

Soberton & Newtown

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

October - November 2026



Children's Week
Photos by John Earle

www.sobertonchurch.org.uk www.newtownchurch.org.uk

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

Benefice of Soberton, Newtown and Hambledon - vacancy

During clergy vacancy, points of contact at churches are:

Holy Trinity Barry Rowswell for weddings, baptisms and funerals - 01329 834671
Sue Wells for all other matters - 07850 011820 or sjwells@meonwood.co.uk
St Peter's Jackie Hunt for weddings, baptisms and funerals - jack.swallow@icloud.com
Rob Scott, Treasurer - robmunroscott@aol.com

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 *(and see above during clergy vacancy)*

Newtown Church Keeper	Fra Wells	01329 834130
Newtown Church Verger	Barry Rowswell	01329 834671
Newtown Church Warden	Vacancy	
PCC Secretary	Malcolm Padgett	01329 834684
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Barfoot	htn.safeguarding@gmail.com
Parish Secretary Contact	Jackie Hunt	jack.swallow@icloud.com
Soberton Church Warden	Vacancy	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Wendy Prangnell	Stpc.safeguarding@gmail.com
Captain Of Bells	Caroline Rogers	01489 877430
Churchyard Keeper	John Lester	01489 878557

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

NEXT COPY DATE - 16th November 2026 (17:00)

Services

The Benefice of Soberton, Newtown & Hambledon

October 2026
November 2026

*Holy Communion is also
celebrated at Hambledon
every Wednesday at 09.30.*

*Subject to change,
sometimes at short notice*

October

4 th	0800	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1000	Harvest Festival (see page 5)	Newtown
	1030	Short Family Service	Hambledon
	1830	Taize	Hambledon
7 th	1430	Newtown Soberton Infant School Celebration of Harvest	Newtown
11 th	1030	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1100	Holy Communion, Pet Service and Sunday Club (see page 12)	Soberton
18 th	1000	Holy Communion	Newtown
	1030	Service of the Word	Hambledon
	1100	Morning Worship	Soberton
	1830	Evensong	Hambledon
25 th	1030	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1800	Holy Communion	Soberton

November

1 st	0800	Holy Communion	Hambledon
	1000	Holy Communion for All Saints	Newtown
	1030	Short Family Service for All Saints	Hambledon
	1800	Service for All Souls	Soberton
	1830	Evensong for All Souls	Hambledon
8 th	1045	Memorial Parade/1100 Remembrance	Hambledon
	1050	Remembrance Sunday (see page 38)	Droxford
15 th	1000	Holy Communion	Newtown
	1030	Service of the Word	Hambledon
	1100	Morning Worship	Soberton
	1830	Evensong	Hambledon
22 nd	1000	Stir Up Sunday (see page 10)	Newtown
	1030	Holy Communion	Hambledon
29 th	1000	Benefice Holy Communion	Newtown
	1800	Service of Light	Hambledon

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!

Farewell, but not adieu ... from Revd Liz

Rev Liz has asked me to pen this note, since she broke her left elbow and right wrist typing is something of a challenge!

Rev Liz has stood down from her parish duties to allow time to support her daughter in the West Country. Rev Liz wants to say how much she has loved ministering to the Benefice of Hambledon, Soberton and Newtown, and the warmth and love she has felt as part of those communities. She says it has been a great privilege to share the happy and sad times together, living out Christ's Kingdom in the beautiful Meon Valley.

A huge thanks to the priests and Lay worship minister and leaders who have ensured that we have all services are covered for the next six months. I know that Rev Sandra, our Priest in Charge, is in conversation with the Diocese to recruit a replacement as soon as we can, and I will be helping and supporting her in that important task.

Captain Paul Quinn OBE MSc BA Royal Navy (Rtd), Church Warden (Hambledon)

Superheroes and Super Powers

Some thoughts from Revd Sandra Matthews, the new Priest in Charge, Meon Valley Parishes

When I was growing up I loved to watch on TV anything to do with superheroes. My Nan loved superheroes in TV Westerns, like the Lone Ranger. My brother loved superheroes in everyday life settings, like the X Men. And I loved superheroes whose real identity was hidden and secret, like Batman. One of the qualities that is common to all Superheroes, is how they use their gifts and skills to help others.

At St Barnabas Church, Swanmore, every year they hold a special service to remember the superhero that the church is named after, Saint Barnabas. But Barnabas wasn't actually his birth name, because he was given the birth name of Joseph.

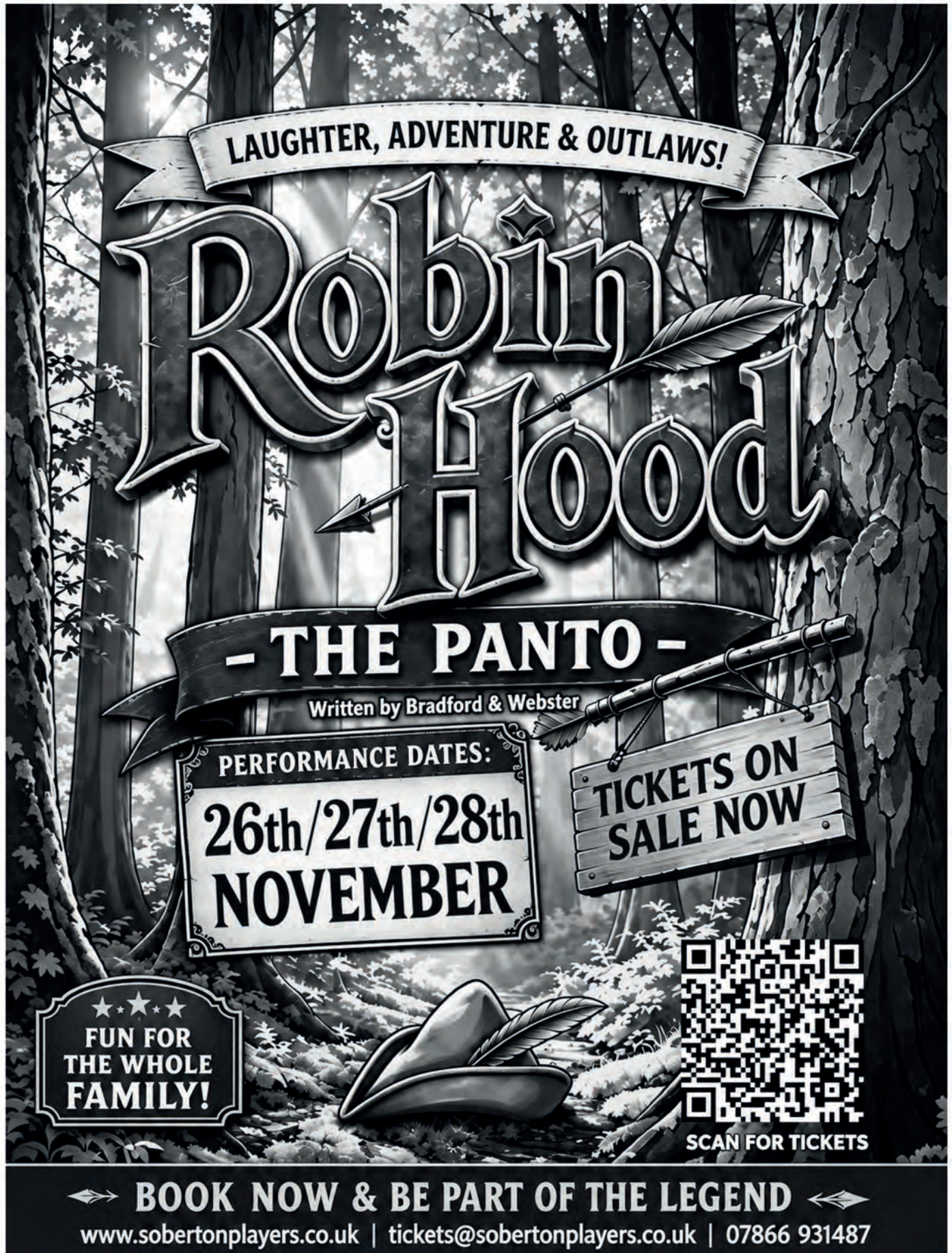
Joseph lived in the first century and grew up on the island of Cyprus. As a young man he became a Christian, and he was so inspired by the stories of Jesus that he dedicated his whole life to trying to live in a more Jesus-like way. Barnabas therefore decided to sell every one of his possessions, including his own home and some land that he owned. With the money he raised from the sale, he gave it all away to support the orphans, the homeless, and the vulnerable, keeping nothing back for himself. Not content with that, Joseph then gave up his career and dedicated his whole life to helping and encouraging other people, in a Jesus-like way. As Joseph was so kind, so caring, and so encouraging of those around him, his local church gave him a new name, and the new name was Barnabas, as it means "encourager", and from that moment on, he was never known by his birth name Joseph ever again, only by his new name Barnabas—The Encourager.

