

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 44 August 2017

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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WELCOME to the Valley News

I'm just back from Cambodia so I guess I should be used to warm summer days. Aren't we lucky this year! So our magazine is full of reports of plays, music, visits, competitions and shows. And the joy of these reports is not just reading what a wonderful time we can have in the Valley but there is also so much colour. So a big thank you to all our contributors, perhaps especially so to our youngest, see right at the back on page 39 about the Pantaloon's performance at Avington.

As usual our elected representatives provide details of issues which will be of interest to us. We are always grateful for these contributions. Now we are approaching the holiday season, probably things will go quiet, well a little bit.

I sat in the cathedral on Sunday morning and marvelled at how much goes on there and how much that lovely building provides in terms of focus for the city. But the city is going to change and at last we can give our views. Kim Gottlieb's article on page 8 explains more.

There are a number of references to Boomtown, which provides much fun for attendees. Right at the back I have included just some of the information on roads and traffic which might affect us. I can recall last year's gridlock.

We have fantastic open spaces in our community for all to enjoy and Patrick Appleby on page 19 explains clearly about our responsibilities. As a dog owner, I realise how important it is to keep control of my pet and also to be sensible in clearing dog poo.

Alex Pease tells us about being good neighbours and community. All these topics are linked. Then we have the Flower Show which looked great this year. I just wish I could have entered. Sarah Mason has produced a detailed report with lots of photos (page 23). Could I end with a plea that contributors don't leave it until the last minute. It's very time-consuming to have to re-edit an article. Next month will be edited by Verity Coleman.

Tony Gaster



Itchen Valley News

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What's On

Summer Playgroup

We are running a summer playgroup for preschool children at Easton Village Hall. Dates will be 4th/11th/25th Aug and 1st Sept (all Fridays), 9.30 - 11.30am including a snack for the children and tea and coffee for grown-ups. Grown-ups need to be present for the whole session. We are asking for a contribution of £1 per family per session to cover costs. Any queries contact Lara Allured 07740 047 432 or lara.allured@gmail.com

Hampshire Open Studios

Four local artists are taking part this year. Our venue is at Mansard House, Easton Lane, Easton SO21 1DQ. We are exhibiting printmaking, photography, creative mosaics, glass and gilding, papercuts and illustration. Brochures in pubs in Easton and Itchen Abbas. We are N°123 Mansard Artists. Open Saturday 19th to Monday 28th August from 10am - 5pm. Please come and visit.

Jean Wheeler 07849523147

Annual Car Boot Sale

Brockwood Park, Bramdean, all proceeds to Home-Start Winchester Bank Holiday Monday 28th August
Cars £10, vans & trailers £15
Opens 8am - Entry donations
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Alresford Show

Date: Saturday 2nd September
Venue: Tichborne Park, Alresford,
Opening times: 9am – 6pm
Tickets: Adults £15, Senior £13 & Children 11-16 £5
£2 discount for tickets purchased before 26th August



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Itchen Valley Choral Society

Do you like singing? Why not come along to Itchen Abbas Village Hall for a welcoming first meeting of the new season on Wednesday 6th September, 7.45pm. We meet there on Wednesday evenings from September to June. In May we join other local choirs to sing in the Winchester & County Music Festival. Next spring's concert includes Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*. We also have our own local Christmas Concert in December. We strive to do well while thoroughly enjoying ourselves. New members are very welcome in all voices but we especially need sopranos. Please contact me for further information.

Geoff Robinson
gerobinson@btinternet.com



Winchester Heritage Open days 7th - 10th September

Why not be a tourist in your own town for a day or even two? Come and discover some of the many hidden places and secrets in Winchester and the surrounding villages all completely FREE! Over four days there will be

more than 70 events celebrating our local heritage, everything from guided walks and labyrinths to storytelling and river dipping for families and gin and cider tastings for the over 18s. You can even make your own Medieval encaustic tile.

All events are free of charge although some you will need to pre-book as numbers are limited. There are also competitions including a chance to win one of the first Monopoly Winchester Edition games.

For more information on the events and competitions as well as booking details please visit our website:

WinchesterHeritageOpenDays.org or follow us on twitter

@WinchesterHods

Becky Brown

Ride and Stride

In aid of Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust and local churches. Saturday 9th September. For more details contact Vanessa Rosewell on 841182

From the Rectory

‘The five neighbour test’

Lucy and I, and a number of other volunteers, have, during July, been knocking on doors in the Valley with the *Who Cares?*

survey. The whole point of this survey is that it is *anonymous* and that the householder we are visiting is invited to write down on a card ‘the one thing in life which you find hardest to handle’, while the canvasser looks away. The response card is then put in a blank white envelope to make it impossible to know who has said what.



But there are some people in the Valley who, wonderfully, just cannot help themselves and speak out their biggest concern immediately! One lady who has lived in the Valley for many decades said to me ‘I’m going to tell you what really hurts’...I said ‘but you write it down on the card, so its anonymous...’ she replied ‘no, I’m going to tell you anyway....what really hurts me the most is that we don’t look after each other anymore, in the way that we used to’. So I have been thinking a bit about what she said and this article is a response to that lady and her comment.

I think that many of us will say that actually we are quite good at looking after each other in the Valley. There are many incredible examples of good neighbourliness. Almost all those whose funerals I have conducted in the few years that I have been here, have spoken to me before their deaths of the wonderful care that is available in the Valley for those in their last few weeks and months (I will spare blushes by not mentioning the names of those who come to mind, who provide this wonderful help). And there is clearly a lot of care between neighbours going on in the community both for young and old.

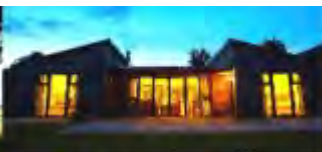
But I sense that we may be on the cusp of a change here, as other priorities may be starting to squeeze out time spent on looking out for neighbours and community building activities. It’s difficult to ascertain this except by anecdotes, but I know that some feel that it is becoming noticeably more difficult to recruit for community organizations which make the Valley the place that it is, like the church, the cricket club and the village halls. And of course we have seen this year the cancellation of the Easton Village Fete



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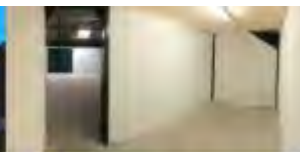
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after 50 years, because no-one to organize it could be found. Also, I was also struck by one conversation at the excellent Brew with a View which Ina Williams runs in Easton Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons (between 3 and 5pm): One villager to another villager meeting for the first time: 'How long have you lived in Easton?' 'Oh 20 years', 'Well that's extraordinary so have I....'

