

Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with great joy and delight I write this article, knowing that before too much longer, I will be joining with you as your new Vicar!

And so I begin with a little bit about myself. My name is Emma, and I'm married to Chris. We have two children Jacob (aged 12) and Bethan (aged 10). We also have a Cockapoo, Jessie, who is just 6 months old! We have an unusual surname RACKLYEFT...which is pronounced pretty much as it is written (Rack – lee – eft!) We are always asked where it originates from...and no, it's not Scandinavian...rather it seems to have its origin in a spelling mistake, from America in the 1760's!

I was born, and spent the first 25 years of my life in Portsmouth. I still have family living in, and around, Portsmouth (including my Grandma in Denmead!). Chris grew up in Farnborough, before moving to Portsmouth in 1998, where we then met. We married in 2000, after a Millennium New Year's Eve proposal and acceptance!



After graduating, I spent a few years working in Education and Childcare. Chris and I moved in 2004 to Bletchley, Milton Keynes so Chris could pursue a job working for World Vision as a Systems Developer (Computer Programmer). Chris continues to work for World Vision on a part time basis. In Bletchley, we had Jacob and Bethan and I spent a few years at home with them while they were small. Whilst raising our children I began to un-cover God's call on my life to ordained ministry in the Church of England. It came as quite a surprise and took me a while to accept, but it all resulted in us moving to Oxford in 2010 so that I could train, full time at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford Uni, where I gained a BTh. Since 2013 we've had a fantastic time in Thame, where I have served as Curate to the Thame Team Ministry.

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As a family, we are musical (we play a selection of instruments between us!) Jacob is good at maths, computing and taking photos – he takes after Chris, and Bethan tends to take after me, she is very creative and loves reading. We enjoy exploring new places, dog walking and earlier this year we climbed Snowdon in the fog!



As I reflect on the last few years I am grateful for all that has been; for God's leading and provision, for all that I have learnt, for friendships and fellowship, for all that has been good and true, for God's amazing faithfulness and love. And I'm excited also; for now, I stand on the edge of something fresh – new beginnings, all sorts of potential, adventure, maybe change and challenges too!

And I'm sure, collectively, you must feel similarly – grateful for all that has been in the past, for all that has been good and honourable and true. For all that your

church and parish is now, for all the ways that God has been at work amongst you; the new life and hope and growth you've experienced. However, I'd encourage you to be excited also, to look ahead, to see the potential and possibilities.

I'm looking forward to being with you all soon, so that together, as God's people, we can begin to seek and discern what it is God is calling us to be and do in Denmead in the here and now. God's kingdom is a kingdom of growth, new life and change – and God invites each of us to play our part in His mission: worshipping, serving, praying, living out our faith in Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit.

On Saturday 28th January, (the day before I am licensed and installed) I will be undertaking a prayer pilgrimage around the parish, praying for the community, our schools, residences, businesses, social spaces, pubs, shops and facilities. I will be walking a route roughly around the edge of the parish, stopping along the way at key points and praying. Presently I am still planning the exact route and timings, but please do put the date in your diary, and if possible, please join me for some, or all of the journey.

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All Saints Church Services

Sunday 1st January Christmas 2

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- 11.30am Baptism
- 6.00pm No Evening Service

Sunday 8th January Epiphany Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30pm Family Praise
- 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 15th January Epiphany 2

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- 6.00pm Informal Service

Sunday 22nd January Epiphany 3

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Communion
- 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 29th January Epiphany 4

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- 4.00pm Licensing of the Revd Emma Racklyeft by the Bishop of Portsmouth

Bereavement Support Group

There is a monthly 'Tea and Friendship' afternoon for anyone recently bereaved. This is an informal time when people can meet others, have tea and make friends.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm in the church hall. For more information please phone All Saints Church office 9226 8757 or Merrill Partridge 9226 6159.

Each Thursday there is a time of silent prayer, reflection and bible reading in the Upper Room between 9.00am – 10.00am. Everyone is welcome for the hour or to drop in for a short time.

