

Soberton & Newtown

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

August - September 2026



The Strummers at Soberton Fete

Photo: Jonty Sherwill

www.sobertonchurch.org.uk

www.newtownchurch.org.uk

Front cover design: Jonty Sherwill

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

For details of Benefice and other local church services, please refer to page 4

Benefice of Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon

The Reverend Liz Quinn, Associate Priest in the Meon Valley Parishes.

Particular focus on the Benefice of Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon.

revliz7@icloud.com 07518 247637

Barn Church

Emma Andersen, leader of Barn Church.

Associate Priest in the Meon Valley Parishes emma.barnchurch@gmail.com

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Roman Catholic Church

St. Martin's Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

Father Mario Toma 02380 612430

Parish Office 02380 273882

18.00 Saturday (First Mass of Sunday)

09:30 Sunday (There are Sunday evening services in Winchester and in Fareham.)

Meon Valley Methodist. All services at 10:30.

Shirrell Heath / Waltham Chase / Bishops Waltham / Swanmore / Hambledon

Soberton and Newtown Church contacts

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Newtown Church Warden	Vacancy	
PCC Secretary	Malcolm Padgett	01329 834684
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Soberton Church Warden	Vacancy	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Wendy Prangnell	Stpc.safeguarding@gmail.com
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Churchyard Keeper	John Lester	01489 878557

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

NEXT COPY DATE - 14th September 2026 (17:00)

Services

The Benefice of Soberton, Newtown & Hambledon

August 2026 September 2026

*Holy Communion is also
celebrated at Soberton at
09:30am every
4th Wednesday (before
coffee and cake)
and at Hambledon every
Wednesday at 09.30.*

*Subject to change,
sometimes at short notice*

August

2 nd	0800	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1000	Holy Communion (Children's Week)	Newtown
	1030	Short Family Service	Hambledon
9 th	1100	Holy Communion and Sunday Club	Soberton
	1100	Holy Communion	Hambledon
16 th	1000	Holy Communion	Newtown
	1100	Morning Worship	Soberton
	1100	Service of the Word	Hambledon
23 rd	1100	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1800	Holy Communion	Soberton
30 th	1100	Benefice HC	Soberton

September

6 th	0800	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1000	Holy Communion	Newtown
	1030	Creation Short Family Service	Hambledon
13 th	1100	Holy Communion and Sunday Club	Soberton
	1100	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1600	Pets Service	Hambledon
20 th	1000	Holy Communion	Newtown
	1100	Morning Worship	Soberton
	1100	Rushmere Farm Barn	Hambledon
27 th	1100	Harvest Festival	Hambledon
	1800	Holy Communion	Soberton
	1830	Harvest Evensong	Hambledon



Barn Church dates for August / September

- ❖ Sunday August 2nd - Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday August 9th- Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday August 16th- Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday August 23rd- Barn Church at the Beach. Baptism Sunday 9:30am, Meon Shores, Hill Head
- ❖ Sunday August 30th- Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday September 6th- Barn Church on the Move - 9:30am Old Winchester Hill Car Park
- ❖ Sunday September 13th- Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday September 20th- 1st Birthday Praise Party with Ishmael, 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut
- ❖ Sunday September 27th- Sunday Service 9:30am Soberton Guide Hut

Foreword from Liz ...

As we are coming into the later summer I am thinking about new beginnings.

Children, young people, university students and students starting vocational training and jobs are preparing for the start of the academic year. Uniforms are being prepared, pencil cases are being replenished, pre-course reading is being done, and cases are being packed. Emotions are up and down as change is happening. Parents and carers have their own feelings too as their 4-plus little ones begin school or their 18-plus leave home for the first time. Adults might be starting new jobs too, or they might be at the beginning of retirement. They might be wondering what the future holds. Is it a time of loss or a time of expectation?

Some of you might be thinking that new beginnings aren't happening for you. Life feels a bit *same old thing*. Perhaps it's worth looking for the small new beginnings that are happening around you. Maybe an autumnal flower has come into bloom; a ray of sunshine has landed next to you; a new person has come to live in your care-home; you've found a new interest or hobby.

Whatever new beginnings you might experience, I wish you well.

And for me, I know that through all the practicalities and emotions of change, I am not alone. The presence of Jesus is always with me, and not only with me, but with each one of you too.

With love and blessings

Liz

A black and white illustration for a Harvest Festival poster. At the top, the words 'HARVEST FESTIVAL' are written in large, bold, block letters with a 3D effect. A straw hat is positioned behind the 'H'. Below this, a wooden sign reads 'at Holy Trinity Newtown'. The central part of the poster features three smiling children: a boy on the left wearing a baseball cap and holding a basket of apples and pumpkins; a girl in the middle wearing a straw hat and holding a basket of corn, grapes, and apples; and a girl on the right holding a basket of corn and apples. They are standing in a field with pumpkins, sunflowers, and stalks of grain. In the background, a church with a tall steeple is visible under a cloudy sky with falling leaves. At the bottom, there are more pumpkins, sunflowers, and a still life with a pitcher, bottles, and glasses. Several banners contain text about the event date, time, and welcome message.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

at Holy Trinity Newtown

Sunday, 04 October

Harvest Celebration Service 10.00am

Drinks in the
Churchyard After!

All Welcome!

A Right Royal Red Day Out – our ACSOs go to the Palace!

Earlier this year, Sarah and I had the great privilege of attending the King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, representing our communities and the work we do. Dressed in our distinctive red, Sarah in a new dress and me in a suit and tie, we set off for what promised to be a very special day.

Before we even arrived, however, disaster nearly struck. Sarah realised that her wallet, which contained her identification as well as bank cards, had gone missing. Without her ID there was a good chance that our eagerly anticipated day at Buckingham Palace would be over before it had even begun.

Thankfully, the story took a happier turn. An honest and thoughtful member of the public had found the wallet and handed it into a bank. We later received a call advising us that it had been located safely. What could have been a major disappointment suddenly became a race against time to recover it and get back to the Palace.

With the immediate crisis averted and our palace visit underway, we were able to relax and enjoy what was a truly wonderful occasion. The gardens were magnificent, providing a peaceful setting for thousands of guests who had gathered from across the country in recognition of their service to communities, emergency services and charitable causes.

We were fortunate enough to see His Majesty The King, Her Majesty The Queen, Princess Anne, and The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh as they met guests and toured the gardens. It was a memorable experience and a real privilege to be part of such a special event.

There was also time to stroll around the beautiful grounds, enjoy refreshments and simply take in the atmosphere. Buckingham Palace is, of course, an iconic location, but it was the warmth of the occasion and the people attending that made the day so memorable.

The adventure was not quite over, however. The following morning there was a signalling fault and there was no trains home for several hours, and what had started as a worrying situation ended with smiles all round when we agreed that we had had all of our luck the day before.

Looking back, what stays with us most is not only the splendour of the Palace or the opportunity to see members of the Royal Family, but also the kindness shown by a complete stranger. Someone took the time to do the right thing, handing in a lost wallet and, in doing so, helped save our day.

At a time when we often hear stories of division and mistrust, it was a timely reminder that community spirit is alive and well. Whether it is volunteering in a village, helping a neighbour, or simply taking the trouble to return a lost wallet, small acts of kindness can make an enormous difference. Our day at Buckingham Palace was certainly memorable, but it was that simple act of honesty and goodwill that perhaps best reflected the very values the occasion was there to celebrate.



ACSO Gary McCulloch



Soberton Strummers on the front cover!

Soberton Strummers Ukulele Club has been going since the beginning of 2014, when it had its first ever “jam” at The White Lion pub on Monday, 13 January,

It all started in 2012, when I was living in Taunton and discovered Taunton Ukulele Strummers Club (TUSC) and was totally captivated by the “tiny guitar”. On my return to Soberton at the end of 2013, I was intent on finding a local ukulele club, where I could continue to enjoy my new passion. Discovering that no local club existed, I realised I needed to find a venue and have a go at starting up my own (which terrified me!). I had a word with Allan Marks, the landlord of The White Lion, and he very kindly agreed to let me use his back room on Monday evenings. I then had to find club members! I therefore put out a call for ukulele players, “from beginners to rock stars”, via local parish magazines – and 26 of them turned up for that first club night in January 2014!