I have been musing on why time for community and neighbours might be drying up and wonder whether we are now more, as a society, focused on CV virtues rather than Eulogy Virtues. This is a distinction made by Simon Sinek, the author of best selling business book '*Start with Why*', whom I heard speak at a conference recently. He argues that we now spend our lives focusing on CV virtues – virtues which will get us a good job in a competitive marketplace – academic qualifications, the posts we have held, the deals we have done, the challenging experiences we have had. But we don't spend enough time focusing on Eulogy Virtues – the things that people want to hear about us at our funerals. Eulogy Virtues are the embodiment of 'loving your neighbour as yourself' which, along with loving God with your whole heart, mind and spirit, is one of the two great commandments taught to us by Jesus. What I think you want to hear about at a funeral is what the deceased was like as a human being – what they did for others, the difference they made to other peoples' lives. These are the virtues which resound in eternity and which cascade down the generations, when the CV virtues are really of no significance at all, just history.

One mother in one of the villages said to me the other day that there can be

a bit of an arms race for qualifications for children (CV Virtues) between families: if little Jasper is doing a *Sudoku* course then little Horatio's mum thinks that he should do one as well. The result is that the parents spend their time tearing around the country lanes trying to get all of these additional CV points - time which could be spent focusing on our neighbours and teaching our children Eulogy Virtues.

So a test to see how engaged we are with our neighbours: five questions about five neighbours. This is based on the idea that there are 500 households approximately in the Valley and thus if 100 of us were looking after our 5 closest neighbours, then everyone would be covered:

Of the 5 neighbours most closely situated to your house (not just any five neighbours in the community and not just neighbours at the same age and stage):

Do you know their names?

Do you know the names of their children and pets?

Do you know what life stage their children or parents are at?

Do you know what is their professional background – jobs they are doing now or have done in the past?

Would they know that you are there for them in a crisis?

Now I know that there is probably history between you – you may say 'but he throws weeds in my garden' – this process will involve forgiveness – sorry about that.....

I was so struck the other day by one mother who turned up at our door with all her children bearing a gift of freshly made bread – which she had made with her children. 'Do you know anyone in our community who would be blessed by receiving this bread?' she

asked. I suggested the name of a recently widowed lady in her village. And the widow was delighted by this small act of kindness. The mother was modelling to her children Eulogy Virtues. What could possibly be a more important use of time than that?

Alex Pease

Boules - Triples 20th June 2017

The annual Triples boules tournament took place on Tuesday 20th June at Lake House, Avington. This is the knock-out event in which all four villages send two teams, leading towards a semi-final and a final, with the aim of claiming the Nigel Graham Maw Cup. Martyr Worthy had won last year, and the trophy was on display. It needs a long evening and this year the weather was perfect. Some 60 people came to watch or play. All villages contributed to the generous array of food and drink.

In rounds 1, 2 and 3 the two teams from each village are streamed into two groups and play one team from the other three villages. After 90 minutes, with the spectators always having four games to watch, the Itchen Abbas team was the clear winner in the A group with Easton as runner-up, while in the B group Avington emerged ahead with the other Easton team in second place. So at the half-way stage these four teams went forward to the semi-final.

At this point there was a short break, allowing time to assess and discuss the merits of the play so far and to continue enjoying the copious refreshments. Play resumed and the tension mounted. Over the next 30 minutes, with spectators scrutinising every throw, Itchen Abbas A team



achieved a 6-3 win over Easton B in their game, while on the other piste Avington B just managed to squeeze ahead of Easton A by 6-5. At 9.00pm the two winning semi-finalists went head to head in the final. All games were played over six ends and the lead appeared to change each time, but in the sixth and last end Avington managed to come from behind to finish just one point ahead at 6-5. John Prince from Martyr Worthy presented the Cup to the happy Avington team of Noel Evans, Ralph Matthews and Dave Russell, and Eric Hughes of Itchen Abbas brought the evening to a close with his generous vote of thanks to all concerned.

Ralph Matthews

From our City Councillor

I have, on occasions, been accused of being obsessed with Silver Hill, but I make no apologies for that as it is uniquely important to the city's present and to its future. JTP have made good progress in getting it back on track, but the success of the project is still not assured as everything depends upon whether the Council views it solely as a commercial exercise, or as an



opportunity to create a communal hub for the whole city.

There are, of course, other major development projects underway, of which two of the more notable are Station Approach and the proposed new sport and leisure centre at Bar End.

The Council's efforts with Station Approach, a major office and residential development, are, in my view, also open to question. I don't believe that enough hard research has been done to confirm that a grade A office development, of a scale that would nearly double the city's supply, is feasible. How this project progresses will unfold over the next few months but it will not be an easy ride.

I am much more cheery and confident about the prospects for the new leisure centre, mainly because the committee that's leading the project is chaired by my excellent fellow ward councillor, Lisa Griffiths. It helps that the project involves something that nearly everyone wants and that we do not need to find tenants or buyers for the completed scheme as we already have a district full of potential customers. Certainly, the proposed location will make it much easier to get to for residents of Alresford and Itchen Valley than is the case with the existing River Park leisure centre, and there will be a lot more and far better facilities when they arrive. Having said that, there are still design, construction and other issues yet to be overcome and much effort will be needed to ensure that the project stays within budget. There will also be further periods of public consultation and I would encourage all residents to keep an eye out for these, and to contribute when they can.