Weekly Thursday Communion at 11am. A Said Prayer Book Communion Service. Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily at 8.30am and 5.00pm respectively. The Church is open for private prayer. If you wish to light a candle, there is a candle stand in the Sanctuary of the Chapel of Healing and Unity.

Healing Service

There will be no healing service in January – the next service will take place on Sunday 5th February.

This is a gentle reflective service, in which we ask for the Lord's healing, be it mental, emotional, spiritual, or physical.



For more details contact Rev Osborne 023 9236 2591.

Together it would be good to pray over our community - asking for God's blessing, grace and favour on Denmead. Do check the website/ parish news sheet for more details.

**... it would
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pray over
our
community**

And so, the weeks ahead will be very busy for us as a family, not least because we have Christmas to celebrate, but also as everything will soon be changing. Please do be praying for Chris, Jacob, Bethan and me – as we say goodbye to friends and community in Thame, that moving practicalities will go smoothly, and that we will soon feel settled into life/work/school in Denmead. Do pray for me, as I lay down ministry in Thame, and prepare to come and serve you. Pray that I will know God's Spirit and work in my life, renewing and strengthening me.

So, if it's not too late - Happy New Year to you. I'm praying that 2017 will be a year in which you'll experience and know God's love and mercy in your life, and share with joy the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Looking forward to meeting you soon,

In Him,
Emma

Next Messy Church – 21st January at 3.30

For all families with children – the whole family is welcome to Messy Church – grandparents and carers included.

Join us in this fun-filled afternoon of craft, singing and eating together. We meet in the Church Hall from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

Further information from
www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk/messy-church
or from Rev Sandie Osborne 023 9236 2591.



Christingle

As the church entered the season of advent we held a beautiful candlelit service in support of the Children's Society's work with vulnerable young people.

Children and their families joined together to celebrate in a reflective service which involves everyone being presented with an Christingle. This is made up of an orange representing the world surrounded in red ribbon marking Jesus' blood shed for us. The orange has 4 sticks covered in sweets representing the seasons and corners of the world and the symbolic candle reminding us that Jesus is the light in our lives.

A collection was taken and sent to the Children's Society to assist them in their valuable work with young people who have run away from their family home.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Church of the Sacred Heart

and St Peter the Apostle

356 London Road,

Waterlooville,

Hampshire PO7 7SR

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood,

(023) 9226 2289

frkbidgood@hotmail.com

www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday Mass

Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Masses

10.30 am Children's Liturgy

6.30 pm Folk Mass

Please refer to Newsletter for weekday Mass times.



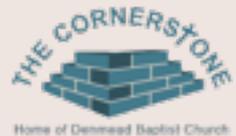
RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:30 pm (or by appointment)

Monday 9.30 am

Denmead Baptist Church

Denmead Baptist Church is a small, friendly fellowship which has worshipped in the village since 1717 and has been at 'The Cornerstone' since 2014.



Noah's Ark parent and toddler group will be re-starting on Wednesdays from 4th January 2017, 10-11.30am. £1 adult, 50p per child - Denmead Baptist Church at 'The Cornerstone.

Our weekly Sunday services start at 10.30am, they are informal and incorporate a worship band, children's activities and bible based teaching for the adults and young people. We also enjoy many social activities together'.

For further information, please go to:

Website: www.denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk

Email: admin@denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk for room bookings/enquiries

'The Cornerstone', 22 Mead End Road, Denmead, Waterlooville PO7 6PZ

We look forward to welcoming you to our church.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

From 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.



In this year's campaign, Mothers' Union is shining a light on violence against women and girls, with the clear message that it is not ok. We are calling on communities around the world to understand the many different forms of abuse that gender-based violence takes, from controlling behaviour by a partner to rape as a weapon of war.

At noon on 25th November in a 'Global Moment' to raise awareness of and stand in solidarity against gender-based violence, members of Denmead's Mothers' Union marked the start of these 16 Days with a lighted candle and a time of prayer and reflection.

Changing culture to end gender-based violence takes all of us working together to spread the message that 'IT IS NOT OK'!

In particular, we encourage families and schools to teach children and young people about building healthy relationships, and to challenge gender stereotypes.

