

Dear Friends,

May is one of my favourite months of the year for several reasons. The intensity of Holy Week is past, we have experienced the joy of Easter day and Jesus overcoming the power of death to bring us the promise of eternal life with him. And we are still in the joyful uplifting season of Easter which blesses us with renewed confidence in the Risen Lord as our Saviour and Redeemer.

In the natural world God's creation is usually at its best with everything blossoming and growing, before the long hot summer days (hopefully) which dry out the grass, and plants and start their decline.

May is a month of expectation – looking forward to some good weather and for many some relaxation time with family and friends as many of us organise and prepare for holidays.

a month of expectation

On Thursday May 25th this year we will keep Ascension Day and recall Jesus' return to His heavenly kingdom. The disciples must have felt very unsure what the future held for them as on that mountain side Jesus is lifted up from their sight. They had just about recovered from the horrors and fears of the events of Good Friday and finally been able to accept the risen Lord coming and going in their midst, when they are now left again, but this time not knowing when he would return. With the gift of hindsight we know that Jesus fulfilled the promise he made to send His Holy Spirit to empower and guide them into spreading the good news of forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life for all who believe (John 15:26-27) but, as they return to the upper room in Jerusalem all they can do is wait and pray, trying to support one another.

There are times in all our lives when we can feel lost and find it difficult to feel God's presence with us. For us, as for the disciples, prayer can help even if you are not certain God hears



you. He does and will. "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive" (*Matthew 21:22*). We are His precious children and he will never desert us. If you find yourself doubting the presence of God and find that prayer is difficult look around for signs that God will give you. It may be in the beauty of nature that you will find God. A small beautifully formed flower nestling on a bank, or walking and listening to the sounds of His creation in the birds' song. It may be in other people, children's laughter, someone singing just for the joy of it, a smile from a stranger or an unexpected visit from family or a friend. Small events that remind us that God is always near:

Small events that remind us that God is always near.

For the disciples it was a bigger life-changing event that they waited for, but it would have been interesting to be with them in that room observing their interactions and how they would have supported each other in their sense of loss and confusion.

We know that what Jesus had promised came to fruition and that these simple men became successful evangelists spreading the good news throughout the known world. God was with them and yet this did not protect them from suffering and in many cases dying for the faith they were proclaiming.

God is always near: "And remember I am with you always to the end of the age" *Matthew 28:20*. Life can be tough and it is sometimes difficult to believe that, but as we pray we will have our eyes opened to his signs. And never forget if you are finding praying hard there are lots of opportunities to share prayer with others or to ask to be prayed for:

I wish you all the joys of this Easter season and the beautiful days of Spring and may your eyes always be open to God's presence with you.

With love in Christ

Sandie

All Saints Church Services

Sunday 7th May – 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
6.00pm Healing Service

Sunday 14th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30pm Family Praise with Baptism
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 21st May – 6th Sunday of Easter

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

Thursday 25th May – Ascension Day

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
9.30am All Age Communion
6.00pm Evensong

Every Thursday there is a Communion at 11am.

– this is a 'said' Prayer Book Communion Service.

Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am.

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.

**Advance Notice
– Pentecost is
Sunday 4th June**

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.

Next Messy Church – Saturday 20th May 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 can be found at www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk/messy-church or from Revd. Emma Racklyeft 023 9226 2647 or Revd. Sandie Osborne 023 9236 2591.

SOLD OUT!

All tickets for the concert in November by the Band of HM Royal Marines Collingwood sold out in March and there is already a long waiting list, so it is regretted that there will be no further tickets available for sale.

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.

**Free Coffee
& Cake!**

Return your Christian Aid envelope and
enjoy free coffee/tea and cake!

DATE: Sat May 20th

WHERE: All Saints Church Hall

TIME: 10am to 1pm

If unable to join us, but you would like to
donate, Please return your envelope to All
Saints Church Denmead. Thank you

**christian
aid**

From the Registers

Baptisms

14th May Poppy Olivia Pisani
Holly Sophia Pisani

Funerals

6th April Freddie Buckler aged 93

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*The Church of the Sacred Heart
and St Peter the Apostle*
356 London Road, Waterlooville,
Hampshire PO7 7SR
Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt
(023) 9226 2289
shspa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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.

