

# Soberton & Newtown

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

August - September 2024



Soberton Fete  
Photos by John and Julie Earle



Photo: Jonny Sherwill



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

Front cover design: Jonny Sherwill

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

For details of **CHURCH SERVICES**, please refer to page 4

For any enquiries, please contact the following

## **Benefice of Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon**

Priest in charge of Meon Valley Parishes

The Reverend Andy Davis  
revd.andydavis@gmail.com  
07709 919602

Curate of Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon

The Reverend Liz Quinn  
elizabeth.quinn7@btinternet.com  
07769 700960

## **Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)**

Norman Chapman, Meadow Cottage, West Street, Soberton 01489 877378  
e-mail: norman@soberton.org.uk

## **Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Roman Catholic Church**

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, please contact Anthony McEwen 01489 877448

## **MAGAZINE PRODUCTION & COMMITTEE**

<b><u>Chairman</u></b>	Perry Abbott	02392 632338	
<b><u>Editor</u></b>	Gill Gray	07711 058760	<b><a href="mailto:gill.highcroft@btinternet.com">gill.highcroft@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b><u>Advertising</u></b>	Kate Buttriss	07801 441998	<b><a href="mailto:kate.buttriss@gmail.com">kate.buttriss@gmail.com</a></b>
<b><u>Circulation</u></b>	Pete Woodacre	01489 877768	<b><a href="mailto:petewoodacre@gmail.com">petewoodacre@gmail.com</a></b>
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	Anthony McEwen	01489 877448	<b><a href="mailto:anthony.mcewen@btinternet.com">anthony.mcewen@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	Paula Hobbs	07469 258022	<b><a href="mailto:paulajhobbs@live.co.uk">paulajhobbs@live.co.uk</a></b>

**Typesetting of adverts and printing:** Solent Design Studio **[solentdesignstudio.co.uk](http://solentdesignstudio.co.uk)**

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

***NEXT COPY DATE - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024***

**The Benefice of  
Soberton,  
Newtown &  
Hambleton**

**Services**

**August 2024  
September 2024**

*Subject to change,  
sometimes at short notice*

**AUGUST**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August**

1900 End of Children's Week celebration Soberton

**4<sup>th</sup> August**

0800 Holy Communion Hambleton  
0930 Holy Communion Newtown

1030 Thanksgiving for Children's Week Service of the Word Hambleton

**11<sup>th</sup> August**

1100 Holy Communion and Sunday Club Soberton  
1100 Holy Communion Hambleton

**18<sup>th</sup> August**

0930 Holy Communion Newtown  
1100 Service of the Word Hambleton

1100 Morning Worship Soberton

1830 Evensong Hambleton

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

1100 Holy Communion Hambleton  
1800 Evening Communion Soberton

**28<sup>th</sup> August**

0930 Morning Communion Soberton

**SEPTEMBER**

Creationtide in Hambleton during September

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

0800 Holy Communion Hambleton  
0930 Holy Communion Newtown

1030 Short Family Service Hambleton

**8<sup>th</sup> September**

1100 Holy Communion and Sunday Club Soberton  
1100 Holy Communion and Barn Service Hambleton - Farm

**15<sup>th</sup> September**

0930 Holy Communion Newtown  
1100 Harvest Family Service Hambleton

1100 Morning Worship Soberton

**22<sup>nd</sup> September**

1100 Pet Service Hambleton  
1230 Baptism Hambleton

1800 Evening Communion Soberton

1830 Evensong Hambleton

**25<sup>th</sup> September**

0930 Morning Communion Soberton

**29<sup>th</sup> September**

1100 Joint Benefice Holy Communion Soberton

Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is celebrated every Wednesday at 0930 at Hambleton, and a short service of reflection at 1715.

# Foreword ... “Recreation / Re-creation”

When I was at school, we would sometimes be asked to write down “what I did in my holidays”, but many people today would be left with a blank sheet because they haven’t been on holiday. That might be because they can’t afford to go away, or because they can’t seem to find the time (or some times the energy).

But we all need something to help us relax, detach, “re-group”, or to simply give us time to think. We live in a world full of tension, stress and pressure, so it becomes even more important to rest and refresh.

The word “holiday” comes from “holy day”..... a holiday is a religious duty! And we still sometimes use the rather old-fashioned word “recreation” to describe something we do which is relaxing, stimulating and enjoyable. Shedfield, the village where I grew up has a large “Recreation” Ground, which is used for all kinds of relaxation and play. When New York was built, Central Park was created – as its name makes clear – to be a place of tranquillity and recreation at the very heart of “the city that never sleeps”.

“Recreation” is also a religious word.....it comes from “re – creation”. When we relax and enjoy ourselves, God is re-creating us.....as he did when he made us a “new Creation in Christ” (as St Paul wrote in the New Testament of the Bible).

Being still, stopping, is a holy thing. “Be still and know that I am God”. Jesus, the gospels tell us, frequently went off to a “lonely place”.

I find, in the varied pressures of my role as a priest, that unless I take a proper day off once a week (with phones off and emails ignored) I become drained, irritable and inattentive. Without a “holy day”, without “re-creation” I can quickly become a grumpy “shell” of the fully human being God intended me to be. A lot of my job is listening to people, and as an older, wiser priest once said to me, “listening properly takes lots of nervous energy”!

Our present Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, wrote a book called ***Do Nothing to Change your Life***. A reviewer wrote:

*“When did you last allow yourself to waste time, to enjoy the pleasure of having a lie-in, to daydream, lose yourself in your favourite music, or simply to be idle? With humour and down-to-earth wisdom, [Cottrell] encourages us instead to hang out with our inner slob and rediscover not just the pleasures but the real benefits, the unexpected gifts and the deep truths to be found in simply messing about.”*

So, even if you don’t get a ‘proper’ holiday this year, remember that it is vital to our humanity and spirituality to experience “Re-Creation”!



***Priest in charge of Meon Valley Parishes  
The Reverend Andy Davis***

## **POP IN FOR COFFEE AND CAKE**

*at ST PETER’S CHURCH ROOM, SOBERTON*



**POP IN FOR COFFEE & CAKE ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH  
10AM – NOON**

**MEET FRIENDS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE A CHAT**

## News From the Pews (of St Peter's)

### STOP THIEF!

Just before the closing date for the previous magazine St Peter's suffered 2 surprising acts of theft. First our ancient and large Lectionary (the bible from which passages are services are read during services) was stolen. Its replacement (we have been quoted £600) will be locked away when not in use.

Then the roof of the Murphy Tomb, the mausoleum (pictured) dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, was removed by thieves overnight. Luckily, they were incorrect in their assumption that the roof was made of lead – it wasn't so the joke is on them.



The newly re-roofed tomb

However, the replacement, now in slate, has cost us some £3,300 which is not a joke.

Little seems safe these days – a sad state of affairs – but we must remain optimistic and faithful!

### Churchyard Tidy for the Fete – and a new discovery!

A couple of weekends before the fete a band of helpful local lads and lasses gathered ready to risk the lousy forecast and help John Lester and his team with some heavy jobs in the Churchyard. We



were lucky – a break in the weather held long enough for us to finish in time to retire to the White Lion for a well-earned complimentary pint (thank you Allan).

A highlight of the morning's efforts was the uncovering of another ancient but hidden grave. The accompanying photo shows most of the team gathered round their recent discovery

Thanks to all concerned for a good morning's work.

### What a Brilliant Fete – Thank You to All Those Involved!

The very hard work of the committee and all the various helpers was rewarded by beautiful weather and a record attendance. A full report will follow in the next magazine but meanwhile a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in any way, and of course, to those who joined the fun.

### Glorious Bells

The bells ring out at St. Peter's for services, weddings, funerals and special events like the coronation and VE day. This year, on 6<sup>th</sup> July St Peter's hosted the Portsmouth & Winchester District Quarterly Bell Ringers meeting and service. They rang between 3 - 4pm. A short service was followed by afternoon tea and a district meeting. A final ring at 7pm rounded off a special afternoon.

Louise & Anthony



# Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who supported Soberton Fete this year - it was a great day with lots of visitors enjoying the attractions and atmosphere of Fete Day.

Without the magnificent support of our volunteers, helpers and performers giving up their time as well as persons generously donating raffles prizes, our Fete could not have taken place.

There will be a more in-depth update in the next edition of the Parish Magazine but in the meantime Soberton Fete Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Fete and of course to our visitors - thanks for coming and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Save the Date: Soberton Fete 28th June 2025

Photos: John Earle





# The Meon Valley Federation

Executive Headteacher: Ms Amy O'Toole



## Newtown Soberton Infant School

Church Road, Newtown, Fareham, Hampshire  
PO17 6LJ  
01329 833161  
Newtownadmin@meonvalleyfederation.co.uk

## Meonstoke CofE Infant School

Chapel Road, Meonstoke, Southampton  
Hampshire SO32 3NJ  
01489 877568  
Meonstokeadmin@meonvalleyfederation.co.uk

It has been a wonderful and busy year across the Federation. However, it is getting to that bittersweet time of year when we all feel a little sad that a chapter is coming to an end but we also feel excited for a new chapter to begin.