We are also calling on governments and leaders to take actions, to:

- Ensure that national, local and customary law prohibits all forms of violence against women and girls
- Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to justice; and to support services
- Ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted, punished and rehabilitated

In the UK specifically, we are calling on the Government to redress

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the injustice in the new child maintenance system, for victims of domestic abuse.

We ask that victims be exempt from the 'collect and pay' charges for using the statutory Child Maintenance Service, as they may have no other option to receive or make payments for their children without further risk of abuse or violence. Using a family-based arrangement or Direct Pay could result in ongoing contact with the abuser; placing survivors at further risk.

For more information on the Mothers' Union please see the church website.

24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline 0808 2000 247.

Royal Marines return to Denmead!



The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood made a welcome return to All Saints Church on 23rd November for another superb concert.

A Royal Marines Band has performed annually at All Saints for the past 17 years and is a firm fixture in our diary. The Royal Marines Band Service is the professional music service of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and has an international reputation for the quality and variety of music performed. "What we do isn't just for Queen and country; it's for the effectiveness of the Royal Marines in the field, for the morale of the troops, the entertainment of the public – and the development of some of the country's finest young musicians."

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The concert in Denmead, apart from entertainment, is the finale of the MI Conductors' course and several budding conductors are put through their paces in front of a very supportive audience with an award being presented to the most promising candidate on the night. It is a real privilege to be able to welcome this prestigious band to our village and long may it continue!

We are already looking at a provisional date for next year's concert so keep your eyes peeled for the confirmation announcement. Tickets sold out in April this year... you have been warned!

This year for the first time, Barnard's Restaurant opened for pre-concert dinners which proved very popular and again sold out very quickly. Everyone enjoyed themselves and hopefully Barnard's will do the same again next year.

Denmead Home Visiting Group

If you are lonely, sick or housebound or would just like someone to visit you we have a confidential visiting team and one of our members would willingly come, visit and spend time listening to you.

Please phone us on 9226 8757. If the answerphone is on leave a message and we will phone you back.

Festive Morning Raises Funds

All Saints Christmas Bazaar was held on 26th November and was a very festive occasion – with many stalls and a lovely atmosphere, making a wonderful start to the season.



Proceeds from the Bazaar will be given to Sam's Haven (a Denmead charity helping with respite accommodation) and Mary's Meals – a worldwide charity providing a hot meal for over one million children.



Sam with his Dad Paul, from Sam's Haven

SAVE THE CHILDREN

JUMBLE SALE

**Saturday 28th January 10am
at All Saints Church Hall**

Bring Jumble to hall by 9am on the day,
or phone Sheila Gould on 9226 3788 beforehand.

NO electrical or any large items please.

What's on This Month, and Where

Venue Abbreviations:

ASC = All Saints' Church

CH = Church Hall; HR = Heath Room; UR = Upper Room; *Contact B.Wright, 9223 3248*

MH = Memorial Hall *Contact Mrs S Thomas 9235 5993*

DCC = Denmead Community Centre *Contact Mr R Bainbridge MBE, 9225 6132*

PC = Denmead Parish Council *Contact Tony Daniells, 9224 7947*

WW = White Wings House

GM = Green Meadows Home

TKC = Turvey King Court

KGF = King George Field

SHQ = Scout Headquarters

BC = Baptist Church (Cornerstone, Mead End Road)

HVH = Hambledon Village Hall

HYH = Hambledon Youth Hut

DJS = Denmead Junior School

D = Daily

W = Weekly

F = Fortnightly

M = Monthly

Events occurring Daily and Weekly are only mentioned once

- i.e. in the first week of the month.

Please note:

- The times stated here may be the times for which the halls are booked. Please check other publicity for the times of the event.

- To ensure the correct details are shown for your organisation's event included in these Diary pages, please email your meeting times and details to Gill Barge (denmeadbarges@aol.com) or send them to her at Fairview, School Lane, Denmead PO7 6LY. Thank you.