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 runs on
Wednesdays,
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.

Celebrating Easter

In recent weeks, it has been a great pleasure to join with the children and staff of Denmead Infant School and Denmead Junior School as we've journeyed through Lent and celebrated Easter. Together we have learnt about the season of Lent, thought about new life, followed the story of Holy Week and rejoiced in the good news of Easter that Jesus is alive. The children have shared stories, sung some wonderful Easter songs, and acted out a drama re-telling the story of Holy Week.



Denmead Infant School singing 'Jesus is Alive!'



Messy Church also celebrated Easter when it met in April. Grandparents, parents, carers and children came together to explore the message of Easter using art and craft activities, games, stories, prayers and finished with food! We made Easter gardens, sparkly eggs, edible empty tombs, Holy Week calendars, sun-catcher crosses, joined in an egg hunt, and made a large cross reminding us that Jesus is Alive. Great fun was had by all.

Messy Church meets every month (usually the 3rd Saturday) 3.30pm and is open to everyone!

*Revd Emma Racklyeft and
Revd Sandie Osborne*





Good Friday - the Walk of Witness
Remembering and reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice.



Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus – at Dawn on Easter Sunday.

All Saints Church Men's Group.

Breakfast Meetings

It can be a struggle breakfasting on fruit juice, bacon butties, croissants, jam, fresh fruit and coffee, but we've consistently managed – and even enjoyed it! Our most recent meeting was at The White Hart where we went the whole hog a full English...



At this event, following the food, Chris Racklyeft (husband of Revd Emma) gave us an inspiring and at times moving account of "Life before Denmead".

Speakers at previous breakfasts have come from various backgrounds: the Royal Navy – faith afloat; the Royal Marines – supporting Christians in the

military worldwide; and in sport – church and community based sport and workshops. All have shared some inspiring stories of faith and activity beyond church walls which we were glad to have heard.

Other Events

A mixture of other activities are organised through the year such as Go-karting, Tenpin Bowling, and Bible reading and discussion about God's calling, who Jesus is and aspects of living for him.

We welcome newcomers, so if you think that some, or all, of this might interest you, do get in touch! For more details please contact Revd John Byrne (email: byrne.jv@gmail.com) or Mike Barge (023 9226 8565), or keep an eye on the Notice Sheets on the Church website.

Citizens Advice



Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager for Citizens Advice Winchester District tells you what to do if you are off sick from work and think you should receive sick pay.

Q *I took 7 days off work for flu and my employer won't give me sick pay. I usually work 21 hours in a warehouse but I'm on flexible contract so my shifts moved round. I called in sick and they took me off the rota for a couple of weeks, and are saying that I won't be paid. Is this right?*

A Whatever your contract type, you're entitled to sick pay if you meet certain rules around the length of your illness and your usual pay.

Statutory sick pay is paid from the fourth day you'd usually be working that you're off sick. You need to normally earn £112.00 a week or more before tax, and to report your sickness according to your workplace rules like phoning in or filling in a form.

If you'd already agreed to those working hours before you took time off for illness, your employer removing you from the rota doesn't change your rights - you're still entitled to sick pay. Your employer may not be aware of their responsibilities, or they may even be trying to avoid paying.

The first step is to ask your employer to fill in the government Statutory Sick Pay form explaining their reasons for not paying you.

Once it's filled in, call the number for HMRC on the form. They'll clarify whether you're entitled and if you are, make sure you're paid.

If your employer won't fill in the form, contact HMRC, who have a legal duty to solve issues around sick pay.

For further help and advice, contact your nearest Local Citizens Advice service.



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.

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.

