

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 32 August 2016 For Avington, Easton, Ithen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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WELCOME to the Valley News



Obviously I approached my turn editing the News still reeling from the shocks and changes that have been a feature of our national life since 23rd June. Our democracy seems to have proved reassuringly robust so far, and I think this is due in part to the fabric of trust and interdependence that is a feature of a community such as ours, that is no doubt repeated up and down the country. The events and activities, past and future, reported here are living proof that we can all work together to create stability and care for each other - not to mention having a great deal of fun whilst doing so!

It is an editor's delight to have an inbox full of readers' personal insights and articles - please be inspired by whatever is happening in your lives and keep sending us your thoughts, stories, plans and photographs. For instance, we don't usually include travel tales in the News, but Nick Owen's article about his pilgrimage to Jerusalem touches on a wide range of religious and geo-political issues. Keep them coming!

My own story has been joining forces with Lucy Collis and Sophie Rogers to try to encourage more wildflowers in our local verges - the cover illustrates what we feel is a first success at the Cart and Horses junction (hopefully something to enjoy while you negotiate the changed priorities!) and we hope to do more as time and resources permit. That small space includes corn camomile, corn cockle, cornflower, poppy, corn marigold, water pepper, knotgrass, yarrow, fat hen, upright hedge parsley and creeping jenny and

many more.

The flood of articles has

however meant that some have had to be postponed until next month - please don't think for a minute that they are not appreciated, they will be making Charlotte Appleby's task as next month's editor very much easier.

I have been lucky enough to see a lot of the UK in all its summer glory this year, so here's to relishing the long summer days - swimming in the sea or a river, making sandcastles, picnicking in the park or the woods, seeing some of the summer sport or just messing about in the garden and our lovely countryside. Enjoy!

Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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What's on

Boomtown at Matterley Bowl

Thursday 11th - Monday 15th August

More details from

www.boomtownfair.co.uk

Easton Fete

Bank holiday Monday 31st August from
2pm. More details from

adamsmurch@mac.com

Abbey Cottage Open Garden

Sunday 4th September from 2pm

Bar, BBQ and Band

In aid of Itchen Valley Churches,
Winchester Night Shelter and Malindi
Hospital. All welcome!

David and Sally Parker

Ride and Stride

Saturday 10th September

Walk, cycle, drive or run to as many
churches in Hampshire and the Isle of
Wight as you wish. Users of vehicles for
disabled are also encouraged to take
part - or even use your bus pass!

Help to raise money for the
preservation of the region's historic
churches and chapels of all
denominations. These precious buildings
are central to our communities and
villages. Go as a family, singly or get a
group together.

Half the money raised will go to
Hampshire & the Islands Historic
Churches Trust and half to Itchen Valley
Churches.

For more information and sponsorship
forms, please ring

Vanessa Rosewell 01962 841182

Winchester GoLD Bridge Tea

Thursday 13th October 2-5 pm

Once again we are delighted to
announce our annual Bridge Tea to be

held at The White House, Main Road,
Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QS.

Come and join us for a friendly
competition and a gorgeous homemade
tea. To book a table (£50 per table) or
for more information please contact

Gimma Macpherson at

gimmamacp@aol.com or 01962 884098

Opera in Itchen Abbas

14-16th October

A slightly abridged version of Don
Giovanni will be sung in St John's Itchen
Abbas on the Friday and Saturday, with
a concert on the Sunday, in aid of the
MS Society and the Valley Churches.
Further information in the September
issue of the Itchen Valley News.

Nick Owen

Martyr Worthy Lectures – Series 3

Wednesday 16th November

The next Martyr Worthy Lecture
Series will begin on 16th November
when John Lang will be speaking on
The Dutch Golden Age. There will be
two further lectures in the series, one
in January and one in February 2017.
The lectures will again be held in Itchen
Abbas and Avington Village Hall in
support of the Itchen Valley parish, and
ticket prices will remain at £15, to
include drinks and canapés beforehand.
Further details and ticket information
in the September issue of the Itchen
Valley News.

Verity Coleman

A Brew with a View @

Easton Village Hall

**Wednesday afternoons starting on
July 27th from 2:30 to 5pm.**

We are trialling a weekly pop-up 'meet
and treat' event at Easton Village Hall
this summer. Join us for a catch up
with friends and neighbours from the

villages along the valley over a cuppa and slice of cake. All ages welcome and any ideas and help this project with are welcomed! The day and time are subject to change depending on demand.

Spread the word and see you soon if not before!

Ina Williams 779465

What Was On

Glynde Easton 2016

Easton, as befits the Itchen Valley, is a village of many delights. Some of these have, over time, come to take on the characteristic of a well loved ritual.

And such is the phenomenon of Glynde Easton. This biennial event, started 20 years ago, has a particular pedigree: opera performed by quality

professionals; staged in a beautiful garden; attended by the people of Easton, of other Itchen villages and their friends from farther afield; music performed as the audience, who have dressed both themselves and their tables with style, eat and - certainly - drink both well and generously. This spectacle of black tie, white tablecloths, candelabras and all the impedimenta of al fresco picnics is the British at their most stylish, and creative - and courageous. Glynde Easton, like other similar summer events, has to confront the English climate.

And, as so often, it was a triumph of hope and fortitude over expectation and reality. This year, as tradition demands, we prepared under

cloud. But this year as the music began, so the clouds miraculously parted and the sun shone. Perhaps it was the work of a properly grateful deity, since the proceeds of the evening were destined for the Itchen Valley churches.

And this year it was Opera Danube that came to entertain us. Their programme, "A Waltz Along The Danube", was a delightful and eclectic mix of opera favourites, operetta and Gilbert and Sullivan. Four singers: three are emerging talents with, clearly, a bright future ahead - Joanna Foote (soprano), Felicity Buckland (mezzo) and William Morgan (tenor). And these guided by their director, Simon Butteriss (baritone), and all accompanied by Charles Kilpatrick, a pianist who has worked with the Royal Opera House. Opera Danube is an impressive showcase for emerging talent and we were fortunate to enjoy their performance at Glynde Easton. The Patron of Opera Danube is Danielle de Niese, the internationally acclaimed lyric soprano who is also married to Gus Christie, the current Chairman of Glyndebourne Festival Opera. So perhaps a new tentative dotted line between Glynde Easton and Glyndebourne. Something for The Grange to ponder?

As dusk and the temperature fell, there was one last pleasure. Coffee and liqueurs in front of a roaring log fire inside Dymoke House - a final chance to discuss and savour the delights of the evening with friends and neighbours. The box of delights that is Glynde Easton is, of course,





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entirely the inspiration and the handiwork of Sara and Frits Janssen. We are much in their debt. Sara, predictably, makes light of the commitment involved. But events such as this only come off so well because of much hard work and meticulous planning. So the warmest of thanks to Team Janssen for another evening of magic. And much gratitude to all of you who came to support the occasion. You helped raise a mouth watering £8,000 for our four iconic Itchen Valley churches.