Superheroes of the Christian faith like Barnabas, are remembered all together every year on the 1st of November on a day often called All Saints Day, as Christian superheroes in some Christian traditions are also called Saints. On that particular day, many Christians will give thanks to God for the kindness and service of faith superheroes, like Barnabas, and will rededicate themselves to living in a more Jesus-like way, serving and helping those around them. What we need to remember, is that a real superhero isn't somebody who swings across buildings on webs like Spider Man, and nor are they somebody who comes from another planet like Superman. A real Christian superhero can be you, or me, or anybody that tries to live their life in a more Jesus-like way to the benefit of those around them.

As you go into a new day or a new week, think about living your life in a more Jesus like way, and encouraging those around like you just like Barnabas did, as it will really encourage and bless people (and if you want to know more about Barnabas and his life, why not read in the Bible the book called Acts of the Apostles, from chapter 4 verse 36 onwards). Every blessing to you and your loved ones.



Soberton Players proudly presents ...

A black and white poster for the panto 'Robin Hood'. The background is a forest scene with trees and foliage. At the top, a banner reads 'LAUGHTER, ADVENTURE & OUTLAWS!'. The title 'Robin Hood' is in large, stylized, outlined letters, with an arrow passing through the 'H'. Below the title, a banner reads '- THE PANTO -'. Underneath that, it says 'Written by Bradford & Webster'. A central box contains the performance dates: 'PERFORMANCE DATES: 26th/27th/28th NOVEMBER'. To the right, a wooden sign hanging from a branch says 'TICKETS ON SALE NOW'. In the bottom left, a starburst shape says 'FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!'. In the bottom right, there is a QR code with the text 'SCAN FOR TICKETS' below it. At the very bottom, a dark banner contains the text 'BOOK NOW & BE PART OF THE LEGEND' flanked by decorative arrows, and below that, the website 'www.sobertonplayers.co.uk', email 'tickets@sobertonplayers.co.uk', and phone number '07866 931487'. An illustration of a Robin Hood hat with a feather lies on the forest floor in the center.

PiNS (Pride in Newtown and Soberton)

PiNS has for many years, with your generous contributions via the 'Christmas Card' (printed in December's Parish magazine), been able to carry out various projects within the villages.

Although our expenditure has been low this year (we have purchased some snowdrops), we have been thinking about purchasing one or two community notice boards. We would welcome any suggestions where to site them.

If you would like to support PiNS' work in the Parish and send Christmas greetings to your local friends and neighbours, please send us your names as you would like to see them in the magazine and a donation. Also, if you have any suggestions for other projects you would like considered, please let us know.

All you need to do, before **Sunday 1st November** (so that there is time to prepare the 'card' in time for the magazine copy date), is to send your donation to the PiNS bank account and an email to **pinsnewtownsoberton@gmail.com** with details of how you would like your names to appear, how much you are donating and any suggestions for projects.

Please note that from last year we have a **new bank account** (and can no longer accept cheques).

Account Name : PiNS which is a Metro Business Community Current Account

Sort Code : 23-05-80

Account No. : 55903344

With your name as a reference

Only if you cannot pay by BACS, can we accept cash as it is difficult and costly for us to process. Please enter the names as you would like to see them on the 'card' on the slip below. Cut out the slip and put it, together with your donation, in an envelope and put it through the letterbox of

Helen Stranks, Ashley House, High Street, Soberton, Southampton. SO32 3PN

✂-----

Names to Go in the 'Card' :

Contact Telephone Number or Email Address :

Donation :

Other Projects to be Considered :





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

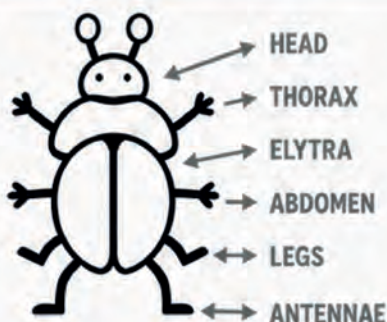


A glass of
wine, beer
or soft drink

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 ★

Soberton & Newtown Children's Week 2026

Ahoy Shipmates!!

Well, what a wonderful week we had! The sun shone, we went to the Meon River at Soberton Mill (and looked for bugs!), made bandanas, went on a fantastic trip to Butser Farm, had the best trail day at Meonwood, did some really fun singing and played some great games ... wow. And we made some flags – have you seen them around the villages? Pausing for breath, it really was a great 4 days! ***Oh, and the trail cakes ... Children's Week secret ... IYKYK ... !***

We started setting up at The Guide Hut on the Saturday before with some dedicated volunteers lifting, shifting and getting us ready for the week ahead ... the excitement levels were already rising!

Monday started with registration, group allocation and group singing, before groups started designing their flags, group rafts and individual badges. After lunch we split into two groups.

While one group took a trip to the river at Soberton Mill for a spot of river dipping and a bug trail with craft, the other group made treasure maps and bandanas at the rec. Then we came together at the river for a Raft race, before swapping activities and finishing the day at the Guide Hut. Thank you to Imogen & Douglas Lyndon Skeggs for allowing us to invade their stretch of river for the afternoon.

Tuesday was Trip Day, and this year we visited Butser Ancient Farm for some Viking based activities including chalk carvings and wall building. What fun we had – it was the first trip in a few years and it was great!

Wednesday was our Trail Day at Meonwood, starting with some group games and after an early lunch straight into the trail themed around Pirates. Of course, cooking sausages over a campfire was involved and the ***'not to be forgotten' cakes (IYKYK!)***.

Thank you to Sue & Fra Wells for allowing us to invade their gardens once again.

Thursday was our last day and we spent the morning finishing our craft and practicing our presentations for the evening service, while again avoiding the blazing sun. The afternoon was action packed with a range of games including water games which helped everyone stay cool!

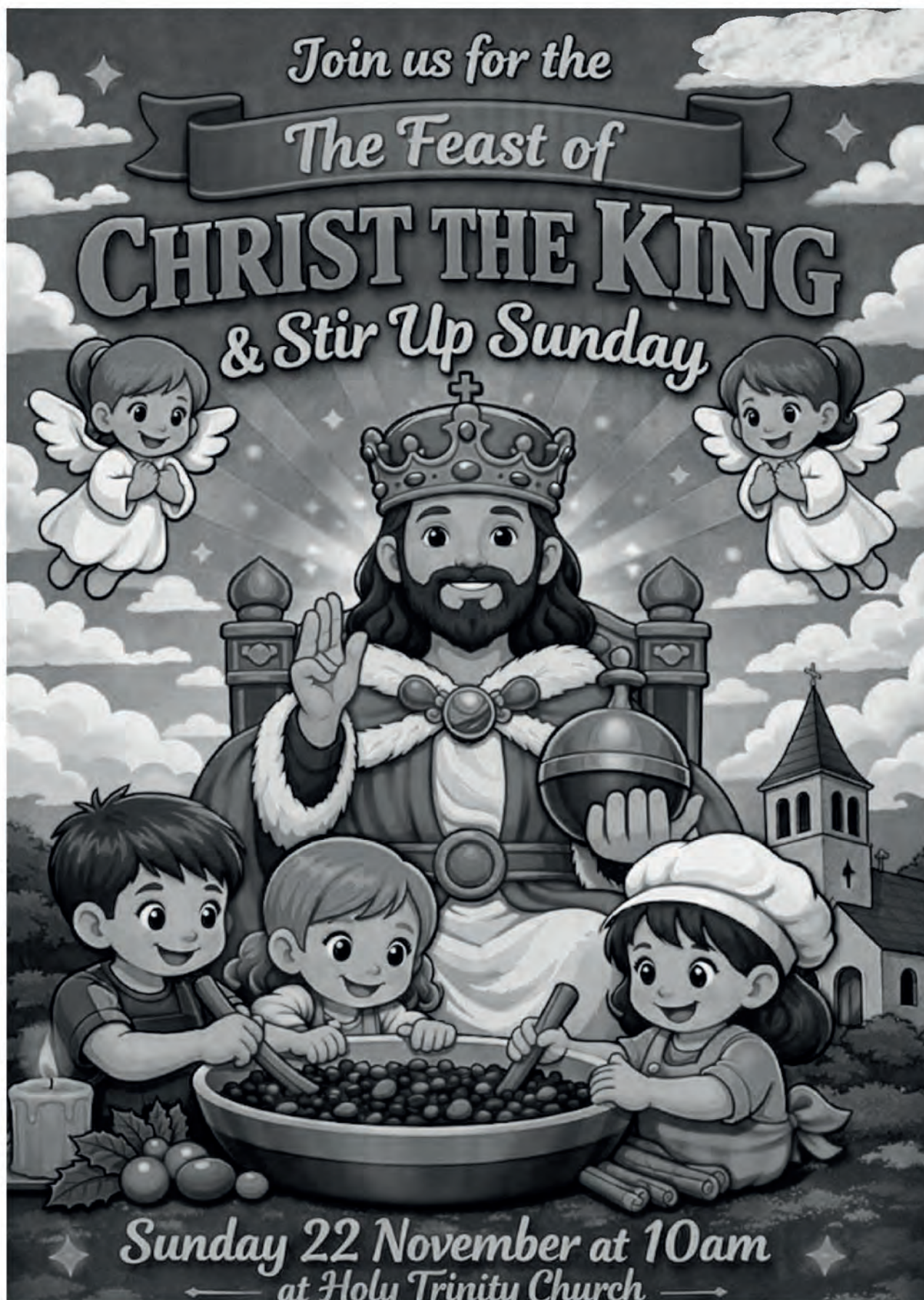
We concluded the week with a short church service in the evening at Holy Trinity, Newtown – next year back to St Peter's, Soberton.