Sun	1	CH	South East Hants Ramblers	2.00-5.00pm	
Mon	2	CH	Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	W
			At the Forest of Bere – Denmead Knit & Bitch	7.00-9.00pm	W
			All abilities are welcome		
Tue	3	CH	Gold Star Dancing	8.00-9.00pm	W
		HR	Coffee Tea & Chat for all (and Thursdays)	9.30-11.30am	2xW
		MH	Archery	7.00pm	W
		DCC	Afternoon Social Club	2.00-3.30pm	M
			Tuesday Pilates Class	5.30-7.30pm	W
			Downland Singers	7.45-10.15pm	W
			Denmead Brass	8.00-10.00pm	W
		SHQ	Spitfire Scouts	6.30-8.30pm	W
Wed	4	BC	Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group - at The Cornerstone, Mead End Rd	10.00-11.30am	W
		MH	Denmead Pre School	9.00-3.00pm	D
			* Wednesday *	9.00-12.30pm	
			Denmead Afternoon WI	2.00pm	M
			Denmead WI Belles	7.30pm	M
		DCC	Old Schoolhouse Pre-School	9.00-3.00pm	D

Village Diary

		* Friday*	9.00-Noon		
		Zumba Gold	9.30-10.30am	W	
		Table Tennis	10.00-Noon	W	
		Denmead Art Group	10.00-Noon	F	
		Creative Quilters	10.00-Noon	F	
		Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm	W	
		Patchwork Pals	2.00-6.00pm	W	
		Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	6.00-7.00pm	W	
		Breakaway Quilters	7.00-10.00pm	W	
		Kettle Fit	7.15-9.00pm	W	
		Parish Council –Planning	7.30pm		
	SHQ	Busy Bees Pre School	9.00-3.00pm	D	
		Fri	9.00-Noon		
		Concorde Cubs	6.30-8.00pm	W	
		At the Forest of Bere – Denmead Knit & Bitch	10.00-Noon	W	
		All abilities are welcome			
Thu	5	CH	Keep Fit	2.00pm	W
			1st Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
			2nd Denmead Brownies	5.30pm	W
		CH&HR	Guides & Rangers	7.00pm	W
		HR	Coffee Tea & Chat for all (Tuesdays too)	9.30-11.30am	2xW
		MH	Karate	6.30pm	W
			Badminton	7.45pm	W
		DCC	Table Tennis	9.00-11.00am	W
			Zumba Toning	9.30-10.30am	W
			Citizens' Advice Bureau	9.30-11.30pm	W
			Rimor Fitness	5.30-6.30pm	W
			Southern Arts Academy	5.00-9.00pm	W
			Pilates	5.45-6.45pm	W
		SHQ	Bere Forest Beavers	6.15-7.30pm	W
			The Cornerstone – Denmead WI Belles	7.30pm	
Fri	6	CH	Mother & Toddler Group	9.30am	W
			Chair Exercises	2.00pm	W
		DCC	U3A Art Class	9.30-Noon	W
			Swing Sling	10.30-11.30am	W
			Denmead Drama	4.00-7.30pm	W
			Kettle Fit	7.00-8.00pm	W
			Rose Dog Club	7.30-8.30pm	W

	SHQ	Vulcan Scouts	7.00-9.00pm	W
		Phoenix Explorers	7.00-9.00pm	W
Sat 7	CH	District Advice	10.00-Noon	M
	MH	Bootcamp Fitness Class	9.30am	W
		ABS Fitness Class	10.30am	W
	DCC	Southern Arts Academy	9.45-11.15am	W
Sun 8	MH	Archery	9.00am	W
		Karate	5.00pm	W
	DCC	Junior Brass Band	9.15-10.15am	W
		Denmead Brass Band	10.30-12.30am	W
Mon 9	CH	Zumba Fitness Class	9.30-10.30am	W
		Breathe Again	11.30-12.30pm	W
	MH	TS Alacrity	7.00pm	W
	DCC	Mumbaba		
		-Parents/Carers & Tots Singing Group	9.30-10.30am	W
		Water Colours	10.00-Noon	W
		Pilates	11.00-Noon	W
		Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	6.00-8.00pm	W
		Table Tennis	7.00-9.00pm	W
		Bridge Club	7.00-10.00pm	W
	SHQ	Merlin Cub Pack	6.30-8.00pm	W
		At the Forest of Bere – Denmead Knit & Bitch	7.00-9.00pm	W
		All abilities welcome		
		The Royal British Legion	8.00pm	M
		Meeting - Hambledon & District Branch		
Tue 10	CH	All Join in Together	11.00-Noon	W
		Exercises After Stroke	2.00-3.30pm	W
		3rd Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
		Guiders' Meeting	7.30-9.30pm	W
	DCC	The Old Schoolhouse Creative Play	9.30-11.00am	W
		- fun for the under fives		
		Upholstery	9.30-12.30pm	W
		Creative Writing	10.30-12.30pm	F
		Allsorts Dog Behaviour & Care	5.00-7.00pm	W
		Table Tennis	7.00-9.00pm	W
		At the Chairmakers, Worlds End; Probus Club	12.00-3.00pm	M
		- Monthly lunch and talk by guest speaker		
Wed 11	CH	Pilates Class	10.00-11.00am	W