Adrian Sindall

Avington Fete

The day, in this previously rainy summer, was dry, Avington Park looked beautiful as ever, and then the gates were opened and the crowds flocked in for what was the most successful Avington Village Fete yet. Opened by actor Robert Hardy CBE, there was a real choice of things to do this time with the dog show, football, rugby, golf, fishing, and welly throwing. The target football had a surprise winner in 4 year old Ben Lott, who beat everyone taking part, including adults and much older competitors! Visitors saw beautiful falcons, had a chance to ride ponies, to write stories, to indulge in face painting and nail art and to ask about issues in our gardens with Gardener's Question Time at the plant stall. The other traditional stalls



were busy all afternoon.

As usual the cakes sold out quickly, there were so many books that we called it our British Library, and visitors indulged themselves with the variety of refreshments offered. Entertainment was provided by local group 'We Are Robot' and families also enjoyed some carnival dancing.



Of course the traditional village fete elements saw our Midsummer Queen, Jemima Kennedy, crowned by Robert Hardy, who also chose a band member's whippet, Flynn, as the dog he would most like to take home. The Hat Competition was won by an amazing creation by Gail Kennedy.

The amount taken on the day was a new record and it is hoped that the Valley Churches will soon benefit from around £10,000!

Thank you very much from the Avington Village Fete Group who could not have managed without the help and support of an army of volunteers. We appreciated your efforts on our behalf.

Judy Thomas



Companion Dog Show at Avington Fete

Unusually for June 2016 the sun shone and, in spite of a cool breeze, it was a lovely afternoon. 54 dogs were entered, many in a number of different classes. The judge, Mrs. Karen Plumtree (Matlaras), must be congratulated for her consistent attention to detail and extensive knowledge of many diverse breeds. She gave everyone time to show their dog to best effect and treated all with good humour.

The Best Non-Sporting Dog or Bitch was won by Alan and Susie Westlop's handsome Finnish Lapphund in full coat, but he was narrowly beaten in the Challenge for Best Pedigree by Mark Brooker's stunning Rhodesian Ridgeback dog, 'Cuddles'. He received a handsome trophy sponsored by the PDSA and each class-winner was awarded a mug inscribed *I Love My Dog*. Rosettes were given for all classes up

to fifth place. Thank you PDSA.

Glenys Hutton and her flatcoated retriever 'Cari' won 'Most Obedient Dog or Bitch' with impressive style in spite of numerous distractions. Close on their heels came Linda Forsyth with her beautiful English Pointers. Each competitor eventually received a Bonio that they were *supposed* to ignore during their round!

Every junior handler controlled their dogs well, and some would put most adults to shame. Knowledge of their breed and its requirements made a big difference to their placing, as well as proving that they contributed to the care and exercise of the dog.

Best Veteran Dog or Bitch drew a large number of well-cared for 'oldies'.

Disney, a delightful Schnauzer, narrowly beat an excellent Labrador Retriever, a Flatcoated Retriever, a Border Collie and a Great Dane - a breed that rarely ages so well.

The most popular class of the day was

judged by Mr. Robert Hardy, CBE, FSA and erstwhile dog breeder! The ring was crammed full of dogs of all shapes and sizes and each one received a kind word and pat on the head. Mr. Hardy spent a long time with each exhibitor enquiring about the dog and its attributes. After considerable deliberation he chose a graceful Whippet owned by Vijay Amarnani. Luckily he lives close by so will be able to visit regularly: after all it was 'The dog or bitch he would most like to take home'!

Show Organiser Christine Player

Hat Tales from Avington Fete

The distant chime of the doorbell alerted me to a visitor, but by the time I managed to make my way down from the top of the garden there was only a



bag left leaning against the front door, its contents spilling out in a colourful eruption of lace, ribbon and silk. I was pleased to see that my drum beat email plea, to borrow some hats, had resonated efficiently throughout our little village, and that, as always, the residents had responded with genial generosity.

The Avington Fete is held every four years in the beautiful grounds of Avington Park. The villagers, supported

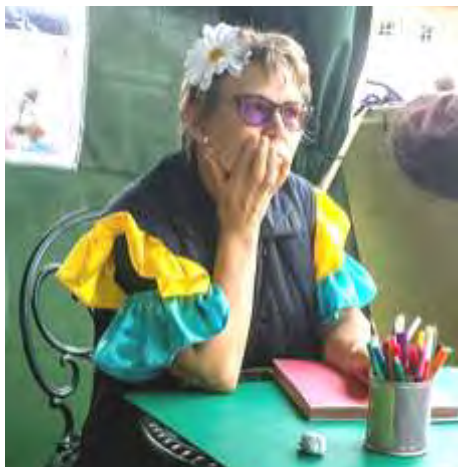
by other residents from the valley, cleave together to make the fete a success, with the ethos not only to provide revenue for that year's



particular charitable cause, but to engender a sense of inclusion amongst young and old, by providing entertainment for all. Hence, three months earlier, at the first meeting of the committee, led by the glamorous and so-efficient Judy Thomas, we were dispersed into small groups to brainstorm ideas for stalls and activities.

To my bemusement, amongst the sensible ideas of Golfer's Corner, cake and plant stalls, my slightly frivolous





idea of a stall where one could try on a hat and be transformed into an amazing new person - who would then write a marvellous narrative - was hailed as a wonderful idea.

As the weeks passed my seed of an idea germinated, took root, and began to thrive: my friend and neighbour Helen offered to paint and decorate a beautiful sign, with a rhyme to match, to advertise my stall; my adult offspring offered to abandon the delights of London to help out with cakes, hats and their invaluable presence; and my friend Linda volunteered to act as my assistant.

The day of the fete had already gained momentum, like an unfurling bloom, when, at ten minutes past midnight, I was at the train station in Winchester to collect said offspring, girlfriend, dogs, cakes and cases; the pleasures of Saturday nights in London are not to be missed, and as my son assured me, "Mum, the cakes at Selfridges are dirt cheap at closing time." And so they should be, at 10 pm!

After a few hours of sleep, the gardens of Avington Park burst into bloom with music, dance, food and people. And slowly, with the added enticement of

cupcakes and a chance to win a prize, the young and old, male and female, stopped by Hat Tales to try on a hat, admire themselves in the mirror, and sit quietly, letting their creative juices spill onto the coloured paper before them. I imagined I could see the ghost of Nell Gwyn, our most famous historic visitor, walking amongst us, her silken burgundy skirts trailing behind her on the lawns, her curls ruffled by the wind.

The wordsmiths were delightful to watch: there were the sensible, who spent half-an hour composing their tales; the laconic - with an eye on the cakes - who scribbled a line or two; and the little ones who were very keen to tell their stories, with the helpful encouragement of patient parents. And there were moments of great merriment, when Linda and I hid our giggles behind the hats. One young lady admonished her father, "There's too



much talking,” as she concentrated on her story, and then decided to get rid of him altogether and waved him away, saying imperiously, “It’s okay, these friendly ladies will take care of me.”