As adults, we can find change difficult and young children are just the same. There are some fantastic story books which can help children who may be feeling a little 'wobbly' about their upcoming transition to their new class. Some of my favourites are 'The Day You Begin' by Jaqueline Woodson, 'Little Tree' by Loren Long and 'Ruby's Worry' by Tom Percival (this book is more about general worries but can help your child to open up, if they are concerned about transition). Online versions of these books are easy to find online if you would like to look at them with your child.

I have been so impressed with the resilience and dedication that children across the federation have been demonstrating this term. It has been particularly wonderful to see the impact that their hard work has had on our end of year results, which are looking very positive, and which will be uploaded to our school website very soon. Well done everyone!

I was particularly impressed with all the children yesterday as they moved up into their new classes for next year. I have had excellent reports from Droxford, and I visited all the other classes over the course of the day and everybody was working hard with their new teachers. We still have lots of lovely learning to do over the next couple of weeks and we are all looking forward to our Marwell Trip on Monday 22nd July.

Work will carry on over the summer as we decorate and re-furbish our library and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community and the Parish Magazine for their kind donation towards this project. We have shared these 'before' photographs with you and look forward to updating you about the project and sharing 'afterwards' photographs with you next term.

It looks like it will be a super end to the year!





# Newtown Soberton Infant School Library Project Appeal!



At Newtown Soberton Infant School we are refurbishing our school library! We would love to replace a large portion of the books in the library as many of them are now looking a little over-loved and at the end of their useful lives. However, as you know, school budgets are tight, and we are therefore limited in what we can afford. This is where we hope you might be able to help!



As a team, we have made an Amazon wish list of 'old and gold' classic story books which many of us will remember from our own childhoods such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Tiger who Came to Tea' and more modern books which are designed to show the children our world through different lenses such as 'Jabari Jumps' and 'The Proudest Blue'. We also have included some books that are just good fun such as 'The Dinosaur who Pooped a Planet' and 'Gansta Granny!' We are hoping that our wonderful community might be able to help us buy some of the books on our wishlist so that we can stock our newly refurbished library with beautiful texts for everyone to enjoy. If you think you can help, please scan the QR Code and it will take you straight to our wishlist. Alternatively, you can follow the link below.

Thank you in advance for any support you can offer whether it's one book or a set of books, any donation is very gratefully received.

Many thanks, Ms O'Toole and the NSIS Team.

<https://amzn.eu/0hBfCkUg>

Please come and join us for



# Harvest Festival



*to give thanks for all God's gifts to us*

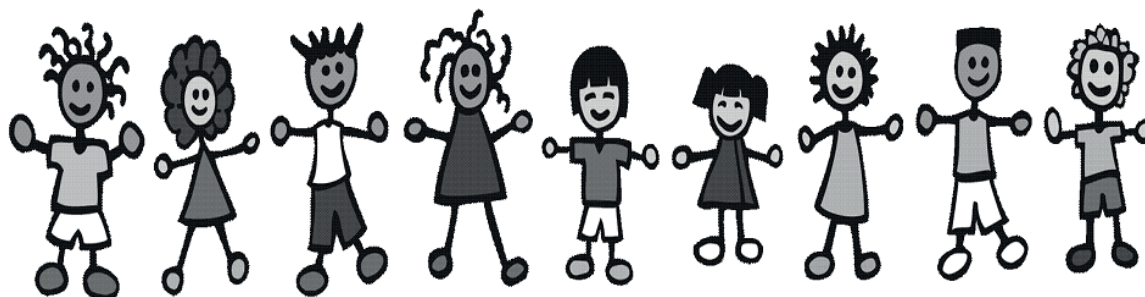
led by Reverend Liz Quinn

**Sunday 6th October**

**Holy Trinity, Newtown**

**10am**

followed by drinks and canapés in our lovely churchyard



## **Soberton & Newtown Ladies Group**

In July we a group of us went to the Salisbury Playhouse to see 'The Mousetrap'. A most enjoyable evening.

We start our new programme on 4th September at 8pm in Rookesbury Hall, Newtown. Local resident Martin Bazeley will be talking to us about The Southwick Revival, incorporating the National Farm Survey of 1941.

Our group is open to all ladies in the villages and new members are always welcome.

Helen Stranks	01489 878270	<a href="mailto:helen.stranks@btopenworld.com">helen.stranks@btopenworld.com</a>
Liz Whales (Secretary)	01489 877712	<a href="mailto:lizwhales@aol.com">lizwhales@aol.com</a>

# News from C.A.N.S

## (Climate Action for Newtown and Soberton)



### Recycling and Waste talk by Winchester City

Who knew that a talk about waste could be so entertaining? The local residents and members of sustainability groups that attended Campbell Williams' (of Winchester City Council) presentation were not only entertained but also well-informed about the future of waste and recycling in the county. The new national guidelines for all local authorities on waste collection were explained, which will standardise what is collected and how, including a food waste collection. Pressure is also on manufacturers and retailers to reduce packaging, such as thinner glass and better labelling of packaging material, and a deposit scheme on drinks bottles and cans.

### All the fun of the fetes...

Many interesting conversations were had at our busy stall at both of our fantastic local fetes. There was a lot of questions about improving home energy efficiency, especially about air source heat pumps as well as interest in where to recycle those tricky items not collected kerbside.

At Soberton fete, we were joined by the 'River Meon Conservation Volunteers', who demonstrated the wide variety of river invertebrates. They are a new, local conservation group who monitor the river for river fly and water voles as well as manage invasive species.



Train set powered by a solar panel at Newtown fete



The Newtown fete organisers attempted to minimise waste and recycle more. The waste stations encouraged people to separate the recyclable material, and, for a well-attended event, there was surprisingly little rubbish. Did you remember to take your own cup?... It is hoped that next year, we can build on this year's successes and further reduce waste.

### A guide to local refill shops



**Westlands farm shop**, Pricketts Hill, Southampton SO32 2JW  
As well as loose vegetables and meat, there is a selection of refill dried goods such as oats, grains, cereals, nuts and pasta. You can also refill with cleaning products, such as rinse aid, washing up liquid, laundry powder, fabric conditioner, shampoo, conditioner and hand soap. You can use FILL bottles which are provided in the shop or take your own reusable container. 70% of the suppliers are local.



**Nature's Nook Refillery**, Old Timbers, The Square, Wickham  
A new refill shop in Wickham Square offering a wide range of refillable products, supporting local producers. Refill your containers with pantry staples, sustainable cleaning and beauty products and frozen goods.



**Earthian Zero Waste Shop**, 9A Parchment Street, Winchester  
This shop specialises in plastic-free, organic and low waste products. You can bring your own containers to the store to stock up on food staples, such as grains, beans, pasta and cereals. You can also order online to collect in store.

Did you know?



You can take some of these 'tricky to recycle' items to Denmead.

**We Recycle:**  
Toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads  
Biscuit/cake wrappers  
Cheese wrapping  
Pringle cans, Coffee packaging  
Glasses, Bras, Clothes



Open 24/7  
Denmead Scout HQ  
Kidmore Lane  
Denmead  
PO7 6JU

**We Recycle:**  
Juice cartons, paper cups, milk cartons, soup and other food cartons, paper coffee cups  
Kidmore Lane Car Park, Denmead, Winchester, PO7 6JZ



## The 3Ps - time for change

### An appeal from the 3Ps Committee:

The 3Ps, originally the St. Peter's Parish Planners, is nowadays a social committee with members from both Soberton and Newtown, whose sole aim has been to organise fun, non-fund-raising events for the residents of both villages and their friends.

Many of you who live in the Soberton and Newtown area will have attended '3Ps' events - the Carols and Cheer at Christmas time, Barn Dance, Quiz Night, Wimbledon Warm-Up tennis, the Posh Frocks dinner/dance, and in days past the children's games day, race day visits, and Newtown vs. Soberton cricket match.

But enthusiasm for these events has been declining and tastes change. It could be that 3Ps type activity has naturally run its course and so now the organising committee is debating whether it is time to draw it to a close.

Several current members are retiring and those remaining will not have the manpower to put on the functions that have done in recent years so what's needed is a boost of more youthful enthusiasm. The committee is keen to attract new members to push things forward and particularly to have younger members, but anyone with imagination, a positive mindset and a small amount of time to spare would be most welcome.