The children were brilliant, performing their presentations to their parents and we all sang the songs we had practiced throughout the week. Thank you to Rev Liz for sharing with us.

A huge **Thank You** goes to **all the adult and teen volunteers**. It really is not possible without them all and they worked so hard to make it such a success! We are always on the lookout for volunteers, there are lots of small jobs as well as group leader roles, so do email us if you are interested in helping. Planning starts in January, so lookout for notices on Soberton Echo, or check your email boxes if you have already signed up. ***You might even learn about the trail cakes, remember IYKYK!***

See the front cover for a taste of what we did!

Children's Week Team
SNCWeek@Gmail.com



We shall be stirring cakes to be enjoyed at both the St Peter's, Soberton Carol Service and Holy Trinity, Newtown on Christmas Day.
If you would like to take part and bring some ingredients to put in the cakes, please contact Sue Wells: sjwells@meonwood.co.uk

Good Neighbours Network celebrate 50 years of kindness

Holywell Estate in nearby Swanmore was the beautiful setting for the 50th Anniversary tea party in July for the Good Neighbours Network, the umbrella organisation for more than 120 community support groups throughout Hampshire.

Soberton and Newtown Good Neighbours Group was represented by former co-ordinators Sue Mussellwhite and Phil Bergin at the event where the Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, Annabel Boyes, and Bishop Jonathan expressed their thanks for the huge contribution made collectively by these groups. Each year in Hampshire around 26,000 people benefit from more than 160,000 “acts of kindness” – which can be a visit, an outing or help getting to medical appointments – acting as a vital link with support services.

“We felt very pleased for the recognition of the Soberton and Newtown group’s work over more than 35 years and are immensely pleased that the new co-ordinators are continuing to lead this very worthwhile community service,” said Sue.

The group is always keen to welcome new volunteers. It is a really rewarding group to be part of, and you can commit to as little or as much driving as you are able to. Please contact one of the two Kates if you would be interested in helping.



Need Transport to Medical Appointments?



SOBERTON AND NEWTOWN Good Neighbours Group

We are here to drive local people, of all ages, to hospitals, GP surgeries, dentists, opticians and other health practitioners.

Our friendly volunteer drivers use their own cars, are all DBS checked and fully insured.

A donation towards fuel costs is requested.

For more information, call:

Kate Harvey on 07843 496 852 or Kate Chesters on 07710 716 664



www.soberton-pc.gov.uk

CAN YOU HELP US?

If you would like to *join* our driving team, we would love to hear from you. All our volunteer drivers decide which journeys they can offer, and are reimbursed for their mileage.



***You are invited to a Pet
Service (all pets and children
welcome) at 1100 in St Peter's
Church Soberton SO32 3PF on
Sunday 11th October 2026
followed by:***

DOG SHOW

***Registration on
the Church Green
at 1230***

***Entry fee £3 per
dog***

- ⌘ BEST CROSS BREED
- ⌘ BEST RESCUE
- ⌘ BEST VETERAN (7 YRS +)
- ⌘ BEST CONDITION
- ⌘ JUNIOR HANDLER (U 14)
- ⌘ PRETTIEST BITCH
- ⌘ MOST HANDSOME DOG
- ⌘ WAGGIEST TAIL
- ⌘ BEST TRICK
- ⌘ BEST IN SHOW

***Sponsored and run by Victory Dog Training and
Agility Club (Contact: Jackie Povey 07876 244146)***

Summer Fun at Soberton Newtown Guides

We had a very active Summer term this year. The Guides made some cardboard oven to bake our wartime biscuits and cake for our Guiding History Badge. Not very successful as the oven went up in flames before the biscuit got anywhere near them ! But don't worry, it was perfectly safe and once the leaders had stopped laughing at their own mistakes, the ovens were extinguished and tidied up. We will try again in the spring, but the biscuits did get baked and taste tested, so the Guide were very happy.



We next tried Penny Hikes in the Bere Forest – at a junction of paths, one was labelled Heads and another Tails, a coin was tossed and the hike continued down that path. Not sure we actually got back to our starting point, but we certainly explored a lot of unseen areas of the woodland.

We helped at Newtown and Soberton Fetes, hopefully raising our profile while helping our communities and raised a little of money towards our big trip in the autumn to Guiding Big Gig music festival at Wembley.

We were out & about with a visit to Welborne Village and experienced their Immersion room, which was brilliant. The girls were able to see what Welborne would look like when finished and then walk around the completed areas to compare them to what they had seen in the room.

We also had a Taster Golf session, run by Simon Hobbs, at Corhampton Golf course. Simon was brilliant showing them how to swing a club, putt and general hit a golf ball. Some of the Guides proved to be natural golfers, and everyone managed to hit a ball. A big THANK YOU for your time and energy Simon.

We also joined with the County for a sleepover at Ninja Warrior in Guildford, and an Adventure Day at an Activity centre in Portsmouth.

We still have spaces at our Unit for more Guides, so if your daughter is aged 10 – 13, do get in touch. We meet alternate Mondays (6 til 8pm) during term time, at Soberton & Newtown Guide Hut on the Rec Ground, Heath Road.

Email: SobertonNewtownGuides@gmail.com for more information.
Or Ring Caroline Rogers on 01489 877430



*Villagers gather on
Soberton Down to
view the solar
eclipse.*

12th August 2026

Photo: Susan Hyland

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas MAKERS MARKET

Rookesbury Hall

Church Road, Newtown, PO17 6LE

Saturday 28th November
11am – 2pm

FREE ADMISSION

Stalls include:

- ★ Fused glass
- ★ Cards
- ★ Fabric bags and goodies
- ★ Corn Dollie's
- ★ Local honey
- ★ Jewellery
- ★ Books
- ★ and a local author



Ample free
parking



Refreshments
available



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas Wreath Making

at
**The Guide Hut,
Heath Road, Soberton Heath**

**Friday, December 4th,
2-4pm**

OR
7.30pm-late

Tickets - £30 including refreshments

Join us for a festive, fun-filled wreath making session at the Guide Hut!

Enjoy a cosy afternoon or evening sipping tea or a glass of fizz and indulging in a mince pie while you craft your very own beautiful Christmas wreath.

All materials and festive decorations are provided — just bring your creativity and Christmas cheer!

Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

To reserve your place,

✉ email: guidehutsoberton@gmail.com

☎ Or phone: 07736714565

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

at

**ST PETER'S
CHURCH**
— SOBERTON —

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS • SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

12TH DECEMBER 2026
1400 hrs - 1700 hrs

FATHER CHRISTMAS
TURNING ON
THE CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS ON THE TREE
at 4.30pm!

**FESTIVE FUN
FOR EVERYONE!**

- 🎁 Christmas Stalls
- 🎁 Mulled Wine
- 🎁 Hot Chocolate and Treats
- 🎁 Games & Activities for Children
- 🎁 Raffle & More!

