



Meon Matters

*News, Views & Comment
from East Meon*

£1.00

Autumn 2023

Issue Number 218

meonmatters.com

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome back!

Whilst getting to grips with our weird summer weather system, the Meon Matters team has been beavering away nose to the ground, ears to the vine, sniffing out local stories for you to enjoy in our Autumn edition.

We have some interesting articles, from 50 years of bell-ringing to the local NHS First Responder Team and I took a jaunt to the allotments to understand their therapeutic powers.

With the fields transitioning to their next season so too are our social events - kicking off with the Harvest Supper and a new series of East Meon Arts in the church plus a run of really excellent films coming to Moviola.

So go find your thermals and pack away your swimming trunks, winter is on the way!

As always we love hearing from you - ideas and feedback all welcome at meonmatters@gmail.com

Have a leafy and lovely Autumn.

Very best wishes,
Clare & the team.

The Editorial Team: meonmatters@gmail.com
 Editors: Clare de Lotbiniere, Andrew Hughes, Nicky Staveley, Anna Tebbutt, Annabel Tyrwhitt-Drake
 Advertising and Finance: Andy Hales
 Distribution: Rosemary Ryder
 Layout and Printing: Wildly Upbeat Printers



Plumbing & Heating

wtfleming@me.com

Mobile **07775 866690**
Home **01329 830379**

William Fleming

All aspects of Plumbing & Heating

Boilers :- Servicing, Replaced, upgrades

Central Heating :- Flushed £350

Gas, LPG, Oil Log Burners

Domestic & Commercial

39 years experience

Free estimates

No call out charge

Breakdown . Service

New Installs







THE
**COUNTRY
HOUSE**
COMPANY

Sales | Lettings | Management

Selling, Letting & Managing properties in East Meon

02392 632 275

countryhousecompany.co.uk

Cover Picture: Salt Hill, Clare De Lotbiniere

Useful Numbers

POLICE

101 or 01962 841534

WEST MEON SURGERY

01730 829666

OUT OF HOURS DOCTOR

111

EAST MEON STORES

01730 823 276

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

03444 111306 / 0300 3300650

EAST MEON VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

07956 783061

EHDC

01730 266551

EAST HAMPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Rob Mocatta 01730 823908

EAST MEON PARISH COUNCIL

01730 262882 / 01730 776207

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

0845 603 5638

VICAR

Currently vacant

EAST MEON CARE GROUP

03300434823



AWM

Arbrook Wealth Management

**Qualified, Friendly Advice for Pension
Planning, Investment Planning & Protection.**

Chris Brooker (DipPFA)

Principal of Arbrook Wealth Management

M. 07932 892360

E. chris.brooker@sjpp.co.uk

SJP Approved 10/06/23



East Meon Garden Club Annual Show

Without a doubt the heavens were smiling on the Garden Show this year! The first drops of rain fell gently just as the last person collected their flowers, fruit, vegetables, cooked items and craft along with their cups, plaques and certificates. There had been a bumper crop of flower entries and more contributors had entered this year. The colour in the Village Hall on Sunday August 13 was wonderful to behold and the children's entries were imaginative and fun.

Everyone agreed that the cakes were superlative. In fact, Margaret Williams, our loyal and meticulous judge, said she had to award three first prizes such as the quality of the entries this year. The variety of chutneys, sweets and eats were an indicator that East Meon must certainly have a Masterchef amongst its cooks!

The worthy winner of the stitched item was Janet from EM shop with her finely executed cross-stitch work. Photographs included the category: A Village Event. It was won by Margaret Williams for her photograph of "Bovril", the new Court House calf.

Frank Moffatt, one of the longest serving members of the Garden Club kindly agreed to give out the prizes.



Cups and Awards for 2023

- Challenge Cup - Flowers and Vegetables – Norma Snart
- RHS Banksian Medal – For a competitor who has not previously won it – Norma Snart
- Novice Shield – For a competitor who has not previously won it – Mary Reynolds
- Allotment Jug – Allotment Holders – Steve Grier
- Edgebourne Cup – Flower Arranging – Mary Reynolds
- Produce Cup – Produce and Preserves – Sue Atkinson
- Children’s Cup – Child with the most points – Masha Lopatina
- Photographic Cup – Competitor with the most points – Pamela Peacock + Margaret Williams
- John Davies Salver – Arts and Crafts (most points in this section) / best in section – Jane Cobley

Cups and Awards for Garden Club Members Only

- East Meon Village Cup
Steve Grier

- East Meon Flower Cup
Mary Chaplin

- Plate for ‘Best in Show’
Mary Hales

Nicky Staveley



GC Masha Lopatina, Winner of Childrens Cup



GC Jane Cobley, Winner of the John Davies Salver for Arts and Crafts



GC Sue Atkinson, Winner of the Produce Cup with Frank Moffatt



GC Steve Grier’s Children - Winners of the Childrens Prizes



GC Pamela Peacock and Margaret Williams, Joint Winner of the Photographic Cup and Frank Moffatt



GC Norma Snart, Winner of Challenge Cup for Flowers and Vegetables and Banksian Medal



GC Mary Chaplin, Winner of the East Meon Flower Cup



GC Mary Reynolds, Winner of the Novice Shield with Frank Moffatt

Bovril by Margaret Williams. Photo prize winner'



Harvest Village Supper

all welcome

Saturday 7th October 2023,
6.30pm Village Hall, East Meon



£10 per adult, £5 per child, £25 family of 4
Delicious chicken pie and vegetables & pudding

Tickets available from the Village Shop
or email Clare to reserve claredelotbiniere@gmail.com

PLEASE RESERVE TICKETS BY MONDAY 2ND OCT SO WE
CAN SORT CATERING NUMBERS!

Donation bar - All proceeds from ticket sales and bar go to All Saints
Church

Entrance by pre-bought ticket only

AS Electrics
Andy Stubbington Electrics Ltd
For all your electrical needs
Free estimates and advice
Contact Andy on
07919 486 334
All information and testimonials on
www.aselectricspetersfield.co.uk

We Clean Ovens
...so you don't have to!
Call us today to have your cooking appliances sparkling, using our own eco friendly products.
Our oven cleaning experts will leave you free to enjoy your valuable leisure time.

Rated 5.0/5.0 on
TRUSTist
ovenu
oven valeting service
Local | National | Affordable
Call TODAY for LOCAL Service **01730 622344**
oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/petersfield

Introducing... TWiG
The East Meon Nature Group's Tree Working Group
TWiG is proud to be working with the Parish Council and the Community to explore and identify how the Village of East Meon and its Parish can

- make its contribution to combatting climate change
- help secure the future of our community and natural environment, its amenity, wildlife and fauna, in the face of a rapidly warming climate.

TWiG is seeking to achieve this through community and environmentally sensitive hedge and tree planting initiatives. We are busy formulating proposals but these will need community help to succeed.

