies shows that, on average, sewage discharges from such properties affect 8% of failing rivers. However, given their distribution across the country, they can have major impacts in certain catchments. The headline figure is also likely to be a significant underestimate of impact – due to the nature of monitoring and the fact that so little is known about the whereabouts of non-mains discharges.

ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE DIRECTLY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR RIVERS THE MEON AND THE WALLINGTON?

ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECLINE OF BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES HERE IN THE UK?

Check out the binding rules for small sewage discharge to the ground.

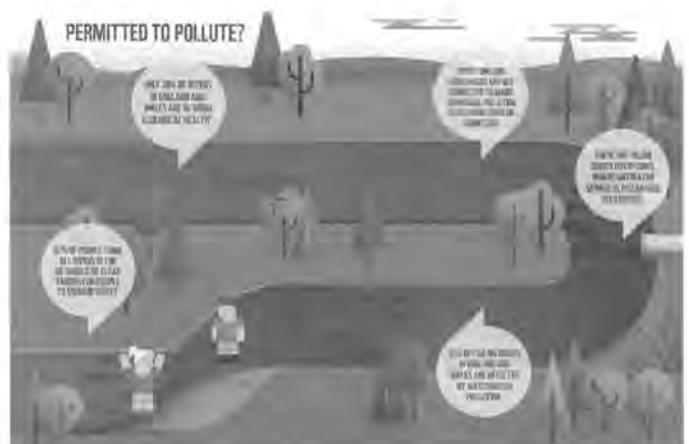
General binding rules: small sewage discharge to the ground - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

PROTECT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Wastewater treatment can cause pollution through day to day discharges of treated wastewater from sewage treatment works and through intermittent overflows into rivers at times when the sewage network becomes overloaded. Sewage pollution can lead to pollutants entering the water environment. These include organic material that depletes the dissolved oxygen in the water, and other pollutants such as phosphorus, nitrates, ammonia, pathogens, and manmade toxic chemicals. 36% of water bodies are being impacted by pollution from wastewater.

NO households in our community not connected to mains sewerage, so if sewage treatment works or septic tanks, cesspits are not properly maintained, these can be highly polluting to the local environment. Septic tank owners are meant to comply with General Binding Rules – statutory requirements set by the UK government – meaning they could be fined by the environmental regulators if they do not properly maintain them.

The public have said that they want rivers safe to swim in and think regulators and companies should do more to tackle pollution but actually it is down to all of us in our area. Public awareness of these issues seems to be low with many not aware that raw sewage could even be released into rivers. So think before flushing or putting down the drain something that should be disposed of correctly and safely



If you have a sewage treatment plant or a septic tank here are some Do's and Don'ts as a reminder

DO'S

- ✔ Washing machines produce the largest amount of wastewater that the treatment system has to deal with in a short space of time so spread machine washes across the week
- ✔ For similar reasons opt for daily showers rather than daily baths
- ✔ Use the most bio-degradable products you can find for house/ car cleaning, clothes washing or washing up. Fortunately, these products are now offered in high street supermarkets
- ✔ Avoid over dosing of chemicals - read every product label and follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions for water type in your area and cleaning activity undertaken
- ✔ Spread household chores involving detergents/chemicals across the week so the plant is not overloaded with chemicals on any particular day
- ✔ Avoid chopping and changing cleaning products – given time the bacteria in the treatment system can learn to 'live with' a chemical product but this is less likely if products are frequently changed

DON'TS

- ✘ All non-biodegradable products including sanitary towels, tampons, disposable nappies, incontinence pads, baby wipes, wet wipes, face wipes, cotton wool, cotton pads and condoms
- ✘ Medicines (liquid or tablet)
- ✘ Mouthwash
- ✘ Fat/grease oil from cooking
- ✘ Garden chemicals, fertilizers or weed/pest killers
- ✘ Motor engine oils, anti-freeze, car cleaning liquids
- ✘ DIY products including solvents, paints, glue, white spirit, paint thinners
- ✘ Dairy waste, general food waste even if put through a waste disposal unit

TIP

Opt for products which are more environmentally friendly and follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to dispose of it responsibly.

i Even products labelled as flushable will not break-down (bio-degrade) and over time the buildup will clog up the system and even cause damage within the treatment plant.

Let us all “stand up for the environment – including our cherished rivers”

Vicki Weston

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

No publication of any articles permitted during the May election purdah period.
Hampshire County Council will be back in the next edition.

What is a nature reserve?