Kim Gottlieb

*Winchester City Councillor
For Alresford & Itchen Valley
07795 494919*

Easton WI

The speaker at our July meeting was Howard Tissiman who was telling us about the history of Headbourne Worthy in map form through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. We were informed of the William Godson maps, the tithe maps of the area which can be found in the Winchester public record office and also from 1791 Ordnance Survey maps. At one time Headbourne Worthy had no village centre as the area was very wet and subject to flooding. Later as part of industrial revolution two railways crossed the area. Then during Victorian times more wealthy families moved in and built larger properties which are in evidence today

The next meeting of the Easton WI will be on Thursday 14th September at Easton village hall. Our talk will be by Julie Raines of Charlie Locks Cosmetics on *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. Do come and join us.

Elaine Loader

The Southwood Players give us *Hay Fever*!

I read somewhere that Noel Coward's play *Hay Fever* owes more than a little to one of my favourite Shakespeare comedies, *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. It was, therefore, most appropriate that The Southwood Players staged their three night run of *Hay Fever* just after the summer solstice in the open air of the glorious Itchen Valley. Of course, as with most English summers, the weather was as



mischievous as Puck himself but we were lucky enough to see the play on the last night of the run, which was a fine, dry and still evening.

Does this plot line sound familiar? Four young singletons, (two of each sex), all looking for love, wander into a world of dysfunctional older people where they are subjected to a weekend of ill-judged desire and distorted romance. We could be in a wood outside



Athens..... but Coward set his comic tale of love, life and narcissism in a country house in England and the dysfunctional couple are Judith and David Bliss rather than Oberon and Titania. However, it is fun to observe the synergies between the two plays and fun would be my key word to sum up the Southwood Players' production this year. The whole kit 'n caboodle was simply great, great fun!

Those of you who know Lavinia Owen will know that she was made to play Judith Bliss and her performance proved this.



Colourful, theatrical, larger than life, Judith's raison d'être is to be adored; by as many men as possible it seems. Although it is surely her husband's adoration she really desires, she plays fast and loose with the hapless houseguest Sandy's affections. Her daughter Sorrel (played by Lavinia's real daughter Maddy Woosnam) is little better, as her brother puts it, "picking up old gentlemen at dances".

The rest of the cast did sterling work, moving the play on quickly and without falter. The addition this year of

microphones for each character really helped the audience hear every word. Special mention must go to Kathy May-Miller whose debut with the Southwood Players this was. Playing the canny Myra Arundel, she is the only one of the 4 house guests who really sees the Bliss family for what it is and Kathy gave a stand-out performance of utter frustration at being caught in the middle of the weekend from Hell. Caroline Hall, playing the ingénue Miss. Coryton, displayed wonderful timing and very subtly effective characterisation.

The Southwood Players have a wonderful backing crew who deserve more than the passing mention that I have room to make here. The costumes, set, props were first rate, there were no malfunctions of any kind and the whole evening flew by in a frenzy of theatrics and brittle comedy of which Coward, of course, was the master. I am sure everyone looks forward to The Southwood Players' next offering.

Catherine Hahn

From our MP

First of all, thank you to my constituents for re-electing me as your MP on 8th June. It was really great to once again receive over 50% of the vote and special thanks to the villages of the Itchen Valley who obviously played their part when all the votes were counted.

My work in Parliament has changed somewhat since that election after the Prime Minister asked me to go to the Department of Health as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. I will be picking up the role of Minister for Public Health, Primary Care and Prevention and am thrilled

this will also allow me to also be the Cancer Minister, something which means a great deal to me as regular readers of the IV News will be aware. One of my responsibilities is in the area of international health and that means I work closely across Government with the UK Aid programme. In fact one of my first engagements since being appointed was to deliver a keynote speech at a Family Planning Summit in London, hosted by the UK Government and attended by representatives from around the world.



The event is part of efforts to reach our Family Planning 2020 goals and ensure that more women and girls around the world are able to plan their families and their futures. Family planning is a best-buy in global development and very much in all our interests. When women and girls have access to family planning, they are able to complete their education, create or seize better economic opportunities, and fulfil their full potential—in short, entire families, communities and nations benefit. You can see more at www.stevebrine.com/familyplanningsummit

My work in the constituency remains unchanged. We may have just had a General Election (during which I visited every community in my constituency)

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but my Summer Tour will be taking place as usual during Parliament's long recess. The concept is simple and it's one of the best things I do each year. You can check it out, for this year and previous years, via www.stevebrine.com/summertour. And part of that local work will continue to keep a hawk line eye on our train service as the major Waterloo works start in August and, of course, as FirstGroup take over the franchise. I am visiting the Waterloo works site shortly and am in very regular contact with the new operator. As I've said before, we need to hold them to every one of the promises they made to my constituents in winning the South Western Franchise. My page continues to be updated at www.stevebrine.com/trains. Finally, new dates have been released for my popular PMQ ticket draw. If you would like to attend on Wednesday 13th September, you are welcome to enter the ballot by calling 01962 791110 or visiting www.stevebrine.com/PMQs. You can find more about my other work, in Winchester and of course in Westminster, via my website.

Steve Brine MP
Winchester & Itchen Valley

Entrepreneurs of the Valley

Massage Therapy Winchester - Jemma Wheeler

Tell us a little about Massage Therapy Winchester

I provide a private space where clients can be treated for issues such as back, neck and shoulder pain, headaches, low energy and aching muscles.

I help clients to regain energy and get their body back to full potential. I use a combination of treatments -

Advanced Clinical massage, body re-alignment, acupuncture, warm bamboo sticks to help muscles relax, reflexology and aromatherapy. I am also qualified in pregnancy massage.



What led you into Massage Therapy?

I used to be a Cordon Bleu cook and my work enabled me to travel the world. When I returned to Easton, I wanted to be able to work from home. I had always been fascinated by the human body and how it works. When I was training as a cook, I often worked late and my Dad would massage my feet and it would always make me feel better and helped me regain my energy. So when I decided to retrain, massage and reflexology were an obvious choice for me.

How long has the business been up and running, and can you tell us a little about the early months? Has everything gone according to plan?

I have been qualified since 2009 and my first paid job as a therapist was for One Community in Eastleigh, who look after home carers. I worked there until 2015 when they ran out of lottery funding.

The early months of working by myself from home were all about setting up the beautiful, relaxing environment for my clients. Also, I needed to get the word out to friends and family that I was available and ready.