The hats were great props, and I am very grateful to everyone who offered them to me. There were stories about leopards, cowboys, princesses and kings, but my favourite was from Maeve, aged 6, who wrote:

*Once upon a time there lived a cowgirl
One day she was herding the golden cow
and then the golden cow said,
“Stop it! How about we be friends?”
They made friends then they lived happily
ever after.*

I also loved 7 year-old May’s illustrated story as she sat in her boots and blue wedding hat:

*Once there was a girl called Lydia
She lived in a small town
She lived in a castle and wore a pretty hat
She was excited about being at the tip of
being a princess.*

Linda tried her hand at a limerick:

*This year at the Avington Fete
Crowds thronged and thought it was great
The village came together and were
blessed with the weather
This year at the Avington Fete*

Kelsey tried on a Rastafarian hat and came up with:

*I live on an island
I live by the sea
Every day when I wake up
That pure white sand is there to greet me
I go out on my boat
Sail smoothly along
Catch some fish to fry
What a lovely way to start my day*

Zahra, aged 5, with help from Mum wrote:

*I am Miss Phiblephwip and I am one of 9
naughty children*

*I paint the cat yellow and I draw on the
wallpaper*

*One day a nine-headed monster came to
look after me*

*And my naughty brothers and naughty
sisters*

When I saw him arrive

I wasn’t naughty any more!

Then there was Georgie, aged 3, with a whole lot of help from mum Kate:

A little old lady with purple hair

Rode a bicycle in her knickers

She didn’t care

Loud and outrageous, a Villager’s Delight

But after pub closing

She gave quite a fright!

At the end of the day, in this technological age of tablets, computers and smart phones, I was delighted to see that so many of us still enjoy the pleasure of letting our imaginations run free, and of taking the time to put pen to paper.

Corinne Kozok

Upper Itchen Valley Society Summer Party



The Upper Itchen Valley Society enjoyed drinks (and of course suitable nibbles!) in the garden of the Down House, Itchen Abbas on a sunny - but chilly - summer evening. Mark Porter gave a brief, interesting exposition of some of the intricacies of wine making and kindly provided tastings of two of

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his wines. Our grateful thanks to the Porters for hosting such an enjoyable evening.

If anyone living in the Valley is not a member of the Upper Itchen Valley Society the IVN can pass on requests for membership details - for a modest one off contribution you can become a life member and thus join the party next year.

Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley Flower Show

The sun came out and so did many families and friends of our community show on Sunday 17th July. It was a wonderful event with over 200 adults and children enjoying the afternoon in the village hall garden with a bouncy castle, teas and homemade cakes, and a talk by Dr Phil Marter about local archaeology.

In the hall the children's competition was full of imaginary gardens in a seed tray, ranging from a giant snail to tiny washing on a tiny washing line. The flower arrangement in a dog bowl was great fun with a cauliflower in a dog bowl, a bone made out of flowers and a Bonio in amongst the flowers. The variety, colour and thought that went into each arrangement were wonderful. The children's cookery section of four decorated cupcakes was also inspirational. We were presented with hamburgers, bike themed cakes and sugar paste roses. We have many

talented young cooks and gardeners in our Valley.



The decorated handwriting this year included a poem about the wonders of broccoli with lovely handwriting. It must have taken all the children some time to write each piece and decorate them. The 'selfie' photos and the model classes were all very interesting and I hope more children will have a go next year.

Thank you to all those parents that enabled their children to enter the competition. It is always a delightful when the children return to see who has won.

With fifty six classes for adults to enter we were fortunate to have entries for nearly all classes, in spite of the wet summer we have had. The sweet peas were glorious this year and the herbaceous cut flowers gave a wonderful display in the hall. We had one entry into the tomato class, the



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little cherry tomatoes looked polished and ripe to eat and deserved first prize! All the vegetables were well presented: the judge reminded onion growers not to skin them too much for showing. I am not sure how many layers you should remove but they looked beautiful to me.



The cookery section presented a wonderful spread of sweet and savoury dishes. We had six of 'Puddles' eggs that won first prize for their beautiful large yellow yolks. The set recipe, orange drizzle cake, was delicious and Sue Germon kindly made a cake to try that disappeared very quickly. The cherry pies were all very different with pastry crusts or lattice tops. Poppy seeded rolls, shortbread, fudge and savoury flan were all tasted by the judge. Thank you to everyone who entered this section.

The flower arrangement incorporating

a handbag filled the hall with wonderful colour and a variety of ideas. The miniature arrangement in a crown had many entries with the tiniest of flowers, which must be very difficult and maybe frustrating to bring together. It is always a pleasure to look at these arrangements. If they get much smaller we may need to provide a magnifying glass next year!

The craft section was low on entries this year. Perhaps next year if you have made an item of embroidery, woodwork or needlework please consider entering the section. Many young people have entered the craft section and we encourage them to continue and show off their wonderful talents.

The preserves section had a variety of entries with gooseberry and redcurrant cordial with a rich reddish colour and marmalade from a recipe handed down in Madeline's family. We would love to see more preserve makers entering these classes next year.

We are also grateful for the support of the parents at Itchen Abbas primary school for sponsoring the book tokens for the primary age class winners. It is always a pleasure to see the children's faces light up when you call out their name as a winner of their age group.

Thank you to the team, especially Gail Kennedy, Alison Canfor, Catherine Hahn, and Sue Germon and Zoe Cannons for their support and help in organising the Flower Show. Thank you to the ladies that helped Zoe in the kitchen serving teas and to everyone who made the delicious home made cakes.

Finally thank you to all our supporters and for all the families and friends who made the Flower Show a great success and a wonderful community event.

Prize Winners



Erin Bolger The Scatchard Challenge Cup

Lilly Martin The Stevens Cup

Rodney Dartnall The Macklin Challenge Cup

Dave Cannons The Albie Marsh Trophy

Rodney Dartnall The Vegetable Challenge Cup

Jackie Porter The Flower Section Trophy

Jenny Crowther The Rose Bowl

Madeline Quest-Ritson Sheila Edmonds Cup

Jacqui Squire The Upper Itchen Valley Society Salver

Rodney Dartnall Margaret Edmonds Memorial Challenge Cup

Joan Dartnall Flower Arrangement Challenge Cup

Jenny Sloan Rosemary Dee Memorial Cup

Joan Dartnall The Nelson Cup

Liza Hughes Valley Gardener's Cup

See you next year on Sunday 16th July 2017.