Twelve years on and we’re still together and “gigging” regularly, with many of our original members continuing with us. Our age range starts with our youngest member, aged 9, right up to the youngsters in their eighties! We enjoy a real team spirit and have a lot of fun together: we have our annual Birthday Bash in January, when we have an open mic night for our members to display their diverse musical talents; an annual barbecue; and we also enjoy pizza nights at The Buck’s Head, which are (of course!) topped off with a good old sing song with our ukes!

You may be surprised to learn that we don’t play George Formby songs! Instead, we play an eclectic mix of pop songs from every decade up to the present and are constantly adding new songs to our repertoire.

Since our first Soberton Fete in June 2014, we have played there every year since, apart from in 2020. We play around 25 gigs a year – fetes, flower shows, Rotary Club events, WI meetings, care homes, birthday parties, and anything else that pops up!

We now meet every Monday at The Black Dog pub in Waltham Chase, where we sing, play, have a drink and lots of banter from 7pm to 9pm.

The ukulele is surprisingly easy to learn, as it only has four strings to match your four fingers! Learn two or three chords and you are ready to play hundreds of songs!

New members (from beginners to rock stars!), are always given a warm welcome so, if you fancy giving us a go, get your ukulele and come along one Monday evening! We very much look forward to seeing you! Alternatively, why not just come along to The Black Dog and enjoy a drink, whilst listening to us and singing along?



Do email us at ssuc@veryhappy.co.uk for more information.

Beverly Lambert

Rookesbury Hall – dates for your diary!

Saturday 7th November - murder mystery supper evening
Saturday 28th November - Makers Market



The Guide Hut Committee invite you to a

BEETLE DRIVE!



Fun for all the family!



FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026
6.00 – 8.00 PM



ROOKESBURY HALL
Church Road, Newtown



£7.50

Includes



Hot Dog
(with proper sausages!)



Cake

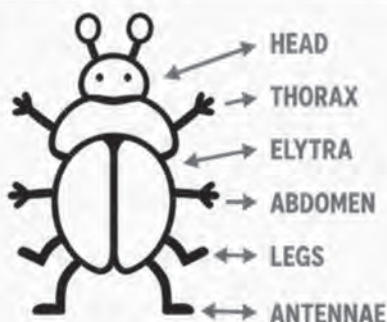


A glass of
wine, beer
or soft drink

NEVER PLAYED BEETLE?

It's easy and loads of fun!

- You take turns rolling the dice to build your own beetle!
- Each number you roll lets you draw a different beetle part.
- Be the first to finish and shout "Beetle!" to win the round.



**SUITABLE
FOR ALL AGES
4-104!**

**PRIZES
TO BE WON!**

LOTS OF GIGGLES,
QUICK ROUNDS!

★ ALL THE RULES WILL BE EXPLAINED BEFOREHAND – NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED! ★

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:



Caroline Barfoot on
07736 714565

OR



email
guidehutsoberton@gmail.com

★ ALL PROCEEDS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE GUIDE HUT ★

Fancy bell ringing? Hear from Christian, the newest ringer at Soberton

As Soberton's newest ringer, having commenced ringing in June 2024, my journey is only just getting underway. Yet in such a small amount of time, I have achieved so much personally.

Church bell ringing was something I had wanted to start for many years, yet unsure how to begin. After contacting the tower captain at St Peter's, I was invited to a practice night. I was able to have a go at the basics and decided it was something I would pursue.

Practice at Soberton was only once a month, so I was put in contact with another local tower to learn to handle a bell and commence my journey to ringing on a more regular basis.

I quickly learned the correct way to handle a bell and was able to partake in regular Sunday ringing by August. It became apparent to me that there was more to what we hear than just ringing a bell, methods, quarter peals, peals, and much more. Yet as daunting as it first felt, progress just seems to naturally follow as you achieve each new challenge.

Christmas Eve 2024, I rang in my first quarter peal, which involved ringing for 42 minutes continuously. I've now rung in my 10th quarter peal, and find they are an enjoyable occasion and allow you to understand the methods rung better.

The next challenge is ringing a peal, which averages at 3 hours without stopping. I was privileged in March this year to be asked to attempt a peal welcoming the New Priest in Charge to the Meon Valley parishes. The attempt was successful, and completed in 2 hours 44, rung on six bells at Swanmore. This band included 3 of us achieving our first peal.

If you enjoy hearing our church bells, and fancy giving it a go, come along on a Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:00 pm (1st&3rd Tuesday of each month). We're a friendly bunch, and recruits would be most welcome to ensure our bells continue to ring out across our village, of which 2 have done so for almost 500 years!

Christian Underwood
Soberton's newest bell ringer
For information- sobertonringers@gmail.com



Christian and the team

Soberton & Newtown Ladies Group

In July a group of us visited the garden of the Thatched Cottage in Upper Farringdon. A visit made interesting by the garden's association with Alan Titchmarsh.

We start our new programme on Wednesday 2nd September with Janet McKenzie talking to us about 'The Joy of Bees'. The venue is the Church Room at St Peter's Soberton. Please note the start time of **7.30pm**. Start times may vary this year depending on the venue.

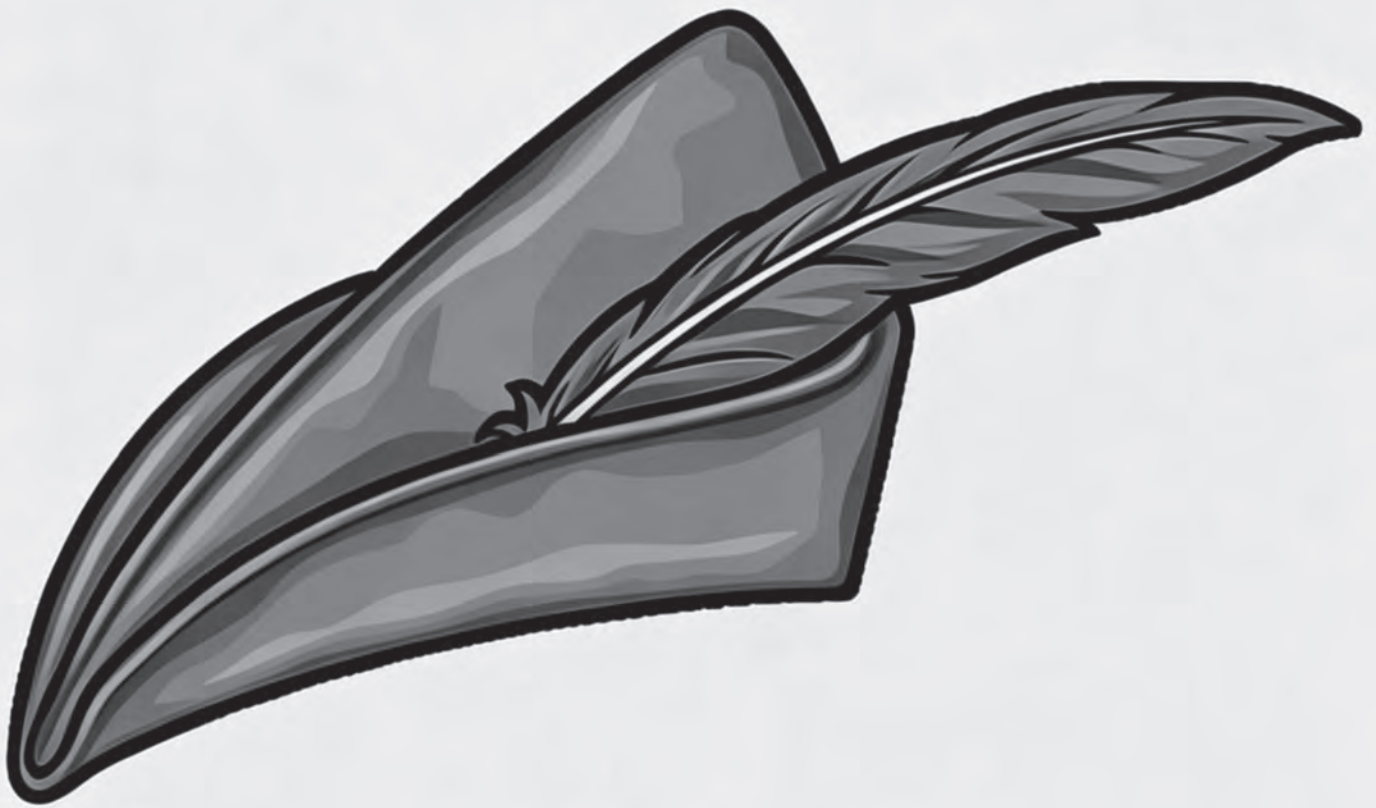
We are a group who meet monthly for talks on a variety of topics plus social gatherings. It is a good way for ladies from both villages to connect. New members are always welcome.