I have worked at festivals, including Larmertree, Cornbury and End of the Road. I have a tent that I set up and

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decorate, and can offer treatments, whatever the weather.

What do you enjoy most about running your own business?

I enjoy working from home and being flexible for my clients. I am able to have a great life/work balance.

What has been the highlight so far of setting up your own business?

I have been self-employed most of my life but with my therapy skills, I am able to make people feel better and help them to regain their zest for life. That is very rewarding.

What has been your most unusual venue or request?

I have massaged a few famous people at festivals and through the Theatre Royal in Winchester, but of course I have client confidentiality....!! Festivals usually throw up unusual situations, as the music is so loud and it is difficult to create a peaceful environment. I have also had a hen party squeeze into my cabin, as they wanted to gossip and have treatments at the same time.

Where can people find you?

I have my cabin in the garden at Mansard House, Easton Lane, Easton SO21 1DQ. We are the old road to Winchester that is now a dead end because of junction 9 of the M3. Many people use the cycle route 23 that goes past the driveway on their way to Tesco or town.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about you or the company?

I treat a wide range of clients and issues. Many people live with constant pain or aches and think that is normal. However, clients are surprised at how different, younger and lighter they feel after treatment.

I can provide a mobile service, and often visit workplaces – after sitting all day, a little massage can make a HUGE difference to productivity!

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Jemma talked to Dionne Sanders

Grange Festival

For our second visit to the new Grange Festival, the attraction was a production of Benjamin Britten's comic opera "Albert Herring". The setting is a Suffolk village in the early 1900s, where the community still lives in a semi-feudal society. The story centres on a young man very much under his mother's thumb, who is chosen to be their May King as no suitable young woman can be found. The Grange production brings together two



veterans, both closely associated with Britten himself, and some young singers given major parts early in their careers. This combination delivers exceptionally well; Steuart Bedford conducts John Copley's brilliantly-devised production to give the audience a wonderful evening's entertainment. Richard Pinkstone makes an impressive début in the title role, while Orla Boylan stands out for her characterisation of the formidable Lady Billows - some critics have likened her to Patricia Routledge's



Hyacinth Bucket! This relatively unknown opera has received splendid reviews, richly deserved, and confirms that it's often worth the risk of buying tickets for an unfamiliar work, especially when offered by such as the new company at the Grange. We now await with anticipation the new operatic version of *Mansfield Park* by Jonathan Dove, scheduled for a mid-September showing.

Peter McManus

Tiddler Joke

Knock knock
Who's there ?
A crocodile
A crocodile who?
A crocodile who is coming to eat you!
Omnomnom!
Felix Lloyd aged 4

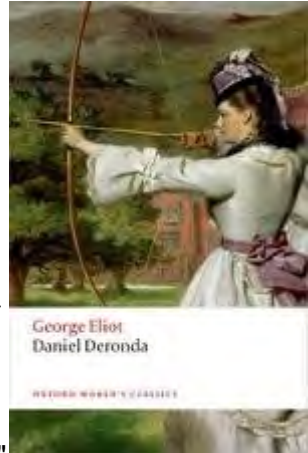


Book Review

Although first published in 1876, this novel's opening lines have a late-twentieth century feel to them, as they take us directly into the mind of the eponymous hero.

No other novel so readily and instantly transports me to whatever thoughts, actions or scenes the author is describing. George Eliot seems to have the gift of what Keats had described as "negative capability" - the creative genius that enabled her simply to portray people and scenes so that they seem to come to us directly without our awareness of the author.

Although Daniel Deronda gives his name to the novel, it is really the character of Gwendolen Harleth who captures our hearts and sympathies even though she is "the spoiled child"



of the first chapter. She is a young and beautiful woman who thinks that the world revolves around her and whose idea of tragedy is not having a horse of her own, until she makes a very serious error and the nature of real deprivation gradually becomes plain to her. From this deprivation there appears to be no escape. This sense of her own powerlessness is so minutely described that it seems that we live her experiences with her.

Daniel's own story runs parallel to Gwendolen's and his exploration of the



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wider world becomes also his journey of self-exploration. As the adopted son of Sir Hugo Mallinger, he goes in search of his biological mother. This takes him on a much greater journey than he had expected and introduces him to the Jewish world. Again, George Eliot is a century ahead of her time in her description of the plight of the Jews and their search for a homeland. Some other Victorian authors wrote pejoratively of the Jewish race. Over the centuries readers have found the Daniel Deronda part of the novel rather heavy-going but the rewards of sticking with it make it all worthwhile. Gwendolen's story is one in which she learns what great differences there sometimes are between seeming and being. She learns, too, that she herself is not the person she thought.

This is a novel full of wisdom, empathy, wonderful prose and great humour. It is both a panorama of Victorian society and a compelling examination of the human mind.
Clare Gaster

My wife and I have very different reading habits. I am addicted to Lee Childs and his novels about Jack Reacher which I read on holiday but I have also just finished a more serious and short book called "Being Disciples" by Rowan Williams and then there is a new book on "Signalling for model railways" but technically that's in a different league but training or coaching can be given - Ed.



The Valley Gardeners visit Hidcote and Kiftsgate gardens

On the very day that the weeks of hot, dry and sunny weather decided to have a day off and gave way to cooler, greyer and wetter conditions, a group of The Valley Gardeners made the long journey up to Gloucestershire to visit the very famous gardens, Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate Manor. However, the stunning designs and extraordinary beauty of both these gardens made sure that the less than perfect weather made little or no difference to the enjoyment of the day.

I had long wanted to visit these two iconic English gardens and I was not disappointed. Hidcote is one of the best known Arts and Crafts garden in this country. It is also one of the first gardens to be developed along the lines of garden "rooms". If this puts you in mind of Vita Sackville-West's design at Sissinghurst, you would not be wrong because Hidcote's creator, Lawrence Johnstone, was the first person to use this garden design. Starting in 1907, he

took 40 years to perfect the style, which has been emulated ever since, not least at Sissinghurst in the 1930s. Each “room” is very different from the next but the variety of plants and planting schemes is breath-taking. There is simply not room here to describe the garden adequately so if you get the chance, I urge you to make the journey up there.