Sara Mason



Gulliver's Travels



The Pantaloons theatre company did a very entertaining production of Gulliver's travels which was not short of humour. It was so funny the cast was laughing with us. A super cool fun amazing play. The talented actors interacted with the audience and we did the same with them (if you were watching the evening performance you would definitely agree). With only four people in the cast and a small amount of props they still managed to make it magical. All those in the audience were screaming with laughter. A show that the whole family will enjoy in an



amazing setting and if something goes wrong they can mould to it and get back on track. They're like a family and their music was great. All in all one of the best outdoors play I've ever seen and I would definitely advise you to see one of their plays. The Pantaloons do lots of amazing productions all over the country. To find out more go to thepantaloons.co.uk

Ned Wolfe, 11 yrs

Singing opportunities

Come and Sing Handel's Messiah

Saturday 1st October

with The Waynflete Singers in Winchester Cathedral.

Andrew Lumsden, Conductor, George Castle, organ accompaniment

The event starts at 1.30 pm for registration and handing out vocal scores, followed by a rehearsal in the afternoon for about two and a half hours including a break. An evening performance in front of an audience will follow from 6.30. Performers £20 (£5 students). For all enquiries and bookings please contact sing@waynfletesingers.org.uk or for a downloadable booking form see our website: <http://waynfletesingers.org.uk>. Audience tickets for the evening (non singers) will be available nearer the time from Winchester Cathedral Box

Office 01962 857275 or online: www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk.

The event is in being held in aid of the Mayor of Winchester's charities. We anticipate significant demand for this Come and Sing event and would ask that you book no later than Saturday 20th August 2016.

Waynflete Singers recruiting

The Waynflete Singers is one of Southern England's premier amateur choirs, performing large scale choral works mainly in Winchester Cathedral with professional orchestras and first class soloists. Admission by audition – for information please visit waynfletesingers.org.uk. Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7.30pm in Pilgrims' School Hall in the Cathedral Close.

Itchen Valley Choral Society

Do you enjoy singing?

We are a small, friendly choral society of some 45 members, looking for new recruits, particularly sopranos and tenors.

We meet on Wednesday evenings between September and May from 7.45 – 9.30 pm in Itchen Abbas Village Hall, rehearsing under the enthusiastic and inspiring leadership of our conductor Jane Bryant.

We put on two concerts a year, the first of which is a light hearted evening of seasonal and popular music in



December followed by a buffet supper. For the second we join forces with other local choirs to perform a much bigger work with soloists and orchestra as part of the annual Winchester Music Festival, alternating between Winchester Cathedral and Romsey Abbey. In May 2017 we will be performing Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and *The Rio Grande* by Constant Lambert in Romsey Abbey. If you think you might be interested in joining or would just like to see if it is for you, why not come down to the village hall and give it a try? The new season starts on Wednesday 7th September.

For more information please contact me.

Gabby O'Grady, IVCS Secretary
07712 112174 ivcs.secretary@gmail.com

Cricket Club News



Easton and Martyr Worthy's U11s

made history on Thursday 30th June as the club's first junior side to win the prestigious Hampshire County Cup. Their win against Hambledon, at the St. Cross ground, is the icing on the cake for the club, which celebrated its 70th birthday in July. Hambledon won the toss and put Easton in to bat on a pitch which St Cross groundsman Steve Oliphant

had kept remarkably dry after days of heavy rain. Some conservative bowling from Hambledon kept the Easton run rate down and after 10 overs, the Easton score was 41. The rate continued at 4 an over with notable innings from Monty Randle (27) and Hamish Croft (30 n/o). However, the scoring rate accelerated in the last three overs of the innings with 46 runs added by Jack Robinson, Jacobi McCowen and Rory Wooster, who scored a magnificent 19 off 6 balls. The Easton innings closed on 119-3 after 20 overs.

The Easton opening bowling pair of Isaac Low (4 overs, 1 maiden, 7 runs) and Gilbert Rosenfalck (4 overs, 1 maiden, 21 runs) were even more conservative than the Hambledon bowling attack and helped to keep their run rate below Easton's. After 10 overs, Hambledon were on 35. Randle's season continues to impress with his leg spin bowling and his figures in this match were 4 overs, 3 wickets for 16 runs. Two wickets were taken by Peter Burnand, one by McCowen and some useful spin bowling from Will Roberts completed the bowling attack. Hambledon finished on 91-6 after 20 overs.

Team manager Graham Croft said: "Becoming the 2016 Hampshire U11 County Cup champions marks the highpoint so far in the journey of these keen young cricketers, most of whom have been playing together since they were six."

EMWCC Chairman Adam Murch added: "We are very proud of the boys and congratulate all those involved in their success, from the coaches to the parents, and to our juniors' sponsor, Creative Catering and Marquees."

Tracy Wickham

Easton and Martyr Worthy W10 team

W10 is a format designed to introduce the game to women, involving 10 players, 10 overs and a softball. Putting their new skills into practice, the ladies from Easton and Martyr Worthy's W10 cricket team enjoyed their first tournament in Basingstoke in June. The tournament followed weekly training from an HCB (Hampshire Cricket Board) level 3 coach which was free to players as EMWCC was one of 8 clubs in the County chosen to run the sessions over 10 weeks.

Player Anna Croft described how they got on: "There were some brilliant 6s from Tracy Bunny, Jackie Randle and Katie McCowen. Great bowling throughout the field too but notably from Bebe Corbett who won the last match for us in the final over. The most important thing was that we had a lot of fun and people want to play us again!."



Back row: Jackie Randle, Emma Mitchell, Anna Croft, Katie McCowen, Tracy Bunny and Victoria Low. Front row: Tiggy Corben, Jo Shropshire, Rebecca Andreae, Bebe Corbett

Tracy Wickam

Cricket Club report

With the weather still unsure if it is summer or not, another cricket season

is nearly done. There are now only four games left for each of our Senior sides and the Juniors have already packed up for the year. For the Seniors, this is always a nervous time of year calculating where we can get to in the various Leagues but we remain optimistic. However the overall future of our club is looking very positive especially after the successes of our Juniors this year, culminating in the outstanding performance of our record breaking U11s. Well done to the team and all those involved and also a massive thank you to all our club sponsors for continuing to believe in us. Our Juniors were again sponsored by the well respected local company Creative Catering and Marquees and our Seniors also by a locally based success story, Box-it. Without this belief in us by these companies and many more we would not be able to implement all our long term plans. Pound for pound, player for player, our aim as a club is to provide the best coaching to our members of any club in Hampshire and this means that our little club is able to more than compete with the bigger names in the county. Please come and support our club at the Easton fete on Bank Holiday Monday 29th August.

6th 2nd XI 2pm (Overton II)

13th 1st XI 2pm (Bramshaw)

20th 2nd XI 2pm (Littleton & West Hill II)

27th 1st XI 2pm (Amport)

29th Easton Village Fete

Adam Murch, Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club Chairman

Tiddler Joke

Have you met the two
Spanish firemen?

Hose A and Hose B!