The 3Ps has been a much-loved institution for decades but the timescale for making this hard decision is short, but has to be made one way or the other. Despite this cliff edge situation you can rest assured that 3Ps Carols and Cheer will be happening as usual just before Christmas and more details will be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

If you think that the 3Ps should continue to organise community events like the Quiz, Barn Dance and Carols and Cheer, then please speak out and tell us. You can join the committee or you can encourage others to get involved. Now is the opportunity for you to help take the 3Ps forward so please let us know very soon if you will join in or if you know someone else who will.

You can get in touch with the 3Ps team by email at [3psvillage@gmail.com](mailto:3psvillage@gmail.com)



**CONGRATULATIONS! Droxford Junior U11 cricket team** are County Cup champions for the first time in their history! The talented cricket team had already played at Hampshire's Utilita Bowl this season and now swept aside all before them to claim the shield. Droxford beat strong opposition in the early stages, including the winner of the cup on the last two occasions, Knightwood

Primary school. The final was played at Fair Oak cricket ground and Droxford ran out comfortable winners, in the end to cap an amazing season. The children were incredible and performed to the highest standard impressing their coach and Headteacher Mr Dampier, and parents who were in attendance cheering the team on!



# Gratitude and greenness at the Newtown Church Fete 2024 – a day to remember!



“What a wonderful world,” sang The Reverend Andy Davis, our new Priest-in-charge of the Meon Valley Parishes, as he opened Newtown Church Fete on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

And it was truly a wonderful world in Meonwood that afternoon – perfect weather, perfect stalls and, above all, people striving for perfection. The children danced like little angels, the musicians played and sang enchantingly and the stallholders beamed their appreciation as visitors emptied their pockets generously. The dog agility contestants impressed us all and the BBQ and beer tent ran out!

Perhaps it was Reverend Andy’s surprisingly good rendition of Louis Armstrong’s signature song that set the tone, but gratitude seemed to be keynote of the fete this year. We were thankful for the weather, thankful to Sue and Fra Wells for providing what must be the best backdrop ever to a village celebration and, most importantly, thankful to be living in a community where young, old and in-betweens work together seamlessly with such enthusiasm and good humour.



It was also thankfulness for our beautiful environment and concern for the threats to its future through climate change that inspired a greener perspective to the fete this year. The fete committee called in the newly formed Climate Action in Newtown and Soberton group, CANS, to advise and some modest goals around effective waste recycling and waste reduction were attempted.



Stuart Doherty from the fete committee built two ingenious Waste Stations where stallholders and visitors were encouraged to sort their waste into various components – plastics, bottles, cans etc. Local Brownies and Guides also got involved, running a campaign to encourage people to bring refillable cups to the event to try to keep waste to a minimum. The results were mixed – as was the waste in some cases - but a lot of lessons were learned and we all look forward to making Newtown fete even greener and even more perfect in 2025.

We are delighted to announce that the fete took over £18k on the day and, after expenses, the proceeds will be used to support Holy Trinity Church, Newtown and other local worthy causes including Newtown Soberton Infant School for their new library, Swanmore Secondary School Jazz band, students of Barton Peveril College Music Course, Soberton Strummers, Fire Fighters Charity, 3rd Portchester Scouts, Ukrainian Orphanage and Children’s Week subsidies.

None of this would have been possible without your support – whether you helped before, after or during on the day, whether you donated, whether you delivered draw tickets, whether you came along on the day and joined in – your unstinting support made it the wonderful and successful day it was.

## Thank you!

**Date for your diary – Newtown Church Fete 2025  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – same time, same place!**

# Road Report

Edited by Jonty Sherwill this feature aims to raise awareness about what we can each do to encourage more considerate driving with benefits for all road users whether on foot, horseback, cycle or behind the wheel or reins. The views expressed are personal and based on 50 years of driving. Friendly feedback is always welcome.

Depending on how one uses the road network personal perspectives on the state of driving in the UK may vary quite a lot. For those with high pressure lives it's an A to B necessity where getting somewhere quick is essential to business and any hold up is money lost, or simply getting kids to school. By contrast, someone on horseback, on a bicycle or on foot is using the road at a very different pace, so when these road users meet knowing the Highway Code is important. But how many of us keep up to date with changes in the Highway Code or even remember reading it when we were learning to drive?

Driving predictably and following the Highway Code rules is vital to general road safety but now with EVs bringing supercar acceleration to family 'motoring', could the growing disparity in car performance put this in jeopardy? There have always been high performance cars but more power can encourage risky overtaking and bring unwelcome surprises for other road users.

60-odd years ago there was another shift in performance when disc brakes arrived on the scene - I am just old enough to remember this! With sharper braking available compared to the ubiquitous drum brakes, rear end shunts became more regular occurrences, older cars simply unable to stop as quickly. An oval sticker on the rear of new cars stating 'Disk Brakes' was a regular sight to warn those behind.

While most vehicles today have efficient brakes, those of us who drive petrol or diesel cars with manual gears have something else to contend with - while accelerating and there's an EV 'breathing down your neck'. Their acceleration is linear and with no gaps, so maybe it's time for a new rear end car sticker: 'This car has gears, so please keep your distance'!

Keeping your distance is important and specific rules apply when passing cyclists and pedestrians, but it appears that some drivers remain unaware of the recent updates to the Highway Code to help keep everyone safe.

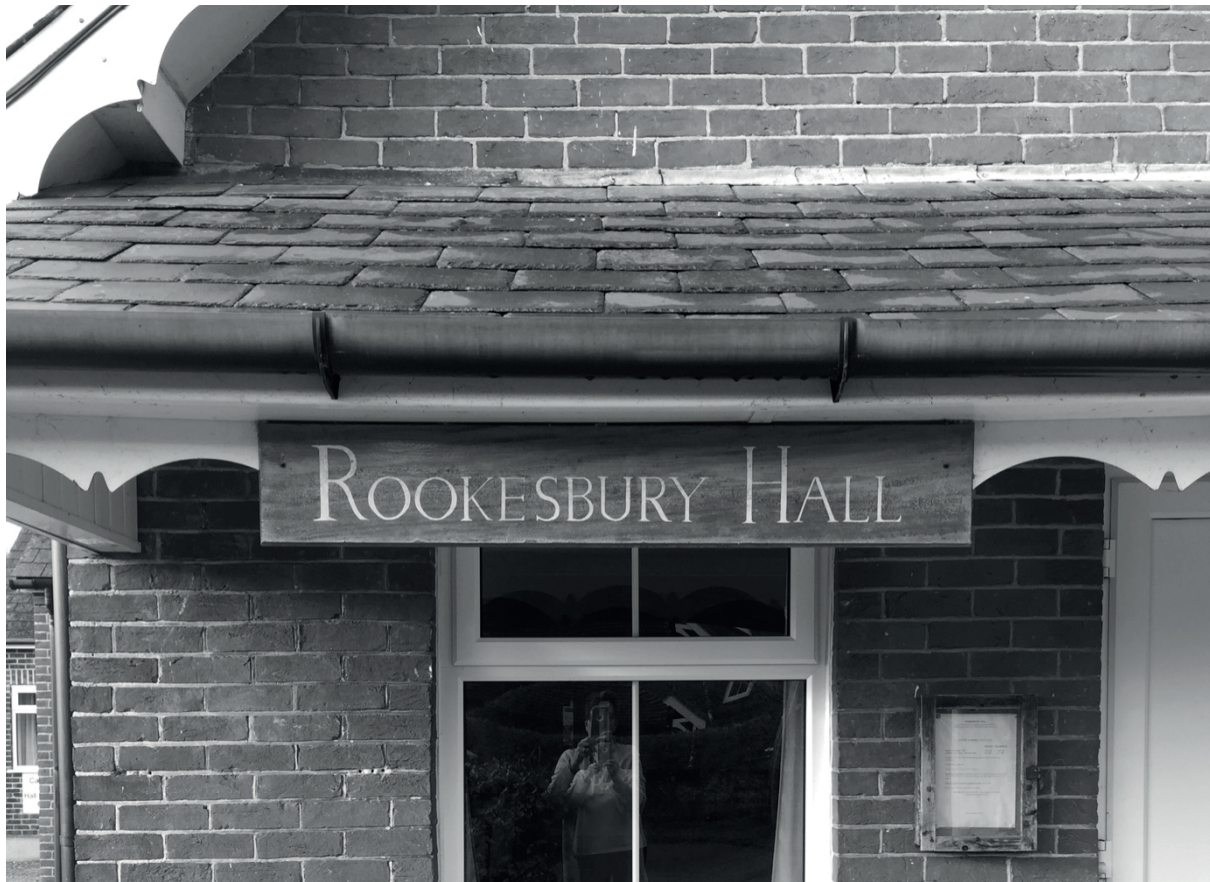


Each year at the Newtown Church Fete there is a superb display of classic and interesting cars and helps remind us that of the range of size, power and affordability of cars have always been part of the driving force in the evolution of what we drive today.