If you've ever visited a nature reserve, you'll know how special they can be. Nature reserves are treasure troves of wildlife wonders, often hosting exciting rarities which have sadly become uncommon in the wider landscape. They enrich our lives, are essential for wildlife, and form part of our natural heritage.

The Wildlife Trusts collectively put a great deal of time and resource into protecting the rich and diverse habitats in our nature reserves – part of our effort to create a thriving natural world. By caring for these unique, ecologically valuable sites we safeguard them, and the wildlife that depends on these places, for the future.

The Wildlife Trusts manage around 2,300 nature reserves across the UK, ranging from an entire mountain in Scotland to a single ancient hawthorn tree in Norfolk. Locally, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust manage over 50 nature reserves, including expansive moorlands, ancient forests, stretches of coastline, wildflower meadows, and small patches of wildness in urban areas.



BARTON MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE IN FLOWER
PHOTO MARTIN DE RETUERTO

In our nature reserves wildlife is the top priority. You may notice that they differ from your standard country park, in some cases certain areas may be closed to the public, or dogs might not be allowed or have to be kept on leads. Some species are highly sensitive to disturbance – if you see a 'no entry' sign, it could be because ground nesting birds, vulnerable to trampling, are just beyond. If we ask for dogs to be kept on leads, it might be that wetland birds are roosting nearby, or cattle are grazing.

Our Reserves Officers are responsible for looking after the sites in the Trust's care. They are experts in their field, and they manage their reserves sensitively to benefit specific species or improve habitats. Sometimes, old-fashioned

methods like coppicing and hay cutting are employed, or conservation grazing takes place to encourage certain plants. This will often be explained in signage as you enter the nature reserve.

We want all our nature reserves to reach their full potential, so while you're walking in them and enjoying the wildlife, take note of any signs you see, and encourage those you're with to behave responsibly. With the cooperation and support of local communities, our nature reserves can create invaluable opportunities for wildlife, and people, to flourish.

To find out more about our nature reserves visit our website: hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

Help wildlife where you live
www.hiwwt.org.uk

Meon Valley Lions Club



Stairway to heaven

When the Meon Valley Lions Club got to hear about the plight of a local family with young disabled children, needing a lot of care, in a house with no carpet on the stairs, we discussed how we could help. We stepped up to the challenge to ensure at least some basic comfort underfoot and arranged for a carpet to be fitted.



Do you or anyone you know need help?

If you, or someone you know, needs help please get in touch on 07443 753780 or go to our website
https://www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk/_contact.html

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Swanmore Fete 2021 - We'll keep you updated on our website but in the meantime please add next year's date to your diary: Saturday 10th July 2021.

Annual Ford Charity Fishing Festival 2021 – We're sorry to report this has been cancelled for 2021.

Meon Valley Heartstart turns a Crisis into an Opportunity and goes Digital!



Little did we know at the start of 2020 what a difference a year would make! Meon Valley

Heartstart's training rate of 5,000 people in 2019 plummeted within weeks as Covid-19 began to take hold and we entered the first lock down. Our hugely popular free face-to-face training in emergency lifesaving skills came to a very sudden halt. All planned training had to be cancelled and all promotional activity to encourage people to attend our public courses was put on hold. As a result, donations, upon which we are wholly reliant to cover our costs, took a massive dive too!

We did not rest on our laurels. Realising that we were likely to be facing long term restrictions we decided to look at different ways of offering our training so that we can still provide our service, which is so much in demand. After a bit of trial and error, we are now pleased to officially launch our new training package **Heartstart Online** to individuals and households.

Heartstart Online is a tutor supported training module that covers all the essential areas of emergency lifesaving skills. Individuals or households who register can (if desired), have an initial one-to-one conversation with an online tutor who can explain how the module is structured. They work their way through the course at their own pace and in their own time – always with the knowledge that a tutor is available to provide support, as necessary. The course materials include presentation slides, videos with practical demonstrations and mini quizzes to confirm knowledge and understanding along the way. At the end of the module a tutor will again be available to answer any outstanding questions and to arrange for follow up activity, if required (for example hands on CPR and defibrillator practice).

Heartstart Online

A simple and easy way to learn or update your emergency lifesaving skills.

All you need is a computer or tablet and a couple of hours of your time and you too can help us become a nation of lifesavers

Visit www.heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk/online to register for the **free** training package

"This new offer will be a real asset in these socially restricted times", said David Williamson, MVHS Scheme Coordinator, "It means there is still a way for people to get access to our training – something we know is very much needed from the genuine calls for help we have received during the pandemic from families who have experienced an emergency and wanted reassurance and training to be better equipped if a similar emergency should happen again".