Isaac Low Aged 11



Itchen Valley Church Services



Sunday 7th August

8am	Holy Communion	Avington
10am	All Age Service	Easton
11am	Matins	Itchen Abbas

Sunday 14th August

8am	Holy Communion	Easton
10am	Parish Communion	Itchen Abbas

Sunday 21st August

8am	Holy Communion	Martyr Worthy
10am	Parish Communion	Easton
6pm	Patronal Evensong	Avington

Sunday 28th August

8am	Holy Communion	Itchen Abbas
10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Curates

Rev Alex Pease 791010 rev@ampease.co.uk

Rev Rebecca Fardell 809264 rebecca.itchenvalley@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Tony Gaster 779110 tonygaster@btinternet.com

Mr Gerry Stacey 620263 gstacey@easynet.co.uk

Parish website: <http://itchenvalleychurches.org.uk/>

Itchen Valley Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540; Andrew Impey 779645;

Theo Mezger 07775 908014; Vanessa Rosewell 841182



Boules News

Triples 28th June

The Valley boules knock-out competition (Triples) brings all four villages together for a friendly midsummer challenge. It was Easton's turn to be host, and the rain eased just in time. Eight teams compete, two from each village, organized into two groups so that in both groups each village challenges one of the teams from the other three villages. In this initial phase, 2 points are awarded for each win and 1 for a draw. These three rounds were duly held and one Easton team, one Martyr Worthy team and both teams from Itchen Abbas accumulated 5 or 4 points and were clear winners in their respective groups. These four teams went forward to the knock-out section.



People had brought generous supplies of food and wine, and the half-way point provided a convenient opportunity for players and spectators to debate their village's successes or disappointments and to build up their energy levels for the challenges ahead. The semi-finals saw the two successful teams from Easton and Martyr Worthy

each pitched against one of the two Itchen Abbas teams. In both cases the games were hard fought and the winning margins extremely narrow, but in the end the Easton and the Martyr Worthy teams each managed to overcome their opponents and won through to the final. In the evening light these two played the final match and it was Martyr Worthy who pulled ahead with a storming finish. The winners became the holders the Nigel Graham Maw cup for a year and this was duly presented to the victorious team, Simon Ffennell, John Platt and Dave Dixon.

League Second Round

The valley boules league competition had its second round on Tuesday 12th July. After the first round, Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas had both been leading on 3 points each, with the other two villages on one point. In this second round, Easton were at home against Martyr Worthy. Both fought with spirit and tenacity, but neither could take a clear lead and the evening ended equal with 2 points each. In the other match, Itchen Abbas played against Avington. Itchen Abbas on their home ground were formidable and Avington could not get on the scoreboard – result 4-0 to IA. So after two rounds, Itchen Abbas have moved into front position with 7 points, Martyr Worthy are second with 5, Easton third with 3 and Avington at the back with 1 point. Next and final round - Tuesday 2 August. Who will take home the Dick Hewitt trophy?
Ralph Matthews



From the Rectory

When you read this we will be well into the summer holidays and, who knows, the sun may have decided to shine for more than five minutes. Whether we take some time



out to enjoy the beauties of the Itchen Valley or we choose to venture further afield, holidays are important. We all need the break in routine that they offer so that we can take life at a more leisurely pace for a while. We need time for rest and refreshment, freedom to reconnect with our family and friends and space just to be. This is true whether we have a demanding job or whether we are one of the generous people whose voluntary work contributes so much to our communities. We all need to take time out: time to breathe deeply; time to take our noses off the grindstone so that we can look up and look out.

Our word for these pauses reminds us of their origins: holiday is a corruption of *holy day*. It recalls the time when paid leave from work was an unimaginable luxury for the vast majority of people and the annual calendar of saints' days and key Christian festivals provided the only opportunities most labourers had for a break. These holy days punctuated the year, and along with Sundays and the variation in the seasons, provided a rhythm to life which we are in danger of losing in our 24/7 world.

Throughout the story of God's dealings with his people, he has established festivals and celebrations which are designed to punctuate the routines of everyday life. These vary in length and frequency but were all intended to be

times when people did not work. They were created so that people could take a break from the routine and remind themselves of the things that are important. Holy days were times to thank God for his blessings and recommit to following him.

The Bible tells us that, when God had finished creating the heavens and the earth, during that day of rest he took time to enjoy all that he had made and he saw that it was very good (Genesis 1-2). Work is a good thing and a gift from God but so is rest, which is why God gave us the Sabbath. Rest reminds us of who we are; it gives room for us to remember all that is important in life; it enables us to reflect on all we have to be thankful for; it gives us the time to appreciate the people we love and the beauty of the world around us; it gives us space to glimpse more of the holy.

So I pray that we may all have truly wonderful holy days this summer and that we will return thankful, refreshed and ready for what God has in store for us next.

Revd Rebecca Fardell

New Assistant Priest for the Itchen Valley Parish



Two walkers on the Pilgrims Way paused as they heard the traditional

sound of Psalm 23 resounding through the open door, sung with huge enthusiasm by the congregation that filled St Swithun's Martyr Worthy for the Patronal Festival evensong, augmented by the shrieking swifts



overhead. Bishop David led the service, which included the licensing of The Rev'd Alex Pease as Assistant Priest for the Itchen Valley Parish. At the party afterwards, kindly hosted by Charles and Isobel Pinder, there was a chance for the Churchwarden, Andrew Impey, to thank the many people who care for the church and prepare the services, and for the Chairman, John Platt, to thank the 70 or so who support the church via the Friends of St Swithun's.

Easton WI

Cranborne Manor Gardens in Dorset was the venue for our July meeting, where we enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the ancient manor house, originally a hunting lodge for King John, which was re-modeled by the 1st Earl of Salisbury in the early 17th century.

Two Jacobean gate houses welcome you into the front courtyard which has a delightful steel water sculpture by Angela Connor (who also designed the Revelation water feature at

Chatsworth). Huge pots overflowing with flowers flank the main doors of the house. Walking through a side door there is a lump garden and croquet lawn and the sundial garden has box-edged borders filled with lavender, salvias and hardy geraniums. Looking west through a wrought iron gate, a giant wooden chair has been placed in the middle of a wild flower meadow.

A yew allee runs the length of the croquet lawn and was part of the original layout by John Tradescant; some of the yews are very old. Walking through huge iron gates into the White garden, with scented philadelphus, roses and more herbaceous planting, steps lead up to the back of the ancient house with new plantings of wisteria and clematis clinging to the stone balustrade. Another door leads into the kitchen garden and apple orchard, on the other side there is a rose garden and further along a walled garden with colourful borders filled with herbaceous plants.

A life size bronze bull stands in long grass overlooking the front of the house, and walking up to the sundial garden you pass an Elizabeth Frink sculpture of a head.

The garden is open on Wednesdays from March to September but the house is closed to the public.

Next meeting:

Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th September at 7.15 in Easton Village Hall. Our speaker will be Simon Ffennell talking about Life and Work on the Martyr Worthy Fishery; everyone is welcome to join us.