Shown above are two at this year's fete and from opposite ends of that spectrum in the 1930s - the superb Lagonda and diminutive Austin Seven. I am always impressed by the passion of classic car owners and the dedication to keep their cherished vehicles on the road, and bringing smiles and memories to many who see them.

For the owners of cars like these keeping safe amongst modern traffic will be high on the agenda, and perhaps that is the mindset that modern motoring has lost.

See you next issue and if there are topics you'd like raised, then please let us know.



# MURDER AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Titchfield Festival Theatre and Rookesbury Hall invite you to join us  
for a murder mystery evening on

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm

There will be a platter of food, please bring your own drink.

Tickets £20 per person.

Contact [info@rookesburyhall.co.uk](mailto:info@rookesburyhall.co.uk) to make a reservation.

# Schoolreaders

improving literacy • increasing life chances

## Volunteers Needed!

Please visit [Schoolreaders.org](https://www.schoolreaders.org)



## Become a Schoolreaders Volunteer

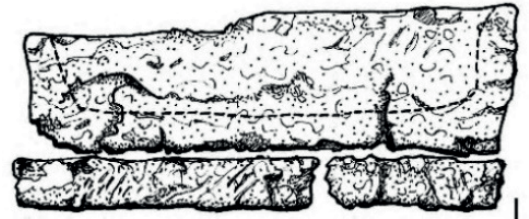
Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers in this area to listen to children read in primary schools. No qualifications are required, just a love of reading and some spare time each week in term time.



Registered Charity Number: 1159157 Registered in England and Wales

© 2023 Schoolreaders CIO

## The Roman Sarcophagus – a Requiem



It has been four years since the History Society began its campaign to save the Roman sarcophagus in St Peter's graveyard and have it moved back inside the Church (where it had been for almost 100 years since its discovery in the 1880's before being shifted outside several decades ago).

Despite support for our campaign from the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, delays at the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) meant no decisions were made. Two and a half years ago, the History Society was given permission to place a winter cover over the sarcophagus to afford some protection from the freeze/thaw process that was rapidly breaking up the soft sandstone. This has had very little effect on slowing the deterioration.

Earlier this year, after more lobbying from the History Society, the DAC appointed an independent stone conservator to report on the condition of the sarcophagus and ascertain whether it could be moved – something the History Society had already actioned in 2021.

Unfortunately, the independent conservator has concluded that the sarcophagus cannot be safely moved without breaking up, following a marked deterioration in its condition over the last year or two. The report recommended that an effective cover be placed over the sarcophagus to provide better protection from the elements. This will slow, not stop, deterioration but enable the community to enjoy it for a little longer. Despite a request by the History Society, no response to the report has yet been made by the church authorities.

The History Society will continue to lobby the DAC to give permission for the erection of this shelter as soon as possible.

\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\*

The above was the status as of a week or so ago but, as the magazine goes to print, the History Society has received communication from the DAC advising that permission will not be granted for a permanent cover and that we should continue with the winter cover only. The last few years has demonstrated that this does not provide effective, long-term protection, notwithstanding that the cover has needed repair and does not have longevity. Without better protection, the sarcophagus will continue to break up ... maybe a heap of rubble instead of a rare and ancient artefact.

The History Society would like to turn this to the community and parish – what would you like to happen with the sarcophagus? If enough people feel strongly that it should be saved for future generations, this may help the case put forward by the History Society. If we have mis-judged the feeling in the villages, and there is insufficient interest in the fate of the Sarcophagus, we would think again about our campaign. Please let us know your views at:

[jillwoodacre@gmail.com](mailto:jillwoodacre@gmail.com) or [duncan.colinjones@btinternet.com](mailto:duncan.colinjones@btinternet.com)

# What's on (Village Diary)

Month	Date/day	Event / group	Time	Details
August	6 <sup>th</sup>	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	Page 47
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for application for SPC Parish Clerk	-	Page 40
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Club @ St Peter's	11:00	Page 47
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for comments on Soberton Rec	-	Page 40
	14 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 5
September	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	Page 47
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	uza - Wickham Pantry, Wickham Power Hub and Wickham Community Garden	14:00	Page 38
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Group - The Southwick Revival	-	Page 10
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Club @ St Peter's	11:00	Page 47
	9 <sup>th</sup>	RBL - Small Island; twelve maps which explain the history of Britain	19:00	Page 38
	11 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 5
	12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	West Meon Music Festival	-	Page 46
	16 <sup>th</sup>	COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER / NOVEMBER	-	
Hold the date	17 <sup>th</sup>	uza - Bird migration	14:00	Page 38
	5 <sup>th</sup> October	Meon Valley Garden Club Autumn Plant Sale	10:00	Page 36
	6 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival, Holy Trinity	10:00	Page 10
	12 <sup>th</sup> October	Murder at the Village Hall, Rookesbury Hall	19:00	Page 15

Regular meetings/ events	Tuesday	Sobertots	10:00	Page 41
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Sunday Club @ St Peter's	11:00	Page 47
	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	Page 47
	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Soberton & Newtown Ladies' Group	20:00	Page 10
	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 5
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Meon Valley Investment Club	19:30	Page 47
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Soberton & Newtown Local History Society	19:30	Page 47
	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Meon Valley uza	14:00	Page 38

**Not all village groups and societies run during the summer – please check before you go!**

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[info@computerproblemsolvedltd.co.uk](mailto:info@computerproblemsolvedltd.co.uk)

## Funding St Peter's and the Fete

It costs some £35,000 a year to run St Peter's which must be raised locally through private donations. Of this, about half offsets church running costs and routine maintenance with the remainder going to the Diocese of Portsmouth as our Parish Share. Additionally, as a Grade 1 Listed building, there are occasions when expensive restoration work is required.

Income is donated by parishioners and visitors through collections (cash, card and online), regular standing orders, Gift Aid that can add 25% to any donation from UK taxpayers (and, if you're a higher rate tax payer, you can claim back the difference), dividends and interest from investments, the summer fete and other fundraising activities, weddings and funerals (although a fee is payable to the Diocese), hire of the Church Rooms, refund of the VAT element for restoration work, and legacies. In 2023, our income was £30K with fete proceeds accounting for 30% of this. A successful fete in 2024 – grossing about £16.5K (£12K after expenses are deducted) - should bring us closer to our £35K target.

[copitch.com/free\\_cartoons](http://copitch.com/free_cartoons)

Number: 0501



Routine expenditure includes church, churchyard and green maintenance, electricity, water and broadband/telephone, insurance, organ and clock maintenance, miscellaneous admin costs and requisites. Our outlay varies but, in 2023, it was £42.6K which included some £10K in restoration work. Fortunately, there are no major restoration projects envisaged for this year but, with a building that is over 1,000 years old in parts, we never know what may lie around the corner.

Income from the fete can be unpredictable. We have been fortunate in recent years that the weather has been reasonable with this year's near perfect conditions encouraging a good turnout. In recognition of the many non-regular churchgoers who help make the fete so successful, we try to make donations to worthy local causes as advised by the fete committee. In the last 5 years we helped to purchase St Clair's Meadow and made

donations to the Meon Valley Food Bank, Portsmouth Street Pastors, our local Guides and Brownies, Sobertots and Heartstart. Please contact the PCC or fete committee if you would like your local cause to be considered.

The Church of England costs over £1 billion a year to run and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of this is raised through Parish Shares donated by 12,500 parishes in England and Wales. The remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  comes from income generated by a £10 billion property and investment portfolio managed by the Church Commissioners. Soberton's Parish Share is currently £17.5K per annum, determined by average weekly attendance and a factor based on the perceived wealth of the community. Other parish churches in our area with larger congregations can be expected to pay up to £100K. The Parish Share helps pay for clergy stipends and other salaries, National Insurance contributions, pensions, clergy housing, Council Tax, training and the 'Mission' of the Church as a whole. Although our King is head of the Church of England, there is no direct government funding for our nation's established church.

**Rob Scott**  
Honorary Treasurer, Soberton PCC

We appreciate your help - thank you!

## ***Local History ... Alexander Day Holmes. A Soberton entrepreneur?***

An impressive name that appears, usually in full, through seven decades of Soberton's history. He is recorded as being born in Droxford parish in 1813 but it is almost certain that he was born at Waterside, just down the hill from Soberton Church but on the other side of parish/river boundary. He was the eldest son of Thomas Holmes of Droxford and Mary, nee Day, who were married at Hambledon in 1812.

Nothing is known of his childhood other than he must have been educated to a reasonable standard. His father was a businessman and usually described as 'a nurseryman and seedsman'. Alexander was listed as a gardener in the 1841 census by which time he was married. His wife was Martha Earwaker, of a well-known local family and they had one child. They were then living in a rented cottage in Lower Street, Soberton (West Street).