Mon 1	DCC	Table Tennis	7.00-9.00pm	W
		At the Forest of Bere – Knit & Bitch	7.00-9.00pm	W
		All abilities are welcome		
Tue 2	CH	All Join Together	11.00-Noon	W
		-Music group for under 5s		
		Exercise after Stroke	2.00-3.00pm	W
		3rd Brownies	5.45pm	W
		Denmead Horticultural Society	7.30pm	M
	HR	Coffee & a Chat–All welcome	9.30-Noon	2x
	MH	Denmead Pre School	9.00-3.00pm	D
		Wednesday	9.00-12.30pm	
	DCC	Old Schoolhouse Preschool	9.00-3.00pm	D
		- Friday -	9.00-Noon	
		Creative Play	9.30-11.00am	W
		- lots of fun for Under 5s		
		U3A Art History	2.00-4.00pm	M
		Tuesday Pilates Class	5.30-7.30pm	W
		Allsorts Dog Behaviour & Care	6.00-8.00pm	W
		Downland Singers	7.45-10.15pm	W
		Denmead Brass Band	8.00-10.00pm	W

Village Diary

	SHQ	Busy Bees Preschool	9.00-3.00pm	D
		Friday	9.00-Noon	
Wed 3	CH	Spitfire Scouts	6.30-8.30pm	W
		Pilates Class	10.00-11.00am	W
		2nd Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		1st Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
	BC (Cornerstone)	NOAH'S ARK – Pre-school Children & Carers group	10.00-11.30am	W
	MH	Denmead Afternoon WI	2.00pm	M
		Denmead WI Belles	7.30pm	M
	DCC	Zumba Gold	9.30-10.30am	W
		Table Tennis	10.00-Noon	W
		Denmead Art	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 – Amenities	7.30pm	W
	SHQ	Concorde Cubs	6.30-8.00pm	W
		At the Forest of Bere – Knit & Bitch	10.00-Noon	W
		All abilities are welcome		
Thu 4	CH	Daisy Tinies	9.30am	W
		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 & a Chat–All welcome	9.30-Noon	2x
	MH	Karate	6.30pm	W
	DCC	Table Tennis	9.00-11.00am	W
		Zumba Toning	9.30-10.30am	W
		CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	9.30-11.30am	W
		Senior Citizens Lunch Club	12.30-1.30pm	W
		Rimor Fitness	5.30-6.30pm	W
		Southern Arts Academy	5.00-9.00pm	W
	SHQ	Bere Forest Beavers	6.15-7.30pm	W
Fri 5	CH	Mother & Toddler Group	9.30am	W
		Chair Exercises	2.00pm	W
		Youthmove	5.15pm	W

	DCC	U3A Art Class	10.00-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 6	CH	SUPER SATURDAY -	10.00-Noon	
		Denmead Rowans Support Group Hats & Handbag Sale		
	HR	District Advice Surgery	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
		Table Tennis	10.00-Noon	W
Sun 7	MH	Karate	5.00pm	W
	DCC	Denmead Brass Band Juniors	9.15-10.15am	W
		Denmead Brass Band	10.30-12.30pm	W
Mon 8	CH	Zumba Fitness Class	9.30-10.30am	W
		Breathe Again	11.30am	W
		Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	W
	DCC	Painting in Watercolours	10.00-Noon	W
		Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	6.00-8.00pm	W
		Denmead Bridge Club	7.00-10.00pm	W
	MH	TS Alacrity	7.00pm	W
	SHQ	Merlin Cub Pack	6.30-8.00pm	W
		At the Forest of Bere – Knit & Bitch	7.30pm	W
		All abilities are welcome		
		At The Forest of Bere The Royal British Legion	8.00pm	M
		Meeting - Hambledon & District Branch		
Tue 9	CH	Gold Star Dancing	8.00-9.00pm	M
	DCC	Afternoon Social Club	2.00-3.00pm	W
		Denmead Evening WI Craft Evening	7.00-9.00pm	M
		At the Chairmakers, Waterlooville Probus Club	Noon -3.00pm	
		- monthly lunch and talk by guest speaker.		
	Details from Peter Quine on 07926620530			
Wed 10	CH	South Hants Koi Club [BKKS]	7.30	M
	MH	Floral Workshop	7.30pm	M
	DCC	Parish Council - Planning	7.30pm	
Thu 11	DCC	Calligraphy	10.30-12.30pm	F
		U3A Table Tennis	2.00-4.00pm	F