Kiftsgate Manor garden is just a mile or so from Hidcote. Created, developed and run by three generations of women gardeners, there is no doubt this garden revels and glories in its feminine influence. Heather Muir, the first owner, received help from her friend Lawrence Johnstone to develop her garden. The famous white Kiftsgate rose scrambles all over the long wall beneath the imposing house and soft colours froth and bubble up through the borders. Perched, as it is, on the Cotswold escarpment, the upper garden differs greatly from the lower part which can be accessed down steep paths. Once there, the view is stunning, over a gentle valley with sheep grazing, all of which could be enjoyed from the half-moon pool situated on a sheltered terrace most invitingly! A truly magical garden and again, certainly worth the two hour drive north.

Catherine Hahn



From the Parish Council.

It may be recalled that after looking at the cost of up rating and reinstating the changing rooms at Couch Green it was decided to remove them. Having had a statutory asbestos survey carried out (no asbestos was found) we have finally progressed to the stage where they can go. So although no longer fit for purpose as changing rooms somebody might like them as a good sized storage shed. If you think you might have a need or know someone else who might please feel free to go and have a look from the outside and then contact us via our Clerk at

clerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk
It was a great privilege to take part in the walk round the valley with Brad from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (written about in greater detail elsewhere). A big thank you to Alison Matthews for organising it, Brad for taking the time with us, giving us such an interesting talk as we walked and finally to the owners who allowed us access onto their land.

There has been a certain amount of comment to us and in other places regarding further fencing in the valley.

Having talked to some of the land owners and those who look after it on their behalf, it can be seen that they have a difficult problem. A great deal of time, effort and money has been put in to improve the meadows and increase the wildlife that they support. There are rights of way in a number of places which are regularly used and kept open both by the landowners and our lengthsman. These are footpaths



that are meant for walking (not cycling). Where these paths cross over fields, they are still just that. The whole field is not a public path. Letting dogs loose in fields intended for producing hay can cause serious consequences for animals that are fed the hay in winter. Hence, if there are notices asking you to keep your dogs on a lead please do so. If such notices are disregarded there is no alternative but to fence off the path.

Similarly, when it comes to the river, in past years through the good will of various owners connected with the river, there have been a small number of places such as Cow Down, where access to the public has been allowed and enjoyed by many. Unfortunately, it is quite clear that some people have overstepped the mark and taken it for granted that they can bathe and play in stretches of the river far beyond where it was originally intended. There have been times that notices have been put up only to be thrown in the river. The result has been disruption to wildlife such as birds that nest on the banks and needless to say, serious problems to those that fish. It can therefore be of little surprise that those who have care of the river and its banks feel that their goodwill has been tried to the limit and consequently, within their legal rights, have restricted public access. In simple terms, it is everybody's duty to see that such access to the river and rights of way across fields are not abused because if they are, the only alternative is more fencing. Finally, we are in August, and that means Boomtown. It will be taking

place from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th. The drop-off point this year will be on the A272. So using the lanes through Avington and Easton and dropping people off beside the A31 is not a good idea. It would be a long way to walk, apart from the fact that crossing the A31 is extremely dangerous. We have asked for notices to go up from Wednesday afternoon before the event, on the B3047 and in Easton and Avington advising that there is no access to Boomtown that way. On the Monday following, to try to prevent those leaving blocking the lanes through the valley, we have asked for access from the A31 to Chapel Lane and the lane to Avington to be sealed off.

The Parish Council does not meet in August therefore my next report may not be until October. So may I wish everyone an enjoyable summer break.
Patrick Appleby, Parish Council Chairman.

Boules League round 2

The Boules League competition is played over three rounds and round 2 has ended with Martyr Worthy leading by 1 point. The two matches were scheduled for Tuesday 13th July, but the heavy rain that day brought an administrative challenge – to play or not to play? Martyr Worthy were at home, and they and Easton braved it out with umbrellas and wet weather gear, and used the Church as a sanctuary from the elements. The other match, where Avington were at home against Itchen Abbas, was deferred by mutual agreement to the next day, which was forecast to be bright and sunny – and so it turned out to the relief and enjoyment of all.

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The result was a draw at 2 games each.

So, going into the final round on 1st August, the scores are Martyr Worth 5, Easton & Itchen Abbas equal on 4 each and Avington on 3. It all looks close but who will earn the right to claim the Dick Hewitt Trophy for the next year?

Ralph Matthews

Butternut squash and chorizo salad

This is a really easy summer recipe, full of flavour. Serves four.

A whole chorizo sausage (350g)

A small butternut squash,
lettuce or a bag of leaves, 4 large garlic
cloves, or to taste

Heat the oven to 200°C.

Peel the squash (a potato peeler works well), take out the seeds and cut the squash into smallish chunks. Put the pieces in a single layer in a roasting tin, and add a

couple of tablespoons of vegetable oil and plenty of salt and pepper. Toss.

Add the unpeeled garlic cloves, and roast for about 20 minutes, turning once or twice, until the squash is just soft and perhaps tinged with brown.

Meanwhile skin the chorizo, and cut it into smallish chunks. Put in a roasting tin and cook in the same oven as the squash, about 10 minutes, until crisp but not dry.

Leave both the squash and chorizo to cool a little while you wash and dry a small lettuce or open a bag of leaves. In a wide salad bowl mix 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 dessertspoon of wine vinegar, 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard and salt. Add the leaves and toss. Squeeze the softened garlic out of its skins onto

the squash, scatter the squash and chorizo over the leaves and serve.
Verity Coleman



Itchen valley church services



Sunday 6th August

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

Sunday 13th August

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Easton
10am	Parish Communion	Itchen Abbas

Sunday 20th August

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

Sunday 27th August

10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
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(It is bank holiday weekend hence only one service)

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Assistant Priest

Rev Alex Pease 791010 rev@ampease.co.uk

Licensed Lay Minister

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;

Tony Gaster 779110;

Itchen Valley Flower Show Report – Sunday 16th July 2017

What a great afternoon we had in the pleasant summer warmth surrounded by a hall full of entries to celebrate all that is good about gardening and our community.