If you would like to volunteer or provide your support
PLEASE CONTACT US ON: eastmeontwig@gmail.com

Butterflies and Climate Change – Nature Group

England has been spared the most extreme effects of climate change this summer. Across the world, there have been unusually high temperatures from Canada to Greece, with widespread major fires, followed by extraordinarily heavy rain and destructive floods. Inevitably, these have put an enormous strain on the natural world.

The picture has been less dramatic in Hampshire. A dry May and June was followed by a very wet cool July and more rain in August. These were difficult conditions for farmers and gardeners, and for wildlife similarly. This has also been reflected in nature group projects.

By the end of June, the nature hedges planted over the winter by the Tree Working Group (TWiG) along Workhouse Lane and behind the cricket pavilion were struggling with the very dry conditions. Volunteers turned out to weed and water the planting at the cricket pavilion which was showing serious signs of distress. But the rest of the summer - warm and wet - has provided good conditions to help the small saplings establish themselves. Thanks to those who helped. We look forward to new planting schemes next year to improve the country landscape of our village and provide additional habitat for wildlife.

The wildflower planting at the Workhouse Lane pavilion has had an excellent summer. Insects flocked to the mass of wildflowers from wild marjoram and ox-eyed daisies to scabious and valerian. Work parties have kept at bay the brambles and then cut back the top growth ready for next year. Thanks again to those who contributed to this work.



MEON VALLEY MEADOWS.COM 07810 109 715

All aspects of paddock maintenance & log splitting service

Deer fencing • Hedge trimming • Harrowing • Paddock topping
meonvalleymeadows@outlook.com • www.meonvalleymeadows.com

Nature Group members have maintained a regular butterfly count through a transect from South Farm up to the South Downs Way. A very slow start to the season was followed by excellent numbers from mid-June through to mid-July when the Downland flowers were at their peak; we are lucky that the South Farm maintains some wonderful Downland habitat. Particularly notable were the large numbers of Red Admirals - one of the more beautiful of our native butterflies; it was also a good year for Speckled Woods which, as their name implies, live at the edges of woodland and hedgerow. Numbers dropped off heavily with the prolonged spell of wet weather later in the summer. It remains to be seen what this will mean for populations carrying through to next year.

Three final points. Climate change remains a challenge to our native species; they will need all the support we can give them if they are to have a chance of survival, whether this is habitat protection, the judicious use of chemicals on our fields and gardens or the wider demands we make on the planet's ecosystems. Invasive pests brought to the UK by humans are an increasing challenge, whether this is ash dieback, Asian hornets attacking our honeybees or box moth destroying our topiary. And finally, the group only works because of wonderful volunteers who give freely of their time. If you or your families would like to help with planting new hedgerows, maintaining the existing ones, helping toads and newts across the road in the Spring, or with any of our other activities, do get in touch.

Contact the group on eastmeonnature.com

Jonathan Iremonger



IMMACULATE HOUSEKEEPING

Cleaning & Housekeeping Service

- Cleaning • Deep cleaning • End of tenancy cleaning
- Full housekeeping • Fully insured

info@immaculatehousekeeping.co.uk
07979 195117 01730 827983

History Group Winter Programme

When it's 30°C outside, it's hard to imagine cosy evenings in the Village Hall listening to enthralling talks whilst quaffing excellent wine. So do forgive the History Group for capitalising on the recent break in the weather to advertise our exciting programme of seven talks for the 2023/2024 season.

First of all, the dates for your diary:

Monday 16th October
 Monday 27th November
 Monday 11th December
 Monday 8th January
 Monday 12th February
 Monday 25th March
 Monday 15th April

As normal, talks will start at 7.30pm, with the bar being open from 7pm. Thank you to the Dudley-Williams' and Bussell's for running our bar for another year.

Subscriptions are unchanged too, at £20 per member for the season, or £5 per talk for guests. Our bank details are - account number 43610209 and sort code 20 69 40.

And now for the talks. We are kicking off with Rob Mocatta on the early history of Westbury House. Next we are delighted to welcome back Andrew Negus, who will begin his series of talks on the history of Winchester. Many of you will remember how he entertained us on the history of Portsmouth, so we can expect more of the same! And just before Christmas it's the turn of David Jeffrey who has offered to talk about William III and the Jolliffe family, and why his statue in the Square in Petersfield is so interesting. In the new year we continue in the same vein. It's possible our 12 February talk from James Rothwell on William of Wykeham will be held in the church, subject to heating considerations. We can assess this nearer the time.

As always, thank you for your support and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on Monday 16th October.

Andrew Hales

East Meon Church Flowers Go Green

Following an extremely interesting and informative demonstration from Amanda Wyatt about the use of Sphagnum Moss for flower arranging, some of the ladies of the East Meon flower group met at The Court House to put their new found skills to the test.

Sphagnum Moss keeps for years – it can be kept wet or be allowed to dry out and resoaked before use and therefore is a far better option than oasis. It is kept in place with the use of chicken wire and various ties and provides a wonderful base in which to arrange flowers. I think we were all surprised by how easy it was to use and how the stems stayed in the moss.

Some of you may have seen the results of our efforts which we put in the church – it will be interesting to see how long they last but we will be putting the moss and other new ideas to the test for Harvest Festival in October.

As a group we are trying to direct our work in a more green and environmentally sustainable manner – not just by using as many locally sourced flowers and greenery as possible, but also how we create and maintain our designs.





Church Changes

The beginning of September and the new school year has coincided with a flurry of activity at All Saints' Church.

On the evening of 4th September almost 80 members of our community attended two special church meetings held at All Saints. The first meeting, a parochial church meeting, was convened to elect additional lay members to East Meon's parochial church council (PCC) and lay representatives to the Deanery Synod. The second meeting of parishioners was convened to elect two new Churchwardens. Parishioners were able to extend a very warm welcome to our new Archdeacon of the Meon, Kathryn Percival who had generously offered to chair both meetings.

The meetings resulted in the election of eight new lay members to the PCC: Richard Brown, Lesley Dampney, Graham Davenport, Helen Galliano, Emma Gaisford, Marion Nash, Kati Whitaker and Sue Wright. They join Rosemary Bishop, Jane Martin and David Pepper as elected lay members on the PCC. In addition Ruth Atkinson was appointed as our lay Deanery Synod representative and continues in the role of secretary to the PCC. Tony Swayne also continues in his role as Treasurer, as does Andy Hales as independent examiner. The second meeting saw the appointment of Emma Bird and Stuart Martin as our two new Churchwardens. Our new appointees and newly constituted PCC were extended the very best wishes and support of those present at the meetings in discharging the continuing work of the PCC in the Parish and the Upper Meon Benefice.

Kathryn Percival also expressed particular thanks to both the outgoing Churchwarden, Jonathan Iremonger and the outgoing lay members of the PCC - Jane Cobby, Libby Swayne, Sue Zirps, Margaret Willams, James Rothwell and Leo Seymour, for all their faithful and dedicated service over many years. This has included our period of vacancy during which everyone has stepped up to the plate to maintain our services at All Saints and the work of our Church in the Parish. The new Churchwardens would like to echo these thanks on behalf of the new PCC and also thank the large body of volunteers within the community for their continuing dedicated and unstinting support (often unheralded) which they continue to give to the running of the many aspects of the daily life of our Church.