Sallie Peake

52 miles for Save the Children

To the couch potatoes amongst us one marathon seems more than enough. But last month Ian Cannons ran two back to back marathons, from Arundel in West Sussex to Winchester Cathedral through the South Downs National Park. And all that effort raised more than £900 for Save the Children!



Many congratulations on a wonderful achievement for a great cause. Donations are still possible to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ianCannons.
Ed

Just keep hugging

**By Sam Rogers
(aged 2 ¾)**

This weekend I learnt to jump with both feet off the ground, Today I balanced



on a big swing for the first time,
I did roly-polys down the bank at
Uppark House,
I have learnt to ride my balance bike
and turn corners,
I can say dog, ball and higher,
I can water Mummy's plants and Chloe
in her school dress!
I sowed radishes, made a castle in the
woods, spotted 'speedy' snails in the
long grass,
I did the collection with my dad at St
John's,
And gained a new pair of shoes, so I
felt as strong as Iron Man when I went
to hospital for my op.
I did all these things with a poorly
kidney, with my mummy tracking me to
keep me in one piece!
With all the love from my family,
Montessori and my special friends in
the Valley, the NHS team and the
therapy dog, I managed to hug
everyone and they all hugged me too. I
smile even more now, and play with my
new balloon daily!
Hugs all around, don't stop, I still love
them.
A huge hug and 'thank you' for all your
love and support,
from Sam, Chloe, Sophie and Tom.

From our City Councillor

The full details have yet to emerge but I'd like to think that your local city councillors' (Ernie, Lisa and me) close contact (constant ear bashing) with the relevant county councillor played some part in the decision not to close the Alresford waste site. Of course all local representatives were involved, but it



was particularly the weight of public opinion that made the difference. There is much occurring in the city just now. In Station Approach we have a major office and residential development proposal, the design of which has been rejected by the Design Jury set up for the purpose. Separately we've been advised that it's not financially viable. In its wisdom the Council wants to take the project to the next stage in the vague hope that its deficiencies might be overcome. Some think it has all the hallmarks of another Silver Hill, but we'll have to wait and see.

The new leisure centre project is looking more promising. At least we seem to have settled on the inclusion of a 50 metre pool, rather than a 25 metre one, which is in line with what all the swimming clubs need. There are still arguments about which part of the Bar End site it should be positioned on, but the consensus is that it needs to be comprehensive enough to include most sports and to serve the whole Winchester district.

Another current local/city matter is that of the Local Plan public inquiry. I'll be making representations regarding Silver Hill and also in respect of Sun Lane, Alresford. I object to the plan to build 325 homes on the latter site for several reasons, including that I don't believe that, once they have factored in the cost of the new road junction, they will be able to deliver on affordable housing at all.

Busy times!

Kim Gottlieb kotltieb@winchester.gov.uk

From the Parish Council

We are back to full strength with two new councillors, Zazie Beaty from Chilland and Richard Stoodley from

Easton. Thank you to all who showed an interest in joining us. It was gratifying to see that there are many people willing to participate in local community matters.



Our new lengthsman has started and with all the rapid growth this summer an extra day's work has been allocated to him from Parish Council funds. If you want work done please do not ask him directly. All requests must go through our footpath representatives; details can be found on the Parish Council web site.

On the subject of our web site and communication in general we are going to trial a modified system. We have by law to publish agenda for meetings in hard copy form. In the past all details have gone up on all five notice boards in the valley. This is a time consuming and process which at times can incur extra costs. In future we are still going to post a full list of meetings for the forthcoming year and the full agenda for each meeting will go up only on the official Parish notice board which is adjacent to the bus stop opposite Itchen Abbas Village Hall. Agenda for any extraordinary meetings will be posted on all boards. All notices will also be on our web site which now has become the main viewing point for information.

Still in the realm of communication, the Parish Council has made a grant to Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall to help fund the installation of Wi-Fi. We hope this will be of significant help to all the various groups who regularly use this

prestigious building. Finally after the success of Worthy Football Club coming to the playing field at Couch Green, we have set up a working group with them to see how the changing room facilities can be upgraded and put back into use.

Patrick Appleby, Parish Council Chairman.

Jackie's County Corner

What a tumultuous month since I wrote my last 'County Corner!' Now our Referendum posters have come down and we have a new Government in place, we have local county consultations on devolution and adult care this month.

Personally, I am sorry that the result ended in us coming out of the EU, but respect the fact that there were many reasons for voting no. If you want to correspond with me on this - please feel free to do so at

jackie@jackieporter.co.uk.

Cuts continue locally as the Government makes drastic reductions in the income devolved down to local authorities. With this in mind, Adult Services are carrying out consultation on three aspects of adult social care. If you or your family need or may need care in the next decade, it's worth going online to complete the consultation: the link is on the front page of www.hants.gov.uk Watch out for the devolution consultation too - there is no website link available as I write this but every Hampshire resident has the chance to respond, whether you are eligible to vote or not - so please let HCC know your views. Smart Living was the project name of Hampshire's lifestyle and waste prevention initiative, and is estimated to have already secured a waste reduction of 4,112 tonnes and avoided



Jackie discussing The Watercress Way with a visitor to Gratton fete

over £200,000 of waste disposal fees. HCC wants to work with residents to keep up these savings and has now compiled a waste prevention survey. The survey, which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is open until the end of July, can be accessed via www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=145794700975

I seem to have spent a lot of days out wearing a cagoule! The Summer has been extremely wet and dramatic - localised flooding has occurred. I have been working with residents and Parish Councils to try to sort this out before our even wetter winter season arrives. The rain makes the greenery grow faster too! Please ensure that your hedges and greenery don't flow onto the footpath or road, and if you cannot see past a junction or signpost because of greenery, please report to me and I'll organise for cutting as soon as I can. County Councillor Jackie Porter, 01962 791054, Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk, @JackieLibDem

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Other bookings

Mon 1 st	10:00 – 13:00	Bridge Club
Thur 4 th	19:00 – 21:30	IV Parish Council
Thur 18 th	19:00 – 21:30	IV Parish Council
Tues 23 rd	13:00 – 17:00	CPRE
Mon 29 th	All Day	Easton Fete

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Regular Lets during August

Hirer	Day	Time	Contact
Zumba	Mon	18.30	Sue
Rugby Tots	Tues	9.15	Phil
Boules	Tues	18.00	Eric
Yoga / Pilates Ladies	Wed	9.00	Jo
Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel
Yoga / Pilates	Wed	18.30	Jo
Badminton	Thur	19.30	Mike
Swing It Dancing	Thur	20.00	Neil
Zumba	Fri	10.00	Sue

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor: I was reflecting on comments made by our Parish Council chairman last month on footpaths and rights of way. Many of us are keen that these be used. As a dog owner, I use such paths every single day.

However it is also clear that some land owners do not always do what is their responsibility in keeping a right of way clear. The path behind my home is but one example. I wonder therefore whether the Itchen Valley News could produce a map of all the paths in our area plus a list of those not maintained by the council. Thus we might then know who we have to contact to get action if it's needed. Our very beautiful countryside is there for all to enjoy.