Village Diary

		2nd Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		1st Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
		British Koi Karp Society	7.30pm	M
	MH	Floral Workshop	7.30pm	M
	DCC	Parish Council - Main Council	7.30pm	
Thu	12	DCC Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club	12.30-1.30pm	W
		U3A Table Tennis	2.00-4.00pm	F
Tue	17	HR Mothers' Union	7.30pm	M
		DCC Denmead Reading Circle	2.15-4.15pm	M
Wed	18	CH Flower Club AGM	2.00pm	M
		MH Denmead Evening WI	7.30pm	M
		DCC Parish Council – Highways & GP	7.30pm	
Thu	19	UR Exploring Christianity	7.30pm	W
		DCC Calligraphy	10.30-12.30pm	F
		Italian Lessons	2.00-4.00pm	W
Fri	20	CH Denmead Village Association	7.30-9.30pm	
Sat	21	CH MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.30pm	M
Wed	25	CH Bereavement Group	2.00-4.00pm	M
		Deanery Mothers' Union	9.30-12.30pm	
		DCC Parish Council- Planning	7.30pm	
Sat	28	CH SAVE THE CHILDREN JUMBLE SALE AM		
		DCC FILM NIGHT – 'EAGLE HUNTRESS'	7.30pm	M
		-doors open at 7.00pm; tickets £5		
Sun	29	ASC LICENSING SERVICE FOR NEW VICAR OF ALL SAINTS		4pm

Probus Club

Waterlooville Probus Club provides a meeting place for retired or semi-retired, professional or business, ladies and gentlemen. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 'The Chairmakers', Worlds End, Hambledon, PO7 4QX.

The next meeting will be held on the 10th January 2017, starting at 12.00 noon. We meet for a drink and a chat with fellow members and after a 3-course lunch, our guest speaker Geoffrey Salvetti will give a presentation entitled 'Fortifications & Artillery of the Portsmouth Area'.

If you would like further information on joining the Probus Club, please contact our Secretary, Peter Quine, on 079 2662 0530 or by e-mail to peterpia@outlook.com.

Education In Ghana

Since 2002 the government in Ghana have provided free education for all children up to the age of 11. But when this was first introduced there were not many correct up to date records of children across the country, so when hundreds of children turned up for their free education the system was turned into chaos! Some schools introduced staggered teaching sessions (morning or afternoon) to ease the pressure on teaching staff. At some schools we saw 4 children to each desk!

It has taken years to train and supply enough teachers to implement their free education scheme and to build appropriate schools.

Secondary education is not yet free (although the concept is in current election manifestos). There are many secondary schools where a good education can be obtained and until a few years ago the students sat O-levels and A levels – these were set and marked in UK with external examiners.

The students now sit a universal exam called WASSCE (West African Senior Secondary Certificate of Education). All exams and all secondary teaching is still in English and the cost for a pupil to go to Secondary school varies, (according to school), but is about £120 per year.

There are universities in Ghana, with high standards and entrance requirements – but they are definitely for the children of wealthier families. They are expensive to firstly apply for a place and secondly to complete 3 years of study. There are



“I feel like the Queen...”

many technical secondary schools and colleges but they are all fee paying.