It would appear that Alexander wanted to go into the retail trade and in 1839 had applied for a license to sell beer. But someone had informed on him for making "an improper certificate" in order to obtain a license, according to a report in the Hampshire Advertiser, and he had to appear before Droxford Petty Sessions. One wonders if this had anything to do with the family reputedly having been involved with smuggling. Even Soberton's vicar, the Rev. Morley writes in his village history notes that "the grandfather of Mr. Day Holmes was for many years the head of their gang". Interestingly the notes were written many years later and Alexander is given the title Mr. so his grandfather's misdeeds were forgiven. Unfortunately, Rev. Morley did not indicate whether the smuggling was on the paternal or maternal side of the family.

At a date unknown A.D. H. did set up a retail business in West Street. The 1851 census describes him as a dealer but this probably meant he sold a wide range of products from groceries to oil for lamps and anything else that the community might need. In other words, he was a shopkeeper. There were now six children and the three eldest were described as scholars, that is they attended a school, probably the one on the bank in what we now call the High Street. A year later Alexander D.H. according to Hunts trade dir. had become a Deputy Registrar.

In 1856 Alexander Day Holmes bought a property not far from the school now known as Fonthill House from where he carried on his grocery business. It had a baker's oven in an outbuilding, and large cellars so it suggests he was he still inclined towards selling beer. By 1859 he was.

During the 1860's he became the Registrar of Marriages for the Droxford Union. Collector of Taxes and agent for Sun Fire Insurance. The following decade trade directories repeat these offices but also show Alexander Day Holmes as keeping the Post Office. The connection with the post office lasts until the end of the century, latterly being helped by his grandson, Thomas Crouch. There is no mention of a shop but Horatio Charles, known by his second name, is listed in the trade directories as a baker and is running a retail business from the 'High Street' property. The Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle run adverts during 1888 similar to this in Issue 5573

*Advert: Woman's Chief Mission is the due maintenance of the family by supplying wholesome food and drink. Horniman's Tea is rich, strong, delicious and pure.*

Then follows a list of local traders which includes for **Soberton - Mr. Holmes**

But as well as tea Charles also becomes a beer retailer and before Alexander dies in 1907 the property is known as the New Inn.

Thomas Walter Holmes, most likely the eldest son, was the publican at The White Lion from the mid 1870's until his death in 1899 when his wife took on the license. It was here, we have been told, that a presentation of an armchair was made to Alexander in recognition of his years of service to the village. Although he held so many non-ecclesiastical positions, he was never a churchwarden or held any duties connected with the Vestry and welfare. It is possible that he was a member of the Methodist Chapel but, unfortunately, we cannot confirm this as there are no records available.

# Autumn Plant sale

## Where:

Droxford Village Hall  
Droxford High St.  
SO32 3PA

## When:

Saturday October  
5th  
10.00 - approx. 11.30

## Products:

Plants  
Vegetables  
Fruit  
Home bakes



## In your garden ... off with their heads!

Lewis Carroll has long been associated with gardens, being attributed as one of the inspirations for *The Garden of Cosmic Speculation*, Dumfries, Scotland. He also wrote *The Mad Gardener's Song*, a poem of nonsense (or perhaps tremendous insight) which I would love to share here, but in doing so would exceed my word count, so feel free to read it at, [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk).

As Lewis Carroll's iconic character would shout 'Off with their heads!' at the mere thought of being opposed and used it to end the life of a perpetrator, in the instance of gardening, it prolongs it. The dead-heading of roses, dahlias and summer perennials - with more buds to follow, will extend their flowering season for weeks to come. It is advised that you use a sharp pair of secateurs and ideally sterilise between plants to avoid cross contamination. This also works with annual bedding plants and prevents them setting seed.

Whilst you have your secateurs to hand, now is the time for stone fruit tree pruning. Plums in particular benefit from a summer prune to avoid the development of silver-leaf disease. You can also prune trained apple and pear trees to help maintain their intended form. Summer fruiting raspberries can also be cut to the ground once they have finished fruiting. I tend to leave a few at full length as they tend to fruit slightly earlier and therefore space out my cropping.

A problem that we do run into when gardening is that everything comes at once. We seem to wait all year and then the vegetable patch explodes with runner beans, potatoes and the aforementioned raspberries. There are lots of ways to overcome this: sharing surplus produce with friends and neighbours; freezing them for later in the year or the idea that conjures up nostalgic smells of my Grandmother's kitchen - batch cooking! The recipe for raspberry jam couldn't be much simpler: 1kg raspberries, 1kg jam sugar and the juice of 1 lemon. The job is made even easier with the procurement of a jam making kit which can easily be purchased from Hemings Home Hardware in Wickham.

There is still, fingers crossed, sufficient warmth to continue to sow and plant up edibles. Some ideas are: rocket, spring onion, radish, mizuna, mustard leaf and lambs lettuce. All quite quick to grow and provide a great deal on the plate for not much room taken up outside.

If you are going away for an extended period of time in August or September, firstly I hope you have a lovely time and secondly, get someone to water your garden! It always astounds me how quickly a South facing, wind-swept bed can dry out along with the plants. This is even more so for plants in pots. If you ask a friend, relative, neighbour to water it might be an idea to give them a few priorities to focus on and if they have time, 'Off with their heads!'

**Simon, The Tudor Gardener**





On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024, author and historian Philip Parker will present “*Small Island; Twelve Maps which Explain the History of Britain*”. The talk will commence at 1900 in Droxford Village Hall and non-members welcome to attend. There will be a cash bar from 1830 and the talk will be followed by a curry supper available for those that book for £15 per head payable in cash on the night. Non members wishing to take supper, please email [robmunroscott@aol.com](mailto:robmunroscott@aol.com) at least a week beforehand.

We all tend to take for granted that we live in Hampshire, an English County in United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Periodically we may reflect on how a group of 6,000 assorted islands in the North Atlantic 22 miles from mainland Europe became the home of 72 million people and, for 200 years, the hub of the greatest empire the world has ever known.

Evidence of human settlement of the British Isles goes back before 4,000BC when farming started to supplement aboriginal hunter-gatherers and fishers but there was little formal political subdivision until after the Roman conquest in 43AD. Hampshire, as we now know it, became part of the Roman administrative division of Belgae. With original Britons or Celts driven to the north and west by the Romans, what is now England gradually became settled by other European tribes after the Romans withdrew with Hampshire eventually becoming part of the Saxon Kingdom of Wessex. Eventually this would lead to unification of Anglo-Saxon territories under King Alfred the Great and his successors who also liberated much of the north from Viking rule. With the Norman conquest of 1066 everything changed and King William I, Duke of Normandy (ironically of Viking descent) allocated great tracts of his new kingdom and Normandy to his loyal supporters. It probably took until the early Tudor period for modern political sub-divisions to start taking effect, but it was not until after 1660 that union with Scotland and Ireland created the United Kingdom. Sub political divisions continue to evolve and there are still anomalies, such as the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, that remain Crown Dependencies outside the UK. Hampshire itself derives from the Saxon settlement of *Ham-tun* and the surrounding area known as the *scīr*, hence *Ham-tunscīr* – Hants or Hampshire. Also subsequently known as the County of Southampton or even Southamptonshire until 1959. All this is more easily explained through a study of maps and, hopefully, will become clearer following Philip Parker’s talk!



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. [www.soberton.org/rblweb](http://www.soberton.org/rblweb).

Good day everybody.

The Meon Valley U3A starts its exciting autumn series of lectures again at Wickham Community Centre at 2pm every first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday beginning in September. I hope I have put together a programme of lectures that will interest you.

We kick off on 3/9 with Mrs Kate Turnbull speaking about the **Wickham Pantry, Wickham Power Hub and Wickham Community Garden**. Kate is the coordinator for all these very important parts of our community. It will be excellent to learn about these activities.

On 17/9 our Treasurer Alan Abbott will be talking about his great interest in birds but more specifically on **Bird Migration**.

Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome and we usually have several who attend and later often become members!. Guests pay £2 to defray speaker costs. Tea and biscuits are provided after the talk, and we always have pre-loved books for charitable sale.

I look forward to meeting you all again on 2/9.

Lyndon (programme organiser)

Contact 07881991763 or [lyndonplmr@gmail.com](mailto:lyndonplmr@gmail.com)

Web site- : [u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley](http://u3asites.org.uk/meon-valley)



# Need Transport to Medical Appointments?



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**Kate Chesters on: 07710 716 664**

**[www.soberton.org](http://www.soberton.org)**

# SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL - *Chairman's notes*

[www.soberton.org](http://www.soberton.org)

*inc Newtown, Hundred Acres, Hoegate, Soberton Heath, Kingsmead, Brockbridge and Soberton*

## **Soberton Parish Council: Vacancy for Parish Clerk**

The PC is seeking a qualified and experienced parish clerk following the retirement of Brendan Gibbs who has served the Council for three years.