Village Diary

Mon 15	HR	DHS Committee Meeting	7.30pm	W
Tue 16	DCC	Denmead Reading Circle	2.15-4.15pm	M
		Chapter Reading Group	2.30-4.00pm	M
Wed 17	CH	Flower Club	2.00pm	M
	MH	Evening WI	7.30pm	M
	DCC	Parish Council – Main Council	7.30pm	
Sat 20	CH	MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.30pm	M
		Families, carers & children fun afternoon -see main notice for details		
Wed 24	DCC	Parish Council – Highways & GP	7.30pm	
Sat 27	DCC	FILM NIGHT – LA LA LAND	7.30pm	M
Wed 31	DCC	Parish Council - Planning		

Denmead Community Centre

Denmead Film Night – La La Land, Saturday 27th May – The one that thought it had won the Oscar. Mia, an aspiring actress, serves lattes to movie stars in between auditions and Sebastian, a jazz musician, scrapes by playing cocktail party gigs in dingy bars, but as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair.

Starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone.

To reserve your tickets call 92 256132.

Afternoon Social Club - This monthly social club for Denmead's elderly residents provides a place to meet where friends can have a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit over a chat, and then play a couple of games of Bingo before going home. Please contact the Community Centre on 023 9225 6132 for further information and to add your name to the waiting list.

If you would like to receive our electronic newsletter detailing the events and activities held at the Community Centre, just visit our website www.denmeadca.com and click "join the email list".

Denmead Evening Women's Institute

Our Craft Evenings continue at 7.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month and on 9th May we will Paint a Pot. The monthly Meet & Eat this month will be at the White Hart on 10th May at 12 noon – everyone is welcome – just turn up.

17th May is when we will hold our Annual Meeting when new officers will be elected. This is when we are hoping that members will volunteer to join our committee with new energy and ideas. A new programme for our monthly meetings for the next 12 months has been prepared and will be published after our Annual Meeting. Also at this meeting we will discuss two new proposed campaign resolutions each of which we can vote for or against before further discussion and voting takes place at the National Annual Meeting to be held in June in Liverpool. The resolutions are “Alleviating Loneliness” and “Plastic Soup: keep microplastic fibres out of our oceans”.

You can read more about the WI's many campaigns over the years at www.theWI.org.uk/campaigns.

Here is a brief summary of what the WI means to one member:

“If I could put the WI in a bowl I'd put in equal measure inclusion, sisterhood, charity, community, fun, friendship, belonging and opportunity”.

A very warm welcome would be extended to any visitors wishing to see what the WI is all about, and they 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.

If you are unable to attend in the evening then Denmead Afternoon Institute would welcome you to their meetings at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Memorial Hall.

More information is available on www.hampshirewi.org.uk or call Irene Woodings (023 9226 3465).



Registered Charity 299731

Denmead Rowans Support Group

Super Saturday

Hats and Handbags Sale

All Saints Church Hall, Denmead

Saturday May 6th 10am to 12noon



There will be the Opening Of Rowans Green Boxes, Craft Tables, Bric A Brac, Coffee, Cakes and much more.

Thanks to the many friends who have donated their hats and handbags we will be able to offer you a wonderful selection.

**For more information
or to book a table
please call Trish, 07947 611699**

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 9th May 2017, from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm. We meet for a drink and a chat with fellow members and after a 3-course lunch, our guest speaker will give a presentation entitled 'Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance'.

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 peterpia1989@outlook.com.

Denmead Horticultural Society

Our next talk on Tuesday 2nd May is about Bats, Superheroes of the Night. The speaker, Nik Knight is a County Bat Recorder and Chairman of the Hampshire Bat Group. New members and visitors (£2) are welcome to the talk, 7.30pm at the Church Hall.

In April Andy Willis gave us a fascinating talk on Plants and Bees. The first thing we learnt was that not all the nectar collected by bees comes from flowers. Bracken has nectaries in the axils of the side branches and it is possible to get bracken honey. Nectaries are also found on the back of new laurel leaves and at the base of bracts on broad beans. A lot of nectar is produced at the back of the broad bean flowers and this is sometimes robbed by bumble bees making a hole at the base of the flower.