To complete any post graduate study most students have to travel abroad – so that is for the very elite or the very clever, as there are a few monetary grants from the government.

Visiting any school or college is an amazing experience – the children are boisterous and always wanting to practice their English and as one English student who travelled with us commented, ‘ I feel like the Queen and know how she must feel!’



From the Registers

Baptisms

1st January Leo James Bainbridge

Funerals

30th November Andrew Alexander Dine age 57

9th December Raymond Charles Elphick age 85

15th December Yvonne Sheena Budden age 87

Citizens Advice

Q I bought a microwave two months ago but it's broken already and won't switch on. I went back to the retailer and they said they could have a go at repairing it, but I may have to pay a fee. Should I have to pay to get it fixed?

A If your microwave is broken and it's not your fault you shouldn't have to pay the retailer to repair it.

Because you bought your microwave less than six months ago - you have the right to return it and get a free repair, a replacement or a refund. This applies whether you bought the item online or from a shop.

Check your retailer's returns policy to see how you should return it - some will collect it for free, while others ask you to return it through a delivery service or to a store. You'll need to show proof of purchase, such as a receipt or email confirmation, and explain the problem.

They should then offer to either replace or repair your microwave free of charge, if it's repairable. If both options are possible, the retailer should consider which will be the quickest and most convenient for you when making a decision.

If your microwave is sent away for repair but still doesn't work, you will be entitled to a full refund instead. You can also ask for a refund if your microwave is replaced with a different model.

For more information use Citizens Advice's online [faulty goods tool](#) or contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.



For more information contact Winchester District Citizens Advice Bureau, at our Bishops Waltham office, (Well House, 2 Brook Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1AX, 01489 896376) or Denmead Outreach at Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead, Thurs 1 – 3pm.



Denmead Rowans Support Group

Over six days in December, fifty people came to our wreath making workshops, in support of the work of your local hospice.

We all had a very enjoyable time making wreaths, and went home with our own unique Christmas decoration.



Thank you all for your support throughout 2016.

We are now looking towards our programme for 2017 and hope to see you at some of them.

February 12th Sunday Lunch to the music of the Stoney Ridge Band
All Saints Church Hall Denmead. Tickets from Trish 079476111699



We are collecting Hats and Handbags for a sale later in the spring.

Denmead Afternoon Women's Institute

In December we started our Christmas celebrations at our monthly meeting. We held a Beetle Drive and enjoyed mince pies with our tea. We were pleased to welcome Shirley Wallis to play for us as we sang Christmas Carols. The afternoon concluded with the visit of Father Christmas and Rudolph to distribute the gifts in our Secret Santa. (Thank you Angela and Terry)

The competition for a Christmas memory – an item associated with Christmas was won by Joan Downing with Edith Barge second. The flower competition was won by Edith Gunston with Betty Kemp second.

The institute hosted the Group Christmas Entertainment evening. All six institutes performed a short item – which produced much merriment. Mince pies once again featured in our evening.

A group of members attended the Milton Glee Club Christmas Concert at Portsmouth Guildhall on Sunday 11th when once again they were able to use the Communicare minibus.

We continued our monthly get together for lunch visiting the Harvest Home on Friday 16th.

This month we will start 2017 with a lunch provided by Rkadia of Horndean prior to our monthly meeting. We will

continue the afternoon as a social event and as a result there will be no monthly competition.

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due this month.

Future plans include lunch at a local venue and the Hampshire Spring Council Meeting in March. The speaker will be the explorer Ranulph Fiennes.

We wish all our readers a Happy New Year and a Peaceful 2017

Joan Downing (9226 5458)

We welcome all ladies to our meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Memorial Hall from 2 to 4pm. The WI gives ladies the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and hear talks on a variety of subjects as well as meeting socially both at monthly meetings and during the month.