Join us for some wonderful
festive fun, bringing our
community together and
supporting our church
and local charities.

MEET
FATHER CHRISTMAS
IN HIS GROTTO!

Christmas

Community

Charity

Together

Come together, Celebrate, Give back.

— THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! —

Christmas
cheer,
community spirit
& giving back

Soberton Bells?



Soberton Ringers are dedicated band of 8 Church bell ringers from Soberton Village, who together with some regular helpers from the surrounding villages/Towers, ring the bells at St Peter's Church for Sunday services and Tuesday practice evening. We also ring for special occasions and are often heard ringing for weddings and funerals, and we are always keen to ring to celebrate any national or local event.

So how many bells does St Peter's have?

We are very fortunate to have 8 bells at St Peter's and although we don't always have enough ringers to ring them all, we regularly ring 6.

And where are they?

Our bells are housed in a separate bell tower that stands at the west end of the church, which also holds the church clock.

The ringing chamber is a double height ground floor room, and it's from here the bells are rung. It's a good size room with ropes hanging in a circle, coming through the ceiling and reaching the floor, where carpet squares mark the position of the ropes when they are being rung.

(The ropes are kept pulled up on a centre hub when we are not ringing, for safety reasons.)

Above the ringing chamber is the Clock room, where the clock mechanism is housed, and the bell ropes can be seen traveling through from ceiling to floor.

Above the clock room is the Bell chamber. This room is smaller than the ringing chamber and is accessed via a small stone circular staircase. It is a tight fit in the chamber for 8 bells and their frame, especially as our largest bell is just over 1 metre in diameter (40 ½ inches) and weighs approx. 684 kgs (or 1486lbs). The bell ropes are attached to individual bell wheels, which in turn connect to each bell, and this is what makes the bell turn, and ring.

The Bell chamber

no8 top left, no1 & 2 middle top, no3 top right,
no7 bottom left, no5 middle and no4 bottom right, top of no6 wheel - just in shot at bottom

In 2027 we will be opening the bell tower for short tours with afternoon tea, so watch this space.

If you are interested in learning more about bell ringing, do contact us, we would love to have more ringers in our tower.

SobertonRingers@gmail.com



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

NEXT COPY DATE - 16th November 2026 (17:00)

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

A KILLER
NIGHT OF
MYSTERY,
MAYHEM &
80s VIBES!

MURDER AT THE REUNION

★ A ROCKIN' 80s THEMED
MURDER MYSTERY EVENT! ★

★ ROOKESBURY HALL ★

CHURCH ROAD
NEWTOWN PO17 6LE

7TH NOVEMBER

7PM

FOOD WILL BE SERVED AT 7.15PM!

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW
BEFORE SOMEONE WON'T MAKE IT HOME!

80s
ROCK
FOREVER



FROM events.rkhall@gmail.com

TICKET PRICE

£22.50

DINNER INCLUDED



Heart
of Oak
Memory Tree

EVERY LEAF
HOLDS A LIFE
REMEMBERED



Located in **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**,
each metal oak leaf is engraved with a
personal message and the name of your
loved one connected to the Royal Navy.



HONOURING THE PAST. SUPPORTING THE FUTURE.



HEARTOFOAK.ORG.UK

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (no. 6047294) and is a registered charity (no. 1117794) and Scotland (SC041898).



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EXPERT TAX ADVICE WITH A HUMAN FACE FOR THE MEON VALLEY

WATCHING OUT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Is IHT a factor in making my Will? Is a Family Trust a good idea?

PROPERTY OR WORK OVERSEAS

How does it affect my tax if I live, work or have property abroad?

FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Am I the only one wondering whether it's worth all the aggro?

PERSONAL TAX

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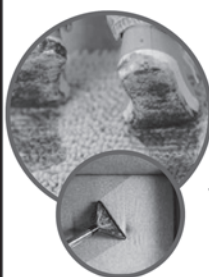
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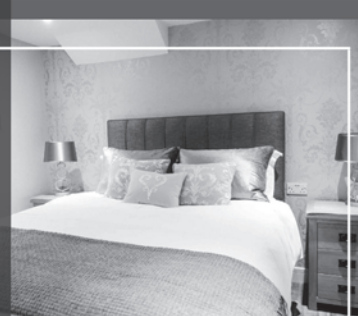
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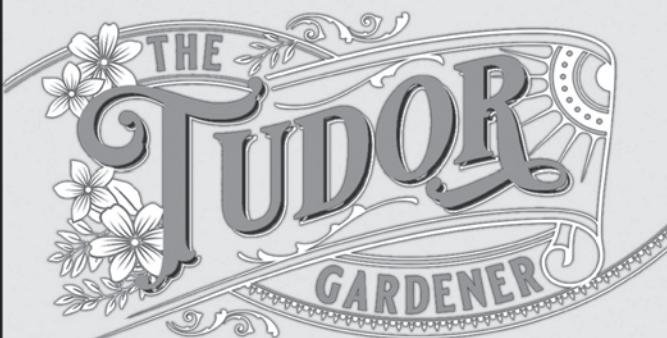
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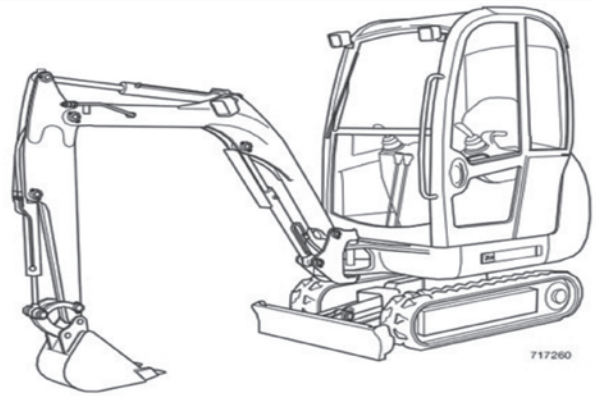
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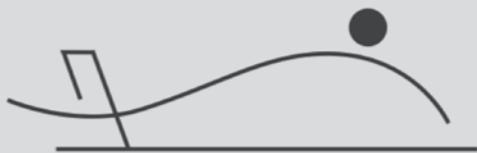
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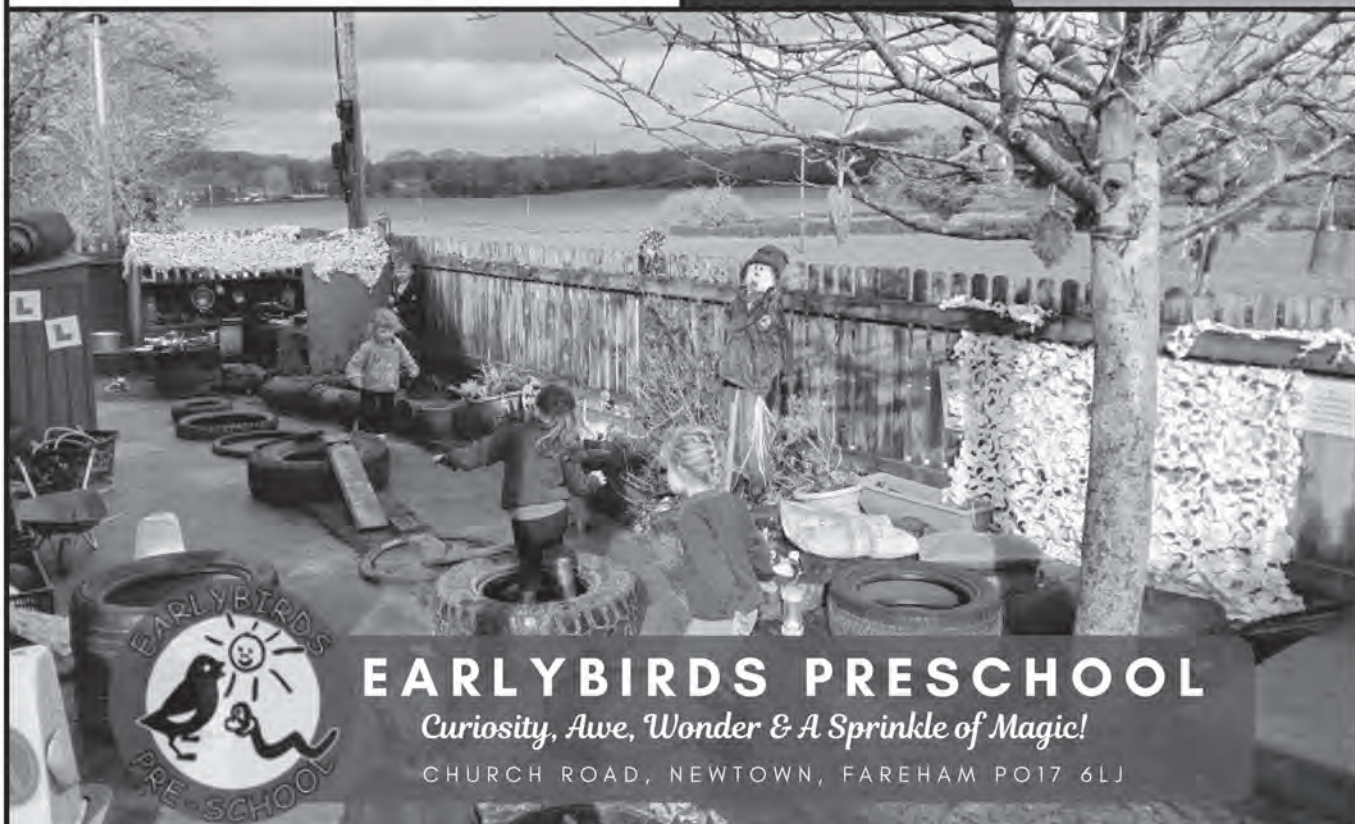
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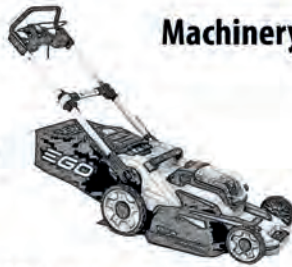
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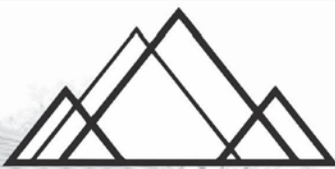
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Thursday Denmead 0915-1015, Knowle 1100-1200, Rooksbury Hall 1830-1930