A summary of the role is as follows:

- Job Description - Reporting to Soberton Parish Council and responsible for management of the Council, contractors and consultants employed by the Council.
- Salary - Dependant on qualifications and experience, based on 10 hours per week.
- Hours – Flexible home working with occasional evening and weekend working is a requirement of the job in line with Council policies and in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

The parish clerk acts as the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer for the Council. They manage the business of the Council, assist Councillors in policy formulation and decision making, and manage the assets and finances of the Council. The post is set out in the Local Government Act 1972, and is required to carry out the statutory duties of a Proper Officer, guiding and assisting the Council in the fulfilment of its legal and financial obligations and undertaking the specific responsibilities contained in the Council's Financial Regulations.

If necessary, the Parish Council will support the Clerk in pursuing the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) including the cost of the course.

### **The application deadline is 9 August,**

followed by interviews and appointment in September/October 2024.

For a full job description please see the Parish Council's website and for further information please speak to any parish council member or email questions or cv to [chair@soberton.org](mailto:chair@soberton.org) and [Vicechair@soberton.org](mailto:Vicechair@soberton.org)

## **Retirement of Parish Clerk**

Members of Soberton Parish Council were saddened to receive the resignation of the parish clerk, Mr Brendan Gibbs. Brendan has been clerk to the PC for three years and in that time has worked tirelessly through challenging times to bring the Council up to

date with new and changing legislation. On behalf of my fellow council members, I thank Brendan for his hard work and diligence on the tasks required during his tenure. We all wish him the brightest of retirement and hope that easing back on his commitments allows him much needed leisure time.

## **Soberton Recreation Ground (Heath Road, Soberton)**

The Recreation Ground has been the subject of much debate at PC meetings, discussions have centred on the playing surface and the children's play area (CPA), both requiring considerable investment. The PC has also received compelling representations from Soberton United Football Club who wish to return to train and play matches at the Recreation Ground together with youth teams. Consequently, the PC is planning to restore the recreation ground so that it is fit to support the return of organised football and the long standing relationship with Soberton United.

The PC have explored a series of grants to assist with the costs, however in the short term they have committed to a budget of £15,000 for this work at the PC meeting on the 16th July in order that work can hopefully commence when conditions are suitable. This includes a sum of £7,000 which the PC recently received in CIL (community infrastructure levy) funding from Winchester City Council. The PC will also continue to explore additional grants from SDNPA, HCC and Sport England.

As the PC is progressing improvements to the Recreation Ground it would like to hear what you enjoy using the recreation ground for. This is to ensure it remains a community facility for all.

### **Please let us have your comments by 12 August.**

These can be made by posting on Soberton Parish Council Facebook or by contacting the Clerk or one of your parish councillors (contact details are at the back of the parish magazine).

This winter some of the trees around the Recreation Ground will be pruned and the ditches cleared. The CPA requires constant attention and is inspected regularly by third party inspectors and work will be carried out to ensure the equipment remains safe for users.

## **Common Land Public Liability Insurance**

There are a number of parcels of land around the Parish which are registered as 'common land', these are; the chalk pit off Chalk Hill, Hoe Gate Common, the village pond on Chapel Road and the seasonal pond on the corner of Dradfield Land and Ingoldfield Lane. Following recent discussions at PC meetings the Council's public liability insurance has been extended to cover these areas of common land

## **Annual Maintenance Footpaths and Bridleways**

There are many miles of footpaths and bridleways which cross the Parish, many are historic and are part of long distance routes such as the Wayfarers Walk (Inkpen Beacon to Emsworth), Allan Kings Way (Winchester to Eastney) and the north south Meon Valley Trail. These should all be maintained by landowners including gates, stiles etc. Many of these routes are becoming overgrown and we urge land owners to clear paths to ease access for walkers and cyclists.

## **Roads and Lanes a Road Safety concern**

Hedgerows adjacent to roads and lanes across the Parish are impeding visibility, it is the landowner's responsibility to prune/cut back this year's growth. We urge everyone who is responsible for hedges adjacent to lanes to carry out maintenance now making our Parish a safer place to walk, cycle, ride and drive.

## **Pot Holes on Roads and Lanes**

There are many miles of country lanes within the Parish which have accesses to both dwellings and agricultural/forestry land. Many of these roads/lanes have suffered from the effects of a wet winter and spring and now require repair. The Highway Authority is Hampshire County Council (HCC) and they have a dedicated webpage to report problems such as potholes and, crumbling edges. [Report a problem | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://hants.gov.uk)

***John Hyland  
Chairman***



**SOBERTOTS ARE LOOKING FOR A  
NEW PERSON TO RUN THE PLAYGROUP**

**EVERY TUESDAY FROM 9:30AM - 11AM**

**INTERESTED? CONTACT MATILDA CURTIS  
TEL: 07411 129303 EMAIL: RHONAMAY08@HOTMAIL.COM**

## News from your local councillors.

Now that the General Election is over, normal council business has resumed. We have been busy making progress on many local issues as well as contributing to local council decisions. Outside of our council work, we found time to take to the river in Droxford to contribute to a national 'citizen science' project. Find out more below.

### Here is some of the latest news from Winchester City Council:

- **Winchester City Council decision on Waste and Recycling collection vehicles**

The government requires all councils to introduce a food waste kerbside collection by 31st March 2026. Winchester City Council have agreed to procure, through their contractor Biffa, nine 12-tonne food waste vehicles operated with a new low pollution and low carbon emission Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil fuel. One electric vehicle will be purchased as part of the new food collection service to trial the feasibility of a full electric service.

- **Creativity and Culture across Winchester District consultation: What does culture mean to you?**

Winchester City Council would like to understand what residents in Winchester think about creativity and culture across the district. What do those words mean to you, what activities do you take part in and how do you enjoy spending your time?

***There's a short survey to complete that will help inform Winchester's cultural strategy. Continues until 31st December 2024.***

**[winchester.citizenspace.com/](http://winchester.citizenspace.com/)**

- **Grants available**

There are now many different grants available from both councils for funding local projects and organisations. Please visit the councils' websites for more details:

[www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants](http://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants)  
[www.winchester.gov.uk/grants](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants)

## Citizen science testing on the River Meon

'The Great UK WaterBlitz', a national citizen science project which takes place over one weekend in June, provides an important snapshot of the health of our rivers from data collected by volunteers. We joined in by taking to the water at the River Meon in Droxford to measure the water quality.

Citizen science projects like this help to empower people to act by contributing to valuable research but it also helps scientists to collect data on a large scale. The testing allowed us to see first-hand the current quality of the river water in Droxford.

On this occasion, when we submitted our results to the Earthwatch database, our measurements of nitrate and phosphate levels indicated 'poor ecological health'. Sadly, our results reflected the overall national picture where 75% of rivers were found to be in a similar poor state.

**We completed a simple free test, which didn't require any specialised knowledge. If you would like to join in with more data collection on our local rivers, 'The 'Great UK WaterBlitz' project is running again in September 2024. You can sign up for a reminder and read the full report of the current results at: [earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/](http://earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/)**

.Have an enjoyable summer holiday period!



Cllr Malcolm Wallace  
([mwallace@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:mwallace@winchester.gov.uk))

& Cllr Danny Lee ([dlee@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:dlee@winchester.gov.uk))

& Cllr Suzanne White ([swhite3@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:swhite3@winchester.gov.uk))



## Skills Bootcamp Training

Hampshire's Skills Bootcamp training is to run again for a further year, thanks to an award of £3.8 million from the Department for Education (DfE). This free, fast-track training programme is offered to Hampshire residents and employers, enabling both those in work and job seekers to gain further training and secure higher paid roles, with employers benefitting from upskilled employees.

This latest round of funding will enable training to be offered to at least 1,000 learners and will additionally include training in coding, construction, engineering, project management, early years education, health and social care, and hospitality and tourism.

The courses are flexible with learning planned to fit around professional and family commitments allowing people in different circumstances to gain the skills employers are looking for.

For most Skills Bootcamp courses, no previous knowledge in the subject is needed. Courses can be classroom-based, on-the-job or online and unemployed participants are guaranteed a job interview at the end of their course.

More information and guidance is available for residents and businesses online at [hants.gov.uk/business/skillsbootcamp](https://hants.gov.uk/business/skillsbootcamp) - including on how to find a course and how to apply.

For those who need help deciding on suitable courses, an online National Careers Service Skills Assessment - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment> - is available to establish an individual's existing skills and match them to potential careers.

## New Leader for Hampshire County Council

Councillor Nick Adams-King has been elected as the new County Council Leader. The County Council met to formally establish the new administration where Councillor Adams-King officially took up his new role, following a decision by Councillor Rob Humby to step down as Leader following two years in post.