Meetings and events are also held within the local group of six institutes and within Hampshire County such as the forthcoming Spring Council meeting. If you have recently moved to the village or recently retired this is the ideal way to make new friends or renew old acquaintances. If you are unable to attend during the day the Evening Institute would welcome you to their meetings at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday in the month (except December which is the second Wednesday)

Denmead Twinning Association

The latest social event for Denmead Twinning at the end November saw the return to the village of Shep Woolley and his band. He has been coming to Denmead most years since 1995 and he did not disappoint nearly 100 people who came for the show.

As usual he and his fellow musicians gave a great evening of songs (folk and 60s), lively music and comedy (and shaggy dog stories)!

They were all in fine form because they had been playing during the day at the Victorian Christmas event in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Our next event will be an evening of Wine Tasting organised by Denmead's Discover

Wine on Saturday 11 February – put the date in your diary and do come along.

For information on Denmead Twinning and tickets for events please contact Patrick Binks 9226 2912 or go to the website www.denmeadtwinningassociation.com



Denmead Evening WI

In late November a group of us much enjoyed a visit to the Houses of Parliament courtesy of our MP George Hollingbery who was there to greet us. We were split into two groups with guides, and toured Westminster Hall, St Stephens Hall, the House of Lords chamber; the Royal Gallery, the Robing Room, and the House of Commons chamber.

Our members have enjoyed a number of events leading up to Christmas including a festive lunch at the Bird in Hand, and participating in the Bere Forest Group Christmas Meeting when each WI (Cowplain, Lovedean, Purbrook, Stakes, Denmead Afternoon & Denmead Evening) provided a ten-minute entertainment all of which was much fun. At our December members' meeting we got into the festive spirit when we were entertained by and sang along with the local Ukelele band "Whacky Wednesdays". We also shared and signed a large Christmas card prepared by the husband of one of our members and thereby raised funds for The Rowans.

On 24th January we will be eating again when we share a meal at the Harvest Home to brighten up those dark winter days and enjoy a quieter spell after the hectic days of December.

At our January members meeting on 18th we will be singing again when we look forward to the return of Gill Grech who will give us some more voice training for Singing for Pleasure.

January is also the month when we pay our annual WI subscriptions which for 2017 is £39 but anyone joining during the year would pay a pro rata rate depending on the quarter in which they join. This could be a good time for anyone in the local community who is thinking of joining the WI to come along and see what goes on. You would receive a warm & friendly welcome, and can attend up to 3 meetings free of charge prior to joining. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall in Denmead. More information is available on www.hampshirewi.org.uk or www.thewi.org.uk or call Irene Woodings (023 9226 3465)

Denmead Community Centre

Italian Course

Whether you are a complete beginner or have a basic knowledge Giuseppe will teach you to use basic structures of the Italian language in order to express yourself with day-to-day situations, such as introducing yourself and family, ordering food and drinks, booking a hotel and finding your way around town. The course starts on January 19th at 2pm. For more details contact Giuseppe on 07751929500.

Table Tennis

Due to popular and high demand a new Tuesday evening group will start on Jan 10th at 1900 to 2100. For more information and to book your place call Ann on 92 265830 or email annandmalcolm.davies@virgin.net

Creative Writing

The Denmead Writers meet at DCC and are a group of people who are interested in Creative Writing and enjoy tutor-led workshops covering many aspects of writing. This is a friendly, lively group, suitable for all levels of experience and including those who had never previously tried Creative Writing and those who have been writing for some time, but who appreciate the companionship, guidance and positive feedback the group offers.

The workshops meet fortnightly, on Tuesdays 10.30 -12.30, for six sessions each term. The workshops cost £36 per and the next session starts on 10th January 2017.

Denmead Film Nights

This month's film on Saturday 28th January is *The Eagle Huntress*. It follows Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl, as she trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. Documentary narrated by Daisy Ridley. To reserve your ticket call 02392 256132.

District Council Up-date

Denmead's First Test of the Neighbourhood Plan

At the Planning meeting in October the first major test of the Denmead Neighbour Plan (NP) was heard, 99 dwellings on Carpenters Field and associated works. Officers of the city council had recommended permitting the application, however the Parish Council together with the District Council members argued that the NP had not been followed as well as the size of the Affordable Housing was below that acceptable by the Housing department of the council. Members of the Planning Committee voted 7 to 1 against the application and the application was refused. We now have to wait and see

what the next move for the developer will be, they could appeal the decision which will mean that the appeal will be decided by a Government Planning Inspector or they could discuss with the Parish Council regarding amendments to the application, we wait and see.