We had a good number of entries for the vegetable section with lovely cucumbers, beautifully presented onions and all classes had entries this year. Over the last few years entries in the vegetable section have declined but this year was the exception and it would better still if in 2018 we bucked the trend again and encouraged even more entries for the 18 classes for fruit and vegetables. For the first time this year we introduced a class for the funniest vegetable. We had two funny entries, a twisted bean and a distorted potato, labelled 'the Old Crab of Itchen Abbas'! The overall winner of the fruit and vegetable section was Jim Glasspool. He has been entering the show since settling in the Valley in the mid seventies. He was very pleased to receive the Macklin

Challenge Cup presented by an old friend of the Show, Steve Green. Steve came back to present the prizes having moved to Kent last spring. It was an honour to have him as our guest. I know he enjoyed meeting friends and talking about his passion for gardening. The runner up in the fruit and vegetable section was Rodney Dartnall, presented with the Albie Marsh

Trophy. The Vegetable Challenge Cup was won by two young brothers, Ciaran Yang and Shem Abraham-Yang. They were passing the hall and saw our posters and thought they would have a go! They admitted that they were very nervous having researched vegetable competition standards with 4ft long carrots and huge lettuces and onions the size of a boxer's hand! The quality of their fruit and vegetables was fantastic. They were very surprised to see they had won prizes for their vegetables and even more so to be presented with the cup. I hope they will enter again next year and bring their passion with them again. The flower section had a wonderful array of perennials, annuals, sweet peas and more. Not many pansies this year,





maybe it was a poor year for growing them? Roses however were well represented and their scent was beautiful. The Flower Section Trophy was won by Gail Kennedy. The Margaret Edmonds Memorial Challenge Cup was won by Jean Wright for her best in show rose.

The cookery section recipe this year was a chocolate Victoria sandwich. It always surprises me that a set recipe can be interpreted in a number of ways and this year there was quite a bit of talk about how to make chocolate curls. I used a vegetable peeler to make my curls but others found this too messy, the chocolate melted in your hand! All the cakes looked wonderful and the first prize was won by Yvette Riley. The toffee apple pie

was delicious. If you haven't tried this before it is well worth making this autumn or beforehand. The truffles, flap jack and meringues, cheese straws and Chelsea buns all looked delicious. The overall winners of the cookery section were Yvette Riley and Judy Thomas who were presented with the Rose Bowl.

The preserves section looked very colourful with marmalades, jams and curds as well as cordials. Next to the children class for marzipan fruits the table looked bright and cheerful. Yvette also won the Sheila Edmonds Cup for the preserves section.

The craft section which includes photography was won by Rob Harris for his curves themed photograph and colour photo of a famous building, both of which caught the judge's eye. All the entries depicted the theme very well and it was hard for the judge to select the winners. He was especially drawn to the sunbathers' 'curves' by Brigid McManus, which for a Spaniard is hard to resist (his words!!).

Young people have for a number of years have been exhibiting their homemade craft items in classes 56 to 61. We really do encourage all our young people to exhibit their



creative crafts. If you feel there is not a class for your craft then please let us know.

The flower arranging section has three classes. The miniature arrangement in an egg cup was won by Joan Dartnall for her lovely interpretation of the theme which incorporated a tiny book of Peter Rabbit. Class 41, arrangement incorporating a cup and saucer was fantastic with so many different interpretations on the theme.

All of them were wonderful and beautifully presented. Sarah Hunt won the Rosemary Dee Memorial Cup for her splendid tower of flowers with a tea cup and saucer delicately balanced at the pinnacle. Sarah also won Class 42 for her foliage arrangement and was

presented with a second cup: the Flower Arrangement Challenge Cup. Unfortunately there were no entries for the fuchsia or hanging basket or summer planted container this year classes or five classes in the craft section. However, out of a total of 63 classes this was a very good year for entries overall.

The children's section is always a favourite at the show. The anticipation when they enter the hall in the morning with their entries is always a pleasure. They are so enthusiastic and willing to tell



me what they have made and show me their work. We really appreciate their hard work and the support of parents to get the entries completed in time. The miniature gardens are so creative with a slimy green snail made from playdough with a marble for a shell. One had a rabbit waiting outside his hutch and another had tiny flower beds made out of succulent flowers. They were all inspiring and wonderful to look at. The models were also a diverse and an interesting section, with animals, a cave and a diorama. The decorated piece of handwriting in this class had lots of different themes with very careful cursive writing. The flower arrangements in a jam jar were colourful, skilful and filled the end of





the hall. Finally the photography theme this year was playing with water.

There were many different themes including the seaside, swimming and splashing around. The judge really enjoyed looking at them all.

The children's section is divided into three age groups 4-7yrs, 8-11yrs and 12-15yrs. The winners were Aura O'Brien (4-7yrs), Isabelle Rakowicz (8-11yrs) and Erin Bolger (12-15yrs). It is always a delight to present the cups to the children and to watch them collect their prize money too.

In the afternoon there was something for everyone, teas and home made cakes served by Alison Canfor and the wonderful tea ladies, there was a bouncy castle and a children's craft table for making lovely take home

crafts run by Caro Martin. The beer and Pimms went down well in the hall garden. The talk about the Watercress Way presented by Jackie Porter and Kim Adams gave villagers a chance to understand more about the route and how to get involved with the charity.

Thank you everyone who entered the show and to those who didn't but came along in the afternoon. Maybe next year we can encourage more and more villagers to Have a Go!

Thanks to the village hall committee for their support for the Show and to the Itchen Valley Gardeners for their sponsorship. We are also grateful to the Friends of Itchen Abbas for providing book tokens for the children's cups. Without the support of the Itchen Valley News we would not be able to publish the schedule and entry form each year, thank you from all of us on the committee.

Finally thank you to the team behind the Show, who work so hard to make it a success. They are Gail Kennedy, Alison Canfor, Di Wilson, Zoe Cannons, Alex Bellisario, Sue Germon and Catherine Hahn.