Thanks

Tony Gaster

The Itchen Valley News would welcome an informed article on this subject. *Vernon Tottle, Editor*

Our Wild Valley: buzzing to school!

A couple of years back, a nice wide pavement was built along a bank side, creating a short steep slope, with dry but not too crumbly soil. Not only was the walk to Itchen Abbas school made a bit easier, a perfect habitat of disturbed soil and easy access was made for a bunch of mining bees. They are possibly the slender mining bee *Lassioglossum calceatum* which are common in England, especially on calcareous soils and although solitary (do not have a queen and workers), they do like to form big colonies. It is a massive buzzing busy and very loud colony; many of us pass it four times a day! It is a great spectacle to



watch but also quite a trick at avoiding them flying over the pavement when they are so busy on a sunny day. I collected a few dead males to try and identify at home. They have stripes which are two toned, and longish bodies. They are active from April to October and breed in individual small holes the bees make as their nests.

The larvae must have hatched into bees in June as the whole bank was literally a moving sea of bees as they all flew around their holes. The bees particularly like clover, so if like us, it comprises most of your lawn, do leave some longer swards and/ or cut a bit later so the clover can flower. All solitary bees are excellent pollinators and good in your garden.

What I did find out is that amazingly over 90% of bees are solitary, only bumble and honey bees do the whole queen and hive colony thing! There are over 200 species of solitary bee and the first to appear in spring are the miner bees. The female will dig the

nest, stock it with nectar and pollen and then seal it, leaving the young to fend for themselves.

As I say to the children, all bees and wasps may sting if you run into them by mistake, but they are pretty good at flying and usually get out of the way!

Sophie Rogers

From our MP

I think it's fair to say the life an MP has been anything but quiet since my last column for the Itchen Valley News.



The awful murder of Jo Cox MP spread horror everywhere, and of course the result of the EU referendum has dominated our political – and national – life since the morning of 24th June. The immediate ramifications have been sweeping and the only thing I know for certain in these desperately uncertain times is that the implications of that decision will be with us for years to come. The Referendum Act 2015 gave life to the vote and, with some 72% of the population taking part including (as we now know) a high percentage of 18-24 year-olds, it was the biggest exercise in democracy this country has seen for more than 20 years. It was also an example of direct democracy with you, the voters, in charge. It's no secret I was for Remain but there's no point replaying the arguments and dividing down those lines anymore. We accept the verdict of the people and we in Parliament must find a way to make it work under the leadership of our new Prime Minister, Theresa May, who will have my full support as did her predecessor.

In my experience, in life as much as politics, there's never good cause for panic and Brexit is no exception. The last thing our country needs right now is hot-headed MPs making decisions in haste to a timetable that does not exist. As all the party leaders have said, Brexit does mean Brexit but I am clear the country is not sure what the terms of our exit will be.

So here's what else I know. Whether we invoke Article 50 now or later, whether we vote on it in Parliament or not, whether we repeal the European Communities Act 1972, or not, the debate and the legal opinion will not pass unnoticed. There will be many parliamentary moments as we grapple with Brexit and, while I respect the public vote, I am not signing any blank cheques in terms of our exit and will be doing my job as a responsible member of the legislature to ensure we make the very best of the country's new direction.

And contrary to what you may read, there are other things going on at the same time. Last month we finally had the outcome of NHS England's review into children's heart surgery, a cause I have followed for many years. The result is good news for Southampton which will retain its specialism in this area. www.stevebrine.com/childrenshearturgery

Secondly, I have campaigned for a long time on the issue of rail services from our area and last month saw the publication of the Invitation to Tender for the new Southern Western Franchise operator. It contains some important wins around peak time capacity, plus improved fares and ticketing experience, including introducing smart ticketing for commuters who work part-time. www.stevebrine.com/trains

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Finally, I was pleased to hear good news about the Recycling Centre many of us use over in Alresford which will remain open. Just shows what a committed, cross-party, campaign can achieve when everyone works together for the common good.

All the rest of my work and news via www.stevebrine.com

Steve Brine MP Winchester & Itchen Valley

Proclamation congregation information

As part of Rebecca's sermon the other day, she mentioned the National Day of Prayer on 26th May 1940, when Britain was facing its darkest hour as the country's troops were being evacuated from Dunkirk. She was remarking on the packed attendance in churches throughout the country on that day as people sought solace from a higher power.

I was intrigued by this out-of-the-blue observation and wondered if I could confirm it by referring to the Itchen Abbas church attendance records.

Alas, the current book used to record such statistics dates from 1998 and there was no stack of previous volumes in the church. After some enquiry I was told that they had probably been deposited in Hampshire County Records Office, conveniently situated near the station in Winchester. So one morning recently I called in and asked if they had these books in their store rooms.

Almost immediately the answer came back that yes, indeed, they had the records and which years would I like to inspect? Selecting the two volumes that covered the Second World War, I placed my request and temporarily

browsed the book lined shelves of the well-lit research room. The volumes were found very quickly (my name appearing on a television screen, just like orders in Argos) and I started to thumb through a small piece of history. For Itchen Abbas at least the books fully supported Rebecca's story. A normal Sunday generated congregations of around 20 worshippers but on 26th May 1940 the book records 48 people coming to church. In addition the average collection of around £1 was swelled to over £4 that day.

More chilling is the entry three weeks later on 16th June. "Bells silenced except for Alarm of Invasion".

The entry for 8th May 1945 is indeed marked "Victory in Europe Proclaimed". A Service of Thanksgiving was held at 5.30 pm that day but strangely enough no entry was made for the attendance in church.

Maybe everyone was round at the Plough.

Vernon Tottle

Big fella and little fella

Itchen Abbas church was blessed with visits from two men in July. Firstly I was privileged to meet Mark Newton. He is on a mission to visit and record all the war memorials in England. He



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Mixed thoughts on a visit to The Holy Land

“Did you have a good holiday?” “No – it was exhausting mentally and physically, but wrong question. It was emotionally taxing, but satisfying, beyond all my expectations.” Thank goodness there was Galilee, after 6 days of Jerusalem, with its fears and contradictions so much part of what must be the most revered and fought over city in the world. I was hesitant about going on the beautifully organised McCabe pilgrimage, lead by Andrew Micklefield, but Rebecca’s accounts of her recent visit to the Holy Land finally won me over.