May we wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

If you have any issues with regards to the District Council services please contact one of the Councillor's below or visit the Council Advise Surgery held on the first Saturday of each month (NO appointment required), which is held in the Heath Room, All Saints Church Hall, Denmead.

We are here to serve the community of Denmead.

On behalf of District Cllr's Brook, Read and Stallard.

Denmead Village Association

On 20th. November 2016 members of Denmead Village Association were fascinated by an excellent illustrated talk given by Dr. John Bevan, entitled "The Disappearance of Cdr Kenneth Phillip Crabb".

Dr. Bevan is a highly experienced naval diver and is now Chair of the Historical Diving Society.

He began by saying that if you wish to be a Legend:

- You must distinguish yourself in Gibraltar in World War 2 doing mine and bomb disposal.
- Have a biography written about you by journalist Marshall Pugh
- Die mysteriously.
- Have a film made about you (Silent Enemy) starring Laurence Harvey. Cdr. Crabb also dived on H.M.Submarine "Truculent" in January 1950 to try to realise trapped men. He worked on developing mines and testing enemy ones.

1956 was the time of the Cold War and the year of the Suez Crisis.

The Russian Leaders Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev were invited on a "goodwill" visit to Britain. They were to come by sea in a top-rank cruiser named Ordzhonikdze. Naval Intelligence was interested in the superior speed and moveability of the Russian ships and wanted someone to go down and examine the new design of the ship's new propeller. An experienced diver would be needed.

M16 recruited 47 year old Cdr Crabb, retired from the Royal Navy, for the mission as he had had war-time experience in Gibraltar examining ship's hulls for mines. – delicate operation involving sensitive touch.

On the 18th of April the Russian Cruiser arrived. It was enormous – the length of the Southern Railway Jetty! Anchored nearby were two accompanying Russian destroyers.

Not far away was HMS Bulwark undergoing maintenance. There was a security clampdown and access denied to the public.

Crabb's first dive was aborted as he was hampered by debris in the murky water. At next high-water he dived again. On the 19th April a Russian sailor said he saw a diver struggling near the ship. He was in serious trouble, probably drowning. Cdr. Crabb was never seen alive again. The Naval Intelligence Division got younger R.N. frogmen to do the same thing. They were launched secretly from Bulwark and were successful.

Ten days later the Newspapers reported stories of Crabb's underwater mission and his disappearance.

According to Dr. Bevan, after the Russians left a search was made and a body was found under Southern Railway Jetty and was taken to Fort Monkton, the top Spy-School. Fourteen months later, on 9th of June 1957 a body in a diving suit, minus breathing apparatus, was brought up by fishermen off Pilsley Island in Chichester Harbour. The fishermen alerted the RAF at Thorney Island and a landing-craft was sent to collect the body. With no DNA tests it was difficult to identify the body.

At an inquest he was later identified as Cdr. Crabb, as he had the same diving-suit,

underwear and shoes. The "y"- shaped scar behind his knee and one on his thigh and a bunion which he was known to have settled the matter. A quiet, almost secret, funeral was held at Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral which his mother attended. He was buried in Milton Cemetery.

Dr. Bevan asked "how did the body get to Chichester Harbour?" He said that somebody wanted the body to be found. It did not drift to Chichester Harbour.

After all his research he concluded that "Buster" Crabb, at 47, was too old in spite of his wide experience. He was unfit, an alcoholic and a heavy smoker. Through what Dr. Bevan called "lapses in Tradecraft" this gallant man was sent to his death 60 years ago. Under the "50 year rule" some new facts were released in October 2007 but it will not be until the 2050's that all will be revealed. He also thinks that there should be a proper Naval funeral for this active hero who should be laid in a Naval cemetery.

This is a brief outline of an hour-long talk. Dr. Bevan's book "Cdr. Crabb What Really Happened" of 2015 is highly recommended.

Edna Goodman