## Young People Vote Climate Change and Environment as Top Concern

More than 25,000 young people across Hampshire have taken part in Make Your Mark, the UK's biggest youth consultation, to choose campaign

priorities for young politicians to focus on in the coming two years

Make Your Mark participants, aged between 11 and 18 years, were asked what issue affects them most from a shortlist of 10 issues. Young people of Hampshire voted Climate Change and the Environment as their top issue for 2024, as it has been in the Hampshire ballot since 2019.

The issue of health and wellbeing was voted a close second in Hampshire while it was the most important topic for young people across the UK. The consultation also showed crime and safety as a major concern for young people both in Hampshire and across the whole country.

Over half a million young people took part in the consultation nationally with Hampshire receiving the second most votes. Hampshire Youth Parliament is continuing its climate campaign by running its third Hampshire Climate Conference in September in partnership with Winchester College and the Final Straw Foundation. It will bring together pupils from across Hampshire to hear from keynote speakers and learn about environmental issues in a variety of interactive climate-based workshops.

## £8.3 million Investment for Refurbishment Projects at three Hampshire Schools

Pupils at Crookhorn College and Hart Plain Infant School in Waterlooville, and Henry Beaufort School in Winchester, are set to benefit from a multi-million-pound school refurbishment. School buildings, which were built in the 1960s, will receive a range of upgrades including double glazing, increased insulation and new roofing which will improve the condition of the building, improve the teaching environment, and help to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. The funding comes from a Department for Education grant to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. The projects are as follows:

- Crookhorn College, at an estimated cost of £3.45 million
- Henry Beaufort School, at an estimated cost of £3.48 million
- Hart Plain Infant School, at an estimated cost of £1.4 million

Work is planned to start in the summer of 2024 to utilise the school summer holiday and to avoid exam periods.

## Hampshire's Unpaid Carers

A new, single countywide carers support service starting in September is set to offer help to Hampshire



carers over the age of 18 years looking after someone with a long term health condition, **including dementia, and those looking after a person with a physical or learning disability**

The new service will provide a wide range of assistance comprising information and advice, direct one-to-one support where carers' needs are more complex, and contingency and emergency planning, helping carers to prepare plans in the event of an emergency and being unable to look after their loved one.

The 2021 Census identified 111,739 unpaid carers in Hampshire, although according to the Office for National Statistics the numbers are likely to be much higher than the Census figures indicate.

Further information about the local support available for the County's carers is available on Connect to Support Hampshire, the online resource for adults in Hampshire to support independent living, see <https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/carer>

## Free Activities and Food for Children this Summer

Hampshire County Council is reminding families to sign up now to avoid missing out on the many Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) schemes on offer during the school summer holiday (24th July to 30th August 2024).

There is a wide range of fun and interesting crafts, sports and outdoor activities for all ages to choose from, which also include a nutritious meal. Free spaces are available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals and vulnerable children who may benefit from the programme. Many schemes also have paid-for places available.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme makes free places available to eligible children for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year. This covers four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of activities in the Easter and Christmas holidays. Parents and carers who want to find out what is on offer locally can search the Family Information and Services Hub [FISH] <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?> and then register online at

[\[https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/register\]](https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/register) to be able to book a space.

## Domestic Abuse Red Card

While a major sporting event like the Euros is an exciting time for many, during these events the number of incidents of domestic abuse and violence often goes up. Research shows that domestic abuse incidents increase by more than a third when England loses a game and by around a quarter when they win.



Anyone concerned that domestic abuse may be impacting the welfare of a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague, or concerned about the behaviour of someone they know, should contact the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse> - People subjected to domestic abuse and those using abusive behaviours often struggle to reach out and get the help they need, so it is vital that others speak up, if they can.

## How to Get Help

- If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, seek help. Call the Hampshire Domestic Abuse advice line on 03300 165112.
- If you are in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. If you can't speak and are calling on a mobile, press 55 to have your call transferred to the police. Find out how to call the police when you can't speak - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help#how-to-call-the-police-when-you-cant-speak>
- If you're concerned about your behaviour towards someone else, help is also available. Call the Hampton Trust - <https://hamptontrust.org.uk/> or ring 023 8000 9898.

## What Happens to Your Waste?

The contents of your household waste bin will be sent to one of three Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) in Hampshire, where it will be safely incinerated. *Each year, the three ERFs generate enough electricity to power 53,000 Hampshire homes!*

Mixed recycling collected from Hampshire households is sorted at one of two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in Hampshire. The MRFs sort your recycling into different material streams to be recycled into new items.

Less than 5% of Hampshire's household waste is sent to landfill.

## Recycling



All of the recyclable materials from Hampshire's kerbside collections (cans, plastic bottles, paper, card, tins and empty aerosols) are sent to one of two Material Recovery Facilities in the county, in Portsmouth and Alton.

The materials are separated using a combination of manual and automatic processes, including magnets, conveyor belts and lasers, before being baled up and sent to private companies for recycling into new products.

### Recycling

*Together, the two facilities are able to handle up to 157,000 tonnes of recyclables every year.*

## Rubbish



Most of the non-recyclable waste collected from homes in Hampshire is taken to one of three Energy Recovery Facilities located in Marchwood, Chineham and Portsmouth.

These facilities safely incinerate the waste and use the heat from this process to create steam, in turn generating electricity which is fed to the National Grid.

### Rubbish

*Each year these facilities create the same amount of electricity to power 53,000 homes.*

## Garden waste



All the green garden waste collected at Hampshire's recycling centres, as well as that from any local collections, is taken to one of two composting sites in the county, Herriard near Basingstoke and Chilbolton near Stockbridge.

The green waste is composted in long heaps called windrows for 20 weeks and turned so it breaks down evenly. The finished product is 'Pro-Grow', a high quality soil conditioner that is available to buy at every recycling centre.

### Garden waste

*Together, the two sites process over 75,000 tonnes of compost material every year.*

## Landfill



There is now only one landfill site open in Hampshire for disposing of household waste.

The only household waste currently landfilled is bulky items delivered to recycling centres. We are working to address this and move as close to zero landfill as we can.

Hampshire County Council is also responsible for 11 closed former landfill sites, and has a duty to ensure that they are returned to nature as best as possible.

### Landfill

*Hampshire sends less than 5% of its household waste to landfill.*

See -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/whattodowithwaste/yourwaste>.

It is your duty of care to dispose of your waste correctly. You could be fined an unlimited amount by your local council if your waste ends up fly tipped. See [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/flytipping](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/flytipping)

## And Finally .....

Don't forget that grant applications for a Councillor grant are now open. These grants are intended to help small, local, community groups eg lunch clubs, scouts, community centres, village associations, school PTAs, local Church, etc. Grants allocated are fairly small and MUST meet the published criteria.

See -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>.

Also, you must discuss with your County Councillor BEFORE application is made.

All applications must be made online.

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

Patricia Stallard

Hampshire County Councillor  
Winchester Southern Parishes  
[Newlands, Denmead, Southwick, Boarhunt, Wickham, Knowle, Soberton, Newtown]

[patricia.stallard@hants.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.stallard@hants.gov.uk)

# Meon Valley Community Bus Association Timetable



Mondays, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Friday 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
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0930	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0936	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0945	Hundred Acres
0957	Fareham Library
1002	Fareham Sainsbury's
<b>Return:</b>	
1200	Fareham Sainsbury's
1205	Fareham Library

3rd Friday 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
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0929	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0935	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0945	Hundred Acres
1007	Hedge End Marks& Spencer
<b>Return:</b>	
1200	Hedge End Marks& Spencer

4 <sup>th</sup> 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
0921	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)
0925	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0929	Soberton Village Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0933	Webbs Green War Memorial
0936	Soberton Heath Chapel Road pond
0938	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
0940	Newtown Rookesbury Hall (PARK & RIDE)
0957	Waterlooville Waitrose
1005	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
<b>Return:</b>	
1200	Waterlooville Sainsbury's
1205	Waterlooville Waitrose

1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Each Month to WINCHESTER	
0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)
0904	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0909	Droxford Square (PARK and RIDE)
0915	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0919	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0921	Exton The Shoe PH
0926	Warnford Village Hall
0946	Winchester Broadway
0953	River Park Leisure Centre
<b>Return:</b>	
1155	River Park Leisure Centre
1200	Winchester Broadway

Leave	Wednesdays to PETERSFIELD		Return
0900	Soberton Village Hall (PARK and RIDE)	Petersfield Tesco	1155
0904	Brockbridge (The Hurdles)	Petersfield Sq	1200
0909	Droxford Square (PARK & RIDE)	Warnford George and Falcon	1221*
0916	Meonstoke Pound Cottages	Corhampton	1224*
0921	Corhampton	Pound Cottages	1229*
0924	Warnford George and Falcon	Droxford square	1236*
0945	Petersfield Square	Brockbridge ( The Hurdles)	1301*
0950	Petersfield Tesco	Soberton Village Hall	1305*
<i>Note: Includes all request stops up to and including West lodge (Church lane)</i>		<i>* Drop off only and approx dependent on passenger numbers.</i>	

No service on other days or Public holidays. £5 return, £2.50 single any journey. Bus passes accepted . Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free.  
Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion. Timings are strict, bus will not wait after scheduled time.  
All enquiries to : mvcba1985@gmail.com ☎07300 425305

## Musical delights at West Meon

There will be plenty of musical treats in store this year at the 14th annual West Meon Music Festival (12th - 15th September) with an award-winning pianist, a group of world-renowned baroque musicians, and two of the UK's most-talented young string players joining the Primrose Piano Quartet for eight concerts over the four days.