Helen Stranks	01489 878270	helen.stranks@btopenworld.com
Liz Whales (Secretary)	01489 877712	lizwhales@aol.com

Robin Hood - the panto

Thurs 26th - Sat 28th Nov, 2026

Soberton Village Hall



**Tickets on Sale September
2026**

For more information, go to www.sobertonplayers.co.uk

Organised?
Enjoy being part of a good team?
Want to get involved locally, but not 24/7?!

The Soberton and Newtown Parish Magazine is looking for a volunteer secretary to join our friendly committee.

If you would like to be part of our great parish magazine,
we would love to hear from you!

Time commitment – one or two meetings per year including AGM –
organise, agenda, minutes etc. Organise a helpers thank you reception
every few years. Yes, that is it, honest!

If you are interested, please contact the Gill the editor on
07711 058760 / email gill.highcroft@btinternet.com. Thank you!

MEON VALLEY QUILTERS

Meon Valley Quilters meet in Waltham Chase village Hall on the second Saturday of each month, and we have over one hundred members. And in this our 25th Anniversary year, we are holding an Exhibition of our members' work over the weekend of:

17th and 18th October 2026

at Rookesbury Park, Southwick Road, Wickham PO17 6HT.

The Exhibition will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday

Admission £5, members, and children free. There is disabled access and free parking.

Cushion Raffle, Various Sales tables, including Bags, Books and Craft items made by members. And there will be two local traders with fabric and haberdashery items for sale.

Refreshments will be available all day.

And not to forget there will be many beautiful quilts and wall hangings to see.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Soberton & Newtown Local History Society

The History Society's summer programme of visits is behind us, with a guided tour of Titchfield Abbey on a rainy June day and a successful and interesting visit to Amberley Museum in West Sussex on a baking day in July! We have a break in August and restart our programme of talks in September.



The first talk of this autumn will be by Ann Pendred, our President and a founder of the Society. She will talk to us about "Hundred Acres and the Garnier Family". Given Ann's extensive knowledge of the local area, this will no doubt be an informative and interesting talk, where we will all learn something new!

Looking ahead, our October talk will be given by Geoff Watts and will be on "William Cobbett's Botley"

Hundred Acres and the Garnier Family – Ann Pendred

Thursday 10th September

Rookesbury Hall, Church Road 7.30pm

Visitors always welcome £2

Children's Sunday Club

Second Sunday of each month 11am – 12 noon

Please join us for fun, learning and friendship.

All children welcome, any age!

Governors at Droxford Junior School

We are needing governors at the school. They play an important, diligent role in school life and support accountability. Volunteers do not have to be parents as we have a large percentage of the governing body represented by parents. If you know of anyone who would be interested in working with the school and the Trust please get them to contact me via the school office. *Matthew Dampier, Headteacher*



Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully.

Droxford Junior School is a beautiful rural school that is nestled into the hills of the South Downs National Park. The school has been in the village since the mid 1800's.

We are one of the only three Ambassador schools in the South Downs National Park and are proud to work closely with the Authority.

In February 2024, we proudly retained our outstanding judgement through the Ofsted process and in November 2025 we joined the University of Winchester Academy Trust family of schools opening the doors to further opportunities for all our pupils and staff.

This is an exciting time for our school and we value the strong community and business links we have developed. Our wonderful Friends Of Droxford team dedicate their time to excellent fundraising activities. Our Governors are knowledgeable and experienced in supporting and challenging the school to be better, as well as compliant to statutory obligations.

Come and join us!

If you are a parent of a child beginning their education journey, moving into the area or simply seeking an outstanding education for your child, come and visit us and experience the unique qualities Droxford Junior School has to offer.

Are you a local business person who has skills, resources or experience to offer us? We would love to hear from you too! Be involved in our future plans - you will not be disappointed.

Please call 01489 877537 or email: adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk



Droxford Junior School ... a day at Goodwood!

The Drox – STEM club

Wow! What a season! Culminating in an awesome final day at Goodwood Race Circuit. Competing against over 100 other cars from the country (and one from Australia!) our merry band of focussed children, parents and extended family represented the school admirably and excelled on the day.

Lots of team spirit from all involved – collaboration; tenacity; creativity; sportsmanship, respect; kindness and responsibility. Amazing end to one of the best clubs ever. Thanks parents – we and you know who you are – on behalf of the school I am very grateful as you know. The cars looked amazing; were driven well and were in tip top condition. We've won a few trophies this year and for the first time collected third overall for our portfolio – a huge achievement all round!



Julia Lovejoy-Page

You may well know the incredibly dedicated, kind, caring and supportive Julia who crosses everyone safely, over the A32 at the bottom of the lane. She has been an integral member of the school and village community for a considerable time. In fact, I've been tipped off it's been 20 years this term! We cannot thank her enough. She is wonderful. When you see her next please wish her well and say something appreciative. Thank you.

And finally, thank you to everyone with their support and patience this year. Especially in the heat, which I feel we managed well and supported all. Good luck to Miss Jones and Miss Barnett who are expanding their worlds' with new born children on the way. We wish them well and know we will see them again soon.

The children have worked hard all year and now deserve that summer break we all crave. Some will return: the others we wish all the very best in Year 7 and at their new schools. We are sure you will do amazingly well – be happy and kind!

Thank you again parents and governors for your endless support throughout the year. Staff – you are all wonderful – I know you have given it your all again! You are all incredible, talented and dedicated. Enjoy the well earned break!

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

POP IN FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

at ST PETER'S CHURCH ROOM, SOBERTON

POP IN FOR COFFEE & CAKE ON THE 2nd & 4th WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH
10am – noon

MEET FRIENDS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE A CHAT!



Community Spirit Shines at the Newtown Church Fete

Saturday 23 May 2026

As a newcomer to the area, I was unsure what to expect when I agreed to accompany my grandson, Freddie, to the Newtown Church Fete. Naively, I imagined a quiet field with a handful of stalls, cream teas and perhaps a glass of Pimms if I was lucky. How wrong I was! The extravaganza that greeted us on Saturday surpassed every church fete I have ever attended – and what a delight it proved to be. The glorious weather certainly helped. On the hottest day of the year so far, visitors streamed through the gates from near and far, eager to experience what must surely be one of the finest village fetes in the area. At the entrance, guests were welcomed by the lively sounds of the Swanmore College Jazz Band, alongside a cheerful display of classic Minis and MGs.



The fete was officially opened at 2.00pm by Commander Charles Wylie RN (92), a truly remarkable nonagenarian. Freddie's first duty of the afternoon, together with his Year R friend Albert from Newtown Soberton Infant School, was to present Commander Wylie with a teddy bear and a commemorative glass tankard from the Spinnaker Tower. The gift recognised his courageous charity abseil of more than 100 metres down the tower last year in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK, a cause especially close to his heart as his wife, Jean, lives with the disease.

This extraordinary achievement followed an earlier fundraising challenge in 2024, when he rowed across Portsmouth Harbour, seventy years after serving in the Royal Navy during the Korean War. In 2023, to celebrate his 90th birthday, Commander Wylie also completed a tandem parachute jump with The Red Devils in Wiltshire. We were truly honoured to meet such an inspiring gentleman.

Freddie had another important role later in the afternoon, so we spent some time exploring the many attractions the fete had to offer while searching for stickers for the children's treasure hunt. There was face painting, a white elephant stall, an enormous bouncy castle, a coconut shy, the opportunity to explore the Droxford fire engine, a pet farm, 'Smash the Rat', and a sweetie stall, to name just a few.

Entertainment throughout the afternoon included the Victory Brass Band, providing a wonderful selection of uplifting tunes; the Soberton Strummers, showcasing the joyful sound of ukuleles at their very best; a lively dog agility display, with the goats proving especially entertaining; and the ever-popular Sing and Tonic choir, who had the audience singing along.

There were also plenty of delicious refreshments to enjoy, from chocolate treats and ice creams to water, beer and Pimms, ensuring everyone stayed refreshed in the warm sunshine.