In the meantime the life and work of All Saints Church in the community continues apace. Although the Parish remains in vacancy, we continue to work closely with the other Parishes in our Benefice towards the appointment of a new vicar. We can only succeed with the fullest possible support from our wonderful community.

Computer Problems Solved

A qualified and experienced
Computer Engineer
who can efficiently solve
your home and business
computer needs



For a friendly, no obligation quote call:

Chris Guénier 01489 890738
07962 641796

Orchardlea, Swanmore
Info@computerproblemsolvedltd.co.uk
<https://www.cps-ltd.org.uk>

CPS Ltd



EAST MEON

BERRY GARDEN

Vintage Sparkling Wine from
the East Meon Vineyard



For information about
our wines visit:
www.eastmeonvineyard.co.uk
or email:
sales@eastmeonvineyard.com
grbartlett@ymail.com

All Saints continues to offer regular services both at 8am every Sunday and 10.30 am on the first and third Sundays of each month to which all are welcome. We would also like to remind members of the community of the upcoming traditional services to which all are warmly invited:

10.30 am Sunday 15 October

Harvest Benefice Eucharist at All Saints' Church East Meon

6.30 pm Thursday 2 November

All Souls Service at All Saints' Church East Meon

10.15 am Sunday 10 November

Remembrance Service at All Saints' Church East Meon

Emma Bird and Stuart Martin



Leydene Tree Care

All aspects of Tree Work Undertaken

Tree Removal | Reductions | Stump Grinding
Hedgecutting | Planting

07443 589 659

alexwill12@icloud.com



Parish Council Report

Let's kick-off with several congratulations and thank you's.

First off, we must congratulate our Chair Susan Davenport, Mike Critchley, John Mackinlay and Clare De Lotbiniere for their persistent pursuit (read PIA) of Southern Water regarding the village's recurring sewerage outflows. This resulted in an actual physical meeting with actual engineers who actually understand the situation. This is all a bit too messy for your editor, so we've included a "sewerage special" elsewhere in this edition of Meon Matters.

Second, Steve Ridgeon has been successful with his candidacy to be the SDNPA's representative for all 25 parishes in East Hampshire. This is a big role for Steve, and we of course can only benefit from having a member of our Parish Council so closely connected to the inner workings of the SDNPA. Steve will also be forever indebted to Charles Ritchie for so ably taking on his former Vice Chair role. Talking of which, Charles has just project managed a £27,000 repair bill for our often-troublesome pavilion, all covered by insurance you will be relieved to hear.

Thirdly, we are pleased to announce that Brian Biggs has volunteered to become East Meon's first-ever dedicated footpath warden, to walk our pathways and BOATs and report any actions needed. And he's already produced his first 12-page report. Timing could not be better as we are sensing Hampshire County Council is beginning to realise that its current BOAT policy is not cost-effective, being too focused on remediation rather than traffic prevention.

Let's also add a big thank you to all of you who have taken the time, trouble and ingenuity to contribute your ideas for the Parish Priority Statement. We received close to 200 comments including the many notes posted in the Village Hall café. Local democracy has never been so popular. The final consultation draft of the PPS has just been approved by your Parish Council at our September meeting.

And we must express our gratitude to the Hampshire Monday Group of volunteers who so enthusiastically, energetically and expertly tackled the sanding and repainting of the Frogmore bridge railings. They were a valuable introduction to us from Rob Mocatta, and we would be keen to use them again. They work for cake, so if you do see the Monday Group in the village, you know what to do! Here are the cheerful bunch.



A destination for all the family, The Dell's café, bar and restaurant champions local produce, serves delicious wood-fired, sourdough pizzas and Hampshire's celebrated beer and cider.

Find your spot and while away your weekends in the Meon Valley's newest sunspot. Opens late April!

Available for private hire for any occasion and we have accommodation available at Cedar Valley.

Don't miss out on Berefest over the August bank holiday weekend!

www.thedellhampshire.co.uk
@thedellhampshire



S J Reed & Son
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS LTD
Est:1976

**Domestic
Industrial
Agricultural**

ELECTRICAL

**Installation
Servicing
Repairs**

01730 821 792
sales@sjreedelectrical.co.uk
www.sjreedelectrical.co.uk



Frogmore Bridge railings

A couple more photographs. The first shows the Queen's Jubilee tree plaque, which we hope you approve of as we've ordered a second one for the King's Coronation tree. The other photo is of the shiny new All Sports Courts surface, which is proving a big hit with the youngsters.



EMPC King's Coronation Tree

Following timely comments from many of you, you will be pleased to hear we are looking to widen and reduce the camber of the footpath across the Green. Conscious of the traffic in Coombe Road, we are keen that residents of all ages are provided with a safe and scenic walk to and from the centre of the village. It's not a small job, but we think the extra utility will be immense. And we promise any leftover tarmac will be used to fill the potholes in the Village Hall car park.



New surface for All Sports Court

Whilst in this neck of the village, we are able to report that Harvest FC's youth team has started playing, generating much-needed match fees within the constraints of pitch preservation, and we expect their reserve team to follow shortly. From fees to trees, our recently commissioned tree survey has identified a number of ash trees requiring urgent attention within the next few months. Most are HCC's responsibility, but we will be in touch with the few residents also affected. And we are going to add the yew tree by the Frogmore allotments to the Woodland Trust's ancient tree inventory.

Regular maintenance of our playgrounds means they are faring far better than the ash trees, and to prove the point have been given a clean bill of health from ROSPA. As have our financial accounts for 2022/2023 from external auditors BDO LLP.

That's us acronym'd-out, so a good time to end. Enjoy autumn.

Andrew Hales

A3 Aerials
 Networks | CCTV | Satellite | AV Systems

Your Local Digital Specialist

- TV Aerials & Satellite Systems
- WiFi Solutions
- CCTV
- Networking

sky Freeview freesat

Friendly Advice
 No Call Out Charge

01730 265374
 07766 221685
<https://a3aerials.com>
justin@a3aerials.com

BSS welding & fabrication is a family run company based in South Downs National Park

DESIGN & MANUFACTURE OF HANDCRAFTED METALWORKS BASED IN SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

Skilled craftsmen in the design & manufacture of traditional & contemporary metalworks

- Gates
- Garden Structures
- General Welding & Fabrication
- Railings
- Furniture
- Architectural
- Estate & Parkland Fencing

For further information or to discuss your next project, please contact BSS on:
 Email: jon@brysonsiteservices.co.uk or telephone: 07894 546 789 or 02392 632 988

Petersfield Framing Studios

- ◆ Bespoke Picture Framing by Andy Parks
- ◆ Collection / Delivery service in East Meon
- ◆ ALL types of work undertaken
- ◆ 25 years experience
- ◆ Very competitive prices
- ◆ Tel: 01730 269926
- ◆ www.petersfieldframing.co.uk

The Hall Over Haul & The Parish Priorities Statement Consultation Event, Saturday September 2nd

Around 50 villagers came to see the Parish Council and East Meon Village Hall Committee joint Consultation Pop-In Event on Saturday September 2nd.