Highlights from the festival include piano quartets by Mozart, Schumann and Brahms as well as a rarely-performed piano sextet by Sergei Lyapunov, when the quartet will be joined by double bassist Will Duerden and violinist Tom Aldren.

While most concerts are held at West Meon's St John the Evangelist Church, the festival also extends elsewhere into the Meon Valley. Cutting edge baroque quartet Red Priest (named after the original "red priest" – Antonio Vivaldi) will be bringing their unique style of high-energy performances and theatrical presentation to East Meon church on Saturday 14th September. "Truly Madly Baroque" will explore themes of love, joy and madness. Later in the day the lovely 12th century Church of Our Lady in Warnford is home to a recital by the Primrose's string players of works by Purcell and Mozart.

On Sunday morning (15th September) Lithuanian pianist Gabrielė Sutkutė will be performing works by Rameau, Brahms, Debussy and Prokofiev in West Meon, while that afternoon's festival finale sees the Primrose Piano Quartet focussing on "German Romantics" with works by Felix Mendelssohn, his sister Fanny, Emilie Mayer and Robert Schumann.

In addition there will be a late-night jazz concert by local band, East of Meon, at West Meon's iconic Thomas Lord pub in aid of Cosham-based The Elizabeth Foundation – the UK's leading charity for pre-school deaf children; the charity uses music as part of its therapy to help them to talk and communicate.

Ticket prices start at £19 and the box office will open at the beginning of June. For full details of all concerts visit [www.westmeonmusic.co.uk](http://www.westmeonmusic.co.uk).

# USEFUL INFORMATION

Any additions or changes, please contact the editor

USEFUL NUMBERS			LOCAL CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS																																						
<b>Good Neighbours Group offers transport to medical appointments</b> (see page 39) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Kate Harvey on 07843 496852</li> <li>❖ Kate Chesters on 07710 716664</li> </ul>			<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Brownies &amp; Guides</b></td> <td>Caroline Rogers</td> <td>01489 877430</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Stitch &amp; Chatter</b></td> <td>Louise McEwen Sandra Henderson</td> <td>01489 877448 01489 877978</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Local History</b></td> <td>Jane Salmon</td> <td>01489 878659</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>C.A.N.S</b></td> <td>Suzanne White</td> <td>07944 010909</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Soberton Utd FC</b></td> <td>Steve Norris</td> <td>07853 292881</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Soberton Players</b></td> <td>Susan Hyland</td> <td>01489 878724</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Table Tennis</b></td> <td>Pete Woodacre Adrian Hunt</td> <td>01489 877768 01489 878141</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Ladies Group</b></td> <td>Liz Whales</td> <td>01489 877712</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sunday Club</b></td> <td>Lucie Jones</td> <td>luciehjones@btinternet.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Conservation Group</b></td> <td>Phil Bergin</td> <td>02392 632551</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sobertots</b></td> <td>Matilda Curtis</td> <td>07411 129303</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Meon Valley Investment Club</b></td> <td>Hugh Pringle</td> <td>02392 632551</td> </tr> </table>			<b>Brownies &amp; Guides</b>	Caroline Rogers	01489 877430	<b>Stitch &amp; Chatter</b>	Louise McEwen Sandra Henderson	01489 877448 01489 877978	<b>Local History</b>	Jane Salmon	01489 878659	<b>C.A.N.S</b>	Suzanne White	07944 010909	<b>Soberton Utd FC</b>	Steve Norris	07853 292881	<b>Soberton Players</b>	Susan Hyland	01489 878724	<b>Table Tennis</b>	Pete Woodacre Adrian Hunt	01489 877768 01489 878141	<b>Ladies Group</b>	Liz Whales	01489 877712	<b>Sunday Club</b>	Lucie Jones	luciehjones@btinternet.com	<b>Conservation Group</b>	Phil Bergin	02392 632551	<b>Sobertots</b>	Matilda Curtis	07411 129303	<b>Meon Valley Investment Club</b>	Hugh Pringle	02392 632551
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<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	Wickham Droxford Denmead Bishops Waltham	01329 833121 01489 877588 02392 239630 01489 892288																																							
<b>CAB Adviceline</b>		0800 144 8848																																							
<b>Carers Helpline</b>		0808 808 7777																																							
<b>Age UK Advice Line</b>		0800 678 1602																																							
National Gas Emergency		0800 111 999																																							
National Power Cut Helpline		105																																							
Portsmouth Water emergency line		02392 477 999																																							
Southern Water emergency line		0330 303 0368																																							
BT has a free Priority Fault Repair Scheme for people who rely on the telephone for health or mobility reasons		0800 800 150																																							
LOCAL FACILITIES			DISTRICT COUNCILLORS																																						
<b>Soberton Village Hall Booking</b>	Katie Flannagan	07850 569548	<b>Central Meon Valley Councillors</b>	Malcolm Wallace Danny Lee Suzanne White	See page 42 for contact details																																				
<a href="mailto:sobertonvillagehall@googlemail.com">sobertonvillagehall@googlemail.com</a> <a href="http://www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk">www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk</a>			<b>County Councillor</b>	Patricia Stallard	02392 251484																																				
<b>Rookesbury Hall Booking</b>	Jenny Doney	01329 834392	SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL <a href="http://www.soberton.org">www.soberton.org</a>																																						
<a href="mailto:Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk">Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk</a>			<b>John Hyland Chairman</b>	chair@soberton.org																																					
<b>Guide Hut Booking</b>	Caroline Rogers	01489 877430	<b>Neil Findlay Vice-Chairman</b>	vicechair@soberton.org																																					
<a href="mailto:guidehutsoberton@gmail.com">guidehutsoberton@gmail.com</a>			<b>David Salmon</b>	Cllrsalmon@soberton.org																																					
CHURCHES			<b>Sam Marland</b>	Cllrmarland@soberton.org																																					
<b>Newtown Church Wardens</b>	Fra Wells	01329 834130	<b>David Cleeve</b>	Cllrcleeve@soberton.org																																					
<b>Soberton Church Wardens</b>	Louise McEwen Malcolm Chapple	01489 877448 01489 877151	<b>Rachel Cole</b>	Cllrcole@soberton.org																																					
<b>PCC Secretary(N)</b>			<b>Jonty Sherwill</b>	Cllrsherwill@soberton.org																																					
<b>PCC Secretary(S)</b>	Norman Chapman	01489 877378	<b>Vicki Weston</b>	Cllrweston@soberton.org																																					
<b>Capt. Of Bells(S)</b>	Caroline Rogers	01489 877430	<b>Paul Henderson</b>	Cllrhenderson@soberton.org																																					
<b>Churchyard Keeper (S)</b>	John Lester	01489 878557	<b>David Buttriss</b>	Cllrbuttriss@soberton.org																																					
<b>Church Safeguarding</b>	Lucie Jones	luciehjones@btinternet.com	<b>John Russell-Smith</b>	cllrrussell-smith@soberton.org																																					
			<b>Clerk and Proper Officer</b>	clerk@soberton.org																																					

Please e-mail copy for the October / November magazine to  
[gill.highcroft@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.highcroft@btinternet.com)

**NEXT COPY DATE - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## From the Archives.....



**Above** - Reg Lawes, Foreman & Forester at the Forest of Bere, overseeing tree felling. Photo mid 20<sup>th</sup> C. Reg was born approx. 1902 according to 1911 census, at Cherry Gardens, Kiln Hill. He spent his working life in Bere Forest, eventually marrying Cissie Cleeve and moving to a forestry cottage, Woodside Cottage, in Liberty Road. He stayed there until his death in 1982. **Below** - Reg and Cissie at Woodside Cottage after his retirement.



(from the Archives of the Soberton & Newtown Local History Society) any additional information is always welcome.  
Please contact [gastons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gastons@hotmail.co.uk) or [petewoodacre@gmail.com](mailto:petewoodacre@gmail.com).