At 3.00pm, we returned to the main lawn where Freddie, together with his teachers and classmates, danced enthusiastically through two traditional country dances. Their energy and enthusiasm delighted the crowd and provided a perfect snapshot of the warm community spirit that made the entire afternoon so memorable.

The Big Auction followed, expertly conducted by auctioneer Charlie Oulton. A wide range of enticing lots was on offer, including a hosted tour of the House of Lords, a Boom Trike ride through the Meon Valley, and a beekeeping discovery session.

The success of the fete is due to the efforts of many people. Special thanks must go to Sue and Francis Wells, who have so generously opened the gardens and fields of Meonwood year after year to host this wonderful event. Thanks are also due to Malcolm Padgett for his clear announcements and for keeping everyone informed of the afternoon's activities, and to the dedicated fete committee and volunteers whose hard work ensures the event runs so smoothly.

The proceeds from the fete will help support Holy Trinity Church and its beautiful Peace Garden, while also enabling significant donations to local charities and good causes. Judging by the smiles on faces young and old throughout the afternoon, this year's fete was another outstanding success and a wonderful celebration of community life in Newtown.

Karen Parsons

Newtown Church Fete 2026 – our thanks!

To all those who gave generously of donations, prizes, their talents, their time and their goodwill ... a big thank you from the Fete Team!

* Welborne Garden Village * Mark Oliver Plumbing and Heating * Southern Structures
* TRACO * Saje UPVC Ltd * Byrne & Co Estate Agents * Meon Valley Lions Club *
Holmcote Estates & Rob Parker * Meon Valley Butchers * The Bold Forester *
McCarthy's Fruit & Veg * Neals Nursery * Morvoren Beauty * Barfoots Farms *
Gaudions Hairdressing * Imogen and Douglas Lyndon-Skeggs * * The Scotts * Meon
Springs * Fareham Live * The Shoe, Exton * The Milbury at Beauworth * Krishna's @
The Roebuck Inn * Jeremy Martin * Lord Ben Stoneham * Chris and Jackie Daniells *
Alan Marler * Mud Island * Sue & Fra Wells * 3rd Portchester Scouts – the Livingstone
Troop * Hambledon Vineyard * Quob Park Estate * Merringtons Premier * Garsons *
Angus McCullough * Dr Richard Osmond * Birch Tree Yoga * Sainsbury's Broadcut *
Coop Wickham * * Soberton Strummers * RBL Victory Brass Band * Swanmore
College Jazz Band * * Droxford Fire Crew * The children of Soberton Newtown Infant
School * Sing and Tonic * All our tractor, bike and car exhibitors * The Victory Dog
Training Club * Hannah Makin and Alisdair Skelley for parking access * Pump House
Auctions * Boarhunt Garage, Daren Gamblin, David Cleeve & John Haskins for providing
transport * St John's Ambulance * ACSO Gary McCulloch & CSO Sarah * Sam
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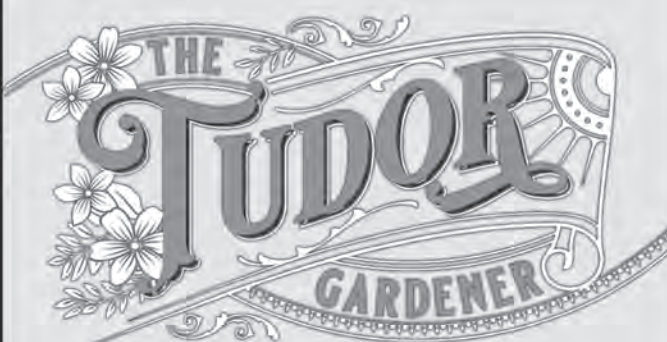
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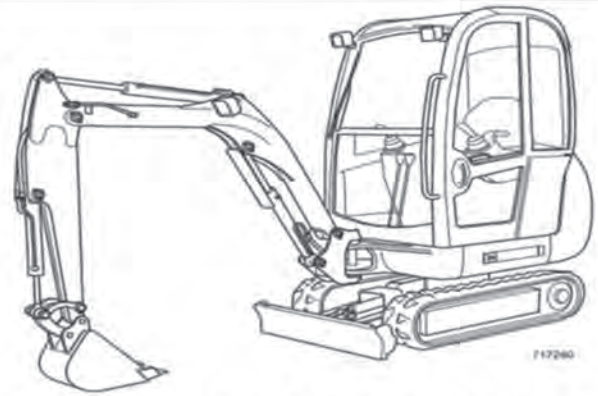
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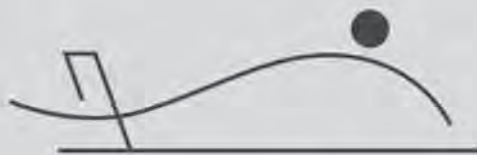
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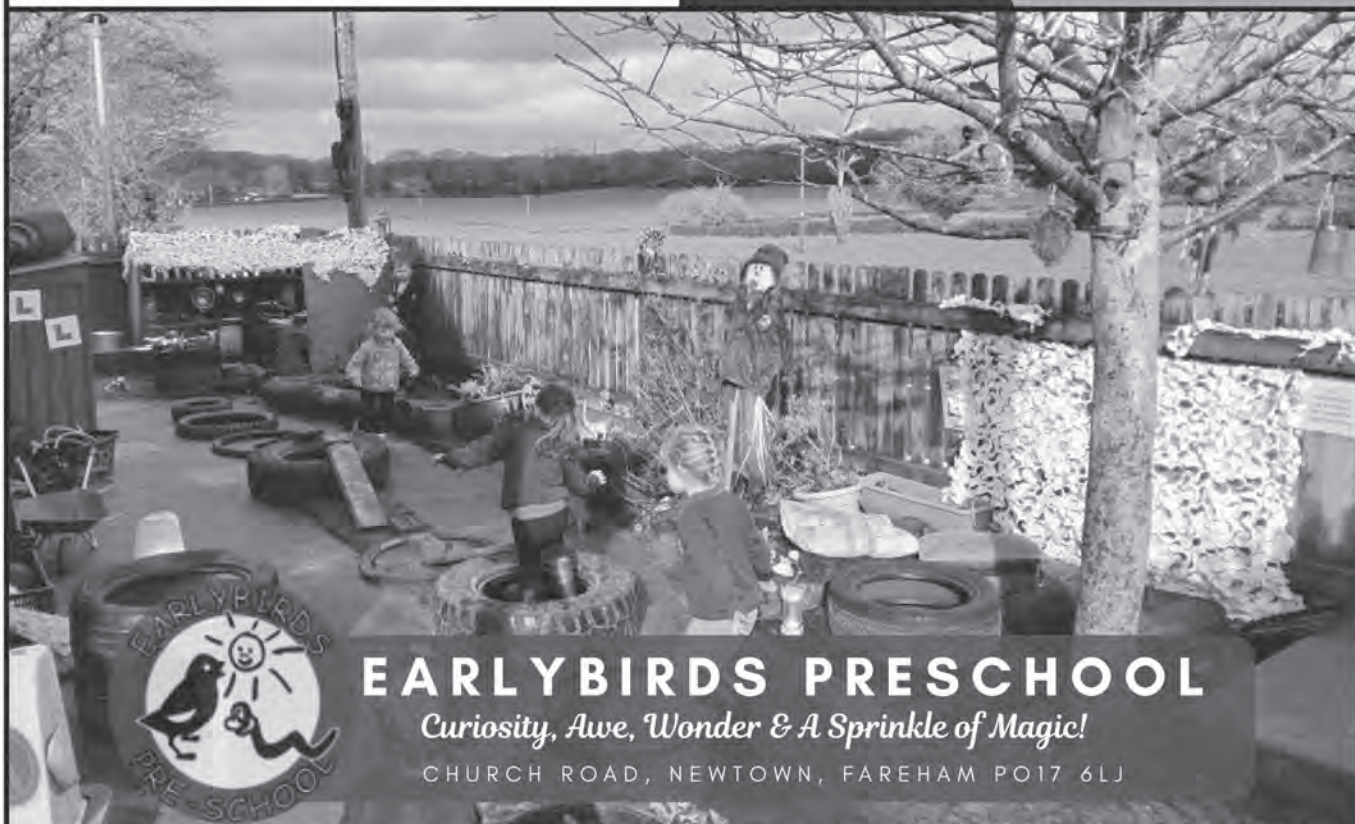
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Kate Harvey on 07843 496 852