While the Parish Council introduced The Parish Priorities Statement (East Meon's contribution to the South Downs Local Plan Review), for the village hall this was a public consultation about the Hall OverHaul.

The village hall was built in 1974 making next year, 2024, our hall's 50th anniversary. The Hall OverHaul is all about carrying out the repairs, maintenance and improvements for the hall to thrive over the next 50 years. That means we need ideas and a plan where cost will be an important factor.

The information boards describing the work required will remain in the Small Hall for some weeks so they can be seen, for example, when visiting the Community Café on Tuesday afternoons and Friday Mornings.

This pop-in consultation was designed to seek villagers' views about how the hall can best contribute to East Meon. Everyone will have their own ideas and opinion for what the hall should (and perhaps should not) do, how the hall might look etc etc.

Here are some of the ideas put up on the post-it board so far.....

Improving the appearance of the hall inside and outside, adding Solar Panels and EV charge points, improving storage, installing bike racks, electric hand dryers and workspace with WiFi. New external doors and better access for mobility impaired people. Adding a water softener and hooks to hold up the badminton net were also raised.

Suggestions outside are a patio area, bird houses, green area with plants and South Downs information.


In terms of activities, there's a desire for youth club(s), anything for ages 4+, gym, jumble and car boot sales (the first one is happening on Sunday 24th September in the village hall car park).

There will be more consultation events as the Hall OverHaul plans progress. Do keep your ideas coming in for how the village hall can be upgraded and updated to make it somewhere you would want to work, rest and play.

You can tell us what you think by posting your ideas on 'The Hall OverHaul' consultation board in the Small Hall, or email chair@eastmeon-villagehall.co.uk so everyone's ideas, thoughts and opinions can be assembled.

David Pepper
Chair, East Meon
Village Hall
Committee





B OUTSIDE FOREST SCHOOL

provides high quality small group experiences




Woodland sites in Tichborne & Upham

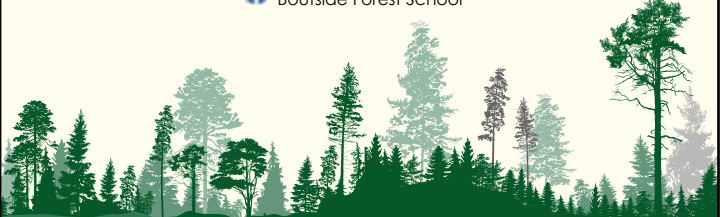
Pre-school & school age children
Young adults & adults
Private clients & business
Stand alone or 10 weekly sessions

visit the website to book or to explore what is available

- Holiday club
- After school club
- Birthday party
- Drop-in group for adults
- Corporate days and workplace wellbeing

www.boutsidefs.com

 boutsidefs@gmail.com
 [boutside_forest_school](https://www.instagram.com/boutside_forest_school)
 [Boutside Forest School](https://www.facebook.com/BoutsideForestSchool)



Landspeed Shared Purchase

Landspeed is an established affordable housing provider, based in Fareham, delivering a range of affordable homes to people within the south east of England for the last 15 years. This innovative scheme works in a similar way to shared ownership, in that the property sells for 75% of the open market value to people with a connection initially to East Meon. The remaining 25% is held by Landspeed Homes by means of a second charge and there is no rent or interest charged on this at any time. This generally works out more affordable on a monthly basis than a traditional 50% owned, 50% rent shared ownership scheme.

'We're very pleased to have these beautiful new homes to offer the people of East Meon. I'm often asked 'where's the catch' but there really isn't one.' says Sam Pullen, Sales Coordinator at Landspeed Homes. 'Purchasers will need a 5% deposit which is calculated on the open market value of £350,000 and will need enough money to cover solicitors fees and mortgage application, our scheme offers a more affordable way to stay or move back to this stunning village.'

The apartments are part of the Penny Mile development in Coombe Road with views over local farmland, each has 2 bedrooms and are allocated 2 parking spaces. The high specification also includes integrated oven, hob, extractor hood, fridge/freezer and washer/dryer. Luxury vinyl flooring to kitchen and living area, carpet to bedrooms and tiles in the bathroom. Anticipated to be ready for occupation at the end of 2023.

Please contact Landspeed Homes for an application form sales@landspeed.uk.com or call us on 01329 284109 if you have any queries.



4 new apartments, Penny Mile, East Meon

Affordable Homes available locally to buy at up to 75% of market value*

Four apartments available under the Landspeed **Shared Purchase Scheme**. For sale at up to 75% of the open market value to people who live, work or have close family connections in the East Meon and East Hampshire District Council area and are unable to afford a suitable home on the open market.

Part of the Penny Mile development in Coombe Road with views over local farmland, these apartments each have 2 bedrooms and 2 allocated parking spaces. The high specification includes integrated oven, hob, extractor hood, fridge/freezer and washer/dryer. Luxury vinyl flooring to kitchen and living area, carpet to bedrooms and tiles in the bathroom.

Anticipated to be ready for occupation at the end of 2023 (75% sales price £262,500).

*Qualification criteria apply

Please contact Landspeed Homes for an application form sales@landspeed.uk.com or call us on **01329 284109** if you have any queries.

LANDSPEED

www.landspeedhomes.uk

EAST MEON CINEMA

FILMS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

AUTUMN SEASON 2023

SAVE THE DATES

ALLELUJAH

Friday 29th September

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Friday 27th October

OPPENHEIMER

Friday 24th November

BARBIE

Friday 29th December

- All films will be screened in East Meon Village Hall
- The doors and bar open at 7pm
- At 7.30pm the programme begins with shorts and trailers
- Then a brief interval for refills and ice creams
- The feature film starts around 7.50pm
- NB Oppenheimer will start at 7.30pm – no trailer or short – and there will be an interval about half way through

Tickets

£6.50 each

- Buy in person at East Meon Village Shop – (cash or cheque, no booking fee)
- Buy online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-meon-cinema> (a small booking fee applies)
- Buy on the door (card, cash or cheque)
- Email eastmeonmoviola@outlook.com to reserve for collection and payment on the night

NB The seating is not allocated

Bar

The Village Hall doors and the bar open at 7pm for wine, beer and soft drinks. Pay by card or cash

Ice Creams

Delicious Jude's Ice Creams are available in the interval following the shorts and trailers

Mailing List

If you would like to be kept up to date with future screenings, join our mailing list. Email Lucy at eastmeonmoviola@outlook.com

We look forward to welcoming you again
or for the first time!

The East Meon Cinema Team

School News

East Meon CE Primary School pupils have been welcomed back by their new acting Headteacher, Mrs Slamaker. Julie Slamaker has worked at East Meon Primary for the last 5 years as Lead Teacher and class teacher for both Explorers and Voyagers classes. She was part of the staffing team that supported the children of East Meon through Covid and has assisted Miss O'Toole in creating her vision for the school. Julie is interested in promoting outdoor learning and in the time she has as acting Headteacher, she intends to investigate how they can develop their outdoor learning experiences.