The full list of all the cup winners is on the following page.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's show. In the meantime if you have any suggestions for the 2018 show please email me.

splmason@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes,
Sara Mason.





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The Itchen Valley Flower Show Trophy Winners 2017

1. THE MACKLIN CHALLENGE CUP : Jim Glasspool
highest aggregate of points in Sections A (fruit and vegetables) and B (flowers)

2. THE ALBIE MARSH TROPHY : Rodney Dartnall
runner up Sections A (fruit and vegetables) and B (flowers)

3. THE VEGETABLE CHALLENGE CUP: Ciaran Yang & Shem-Abraham-Yang
winner of the Fruit & Vegetables Section (Section A)

4. THE FLOWER SECTION TROPHY : Gail Kennedy
winner of the Flower Section (Section B)

5. THE ROSE BOWL : Yvette Riley & Judy Thomas
winner of the Cookery Section (Section D)

6. SHEILA EDMONDS CUP : Yvette Riley
winner of the Preserve Section (Section E)

7. THE UPPER ITCHEN VALLEY SOCIETY SALVER : Rob Harris
winner of the Craft Section (Section F)

8. MARGARET EDMONDS MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP : Jean Wright
winner of the Best Rose (Section B)

9. FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CHALLENGE CUP : Sarah Hunt
winner of the Flower Arrangement Class 47

10. ROSEMARY DEE MEMORIAL CUP : Sarah Hunt
winner of the Flower Arrangement Class 48

11. THE NELSON CUP : Joan Dartnall
winner Miniature Arrangement of Flowers Class 46

12. THE MOLLIE BRETT-FOREMAN FUCHSIA TROPHY : N/A
winner of the Best Fuchsia (Section B)

13. VALLEY GARDENER'S CUP : N/A
winner of Class 45 hanging basket or summer planted container.

THE CHILDREN'S TROPHIES

14. THE STENT CHALLENGE CUP (aged 12 - 15 years) + £10: Erin Bolger
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points.

15. THE SCATCHARD CHALLENGE CUP (aged 8 - 11 years): Isabella Rakowicz
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points
and £10 book token kindly donated by the Friends of Itchen Abbas Primary School.

16. THE STEVENS CUP (aged 4 - 7 years) : Aura O'Brien
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points and £10 book token kindly
donated by the Friends of Itchen Abbas Primary School.

Upper Itchen Valley Society Walk

Members of the Upper Itchen Valley Society were taken on a guided walk by



Brad Brown of the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust. The Trust, jointly with various landowners, are managing meadows along the Valley floor with a view to improving diversity of plant, animal and insect life and the methods they use were explained. It was clear that results will not be achieved overnight!



We went from Martyr Worthy to Itchen Abbas and encountered the friendly British White cattle shown above in the water meadows in Itchen Abbas.

Alison Matthews

St Mary's Easton

We had mayhem at St Mary's, Easton on Saturday night. It's July, it's Wimbledon season and so it's a time when we think about things British. And what could be more British than amazing drinks with canapés in the graveyard outside St Mary's Easton organised by Penelope Kellie and her wonderful team of helpers. Even *Country Life* has an edition this month 'The Best of Britain – the gifts we gave the world' – strangely Victor and Albert (from Interminster – a cathedral town with a university at which they are both apparently professors) are not listed in the edition but I think we should ask the editor to consider them for the July edition next year. Victor and Albert were our entertainers for the evening in a show which is described as 'Classical Mayhem'.



A very funny evening indeed in which we were regaled by an A-Z of Britishness and periodically checked for loyalty to the Crown by seeing how many people stood for the National Anthem – about 40% as I could see from where I was sitting...I mean standing...

Interspersed between slides of A: The Archers B: Brexit C: Churchill, Church..etc. were some (on to p 32)

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Baby sensory classes	Tue	Last 8 th August 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd Aug 9am – 1:30pm	Imogen	07762364132
	Thur	10 th , 17 th , 24 th Aug 9am – 1:30pm		
Moo Music	Wed	16 th & 30 th Aug 2 – 3pm	Denise	01962 779182
Brew with a View	Wed	3 – 5pm	Ina	01962 779465
Muriele's Zumba KIDS	various	3 rd , 18 th , 23 rd Aug 10 – 12:30	Muriele	07821545403
Easton Mother & Toddlers	Fri	4 th , 11 th , 25 th Aug & 1 st Sep 9:30 – 11:30am	Lara	07740047432
David Michel Yoga	Fri	1 - 2pm	David	07790899890

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very funny attempts at magic, mind reading and drama.

The depiction of George and the Dragon by three 'volunteers' – Steve Percy (George) Chris Kennedy (the damsel) and an amazing novice to the stage Michael Gray (the dragon) was hilarious.



The alternate playing of Bach's Toccata in Fugue by the two twins, getting increasingly violent as they sought to outdo each other on the single piano, looked as if it could go seriously awry at one stage.

Victor and Albert have great voices, stage presence and a sense of humour which was entirely appropriate in a church building (for which thank you). I think we all loved the show – thank you so much to Victor and Albert for making the effort to come to the very unfamous Easton from the very distinguished Interminster.

Thank you most of all to Penelope Kellie and the Easton team of volunteers who put in a huge amount of work for this fund raising exercise for the St Mary's Fabric Fund.

Alex Pease

Wild Flowers

Those who pass the famous Kings Worthy junction will not have failed to



notice the glorious wild flowers on the verge which are pictured above. I understand the greatest enemy to these flowers is the council itself and the dreaded mowers - Ed

The Practical Gardener

With the seasons now in disarray, gardeners can expect almost anything. I was therefore interested to see exhibits of produce at the Flower Show which in part reflected my own experience. Yet my soft fruit finished at the end of June, bumper crops indeed





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but very early. Now it's mid-July and I am harvesting plums. Even the early apples are

almost ready. I've 50kg of onions to dry off and pack away. Remember onions and potatoes are not good mates.