Kate Chesters on 07710 716 664



www.soberton-pc.gov.uk

What's on

Month	Date/day	Event / group	Time	Details
August	4 th	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	See below
	4 th and 18 th	Soberton Ringers	19:30	Page 9
	9 th	Children's Sunday Club	11:00	Page 12
	12 th and 26 th	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 13
	28 th	Meet&Eat	12:30	See below
September	1 st	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	See below
	1 st	U3A	14:00	Page 45
	1 st and 15 th	Soberton Ringers	19:30	Page 9
	2 nd	Soberton and Newtown Ladies' Group	19:30	Page 9
	7 th	RBL - Droxford & District Branch	19:00	Page 36
	9 th and 23 rd	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 13
	10 th	Local History Society	19:30	Page 12
	13 th	Children's Sunday Club	11:00	Page 12
	14 th	COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER / NOVEMBER	17:00	-
	15 th	U3A	14:00	Page 45
	25 th	Meet&Eat	12:30	See below
	30 th	Soberton PC oo-opted councillor applications close	-	Page 42
Hold the date	4 th Oct	Harvest Festival - Holy Trinity, Newtown	10:00	Page 5
	17 th / 18 th Oct	Meon Valley Quilters exhibition	10:00	Page 11
	7 th Nov	Murder Mystery at Rookesbury Hall	-	Page 7
	13 th Nov	Beetle Drive	18:00	Page 8
	26 th - 28 th Nov	Soberton Players ... Robin Hood - the panto	-	Page 10
	28 th Nov	Makers Market at Rookesbury Hall	-	Page 7
	29 th May 2027	Newtown Church Fete 2027	-	-



During August, some clubs / societies / activities stop until September.

If you are unsure, please check before going.

CONTACT NUMBERS – LOCAL CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

BROWNIES	SobertonNewtownBrownies@gmail.com	
GUIDES	SobertonNewtownGuides@gmail.com	
STITCH & CHATTER	Sandra Henderson	01489 877978
	Liz Whales	01489 877712
LOCAL HISTORY	Lyndon Palmer	07881 991763
SOBERTON PLAYERS	Susan Hyland	01489 878724
TABLE TENNIS	Pete Woodacre	01489 877768
	Adrian Hunt	01489 878141
LADIES GROUP	Liz Whales	01489 877712
CONSERVATION GROUP	Phil Bergin	02392 632551
MEET&EAT	Sue Musselwhite	sue@poppyhill.net

Local History ... some notable Women of Soberton Past

Not too many women appear in the annals of Soberton Past mainly because for so long they were "the property" of their father until they married then they became part of the husband's "property". Therefore, it is mainly as a widow that they are remembered or are written into history.

One of the earliest examples in Soberton is Elizabeth Newport who we would only have come across as John Newport's wife had she died before her husband but as a widow was a person with property. Her will suggests she was very much part of the Soberton community. Her husband John's family held the manor of Soberton and Flexland from 1409 when it leased to a Richard Newport alias Spicer by Beaulieu Abbey for 200 years. We do not know the size of the manor, or estate, but assume the main manor was the area around the Church with the river forming it's western boundary. Flexland is most likely the area to the south perhaps around the now High Street area, a specific meadow called Benested (St. Clairs) is mentioned in the lease.

How much time John's ancestors spent in Soberton is not known as they had business to attend to in London and elsewhere but Richard's will states that if he died in the County of Southampton he was to be buried at Soberton and arrangements made for masses to be said for his soul.

Elizabeth's husband John was either 4th or 5th generation and he died circa 1521. It would appear that John and Elizabeth spent the latter part of their lives at the Manor House perhaps watching the alterations to the church and the rebuilding of the Church tower just across the Church meadow. The two oldest bells are inscribed with the names of John and Elizabeth. From John's will we know he wanted to be buried in the Lady Chapel where the Newport tomb still stands. The will, witnessed by Arthur Plantagenet, mentions a Leonard Wayte and the daughters of William Uvedake of Wickham shows that they had strong local connections. Five years later Elizabeth's will shows her close connection with people who worked for her. Fifty sheep and two kine were left to Soberton Church and twenty sheep to her shepherd and he also received a bed " and its appurtenances". Her servant Alice White got twelve of the one hundred and seventy four sheep to be distributed and a coverlet for her bed.

John and Elizabeth had no children and the heirs were either under age or perhaps not fit to take over so the manor was leased to Arthur Plantagenet, now Lord Lisle, and his new wife Honor. Known details suggest they were opposites, Arthur tall and handsome (similar in build to his half sister's son Henry VIII) and very easy going maybe because in his early years he had been brought up at court as Edward IV's illegitimate son. Honor, on the other hand, was extremely active, "a busy body" probably a little on the plump side after bearing seven children. Honor was not as well educated as Arthur but knew all the details of his estate and of her own in the west country. It is clear that if any one wanted anything of Arthur they also approached Honor because she was the one to get things moving. Her few years at Soberton were extremely busy with a large household. Arthur had three daughters by his first marriage, she had the seven Bassett children plus at least one of her previous husband's daughters, Jane Bassett. Honor's letters and "gifts" to influential people show how hard she worked to get the children settled and her Bassett daughters to Court.

They left Soberton when Arthur took up the position of "Governor" of Calais in 1533 but for a time he retained the Soberton estate. Honor was probably the one who organised the family, who should go to France and making provision for the younger children to be educated. This reorganisation introduces us to two other interesting females, Jane Bassett and Arthur's youngest daughter, Bridget.

Jane Bassett is left behind in Soberton to clear up the household and she has to make an inventory of everything down to the last table napkin. When at last she is able to start her journey back to Devon there is no horse available, finally she is helped by the priest at Droxford. Even then her trunk presents a problem and she has to leave her stepmother's "Big Book" behind. Perhaps no accident as one of the Lisle servants did not think she should have it. One gets the impression of a rather sour personality and wonders how she got on with Arthur.

Bridget was about eight when her father was appointed to the post in Calais and she was sent to be educated at Nunnaminster in Winchester and the two youngest Bassett boys were sent to Hyde Abbey. Letters report that initially Bridget was

happy there but things did not fare well, she appears to be lacking in clothes as she is growing so quickly. Poor Bridget seems to be overlooked until she is finally removed to Sir Anthony Windsor's for a weeks 'sport' presumably at Soberton and she does not return to the abbey. However by the time her father is accused of treason in 1540 Bridget is in Calais and not entirely free from suspicion. Arthur was sent to the Tower and all his correspondence ceased by the state. Hence, we know so much about the family. Henry appears loathe to have his elderly uncle tried and in the end sends a ring to pardon him, most likely delivered by 'his secretary', Thomas Wriothesley.

Soon after the Newport affairs were sorted out Soberton Manor was sold to Thomas Wriothesley who had acquired Titchfield and Beaulieu Abbey at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. Titchfield Abbey had then become his home. Hoo Manor in Soberton had been granted to Thomas Knight who was married to Thomas Wriothesley's

sister Anne. Their children appear in Soberton parish registers. Thoms Knight died about 1548 and in 1549 his widow married Sir Olyver Lawrence who owned Wallops Wood as well as property in Dorset.

The impression is that the Lady Anne had been living at Soberton Manor and after their marriage Sir Oliver settled in Soberton. Sir Oliver's character is not remembered in a positive manner. He had "shown himself capable of behaving in a high handed manner which led to a number of law suits". A "very greedy and avaricious man" thought the tenants of his estate

in Broadwinsor, Dorset. However Lady Anne appears as a gentle character and interested in the community around her. She stands sponsor (Godmother) to several Sobeerton children at their baptism. It is also recorded that in 1606 she gave the rent from a certain piece of land to fifteen or sixteen poor people in Soberton. A very popular lady.



WINCHESTER HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2026

11th - 20th September 2026

Winchester Heritage Open Days Festival returns from 11 to 20 September 2026 with a programme of free events celebrating the theme Everyday Histories.

Taking place across Winchester and Hampshire, the festival brings together local organisations, community groups, museums, artists and volunteers to share the stories that have shaped the region. Through talks, workshops, guided walks, exhibitions and family activities, visitors will be encouraged to

explore the lives and experiences of ordinary people throughout history.