During the first week back, along with the expected maths and English lessons, the children at East Meon have been taking part in Teambuilding and Wellbeing sessions. 'We wanted the children to settle well into their new classes and build good relationships,' Mrs Slamaker told us, 'so far, this has been a successful start to the term.'

The house teams have had a re-vamp this year. After a general discussion, it was decided to re-name the houses to link with wildlife that can be found in the South Downs, and in particular, East Meon. As a result, the school now have house teams named after Red Kites, Green Newts, Purple Periwinkles and Blue Dragonflies. On one of the teambuilding afternoons, the whole school, staff included, worked together to tie-dye T-shirts in their house colours. The staff are also hoping to create some art displays using the house symbols as inspiration.

East Meon Primary is very happy to welcome their newest and youngest school members; the reception class, Discovers! It is always a joy to see these little learners getting the most out of their time in school; absorbing new ideas and playing alongside others in their new environment.

Although it may seem early, we are aware that parents of children starting school next year (September 2024) will need to make applications soon. With that in mind, East Meon has an Open Day on Friday 6th October – 1.30-3pm for reception children starting September 2024. Please telephone to book a place.

Autumn Term Dates

Monday 4th September – Start of new Autumn Term

Friday 8th September – New House Team reveal

Monday 2nd Oct – Parents Evening - times to follow

Tuesday 3rd Oct – Parents Evening - times to follow

Friday 6th October – 1.30-3pm open day for reception children starting September 2024. Please phone to book a place.

Friday 13th October – 2.30-3pm Harvest Festival at the Church; all welcome.

Friday 10th November - Remembrance Service at the Church; all welcome.

Xmas Fayre & Nativity TBC.

G. RIXON LTD.

ELECTRICAL PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS



01329 834600

www.g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

enquiries@g-rixon-ltd.co.uk

OIL, LPG AND NATURAL GAS FIRED BOILERS
WORCESTER BOSCH ACCREDITED INSTALLERS
DISABLED BATHROOM SPECIALISTS

East Meon Sewage Update How FOG is Causing Problems

As you are all well aware last winter was a particularly bad one for sewage leaks in the village. We had raw sewage pouring out from manhole covers in Workhouse Lane and in residents' gardens as well as welling up in the downstairs toilets of properties near the allotments. The River Meon was being polluted and the Environment Agency and Southern Water (SW) paid numerous visits to East Meon to monitor and record but without any promises of action.

At last following over 3 years of lobbying various representatives from the water company agreed to a meeting over a month ago. We met with the Hampshire Operations Manager, Sewer Network Manager and a hands-on engineer. The objective was to show them the areas where sewage and toilet paper had been visible on the open street and in gardens and to discuss in detail how the situation could be tackled.



We were told that our Victorian pipes WERE fit for purpose and that a few extra houses would not impact their efficiency. The main Workhouse Lane pipe following a jetting was found in July to be running at 20% of its capacity.

Sewage leaks happen in the winter after heavy rain when the pipes cannot cope with the volume of extra water. SW undertook to test whether groundwater seeping into the pipes as the problem could be the cause and discovered two major fractures. These are going to be patched which should prevent ingress during the wetter parts of the year. We await notification of the installation date.

Whilst seepage is a factor more relevant is ground water run off i.e. water going into the sewage pipes from areas where it cannot soak into the ground such as roads, driveways, patios, pavements and from house roofs. Very little can be done about this other than increasing the size of the 6-inch Victorian pipes. This is not going to happen in East Meon or any of the other hundreds of towns and villages which are still served by pipes over 100 years old.

The problem does not seem to be so much our old sewers but what we must learn to call FOG (Fat, Oil and Grease) which creates fatballs in the pipes restricting flow. When the main pipe taking effluent to the water treatment plant was inspected by video in the spring (before it was jetted) it was found to be restricted as 80% of the pipe was blocked with FOG. We checked and both pubs in the village were complying with all the relevant restrictions. SW's view is that FOG is largely caused by residents unwittingly contributing to the fatballs.

We have asked SW to produce an appropriate leaflet for us all to refer to advising us as to how we can help mitigate the problem.

Southern Water has confirmed it will be using video to monitor the Workhouse Lane pipe in September to review the condition of the sewer and any build-up of fat. If necessary the pipe will then be jetted later in the autumn before the heavy rains start. They also undertook to book in a second jetting for January in case this is needed.

The water company also confirmed that they would look into what measures could be taken by them to avoid sewage welling up in private gardens and homes and have been in touch with the residents concerned.

The water company also confirmed that they would look into what measures could be taken by them to avoid sewage welling up in private gardens and homes and have been in touch with the residents concerned.

So we have some progress at last. It is very much up to us to help Southern Water help us. The promised leaflet should be delivered to you by SW if it does not arrive in time to be included as an insert in this edition. In the mean-time please **DON'T** tip grease down your sinks, **DON'T** rinse yogurt pots or cream containers - instead wipe them with kitchen roll and don't put nappies down the toilet (yes people are doing this!).

Self-help and pipe-hygiene-education is the key.

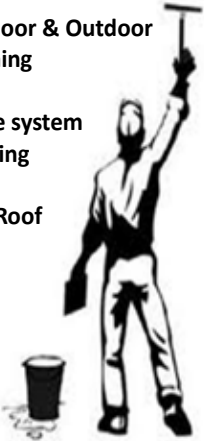
Susan Davenport
Chair East Meon Parish Council



**Pearl
Window Cleaning
Services**

A local family-run business

- Traditional Indoor & Outdoor Window Cleaning
- Water-fed pole system Window cleaning
- Conservatory Roof Cleaning
- Fascia & Soffit Cleaning
- Fully Insured



For your FREE quotation
Please contact Adam or Samantha
Tel: **07546954686**
Email: pearlwcs@gmail.com




Arrow
Fencing

Domestic | Agricultural | Commercial
All aspects of fencing undertaken
For more information visit - arrowfencing.net
E: arrow-fencing@outlook.com
T: 01730 823937 M: 07828482400



Meet the Meon Valley Community Responder Team

Jennie Ham

East Meon has become the base for a new ambulance Dynamic Response Vehicle (DRV) provided by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) Charity to help Meon Valley Community First Responders (CFR) respond to life-threatening emergencies in the area.

I have been a CFR for seven years and am now the coordinator for the Meon Valley scheme, which is made up of six CFRs, three of which are based here in East Meon. The team is made up of Jane Warwick (Shedfield) who joined in 2016, Clive Tillbrook, who joined in 2020, Su Lancashire (Soberton) and Debbie Westley (West Meon) who both joined in 2022 as well as our latest CFR, Suzie Brooker. The Meon Valley scheme members meet once a month to share training and recent experiences.

Most CFRs have no medical background or qualifications and are trained by SCAS in Basic Life Support to deal with time-critical medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke, choking, diabetic emergencies, breathing difficulties, seizures, and traumatic injuries. Following additional training, we are also sent to patients who may have fallen at home.