Friday Droxford 0915-1015 & 1030-1130

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What's on

Month	Date/day	Event / group	Time	Details
October	3 rd	Meon Valley Garden Club Autumn Plant Sale	10:00	Page 40
	4 th	Harvest Festival - Holy Trinity, Newtown	10:00	Page 5
	6 th	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	See below
	6 th and 20 th	Soberton Ringers	19:30	Page 17
	6 th and 20 th	U3A	14:00	Page 49
	7 th	Soberton and Newtown Ladies' Group	20:00	Page 43
	8 th	Local History Society	14:00	Page 43
	11 th	Children's Sunday Club	11:00	Page 4
	11 th	Pet Service and Dog Show at St Peter's	11:00/12:30	Page 12
	13 th	Wickham Society	19:30	Page 48
	14 th and 28 th	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 37
	17 th	Valuation Day at Rookesbury Hall	10:00	Page 39
	27 th	Meon Valley Carers Group	14:00	Page 48
	30 th	Meet&Eat	12:30	See below
November	1 st	PiNS @Christmas Card donations close	-	Page 7
	3 rd	Stitch & Chatter	14:00	See below
	3 rd and 17 th	Soberton Ringers	19:30	Page 17
	3 rd and 17 th	U3A	14:00	Page 49
	5 th	Soberton and Newtown Ladies' Group	20:00	Page 43
	7 th	Murder at the Reunion at Rookesbury Hall	19:00	Page 18
	8 th	RBL - Droxford & District Branch - Remembrance	10:50	Page 38
	10 th	Wickham Society	19:30	Page 48
	11 th and 25 th	Pop in for coffee and cake at St Peter's	10:00	Page 37
	12 th	Local History Society	14:00	Page 43
	13 th	Beetle Drive	18:00	Page 8
	16 th	COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER / JANUARY	17:00	-
	22 nd	Stir Up Sunday at Holy Trinity	10:00	Page 10
	24 th	Meon Valley Carers Group	14:00	Page 48
	26 th - 28 th	Soberton Players ... Robin Hood - the panto	-	Page 6
	27 th	Meet&Eat	12:30	See below
	28 th	Christmas Makers Market at Rookesbury Hall	11:00	Page 14
Hold the date	4 th	Christmas Wreath Making at The Guide Hut	14:00/1930	Page 15
	12 th	Christmas Fayre at St Peter's	14:00	Page 16
	29 th May 2027	Newtown Church Fete 2027	-	-

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 ... Newtown School – Spring 1879

There has been a school on the present site for 175 years, The original School House and classroom completed in 1851 had an extra classroom added after the Education Act of 1870 which aimed to make education compulsory to all children. From then on the building remained almost unaltered until mid- 20th century when the school house was no longer required as a teachers dwelling and was put to other uses including a school office, a school library and a kitchen.

The Tithe Map c1840 shows a schoolroom on the site of Newtown Church so children were being educated in Newtown before it became a separate ecclesiastical parish. It is possible that this was the school the Rev. Stephen Butler, Curate of Soberton, referred to as "his school". Stephen Butler greatly influenced the direction of the embryo village and the building of Holy Trinity Church.

Whilst the church and the new school were being built we believe the children attended lessons in the old Catholic chapel at South End Farm. David Hill, the first school teacher at the new school originally lived near South End.

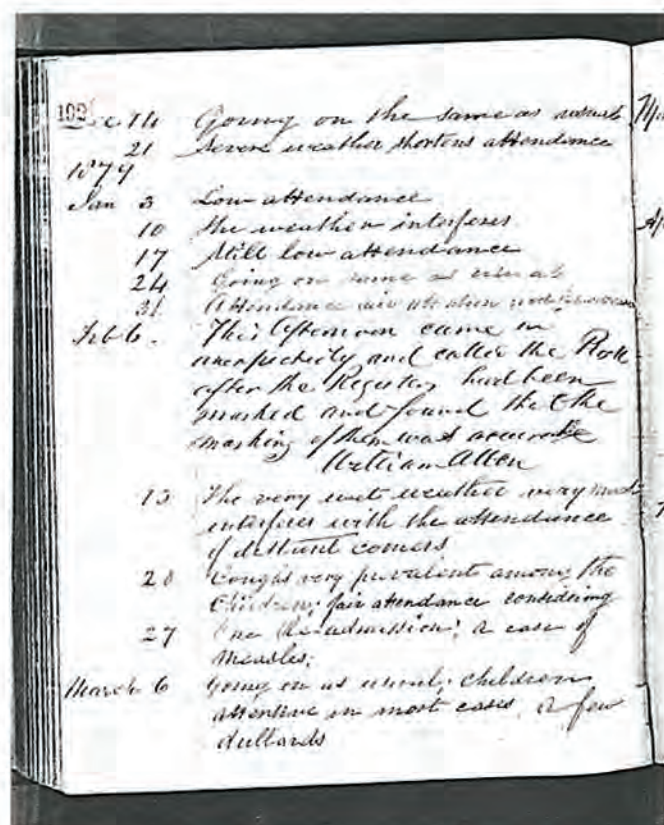
In those early days payments to the school relied on several factors including results but also attendance. From 1863 all schools were required to keep a log book of any event which interrupted the normal rhythm of the school. At first this was daily but in a village school the entries consisted mainly of phrases such as "going on as usual" and after a time a weekly entry was adequate.

The Local History Society has one photocopy of a page from the first Newtown Log Book. The first date is for the week ending December 14th 1878 and we can read that the following week the weather affected the attendance as it did well into the new term. Unfortunately, teachers could not control the weather or force parents to send their children when it was not free. Some had to walk considerable distances from outlying farms and from Hundred Acres. To make sure that the school teacher did not falsify the attendance the School Managers had to make spot checks as did the Rev. Allen on the 6th of February.

Illness was another problem and occasionally the school had to be closed because of an epidemic. Measles, responsible for one death in 1868, was a reoccurring theme.

The log book, if we could still turn the pages, went on to give a glimpse into the daily life, planting and harvesting vegetables, bark stripping when the sap was rising in the spring, hay making and harvesting. Fruit, vegetables and flowers were picked by the children for the local markets. It also shows us the high days and holidays, some legitimate, some not. Those relating to church festivals were and occasionally a half day would be granted for Wickham Fair but Soberton/Hambledon Races, Meets of Hounds, Oddfellows and other Benefit Society Fetes were not.

A reminder that this was an all age school and children were supposed to reach a certain standard before they left but as in the final entry on the photocopy there were "a few dullards." Had he had a bad Friday afternoon??



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!