This course will add an extra boost to what we can offer in more normal times too, for those who find it difficult to get to a face-to-face session at a fixed time, or for those who simply want to refresh their knowledge and skills on a regular basis from the comfort of their own homes.

Meon Valley Heartstart relies completely on **volunteers** to provide its services and on **donations** to fund our activities. If you are interested in joining this amazing team as a trainer or in any aspect of support, or if you would like to donate to our cause visit our website at www.heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk for more information.

For more information email info@heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk or call David Williamson on 07730 148920

Home-Start Hampshire Meon Valley
Arena Business Centre,
Lancaster Court, 8 Barnes Wallis Road,
Segeosworth, Fareham,
Hants PO15 5TU

E: info@hshants.org.uk
www.home-starthampshire.org.uk
Tel: 0330 124095



**HOME
START**
Hampshire

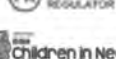
Home-Start is one of the UK's leading
Family Support Organisations

Do you like the idea of 'giving something back' to your local community?
Would you like a flexible, adaptable and fun volunteering opportunity that you can fit in around your life?
If so, We need volunteers who would enjoy networking and participating in promotion opportunities, fundraising events, meeting new people and spreading the word about the valuable work that we do!
Any time you can spare no matter how small is valuable, so please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Supported by



FR REGULATOR



HIWCF



Home-Start Hampshire is a registered charity
Charity no. 1144661. Company no. 7295751
Registered office: Arena Business Centre, Lancaster Court, 8 Barnes Wallis Road,
Segeosworth, Fareham, Hants PO15 5TU

Meon Valley Community Bus Association

NOTES:-

- For more details and suggested stops please contact:-
John Shorrocks ☎ 01489 877499
✉ john.shorrocks@btinternet.com
- The bus does not run on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve or Bank Holidays.
- Fares to all destinations are £5 adult return / £2.50 adult single. Free bus passes are accepted. Children under 16 pay half fare and under 5s travel free.
- On Mondays & Wednesdays at 1058 the bus will take passengers at Sainsbury's to Fareham Library and at 1102 from Fareham Library to Sainsbury's.
- Timings for all trips are strict and the bus will not wait after scheduled time.
- When boarding for the return journey, priority will be given to returning passengers over "one way only" passengers.
- Dogs are allowed on the bus under strict control and at the discretion of the driver.
- If you don't live directly on the route, then why not consider "Park & Ride" from Droxford Square, Soberton Village Hall or Rookesbury Hall?
- When not on its scheduled services the bus is available for hire, but it must be driven by a MIDAS trained driver. Persons or Organisations wishing to hire the bus should contact:-
Ken Giles ☎ 01329 830355
✉ hire.mvcb@gmail.com

**Monday and
Wednesday to
Fareham**

**Thursday to
Whiteley Shopping
Centre
or Hedge End Marks &
Spencer**

**Friday to
Winchester,
Waterlooville or
Petersfield**

**See timetable below
for more details**



**The Meon Valley Community Bus
Association runs regular timetabled
services – see below.**

The drivers and organisers of the
Association are all volunteers.

Mondays and Wednesdays to FAREHAM

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Warnford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0923	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0927	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0931	Webbs Green War Memorial
0934	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0936	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0938	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0943	Hundred Acres
0955	Fareham Library
1000	Fareham Sainsbury's

Return:

1200	Fareham Sainsbury's
1205	Fareham Library

1st & 3rd Thursday Each Month to HEDGE END

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Warnford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0923	Brockbridge The Hurdles PH
0927	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0931	Webbs Green War Memorial
0934	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0936	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0938	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0943	Hundred Acres
1005	Hedge End Marks & Spencer

Return:

1200	Hedge End Marks & Spencer
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2nd & 4th Thursday Each Month to WHITELEY

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Warnford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0923	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0927	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0931	Webbs Green War Memorial
0934	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0936	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0938	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0943	Hundred Acres
1009	Whiteley Shopping Centre

Return:

1200	Whiteley Shopping Centre
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1st & 3rd Friday Each Month to WINCHESTER

0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0907	Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
0913	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0917	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0919	Exton The Shoe PH
0924	Warnford Village Hall
0944	Winchester Broadway
0951	River Park Leisure Centre

Return:

1155	River Park Leisure Centre
1200	Winchester Broadway

4th Friday Each Month to WATERLOOVILLE

0900	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0903	Warnford Village Hall
0908	Exton The Shoe PH
0910	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0914	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0923	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0927	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0931	Webbs Green War Memorial
0934	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0936	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0938	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0955	Waterlooville Waitrose
1001	Waterlooville Sainsbury's

Return:

1200	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1205	Waterlooville Waitrose

2nd & 5th Friday Each Month to PETERSFIELD

0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0907	Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
0913	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0917	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0919	Exton The Shoe PH
0924	Warnford Village Hall
0945	Petersfield Waitrose

Return:

1200	Petersfield Waitrose
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USEFUL INFORMATION

Any additions or changes, please contact the editor

USEFUL NUMBERS			LOCAL CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS		
Beat Surgeries (tbc)	Rookesbury Hall	Alternate Fridays 10:00 to 12:00	Brownies & Guides	Caroline Rogers	01489 877430
Doctors Surgeries	Droxford Wickham Denmead Bishops Waltham	01489 877588 01329 833121 02392 239630 01489 892288	Film Club	TBC	
Baby Clinics	Wickham Comm. Centre Waltham Chase Village Hall	1st Wed 2.00-3.00 4th Wed 10 – 11:30	Local History	Duncan Colin-Jones	01489 877237
Social Services Direct		0845 600 4555	Soberton Football	Keith Moran	01329 834897
Hants Carers Helpline		08457 221122	Soberton Players	Susan Hyland	01489 878724
NHS Direct		111	Table Tennis	Pete Woodacre Adrian Hunt	01489 877768 01489 878141
Age Concern	Head Office	0800 328 7154	Ladies Group	Liz Whales	01489 877712
CAB		01489 896376	Good Neighbours Group	Sue Mussellwhite Philomena Bergin	01489 877282 02392 632551
LOCAL FACILITIES			Soberton Lunch Club First Friday of each month	Sandra Henderson Norman Chapman 12.30 - Church Room	01489 877978 01489 877378
Soberton Village Hall Booking	Katie Flannagan	07850 569548	Meon Valley Lions Club	Helpline	07443 753780
<i>sobertonvillagehall@googlemail.com</i> <i>www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk</i>			COUNCILLORS		
Rookesbury Hall Booking	Jenny Doney	01329 834392	Central Meon Valley Councillors	Frank Pearson Vicki Weston Linda Gemmell	01489 892822 01329 835161 01489 895023
<i>Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk</i>			County Councillor	Patricia Stallard	02392 251484
Guide Hut Booking	Mrs. C. Rogers	01489 877430	SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL <i>www.soberton.org</i>		
CHURCHES			John Hyland Chairman	Northern Ward chair@soberton.org	
Newtown Church Wardens	Fra Wells Barry Rowswell	01329 834130 01329 834671	Jane Masterman Vice-Chairman	Southern Ward vicechair@soberton.org	
Soberton Church Wardens	Louise McEwen Norman Chapman	01489 877448 01489 877378	David Salmon	Southern Ward Cllrsalmon@soberton.org	
PCC Secretary(N)	(Acting) Barry Rowswell	01329 834671	Bob Stranks	Southern Ward Cllrstranks@soberton.org	
PCC Secretary(S)	Norman Chapman	01489 877378	Arabella Turner	Southern Ward Cllrturmer@soberton.org	
Capt. Of Bells(S)	Noel Evans	01489 877271	Kevin Lamport	Southern Ward Cllrlamport@soberton.org	
Churchyard Keeper (S)	John Lester	01489 878557	Sam Marland	Southern Ward Cllrmarland@soberton.org	
			Roger Lunn	Southern Ward Cllrlunn@soberton.org	
			Neil Findlay	Northern Ward Cllrfindlay@soberton.org	
			Wendy Prangnell	Northern Ward Cllrprangnell@soberton.org	
			Clerk and Proper Officer Jenny Clarke	clerk@soberton.org 01489 877836	

Please e-mail copy for the June / July magazine to gill.highcroft@btinternet.com

NEXT COPY DATE - 17th MAY 2021

From the Archives.....



Above - postcard from the early part of 20thC taken across Church Meadow towards West Street. It must be not too long after 1903 as the railway line looks newly completed with bare banks. Riverdale Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage and Swallow Cottage can be clearly seen, while others are hidden behind the trees. **Below** - a similar view from the 1960's from a set of postcards produced by Percy Oliver and sold in aid of The Village Hall Fund.



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