This year's programme includes talks on First World War tank drivers and the everyday lives of queens, poetry workshops inspired by local stories, living history experiences with Hampshire Regiment re-enactors, and opportunities to discover the people behind historic businesses such as P&G Wells.

Alongside the themed events, visitors can enjoy vintage King Alfred Bus rides, guided heritage walks, special access to historic sites and a variety of cultural experiences designed for all ages.

Now in its eleventh year, Winchester Heritage Open Days is one of the region's largest celebrations of heritage and culture. Last year, more than 35,000 visits were recorded across over 200 events throughout Hampshire.

Visitors can explore the programme now, with even more events and experiences to be announced over the coming months.



THALES WATCHKEEPER WK450

On Monday 7th September 2026, Colonel Ben Ingham, Royal Artillery will present '*Remotely Operated Aerial Systems – Battlefield drones in modern warfare*'. Proceedings will start at 1900 in Droxford Village Hall with a cash bar available from 1830. Supper (£17.50 per head payable in cash on the night) will be available for those who book in advance at robmunroscott@aol.com. Non-members are very welcome to attend.

The idea of remotely operated systems is as old as warfare itself: from Elizabethan fire ships to unmanned dirigibles and pilotless aircraft in the Great War; from mines and torpedoes to World War 2 flying bombs (V1s) and modern guided missiles. Today, the British Army uses uncrewed aerial systems to improve battlefield awareness, conduct reconnaissance, support

targeting, and reduce risk to personnel. Systems range from small, portable drones used by tactical units to longer-range platforms at brigade level and above.

Compared to modern combat aircraft and guided missiles, drones are cheap, quick and simple to manufacture, and can be deployed in large numbers. They can be recovered but, if lost in action, letters of condolence do not have to be written to next-of-kin. Ukraine has demonstrated how small, weaker nations can dominate the battlefield and inflict major damage on enemy strategic installations; in particular, the Russian Black Sea Fleet has suffered disproportionate losses inflicted remotely by a nation without a proper navy. This in turn has accelerated UK defence interest in drones with emphasis on intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, logistics, electronic warfare, and counter-drone warfare but increasingly as a means of delivering kinetic lethality in and beyond the battlefield. Their future was reaffirmed in the recent Defence Investment Plan.

Widespread use of drones has made the battlefield more transparent and dangerous. Troops, vehicles, artillery, and supply convoys are more likely to be detected quickly, reducing the enemy's ability to manoeuvre large formations. It remains to be seen whether increased vulnerability will make main battle tanks and other expensive military hardware less viable. Low-cost drones have allowed Ukraine to compensate for shortages in munitions, aircraft, and manpower. By combining drones with digital targeting systems and rapid feedback from frontline units, Ukrainian forces have increased speed from detection to strike. In 2025, of over 800,000 drone missions, nearly 240,000 targeted enemy personnel; 62,000 light vehicles and 29,000 heavy vehicles were struck together with 32,000 counter strikes against unmanned aerial vehicles used by the Russians. Remotely operated aerial systems are now central to how the British Army observes, understands, and influences the battlefield. Their value lies not only in the vehicles themselves, but in how quickly their information is shared and acted upon. As drone warfare continues to evolve, the Army's advantage will depend on fielding systems at pace, training operators effectively, integrating data into command networks, and protecting forces from hostile uncrewed systems.

Colonel Benjamin Ingham was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1997, serving within general and close support facing units during his career. At staff level he has worked at 3 Division HQ, HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and Army HQ. Operational deployments have included Northern Ireland 1998, Falkland Islands 2000, Afghanistan 2002, Iraq 2003 and thereafter numerous tours of Iraq and Afghanistan in various command and staff assignments. His last tour of duty was in Kosovo, where he was assigned as Director of the Joint Operations Centre. He is currently working as the Assistant Head Adaptation within the Joint Aviation Command Headquarters.



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.

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

NEXT COPY DATE - 14th September 2026 (17:00)

In your garden ... no short cuts

It was the summer of 1976, the grass was brown and any available water was used for drinking, cooking and (for some) washing. This was an exceptional period of time – I'm reliably informed! I fear it may soon be the norm.

In the beautiful sunny South Downs or the Meon Valley to be more precise, we have a fruity concoction of chalk hills, strong breezes (I can see Portsdown Hill from more than one customer's garden) as well as temperatures that would make a Londoner raise a glass of Bolly in acknowledgement.



Grass is a staple of most English gardens and is a great place to have a picnic, play a game of badminton or set up a paddling pool. It is, however, a fussy little devil and will quickly turn brown and dusty in hot weather, just when you want it most. For lawns that have little to no shade it is suggested to keep them as long as your highest setting on the mower to give them as much shade from the sun as possible. It is not the air temperature that affects the grass so much as the soil temperature, and if it has been baking all day to the point that it goes over 25 degrees Celsius then root growth will stop and over 32 degrees Celsius means that shoot growth stops. These are both contributing factors to heat stress.

Do not mow in the afternoon, most mowers have black tyres (rubber or plastic) and can quickly heat up to the point that they physically burn the grass.

The other short cut is in ALL other aspects of gardening that I have undertaken. I can buy newer, fancier tools and they will reduce the time it takes to do a job. Experience is also a huge factor in how efficiently I can complete a task. Not to mention the knowledge of what each plant/situation requires so that I can prioritise the most important and time sensitive jobs first. With all this said – there are no short cuts!

If you are implementing a new border and it contains nettles, brambles, ground elder etc and you clear it with a strimmer, a little bit of hoeing and then plant, bark mulch, water and wait – you will quickly be greeted with plenty of work for you or your gardener for months/years to come. It does take time, it does take effort but ultimately you are reducing, not eliminating, the weeding for future you.

I see this most clearly with compost. Yes, he is harking on about compost again! If you take the time to shred or use your secateurs to cut into 1 inch or smaller pieces every time you add to your compost, you will eventually have compost that is easy to fork into a barrow and spread freely around the borders without pulling out 6ft lengths of Buddleia that you threw in because Downton Abbey reruns were on telly and you didn't want to miss the start.

Be kind to future you in the garden - little and often is always the path I wish I had trodden.

The Tudor Gardener

Fresh air, exercise and open space!

What more could you wish for? Gardening, maybe!

All yours and on your doorstep. And free, too!

What's the catch I can hear you say. Well, the catch is you would be helping your local church, Holy Trinity in Newtown, maintain the lovely gardens that surround the church including the Peace Garden and Garden of Healing. Help to keep them looking lovely all year round to be enjoyed by the visitors to the church and gardens.

No commitment necessary just call in as and when you can spare some time.

No experience necessary as you would be helped along the way.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Alan Marler on 07909 545562 or email alanmarler@outlook.com



Money For Youth

The Magazine Committee would like to encourage young people in the two parishes to apply for funds to make possible educational, character-building or adventurous activities. We feel that possibly some young people may not realise that we would be happy to consider applications for quite small sums. It is envisaged, for example, that sums could be used on projects for which the local schools are recommending the applicant. In such cases we would naturally not require extensive articles for inclusion in the Magazine, although we would be very pleased to receive a piece for publication.

To apply for a grant, you should satisfy the following conditions:

- Be aged 25 or less
- Be normally resident in Newtown or Soberton parish
- Be accepted by an officially recognised body for an educational, adventurous, or character-building activity (An official letter should accompany your application)
- Show a requirement to raise a sum of money that could not easily be found

A sub-committee consisting of the Magazine Chairman, Treasurer and one other member of the committee, will consider all applications. The details of the application will be treated as confidential.

The Magazine Committee can make no undertaking that the money will be available for all applicants fulfilling these conditions.

The sub-committee's decision is final.

Between August and September

*August lingers, warm and slow,
With golden fields that softly glow.
The evenings stretch in amber light,
As swallows dance before the night.*

*The gardens hum with bees at play,
Sunflowers greet the fading day.
Barefoot laughter fills the air,
A season rich beyond compare.*

*Then September gently knocks,
With cooler winds and ticking clocks.
The mornings wear a silver mist,
A quiet change that can't be missed.*

*Leaves begin their subtle art,
Painting autumn's opening heart.
The harvest moon climbs calm and
bright, A lantern in the velvet night.*

*August whispers, "Stay awhile."
September answers with a smile.
One lets summer slowly fade,
The other welcomes autumn's shade.*

*Between the warmth and crisp new air,
There lives a beauty, calm and rare—
A gentle promise, softly kept:
Every ending leaves a step.*

Hampshire County Council has been provided with funding through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to support low-income households that rely on heating oil and are struggling with rising costs.