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Droxford & District Branch

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



Due to ongoing repairs to the nave at St Peter's Church Soberton, this year's Remembrance Sunday service will again be held at St Mary & All Saints Church Droxford at 1050 on Sunday 8th November. The service will be followed by commemorations at Soberton's war memorial at Webb's Green at 1230 and at Newtown's Lychgate memorial at 1250 (times approx).

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 marked an Armistice that ended hostilities between the Central Powers, led by Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Triple Alliance; the latter comprised the British Empire, France and Russia (until the revolution of 1917), joined

subsequently by USA. The total death toll on all sides was 15-22 million of which some one million were from the British Empire. The Great War (as it was called until the 2nd World War) was widely billed at the time as "the war to end all wars".

In a little over 20 years after the Great War, another more brutal conflict erupted between the Axis of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy and an alliance of Great Britain and France. Following France's surrender in June 1940, the British Empire fought alone with some residual forces that had escaped from occupied countries including France.

Following Germany's attack (Operation Barbarossa) in June 1941, USSR became an unexpected ally. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December 1941, Britain was joined by USA and the Axis by Japan. The end of the 2nd World War was marked by Victory over Japan (VJ Day) on 15th August 1945 and concluded with the largest death toll ever from a single conflict - some 70-85 million people. Well over half of these were from China and USSR, the former having been at war with Japan since 1937.

Since 1945, 40-50 million people have died in conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam, the Chinese Civil War, the Middle East, Africa, the Falkland Islands, Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine. Ongoing operations in Ukraine and the Middle East continue to add to war's horrific death toll.

On both Remembrance Sunday on 8th November and Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November 2026, 2 minutes of silence will be observed at 1100. These are the occasions when we reflect as a nation on the loss of British and Commonwealth subjects who died during all these conflicts and who continue to do so in the name of freedom and democracy. Those named on our various village war memorials will be remembered during the reading of the Roll of Honour on Remembrance Sunday.

While recognizing the tragic loss of some 150 million human lives as a direct result of war since 1914, including famine, disease or captivity during or in the immediate aftermath, it is also time to reflect on the sacrifice made by our sailors, soldiers and airmen. The following selection of poems may help.....



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.

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.*



Autumn 2026 at Droxford Junior School

I'm not entirely sure where that summer went but it was very much welcomed if seemingly short. It was glorious weather-wise, relaxing and at times productive in terms of life admin – things that are put off during term time. I'm very grateful to have it.

And now, here we are again – Autumn term in our lovely school. A new term and new Year 3 children. These have come up (in the main) from our two linked Infant schools: Meonstoke Infant and Newtown Soberton Infants. They have settled in really well and are getting in to the swing of it already.

- Their parents will be in school soon to work with them in the morning on a special induction project and then stay to have lunch in our hall with their children.
- Later in the term these Year 3s and our 4s will all go to Butser Ancient Farm as part of their 'Ice to Iron' History topic.
- Our Year 5 and 6s are due to go to RHS Wisley as part of their Science 'Evolution' topic - *'...this gives students an interactive, hands-on outdoor classroom experience that connects classroom science, art, and nature...'*
- In November our Year 6 children will be attending their, much anticipated residential, at Calshot Activity centre. *'...This combines unique indoor and outdoor adventure facilities with a stunning coastal location on the Solent...'* The children learn to ski; cycle in the velodrome; participate in geography, science and nature field trips; attempt indoor climbing and archery and challenge themselves on the 'Aerotrek'.
- All children will be making a hexagonal clay tile (see the picture of examples of some the ones the children have made already) for an art project I am planning which will go on the side of the building as you enter (adjacent to the Montessori / scout hut). These hexagonal, glazed, clay tiles will enliven a new rewilded area I've called 'the hive'. Hopefully we can attract not only humans but pollinators to the new wildlife area. FODS have kindly sponsored the art project.
- Finally, we will be having a bookshop in school and hopefully another author on 21st October; our Autumn Dig Day (October 3rd) which anyone is welcome to attend and help (lunch teas and coffees provided to green fingered volunteers) and an Open day for prospective new children starting in September 2027!

It is all go already!

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher



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VALUATION DAY

with Karen Dalmeny at Rookesbury
Hall, Church Road, Newtown, PO17
6LE on Saturday 17th October 2026
from 10am to 1pm.

This has become a popular event at
the hall with many happy
customers. Karen is especially
seeking to purchase gold, silver,
jewellery and antiques.

Avoid online scams and heavy
auction fees.

Drop in between 10am and 1pm,
there will be free tea and coffee

£5.00 per person entry
(up to five items).



AUTUMN PLANT SALE

GREAT PLANTS • GREAT PRICES

*Perennials, shrubs, indoor plants
and much more!*



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3RD**



10.00AM



THE MEON HALL



♥ Home Grown
Farm Produce
♥ Refreshments



Bring your friends – everyone welcome!



In your garden ... It's just maths

Drought, what drought! I'm writing this at the very beginning of September – a peek behind the curtain – and we have had 3 days of rain. The grass is starting to come back to its old self and all of a sudden the idea of a drought is a distant, laughable memory. It has made it clear to me that this seems to be the pattern we are going through now, wet winters, dry summers and still being surprised when it happens.

Even though there is still so much to do in the garden (there always is) I'm starting to think of projects for the slightly less hectic winter months. One wise resident in Droxford has converted their indoor swimming pool, which they don't wish to use, into a water storage facility. Ideally, if you had the space and the finances this would be an ideal solution to the feast and famine of our water supply 'issues'. Otherwise, as a well known supermarket has coined, 'Every little helps'. Water butts, IBC tanks or that extra wheelie bin that you brought from your old house in Fulham but Winchester City Council won't empty it for you would all be a good step towards saving water for the leaner months.

It all comes down to maths and for the most part, quite simple maths. We are either adding or subtracting from the garden. In Autumn we are adding bulbs ready for a burst of spring colour and cutting back things like herbaceous perennials with untidy dead flower stems. We are constantly following this strategy throughout the year to ensure the garden is singing from our hymn sheet – but maybe another consideration is what else you could add (or subtract) for the good of the wildlife.

As a gardener, I see lots of different gardens in the local area and it still astounds me as to how different they are. Many have been a culmination of new residents coming in, adding their flourishes and evolving the garden for their wants and needs. The challenge with gardening is that unlike redecorating a room in the house which, once it's done – it's done. Once a garden is done, it's only just begun. Yes, you can spend thousands of pounds on mature trees but economically and ecologically, it makes little sense to do so.

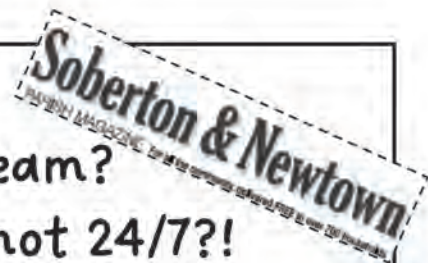
With a garden you may be lucky enough to have it designed and the designer can work with you and advise on the planting scheme so that it grows and develops with time, starting from something quite simple and sophisticated then, over time, mature into an abundance of various leaf shape, colour and textures to create a tapestry of interest. Finding someone with a design degree, horticultural training and an invested interest in the local community because they are a resident too sounds, well, like me!

If you'd like a design consultation, please find the Tudor Gardener advert within this publication because in the long run, having a plan saves you time, money and effort – it's simple maths.

The Tudor Gardener



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!

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.

Soberton & Newtown Local History Society



Our September talk on Hundred Acres and the Garnier Family was well attended and the Society was delighted to welcome a large contingent of guests from Hundred Acres, who were able to offer their insights and add information to the Society's archive.

With the evenings drawing in, we will be switching to our winter timetable, when our talks begin at 2pm, instead of the evenings.

UPCOMING TALKS

Thursday 8th October – William Cobbett's Botley, by Geoff Watts

Thursday 12th November – Charles Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," by Brian Sutton

Meetings at Rookesbury Hall, Church Road, Newtown 2 p.m.

History Society membership £12 per year

Visitors always welcome £2 per meeting

What Charles did next ... the fundraising exploits of Charles Wylie

5 Sep 2026. Following on from a parachute jump, rowing and abseiling, this year I tackled the Zipwire at Brighton.

My lovely wife Jean has been coping with Alzheimer's for 12 years: it's heartbreaking to watch a steady decline, knowing that there's no remedy yet.

50% of the population is forecast to be affected by dementia, either as victims or as carers. (Look around. Which half?). So the AIM is to raise as much money as possible for Alzheimer's Research UK where they are clearly focused on 'A CURE.'