Bees also feed on pollen and the beekeeper can sometimes tell which plants his bees are visiting by the colour of the pollen they are bringing to the hive, varying from orange in dog roses and yellow in willow to grey in blackberries. Many fruit crops rely on bees for pollination and need to be cross pollinated while others are wind pollinated.



Trees start flowering early in the year and are an important source of pollen and nectar - a single horse chestnut can provide more of both than a whole wildflower meadow. Maple trees, sycamores and willow are also good sources. At the end of the year ivy is one of the last plants to provide food for bees. In the garden we can help by growing single flowers which give the bees easier access to their food. Andy gave us an excellent insight into the life of the honey bee and answered lots of questions including hints for beekeepers entering our summer show.

On 1st April we had a sunny day for the Spring Show with a lovely lot of visitors and more entries than last year. Although some of the daffodils were over there were still plenty for the extra new daffodil classes and the exhibits in the hall showed spring in Denmead at its best.

Liz Williams, 023 9226 9642

Denmead Afternoon Women's Institute

We welcomed gardening guru Brian Kidd to our April meeting. As the weather was fine Brian gave a demonstration instead of an illustrated talk. He brought samples of various plants and shrubs which he talked about and described their care. He also gave us hints about jobs to do at the moment including how to deter slugs from destroying plants in pots and containers. As usual Brian kept us spellbound with his array of knowledge – peppered with humour.

The competition for a flower arrangement in a teacup was won by Janet Pearce with Margaret Dickson second. The flower of the month was won by Joan Elliott and Rosemary Simpson was second. We continue our monthly get-together for lunch, visiting the White Hart on Wednesday 10th this month

A number of members attended the Hampshire Council Meeting at Portsmouth Guildhall where the main speaker was the explorer Ranulph Fiennes.

We will once again be taking part in the County Darts Tournament – always fun evenings meeting members from other institutes. The group round of the County Quiz will be held in June and the Skittles in August.

This month we will be holding our Annual Meeting when we elect our committee and officers. We will also debate the two resolutions to be presented at the Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June. There will be no competitions.

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 twice yearly Council meeting which includes a well known speaker.

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)

Joan Downing (9226 5458)

Denmead Village Association

At the beginning of the March meeting the Chairman, Peter Ambrose, announced that an application for a revised plan for the development at Carpenters Field, with 91 properties, has now been submitted, with the open space and layout very closely in line with what we had argued for. There should be a financial settlement to cover sports facilities in the King George Playing Fields. There had been a suggestion from one group, that a petanque terrain be included in the plan, but this would encroach on the village green.

He then advised that the committee had agreed that in welcoming the new Vicar, she and her husband be invited to become honorary members of the association, which they had been pleased to accept.

Following the talk at the previous meeting by Andrew Negus, the Speaker Secretary has made a provisional date of 10.30am on Friday 30th June for a guided walk around Winchester and members were invited to put their names forward. A list will be available at the May meeting if there are still spaces available.

The chairman then introduced David Allport, who spoke to us about the Kings Theatre, Southsea. David has been involved for many years, starting as a volunteer working backstage. Originally opened in 1907, it had 2,172 seats, whereas there are now 1,168 seats. The first productions were the classics –

opera, Shakespeare etc, which appealed to the wealthier members of the local society. However, as box office numbers dwindled, seat prices were reduced and the programmes diversified. In those days the working class went into the gallery and the high society people into the stalls.

In the 1920s silent films began to supersede live theatre and in the 1930s sound was added. David gave us an extensive list of actors and performers who have appeared at the Kings throughout its life. In 2001 the theatre was bought by Portsmouth City Council and the Kings Theatre Trust took it over in 2003. Since then there has been a great deal of restoration work completed, with much more still to be done – for which volunteers are always needed! For those who are interested, a backstage tour of the theatre takes place every month.