As our coach drove from Tel Aviv airport to Jerusalem, our guide gave us some potted history. He is a third generation Palestinian Coptic Christian, whose family lost everything, when the State of Israel was imposed in 1947. He was scrupulously fair about the Israel/ Palestinian “question”, blaming the other Arab states for much, but having harsh judgements for the terrorists of Hamas and the cowboy attitudes of the Americans, with their Wild West mentality. We were travelling into a world where little was quite as it seemed; a land that had been conquered and completely subjugated



by Romans, Muslims, Christians, Muslims again, and then become a protectorate of the British and French, before an ever changing influx of Jews in search of a homeland. We heard how the Sykes-Picot agreement of one hundred years ago, followed by the Balfour Declaration of 1917, about boundaries and, carving up the Ottoman Empire, had ignored the people who were to be displaced. As I listened I wondered how much had changed since the time of Jesus and of the then Roman Empire. It was to be a nagging influence on my thoughts, as we walked and coached around the city of Jerusalem. The young soldiers, often girls, who were everywhere with their automatic weapons came as a bit of shock, but they mainly laughed. There was no time that I felt fear. I was just unable completely to cast off the theme park feel of the city, in order to take my mind back to what happened two thousand years ago.

The City of Jerusalem is walled, but the walls have moved, or never been accurately placed in total. This might seem strange until you realise that the whole city has been razed to the ground many times, so that every street, every church, is built maybe 20 feet above the level prevailing in Jesus' day. This leads to wonders of architecture, and even engineering, but the origins can be hard to determine and, of course, every conquering faith needed to impose their religious style on the city; the city of the Temple built by Solomon, because David had sinned with Bathsheba, of the ascent of Muhammad and so much of the life and death of Jesus. All this was imposed mainly by conquest and destruction and by building on top of the previous occupant's shrines and homes. One detour from our visits will give a



feel for this uncertainty that can trouble belief. We toured a beautifully maintained, quiet enclave known as the Garden Tomb, apparently outside the walls. This unfortunately has a rock face with some similarities to Golgotha, but overlooking a coach park. Nonetheless we were guided enthusiastically to see a tomb carved in the rock which "might have been Jesus' tomb". It was a lovely well-tended place that gave a real feel of his possible burial place, but our guide was emphatic that later archaeology shows that this place has never been outside the walls. The true tomb of Jesus has to be at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here there are many layers of building over a crypt-like sanctuary with part of a tomb, the larger part having apparently been dug up by the eighty year old Queen Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, and taken to Rome in the early 4th century, where it no doubt has great tourist appeal. The pilgrims guide book describes this church as the most bewildering of the holy sites. It is now almost at the old city centre – far from Mrs Alexander's hymned "a green hill far away without

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the city wall". But the walls have moved. It is home to Armenian, Coptic, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic denominations, with their competing smells and bells that I found difficult to accept.

The exact place surely does not matter. Jesus did die and was buried somewhere near here. It is the endless conjuring tricks that are so off-putting. To accept these we have to remember that, although few Christians now live in Jerusalem, it is the pilgrim home for so many branches of Christianity who treasure their holy sites, often established so many centuries ago, as another wave of conquest swept over the holy city.

Not everything was claustrophobic like this. Quiet peaceful gems can be found to help restore reality. My favourite is the Crusader Church of St Anne, by the Pool of Bethesda. This now French church was offered by the Turks to Queen Victoria, who took Cyprus instead. It is simple and calm with fantastic acoustics, encouraging spontaneous singing.

Maybe the Holocaust Museum is compulsory, but it was out of place in our pilgrimage. The Mount of Olives was just sad. The vast Jewish cemeteries clothe most of the hill, squeezing much of the life out of the Garden of Gethsemane. Here, at the foot of the Mount, Jews await the coming of the Messiah by being buried as close as they can afford to where the chosen will meet him. Our guide suggested that grave plots here could fetch as much as two million dollars. We were relieved to hear that Robert Maxwell was buried higher up the hill. I find it disappointing that I will have few other memories of Jewish Jerusalem; so much of it has been buried and not been unearthed, in spite of the history

of faith in the City of David. Of course we visited the Western Wall but, in the early morning, there was little of the atmosphere that is told of a visit at dusk.

We left Jerusalem, with visits to a sad Palestinian Bethlehem, with its Berlin-type wall shutting it off from the outside world, and Jericho, which no longer has walls or much else to inspire. Between these, with the temperature at 50 degrees centigrade, we paid a highly political visit to the Jordan River. It has a very modest and filthy flow. It is the border between The West Bank and Jordan and used by both Israel and Jordan as a water supply and a sewerage system. We drive down towards the river between barbed wire fences, enclosing mine fields. At the border is a shop, a guard house and a shower block to cleanse those who have dipped even a finger in the river. Three African pilgrims, encouraged by a pastor, go for total immersion – I hope the showers are working. This is a hideous place. I hope it is not where John baptised Jesus. And so to Galilee. I am going to ignore Nazareth. This was all about the lakeside. We had two opportunities to visit the lake as well as the traditional boat trip on it. The first was a chance to walk alone on the shore in a place, not far from Capernaum, where Jesus would many times have been in his long Galilean ministry. This was magical, moving, something I had never felt before.

We returned to the shore two days later in a slightly more contrived setting, when we had a reserved time to hold a Eucharist service on the shore, at what may have been the place where Jesus fed the five thousand, as was commemorated in the Church of the Multiplication overlooking the

scene. This could have been another phoney occasion but the Communion, most sensitively celebrated, was an emotional climax for all our party. For me, it completed the experience that I had enjoyed two days earlier. Now that I am home, what does it mean? What is faith and why would I find it in Galilee and not Jerusalem? The answer seems to me to be quite simple. Faith is to me a personal thing, almost a lonely one. The shores of Galilee were perfect for an acceptance of the need and reality of a Christian faith that I would never fully grow in a world of missionary zeal. My faith is for me. It has grown by this fantastic emotional experience.

And what about the people of Palestine? I can only fear and pray. My fear is that there will only be all the extremists left – what has happened to the Good Samaritan? Our guide was resigned to his well-educated son seeking a better life elsewhere. The cycle of extremism is strong around the world, but it is hard to see why it might abate in this potential tinderbox of now trapped nomadic tribes and diaspora returnees. After all Syria is but a few miles across the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights from the new sunshine resort of Capernaum.

Nick Owen

The editor is rubbish

Avid readers of page 40 of the Itchen Valley News will be aware that the dates of the month's rubbish collections are shown thereon. I must apologise to all those residents who relied on the July information for which bins to put out when. Because the East Hampshire District Council website was offline when I updated the information for July 2016, I had to

extrapolate collections from June to furnish the magazine with advice for July. Alas, I got it wrong and black bins and green bins got muddled up. I do hope that those of you who got confused realised the error when you saw your neighbours' bins on Friday morning.

Vernon Tottle Editor IVN

Local monthly information

Waste collections in August

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 5th and 19th. Green bins on Fridays 12th and 26th.

Cameo

On Tuesday 16th August.

Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sunday 14th and 28th August.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach

School holiday timetable operates all of August:

Weekdays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 15:23 17:23

Weekdays to Alresford:

09:19 11:19 13:19 15:19 17:09 18:09

Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester:

08:23 11:23 14:23 17:23

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No Sunday or bank holiday service

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