So far we've raised over £40,000 with Gift Aid. The target is £50,000, so please give what you can at **JustGiving/charles wylie**, and share this with your contacts.

Bless you. May you be unaffected by dementia among your family and friends.

Charles



Soberton & Newtown Ladies Group

We started our new exciting and varied programme for the year in September with a lively and informative talk by Janet Mckenzie about bees and bee keeping. We learnt about the lives of these amazing and essential insects and the wonderful products they make.

The meeting on Wednesday 7th October is in Rookesbury Hall, Newtown at **8pm**. Poet, broadcaster and raconteur Commander Charles Wylie will be telling us about his life from serving in the Korean War to now raising money to support Modern Dementia by various escapades.

On 5th November, again at **8pm** in Rookesbury Hall in Newtown, Sacha Welch will be talking about Citizens Advice in Winchester. She will explain who they are, what kinds of things they can help with, and how to access them.

We always welcome new members. If you would like to find out more about the group, please contact either Liz or Helen.

Liz Whales 01489 877712 lizwhales@aol.com

Helen Stranks 01489 878270 helen.stranks@btoopenworld.com

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL *Chairman's notes*

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SobertonParishCouncil
Website - www.soberton-pc.gov.uk



Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Mayoral Combined County Authority

By way of an update the Parish Council understands that LGR elections have been paused and will be reviewed for the new unitary authority proposals. A new date has yet to be announced for the transition period which will see the take over of the role of the District Councils (in our case Winchester City Council). The new unitary authority, if confirmed after the review, 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.

The difficulty which will remain 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. As previously noted 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 the deficit three members are to be co-opted to the parish council. There is a full page advertisement 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 speak to any parish councillor to discuss the role.

Planning Applications and Planning Enforcement

Soberton Parish Council review all applications made in the Parish and make comment to both Planning Authorities (WCC & SDNPA). If an application is made in a site an orange notice should be displayed on the site itself. Everyone may comment on all applications however, you may share your views with the PC who will take comments into consideration when discussing a proposal.

Enforcement update on the Long Road field: WCC & SDNPA commenced direct action in June/ July removing a considerable number of caravans, fences and other illegal clutter from the site. The PC understands that any remaining occupants have been served further notices to leave the site, non compliance will trigger further action.

Useful Numbers:

WCC Environmental Health who cover nuisance, excessive noise, smoke, bonfires, odours and artificial light, telephone 01962 848097 eh@winchester.gov.uk

Environment Agency Incident Report: telephone number 0800 807060

For the Planning Enforcement team at WCC refer to the WCC website and follow the links.

Soberton and Newtown Parish Design Statement

Soberton Parish Council has completed the public consultation of the Soberton and Newtown Parish Design Statement (PDS) 2026 as agreed with the SDNPA and WCC. Comments will be taken on board and following this WCC and SDNPA will be requested to approve.

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 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

Autumn is here, we are expecting a warm but wet winter, we 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, horse riders and pedestrians.

Firework Night

Traditionally, November 5th is firework and bonfire night. We live in a rural area where animals can be unduly affected by loud bangs and screeches. If you are intending to hold a firework night event please advise your neighbours and give consideration to pets and livestock.

War Memorials

There are two registered war memorials in the Parish, the Lytch Gate at Holy Trinity Church Newtown and the Cross in Soberton High Street. Both require some maintenance work. The Lytch Gate has a number of wooden uprights in the gates which are being replaced, the PC thank John Haskins for carrying out this work (please note the gates may be removed for a short period). In the High Street Soberton the paving needs repointing, the PC is seeking volunteers to carry out this task. If you feel you can help please contact the Parish Clerk.

Traffic Management at Newtown School

Hampshire Highways are working on options to improve the traffic management at the entrance to the school on Church Road. The PC will publish proposals on the website and make further comment in the December/January parish magazine.

Soberton Recreation Ground

Further work to the field of play will commence including fertiliser, top dressing and seeding. The drought caused considerable damage, setting back the establishment of the grasses seeded in April/May this year.

John Hyland
Chair

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL - councillors

John Hyland Chairman chair@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Neil Findlay Vice-Chairman vicechair@soberton-pc.gov.uk

Sam Marland Cllrmarland@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Paul Henderson Cllrhenderson@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Jonty Sherwill Cllrsherwill@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Vicki Weston Cllrweston@soberton-pc.gov.uk
David Buttriss Cllrbuttriss@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Carol Williams Cllrwilliams@soberton-pc.gov.uk
Vacancies (3)

Clerk and Proper Officer clerk@soberton-pc.gov.uk

ACCREDITED COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

1 DETER ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
Deter anti-social behaviour through a visible and proactive presence within the community.

2 USE ACCREDITED POWERS
Use accredited powers granted by the Police to address anti-social behaviour and promote community safety.

3 EARLY INTERVENTION
Address low-level crime and anti-social behaviour through early intervention by engaging with schools, young people, parents, and carers to promote positive behaviour and prevent escalation.

4 SUPPORT THE POLICE
Support the Police by gathering and sharing intelligence and information to help keep the community safe.

5 REASSURING, ACCESSIBLE AND APPROACHABLE
Provide a reassuring, accessible, and approachable presence for residents and visitors, offering advice, guidance, and signposting to appropriate support services and community resources.

6 ACT AS AN ADVOCATE
Act as an advocate for residents, providing support and guidance in challenging situations.

7 ENGAGE AND INVOLVE
Engage with all sections of the community, building positive relationships and encouraging community involvement.

8 SUPPORT SCHOOLS
Provide support to schools on matters relating to pupil wellbeing and community safety.

9 SUPPORT VULNERABLE RESIDENTS
Identify and support vulnerable residents by helping them access appropriate services, including:
• Adult Services
• Children's Services
• Homelessness support services
• Other relevant partner agencies

10 FOOD BANK REFERRALS
Assess eligibility for and make referrals to local food banks.

11 COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME
Work in partnership with Winchester City Council to identify and combat environmental crime, including fly-tipping.

12 SAFER PARKING
Work with Parking Enforcement Officers to identify parking concerns and promote safer parking throughout the community.

13 SHARE INFORMATION
Proactively share information, access multiple communication channels to keep residents informed and raise awareness of community safety issues.

14 REPORTING
Record incidents, concerns, and interventions accurately, ensuring appropriate information sharing.

Soberton Parish Council
07442 166 124

District Councillors' Update: From Summer Heatwaves to Autumn Action

As the summer draws to a close, we reflect on a season of extreme weather that highlights the urgent need for local resilience. In response to intense heatwaves, we successfully brought the **'Beat the Heat'** motion to Winchester City Council. This motion urges the council to create dedicated public "cool spaces" across the district during heatwaves, integrate passive cooling and better insulation standards into future council housing development, and enhance community-level emergency planning to better protect vulnerable residents during extreme weather spells.



Unfortunately, the dry weather also brought severe wildfire risks. Following multiple reports of reckless bonfires threatening our countryside, we are actively pushing for a joined-up enforcement approach across emergency services, forestry bodies, and local agencies to ensure swifter prevention.

Our second council motion called for nature to be recognised as strategic critical infrastructure. It encourages decision-makers to realise that local communities, the economy, and future development rely heavily on these natural systems. Ultimately, we must understand the environmental networks supporting our communities before making major decisions—rather than realising their importance only after damage has occurred.

In recent months, we also directly challenged Council decisions regarding **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** funding—a charge placed on new building developments to help finance essential local infrastructure. Our priority remains ensuring that the Meon Valley receives a fair share of these district-wide developer contributions, so that they can be meaningfully reinvested into our rural pathways, facilities, and community spaces.

The other big news this autumn is that the government have unexpectedly withdrawn the plans for **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** in Hampshire. The existing councils under the two-tier system (Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council) will, therefore, continue to operate unchanged and the elections in May 2027 are expected to go ahead on existing council boundaries. At the time of going to print, the announcement had just been made so we will provide further updates as more information becomes available about the future of our councils and how it affects residents.

Finally, as we transition from keeping our houses cool to keeping them warm this winter, a reminder about the support that is available through the **'My Home Made Better'** scheme—a completely free, impartial advice service run by a partnership of local charities, including Winchester Action on Climate Crisis (WinACC). They provide custom home energy plans and signpost available financial grants. Crucially, their advice on insulation and ventilation helps your property maintain comfortable temperatures all year round. Contact them online or by phone to future-proof your home before the chilly weather sets in. (myhomemadebetter.org 0800 804 8601)

Cllr Danny Lee – dlee@winchester.gov.uk
Cllr Malcolm Wallace – mwallace@winchester.gov.uk
Cllr Suzanne White – swhite3@winchester.gov.uk

Could you lend a helping hand to a local family in The Meon Valley?