CFRs quite often sign-on from home and are called out by the Ambulance dispatch teams, usually to emergencies within five minutes from their location, so they are particularly valuable in rural communities where it may take an ambulance a longer time to reach a patient.

However, we are also trained to drive the DRVs, which allow us to expand our area of coverage as well as carry more equipment, such as our Mangar Elk – a lifting cushion designed to help patients off the floor.

It's often very busy but recently, Su and I had a very busy night, covering ten calls from 3pm until 1am, travelling from Hayling Island, Waterlooville, Whiteley, Lee on Solent and into Portsmouth. The youngest patient was 4 months and the oldest 83, while the final patient of the shift needed help to get up from a fall, which was safely done using the Mangar Elk.

We respond to calls as soon as we can, usually arriving within a few minutes and before the ambulance arrives, but we are not trained in Emergency Driving and so we are not allowed to break the speed limit or run past red lights!

We are also active in the community, providing Basic Life Support Awareness sessions. Recently, Jane organised such a session for Shedfield Parish along with the HeartStart charity on what to do on spotting a casualty and using CPR and Defibrillators if required. Su also led similar sessions with Denmead and Purbrook Women's Institutes, focusing on recognising the key signs and symptoms of heart attacks, strokes and cardiac arrests, and the immediate actions that could be taken to help someone in this situation.

Please get in touch if you would like a similar session for any group in East Meon.

To find out more about volunteering for or donating to the SCAS Charity, please contact me on jennifer.ham@sca-charity.org.uk or visit scascharity.org.uk and please do follow the "Meon Valley CFRs" Facebook page.

MEON VALLEY

CHIMNEY SWEEP



Qualified and fully insured chimney sweeping service based in East Meon, serving all the surrounding towns and villages

- Specialist brushes and equipment to sweep all types of chimney flue, lined and un-lined
- Thatch Advice Centre associate member
 - Bird nest removal
- Certificates issued with every job
- CCTV flue inspections

Call Katie Foster on: 07827 727801

www.meonvalleychimneysweep.co.uk
meonvalleychimneysweep@gmail.com






ANY 1 MOVE

Furniture removals
House clearance
Deliveries & collections

☎ 07859 034 639

✉ any1move@hotmail.com

Fifty Years of Bell Ringing in East Meon

During the Second World War, the government stopped all normal ringing, the bells only to be rung in the event of Hitler's invasion. Ringing appears not to have started again in East Meon until after the war.

In the 1950s and 60s the odd quarter peal was rung by visiting bands (I suspect with some difficulty), and there was the odd unsuccessful attempt to start a band. However the tower was basically silent and neglected and had deteriorated into a dreadful state. Numerous pigeons had gained access and were using the tower as their loft, making an unholy mess. That was how we found it in 1973 when Ernie Salmons and I went along to East Meon to investigate why the bells were out of action. We soon found out – the neglected bell chamber was full of sticks, guano and rubbish brought in by the pigeons over many years. The stick nests were above the soundbows, thus locking the bells in place and causing them to be unusable.

So Ernie and I set about the several weeks of backbreaking, dirty work to remove all the rubbish and guano, replace the plaster that had fallen off the walls in the ringing chamber and redecorate after the big clean up. Then we repaired broken wheels, got rid of the woodworm, cleaned out the gum from the bell plain bearings, spliced ropes, reinstalled bird defences and so on. What a filthy, unpleasant job!



The bells were now ringable, but what about a team to ring them? I asked the tower captain at Petersfield, where I rang at the time, if a combined band could be set up to ring at both churches, but he was not amenable to this idea. It was decided to go it alone; starting with just two Harris' and two Salmons'. In scouring around for any unattached ringers in the area Bill Cope of Petersfield and Alan Buswell of Denmead were recruited, thus making a core of six to build on. Charles Bassett, the district secretary, said that it was impossible to start a team from scratch and keep it going, and he did not think we would last for more than 9 months. That was 50 years ago and the bells are still ringing.

So, to celebrate this anniversary, we are planning to ring a peal of Grandsire Caters starting at 1000 on Saturday, 28th October. I plan to ring "MOLLY", my late wife's memorial bell, which was installed during the 1990 restoration / augmentation. Why not come and listen? And we will be in the pub afterwards!

Bill Harris

Interested in joining the current band?
Contact Pam Barnsley on 07751505123



Hampshire Country Sports Day 2023

This year's HCSD in aid of Countryside Alliance, was held again at Bereleigh on Sunday September 10th and after some seriously hot weather, we were expecting a cooler atmosphere, but the BBC persisted with a high of 28°C. However, no-one forecast the heavy showers which started mid-morning and by lunchtime much of the unprotected public decided enough was enough and started to go home. None of this was good for the gate or for everyone's takings.

The show itself had a full programme showcasing country sports with opportunities to "have a go" at clay shooting, fishing, archery, airguns, dog showing and dog handling, as well as enjoying the local beer and food.

Trade stand bookings started to increase a month before the show, after a slow start, so there was plenty of variety for everyone. The main arena saw the comeback of the hunt scurry which involves a race between 2 teams of hunters, supporters and terrier men, building and taking down fences, as well as racing under and over the jumps. It provides a field day for our 2 commentators.

The arena was completely surrounded by cheering supporters. Next year will see even more competition from our neighbouring hunts.

By 3.30pm the rain had taken its toll and the public had headed home. A very sad day for our committee who put the show together but hopefully most of the public had enjoyed the curtailed experienced.

Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake

Many thanks to Kieran Cox Photography for the pictures



Vegetable Therapy

As the sun sinks over the top of the hill behind Hen Wood, the allotments take on a quiet milky atmosphere, the birds singing their goodnights and the grass getting damp with the change of season dew, I start to understand why having an allotment is quite an appealing idea. I was talking to Dave Wyatt about his allotment experiences and whilst a large proportion of this is about stocking up on uber-fresh vegetables (you really can't beat the taste of a carrot fresh out of the ground) it's also about the peacefulness, the space, the sky, the smell in the air (a mixture of earth, plants, the scent of the flowers, the freshly cut grass)... the sense of connection with the land, which we are increasingly distanced from...

Dave Cooke who runs the allotments with Alastair Dudley-Williams is an oracle of knowledge when it comes to the history of these lovely spaces and why they came to be. As far back as early 19th century, the General Enclosure Act came into force and enclosures of land were authorised to be set-aside to be used as allotments. This was to do with survival more than recreation, and Dave suggests that in the reign of Elizabeth 1st, commoners were compensated with allotments of land attached to their cottages. The Allotment Act of 1908 imposed responsibilities on Parish Councils to ensure that the land was not used for commercial purposes, and to this day that rule still applies.

Dave reassured me that there are no rules though in terms of what can be grown, and perhaps this is what makes the allotments at both ends of the village so alluring. The hazel frames with great jack-and-the-bean-stalk beans of every variety, the technicoloured razzle of the dahlias, the fuzzy heads of a large bed of carrots, the purple veins of the beetroot leaves, the hidden cloudy-purple on the blueberry bushes, pear trees laden, pumpkins turning orange as the autumn progresses... The smorgasbord is limitless.