The purpose of the Heating Oil payment scheme is to provide emergency financial assistance to low-income households in Hampshire who rely on heating oil, are close to running out, and cannot afford the minimum delivery volume.

If you are facing a heating oil crisis, for example, you cannot afford an urgent top-up and your tank is low, then you may be eligible for support.

Individuals can apply if they:

- Live full time in Hampshire (excluding those in the Southampton City, Portsmouth City and the Isle of Wight areas)
- Use heating oil as their main way of heating their home
- Are at risk of being unable to heat their home or access hot water
- Are in receipt of universal credit or pension credit **OR**
- Are not in receipt of any benefits but can evidence that they cannot afford the minimum order required for a delivery
- Have limited access to savings

The purpose of the money is to help you pay for the rising cost of heating oil, not pay for all of it and a set payment of £300 will be made if you meet the eligibility criteria and can provide the required evidence. Eligible residents will receive a payment directly into their bank account.

The scheme is being delivered in partnership with Citizens Advice and applications can be made to your local office in person, over the phone or by using their online contact form. To find out more information, please visit [Heating oil support | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council](#).

As well as help towards the cost of heating oil, Citizens Advice can also provide general advice on managing energy costs and wider finances and can also support those in crisis. Further details can be found on our website: [Crisis support | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council](#)

To find your local Citizens Advice to make an application, please visit: [Contact us - Citizens Advice](#)

**Please e-mail copy for the October / November magazine to
gill.highcroft@btinternet.com
NEXT COPY DATE - 14th September 2026 (17:00)**



Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Mayoral Combined County Authority

By way of an update the Parish Council understands that LGR elections will take place in May 2027 for the new unitary authority which, once elected and after a transition period, will take over the role of the District Councils (in our case Winchester City Council). The new unitary authority will cover a larger population and area than the existing City council and it seems there will be fewer councillors. At present we have three District Councillors covering our Parish and we will probably have only one in the future. In other parts of the country where LGR has taken place parishes have clustered together to form Local Area Committees, these seem to be based on population rather than area. This will be an option for the PC to consider in a year or so once the new unitary authority is established.

The difficulty we can all see is local representation for local issues, however the counter argument is efficiency. We live in an age where communication is almost instant and certainly giving support to the vulnerable, elderly and digitally excluded will be tested. It is clear that any change will need to be carefully managed.

Parish Council Elections held on 7th May 2026

The Soberton Parish Council consists of eleven councillors and eight were confirmed through the 7th May election. To make up this deficit three members are to be co-opted to the parish council. There is a full page advertisement on page 42 of this magazine and on the PC's website providing further information. If you are interested in joining the parish council don't hesitate to contact our Parish Clerk, Cheryl, who can provide more information or details of a councillor to discuss the role.

Planning Enforcement

Organised by WCC and SDNPA an enforcement team cleared part of the site on Long Road in early July and we understand will be returning. Direct action (removal of caravans, tents, shelters, fences etc.) is usually only applied to those sites where enforcement notices have been ignored. The parish council is advised of such actions on the morning of the event.

Soberton and Newtown Parish Design Statement

Soberton Parish Council is running the public consultation of the Soberton and Newtown Parish Design Statement (PDS) as agreed with the SDNPA and WCC. Both authorities have reviewed its content but a final review and approval is now required by the residents of the parish - and that's you!

The consultation period will run from 31st July to 30th September 2026. Residents are invited to comment on the document, which can be viewed or downloaded at the PC website at www.soberton-pc.gov.uk.

Additionally, the document can be viewed with on-screen display at Rookesbury Hall on Tuesday 15th September between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Please let us have your feedback as soon as you can, either with a simple note of approval or a more detailed comment. There is a form to fill in on the web page or you can respond directly by email to clerk@soberton-pc.gov.uk.

All comments need to be submitted by 30th September 2026. The PDS is a valuable statement about the parish and we thank you for your much valued input.

The Droxford Relief in Need Charity

Droxford Relief in Need has 4 trustees nominated by the Parish Councils of Droxford, Swanmore, Waltham Chase and Soberton. The Soberton trustee for the past 10 years has resigned due to ill health and the charity is seeking a replacement. Would you be prepared to act as a trustee? There is only one meeting a year in May and any other business is via email.

Droxford Relief have very little money however they own a small parcel of land in Swanmore which is let for horse grazing. The rent is used to support the Meon Valley Food Bank as this seems the best way to get help to those in need. They also support the Shirrell Heath Warm Hub and gives small grants to individuals.

The Public Phone Box on School Hill

The pay phone on School Hill is soon to be removed leaving an empty box. We have two options, one is to let BT remove the box or two, keep the phone box and establish a new 'community' use. The most successful use of former phone boxes elsewhere (even as close as Droxford) is a library (book exchange) To this end the team who set up the Droxford project are happy to assist in establishing a new phone box library on School Hill. To do this we need a volunteer(s) so please speak to the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

Ditches, Water Courses and Hedges

The PC remind those who have water courses and ditches crossing/bordering their land to check and clear any spring/summer growth and remove any items which may block the water flows We also request that highway fronting hedges are cutback to allow for good sightline for vehicles, riders and pedestrians.

John Russell-Smith

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our colleague and friend, John Russell-Smith, in June, peacefully at home. John was a valued and highly knowledgeable member of the Parish Council, whose contributions and commitment to the community were greatly appreciated. A long standing resident of Newtown within Soberton Parish, he moved to the village with his wife around 25 years ago.

John was a true country gentleman and a fount of knowledge and wisdom on many subjects including engineering, clock movements, golf clubs, historic guns and fishing, and of which his middle name Hardy was a family connection to the famous fishing rod maker. His love of the River Meon and maintenance of the stretch that he owned will be a lasting legacy.

Many people in the parish knew and admired John and he will be fondly remembered for his great sense of humour, kindness, positive outlook on life, and his willingness to share his insights and experience and also mend things for those who asked for his help. John's presence will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



*John Hyland
Chair*

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL - councillors

<i>John Hyland</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>chair@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Neil Findlay</i>	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>vicechair@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Sam Marland</i>		<i>Cllrmarland@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Paul Henderson</i>		<i>Cllrhenderson@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Jonty Sherwill</i>		<i>Cllrsherwill@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Vicki Weston</i>		<i>Cllrweston@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>David Buttriss</i>		<i>Cllrbuttriss@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Carol Williams</i>		<i>Cllrwilliams@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>
<i>Vacancies (3)</i>		<i>See next page (page 42)</i>
Clerk and Proper Officer		<i>clerk@soberton-pc.gov.uk</i>

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR – MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Soberton Parish Council is looking to co-opt three Parish Councillors.



This is an exciting time to join a dynamic and forward-thinking council and we would love to hear from you if you fit the eligibility criteria and would like to make a real difference in your community. Please contact either the Parish Clerk or any Councillor for any more detail.

To apply please complete the application form available on our website:
www.soberton-pc.gov.uk **or email the Clerk to receive the form by email:**
clerk@soberton-pc.gov.uk **Closing date: 30 September 2026. The co-option will take place at the meeting on 20 October 2026 .**

You should consider becoming a Parish Councillor if:
You would like to do something positive for your community
You would like to spend your time productively
You can think, listen and act locally



Protecting the Meon Valley and surrounding countryside

Winchester Councillor Update

The Meon Valley and its surrounding countryside is a special place, shaped by its chalk river, rolling landscapes, fields, woods, villages and wildlife. It's something many residents value every day.

However, like many rural areas, we are starting to see a number of changes locally. Many will remember the recent June heatwave, which brought particularly high temperatures for the time of year. Periods of very dry weather like this are increasingly followed by intense rainfall, which can lead to more localised flooding and pressure on drains, roads and fields.

Recent environmental data for Central Meon Valley helps put some of this into context. Around 145 homes are already at higher risk of flooding, and this could rise in future. Some 2,350 homes are not well insulated, leaving households more exposed to high energy bills, as well as difficulties staying cool in hotter weather. Tree cover is also relatively low, at just 5.6%, compared with a recommended minimum of 20%.