The next open meeting is to be held in All Saints Church Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 19th May followed by a talk by Keith Thomas of the Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Service (not as shown in the membership cards). Do come along to hear him. The annual membership fee is only £2 per person and, in addition to interesting speakers at our open meetings, you would be helping to support the village. The treasurer, Mrs Janet Nobes, 8 The Smithy, Denmead, PO7 6YS, telephone 02382 255981 will be very happy to hear from you.

Gloria Jarrett, Secretary

Denmead Twinning Association

Our latest social event, the annual Quiz, was held at the beginning of April in Denmead Community Centre. The whole evening was great fun with 16 teams of six members in each – nearly 100 people were in the main hall and we could not have fitted another team anywhere.

The evening was run by the family Davies – with Malcolm and Ann organising the event (the teams, ticket sales, food side (it was BYO drinks)), and with Ann's brother, Albert, devising the questions and running the quiz in a most professional way.

Finally thanks go to Tricia Gilbert for organising the raffle, with several prizes being donated by local organisations: White Hart pub, Harvest Home pub, South Downs College restaurant and the Denmead Community Centre. We are grateful to all of these.



The Map of Saint Georges

Meanwhile final preparations are being made for our annual meeting with our friends from our twinned village in France, Saint Georges. This year it is our turn to visit them and nearly 50 people from Denmead will be there for the last weekend in May; this will be a special occasion marking our 25th Anniversary of our twinning. We know that they will entertain us well, and we plan

to mark this noteworthy milestone with a special gift and amusing entertainment, which we'll cover in a future article.

For information on Denmead Twinning Association contact Patrick Binks 9226 2912 or go to the website www.denmeadtwinningassociation.com

District Council Up-date

Fy-tipping

HCC are in the final stages of developing a new and robust fly-tipping strategy and action plan for Hampshire working closely with a number of key public and private partners including Districts, Borough Councils, Police, and the Environment Agency, representatives of the Hampshire Rural forum including the national farmers Union and Country Land and Business Associations. A full time officer will be recruited to work within Trading Standards.

Fly-tipping rates between October to December 2015 and 2016 have decreased by 33.74. This is a steady decline in reported incidents from information from the Districts.

The Family Ride is back

– and we're going GREEN with South Downs National Park!

On Sunday 11 June, the South Downs National Park Family Ride will kick off the Winchester Criterium and CycleFest at 10am

Pot Holes and Highways

- HCC have invested £10 million into Operation Resilience programme each year, to deliver long term structural repairs and improvements which last longer - and are therefore more cost effective. HCC is set to invest a further

£209 million over the next three years, to improve roads and infrastructure across the county.

- Hampshire Highway team repair around 10,000 potholes each year.
- Nearly 240 miles of roads and footway are scheduled for improvements in the next couple of months.
- HCC has one of the lowest pothole compensation rates per mile of county councils in the South East.

In addition to Government funding announced last year, Hampshire has been awarded £5million for capital maintenance from the new National Productivity Investment Fund announced today. This is one of four separate funds for roads from which the Government has allocated money to councils: to improve the condition of roads, to help with potholes, to repair and maintain infrastructure, and to reward those authorities who have demonstrated best practice in improving the long term condition of the roads.

Flooding

April 2014: Sixty eight and a half million pounds – that's the estimated potential cost to Hampshire County Council of its response and recovery operation in the aftermath of this winter's flooding – the most significant rainfall in 250 years. The longer term capital costs of remedial work to damaged highways, at more than 300 locations and flood and coastal



defence works, to avoid future flooding in badly affected areas, is estimated to be about £63M. The cost of the emergency response including sandbagging, tree clearing and clean-up costs, adds up to a further £5million.

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

Hampshire County Council

Bus Service

You will know that as from 8th January First Bus made changes to their X9 service which ran from Hambledon/Denmead into Portsmouth, via QA Hospital. First Bus felt it was no longer commercially viable for them to fund the journey from Waterlooville into Portsmouth, and return. Consequently they have now rescheduled the service so that buses D1 and D2 run to and from Hambledon/Denmead and Waterlooville, but they no longer go on to Portsmouth. To get into Portsmouth, or QA Hospital, passengers now need to catch the D7 or D8 from Waterlooville, and if you need to visit the hospital, alight at Cosham and walk to the hospital entrance.