I asked a few allotment holders about the environmental elements of being growers, and the general consensus is that growers are careful about what they put into the soil... and how they deal with pests like bind-weed... There's something about knowing the provenance of your food that possibly influences what a grower is more likely to put on their seeds or dig into the earth – and it seems that even the manure is locally sourced (Atkinsons!) – so the very essence of what is coming up from the ground couldn't really be more local.

The benefits of having an allotment are multiple – it's good exercise and a nice gentle way to meet people from the village, it's a lovely switch-off after a day in the office, you know exactly where your vegetables have come from and boy-oh will they taste so much better than the ones wrapped in plastic from the supermarket... There is a mindfulness involved with the focus and attention that one needs to give the land, it takes you away from day to day worries and brings you back to something so fundamentally connecting: nature.

And if for whatever reasons you can't get your own allotment, make friends with someone who does have one - they will always have an incredible bounty to share in September!

CdeL

PS Anyone interested in looking into obtaining an allotment please contact Dave davidcookeempc@gmail.com or Alastair.

D.J. SCOTT
GARDEN MACHINERY

SALES & REPAIRS

Wheely Down Garages
Warnford, Nr. Southampton
Hampshire SO32 3LG

Telephone/Fax: 01730 829207

www.dj-scott.com

JDS | **GENERAL BUILDERS**

For all your requirements

- Extensions ● Alterations Conversions – Lofts, barns etc.
- Brickwork Stone and Flint work
- Oakwork ● New builds Domestic and Commercial

Free Estimates Reasonable rates

Call **Jerry Sillence** East Meon 01730 823524
Mobile 07817 476789

YOUR LOCAL BUILDER!

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

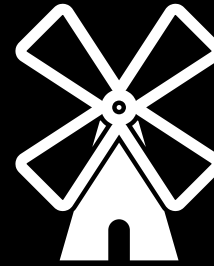
Farm Report

It is now the 18th of September and a much cooler wet day, following on from what we had experienced the week before, normally known as an Indian Summer. This period of hot weather came at about the same time as the bulk of the harvest in our area had been completed. Ironic yes, but very irritating and expensive. The fuel bill this year for cutting and drying 2,700 acres of grain is not far off £50,000, almost twice that of last year; hopefully all the bills are in! The running of 2 combines and their support is around 2,000 litres of fuel a day and that does not include the grain dryers. If we had had that 10 days of hot sunny weather a month earlier, it would have made an enormous difference.

As far as what we have harvested this year, the actual quality of the early sown wheat and barley seems to have held up very well, albeit fairly washed out in appearance. On the whole, the later sown crops were a disaster; late sown barley, oats and spring beans being the hardest hit. It is very easy to blame it all on the dodgy August weather but cast your mind back to March this year. March is a critical time for the crop to establish and it is usually a month where you would expect high winds and a fair bit of rain, but this March we did not turn a wheel for the whole month. I have enclosed a photo of this year's and last year's oats; can you spot the difference? On the right is this year's oats looking very black and dusty compared to last year's oats on the left which have a nice golden look to them.

With all that griping done, we will live to fight another day with next year's wheat being sown as I write.

Nick Atkinson, South Farm



WINDMILL GARAGE HORNDEAN

info@windmillgarage.co.uk

02392 571 003

The Family Car Specialists

Book your next MOT and Service at the same
time and get 10% off your Service

Quote Service10 when you book

Service and MOT must be booked
for the same day, for the same
vehicle.

Does not include optional sundries
such as long-life oil.



Website



Directions

The Izaak Walton

**Open
Every Day
10am
until late**

Pub • Café • Tea Room
Garden • Play Area • Car Park
Lunches, suppers & snacks
Freshly-ground coffee
Homemade cakes
Local ale, cider, wine & spirits

High Street, East Meon, Hampshire

(01730) 823252

www.theizaakwalton.com

izaakwaltoneastmeon

Young stars wow the West Meon music festival

Several of UK's rising young stars were featured in this year's West Meon Music Festival which proved as popular as ever this year with music from Monteverdi to Mahler, Schubert to Schoenberg.

The festival, now in its thirteenth year, opened with the event's founders the Primrose Piano Quartet, performing Brahms' A major Piano Quartet while the rest of the concert saw such award-winning performers as pianist Thomas Kelly and double-bass player Will who this year has been selected as one of six young musicians to be supported by the Young Classical Artists Trust.

The concert closed with two sublime performances of French music with exciting young soprano Harriet Burns followed by the "Festival Finale" in the afternoon with works by Fauré, Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Françaix and Bizet. The festival is run entirely by volunteers, and is looking for anyone who might like to lend a hand next year. You do not need to know anything about music! Anyone who simply enjoys having wonderful chamber music on our doorstep may like helping to publicise the festival, or to help with putting up & dismantling the stage, or helping with the catering or collecting some of the Primrose's guest musicians from the station if they don't have their own transport. There are lots of ways to contribute, and any help would be very warmly welcomed! Please do contact Sue Scholes at sue@millbarrow.com if you are interested in learning more.

The festival's French theme continued the following week when East Meon Arts welcomes back Index Cantorem to East Meon church to perform a mix of French choral music, from the Renaissance to the present day including works by Josquin, Moulinié, Charpentier, Poulenc and Debussy.

Keep your eyes peeled for more events from East Meon Arts.

Kati Whetaker

Float Your Boat

Anyone venturing from Fiveways to Oxenbourne east of the village may have seen that a fairly radical resurfacing and gate scheme is now in place. While for some this represents a challenge, as the stone coated paths look rather suburban, are hard on the horses' feet and not very friendly to smaller bicycle wheels, the new gates offer the promise of better winter control of the motorcycles that have been damaging surfaces for years.

When locked it will take a bulldozer to get through these gates. But if these newly surfaced tracks are left open all year they could well get hammered by bikers when the others are closed to them over the winter under the winter closure scheme. The amount of money spent is slightly surprising as it would surely be far cheaper to close the BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) to motorized leisure transport?

Maintenance of tracks which allow motorised transport falls to HCC Countryside Access Team. Happily the trees either side of the track have not been removed (as they were along the West Meon railway trail) so after leaf fall it will be less like a park path and more like a country track.

The Parish Council remains committed to working towards banning all non-essential motorised vehicles from BOATs for the benefit of other users; walkers, riders, cyclists and runners and to protect the environment and biodiversity of these ancient tracks. This is not going to happen overnight.

Andrew Hughes



Census 2021 – What it tells us about East Meon

The Office for National Statistics has released information about the 2021 Census. If you go to <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/> and enter East Meon into the 'Name Your Area' box the results for the Parish of East Meon can be compared with wider areas including England, the South East, Hampshire and East Hampshire. Some of the numbers have a 'warning' on them as they may have been impacted by temporary changes to the way we did things due to Covid.