Raising young children can be one of life's greatest joys, but it can also feel incredibly tough at times. From sleepless nights and isolation to illness, mental health struggles, multiple births, or the everyday pressures of family life, many parents can find themselves feeling overwhelmed and in need of a little extra support.



That's where Home-Start Hampshire comes in. We are a local community charity built on a simple idea: local people supporting local families. We match compassionate, trained volunteers with families who are going through a difficult patch, offering free, confidential and non-judgmental support in their own homes.

Sometimes, a friendly ear, a shared cup of tea, or an extra pair of hands is all it takes to help a parent feel more connected, confident and able to cope.

To keep this vital service running across the Meon Valley, we are looking for local volunteers to join our team and would love to welcome some new faces.

You don't need any formal qualifications—just kindness, life experience, warmth and a little time to spare, usually around 2–3 hours a week or fortnight. We provide full training, friendly ongoing support and travel expenses, so you will feel supported every step of the way.

By giving just, a small amount of your time, you can make a lasting difference to a parent and child living right on your doorstep. If you would like to find out more about how we support families, or how you can become a volunteer, Margaret, our Area Manager, would love to hear from you.

We are running flexible prep training opportunities across your area throughout October & November 2026.

Telephone: 0330 124 2095

Email: familysupport@hshants.org.uk

Website: home-starthampshire.org.uk

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

What a great evening we had on the 6th August when Nicky Higgins gave a presentation to members on '*What is My Style of Photography*'.

It was wonderful to see the breadth of Nicky's work, as well as the before-and-after processing techniques she uses to develop her images and achieve her intended result or 'style'. In effect one is painting with sliders!

It was also great to see members using all kinds of equipment to view or photograph the recent eclipse. Tim Trew gets our vote for the best images and explains how he created them.

Next time: look out for a report on our annual exhibition, and two presentations featuring wildlife photography.

If you have recently acquired a new camera or want to re-kindle your hobby or even find out how to improve your skills using a camera phone, Bishops Waltham Photographic Society will welcome you and help you with your photography. Why not come along to one of our meetings, (free of charge) as a taster.

We meet once or twice a month at St. Peter's Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. Always on the first Thursday, then other Thursdays depending on our calendar. Please take a look at our website at

www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk or drop an email to info@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk for more information.

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



GIVE & TAKE

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

Help us to reduce waste in our town!

31st October 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.



Halloween & Christmas Items



Brought to you by
The Bishop's Waltham Town Team



Wickham Society Autumn Programme 2026

Meetings are held at the Wickham Community Centre starting at 7.30 pm. Membership is £8 per annum or £2.50 for an occasional visitor. New members and visitors are always welcome.

13 October 2026 - Wickham Community Centre

Hear about this vital community resource that we all take for granted!

Kat Short, Chair of the Community Centre

10 November 2026 - Iran behind the headlines

Learn about the context and life for ordinary citizens in Iran

Parviz Daneshvar, Wickham Resident

8 December 2026 - A Hampshire Midwinter

Find out how Christmas and other midwinter festivals have been celebrated through the years - Erica Wheeler, Author of 'The Little Book of Hampshire'

For more information visit www.wickhamsociety.org.uk or contact wendy.greenish@gmail.com



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!



Good day. We had our first meeting in our new venue today - Swanmore Village Hall. It has a stage, fitted projector and screen, comfortable seats and ample parking. We are delighted with it, especially as our first lecturer Paul Lillie gave us a history of the Beatles accompanied by a painting of the Beatles which he later auctioned for our benefit ..and music to boot. He attracted a much bigger audience and several new members. So...

For October on **6/10** John Landaw is lecturing on "Eye Disease." This will be particularly relevant to our group as he is covering recent advances in cataract, glaucoma and macular dystrophy. John is well known in Wickham region as a raconteur and all-round good egg!

On **20/10** Brian Sutton is talking on "Charles Dickens-it was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Brian is an accomplished speaker and has lectured to us before.

On **3/11** Alan Abbott, our distinguished Treasurer, will be talking on "Route 66", the famous USA road route, which he drove recently.

On **17/11** Marin Letts will help us discover what "Working and Wandering in Australia" is all about.

Location: **Swanmore Village Hall**. New Road, Swanmore SO32 2HF. (Just opposite the Swanmore Collage and on a bus route.)

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. **All lectures start at 2pm**

Lyndon (programme organiser)

Contact-07881991763

Or lyndonplmr@gmail.com

Web site-: southeast.u3asite.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

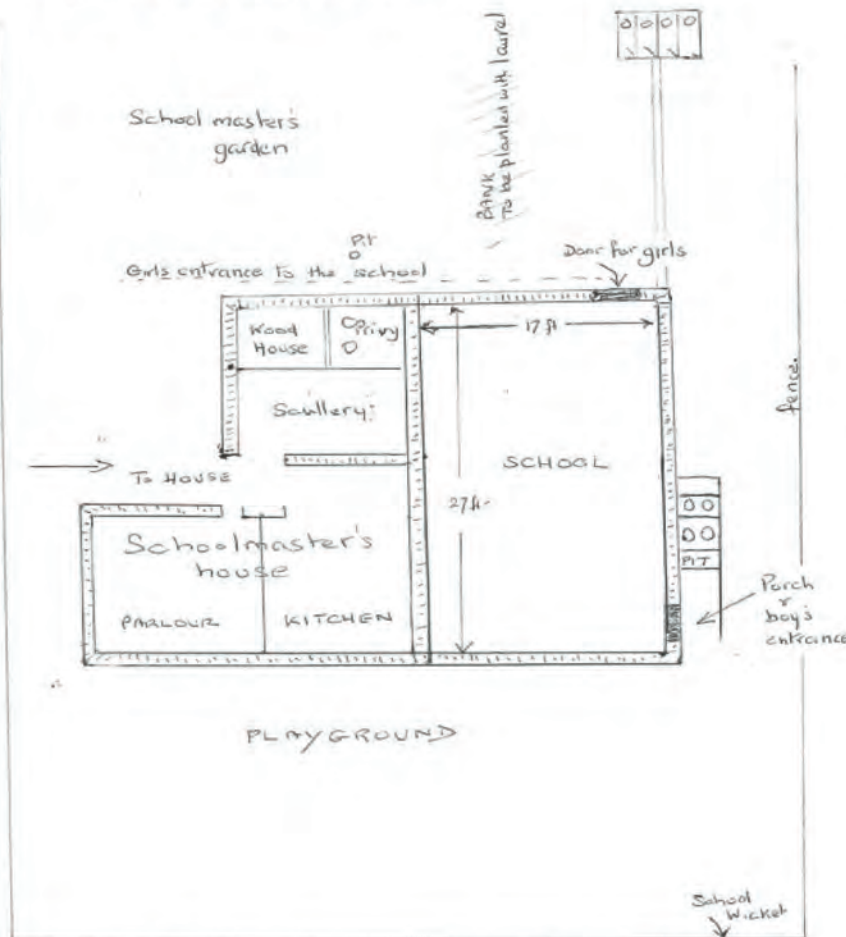
No service on other days or public holidays. £6 return, £3 single any journey. Bus passes accepted. Under 16 half fare. Under 5 free. Dogs allowed subject to driver discretion. Timings are strict, bus will not wait after scheduled time.

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 07736 714565
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 11 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 45 for full list of Councillors
CENTRAL MEVALLEY COUNCILLORS	Malcolm Wallace Danny Lee Suzanne White	See page 46 for contact details

From the Archives.....



Sketch Plan of Newtown School pre 1871

Plan plan at HRO 20M65

Newtown School

Left - Newtown National School plan pre 1871. The schoolroom was erected first in 1851 at a cost of £120. The schoolmaster's adjoining house in 1853 at £170. We can see the separate entrances for boys and girls and the separate outside toilets. The school was enlarged after 1871 to accommodate the number of extra children after education was made compulsory in The Education Act of 1870.

Below - A wonderful photograph of the pupils in their Sunday best, and teachers taken at Newtown School. The date is uncertain, but likely during the first quarter of 20th C.



(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



andrew & andrew

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FOR TRUST. FOR ADVICE. FOR LIFE.



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Tel: 023 9267 5555

EMSWORTH

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Emsworth,
PO10 7AN
Tel: 01243 680 800

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