This new arrangement has caused a great deal of concern amongst residents who need regular access to the hospital and I have met and had long discussions with the General Manager of First Bus. I

received promises that they would explore options of re-routing an existing service to take it through the hospital grounds. They later reported to me that this diversion is not possible because of the additional time it would take for the bus to complete the route, which would have a "knock on" effect on their scheduled timetable, staffing shifts and operational costs.

Not content with this response I sought and obtained another meeting with the Head of Hampshire Passenger Transport, the Cabinet Member at Hampshire County Council with responsibility for Transport, the Commercial Manager of First Bus plus myself. Unfortunately, the response remained as before, that bus services are provided commercially, paid for by the fares collected, and users of the X9 services are concessionary rates, not full fare-paying passengers. However, First Bus did point out that if you use the D7 or D8 from Waterlooville and continue onto Cosham Health Centre you can change to Numbers 2 or 3 or 20 as these routes, which provide up to 14 buses an hour, take you to the main hospital entrance - suitable for anyone who finds it difficult to walk.

You might also find it useful to know that the NHS offers support for those people who would have difficulty in getting to hospital or find the



journeys unaffordable. The support is of two types:

1. Patient Transport Service - This service is available to eligible, non-emergency patients:

- attending hospital outpatient clinics
- being admitted to or discharged from hospital wards
- needing life-saving treatments such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy or renal dialysis or DVT treatment.

Patients are considered eligible if:

- Their medical condition is such that they require the skills and support of PTS staff during or after their journey and/or it would be detrimental to their condition or recovery to travel by other means, or
- Their medical condition affects their mobility to such an extent that they would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to their condition or recovery to travel by other means.

Further details are available at: <http://www.porthosp.nhs.uk/for-inpatients/patient-support-and-advice/patient-transport.htm> or by telephoning: 0300 100 0024.

2. Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS)

- Patients who do not medically qualify for transport and are receiving means tested benefits may be entitled to financial help with transport costs under the HTCS.
- Patients must be under the care of a consultant/surgeon or attending traditional hospital diagnostic/treatment.

Further details are available on the internet at the following address: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/Travelcosts.aspx>

Alternatively, you might wish to consider making contact with the Denmead Voluntary Car Scheme which covers Denmead and Hambledon. Their telephone number is 023 92 239630, the service is provided by volunteers who ask for their fuel costs to be met, and they would appreciate as much forward notice as is possible. The Denmead Voluntary Car Scheme run an excellent door-to-door service to the hospital but they are in need of more volunteer drivers (to commit to about one afternoon per month). Drivers need to be under 70 years of age. Please try and help if you can, your support would be very welcome.

Patricia Stallard
pgstallard@aol.com 023 92 251484

Denmead Horticultural Society Flower Arranging Workshop

On April 12th the Workshop was treated to a demonstration of a 'Vertical' arrangement by Jenny Withers. The title was Spring and we all had a very enjoyable evening.

The workshop meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall. Firstly we have a demonstration and then we make a display with the guidance of the demonstrator. The next meeting will be on May 10th and visitors are very welcome. Call 0794761 1699 for more information.



DENMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH www.denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk
22 Mead End Road, Denmead, PO7 6PZ. Tel: 9307 8372, email: admin@denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk
Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt, (023) 9226 2289 shspa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The Registrar of Births and Deaths: Appointments Only. Telephone: (01489) 894044
Health Centre: 023 9223 9630
General Visiting, and Help in Bereavement – please contact Church Office: 9226 8757
Denmead Community Care Group: (COMMUNICARE) 023 9223 9630
Denmead Community Centre: 9225 6132 9am - 3pm, Monday-Friday
Memorial Hall Bookings: Mrs S Thomas, 9235 5993
Police Contact No: 08450 45 45 45
Burial Ground enquiries: 9224 7947
Denmead Parish Council: 9224 7947
Winchester City Council 01962 840222