Here are a few headlines, but have a look for yourself – there is a lot of interesting information! The starting point is that our village area is populated by 1,200 (to the nearest 100) in a country of 56,490,000 (not that we are any way at all competitive with West Meon - population 810). We are a little drop! This little droplet comprises 51% women and 49% men. Of the 1,200, 97% have England as country of birth – which is 10% higher than the national average.

As a village it seems we still generally value religion, with 56% of the population describing themselves as Christian, where the national average has dropped (as reported earlier in the national news) to 46%. (Although our vicars – when we had one - may have noted that 600+ don't turn up to All Saints every Sunday...). Below are some snapshot stats which stand-out and give a general overview of our village...

Age - 9.4% of East Meon's population is 65-69 years old (4.9% for England).

Employment - 58.4% of East Meon's population aged 16 or over is in employment (57.4% for England).

Active. 39.4% (39.1%) are economically inactive i.e. not looking for work, retired etc.

WFH. 47.7% (31.5%) of people in employment work mainly from home, although this may have been inflated by Covid.

Cars - 77% of East Meon households have 2 cars/vans or more (versus 35.2% across England).

School-children/students - 16.5% of East Meon's population are schoolchildren or full-time students (20.4% for England).

Tenure of Household - 62.8% of East Meon's households own their home outright or via a mortgage, loan or shared ownership (62.3% across England).

Rented. 19.8% (17.1%) are social rented and 17.4% (20.6%) are private rented or rent free.

Ending on a positive note, it seems that in the 'general health' category the village performs well above the national average, with 56% saying they have Very Good Health compared to the national average of 48%. It must be all those walks up the steep hills keeping us fit!

Steve Ridgeon, EMPC

South Downs National Park Authority – New Member

East Meon now has its second representative on the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) with the election of Steve Ridgeon by the 25 Parish and Town Councils in East Hants. There are 27 Members of the Authority, 6 from Parish or Town Councils (2 each from Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex), 14 from Local Authorities within the National Park and 7 Members appointed by Defra (Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs). We are fortunate in East Meon as another of our residents, Rob Mocatta, is a Local Authority SDNPA Member.

The National Park stretches from near Winchester in the west to Beachy Head in the east (183 parishes and around 112,000 people, the most populated National Park in the UK). It has 2 purposes: 1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and wildlife of the area and 2. To promote opportunities for their understanding and enjoyment. The role of a Member includes participating in the development of policy direction, strategy and innovation within the Authority through the development of management policy and business plans, supporting the work of the SDNPA staff to achieve this. As with all National Parks, taxpayers throughout the UK pay for the SDNP, so making it 'A National Park for All' is important. A lot of work goes on in the SDNPA to help towards this objective.

Steve has already learnt that the SDNPA budget has been frozen for several years, meaning that clear priority setting has become essential. Also, the SDNP doesn't own land, apart from the Seven Sisters Country Park near Seaford and the South Downs Centre in Midhurst, so all work to protect and improve the landscape must be done in partnership with landowners, farmers etc.

The SDNPA website (www.southdowns.gov.uk) is an excellent resource to find out what is happening in our National Park.

Steve Ridgeon, steven.ridgeon@southdowns.gov.uk interviewed by Andrew Hughes

MARK WYATT

Quality Decorating

All aspects of interior and exterior decorating

07830 819300

markwyattqpd@gmail.com

Halloween Recipes

Butternut Squash soup

2 large butternut squash
1 whole garlic
2 stock cubes
2 inches fresh ginger (optional)

1. Wipe down the butternut squash, top and tail them and then cut them in half length ways.
2. Put them in a roasting tray, scatter the garlic and drizzle with olive oil.
3. Roast them for an hour or so until they are nice and tender.
4. Make 2 pints of stock with the stock cubes (or homemade stock if you have it).
5. Blend the butternuts really well.
6. Heat through either stirring all the time or with a lid on the saucepan as it will "pop".

'Mr Fawkes' Fireball' cocktail

60ml Dampney's Marvellous
Marmalade Vodka

15ml fresh orange juice.

90ml cranberry juice

Pour in this order gently as above to get graded colours and garnish with a lemon wheel and frozen blackberries.

Jonti Dampney



Meringue Ghosts

4 egg whites
8 oz caster sugar
Edible black ink pen for the eyes

1. Heat oven to 110C.
2. Whisk the egg whites, slowly at first, gradually increasing the speed until the egg whites are at the stiff peak stage.
3. With the mixer at full speed, start adding the sugar, one tablespoon at a time.
4. Once all the sugar has been added, keep whisking until you have a stiff and glossy mixture.
5. Spoon the mixture onto a baking tray with a piece of baking parchment on it. You can either get creative and create ghost like shapes or stick to a more traditional meringue shape.
6. Bake for about an hour, until crisp on the outside and gooey in the middle.
7. Once cooled, draw two big, droopy eyes and an open mouth. If you don't have an edible pen you could use melted chocolate and a paintbrush!
8. Serve with cream.

Halloween Toffee Apples

- 8 red apples
- 400g caster sugar
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 8 sturdy, clean twigs or lolly sticks

1. Push the sharpest end of each stick, into the stalk end of each apple, making sure it is firmly wedged in.

2. Put a large piece of parchment paper onto a chopping board.

3. Tip the sugar into a large saucepan and add the lemon juice and 100 ml water. Bring to a simmer and cook until the sugar has dissolved. Swirl the pan gently to move the sugar around, but don't stir. Add the golden syrup and bubble the mixture until it reaches 150C on a sugar thermometer. If you don't have a thermometer, test the toffee by dropping a small amount into cold water. It should harden immediately, and, when removed, be brittle. If it's soft, continue to boil.

4. Working quickly, dip each apple into the toffee, tipping the pan to cover all the skin. Lift out and allow the excess to drip off before putting onto the baking parchment.

5. Gently heat the toffee again if you need to.

6. Leave to harden.



Helen Galliano



Brick and Stonework Specialists

Extensions - Garden Walls - Repointing
Flintwork - Hard Landscaping

Andrew Blackman

Tel: 01730823401 - 07825 869515



MADE IN THE MEON VALLEY

CRAMER BESPOKE

KITCHENS | WARDROBES | CABINETRY | WOOD FLOORING

PHONE: 02392 632222 MOBILE: 07805 040464
JOSH@CRAMERBESPOKE.COM

Why not read our glowing reviews from some of the Meon Valley's most fabulous residents ?

www.cramerbespoke.com

East Meon Village Hall

The Perfect place for your event

Ideal for:

Weddings
Parties
Family Events
Exhibitions
Classes
Picnics
Sports
Clubs

Facilities:

Large and Small halls
Up to 250 people
Fully equipped Kitchen
Stage
Audio-Visual equipment
Marquee and Gazebo hire
Table and Chair hire
Car Park

East Meon
Village Hall



www.eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk

info@eastmeonvillagehall.co.uk

07956783061

MEON
SPRINGS

Self-storage doesn't have to be stressful.

www.meonsprings.com

Self-storage at Meon Springs. We're here when you need us.

Meon Springs, Whitewool Farm, East Meon, Nr Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1HW

01730 823249