What is certain is that 2017 has been very dry and my potato yields confirm that. Being on chalk, which is very well draining means water is always needed in dry spells particularly for annuals and all young plants. But now is also a great time to sow perennials like wallflowers and sweet williams



and also the last opportunity for many vegetables. I noticed that seeds sown just a few days ago are already germinating because the soil is warm. This year has also been great for many flowers. Roses in particular have been stunning. I walked around the garden to capture what's really done well this year which you can see pictured. It's also a key time to dead-head which needs to be done a little and often to keep new flowers coming. One of the easiest flowers to

grow is geraniums, pictured above is a pot of last year's plants. I think for hanging baskets trailing begonias take



a lot of beating though they are slow starters. I also think marigolds give great value, very to easy to grow and they flower continuously and are also drought resistant.

I found a recipe for a vegetarian shepherd's pie and was able to pick 7 different vegetables and 5 herbs from the garden. Tomatoes are particularly good this year because of the sunshine and once again the variety Orkado has triumphed both inside the greenhouse and out, good for flavour and size (1 kg per day).

Whitefly continue to be a menace and the nematode experiment has failed, it's hardly made a difference, so back to the sprays, yellow cards and smoke. Where are the ladybirds?





The netting has kept cabbage whites off the brassicas but it's quite a barrier for weeding and harvesting. Now I have a difficulty and that's trying to tell what is a finished flower in my snapdragons, another great colourful annual. Some things are obvious but get it wrong and all the new flowers can be cut off!

I have been using my new sifter on the compost heap. It's still a laborious operation but I do get lovely fine compost to spread on the borders.

Happy gardening. Tony Gaster.

Jackie's County Corner



After such beautiful weather during the school term, we are hoping for good weather for the school holidays. It

was unseasonably wet on a recent drive round with the highway engineer, but it provided a good opportunity to look at drainage problems and overgrown hedges. Please check that your hedge is not growing out beyond your boundary and that footpaths are kept clear for pedestrians. Thank you.

There are two ongoing consultations that will be of interest this month. Both can be seen on paper at your local library or online.

The first is the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation. Deadline 4th September 2017. This is looking at specific sites. You can see more at <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy-and-planning/gypsy-traveller-and-travelling-showpeople/>

The second is called 'Serving Hampshire-Balancing the Budget' and is consulting on public views on tackling the reduced budget. Deadline 21st August 2017.

HCC says "Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on high level, strategic options for balancing its budget. Due to ongoing national austerity measures, demographic changes reflecting increases in demand for some services, and inflationary pressures, by April 2019 the County Council will be facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £140 million. With less money available and growing demand for council services, tough decisions will need to be made about what the County Council can and cannot do in the future.

Your feedback will help to inform the approach the County Council takes to balancing its budget. Any changes to specific services will be subject to further, more detailed consultation."

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancingthebudget>

The Boomtown Festival will be taking place this month between the 10th and 14th August. Many local people have secured tickets and are looking forward to it, but if you have any concerns about arrangements at your property, (a wedding perhaps?) please

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call me in advance so that we can sort out the issues that you have direct with the Boomtown organisers. There are road closures on some days during the event, so please read the notices carefully to avoid delays. During the festival there is a published helpline number.

County Councillor grants are now available again, with grants of up to £800 for new projects. Please call me before applying for a grant to check availability and your eligibility. The fund is limited so please apply as soon as you can.

Finally, with so many summer events on offer, it is a real pleasure to take part in as many as I can. Thank you to the organisers, without whom these would not take place, and wishing you sunny days for future events!

Jackie Porter, 01962 791054,
Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk,
website www.jackieporter.co.uk, text
07973 696 085, twitter: @JackieLibDem

Midsummer Madness at Avington Park

In the beautiful grounds of Avington park, people gathered with picnics galore for the evening performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. I sat on a rug at the front with my teddies and my brothers Ned and Hughie. It was



an astonishing and hilarious play. The actors were so lively and enthusiastic and they kept coming out into the audience to steal people's picnics and make fun of us. One of them ate our chicken salad! The story was a little bit difficult to follow but that didn't matter because there was so much going on and lots of action especially when the actors had a big argument and had a play fight, which looked very real.



It was also very funny when the actors were speaking and the sheep in the Park kept interrupting them with their "Baaaa....!" Noises. It made the actors laugh and put them off their lines. My favourite part was when I got to perform on stage with the cast. Before the play started one of the actors asked me if I could play the role of one of the fairies. My name was Cobweb and when the time came, I had to say my name and then go out into the



audience and find chocolate treats to feed to Bottom the donkey. It was so much fun! I love the Pantomime productions at Avington Park as they are so funny and I get to go home to Easton, riding on Chris's vintage tractor.

Charlotte Wolfe (Aged 7)

Boomtown Information

Traffic management will be in place from Thursday 10th August until Monday 14th August. The following routes will be most heavily impacted at the following times:

A31 from M3 J9/Spitfire Link to Alresford Thursday 10th August 08.00 - 18.00 and Monday 14th August 10.00 - 17.00.

A272 from A31 to Rodfield Lane - Thursday 10th August 10.00 - 18.00 and Monday 14th August 08.00 - 17.00.

Monday 14th August, a number of roads local to the festival site may be subject to closure. Residents wishing to use a road that is closed may approach the accredited staff on duty in these locations to request access. The location of these closures will be on the northern side of the A31 from Percy Hobbs to Alresford.

Caroline Johnson

Community Liaison Officer

local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk

www.boomtownfair.co.uk

Roses on the Front Cover

Roses this year seem to have excelled. I was given two climbing roses for my sixtieth birthday so what is pictured has been planted for nearly 11 years. They have grown strongly and always new shoots appear from the base. The one largely pictured has a stunning array of flowers but sadly I have lost

the name. I know its neighbour is Dublin Bay. A week past the time when that picture was taken I have done a lot of pruning dead flowers. One day I counted over 200. I sprayed against black spot in March and every 2 weeks until end of May and I may soon restart. I top dress with my compost and feed with Growmore.

Tony Gaster

Local monthly information

Waste collections in August

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 4th and 18th. Green bins on Fridays 11th and 25th.

Cameo

On Tuesday 15th August.

Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sundays 13th & 27th August.

Parish Council Full Meeting

No meeting in August

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School holiday timetable operates for the whole 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

Towards Alresford:

09:19 12:19 15:19 18:09

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier)



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