These issues are not just abstract—they affect day-to-day life. More extreme weather can make homes less comfortable, increase pressure on local infrastructure, and highlight how important our surrounding landscape is in helping to manage heat and rainfall.

Features such as trees, hedgerows, healthy soils and our chalk streams do more than make the area attractive. They play a practical role in absorbing rainfall, reducing flood risk, providing shade during hot weather and supporting the wider environment that our communities depend on.

The good news is that there are small, practical steps—both locally and individually—that can make a difference over time. These include:

- planting and maintaining trees and hedgerows where appropriate
- improving insulation, shading and ventilation in homes
- making sure drainage routes, ditches and watercourses are kept clear
- supporting local initiatives that look after green spaces and habitats.

Across the area, there is already a great deal of positive work happening through parish groups, volunteers and local organisations to help maintain and improve our shared environment.

As local councillors, we aim to support this in practical ways. Over recent months, this has included working directly with parish councils on problem areas, following up reports of blocked ditches and localised flooding after heavy rain, and raising residents' concerns about changes in the use of land where activity has increased and signposting residents to the 'My Home Made Better' district initiative.

We have also been helping to connect residents with the right teams where issues need formal investigation and pushing for updates where there is understandable concern locally.

While the Meon Valley will always change over time, the aim is to make sure it remains a place that works well for the people who live and work here—comfortable homes, a resilient local environment, and communities that continue to thrive.

Cllr Malcolm Wallace

MWallace@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Danny Lee

dlee@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Suzanne White

swhite3@winchester.gov.uk



Meon Valley Carers Group

For carers of someone with Dementia
Receive support, information and signposting
Meet and talk to others carers in similar situations

4th Tuesday of each month 2pm - 4pm
at The Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore, SO32 2PA

The programme for these meetings is varied with speakers ranging from necessary, interesting, factual information to more lighthearted subjects.

Built into the group meetings are arts and crafts, musical afternoons and games suitable for those living with Dementia.



You will be given a
warm welcome!



Tea coffee and biscuits provided

Free parking in the car park opposite the Paterson Centre

For more information, please contact

Allison McNally

tel: 07771 895370

e-mail: allison.mcnally1968@gmail.com



WARNFORD VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 29th August 2026

at 1pm

Warnford Playground

Entry is FREE OF CHARGE

Contributions would be appreciated for the following
stalls: -

Books Bottles Plants Toys
Tombola Cakes & Preserves Bric-a-Brac

Please contact Amie Boyes at
amieboyes@icloud.com for details

Thank You!



GIVE & TAKE

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

Help us to reduce waste in our town!

29th August 2026 - 10.30am to 2.30pm
St George's Square, Bishop's Waltham

A FREE EXCHANGE STALL
YOU CAN GIVE, YOU CAN TAKE,
OR YOU CAN GIVE AND TAKE.



**Small Household Items
and Entertainment**

Brought to you by
The Bishop's Waltham Town Team



GIVE & TAKE

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

Help us to reduce waste in our town!

26th September - 10.30am to 2.30pm
St George's Square, Bishop's Waltham

A FREE EXCHANGE STALL
YOU CAN GIVE, YOU CAN TAKE,
OR YOU CAN GIVE AND TAKE.



Arts and Crafts Items

Brought to you by
The Bishop's Waltham Town Team





Good day. I hope all our members had an excellent summer so far. However, we now turn our thoughts to the Winter schedule of lectures.

So, on 1/9 at 2 pm Paul Lillie is talking to us on "The history and music of the Beatles.". Something of a first for us but should be a happy walk down memory lane for all of us!

On 15/9 Prof. Duncan Colin-Jones is talking on "How climate change affects our health in the UK". A very topical subject.

Now PLEASE NOTE -a change of venue. We will now meet at **Swanmore Village Hall**. New road, Swanmore SO32 2HF. Just opposite the Swanmore Collage and on a bus route. There is ample parking and a very nice hall for us to enjoy.

Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome. (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.

Lyndon (programme organiser)

Contact 07881991763

Or lyndonplmr@gmail.com

Web site:- southeast.u3asite.uk

MEON VALLEY LIONS CLUB

Date for your diary - **Swanmore Village 'BBQ in the Park'**

As announced on social media the Club are considering running a small event on 20th September, watch our social media and website for more information.

Join us - if have some time to spare and would like to help local people, either joining as Club member or just an occasional helper at our events, then please call us on 07443 753780 or via www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk



Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Junior & Youth Photographic Competitions



For ages up to 11 years and 12-16 years



WIN AMAZON VOUCHERS! *



How to Enter

Email 1 Photo to,

competition@bishops-waltham-photosociety.co.uk

by midnight on Sunday 23rd August 2026.

The email should contain your name & age, title of the image and the contact details of a parent/guardian.



Direct link with QR code.



Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

**September 10th-12th
0900-1700hrs**

Image shown is last years public vote winner Misty Meon Morning by Nicky Higgins. Taken on a smartphone.

FREE ADMISSION

**Venue - The United Free Church
Basingwell Street
Bishops Waltham. SO32 1AL**

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www.meonvalleybus.co.uk
info@meonvalleybus.co.uk

Timetable from July 2025

Mondays West Meon to Fareham

0930	West Meon Thomas Lord PH
0933	Warnford Village Hall
0938	Exton The Shoe PH
0940	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0944	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0951	Droxford Square
0955	Brockbridge The Hurdles
1000	Soberton Village Hall
1003	Webbs Green War Memorial
1006	Soberton Heath Chapel Road Pond
1008	Soberton Heath Bold Forester PH
1010	Newtown Rookesbury Hall
1015	Hundred Acres
1027	Fareham Library
1032	Fareham Station <i>Drop off only*</i>
1039	Fareham Sainsbury's
Return:	
1230	Fareham Sainsbury's
1235	Fareham Library

Wednesdays Soberton to Petersfield

Including all request stops on A32 Droxford- West Meon

0930	Soberton Village Hall
0934	Brockbridge (The Hurdles)
0939	Droxford Square
0946	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0951	Corhampton
0954	Warnford George and Falcon
1013	Petersfield Station <i>Drop off only*</i>
1017	Petersfield Square
1022	Petersfield Tesco
Return:	
1225	Petersfield Tesco
1230	Petersfield Square

Fridays Soberton to Winchester

0930	Soberton Village Hall
0934	Brockbridge The Hurdles
0939	Droxford Square
0945	Meonstoke Pound Cottages
0949	Meonstoke PO & Stores
0951	Exton The Shoe PH
0956	Warnford Village Hall
1016	Winchester Broadway
1023	Winchester Station <i>Drop off only*</i>
1030	River Park Leisure Centre
Return	
1225	River Park Leisure Centre
1230	Winchester Broadway

No service on other days or public holidays. £6 return, £3 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.

A FEW USEFUL NUMBERS

ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR

SOBERTON VILLAGE HALL BOOKING		sobertonvillagehall@googlemail.com www.sobertonvillagehall.co.uk 01329 834392
ROOKESBURY HALL BOOKING	Jenny Doney	Bookings@rookesburyhall.co.uk 07974 232296
GUIDE HUT BOOKING	Caroline Barfoot	guidehutsoberton@gmail.com 07843 496852
GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP OFFERS TRANSPORT TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS	Kate Harvey Kate Chesters	07710 716664 See page 32 for more details
COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Gary McCulloch ACSO	07442 156124 acso@swanmore.org.uk
CLERK AND PROPER OFFICER	clerk@soberton-pc.gov.uk	See page 41 for full list of Councillors
CENTRAL MEVALLEY COUNCILLORS	Malcolm Wallace Danny Lee Suzanne White	See page 43 for contact details



Above - OS map 1868 for central Soberton. Not much is known about the Old Manor House, in Church Meadow, but it was occupied in 16th & 17th C, The avenue of trees between the church and site of the house, now near the pumping station in West Street can be clearly seen. Just a few decades ago, bumps and masonry could be found at the site. **Below** - The view of the avenue of trees today, much depleted, leading up to the Church. The article on pages 34/35 tells of some of the people that we think lived at The Old Manor House.



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



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114 Kingston Crescent,
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Tel: 023 9267 5555

EMSWORTH

51 High Street,
Emsworth,
PO10 7AN
Tel: 01243 680 800

OUR SERVICES



Wills,
Probate,
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